



# CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE

QUANTITATIVE REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2020

Co-funded  
by the European Union



COUNCIL OF EUROPE



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by the Council of Europe

GAME CHANGERS



# CONTENTS

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**RESEARCH APPROACH**

page 3

**SUMMARY**

page 6

**MAIN FINDINGS**

page 14

- 1. The perception of sexual abuse and the sexual abuse of children.....page 15
- 2. Education on the sexual abuse of children.....page 22
- 3. Services and information available.....page 25
- 4. Personal experience .....page 32

**APPENDIX**

page 51

# RESEARCH APPROACH



# RESEARCH APPROACH

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## METHODOLOGY

- CAPI – Computer assisted personal interviewing
- N=1,128 conducted interviews
- Length of the interview= 10 min for the general population and 15 min for victims of child sexual exploitation and abuse



## TARGET GROUP

- A representative sample of residents of the Republic of Slovenia in terms of gender, age (18–75) and region
- Within the representative sample, victims of childhood sexual violence have also been recorded



Further details of this sample are provided in the annex to this document

# BACKGROUND AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

## BACKGROUND

The Council of Europe is implementing a project intended to support Phase II of the Barnahus (Children's House) project in Slovenia. Barnahus is the leading European model for a child-friendly, multidisciplinary and interagency response to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children. Amongst its other objectives, the project aims to increase the awareness of professionals and the general public when it comes to the sexual abuse of children in Slovenia. The project is carried out in close cooperation with the Slovenian Ministry of Justice and is co-financed through the Structural Reform Support Programme of the European Union.

## THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH

- The main objective of the quantitative research is to better understand how the residents of Slovenia perceive the scope of violence (including sexual abuse) towards children, and the help that they can benefit from in Slovenia.
- The results of the quantitative research will also be used to train experts, provide services and develop communication tools in order to provide better addressing, prevention, protection, prosecution and awareness in terms of the sexual abuse of children in Slovenia.

The results of the said quantitative research are presented in continuation.

# SUMMARY



## THE PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

The residents of Slovenia perceive the sexual abuse of children as a rather serious issue, women even more so than men. Regardless of how seriously this issue is considered, however, the degree of knowledge related to sexual violence towards children in Slovenia is rather low. Nearly half of Slovenians believe that they would not be able to recognise signs of sexual violence towards children. In this context, it is alarming that nearly a third of Slovenians believe that sexual abuse of children always involves the use of physical force, while nearly a quarter of Slovenians believe that children cannot sexually abuse one another.

Spontaneously, the most often cited forms of sexual violence towards children are inappropriate touching and rape. Most respondents believe that the victim or a child cannot be guilty of sexual abuse, seeing as we are, after all, talking about children who cannot recognise sexual violence on their own or don't even understand the concept.

According to Slovenians, the perpetrators of sexual violence towards children are most often men. The most commonly mentioned perpetrators are the parents of the child. In their opinion, the victims of sexual violence are usually between 6 and 10 years old.

## EDUCATION ON THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Two-thirds of the respondents believe that schools do not provide sufficient information in order to prevent sexual violence, while nearly 90% believe that such education should be a part of the curriculum in the first or second triad of elementary school.

Only a little over one third of parents with children younger than 18 years old have already had a discussion with their children about sexual abuse, while one third of such parents plan to do so in the future. In order to better understand the topic of the sexual abuse of children, parents mainly want more information on how to recognise such abuse and what to do, or where to turn to in cases of actual sexual abuse. However, half of the parents say that they find it awkward to talk about this topic with their children, which is why they shift the responsibility for such conversations to the school system.

As many as one in four adult Slovenians (people over 18 years old) believe that there are no appropriate organisations in Slovenia that could offer help to children who have suffered sexual abuse. Otherwise, by far the most well-known organisations offering help to victims of sexual violence are departments of social services and safe houses, while the SOS Telephone Association for Women and Children prevails amongst NGOs.



## RECOGNISING THE SIGNS AND KNOWING HOW TO REACT IN CASE OF THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD

Practically all respondents would have done something if they suspected that a child was being sexually abused. In case of suspected sexual abuse, individuals would most often turn to the police or initiated contact with a department of social services.

Only 1% of the respondents would have done nothing if a child they knew told them that he/she was being sexually abused. Two-thirds of the respondents would have contacted the police or a department of social services.

## THE VISIBILITY OF ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

In the past, a little over a third of Slovenians have already encountered a campaign on how to prevent the sexual abuse of children or how to protect them from sexual abuse, or they have read some information related to this topic. The largest portion of people have encountered such advertising 3–6 months ago.

Television is the medium where most people have encountered campaigns on how to prevent sexual violence towards children. Most often, such campaigns are broadcast on RTV SLO 1 and Pop TV, followed by websites and newspapers.

In most cases, people cannot remember the actual content of the campaigns they encountered. The same goes for the organisations ordering these campaigns.

**Nearly one in 5 Slovenians have experienced one of the forms of sexual violence in their childhood (up to the age of 18 years old).**

Most often, they were one-time acts such as:  
**10% Inappropriate touching and 10% Indecent exposure**  
5% Sexual harassment  
2% Attempted rape

**Victim:** most often young girls between the ages of 13 and 18 years old  
**Perpetrator:** most often **one person (a man), known to the victim**, aged between **40 and 50 years old**  
One in every 6 perpetrators was younger than 18 years old

**53% disclosed the act of sexual violence**

**The confidant** was most often **a friend** of the victim  
In **75%** of the cases, **the family supported the victim**.  
In **86%** of the cases, **other close friends supported the victim**

**6%** of victims **filed a criminal complaint**  
**50%** of the criminal complaints **were followed by a trial and conviction**  
One in every 4 criminal complaints was followed by a trial but ended without a conviction

**34% did not disclose the act of sexual violence**

**Reasons for non-disclosure:**  
the victims thought that what had happened was nothing special  
they felt humiliated  
they didn't realize that what had happened was an act of sexual violence

**Nearly one in 7 victims** (out of 205) suffered **at least one other act of sexual violence in their childhood**, in addition to the act presented and discussed in the research itself.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

Nearly one in 5 Slovenians have experienced one of the forms of sexual violence in their childhood (up to the age of 18 years old). Inappropriate touching and indecent exposure were the most commonly mentioned forms of sexual violence during childhood (each of these forms was mentioned by 10% of the respondents), followed by sexual harassment (mentioned by 5% of the respondents) and attempted rape (mentioned by 2% of the respondents).

Most often, the victims of childhood sexual violence were between 13 and 18 years of age. The perpetrator was most often between 40 and 50 years of age. One in every 6 perpetrators was younger than 18 years old, i.e. peer-to-peer sexual violence.

Any form of childhood sexual violence most often took place in a public space, in the street, on a bus/train, or when spending time with friends. Inappropriate touching was most often perpetrated within the family circle and amongst relatives, while indecent exposure most often happened amongst friends.

When it comes to sexual violence, most cases only had one perpetrator, who was a man that the victim did know.

In two-thirds of cases of childhood sexual violence, it was a one-time act. No less than 13% of the victims told us that the sexual violence lasted for up to 1 year. Most victims never met the perpetrator again after the event.

Only half of all the victims told someone else about the abuse, most often immediately after the act. The first confidant was usually a friend of the victim.

In most cases, the confidant asked detailed questions about the event. In most cases, nothing has changed for the victim of sexual violence. In only 18% of the cases was the victim protected from the perpetrator – usually when it came to what we perceive as "serious" sexual abuse.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD – CONTINUED

The victims that have not disclosed the act of sexual violence that they suffered opted not to do so because they believed that the act was nothing special, because they felt humiliated, or because they didn't realize that what had happened was an act of sexual violence.

Approximately half of the victims disclosed the act of sexual violence to more than one person. Once again, this person was most often a friend of the victim.

In 75% of cases of childhood sexual violence, the family supported the victim. To a greater extent, the victim was also supported by other close friends (86%).

A little over a third of the victims only disclosed the act of sexual violence during the investigation itself. The victims mainly opted not to disclose the act of sexual violence before because they felt it was not worth it, or because they felt ashamed and did not know how to talk about it.

In half of the cases where victims did not disclose the act of sexual violence, they did not want to talk to anyone.

Only 6% of the victims of childhood sexual violence filed a criminal complaint. Half of these complaints were followed by a trial and conviction. One in every 4 criminal complaints was followed by a trial but ended without a conviction.

Only 6% of the victims who disclosed the act of sexual violence received medical treatment and/or psychological support. Most of them received assistance immediately after the event.

Nearly one in 7 victims who suffered sexual violence in their childhood was also a victim of at least one other act of sexual violence in their childhood, in addition to the act presented and discussed in the research itself.

# Final considerations of the researcher

Since the Slovenian people are rather self-critical, we believe that the topic of sexual violence towards children in Slovenia is relatively unknown and, even today, represents a topic that we usually tend to avoid when we talk with our children.

On the one hand, there is the awareness that victims of childhood sexual violence are, stereotypically speaking, not just little girls or children from poor families. On the other hand, however, quite a large portion of people still believe that sexual violence always involves physical force, that peer-to-peer sexual violence does not exist, and that deliberately exposing children to pornographic content does not constitute sexual abuse.

Notwithstanding all of the above, the degree of tolerance for sexual violence towards children is low in Slovenia.

In the future, more awareness is necessary in order to reduce the degree of unease when discussing these and similar topics within the family. Awareness should also be a part of the elementary school curriculum. It is recommended that children should be presented such topics in the first or second triad of elementary school.

Advertising campaigns can also provide an efficient contribution, providing that they stand out in terms of frequency and content. The issue with the advertising campaigns presented so far is that they were not broadcast sufficiently often, while their content was too generalised and unmemorable, making the degree of memorability extremely low.

Education or advertising campaigns must raise awareness in terms of all forms of sexual violence, and must address both the victim (to help them seek professional help) and other people (to educate them on how to recognise sexual violence towards children, and tell them where to turn for professional help).

# MAIN FINDINGS





# The perception of sexual abuse and child sexual abuse

## SPONTANEOUS DEFINITION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Inappropriate touching, rape and sexual persuasion are, spontaneously, the most commonly mentioned forms of sexual violence towards children.



