

# Childhood Sexual Abuse, Incidence, Detailed, Life-Long Adverse Effects on the Surviving Child, and the Public Cost of Such Abuse

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This paper was prepared by Thomas F. Sullivan, Regional Administrator for the Administration on Children and Families in Denver, CO for the purpose of gaining a better understanding of the level of child sexual abuse in this country, how it affects us all even though we may not be victims ourselves, of the insidious, long-lasting effects on the surviving children as they become adults and in some cases on their children and grandchildren, of the public costs of child sexual abuse and to identify some strategies that appear to be not only successful but also cost-effective.

Not all of these 100 points will be directly connected to child sexual abuse. Some relevant research did not separate out the effects from physical, emotional and sexual abuse but deals with all three as child abuse and neglect. Some entries simply address the high levels of alcoholism, teen pregnancy, violence, murder or suicide, all of which many characterize as the primary, secondary or tertiary toxic sequelae of child sexual abuse. Examples of each of these sequelae follow:

- Primary – The child victim survivor abuses alcohol, becomes depressed attempts suicide and becomes an unmarried teen mother.
- Secondary – The baby born to the child victim survivor is born with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) due to her mother’s ingestion of alcohol during her pregnancy.
- Tertiary – The FASD afflicted child becomes an unmarried teen mother herself, does not graduate from high school and due to the developmental delay of FASD acts out in sexually inappropriate ways eventually being forced to become a teen sex slave (prostitute).

This is simply a compilation of research finding and is not intended as an endorsement of any particular research conclusion.

## Child Sexual Abuse Incidence, Disclosure, Risk Factors and Data Quality

1. Childhood sexual abuse is widespread.
  - 1 in 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 18.
  - 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before the age of 18.
  - Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children ages 17 and under. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
2. A review of 166 studies of sexual abuse among males concluded that, “Sexual abuse of boys appears to be common, under reported, under recognized and under treated” Source: Journal of the American Medical Association, 1998, Sexual Abuse of Boys: Definition, Prevalence, Correlates, Sequelae and Management, Holmes and Slap.

3. “The risk factors for sexual abuse that do show up most consistently in epidemiological studies are those elements of the child’s environment related to parental inadequacy, unavailability, conflict and a poor parent-child relationship. .. The factors mentioned appear to increase a child’s risk for abuse in two ways. First, they decrease the quantity and quality of supervision and protection that children receive. Second, they produce needy, emotionally deprived children who are vulnerable to the ploys of sexual abusers, who commonly entrap children by offering affection, attention and friendship.” Source: The Future of Children, Princeton University/the Brookings Institute, 1994, Risk Factors for Sexual Abuse, Finkelhor.
4. “Child sexual abuse is a crime perpetuated by silence and secrecy. Isolation, whether within a family or by community, adds significant risk for sexual abuse. Children who live in rural areas, for example, are almost 2 times more likely to be identified as victims of child sexual abuse. ....It is to the advantage of the perpetrator to further isolate the child victim to prevent disclosure.” Source: Testimony of Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance before the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, December 13, 2011.
5. Child molestation is one of the most underreported crimes with only 1 – 10% ever disclosed according to the FBI’s Law Enforcement Bulletin.
6. Victor Veith, Director of the National Child protection Training Center in Minnesota while speaking in Cheyenne, WY in May 2011, said, “A 2001 study of teachers disclosed that only 26% of them would comply with the reporting law if a child said he was being sexually abused by his stepfather. Only 11% would report another teacher for suspected child abuse. This is a huge problem in this country because if you’re a little boy and your stepfather is sodomizing you, that is unlikely to stop until a report comes into the system.”
7. Children often fail to report because they fear that disclosure will bring consequences even worse than being victimized again. The victim may fear consequences from the family, feel guilty for consequences to the perpetrator, and may fear the subsequent retaliatory action from the perpetrator. Source: Swanson and Biaggio, 1985.
8. Early identification of sexual abuse victims appears to be crucial to the reduction of suffering of abused youth and to the establishment of support systems for assistance in pursuing appropriate psychological development and healthier adult functioning. As long as disclosure continues to be a problem for young victims, then fear, suffering, and psychological distress will, like the secret, remain with the victim. Source: Finkelhor et al,

1990.

