



**Preventing Child  
Maltreatment in Youth  
Serving Organizations**  
*A Bibliography*

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**Championing and Strengthening the  
Global Response to Child Abuse**

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## Scope

This bibliography provides empirical literature on prevention of child maltreatment in youth serving organizations. Publications covering issues of abuse within religiously affiliated organizations are not included and can be found in our *Child Abuse Within Religious Institutions* bibliography.

## Organization

Publications include articles, book chapters, reports, and research briefs and are arranged in date descending order. Links are provided to full text publications when possible. However, this collection may not be complete. More information can be obtained in CALiO™, the Child Abuse Library Online.

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# Preventing Child Maltreatment in Youth Serving Organizations

## A Bibliography

Assini-Meytin, L. C., McPhail, I., Sun, Y., Mathews, B., Kaufman, K. L., & Letourneau, E. J. (2025). Child sexual abuse and boundary violating behaviors in youth serving organizations: National prevalence and distribution by organizational type. *Child Maltreatment*, 30(3), 499–511. DOI:10.1177/10775595241290765

Many youth serving organizations (YSOs) implement child sexual abuse (CSA) prevention strategies. We examined the potential impact of those strategies by retrospectively estimating the prevalence of CSA and boundary violating behaviors experienced in five broad organizational settings: organized sports, religious organizations, music or arts programs, K-12 schools, and the “Big 6 settings” (i.e., 4-H, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of the USA, and the YMCA of the USA). We compared victimization rates between nationally representative cohorts of younger adults (age 18–22;  $N = 3174$ ) and slightly older adults (age 32–36,  $N = 3237$ ). Across all participants and settings, 3.75% ( $n = 363$ ) experienced CSA in YSOs. Among survivors, younger adults reported experiencing a lower proportion of CSA within Big 6 settings than older adults (29.1% vs. 44.5%;  $p < .05$ ), suggesting that prevention efforts may be having the desired effects in Big 6 settings.

Finkelhor, D., Gast, L., Cavanaugh, C., Sutton, S., Jones, L. M., & Turner, H. (2025). [Child maltreatment in youth-serving organizations: A scoping review](#). *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 0(0). DOI:10.1177/15248380251357613

Child abuse in youth-serving organizations (YSO) is an increasingly referenced topic, but it currently has a limited epidemiological foundation. A body of research is beginning to shed light on this abuse, and this scoping review was aimed at better documenting what is currently known. The review specifically examined published and gray literature on child abuse in YSOs across several subcategories: daycare, detention/juvenile justice,

healthcare, recreation, religion, residential, schools, and sports. A total of 112 academic papers and 28 gray literature resources were reviewed for the first 7 sectors, and a 2023 review was summarized for the daycare sector. Findings highlight that the definitions and measurement of maltreatment in YSOs vary, and significant research gaps remain. Some sectors of YSOs have better coverage than others: for example, more on residential settings and detention/juvenile justice, while less on healthcare settings. Recommendations include a need for: (a) more multi-sector YSO epidemiological studies measuring various forms of abuse; (b) modifications to general child maltreatment surveys to specify YSO settings and YSO staff and volunteers; (c) modifications to existing police or child protection data systems to allow for classification of abuse in YSO settings or by YSO staff and volunteers.

Goetzl, C., Pichlmeier, S., Walter, T., Stickel, M., Jud, A., Streb, J., & Dudeck, M. (2025). [Protecting children against sexual abuse in youth-serving organizations: A qualitative vignette study on \(potential\) offenders' and therapists' views of Safeguarding Programs](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 160, 107212. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2024.107212

Holistic approaches to preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) such as German Safeguarding Programs integrate comprehensive analysis, intervention, prevention, and evaluation efforts and can be used to address CSA in youth-serving organizations (YSOs). To date, little is known about how adults who have committed CSA in YSOs in the past, adults who identify as being at risk of committing CSA in YSOs (i.e., potential offenders), and therapists experienced in treating such potential offenders view these programs. Do potential offenders and therapists consider holistic approaches such as Safeguarding Programs as effective for protecting children in YSOs? Their views on potential additional measures and barriers or facilitators to implementing Safeguarding Programs were investigated in an exploratory qualitative study that used a vignette approach. Safeguarding Programs were presented in problem-centered interviews & participants provided extensive feedback, which was analyzed by a qualitative content analysis.

