

North Dakota Statewide Child Abuse Survey: 2002

North Dakota State Data Center
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics
North Dakota State University
IACC Building, Room 424
Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5636

FORWARD

This study was designed to gather public opinion in North Dakota regarding perceptions of child abuse and neglect in the state. It was funded by the Child Protection Services in the Division of Children and Family Services within the North Dakota Department of Human Services and was conducted in cooperation with the Department of Neuroscience, Medical Education Center, University of North Dakota, and the State Data Center at North Dakota State University.

Acknowledgments

We wish to thank Gladys Cairns, Child Protection Services, North Dakota Department of Human Services, and Dr. Stephen Wonderlich, Department of Neuroscience, Medical Education Center, University of North Dakota, who jointly initiated this project and for their development of the survey instrument. We appreciate their concern for the children of North Dakota and their efforts to develop baseline measures of respondents' perceptions of child abuse and neglect in North Dakota. These data will be critical in both understanding respondents' opinions and evaluating the effectiveness of future educational or programmatic campaigns. We also want to recognize the staff at the Alliance for Child Justice who assisted with the development of the questionnaire and their review of our efforts.

North Dakota State Data Center Contributors

Dr. Richard Rathge, Director
Jordyn Nikle
Ramona Danielson

North Dakota State Data Center
Department of Agribusiness and Applied Economics
North Dakota State University
IACC Building, Room 424
Fargo, North Dakota 58105-5636
Phone: (701) 231-7980
URL: <http://www.ndsu.edu/sdc>

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This study is the first in a series that is being planned with the aim to gather public opinion regarding perceptions of child abuse and neglect in North Dakota. This study serves to establish an initial baseline of opinions among respondents in the state and as the foundation for future evaluation efforts.

Survey Results

Child Neglect

- ▶ Most people in the state indicated child neglect is a problem. Nearly 48 percent perceived it as a moderate problem and 14 percent perceived it as serious, however, very few people, less than 3 percent, perceived the rate of child neglect in North Dakota as higher than in other parts of the country.
- ▶ Respondents indicated that children younger than nine years of age are the most likely to be neglected.
- ▶ Respondents greatly underestimated the number of reported child neglect cases. According to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, the actual number of child neglect cases reported in fiscal year 2001 was nearly 2,120, yet 63 percent of respondents indicated the number of cases was at most 1,000.
- ▶ Child neglect was perceived to contribute greatly to a variety of negative behaviors including substance abuse, problems at school, violence, and depression. Child neglect was also perceived by the vast majority of respondents to be generational; individuals who neglect their children are very likely to have been neglected themselves.
- ▶ Respondents were mixed in their opinions regarding whether state government is actively involved in preventing child neglect. However, they were overwhelmingly supportive of the need for state government to become more involved in prevention.

Child Physical Abuse

- ▶ The majority of respondents said child physical abuse is a problem. While 55 percent indicated it was a moderate problem, 12 percent perceived it to be serious. However, 53 percent said North Dakota had a lower rate of child physical abuse than other parts of the country.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (cont.)

- ▶ Respondents indicated that younger children, ages 0 to 8, are more vulnerable to physical abuse than older children.
- ▶ Respondents were unclear about the amount of child physical abuse that is reported. Their perceptions were evenly mixed across a wide spectrum, from less than 250 cases to more than 1,000 cases. According to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, the actual number of physical abuse cases reported in fiscal year 2001 was 1,114.
- ▶ Similar to child neglect, respondents indicated that physical abuse contributes greatly to a variety of negative behaviors and it also is generational; those who physically abuse their children are very likely to have been physically abused themselves.
- ▶ There was clear consensus among respondents in North Dakota that hitting a child when they misbehave is not appropriate.
- ▶ Most respondents agreed that state government is actively involved in preventing child physical abuse and they overwhelmingly supported continued active involvement.

Child Sexual Abuse

- ▶ Most respondents in the state perceived child sexual abuse to be problematic, with nearly two-thirds stating it was at least a moderate problem. However, they were evenly split in their opinion of whether the rate is about the same or lower than other parts of the country (45.4 percent and 45.2 percent, respectively).
- ▶ Respondents were very mixed in their opinions regarding the age at which children are most vulnerable to sexual abuse and the number of child sexual abuse cases that are reported. According to the North Dakota Department of Human Services, in fiscal year 2001, there were 298 cases of child sexual abuse reported.
- ▶ Similar to both child neglect and physical abuse, respondents perceived that sexual abuse of children contributes greatly to a variety of negative behaviors. However, a smaller proportion of respondents said those behaviors are generational relative to child neglect or physical abuse. Approximately 67 percent of respondents indicated that those who sexually abuse their children were very likely to have been sexually abused themselves as children.
- ▶ Respondents were evenly split in their opinions of whether family members or acquaintances/friends are most likely to be the perpetrator of sexual abuse among children (46.5 percent and 47.8 percent, respectively).
- ▶ Most respondents agreed that state government is actively involved in preventing child sexual abuse and they overwhelmingly supported continued active involvement.

Knowledge of Abuse Cases

- ▶ Nearly half of the respondents had knowledge of a person who had experienced a form of child abuse. The form of abuse was nearly evenly split among neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse.
- ▶ Three of four respondents said they know the appropriate steps in reporting child abuse and nearly all were willing to do so if they became aware of an abuse situation.

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INTRODUCTION

Study Objectives

The purpose of the study is twofold. First, it will be used to gain insight into perceptions of the magnitude and consequences of child neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse in North Dakota. Second, it is intended to provide a baseline of public opinions that will serve as the standard for evaluating the success of educational programs and initiatives aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect cases in North Dakota.

