



OUR MISSION: We work to eradicate the sexual abuse of youth ages 12 to 17 by identifying, evaluating, conducting and disseminating the latest research, information and proven prevention practices.

Joshua Center on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

The past decade has seen an increase in programs focused on preventing the sexual abuse of young children. The Joshua Center on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention focuses primarily on youth ages 12 to 17, for whom the risk is starkly different than for younger children. Across the life span, the peak age for victims of sexual assault is 14. In 2000, the rate of sexual assault victimization among youth ages 12 to 17 was 2.3 times higher than for adults. Of all reported rapes, 29% were perpetrated against youths 12 to 17 years of age.

We take a multi-faceted approach by conducting and synthesizing research on the sexual abuse of youth ages 12 to 17 and its prevention and translating this critical information into tangible interventions for three key audiences: parents and caregivers, youth, and professionals. By increasing awareness and skills in these populations and contributing to the national conversation on abuse and prevention, we aim to eradicate abuse of youth in this age group and the conditions that perpetuate it by shifting the social landscape in which abuse occurs.



UNIVERSITY *of* WASHINGTON

JOSHUA CENTER ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION

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WHAT WE VALUE

Diversity. We maintain a special commitment to diverse youth, including youth of color, LGBTQ+ youth and youth with disabilities.

Scientific inquiry. We identify, advocate for and disseminate evidence-based information, research and interventions.

Collaboration. We engage with youth, parents and caregivers, scholars, prevention professionals and organizations with whom we share the goal of eradicating sexual abuse.

Youth leadership. Our youth consultants and youth advisory board help create and deliver youth-developed prevention messages and interventions.

Did you know?

UP TO

30% AND **20%**
of girls AND of boys
are sexually abused as children

1/3 of all sexual assaults
happen to youth
ages 12 to 17

23% TO **35%**
of reported sexual
abusers of children
are themselves children
or adolescents

14% AND **8%**
of girls AND of boys
ages 13 to 18 experience
sexual violence in a dating context

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CENTER

Join us in this important work to eradicate child sexual abuse and help the Joshua Center grow.

Become a partner. We welcome inquiries from organizations and individuals in the field of child sexual abuse prevention who are interested in collaborating with us or contributing to our work. Contact us at joshuacenter@uw.edu.

Make a gift. To support the Center's work with a financial gift, please contact Katie Lamar, Assistant Director of Advancement, UW Social Work, at lamar@uw.edu or 206-543-5052.

OVERVIEW

The Joshua Center, a research and innovation center at the University of Washington School of Social Work, was founded in 2013 with support from an anonymous donor who used funds from a legal judgment against her sexually abusive father to establish the Joshua Children's Foundation. Her estate established a small endowment to support the Center.

The Center seeks the eradication of the sexual abuse of youth ages 12 to 17 and the conditions that create and encourage obstacles to the prevention of abuse. We do this by identifying, evaluating, conducting and disseminating research and developing and implementing prevention interventions for youth, caregivers and professionals.

OUR AREAS OF FOCUS

Youth-created programs

We engage youth as active collaborators in creating and delivering prevention messages for other youth. These include videos and youth-facilitated discussions delivered via the Center's Instagram account ([@uwjoshuacenter](https://www.instagram.com/uwjoshuacenter)). Current topics include consent, bystander interventions and pornography.

Prevention hub

Our website at uwjoshuacenter.org includes:

- **Resources for parents and caregivers**, including articles on topics such as talking to youth about personal safety, youth sexual behavior, recognizing risks and protecting youth from sexual abuse
- **Resources for professionals** that showcase innovative ideas in sexual abuse prevention
- **Research briefs** on topics related to the prevention of sexual abuse
- **Videos** that feature experts on topics such as the history of child sexual abuse prevention and the impact of pornography on violence against women

Fight Child Abuse videos

We collaborated with the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center Foundation and Wonder Media to produce a series of animated prevention videos that are available at fightchildabuse.org and on YouTube. The first in the series, **Protect Yourself Rules**, with versions for grades K-3 and 4-6, has reached 14 million combined views on YouTube. The Boy Scouts of America created a merit badge for viewing the series. A second series, **Stop the Secrets That Hurt**, which helps children disclose sexual abuse to adults, has been viewed more than 3 million times; the **Teen Prevention Series** has 6 million views.