Participants emphasized that to be effective, the interrelated measures of Safeguarding Programs need to be implemented comprehensively, not just in isolation and a clear code of conduct in YSOs can be particularly helpful in controlling CSA related behavior. Addressing preventive help-offers within Safeguarding Programs may facilitate help-seeking in (potential) offenders. Results may help to guide further development Safeguarding Programs and other holistic approaches. The study highlights the importance of involving (potential) offenders when developing preventive measures.

Arnold, S., & Jeglic, E. L. (2024). Stereotypes and unconscious bias in institutional child sexual abuse: Barriers to identification, reporting and prevention. *Child Abuse Review*, 33(2), e2865. DOI:10.1002/car.2865

Child sexual abuse within institutional settings has been a major concern for governments around the world for many years. Consequently, prevention policies have been developed, and institutional child abuse laws have been strengthened in many jurisdictions. Legislation is important to prevent reoffending, however, the majority of childhood sexual abuse remains unreported and undetected. While awareness of the failings of institutions to properly identify and respond to child abuse has grown in recent years, barriers to reporting institutional abuse remain understudied, impacting the ability to prevent abuse. One possible reason that prevents workers from identifying and reporting child sexual abuse is that their judgements are vulnerable to stereotypes and unconscious biases about who perpetrates and is victimised by sexual crimes and what constitutes warning signs of sexually abusive behaviours. Research in psychology provides key insights into human reasoning processes that can lead to bias, so workers fail to identify, respond and prevent grooming and child abuse in an organisational context. This paper reviews what is known about the development and maintenance of stereotypes and unconscious bias, their role in institutional sexual abuse, and concludes with a discussion of measures that can be taken to mitigate unconscious bias to prevent child abuse.

Mackinem, M. B., & Laufersweiler-Dwyer, D. (2024). A deeper look at the Boy Scouts of America "perversion" files: Structural factors related to access and abuse. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 39*(15-16), 3352-3372.  
DOI:10.1177/08862605241230091

The Boy Scouts of America's (BSA's) Ineligible Volunteer (IV) files, commonly called the "perversion files," is a unique data set allowing researchers to examine organizational characteristics that allow for child sexual victimization. Despite the uniqueness of this data set, few researchers have examined it. The researchers examined a random sample of cases from the IV files of scout leaders who molested scouts. A situational crime theoretical model was employed as had been used in studies on the Catholic Church sexual abuse scandal, proving effective. The researchers examined randomly selected from 1980 to 1999. Of initially examined 400 randomly selected cases, only 140 held retrievable data. The majority of the 140 cases did not have scouting victims, which resulted in a reduction to 48 cases. Beyond the several scouting forms, many files contained public domain information, including newspaper articles, police reports, criminal justice records, and/or records of civil litigation. Through both the scouting documents and the public domain records, the researchers identified six BSA-specific characteristics that allowed motivated adult leaders to molest their victims. These characteristics included weak or inefficient incident reporting system, failure to collect and review pertinent information, organizationally legitimate reasons for one-on-one contact, volunteer imbalance, legitimate reasons for separation from protective adults, and social status as a prophylactic defense. These structural characteristics are explored through descriptive statistics and specific case studies illustrating the phenomena. When the history of the IV files came to light through litigation, the BSA was forced to reconcile its past actions and develop new preventive measures. The Boy Scouts of America implemented various actions to protect the youth. Many of these protections specifically address structural characteristics.

