



June 2016 – September 2019

# Dashboard

This dashboard is based on

# 3,265

victims and survivors who have shared their experiences with the Truth Project

**The Truth Project** is part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. It was set up to enable anyone who wants to talk about their experiences of child sexual abuse to do so without being questioned, judged or challenged.

Listening to the experiences shared with the Truth Project helps us learn more about how institutions have failed victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

The Inquiry's research team uses information from the Truth Project to tell us:

- who the sexual abusers were
- where the sexual abuse took place
- whether anyone was told about the sexual abuse and
- if anyone knew about it, what was done (or not done).

This information helps the Chair and Panel make recommendations to help keep children safer in the future.

We would like to thank all of the victims and survivors who have shared their experiences with the Truth Project.

You can find out more about the Truth Project and read some of the experiences shared with us on the **Truth Project website**. To find out more about the Inquiry's research programme, please visit the Inquiry's website: [www.iicsa.org.uk](http://www.iicsa.org.uk).

This dashboard uses information from Truth Project sessions that were held between June 2016 and September 2019.

We have only used information from sessions where the victim and survivor shared their own account, and where they chose to share their account for research purposes.

People who come to the Truth Project share as much or as little as they want about their experience. They are not asked specific questions. This means that participants do not always provide information for each area reported in this dashboard.

Findings are not generalisable and are not indicative of the general population of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

# Participants' backgrounds

Current gender of victim/survivor

67%  
Female



33%  
Male

<1% Other / Prefer not to say

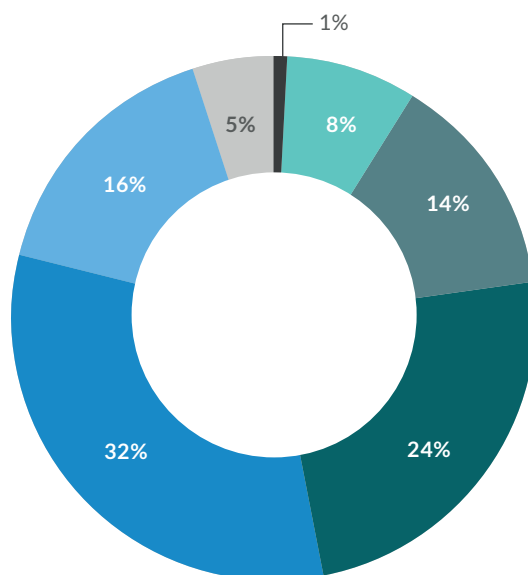
Ethnicity

91%  
White



9%

Black / Asian /  
Ethnic minority

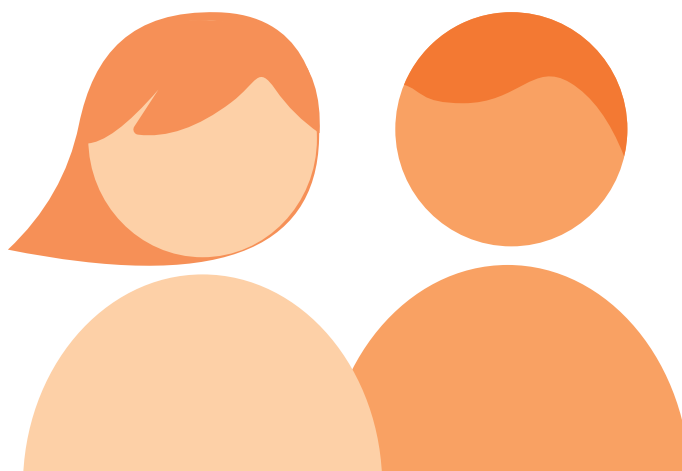


Age at session

- 18-19 years old
- 20-29 years old
- 30-39 years old
- 40-49 years old
- 50-59 years old
- 60-69 years old
- 70-79 years old
- <1% 80+ years old