Methodology

A generalizable survey of respondents in North Dakota was conducted during the months of March and April 2002 at the Center for Social Research at North Dakota State University. A three-stage stratified sampling design was developed based on housing units obtained randomly from current phone directories. In the first stage of the sampling, the state was divided into urban and rural areas. Urban was defined as a city with at least 2,500 residents. Residents in the state are nearly equally divided among urban and rural areas, thus the sample was equally divided by urban and rural residents. In the second stage, a proportional random sample was drawn from urban cities. In the final stage, a proportional sample was drawn from the rural areas of the state.

The survey instrument consisted of five major sections and can be found after the appendix tables in this report. The first three sections focused on perceptions of child neglect, child physical abuse, and child sexual abuse. The fourth section centered on level of knowledge respondents had regarding abuse cases. The final section gathered demographic information for comparison purposes.

Data were collected through a random telephone survey of households in North Dakota. A total of 2,220 households were called during the spring of 2002 with 1,092 successfully contacted for a response rate of 49 percent. Of those who were successfully contacted, 460 completed the interviews. The overall refusal rate for the survey was 58 percent. This is largely due to the proliferation of screening devices such as caller ID and answering machines. The high refusal rate is becoming more common and is due to a number of reasons including respondents' time pressures, their uneasiness with the topic, and their reluctance to become part of a study. In addition, the deluge of telemarketers and pollsters has significantly reduced people's willingness to participate in surveys. Nonetheless, the sample was stratified by urban and rural areas and large enough to allow for generalization of the findings with an error rate less than 5 percent. A random collection design ensured that data were gathered from adult men and women in representative numbers.

Respondents were contacted in the evening between the hours of 5:30pm and 9:00pm. If the time of contact was not convenient for the respondent, a follow-up contact was requested. Respondents were informed that the survey was sponsored by the University of North Dakota Department of Neuroscience and its purpose was to gain insight into people's perceptions of child abuse and neglect. Respondents were told they were randomly selected, their responses were strictly confidential, and they were free to withdraw from the survey at any time. The questionnaire was approved by the Institutional Review Board at both North Dakota State University and by the Medical School at the University of North Dakota. Each survey lasted approximately 10 minutes. The error rate based on the sampling was less than 5 percent for the survey.

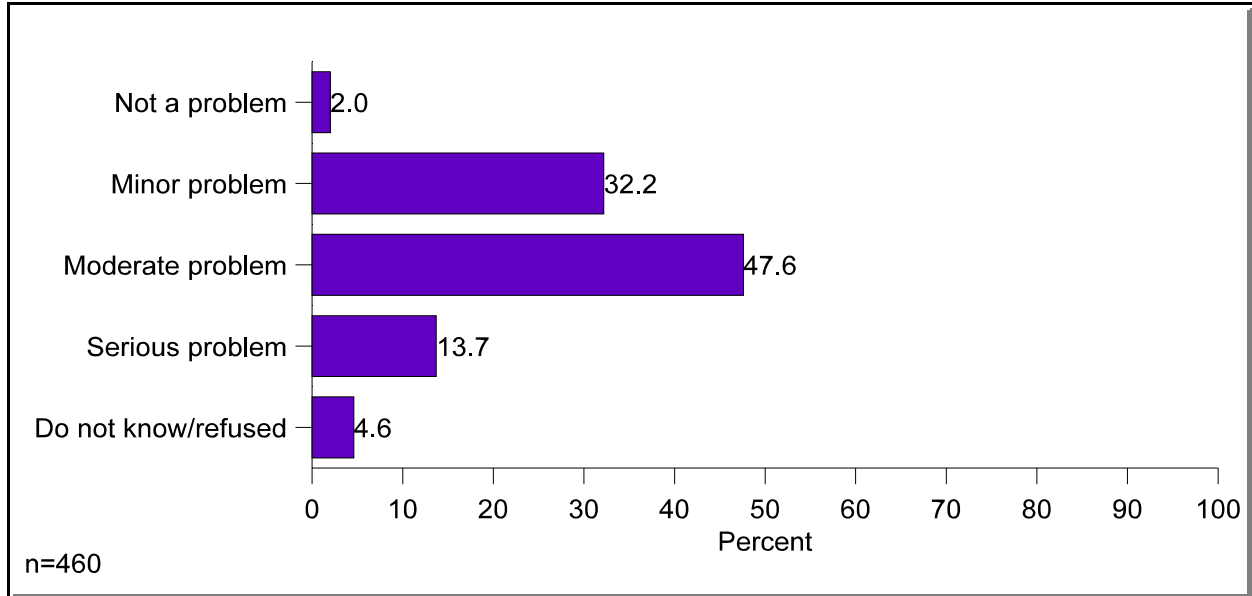
The survey was administered by trained interviewers and supervised by staff from the North Dakota State Data Center. The interviews were conducted using a Computer Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) system at the Center for Social Research on the campus of North Dakota State University. This system reduces coding input error by prompting interviewers when mistakes or inconsistencies occur. In addition, it reduces transcription errors by automatically placing the data into machine readable form for analysis.