McCain, J. L., Herbst, J. H., Merrill-Francis, M., Willis, L. A., Miedema, S. S., & Shortt, J. W. (2024). [Review of policies and practices to prevent technology-facilitated child sexual abuse within youth-serving organizations in the United States](#). *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 33(5), 545–564. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2024.2381457

Technology-facilitated child sexual abuse (TF-CSA), or child sexual abuse that occurs online or through electronic communication, is a preventable public health problem that can be addressed within youth-serving organizations (YSOs). This study is a review of a sample of organizational policies and practices designed to prevent TF-CSA collected from 13 national and local YSOs in the United States. Documents were coded to identify practices to prevent TF-CSA related to YSO activities or YSO participants, volunteers, or staff. Qualitative analysis of documents indicated that YSOs included 7 common practices to prevent TF-CSA. These practices included monitoring the YSO's online presence; transparent electronic communication between youth and YSO staff; codes of conduct and online behavior agreements related to youth; parental controls for youth online activity; safety behaviors for online activity for staff, parents, and youth; parent and youth trainings for youth online engagement and prevention of TF-CSA; and practices to address staff policy violations. Most prevention practices documented by YSOs identified in this study are consistent with emerging literature on TF-CSA prevention. Key gaps include protection for youth from groups inequitably burdened by TF-CSA and evaluation of practices in preventing TF-CSA across settings and populations.

Palmer, D., Cheung, C. Y. L., & Lum, S. H. (2024). [The effects of perpetrator power on the duration and number of children victimized in episodes of child sexual abuse linked to a federated youth serving organization](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 157, 107012. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2024.107012

Qualitative research on child sexual abuse (CSA) in youth serving organizations (YSOs) indicates that powerful, high-status persons are better able to abuse children, because they have a superior capacity to obtain the acquiescence and overcome the resistance of children to their abusive advances, evade detection of their abusive behavior, and

escape accountability for their detected abuse. We conduct quantitative empirical analyses designed to confirm the presumption that powerful, high-status persons are better able to abuse children in YSOs. We analyzed 85 episodes of CSA linked to Boys and Girls Clubs (BGCs) affiliated with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. We conduct multivariate analyses that estimate the relationship between two sources of perpetrators' power and status (occupancy of a leadership position in their BGC and affiliations with other YSOs in their local BGC's community) and 2 public health consequences of the CSA they perpetrated (the duration of their abuse and the number of children they abused), controlling for a battery of possible confounds. Episodes of abuse perpetrated by persons who were leaders of their local BGCs victimized 1.9 more club-affiliated children than those that were perpetrated by lower-level staffers, while episodes of abuse perpetrated by persons affiliated with other YSOs in their local BGC's community on average were 3.3 years longer and victimized 1.8 more club-affiliated children than those that were perpetrated by persons not affiliated with other YSOs. YSO child safety measures should be augmented to increase their focus on YSO leaders' and prominent community members' abusive potential.

Winters, G. M., & Jeglic, E. L. (2024). Sexual grooming in the Boy Scouts of America. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 33*(8), 1066–1099.  
DOI:10.1080/10538712.2024.2444636

Research has shown child sexual abuse (CSA) within youth-serving organizations (YSOs) often went undetected for decades, which may in part be due to the use of sexual grooming behaviors. One such YSO is the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), with nearly 100,000 individuals alleging CSA within this organization. This study aimed to describe the characteristics of CSA within the BSA and the presence of sexual grooming behaviors as described by the Sexual Grooming Model. Files were coded from a public database of volunteers who were expelled from BSA due to suspicions of CSA from the 1960s through 1990s. Results provided an overview of who perpetrated and experienced CSA, as well as

characteristics of the abuse itself. There was evidence of sexual grooming in many cases; behaviors related to gaining access to and isolating the child were most common, followed by tactics used to develop trust and desensitize the child. These findings are discussed as they pertain to the identification and prevention of CSA, including the importance of providing training informed by sexual grooming that may occur in YSOs, screening and monitoring individuals seeking placements in YSOs, establishing procedures that limit alone time with children, and policies prohibiting volunteer's involvement in the changing and bathing of minors.

