SOME FACTS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

What are Some FACTS of Sexual Abuse?
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Research suggests that one in 20 men may have sexually molested children, and between 5 and 20% of the individuals who offend children are females. Also, 40% of children who are abused are abused by older children or teens. There is NO easy way to identify an offender at a glance. Therefore, the only way your children can be kept safe is for you to know where your child is and what he/she is doing at all times!
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Offenders who primarily target boys abuse an average of 30 boys before being apprehended.
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Research shows that one out of every 3 to 5 girls and one out of every 5 to 7 boys are sexually abused by the time they reach their 18th birthday.
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Over the course of their lifetime, 28% of U.S. youth ages 14 to 17 have been sexually victimized.
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Children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse between the ages of 7 and 13.
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Sex offenders commit an average of 120 separate crimes before they are caught.
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There are offenders living in all of our neighborhoods and communities.
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Child sexual abuse is not solely restricted to physical contact; such abuse could include noncontact abuse, such as exposure, voyeurism, and child pornography.

With Whom Is Sexual Abuse Most Likely to Occur?
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85% of cases involve parents, stepparents, boyfriends, in-laws, grandparents, uncles, friends of the family, or neighbors.
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25% involve people who work in youth service organizations such as sports, youth clubs, camps, churches, and daycare programs.
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5% of cases involve strangers.

How Does Criminal Sexual Behavior Start?
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Most sex offenders grow up in homes where there is a lower level of stability and empathy for others.
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The majority report childhood neglect, emotional and physical abuse, and domestic violence. These experiences create self-centeredness and interfere with the development of pro-social behavior and moral development.
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75% of offenders started offending prior to age 18. The average age of first offense is 14.
How Does Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse Contribute to Sexual Abuse?
- There is evidence that exposure to domestic violence may cause more long-term harm than other forms of child abuse.
- Exposure to domestic violence may cause male children to develop pro-rape attitudes and arousal to violence.
- Parents who abuse drugs and alcohol provide a lower level of care and stability for children, forget to feed them, don’t supervise them, thus making these an easier prey for offenders.
- Some offenders specifically target drug addicts to “trade sex for drugs” and abuse their children.
- When “high,” some offenders become hyper-sexual.

What Are Some Dangers of the Internet?
- The Internet offers offenders another avenue to contact and approach children.
- The Internet is causing some people to cross the line for the first time in their lives.
- Cyber-sex becomes addictive to some people.
- The Internet is exposing children to more, and worse deviant forms of sexuality.
- 20% of children are accidentally exposed to pornography via the Internet.
- One in five children who use the Internet are approached online by an adult seeking sex.

What Are Some Sexual Behaviors Among Children?
- Normal healthy children experience sexual curiosity and pleasurable feeling and sexual play.

What Are Some Inappropriate Sexual Behavior Clues?
- Adults who seem pre-occupied with the sexual development of children or make sexualized comments to or about children.
- Adults who act “flirty” around children or teens.
- Adults who act jealous of children’s or teens’ relationships with each other.
- Adults who “accidentally” touch private parts.

What Are Some “Boundary Violation” Clues?
- Adults who engage in frequent physical contact with children (wrestling, tickling, horseplay, hugging or lap-sitting).
- Adults who don’t allow children privacy, “walk in on them” while they are dressing or using the bathroom.
- Adults who act like children or allow children to do questionable or inappropriate things.
What Are Some Child / Teen – Focused Lifestyle Clues

◼ Adults who work with children but also spend their free time doing “special” things with children.
◼ Adults who do not have children but seem to know a lot about the current fads or music that is popular with children or teens.
◼ Any behavior which seems abusive or inappropriate shall be reported to the pastor or church elder immediately.

Is It “Too Good to Be True” Clues?

◼ Adults who buy children special gifts for no reason.
◼ Adults who want to take children on outings that involve being alone with them.
◼ Adults who seem able to infiltrate family / social functions or are always available to baby-sit.
◼ (Resources) - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rWyEbKNynao

And Finally

◼ Remember, probably 90% or more of the people you know are good people.
◼ Adults, not children, are responsible for the safety and welfare of children.
◼ If a child says he / she has been abused, it’s likely true, believe them.
◼ Most victims can overcome the abuse if we all act calmly and responsibly.
◼ It’s best for everyone if we report and if the victim, family, and offender get good treatment.

Some of the information above was collected from:

Cory Jewell Jensen – Co-Director, Center for Behavioral Intervention / Beaverton, Oregon 9700

Adventist Risk Management https://adventistrisk.org/en-US/Safety-Resources/Pathfinder-Safety and

The National Center for Victims of Crime.