SURVEY RESULTS

CHILD NEGLECT

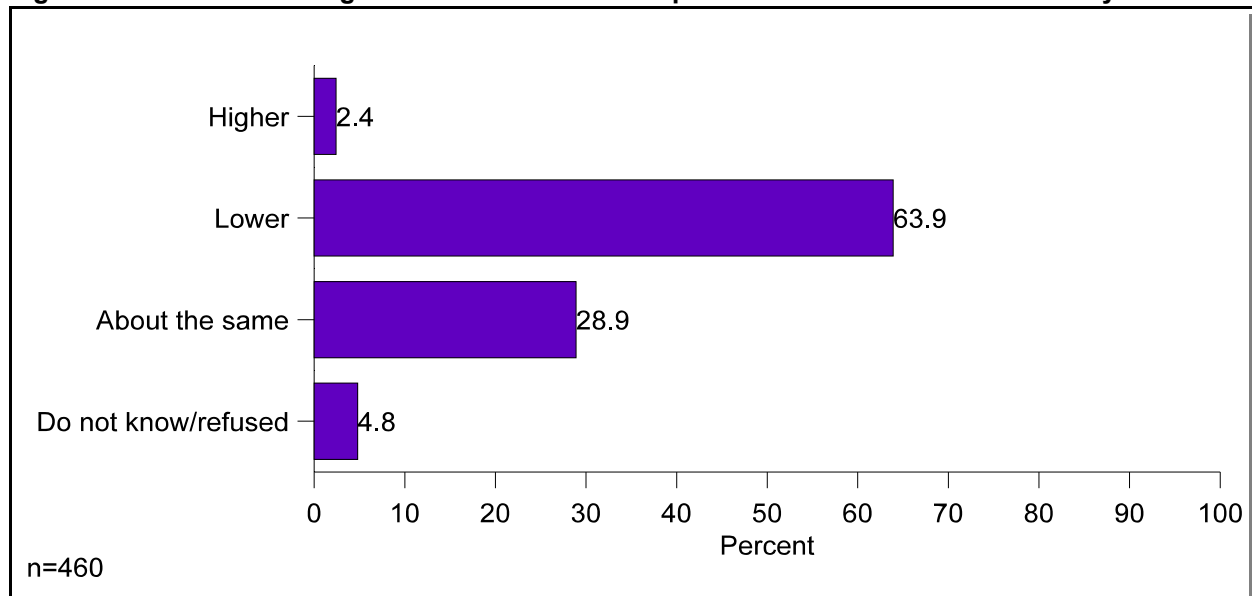
- More than 60 percent of respondents indicated child neglect is at least a moderate problem in North Dakota, while one in three respondents stated it is a minor problem (Figure 1, Appendix Table 1).

Figure 1. How Much of a Problem Child Neglect is in North Dakota



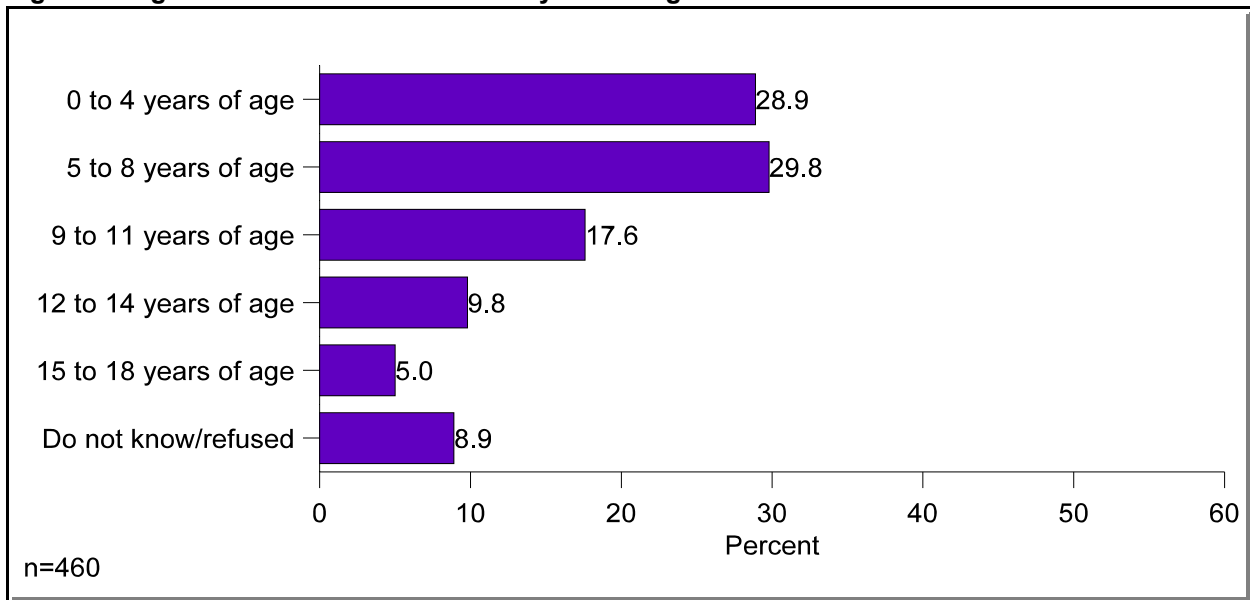
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents perceived the rate of child neglect in North Dakota to be lower compared to other parts of the country (Figure 2, Appendix Table 2).

Figure 2. Rate of Child Neglect in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country



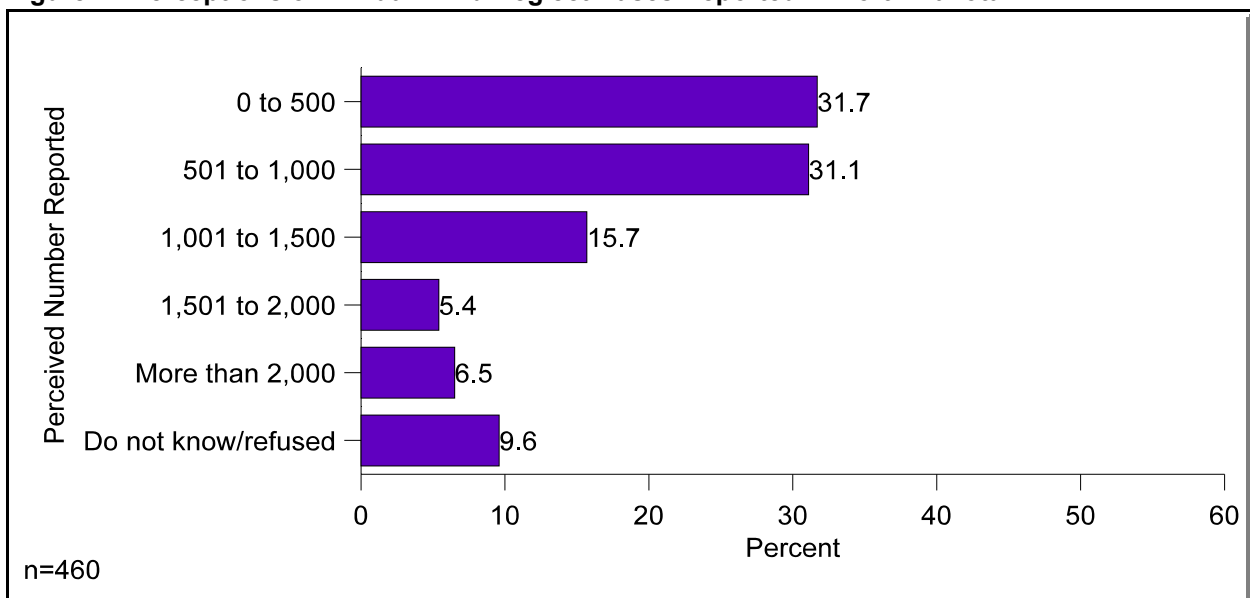
- Nearly 60 percent of respondents stated that children younger than 9 years of age are more likely to be neglected than older children. The distribution of the perceived likelihood of neglect was nearly equal between the ages of 0 to 4 and 5 to 8 (Figure 3, Appendix Table 3).

