



Stop It Now!
 Together We Can Stop the Sexual Abuse of Children

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 Stop It Now!
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Stop It Now!'s Approach

- Emphasis on **perpetration prevention**
- Focus on primary prevention – **before** abuse happens
 - Challenge the people at-risk and abusing children to stop their abusive behavior and reach out for help
 - Shift prevention focus from children to **adults** and from those who have been abused (and are at risk) to those at risk to abuse or who have harmed.
 - Provide people in bystander roles, tools and support to talk about concerning behaviors
- Places **responsibility** on adults and communities

Mission



Prevent the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.



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The Journey


- Founded by a **survivor**
- Based in *restorative justice*
- Speaking with those who caused the harm and with those who were harmed
- Led to CDC recognition of csa as a *public health issue*
- A vision of **hope** – not fear

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Overcoming Obstacles to Prevention


<p>Moving from</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stigma & Shame • Isolation • Helplessness • No way to speak about this 		<p>By offering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An ally • Accurate Information • Resources • Compassion & Hope • Language
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Our Program Areas

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website, Tip Sheets, Resource Library • Help Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpline • Ask Now! Advice Column 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training: Circles of Safety, Webinars • Helpline and Program Consultation • Organizational Policy and Practice • Youth Program Development • Prevention Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnerships, Alliances • Prevention funding/Bill advocacy • Media, Press Releases, Communications
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1.888.PREVENT
helpline@stopitnow.org
stopitnow.org/chat


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HOW WE WORK Why Our Helpline Matters

- Helpline – not a hotline
- Meet people where they are
- Prevent perpetration
- Reduce isolation and shame
- Address myths and barriers
- Everyone is welcome


The Helpline is a window offering a unique view into real-life stories and experiences.

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Who



- 1. BYSTANDER**
A parent, family member, teacher, professional or community member who has questions about preventing abuse, is aware of a situation that requires safety prevention steps to protect a child from sexual abuse or knows an adult or child who was sexually abused.
- 2. PEOPLE AT RISK TO ABUSE OR WHO HAVE ABUSED**
A person who discloses their own behaviors or thoughts that put children at risk for sexual abuse. While adults are the target audience, we hear from youth who seek help with their own thoughts and behaviors involving younger children.
- 3. SURVIVOR**
An adult who was sexually abused as a child, or a youth who is or has been sexually abused.
- 4. OTHER**
A subset of contacts with inquiries about children's sexual safety who either do not identify their relationship to a concerning situation or are seeking general information and resources.



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What's Happening?


- Decrease in hotline calls – Leading to bystander/professional worry
- Increase in Online Sexual Exploitation risks for children
- Spikes in reports of child sexual exploitation material on the internet
 - > Availability
 - > Viewing
- Reduction in efforts to removal of child sexual abuse material online
- "Zoom bombing"

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What We're Up Against

- Less professionals with eyes on children
- Less opportunities for parents and caregivers – and others to reach out for help
- Home risks increase:
 - Increased web access
 - Decreased supervision
 - Youth put in at-risk situations
 - Economic insecurities
 - Parental fears and coping
 - Lack of support – personal and professional



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Our 1st Concerns

Where Sexual Abuse is a Concern for Bystanders

Setting	Percentage
In-person setting	75%
Youth-serving	7%
Cyber-related settings	4%
Other/unknown	14%

December 2012 to March 2018, n=4,911.

- Offers to watch children
- Online risks
- Safety for adults-at-risk
- Prevention “gets lost” in crisis situations

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BYSTANDERS Relationships

85% of bystanders know the person abusing or showing warning signs of being at-risk to abuse.

Who Bystanders Know

Relationship	Percentage
Both the person (at-risk of) harming and the person (at-risk of) being harmed	70%
Person (at-risk of) harming	15%
Other/unknown	12%
Person (at-risk of) being harmed	2%

December 2012 to March 2018, n=4,911.