9. Estimates of the number of childhood sexual abuse survivors living in this country today range from a low of 39 million by the New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers to a high of 60 million by The Crime Victims Center.
  
10. In a 2007 nationally representative sample survey, CDC reported that:
  - 60.4% of female and 69.2% of male victims are first raped before the age of 18.
  - 25.5 % of females were first raped before age 12. and 34.9% were first raped between the ages of 12 – 17.
  - 41.0% of males were first raped before age 12 and 27.9% were first raped between the ages of 12 – 17.
  
11. “Currently, it is impossible to fully assess the scope of child abuse in the US generally, and child sexual abuse, specifically given the current reporting system. States through their Child protective Services agencies are required to report to the federal government using the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). However, NCANDS is a voluntary system. Unsurprisingly, given the voluntary nature of it, compliance has been uneven. Since 2001, 24 states did not report child abuse and neglect numbers for at least one of the years, and some did not report at all. Moreover, definitions of child abuse and neglect are not standardized making comparisons among and between states unnecessarily difficult.” Source: Testimony of Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance before the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, December 13, 2011.
  
12. On October 25, 2011 the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (part of the Organization of American States) held a hearing in Washington , DC on violence against indigenous women in the United States . Testimony was provided by several people, including Lisa Brunner, Executive Director of Sacred Spirits First Nation Coalition and an enrolled member of the White Earth Band of the Ojibwe Tribe. She said, “We asked in our youth group what would you do if you were raped? A 14 year old said, ‘My Mom and I have already talked about that. When I am raped, we will do nothing about it because nothing is ever done and we don’t want to cause problems for our family.’ When the issue in Native communities becomes a matter of preparing your daughter to be raped, the United States has failed its trust responsibilities to our tribes. The United States has domestic and international obligations that they have ignored for far too long.”

13. Fabricated sexual abuse reports constitute only 1% of all reported cases. Children fabricate only ½ of 1% of the time. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
14. Children from low-income families are more at risk of child sexual abuse. Source: Crimes Against Children Research Center, University of New Hampshire.
15. Among victims of child sexual abuse, the inability to trust is pronounced which also contributes to secrecy and non-disclosure. Source: Courtois and Watts, 1982.

## Harm Caused by Child Sexual Abuse

16. An editorial in the October, 2009 issue of the American Journal of Psychiatry wrote, “Childhood sexual abuse does not seem to cause a single well-defined harm, but rather it sets off disturbances in many systems and subsystems of the body, potentially leading to a plethora of physical and mental symptoms and disorders – that is, to complex co-morbidities. These are costly for the sufferer. In one study of adults with psychiatric illness, the authors concluded that the impact of child sexual abuse on illness burden was ‘roughly comparable to the effects of adding 8 years of age’. It was even more extreme, adding 20 years of age, for activities of daily living and body pain.”
17. The same Journal editorial concluded, “Based on their findings from a study (findings published in 2008) of childhood sexual abuse in China, Luo and colleagues pointed out the following: ‘The findings suggest a need for increasing public awareness of child sexual abuse through open discussion of various abusive behaviors and the potential impact of those behaviors lingering into adulthood. The findings are consistent with a need for public health campaigns that tackle the stigma ... (and) new efforts to alleviate the negative long-term impact of childhood sexual abuse by following up on the victims and address their needs.’”
18. Dr. Bruce Perry, a neurobiologist and authority on brain development and children in crisis, explains how severe neglect or abuse can permanently injure children in ways that make them more susceptible to violence; “The systems in the human brain that allow us to form and maintain emotional relationships develop during infancy and the first years of life... With severe emotional neglect in early childhood the impact can be devastating. Severely neglected children frequently respond with aggression and cruelty that is often accompanied by a detached, cold lack of empathy. Physically abused children can develop post traumatic stress disorders. Even when nothing is threatening them, their brains become ‘stuck’ in high alert, with very high resting heart rates and high levels of stress hormones in their blood. These children are overly quick to interpret others actions as threatening and quick to respond aggressively in their own defense. The most dangerous children are created by a malignant combination of experiences. Developmental neglect and traumatic

stress during childhood create violent, remorseless children” Source: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2003, New Hope For Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect.

