

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE: KEY STATISTICS



More than 1 in 4 Australians (28.5%) have experienced child sexual abuse.

Haslam D, Mathews B, Pacella R, Scott JG, Finkelhor D, Higgins DJ, Meinck F, Erskine HE, Thomas HJ, Lawrence D, Malacova E. (2023). The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief Report. Australian Child Maltreatment Study, Queensland University of Technology.

More than 1 in 3 Australian girls and almost 1 in 5 boys experience child sexual abuse.

Haslam D, Mathews B, Pacella R, Scott JG, Finkelhor D, Higgins DJ, Meinck F, Erskine HE, Thomas HJ, Lawrence D, Malacova E. (2023). The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief Report. Australian Child Maltreatment Study, Queensland University of Technology.



Among Australian children who have been sexually abused, for more than three-quarters (78%), it happened more than once.

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In up to 90% of child sexual abuse cases, the offender is known to the family.

Australian Bureau of Statistics 2017; Quadara, Nagy, Higgins & Siegel, 2015



In more than half of cases (approximately 52%), the onset of child sexual abuse is from 0 to 8 years.

McElvaney et al., 2020

1 in 8 children has sent a photo or video of themselves to someone they first met online.

Office of the eSafety Commissioner, 2022



Approximately 1 in 3 cases of child sexual abuse are instigated by other young people.

Der Bedrosian, 2018; McKibbin, 2017; Finkelhor, Omrod & Chaffin, 2009

For more information, including more statistics and research around child sexual abuse, please visit our website bravehearts.org.au

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