



## THE 42 MILLION: CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN THE UNITED STATES

About three-quarters of children who were sexually abused don't tell anyone for at least a year, about 45 percent keep it a secret for five years, and many never tell anyone.

*Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire*

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The Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) reports that the majority of rapes and sexual assaults were not reported to the police – only 36 percent of rapes, 34 percent of attempted rapes, and 26 percent of sexual assaults were reported.

*U.S. National Institute of Justice*

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Reasons for not reporting assault commonly include:

- Self-blame or guilt.
- Shame, embarrassment, or desire to keep the assault a private matter.
- Humiliation or fear of the perpetrator or other individual's perceptions.
- Fear of not being believed or of being accused of playing a role in the crime.
- Lack of trust in the criminal justice system.

*U.S. National Institute of Justice*

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A typical pedophile will commit 117 sexual crimes in a lifetime.

*Dr. Gene Abel, Emory University - National Institute of Health Study  
National Sex Offenders Registry*

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Pedophilia is a sexual orientation and unlikely to change. Treatment aims to enable someone to resist acting on his sexual urges.

*Harvard University Mental Health Letter*

*Blanchard R. "The DSM Diagnostic Criteria for Pedophilia," Archives of Sexual Behavior (April 2010): Vol. 39, No. 2, pp. 304–16.*

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The behavior (sexual offenses against children) is highly repetitive, to the point of compulsion, rather than resulting from a lack of judgment.

*Dr. Ann Burges, Dr. Nicholas Groth, et al. in study of imprisoned offenders  
American Journal of Orthopsychiatry; Mental Health & Social Justice*

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Survivors of child sexual abuse are more likely to suffer depression, anxiety, eating disorders, self-harm behaviors and substance abuse.

*The Long-term Health Outcomes of Childhood Abuse: An Overview and a Call to Action, U.S.  
National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health*

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Survivors of child sexual abuse incur \$210,000 in lost earnings over a lifetime.

*Dr. Karen Cyphers, Economic & Fiscal Impacts of Child Sexual Abuse in Florida, Miami Herald*

**1 in 3** & **1 in 5**  
**GIRLS & BOYS**  
IN THE UNITED STATES ARE  
**SEXUALLY ABUSED**  
BEFORE THE AGE OF 18

**BUT**

**95% OF SEXUAL ABUSE**  
**IS PREVENTABLE**  
**THROUGH EDUCATION**  
**AND AWARENESS**

## **1 IN 3 AND 1 IN 5:** PREVENTION THROUGH EDUCATION

1 in 3 girls and 1 in 5 boys will be victims of sexual abuse before the age of 18.

*The Advocacy Center: The Facts About Youth Sexual Abuse. (n.d.). The Advocacy Center: The Facts About Youth Sexual Abuse*

More than 90% of sexual abuse is committed by someone the victim knows, loves or trusts.

*U.S. Department of Justice*

95% of sexual abuse is preventable through education and awareness.

*The Child Molestation Prevention Plan. (n.d.). Child Molestation Research & Prevention Institute*

### **PREVENTION TIPS FROM LAUREN'S KIDS:**

Teach children that they should decide if a person is safe or unsafe based on the way an adult makes them feel...not how they look or how well your child knows them.

When talking about touch, use the terms safe and unsafe, vs. good and bad. The terms good and bad as they relate to feelings, touches, secrets are not used because they are hard for children to understand – especially if an abuser tells a child that an unsafe touch will feel good or that it is not bad to keep an unsafe secret.

- Children need to understand that they decide if a person, touch, or secret is safe or unsafe based upon how it makes them feel
- Safe people, touches, situations and secrets make us feel loved, happy, excited, comfortable
- Unsafe people, touches, situations and secrets make us feel confused, scared, icky, not quite right

“It’s OK to Tell” – Encourage children to speak up if something does not feel quite right, and to keep telling until they get the “2 H’s” – heard and helped.

**For more information, visit [LaurensKids.org](http://LaurensKids.org) or [SaferSmarterKids.org](http://SaferSmarterKids.org).**