

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910416130603321
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Titolo	Child sexual abuse : current evidence, clinical practice, and policy directions // Tanya S. Hinds, Angelo P. Giardino
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , [2020] ©2020
ISBN	3-030-52549-X
Edizione	[1st edition.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (xvii, 122 pages) : illustrations
Collana	SpringerBriefs in Child Health, , 2625-2872
Disciplina	362.76
Soggetti	Pediatrics Child psychiatry Social policy Clinical psychology Psychology Public health Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Social Policy Clinical Psychology Psychology, general Public Health Abús sexual envers els infants Psiquiatria infantil Psicologia clínica Salut pública Política sanitària Serveis socials per als infants Llibres electrònics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Chapter 1. Incidence and Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse -- Chapter 2. Clinical Perspective -- Chapter 3. Related Issues -- Chapter 4.

Sommario/riassunto

This brief approaches the challenging topic of child sexual abuse from an objective, evidence-based perspective. It offers an overview of child sexual abuse, including definitions and a clear explanation of the epidemiology. The text also explores the conceptual frameworks that seek to explain how a child comes to be sexually abused by an adult or older adolescent. In the chapters, the authors present credible prevalence and incidence studies that are used to provide a scientific response to how common this problem is. In addition, they address the policy implications for a myriad of prevention and treatment initiatives as well as related issues such as delayed reporting and the risk for sexual abuse within child serving organizations. Finally, the brief concludes with the authors' recommendations for the future on how best to prevent child sexual abuse in the first place. Prevention of child sexual abuse is very different than prevention of child physical abuse and neglect and requires a different framework and set of initiatives. Child Sexual Abuse: Current Evidence, Clinical Practice, and Policy Directions is a must-have resource for a range of professionals including healthcare providers, child advocates, clinical social workers, public health officials, mental health providers, and legislative staff professionals. It also is written in a readable manner for members of the lay public.

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