

**Resources:****For Adults Who Experienced Sibling Sexual Abuse:**

- Sibling Sexual Trauma
  - <https://www.siblingsexualtrauma.com/>
- Incest Aware
  - <https://www.incestaware.org/>
- Complicated Courage
  - <https://www.complicatedcourage.com/>

**For Parents of Children with Sexual Behavior Problems:**

- NCSBY
  - <https://ncsby.org/>
- Parent 2 Parent
  - <https://www.raliance.org/parent-2-parent/>
- The Association for the Treatment and Prevention of Sexual Abuse
  - <https://www.atsa.com/referral>

**For Parents of Children Who Experienced Sexual Abuse:**

- MOSAC
  - <https://www.mosac.net/>
- M\*OASIS
  - <https://www.moasissupport.com/>
- Hidden Water Circle
  - <https://hiddenwatercircle.org/>

## **Cited Sources:**

### Slide 6 (Defining Sibling Sexual Abuse):

- There Is No Single, Universally Accepted Definition of Sibling Sexual Abuse. Our knowledge and understanding of SSA are largely constrained by the lack of a clearly articulated description under the law. For one, the definition of child abuse under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA), the key Federal legislation concerning child abuse and neglect, does not align with analysis of SSA in that it assumes the perpetrator is a parent or caregiver. Many states also exclude sibling sexual abuse from their definitions of child abuse, or refer to it only indirectly. The absence of a clear statutory definition may have policy, direct-service, and/or legal implications. For example, differences in terminology complicate reporting practices as individuals, including child protection workers, are forced to apply their own definitions to determine what acts or behaviors constitute as sibling abuse. While researchers and mental health practitioners have similarly struggled to develop a universally accepted definition of SSA, the general agreement in the literature is that SSA includes sexual behavior between siblings that is “not age appropriate, not transitory, and not motivated by developmentally, mutually appropriate curiosity,” and which often involves the exploitation of a power dynamic and some degree of forced or coercive activity. However, identifying which specific acts and behaviors constitute abuse still requires a subjective analysis. Without a clearly articulated and nationally adopted description of sibling sexual abuse, it will remain difficult for child protection workers, researchers, and mental health clinicians to identify the problem in the populations they work with.
  - Caffaro, J. V., & Conn-Caffaro, A., Treating sibling abuse families, 10(5) AGGRESSION & VIOLENT BEHAVIOR 604 (2005); Carlson, B.E., et. al., Sibling incest: Reports from forty-one survivors, 15(4) J. OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, 19 (2006); John Caffaro, Sibling abuse trauma, 2nd ed., New York (Routledge, 2014).

### Slide 7 (Little Attention – Little Known):

- Sibling sexual abuse is the least reported and least studied; rarely disclosed and least likely to receive intervention.
  - <https://childusa.org/the-hidden-crisis-of-sibling-sexual-abuse-part-1/>

### Slide 8 (The Impact of SSA):

- The developmental consequences for children who have experienced SSA are particularly striking. Due to the longevity and severity of SSA, victims usually experience a disruption of 2-3 developmental stages, as energy that would otherwise be used to accomplish developmental tasks is instead directed toward survival. This developmental disruption is linked to a host of negative effects (distinct from those associated with SSA) including premature sexualization, difficulty with peer relationships, and identity disturbances. Risk-related behaviors, including substance abuse, self-harm, and delinquent/criminal behavior, is also uniquely severe in child survivors of SSA. Because SSA victims are among the least likely to receive professional intervention, most continue to experience these problems into adulthood.[xix]
  - <https://childusa.org/the-hidden-crisis-of-sibling-sexual-abuse-part-1/>

### Slide 13 (Environmental/Situational Factors):

- Studies have identified common factors in the family backgrounds of children who have experienced SSA including, but not limited to, domestic violence and abuse, poor sexual boundaries within the family home, parent–child sexual abuse, and a lack of parental supervision.
  - <https://childusa.org/the-hidden-crisis-of-sibling-sexual-abuse-part-1/>

- Family dysfunction may be compounded by wider environmental stressors which are also believed to impact the emergence of SSA. For example, researchers know that intrafamilial sexual violence tends to increase during and after major disasters or crises. In the context of the recent COVID-19 pandemic and attendant lockdowns, factors such as lack of adequate parental supervision, increased caregiving responsibilities being delegated to older siblings, and increased use of technology—and therefore access to inappropriate online content—have significantly increased the risk of abuse.
  - <https://childusa.org/the-hidden-crisis-of-sibling-sexual-abuse-part-1/>
- The high prevalence of sibling victimization suggests that a substantial part of the children who experience parental child maltreatment will also experience victimization by their brothers or sisters. This stresses the importance for both child protection services and child psychologists to give more attention to investigating sibling victimization. Recommends more investigation in sibling victimization as there is much more about peer bullying and victimization, but not sibling victimization.
  - Van Berkel, S. R., Tucker, C. J., & Finkelhor, D. (2018). The Combination of Sibling Victimization and Parental Child Maltreatment on Mental Health Problems and Delinquency. *Child maltreatment*, 23(3), 244–253.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077559517751670>

### **Additional Resources:**

- Parental attitudes following disclosure of sibling sexual abuse: A child advocacy center intervention study
  - <https://doi.apa.org/doiLanding?doi=10.1037%2Fort0000311>
- Sibling Sexual Abuse: A Review of Empirical Studies in the Field
  - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34238075/>
- A Safeguarding Road Map in Sibling Sexual Abuse Cases
  - <https://www.sarsas.org.uk/ssap-resources/PDF1%20-%20A%20Safeguarding%20Road%20Map%20in%20Sibling%20Sexual%20Abuse%20Cases%20-%20Stuart%20Allardyce.pdf>
- Sibling sexual abuse: A knowledge and practice overview
  - <https://www.csacentre.org.uk/csa-centre-prodv2/assets/File/Sibling%20sexual%20abuse%20report%20-%20for%20publication.pdf>
- Peter Yates (2020) "It's Just the Abuse that Needs to Stop": Professional Framing of Sibling Relationships in a Grounded Theory Study of Social Worker Decision Making following Sibling Sexual Behavior, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 29:2, 222-245, DOI: [10.1080/10538712.2019.1692399](https://doi.org/10.1080/10538712.2019.1692399)
- Margaret Rowntree (2007) Responses to Sibling Sexual Abuse: Are They as Harmful as the Abuse?, *Australian Social Work*, 60:3, 347-361, DOI: 10.1080/03124070701519645
- Bertele N, Talmon A. Sibling Sexual Abuse: A Review of Empirical Studies in the Field. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*. July 2021. doi:10.1177/15248380211030244