Incidence of Child Sexual Abuse – Focus on Maryland

In Maryland:

- In 2013, there were an estimated 1,346,464 children living in Maryland.
  
  *U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2013 3-Year American Community Survey.*

- In Maryland, there were 1,782 cases of child sexual abuse investigated by CPS in 2013.
  

- The Maryland Department of Human Resources, Child Protective Services (CPS), receives reports of “sexual abuse of minors.” “Sexual abuse” cases involve perpetrators who are family or household members, or someone with care, custody, or supervision of a minor child.
  
  *Criminal Law Art. 3-602*

- A large percentage of childhood sexual abuse survivors are at risk for having their violation not discovered, not reported, or not substantiated by CPS.
  

- Some reports say that only 33% of child sexual abuse incidents are ever reported. Others have said as few as 12% are reported.
  

If in 2013 in Maryland there were 1,782 cases of childhood sexual abuse investigated, but only 33% of childhood sexual abuse are reported, then it is likely that there were at least 5,400 cases that went unreported in 2013. These numbers may even be higher because the data on reported/investigated child sexual assault cases in Maryland only includes “sexual abuse of a minor” cases as defined above.

If 1 in 5 children experience sexual abuse, then there are approximately 269,292 children in Maryland who have experienced sexual abuse.

If you or someone you know suspects child abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency or department of social services at 1-800-332-6347. You can also click here for the Maryland Children’s Alliance children’s advocacy center in your county.