

**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 North Quabbin 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	25%
Quite a Bit	32%
Not Very Much	42%
Nothing At All	1%
Don't Know/Unsure	1%

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

Very Serious	69%
Somewhat Serious	24%
Not Very Serious	1%
Not A Problem At All	
Don't Know/Unsure	7%

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	37%
Somewhat Serious	31%
Not Very Serious	21%
Not A Problem At All	4%
Don't Know/Unsure	7%

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	5%
Gotten Worse	30%
Stayed the Same	49%
Don't Know/Unsure	17%

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

Definitely Preventable	27%
Somewhat Preventable	57%
Somewhat Not Preventable	9%
Definitely Not Preventable	3%
Don't Know/Unsure	3%

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	36%
Somewhat Confident	47%
Not Very Confident	11%
Not Confident At All	5%
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	37%
Somewhat Confident	47%
Not Very Confident	10%
Not Confident At All	4%
Don't Know/Unsure	2%

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**)

	North Quabbin (9/03)		Statewide (3/03)	
	#8 Not Know	#9 Know Well	#8 Not Know	#9 Know Well
Call the Police	62%	39%	39%	28%
Call Local Child Protect Svcs	9%	11%	13%	10%
Confront or Ask Adult	6%	31%	10%	34%
Tell Childs Parents or Family	3%	1%	6%	4%
Investigate Further	5%	3%	6%	5%
Refer to Agency	2%	2%	1%	
Refer to Counselor or Therapist	1%	1%	0%	
Do Nothing	1%	3%	6%	2%
Discuss with Others	1%		1%	1%
Talk to Another Adult	1%	1%		
Confront or Ask Child	1%	2%	7%	6%
Contact School Officials	1%			
Call Someone - Not Sure Who	1%			
Other			2%	2%
Pray				
Speak with Minister		1%	1%	1%
Keep Kids Away from Problem				
Assault Abuser	1%	1%		1%
Depends on Situation				
Anything Necessary				
Don't Know/Unsure	6%	4%	9%	8%

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

Yes 45%  
No 51%  
Don't Know/Unsure 3%

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 29%  
No 67%  
Don't Know/Unsure 4%

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**):

	North Quabbin (9/03)	Statewide (3/03)
Very Likely	19%	18%
Somewhat Likely	33%	30%
Not Very Likely	30%	28%
Not At All Likely	17%	23%
Don't Know/Unsure	1%	1%
Refused		

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 36%  
It's an Important Issue 35%  
I Work with Children & Want to Protect 6%  
To Make a Difference 9%  
To Protect All Children 5%  
Kids Need Help with This 4%  
I Was Abused & Don't Want Others to Be 4%  
Gain Information 1%  
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 36%  
Has Nothing to Do with Me 13%  
Already Trained/Informed 10%  
Not Interested 10%  
Too Old 13%  
Don't Have Child Care 1%  
No Contact w Children 3%  
Too Personal 3%  
It's Not an Important Issue  
Don't Need Training 1%  
Don't Have Elder Care 1%  
Not Physically Able 1%  
Mind My Own Business 3%  
Not Effective  
Too Emotionally Hard 4%  
Don't Know/Refused

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?

	<b>North Quabbin (9/03)</b>	<b>Statewide (3/03)</b>
Yes	15%	15%
No	83%	83%
Refused	1%	1%