19. Dr. William C. Holmes of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in 1998 said, “When sexually abused boys are not treated, society must deal with the resulting problems, including crime suicide, drug use and more sexual abuse. Earlier studies found that 1/3 of juveniles, 46% of sexual offenders and 76% of serial rapists report they were sexually abused as youngsters. The suicide rate among sexually abused boys was 1 and ½ to 14 times higher and reports of multiple substance abuse among 6<sup>th</sup> grade boys who were molested was 12 to 40 times greater.
20. “Sexually abused men reported significantly greater difficulties than non-abused men at all levels of education: grade school, high school and college. They also reported more negative job experiences and more negative experiences in relationships.” Source: Journal of Traumatic Stress, 1994, Educational, Occupational and Relationship Histories of men Who Were Sexually and/or Physically Abused as Children, Lisak and Luster.
21. If we do not prevent child sexual abuse today there will be 500,000 babies born this year who will be sexually abused before the age of 18. Source: Darknesstolight.org.
22. Youth have a far higher sexual victimization rate than adults. In 2000 the sexual assault victimization rate for youths ages 12 to 17 was 2.1 times higher than for adults. Source: USDOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2000.

## Substance Abuse/Mental Health Issues Caused by Child Sexual Abuse

23. 70 – 80% of child sexual abuse survivors report excessive drug and alcohol use. Source: New Hampshire Network of Advocacy Centers, 2007.
24. Young girls who are sexually abused are three times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders or alcohol and drug abuse in adulthood than girls who are not sexually abused. Source: Archives of General Psychiatry, 2000, Medical College of Virginia , Kendler, et al.
25. Among male survivors, more than 70% seek psychological treatment for issues such as substance abuse, suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide. Males who have been sexually abused are more likely to violently victimize others. Source: New Hampshire Network of Advocacy Centers, 2007.

26. “Both sexually abused boys and girls reported significantly more emotional problems, behavioral problems, suicide thoughts and suicide attempts than their non-abused counterparts. The results also indicated that the experience of sexual abuse carried far more consequences for boys than for girls regarding the use of alcohol, aggressive/criminal behavior, use of drugs and the amount of truancy, as well as regarding suicidal thoughts and behavior. ...Only 2.6% of non-abused boys reported a former suicide attempt. For sexually abused boys this percentage was 13 times higher, 26.6%.” Source: Journal of Adolescence, 1998, Sexual Abuse and Adolescent Maladjustment: Differences Between Male and Female Victims, Garnefski and Arends.
27. “Victims of child abuse or neglect are also more likely than other children to attempt suicide as they grow older. Widom’s research indicates that 18.8% of abused or neglected children later attempted suicide, compared to 7.7% of similar children who had not been abused or neglected. Thus abuse and neglect victims were almost 2 and ½ times more likely to attempt suicide than others. This means that over 100,000 additional people will ultimately attempt suicide who would not have, had they not been victims of abuse or neglect back in 2001. Although how many of those abused or neglected individuals will succeed in killing themselves, cannot be reliably estimated, thousands undoubtedly will succeed and that is a terrible tragedy.” Source: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2003, New Hope for Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect.
28. 40% of youth affected with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) ages 6 to 11, 48% of those ages 12 to 20, and 52% of those over age 21 have exhibited inappropriate sexual behavior and the same proportion of the three age groups have been sexually victimized. Source: Minnesota Indian Family Resource Center, November 2009, Shattered Hearts: The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Women and Girls.
29. 79% of FASD-affected girls age 12 and over have exhibited sexually inappropriate behavior. Source: Minnesota Indian Family Resource Center, November, 2009, Shattered Hearts The Commercial Sexual Exploitation of American Indian Women and Girls.
30. Children who have been victims of sexual abuse exhibit long-term and more frequent behavioral problems, particularly inappropriate sexual behavior. Source: New Hampshire Network of Advocacy Centers, 2007.
31. 95% of adult survivors of child sexual abuse have a mental illness. Source: Childhood Sexual Abuse: A Mental Health Issue, 2006.
32. A history of suicide attempts was more than twice as likely among both men and women who experienced child sexual abuse. Source: American Journal of Preventive Medicine,

