

Putting teens in jail to protect them, only to get raped by the staff... is that what society believes is necessary to prevent them from becoming victims of predatory pimps or men seeking minors for sexual services? **Is this what we do to the over 90% of child sexual exploitation victims whose predator is someone whom they know and trust?** Do we arrest and incarcerate the victims of coaches like convicted serial pedophile Jerry Sandusky? Or the daughters of Keith Brown, of the musical group- "the Five Browns..." Their father, a pillar of the Mormon community, sexually molested all the female children throughout their childhood.

Only when he expressed an interest in mentoring other young females to nurture their musical careers did they speak up and expose their father for the monster he was.

He was sentenced to a mere 10 years in prison for the decades of abuse of his own children.

There are good reasons for some youth to run away from an abusive situation.

Here are some statistics about **non commercial** sexual abuse of minors:

[10 Facts About Child Sexual Abuse - Statistics on Child Sexual Abuse](#)

November 2011: **Most Victims Molested By Someone They Know and Trust**

Child sexual abuse is a devastating crime whose victims are those least able to protect themselves or speak out and whose perpetrators are most likely to be repeat offenders. Many pedophiles follow career paths that provide steady contact with children and earn them the trust of other adults. Priests, coaches, and those who work with troubled youth are among the professions that child molesters have gravitated toward.

Unfortunately, child sexual abuse is also a significantly under-reported crime that is difficult to prove and prosecute. Most perpetrators of child molestation, incest and child rape are never identified and caught.

The following 10 facts and statistics, drawn from the National Center for Victims of Crime "Child Sexual Abuse" fact sheet, reveals the scope of child sexual abuse in the U.S. and its devastating long-term impact on a child's life:

The almost **90,000 cases of child sexual abuse** reported each year fall far short of the actual number. Abuse frequently goes unreported because child victims are afraid to tell anyone what happened and the legal procedure for validating an episode is difficult. (American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry)

An estimated 25% of girls and 16% of boys experience sexual abuse before they are 18 years old. Statistics for boys may be falsely low because of reporting techniques. (Ann Botash, MD, in Pediatric Annual, May 1997.)

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(non commercial) Child Sexual Abuse Stats continued...

Of all victims of sexual assault reported to law enforcement agencies

- 67% were under age 18
- 34% were under age 12
- **14% were under age 6**

Of offenders who victimized children under age 6, 40% were under age 18. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000.)

Despite what children are taught about "stranger danger," **most child victims are abused by someone they know and trust. When the abuser is not a family member, the victim is more often a boy than a girl.** The results of a three-state study of reported rape survivors under age 12 revealed the following about offenders:

- **96% were known to their victims**
- **50% were acquaintances or friends**
- **20% were fathers**
- **16% were relatives**
- **4% were strangers**

Advocates for Youth, 1995

Often, a parent's connection (or lack thereof) to his/her child puts that child at greater risk of being sexually abused. The following characteristics are indicators of increased risk:

- parental inadequacy
- parental unavailability
- parent-child conflict
- poor parent-child relationship

(David Finkelhor. "Current Information on the Scope and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse." *The Future of Children*, 1994)

Children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse between the ages of 7 and 13. (Finkelhor, 1994)

Child sexual abuse involves coercion and occasionally violence. Perpetrators offer attention and gifts, manipulate or threaten the child, behave aggressively or use a combination of these tactics. In one study of child victims, half were subjected to physical force such as being held down, struck, or violently shaken. (Judith Becker, "Offenders: Characteristics and Treatment." *The Future of Children*, 1994.)

Girls are the victims of **incest** and/or **intrafamily sexual abuse much more frequently than boys.** **Between 33-50% of perpetrators who sexually abuse girls are family members,** while only 10-20% of those who sexually abuse boys are intrafamily perpetrators. Intrafamily abuse continues over a longer period of time than sexual abuse outside the family, and some forms -- such as parent-child abuse -- have more serious and lasting consequences.(Finkelhor, 1994.)

“What about the children?”