

Reply to the Lanzarote Committee Secretariat by the Icelandic National Committee for UNICEF

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General overview Questionnaire on the implementation of the Lanzarote convention

General framework

Question 1: Definition of “child”

- a. The Act on Legal Competence states that “a person shall become legally competent when attaining the age of 18 years”. The Convention on the rights of the child was incorporated into Icelandic law in 2013 so internal law corresponds to Article 3. The Convention, as well as Optional Protocols no. 1 and 2 were incorporated verbatim so Icelandic law fully corresponds to the Convention.
- b. UNICEF Iceland found no special provisions in any legislation where when the age of a victim is uncertain special measures are or have been taken to ensure their protection.
- c. The age of sexual consent is 15 years¹.

Question 2: Non-discrimination

The Icelandic constitution prohibits all discrimination in Article 65 and therefore the implementation of the convention is carried out without any discrimination.²

Question 3: Overview of implementation

a. **General Penal code, no. 19/1940**

Accessible in English: <http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/penal-code-and-punishment/nr/1145>

Child Protection Act, no. 80/2002

Accessible in English: <http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/acts-of-Parliament/nr/351>

Act in Respect of Children, no. 76/2003, with later amendments

Accessible in English: <http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/children/nr/916>

The Act on the Convention on the Rights of the Child, no. 19/2013

¹ Article 202. [Any person who has sexual intercourse or other sexual relations with a child under the age of [15 years]¹ shall be imprisoned for [a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 16 years].¹ ?²] [Punishment may be reduced or waived if the perpetrator and the victim are of similar age or level of maturity.]¹

[Sexual harassment of a type other than that specified in the first paragraph of this article shall be punishable by up to [6 years]¹ imprisonment.]²

Any person who, by deception, gifts or in any other way entices a [child]¹ [under the age of 18 years]² to engage in sexual intercourse or other sexual relations shall be imprisoned for up to 4 years.]³

[Any person who pays a child ?¹ under the age of 18 years a consideration in return for having sexual intercourse or other sexual relations with the child shall be imprisoned for up to 2 years.]⁴

² Article 65 of the Constitution states: Everyone shall be equal before the law and enjoy human rights irrespective of sex, religion, opinion, national origin, race, colour, property, birth or other status.

Men and women shall enjoy equal rights in all respects.

- b. When the Lanzarote Convention was ratified in Iceland in 2012 the ministry of the interior, welfare ministry and the ministry of culture and education founded a Committee on awareness on sexual abuse and exploitation. The Committees mandate is to map, co-ordinate and support prevention measures in co-operation with others and to support research concerning violence against children and to raise awareness within the general public on the issue. Their objective is also to educate those that work with or in close proximity of children, as well as the judicial system. Following UNICEF Iceland's advocacy campaign in early 2013 on violence and prevention against children the committee's field was expanded and now their focus also includes domestic abuse and neglect.

There has not been an active action plan to combat sexual exploitation or abuse since 2011. Work has begun on a new action plan which will consider all things related to the family, the new action plan will hopefully include action to combat sexual exploitation and abuse against children. A committee working under the ministry of welfare is responsible for the action plan. UNICEF Iceland was invited to work with the committee on the action plan and will emphasise the importance of including measures to combat sexual exploitation and abuse in the Action plan.

- c. There are not available any child friendly guidelines in Icelandic to ensure the implementation of the convention or to judicial proceedings.

Question 4: Child participation

- a. There have not been any official steps taken by the Icelandic government to encourage or ensure child participation in the development or the implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives concerning the fights against sexual abuse or exploitation of children.
- b. UNICEF Iceland published a report in early 2013, *Child Rights in Iceland: Violence and Prevention*, on violence against children and prevention measures. A special expert group of child victims of sexual abuse was founded and the group assisted UNICEF staff with the report and the 16 recommendations for better prevention measures and to enhance the response system. Further information on the report and the expert group can be found in Appendix I which includes an English summary of the report, updated in January 2014.

Question 5: Specialised bodies/mechanisms

- a. The office of the Ombudsman for children was established in 1995 and a new ombudsman is appointed by the Prime minister every five years. The office of the Ombudsman is an independent institution and is not subject to instructions from the authorities. The Ombudsman is funded in regular national budget each year. Its role "is to further the well-being of children and to look after their interests, rights and needs vis-à-vis public as well as private parties in all walks of life".³ The ombudsman's responsibilities include ensuring that in their dealings, public authorities, central and local, individuals, societies and other associations of individuals and others give full consideration to the interest of, needs and rights of children. The Ombudsman shall also make proposals for improvements in children's lives and to various legislations concerning children. The Ombudsman for children Act, no.83/1994 further explains its duties and responsibilities.⁴

³ Website of the Ombudsman for children: <http://barn.is/barn/adalsida/english/>

⁴ Accessible here: http://www.barn.is/barn/adalsida/english/the_ombudsman_for_children_act/

- b. The Government Agency for Child Protection is responsible for gathering all data on sexual exploitation and abuse in Iceland on the national level. Locally Child Protection Committees gather data on individual cases that are then sent to the Child Protection Agency. Data is also gathered by the Children's house on all children that both come there for questioning by the police and those that come for treatment.⁵

No other regular data collection is organised by the government which makes it very hard to organise advocacy and education on violence against children. There is a definite need for a baseline to study on the nature and magnitude of violence against children in Iceland. UNICEF Iceland feels that both should data be collected regularly from children and on children and existing data should be analysed in a more organised manner.

- c. UNICEF Iceland did not find the relevant information in order to answer this question sufficiently.
- d. There have been no legislative or other measures taken to organise the collection and/or storage of data relating to the identity and genetic profile of persons convicted of sexual abuse or exploitation, for public use.

Question 6: National or local coordination, cooperation and partnerships

- a. Any coordination at the local or national level between the education sector, the law enforcement, judicial system and the health sector is random at best. Several municipalities and districts in Reykjavík have shown a good example and have weekly meetings between the relevant parties where they discuss individual cases of children.⁶
- b. Cooperation between competent state authorities, civil societies and the private sector has not been officially encouraged by any official parties.
- c. There is cooperation between the governmental agency for child protection and the judicial system for under age offenders who have shown dangerous sexual behaviour. They are offered treatment.

Question 7: International cooperation

Yes, the Icelandic government has for example supported the UN Trust Fund to End violence against women.

⁵ The Child Protection Act on data collection, Article 8:

Monitoring of child protection committees by the Government Agency for Child Protection.

Child protection committees shall by 1 May each year submit to the Government Agency for Child Protection a report on their work over the previous calendar year. This shall include, among other things, information on the number of cases dealt with by committees over the period, their nature and how they were resolved.

The Government Agency for Child Protection may also require child protection committees to produce all information and reports it deems necessary, both documents of individual cases and reports to be especially prepared by the child protection committees.

⁶ Reykjanesbær has shown a good example in developing a program to decrease cases of domestic abuse. The program was executed in co-operation with local social services. Any time the Police got a call involving domestic abuse, they called social services that came to the house with them and a week later a police officer and a representative from social services followed up. The program got an award for innovation in public administration and services. More information on this is available from the head of Police in Reykjanesbær, Sigríður Björk Guðjónsdóttir at sbg@logreglan.is

Prevention of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Question 8: Education, awareness raising and training

- a. All children in the 2nd grade are visited by a puppet theatre, *The Kids on the Block* that educates them on sexual abuse and domestic abuse. In 2012 the government funded and released an educational film on sex, sexual abuse and consent. It's called "Fáðu já" which translates to "Get a 'yes'" and is shown to all children in the 9th and 10th grade, as well as children in grammar school. The film has been translated to six different languages and is available online at www.faduja.is.⁷ The film has some information on the risks of use of new information and communication technologies but younger children receive no formal education on those risks. The government funds an internet safety education programme that has raised awareness both among children and parents on internet safety, but not specifically on the dangers relating to sexual abuse, for example grooming. A new curriculum is being implemented in all elementary and secondary schools with more focus on democracy, equality and human rights.⁸ The curriculum for primary and secondary schools includes cross cutting themes such as "health and welfare" and "democracy and human rights" that offer ample opportunities for preventive messaging and information on sexual violence.
- b. In 2013 the ministry of welfare and the Committee on raising awareness on sexual abuse against children published a postcard which was sent to every home in Iceland. The postcard had information on and reiterated the public duty of notification in the Child protection act.
- c. The General Penal code specifically prohibits the dissemination of explicit material and pornography.⁹

⁷ Film in full length with English subtitles: http://faduja.is/files/Fadu_Ja_576p_enska.mp4

⁸ More information on the new curriculum can be found here: <http://namskra.is/>

⁹ Article 210 states: If pornography appears in print, the person responsible for its publication under the Printing Act shall be subjected to a fine?¹⁾ or to up to 6 months' imprisonment.

The same punishment shall apply to producing, or importing pornographic publications, pornographic films or other such items in order to disseminate, sell, distribute or publicise them in other ways, or to have them on view to the public, and also to organise a public lecture or performance that is immoral in the same manner. [Where such material shows children in a sexually explicit or pornographic manner, however, the punishment may be up to 2 years' imprisonment.]²⁾

Furthermore, the same punishment shall apply to handing over pornographic publications, pornographic films or other such items to young persons under the age of 18 years.

[[Any person who imports or has in his possession photographs, films or comparable items that show children in a sexual or pornographic manner shall be fined or imprisoned for up to 2 years in the case of a gross violation.]³⁾ The same punishment shall apply to the importing or possession of photographs, films or comparable items that show children in sexual acts involving animals or using objects in a pornographic manner.]²⁾

Question 9: Recruitment and screening

- a. There are articles in various acts on the prohibition of those that have been convicted for acts of sexual exploitation or abuse of children. Teachers and those working with youth can be asked to turn in their criminal record but there is no official supervision within individual schools whether they effectively make all applicants turn in their criminal records. The criminal record that employers are given will show activity for the last five years, and extended information is only available by request to the state prosecutor.¹⁰
- b. Refer to answer a., article 10 of the Youth Act also encompasses volunteers.

