



*A Child Abuse Intervention
Center*

Why Kids Don't Tell

There is a prevalence of both non-disclosure and delayed disclosures – typical/common

Belief in importance of obeying adults

Mistrust of people

Fear of social rejection

Fear of criminal justice system

Afraid or ashamed of parental response

Severity and frequency of abuse

AP's identity

Strategies used by perpetrators to foster secrecy:

Threats of harm

No one will believe the child

Blame child

Need to maintain control over disclosure process

Responses of adults in informal and formal networks

Opportunities to tell

Age of child

Gender of child

Type of abuse experienced (intra-familial or extra-familial)

Fear of negative consequences of disclosure

Child's belief of other's tolerance of disclosure

Level of trauma

Protecting perpetrator

Social stigma

*Adults tend to look at disclosing/reporting abuse through adult eyes, with adult experiences.

*If you suspect abuse or neglect, please call Childline at #1-800-932-0313

*You can find more information about how to get involved in protecting children at www.cacnepa.org