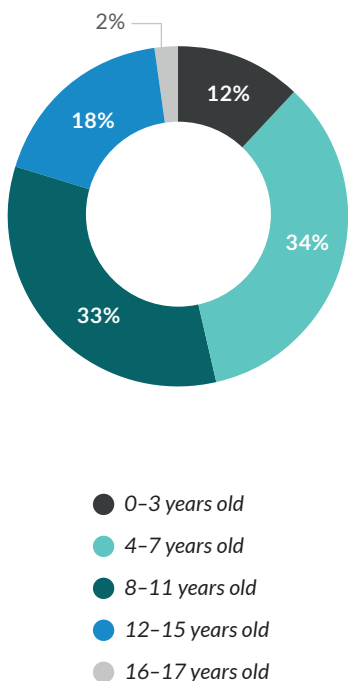
47%

of victims and survivors told us about an illness or condition that affects their lives

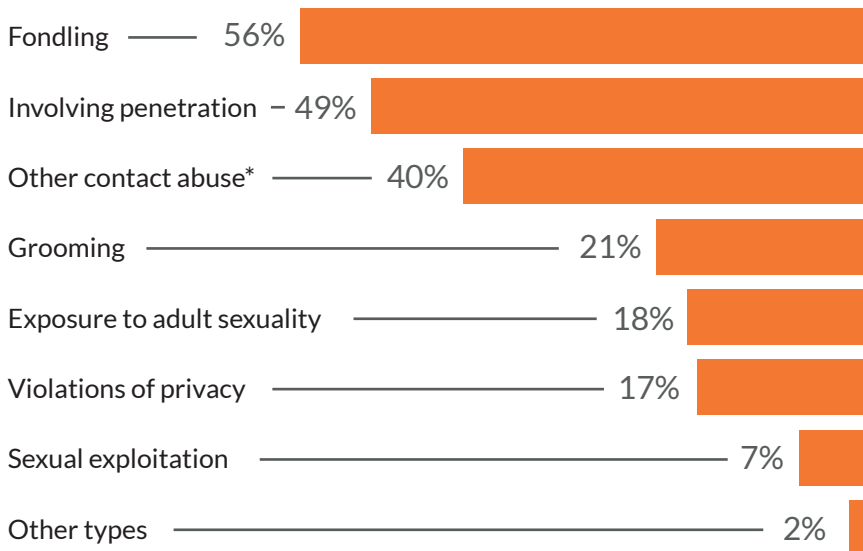


# Nature of abuse experienced

Age when abuse started



Sexual abuse experienced



\*not involving penetration

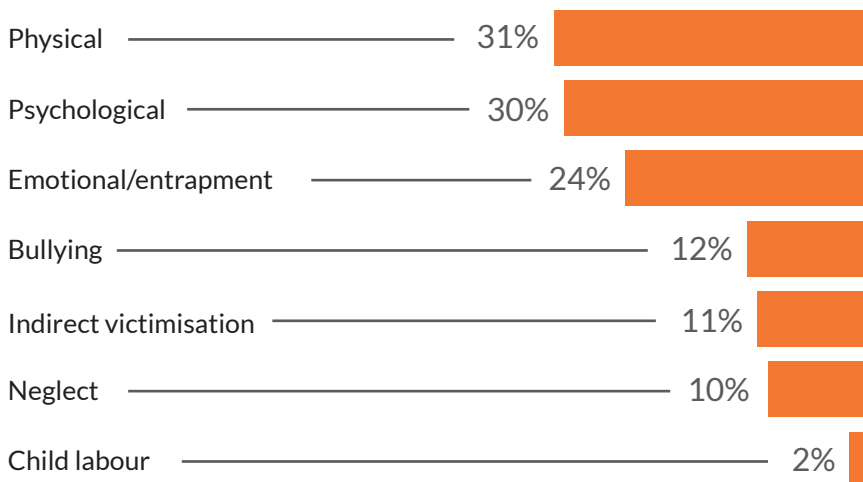
**A note on numbers:**

For nature of sexual abuse experienced, the total percentage is greater than 100% as some victims and survivors told us about experiencing more than one type of sexual abuse.



of victims and survivors told us about experiencing other forms of abuse in addition to sexual abuse