June, 2005, Long Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim  
Dube, Anda, et al.

33. In the February, 2010 issue of the Journal of Comparative Social Welfare, Aguirre and Watts report that American Indian and Alaska Native suicide rates are 72% higher than the general US population and that close to 70% of these suicides involved alcohol.
34. A psychologist with extensive experience in counseling clients in Indian Country recent wrote, "It is unusual for me to work with a man or woman, a boy or a girl, who has not had their trust sexually betrayed by a person they ought to have been able to trust. It is a 'big elephant' in our front room and a factor in some of the hopelessness/rage many of our young express in their choice of hanging as a problem solver." Source: Personal Communication from the Acting Director of Behavioral Health, Rosebud IHS Hospital.

## Teen Pregnancy and Sexual Promiscuity

35. Women who report childhood rape are three times more likely to become pregnant before age 18. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
36. An estimated 60% of teen first pregnancies are preceded by experiences of molestation, rape or attempted rape. The average age of their offenders is 27 years old. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007
37. Victims of child sexual abuse are more likely to become sexually promiscuous. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
38. An article in the Journal of Urban Health: Bulletin of the New York Academy of Medicine reported in December 2011 that a study of girls in Massachusetts health clinics found that one in thirteen said they had participated in group sex. More than half of those said they had been coerced into doing so. Of those who said they had had group sex, 78% reported dating violence.
39. Boyhood exposure to child sexual abuse is associated with an increased risk of involvement in a teen pregnancy during adolescence and adulthood. Source: Pediatrics, February, 2001, Abused Boys, Battered Mothers and Male Involvement in Teen Pregnancy, Anda, Felitti et al.

40. Teen childbirth is highest among Hispanic Latinos and non-Hispanic blacks. Rates are also high among youth of all races and ethnicities who are socioeconomically disadvantaged according to an April, 2011 CDC Report.
41. That same CDC Report also found that:
  - About half of teen moms do not get a high school diploma before they are 22.
  - Girls born to teen moms are 1/3 more likely to become teen mothers themselves.
  - Children of teen parents are more likely to have low school achievement, drop out of school and become teen parents themselves.
  - Teen mothers account for 11% of all births in the United States.

## Sexual Slavery (Prostitution), STDs

42. 2/3 of prostitutes were sexually abused from the ages of 3 to 16 (the average age of victimization was 10). Source: Treatment of Prostitute Victims of Sexual Assault, 1984, M. Silbert.
43. In one study 1/3 of the women entered prostitution before the age of 15, and 62% of the sample were in prostitution before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Source: Center for Impact Research, 2002, Sisters Speak Out: The Lives and Needs of Prostituted Women in Chicago, Raphael and Shapiro.
44. Men and women who were raped or forced into sexual activity as children or adolescents were four times more likely to work in prostitution compared with non-victims. Source: Population Reports: Ending Violence Against Women, 2000.
45. Children who are sexually abused are 27.7 times more likely than non-victims to be arrested for prostitution as adults. Source: National Institute of Justice, March 1995, Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse: Later Criminal Consequences, C. Widom.
46. Most prostitutes have been sexually abused as children. This abuse leads to feelings by the victim of betrayal, powerlessness, stigmatization and the sense that sex is a commodity. These feelings often make children vulnerable to re-victimization, including child prostitution. American Journal of Orthopsychiatry, 55(4) The Traumatic Impact of Child Sexual Abuse, Finkelhor and Browne.
47. For both men and women there was a 90% increased risk of being diagnosed with an STD if they had been sexually abused as a child. Source: Pediatrics, July, 2000, Adverse



Childhood Experience and Sexually Transmitted Disease in Men and Women: A Retrospective Study, Hollis, Anda, Felitti et al.

