

CHILD SAFETY IN AVANT

Avant is committed to caring for children so they might experience tangible expressions of God's love.

Purposes:

To Sober

To Invite

At Avant, we want to be
a place that
"Considers the Children
Well"

How do we “Consider the Children Well”?

- Guarding the gates
- Abiding by our Code of Conduct
- Being observant
- Reporting anything we see

*Avant is to be a place that is **safe** for **children**...
...but completely **unsafe** for **predators***

Child Abuse

Child abuse is the treatment of a child under the age of 18, often in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power that endangers or impairs the health or welfare of a child.

Types of Abuse?

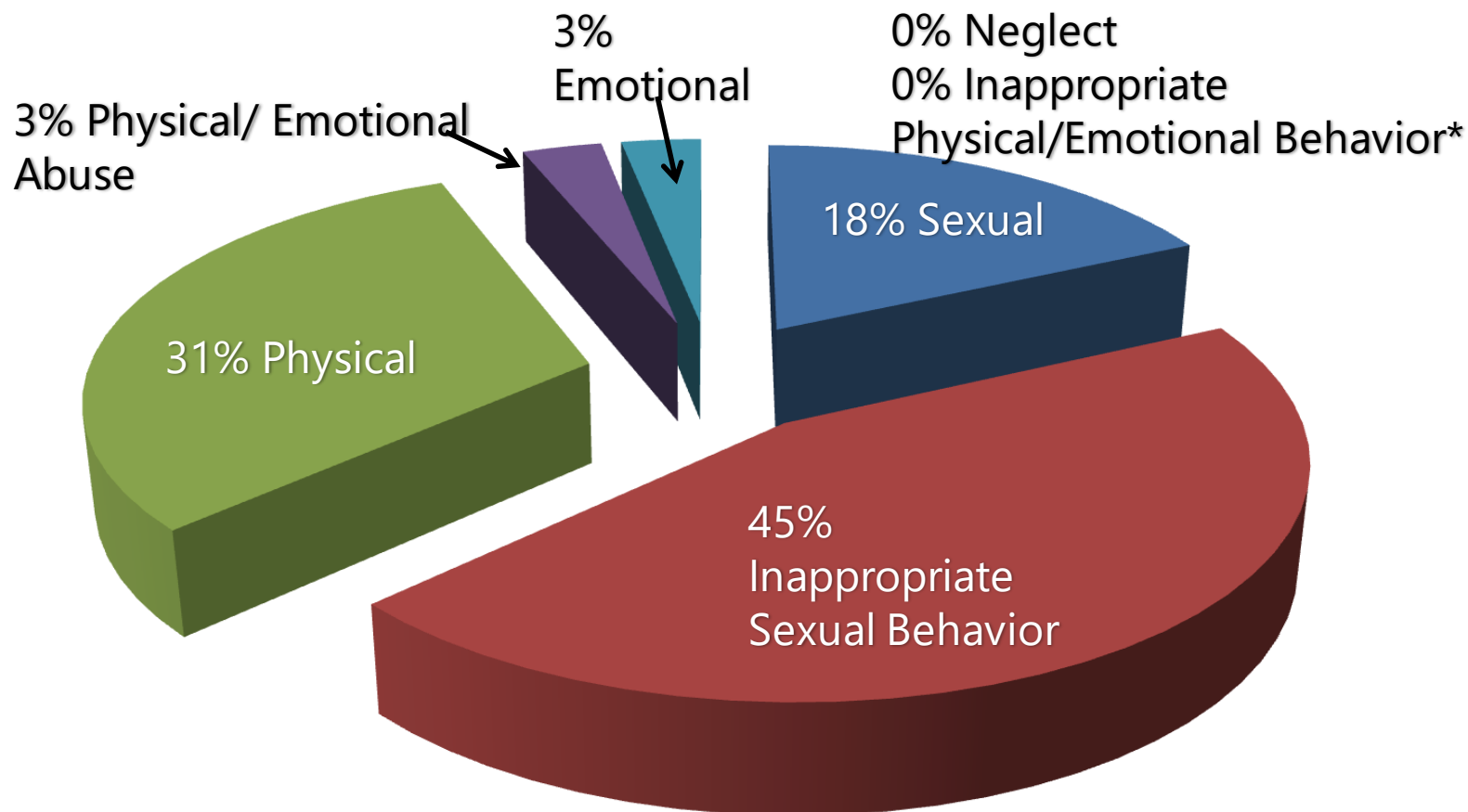
- Physical – non-accidental injury
- Emotional – commission and omission
- Sexual – verbal, visual, physical
- Neglect – failure to provide for basic needs