Figure 3. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Neglected



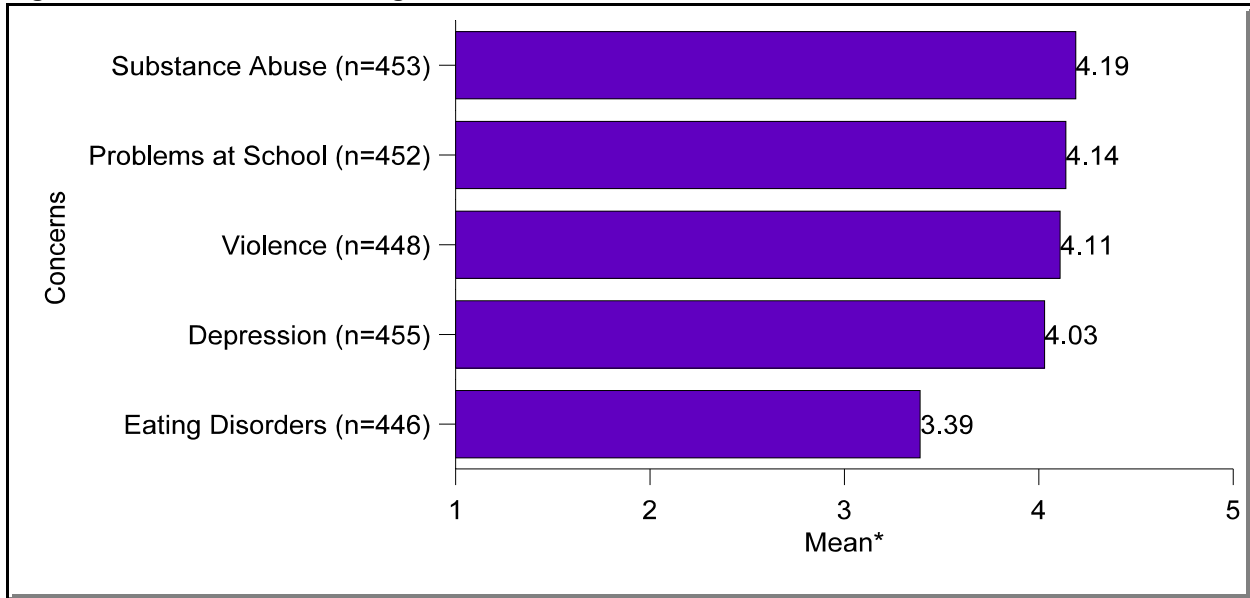
- Respondents were asked for their perceptions of the number of annual child neglect cases reported in North Dakota. Approximately two-thirds of respondents said there were, at most, 1,000 reported annual cases of neglect (Figure 4, Appendix Table 4).

Figure 4. Perceptions of Annual Child Neglect Cases Reported in North Dakota



- Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they thought child neglect contributes to various concerns. Respondents indicated child neglect has the greatest effect on substance abuse. However, child neglect was seen to contribute nearly as much to problems at school, violence, and depression. Eating disorders were perceived to be the least associated with child neglect (Figure 5, Appendix Table 5).

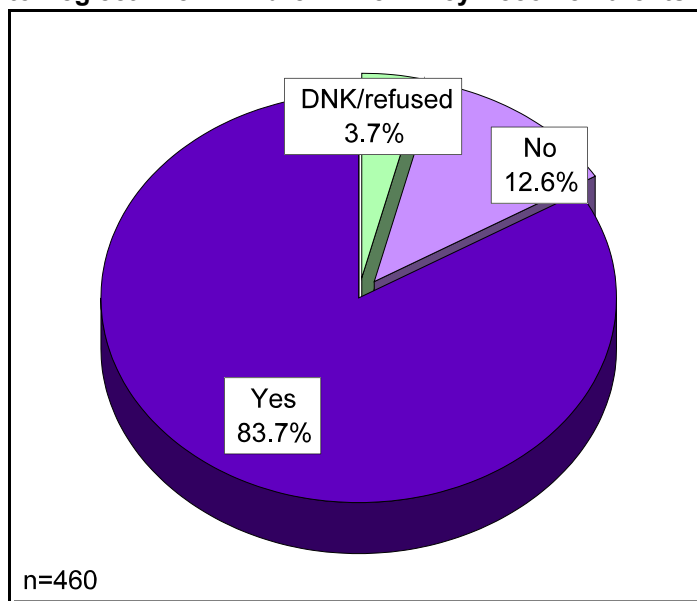
Figure 5. Extent That Child Neglect Contributes to Various Concerns



*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal." "Do not know/refused" was excluded from the mean.

