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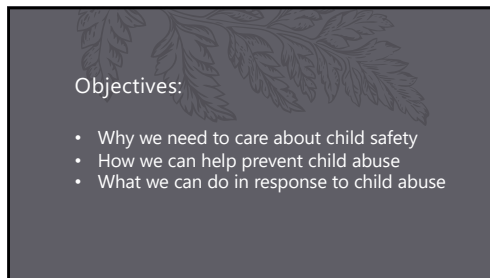
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**Child Abuse Statistics**

- Approximately 5 children die every day because of child abuse.
- 1 out of 3 girls and 1 out of 5 boys will be sexually abused before they reach age 18.
- 90% of child sexual abuse victims know the perpetrator in some way, 68% are abused by a family member.
- Most children become victims of abuse and neglect at 18 months or younger.
- In 2010, 1,537 children died of abuse or neglect. 79.4% were under the age of 4 and 47.7% were under the age of 1.
- Boys (48.5%) and girls (51.2%) become victims at nearly the same rate.
- 3.6 million cases of child abuse are reported every year in the U.S.
- Abused and neglected children are 11 times more likely to engage in criminal behavior as an adult.

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**Child Abuse Statistics**

- About 80% of 21-year-olds who were abused as children met criteria for at least one psychological disorder.
- 14% of all men and 36% of all women in prison were abused as children.
- Abused children are less likely to practice safe sex, putting them at greater risk for STDs. They're also 25% more likely to experience teen pregnancy.
- For every incident of child abuse or neglect that's reported, an estimated two incidents go unreported.
- Child abuse occurs across all socioeconomic levels, ethnic and cultural lines, and religions and education levels.
- Neglect, the most widespread form of child abuse, makes up more than 59% of abuse cases.

www.childprotect.org

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**Why we need to care about child safety**

So we can help prevent it  
So we can know and recognize the signs of it  
So we can come alongside those affected by it

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### Why we need to care about child safety

Child abuse has been and is now happening on the mission field, in MK schools and in the church.

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*A recent survey of 1,904 adults who were raised in cross-cultural contexts found they were three times more likely to experience emotional abuse than children raised in their own culture in the United States. More than a third had suffered three or more adverse childhood experiences, such as abuse, violence, or neglect. Almost 30 percent reported some kind of sexual harm.*

*"A lot of people in the international world think of this as this safe bubble for kids," said Tanya Crossman, coauthor of the TCK Training report. "Our data is showing the opposite. We want to pay attention and provide the preventive care and provide protective factors."*

*Not only do MKs and "third culture kids" (TCKs) suffer more abuse, but they also face extra obstacles reporting abuse overseas, advocates say. And when they do report, they risk being ostracized from the close-knit missions world. (Hopkins, Rebecca "What is a Missionary Kid Worth?" Christianity Today November 2022)*

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### What puts MKs more at risk for harm?

- Boarding schools (historically) were more vulnerable to abuse due to isolation
- Rate at which missionary families move increases vulnerability to abuse
- MKs are mixed in with other MKs or Missionaries who they don't know, but are expected to be trustworthy
- Parents are often stressed and put their work first
- MKs may feel an obligation to protect their parents work by not telling them if abuse is happening to them
- MKs may feel responsible for interrupting God's work if they report abuse or harm
- Inadequate childcare protocols and not uncommon on mission field

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How can we help prevent child abuse?

- Educate both parents and children
- Effective screening processes for both staff and volunteers
- Specific Child Safety training for both staff and volunteers
- Childcare protocols
- Response Process

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What can we do in response to child abuse?

- Take every allegation of abuse seriously
- Report
- Assess
- Care – initial, both sides
- Care – long-term, both sides

*"Most of your missionary kids are going to say, 'Just be the church to us,'" said Darr, sitting next to Cartlidge in a Zoom interview. "We're hurting. We need your help."*

(Hopkins, Rebecca "What is a Missionary Kid Worth?" Christianity Today November 2022)

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Resources

- Child Safety and Protection Network (CSPN)
- MinistrySafe
- Plan to Protect
- TCKtraining.com – founded by Lauren Wells
  - "Caution and Hope - The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Globally Mobile Third Culture Kids"

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