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Summary of the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade Statistical Data
on reported cases of sexual abuse experienced in childhood
in the territory of Serbia in the period May 2022 - December 2023

* The sample is representative and based on a mean figure of 7 reported cases of sexual abuse per week. The age of child sexual assault survivors ranges between 2 years and 10 months up to 58 years. The data refer to the average values in the given period for regularly monitored parameters.

**The specifics of the period 2020-2021 lies in the fact that COVID-19 pandemic was in place worldwide and, due to numerous, almost overwhelming specifics in our country, this period we do not consider representative in respect of all parameters which we regularly monitor since our founding in 1994 and therefore we decided not to publish the statistical data in this usual form that we used from ever. An exceptional importance in evaluation of our direct service provision has the qualitative analysis that we carried out within our regular supervision based on feedback collected by survivors who received our assistance.

Reminder: The Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade, according to its Strategic Plan, by the end of 2019 finalized 26 years of direct service provision in the form of psychological counseling for child and adult survivors of sexual abuse through intervention provided in person over a short or long period of time. With timely announcing it, we completed in-takes considering new clients by the end of 2018 and worked gradually on closing processes with all survivors who were by then receiving services. Starting with 2020, we have continued providing counseling services online for old and new clients and in 2024 we enter in 5th year of keeping focus on this form of work.

The Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade database shows that out of four child sexual assault survivors, three are female and one male. The most frequent targets, in 78.12% of the cases, were girls. Boys are sexual assault survivors in 21.88% cases.

Looking at the gender structure of child sexual abuse offenders: 91.63% are males and 8.37% are females. In 84.16% of the cases, the offender was a family member. In 40.25% of the cases, the child sexual abuse offender is the biological father (the most frequent form of incest being father-daughter), whereas in 54.4% of the cases the offender is a father figure (cumulatively, in the order of frequency: father, foster parent, stepfather, adoptive parent).

In 15.84% of the cases, the offender is a person outside the family known to the child (a family friend, coach, a "private" teacher), while 11.23% were underage sexual assault offenders (mainly committing abuse within their peer group and date rape, then gang rape, then within their family and in the social protection institutions where children reside permanently;). In the period 2022-2023, 97% of perpetrators were persons familiar to the child.

The following violent sexual acts were: obscene telephone calls, exposing otherwise covered parts body parts, voyeurism, fondling, taking pornographic pictures, attempting sexual intercourse, rape, incest and child prostitution. In particular, cyber sexual violence calls for special attention.

Although in most cases sexual abuse was committed over one child by a single offender and one offender most frequently abused one child, it is important to bear in mind the fact that one child was sexually abused by 2 or more offenders in 12.09% of the cases and that one offender abused two children in 7.27% and three or more children (series) in 8.71% of the cases.

The average age when the first abusive incident took place is 6 years and 1 month. The duration of abuse was recorded as several months long in 29.44% of the cases and years-long in 70.56% of the cases. The years-long abuse lasted for more than 7 years and 4 months on the average.

Physical coercion was applied in 18.06%, notably on adolescents or in families where the father figure is emotionally or physically violent against the mother. In 44.28% of the cases, reporting took place during an acute situation (ongoing sexual abuse). The period between the first incident of sexual abuse and reporting is 6 years and 7 months.

Child sexual abuse was most frequently reported by: the sexual assault survivors themselves in 49.46% of the cases and the child's mother in 41.22% of the cases. The mothers usually report the sexual abuse of children below 12 years of age, they do so out of an acute situation, and that results in the stopping of abuse. Persons outside the family reported child sexual abuse in 3.85% of the cases.

Over this 20-months long period, 47.12% of the total number of persons who addressed our service in order to report sexual abuse were persons of legal age who had survived sexual assault in their childhood. For 34.06% of the persons of legal age who reported to us, the period between the first incident of sexual abuse and reporting was 9 years and 5 months.

Out of the total number of cases, 51.6% were from the area of Belgrade. No other specificity or significant prevalence of child sexual abuse concerning the geographical area, level of

education, race or any other indicator can be singled out. Equally, as of 1994, we have insistently pointed out that the secret is kept longer in urban environments, and, conditionally speaking, in highly intellectual circles - sexual abuse is silenced for a longer period of time before it is disclosed, which does not mean that it is more widespread there or more frequent.

In the period May 2022 - December 2023, 36.11% of the cases involved sexual abuse of children below 10 years of age. On average, sexual abuse of children of the youngest age lasted for 2 years and 10 months (for nearly one third of their lives, and the criminal procedures concerning those cases were later extremely lengthy, which directly impeded the children going on with their lives). In the view of previous 20-months long period (2009-2014), a typical repetitive feature in these cases again is a history of violence in partner relationships, where the mother had been exposed to violence in partner relationship and had at some point decided to break out of the partner relationship and protect herself and the child. Unfortunately, in practice, the mother having survived violence is seen as an aggravating circumstance for the child in court, for example, because her testimony in court will be considered as less credible.

In 88.56% of the cases, criminal procedures were not launched. *As for the adjudicated cases involving children below 12 years of age, the average duration of criminal procedures was 3 years and 5 months. The average prison term amounted to one year and seven months.*

In 38.71% of the cases, our service was the first place where the cases were reported. Addressing state institutions before reporting to the Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade was recorded in 43.16% of the cases, those being, in order of frequency, the following: health institutions, social welfare centers, the police, etc.

The Incest Trauma Center - Belgrade provided services of psychological assistance in 61.2% through personal online contact over a short or long period of time, in 20.17% of cases by telephone and in 18.63% of cases via email. The services were provided to child / adult sexual assault survivors, as well as to their supportive persons (non-offending).

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