Question 10: Preventive intervention programmes or measures

- a. Those afraid they might be convicted for sexual abuse or exploitation against children do not have access to any intervention programmes or measures designated to evaluate and prevent offences being committed again. Parents of children who show inappropriate sexual behaviour can apply for therapy at the child protection agency. Three psychologists offer the treatment and it is paid for by the relevant child protection committee.¹¹
- b. There have not been taken any legislative measures for those subject to criminal proceedings or have been convicted for offences relating to sexual abuse or exploitation against children. Anyone convicted for sexual abuse or exploitation is offered treatment while in prison, but it is completely voluntary and persons have the right to refuse treatment or programme measures. Many persons do refuse treatment based on that they are falsely accused of sexual abuse or exploitation. There are two psychologists who work for the prisons and according to recent news they do not have time or resources to attend to all sexual offenders.¹² The appropriate programme is determined on an individual basis by the prisoner and the psychologist together. There are no special programmes for convicted young offenders. There has not yet been established a prison for young or child offenders in Iceland.

Question 11: Participation of the private sector, the media and civil society

UNICEF Iceland did not find the relevant information in order to answer this question sufficiently.

¹⁰ Individuals who have been convicted for violations of Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code, number 19/1940 may not be hired to work with staff mentioned in article 2 who works with children and youth under the age of 18. The same applies to those who have been sentenced for violation of the Narcotics Act number 65/1974 in the last five years. This provision includes also those who are entrusted with the management of children and young people under 18 years old within a framework of volunteer work. Administrators of schools, day-care centres, summer camps, sport and recreation centres and other such institutions or places where children and young people congregate or stay for a long or short time and to whom article 2 applies, have the right to information from the penal registry upon that individual's consent, on whether a particular individual who has applied to them for employment has been sentenced for violations covered by paragraph 3. For operations by state, municipality or other parties that fall within the scope of this Act, care shall be taken that they meet conditions of laws and regulations on accessibility, facilities, health and safety.

¹¹ Barnaverndarstofa, Sálfræðimeðferð fyrir börn sem óæskilega kynhegðun:

<http://www.bvs.is/fagfolk/urraedi-barnaverndarstofu/salfraedimedferd-fyrir-born-med-oaeskilega-kynhegdun/>

¹² Vísir.is „Ráða ekki við meðferð kynferðisbrotamanna“:

<http://www.visir.is/rada-ekki-vid-medferd-kynferdisbrotamanna/article/2012702279969>

Question 12: Effectiveness of preventive measures and programmes

- a. There is an assessment report being written by the Centre for Children and Family Research on the puppet theatre *The Kids on the Block* that was shown to all 2nd graders last year. The government has carried out no other assessments and no regular assessments are planned on any preventative measures.
No regular assessments are carried out on child participation, as there are no regular measures taken to include children in measures taken or created to prevent sexual abuse or exploitation against children.
- b. Good practices include those measures implemented by the government referred to in Question 8 on Education, awareness raising and training.

Protection and promotion of the rights of children victims of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse

Question 13: Reporting suspicion of sexual exploitation or sexual abuse

- a. There are no confidentiality rules for professionals, which sometimes hinders them to notify, because of how small the community is. There is a notification duty on both the general public as well as on all professionals, especially teachers and medical staff.
The child protection agency collects information on those that notify abuse to the child protection services and the data reveals that teachers and health services staff do not notify as much as you would expect, given the special emphasis the Child Protection Act places on them.
- b. There is a notification duty on the general public as well as on professionals, although the general public can notify anonymously. Good practices include the campaign by the Awareness Committee where they sent out a pamphlet with information on the general public's duty to notify the competent authorities on all forms of violence and suspicion thereof.¹³

¹³ Articles 16 -19 of The Child Protection Act deal with notifications:

Article 16: Public duty of notification.

[All persons shall be obliged to notify a child protection committee if they have reason to believe that a child:

- a. is living in unacceptable circumstances of upbringing,
- b. is exposed to violence or other degrading treatment or
- c. is seriously endangering his/her health and maturity.

Furthermore, all persons are obliged to notify a child protection committee if there is reason to believe that the health or life of an unborn child is being endangered due to the unacceptable or dangerous life-style of an expectant mother, e.g. in the form of alcohol abuse or the consumption of drugs, or when an expectant mother is exposed to violence, or if there is reason to suspect that an expectant mother is exposed to violence, or of any incidents which may be regarded as falling within the child protection committee's concerns.]¹⁾

Article 17 Duty of notification by those who deal with children. [All persons involved in matters concerning children or expectant mothers, through their position or occupation, are obliged to notify a child protection committee, if they become aware of circumstances as described in Article 16.] 1) Pre-school heads and teachers, child-minders, school heads, teachers, clergy, physicians, dentists, midwives, nurses, psychologists, social workers, developmental therapists, [career counsellors] 1) and those providing social services or counselling are under an especial obligation to monitor the behaviour, upbringing and conditions of children as far as possible, and to inform the child protection committee if the child's circumstances appear to be of the nature described in paragraph 1. The duty of notification provided in this Article takes precedence over provisions in law or codes of ethics on confidentiality within the relevant professions.

Article 18 Police duty of notification and questioning of children. [If the police become aware that a child is in circumstances as described in Article 16, they shall notify a child protection committee. When there is a suspicion that a child has

Question 14: Helplines

The Icelandic Red Cross has a helpline that is free of charge and is open 24 hours a day. Confidentiality and anonymity is promised for anyone that calls. The helpline also operates an online chat that is open 24 hours a day.

Question 15: Assistance to victims

- a. The child protection agency operates the Children's house. The Children's House is a child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multiagency centre whereby different professionals work under one roof in the investigation of child sexual abuse cases. It is a result of a partnership, among others between the State Police, the State Prosecution, the University Hospital and the Government Agency for Child Protection.¹⁴
- b. Articles 26-31 of the Child Protection Act deal with custody removal and all measures that can be taken without the consent of parents; they also deal with placement of children out of their homes.¹⁵ In Art. 37 of the Act on Child Protection it can be ruled that the alleged perpetrator be removed from the home.
- c. If an Icelandic national abuses or exploits a child sexually in another state, even if it is not legally forbidden in that state, he or she can still be prosecuted in Iceland.

Prosecution of perpetrators of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children

Question 16: Criminal law offences

- a. The General Penal Code was amended in 2012 and all offences mentioned in the Convention made punishable.¹⁶
- b. Since all conduct specified in the Convention has been made punishable in Icelandic internal law it does not differ from the Convention in any way.
- c. All offences in the box are included and punishable in Icelandic internal law.

committed, or has been the victim of, an offence under the General Penal Code or under this Act, or an offence under another act that may entail a punishment of more than two years' imprisonment, the police shall, as soon as it receives such a case for treatment, notify a child protection committee and give it the opportunity to follow the investigation of the case.] 1) The child protection committee shall notify the parents of the child in such a case, unless the interests of the child make this inadvisable. [A representative of a child protection committee shall be given the opportunity of being present at the questioning of a child suspected of having committed a criminal act, in accordance with the Code of Criminal Procedure, and of a child who is a victim or witness. This shall apply both to questioning by the police and by a court. Other matters regarding the taking of testimony from children shall be subject to the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure and regulations issued thereunder.] 2)

Article 19 Anonymity of notifying parties. Any person who gives notification to a child protection committee shall identify him/herself. If a notifying party under Article 16 requests anonymity vis-à-vis parties other than the committee, this shall be respected unless there are special reasons not to do so. [A decision by a child protection committee regarding anonymity or a refusal to lift anonymity may be appealed to the Child Protection Appeals Board. Notifying parties, and parents, shall be informed of their right to appeal against the child protection committee's decision.]1)

The provisions of paragraph 2 on the right to anonymity shall not apply to notifying parties under Articles 17 and 18.

¹⁴ More information on the Children's House and the services available to children can be found here: <http://www.bvs.is/english>

¹⁵ English version of the Child Protection Act:

http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Child-Protection-Act-as-amended-2013.pdf

¹⁶ Art. 6 Penalties shall also be imposed in accordance with the Icelandic Penal Code on account of the following offences, even if these have been committed outside the Icelandic State and irrespective of who the offender is:

[20.] ¹³⁾ For conduct specified in the Council of Europe Convention on Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse from the 25th of October 2007.

- d. The age of the child can play a role when the perpetrator is in the circle of trust. The prison punishment is higher when the child is younger than 16 years old, i.e. under the age of sexual consent. All sexual abuse against children younger than 14 years old also gives a higher punishment.

Question 17: Corporate liability

Chapter II A of the General Penal Code deals with the criminal liability of legal persons.¹⁷

Question 18: Sanctions and measures

- a. The sanctions provided in the general penal code for these offences are criminal. Chapter XXII of the General Penal Code deals with sexual violence, sanctions are stated by each offence.¹⁸
- b. Article 5 of the General Penal Code deals with offences committed by Icelandic citizens in another State. All offences established in accordance with the Convention are included in the list which of offences punishable when committed in another state.

Question 19: Jurisdiction

Article 4 and 5 of the General Penal Code deal with jurisdiction.¹⁹

¹⁷ [Art. 19 a. A legal person shall be ordered to pay a fine if this is provided for by Law.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act 140/1998, Art. 1. [Art. 19 b. Provisions of Law on the criminal liability of legal persons shall, subject to any limitations provided for therein, apply to any entity who while not being a natural person is capable of enjoying rights and bearing duties under Icelandic Law, including public limited liability Companies, private limited liability Companies, Companies with mixed liability of owners, European Interest Groupings, partnership Companies, co-operative societies, public associations, independent foundations, administrative authorities, institutes and Municipalities.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act 140/1998, Art. 1.

[Art. 19 c. Subject to provisions in Law, a legal person can only be made criminally liable if its spokesman, employee or other person acting on its behalf has committed a criminal and unlawful act in the course of its business. Penalties shall be imposed even if the identity of this legal person has not been established. Administrative authorities can only be made criminally liable if a criminal and an unlawful act has been committed in the course of an operation deemed comparable to the operations of private entities.]¹⁾

¹⁸ Excerpts from the General Penal Code are available here:

<http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/penal-code-and-punishment/nr/1145>

¹⁹ Art. 4 Penalties shall be imposed in accordance with the Icelandic Penal Code on account of the following:-

1. Offences committed within the Icelandic State. If an offence is committed by a person employed on board, or a passenger of, a foreign ship or aircraft travelling here, against a person travelling with that craft or against interests closely linked to the craft, penalty shall, however, only be imposed if the Minister of Justice has ordered investigation and prosecution.

