MinistrySafe

MINISTRYSAFE

SEXUAL ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING

COURSE MATERIALS

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MinistrySafe®

Know the Facts About Sexual Abuse & Sexual Abusers

What system protects children at my church?
Does our system address the following facts?

FACT **Sexual abusers will seek access to children where protective barriers are low**

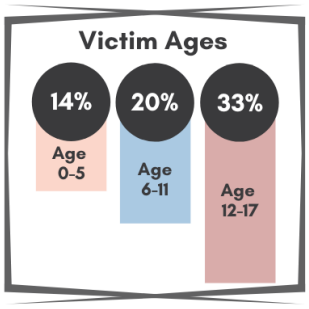
- Secular organizations tend to be ahead of the Church in implementing safety measures
- Protective barriers in the Church tend to be critically low, creating a target for predators
- Ongoing failure to address this issue results in increased risk to children in Church programs

FACT **Less than 10% of sexual abusers will EVER encounter the criminal justice system**

- A background check, even if working perfectly, will identify only a fraction of abusers
- Sexual abusers KNOW when there is no criminal history to be found
- Criminal background checks are vital, but they have limitations and are NOT a silver bullet
- A criminal background check alone is NOT an effective safety system

FACT **Sexual abuse is truly an issue of EPIDEMIC proportion**

- Analysis of 22 American studies reveals 30-40% of girls and 13% of boys experience sexual abuse before age 18
- Law enforcement records and data reported by victims show over 90% of sexual offenders who abused minors were male
- 66% of abuse victims will not speak up until adulthood (if ever)



FACT **There is NO visual profile for molesters**

- Most molesters appear helpful, trustworthy and responsible
- Abusers come from all segments of society and many are married, educated and have families

FACT **90% of victims are abused by someone they know and trust**

- Most abduction offenses (the 'snatch and grab') are a fraction of sexual abuse occurrences
- 'Matching tags' for small children provide an inadequate safety system
- Sexual abusers *groom* children and gatekeepers prior to sexual behavior
- Staff members and volunteers are gatekeepers and they all MUST understand and be able to recognize the abuser's 'grooming process'

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