



Colorado Youth Soccer

Risk Management

1 in 5 Girls!

1 in 10 Boys!

FACT: 1 IN 5 GIRLS WILL BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18!

FACT: 1 IN 10 BOYS WILL BE SEXUALLY ABUSED BEFORE THE AGE OF 18!

These are not gambling odds! National statistics confirm that sexual abuse happens, and it happens often. In addition to the facts above, 30% of young victims never disclose the experience to ANYONE! Children only fabricate an incident 0.4% of the time. 1-4% of total accusations are fabricated by adults. Almost 80% of the victims initially deny abuse or are tentative in disclosing abuse. 75% of the victims disclose accidentally! 50% of youth victims are abused by someone outside of the family who they know and trust! This could be a neighbor, an older or larger childhood friend, a coach, a teacher or other adult that the family trusts.

Perpetrators groom the family and community prior to grooming the child. To this end, adults unwittingly become enthusiastic supporters of the molesters, which communicates to the child that any disclosures are unlikely to be believed. Charm is the predator's best tool as it makes parents less likely to suspect him/her and victims less likely to be believed.

PLAYERS:

Keep your boundaries! If a coach, teacher, neighbor or family member makes you uncomfortable, talk to your parents, minister, teacher or school counselor. DO NOT tolerate minor boundary violations.

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO SAY NO! Perpetrators are the ONLY people responsible for child sexual assault. NO ONE else is to blame!

PARENTS:

Communicate with your player. If they show sudden signs of aggression, desire to quit the team or being reluctant to participate in team events, sleeping disorders, reluctance to talk or running away, TALK TO THEM. When you talk, it is best if you spend 90% of the time listening. DON'T criticize or reject your child's statement: **LISTEN, LISTEN, and LISTEN SOME MORE.** Remember, less than ½ percent of children fabricate the story.

BACKGROUND CHECKS:

Remember, background checks only identify the person that has been convicted; they DO NOT identify the pedophile who has not been caught and found guilty by a court of law! They are not failsafe! You are the best defense against the perpetrator – don't be vulnerable. Child sexual assault can happen to ANYONE, even the most well functioning families.

For more information, go to www.coyouthsoccer.org and click Risk Management for more KIDSAFE Articles. Another good source of information is www.ralstonhouse.net which is a not-for-profit agency that has provided a friendly, safe place for children who have been sexually abused to tell their story.