

## What is Child Sexual Abuse?



Child Sexual Abuse is the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or caregiver. Sexual abuse includes:

### Touching Offenses:

- Fondling
- Sodomy
- Rape
- Intercourse
- Masturbation

### Non-touching offenses:

- Child Pornography
- Indecent Exposure

Approximately **1 in 10 children** is sexually abused by the time they turn 18. In 2015, there were **927 REPORTED cases** of child sexual abuse in Georgia.



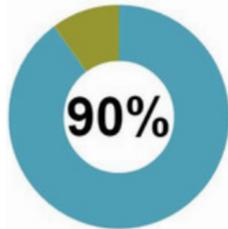
A report of alleged child abuse is made in Georgia **every 5 minutes.**



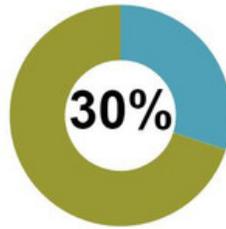
**3.4% of the child victims experienced sexual abuse.**

## Who Are the Perpetrators?

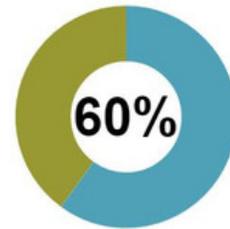
People who sexually abuse children look just like everyone else. Abusers can be neighbors, religious leaders, teachers, family members, or anyone who works with children.



of children know their abuser



of children are abused by family members



of children are abused by people the family trusts

**ONLY 10% of children who experience sexual abuse are abused by complete strangers.**

Child sexual abuse happens in various settings, but most sexual abuse of children occurs in the victim's own residence. 84% of children under age 12 and 71% of children aged 12 to 17 are abused at home.

## Did You Know?

- Gay individuals are **not more likely** to sexually abuse children than straight individuals. In fact, most men who abuse boys self-identify as straight.
- There is absolutely **no research** that says a transgender person is more likely to sexually abuse children than someone who is not transgender.
- Although men have consistently been shown to commit the majority of child sexual abuse, women are the abusers in approximately 11% of cases.

# Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

**Some children and youth are more at risk for sexual abuse including:**

- Females
- Youth with physical, emotional, or cognitive disabilities
- Children living in single-parent homes
- Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth

**Children who have been sexually abused are more likely to:**

- Show physical aggression
- Experience behavioral health problems
- Attempt suicide
- Become delinquent
- Perform poorly in school
- Abuse alcohol or other drugs
- Become pregnant

## Labeling Youth as Sexual Predators

Juveniles represent one-fourth of all sex offenders known to police and one-third of known offenders against other juveniles. 40-80% of juvenile sex offenders **have themselves been victims of sexual abuse**. These children are often responding to their own trauma. However, the likelihood that juvenile sex offenders will reoffend later in life is relatively low with a 7-13% recidivism rate within five years. In addition, interventions for juvenile sex offenders have been shown to be particularly effective.



## Obstacles to Reporting Child Sexual Abuse

**Approximately** of children who are sexually abused **DO NOT** tell anyone about it and even less cases are reported. Many children do not tell anyone because they are afraid of getting in trouble, worried about what people will think of them, or simply do not understand what is happening to them.

**62%**

## How Can I Help?

1. Encourage community members **to learn how they can prevent** child sexual abuse. For example, consider taking a **Darkness to Light Stewards of Children training**. Learn more at [www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org).
2. Educate adults, youth, and children about the harm caused by treating others as sexual objects.
3. Develop relationships with your local, state, and federal representatives and educate them about child sexual abuse and exploitation.

**If you suspect that a child is being abused, call the Division of Family and Children Services at 1-855-GACHILD immediately to report.**