

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

WHO IS A MANDATED REPORTER

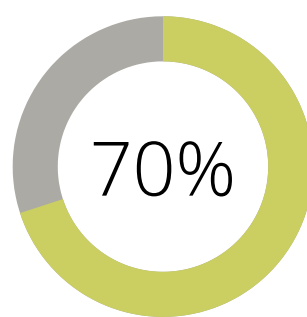
Mandated reporters are individuals who are obligated by law or professional ethics to report any occurring or suspected abuse and neglect to the relevant authorities. The consequences of a mandated reporter knowingly or willfully failing to report are being found criminally negligent, the possibility of jail time, and heavy fines.

Child sexual abuse occurs most often in children between the ages of 5 and 13 making child professionals the first and most likely suspect of maltreatment. This group is the largest of mandated reporters.

Goldman, J. D. G., & Grimbeek, P. (2015). Preservice Teachers' Sources of Information on Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 24(3), 238-258.

WHAT CONSTITUTES CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Child sexual abuse is any type of sexual activity with a minor that includes contact and non-contact incidents. For example, the abuser sexually touching the child, the child being forced to touch the abuser, forcing the child to watch pornography, watching the child undress or bathe, exposing oneself to a child, or performing sexual acts on or with the child all constitute sexual abuse.



Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults occur to children age 17 and under.

<https://cac-ottawa.org/services/prevention/>

RISK FACTORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Children ages 5 to 13 are the most at risk for being victims of child sexual abuse but risk factors that increase the likelihood of victimization are:

- Gender
- Age
- Socioeconomic status
- Presence of a disability
- Race
- Ethnicity

EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Short Term

- fear
- anxiety
- depression
- low self-esteem
- nightmares/bedwetting
- sexualized behavior

Long Term

- drug and alcohol abuse
- creation of a cycle of abuse
- becoming more or less sexually active
- unhealthy attitudes about sex
- lack of trust

<https://incacs.org/prevention/short-and-long-term-effects-of-abuse-on-children-and-teens/>

PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Prevention practices for childcare professionals to use inside and outside of the classroom are:

- Practicing "good" and "bad" touches for children to recognize when and where certain touch is appropriate
- Creating a safe environment with trust and fluid communication between child and childcare worker
- PSA's and education programs for parents encouraging positive parenting

Martinello, E. (2020). Applying the Ecological Systems Theory to Better Understand and Prevent Child Sexual Abuse. *Sexuality & Culture*, 24(1), 326-344

FOR MORE HELP, YOU CAN CALL OR VISIT THE
CHILDHELP USA NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE HOTLINE,
1-800-4-A-CHILD

[HTTPS://CHILDHELPHOTLINE.ORG/](https://childhelphotline.org/)