

Childhood Sexual Assault

...the facts

Key findings from the report,

Childhood Sexual Assault Victimization in Virginia

Center for Injury and Violence Prevention, Virginia Department of Health, August 2004

As many as 1 in 4 children are sexually victimized

- Of the 1,769 women and 705 men surveyed, 25% were sexually victimized as children; for women, the figure was 27% and for men, 20%.
- Over half (51%) of women experienced sexual assault before the age of 13, as did 39% of men.

Childhood sexual assault involves many types of victimization

- Female victims were much more likely to have been victimized by rape or attempted rape than male victims.
- Male victims experienced higher levels than females of non-forcible child rape and non-forcible child molestation in the teenage years.
- For female and male victims, almost one-third of perpetrators were themselves minors.
- Of the males and females reporting having non-forced sexual intercourse, 100% of those 12 and under, 85% of those age 13 and 14, and 83% of those age 15-17 would be classified as victims according to Virginia law.

Few victims receive professional help

- Very few victims (8%) received medical care for the worst incident of child sexual victimization.
- 10% of respondents said their worst incident of child sexual victimization was reported to police.
- 33% of victims spoke with a counselor about their victimization at any time after the event.

Many perpetrators are trusted adults

- Seventy-one percent of assaults against children were perpetrated by adults.
- Almost half (43%) of the perpetrators were identified as family members.
- Only 10% of perpetrators were strangers.
- Most (89%) of the perpetrators were male.

*To download a PDF version of the full report,
Childhood Sexual Assault Victimization in Virginia,
visit www.vahealth.org/civp/sexualviolence.*