

# Sexual Misconduct in Public and Independent Schools and Implications for Homeschooling

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Post-Pandemic Future of Homeschooling

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# ARE HOMESCHOOLED CHILDREN MORE AT RISK?



# We don't know.

- Scant data on school employee sexual abuse and misconduct of students.
- Nothing in my research would lead me to believe that sexual abuse in homeschool settings is more prevalent than in institutional settings. More likely just the opposite.



# Homeschool data

- Brian Ray found that adults who had been public schooled were 2.6 times more likely to have been sexually abused than those who were homeschooled.
- Ray also found that those who attended Christian schools were 2.1 times more likely than those who were homeschooled to have been sexually abused.





# HOW WIDESPREAD IS SCHOOL EMPLOYEE SEXUAL ABUSE?



# Public/Independent School Prevalence

- 9.6 percent of all students in grades 8 to 11 report contact and/or non-contact educator sexual misconduct that was *unwanted*.
- 8.7 percent report only non-contact sexual misconduct
- 6.7 percent experienced only contact misconduct.



# Prevalence

- 5.6 million public and independent students are subject to sexual misconduct by an employee of a school sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade.
- These are old data. No nationwide recent studies.





# Percent of School Staff Who Abuse

■ No data available

■ According to AP study, in past 5 years, more than 2570 teachers have lost license for some form of sexual misconduct



# ENVIRONMENT WHERE ABUSE OCCURS



# Factors related to access and trust

- Internal inhibitors (reinforcement of shared values)
- External inhibitors (rules, observation, shared culture or expectations)
- Opportunity to engage in sexual activity (public spaces, monitoring)
- Ability to overcome resistance (of child and parents; be alert to grooming)



# Grooming

- Special favors
- Help with school
- Positive connection to parents/guardians
- Trips, presents



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