Prevalence Probabilities

- 1 in 6 boys and 1 in 4 girls are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- 300,000 children are abused every year.
- Those with a prior history of victimization have an increased risk of re-victimization by over 1000%.
- 60% of offenders are known to the child (family friends, babysitters, childcare providers).
- 30% of offenders are family members (parents, brothers, uncles, cousins).

Types of Abuse in 2013

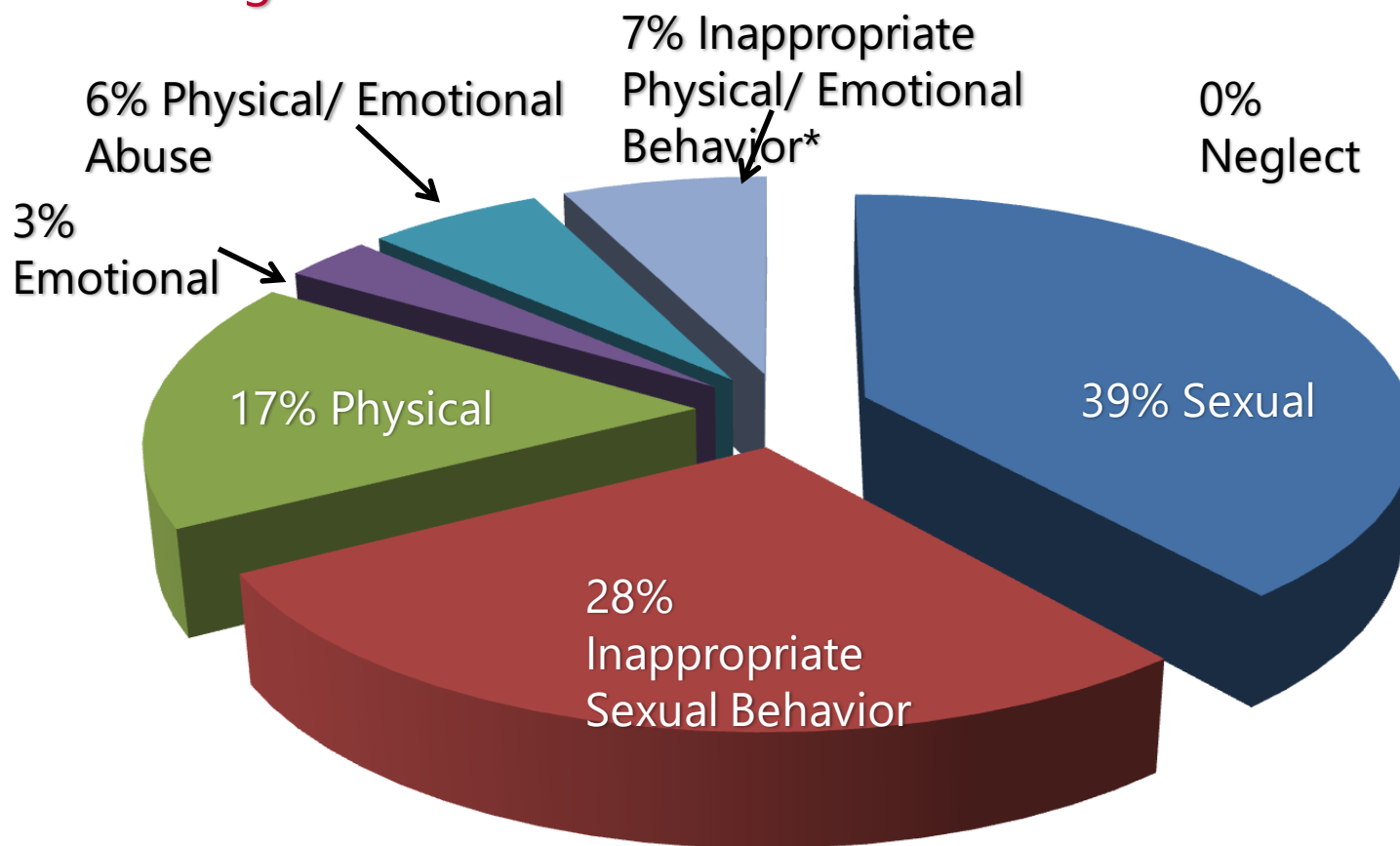
International Schools



*behavior between children often less than 3 years apart in age.

