

Child Sexual Abuse in Georgia

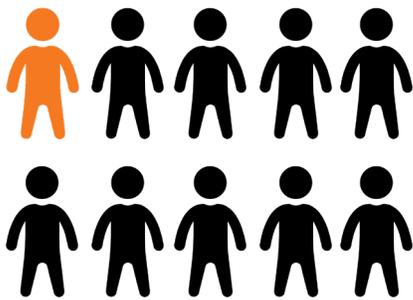
Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or caregiver. Sexual abuse includes:

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.



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

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

Who are the Perpetrators?

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



90%
of children know
their abuser

One-third are abused by family members.

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

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 are consistently shown to commit the majority of child sexual abuse, women are the abusers in approximately 11% of cases.

Approximately **62%** of children who are sexually abused DO NOT tell anyone about it. Many children are afraid of getting in trouble, worried about what people will think of them, or simply do not understand what is happening to them.

Victims of Child Sexual Abuse

Children and youth who are more at risk of being sexually abused:



Females

Youth with physical, emotional or cognitive disabilities



Children living in single parent households

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 juveniles 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 shown to be particularly effective.

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.
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.

Sources: <https://tinyurl.com/yd4mmkhp>

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