

SECRET SURVIVORS

USING THEATER TO BREAK THE SILENCE

TOOLKIT AND DISCUSSION GUIDE + DOCUMENTARY

Facts About Child Sexual Abuse

- At least 1 in 4 girlsⁱ and 1 in 6 boysⁱⁱ will be sexually abused by the age of 18.ⁱⁱⁱ It is likely that everyone knows a survivor, even if they don't realize it.
- It is also likely that everyone knows someone who has perpetrated child sexual abuse or other sexual violence. However, we know less about the exact numbers, given that most people who perpetrate harm are never prosecuted.
- Child sexual abuse has been reported up to 80,000 times a year in the United States. The number of unreported instances is far greater.^{iv}
- The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that over 300,000 children are sexually abused each year in the United States.^v
- In as many as 93 percent of child sexual abuse cases, the child knows the person that commits the abuse.^{vi}
- As many as 47% child sexual abuse cases involve family or extended family inflicting the abuse.^{vii}
- Up to 50% of those who sexually abuse children are under the age of 18.^{viii}
- 20 to 50% of adolescents who have sexually abused children were themselves victims of physical abuse and anywhere between 40 to 80% were victims of sexual abuse.^{ix}
- 46% of adolescent male sex offenders reported having experienced child sexual abuse (as compared to 16% of adolescent males who are not sex offenders reporting having experienced child sexual abuse).^x
- Children who express gender non-conforming behavior or presentation before age 11 (one in ten children) are more likely to be sexually abused.^{xi} Gender non-conforming boys are especially at risk.
- In the United States, children with physical disabilities and cognitive impairments are 3 times more likely to be sexually abused than non-disabled children.^{xii}
- Many studies indicate that children experience sexual abuse at constant rates across categories of race, ethnicity and economic status.^{xiii}
- Some studies show that Native American cisgender (identifying with the societal norms of the gender they are born to) girls are at higher risk of child sexual abuse. One indicated that 79% of Native American women have been sexually abused as children, often by multiple perpetrators.^{xiv}
- Since 2002, more than 51 million pornographic images and videos depicting children have been reviewed by analysts at the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children. In nearly 80% of these pornographic materials, the children involved are sexually abused and further exploited by someone they know and trust. 30% of these offenses are perpetrated by family members.^{xv}

ⁱ We use the term ‘girls’ to mean children who were identified female at birth. The research we have come across does not specifically study transgender and gender non-conforming children.

ⁱⁱ We use the term ‘boys’ to mean children who were identified male at birth. The research we have come across does not specifically study transgender and gender non-conforming children.

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control, *Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study*, 1997

<http://www.cdc.gov/ace/prevalence.htm>

^{iv} American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, March 2011

<http://aacap.org/page.wv?name=Child+Sexual+Abuse§ion=Facts+for+Families>

^v Douglas, Emily and D. Finkelhor, “Childhood sexual abuse fact sheet,”

<http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/factsheet/pdf/childhoodSexualAbuseFactSheet.pdf> , Crimes Against Children Research Center, May 2005

^{vi} Ibid

^{vii} Briere, J., Eliot, D.M. Prevalence and Psychological Sequence of Self-Reported Childhood Physical and Sexual Abuse in General Population: Child Abuse and Neglect, 2003, 27 10.

^{viii} (Hunter, J.A., Figueredo, A., Malamuth, N.M., & Becker, J.V. (2003). “Juvenile sex offenders: Toward the Development of a typology.” *Sexual Abuse: A Journal of Research and Treatment*, (2003) Volume 15, No. 1).

^{ix} (Hunter, J. and Becker, J., "Motivators of Adolescent Sex Offenders and Treatment Perspectives," in J. Shaw (Ed.), *Sexual Aggression*, American Psychiatric Press, Inc. (Washington, DC, 1998).

^x Seto, M., & Lalumiere, M. (2010). “What is so special about male adolescent sexual offending? A review and test of explanations through meta-analysis.” *Psychological Bulletin*. 135 (4), 526-575.

^{xi} Roberts, Andrea L., Margaret Rosario, Heather L. Corliss, Karestan C. Koenen and S. Bryn Austin “Childhood Gender Nonconformity: A Risk Indicator for Childhood Abuse and Posttraumatic Stress in Youth,” *Pediatrics*; originally published online February 20, 2012; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2011-1804 <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2012/02/15/peds.2011-1804>

^{xii} Sullivan P. M. & Knutson, J. F. (2000) “Maltreatment and disabilities: a population-based epidemiological study.” *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 24(10): 1257-1273.

^{xiii} American Psychological Association <http://www.apa.org/pubs/info/brochures/sex-abuse.aspx#>

^{xiv} MN Indian Women’s Sexual Assault Coalition & Prostitution Research & Education, *Garden of Truth: The Prostitution and Trafficking of Native Women in Minnesota*, October 27, 2011 (p.3).

^{xv} US House of Representatives, Committee on Judiciary, 2011.