### SPONTANEOUS MENTIONS – TOP 10

Inappropriate touching	20%
Rape, sexual interaction with child	17%
Sexual persuasion	15%
Groping	10%
Unacceptable acts	8%
An act of coercion of a child	7%
Disgusting/awful act	5%
The worst act	5%
Physical violence	5%
Crime/offense	5%



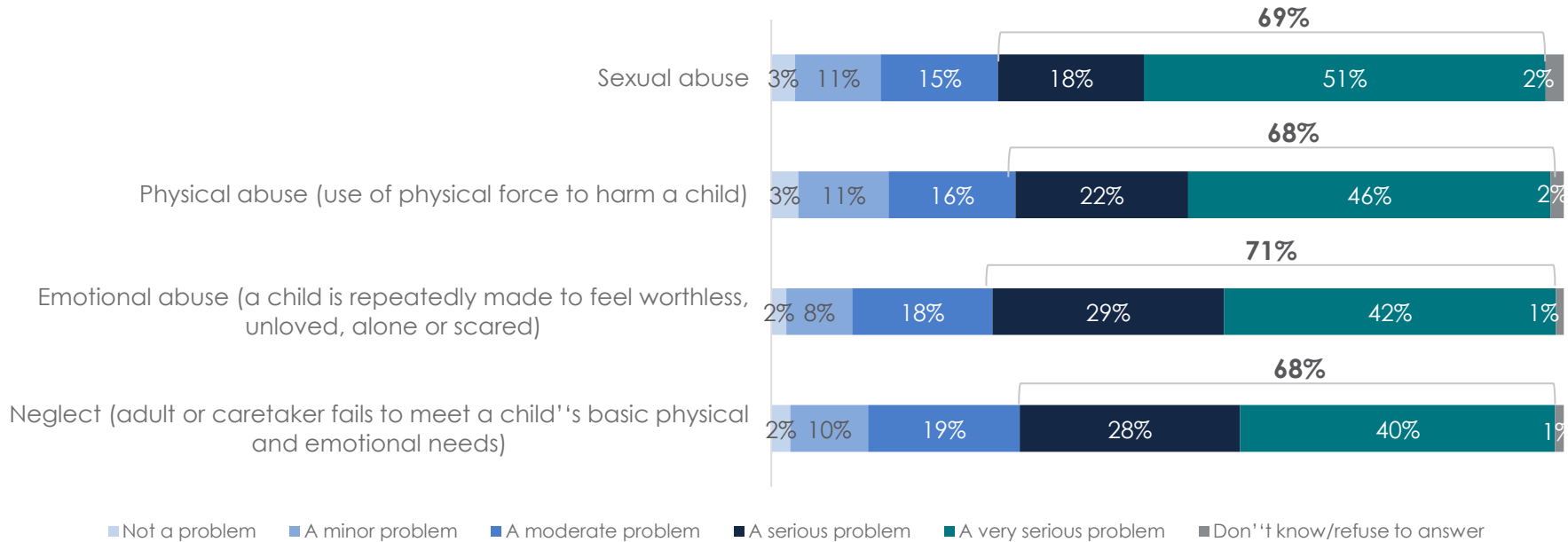
Detailed results

Q1. How would you define child sexual abuse?



# THE SEVERITY OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN SLOVENIA

**In Slovenia, we take all forms of sexual violence towards children rather seriously. Over half of respondents believe that sexual abuse is a very serious issue.**

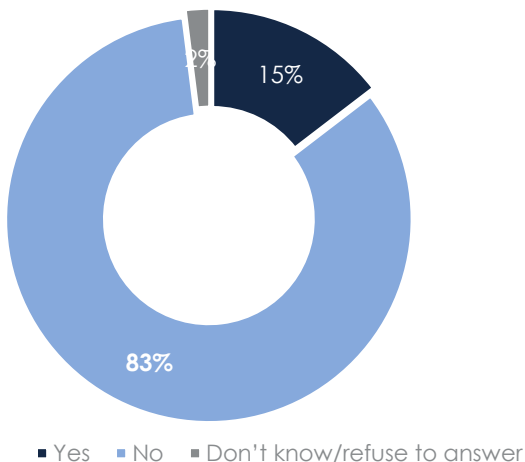


Q0. In your opinion, how serious are the following types of child abuse in Slovenia?

# PERCEPTION OF THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Most people believe that the victim cannot be responsible for sexual abuse. Most often, they support their opinion with the argument that children cannot recognise sexual violence by themselves or don't even understand it.**

## GUILT OF THE VICTIM OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



## WHY? SPONTANEOUS MENTIONS – TOP 10

The victim/child can never be guilty	28%
Because the child does not recognize/understand	17%
The helplessness of the child / cannot defend itself	9%
Child's age / youth / age difference	7%
Because the child did not want/encourage it	6%
Seeking attention / provoking	6%
Because it's about a child	5%
Because it has to be seen and recognized by an adult	3%
Provocative clothing	3%
Provocative behaviour	3%

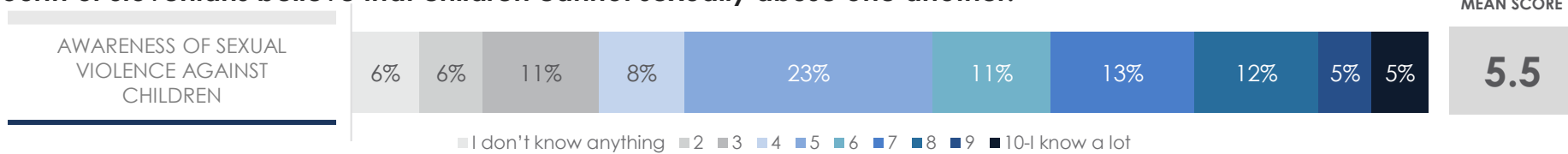


Detailed results

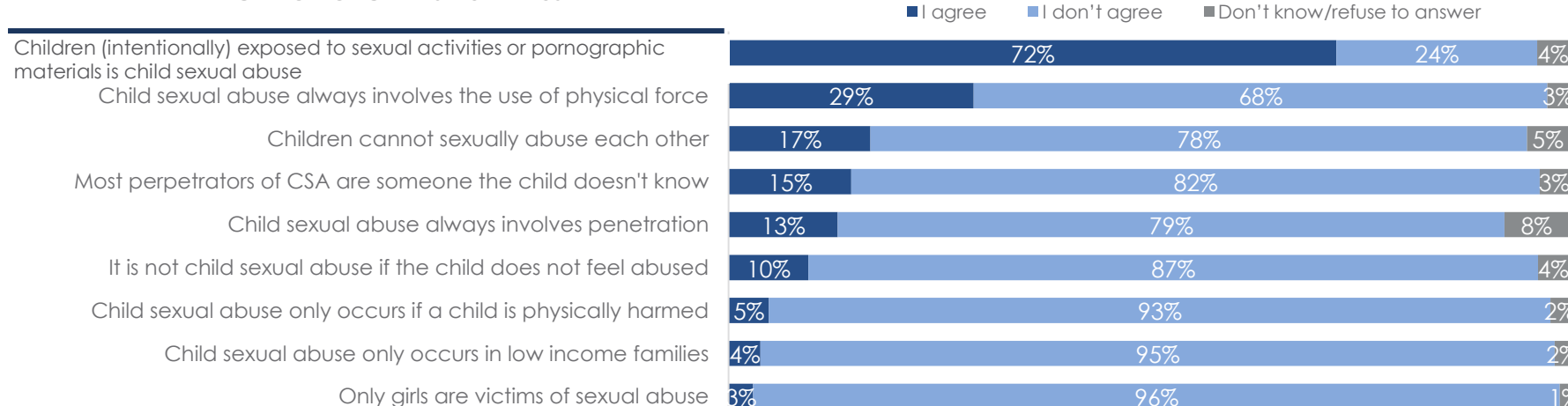
Q2. Do you believe that the victim could be at fault or responsible for the sexual abuse? Q2a Why do you believe so?

# AWARENESS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Slovenians estimate that they are relatively unfamiliar with sexual violence towards children. It is alarming that nearly a third of Slovenians believe that sexual abuse of children always involves the use of physical force, while nearly a fourth of Slovenians believe that children cannot sexually abuse one another.

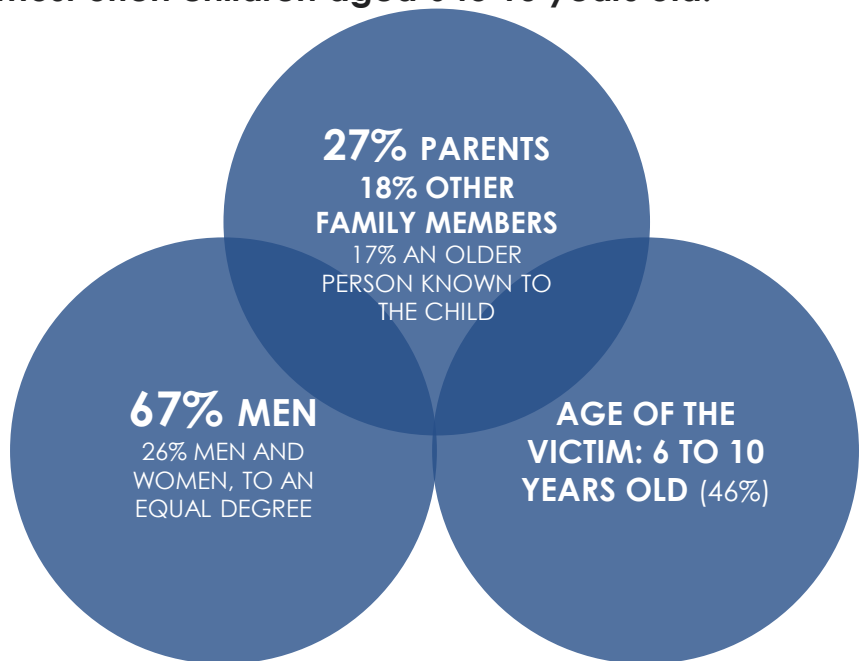


## THE PERCEPTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE



Q3. How much do you feel you know about child sexual abuse (what is child sexual abuse, what are the risks and consequences of child sexual abuse, etc.)? Please rate on a scale from 1 to 10, where 1 means I don't know anything and 10 means I know a lot. Q4. I will now read you some statements. Please state whether you agree or disagree with each of them.