Brown, S. J., Zammit, J., & King, S. (2022). [A contemporary case file analysis of child sexual abuse in institutional settings in England and Wales](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect, 131*, 105633. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2022.105633

Despite increased institutional safeguards and regularly updated statutory guidance that stresses safeguarding is 'everybody's responsibility', children continue to be sexually abused in institutional contexts in England and Wales. There also remains a lack of contemporary knowledge about institutions' responses to concerns about CSA. Reviewing Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) discretionary-decision case files, as a detailed source of information about CSA in institutions occurring in the last 5 years, the aim of this paper was to understand what institutions knew about CSA and inappropriate behaviours that indicated children could be at risk of harm prior to formal disclosures to the DBS and how institutions did, or did not, respond to this knowledge. Cases involved 32 male and 11 female barred persons and 19 male and 51 female sexually abused children. Thematic analysis was applied to 43 files where decisions were made by the DBS to add individuals to the Children's Barred list (which prevents them by law from working with children) between 2017 and 2020. In 79% of cases there was some level of awareness of concerns relating to inappropriate behaviour or CSA, through rumours and gossip, concerns about professionalism, and observed changes in the behaviour of subsequently barred individuals or victims. There was wide variation in how the institutions responded.

In a small number of cases action was taken promptly; however, this was not typical. Institutions and professionals failed in their duty of care by not taking any action at all, or responding slowly in ways that did not prevent CSA.

Lockitch, J., Rayment-McHugh, S., & McKillop, N. (2022). Why didn't they intervene? Examining the role of guardianship in preventing institutional child sexual abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 31*(6), 649–671. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2022.2133042

In recent years, the failings of institutions to safeguard children from sexual abuse have been brought to light through investigations and commissions of inquiries such as Australia's Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The role of adults as guardians, to protect children within these institutions, has been afforded particular scrutiny, highlighting past ineffective and harmful intervention and responses to abuse, and even inaction. Despite this attention, limited research to date has explored the barriers underpinning guardianship behavior in this setting. Enhanced understanding of the potential barriers to guardianship is key for informing improved behavior in the future. Using data from Australia's Royal Commission, this study applies Reynald's model of capable guardianship to investigate dimensions of guardianship in youth-serving institutional settings. Three discrete settings were examined: outside school hours care, schools, and sporting institutions. Results support the utility of Reynald's model for advancing knowledge about guardianship behavior in youth-serving institutions and provide valuable lessons for future policy directions to enhance safeguarding practices.

Assini-Meytin, L. C., Kaufman, K. L., Mathews, B., Palmer, D. A., Ingram, M., & Letourneau, E. J. (2021). Preventing and responding to child sexual abuse: Organizational efforts. *Child Abuse & Neglect, 112*, 104892. DOI:10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104892

Child sexual abuse (CSA) remains an ongoing threat to the wellbeing of children who might be victimized, to the liberty of individuals who might engage in abusive behavior,

and to the reputations and livelihood of organizations in which abuse might occur. In the U.S., millions of children participate in youth-serving organizations (YSOs), and it is known that a proportion of CSA occurs in these settings. Despite the severity of these threats, there is little knowledge of the steps that organizations take to prevent and respond to CSA. Our study aimed to index current measures to prevent and respond to CSA in organizational settings, using four of the largest U.S.-based YSOs as exemplars. In partnership with our partner YSOs, we completed a qualitative analysis of 74 organizational documents including written policies, codes of conduct, trainings, and other documents that formalize these four organizations' current CSA prevention and intervention efforts. These organizations collectively implement hundreds of distinct measures aimed at preventing, detecting, and responding to CSA. These measures were categorized under eight overarching themes, including: overall commitment to child safety, code of conduct, training and education, assessment, implementation and monitoring, screening and hiring, reporting and responding to child sexual abuse, youth problem sexual behavior, and boundaries for teen leaders and young adult staff. Findings from the current study, outlining key prevention and policy areas undertaken by participating YSOs, offer a starting point for discussion about core elements needed to keep children safe from sexual abuse in YSO settings.

