



**INCEST TRAUMA CENTER – BELGRADE**  
**Support Group for Child Sexual Abuse Survivors**  
**and War Survivors of Sexual Violence**

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**HAVE YOU DESERVED THE HONOR**  
**OF A SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILD CONFIDING IN YOU?**

**CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IS** SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN BY AN ADULT FOR SEXUAL GRATIFICATION, WHICH COMPRISES OBSCENE TELEPHONE CALLS, INDECENT EXPOSURE OF OTHERWISE COVERED BODY PARTS, VOYERISM, FONDLING, ATTEMPT OF RAPE, RAPE, INCEST, CHILD PORNOGRAPHY AND CHILD PROSTITUTION.

**INCEST IS** SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD BY AN ADULT WHO ENJOYS THE CHILD'S TRUST AND WHO IS IN A POWER POSITION AND HAS AUTHORITY OVER THE CHILD

**The latest annual statistical data of the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade**  
**(for the period: September 2008-September 2009)**

In its 16<sup>th</sup> year of existence, the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade has been successively publishing statistical data based on 9 reported cases per week that have entered the processed representative sample. The statistical data of the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade for 2005 have been recognized and integrated in the draft of the Action Plan for the National Strategy for Countering Violence against Women prepared by the Ministry for Labor, Social Policy and Employment and presented in 2007 by a government body - the Council for Children's Rights - as the only official data on the national level (based on statistical results gathered as of the inception of the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade in January 1994).

The sample in the period September 2008-September 2009 was produced at the time when we defined prevention of sexual violence as our strategic focus over the period 2009 - 2013. By doing so, we rounded up our intrinsic recognizable identity of a center for crisis intervention and defined prevention of sexual violence as our primary orientation (with the preservation and future growth of our activities as a training center). While retaining the discretionary right to take in a certain number of clients seeking our services, we offer our expertise to the citizens in a different form, with a more interactive approach to the public, so as to create such conditions in Serbia in which no one will be able to say that they

do not know the or that they do not know what to do in case of suspected or discovered child sexual abuse.

THE FILM "THE NEWS IS I'VE BEEN ABUSED" ©Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade (the trailer now available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sbzFcuJpGjM> )

Also, we share our knowledge and practical experience with all the institutions and organizations which contact us seeking expert consultation / counseling services, when confronted with cases they are uncertain how to deal with.

In accordance with the shifting of our focus primarily to preventive activities, throughout last year we operated as a service that gradually changed the form of psychological assistance extended to the citizens with a history of sexual abuse. Compared to the previous statistical year, the number of children and adults who were admitted to sessions / visits over a short or long term decreased by 28% while reports of sexual violence by e-mail or telephone increased by 24%

Each of the cases that have been entered in the sample for the period Sept. 2008 - Sept. 2009 is supported by all the parameters that are applied to our data base (1-14) and they can be compared simply, year by year. Each child or adult survivor of sexual abuse whose experience is part of this sample has been provided with short or long term psychological support in personal encounters. Reports of other cases to our service : 1. on the level of information regarding which we provided support to the caller in telephone contacts or, at her request, reported the case to other competent services or 2. on the level of consultations with other services (GOs and NGOs) who have encountered cases of violence against women and children in the course of their activities. These cases are not part of the sample that follows.

IN THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2008 - SEPTEMBER 2009:  
DATA DERIVED FROM REPORTED CASES!

SAMPLE 55.17 % children who have survived sexual abuse (aged 2 to 18 )  
44.83% adult persons who have survived sexual abuse in their childhood  
(aged 18 to 42 )

1. Sexual structure

- Of adult survivors of sexual violence (89.66% female, 10.34% male)

4 out of 5 children who have survived sexual abuse are girls and 1 is a boy.

- Perpetrators (94.44% male, 5.56% female)

2. Types of incest and their frequency

- Father - daughter 37.93%
- A familiar person outside the family - girls 17.24%
- Grandfather - granddaughter 13.79%

- Caregiver - daughter 10.34 %
- Stepfather - stepdaughter 5.18%
- A broader family member - girls 5.17%
- Father - son 3.45%
- Male cousin - female cousin 3.45%
- Female cousin - female cousin 3.45%

In 100% cases reported to our service over the past 12-month period, the perpetrator was a person familiar to the child. In 82.86% of those cases sexual abuse took place within the family. The fact that cases of sexual violence within the family are the most frequently reported to the Incest Trauma Center-Belgrade is indicative of the citizens' trust in our activities.

### 3. Perpetrators and their frequency

Father 41.38%; A person acquainted to the child outside the family (e.g. family friend, neighbor, 'private teacher' (who provides personal tuition in the child's home) 17.24%; Grandfather 13.79%; Caregiver 10.34%; Stepfather 5.18%; A broader family member (e.g. uncle, aunt...) 5.17%; Male cousin 3.45%; Female cousin 3.45%;

In 37.93% of cases, the perpetrator is the biological father, and in 56.9% of cases the perpetrator is a father figure (in total and in order of frequency: biological father, caregiver and stepfather).

It is important to view the incidence of grandfathers as perpetrators as a potential risk of sexual abuse being present in the previous generation (a possibility that they might have abused their own daughters in their childhood, which was never disclosed).