Two-thirds of the respondents believe that the perpetrators of sexual violence towards children are most often men. Most often, they are a parent of the abused child. In their opinion, the victims of sexual violence are most often children aged 6 to 10 years old.



Q6. Who do you believe is more likely to sexually abuse children - men or women? Q7. Which of the following individuals do you believe is most likely to sexually abuse a child? Q9. At what age do you think a child is most likely to be sexually abused?

## GENDER

Men	67%
Women	3%
Both equally	26%
Don't know/refuse to answer	4%

## AGE OF THE VICTIM


Under 5 years	7%
6-10 years	46%
11-14 years	35%
15-18 years	6%
Don't know/refuse to answer	6%

## THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PERPETRATOR AND THE VICTIM

Parent\guardian (mother, father, step mother, step father, ...)	27%
Close family member (siblings, brother, sister, ...)	5%
Extended family member (grandpa, grandma, aunt, uncle, ...)	18%
A family friend	15%
Young person who the child knows	2%
Older person who the child knows	17%
Young person who the child does not know	2%
Older person who the child does not know	10%
Don't know/refuse to answer	7%



Q6. Who do you believe is more likely to sexually abuse children - men or women? Q7. Which of the following individuals do you believe is the most likely to sexually abuse a child? Q9. At what age do you think a child is most likely to be sexually abused?



# Education on child sexual abuse

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Implemented  
by the Council of Europe

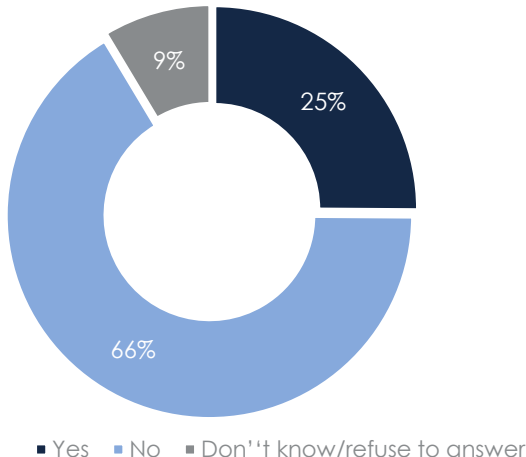


# RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

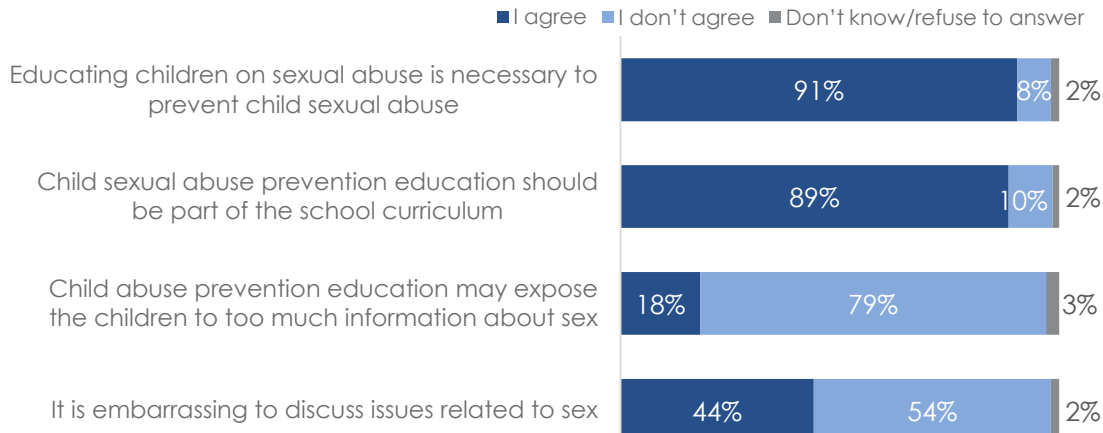
Nearly half of Slovenians would not be able to recognise signs of sexual violence towards children. Two-thirds of the respondents believe that schools do not provide sufficient information in order to prevent sexual violence, while nearly 90% believe that such education should be a part of the curriculum, since half of parents find it awkward to talk about this topic with their children.

**47% WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE** A PERSON'S BEHAVIOR IN RELATION TO A CHILD THAT INDICATES THE POSSIBILITY OF SEXUAL ABUSE

## SUFFICIENT INFORMATION IN SCHOOL



## THE PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE EDUCATION

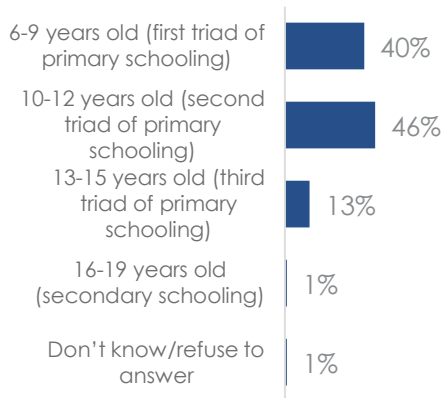


Q10. Do you think schools provide enough information on how to prevent and protect children from child sexual abuse? Q11. I will again read you some statements. Please let me know if you agree or disagree with the following statements. Q13. Do you think you would be able to recognize the behaviour of a person towards a child that may suggest possible sexual abuse?

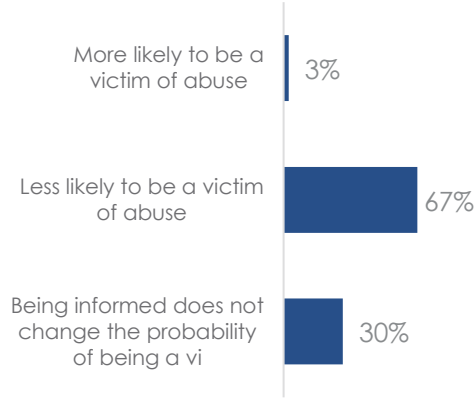
# RAISING AWARENESS AND EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Most respondents believe that children should have been taught about sexual abuse in the first or second triad of elementary school. Only a little over one third of parents with children younger than 18 years old have already had a discussion with their children about sexual abuse, while one third of such parents plan to do so in the future. In order to better understand the topic of the sexual abuse of children, parents mainly want more information on how to recognise such abuse and what to do, or where exactly to turn for help in case of actual sexual abuse.

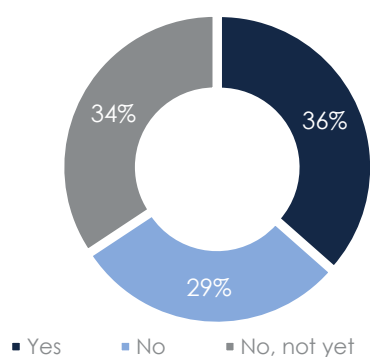
## AGE OF THE CHILD WHEN THEY SHOULD GET INFORMED ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE



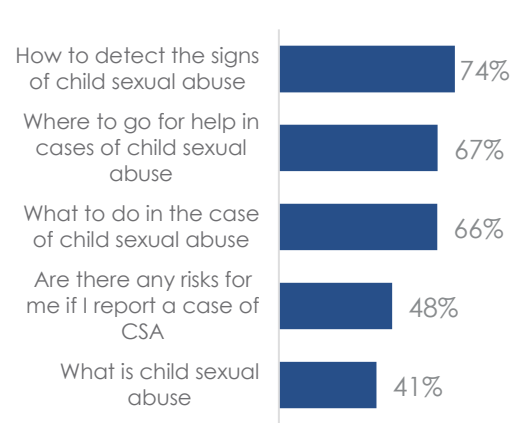
## SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE CHILD BEING INFORMED ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE



## DISCUSSION ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE WITH THE CHILD



## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR UNDERSTANDING THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN



Q11a. At what age do you think children should receive information about child sexual abuse? Q12. Do you think that a child who has been informed about sexual abuse is...? Q16. As a parent, have you ever spoken to any of your children about sexual abuse? Q21. Which information would be most helpful to better understand child sexual abuse? You can select several answers.



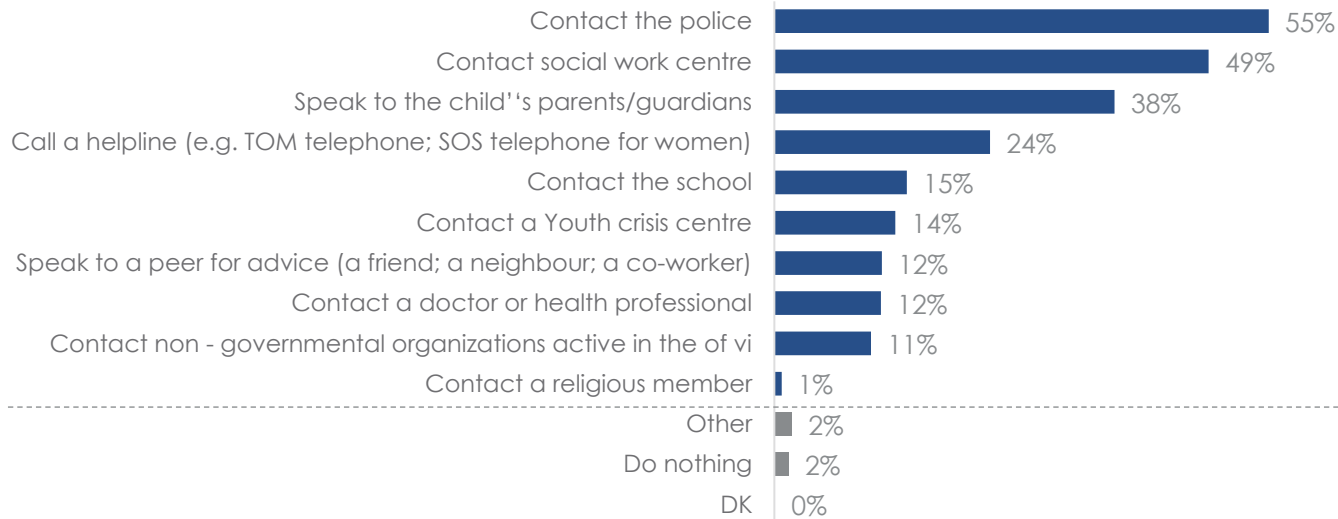


# Services and information available

## REACTIONS IN CASE OF A SUSPICION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Practically all respondents would have done something if they suspected a child was being sexually abused. In case of suspected sexual abuse, individuals would most often turn to the police or initiate contact with a department of social services.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECTED THAT A CHILD WAS AT RISK OF BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED?

