

“Promise” online video re. sexual abuse
(http://www.nctsn.org/nccts/nav.do?pid=typ_sa_surv)

“...most offenders are male”

“...teenagers are the abusers in as much as 40% of the cases”

“...almost all offenders know their child victims”

“...one forth of all girls experience some form of sexual abuse before adulthood”

“...there are more children that are sexually abused than have asthma, than children who have attention deficit disorder, than children that experience many other commonly known medical conditions”

“...many children feel that it is their fault that the abuse is occurring...many children are afraid that they will be blamed” for the abuse

“...fare less than half of all children who have been sexually abused, tell others of their abuse...it is very common for adults [in talking with a counselor] to say...this is the first time I have every told anyone that I was sexually abused as a child”

“...perpetrators often threaten the child that they are abusing that if they tell, something bad will happen”

“...some children do not tell [of the abuse] because they care about the abuser, or they do not want the abuser to get into trouble”

“...one big reason [that kids don’t tell about their abuse] is avoidance, we don’t want to talk about something that is painful...that is very embarrassing for them, something that has a lot of negative connotations”

The Consequences...

“...nightmares...can’t sleep...can’t concentrate at school...not wanting to be there [at school]”

“...can display a range of problems following abuse, fear, anger, anxiety...may be at risk for experiencing post traumatic stress disorder...may be more likely to suffer depression and even substances abuse issues in adulthood”

“...in terms of behavioral problem, kids can become very stubborn, not comply with their parent’s wishes...some very young children can have some sexually inappropriate behaviors after an abusive experience...in may ways they are acting out..” what they experienced

Responding...

“...the most common response when a parent learns that their child has been abused is shock, accompanied by a gut wrenching hope that it not be true...feelings are natural...but responding calmly and reassuring the child they were right to tell, is a good way to start”

“...[parent speaking] once we first found out, our response was a cross between disbelief and anger, once family members found out, there was a component of denial...felt guilty thta we had let her down in some way by not noticing

Repercussions....

“...[in response to a parent/professional suggesting that the abused child see a counselor, the child may respond]...I am not crazy, I did not do anything wrong, why do I have to see a counselor?”

...a great deal of language, of interactions between a child who has been abused and a counselor is required to help the child deal with the abuse...language and interactions that may be very, very difficult with some children who are deaf/hard of hearing