48. Behaviors that have been shown to increase the risk of STDs include having a greater number of sexual partners at a young age, lack of use of barrier contraception, increased frequency of intercourse and having high risk sex partners. Source: Pediatrics, July, 2000, Adverse Childhood Experience and Sexually Transmitted Disease in Men and Women: A Retrospective Study, Hollis, Anda, Felitti et al.

## Obesity, Smoking and IQ Levels

49. Data from a multi-year study of more than 11,000 California women demonstrates that obese (Body Mass Index of 30 or higher) women were more likely to report exposure to child abuse. Source: American Journal of Preventive Medicine, July, 2007, The Relationship Between Child Abuse and Adult Obesity Among California Women, Alvarez, Pavaz, Baumrins and Kimerling.
50. A study of 15,000 teenagers found that childhood sexual abuse in males raised their risk of obesity as adults to 66%. Source: AtRiskYouth.com, Childhood Trauma Linked to Adult Obesity, January 29, 2010.
51. “For many people, obesity was not their problem. It was their protective solution to problems that previously had never been discussed with anyone. An early insight was the memorable remark of a woman who was raped at age twenty three and gained 105 pounds in the subsequent year. ‘Overweight is overlooked, and that’s the way I need to be.’ The contrast was striking between this statement and her desire to lose weight.” Source: The Permanente Journal, Winter 2002, The Relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Health: Turning Gold Into Lead, Felitti.
52. Women who were sexually abused as children were 3.8 times more likely to be current smokers than women who did not report abuse. Source: Journal of Addictive Behavior, February, 2004, Dr. Figueroa-Moseley.
52. Women reporting childhood sexual abuse were 2.1 times more likely than women not reporting abuse to start smoking by age 14. Source: Journal of Addictive Behavior, February, 2004, Dr. Figueroa-Moseley.
54. Sexually abused children had IQ levels 13 points below the general average of 100 and severely depressed reading abilities. Source: National Institute for Justice, 1991, C. Widom.

## Depression, Welfare Receipt and Homelessness

55. Abused girls were twice as likely as non-abused girls to:
- Have low self-confidence.
  - Suffer depression.
  - Engage in bingeing or purging behavior. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Survey of Adolescents, 1997, Louis Harris and Associates.
56. Abused boys who were sexually or physically abused were:
- a. Three times more likely to suffer from depression.
  - b. Twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts.
  - c. Four times more likely to engage in bingeing or purging than non-abused boys. Source: The Commonwealth Fund Survey of Adolescents, 1997, Louis Harris and Associates.
57. Six surveys of welfare recipients have produced estimates of sexual abuse that are both diverse and strikingly high. In Paterson , NJ 24% of recipients said they had been sexually abused as children. The figure was 25% in Michigan , 28% in Chicago , 38% in Washington state 41% in Utah and 42% in Worcester , MA . Kathryn Edin, a sociologist from the University of Pennsylvania, said “It is extremely common”. Source: The New York Times, November 28, 1999, Jason De Parle.
58. A study of homeless women found that childhood maltreatment, including physical, verbal and sexual abuse was a pervasive and devastating predictor of dysfunctional outcomes, including chronic homelessness. Source: Prevent Child Abuse America, May 14, 2010, Position Statement: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse.
59. “The odds of experiencing housing insecurity in the past year for men who have been recently incarcerated are 69% higher than the odds for men who have not been recently incarcerated.” Source: Princeton and Columbia Universities, December, 2011, Fragile Families Brief, Incarceration and Housing Insecurity Among Urban Fathers.