Finch, M., Featherston, R., Chakraborty, S., Bjørndal, L., Mildon, R., Albers, B., Fiennes, C., Taylor, D. J. A., Schachtman, R., Yang, T., & Shlonsky, A. (2021). [Interventions that address institutional child maltreatment: An evidence and gap map](#). *Campbell Systematic Reviews*, 17(1), e1139. DOI:10.1002/cl2.1139

The selection criteria were developed to identify finalised and ongoing overviews of reviews, systematic reviews and primary studies that reported on the effectiveness of interventions addressing child maltreatment (including sexual abuse, physical abuse, neglect and emotional abuse) within institutional settings. Eligible effectiveness study designs included: randomised controlled trials (RCTs), nonrandomised trials, controlled

before-and-after studies and quasi-experimental studies. Reviews were eligible if they reported a systematic literature search strategy. This EGM has highlighted a substantial need for more high quality studies that evaluate interventions across a broader range of institutional contexts and maltreatment types. The current evidence base does not represent countries with large populations and the greatest incidence of child maltreatment. Few studies focussed on perpetrators or the organisational environment. Further evidence gaps were identified for interventions relating to disclosure, organisational responses and treatment, and few studies assessed interventions targeting perpetrators' maltreatment behaviours, recidivism or desistance. Future studies should also include measure of programme implementation.

Abel, G. G., Jordan, A., Harlow, N., & Hsu, Y. S. (2019). Preventing child sexual abuse: Screening for hidden child molesters seeking jobs in organizations that care for children. *Sexual Abuse, 31*(6), 662–683. DOI:10.1177/1079063218793634

Approximately 10% of children and adolescents are sexually abused by adults caring for them outside the home. The current study tested the validity and reliability of a child protection screen to identify job applicants who pose a sexual risk to children. The screen uses three separate measures. In combination, they attempt to identify two types of sexually problematic job applicants: hidden abusers and people with cognitive distortions that encourage child sexual boundary violations by themselves or tolerate them by others. The high specificity (97.8% for males and 98.7% for females) favored the high number of job applicants and volunteers who have not crossed sexual boundaries with children. The study included over 19,000 participants, and the screen correctly identified 77% of the men and over 72% of the women who posed a sexual risk. The test-retest correlation was statistically significant at  $r(121) = .83$ , and the screening methodology is valid and reliable. By identifying most of the job applicants who are hiding their history of sexually abusing a child or hiding their belief that adult-child sex causes no harm from the organizations they are attempting to join, this new preemployment

screen methodology can help child-centered organizations protect children and adolescents in their care.

Harris, A. J., & Terry, K. J. (2019). Child sexual abuse in organizational settings: A research framework to advance policy and practice. *Sexual Abuse, 31*(6), 635-642.  
DOI:10.1177/107906321985814

Recent decades have produced growing public attention to the problem of child sexual abuse (CSA) occurring within civic institutions, school settings, youth sports, religious institutions, and other youth-serving organizations. Often amid considerable media and public scrutiny, such institutions have been called upon to improve their responses to sexual abuse incidents, address underlying organizational conditions that may foster such incidents, and develop viable systems of early intervention and prevention. These system challenges, in turn, have produced growing demand for high-quality research that can refine our understanding of the correlates and dynamics of sexual abuse within institutional settings and can help identify the parameters of effective strategies and responses. This article introduces a special issue of *Sexual Abuse* featuring emerging scholarship focused on CSA within organizational settings and sets forth a framework for further advancing the base of knowledge in this vital area of policy and practice.

Lundberg, A., & Dangel, R. F. (2019). Using root cause analysis and occupational safety research to prevent child sexual abuse in schools. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 28*(2), 187-199. DOI:10.1080/10538712.2018.1494238

Significant progress has been made in the past two decades understanding how child molesters gain access to children and molest them while manipulating others to not get caught. However, incidents of child sexual abuse in schools by educators, and by other children, continue. This manuscript suggests that a comprehensive solution involves two components: (1) using root cause analysis methodology to systematically identify and

integrate repetitive causes; (2) to use the findings from voluminous occupational safety research focusing on low-frequency but high-intensity events. Additionally, this manuscript describes eight organizational operations and practices that may reduce the risk of sexual abuse of children by educators or peers in a school setting. These findings were based on existing recommendations and on root cause analysis of thousands of incidents in schools and other youth serving organizations. Finally, the manuscript discusses how a framework drawn from occupational safety research can help schools and other youth serving organizations create environments that will help to create safe environments. Authors have used both components in working with thousands of organizations including faith-based, independent, and urban independent school districts, youth development programs, social service agencies, camps and so on serving diverse populations in 11 countries.

