

# Child Abuse Statistics

Information collected for the book – From Despair to an Heir, 2008

During Federal fiscal year (FFY) 2005, an estimated 3.3 million referrals, involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 6.0 million children, were made to CPS agencies. The increase of approximately 73,000 children who received an investigation during FFY 2005, compared to FFY 2004, is largely due to the inclusion of data from Alaska and Puerto Rico for FFY 2005.

**An estimated 3.6 million children in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico received investigations by CPS agencies.**

Source: [2005 Child Maltreatment](#)  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Publication of the  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau, Pg. 16.

A high percentage of girl prostitutes have been victims of incest, rape, beatings, neglect, and other domestic violence and related problems. **The Huckleberry House Project reported that 90 percent of the girl prostitutes had been sexually molested."**

SOURCE: [Runaway Kids and Teenage Prostitution: America's Lost, Abandoned, and Sexually Exploited Children](#)  
R. Barri Flowers (2001, Praeger Paperback)

These specific statistics are the current statistics for **SEXUAL** abuse percentages for men/women, not abuse in general. I was not able to find comparable "abuse" statistics.

**"Statistics Surrounding Child Sexual Abuse:**

- 1 in 4 girls is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 1 in 6 boys is sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 1 in 5 children are solicited sexually while on the internet.
- Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults (including assaults on adults) occur to children ages 17 and under.
- An estimated 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse exist in America today.

Source:  
[http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics\\_2.asp](http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics_2.asp)  
Darkness to Light: Confronting Child Sexual Abuse with Courage.  
Accessed on 9/8/2007.

### Who were the child victims?

- Children in the **age group of birth to 3 years** had the highest rate of victimization at 16.5 per 1,000 children of the same age group in the national population.
- More than one-half of the victims were 7 years old or younger (54.5%)
- More than one-half of the child victims were girls (50.7%) and 47.3 percent were boys; and
- Approximately one-half of all victims were White (49.7%); one-quarter (23.1%) were African-American; and 17.4 percent were Hispanic.

**Source: [2005 Child Maltreatment](#)  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Publication of the  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau, Pg. 16-17, "Who were the Child Victims"**

### Who is responsible for the abuse and neglect?

- **In FFY 2005, more than three-quarters of perpetrators of child maltreatment (79.4%) were parents, and another 6.8 percent were other relatives of the victim.**
- **Unrelated caregivers** (foster parents, residential facility staff, child daycare providers, and legal guardians) accounted for less than 10.1 percent of perpetrators.
- **Women comprised a larger percentage of all perpetrators than men, 57.8 percent compared to 42.2 percent.**
- More than three-fourths of all perpetrators were younger than age 40.
- Of the perpetrators who maltreated children, less than 8 percent (7.7%) committed sexual abuse, while 61.0 percent committed neglect.
- Of the perpetrators who were parents, more than 90 percent (90.6%) were the biological parents, 4.3 percent were the stepparents, and 0.7 percent were the adoptive parents of the victim.
- The parental relationship was unknown for 4.5 percent of the victims.

**Source: [2005 Child Maltreatment](#)  
The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Publication of the  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families**

**Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau, Pg. 17, "Who is responsible for the abuse  
and neglect?"**

**100% of violent inmates in San Quentin prison had experienced extreme  
violence between the ages of 1 to 10 years**

[http://sen.parl.gc.ca/acools/english/Speeches/2001/speeches\\_Feb5.htm](http://sen.parl.gc.ca/acools/english/Speeches/2001/speeches_Feb5.htm)  
"1979 book *Family Violence*, Dr. Richard Gelles cited two interesting studies. One was the 1976 study by Dr. Adah Maurer, reported in her paper *The Physical Punishment of Children*, which found that 100% of violent inmates in San Quentin prison had experienced extreme violence between the ages of 1 to 10 years. The second was a 1973 study by Dr. Alan Button reported in his article *Some Antecedents of Felonious and Delinquent Behavior*, which found that American presidential assassins and would-be assassins had experienced violent childhoods, often at the hands of mothers. The unspeakable human tragedy of family violence, the brokenness of children and of family members, and the resulting brokenness in society will not diminish until female violence is confronted and reduced. The issue of the day is female aggression and its consequent brokenness in the body politic of our nations."

**Source:**

[http://sen.parl.gc.ca/acools/english/Speeches/2001/speeches\\_Feb5.htm](http://sen.parl.gc.ca/acools/english/Speeches/2001/speeches_Feb5.htm)  
[Dr. Richard Gelles. 1979 *Family Violence*. Beverly Hills, California: Sage Publications, Inc. ]  
<http://www.geocities.com/cddugan/NoFear5.htm>

**Ninety-seven percent** of hard-core juvenile delinquents report a history of severe physical punishment and even assault in the home.

