

Fact Sheet

Child Sexual Abuse

Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA)

- About 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.¹
- About 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.²
- Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adult victims) occur to children ages 17 and under.¹

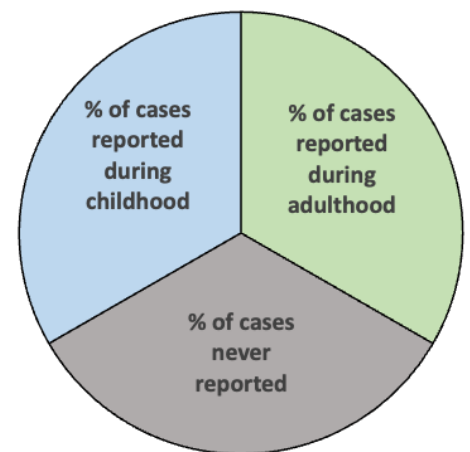
Grooming

- 93% of perpetrators are known to the child:³
 - 59% are acquaintances;
 - 34% are family members;
 - 7% are strangers.
- Child predators foster relationships with not only their victims, but a victim's parents/family as well.⁴
- Perpetrators are often well-known or highly regarded in the community.⁵

Delayed Disclosure

A large portion of CSA victims never disclose their abuse. The majority of survivors who disclose their abuse delay disclosure until adulthood:

- The average age a victim of child sex abuse discloses their abuse is 52 years old.⁶
- 83% did not report any of the rapes they experienced during childhood.⁶
- 55-69% of adults indicated that they never told anyone about the sexual abuse during childhood.⁶
- 62% of victims remained silent about their abused experience.⁶
- Males are more reluctant to disclose abuse and take longer to make full disclosures.⁶
- Only 6% to 15% of victims ever disclose those assaults to law enforcement.⁶
- Delayed disclosure impacts the path to justice for victims. By the time most CSA victims come forward about their abuse, the arbitrary deadlines for filing legal claims - known as statutes of limitation (which vary by state) - have expired.⁶



Source: ChildUSA

The Effects

The effects of child sexual abuse can be long-lasting and affect the victim's mental health. Victims are more likely than non-victims to experience the following mental health challenges:³

- About 4 times more likely to develop symptoms of drug abuse;
- About 4 times more likely to experience PTSD as adults;
- About 3 times more likely to experience a major depressive episode as adults.
- Adults with a history of CSA are more than twice as likely to report a suicide attempt¹
- The average lifetime cost of child maltreatment in general is \$830,928 per victim. It is even higher for CSA survivors compared to those who experience other forms of maltreatment.⁷

¹ Darkness to Light. Child Sexual Abuse Statistics [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved from www.d2l.org.

² ChildUSA. What Every Parent Needs to Know [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved from www.childusa.org.

³ Rainn. Children and Teens: Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/children-and-teens>.

⁴ ChildUSA. Keeping Children in Hollywood Safe [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved from www.childusa.org.

⁵ Darkness to Light. Grooming and Red Flag Behaviors. Retrieved from <https://www.d2l.org/child-grooming-signs-behavior-awareness>.

⁶ ChildUSA. Delayed Disclosure [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved from www.childusa.org.

⁷ ChildUSA. What's the Cost of Child Sex Abuse? [Fact Sheet]. Retrieved from www.childusa.org.