

Child Sexual Abuse Statistics

Child sexual abuse is a significant problem in the state of Utah. The Utah Women & Leadership Project provides these statistics to inform Utah decision makers and residents about this troubling trend so that changes can be made to better protect and support Utah's children.

UTAH STATS

- Nearly 13% of Utahns report being **molested** before the age of 18.¹
- More than three-fourths of all sexual assault victims in Utah (78.7%) reported being sexually assaulted **before their 18th birthday**, with more than one-third of these survivors (34.9%) stating they were assaulted **before their 10th birthday**.² Children are more likely to be victimized **by a family member**.³
- A **2019 survey of high schoolers**⁴ reported the following:
 - 1 in 13 Utah high schoolers (7.6%) were physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to—1 in 9 girls (11.3%) and 1 in 24 boys (4.1%).
 - 1 in 5 girls (21.2%) and 1 in 13 boys (7.6%) experienced sexual violence⁵ in the last 12 months (14.3% total). Utah is significantly above the national statistics for this category (10.8% total, 16.6% for girls, 5.2% for boys). The only two states with higher rates are Idaho (14.9% total) and California (19.0% total).
 - Among students who dated in the previous 12 months, 9.5% experienced sexual dating violence⁶ one or more times (15.3% for girls, 4% for boys). Utah is higher than the national statistics for this category (8.2% total, 12.6% for girls, 3.8% for boys).

UNDER-REPORTED

One source reported that in the U.S., less than 12% of child sexual abuse is reported to the police and that many child sexual abuse victims never disclose their abuse to anyone.¹⁷ Another source stated that fabricated sexual abuse reports constitute only 1% to 4% of all reported cases. Of these reports, 75% are reported by adults. Children fabricate sexual abuse less than 1% of the time.¹⁸ In Utah, according to the Utah Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, only 11.8% of women report sexual assault to law enforcement.¹⁹ Yet, even with low reporting rates, Utah's reported rape rate has consistently been higher than the national rate over the past 25 years.²⁰

ECONOMIC IMPACT

Nationally, the estimated economic cost of child sexual abuse totals over \$9.3 billion annually.²¹ In Utah, the estimated economic cost from all sexual violence totals nearly \$5 billion every year, almost \$1,700 per Utah resident.²² In 2011, the Utah state government spent more than \$92 million on people known to have perpetrated sexual violence while spending only \$16.5 million on those who experienced sexual violence. Only \$569,000 was spent on efforts to prevent sexual violence.²³

NATIONAL STATS

- 1 in 5 children is sexually abused before they turn 18.⁷
- 70% of sex offenses reported to law enforcement involve a minor.⁸
- Children **know the perpetrator** in around 80% of the reported cases of sexual abuse.⁹
- Over half of child sexual abuse survivors were abused by juveniles under the age of 18—most of the perpetrators were peers they knew.¹⁰
- Youth are responsible for about half of all sexual offenses against other children.¹¹
- **Girls are the victims** of incest and/or intrafamily sexual abuse much more frequently than boys: Between 33-50% of perpetrators who sexually abuse girls are family members; 10-20% of those who sexually abuse boys are intrafamily perpetrators.¹² Girls are at an increased risk of sexual abuse and/or sexual assault over a lifetime when compared to boys.¹³ However, according to one source, due to a decrease in reporting by male survivors, rates of child sexual abuse among boys may be significantly higher than reported as well.¹⁴
- Abuse survivors often don't disclose their abuse until adulthood.¹⁵
- Protective factors may lessen the likelihood of children being abused or neglected.¹⁶

RISK FACTORS

While there is risk for children of all ages, children are most vulnerable to abuse between the ages of 7 and 13.²⁴ Children with disabilities are 3 times more likely to be victims of sexual abuse,²⁵ and children of single parents with live-in partners are 8 times more likely to experience abuse.²⁶

LONG-TERM NEGATIVE EFFECTS

- High school dropout rates may increase as much as 40% for survivors of childhood sexual abuse.²⁷
- Child sexual abuse and adolescent sexual assault are associated with increased rates of alcohol and substance abuse. In one large study, 1 in 5 of survivors developed alcohol dependence by age 30. Similarly, in the same study, 1 in 5 of survivors developed illicit substance dependence by age 30.²⁸
- Sexually abused youth are 5 times more likely than the general population to be hospitalized for a mental or physical health problem.²⁹
- Sexually abused youth are 1.6 times more likely than the general population to use outpatient treatment for a mental or physical health problem.³⁰
- Children who experience sexual abuse are at least three times more likely to attempt suicide later in life, and as they get older, the risk of suicide attempts increases.³¹
- Child sexual abuse survivors are 4 times more likely to develop symptoms of drug abuse, 4 times more likely to experience PTSD as adults, and 3 times more likely to experience a major depressive episode as adults.³²
- In one study, 42% of abused females were classified as obese by young adulthood, compared to 28% of the control group.³³

