

CHILD SAFETY IN AVANT

The Avant logo is a stylized, handwritten-style wordmark in red. It features a long, sweeping horizontal stroke that underlines the word "Avant". The word "Avant" is written in a cursive, script-like font with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

Avant is committed to
caring for children so
they might experience
tangible expressions of
God's love.

The logo for Avant, featuring the word "Avant" in a red, cursive script font, followed by a registered trademark symbol (®).

Purposes:

To Sober

To Invite

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At Avant, we want to be
a place that
"Considers the Children
Well"

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How do we "Consider the Children Well"?

- Guarding the gates
- Abiding by our Code of Conduct
- Being observant
- Reporting anything we see

*Avant is to be a place that is **safe** for **children**...
...but completely **unsafe** for **predators***

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Child Abuse

Child abuse is the treatment of a child under the age of 18, often in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power that endangers or impairs the health or welfare of a child.

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Types of Abuse?

- Physical – non-accidental injury
- Emotional – commission and omission
- Sexual – verbal, visual, physical
- Neglect – failure to provide for basic needs

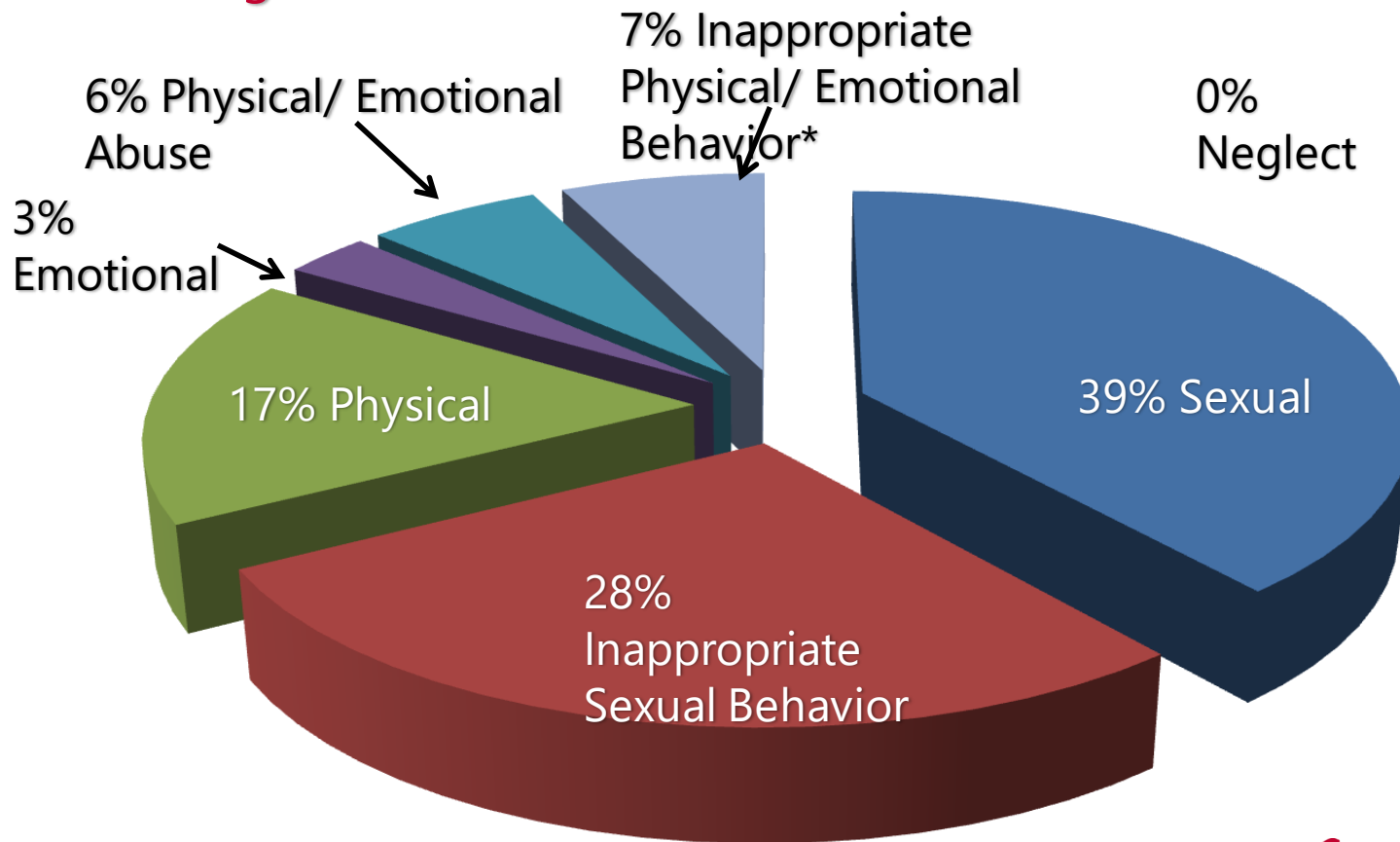
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Prevalence Probabilities