2. Offences committed on board Icelandic ships or Icelandic aircraft, irrespective of a craft's position at the time of commission. If an offence has been committed in a place subject to the criminal jurisdiction of another State under International Law, by a person neither permanently employed on board the craft nor a passenger thereon, penalty shall not be imposed in Iceland unless this is provided for in Articles 5 or 6.

[3. Offences against Art. 264 committed within the Icelandic State, even if the original offence from which the gain has been derived, was committed abroad and irrespective of who caused it] ¹⁾.

¹⁾ Act 10/1997, Art. 1.

Art. 5 Penalties shall be imposed in accordance with the Icelandic Penal Code on account of offences committed by Icelandic citizens or residents of Iceland:-

1. If the offence was committed in a place outside the criminal jurisdiction of other States under International Law, provided that it was also punishable under the Law of the offender's home State;

2. If the offence was committed in a place under the criminal jurisdiction of another State under International Law, provided it was also punishable under the Law of that State.

[The provisions of the first para. may be applied to an act committed by a Danish, Finnish, Norwegian or Swedish citizen or resident there and who stays in Iceland.] ¹⁾

Question 20: Aggravating circumstances

All circumstances in Article 28 may be taken into consideration in the Icelandic law as aggravating circumstances in the determination of sanctions against sexual offenders.

Question 21: Measures of protection for the child victim

- a. All child victims have the right to be appointed a special representative to assist them with the complaint, charges, the general progress of the investigation and the proceedings. Articles 39 – 48 of the Law on Criminal Procedure deal with this.²⁰
- b. The Act in Respect to Children states that children are entitled to express their opinions and their best interest shall always be given a primary consideration.²¹
- c. All child victims are appointed a special representative to watch out for their interest in the court proceedings.
- d. Hearings in sexual abuse or exploitations cases where children are involved are never public and all relevant information to identify the child is supposed to be deleted from court proceedings and all relevant public documents so that the child can never be identified. The videotapes are used as evidence so the child does not have to testify during court proceedings as that can re-traumatise the child.
- e. UNICEF Iceland did not find the relevant information in order to answer this question sufficiently.
- f. The Act on the protection of privacy as regards the processing of Personal data states that victims cannot receive any information on perpetrators when or if they are released from detention, temporarily or definitely as it would violate the perpetrator's right to privacy.²²
- g. To ensure the best interest of the child all interviews with the child are videotaped so the child does not have to testify in any court proceedings, risking contact with the perpetrator.
- h. UNICEF Iceland did not find the relevant information in order to answer this question sufficiently.

Question 22: Investigations and criminal measures to protect the child victim

- a. Child victims are offered to go to the Children's house for questioning and are offered treatment there after the questioning.
- b. The district attorney is responsible for prosecutions dealing with sexual violence offences. According to article 52 of the Law on Criminal Procedure no. 88/2008 the police can investigate crimes even if they have not received a complaint or a charge regarding the offence. Article 144 of the same law states that criminal legal proceedings can only be started by the plaintiff or someone related to him or her.
- c. There is no statute of limitations on offences of sexual violence against children. Articles 80-85 of the General Penal code deal with statute of limitation.
- d. All child victims are appointed a special representative to assist them with the complaint, charges, the general progress of the investigation and the proceedings. Articles 39 – 48 of the Law on Criminal Procedure deals with this.²³

²⁰ <http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/procedural-law/nr/1339>

²¹ Article 1: Art. 1. Rights of the child. Children have the right to live, develop and enjoy protection, care and other rights corresponding to their age and maturity and without discrimination of any type. Children may not be subjected to violence or harsh treatment of any type or to other degrading treatment. At all times, children's best interests shall be given prior consideration when decisions are taken regarding their affairs. Children are entitled to express their opinions on all matters regarding them; fair consideration shall be given to their opinions in accordance with their age and maturity.[1]

²² The Act on the protection of privacy as regards the processing of Personal data, no. 77/2000:

<http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/protection-of-privacy/>

²³ <http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/procedural-law/nr/1339>

- e. Article 142 of the Law on Criminal Procedure states: „Every criminal offenses shall be subject to prosecution unless otherwise provided by law”.²⁴
- f. All criminal proceedings are closed and the identity of child victims is protected in all relevant documents published after the proceedings. In some cases extra caution could be used in hiding information that can possibly disclose where the child lives, how old it is. This is especially the case in small societies in Iceland.
- g. According to Article 89 of The General Penal Code the District Attorney and Police can under certain circumstances, especially when they suspect sexual abuse or exploitation against children is being committed. A regulation specifying the instances where this is allowed was approved. The regulation also specifies which actions can be taken in any covert operation.
- h. According to Article 210 of the General Penal Code it is punishable to produce and import pornographic material “in order to disseminate, sell, distribute or publicise them in other ways...” The punishment may be up to two years’ imprisonment. UNICEF Iceland requested information on procedure from the Police but that request was denied on the grounds that the procedure was an internal document.

Question 23: Child friendly interviewing and proceedings

- a. Interviews with children take place as soon as a judge has decided where the interview shall take place. They usually take place at the Children’s House except for cases that go before the district court in Reykjavik where some judges prefer using a room specifically designed for interviewing children. Who takes the interview depends upon where it is taken. In the Children’s house they have staff who are specifically trained to interview children, thought to have been sexually abused or exploited but in the district court they employ policemen who work on sexual abuse cases, that have received training in interviewing children. In the Children’s House the same person performs all investigative interviews with one child and as soon as they are finished the child is able to start treatment in the Children’s house. In both places the interview is videotaped and the judge and the defence lawyer are able to ask questions through the person interviewing the child. The child is allowed to have a special representative present during the interview.
UNICEF Iceland has repeatedly criticised the Reykjavik district court for not using the Children’s house to conduct interviews with children. In UNICEF Iceland’s view it is a clear violation of the Convention on the rights of the Child and other Icelandic legislation. It is in UNICEF Iceland’s view not in the best interest of the child to be interviewed in the district court’s facility and that the court is in fact putting its own best interest before the child’s because it is more convenient for judges to conduct interviews in-house. Parents of children who have been interviewed in the district court and the Children’s house were asked to rate their experience in a research and the results showed that those that were interviewed in the Children’s house were more satisfied with the experience as well as thinking that the facility itself was better in the Children’s House.
- b. All interviews are videotaped and are accepted as evidence during court proceedings.
- c. Hearings in sexual abuse or exploitations cases where children are involved are never public and all relevant information to identify the child is supposed to be deleted from court proceedings and all relevant public documents so that the child can never be identified. The videotapes are used as evidence so the child does not have to testify during court proceedings as that can re-traumatise the child.

²⁴ <https://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/nr/1339>

Questionnaire for the 1st thematic monitoring round: “Sexual abuse of children in the circle of trust”

Data collection

Question 1: Data on sexual abuse in the circle of trust

No special or official mechanisms are in place to specifically collect data on victims or offenders within the circle of trust. The Child protection agency is responsible for collecting data on all notifications made on sexual abuse and exploitation but the reports they publish every 3 months do not have details on perpetrators. The Children’s house collects detailed data on all children that come there for questioning and treatment. Their data is not analysed annually in any organised manner.

UNICEF Iceland published a report in March 2013 on violence against children and prevention measures. The report includes various data on abuse and exploitation in the circle of trust. The data is included in Appendix I.

Prevention

Question 2: Education for children

Primary vs. elementary

Children in 2nd grade are visited by a puppet theatre, *The Kids on the Block*, which educates them on sexual abuse and domestic violence. They are taught that some secrets aren’t good and that they should tell someone they trust if they have a secret similar to those discussed in the puppet theatre.

Question 3: Recruitment and screening

There are articles in various acts on the prohibition of those that have been convicted for acts of sexual exploitation or abuse of children. Teachers and those working with youth can be asked to turn in their criminal record. The criminal record that employers are given will show activity for the last five years, but extended information is available by request to the state prosecutor.

Question 4: Raising awareness on sexual abuse in the circle of trust

Good practices include the campaign by the Awareness Committee working on raising awareness on all forms of violence against children, where they sent out a postcard with information on the general public’s duty to notify the competent authorities on all forms of violence and suspicion thereof. The postcard also included highlighted the fact that the perpetrator often is within the circle of trust.²⁵

In 2012 the government funded and released an educational film on sex, sexual abuse and consent. It’s called “Fáðu já” which translates to “Get a ‘yes’” and is shown to all children in the 9th and 10th grade, as well as children in grammar school. The film has been translated to six different languages and is available online at www.faduja.is.²⁶ The film has some information on the risks of use of new information and communication technologies but younger children receive no formal

²⁵ Picture of the postcard: <http://www.velferdarraduneyti.is/frettir-vel/nr/33796>

²⁶ Film in full length with English subtitles: http://faduja.is/files/Fadu_Ja_576p_enska.mp4

education on those risks. The film also deals extensively with peer-to-peer violence and therefore UNICEF Iceland considers it good practice.

Blátt áfram is a sexual abuse prevention NGO that has produced and released several advertisements for television and print media on sexual abuse in the circle of trust.²⁷ The advertisements have been met with mixed reviews from the Icelandic public. The organisation in co-operation with the US-based CSA organisation *Darkness to light* also sent out to every home in Iceland a brochure on sexual abuse and prevention called “7 steps to Protecting Children” in 2005. The organisation is controversial here in Iceland mostly due to using materials from the US that do not translate well between cultures. The organisation is aware of this as is taking steps to adjust their messaging to the Icelandic public.

Question 5: Specialised training

The police officers working in the sexual crimes division investigating sexual abuse and exploitation against children have been trained specifically to interview victims and to investigate all sexual violence. In the national budget for 2014 there were extra funds included to add police officers to investigate these crimes.

Question 6: Participation of children, the private sector, the media and civil society – ART 9

- c. There have not been any official steps taken by the Icelandic government to encourage or ensure child participation in the development or the implementation of state policies, programmes or other initiatives concerning the fight against sexual abuse or exploitation of children.
- d. UNICEF Iceland published a report on violence against children and prevention measures. A special expert group of child victims of sexual abuse was founded and the group assisted UNICEF staff with the report and the 16 recommendations for better prevention measures and to enhance the response system. The expert group has met with two cabinets and several expert committees working for various ministries on matters relating to violence against children, the judicial system, the police etc. A list of those the expert group has met with can be found in Appendix II.

