

**MASSACHUSETTS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT
CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE SURVEY
September 2003**

Conducted by The University of Massachusetts Poll and Massachusetts Kids Count
Execution dates: 9-24-03 thru 9-30-03
n = 150 Adult residents in Gloucester margin of error +/- 8 95% confidence level

1. How much would you say you know about child sexual abuse? Would you say you know (**READ LIST**)

A Great Deal	11%
Quite a Bit	47%
Not Very Much	39%
Nothing At All	2%
Don't Know/Unsure	

2. How much of a problem do you think child sexual abuse is in Massachusetts?
Would you say it is (**READ LIST**)

Very Serious	55%
Somewhat Serious	37%
Not Very Serious	4%
Not A Problem At All	
Don't Know/Unsure	3%

3. How much of a problem do you think child sexual abuse is in your city or town?
Would you say it is (**READ LIST**)

Very Serious	15%
Somewhat Serious	41%
Not Very Serious	24%
Not A Problem At All	5%
Don't Know/Unsure	15%

4. Do you think that the problem of child sexual abuse in your city or town has gotten better or worse or stayed the same in the past five years?

Gotten Better	16%
Gotten Worse	15%
Stayed the Same	45%
Don't Know/Unsure	24%

5. Do you think that child sexual abuse is a preventable problem? Is it (**READ LIST**)

Definitely Preventable	20%
Somewhat Preventable	60%
Somewhat Not Preventable	10%
Definitely Not Preventable	7%
Don't Know/Unsure	3%
Refused	

6. How confident are you that you can identify inappropriate behavior of an adult towards children or adolescents that might suggest possible sexual abuse? Would you say (**READ LIST**)

Very Confident	29%
Somewhat Confident	46%
Not Very Confident	18%
Not Confident At All	7%
Don't Know/Unsure	1%

7. Some sexual interactions of children and of adolescents are a normal part of growing up, while other sexual interactions are abusive, how confident are you that you can tell the difference.
Would you say (**READ LIST**)

Very Confident	29%
Somewhat Confident	52%
Not Very Confident	15%
Not Confident At All	4%
Don't Know/Unsure	

In order to avoid misunderstandings, the definition of child sexual abuse that we're using is any sexual touching, or penetration of a child by an adult, adolescent, or older child. In addition, we would include behaviors such as exposing oneself, showing pornography to a child or photographing a child in sexual poses.

Our next few questions are about this definition and any instances you might know of that fit the definition. We are **NOT** interested in details and particularly do **NOT** want names.

8. If you suspected that someone you **do not know well** might be sexually abusing a child but were not sure, what would you do? (**DON'T READ RESPONSES**)

9. If you suspected that someone you **know well** might be sexually abusing a child but you weren't sure, what would you do? (**DON'T READ RESPONSES**)

	Gloucester (9/03)		Statewide (3/03)	
	#8 Not Know	#9 Know Well	#8 Not Know	#9 Know Well
Call the Police	45%	39%	39%	28%
Call Local Child Protect Svcs	15%	9%	13%	10%
Confront or Ask Adult	11%	32%	10%	34%
Tell Childs Parents or Family	11%	6%	6%	4%
Investigate Further	3%	1%	6%	5%
Refer to Agency	2%		1%	
Refer to Counselor or Therapist	1%		0%	
Do Nothing	1%		6%	2%
Discuss with Others			1%	1%
Talk to Another Adult	2%	2%		
Confront or Ask Child	1%	2%	7%	6%
Contact School Officials	1%	1%		
Call Someone - Not Sure Who	1%	1%		
Other			2%	2%
Pray				
Speak with Minister			1%	1%
Keep Kids Away from Problem	1%	1%		
Assault Abuser				1%
Depends on Situation	1%			
Anything Necessary	1%	1%		
Don't Know/Unsure	4%	7%	9%	8%

10. Are you aware of any hotlines or programs you can call for information about child sexual abuse?

Yes	35%
No	61%
Don't Know/Unsure	4%

11. Are you aware of any education or training programs in your community to help parents and other adults recognize and respond to possible child sexual abuse?

Yes	32%
No	62%
Don't Know/Unsure	6%

12. How likely would you be to participate in a training program offered in your community to learn to recognize and respond to possible child sexual abuse? Would you say you would be (**READ LIST**):

	Gloucester (9/03)	Statewide (3/03)
Very Likely	17%	18%
Somewhat Likely	27%	30%
Not Very Likely	39%	28%
Not At All Likely	17%	23%
Don't Know/Unsure	1%	1%
Refused	1%	

13. What would you say is the most important reason that you **DO** want to participate in such a training program?
[DO NOT READ]

To Protect My Own Children	37%
It's an Important Issue	31%
I Work with Children & Want to Protect	26%
To Make a Difference	2%
To Protect All Children	3%
Kids Need Help with This	
I Was Abused & Don't Want Others to Be	2%
Gain Information	
Don't Know	

14. What would you say is the most important reason that you do **NOT** want to participate in such a training program?
[DO NOT READ]

No Time/Too Busy	25%
Has Nothing to Do with Me	21%
Already Trained/Informed	8%
Not Interested	12%
Too Old	10%
Don't Have Child Care	4%
No Contact w Children	2%
Too Personal	6%
It's Not an Important Issue	2%
Don't Need Training	1%
Don't Have Elder Care	1%
Not Physically Able	2%
Mind My Own Business	1%
Not Effective	
Too Emotionally Hard	
Don't Know/Refused	2%

15. I'd like to ask one question about sexual abuse in childhood. Again, you do not have to answer if you do not feel comfortable. When you were a child, did an adult or older child ever sexually abuse you?

	Gloucester (9/03)	Statewide (3/03)
Yes	16%	15%
No	79%	83%
Don't Know/Unsure	1%	
Refused	1%	2%