## Violence and Dysfunction

60. About 35% of women who were raped as minors were also raped as adults compared to 14% of women without an early rape history. Source: Centers for Disease Control, December 2011, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary Report, Executive Summary.
61. 28% of male victims of rape were first raped when they were 10 years old or younger. Source: Centers for Disease Control, December 2011, National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, 2010 Summary report, Executive Summary.
62. Victims of child sexual abuse report more symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, more sadness and more school problems than non-victims. These victims are more likely to develop eating disorders as adolescents, and major depressive disorders as adults. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
63. Men and women who experienced child sexual abuse were at a 40% increased risk of marrying an alcoholic. Source: American Journal of Preventive Medicine, June, 2008, Long Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim, Dube, Anda, et al.
64. Men and women who experienced child sexual abuse were at a 40 – 50% increased risk of reporting problems with their marriage. Source: American Journal of Preventive Medicine, June, 2008, Long Term Consequences of Childhood Sexual Abuse by Gender of Victim, Dube, Anda, et al.
65. Adolescents who suffer violent victimization are at risk for being victims or perpetrators of felony assault, domestic violence and property offenses as adults Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007..
66. “The best available research indicates that, of the 900,000 children who had confirmed cases of abuse or neglect in one year, an additional 35,000 violent criminals and more than 250 murderers will emerge as adults who would never have become violent criminals if not for the abuse and neglect they endured as children.” Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2003 New Hope for Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect,

67. “All too often children who are exposed to violence undergo lasting physical, mental and emotional harm. They suffer from difficulties with attachment, regressive behavior, anxiety and depression, and aggression conduct problems. They may be more prone to dating violence, delinquency,, further victimization, and involvement with the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.....Being exposed to violence may impair a child’s capacity for partnering and parenting later in life, continuing the life cycle of violence into the next generation.” Source: Office of Justice Programs, October, 2009, Children’s Exposure to Violence: A Comprehensive national Survey, Finkelhor, Turner et al.
68. Abused and neglected children are 67 times more likely to be arrested between the ages of 9 – 12 than those who are not. Source: Child Welfare League.
69. Abused and neglected children were more than twice as likely to run away from home than non-abused children. Source: National Institute of Justice, March, 1995, Victims of Childhood Sexual Abuse – Later Criminal Consequences, C. Widom.
70. Nearly 50% of women in prison report they were abused as children. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
71. Over 75% of serial rapists report they were sexually abused as youngsters. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
72. Most perpetrators do not molest just one child if they are not reported and stopped. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
73. Nearly70% of child sex offenders have between 1 and 9 victims, at least 20% have 10 to 40 victims. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.
74. An average serial child molester may have as many as 400 victims in his lifetime. Source: New Hampshire Network of Child Advocacy Centers, 2007.

75. During the month of June, 2010 the Tribal Police on the Fort Peck Reservation in northeast Montana responded to more than 400 reports of Domestic Violence. Source: Personal Communication from the then Fort Peck Reservation Tribal Health Director, September, 2010.
76. During the month of January, 2011 the Tribal Police on the Rosebud Reservation in central South Dakota received more than 2,000 reports of domestic violence. Source: Indianz.com, January 31, 2011, Women Form the Backbone of Lakota Society and Culture, Vi Waln.
77. “Results show that domestic abuse may result in almost 7 million lost work days annually, reduce workplace productivity, increase insurance costs and lower profits. Data analysis indicates that domestic violence causes \$975 million in lost wages for the victims just in days missed from work. This does not include the money lost while they are at work as a result of working in lower paying jobs.” Source: Domestic Violence Reduces Business productivity and Profits, Farmer and Triefenthaler.
78. “Seeing your mother hit is terribly traumatic for a child” says Doug Goldsmith, Director of the Children’s Center in Salt Lake City. “Yet the psychological needs of children are overlooked, making it more likely they will become future victims and perpetrators. The Cycle of abuse is an absolutely negative chain that is perpetuated by bad things happening to little, tiny kids.”
79. A recent National Institute of Justice report shows that 64% of Native children witnessed abuse against their mothers by age 3. Youth ages 12 – 18, of sexually abused mothers showed more depression and had more behavioral problems than children of mothers who had not been sexually assaulted.
80. CDC in a report issued in 2007 tied domestic violence to the high rates of chronic diseases found in Indian Country. People who are victimized by their current or former partner are more likely to suffer from asthma, stroke and heart disease. Intimate partner violence is also linked to health risk behaviors like smoking and binge drinking according to the CDC Report.