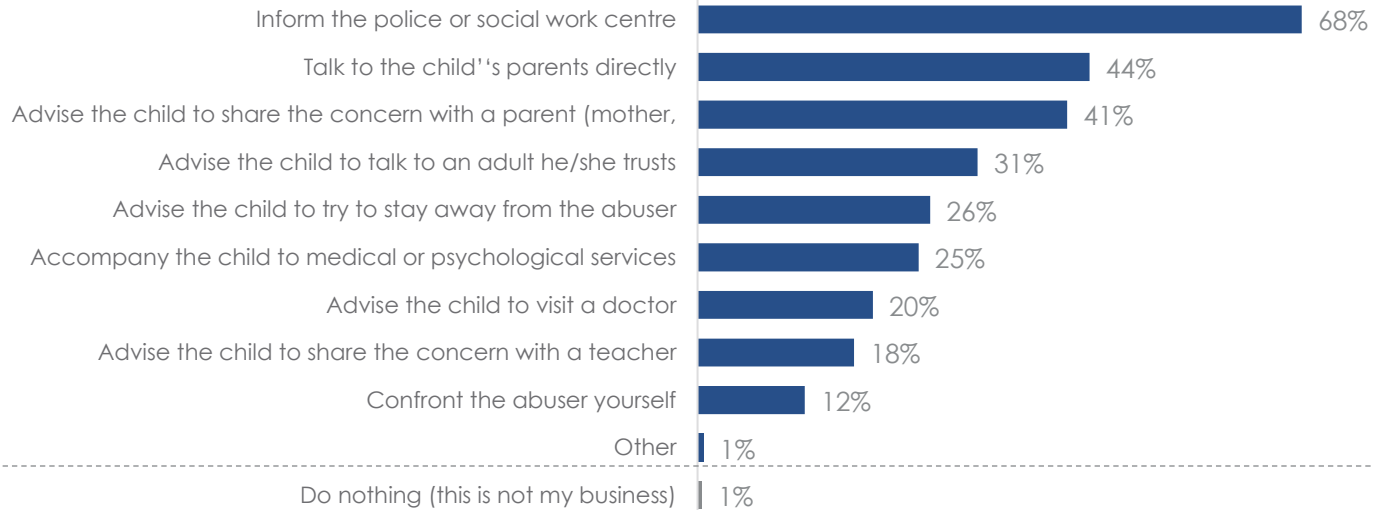


Q14. If you suspected that a child was at risk of being sexually abused, what would you do in the first instance?

## DISCLOSING AND REPORTING SEXUAL VIOLENCE

**Only 1% of the respondents would have done nothing if a child they knew told them he/she was being sexually abused. Two-thirds of respondents would have contacted the police or a department of social services.**

WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF YOU SUSPECTED A CHILD WAS BEING SEXUALLY ABUSED?



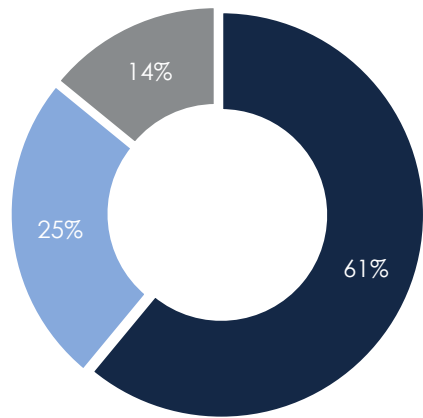
Q15. What would you do if a child you know confides in you about sexual abuse?

# KNOWLEDGE OF ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



As many as one in 4 adult Slovenians (people over 18 years old) believe that there are no appropriate organisations in Slovenia that could offer help to children who have suffered sexual abuse. Otherwise, by far the most well-known organisations offering help to victims of sexual violence are departments of social services and safe houses, while the SOS Telephone Association for Women and Children prevails amongst NGOs.

THE AVAILABILITY OF SUITABLE SERVICES/ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN WHO ARE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ABUSE



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/refuse to answer

AWARENESS OF ORGANISATIONS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE



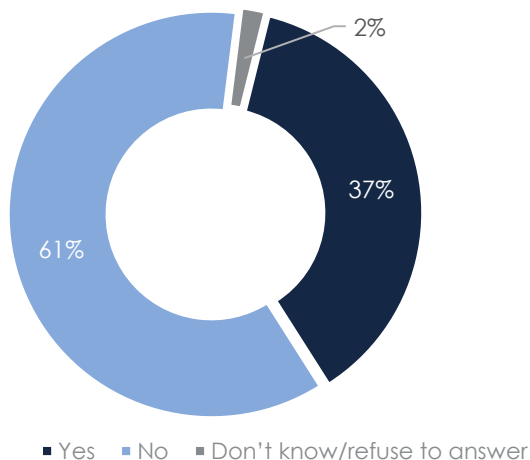
ON AVERAGE, PEOPLE MENTIONED **4.5 DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Q18 Do you believe that there are appropriate services for victims of child sexual abuse in Slovenia? Q17. Are you aware of the following organisations/programmes that you can contact for information about child sexual abuse if you require information/advice?

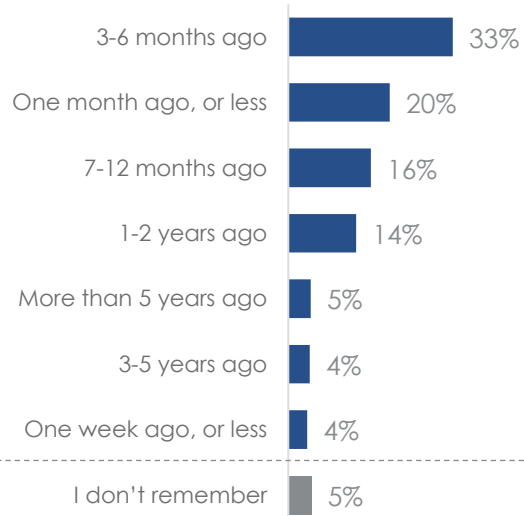
# VISIBILITY OF CAMPAIGNS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE TOWARDS CHILDREN

In the past, a little over a third of respondents have already come across campaigns on how to prevent the sexual abuse of children or how to protect them from sexual abuse, or they have read information related to this topic. Most of them have seen the campaigns 3–6 months ago.

THE VISIBILITY OF CAMPAIGNS INTENDED TO PREVENT THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN



WHEN DID THEY COME ACROSS CAMPAIGNS INTENDED TO PREVENT THE SEXUAL ABUSE OF CHILDREN

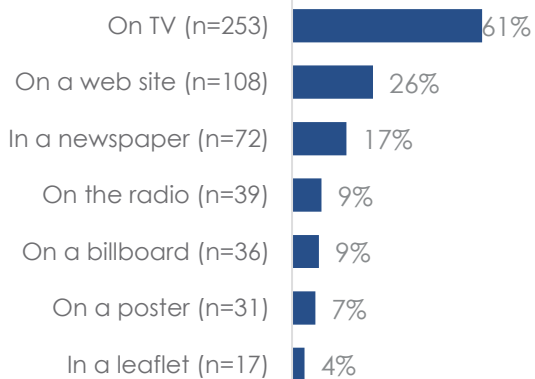


Q20. Have you heard, seen or read any information or campaigns on the prevention or protection of children against sexual abuse? Q20a. When did you hear, see or read them?

# RECOLLECTION OF CAMPAIGNS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE TOWARDS CHILDREN

Television is the medium where most people have come across campaigns on how to prevent sexual violence towards children. Most often, such campaigns are broadcast on RTV SLO 1 and Pop TV, followed by websites and newspapers.

## MEDIA IN WHICH CAMPAIGNS HAVE BEEN NOTICED



## NAMES OF ACTUAL MEDIA

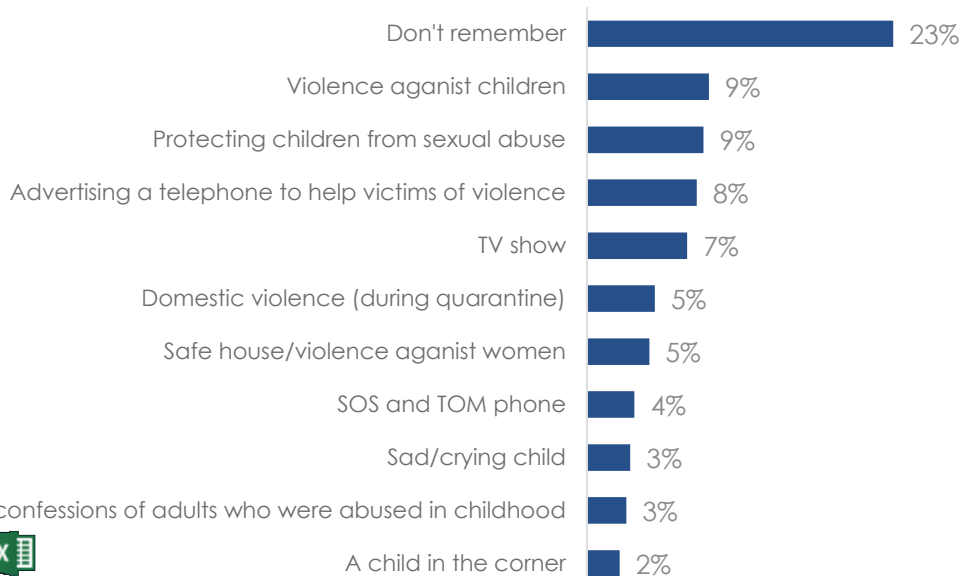
TV: Slo 1	42%
TV: Pop TV	37%
Website: 24ur.com	21%
Website: Facebook	19%
Newspaper: Slovenske novice	32%
Newspaper: Delo	23%
Radio: Radio 1	38%
Radio: Val 202	42%
Billboard in the city	29%
Billboard in a health center	7%
Leaflet in a health center	41%

Q20b: Where did you hear, see or read them? Q20b. Where did you hear, see or read them – more details?