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H.B. 334

Health Education Amendments

Representative Carol Spackman Moss

Purpose of H.B. 334

The bill requires the State Board of Education to establish requirements for curriculum content developed by LEAs that instruct students in refusal skills, sexual assault resource strategies, the illegality of sending sexually explicit photos over the internet (sexting), and sexual violence behavior prevention.

These curriculum content requirements are designed to help students respect other's boundaries, and to set their own boundaries. This bill focuses on the importance of teaching students that they have the right to object to sexual advances, and can also learn when they are in danger of experiencing sexual violence.

Additionally, for students that may have or will experience sexual violence, it is important they understand the resources available to them to help with the physical and psychological effects of sexual assault. These resources would be shared as part of the required curriculum content.

The bill still requires the Utah State Board of Education to maintain standards for curriculum development that include instruction in coercion, emotional manipulation, and grooming strategies.

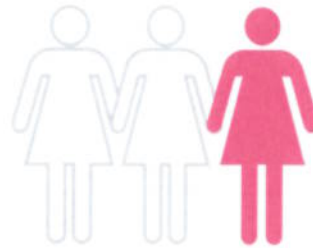
Extent of Education

This curriculum would be implemented by local and charter school boards. In addition to the implementation of this curriculum, school districts would be tasked with reviewing the data regarding sexual assault in each county where the local and charter school districts are located.

This education will continue to be opt-in education, as per the Utah standard for sex education in schools. Parents are able to view the materials before making the choice to opt-in.

Facts

1 in 3 women in Utah will experience sexual violence in their life time.



1 in 6 women in Utah will experience rape or attempted rape in their lifetime.

Utah Spends more than \$92 million on people known to have perpetrated sexual violence.

In the last year, 14.3% of students in Utah high schools reported experiencing sexual violence. 7.3% of students in Utah high schools reported experiencing forced Sexual intercourse.

4 out of 10 rape victims report that they were raped before their 18th birthday.



In 2019, the reported rape rate in Utah was significantly higher than the U.S. rate at 56.8 per 100,000 adults, compared to 42.6 per 100,000 adults.

Organizations in Support

League of Women Voters, Utah PTA, Prevent Child Abuse Utah, UEA, Utah State Superintendents Association, and Utah State School Boards Association

Effective 5/14/2019

53G-10-403 Required parental consent for sex education instruction.

(1) As used in this section:

(a)

(i) "Sex education instruction" means any course material, unit, class, lesson, activity, or presentation that, as the focus of the discussion, provides instruction or information to a student about:

- (A) sexual abstinence;
- (B) human sexuality;
- (C) human reproduction;
- (D) reproductive anatomy;
- (E) physiology;
- (F) pregnancy;
- (G) marriage;
- (H) childbirth;
- (I) parenthood;
- (J) contraception;
- (K) HIV/AIDS;
- (L) sexually transmitted diseases; or
- (M) refusal skills, as defined in Section 53G-10-402.

(ii) "Sex education instruction" does not include child sexual abuse prevention instruction described in Section 53G-9-207.

(b) "School" means the same as that term is defined in Section 53G-10-205.

(2) A school shall obtain prior written consent from a student's parent before the school may provide sex education instruction to the student.

(3) If a student's parent chooses not to have the student participate in sex education instruction, a school shall:

- (a) waive the requirement for the student to participate in the sex education instruction; or
- (b) provide the student with a reasonable alternative to the sex education instruction requirement.

(4) In cooperation with the student's teacher or school, a parent shall take responsibility for the parent's student's sex education instruction if a school:

- (a) waives the student's sex education instruction requirement in Subsection (3)(a); or
- (b) provides the student with a reasonable alternative to the sex education instruction requirement described in Subsection (3)(b).

(5) A student's academic or citizenship performance may not be penalized if the student's parent chooses not to have the student participate in sex education instruction as described in Subsection (3).

Amended by Chapter 293, 2019 General Session

