



Stop It Now!®

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

NEWS

Knowledge powers prevention!

What adults needs to safeguard childhood

Early Spring 2008

Greetings!

Knowledge and communication are the cornerstones of any prevention effort.

In this issue we point you to some current publications that shed new light on how adults can spread the word about protecting children. These include new research about kids and safety on the Internet and on the impacts on kids of violence-related stress.

We also feature our newly revised guidebook, Prevent Child Sexual Abuse, and report on our website survey results.

Many thanks to everyone who made this past Year End Appeal the most successful ever. You donated over \$40,000 toward our \$50,000 goal, an investment that has been doubled by a generous donor. Thank you for your support.

If you haven't yet, consider [making a donation](#) now. April is Child Abuse Prevention and Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Unexpected research findings about kids & Internet safety

Some common stereotypes about "internet predators" and kids have been sharply challenged by researchers from the [Crimes Against Children Research Center](#) in a recent article in American Psychologist. The research team, led by Dr. David Finkelhor, offers a thorough and thoughtful examination of widespread assumptions about the risks to children using the Internet.



The report notes that like offline sexual abuse, **"stranger danger" is much less a factor than manipulations by someone known**. The researchers found that those most vulnerable to negative sexual interactions online are kids who already have histories of family problems and other kinds of risky behavior. The report cites Stop It Now!'s confidential Helpline 1.888.PREVENT as a resource for adults with concerns.

To find out more about the work of the Center and to read the article, visit: <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/>

Download the full article [here](#) (PDF)

Download our Internet Safety resources [here](#) (PDF)

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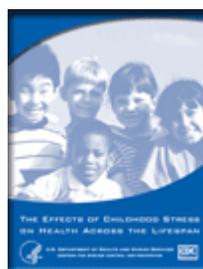
Quick Links

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Make a Donation



Sexual abuse & other childhood traumas have long term effects



Stress is one obvious result of sexual abuse and other traumas - with huge implications for behavioral, emotional and physical well-being through life.

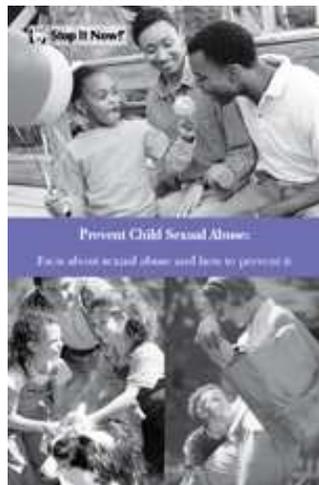
A new report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [The Effects of Childhood Stress on Health Across the Lifespan](#) offers suggestions for ways violence prevention practitioners can include information about stress in their prevention work.

Using retrospective data from the 17,000 adults in the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study by Kaiser Permanente, the report discusses clear links between violence-related stressors in childhood and

long term behavioral and health problems in adulthood.

Read the full report [here](#)

Prevent Child Sexual Abuse - Our most popular guidebook updated



Our newly revised and expanded guidebook, [Prevent Child Sexual Abuse: Facts about sexual abuse and how to prevent it](#), is hot off the presses - just in time for Child Abuse Prevention month.

Stop It Now!'s landmark prevention primer - and most popular guidebook - delivers detailed information about keeping kids safe without resorting to the fear-based imagery makes prevention harder.

The new edition, expanded to 24 pages, includes valuable information about recognizing behaviors that make children vulnerable, information about how to respond effectively when an adult, adolescent or child behaves in a sexually inappropriate way, and straightforward strategies for establishing routines and expectations that create safety for everyone.

To order multiple copies, go to our [Publications Page](#)

Download a free review copy [here](#) (PDF)

"I had a gut feeling and I knew what I was seeing was wrong ... I had nobody to talk to about it, but the Helpline and the website offered validation and affirmed my concerns ... I read your website as often as I could at the local library. I probably memorized it!"

- An anonymous Helpline caller



Thanks for taking our Website Survey!

Every month, thousands of people turn to the Stop It Now! Website to learn basic facts about sexual abuse and how to prevent it. The Web is often the starting point for individuals who have a concern about someone they love and want a safe, anonymous, non-judgmental place to begin facing their uneasiness and learning how to make effective interventions.

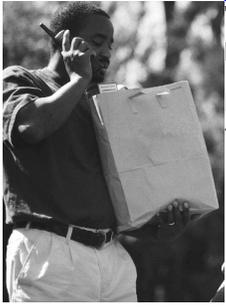
Last fall we asked for your feedback - and hundreds of you responded. [Thank you!](#) The first round of results from our Website satisfaction survey tells us we're providing a valuable service to our visitors.

- 90% of respondents were satisfied with the website
- 90% would recommend the site to a friend or colleague
- Less than 4% did not find what they were looking for
- Over 50% visit several times a year

The survey has given us some important information about what our website visitors want - and where we can improve. Respondents want more ways to take action in their communities, as well as information about prevention policy and research. Resources and referrals for specific situations, personal stories, and a place to interact online are also in demand.

We're always interested in your ideas for making the website a more useful, user-friendly and welcoming resource. If you haven't already let us know what you think, please help us improve our web offerings. See what's new on our website (www.StopItNow.org) then...

Take our website survey [here](#)



"Talking to Helpline Staff changed my life... There was someplace to go where I could tell my story to people who were experienced and knowledgeable about child sexual abuse.

Helpline staff told me about steps I could take to interrupt a situation that worried me. I am very close to the people involved in the situation and Helpline helped me to proceed in a loving way."

- *Anonymous Helpline caller*



Best in America

Since 2006, Stop It Now! has displayed the **Independent Charities of America (ICA)** Seal of Excellence. This indicates that Stop It Now! has undergone a rigorous independent review to certify, document, and demonstrate that it meets the highest standards of public accountability, and program and cost effectiveness.

Of the million charitable organizations operating in the U.S., Stop It Now! is one of fewer than 2,000 that have been awarded the ICA Seal.

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[HELPLINE \(1.888.PREVENT\)](tel:1888PREVENT)

www.stopitnow.org

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