Question 7: Preventive intervention programmes or measures

Those afraid they might be convicted of sexual abuse or exploitation against children do not have access to any intervention programmes or measures designated to evaluate and prevent offences being committed again.

People can also always seek therapy personally.

Parents of children who show inappropriate sexual behaviour can apply for therapy at the child protection agency. Three psychologists offer the treatment and it is paid for by the relevant child protection committee.²⁸

²⁷ The advertisements can be seen here: <http://www.blattafram.is/default.asp?Page=299>

²⁸ Barnaverndarstofa, Sálfraeðimeðferð fyrir börn sem óæskilega kynhegðun: <http://www.bvs.is/fagfolk/urraedi-barnaverndarstofu/salfraedimedferd-fyrir-born-med-oeskilega-kynhegdun/>

Protection

Question 8: Reporting suspicion of sexual abuse

There is a notification duty on both the general public as well as on all professionals, especially teachers and doctors.

The child protection agency collects information on those that notify abuse to the child protection services and there you can see that teachers and health services staff do not notify as much as you would expect.

Question 9: Assistance to and special procedure for victims

Articles 26-31 of the Child Protection Act deal with custody removal and all measures that can be taken without the consent of parents; they also deal with placement of children out of their homes. There is no mention of a possibility to remove the perpetrator, only the child.²⁹

Prosecution

Question 10: The offence of sexual abuse

- a. What is understood by “intentional conduct” in internal law?

UNICEF Iceland did not find the relevant information in order to answer this question sufficiently.

- b. What is understood by “sexual activities” in internal law?

The age of consent is 15 years.³⁰

Question 11: Corporate liability

Chapter II A of the General Penal Code deals with the criminal liability of legal persons³¹

²⁹ English version of the Child Protection Act:

http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Child-Protection-Act-as-amended-2013.pdf

³⁰ Article 202. [Any person who has sexual intercourse or other sexual relations with a child under the age of [15 years]¹⁾ shall be imprisoned for [a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 16 years].¹⁾ ²⁾ [Punishment may be reduced or waived if the perpetrator and the victim are of similar age or level of maturity.]¹⁾

[Sexual harassment of a type other than that specified in the first paragraph of this article shall be punishable by up to [6 years’]¹⁾ imprisonment.]²⁾

Any person who, by deception, gifts or in any other way entices a [child]¹⁾ [under the age of 18 years]²⁾ to engage in sexual intercourse or other sexual relations shall be imprisoned for up to 4 years.]³⁾

[Any person who pays a child ¹⁾ under the age of 18 years a consideration in return for having sexual intercourse or other sexual relations with the child shall be imprisoned for up to 2 years.]⁴⁾

³¹ [Art. 19 a. A legal person shall be ordered to pay a fine if this is provided for by Law.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act 140/1998, Art. 1.

[Art. 19 b. Provisions of Law on the criminal liability of legal persons shall, subject to any limitations provided for therein, apply to any entity who while not being a natural person is capable of enjoying rights and bearing duties under Icelandic Law, including public limited liability Companies, private limited liability Companies, Companies with mixed liability of owners, European Interest Groupings, partnership Companies, co-operative societies, public associations, independent foundations, administrative authorities, institutes and Municipalities.]¹⁾

¹⁾ Act 140/1998, Art. 1.

[Art. 19 c. Subject to provisions in Law, a legal person can only be made criminally liable if its spokesman, employee or other person acting on its behalf has committed a criminal and unlawful act in the course of its business. Penalties shall be imposed even if the identity of this legal person has not been established. Administrative authorities can only be made criminally liable if a criminal and an unlawful act has been committed in the course of an operation deemed comparable to the operations of private entities.]¹⁾

Question 12: Aggravating circumstances

All circumstances involving persons in the circle of trust may be taken into consideration in the Icelandic law as aggravating circumstances in the determination of sanctions of sexual offenders.

Question 13: Best interest of the child

- a. There are no normative best interest determinations in cases where the perpetrator is a member of the victim's family or in its circle of trust. Several legal acts reiterate the duty to always consider the best interests of the child and to allow the child to express its opinions on matters relating to it.
- b. All child victims have the right to be appointed a special representative to assist them with the complaint, charges, the general progress of the investigation and the proceedings. Articles 39 – 48 of the Law on Criminal Procedure deals with this.³²
- c. Articles 26-31 of the Child Protection Act deal with custody removal and all measures that can be taken without the consent of parents; they also deal with placement of children out of their homes. There is no mention of a possibility to remove the perpetrator, only the child.³³

Question 14: Child friendly justice

- a. The child protection agency operates the Children's house. The Children's House is a child-friendly, interdisciplinary and multiagency centre whereby different professionals work under one roof in the investigation of child sexual abuse cases. It is a result of a partnership, among others between the State Police, the State Prosecution, the University Hospital and the Government Agency for Child Protection.³⁴
- b. The district attorney is responsible for prosecutions dealing with sexual violence offences. According to article 52 of the Law on Criminal Procedure no. 88/2008 the police can investigate crimes even if they have not received a complaint or a charge regarding the offence. Article 144 of the same law states that criminal legal proceedings can only be started by the plaintiff or someone related to him or her.
- c. Hearings in sexual abuse or exploitations cases where children are involved are never public and all relevant information to identify the child is supposed to be deleted from court proceedings and all relevant public documents so that the child can never be identified. The videotapes are used as evidence so the child does not have to testify during court proceedings as that can re-traumatise the child.

³² <http://eng.innanrikisraduneyti.is/laws-and-regulations/english/procedural-law/nr/1339>

³³ English version of the Child Protection Act: http://eng.velferdarraduneyti.is/media/acrobat-enskar_sidur/Child-Protection-Act-as-amended-2013.pdf

³⁴ More information on the Children's House and the services available to children can be found here: <http://www.bvs.is/english>

Appendix I

Child Rights: Violence and Prevention

March 2013: Report published by UNICEF Iceland

Campaign focus

UNICEF's child protection strategy states that it should focus on both response and prevention. In Iceland the response system has been well developed over the years and today all children who experience any kind of violence, or show some kind of risk behaviour, can get the help they need. The system could definitely use more funding for more staff and to develop more diverse measures to assist those in need, but in its essence the child protection response system is good.

Many preventive measures against public health threats are in place in Iceland, such as against smoking, teen alcohol abuse and traffic accidents etc. These programs have yielded impressive results over the years. However, the Icelandic government had until 2011 spent limited funding on measures to prevent violence. This changed when the Icelandic government signed and ratified the CoE Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) in 2012. Then three ministries (Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Culture and Education and the Ministry of Welfare) made a co-operation agreement to start an Inter-ministerial Task Force to oversee all prevention measures taken to fulfil the convention. However those measures that were put in place were not part of long-term strategies and only addressed bullying and sexual violence. No special measures were funded to prevent neglect or domestic violence.

The role of the Inter-ministerial Task Force was at first only limited to prevention measures for sexual abuse and sexual violence. Its role was to map, co-ordinate and support all prevention measures. Their role also included looking into research being made on the subject in Iceland as well as to increase societal awareness of violence against children in Iceland. Education and prevention are directed at children, people that work with children, the judicial system and the public.

In 2013 Inter-ministerial Task Force's work was expanded to include psychological/emotional and domestic violence. This was in large part done because of UNICEF Iceland's advocacy in relation to its most recent report. What UNICEF Iceland highlights in its most recent report and advocacy campaign is the urgent need for a holistic approach to prevent all kinds of violence against children and the need for a centralized approach to funding, research and knowledge management.

Research reveals that violence has severe short-term and long-term influence on children. To highlight the urgent need for prevention UNICEF Iceland published a report, *Child rights in Iceland: Violence and prevention (CRI)*³⁵ that focuses on violence against children in Iceland in its different forms. UNICEF Iceland feels that to stop or greatly reduce violence against children all measures need to be programmed for the long-term and all forms of violence need to be addressed.

Quick facts about Iceland

Population, January 1st 2013: 321.857

Child population, January 1st 2013: 79.758

Children as a percentage of population: 24.8%

GDP index 2012:105.23

GDP per capita 2012: 97,07

Human development Index 2012: No. 13

³⁵ Full report only available in Icelandic at: http://unicef.is/rettindibarna/UNICEF_Rettindi_barna_ofbeldi_og_forvarnir.pdf

Child Rights: Violence and Prevention

An English summary

Table of contents

Introduction

1. UNICEF Iceland's Recommendations
2. Neglect
3. Domestic Violence
4. Sexual Violence
5. Bullying
6. Conclusion

Introduction

The report *Child rights: Violence and Prevention* is as a follow-up report to a report/situation analysis published by UNICEF Iceland in 2011, *The Status of Children in Iceland (SOCI – full report is available in Icelandic only at www.unicef.is)*. SOCI highlights that violence (sexual violence, domestic violence, neglect and bullying) against children in Iceland is one of the biggest threats to their health and safety. CRI includes both evidence-based recommendations and new data on violence against children in Iceland. The data and the recommendations support each other in demonstrating the prevalence of violence against children and the influence it has on them, and therefore the urgent need for more preventive measures.

The data was analysed specifically for UNICEF Iceland and had not been analysed or published before. The data gives an indication of the prevalence of the different forms of violence against children in Iceland. Data was gathered from the following:

1. **Icelandic Children's House (Barnahús)**³⁶
 - Data on all children that have come to the Children's house for questioning about sexual violence was analysed and cross-referenced. Analysis shows where children are most likely to be sexually abused, who is most likely to perpetrate this violence, at which age children are most likely to be sexually abused and how serious the violence is.
2. **Stígámót, A Counselling Centre for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence**³⁷
 - Data on survivors of sexual abuse and violence as children was cross-referenced with data on survivors that have been abused as grown-ups to estimate the long-term impact of sexual violence against children.
3. **Icelandic Centre for Social Research and Analysis (ICSRA)**³⁸
 - ICSRA analyses the social well-being of youth in Iceland and various risk behaviour. Since 2006 all children in the 9th and 10th grade (14-15 years old) have three times also been asked about their experience with various forms of violence (2006, 2009 and 2012). This data examined over time and was cross-referenced with information on the children's mental and social well-being and various risk behaviour to estimate long and short-term impact of violence on children.
4. **Skólapúlsinn, Youth Research Centre**³⁹
 - Skólapúlsins' research focuses on bullying in schools. Data was analysed on the prevalence of bullying and the impact it has on those bullied.

