Childhood is meant to be a time to learn and grow in the context of a safe and enlivening atmosphere. Those children who suffer abuse, whether at the hands of family members, family friends or complete strangers, have their safe environment shattered.


- In 2006, for every 100,000 young persons under 18 years of age, 792 reported being either physically or sexually assaulted compared to a rate of 714 among adults.

- In 2006, for every 100,000 teens aged 12-17, 1,548 reported being either physically or sexually assaulted compared to a rate of 792 for children and youth under the age of 18.

- In 2006, the rate of police-reported sexual assaults against children and youth was over 5 times higher than it was for adults (190 compared to 35).

- For every 100,000 young persons under the age of 18, 334 were victims of physical or sexual violence by a friend or an acquaintance, 187 experienced violence by a family member, and 101 were victimized by a stranger.

- Children and youth were more likely to have been physically assaulted by a parent than sexually assaulted. The rate of physical assault by a parent was more than 3 times higher than the rate of sexual assault (83 compared to 24 victims per 100,000 children and youth).

- The rate of sexual assault against children and youth committed by family members was 4 times higher for girls than for boys (102 compared with 25 incidents per 100,000 population).