Types of Abuse in 2013

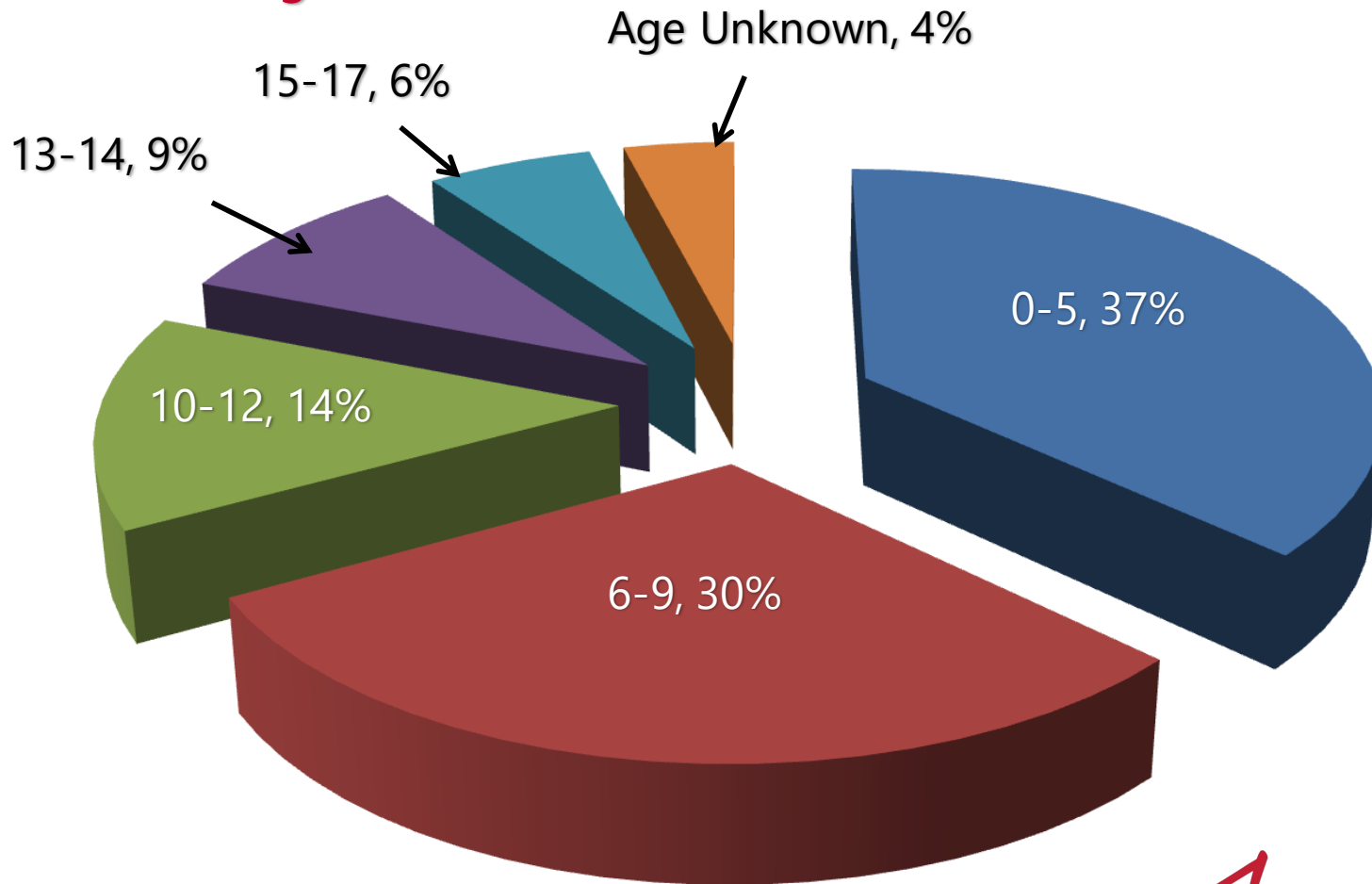
Mission Organizations



*behavior between children often less than 3 years apart in age.

