

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Each year thousands of Utah children experience sexual abuse. This is why A Bolder Way Forward's Child Sexual Abuse Spoke is focused on dramatically decreasing the prevalence of child sexual abuse in Utah. Learn more about this issue and how you can be part of ending child sexual abuse in your community.

KEY FACTS

- 1 in 7 Utah children have been sexually abused, with girls experiencing higher rates of abuse than boys (1 in 5 girls and 1 in 12 boys).
- 1 in 5 Utah high school girls reported that they had experienced sexual violence sometime during the prior 12 months.
- Nationally, 91% of children know the abuser, and it is reasonable to believe the same is true in Utah.
- Child sexual abuse happens in all groups of society.
- Most child victims of sexual abuse delay disclosing abuse until adulthood or may even never tell anyone at all. As a result, rates of child sexual abuse are likely higher than current counts.

DEFINITION

“Any interaction between a child and an adult (or another child) in which the child is used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator or an observer. Sexual abuse can include both touching and non-touching behaviors. Non-touching behaviors can include voyeurism (trying to look at a child’s naked body), exhibitionism, or exposing the child to pornography.”

*The National Child
Traumatic Stress Network*

THE LIFELONG NEGATIVE IMPACTS

Survivors are . . .

- 40% less likely to graduate from high school.
- 5x more likely to be diagnosed with depression.
- More likely to develop a substance use disorder (1 in 5 by age 30).
- More likely to be detained in the juvenile justice system for non-violent offenses (referred to as the “sexual abuse to prison pipeline”).
- 3x more likely to attempt suicide.

Click [here](#) to view sources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



Explore information and resources on child sexual abuse in Utah.

See the *Child Sexual Abuse Spoke* webpage for [resources](#).



Share a resource you found helpful on child sexual abuse with at least one person each month.

You can do this in person or through phone, text, email, or social media.



Ask a local elementary school if it is providing child sexual abuse prevention education for their students; if not, encourage school leaders to do so.

Work with the Child Sexual Abuse Spoke leaders to get them connected with an approved provider.

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Spoke Resources

- [Child Sexual Abuse Video](#)
- [Child Sexual Abuse Spoke webpage](#)
- [Living Room Conversations – Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [LinkedIn: Child Sexual Abuse Spoke](#)
- [Working Group Interest Form](#)

Research

- [Child Sexual Abuse Research Summary](#)
- [Child Sexual Abuse Statistics](#)
- [Child Sexual Abuse Statistics \[Spanish\]](#)
- [UWLP Podcast: Child Sexual Abuse](#)
- [BWF Podcast: Child Sexual Abuse](#)

Organizations

- [Prevent Child Abuse Utah](#)
 - [Home Visiting Program](#)
 - [School and Community](#)
 - [Curriculum](#)
- [Saprea](#)
 - [Prevention](#)
 - [Understand the Issue](#)
- [Malouf Foundation](#)
 - [Education](#)
 - [Advocacy](#)
- [The Safe Child Project](#)
- [Utah Children's Justice Centers](#)
- [National Sexual Violence Resource Center](#)
- [Johns Hopkins Moore Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse](#)