



awareness to action
Wisconsin
Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Protecting Children from Sexual Harm

- Awareness to Action is an initiative focused on preventing child sexual abuse by teaching adults and communities how to protect children.
- A program of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin – Community Services with funding provided by Children's Hospital of Wisconsin's Child Abuse Prevention Fund and the Wisconsin Children's Trust Fund.



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Health Epidemic

CDC acknowledges sexual abuse as a “health epidemic knowing behavioral choices for victims and their future impacting the community.”



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It is estimated that 1 in 10 children experience sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.



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- 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser.
- 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, not more powerful children
- 35% of child victims are 11 years old or younger



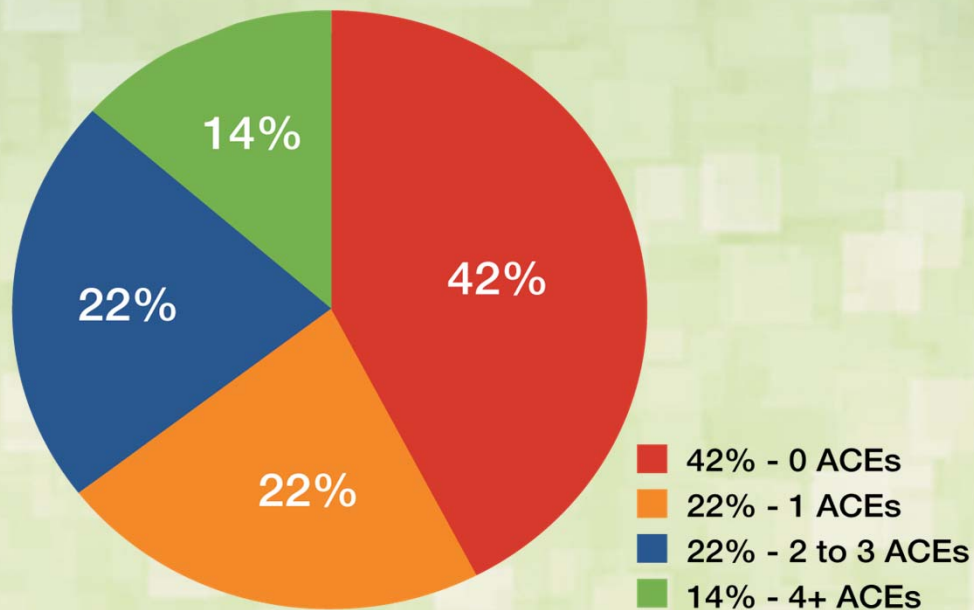
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Wisconsin Data

5,469 Reports

- 1,026 Substantiated
- 4,234 Unsubstantiated
- 209 Not Able to Locate

ACEs in Wisconsin



Source: Wisconsin BRFS, 2011-2013



Wisconsin ACEs

General Findings from 2010 Data Collection

- ACEs are common
- ACEs are interrelated
- ACEs are associated with:
 - Mental Health Outcomes
 - Health Risk Behaviors
 - Physical Health Outcomes
 - Socioeconomic Status
 - Medicaid/Badger Care Enrollment
 - Quality of Life

Wisconsin ACE Data

- 58% of Wisconsin Adults have experienced at least 1 ACE.
- Of those with at least 1 ACE, 76% have two or more ACEs.



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Best Practice Is All About Minimizing Risks



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What can this training do for your school?



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Who are the Perpetrators

Children are overwhelmingly abused by someone they know and trust and who has groomed both the child and their family



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Who are the Perpetrators

- 40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by older, more powerful children.



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“Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Youth-serving Organizations

Six Core Components of Effective Protection Policy:

- 1) Screening & selection of employees and volunteers
- 2) Guidelines on interactions between individuals
- 3) Monitoring behavior
- 4) Ensuring safe environments
- 5) Responding to inappropriate behavior
- 6) Training about child sexual abuse.



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1) Screening & Selecting Employees and Volunteers

Goal: To select the best possible people for staff and volunteer positions and to screen out individuals who have sexually harmed youth or are at risk to abuse.



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Examples of Interview Questions: For both employees and volunteers

- * What would you do if a program participant asked you to be Facebook Friends?
- * What type of supervision do you prefer?
- * Do you have any experience with abuse/neglect issues?
- * What would an ideal relationship with the youth look like?



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2) Guidelines on Interactions Between Individuals

Goal: To ensure the safety of youth in their interactions with employees or volunteers and with each other.

***80% or more of child sexual abuse incidents happen in isolated one-on-one situations.**



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3) Monitoring Behavior

Goal: To prevent, recognize and respond to inappropriate and harmful behaviors and to reinforce appropriate behaviors.

Critical Strategies for Monitoring Behavior:

- *Responding to what is observed*
- *Roles and responsibilities*
- *Is your reporting structure clear?*
- *Observation & contact with staff/volunteers*
- *Document that monitoring has occurred.*



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Documentation

- Are incidents documented by the person who made the observation
- Are reports reviewed by staff & administration.
- Are reports reviewed to determine if changes need to be made
- Are issues discussed at staff meetings



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4) Ensuring Safe Environments

Goal: To keep youth from situations in which they are at increased risk for sexual abuse.

Critical Strategies for Ensuring Safe Environments:



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5) Responding to Inappropriate Behavior, Breaches in Policy and Allegations/Suspicious of Child Sexual Abuse

Goal: To respond quickly and appropriately to (1) inappropriate or harmful behavior (2) infractions of child sexual abuse prevention policies and (3) evidence or allegations of child sexual abuse.



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Responding, cont.

- Do you have policies that define what behaviors will be responded to?
- Delineate what behaviors your organization will respond to internally (i.e. a youth tells an inappropriate joke) and what behaviors require reporting to authorities (i.e. sexual contact)
- Act on infractions of your organizations child sexual abuse prevention policies
- Report when any employee or volunteer witnesses or learns about sexual abuse of youth.



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6) Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

Goal: To give people information and skills to help them prevent and respond to child sexual abuse

Integration and a community of Practice

Thank you!