

Child Sexual Abuse

What is Child Sexual Abuse?

Child sexual abuse is any exploitive or coercive sexual experience involving a person under the age of 18. This may include touching or non-touching behaviors, including voyeurism, exhibitionism, pornography, fondling, intercourse, and prostitution.

Child sexual abuse often begins with seemingly innocent intrusions into a child's personal space. The offender slowly tests and "grooms" the child to accept abuse which may escalate over a period of time.

Most sexual abusers are people known and trusted by their child victims. Less than 10 percent are strangers. Often it is hard for the child's family to believe that a beloved friend or family member has done such a thing. The hurt caused by the abuse is compounded by the trust betrayed. Further hurt is caused if those closest to the child do not believe the child when she or he discloses the abuse.

Although offenders may use physical force to perpetrate abuse, they more typically rely on threats, bribery, emotional force, or simply the force of their authority over the child. Sometimes, the force is implied, rather than overt. Some examples:

Threats: "If you tell, you'll be taken to a foster home."

Bribery: "I'll let you stay up late."

Emotional Force: "I won't like you anymore."

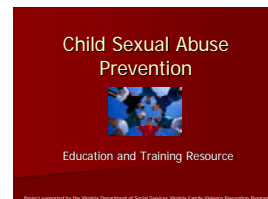
Authority: "This is our secret—don't tell."

While physical pain may or may not be inflicted, child sexual abuse causes deep emotional pain which may be slow to heal. A survivor may carry feelings of fear, guilt, mistrust, and shame well into adulthood.

(Taken from Child Sexual Abuse - What Is It? from the 2006 Sexual Assault Awareness Month Resource CD from the Virginia Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Action Alliance)

For more information on signs & symptoms of child sexual abuse, what to watch out for, and how to respond to disclosures, see the brochure or view the slideshow at right. Sexual abuse is one form of child abuse but can co-occur with neglect, physical abuse, and/or emotional abuse. To see a description of the 4 types of abuse, [click here](#).

Click on the image below to see slides & notes from a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation on **Child Sexual Abuse Prevention** (If you would like to see the Microsoft PowerPoint presentation, see CD contents)



More Information on CSA

Statistics

- Race, Age, Gender
- Offenders
- Children with disabilities

Impact on Victims

- Initial & long-term effects
- Re-victimization

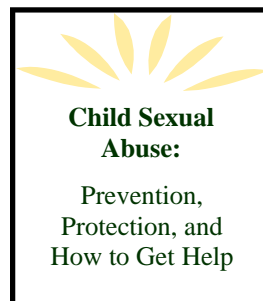
Response

- Reporting & Indicators

**Sexual Abuse Fact Sheet
Sexual Abuse of Boys**



**Prevent Child Abuse
America**



Click [here](#) to view the Collins Center's brochure on child sexual abuse

If you are concerned about a specific child, or if you have questions about this material, call the Collins Center at (540)434-2272.



PO Box 1473, 165 S. Main St. Suite D
Harrisonburg, VA 22801
Web: www.thecollinscenter.org
Email: casa-hburg@ntelos.net



This resource is a project of the Collins Center, serving Harrisonburg & Rockingham County, VA
Funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services Family Violence Prevention Program SVC-06-046-02

Research & Statistics

1 in 4 women and 1 in 8 men in Virginia have been sexually assaulted; the majority of these assaults occurred before the victim was 18.

Prevalence of Sexual Assault in Virginia, Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Department of Health, April, 2003

1 in 5 children are sexually solicited on the Internet.

Highlights of the Youth Internet Survey, US Department of Justice

30-50% of abusers are under the age of 18.

Rogers & Tremain, 1984. Stop it Now! brochure, Do Children Sexually Abuse Other Children?

More than 90% of all sexual abuse victims know their perpetrator.

Almost 50% of the offenders are household members and 38% are acquaintances of the victims.

US Department of Justice(1997) and Finkelhor and Ormond (2001)

Click on the titles below to read recent reports on child sexual victimization

Prevalence of Sexual Assault in Virginia

VA Department of Health, April 2003

Childhood Sexual Victimization in Virginia

Virginia Department of Health, August 2004

(View [Key Findings](#))

Sexual Violence in Virginia 2004 Report

VA Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance

Child Abuse Prevention Month Fact Sheet

Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention, April 2005

Online Victimization:

A Report on the Nation's Youth

National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, June 2000

National Incidence of Child Sexual Abuse

(From [Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics](#))

National Center for Juvenile Justice, July 2000

Domestic & Sexual Violence in Virginia

Office of the Attorney General Virginia Annual Report 2005-2006

Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse & Neglect in the United States: Statistical Evidence

Prevent Child Abuse America, 2001

Child Pornography: Model Legislation & Global Review 2006

International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

If you are concerned about a specific child, or if you have questions about this material, call the Collins Center at (540)434-2272.



PO Box 1473, 165 S. Main St. Suite D
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

Web: www.thecollinscenter.org

Email: casa-hburg@ntelos.net



This resource is a project of the Collins Center, serving Harrisonburg & Rockingham County, VA
Funded by the Virginia Department of Social Services Family Violence Prevention Program SVC-06-046-02