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Addressing the Trauma Treatment Needs of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
and the Hearing Children of Deaf Parents

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- p. 4
 - “FAST FACTS ON TRAUMA AND DEAFNESS
 - Deaf children are more vulnerable than hearing children to neglect and emotional, physical, and sexual abuse (Patricia M. Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlan, 1987).
 - 50% percent of deaf girls have been sexually abused as compared to 25% of hearing girls (Patricia M. Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlan, 1987).
 - 54% of deaf boys have been sexually abused as compared to 10% of hearing boys (Patricia M. Sullivan, Vernon, & Scanlan, 1987).”
- P. 31
 - Abuse and Neglect
 - “In their pioneering work, Sullivan, Vernon and Scanlan (1987) reported on the scope, nature, and incidence of abuse of deaf children based on four studies conducted between 1983 and 1987. Two studies conducted with more than 150 residential school students found that 50% of the students reported being sexually abused. In a third investigation, students at a postsecondary educational institution for the deaf completed a retrospective child abuse survey, revealing that 28% had experienced physical or sexual abuse. A fourth study, of 100 victims of sexual abuse, discovered that 49% were abused at school, 31% at home, and 20% at both home and school.”
 - “Skinner (1991) conducted a national survey of 53 mental health therapists who reported that 69% of their adult deaf clients reported childhood maltreatment and abuse. Using the Trauma Symptom Inventory (Briere, 1995) with 81 deaf and hard of hearing adult subjects drawn from clinical, internet and college environments, Dobosh (1999) found that 59% of the 48 respondents indicated a history of sexual trauma. Embry (2000) surveyed 770 deaf adults to determine childhood maltreatment prevalence rates and found that 49% reported some type of abuse. Of these, 19% had been abused by a caregiver, 30% had experienced abuse by residential staff, 18% had

been sexually abused, and 9% had experienced physical neglect. Hester (2002) compared prevalence rates of child sexual abuse reported by a total of 104 hearing and deaf adults. She found no difference in rates of sexual abuse between hearing and deaf subjects, but the deaf victims reported more severe forms of abuse and were abused more frequently than hearing victims.”

- “Methodological differences among these investigations limit the conclusions that can be drawn regarding the incidence of maltreatment in the general population of deaf and hard of hearing children. In general terms, there appears to be some agreement on the following:
 - The incidence of sexual abuse for deaf children is higher than for their hearing peers.
 - Deaf boys are more likely to report abuse than deaf girls, whereas with hearing children, girls are more likely to report abuse.
 - The abuse tended to occur in vans or buses when children are being transported to and from school, or in their bathrooms and beds.
 - Approximately 20 to 25% of deaf children were abused both at school and home.”