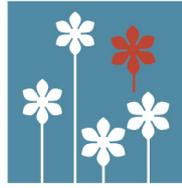


**Council of Europe** campaign  
**to stop sexual violence**  
against children



Campagne du **Conseil de l'Europe**  
**contre la violence sexuelle**  
à l'égard des enfants

**one in five**  
**un sur cinq**

[www.coe.int/oneinfive](http://www.coe.int/oneinfive)

## Is it really ONE in FIVE?

The estimated figure of ONE in FIVE emerges from a combination of the results of various studies undertaken by research teams across Europe, and coincides with statistics advanced by Unicef, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization.

ONE in FIVE is a regional European-level figure, but it does not exclude that prevalence in individual countries may be higher or lower. Research in countries outside of Europe, such as in the United States and Canada, seem to reveal a similar level of prevalence.

Obtaining a clear picture of the real situation today is hampered by the following:

- ▶ sexual violence remains widely underreported;
- ▶ studies differ in scope and use different methodologies and definitions;
- ▶ interviewing children raises ethical issues;
- ▶ professionals working with and for children (such as in institutions) lack procedural guidelines and tools to report sexual violence against children;
- ▶ some children lack effective tools and means to report sexual violence, such as children who are unable to express themselves, are very young, have intellectual disabilities, are severely traumatised and so forth;
- ▶ many studies are based on interviews with adults or young adults about their childhood experience of abuse;
- ▶ not enough effort is invested in trying to obtain comprehensive, disaggregated and comparable data.

The figure ONE in FIVE refers to all forms of sexual violence against children: sexual abuse, child pornography, solicitation of children through the Internet, child prostitution and corruption of children.

But because most available research refers only to sexual abuse involving physical contact, the figure ONE in FIVE may actually be underestimated, given the increase

in solicitation and exposure of children to pornographic material through the Internet.

## **From “ONE in FIVE” to “NONE of FIVE”: why do we need to focus on data?**

The lack of effective prevention policies remains the main challenge to the elimination of sexual violence against children. Not knowing the real extent of sexual violence due to a lack of reliable data has resulted in poor prevention strategies.

Because most people underestimate the extent of the problem, the Council of Europe ONE in FIVE campaign uses an estimate as an effective base-line study tool to motivate governments, parliaments, child professionals and parents to take the urgent action needed to prevent sexual violence, protect children and prosecute offenders.

Effective prevention policies also depend on the accuracy and quality of data. This is why Council of Europe Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse (Lanzarote Convention) requires countries to set up “mechanisms for data collection or focal points, at national or local levels and in collaboration with civil society, for the purpose of observing and evaluating the phenomenon sexual exploitation and sexual abuse of children, with due respect for the requirements of personal data protection” (Article 10).

One of the specific aims of the Council of Europe's ONE in FIVE campaign is to push countries to finance research on the extent of sexual violence so that they can adapt their prevention and protection policies accordingly. The ultimate goal is clearly to reach a “NONE of FIVE” figure.

### **For more information on available research, consult:**

Kevin Lalor and Rosaleen McElvaney, “*Overview of the nature and extent of child sexual abuse in Europe*” in *Protecting children from sexual violence – A comprehensive approach*. Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing, 2010

Corinne May-Chahal and Maria Herczog, *Child sexual abuse in Europe*, Strasbourg: Council of Europe Publishing: 2003