



# The Enough Abuse Campaign An Introduction To Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

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4<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL TRAUMA CONFERENCE  
Addressing Trauma across the Lifespan:  
Integration of Family, Community, and  
Organizational Approaches  
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# True or False?

1. Most child sexual abuse is committed by strangers to the child.
2. Most sexual abusers are males.
3. Most sexual abusers are caught, convicted and in prison.
4. Most sex abusers will reoffend.
5. Treatment of sexual abusers is ineffective.



# True or False?

6. Sexual offense rates are higher than ever.
7. Over 40% of sexual abuse is committed by children and teens.
8. Children who are sexually abused are more likely to sexually abuse when they grow up.
9. Children frequently lie about allegations of sexual abuse.
10. Children are more traumatized if their sexual abuse occurred often, at a younger age, and involved penetration.



# ENOUGH Abuse

**Strategies  
For your Family  
and Community**



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**Before we begin**

## **Part I: Educate**

- Understand child sexual abuse as a public health problem
- Understand conditions that support child sexual abuse.

## **Part II: Respond**

- Learn strategies to prevent child sexual abuse in your family and community.
- Learn how to support victims and report perpetrators by helping both to seek assistance therefore preventing further abuse.

## **Part III: Reinforce**

- Review learned behaviors regarding knowledge and responding behaviors for responsible adults in the child's life

**Training Objectives**



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# Public health approach

- Nature & scope of the problem
- Conditions that support the existence of the problem (individual, relationship, community, and societal) and factors that might protect against the problem
- Strategies to prevent the problem

**Part I: Educate**



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# Public Health



- Efforts organized by society to protect, promote, and restore the peoples' health
- Art of preventing disease, prolonging life, and promoting physical health and efficiency through organized community efforts

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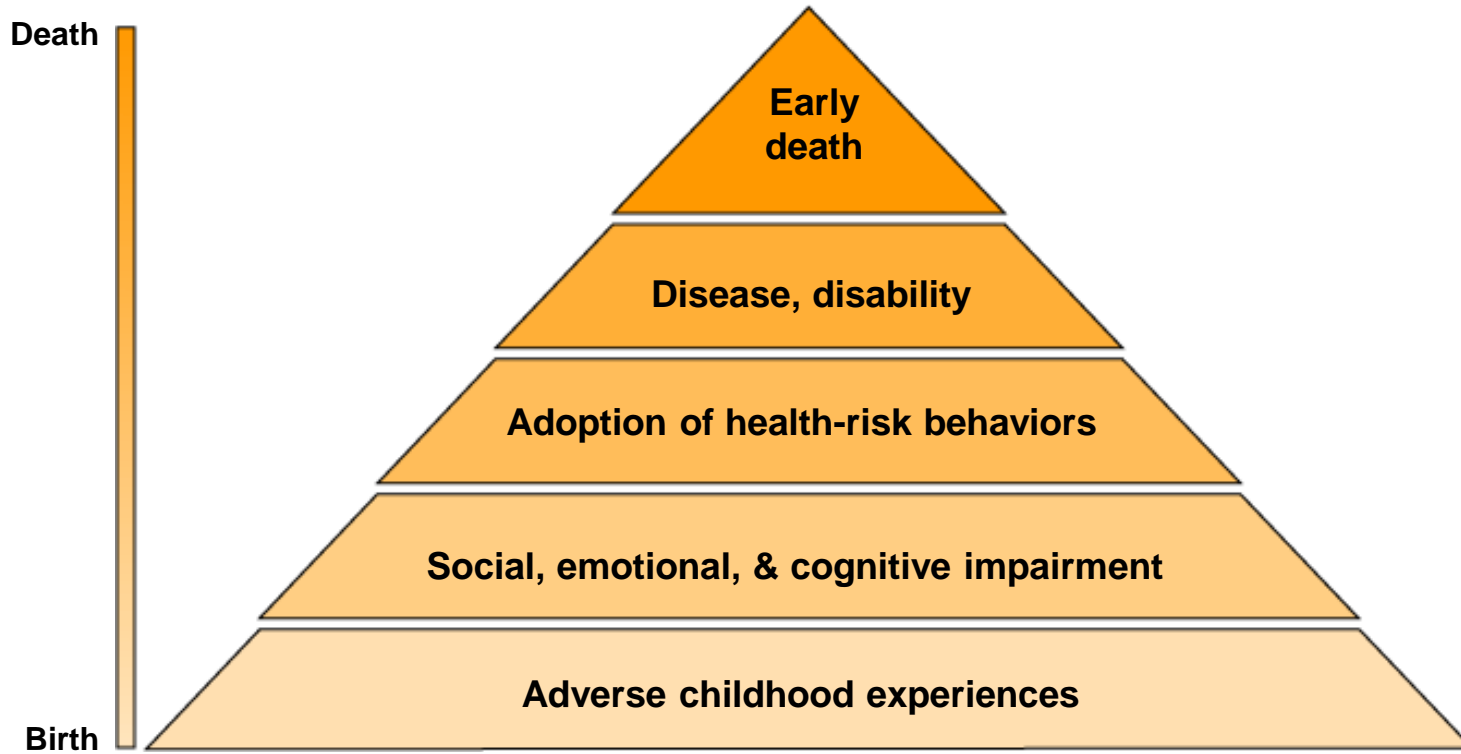
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# The influence of adverse childhood experiences throughout life

