
For Immediate Release

Friday, October 19, 2012

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Kansas Advocacy Coalition Responds to Release of Boy Scout Files

Topeka, KS, 10/19/2012 – The recently released files from the Boy Scouts of America remind us that child sexual abuse is a widespread issue that impacts thousands of men, women, and children every day. Oftentimes, abuse occurs at an early age.

In 2011, The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found that 79.6% of female victims are raped by age 25, and 27.8% of male victims are raped by age 10 (<http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs>). These crimes impact communities, workplaces and schools across the country.

These files illustrate how important it is to take victims seriously and to recognize how difficult it can be to come forward. Many times, perpetrators will groom their victims, making victims feel responsible for the situation and afraid to tell. It is critical to believe and support victims that disclose, and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.

We must send a strong message to communities and survivors of sexual abuse everywhere: You are not alone. You will be believed and supported. And everyone's voice matters.

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Founded in 1982, the purpose of KCSDV is the prevention and elimination of sexual and domestic violence through a statewide network of programs providing support and safety for all victims of sexual and domestic violence and stalking, with primary focus on women and their children; direct services; public awareness and education; advocacy for victims; comprehensive prevention; and, social change efforts. Learn more at www.kcsdv.org.