

### Slide 2

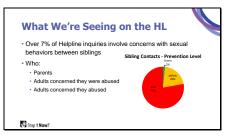
#### Objectives

- Define and identify impact of sibling sexual abuse
   Understand difficulties in recognizing and responding to sibling
   sexual abuse
- Identify protective factors in siblings environments and for safety planning
- Discuss healing responses to adults who disclose sibling sexual abuse

Stop it Now!









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#### **Defining Sibling Sexual Abuse**

- General agreement in the literature is that SSA includes sexual behavior between siblings that is "not age appropriate, not transitory, and not motivated by developmentally, mutually appropriate curiosity," and which often involves the exploitation of a power dynamic and some degree of forced or coercive activity.
- More likely to include physical force and involve intercourse
   Specific acts and behaviors still need... well, specifying
   Approx 5x the rate of parent-child sexual abuse

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Little Attention – Little Known

Least reported

Least studied

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Rarely disclosed
 Least likely to receive intervention

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#### The Impact of SSA

On the parents/family

anger

 Feelings of lack of control
 Loss of family/parental identity

· Feelings of denial, shame,

#### On the children • Disruption of developmental stage/tasks • Behavioral, mental health

and relationship problems

Feelings of guilt, shame, confusion

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# • Feelings of guilt or resentment

- Feelings of guilt or resentment
   torn between two "different sides"
- Parents feeling responsible for the abuse/not seeing it sooner
   Change of interpersonal dynamics, home layout, new rules or

supervision - Including the need to address underlying family and individual issues beyond the two involved children

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Harmful Sexual Behaviors (Abusive)

- Shows vulnerable (younger) child explicit sexual images, videos or content
- Uses force, aggression, bribes, coercion or manipulation paired with sexual behavior

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Paired with sexual behavior
Mature sexual behavior between young children or between an older youth and a younger child
Does not respect another child's "no" or elicits complaints from another child when playing sexual games

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#### Safety Planning in the Home

- Boundaries, privacy and consent discussed and modeled
- Consistent rules for everyone
- Appropriate supervision
  Healthy sexuality education
- Askable parents and caring adults
- Check in, ask questions, follow up

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Next Steps: Parents of Adult Children - Suppot both emotionally - Offer therapy - Let them go at their own pace - Help them set and respect boundaries - Find own counseling - You don't need to choose one "side" or the other

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