

Statistics on Child Abuse/Child Sexual Abuse and the Family Courts

To date, more than 700 US children have been murdered by a divorcing or separating parent in the past decade. The murderer is the biological father of the child 73% of the time. Kayden Mancuso was the 647th child to be murdered like this, in August 2018. Source: The Center for Judicial Excellence, 2019

An estimated 58,000 US children are court ordered into the care of an abusing parent each and every year. Source: Leadership Council on Child Abuse and Interpersonal Violence, 2008

In custody cases where mothers and children report the father's sexual abuse of the child, the court sides with the father 81% of the time. Source: DV LEAP pilot study of family court outcomes, 2017

Ninety-five percent of US youth eventually sex trafficked report being maltreated as minor children; sexual abuse was the most common form of maltreatment they experienced in childhood. Of those reporting childhood maltreatment 59% were abused by a parent and more than half were age 5 or under at the first occurrence of maltreatment. While 62% told someone of the childhood maltreatment at the time, only 36% of (the eventually sex trafficked) victims who told someone saw any resultant action. Source: University of Pennsylvania and Covenant House, 2018

Family courts rarely believe mothers' and children's claims of abuse, despite false claims being very rare. In a nationwide study of over 4000 cases, courts believed them only 21 percent of the time for child physical abuse and 19 percent of the time for child sexual abuse. Even when the father's abuse is proved in the court, mothers lost custody to the proven abuser 13 percent of the time. Source: George Washington University, 2019 (study funded by Justice Dept.)

Of the yearly 63,000 child sexual abuse cases substantiated, or found strong evidence, by Child Protective Services (CPS), the perpetrator was most often a parent (80%) and male (88%). Source: United States Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children Youth and Families, Children's Bureau, 2016, as reported by RAINN (2018)

The estimated average cost of a single sexual assault in the US is \$240,776, including from the victims pain and suffering, medical bills, lost productivity, and judicial system expenses. The total cost to the US of the almost 5 million domestic violence cases per year is about \$460 billion (nearly 20 times the entire annual Justice Department budget). Source: The Cost of Crime to Society, 2010 (McCollister, French, Fang), as reported by The Washington Post "The Cost of Domestic Violence is Astonishing" (2018)

- Compiled by Danielle Pollack, 2019