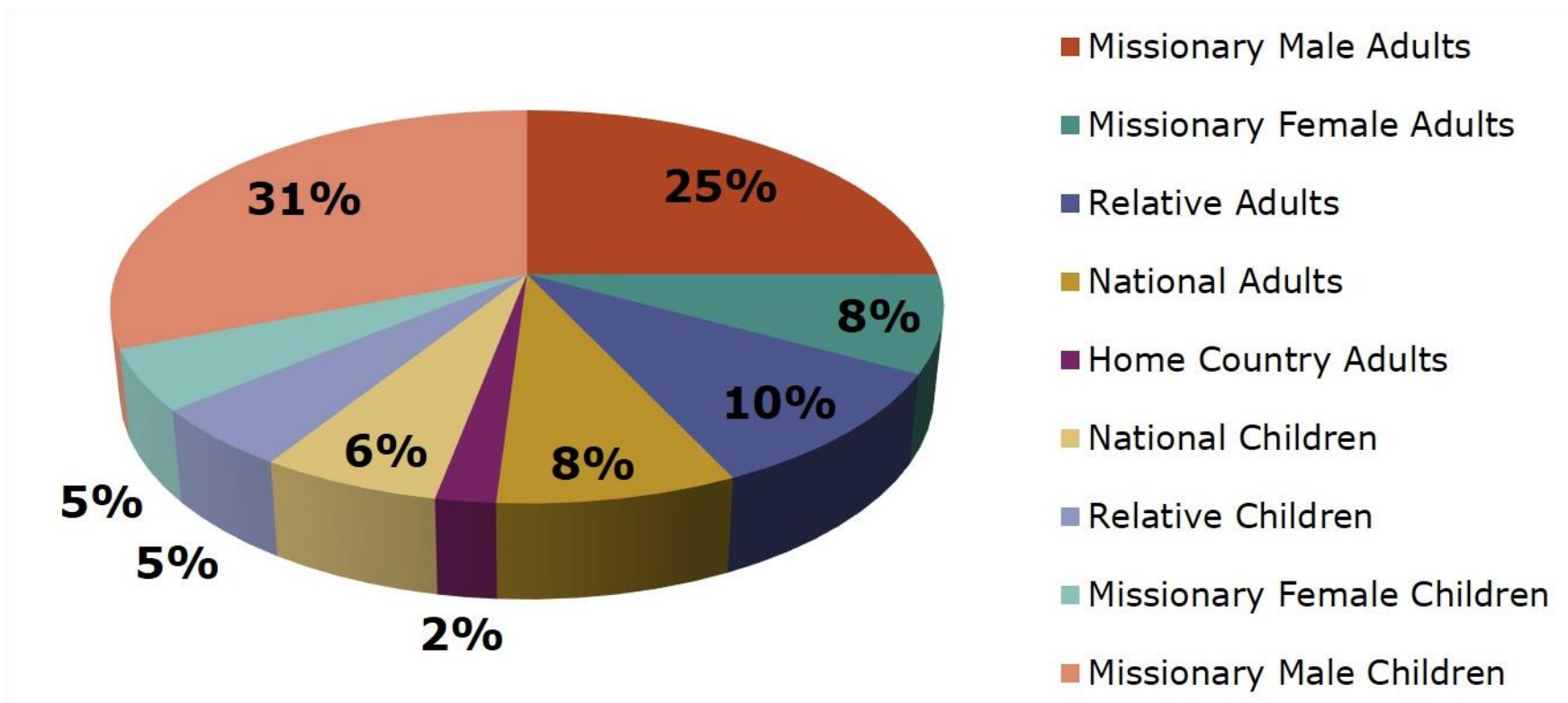
Ages of Abused Children in 2013

Mission Organizations



Offender Statistics

Child Safety & Protection Network (CSPN), 2013



Avant[®]

5 Things

You should know about
Child Sexual Offenders

5 Things...

1. Offenders have **many victims.**

5 Things...

2. Offenders can be the **most unsuspecting** people.

5 Things...

3. Offenders are **not**
strangers.

5 Things...

4. Offenders often **prey upon trusting and vulnerable** young people.

5 Things...

5. Offenders are often **attracted to the Christian community.**

Signs of Possible Offenders

- Do verbal or nonverbal cues cause you concern about the child's well being when with a particular adult or minor?
- Does the minor have contact with someone you know but whose behavior you don't trust?
- Does the minor repeatedly spend unaccounted-for and alone time with someone?

Signs of Possible Offenders

- Does the person consistently get involved in activities where there are children?
- Again, does the person seem to focus on children who are vulnerable, i.e. come from broken homes, parents are absent from their lives, don't relate well to other children, etc.?

Indicators of Abuse

- Changes in the child's mood, behavior or performance.
- Inexplicable fears or worries, nightmares or other sleep disturbance.
- Unaccountable changes in the child's appetite.
- Increase in physical complaints with no apparent basis, particularly headaches and stomachaches.

The logo for Avant, featuring the word "Avant" in a red, cursive script font with a registered trademark symbol (®) at the end.

Indicators of Abuse

- Unexplained fear or aversion to a specific person, place or activity.
- Changes in the child's relations.
- Lost interest in activities that previously brought pleasure.
