Abuse Prevention:
Current Research, Trends, and Best Practices
Our mission is to help you protect those in your care from abuse and to help preserve trust in your organization.

Praesidium is a leading innovator of scientifically-based solutions designed to transform the way organizations approach the prevention of sexual abuse. For over 30 years, Praesidium’s expertise, consulting, and solutions have helped foster safer environments for children, vulnerable adults, staff, volunteers, and all parties involved.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF
The Scope of the Problem

Experience sexual abuse before the age of 18 (as estimated by the CDC)

Youth-to-Youth sexual misconduct occurs at a higher prevalence rate than adult-to-youth

1 in 4 Girls

Experience sexual abuse before the age of 18 (as estimated by the CDC)

Youth-to-Youth sexual misconduct occurs at a higher prevalence rate than adult-to-youth

1 in 13 Boys

90% of the time, the perpetrator is known to the victim

80% of abuse does not get reported

Sexual abuse remains a serious issue that affects millions of vulnerable individuals each year, sparing no generation or demographic.
National Trends

✔ Litigation increasing and becoming more sophisticated
  • “Best litigation Practices for Child Sexual Abuse Civil Cases”
  • Billboards & infomercials

✔ Headline News

✔ Statute of limitation reform

✔ Higher standards and centralization

✔ Increased accountability for leaders & BOD

✔ State requirements for screening and training

Southern Baptists Convention sex abuse scandal prompts federal investigation

The news comes more than two months after the SBC released a previously secret list of hundreds of pastors and other personnel accused of sexual abuse.
SOL Reform

- Criminal and Civil
- Window to file, age to file
- New York (Aug 2019 to 2021)—11,000 cases filed
- 13 states eliminated civil SOL (no age)
- Civil limitations removed for federal cases in September
Insurance Trends

☑ Increase in premiums of 25% or more
☑ Restricting coverage language and limits for sexual abuse
☑ Excess coverage has become increasingly difficult
☑ Increased requirements for coverage
☑ Increased offerings but higher accountability
### Verdicts from Child Sexual Abuse Cases

* pulled from 44 identified cases from June 2018 – February 2022

#### Summary of the organizational payouts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Range (all cases)</th>
<th>Mean (all cases)</th>
<th>Median (all cases)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average payout for cases settled out of court</strong></td>
<td>$35,000 - $55,000,000</td>
<td>$5,684,948</td>
<td>$1,530,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average payout for cases with jury verdicts</strong></td>
<td>$2,500,000</td>
<td>$10,300,000</td>
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#### Other notable findings

- **9%** Cases involved a youth offender
- **7%** Cases involved a female offender
- **49%** Cases the victim(s) aged 13-17 years old
- **24%** Cases the victim(s) aged 6-9 years old
- **35%** Cases the victim was male
- **65%** Cases the victim was female
Verdict Search Analysis – Institutional Faults

* pulled from 44 identified cases from June 2018 – February 2022

- Supervision/Security: 82%
- Investigation/Retention: 36%
- Hiring: 25%
- Training: 7%
52% of calls relate to Youth-to-Youth incidents

43% of calls relate to Adult-to-Youth incidents
HELPLINE DATA: ADULT-TO-YOUTH INCIDENTS

**Adult-to-Youth Incidents by Location, 2018-2021**

- Electronic communications: 19%
- Bathroom/Locker room: 17%
- Out of program contact: 14%
- Recreation: 13%
- Pool/Lake/Water: 13%
- Other: 10%
- Classroom/Childcare: 9%
- Transportation: 3%
- Lodging: 2%
HELPLINE DATA: YOUTH-TO-YOUTH INCIDENTS

Youth-to-Youth Incidents by Location, 2018-2021

- Bathroom/Locker room: 35%
- Recreation: 22%
- Other: 9%
- Classroom/Childcare: 8%
- Transportation: 7%
- Pool/Lake/Water: 7%
- Electronic Communications: 6%
- Out of program contact: 3%
- Lodging: 3%
We believe abuse is PREVENTABLE
THE PRAESIDIUM SAFETY EQUATION®

- Policies
- Screening and Selection
- Training
- Monitoring and Supervision
- Internal Feedback Systems
- Consumer Participation
- Responding
- Administrative Practices

A SAFE ENVIRONMENT
Critical Questions – Best Practices

- Do you have written policies that clearly define physical, emotional, behavioral, and electronic communication boundaries? How are these distributed?
- Who has access to the vulnerable populations you serve?
- Do you require all staff and volunteers to complete training that is preventative not just reactive? Does it include youth-youth abuse prevention?
Critical Questions – Best Practices

Do you have specific procedures for managing high-risk locations and activities?

Do you have a written procedure for responding to suspicious behaviors that do not raise to the level of abuse?

Do you know your state’s mandated reporting obligations?

Do you have a critical incident plan if someone comes forward to report current or historical abuse? How would you support them?
Promote a Culture of Safety

- Voice from the top
- Standards are clear & enforced
- Everyone knows safety is part of their job
- Everyone takes warning signs seriously
- Everyone reports their concerns
The Journey of the C’s

Complacency  >>>>  Compliance  >>>>  Commitment
Complacency

Denies an abuse incident could happen

Hopes past success will prevent future abuse

Has few standardized procedures and high tolerance for “drift”

Safety protocols dependent on individuals

Bad person did a bad thing

Compliance

Uses state regulations and licensing regulations as standards of care

Focuses on mandated reporting rather than preventing it

Minimizes red flag behaviors

Treats incidents as staff failure not systems failures
Consumer protection is a designated position. The Board is fully trained and informed. It seeks external validation. Training is scheduled, frequently, is impactful, and offered "just in time." Protocols focus on Prevention.
4 Steps for Developing Commitment

- Leadership
- Standards
- Resources
- Accountability
Praesidium Resources

Discounted/Subsidized Background Checks,
Online Training (Praesidium Academy)

*Know Your Score!*
Management Systems Review

[Prasidium Accreditation](#)
References, and Other Screening Solutions
In-Person and Other Training Solutions
Model Policies and Policy Analysis
Consultation Services
Confidential Helpline and Crisis Management

[Certified Praesidium Guardian Workshop](#) (individual certification)
KNOW YOUR SCORE TRENDS

HELPLINE TRENDS

NATIONAL YSO BENCHMARKING

VERDICT TRENDS

ACCREDITATION
QUESTIONS
STAY IN TOUCH

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