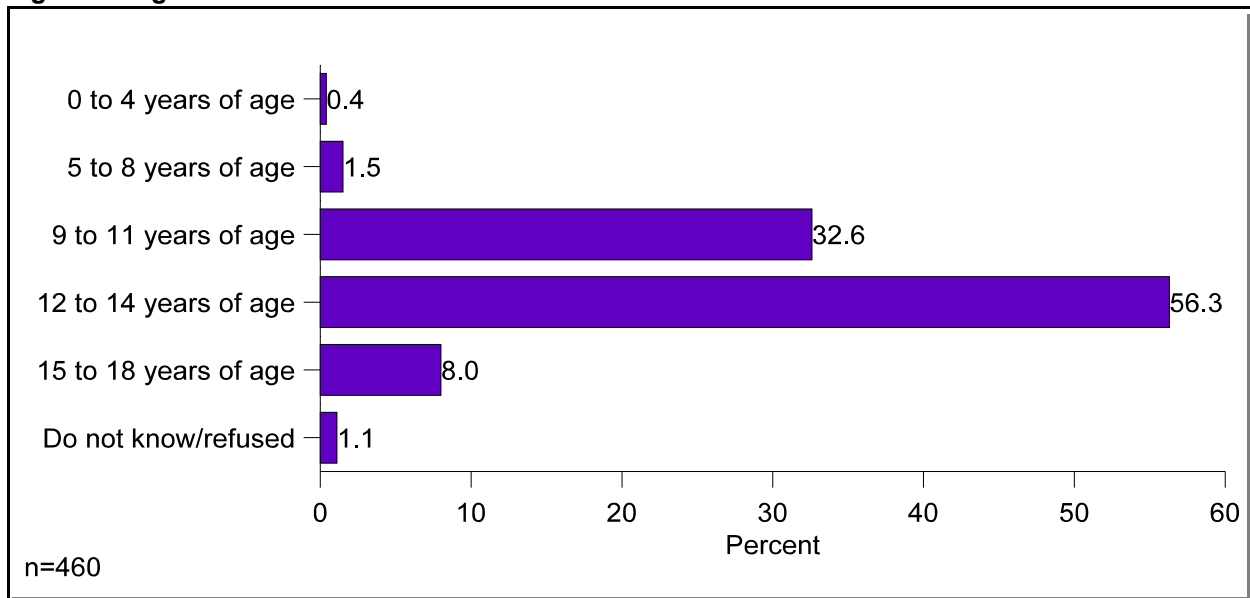
- The majority of respondents indicated children who are neglected are more likely to neglect their children when they become parents than children who are not neglected (Figure 6, Appendix Table 6).

Figure 6. Whether Neglected Children are More Likely to Neglect Their Children When They Become Parents



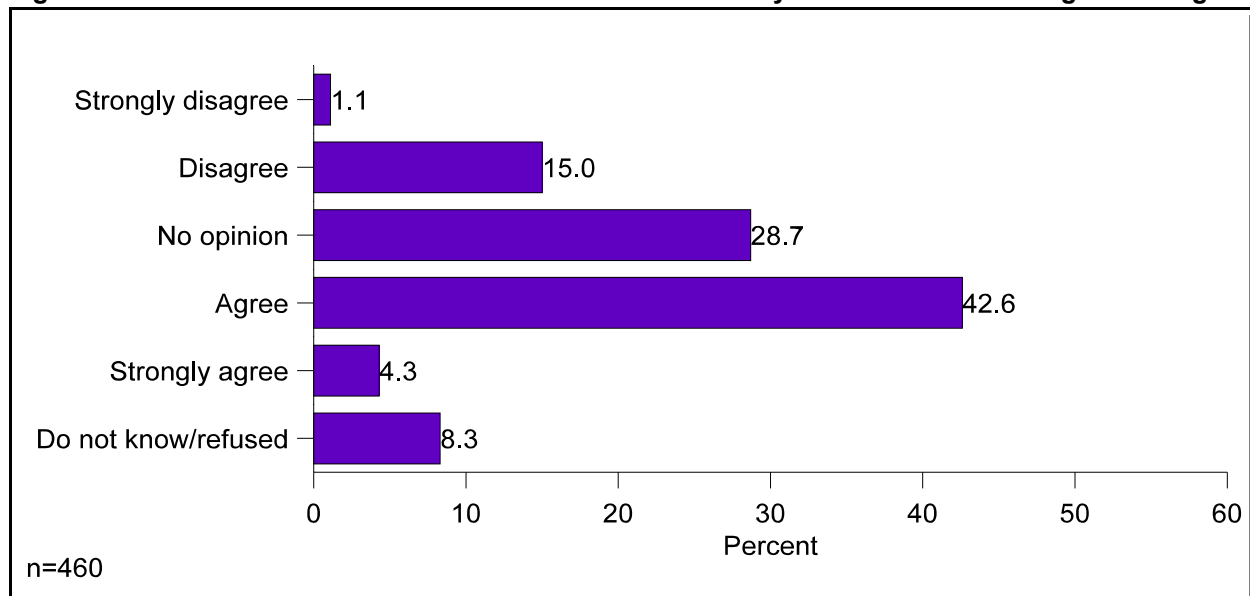
- More than half of respondents indicated that children could be left unattended for three to four hours starting between the ages of 12 and 14. Approximately one-third said children could be left unattended even younger, between 9 and 11 years of age (Figure 7, Appendix Table 7).

