

PROTECT YOUR KIDS



THE FACTS.

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

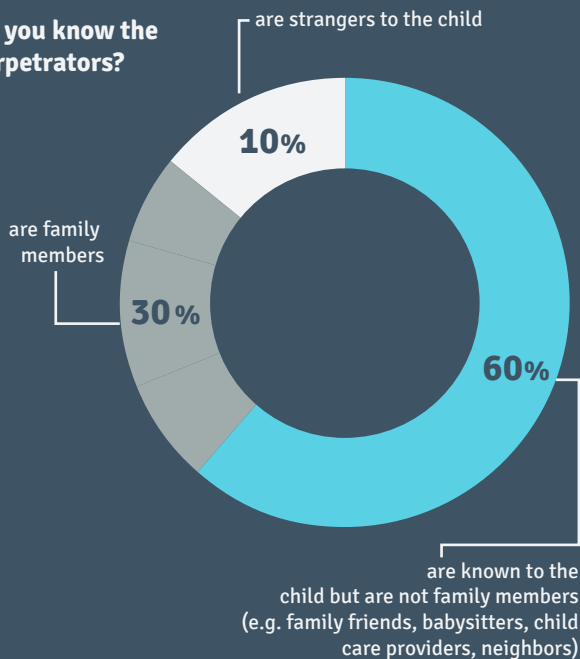
Parent Edition

Psalm 82:3-4

You're here to defend the defenseless, to make sure that underdogs get a fair break; Your job is to stand up for the powerless, and prosecute all those who exploit them.

Nearly 36% of sexual assaults occur when the victim is between the ages of 12 and 17.¹

Do you know the perpetrators?



TIPS FROM SURVIVOR ADVOCATE JEN SPRY

General Prevention

- Guard your children between the hours of 3pm to 6pm, because this is nationally the highest point of the day that children are assaulted.²
- Learn the signs of abuse, so you are aware of any physical, emotional, or sexual changes in your child or children around your child.
- Teach your child about healthy and effective boundaries. Have your child define his or her boundary so the boundary can be defended or clearly recognized if it is crossed whether intentionally or unintentionally.
- Attend trainings on this topic so you can pass protective information to your child.

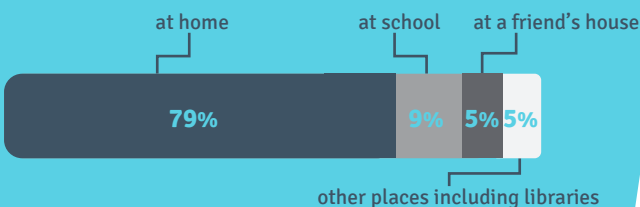
Online Prevention

- Use protective filters on the PCs that your child uses.
- Monitor text and photos being exchanged - tell your child that this action will be happening for their own safety.
 - 26% of online sex offenders used the victim's social networking site to gain information about the victim's whereabouts at a specific time.³
- Monitor the picture YOU or YOUR child puts online, Facebook, or Instagram. Don't expose what school, what sports team, what location, what camp, park, or event your child will be at with a chance of being unsupervised at any time.
 - Over half (56%) of kids sexually solicited online were asked to send a picture; 27% of the pictures were sexually-oriented in nature.⁴
- Don't post nude or innocently risqué pictures of little children, even if they are cute or innocent. Predators out there are stalking for these kind of pictures and the reality is that we don't always know WHO is a predator; we might know a predator from work or life.
- Don't post pictures of other people's kids on your website. Never be the one to put another person's child at risk.

YOUTH & PORN

- Only 3% of boys and 17% of girls have never seen Internet pornography.
- Some researchers have stated that the average age of exposure to pornography is down to eight. Before the days of the Internet, children were typically between the ages of eleven to thirteen when they began by viewing soft-core pornography found in magazines like Playboy.

34% of youth surveyed had unwanted exposure to online pornography. Where did they see it?



GO A STEP FURTHER.

PRAY.

- Pray for those affected by trafficking for 5 minutes each morning.
- Pray for protection for your children and for discernment to know if there is reason to be concerned.
- Once a week, meet with your friends to pray for your kids for 15 minutes.

PROTECT.

Signs that someone may be groomed or trafficked?

Younger Children

- Expressing affection in ways that are inappropriate for a child of that age
- Sexual acting out / inappropriate sexual play (with self, other children)
- Loss of or lack of interest in friends, school sports or other activities
- Fear of a certain person/ intense dislike of being left somewhere
- Disturbed sleep patterns
- Fear of the dark
- Regression behavior like bed wetting
- Unusual interest in /knowledge of sex
- Gradual or sudden changes in behavior
- Cruelty to others
- Cruelty to pets
- Change in behavior around a specific person
- Afraid to be left alone
- Recurring nightmares
- Fear of participating in physical activities at school

Questions You Can Ask of Teens You Know:

- Have you ever left home without a parent or guardian knowing? Why? How long?
- How do you take care of yourself when you are away from home?
- Do you have a boyfriend? How old is he? What are some things you enjoy doing together?
- Ask about their tattoo (if visible). When did you get it? What does it mean? Where did you get it?
- How often do you get to see your friends? What do you enjoy doing with them?

PROMOTE.

Your voice is powerful! Tell others about the dangers of human trafficking.

- **Learn.** Tell others about opportunities to learn more.
- **Raise Money.** Help raise money for Life for the Innocent.
- **Shop.** Model for your family thoughtful purchasing decisions. Simple ways to start:
 - Coffee – Ask where they source their beans.
 - Chocolate – Check to see if they're Fair Trade Certified
 - Clothes - Research your favorite brands at freetowork.org



START A CONVERSATION

- Who are your 3 trusted adults? Decide together on mutually acceptable people, including at least one person who is not a family member.
- “What if?” questions are an opportunity to practice scenarios with your kids. Role playing is a powerful way to teach kids how to handle difficult situations. Take them to familiar areas to act out scenarios, or just talk about it at the dinner table or in the car.

Teens

- Extreme and/or unexplained anger
- Running away
- Low self-worth
- Self-destructive behavior/self-harm (cutting)
- Seductive behavior
- Promiscuous behavior
- Low self esteem
- Eating disorders
- Anxiety and mood swings
- Suicidal thoughts and/or suicide attempts
- Happening to a “friend”
- Difficulty forming relationships
- Poor peer relationships
- Signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Sexually transmitted disease



RESOURCES

- CovenantEyes.com
- FighttheNewDrug.org
- TraffickStop.org/resources