*Felitti & Anda, The Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (1998)*



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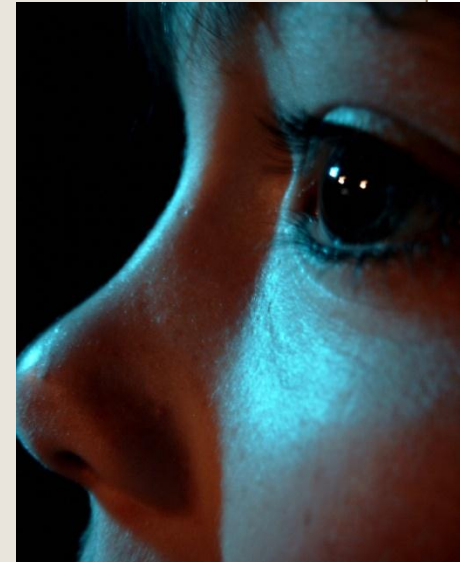
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# High risk behaviors are coping strategies



## Costs related to ACEs:

- Staggering health/ mental health care;
- Reduced productivity in workforce;
- Foster care, homelessness;
- Law enforcement and court costs.



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# Definition of Child Sexual Abuse

The Federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) (42 U.S.C.A. § 5106g), as amended by the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, defines child sexual abuse as, at minimum:

- *Sexual abuse - “the employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.”*



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# Touching behaviors can include:

- Deliberate contact with a child or teen's genitals, buttocks or chest/breasts;
- Penetration of the child or teen's mouth, anus, or vagina with an object or body part;
- Making a child or teen touch another person's anus, penis, or vagina; and,
- Coercing a child or teen to touch him/herself, the offender or another child.

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# Non-touching behaviors can include:

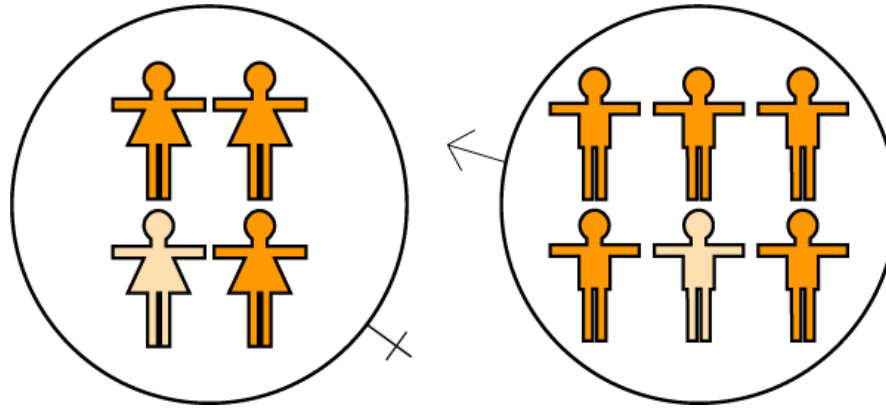
- Exposing oneself to a child or teen;
- Viewing and violating the private behaviors of a child or teen;
- Taking sexually explicit or provocative photographs of a child or teen;
- Showing pornography to a child or teen; and,
- Communicating with a child or teen about sexually explicit fantasies or experiences (in person, by phone, via email or Internet, etc.)