³⁶ For more information on the Children's house: <http://www.bvs.is/english>

³⁷ For more information on Stígámót: <http://stigamot.is/index.php/english>

³⁸ For more information on ICSRA: <http://www.rannsoknir.is/rg/english/>

³⁹ For more information on Skólapúlsinn: <http://www2.skolapulsinn.is/um/>

The recommendations in the report were formulated through an extensive consultation process with professionals within government, municipalities, academia and several NGOs. UNICEF Iceland also established an expert group of youths that are sexual abuse survivors (aged 17-20) in co-operation with the Icelandic Children's House (Barnahús). The expert group reviewed the recommendations made by the professionals, amended them and made their own list of recommendations. The input of the young people was priceless because of their direct experience with violence and the child protection system.

It is UNICEF Iceland's view that to prevent violence against children it is absolutely necessary to make all policy regarding prevention address violence against children holistically, because different forms of violence are inter-related. Those children that are neglected and bullied are more likely to be vulnerable to sexual violence etc.

Because of this UNICEF Iceland's report proposes 16 concrete recommendations with a holistic approach to violence against children. The recommendations advocate for early intervention, regular long-term prevention measures and strict co-ordination of all measures to achieve convergence. The recommendations can be split into recommendations regarding co-ordination of prevention measures; treatment; education/training for those that work with or for children; and research on violence against children. The recommendations can be used to amend both policy and legislation to improve child rights and to prevent violence against children. The recommendations are listed below. **The recommendations made by the expert group of children are marked red.**

UNICEF Iceland's Recommendations to prevent all forms of violence against children

1. A Violence Prevention Committee/Council/Body should be established in some shape or form. The Committee would co-ordinate prevention measures and research on violence against children in Iceland.
2. Regular monitoring of the magnitude and nature of violence against children in Iceland should take place.
3. Data should be collected regularly and existing data should be compiled and analysed in an organised manner.
4. Prevention through the educational system should be increased.
 - a. All children in elementary school and high school/grammar school should be taught about human rights, gender studies and equality so children will know their own rights and learn to respect the rights of others.
 - b. All teachers should receive education and continuous education about human rights, gender studies and equality.
 - c. Educational material should be available for different age groups on violence and its different forms.
5. All future parents should be offered to attend a seminar on parenting where they would be taught on communication and basic education on violence, how to detect it and what to do if their child is abused. Where they can seek help etc.
6. **Victims of abuse should be able to participate in peer to peer education about abuse and violence.**
7. The Icelandic Children's House should be strengthened.
 - a. More staff should be added to the Children's House and housing should be expanded.
 - b. Child protection committees all over the country should send a reference to the Children's house at the same time a reference is sent to the police about a child that has been sexually abused.
 - c. All children, without discrimination of any kind (especially regarding the type of violence they have experienced), should be offered counselling in Children's house while their cases are being reviewed by the police or/and the courts.
 - d. **Group therapy should be established for children that have been subject to any kind of violence.**
8. Family therapy for families at risk should be available nationwide.

9. Special attention should be given to establish preventive and responsive programs to halt and roll back negative social inheritance.
10. Support to relatives of children that have been abused needs to be increased in the form of therapy.
11. A process needs to be established whereby everyone that works with children needs to be obligated to sign ethical guidelines and to abide by special work procedures on how to react when a child reports violence or is abused.
12. Special prevention measures need to be in place when all festivals are held. All staff needs to be educated on how to react to violence or when a person or child reports violence against them. Permits for festivals should not be given to those that do not fulfil these conditions.
13. Sex offender supervision needs to be established.
14. Check lists need to be in place in all health facilities to scan for violence within families.
15. Teams of child protection staff, social services, police, teachers and health facility staff need to be established in neighbourhoods, districts, and/or regions so children reporting violence will receive the best possible service.
16. Schools with a plan to combat bullying need support to implement those plans fully. Schools will need assistance in implementing the new curriculum, especially with regards to human rights and equality education.

Sexual violence

Child protection services receive about 450 notifications every year regarding sexual violence against children in Iceland; this would amount to 0.5% of children in Iceland. Like other types of violence UNICEF Iceland estimates that the prevalence of sexual violence is largely underestimated in official numbers.

When children were asked about their experience with sexual violence, 4.8% reported that they have been sexually abused, 7.2% of girls and 2.5% of boys. Interestingly a bigger proportion, or 3.6% reported being sexually abused by a peer and 2.7% reported being sexually abused by an adult (that disaggregation was only available in the 2012 data).

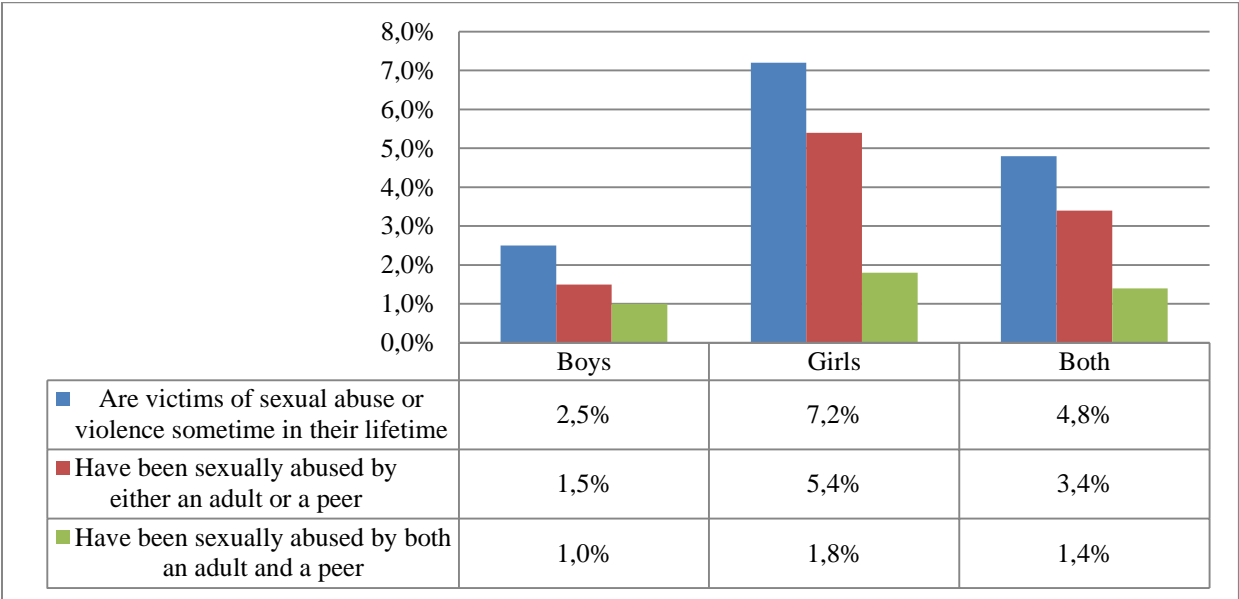


Figure 6: Prevalence of sexual violence against children, 2012

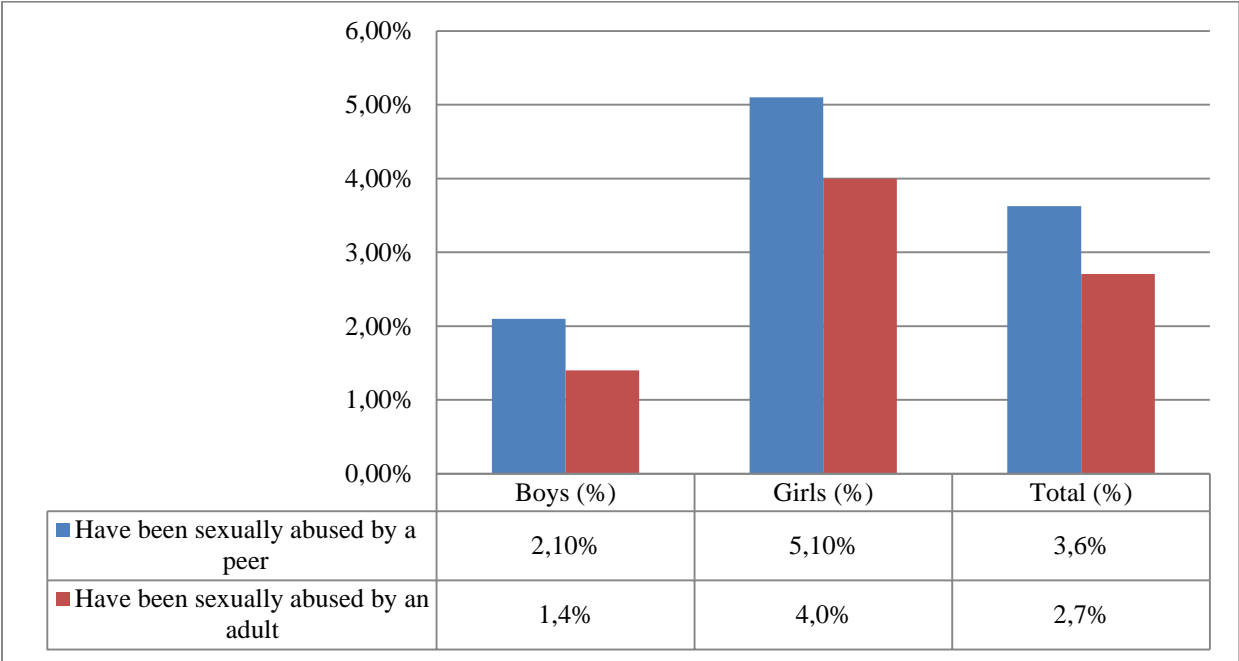


Figure 7: Have been sexually abused by either an adult or a peer

The Children’s house in Iceland has gathered data since 2001 on all the children that come there for questioning about sexual violence. UNICEF Iceland had their data specifically analysed for this report to somehow try to map sexual violence against children in Iceland. From the analysis we gathered where the children that were processed by the Icelandic Children’s house were most likely to be sexually abused, who was most likely to perpetrate this violence, at which age children were most likely to be sexually abused and how serious the violence was. All this data was cross-referenced.