McKibbin, G. (2017). Preventing harmful sexual behaviour and child sexual exploitation for children & young people living in residential care: A scoping review in the Australian context. *Children and Youth Services Review, 82*, 373-382.  
DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2017.10.008

Harmful Sexual Behavior and Child Sexual Exploitation are problems of significant proportion for children & young people living in out-of-home care. The aim of this review was to conduct a scoping exercise of the evidence about preventing these problems with the intent of summarising and disseminating knowledge to policy-makers, practitioners and researchers. Five electronic databases were searched in November and December 2016, including: PsycINFO; Applied Social Science Index and Abstracts; SocINDEX; Web of Science; and Education Resource Information Centre. The search was guided by the research question: What is known about preventing Harmful Sexual Behavior and Child Sexual Exploitation for children & young people living in residential out-of-home care settings? Twenty papers were included in the review, including: seven peer-reviewed journal articles; three reports for government; two presentation transcripts; two literature

reviews; one qualitative research report; one report for a government inquiry; one submission to a government inquiry; one consultation paper for a government inquiry; one guideline; and one educational resource. Three major thematic categories were identified in the evidence: (i) constructing educative interventions for children & young people and workers; (ii) targeting grooming and problematic sexual behavior; and (iii) providing a holistic response and a way out. The review revealed that the current prevention response to Harmful Sexual Behavior and Child Sexual Exploitation for children & young people living in residential care is under-developed. Promising program, service or practice elements relating to the prevention of Harmful Sexual Behavior and Child Sexual Exploitation were identified and three interventions suggested for future prevention efforts.

Rheingold, A. A., Zajac, K., Chapman, J. E., Patton, M., de Arellano, M., Saunders, B., & Kilpatrick, D. (2015). Child sexual abuse prevention training for childcare professionals: An independent multi-site randomized controlled trial of stewards of children. *Prevention Science, 16*(3), 374–385. DOI:10.1007/s11121-014-0499-6

Given the significant rates and deleterious consequences of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), identifying effective primary prevention approaches is a clear priority. There is a growing awareness that childcare professionals (e.g., teachers, childcare personnel, clergy) are in a unique position to engage in prevention efforts due to high accessibility to children and expertise in child development. However, CSA prevention programs targeting childcare professionals have received insufficient attention. The goal of this study was to conduct an independent multi-site controlled evaluation of an existing CSA prevention program, Stewards of Children, offered through both in-person and web-based formats. This study included 352 childcare professionals recruited from children's advocacy centers across three states. Participants were randomly assigned to one of three conditions: (1) in-person training, (2) web-based training, or (3) waitlist control. Dependent variables included CSA knowledge, CSA attitudes, and self-reported CSA

preventive behaviors. Results indicated that Stewards impacted knowledge, attitudes, and preventive behaviors. No differences were found between training modalities (i.e., in-person versus web-based) on knowledge and preventive behaviors. Results indicate that brief trainings for childcare professionals may impact CSA prevention efforts.

Abel, G. G., Wiegel, M., Jordan, A., Harlow, N., Hsu, Y. S., & Martinez, M. (2012). Development and validation of classification models to identify hidden child molesters applying to child service organizations. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 34(7), 1378–1389. DOI:10.1016/j.childyouth.2012.03.017

Organizations caring for children sometimes unknowingly accept hidden child molesters as staff or volunteers because they have no reliable way to identify these individuals. The goal of the present study was to develop and validate a screening methodology to identify individuals who have a higher likelihood of having sexually touched minors (17 years of age or younger) in the past. Long term studies of untreated adults who have sexually abused children in the past have found them to have a high rate of continuing to abuse children, ranging from 17% to 37%. Currently, the most common method of screening for child sexual abusers is to use criminal background checks. However, studies have shown that criminal background checks identify less than 1% of candidates as having sexual offense histories against either adults or children. This new classification methodology was designed to improve on this by accurately identifying a larger percentage of applicants who may present a risk to the children served by these organizations. In developing these models, one major challenge was creating models with a high specificity to correctly identify over 90% of adults in the population who do not molest, while retaining high sensitivity to identify child sexual abusers who conceal to gain access to children. To develop and validate a child sexual abuse prevention screen to identify child sexual abusers hidden among applicants seeking jobs or volunteer positions working with children, the present study used classification models derived from linear regression analyses to discriminate between samples of concealing child sexual