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## Child sexual abuse statistics

- 1 in 4 women and 1 in 6 men report having experienced child sexual abuse.
- The vast majority (87%) of sexual abuse is never reported.
- Research shows that children rarely make up accusations of sexual abuse.

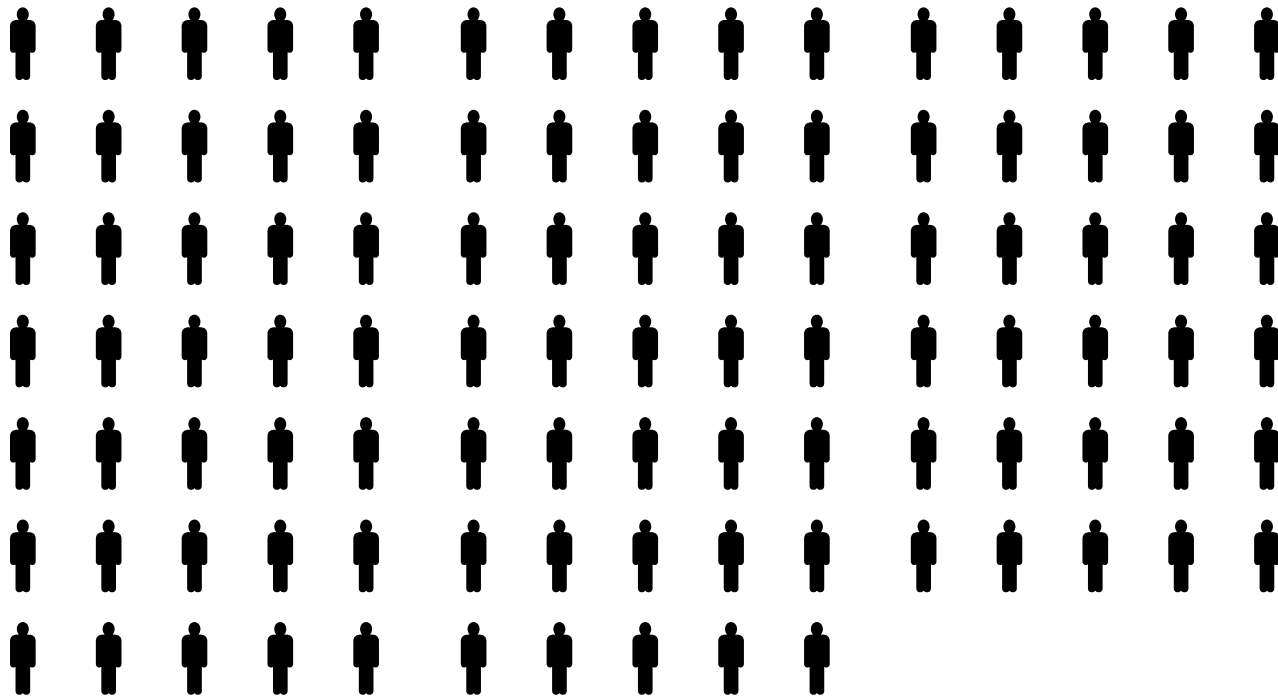
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# The Disappearing Sex Abuser



