

Speak Up - Stop the Silence®: Research and Focus on Worldwide, Comprehensive Child Sexual Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Mitigation

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Abstract

Drawing from 20 years of research, prevention, treatment, and mitigation of child sexual abuse (CSA) and other adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) in the U.S., Africa, Europe, and Oceania, this presentation will share information on the development and implementation of a program promoting a comprehensive social movement using the Speak Up – Stop the Silence® Model (the Model). The focus is on reaching a widening audience of “spheres of influence” to enable government leaders, community members, service providers (e.g., educators, police, social service workers), and worksites to prevent CSA/ACEs and provide quality care for children, adolescents, and adults who have/may have been sexually abused and/or exposed to other ACEs. We aim to directly impact the well-being of children, families, and society, including the prevention of long-term disability and improved functioning. We further aim to prevent and mitigate negative health consequences of CSA/ACEs and improve child-adolescent-adult well-being. We carry out the work through research, advocacy, outreach, education, training and policy development and reform. The framework also uses an innovative, free downloadable Trust MYRIVR App to capture the community voice, connect the public to information and services, and gather and analyze information. Data from communities enables real-time visibility of services to assist existing programs with which clients and staff are engaged and captures the interactive progress and outcomes from start to finish. Feedback gathered provides information to service providers about changes needed in health/social service-delivery thinking and delivery. The program has been shown successful in raising awareness, knowledge, attitudes, and positive intent and action.

Keywords: abuse; children; prevention; sexual; treatment