



Child Sexual Abuse - By the Numbers
Compiled by the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County
www.cac-kent.org

Kent County, MI

- Because child sexual abuse is grossly underreported, it is a realistic assumption that there are between 6,000 and 8,000 child victims of sexual abuse in Kent County...each year.
- Each year, nearly 1,000 children receive services from the Children's Advocacy Center of Kent County:

Gender:

- 69% Female
- 31% Male

Age:

- 25% 13-19 years old
- 43% 7-12 years old
- 32% 6 years old or younger
- Less than 1% did not specify age

Ethnic Background:

- 17% African/African American
- 54% Caucasian
- 10% Hispanic
- < 1% Native American
- 15% Other (includes biracial children and those who did not specify ethnicity)

How prevalent is child sexual abuse?

- One child under the age of 18 is sexually assaulted every 3.9 minutes; one child under the age of 12 is sexually assaulted every 7.7 minutes. Since estimates suggest that only 12% of sexual abuse cases are reported, actual assaults could be as high as 1 every 28 seconds for all children and 1 every 55 seconds for those under the age of 12.
- Some estimates suggest that only 1-10% of child molestation cases are ever reported
- As many as one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.

Who are the abusers?

- Up to 50% of those who sexually abuse children are under 18, and 40-80% of adolescents who have sexually abused children were themselves victims of sexual abuse.
- In more than 90% of sexual abuse cases, the child and the child's family know and trust their abuser. Statistics show that 30-40% of children are abused by a family member, while approximately 60-70% are abused by a trusted friend of the family.

What are the long-term effects of untreated sexual abuse?

- Child victims of sexual abuse experience more physical health problems (headaches, stomach aches) when left untreated.
- Adults who were victims of sexual abuse, and did not receive treatment, are more likely to experience one or some of the following: major depression and/or PTSD, substance abuse problems, heart disease and/or obesity, suicide attempts.
- Estimating 20 new cases of fatal and 40,387 new substantiated cases of nonfatal CSA that occurred in 2015, the lifetime economic burden of CSA is approximately \$9.3 billion. (\$8.6 billion for female victims and \$758 million for male victims) - *Child Abuse and Neglect*

Does a children's advocacy center really make a difference in cases?

- Police in CAC communities were involved in 81% of CPS investigations of sexual abuse, compared to only 52% of cases in comparison communities. A team interview was given 28% of the time as opposed to 6% without a CAC.
- 48% of children in CAC samples received a forensic medical exam versus 21% of the children in non-CAC communities.
- 60% of children in CAC communities received referrals for mental health services versus 22% of the children in non-CAC communities. Additionally, in a CAC community, 31% of children received on-site counseling.
- According to research, CACs are viewed as leaders in the community and experts in child abuse.
- Only CACs with strong involvement from law enforcement and district attorneys' offices showed an impact on criminal justice outcomes.