

Child Sexual Abuse in Utah

2021 Fact Sheet



ACEs

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful or traumatic childhood events including physical, verbal, or sexual abuse, as well as family dysfunction.

Joint Resolution HRJ002

HRJ002 Joint Resolution Encouraging Discussion on the Effects of Child Sexual Abuse raises awareness to Utah residents about the prevalence of child sexual abuse. It recognizes that the traumatic experience of child sexual abuse, like other ACEs, may harm long-term mental and physical health across a survivor's lifespan.

During Fiscal Year
2020

7,334 confirmed cases of child abuse

14.3% included sexual abuse

*child abuse cases are underreported.

Mental Health: Higher risk for depression, eating disorders, learning difficulties, post traumatic stress, substance use, & suicidality.

Physical Health: Asthma, Obesity, Cancer, Heart Disease, sexually transmitted infections, early death.

Possible Outcomes: Higher risk for substance use disorder, lower graduation rates and academic achievement, difficulty achieving and maintaining good employment, early/unintended pregnancy, re-victimization, future perpetration, uncontrolled anger, difficulty maintaining employment and/or relationships.

Utah Snapshot

12.9% of Utah adults self-reported some sexual abuse as children. Those who said they were sexually abused as children were:



Physical Health

69% more likely to be in fair/poor health

12% more likely to be overweight or obese

74% more likely to smoke

36% more likely to have high blood pressure

38% more likely to have had a stroke or serious heart condition



Mental Health

2x more likely to have a depressive disorder

38% more likely to be a heavy drinker

2x less likely to participate in activities due to physical, mental, or emotional problems

5x more likely to have experienced a high numbers of ACEs

Sexual Abuse History

(as a victim or perpetrator) was a contributing factor in multiple 2019 child suicide deaths reviewed by the Child Fatality Review Committee.