Figure 7. Age at Which a Child Can be Left Unattended for Three to Four Hours



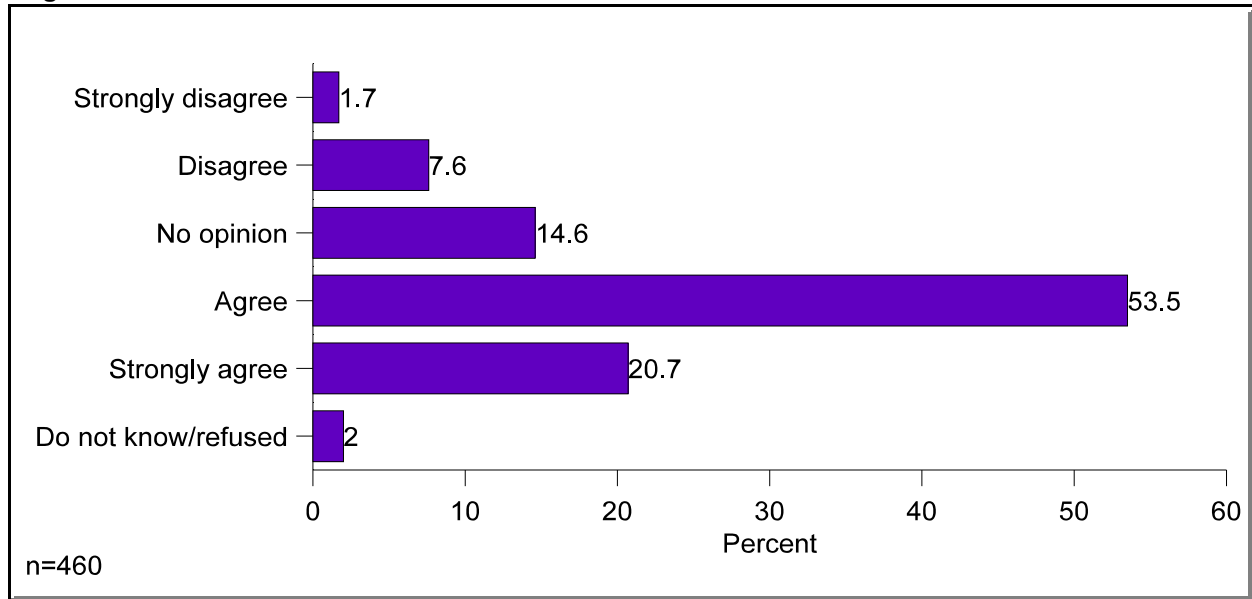
- Nearly half of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government is actively involved in the prevention of child neglect (Figure 8, Appendix Table 8).

Figure 8. Whether North Dakota State Government is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Neglect



- Nearly three-fourths of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government should be more involved in the prevention of child neglect (Figure 9, Appendix Table 9).

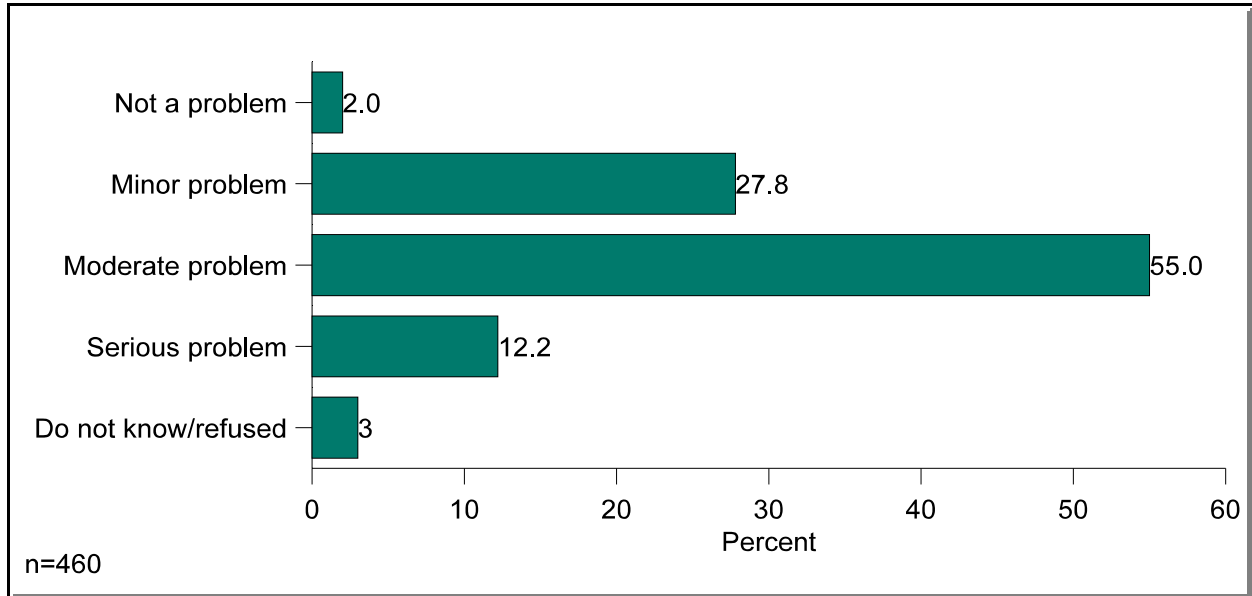
Figure 9. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Neglect