- 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 300,000 children are abused every year.
- Those with a prior history of victimization have an increased risk of re-victimization by over 1000%.
- 60% of offenders are known to the child (family friends, babysitters, childcare providers).
- 30% of offenders are family members (parents, brothers, uncles, cousins).

Types of Abuse in 2013

Mission Organizations

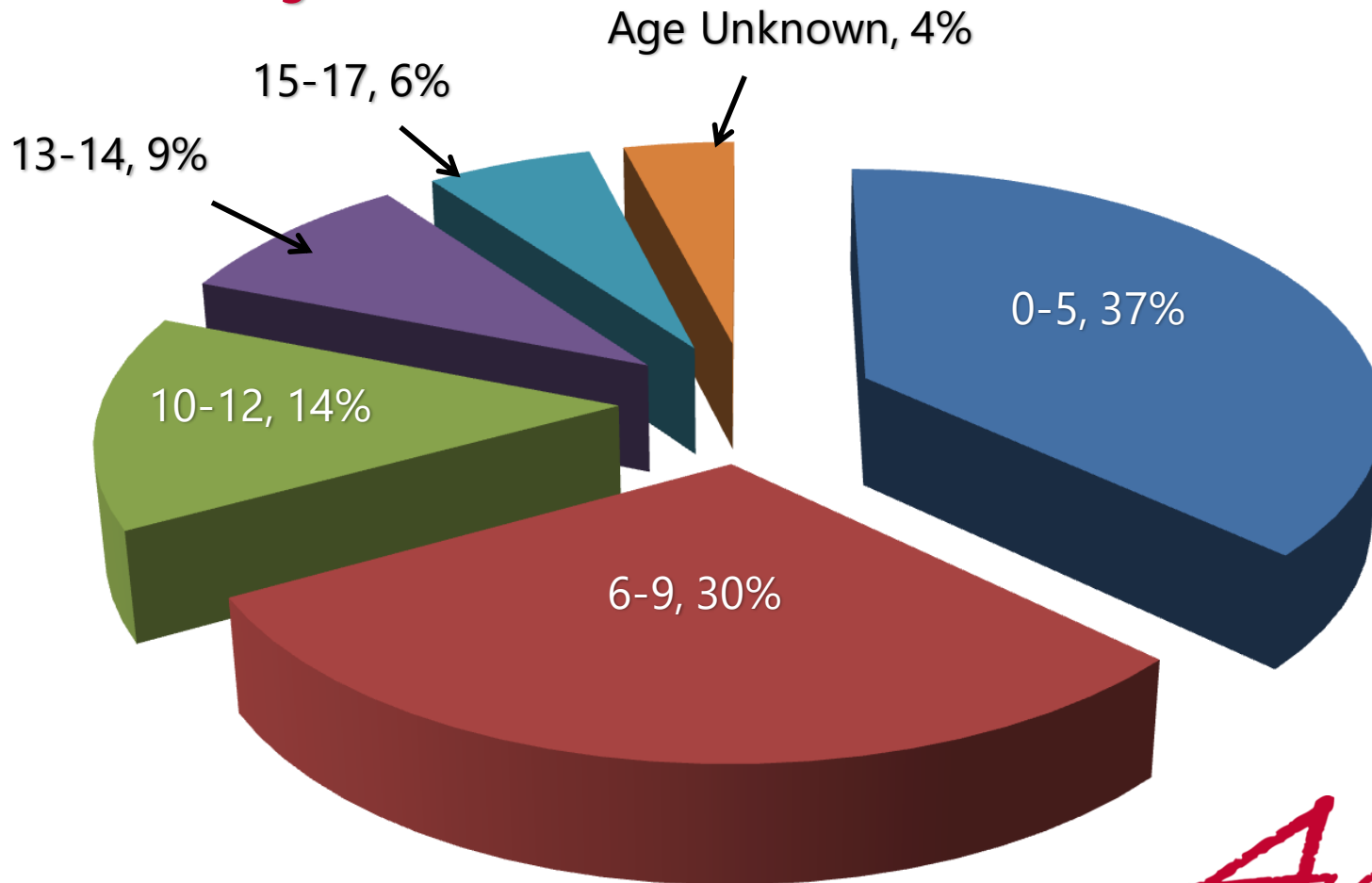


*behavior between children often less than 3 years apart in age.

Avant[®]

