



# Peer to Peer Sexual Violence

Working together to make a safe space to  
develop excellence

# Learning Objectives

Peer-to-peer sexual assault statistics  
Elements of peer-to-peer sexual violence  
Elements of Victimization  
Roles of supporters/coaches/staff  
Ways to work together

Let's define terms before we work through the stats

Sexual harassment

- stared at in a sexual way
- sexual jokes
- sexual/obscene messages

Sexual assault

- unwanted touch
- oral assault
- rape

## ► Sexual harassment

- stared at in a sexual way
- Sexual jokes
- Sexual/obscene message

- FMS: 48.7% MMS: 33.7% FHS: 65.4% MHS: 33.2%
- FMS: 42.0% MMS: 26.8% FHS: 56.8% MHS: 23.7%
- FMS: 18.6% MMS: 14.1% FHS: 19.4% MHS: 11.5%

## ► Sexual assault

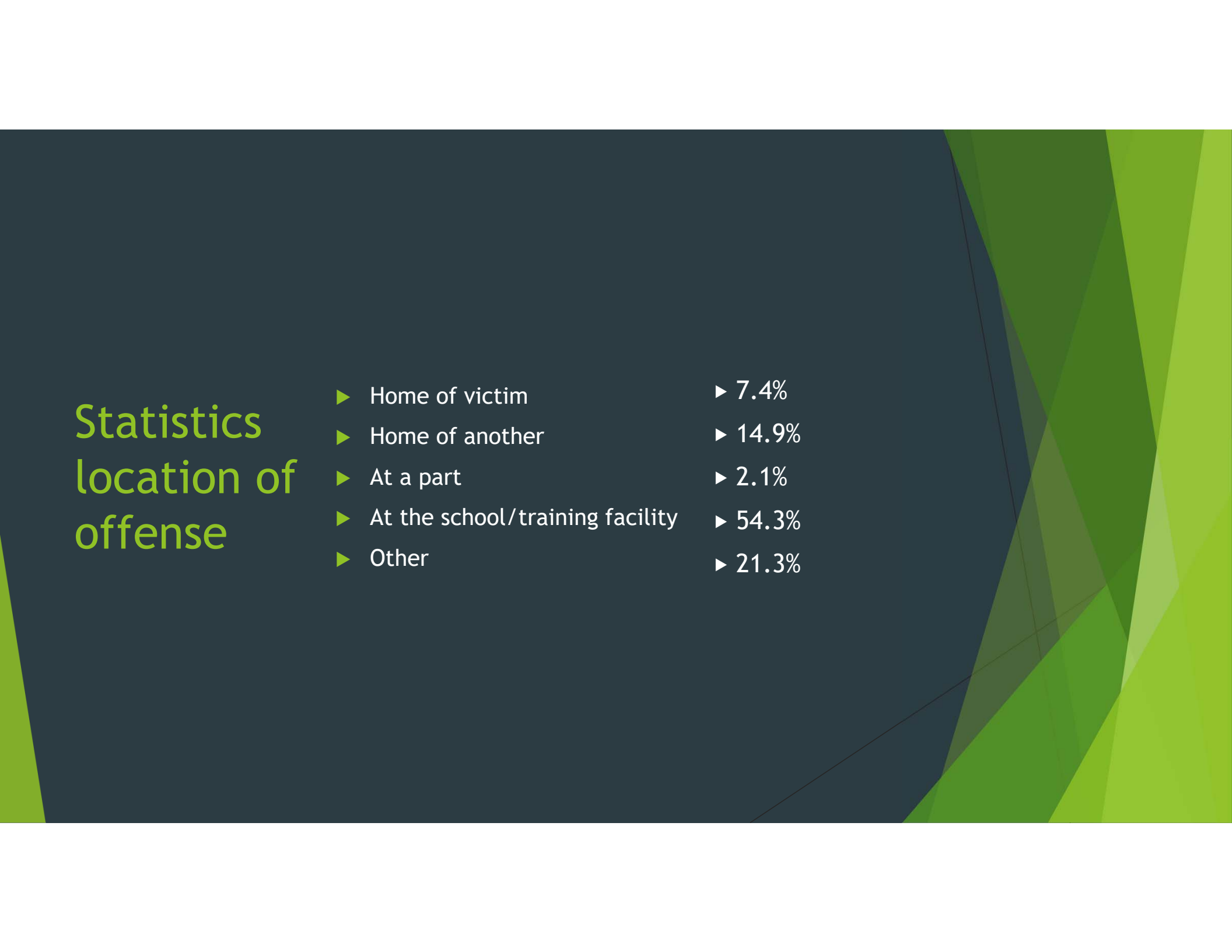
- Unwanted touch
- Attempted assault
- Oral assault
- Rape
- Any other sexual assault