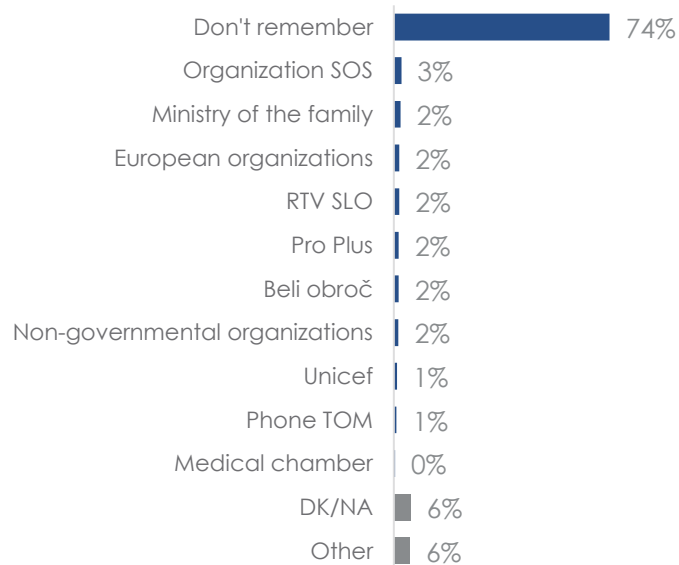
# RECOLLECTION OF CAMPAIGNS FOR THE PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE TOWARDS CHILDREN

In most cases, people cannot remember the actual content of the campaigns they came across. The same goes for the organisations ordering these campaigns.

CAMPAIGN DESCRIPTION – TOP 10



SPONSOR/ENDORSER OF THE CAMPAIGN



Detailed results

Q20b: Where did you hear, see or read them? Q20c: Can you describe the campaign? Q20d: Do you remember who sponsored the campaign?

# Personal experience



# EXPERIENCE WITH SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

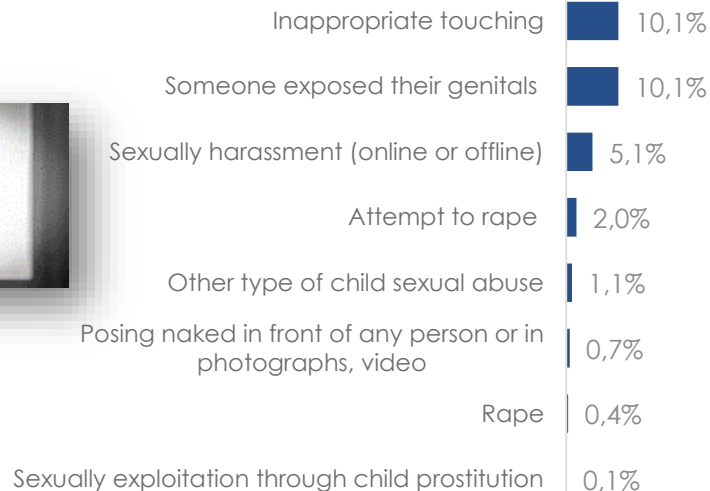
Nearly one in 5 Slovenians (18% of the Slovenian population from 18–75 years old) have experienced one of the forms of sexual violence in their childhood (up to the age of 18 years old). Inappropriate touching and indecent exposure were the most commonly mentioned forms of sexual violence during childhood.

## CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE INCIDENCE RATE

**18%** OF SLOVENIANS HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE OF THE FORMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THEIR CHILDHOOD



## TYPE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



Q0: Now we have some questions about experiences that you may have had as a minor (before you turned 18). At times, you may have experienced people acting towards you in a way that you felt was unwanted and offensive. Have you experienced any of the following (before turning 18)?

# THE PROFILE OF AN AVERAGE VICTIM OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Funded by the European Union and the Council of Europe



Implemented by the Council of Europe

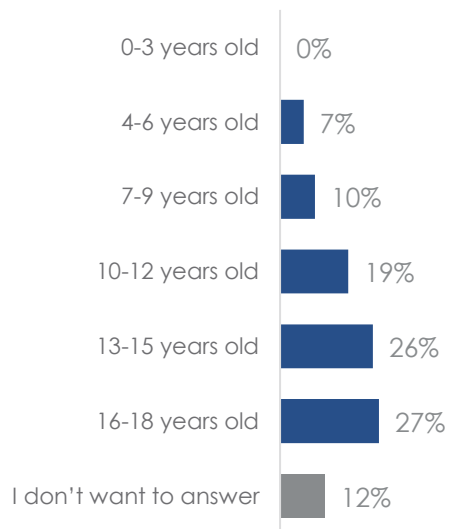




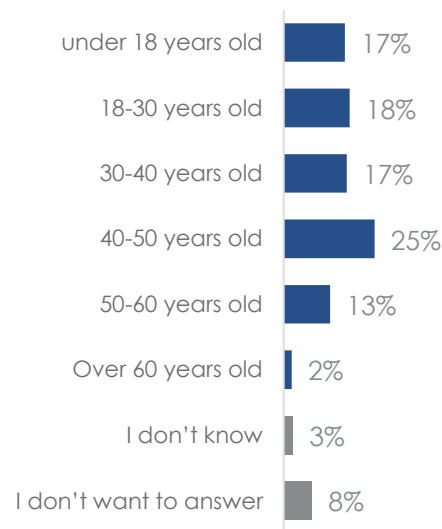
## AGE OF THE VICTIM AND OF THE PERPETRATOR

Most often, the victims of childhood sexual violence were between 13 and 18 years of age. The perpetrator was most often between 40 and 50 years of age. One in every 6 perpetrators was younger than 18 years old.

AGE OF THE VICTIM



AGE OF THE PERPETRATOR

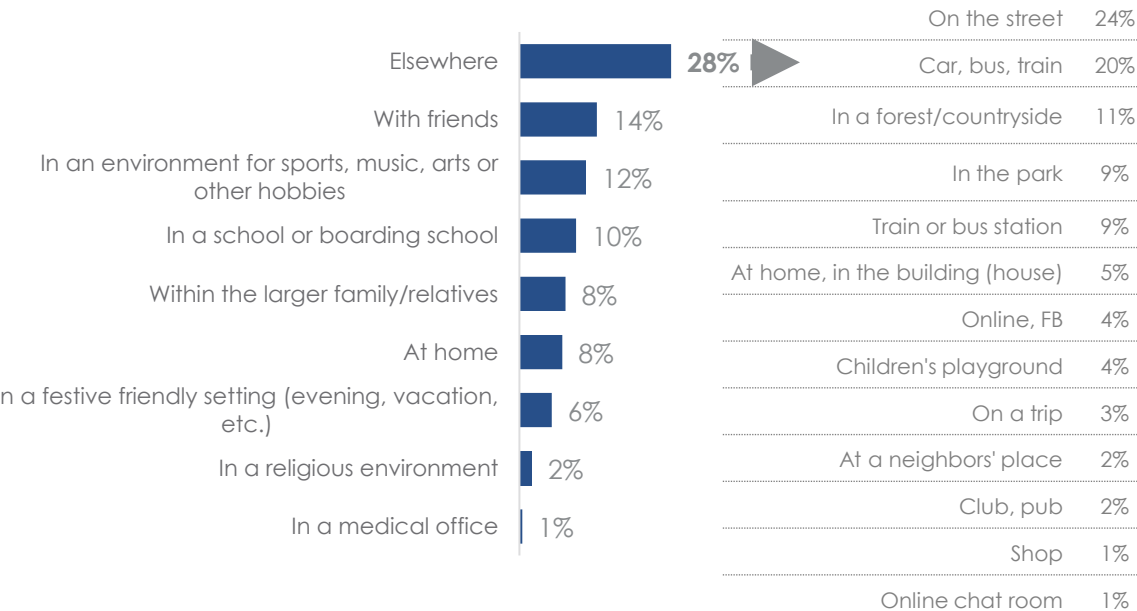


Q1x. How old were you at the time you experienced the worst sexual abuse (if there was more than one experience of sexual abuse)? Q7. At the time, approximately how old was/were the perpetrator(s)?

# CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

Childhood sexual violence (in any form) most often happened in the street, on a bus/train, and when spending time with friends.

## CIRCUMSTANCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

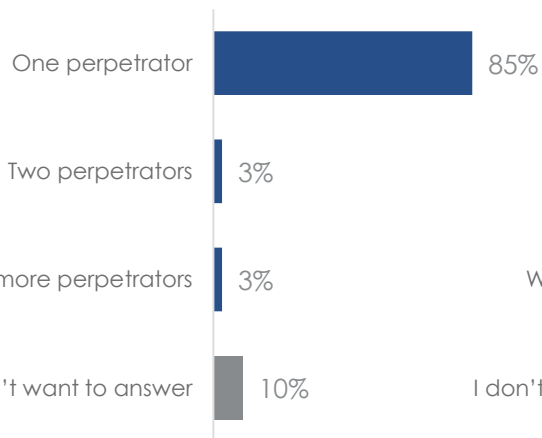


Q2x. In which circumstances did this violence take place?

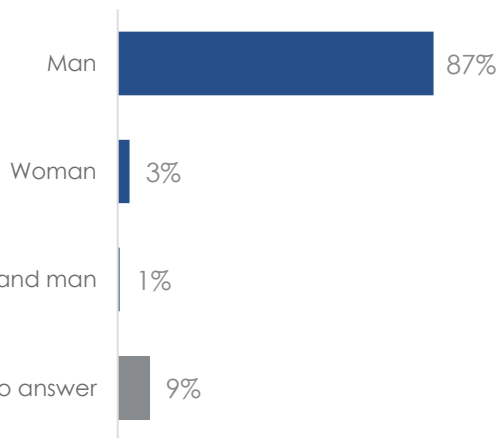
# THE PERPETRATOR OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In terms of sexual violence, the act was most often perpetrated by one male perpetrator who was known to the victim (friend, family friend / neighbor, an acquaintance, relative, ...).