Other forms of abuse experienced

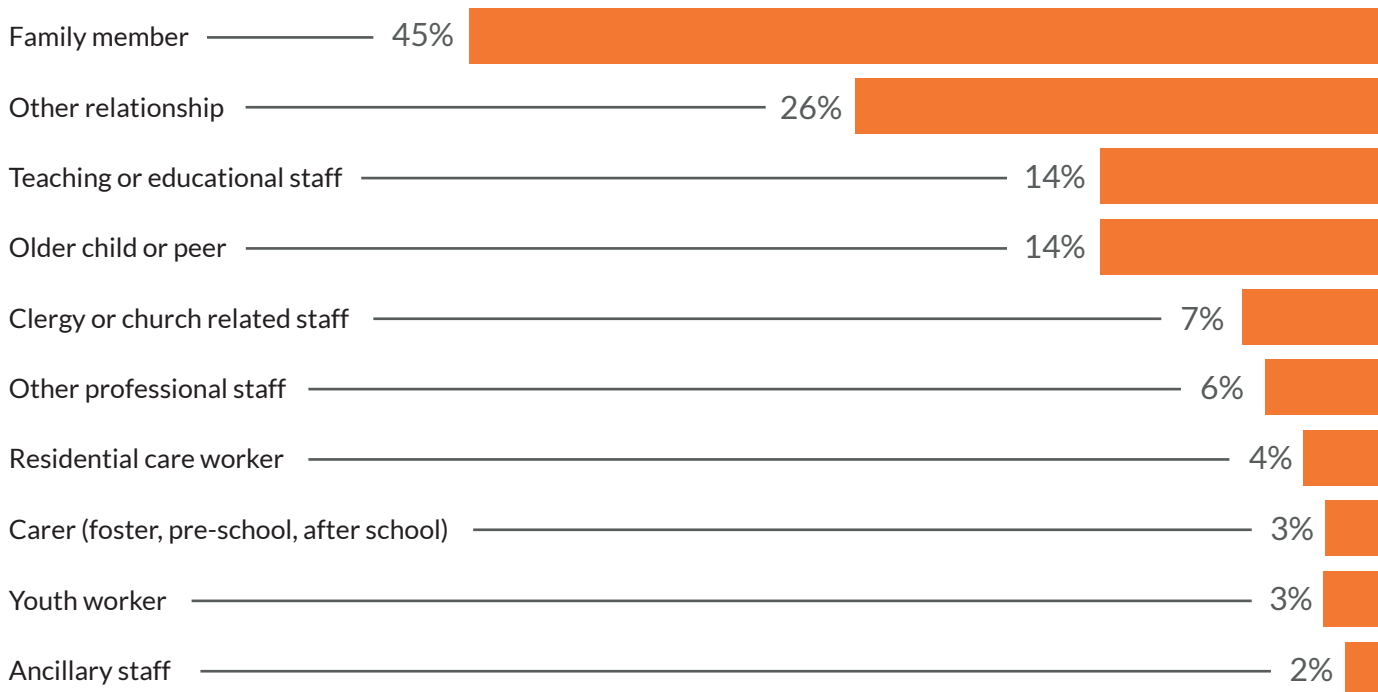


**A note on numbers:**

For other forms of abuse experienced, the total percentage is greater than 100% as some victims and survivors told us about more than one other form of abuse. Percentages here relate to the overall sample rather than the 53% who told us about experiencing other forms of abuse.

# Perpetrators

Relationship of perpetrator(s) to victims and survivors



Institutions where sexual abuse took place



**A note on numbers:** For relationship of perpetrator to participant, the total percentage is greater than 100% as some victims and survivors told us about being abused by more than one perpetrator. Percentages given for institutions where sexual abuse took place relate to the overall sample rather than the subset of those who told us about being abused in an institution. The total percentage here is also less than 100% as some victims and survivors were not abused in an institution or did not specify the institution. Abuse within the home, for example, has been included in our analysis where there were institutional failures.