The incidence of minor perpetrators of sexual violence (male and female cousins, or brothers in the past statistical years ) can be indicative of their personal history of sexual violence in view of the fact that they had become perpetrators by the age of 16. This feature was the reason why the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade trained the staff of the penitentiary institutions for minors in Kruševac and Valjevo in the period 2007-2008.

Nota bene: care-giving as a non-institutional measure of providing childcare, with no application of the risk assessment matrix in the process of selection of caregivers and in the absence of adequate and constant supervision, constitutes a situation which provides a safe framework for the serial perpetrators (such as are child abusers in most cases) to conduct sexual abuse.

### 4. Age when the first incident took place

- 6 years and 1 month

In all likelihood, this age limit is lower, in view of the fact that we are dealing with reported cases, which are always 'the tip of the iceberg' compared to 'the gray figures', i.e. all the situations of sexual abuse the children have attempted to communicate, but the adults failed to recognize, or those where the children never spoke out about their experience.

## 5. Duration

- Several months 17.24%
- Several years 82.76%

On the average, survivors of child sexual abuse have been in a violent situation 5 years and 8 months. It is practically NEVER to be expected that only a single incident occurred (the stereotype explanation 'it happened only once' offered by the perpetrator is not reliable).

## 6. Reporting in a crisis situation

- In 37.93% of the cases sexual abuse was reported while still ongoing (all the cases involved children up to 14 years of age).

## 7. The period between the first incident and reporting

- On the average 10 years and 4 months.

In 62.07% of cases a period of at least 1 year up to 25 years elapsed between the end of the violent situation and the moment of reporting to our service.

## 8. One child was abused by

- One perpetrator in 89.55% of the cases
- Three or more perpetrators in 10.45% of the cases

Re-victimization is a frequent phenomenon due to the child's violated and weakened personal boundaries.

## 9. One perpetrator sexually abused

- One child in 79.31% cases
- Two children in 6.90% cases
- Four children in 13.79% cases

It is customary that sexual perpetrators repeatedly commit abuse and have a large number of victims, with children being particularly 'easy targets'. This is the direct responsibility of adults in the victim's environment (e.g. the staff of pre-school institutions and schools noticing warning signs) who do not report their suspicions or findings to the authorities. In this way, the perpetrators are given the 'green light' to continue their violent behavior, reassured that the secret will not be disclosed and that they will not be punished.

10. What sexual abuse includes (see the violent sexual acts contained in the definition in the beginning of this text); this year no cases of child prostitution or child pornography were reported; in the course of other violent sexual acts pornographic materials involving women and children were used.

#### 11. Use of physical violence

In 10% of the cases

In child sexual abuse physical violence and coercion are not requisite. Power, authority and trust are key (and 'sufficient') to child sexual abuse. Physical coercion was applied when the perpetrator feared that the child was going to disclose the bad secret with adolescents aged between 11 and 13.

#### 12. Who reports sexual violence with what frequency?

- The survivor of sexual abuse personally 41.38%
- The mother 34.48%
- Other competent services (social and health protection services) 13.80%
- The grandmother 5.69%
- A person familiar to the child outside the family 4.65%

It is essential that all social actors assume the responsibility of continually warning the public and the personnel of government and non-government organizations of the legal obligation to report criminal acts and the existing legal provision for sanctioning the failure to report a criminal act. This particularly refers to schools and pre-school institutions, which are preoccupied with the popular topic of peer violence, whereas the core problem of domestic violence against children still fails to be tackled.

#### 13. Addressing the institutions

Child and adult survivors of sexual abuse have addressed the institutions:

##### - YES 51.72%

- NO 48.28% (persons over 18 years of age; due to the fact that a long period of time has elapsed since the abuse ended, according to the Criminal Law of the Republic of Serbia, the offence falls under the Statute of limitations or else criminal charges are not brought against the perpetrator, the only measures taken being attempts to heal the sexual trauma).

Institutions according to frequency (of cases where the response YES was obtained):

- Social Welfare Center 44.83%
- Police 41.37%
- Health Care 34.48%

- NGO 3.45%

14. Provided support

We have provided psychological support in personal encounters (clients coming to the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade):

- Short term (up to 6 months) in 13.80% of case
- Long term (more than 6 months) in 86.20% of cases

The sample includes 32.14% reports where the incident took place outside Belgrade. Persons residing outside Belgrade predominantly used short term assistance combined with telephone conversations as a form of psychological assistance . Also, mothers whose children were our clients used psychological assistance by support telephone as an auxiliary form of support.

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- We have provided 17 professional opinions in written form to meet the requirements of criminal procedures in the protection of sexually abused children and, at the court's request, Dr Ljiljana Bogavac, who is in charge of our team working with abused children, testified in court when summoned.
- Regarding the cases that have been dealt with by the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade this year prison sentences between 8 months and three years were passed in 4 instances, whereas the charges were dropped in one case.

Expected developments in the forthcoming months:

IN THE FORTHCOMING PERIOD, THE INCEST TRAUMA CENTER-BELGRADE WILL FINALIZE ITS INITIATIVE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE ISSUE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN AND WOMEN IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULA AND TEXTBOOKS, WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO THE ATTENTION OF THE MEDIA AND ASK THEM TO SUPPORT THE REALIZATION OF THIS IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE.

Belgrade, 18th November 2009

On behalf of the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade team  
Dr Ljiljana Bogavac  
Deputy Director