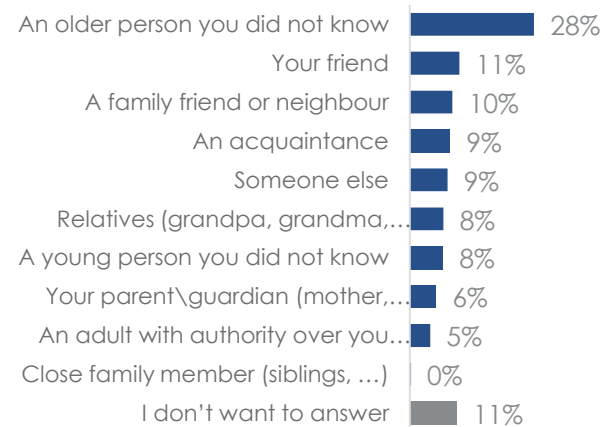
NUMBER OF PERPETRATORS



GENDER OF THE PERPETRATOR



RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PERPETRATOR

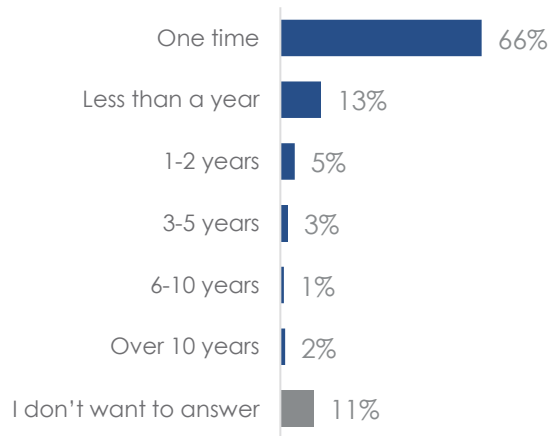


Q4x. In this incident, was the person who did this to you acting alone or were there other people involved? Q5x. Specifically, was it done by a...? Q6x. Was/were your perpetrator(s) ...?

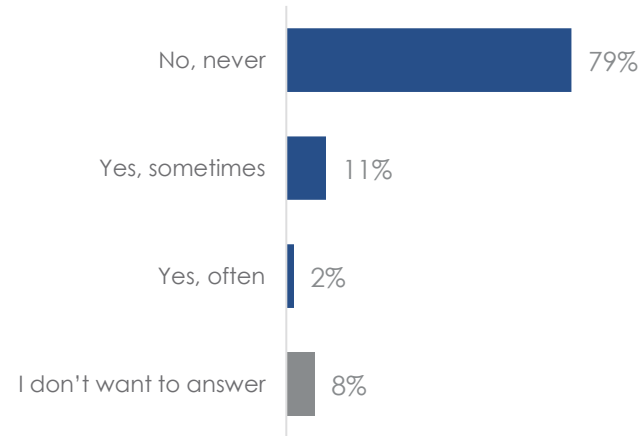
# THE PERPETRATOR OF CHILDHOOD SEXUAL VIOLENCE

In two-thirds of the cases of childhood sexual violence, this was a one-time act. No less than 13% of the victims told us that sexual violence lasted for up to 1 year. Most victims never met the perpetrator again after the event.

DURATION OF THE SEXUAL VIOLENCE



LATER ENCOUNTERS WITH THE PERPETRATOR

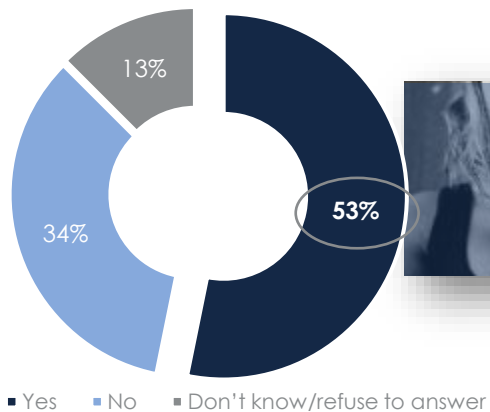


Q8x. With that perpetrator, how long did the sexual abuse last? Q9x. Today, do you happen to come across this or these persons?

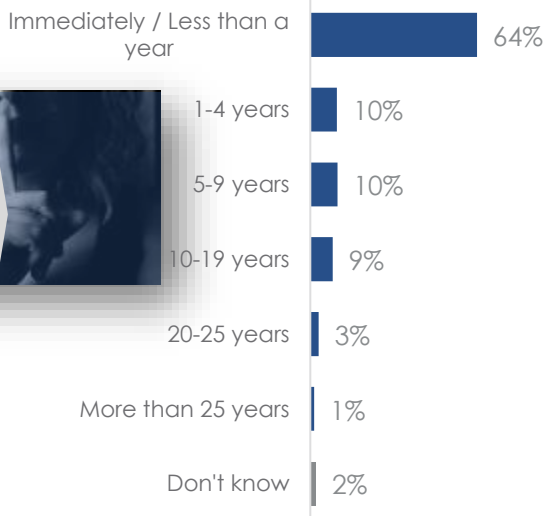
# DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

Only half of all victims told someone else about the abuse, most often immediately after the act. The first confidant was usually a friend of the victim.

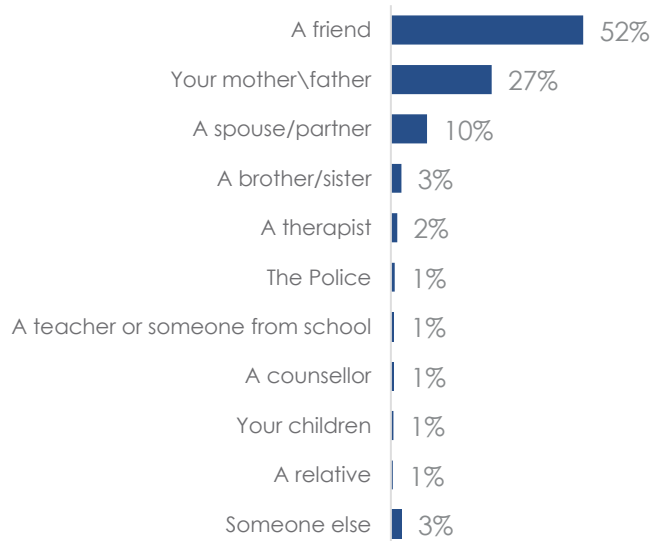
## DISCLOSURE OF THE ABUSE BEFORE THIS STUDY



## TIME OF DISCLOSURE



## THE FIRST CONFIDANT OF THE VICTIM



Q10x. Did you tell anyone about this abuse (before this study)? Q12x. How long after the abuse did you tell someone for the first time? Q13x. Who did you tell the very first time after the abuse?



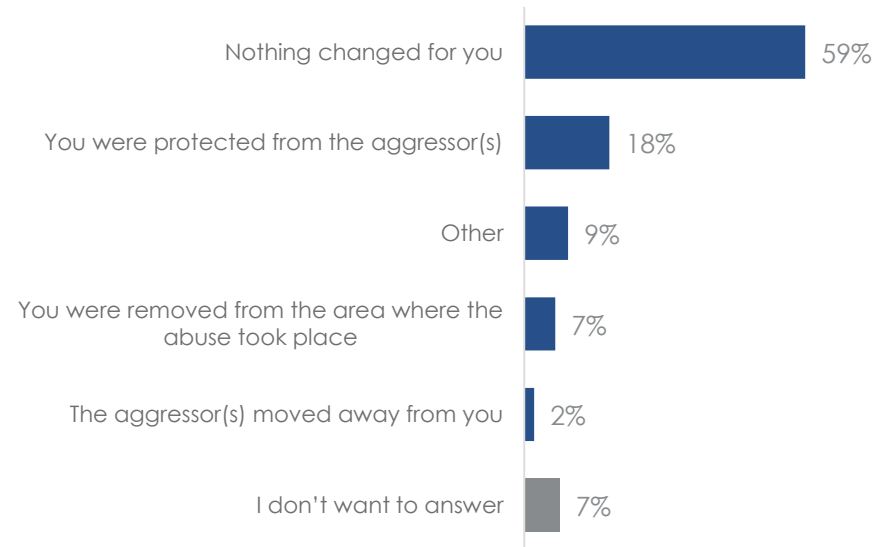
# THE PERSON THAT THE VICTIM TURNED TO IN TERMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND THEIR RESPONSE

In most cases, the confidant asked detailed questions about the event. In no less than 14% of the cases, the confidant felt uneasy and changed the topic of conversation or simply ignored the victim. In most cases, nothing has changed for the victim of sexual violence. In only 18% of the cases was the victim protected from the perpetrator – usually when it came to what we perceive as "serious" sexual abuse.

## RESPONSE OF THE CONFIDANT



## ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE DISCLOSURE

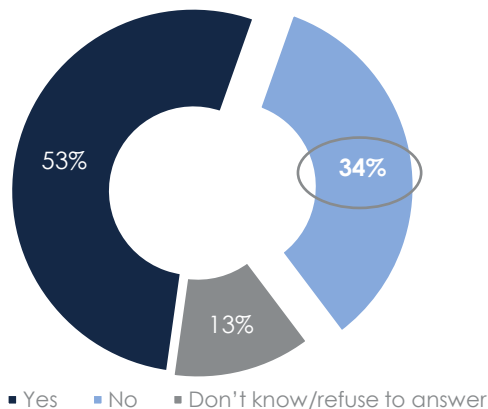


Q15x. How did this person respond to your disclosure? Q20x. What happened after you told someone about the abuse?

# REASONS FOR THE NON-DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

The victims did not disclose the act of sexual violence that they suffered because they believed that the act was nothing special, because they felt humiliated, or because they didn't realize that what had happened was an act of sexual violence.

DISCLOSURE OF THE ABUSE BEFORE THIS STUDY



SPONTANEOUS MENTIONS - ALL MENTIONS

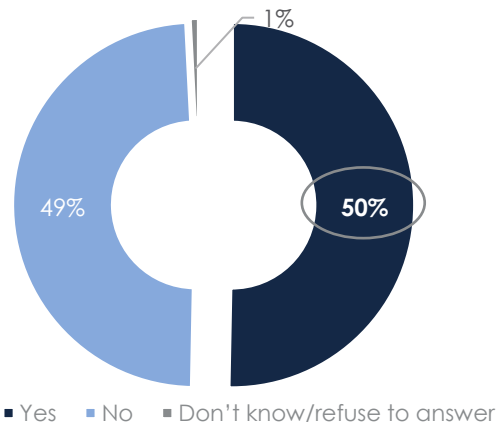
There was no sense of threat/nothing like that	32%
Feeling ashamed/feeling guilty	13%
Didn't think this is sexual abuse	11%
One-time act	9%
A taboo topic in the past	7%
No one would believe it	4%
Because of fear	3%
Don't want to talk about it	2%
There was no one to turn to	1%
Not a well known topic, too little information	1%
Just wanted to forget	1%
Other	14%
DK/NA	8%

Q10xx. Why did you not tell anyone?