# Impacts

Impacts of child sexual abuse experienced by victims and survivors

**92%**  
of victims and survivors told us about impacts of the abuse



Impact on mental health

86%

37%

told us about depression



Impact on relationships

53%

35%

told us about trust and intimacy difficulties



Impact on school/employment

45%

17%

told us about being unhappy at school

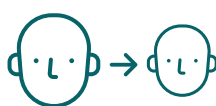


Impact on sexual behaviour

32%

14%

told us about avoidance or phobic reactions to sexual intimacy



Direct consequence of abuse

13%

9%

told us about a physical injury



Criminal behaviour

9%

6%

told us about committing minor offences



Impact on physical health

7%

1%

told us about hypertension

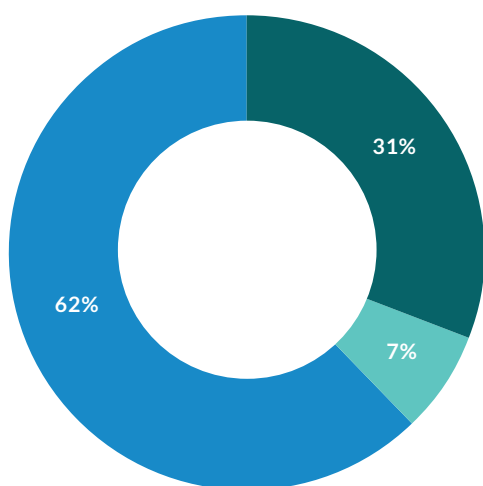
**A note on numbers:**

The total percentage of impacts across the 7 categories is greater than 100% as some victims and survivors told us about more than one type of impact. The bottom percentages in each box relate to the overall sample rather than, for example, the 86% who told us about an impact on mental health.

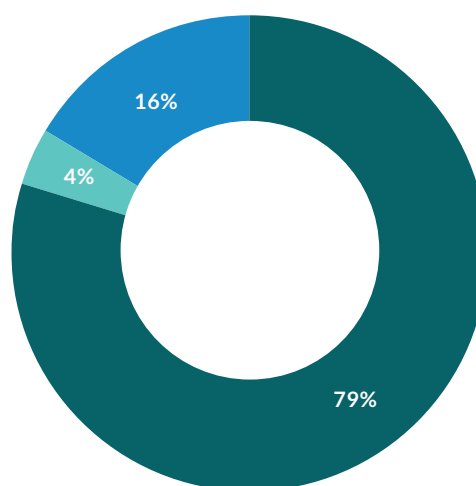
# Disclosure

Disclosure of child sexual abuse by victims and survivors

Victims and survivors told someone about the sexual abuse at the time it was happening



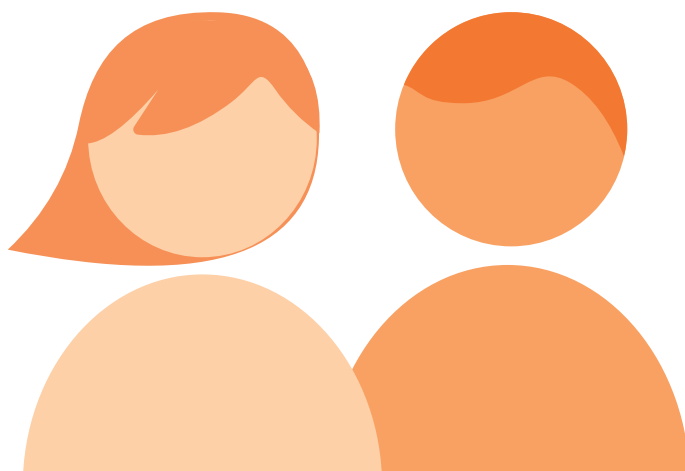
Victims and survivors told someone about the sexual abuse after it had ended



● Yes ● Some episodes disclosed ● No

10%

of victims and survivors disclosed an experience of abuse for the first time through the Truth Project



**A note on numbers:**  
Where percentages total less than 100%, this is due to rounding.

# Notes

## Nature of sexual abuse experienced

*Definitions of the different types of sexual abuse experienced by victims and survivors*

