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Shining a Light on Child Sexual Abuse

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Abstract — *In this presentation, I explain the true extent of the issue of child sexual abuse and how it has evolved through discussion of certain statistics I have studied.*

Keywords — *Child abuse*

I. Introduction

Child sexual abuse more common than most people think. The best thing we can do is to raise awareness. The vast majority of the population is unaware of the true scope of the problem, or worse, they just don't want to see it. It is important that we drag this into the light so people will understand how to better protect their loved ones.

One in ten children will be sexually abused before the age of 18. The subject of child sexual abuse is painstakingly avoided in our society due to its abhorrent nature, but that is only making the situation worse. While the idea of stranger danger is good, 90% of victims know their abuser. Children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse between the ages of 7 and 13. While the reported median age of first abuse is 9, about 20% of sexual abuse victims are under the age of 8. This kind of abuse causes often irreversible damage to the victims. Since its founding in 1998, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has reviewed over 236 million images and videos depicting child sexual abuse from all over the world.

When it comes to the topic of child sexual abuse (or child abuse in general), law enforcement is completely overwhelmed. The vast majority of people are unaware of how bad the situation really is. If we raise awareness and inform people on what to look for, we may stand a chance in the fight against child sex abuse.

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