**Source: Colorado Department of Corrections, 1995.(Cited in the Annual Report of Accomplishments & Results (2001) for Colorado '99-'04 Plan of Work as true in 2001).**  
<http://www.reeis.usda.gov/web/areera/CES.CO.report.2001.pdf>

**90 percent of the girl prostitutes had been sexually molested."**

**SOURCE: [Runaway Kids and Teenage Prostitution: America's Lost, Abandoned, and Sexually Exploited Children](#)  
R. Barri Flowers (2001, Praeger Paperback)**

In 2005, given the stats from the US Department of Health and Human Services Children's Bureau publication "Child Maltreatment 2005", the statistic is now

**every 6 hours a child dies from abuse and neglect in our society.** [based on an estimated 1,460 child fatality victims, and there being 8760 hours in a year]

Source:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/chapterfour.htm#child>  
Child Maltreatment 2005, Chapter 4

**Two of every three prisoners convicted of first-degree murder report childhood histories of physical abuse.**

Source: Delaplane, D. and A. Delaplane. Victims of Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Elder Abuse, Rape, Robbery, Assault, and Violent Death: A Manual for Clergy and Congregations. Special Edition for Military Chaplains. Includes a section entitled, "Scriptural References About Children". Scriptures include Hebrew Scriptures, the Talmud, the New Testament.  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/publications/infores/clergy/chldabus.htm>

**In Orange County CA, as of 2004/05, there was a monthly average of 3,399 children who were dependents of the court.** Of this total, 2,566 children were in out-of-home care.

The social-service workers tell us that more than five hundred of these kids will never have a birthday party or present.

Source: 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Report on the Conditions of Children in Orange County <http://www.ochealthinfo.com/cscclreport/>  
"Dependents of the Court and Out-of-Home Care"

Most recent nationwide Stats are for 2003: As of September 30, 2003, there were an estimated 523,000 children in foster care.

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway  
<http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/foster.cfm>

**One woman in three is molested. One in six men is molested, beaten, abused or neglected.**

Recent studies show that by the age of 18 one woman in three and one man in four has been sexually molested.

REFERENCE: **Ghosts in the Bedroom: A Guide for Partners of Incest Survivors.** By Ken Graber, MA. Deerfield Beach, FL: Health Communications, Inc. 1991, p.1

Approximately one in six boys is sexually abused before age 16.

**REFERENCE: Sexual Abuse of Males: Prevalence, Possible Lasting Effects, and Resources. Online Article by Jim Hopper, PhD [Harvard Medical School]. Last Revised 6/7/2007. Accessed at:**  
<http://www.jimhopper.com/male-ab/>

**The median age for reported abuse is 9 years old.**

**REFERENCE: Darkness to Light: Confronting Child Sexual Abuse with Courage.[Online Article]. Statistics Surrounding Child Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse can occur at all ages, probably younger than you think. Accessed 8/28/2007.**  
[http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics\\_2.asp](http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics_2.asp)

**Abuse typically occurs within a long-term, on-going relationship between the offender and victim, escalates over time and lasts an average of four years.<sup>3,5</sup>**

**REFERENCE: Christine Courtois, *Healing the Incest Wound: Adult Survivors in Therapy*, WW Norton & Co, New York, 1988. Accessed on 8/28/2007 from**  
<http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/PUBLICATIONS/factsheet/fsabuse1.htm#3>

**Sexual abuse is one of the top three reasons that children run away from home.**

**80%** of runaway and homeless girls reported having ever been sexually or physically abused. 34% of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported sexual abuse before leaving home and forty-three percent of runaway youth (girls and boys) reported physical abuse before leaving home.

**REFERENCE: National Runaway Switchboard [Online Article]. Motivations for Running Away. Accessed 8/28/2007.**  
[http://www.1800runaway.org/news\\_events/third.html](http://www.1800runaway.org/news_events/third.html). **Primary source cited as:** Molnar, B., Shade, S., Kral, A., Booth, R., & Watters, J. (1998). Suicidal Behavior and Sexual / Physical Abuse Among Street Youth. *Child Abuse & Neglect*. Vol. 22, NO. 3, pp. 213-222.