100

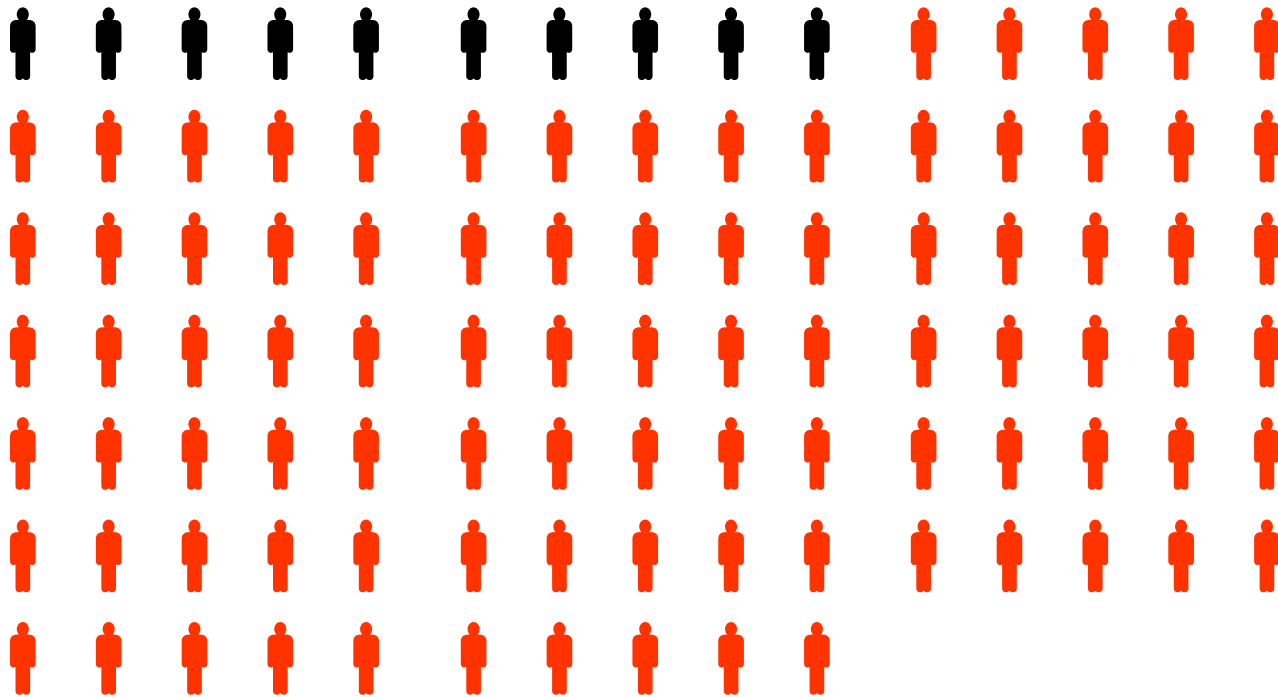
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# The Disappearing Sex Abuser



**Only 10 incarcerated**

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# Who sexually abuses children?



- 93% of victims were abused by someone they knew.
- 34% of victims were abused by family members.
- 40% of victims were abused by peers or older children.

\* Bureau of Justice Statistics report: *Sexual Assault of Young Children as Reported to Law Enforcement: Victim, Incident, and Offender Characteristics*, July 2000.

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# Who sexually abuses children?



- According to reports to law enforcement, 96% of offenders are male.
- According to the ACE Study, 40% of the men and 6% of the women reported childhood victimization that included female perpetrators.
- Other experts estimate that women perpetrate 20 – 30% of sexual abuse against children.

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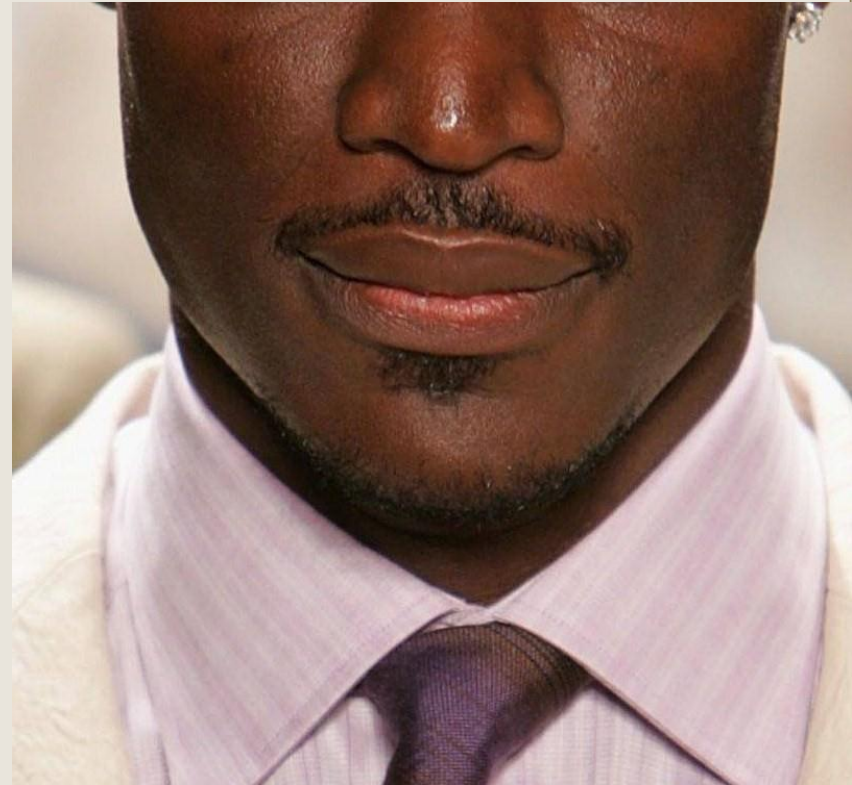


