

# **SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS**

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**“No Longer Invisible, Inc.”**

# SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS

## What We'll Cover Today:

- What is Sexual Abuse
- Shocking Facts About Sexual Abuse
- Profile of an Abuser
- Effects of Abuse
- Prevention
- Getting Help



# “No Longer Invisible” (NLI)

- Founder, Lavinia Freeman
- No Longer Invisible: National organization designed to empower survivors of child sexual abuse.



# WHAT IS SEXUAL ABUSE?

## The 3 Forms of Sexual Abuse:

- Touching Offenses
- Non-Touching Offenses
- Sexual Exploitation



# The 3 Forms of Sexual Abuse

## 1. Touching Offenses

- Fondling
- Oral Sex
- Making a child touch another's genitals.
- Penetrating a child's vagina or anus (no matter how slight) with a penis or object.

# The 3 Forms of Sexual Abuse

## 2. Non-Touching Offenses

- Indecent exposure or “flashing”.
- Forcing children to watch pornography or sex acts.
- Masturbating in front of a child.

# The 3 Forms of Sexual Abuse

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## 3. Sexual Exploitation

- Prostitution and solicitation.
- Making a child film, photograph, or model in pornography.

# SEXUAL ABUSE STATS

- 1 out of 4 girls, and 1 out of 6 boys have been sexually abused before the age of 18. (CDC 2006)
- **73%** of child victims do not tell anyone about the abuse for at least a year. **45%** of victims do not tell anyone for at least 5 years. Some never disclose. (Smith et al., 2000; Broman-Fulks et al., 2007).
- Nearly **70%** of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children ages 17 and under (Snyder, 2000).
- The sexual assault rate for youths 12 to 17 was **2.3 times higher** than for adults (U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000).



# Profile of An Abuser

- About 60% of perpetrators are non-relatives, such as a friend of the family, babysitter, or neighbor.
- About 30% of those who sexually abuse children are relatives of the child, such as fathers, uncles, or cousins.
- Strangers are perpetrators in only about 10% of child sexual abuse cases.

# Profile of an Abuser (cont'd)

- Men are perpetrators in most cases, regardless of whether the victim is a boy or a girl.
- Women are perpetrators in about 14% of cases reported against boys and about 6% of cases reported against girls.
- Child pornographers and other perpetrators who are strangers now also make contact with children using the Internet.

# SIGNS OF ABUSE

- Frightening dreams.
- Play in which aspects of the abuse are expressed.
- They might exhibit fear, anxiety, or agitated behavior.
- Loss of developmental skills and begin bed-wetting or thumb-sucking.
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or seductiveness.
- As a result of abuse, children, especially boys, might "act out" with behavior problems, such as cruelty to others and running away.
- Becoming depressed or withdrawing from friends or family.
- Older children or adolescents might try to injure themselves or attempt suicide.

# Effects of Abuse

- Post-traumatic Stress Disorder or Anxiety
- Depression and thoughts of suicide
- Sexual anxiety and disorders, including promiscuity
- Poor body image and low self-esteem
- The use of unhealthy behaviors to help mask painful emotions related to the abuse such as : alcohol abuse, drug abuse, self-mutilation, or bulimia.

# Prevention

- Talk to children about the difference between safe touching and unsafe touching.
- Tell the child that if someone tries to touch his or her body in their private areas or do things that make the child feel unsafe, he or she should say NO to the person and tell you or a trusted adult about it right away.
- Alert children that perpetrators may use the Internet, and monitor children's access to online websites.
- Most importantly, provide a safe, caring environment so children feel able to talk openly about sexual abuse.

# RESOURCES

- **The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline**  
1-800-4-A-CHILD (1-800-422-4453)
- **JustTell.org**

# No Longer Invisible



## Contact NLI

- Website: [iamNLI.com](http://iamNLI.com)
- [Facebook.com/NoLongerInvisible](https://www.facebook.com/NoLongerInvisible)



# Rachelle Miller



## Let's Connect:

- Website: [TheRelationshipMgr.com](http://TheRelationshipMgr.com)
- Twitter: [@RelationshipMgr](https://twitter.com/RelationshipMgr)
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