Ages of Abused Children in 2013

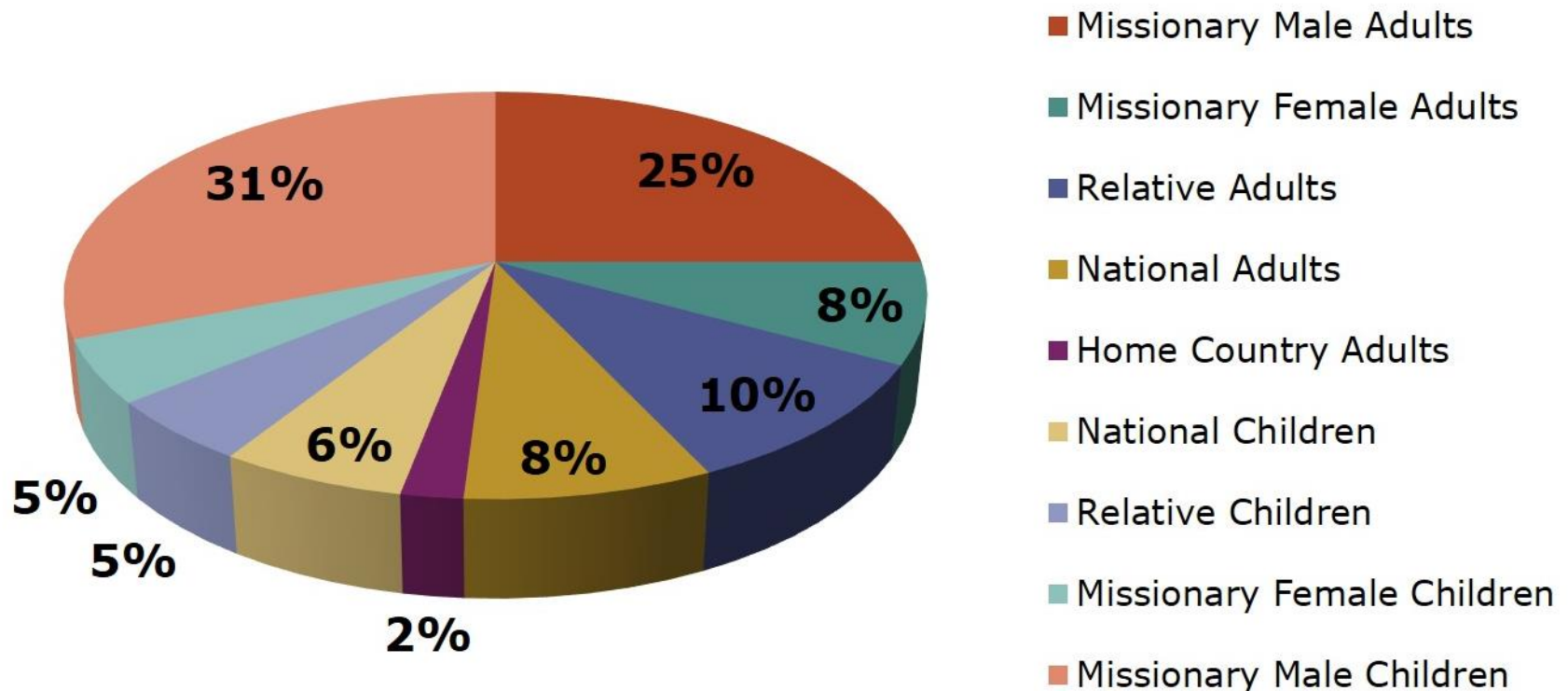
Mission Organizations



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Offender Statistics

Child Safety & Protection Network (CSPN), 2013



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5 Things

You should know about
Child Sexual Offenders

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5 Things...

1. Offenders have **many victims.**

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5 Things...

2. Offenders can be the
most unsuspecting
people.

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5 Things...

3. Offenders are **not**
strangers.

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5 Things...

4. Offenders often **prey upon trusting and vulnerable** young people.

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5 Things...

5. Offenders are often
**attracted to the
Christian community.**

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Signs of Possible Offenders

- Do verbal or nonverbal cues cause you concern about the child's well being when with a particular adult or minor?
- Does the minor have contact with someone you know but whose behavior you don't trust?
- Does the minor repeatedly spend unaccounted-for and alone time with someone?

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Signs of Possible Offenders

- Does the person consistently get involved in activities where there are children?
- Again, does the person seem to focus on children who are vulnerable, i.e. come from broken homes, parents are absent from their lives, don't relate well to other children, etc.?

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Indicators of Abuse

- Changes in the child's mood, behavior or performance.
- Inexplicable fears or worries, nightmares or other sleep disturbance.
- Unaccountable changes in the child's appetite.
- Increase in physical complaints with no apparent basis, particularly headaches and stomachaches.

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Indicators of Abuse

- Unexplained fear or aversion to a specific person, place or activity.
- Changes in the child's relations.
- Lost interest in activities that previously brought pleasure.
- Sudden need to keep secrets or have a "secret" friend.