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# Characteristics of male offenders :

- Fewer than 5% have a psychotic mental illness
- Many who sexually abuse children do not meet the criteria for pedophilia
- The vast majority are heterosexual
- More than half report committing their first offense before the age of 18; avg. age 25-34
- 40% high school grads
- 50% under supervision for property or drug offense



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# Who sexually abuses children?



## Characteristics of juveniles who abuse:

- No one type – differ in victim and abusive acts committed as well as in personal histories, cognitive functioning and mental health
- Histories do not differ significantly from those who commit other types of offenses
- Often engage in other types of non-sexual criminal and antisocial behavior
- Girls commit at least 5% - 8% of sexual offenses committed by juveniles

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# Who sexually abuses children?

## Characteristics of female offenders :

- 50% report prior abuse by spouse, boy friend
- 1/3 report abuse by parent
- 89% report drug usage; PTSD prominent
- Like men, tend to abuse children they know
- Victims may have an even harder to find support

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# Why do people sexually abuse children?

- A subgroup of child molesters molest children simply because they are **sexually attracted** to them.
- Others molest because they are **anti-social** or **psychopathic** and simply feel **entitled**.
- Still others **use children for the intimacy** they are too timid or impaired to obtain from adults.
- Others molest for **reasons we don't understand at all**.

Anna C. Salter, PhD

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# Why do people sexually abuse children?

## Common Deficits:

### Communication

- Difficulty discussing emotions and needs

### Empathy

- Insensitivity to needs of others

### Accountability

- Sense of entitlement

URSBC

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# Why do children sexually offend?

## Exposure:

- Witnessing violence, cultural messages, unsafe community

## Deficits:

- Failure to develop skills, lack of supportive environment



## Experience:

- Things which happen to the child

## Deviance:

- Genetic or neurobiological differences

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# Can people who abuse stop?



## Juveniles:

- Majority do not become adult sex offenders.
- Factors affecting recidivism:
  - Age of first offense
  - # of offenses
  - Length of time between offense and first report
  - Perceptions of family's reaction

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# Conditions that support abuse

**Social Messages**  
promoted by society

**Secrecy**  
caused by tactics  
of those who abuse  
and some institutions

**Silence**  
of families and  
communities



**Part I: Educate**



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**Conditions that support CSA**

# Social messages



- Children should obey adults.
- Family problems should be kept within the family.
- Sex and violence go together.



**Part I: Educate**



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**Conditions that support CSA**

# Social messages



- Children should obey adults.
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- Sex and violence go together.



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**Conditions that support CSA**

# Social messages - *continued*



- Children and teens lie and manipulate.
- Girls/women are victims.
- Boys/men are not victims.



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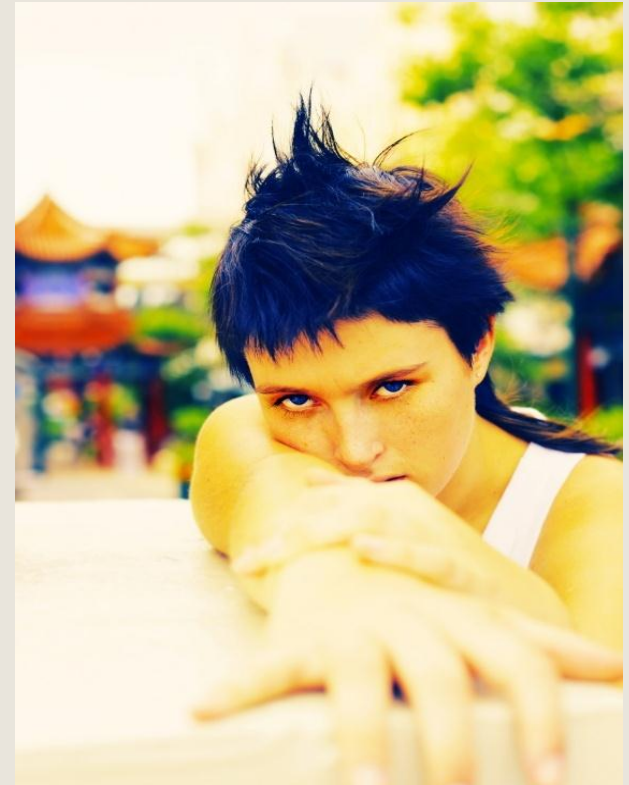
**Conditions that support CSA**



# Social messages - *continued*



- Girls/women are seductive, sexual objects.
- Boys/men always want sex.
- Sexually abused children will abuse others.