**Over 70% of runaway and throwaway youth in 2002 were estimated to be endangered, based on 17 indicators of harm or potential risk. The most common endangerment component was physical or sexual abuse at home or fear of abuse upon return. The second most common endangerment component was the youth's substance dependency.**

**REFERENCE: National Runaway Switchboard [Online Article]. Risk Factors Associated with Running Away. Accessed 8/28/2007.**  
[http://www.1800runaway.org/news\\_events/third.html](http://www.1800runaway.org/news_events/third.html). **Primary**

**source cited as:** Hammer, H., Finkelhor, D., & Sedlak, A. (2002). Runaway / Throwaway Children: National Estimates and Characteristics. National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Throwaway Children. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

**Because of the methodology of the National Crime Victimization Survey, these figures do not include victims 12 or younger. While there are no reliable annual surveys of sexual assaults on children, (PDF, 37KB) the Justice Department has estimated that one of six victims are under age 12.**

**Last study was 1992, Access PDF at:**

[http://www.rainn.org/docs/statistics/child\\_rape\\_victims92.pdf?PHPSESSID=9e57ba3c9c27c015ff38a97a3f556381](http://www.rainn.org/docs/statistics/child_rape_victims92.pdf?PHPSESSID=9e57ba3c9c27c015ff38a97a3f556381) |

REFERENCE: Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN). [Online Article] 2005 Statistics. Accessed 8/28/2007.

<http://www.rainn.org/statistics/index.html>

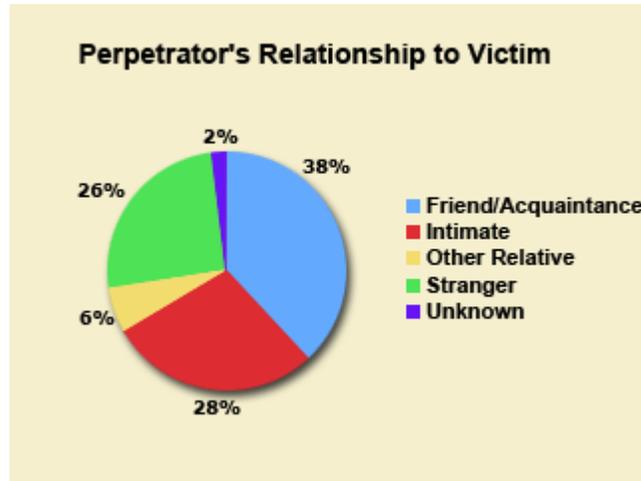
**A recent Department of Justice report found that half of the women who reported rapes in 1992 were under the age of 18, 16 percent were under 12.<sup>24</sup>**

REFERENCE: Patrick Langan and Caroline Wolf Harlow, "Child Rape Victims, 1992," *Crime Data Brief*, U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1994.

**Around 75 percent of reported sexual abusers say they knew their victim before the first incidence of abuse.**

Contrary to the belief that rapists are hiding in the bushes or in the shadows of the parking garage, almost two-thirds of all rapes were committed by someone who is known to the victim. 73% of sexual assaults were perpetrated by a non-stranger — 38% of perpetrators were a friend or acquaintance of the victim, 28% were an intimate and 7% were another relative.

*National Crime Victimization Survey, 2005.* AS REFERENCED:  
REFERENCE: Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN). [Online Article] 2005 Statistics. Accessed 8/28/2007.  
<http://www.rainn.org/statistics/index.html> [See Graph Below Taken from website.]



<http://www.rainn.org/statistics/index.html>

Studies show that about 50 percent of all reported child sexual abuse cases involve incest.

Research indicates that 46 percent (46%) of children who are raped are victims of family members.

**SOURCE:** The National Center for Victims of Crime: Incest.

Accessed on 9/8/2007.

<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=32360>

**Primary Source:** Langan, Patrick and Caroline Harlow. (1994). *Child Rape Victims, 1992*. Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice.

**Incest has been cited as the most common form of child abuse.** Studies conclude that 43 percent (43%) of the children who are abused are abused by family members, 33 percent (33%) are abused by someone they know, and the remaining 24 percent (24%) are sexually abused by strangers (Hayes, 1990). Other research indicates that over 10 million Americans have been victims of incest.

**SOURCE:** The National Center for Victims of Crime: Incest.

Accessed on 9/8/2007.

<http://www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbName=DocumentViewer&DocumentID=32360>

**Primary Source:** Hayes, Robert. (1990, Summer). "Child Sexual Abuse." *Crime Prevention Journal*.

In 2003, **nine out of every ten rape victims were female** according to the 2003 National Crime Victimization Survey; one in every ten rape victims were male.

**SOURCE:** Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network (RAINN). [Online Article] Victims of Sexual Assault: Women/Men. Accessed 8/28/2007. <http://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-of-sexual-assault.html>

**Primary Source:** 2003 National Crime Victimization Survey. (Department of Justice). Accessed 8/28/2007. <http://www.rainn.org/docs/statistics/cv03.pdf>

**About 35 percent of adult sex offenders had already begun to exhibit behaviors such as exhibitionism and voyeurism when they were adolescents.**

Related Statistic: "The most serious and chronic offenders often show signs of antisocial behavior as early as the preschool years."