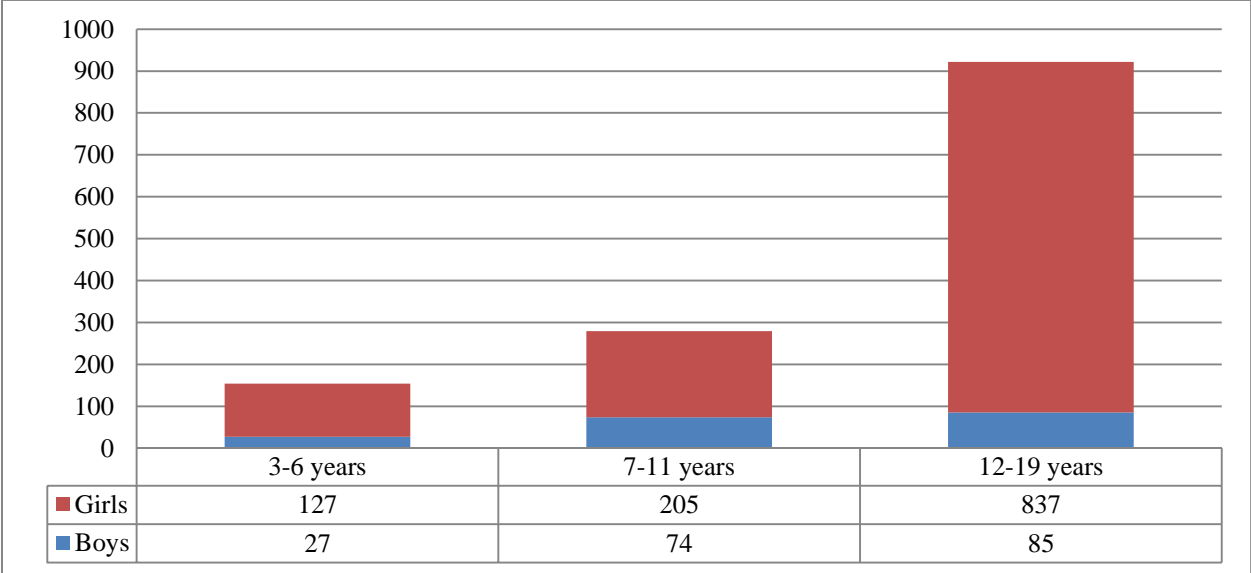


Figure 8: Age of children visiting the Children’s house 2001-2012

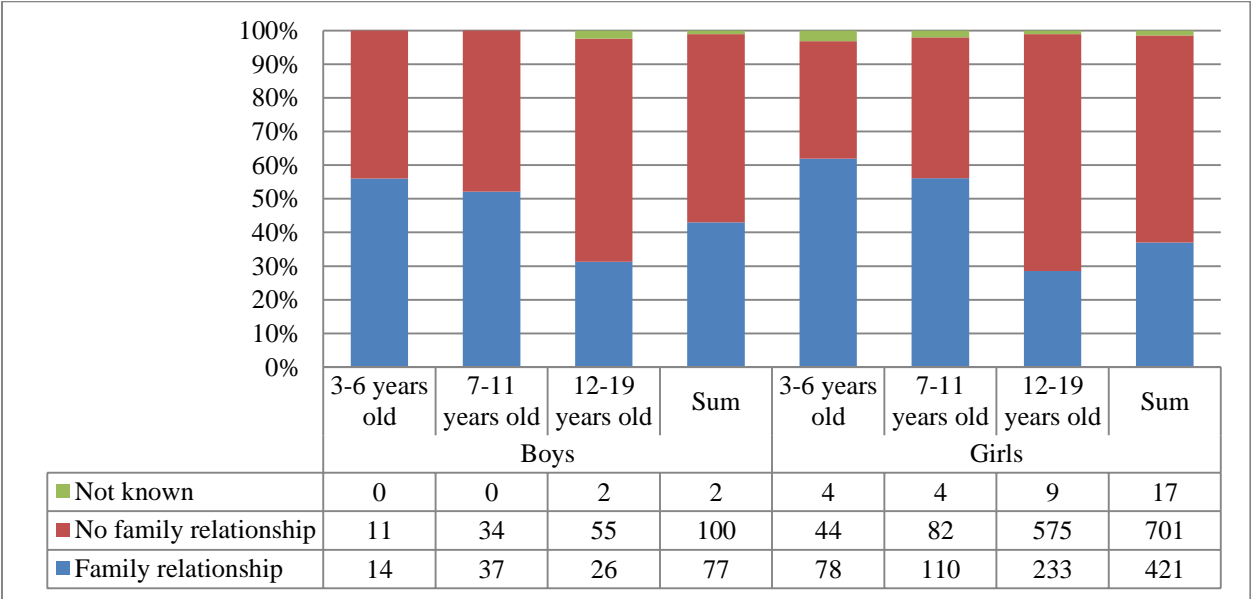


Figure 9: Family relationship of victim and perpetrator of children that were questioned in the Children’s house, 2001-2012

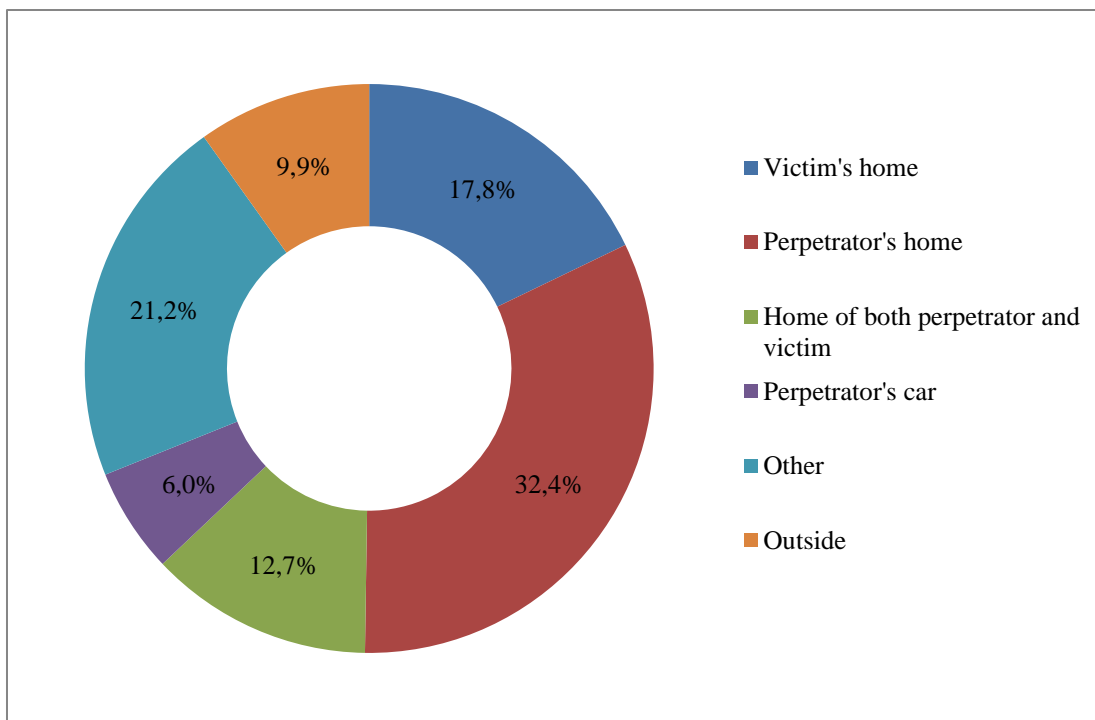


Figure 10: Location of violence (%)

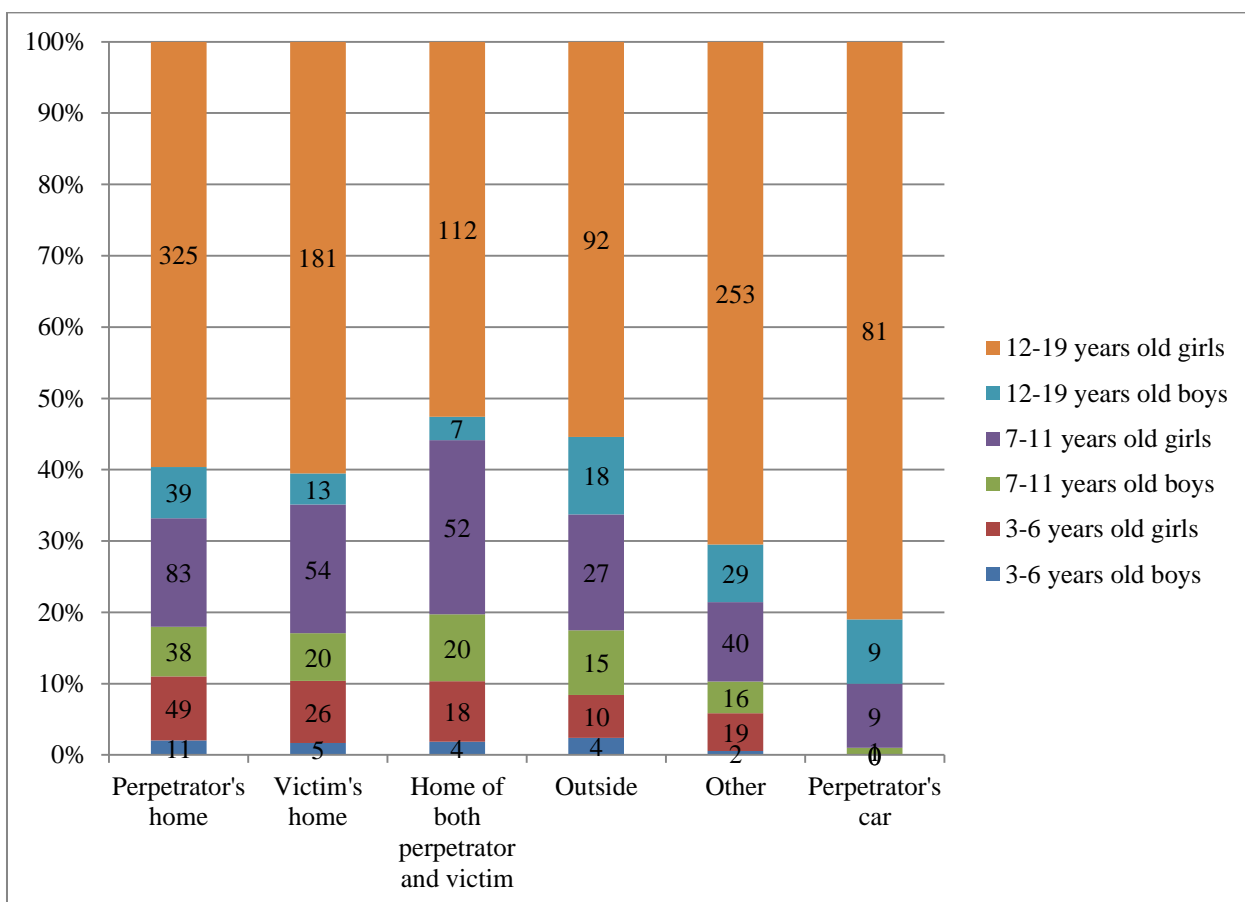


Figure 11: Location of violence of children by age who were questioned in the Children's house, 2001-2012

