Child Sexual Abuse: The Facts

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) is the involvement of a minor in sexual activity for which they did not or cannot legally consent.

- It includes both touching and non-touching behaviors such as exposure to sexually explicit images (pornography, "sexting"), contacting a child for sexual purposes and trafficking.

CSA is common

nearly **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 13 boys** experience child sexual abuse during their childhood and **approximately 91%** of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone the child or child's family knows.

More than 70% of CSA is committed by juvenile offenders, often a person known to the victim.

3 out of 4 who have experienced sexual abuse do not tell anyone during their childhoods.

- **Child sexual abuse occurs at all socioeconomic levels and in all countries and societies**. It can have devastating effects on children, including pregnancy, sexually transmitted illnesses, depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance abuse, risky sexual behaviors, and suicide.
- **Childhood abuse increases the risk for later adult illness** such as depression, cardiovascular disease and alcoholism, and health risk factors such as obesity, physical inactivity, and tobacco or illicit drug use.

What can be done?

- **Sexual abuse can be prevented**.
- It is the responsibility of all adults in our communities to protect children from CSA.
- Change the focus to **safeguarding** children and the **prevention** of child sexual abuse by adults, institutions and organizations rather than only reacting to incidents when they occur.

- preventingchildsexualabuse-a.pdf (cdc.gov)
- https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment.
- https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2019-3327
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