**SOURCE:** American Psychiatric Association, 1994) (was in Juvenile Justice Bulletin: Nov 1998 OJJDP: U.S. Department of Justice. Accessed from: [http://www.yellodyno.com/html/child\\_molester\\_stats.html](http://www.yellodyno.com/html/child_molester_stats.html) [online article] on 9/9/2007

**In 75 percent of child molestation cases, the pedophile is known to the victim."**

**SOURCE:** [Runaway Kids and Teenage Prostitution: America's Lost, Abandoned, and Sexually Exploited Children](#)  
R. Barri Flowers (2001, Praeger Paperback) p. 149.

**1/3 of abused parents later go on to abuse their children.**

**SOURCE:** Intergenerational transmission of child abuse: Rates, research, and Clinical Implications. *The American Journal of Psychiatry*; Sep 1993; 150, 9; ProQuest Psychology Journals, 1315.

**Parental substance abuse is reported to be a contributing factor for between one- and two-thirds of maltreated children in the child welfare system.**

**SOURCE:** Child Welfare Information Gateway: *A Coordinated Response to Child Abuse and Neglect: The Foundation for Practice* (2003). Author(s): Office on Child Abuse and Neglect (HHS). Goldman, Salus, Wolcott, Kennedy [Online Article]. Accessed on 9/1/2007. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/foundation/foundatione.cfm> .

**Primary Source:** U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation. (1999). *Blending perspectives and building common ground: A report to congress on substance abuse and child protection* (p. 41). Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office; Young, N. K., Gardner, S. L., & Dennis, K. (1998). Facing the problem. In *Responding to alcohol and other drug problems in child welfare: Weaving together practice and policy* (pp. 1-26). Washington, DC: Child Welfare League of America (CWLA) Press. [back](#)

If every church in America recruited just one foster family, every child now awaiting placement in the foster-care system could be placed tomorrow in a Christian home. (15)

Same is true today.

**Boys abused by men, when the man was involved in a relationship with a female relative of the boy, i.e. step Father / boyfriend.**

Could not find exact statistic, but recent similar statistics listed below:

- In one study of physical abuse, boyfriends accounted for 64 percent of non-parental abuse, even though boyfriends performed only 2 percent of non-parental care.
- A 1997 study of more than 600 families in upstate New York found that children living with stepfathers were more than three times more likely to be sexually abused than children living in intact families.
- Another study found that the presence of a stepfather doubles the risk of sexual abuse for girls - either from the stepfather or another male figure.

Source: E-NotAlone, "Fathers and Case Planning: Different Fathers in Different Situations" [Online Article]. Accessed on 9/9/2007. <http://www.enotalone.com/article/9871.html>

**An estimated 39 million survivors of childhood sexual abuse exist in America today.**

Source:

[http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics\\_2.asp](http://www.darkness2light.org/KnowAbout/statistics_2.asp)  
Darkness to Light: Confronting Child Sexual Abuse with Courage.  
Accessed on 9/8/2007.

**Historical child abuse reporting stats AND an explanation of how these stats are best viewed:**

[http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/stats\\_research/index.htm](http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/index.htm) [historical Child Maltreatment reports for the last several

years—to compare apples with apples—not all states reported in every year and there are some slight discrepancies from year to year, but these are the best stats available.]

<b>Report Year:</b>	<b># of Reported Cases:</b>
Fiscal Year 2005	<b>3.3 million</b>
Fiscal Year 2004	<b>3 million</b>
Fiscal Year 2003	<b>2.9 million</b>
Fiscal Year 2002	<b>1.8 million</b>
Fiscal Year 2001	<b>1.8 million</b>
Fiscal Year 2000	<b>1.7 million</b>
Fiscal Year 1999	<b>2.9 million</b>
Fiscal Year 1998	<b>2.8 million</b>
Fiscal Year 1997	<b>3.0 million</b>
Fiscal Year 1996	<b>1.0 million</b>
Fiscal Year 1995	<b>1.0 million</b>

### Kid-size portion of population shrinking

Government research suggests that the percentage of the U.S. population under the age of 18 is on the decline. According to Childstats.gov, in 1964, children made up 36 percent of the population. In 1980, the percent had fallen to just 28. Currently, **children are about 25 percent of the nation's population**, but that's expected to drop to 24 percent by 2020. [Source: USAToday.com, "Snapshots"]