Offences are rated by their seriousness, where a level 1 offence is least serious and level 5 offences are most serious.

Level 1: Sexual manner of speaking, touching the child through clothing and trying to kiss the child.

Level 2: Show the child genitalia, watch the child without clothing, touch the child’s genitals through clothing and masturbation with the child present.

Level 3: Touch the child’s genitals or breasts inside its clothing, perpetrator masturbates the child or makes the child masturbate.

Level 4: Attempt to penetrate vaginally or anally with either finger, objects of penis, attempt to penetrate child’s mouth, vaginal or anal penetration with finger or object, oral sex with child, child forced to have oral sex.

Level 5: Full penetration with child, anally or vaginally.

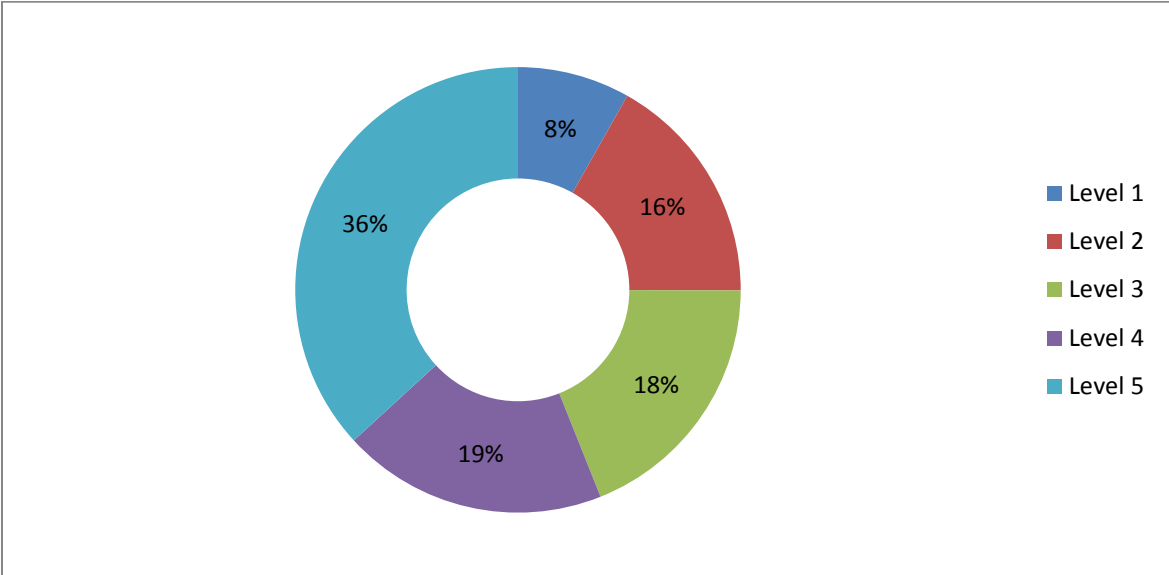


Figure 12: Seriousness of offences of violence against children visiting the Children’s house in 2001-2012 (%)

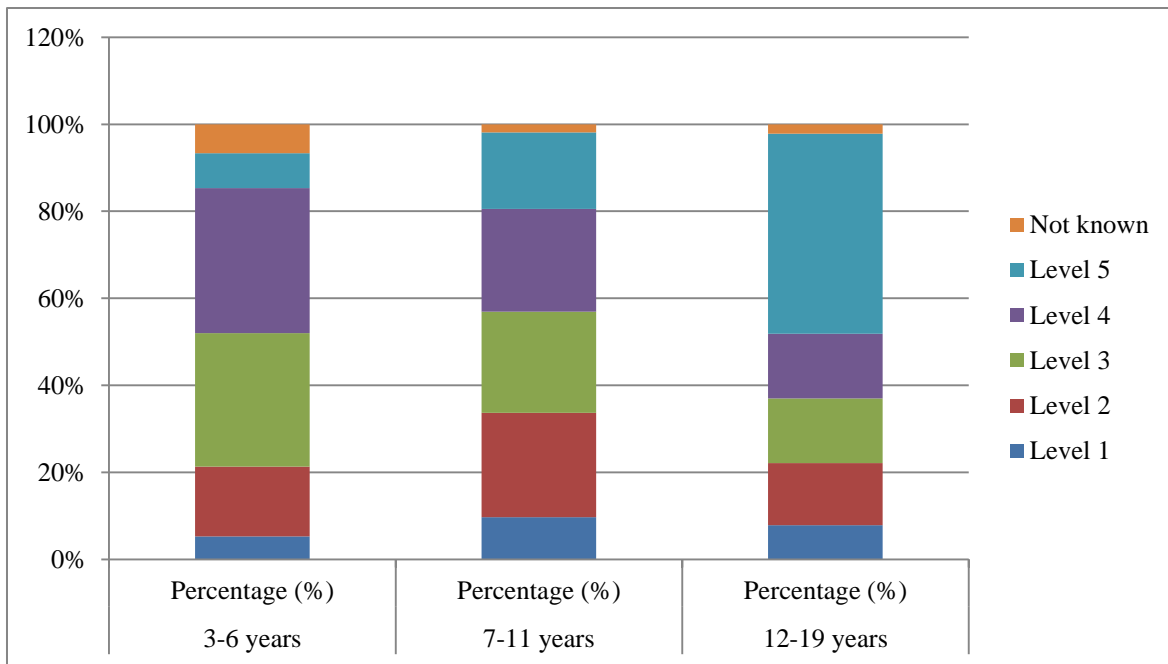


Figure 13: Seriousness of offences of violence against children visiting the Children's house 2001-2012, by age (%)

As with domestic violence UNICEF Iceland wanted to emphasise the impact violence has on those abused. UNICEF Iceland had therefore the data from ICSRA analysed but also had data from Stígamót, a counselling centre for victims of sexual abuse analysed. The data from Stígamót is very interesting because they only counsel grown-ups; child victims have to go to the Children's house. At least half of those that seek counsel at Stígamót were abused as children, but seek help maybe 10-20 years after it occurs. UNICEF Iceland therefore had Stígamót compare the impact on those that were abused as children and those that were abused as adults.

The analysis indicates that the substantial consequences of sexual abuse affects those abused as children more than those abused as grown-ups. This could of course be related to the nature and longevity of the violence. Those abused as children are often abused by someone they know, often, for a long period of time.

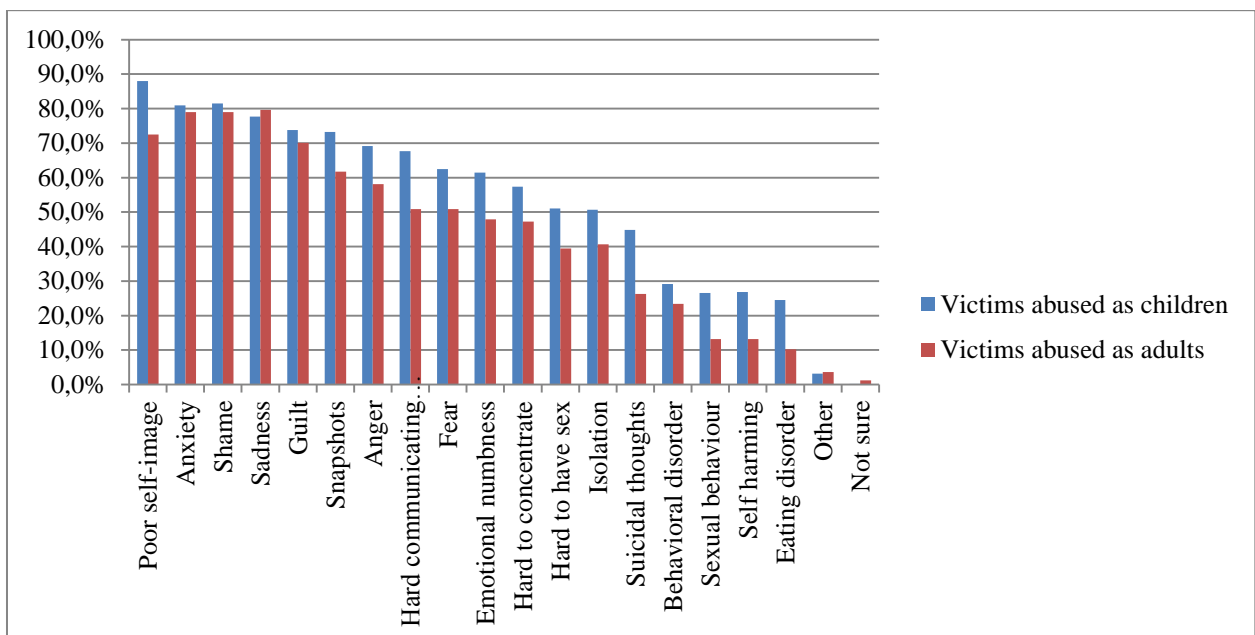


Figure 14: Impact of violence on victims of sexual violence, over 18 and under 18 years old, 2009-2012. Figures from Stígamót – A Counselling Centre for Survivors of Sexual Abuse and Violence