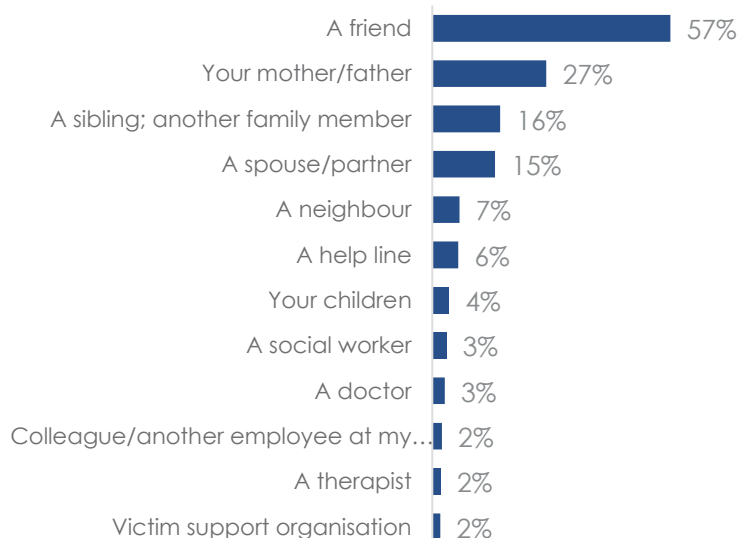
## OTHER CONFIDANTS IN TERMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Approximately half of the victims disclosed the act of sexual violence to more than one person. Once again, this person was most often a friend of the victim.

DISCLOSURE TO OTHER PERSONS, IN ADDITION TO THE FIRST CONFIDANT



OTHER PERSONS TO WHOM THE VICTIM DISCLOSED THE ACT

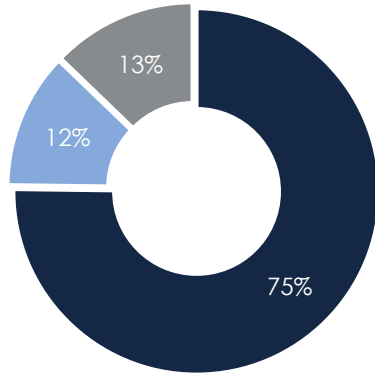


Q16x. Afterward, did you tell anyone else about the abuse? Q17x. Who else did you tell?

## SUPPORT OF FAMILY AND OTHERS

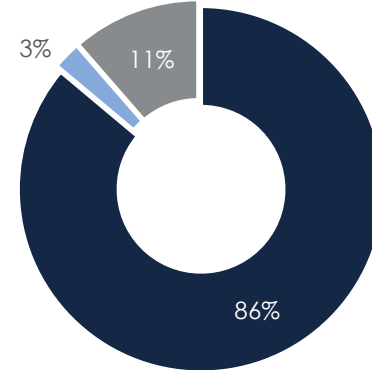
In 75% of cases of childhood sexual violence, the family supported the victim. To a greater extent, the victim was also supported by other close friends.

SUPPORT OF THE FAMILY



■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/refuse to answer

SUPPORT OF OTHERS



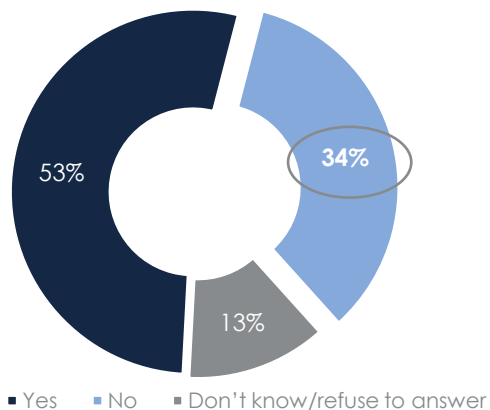
■ Yes ■ No ■ Don't know/refuse to answer

Q20ax. Was your family supportive after you told them about the sexual abuse? Q20bx. Were other members of your society (e.g. friends, neighbors etc.) supportive after you told them about the sexual abuse?

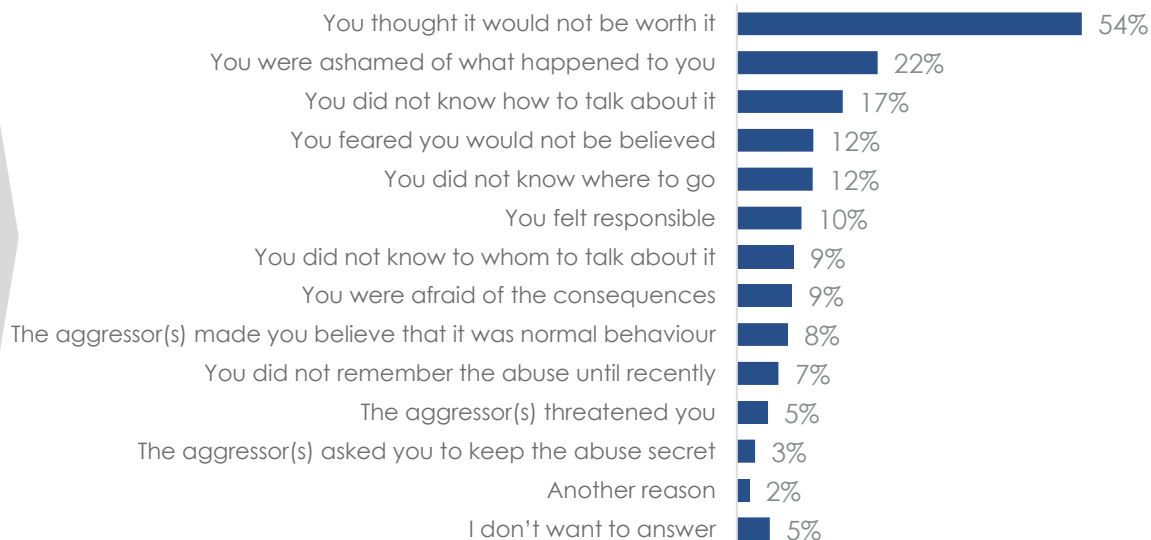
## REASONS FOR THE NON-DISCLOSURE OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE UNTIL NOW

A little over a third of the victims only disclosed the act of sexual violence during the investigation itself. The victims mainly opted not to disclose the act of sexual violence before because they felt it was not worth it, or because they felt ashamed and did not know how to talk about it.

DISCLOSURE OF THE ABUSE BEFORE THIS STUDY



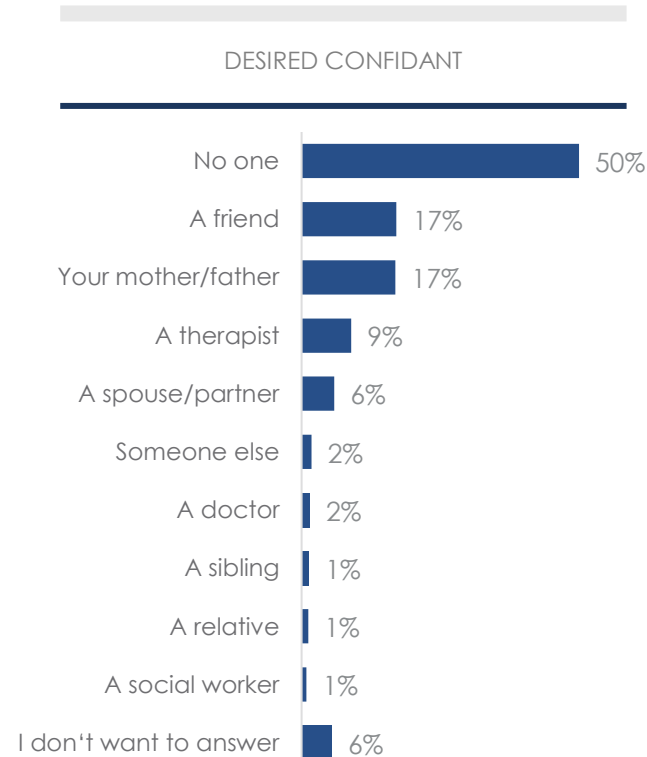
REASONS FOR THE NON-DISCLOSURE OF ABUSE BEFORE THIS STUDY



Q10x. Did you tell anyone about the abuse (before this study)? Q18x. Until today, why have you not talked about the abuse?

## THE PERSON WITH WHOM THE VICTIM WOULD LIKE TO TALK BUT FAILED TO DO SO

In half of the cases where victims did not disclose the act of sexual violence, they actually did not want to talk to anyone anyway.

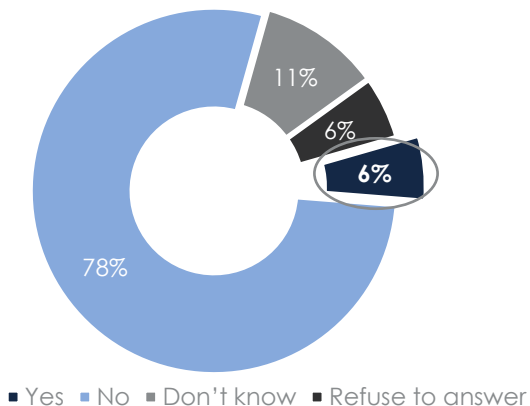


Q19x. Who would you have liked to talk to?

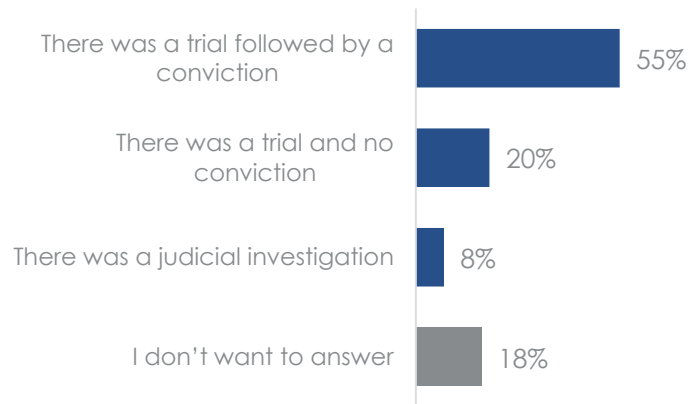
## FILING A COMPLAINT AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

Only 6% of the victims of childhood sexual violence filed a criminal complaint. Half of these complaints were followed by a trial and conviction. One in every 4 criminal complaints was followed by a trial but ended without a conviction.