CHILD PHYSICAL ABUSE

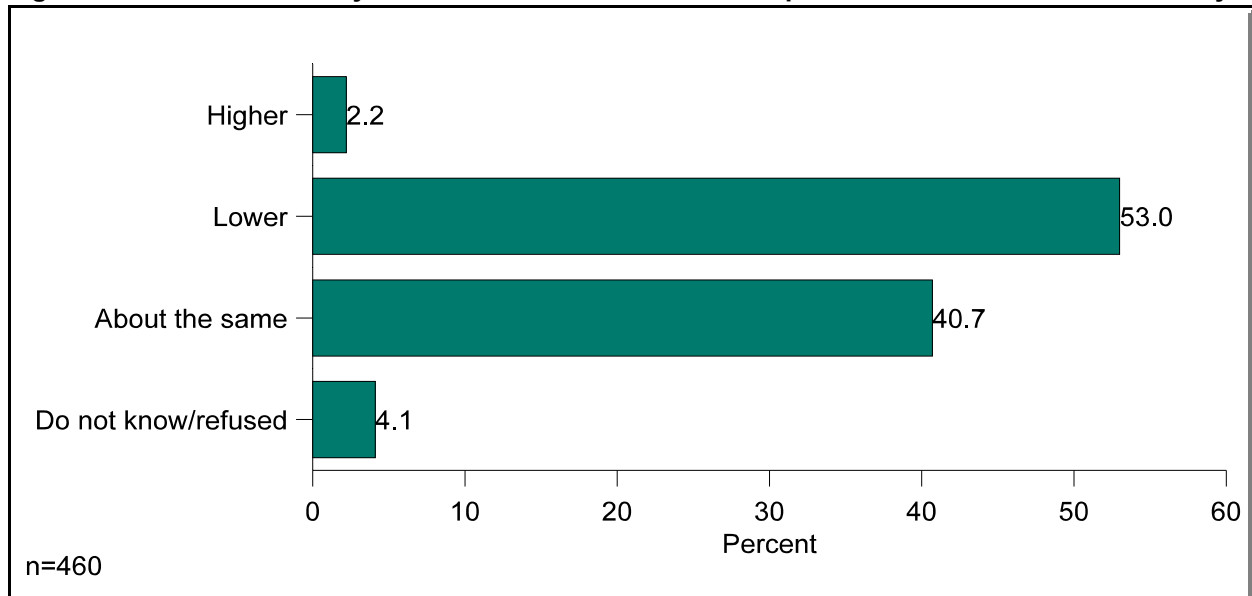
- More than two-thirds of respondents indicated child physical abuse is at least a moderate problem in North Dakota, while nearly 30 percent of respondents stated it is a minor problem (Figure 10, Appendix Table 10).

Figure 10. How Much of a Problem Child Physical Abuse is in North Dakota



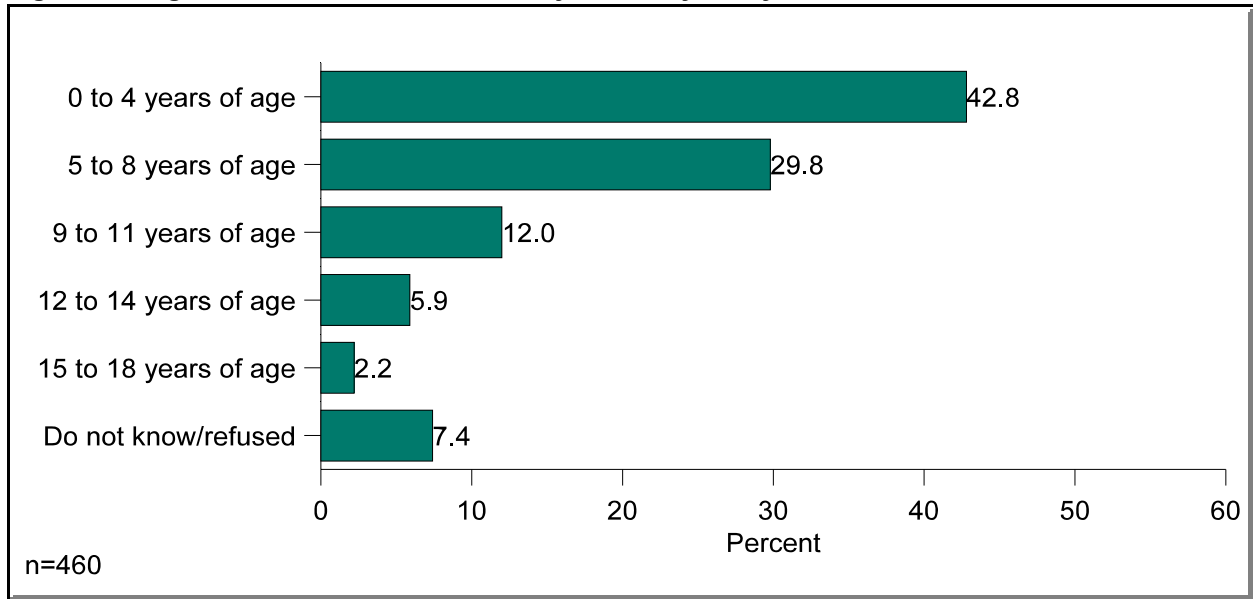
- More than half of respondents perceived child physical abuse to be lower in North Dakota than other parts of the county, while nearly 41 percent stated it is about the same (Figure 11, Appendix Table 11).

Figure 11. Rate of Child Physical Abuse in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country



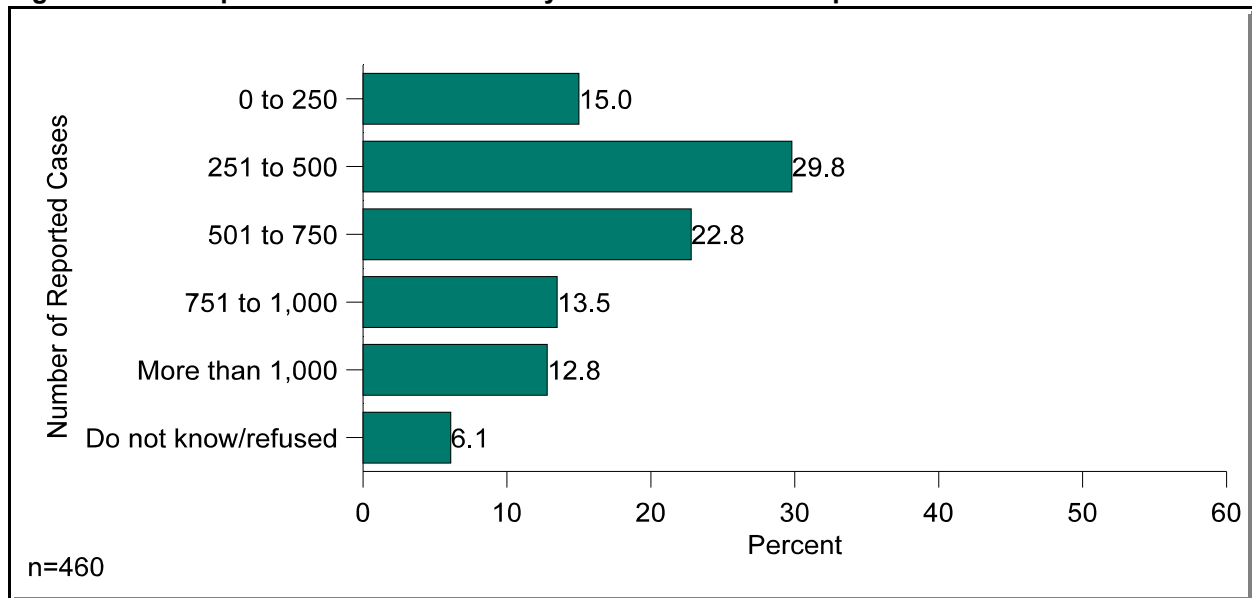
- Nearly three-fourths of respondents stated that children ages 0 to 9 are more likely to be physically abused than older children (Figure 12, Appendix Table 12).

