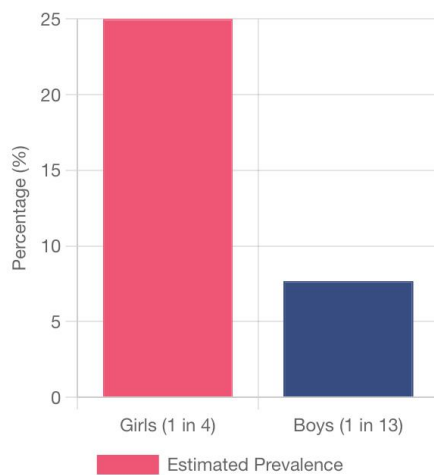


The Profile of the Victim

Analysis reveals clear patterns of vulnerability. While no child is immune, certain demographics face a disproportionately higher risk of victimization.

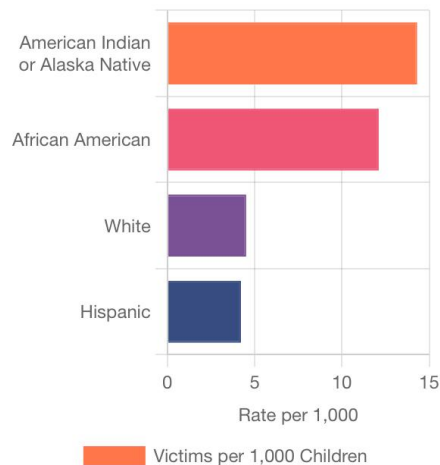
Gender Disparity in Victimization

Girls are victimized at a significantly higher rate than boys, a consistent finding across multiple studies.



Racial & Ethnic Disparities

Children from BIPOC communities are among the most vulnerable, with American Indian/Alaska Native and African American children facing the highest rates of victimization.



Vulnerability by Age

8-12

Peak Vulnerability

Children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse in this age range.

27%

Under Age 3

Over a quarter of all child maltreatment victims are 2 years old or younger.

The Unseen Crisis

Visualizing the Reality of Childhood Sexual Abuse in the United States

The Scale of the Problem: A Hidden Epidemic

The most critical finding is the profound gap between officially reported cases and the estimated reality from self-report surveys. Official figures represent only the tip of the iceberg, masking a widespread public health crisis.

Officially Reported Victims
(2022)

~61,500

This number is derived from the 11% of the 558,899 substantiated child abuse and neglect cases identified as sexual abuse by Child Protective Services.

Estimated Prevalence
(Lifetime)

Millions

Surveys indicate that **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 13 boys** experience childhood sexual abuse, revealing the true, staggering scope of the issue.

The Lifelong Shadow: Enduring Consequences

The trauma of childhood sexual abuse extends far beyond the event itself, casting a long shadow over a survivor's physical health, mental well-being, and socioeconomic trajectory.



Psychological Aftermath

Survivors face higher rates of anxiety, depression, PTSD, and suicidal ideation, often stemming from deep-seated feelings of shame and self-blame.



Physical Health Toll

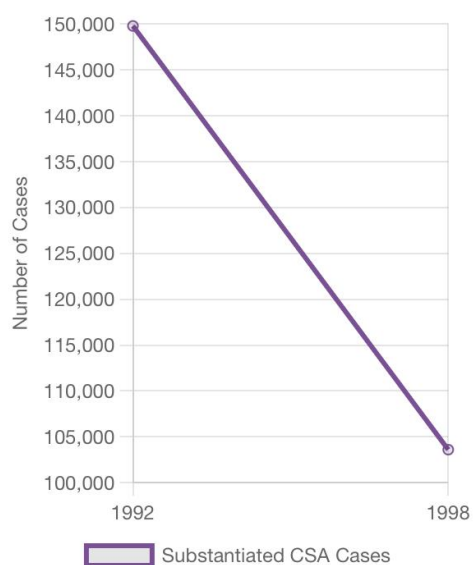
CSA is linked to a higher risk of chronic conditions, including gastrointestinal issues, arthritis, and cardiopulmonary symptoms later in life.

The Shifting Landscape of Abuse

While substantiated in-person cases saw a decline in the 1990s, the digital age has introduced new, rapidly growing threats. The problem is not shrinking; it's evolving.

Historical Decline (1990s)

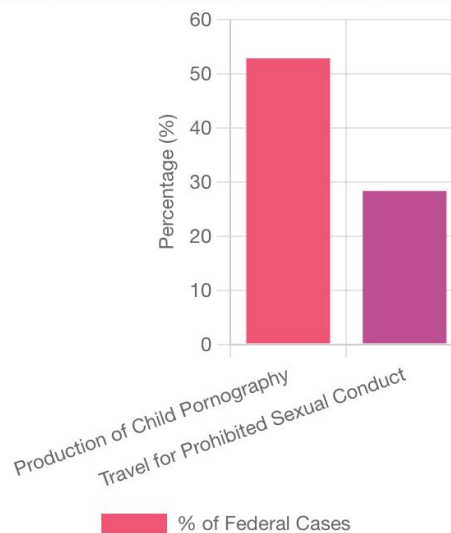
Substantiated cases of CSA dropped by nearly a third from 1992 to 1998, a trend attributed to increased awareness and prevention efforts.