- Unnatural increase in sexual interest, knowledge or behavior including sexualized play.

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Effects of Abuse

- Emotional

- Guilt, self-condemnation, hopelessness
- Doesn't express emotions
- Intense emotions

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Effects of Abuse

- Relational

- Patterns that hide inward guilt, self-disdain, or anger
- Disconnected from giving or receiving emotions

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Effects of Abuse

- Spiritual
 - Learn unseen through seen
 - Misunderstands good and evil
 - Skewed view of God
 - Lack of connection with God

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“The evil act of CSA disturbs a victim’s perception of love, intimacy, sexuality, safety, proper boundaries, identity, and sense of self in relationship to others.”

P. Monroe

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Scenario #1

You've noticed that your preschool son seems to idolize a neighbor friend. She is ten. He doesn't just play with her. He follows her everywhere and does whatever she tells him to do. She seems to relish it.

- *Is this relationship okay?*
- *What do you need to do to make it okay?*

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Scenario #2

It is 7:30 pm Friday night and your 13 year old son receives a phone call asking if he can play Capture the Flag on the school field. While on the phone he turns to you and asks, "Can I go and play?"

- *How do you respond?*
- *What do you need to know?*

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What to do if you suspect something

- It is your responsibility, not an option.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and kept confidential.
- There is a process in place to protect both the survivor and the alleged offender until due process has been done.
- Carolyn Eumurian is the Child Safety Officer for Avant

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Isaiah 45:3

"I will give you hidden treasures*,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the
LORD,
the God of Israel, who summons
you by name." (NIV)

**treasures of darkness (ESV)*

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