- FMS: 37.1% MMS: 28% FHS: 50.7% MHS: 25.9%
- FMS: 1% MMS: 0 FHS: 1.2% MHS: 0%
- FMS: 4.8% MMS: 3.7% FHS: 5.5% MHS: 4.1%
- FMS: 10.9% MMS: 2.7% FHS: 11.8% MHS: 3.1%
- FMS: 39.9% MMS: 28.2% FHS: 52.5% MHS: 26.3%

## Statistics location of offense

- ▶ Home of victim
- ▶ Home of another
- ▶ At a part
- ▶ At the school/training facility
- ▶ Other

## Statistics location of offense



▶ Home of victim	▶ 7.4%
▶ Home of another	▶ 14.9%
▶ At a part	▶ 2.1%
▶ At the school/training facility	▶ 54.3%
▶ Other	▶ 21.3%

## Elements of Victimization

Identification

Isolation

Exposure to abuse

Gradual escalation

Abuse

# Identification

An individual who sexually acts out against a peer will have their own selection process. Generally, this process is designed to find one of their peers who will have the least likelihood of resisting their advances or reporting their criminal acts.

Additionally, this selection process would include how connected the target is with other children and support staff/teachers

Intervention: The key is to work to connect with every child in your care/supervision.



# Isolation

During this phase, the identified victim will be approached, and a relationship will develop. Additionally, during this phase, the offending peer will work to become close with the identified victim.

This phase becomes rather difficult in that many of the elements found here are also found in the development of healthy relationships. The key difference is the focus on isolation and an overall defense posture.

Intervention: If you see two peers that would be an unlikely pair, or a peer involved in a group that they are very different from, you should ask questions. Don't act on suspicion, but merely ask questions and be involved.

## Exposure to abuse

During this phase, the offending peer will begin the exposure to sexual abuse. This can begin in a seemingly benign way such as jokes or boundary testing (touching, teasing, sharing sexually charged stories, etc).

During this phase there could be multiple attempts in different ways. This tends to be the phase where kids could walk away due to feeling uncomfortable. This is also where we will get the reports of inappropriate behavior and the offending peer/peer group will gas light and report the incident in a minimized fashion.

Intervention: When children come up to you discussing improper behavior, take it as seriously as you can. If you are unable to act, simply keep a careful eye on the situation.

# Gradual escalation

If the offending peer is able to be successful in the initial exposure, then they will begin gradually attempting more and more intense sexual acting out.

Again, during this phase there will be a great deal of gas lighting and conflict as the identified victim will likely push back against the sexual advances.

Additionally, during this phase the efforts to isolate the identified victim will increase as they attempt further abusive acts.

Intervention: Secretiveness is essential during this phase and thus children that are normally not secretive will act out of character. Additionally, the identified victim will likely act in distress due to the sexual abuse. Given these two factors, major affect changes will be apparent if you look out for them.

# Abuse

Unfortunately, the culmination of this process is the sexual abuse of the victim.

During this phase, the victim will likely become withdrawn even isolating themselves from their closest friends and family.

It is also normative to see the victim to act out or misbehave due to the difficult nature of dealing with their abuse.

Intervention. Be vigilant and if you see a pattern of acting out, look deeper than the face value of the negative acting out. Be open minded and vigilant.

# The story of Billy and Mary

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## Identification/Isolation:

Billy sees Marry being more of an introvert and starts to talk with her while she is on her own.

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## Exposure:

Billy has become friendly with Marry and while in practice, touches Marry on her buttock while swimming.

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## Escalation:

Billy again touches Marry in the pool but now attempts to digitally penetrate her anus.

Additionally, Billy attempts to take a picture of Marry when she is in changing in the changing room

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## ABUSE

# Ways we can work together

- ▶ First and foremost, remember you are not on your own
  - ▶ Consolidate your information with other volunteers/staff
  - ▶ Develop a shared procedure for exchanging information, coordinating efforts, and developing supports for children
- ▶ Have regular meetings discussed the needs of your athletes.
  - ▶ Consolidate your information with other volunteers/staff
  - ▶ Share information on the normative actions of the children you work with so as to make it easier to identify behaviors out of the norm.
  - ▶ If you notice a child struggle in any form, use these meetings to coordinate support and care. This will obviously help the child individually and help to work against efforts to isolate the child.
- ▶ Be vigilant not paranoid.
  - ▶ Work together to ensure you are properly assessing the situations you see.
  - ▶ Also work with each other to hold each other accountable. If you act when you don't need to it will likely push the children away making it more difficult to help them.

# Don't lose hope

- ▶ “I have found that it is the small everyday deed of ordinary folks that keep the darkness at bay. Small acts of kindness and love.”

— J.R.R. Tolkien, [The Hobbit](#)

- ▶ “This work will not be done by grand gestures or major events. It will be done by the small moments when you show you care.

# Questions



[pisanonick29@yahoo.com](mailto:pisanonick29@yahoo.com)



# Citation

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