81. A few months ago the Chief of Tribal Police on the Rosebud Reservation reported that her officers during the prior two week period responded to 17 suicide attempts and 3 suicide completions Source: Bismarck Tribune, September 6, 2011, She Can Dance and She Can Intimidate Criminals, Mary Garrigan.
82. On October 22, 2007 Minnesota Public Radio News reported that “studies from the Centers for Disease Control show the fetal alcohol rate among American Indians is 30 times higher than for whites.”
83. In the July 3, 2006 issue of Pediatrics, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Drs. Murphy and Elias report that, “The National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect has reported that children with disabilities are sexually abused at a rate that is 2.2 times greater than that for children without disabilities. Other investigators have similarly reported significantly higher rates of sexual abuse of children with disabilities. The US Department of Justice reports that 68% to 83% of women with developmental disabilities will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime and less than half of them will seek assistance from either legal or treatment services.” Fetal alcohol is widely recognized as the leading cause of preventable developmental delay.
84. The recently retired Tribal Health Director on the Fort Peck Reservation reported that he received an estimate from an expert on Fetal Alcoholism that as many as 25% of the 8,000 enrolled members on that Reservation are effected by Fetal Alcohol.
85. The Family Violence Resource Center on the Fort Peck Reservation has been, for the last 17 years, investigating every reported case of child sexual abuse/statutory rape and, using rigorous standards in all of the cases they have investigated, have confirmed on average two cases of child sexual abuse/statutory rape per week for every week in those 17 years. Considering that, according to some estimates as few as one in every ten rapes of children is ever reported to authorities, the seriousness of this situation cannot be overstated. Source: Personal Communications from the Director of the Fort Peck Reservation Family Violence Resource Center beginning in October, 2004 and continuing to the present day.
86. If past experience holds true, almost two thirds of those sexually abused children from Fort Peck who reported their sexual assault and whose reports were confirmed will receive no therapeutic or rehabilitative services to assist them to recover from that trauma. Children who are sexually assaulted and who receive no services to assist them to

deal with that trauma are likely to develop significant self-destructive behaviors. The public cost of dealing with the aftermath of untreated sexual abuse is substantial. The human cost of our failure to provide these needed services cannot be estimated. Personal Communication from the Director of the Fort Peck Family Violence Resource Center, July 2005.

87. The Billings Gazette on December 15, 2011 reported there had been five murders on the Crow Agency Reservation in South Central Montana during the last 90 days.
88. The Billings Gazette on December 30, 2011 reported on a two car collision the previous late afternoon on the Crow Agency Reservation in which 4 enrolled members of the Crow Agency had been killed. Preliminary reports indicate that alcohol was involved. The oldest victim was 41, the youngest were 17 and 19 year old boys.
89. “Federal agents last year made just 28 arrests in sexual assault cases on an Indian Reservation the size of West Virginia. That’s an arrest rate in sexual assault cases of about 11 per 100,000 population.... Denver’s arrest rate in the same category in 2008 was 38 per 100,000.... Violent crimes on Indian Reservations are two and a half times the national average, yet tribal lands are served by half the number of police as comparable communities.” Denver Post, August 3, 2010, Bringing Justice to Indian Country by Troy Eid, former US Attorney for Colorado.

## Public Cost

90. “Significantly higher annual health care use and costs were observed for women with a child abuse history compared to women without comparable abuse histories. The most pronounced use and costs were observed for women with a history of both physical and sexual child abuse. Total adjusted annual health care costs were 36% higher for women with both abuse types, 22% higher for women with physical abuse only and 16% higher for women with sexual abuse only” Source: Journal of General Internal Medicine, 2008, Health Care Utilization and Costs Associated with Childhood Abuse, Bonomi et al.
91. The estimated annual cost of child abuse and neglect in the United States is \$103.8 billion (2007 dollars) Source Prevent Child Abuse America, 2007, Total Estimated Cost of Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States, Wang and Holton..

