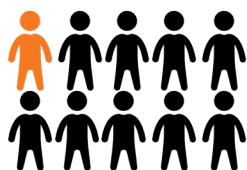


Child Sexual Abuse

Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of an adult or caregiver. Sexual abuse includes both touching and non-touching offenses.¹



Approximately **1 in 10** children is sexually abused by the time they turn 18.²

Of the children removed from their home in 2021,* **3%** were for reasons of sexual abuse.⁴



Touching Offenses:

- Fondling
- Sodomy
- Rape
- Intercourse
- Masturbation

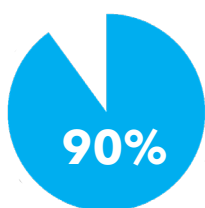
Non-touching Offenses:

- Child pornography
- Indecent exposure

Child sexual abuse is often underreported.³ As such, these data points likely underestimate how frequently this occurs.

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 interacts with children.^{5, 6}



of children know their abuser

One-third are abused by family members.

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.⁷

DID YOU KNOW?

- The sexual preference of a perpetrator **does not** make them more likely to sexually abuse children.⁸
- There is **no research** that says a transgender person is more likely to sexually abuse children than someone who is not transgender.⁹
- Although men are consistently shown to commit the majority of child sexual abuse, **women are also abusers.**¹⁰
- In 2018, Georgia **mandated** age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness education for all students K-9.¹¹
- Georgia's Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention **Technical Assistance Resource Guide** (TARG) outlines sexual abuse prevention strategies.¹²

Who are the Victims?

Children and youth who are more at risk of being sexually abused:¹³



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:¹⁴

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

*A child may be removed for more than one reason.

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Juveniles represent **one-fourth** of all sex offenders and **one-third** of known offenders against other juveniles.¹⁵

40-80% of juvenile sex offenders have *themselves been victims of sexual abuse*. These children are often responding to their own trauma.¹⁶

Juvenile sex offenders are unlikely to commit another sex offense later in life.¹⁷ Studies universally confirm that juvenile sex offense recidivism is relatively low with an estimated rate of 7%.¹⁸ In addition, interventions for juvenile sex offenders have shown to be a particularly effective.¹⁹

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.

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