



Stop It Now! Georgia

The Campaign to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

a program of



News Release

Release: IMMEDIATELY

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Survey Finds Georgians Well-Informed About Seriousness of Child Sexual Abuse

ATLANTA – Nearly 90 percent of Georgians surveyed reported that they believe child sexual abuse is a serious problem throughout the state. The telephone survey, conducted for PCA Georgia by Schapiro Research Group, polled 700 Georgians statewide. The findings indicate that Georgia is well ahead of the national average when it comes to taking this problem seriously. Nationwide, only about 49 percent of adults view child sexual abuse as a significant problem.

“This high level of awareness in our state may be a result of the work of existing prevention efforts by Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Georgia, and other agencies regarding child sexual abuse as well as significant media exposure for this issue,” said Wendi Clifton, interim executive director of PCA Georgia. “In recent weeks we had two reports in local news coverage of child sexual abuse in North Georgia – a sadly all too common occurrence.”

Ninety-five percent of Georgians also understand that most children are sexually abused by someone they know and 70 percent believe that adults who sexually abuse children live in their communities. Clearly, Georgians have a keen understanding of the complex issues surrounding this crime. Last year, in all but 31 of the more than 2,000 substantiated reports of child sexual abuse in Georgia, the abuser had a known relationship with the child.

“All of this suggests that Georgians recognize that child sexual abuse is a serious problem that affects their communities and involves people in the children's lives,” said Julie Medlin, PhD, president of the Georgia Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers. “It is time that we as a community act to address sexual abuse in Georgia by increasing efforts to recognize the potential for abuse and providing interventions for those who are abusing our children.”

Stop It Now! Georgia is a program of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia (PCA Georgia) that adds a focus on adult and community responsibility to the long standing child sexual abuse prevention work that has been teaching children about body awareness and safety. Funding for this project comes from a grant through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. PCA Georgia is a statewide private nonprofit organization dedicated to child abuse prevention and relies on community support and volunteers to assist in the efforts to end child abuse in Georgia. For more information about PCA Georgia's services, resources and educational programs, please call (404)870-6565 or go to www.preventchildabusega.org.

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