The Rise of Online Exploitation

Federal sexual abuse offenses have surged since 2020, driven by technology-facilitated crimes like the production of child pornography.

Federal sexual abuse offenses increased 62.5% since 2020

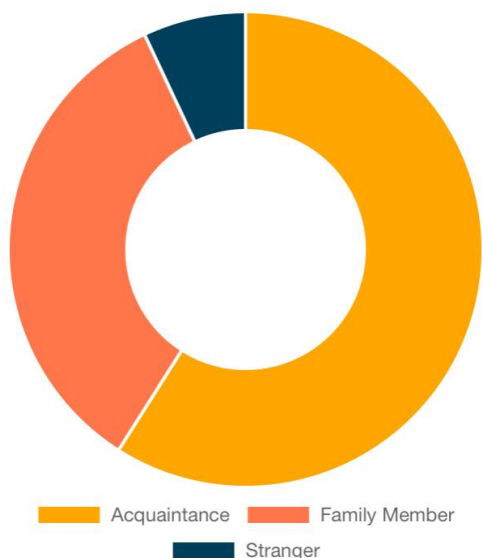


Debunking the "Stranger Danger" Myth

Public perception has long focused on threats from strangers. The data tells a different story: the overwhelming majority of abusers are known and trusted by the child and their family.

The Abuser-Victim Relationship

Data from law enforcement shows that in cases involving juvenile victims, the perpetrator is almost always a known individual. This betrayal of trust is a central component of the trauma.



Perpetrator Gender

~90%

of perpetrators are male.

Perpetrator Age

30%

of offenders are juveniles themselves.



Human Capital Deficits

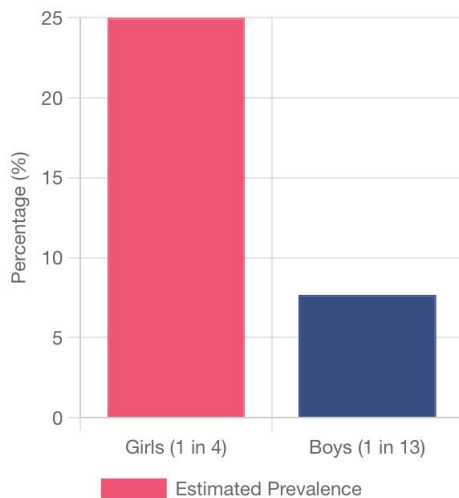
Survivors are **36-41%** more likely to drop out of high school and face a **13-19%** reduction in lifetime earnings.

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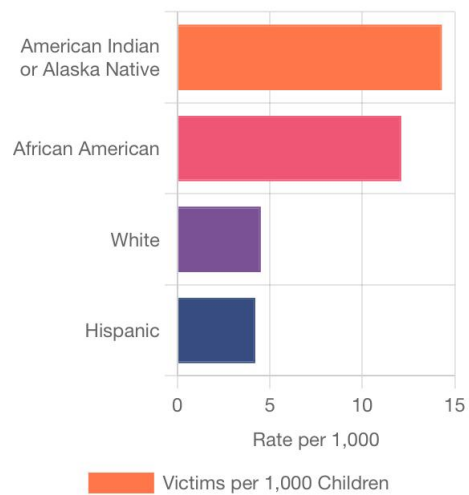
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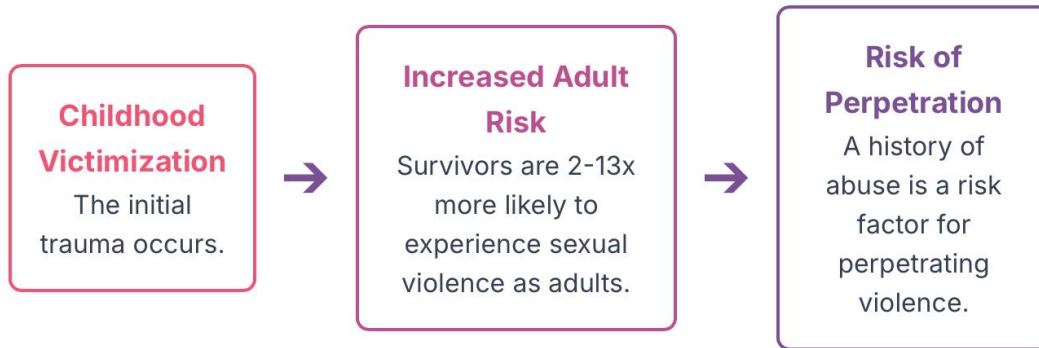
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The Cycle of Trauma

The impact of CSA is an intergenerational public health issue. Victimization increases the risk for future revictimization and, in some cases, perpetration, creating a devastating cycle.



Breaking this cycle requires comprehensive, trauma-informed interventions that support survivors and address the root causes of violence.