

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE STATISTICS Circumstances

FACT:

Child sexual abuse often takes place under specific, often surprising circumstances.

It is helpful to know these circumstances because it allows for the development of strategies to avoid child sexual abuse.

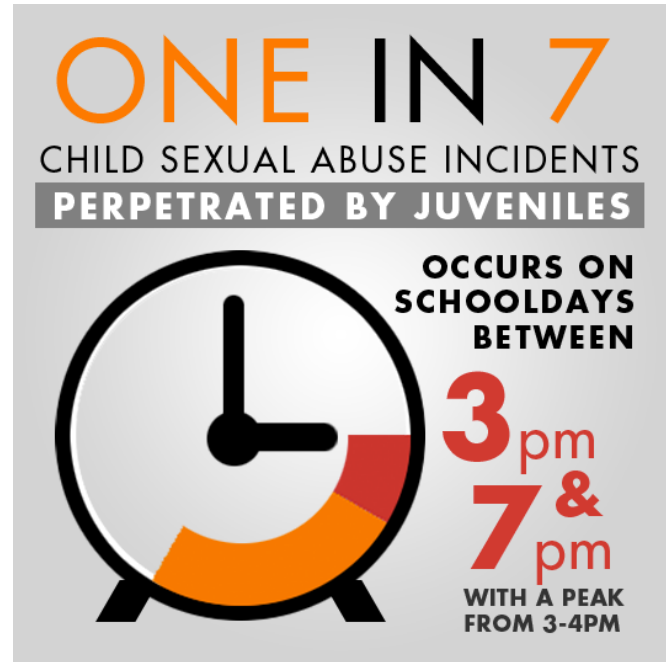
81% of child sexual abuse incidents for all ages occur in one-perpetrator/one-child circumstances.

Six to 11-year-old children are most likely (23%) to be abused in multiple-victim circumstances.⁹

Most sexual abuse of children occurs in a residence, typically that of the victim or perpetrator – 84% for children under age 12 to 17, there is also a peak in assaults in the late evening hours.⁹

FACT:

Most adolescent sex offenders are not sexual predators and will not go on to become adult offenders.



One in seven incidents of sexual assault perpetrated by juveniles occurs on school days in the after-school hours between 3 and 7 p.m., with a peak from 3 to 4 p.m.⁹

Most adolescent offenders do not meet the criteria for pedophilia and do not continue to exhibit sexually predatory behaviors.³⁹

Adolescent sex offenders are more responsive to treatment than adults. They do not appear to continue to re-offend into adulthood, especially when provided with appropriate treatment.²⁹

DARKNESS TO LIGHT

FACT:

Not everyone who sexually abuses children is a pedophile.

Child sexual abuse is perpetrated by a wide range of individuals with diverse motivations. It is impossible to identify specific characteristics that are common to all those who molest children.

Situational offenders tend to offend at times of stress and begin offending later than pedophilic offenders. They also have fewer victims (often family), and have a general preference for adult partners.¹⁶

Pedophilic offenders often start offending at an early age, and often have a large number of victims (frequently not family members).¹⁶

70% of child sexual offenders have between one and 9 victims, while 20% have 10 to 40 victims.¹⁴

FACT:

As many as 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, or more powerful children.¹²

The younger the child victim, the more likely it is that the perpetrator is a juvenile. Juveniles are the offenders in 43% of assaults on children under age six. Of these offenders, 14% are under age 12.⁹

Juveniles who commit sex offenses against other children are more likely than adult sex offenders to offend in groups, to offend at schools, and to have more male victims and younger victims.¹¹

The number of youth coming to the attention of police for sex offenses increases sharply at age 12 and plateaus after age 14. Early adolescence is the peak age for youth offenses against younger children.¹⁴

A small number of juvenile offenders – one out of 8 – are younger than age 12. Females constitute 7% of juveniles who commit sex offenses.¹

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