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Stop It Now! *Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children*

Now! NEWS

Summer 2014

"Your words of understanding, encouragement, & hope have TRULY been so much help and have given me the courage I so desperately needed..." (Helpline emailer)

Dear Lily,

This issue of the Stop It Now! e-news focuses on the work and impact of our Helpline. We describe the Helpline as our "window to the world of child sexual abuse" because through the courage and conviction of our Helpline contacts, we are able to better understand the challenges faced by parents, family members, educational staff, community members, caregivers and others when seeking to protect children from harm. We know that our conversations, guidance and information do indeed help adults take the steps they need to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

Is the Helpline Making an Impact?

Responding to a request for feedback, Helpline service contacts expressed the following through their answers to survey questions:

- 82% felt better prepared to take action
- 72% acknowledged that the Helpline Associate was knowledgeable about their situation
- 73% stated the Helpline Associate identified steps and actions available to them
- 69% said they were helped to feel encouraged and hopeful that they could take actions to keep a child safe
- 50% reported taking action

"These statistics tell a dramatic story. Through a single contact an adult can move from concerned bystander to mobilized adult. The specialized service, guidance and support provided by Helpline staff empowers adults and protects children on a daily basis." (Deborah Donovan Rice, Executive Director)

Helpline Statistics

Through our toll-free number, letters, emails and now social media, over 15,000 people have reached out to the Helpline

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Child Sex Abuse
Prevention & Protection
Center
(Stop It Now!)
#12223

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since it opened.

In 2013:

- 82% of Helpline contacts were in a bystander position - seeking guidance and tools to protect a child
- 9% of Helpline contacts were calling with concerns about their own thoughts and behaviors
- 8% of Helpline contacts self-identify as survivors of sexual abuse

Over half of the adults who knew a child who had been sexually abused contacted the Helpline before contacting the authorities, seeking guidance regarding next steps.

(2012 and 2013)

In addition to answering questions from every state, **18% of all Helpline inquiries were non-US based.** And 5% of all inquiries were from developing countries. With generous support through the Oak foundation, we continue to learn about both the barriers and available prevention steps globally.

Helpline Partnerships

Almost six years ago, Stop It Now! joined with other national and local helplines committed to children and youth to form NAACH (North American Association of Child Helplines) and in 2010, NAACH undertook the development of a new program, 121help, whose mission is to ensure that children in the U.S. and Canada receive consistent, professional responses when reaching out in a crisis. In 2012, 121help's crisis text line was recognized as the National Crisis Textline for Youth by 95% of major cellular carriers, allowing user texts to be free of charge. While Stop It Now! provides services to adults with questions about preventing child sex abuse, our involvement in NAACH and the 121Help service has allowed our unique model of prevention to become even further embedded in conversations to keep children safe.

Helping Adults Find Resources

A large part of our Helpline's work is guiding adults to their community resources and supports to help them take necessary prevention steps. There are many wonderful organizations and resources to provide information and assistance. We share these through our [Helpline resource database](#), and to continue our mission of providing guidance, we want to share just a few of these resources to help build your own tool kit of prevention.

- [Advocates for Youth](#) is a website with great resources for parents on communication and healthy sexual development.
- [1in6](#) provides resources and support to help men who have had unwanted or abusive sexual experiences in childhood live healthier, happier lives.

Check out the latest real life situations and conversations shared in our [Ask Now! advice column: Child Acts Differently Around her Grandfather](#) and [Daughter Disclosed that her Father Abused her.](#)

"Thank you for your help. This is a good guide on how to start with doing something positive, instead of feeling powerless and sad." (Helpline emailer)

- [Child Molestation Research and Prevention Institute](#) provides information, referrals, book lists and many other resources to help both prevent and respond to sex abuse.

Stop It Now!® prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.

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