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
- Masterbation

**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 **3.6 minutes**.

**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.

**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.
- In 2018, Georgia mandated age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness education for all students K-9.

The majority 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.

www.georgiavoices.org
### 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.

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

Sources: [https://tinyurl.com/ChildAbuseRef2019](https://tinyurl.com/ChildAbuseRef2019)