92. The financial cost of child sexual abuse is substantial. Sexually violent acts against children (ages 0 – 14) cost \$71 billion every year. Sexual violence against adolescents (ages 15 – 24) costs \$45 billion every year. Source: Children’s Safety Network Economic and Insurance Resource Center.

## Cost Effective Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse

93. Prevention efforts to stop child sexual abuse are highly cost-effective. For every dollar spent on prevention programs, from \$2 to \$20 is returned in benefits. Source: San Diego Community Health Improvement Partners.
94. After a careful review of the research evidence and studies related to child sexual abuse prevention, David Finkelhor, PhD, with the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, drew the following conclusions in his article entitled, “Prevention of Sexual Abuse Through Educational Programs Directed Towards Children” which appeared in *Pediatrics*, September 2007.
- a. Prevention programs reduce self-blame and stigma.
  - b. Research shows that the programs promote disclosure/reporting.
  - c. The programs cause an increase in parent child conversations on the topic of personal safety and sexual abuse.
  - d. Evidence shows it is worth providing children with high quality prevention education programs.
95. “The multidisciplinary team approach has shown that it is possible to reduce trauma to child victims of abuse while improving the legal outcomes of cases and holding offenders accountable. And, at a time when financial resources are limited at every level of government, Children’s Advocacy Centers have been demonstrated to save \$1,000 per child abuse case compared to non-CAC communities.” Source: Testimony of Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance before that US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, December 13, 2011.

## Comments on Child Sexual Abuse and Society’s Response

96. “Child sexual abuse is a preventable health problem that has been allowed to spread unabated due to scientific and social neglect” Source: *Science Magazine*, August, 2005, Paul Fink.



97. “We must employ every tool available to uncover the true extent of child sexual abuse...Current efforts are embarrassingly meager. Whereas \$2 is spent on research for every \$100 in costs for cancer, only five cents is spent for every \$100 in costs for child maltreatment” Source: The Brown University Child and Adolescent Behavior Letter, 2005, Let’s Have An Honest Fight Against Child Sex Abuse, Cheit and Freyd.
98. Rape crisis services are scarce and are getting even more so. According to a 2010 internet survey by the National Alliance to End Sexual Violence of 644 rape crisis centers from all 50 states, Washington, DC and two territories:
- 56% of rape crisis centers had been forced to reduce staff in the last year..
  - 25% of rape crisis centers had a waiting list for crisis services.
  - 66% of rape crisis centers had to reduce prevention, education/public awareness efforts because of funding losses.
  - 61% of rape crisis centers had three or less staff.
  - 60% of rape crisis centers indicated they need at least four full-time staff to meet the current demand for sexual assault services in their community. Source: National Alliance to End Sexual Violence, April 2011, The Cost and Consequences of Sexual Violence and Cost Effective Solutions.
99. “It is our collective responsibility to protect children from abuse. When that fails, to report it and ensure that victims receive the services they need to heal and lead healthy and productive lives. The health and well-being of our nation’s children depend upon it.” Source: Testimony of Teresa Huizar, Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance before the US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, December 13, 2011.
100. “Along with many state organizations of law enforcement leaders and crime victims, the following organizations have joined in calling for greater investment in effective programs that prevent child abuse and neglect: the Fraternal Order of Police, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities (Police) Chiefs, the National Association of Attorney’s General, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Association of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Organization for Victim Assistance, and the Police Executive Research Forum. The public also feels that preventing child abuse and neglect should be at the top of government priorities In a poll conducted by Mason Dixon Polling and Research, 82% of the public said preventing child abuse and neglect should be either a top or high priority for government, even higher than the 72% who picked improving schools as a top or high priority.” Source: Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, 2003, New Hope for Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect.