

2020 August Educational Issues in Korea

Child abuse statistics



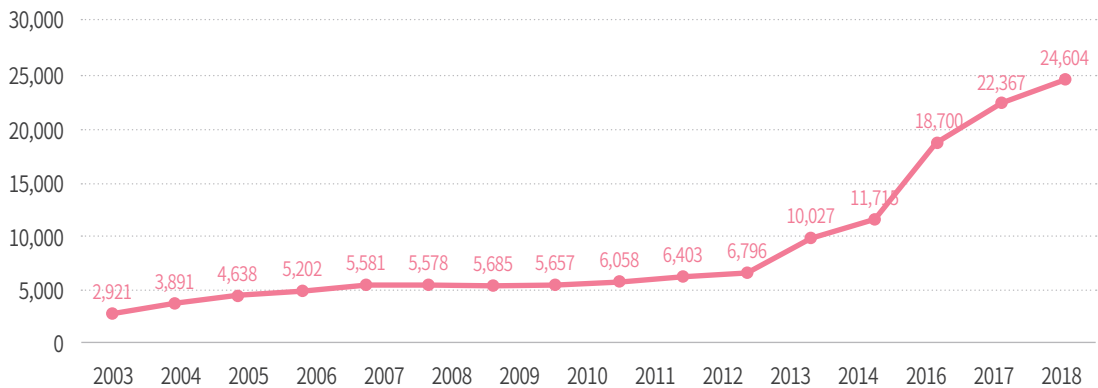
Child abuse statistics

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The United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989 in order to clarify the fundamental rights of survival, development, protection and participation of children²⁾. The Republic of Korea, as a country that has ratified the convention, is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the progress of children's rights.

Despite the government's various efforts to prevent child abuse and support the victims, a series of child abuse cases are still occurring and causing public outrage. According to the "Child Abuse and Protection Report" of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, a total of 24,604 reports were made to local child protection agencies in 2018. The number of cases has been going up steadily since 2001. (Ministry of Health and Welfare, Dec. 2019)

[Figure 1] Number of reported child abuse, by year



Source : Ministry of Health and Welfare(Dec.2019). 「Child Abuse and Protection Report」, Statistical report, p. 19

According to the latest statistics for 2018, multi-type maltreatment is the most common type of child abuse(11,792 cases, 47.9%)and 38.1% of them were the combined type of physical and emotional abuse(9,376 cases). Emotional abuse was the second largest with 23.8%(5,862 cases), followed by physical abuse(3,436 cases,4.0%), neglect(2,604 cases, 10.6%), and sexual abuse(910 cases, 3.7%).

2) Source : <https://www.unicef.or.kr/child-rights/outline.asp>

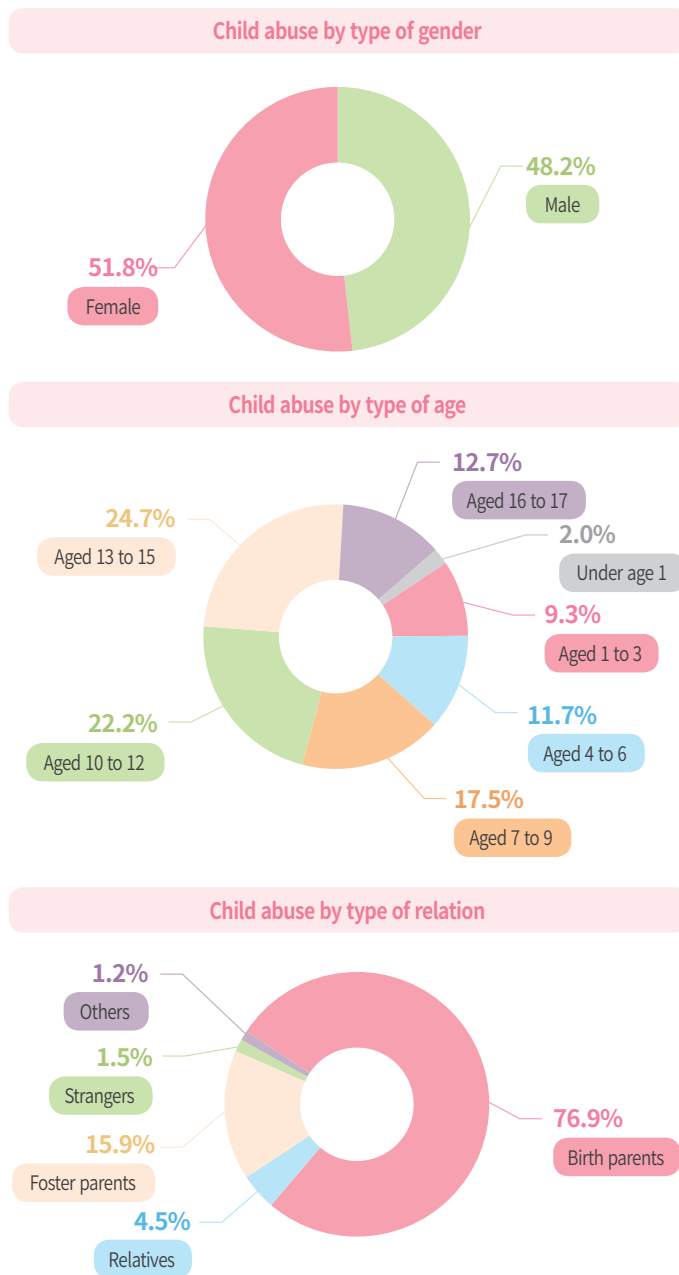
[Table 1] Types of Child Abuse

Type		Number of reports(%)
	Physical Abuse	3,436(14.0)
	Emotional Abuse	5,862(23.8)
	Sexual Abuse	910(3.7)
	Neglect	2,604(10.6)
Multitype	Physical · Emotional	9,376(38.1)
	Physical · Sexual	63(0.3)
	Physical · Neglect	254(1.0)
	Physical · Emotional · Sexual	199(0.8)
	Physical · Emotional · Neglect	683(2.8)
	Physical · Sexual · Neglect	1(0.0)
	Physical · Emotional · Sexual · Neglect	11(0.0)
	Emotional · Sexual	422(1.7)
	Emotional · Neglect	779(3.2)
	Emotional · Sexual · Neglect	3(0.0)
	Sexual · Neglect	1(0.0)
	Total	11,792(47.9)
Total		24,604

Source : Ministry of Health and Welfare·National Center for the Rights of the Child(2019). Child abuse Statistic 2018, p. 26.

By gender, about 48.2% of victims were boys(11,867 cases) and 51.8% were girls(12,737 cases). It means girls experience a 3.6% higher rate of child abuse. By age, about 24.7% of victims were children aged between 13 and 15, followed by 22.1% aged 10 to 12 years old and 17.3% aged 7 to 9 years old. Most of the reported child abuse was by birth parents(76.9%), followed by the foster parent(15.9%) and relatives(4.5%).

[Figure 2] Child Abuse by gender, age, relation between abusers



Source : Ministry of Health and Welfare-National Center for the Rights of the Child(2019). Child abuse Statistic 2018. p. 19-20, 24.

As seen above, the number of child abuse reports is increasing every year, with multi-types of abuse accounting for nearly half of the total cases. In addition, rates of child abuse among girls are slightly higher than among boys, and the lower secondary school students aged 13 to 15 years old were the most common victims of child abuse, although children under 6 were also at risk of violence (23%). In

particular, we should pay attention to the fact that the rate of infants under the age of 1 also accounts for 2.0% of child abuse. Finally, more than 97% of abusers have close relationship with children such as birth parents, foster parent or relatives who live with, but 82.0% of the victims still in the home.

Child abuse is an act that violates a child's basic right to enjoy a human life and further threatens the survival of a child. To prevent child abuse, public perceptions of the seriousness of child abuse, as well as policy efforts to protect and support the victims would be necessary.

References

- Ministry of Health and Welfare. 2019. "Child Abuse and Protection Report". Statistical Report. Dec.2019.
 - Ministry of Health and Welfare·National Center for the Rights of the Child. 2019. Child abuse Statistic 2018.
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