

# Child Sexual Abuse Fact Sheet

Child sexual abuse is when another person sexualises a child, or uses a child for their sexual gratification. Abuse can involve both non-contact and contact acts.

## Prevalence

A New Zealand study of 3000 women found that sexual abuse within the family ('incest'), occurred for 12% of those sampled or 1 in 8 women. Half of those survivors were abused by a close family member living in the same household.

A cohort study of New Zealand children spanning from birth till the age of 25 found that sexual abuse was reported by 16% or around 1 in 6 people before the age of 18.

Recent international research indicates that 1 in 6 boys will experience some form of sexual abuse before the age of 16.

The Youth 2000 Survey found that 26% of female students, and 14% of male students, reported unwanted sexual contact which was defined as being touched sexually or being made to do sexual things that they did not want to

## Offenders

85% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the child

The majority of perpetrators in a New Zealand Study of survivors of child sexual abuse, were male family members, (with uncles being the most frequently reported perpetrator) with a median age of 21 years or older.

## Disclosure

Less than 40% of survivors of sexual abuse are likely to disclose the abuse

Research suggests it takes 16 years on average before individuals disclose child sexual abuse.

## Cost

The cost of child sexual abuse in New Zealand is estimated to be \$2.6 billion per year

## References

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