STATISTICAL REPORT ON SEXUAL ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

PRELIMINARY

For the Nine-Month Period
May 18th 2015 to February 17th 2016

April 2016
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OVERVIEW OF CASES

During the Authority’s first nine months of operations, the period May 18\textsuperscript{th} 2016 to February 17\textsuperscript{th} 2016, 4,158 children in need of care, protection and rehabilitation were brought to the attention of the Authority. Of this, approximately 915 cases or one in five reports was categorised as sexual abuse. This statistical report provides an analysis of the cases of sexual abuse brought to the attention of the Authority during its first nine months of operations, the period May 18\textsuperscript{th} 2015 to February 17\textsuperscript{th} 2016.
DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

The gender and age distribution of the children involved in sexual abuse cases varied during this period as highlighted in Figures 1 and 2 following.

![Gender Distribution Chart]

*Figure 1: Gender of Children Involved in Sexual Abuse Cases*

During the period May 18th 2015 to February 17th 2016, the majority of sexual abuse cases brought to the attention of the Authority involved female children (86.8%), while 13.2% of sexual abuse cases involved male children.
While children of all age groups were victims of sexual abuse, the majority of children involved in sexual abuse cases reported to the Authority were between the ages of 10 and 15 years old, with 23.9% of these children belonging to the 10-13 age group and 28.9% to the 14-15 age group. 18% of all children involved in sexual abuse cases were between the ages of 16 to 17 years old.
GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

Figure 3 following highlights the geographic locations of reports of sexual abuse against children brought to the attention of the Authority during the period May 18th 2015 to February 17th 2016.

Figure 3: Geographical Location of Cases
Whilst reports of sexual abuse against children were received from all administrative districts in Trinidad and Tobago, the districts of San Juan/Laventille, Tunapuna/Piarco and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo recorded the most number of reports of sexual abuse against children than any other administrative district in the country. 17.4% of all cases of sexual abuse against children occurred in San Juan/Laventille, 13.3% in Tunapuna/Piarco and 9.6% in Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo.

Conversely, the administrative districts of Point Fortin, Rio Claro/Mayaro and all collective districts in Tobago recorded the least number of reports of sexual abuse against children during this period.
SEXUAL ABUSE OF BOYS

While girls are predominately reported as the victims of sexual abuse, during the Authority’s first nine months of operations there were 148 cases of boys who were sexually abused in Trinidad and Tobago.

AGE GROUPS OF BOYS

Sexual abuse cases against boys reported to the Authority during this period involved boys of varying age groups. This is illustrated in Figure 4:

Figure 4: Age Groups of Boys
Alarmingly, the highest percentage of cases of sexual abuse against boys reported to the Authority involved boys between the ages of 4 and 6 years old (26.4%). Of all reports of sexual abuse against boys, 22.3% involved boys between the ages of 10 and 13 years old, while 17.6% involved boys between the ages of 7 and 9 years old. While 15.5% of these cases involved boys between the ages of 14 and 15 years, 10.1% of all sexual abuse cases against boys involved toddlers (boys 3 years old and younger).

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES

The administrative districts in which the reported cases of sexual abuse against boys occurred also varied and is shown in Figure 5.
22.3% of all reported cases of sexual abuse against boys emanated from the San Juan/Laventille administrative district. 10.1% of all such cases were recorded in the administrative district of Tunapuna/Piarco, 9.5% in Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo, 8.8% in Chaguanas, and 8.1% in each of the districts of Diego Martin and Port of Spain.
SEXUAL ABUSE CASES IN TOBAGO

During the period May 18th 2015 to February 17th 2016, 2.8% of all reported cases of sexual abuse against children occurred in Tobago. Cases of sexual abuse against children were the second highest category of care and protection reported in Tobago during the Authority’s first nine months of operations. Of all reported cases of children in need of care and protection originating from Tobago, 23.8% were cases of sexual abuse against children.

DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN SEXUAL ABUSE CASES

The gender and age groups of children involved in reported cases of sexual abuse in Tobago during this period are highlighted in Figures 6 and 7 following.

Figure 6: Gender of Children Involved in Sexual Abuse Cases in Tobago
During the period May 18\textsuperscript{th} 2015 to February 17\textsuperscript{th} 2016, the large majority of reported sexual abuse cases in Tobago involved female clients (93.5%), while only 6.5% of reported sexual abuse cases in Tobago involved male clients.

![Figure 7: Age Groups of Children Involved in Sexual Abuse Cases in Tobago](chart)

Of all reported cases of sexual abuse against children in Tobago, 29% involved children within the 14 to 15 year old age group, 19.4% involved children within the 4 to 6 year old age group and 16.1% involved children within the 10 to 13 year old age group. Toddlers (3 years old and under) and children between the ages of 16 to 17 years each accounted for 12.9% of these cases. Children between the ages of 7 and 9 years old were the least reported as involved in sexual abuse cases with 9.7% of all reported sexual abuse cases in Tobago concerning children within this age group.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE CASES IN TOBAGO

The geographical locations of reports of sexual abuse against children in Tobago brought to the attention of the Authority during its first nine months of operations are highlighted in Figure 8 following.

Figure 8: Geographical Locations of Sexual Abuse Cases in Tobago

The highest number of reported cases of sexual abuse against children in Tobago were reported in the most populated districts in Tobago. 32.3% of all reported sexual abuse cases originated in Saint Andrew and 22.6% each in both Saint Patrick and Saint George. 9.7% of all reported cases of sexual abuse occurred in Saint Mary while 3.2% of these cases occurred in each of the districts of Saint David, Saint John and Saint Paul. In 3.2% of all reported cases of sexual abuse against children originating from Tobago, the reporter was unclear of which specific district the abuse was taking place.
CHILD ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

During the period May 18th 2015 to February 17th 2016 there were 195 cases of children committing sexual offences against other children (child on child abuse) reported to the Authority. The majority of the clients in these cases were females (72.8%) while more than one quarter of the clients (27.2%) of these specific cases were males (see Figure 9 below).

Figure 9: Gender of Clients of Child on Child Sexual Abuse
The ages of these clients are highlighted in Figure 10 following.

![Figure 10: Age Groups of Clients of Child on Child Sexual Abuse](image)

55.8% of all clients of child on child sexual abuse reported to the Authority during this period were under the age of 10, with 29.2% being between the ages of 4 and 6 years old, 17.4% between the ages of 7 and 9 years old, and 9.2% between the ages of 1 and 3 years old. 24.1% of these clients belonged to the 10 to 13 year old age group, 13.8% to the 14 to 15 year old age group, and 5.6% to the 16 to 17 year old age group.
Reports of child on child sexual abuse brought to the attention of the Authority originated from administrative districts across the country as illustrated in Figure 11.

Cases of child on child sexual abuse reported to the Authority during this period were most concentrated in the administrative district of San Juan/Laventille, with 24.1% of all reports of this nature originating from that area. 11.8% of all reports of child on child sexual abuse emanated from Tunapuna/Piarco, 7.7% from Chaguanas, and 7.2% each in the districts of Arima, Diego Martin and Sangre Grande.
TYPES OF CHILD ON CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE OFFENCES

The highest reported types of reported child on child sexual abuse offences were sexual penetration and sexual touching, as illustrated in Figure 12 below.

Figure 12: Reported Child on Child Sexual Abuse Offences

1 ‘Other Sexual Offences’ refer to sexual offences such as causing a child to engage in sexual acts with a person, causing a child to watch a sexual act or image, child pornography, child prostitution and procuring the sexual services of a child.