abusers and general population volunteers who had never been accused of sexual misconduct. Researchers developed separate models for men and women. For the male classification model, the specificity was 90.3% and the bootstrapped sensitivity was 51.0%. For the female classification model, the specificity was 90.0% and the sensitivity was 37.1%. Thus, this classification model was able to correctly identify approximately 50% of men and 40% of women who have sexually abused a child in the past. Compared to the less than 1% identified by criminal background checks, this classification methodology has the potential of substantially increasing a child service organization's ability to identify individuals who have the highest probability of having sexually abused children in the past and are concealing from the organization they are attempting to join. © 2012 Elsevier Ltd. All rights reserved.

Wurtele, S. K. (2012). Preventing the sexual exploitation of minors in youth-serving organizations. *Children and Youth Services Review, 34*, 2442-2453.  
DOI:10.1016/j.chidyouth.2012.09.009

This article discusses child sexual abuse (CSA) by staff members in youth-serving organizations (YSOs) including schools, residential treatment and correction facilities, scouting, clubs, faith centers, and sports leagues. Over the last ten years there have been highly publicized reports of adults in positions of authority, such as teachers, coaches, and ministers, sexually exploiting youth under their care. Using an ecological perspective, the author suggests preventing institutional sexual exploitation by addressing such macrosystem factors as national and state policies and legislation, and at the organizational level by implementing risk-management strategies and by training staff in how to have close connections with youth while avoiding sexual misconduct. Providing training, monitoring, and supervision for youth-serving staff to help them maintain appropriate professional boundaries will not only help protect the integrity of the agency but most important, may help prevent institutional child sexual exploitation.

Skarbek, D., Hahn, K., & Parrish, P. (2009). Stop sexual abuse in special education: An ecological model of prevention and intervention strategies for sexual abuse in special education. *Sexuality and Disability, 27*(3), 155-164. DOI:10.1007/s11195-009-9127-y

Children with disabilities are 3.4 times more likely to be sexually abused than their nondisabled peers. Moreover, the abuse will likely be committed by someone they know and trust such as a parent, sibling, teacher, day care provider, priest, or coach. Given this, it is critical that schools implement sexual abuse prevention and intervention programs for children with disabilities. Prevention and intervention programs based on Bronfenbrenner's ecological model infused with the three categories of prevention: primary, secondary, and tertiary as espoused by the Centers for Disease Control is proposed.

Webster, M. W., & Whitman, J. (2008). [\*Who's lending a hand? A national survey of nonprofit volunteer screening practices.\*](#) The National Center for Victims of Crime.

The vast majority of the reporting organizations indicated that they conduct some form of screening of incoming volunteers, but not all of these organizations conduct thorough screening. The majority of screening organizations conduct an interview of volunteers, but fewer organizations check references, and even fewer conduct full background checks. Organizations with a larger volunteer base were more likely to conduct interviews, reference checks, and background checks. Most organizations that conduct background checks submit volunteers to a name-based criminal records check but use other databases, such as sex offender registries and child and adult protection services. Fingerprint and credit history databases are used far less often. Only about half of the organizations that conduct background checks on prospective volunteers do so in more than one State or use national databases. In addition, the majority of organizations never re-screen volunteers after the initial screening. The majority of organizations reported that they disqualify prospective volunteers for an arrest or conviction for a crime, and the

majority of organizations indicated they would disqualify a prospective volunteer for a child-abuse or elder-abuse report. Most organizations do not disqualify persons for having a poor credit history. The survey was conducted between February and April 2007. The organizations surveyed represented the categories of tax-exempt entities deemed most likely to engage volunteers and work with vulnerable clients. 7 tables, 4 figures, and appended description of methodology.