The data from ICSRA indicates that those affected by violence are more likely to feel lonely; they feel like their future is hopeless as well as reporting to feel more distress. They are also more likely to drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes and cannabis. Their views on using violence against others are also more positive than those that have not experienced violence in their life. Following are some of the results:

- Girls that have been sexually abused by a peer are 6 times more likely than other girls to smoke cigarettes daily.
- Girls that have been sexually abused by a grown-up are 12 times more likely than other girls to smoke cigarettes daily.
- Girls that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 3-4 times more likely to have gotten drunk.
- Girls that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 8-10 times more than other girls likely to smoke cannabis.
- Girls that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 4 times more likely than other girls to feel bad in school.
- Girls that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 3 times more likely than other girls to feel lonely in most of or all of the time.
- Boys that have been sexually abused by a peer are 6 times more likely than other boys to smoke cigarettes daily.
- Boys that have been sexually abused by a grown-up are 7 times more likely than other boys to smoke cigarettes daily.
- Boys that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 3 times more likely than other boys to have gotten drunk.
- Boys that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 3-4 times more likely than other boys to smoke cannabis.
- Boys that have been sexually abused by either a grown-up or a peer are 4-5 more likely than other boys to feel badly in school.
- 70% of boys that have been sexually abused by either a peer or a grown-up agree with the statement that violence can sometimes be justified.

Full results can be seen in figures 15 and 16.

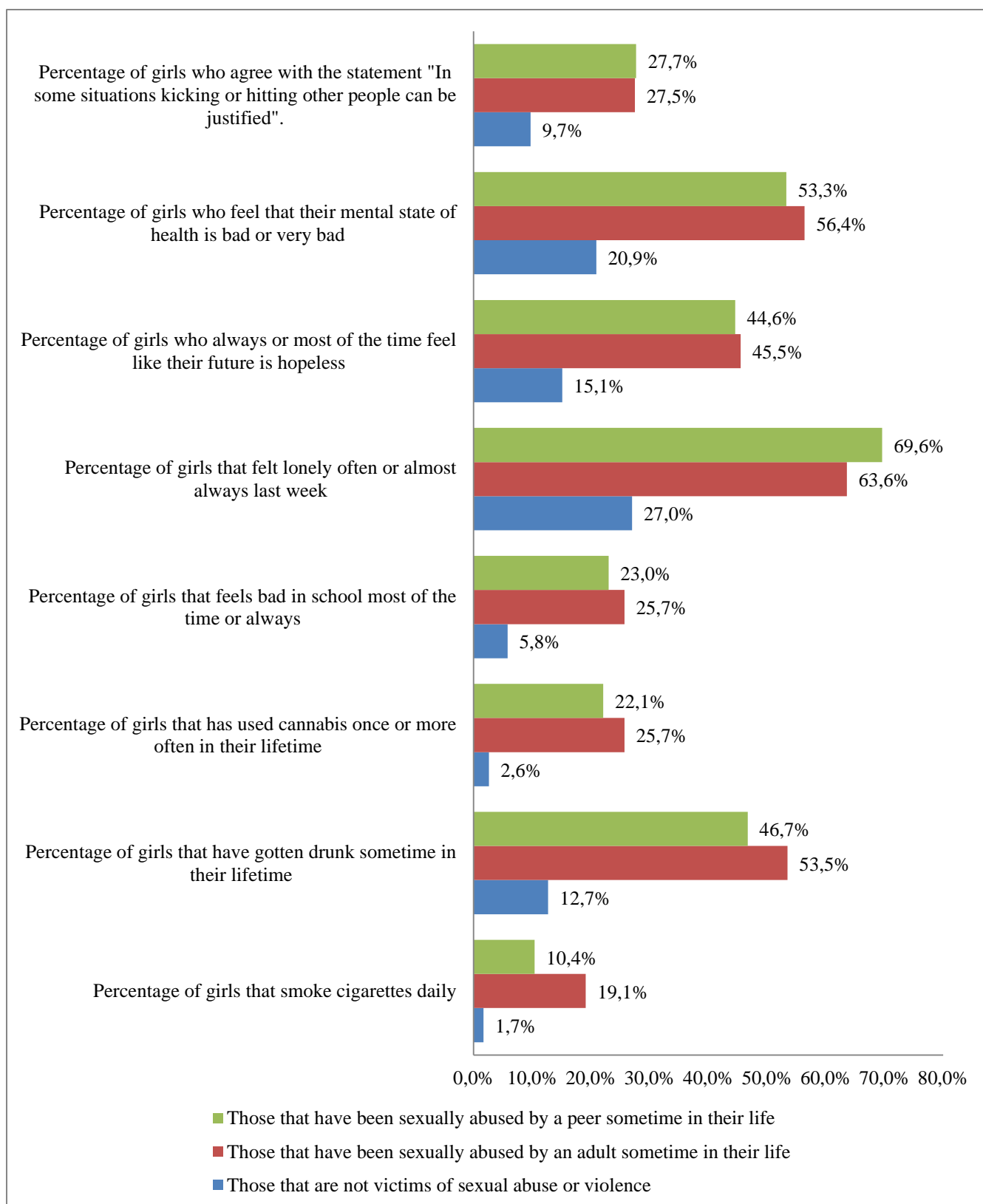


Figure 15: Impact of violence on victims of sexual violence compared to those that have not experience sexual violence, girls 2012

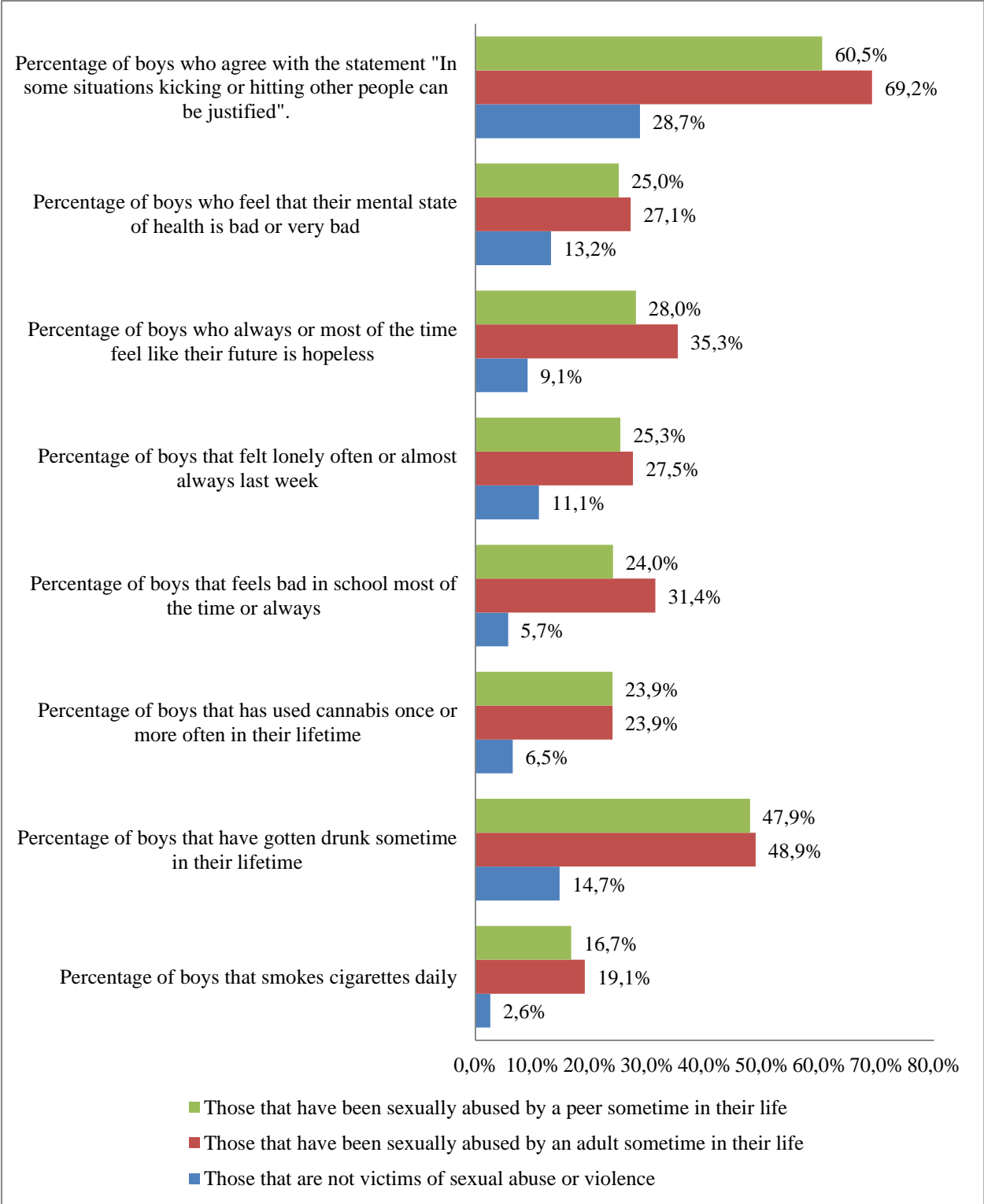


Figure 16: Impact of violence on victims of sexual violence compared to those that have not experience sexual violence, boys 2012

Conclusion

By making this report UNICEF Iceland wanted to highlight the prevalence of violence against children in Iceland and the lack of prevention measures.

The data and the results presented in this report are striking but what also struck UNICEF Iceland was the fact that all the data was available, only no one had asked for it or commissioned it. This kind of data should be analysed and available every year so that all prevention and response measures against violence against children will be effective.

All children are vulnerable. But those that have been abused or experienced violence are even more so, this is clear from the data. UNICEF Iceland feels that with the 16 recommendations proposed in this report we should be able to create a virtually violence free society for children in Iceland. To protect children from violence is the government's legal responsibility under domestic and international law, and our moral responsibility and imperative as a society.