### FILING A CRIMINAL/LEGAL COMPLAINT



### CONSEQUENCES/RESULT OF THE CRIMINAL/LEGAL COMPLAINT\*



\*Data is only informative, since the number of answers is only n=6.

Q21x. Do you know if a legal complaint was filed? Q22x. What was the outcome of this complaint?

# KNOWLEDGE OF THE RESOURCES INTENDED TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Today, 83% of the victims would have known where to turn to for help if they suffered sexual abuse; less than half of them, however, would actually want to seek help today. Most of the victims who would seek help today would do so in order to make the issue known, while most of the victims who would not seek help today think that there is no need to do so or that the experience was not serious (this opinion mostly prevails among male victims).



**83% OF THE VICTIMS WOULD KNOW WHERE OR WHO TO TURN TO FOR HELP IN CASE OF SEXUAL ABUSE**

**48% OF THE VICTIMS WOULD WANT TO SEEK HELP TODAY**

WHY WOULD/WOULDN'T YOU WANT TO SEEK HELP TODAY?	
No need / the experience was not so severe	24%
To help others / warn of the occurrence / prevent continuation	14%
Professional help	7%
No need / the event is far in the past / Want to forget	6%
Sense of relief	6%
Solving the problem	4%
No need / talk with people I trust / help myself	3%
Because this is not acceptable	3%
So the abuse ends	3%
Because today is different than it was in the past	3%



Detailed results

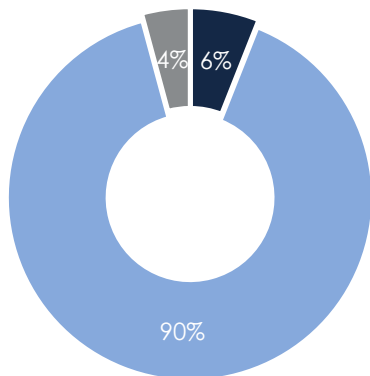
Q24x. Today, would you know where to go or who to talk to if you or someone you knew suffered from sexual abuse? Q25x. Today, would you feel comfortable contacting the services you are aware of? Q25ax. Why?



## PROVIDING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

Only 6% of the victims who disclosed the act of sexual violence received medical treatment and/or psychological support. Most of them (62%) received assistance immediately after the event.

### PROVIDING MEDICAL TREATMENT AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT



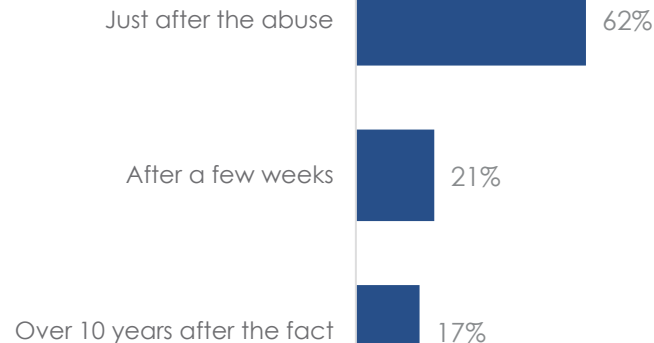
■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't want to answer



### WHO PROVIDED THE ASSISTANCE/SUPPORT?\*

Mother,  
Close family,  
Psychotherapists,  
Social worker at school,  
Parents,  
Acquaintances.

### WHEN WAS THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED?



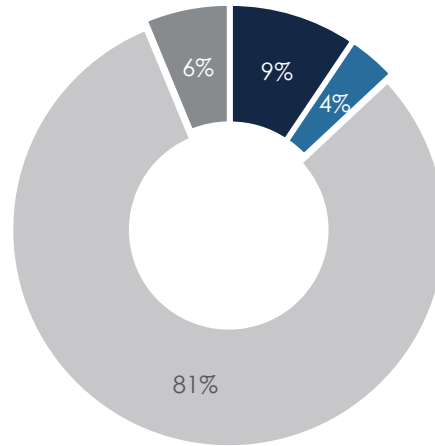
\*Data is only informative, since the number of answers is only n=6.

Q23x. Were you offered specialized medical or psychological support? Q23ax. By whom? Q23xx. When did you get specialized medical or psychological help?

## ANY OTHER ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING CHILDHOOD

A bit less than 15% of the victims who suffered sexual violence in their childhood were also a victim of at least one other act of sexual violence in their childhood, in addition to the act presented and discussed in the research itself.

OTHER ACTS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



■ Yes, once ■ Yes, more than once ■ No ■ I don't want to answer

Q11x. Have you been a victim of sexual violence outside of this case that we have been discussing?

# APPENDIX

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# SAMPLING METHOD I/II

## SAMPLE UNIVERSE:

- The sample of individuals was drawn from the Central Population Register of Slovenia (CRP), which represents the central repository and processing of data concerning residents. The CRP aggregates data from various sources such as: Register of Civil status, Register of Permanent Population, Register of Territorial Units, Tax Register, maternity hospitals and the courts.

## SAMPLE STRATIFICATION

The Statistical Office of Republic of Slovenia used a **two-stage stratified sample**.

- The first stage of stratification includes the selection of primary sampling units (PSU) with implicit stratification by settlement type and region: 6 types of settlements and 12 statistical regions. In most cases, the PSUs are identical to the census districts, if they are large enough (the estimated size is at least 30 households), otherwise they combined two or more census districts (small census districts are aggregated or joined to form a sample unit).
- In the second stage, all individuals (there were no elimination criteria – no areas of population were excluded from the sampling) from the selected PSUs who match the target population were extracted from the Central Population Register (CRP). Individuals were sorted by their address. For each PSU, the Statistical Office selected the same number of individuals.

## SAMPLING METHOD II/II

### SAMPLE FRAME:

Total sample frame: 3,340 individuals in the age frame of 18 to 75 years old

Total number of PSUs: 167; 20 individuals within each PSU

Total number of completed interviews: 1,128

The sample frame was representative according to gender, age, region and type of settlement.

A national representative sample with 1,128 completed interviews. Within these 1,128 completes, we were also screening people who were victims of sexual abuse in their childhood. Since we did not have any exact data for the incidence rate (IR), we assumed (based on other studies covering a similar topic) that we would cover approx. 100 victims, so the IR would be approx. 10%. The actual IR was **18%, 205 victims**.

The detailed structure of sample is provided in the next pages – separately for the whole sample and for victims. The database was weighted according to population data for gender, age, region and degurba. The weights are between 0.3 and 3.

# SAMPLE – FULL SAMPLE (N=1,128)

GENDER	
Male	51%
Female	49%

AGE	
18 – 24	9%
25 – 34	16%
35 – 44	20%
45 – 54	20%
55 – 64	19%
65 – 75	16%

EDUCATION	
Primary school	13%
Vocational school	17%
Secondary school	43%
Higher education, faculty	25%
Masters, doctor's degree	3%

REGION	
Drava/Podravška	16%
Mura/Pomurska	6%
Carinthia/Koroška	3%
Savinja/Savinjska	12%
Central Sava/Zasavska	3%
Southeast Slovenia/Jugovzhodna Slovenija	7%
Lower Sava/Posavska	4%
Central Slovenia/Osrednjeslovenska	26%
Upper Carniola/Gorenjska	10%
Littoral-Inner Carniola/Primorsko-notranjska	2%
Coastal-Karst/Obalno-kraška	6%
Gorizia/Goriška	6%

SIZE OF THE HOUSEHOLD	
1 person	10%
2 persons	29%
3 persons	21%
4 persons	27%
5 persons or more	14%
No answer	0%

INCOME OF THE HOUSEHOLD	
Less than 500 EUR	4%
501 – 1,000 EUR	16%
1,001 – 1,500 EUR	21%
1,501 – 2,500 EUR	30%
2,501 – 3,500 EUR	14%
3,501 – 4,500 EUR	3%
Above 4,500 EUR	1%
No answer	11%

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	
Employed	59%
In education	6%
Retired	25%
Stay at home parent	1%
Unemployed	8%
No answer	0%

MARITAL STATUS	
Single	19%
Living as a couple (married or with a partner)	73%
Divorced	4%
Widowed	4%

# SAMPLE – VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (N=205)

## GENDER

Male	35%
Female	65%

## AGE

18 – 24	14%
25 – 34	17%
35 – 44	21%
45 – 54	22%
55 – 64	16%
65 – 75	11%

## EDUCATION

Primary school	7%
Vocational school	8%
Secondary school	40%
Higher education, faculty	36%
Masters, doctor's degree	8%
No answer	7%

## REGION

Drava/Podravska	14%
Mura/Pomurska	5%
Carinthia/Koroška	3%
Savinja/Savinjska	9%
Central Sava/Zasavska	4%
Southeast Slovenia/Jugovzhodna Slovenija	4%
Lower Sava/Posavska	2%
Central Slovenia/Osrednjeslovenska	31%
Upper Carniola/Gorenjska	7%
Littoral-Inner Carniola/Primorsko-notranjska	2%
Coastal-Karst/Obalno-kraška	13%
Gorizia/Goriška	7%

## SIZE OF THE HOUSEHOLD

1 person	10%
2 persons	24%
3 persons	20%
4 persons	34%
5 persons or more	12%
No answer	10%

## INCOME OF THE HOUSEHOLD

Less than 500 EUR	5%
501 – 1,000 EUR	13%
1,001 – 1,500 EUR	18%
1,501 – 2,500 EUR	24%
2,501 – 3,500 EUR	20%
3,501 – 4,500 EUR	5%
Above 4,500 EUR	2%
No answer	12%

## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Employed	61%
In education	11%
Retired	17%
Stay at home parent	0%
Unemployed	11%

## MARITAL STATUS

Single	27%
Living as a couple (married or with a partner)	67%
Divorced	3%
Widowed	3%

# ENGLISH QUESTIONNAIRE AND TABLE REPORT



Quantitative\_Mast  
r questionnaire\_fin



Table report  
\_Child sexual abuse



# Prepared by Ipsos Slovenia

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