

## Lessons learnt in Icelandic Barnahus

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## **Basic functions**

Established 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1998

Child sexual and physical abuse, domestic violence from ages

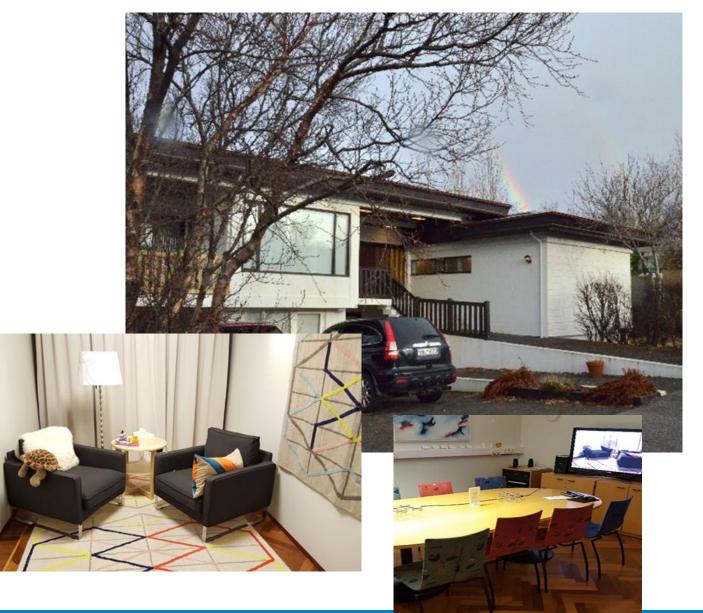
3 ½ - 18 years.

Forensic interviews

Investigative interviews Exploratory interviews Unaccompanied children

Medical examination

Victim assessment and therapy Family counselling and support Instructions to other professionals





### Two types of forensic interviews

#### **Investigative interview**

- Cases referred to the police
- The court judge is in charge of the procedure
- Monitoring are:
  - The prosecution
  - The police
  - The CPS representative
  - The child's legal advocate
  - The defence lawyer
  - The alleged offender

#### **Exploratory interview**

- At the request of the CPS
- Disclosure is absent or very weak/ambiguous
- Offender has not been identified
- Offender is below the age of criminal responsibility(15 years)
- Only CPS is monitoring

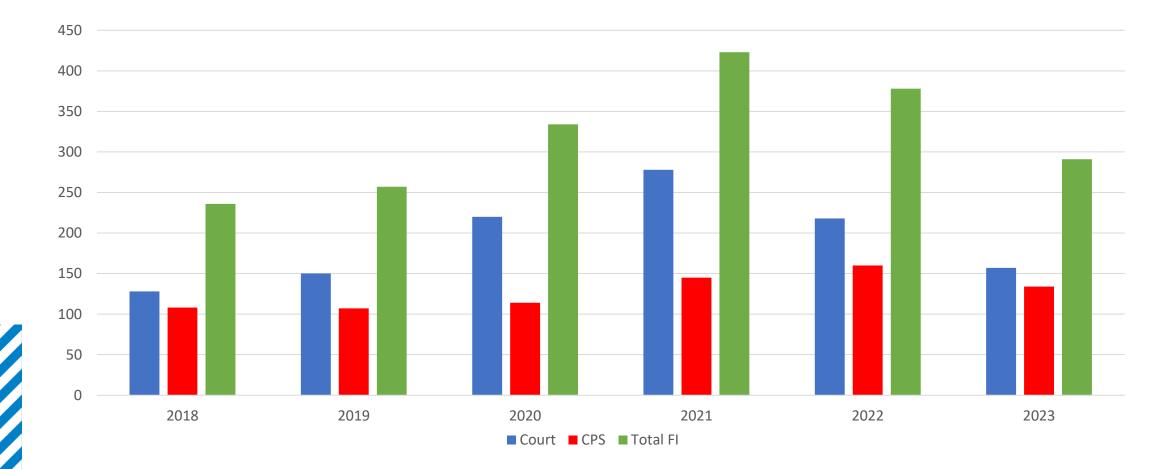


## Number of children disclosing about sexual abuse in exploratory interview

2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		2023	
number	%	number	%	number	%								
71	61,2	62	57,4	79	73,8	84	73,7	98	67,6	88	55	79	59
116		108		107		114		145		160		134	

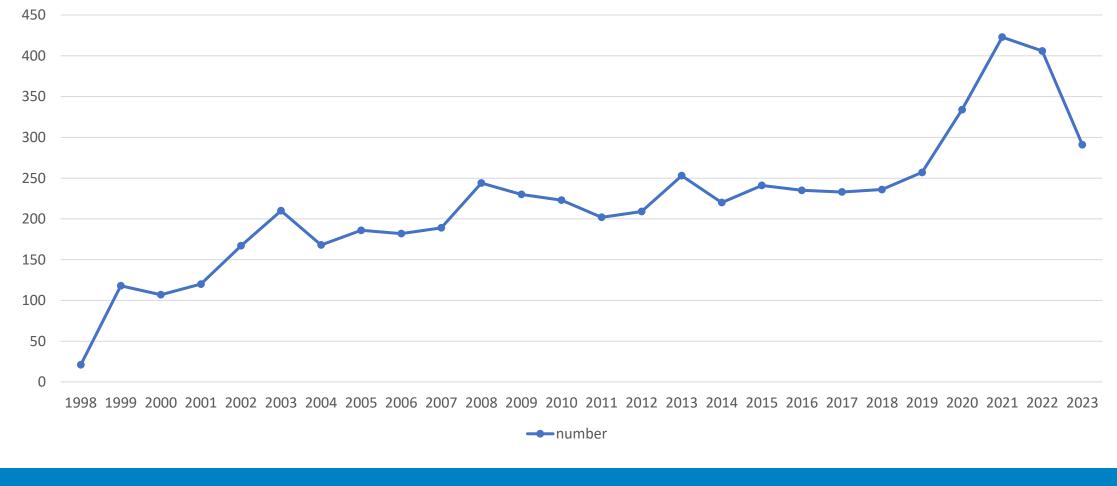


### Forensic interviews 2018-2023





# Forensic interviews in Barnahus from beginning





### Lessons learned in discover abused children



We can use the protocol with some changes and interview all children in need. Importance of long-term therapy is crucial for the victims and their families Barnahus model is an example/model that works across systems, and we should do more – take down silos in our system and work for and with children.



# Lessons learned in the investigation of criminal cases

Using evidence-based protocol and inform judges, police and prosecutor about importance in the protocol and how the protocol helps children to disclose Trust among different professionals and agencies comes with evidencebased methods and professional work. It takes years to build trust. To gain trust from judges, defence, police, CPS and children and their parents.

If children feel safe it is more likely that they disclose and more likely that they remember in a stressful situation like forensic interviews

That gives more information from the child, and it is more likely to find further evidence in a criminal case

Think outside the boxes and take down silos in our system.



### Childrens disclosure about sexual abuse

#### 2023 youth research

Of those who have been touched by grown up

8th grade	10th grade
21%	33%

#### In the beginning





# Implement the basic philosophy and take care of all children in the future

- Act on the integration of services in the interest of children's prosperity – 2022
- Safeguarding the basic concept of Barnahus.
- Keep the children's best interest at hart all the time.
- Ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Children have right to be questioned in the best possible circumstances – by best professionals and best facility



## Thank you

Zagreb 30 January 2024