- Sudden need to keep secrets or have a "secret" friend.
- Unnatural increase in sexual interest, knowledge or behavior including sexualized play.

Effects of Abuse

- Emotional
 - Guilt, self-condemnation, hopelessness
 - Doesn't express emotions
 - Intense emotions

Effects of Abuse

- Relational
 - Patterns that hide inward guilt, self-disdain, or anger
 - Disconnected from giving or receiving emotions

Effects of Abuse

- Spiritual
 - Learn unseen through seen
 - Misunderstands good and evil
 - Skewed view of God
 - Lack of connection with God

Avant[®]

“The evil act of CSA disturbs a victim’s perception of love, intimacy, sexuality, safety, proper boundaries, identity, and sense of self in relationship to others.”

P. Monroe

Scenario #1

You've noticed that your preschool son seems to idolize a neighbor friend. She is ten. He doesn't just play with her. He follows her everywhere and does whatever she tells him to do. She seems to relish it.

- *Is this relationship okay?*
- *What do you need to do to make it okay?*

Scenario #2

It is 7:30 pm Friday night and your 13 year old son receives a phone call asking if he can play Capture the Flag on the school field. While on the phone he turns to you and asks, "Can I go and play?"

- *How do you respond?*
- *What do you need to know?*

What to do if you suspect something

- It is your responsibility, not an option.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and kept confidential.
- There is a process in place to protect both the survivor and the alleged offender until due process has been done.
- Carolyn Eumurian is the Child Safety Officer for Avant

Isaiah 45:3

"I will give you hidden treasures*,
riches stored in secret places,
so that you may know that I am the
LORD,
the God of Israel, who summons
you by name." (NIV)

**treasures of darkness (ESV)*