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# Secrecy



- Child may be dependent on abuser for physical and emotional needs.
- Child may have no way of knowing that abuse is wrong.
- Extra attention may feel good.
- Sexual contact may feel good.

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## Secrecy - *continued*

- “Grooming” of child/family:
  - Builds trust
  - Provides cover
- Threatening the child:
  - Nobody will believe you
  - Abuser will be sent to jail
  - Violence to child, family or pets

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# Secrecy - *continued*

Telling the child s/he is to blame:

- Family will be angry, disgusted
- Family will stop loving the child
- Child will get in big trouble



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## Silence

- False sense of security  
*"This couldn't happen to my kids."*
- Discomfort speaking about sexual abuse/sexuality in general *"I don't have to bring it up because my kids tell me everything."*

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Conditions that support CSA



## Silence - *continued*

- Lack of knowledge about how to prevent abuse or respond to it in helpful ways  
*“I wouldn’t even know where to begin.”*
- Fear of opening Pandora’s Box  
*“What would I do if it really did happen?”*



**Part I: Educate**



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**Conditions that support CSA**

# Consequences of social messages, secrecy & silence:

- Adults are not adequately protecting children from people who might abuse them.
- Adults and children are not communicating about a major safety risk.
- Adults and communities have not been mobilized for prevention.



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**Conditions that support CSA**

# Continuum of Prevention



**Part II: Respond**



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## Common strategies to prevent child sexual abuse

1. Identification & treatment of victims
2. Identification of abusers -  
Prosecution, treatment & monitoring
3. Child Victimization risk reduction

**Part II: Respond**



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## Child victimization risk reduction

### Child safety programs:

- Give message that children have rights
- Define different types of touching
- Give children permission to set limits regarding their own bodies

Part II: Respond



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**Prevent Child Sexual Abuse**



# Preventing perpetration

- 1.) Preventing people from victimizing children *today*, and
- 2.) Preventing children from developing sexually abusive behaviors *in the future*.



Part II: Respond



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# Action steps to prevent child sexual abuse

1. Educate
2. Communicate
3. Advocate



**Part II: Respond**



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# Abuse prevention talking tips



1. All the parts of our bodies are good and we can speak about them respectfully.
2. Grown-ups and older children have no business “playing” with a child’s private body parts.

**Part II: Respond**



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# Abuse prevention talking tips



3. Grown-ups and older children *never, ever* need help from children with *their* private body parts.
4. It is important not to cross another child's body boundaries and touch their private body parts.

Care for Kids

**Part II: Respond**



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# Not Just Jenna



1. REVIEW DVD
2. DISCUSSION

**Part III: Reinforce**



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## If a child or teen discloses to you:

- ✓ Stay calm.
- ✓ Be supportive.

✓ Tell the child or teen:

*“I believe you. You are not to blame.  
You were brave to tell. I will protect you.”*

**Part III: Reinforce**



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- ✓ Ask children or teens open-ended questions that require more than a yes or no answer.
- ✓ Don't ask the child to repeat multiple time what they have said.
- ✓ Call Child Protective Services or police who will arrange for the child to be interviewed by a skilled professional.

**Part III: Reinforce**



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## Increase adult & community responsibility for prevention

**Educate** ourselves about child sexual abuse and understand it as a public health problem.

**Communicate** with children to eliminate conditions that support abuse.

**Prevent** child sexual abuse by implementing strategies and educate other parents, adults and professionals about prevention.

**Advocate** for child victims and report and seek assistance for abusers to reduce the risks of further abuse.

### Part III: Reinforce



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# Resources



**THE FAMILY TREE 410-889-2300 EXT. 1207**  
**PARENT HELPLINE 1-800-243-7337 (24/7)**  
**[HTTP://WWW.DHR.STATE.MD.US/CPS](http://www.dhr.state.md.us/cps)**



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