

Stop it Before it Happens



Strengthening The Family

A Cultural Based Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Purpose Statement:

Word & Action has developed a cultural based approach program, "Strengthening the Family" in order to prevent and/or decrease occurrence of Child Sexual Abuse within the Haitian community.

Word and Action, Inc.

P.O. BOX 310744

Miami, FL 33231-0744

(305) 647-8973

www.wordandaction.org

WORD & ACTION, INC.
"Hear The Silent Cries"



You Don't Have to
go Through it Alone

There is
HELP



STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY

A Cultural Based Approach to Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Vision:

Culture plays a very important role in the recovery of sexually abused victims. For instance, a person's ability to cope with sexual abuse may differ depending on his/her culture and environment. Further, parents' behaviors and attitudes toward sexual abuse incidents may have significant impacts on the children's recovery process.



Child Sexual Abuse Is very real

Based on our observations and reports from numerous clinicians and health care professionals, in general, Haitian parents seem to have more difficulties dealing with sexual abuse. Sexual education seems to be less prominent within the Haitian culture. Like in many cultures, sex is taboo and almost unspoken within the typical Haitian family. Because of the aforementioned, sexual incidents seem to be unreported, ignored, and totally repressed. The complexity of the Haitian culture may prevent, both children and their parents to openly deal with sexual abuse, which sometimes may lead to revictimization.

It Hurts Badly



Furthermore, the Haitian community is underserved when it comes to social services. Many reasons may explain this lack of service delivery. One of them may be the fact that numbers of clinicians and professionals may not be culturally competent when it comes to the Haitians.

It is generally expected for clinicians and health care professionals to be culturally competent in order to accurately diagnose and effectively treat clients of different ethnic background and culture. Thus, knowledge of the Haitian culture, mentality, and perception may help clinicians to accurately diagnose and effectively serve this particular demographic.

Because of the aforementioned, we have found it important and useful to develop a curriculum/program that is culturally sensitive in terms of strategies and approach to sexual abuse prevention, education, and treatment. It is worth noting that our curriculum includes "Cultural Competence Training" for clinicians and professionals who are providing services to Haitian clients.

NO MORE SILENCE



Prevention:

- How to talk to your child about sexual abuse
- What are some of the best ways your child can protect himself/herself against sexual predators/ abusers
- What parents should know about Child Sexual Abuse and sexual predators
- How to protect your child from sexual abuse

Education:

- What is child sexual abuse
- Sexual behavior in children (red flags)
- Symptoms related to Child Sexual Abuse
- Impacts or consequences of sexual abuse on children and their families
- The legal system and Child Sexual Abuse
- Cultural competent training for clinicians and other professionals

Treatment:

- What are some of the steps to take upon suspicion and/or discovery of Child Sexual Abuse
- Why treatment for sexually abused children is important
- The treatment process
- Seek for resources and look for help
- Providing continuous support for the child victim and his/her family

STATISTICS & FACTS

- ❖ 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually abused before the age of 18.
- ❖ 1 in 5 children are sexually solicited on the internet.
- ❖ Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults, including those on adults occur to ages 17 and under.
- ❖ The median age for reported sexual abuse is 9 years old.
- ❖ As many as 60% are abused by people the family trusts. Abusers often try to form a trusting relationship with parents.
- ❖ More than 90% of children who are sexually abused know their abusers. This means fewer than 10% of abusers are strangers.
- ❖ Nearly 40% are abused by older or larger children.
- ❖ Approximately 20% of the victims of sexual abuse are under age 8.
- ❖ 50% of all victims of forcible sodomy, sexual assault with an object, and forcible fondling are under age 12.
- ❖ An estimate 39 million survivors of sexual abuse exist in America.
- ❖ Most child victims never report the abuse.
- ❖ Sexually abused children who keep it a secret or who "tell" and are not believed may be at greater risk than the general population for psychological, emotional, social, and physical problems often lasting into adulthood.
- ❖ 30-40% of children who are sexually abused are abused by family members.
- ❖ More than 50% of the victims of older or larger children are under 12 years of age.
- ❖ People who abuse children look and act just like everyone else. In fact, they often go out of their way to appear trustworthy to gain access to children.
- ❖ 70-80% of sexual abuse survivors report excessive drug and alcohol use.
- ❖ One study showed that among male survivors, more than 80% had a history of substance abuse, 50% had suicidal thoughts, more than 20% had attempted suicide, and almost 70% had received psychological treatment. Approximately 30% violently victimized others.
- ❖ Young girls who are sexually abused are more likely to develop eating disorders during adolescence.

—National Based Statistics Research