- **Fondling** relates to touching, masturbating or kissing a child's genitals or making a child fondle an adult's genitals.
- **Involving penetration** relates to vaginal, anal or digital penetration, cunnilingus, fellatio.
- **Other contact abuse** relates to sexual behaviour that involved contact but not penetration such as prolonged kissing, cuddling, french kissing, excessive touching.
- **Grooming** includes both online and physical world grooming for the purposes of sexual contact.
- **Violations of privacy** relates to forcing a child to undress or spying on a child in the bathroom or bedroom.
- **Exposure to adult sexuality** includes exposure to adult sexuality online or in the physical world.
  - *Online* relates to images, voice, text, gaming.
  - *In the physical world* relates to performing sexual acts in front of a child, exposing genitals, child to be nude for the sexual gratification of the adult, videotaping, or filming of children with the intent to create sexual stimulation.
- **Sexual exploitation** includes sexual exploitation occurring online or in the physical world.
  - *The physical world* here relates to selling a child's services as a prostitute, having a child perform in pornography or exchanging or purchasing child pornography.

## Perpetrators

*This is how we have defined certain groups of perpetrators*

- **Other relationship** refers to, for example, friends of the family, known (or trusted) members of the community, media personalities and MPs / Welsh Assembly Members.
- **Teaching or educational staff** refers to teachers, dormitory or house masters and tutors.
- **Other professional staff** refers to professionals coming into contact with children, not captured in other categories. This includes medical practitioners, corrective service personnel, social workers and police.
- **Carer** refers to people with caring responsibilities towards the child, predominantly foster carers, also pre-school and after-school carers.
- **Youth worker** includes Scout masters/Guide leaders, sports coaches and youth workers.
- **Ancillary staff** relates to staff working in an institution/organisation but with a role that provides support necessary for the operation of the institution, for example gardeners, cleaners, bus drivers, caretakers.

*This is how we have defined institutions where abuse took place*

- **Other settings** relates to any type of institution not captured by the other overarching categories.
- **Clubs** relates to recreational, Scouts/Guides, and sports clubs.

## Other forms of abuse experienced

*Definitions of other forms of abuse experienced by victims and survivors*

- **Physical abuse** relates to experiencing being punched, slapped, pushed, shoved, pinned, choked, kicked, dragged by hair.
- **Psychological abuse** relates to experiencing general fear, fear of abuse continuing, humiliation, strip searches, solitary confinement, lack of intellectual stimulation.
- **Emotional abuse/entrapment**
  - *Emotional abuse* relates to the ongoing emotional maltreatment or emotional neglect of a child.
  - *Entrapment* covers all those factors which make it impossible to end the relationship. It may also relate to experiencing exchanging privileges for sexual favours.
- **Indirect victimisation** includes witnessing the abuse of others, or the victimisation of child sexual abuse victims and survivors as a result of an insensitive, unhelpful or negative societal response to the disclosure or identification of the abuse. Such a response could come from the victim's close network (e.g. family and friends) and/or from the wider system (e.g. the criminal justice system or health services).
- **Bullying** is defined as repeated behaviour which is intended to hurt someone either emotionally or physically, and is often aimed at certain people because of their race, religion, sex or sexual orientation or any other aspect such as appearance or disability. Bullying can take many forms including physical assault, teasing, making threats, name calling, cyber bullying.
- **Neglect** includes experiencing deprivation of basic necessities, failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger, failing to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- **Child labour** relates to children working before they have reached the lawful minimum age (16 years of age in UK).

## Impacts

*This is how we have grouped impacts experienced by victims and survivors*

Participants often told us about the impacts of child sexual abuse on their lives. We have grouped these impacts into the 7 overarching categories shown.

- **Mental health** is made up of 23 sub-categories.
- **Relationships** is made up of 4 sub-categories.
- **School/employment** is made up of 9 sub-categories.
- **Sexual behaviour** is made up of 7 sub-categories.
- **Direct consequence of abuse** is made up of 4 sub-categories: *Pregnancy, Physical injury, Sexually transmitted disease* and *Other*.
- **Criminal behaviour** is made up of 4 sub-categories.
- **Physical health** is made up of 2 sub-categories: *Hypertension* and *Other*.

## Disclosure

*Categories of disclosure*

Some victims and survivors told us that they either disclosed their experience of child sexual abuse or that they did not. These responses make up the two predominant categories shown of **Yes** and **No**. The **Some episodes disclosed** category relates to those victims and survivors who told someone about some incidents of child sexual abuse, but not others.