



Child Safeguarding Week

2023 Campaign Theme



Child Safeguarding Week 2023 is placing a spotlight on preventing child sexual abuse. It is heavy issue but one we should not shy away from if we are to see an end to it.

In general, Aotearoa has high rates of child abuse when compared to other developed countries (UNICEF, WHO). Sexual abuse forms part of this picture. [Child sexual abuse in New Zealand.](#)

In 2019, more than **one in four females** and almost **one in ten males** (Year 9 – 13 students) reported that they had been touched in a sexual way or made to do sexual things that they did not want to do. [Youth19 Safety & Violence brief.](#)

Due to the grooming, stigma and shame often associated with sexual abuse, it is unlikely that those who have suffered from it will disclose their experience. If they do, it is often many years after the abuse has occurred. As a result, the statistics currently available only represent a portion of the sexual abuse actually taking place.

The impact on those who experience abuse is long term and detrimental across many facets of their lives. The consequences of abuse also go beyond the survivor. Those close to the survivor are affected and it has social, health and economic implications for our society. Directly or indirectly, sexual abuse impacts us all.

Join the movement to STOP child sexual abuse. It is PREVENTABLE not inevitable!