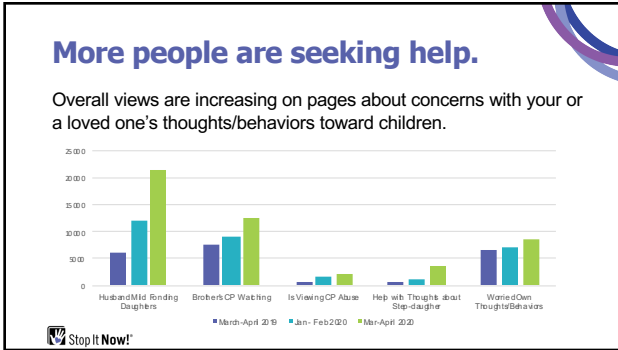
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Safety Planning

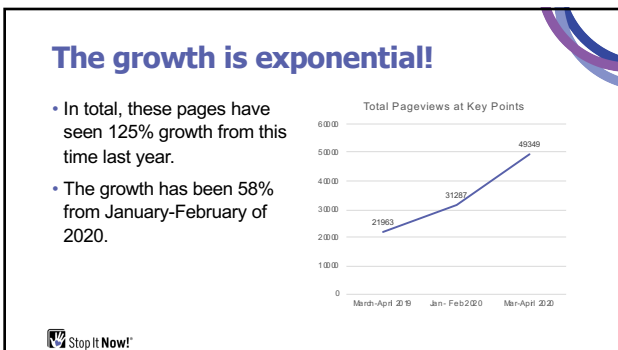
- Bring up PREVENTION
- Reinforce existing safety plans – Revise as necessary (temporary)
- Provide education, tools and resources
 - [Online Safety Planning During COVID-19](#)
 - [Navigating Emergency Childcare Concerns](#)
- Video Series: Safety in COVID-1
 - [Video One: "Should my daughter be alone with her brother?"](#)
 - [Video Two: "I'm worried about my boyfriend's behavior with my daughter."](#)
 - [Video Four: "How can I stay safe with my own behaviors during quarantine?"](#)

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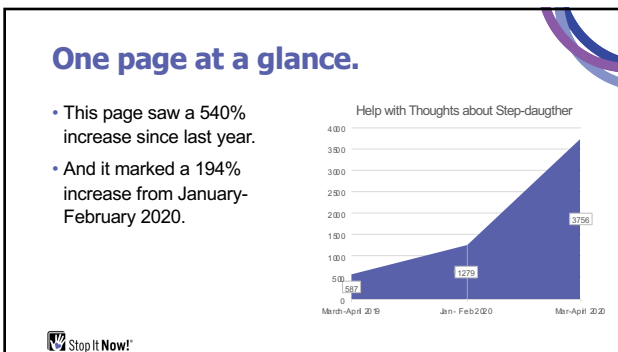
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Reaching out to those at risk

What we've observed

- Lack of structure and routine
- More time to reflect
- Lack of support
- Increased isolation
- Heightened anxiety


Hello, I am concerned about an increased risk to offend during quarantine/isolation. Do you have any suggestions to manage and prevent this?



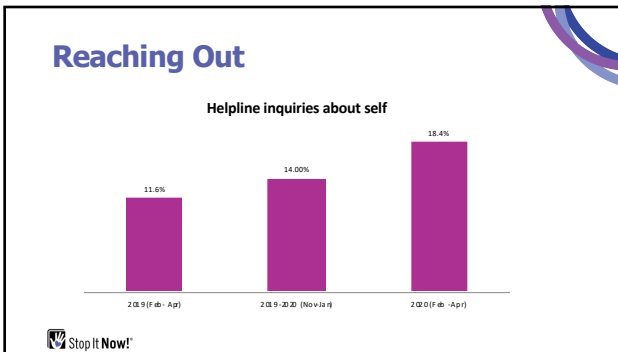
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Awareness and Inviting

"For people who themselves may be struggling with safe boundaries and behaviors, and whose own disrupted schedules and structures contribute to their sense of control and regulation, we are available to help you. Our free, confidential Helpline was created to help you plan for safety and find resources that support you in your commitment to safety. We've talked, chatted and emailed with thousands of people in your shoes, and we're here for you, too."



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Next Steps

- ✓Address bare essentials
- ✓Short term safety plans
- ✓Reduce isolation
- ✓Build awareness of resources
- ✓Build Hope



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"Thank you very much for being a part of the start (my initial roadmap) of this journey. It was daunting to know where to start when I finally accepted that I had/have a problem, and this was really the only thing that I found... I'm glad that I reached out."

chat from a person who has engaged in abusive behavior



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