DEFINITIONS:

- **Sexual abuse** - “The employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct; or the rape, and in cases of caretaker or interfamilial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children” (Child’s Welfare Information Gateway).

- **CPS** - Child Protective Services

- **Forensic Interview** - an interview designed to elicit information in a non-leading manner where there are concerns of abuse, neglect, or when a child is a witness of violence (NCAC).

- **Disclosure** - the action of making new or secret information known (Oxford Languages - Google)

- **Prosecution** - “in criminal law, the government attorney charging and trying the case against a person accused of the crime” (Legal Dictionary)

GENERAL PERCENTAGES:

- **Abuse Rate**: 8.6% of children in U.S. (Children’s Bureau)

- **Disclosure Rate**: ~38%

- **Investigations**: 55% are investigated by CPS, the rest are screened out

- **Fabrication Rates**: 4-8%, typically during custody disputes

- **Arrest rate**: 29%

- **Conviction rate**: 80%; of the convicted, 14% were by a jury, 82% agreed to a guilty plea, 4% were by a bench trial (Darkness to Light)
The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act was last amended in 2019 and works to improve state’s investigations and assessments of child abuse and neglect; screening protocols; training for CPS workers and mandatory reporters; programs that identify, prevent and treat child abuse and neglect; and collaboration of CPS, domestic violence and other agencies (Children’s Bureau).

The goal of a Forensic Interview is to investigate the safety of a child and other children within the community (NCAC).

During the investigation social workers, police officers, district attorneys, advocates, nurses and child interview specialists work together to establish a case for the child (NCAC).

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Stacia-Stolzenberg
SIOBHAN’S RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What types of preparatory statements do caregivers give to children before an investigative child sexual abuse interview?

2. How do caregivers’ preparatory statements before an investigative interview relate to children’s informativeness when disclosing sexual abuse?
   a. What child characteristics impact the association between caregiver preparatory statements prior to an investigative interview to children’s informativeness when disclosing sexual abuse?

3. What contextual factors (e.g., gender and age) impact children’s descriptions of the consequences of disclosing, their anticipation of future consequences, and their motivations for delaying disclosure of CSA?
**CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS**

### Child Ethnicity
- Caucasian: 54%
- Hispanic: 21%
- Unk: 9%
- Mixed: 7%
- African American: 5%
- Native American: 3%
- Asian American: 1%

### Child Gender
- Male: 237
- Female: 84

### Child's Age
- [4, 7]: 119
- [7, 10]: 72
- [10, 13]: 61
- [13, 16]: 51
- [16, 19]: 18

### Marital Status of Child's Parents
- Divorced, Separated, Not together: 3%
- Never Married: 2%
- Married: 2%
- Unk: 9%
- Parent(s) absent: 21%
- Reconciled, Living together: 22%
- Divorced & Remarried: 39%
**Question 1:** Is there a difference in the average length of time it takes for males and females to disclose their abuse?

*P* = 0.135; no statistical significance

**Question 2:** What is the effect of the child’s age on how long it takes them to disclose the abuse?

*P* = <0.001
QUESTION 3: What is the effect of the child’s age on whether their disclosure is purposeful, prompted, accidental or combined? 
P= <0.001 between Accidental/Purposeful; 
P= <0.001 between Prompted/Purposeful Kids were more likely to have a purposeful disclosure as they got older.

Question 4: What is the effect of the relationship between child and perpetrator on the length of time it takes a child to disclose?  P= 0.058; No statistical significance

Question 5: What is the effect of the marital status of the child’s parents on the duration of abuse?  P= 0.839; No statistical significance


