

10 Facts About Child Abuse



1 Child abuse happens in every part of society.

Rates of **Physical Abuse and Neglect** are affected by socioeconomic status.² It is **Child Sexual Abuse** perpetration/victimization that occurs in all parts of society.⁸

2 Children are usually victimized by someone they know.

In 2019, **91.4%** of victims (all types) were maltreated by **one or both parents**. Other perpetrators known to victims included foster parents, other relatives, neighbors, and daycare providers.¹ In instances of **Child Sexual Abuse**, about 90% of victims know their abuser.³

3 Children rarely tell someone they are being abused.

Research finds most child victims delay or never disclose **Child Sexual Abuse** to friends, family or authorities.^{4, 5, 6}

4 It is extremely rare for a child to lie about sexual abuse.

False allegations of **Sexual Abuse** by children and adolescents are statistically uncommon, occurring at a rate of **2 to 10%** of all cases.⁷

5 Medical evidence is rarely discovered after a child discloses sexual abuse.

Medical evidence is found in less than 5% of substantiated **Child Sexual Abuse** cases.^{9, 10}

6 While all types of abuse are possible in the home, child neglect is more common than sexual abuse.

Child Neglect is the most common type of abuse experienced in the home.¹¹

7 Children who are sexually abused are not destined to continue the cycle of abuse as adults.

Sexual Abuse victims rarely go on to become perpetrators of sexual abuse.^{12, 13}

8 Men and women are both capable of sexual abuse.

Research estimates between **10 and 20%** of substantiated child sexual abuse claims are perpetrated by females.^{14, 15, 16}

9 Boys and girls react in similar ways to sexual abuse.

The severity of the traumatization among male victims of **Sexual Abuse** is equal to that of female victims.^{17, 18, 19, 20}

10 Children with disabilities are more likely to become victims of abuse than children without disabilities.

Children with disabilities are two to three times more likely to experience **Child Sexual Abuse** than children without disabilities.^{21, 22, 23, 24}

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This project was supported by a grant awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Points of views or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.