Figure 12. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Physically Abused



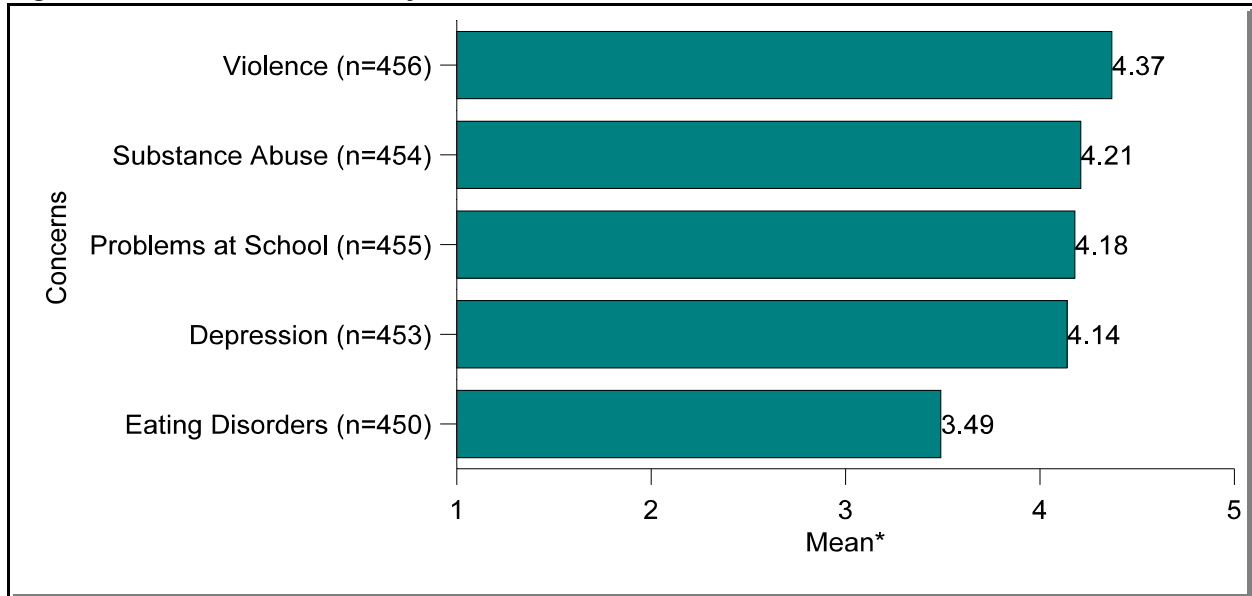
- Respondents were asked for their perceptions of the number of annual child physical abuse cases reported in North Dakota. Approximately two-thirds of respondents said there were, at most, 750 reported annual cases (Figure 13, Appendix Table 13).

Figure 13. Perceptions of Annual Child Physical Abuse Cases Reported in North Dakota



- Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they thought child physical abuse contributes to various concerns. Respondents indicated child physical abuse has the greatest effect on violence. However, physical abuse was perceived to contribute nearly as much to substance abuse, problems at school, and depression as to violence (Figure 14, Appendix Table 14).

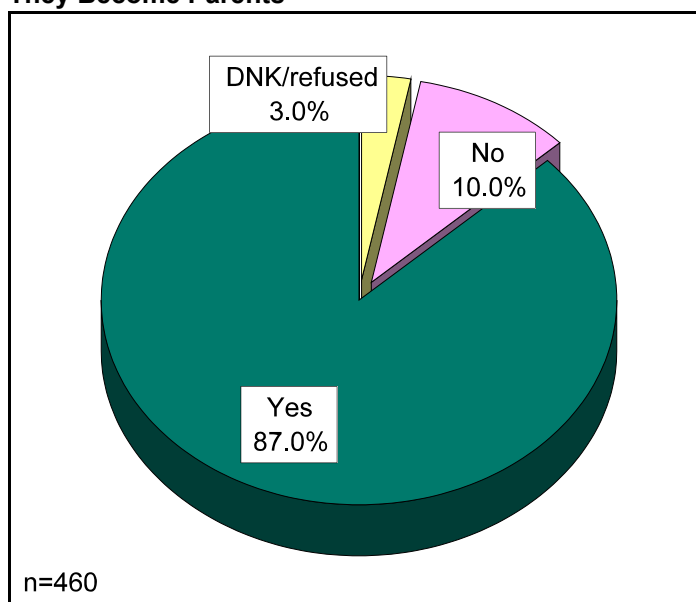
Figure 14. Extent That Child Physical Abuse Contributes to Various Concerns



*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal". "Do not know/refused" was excluded from the mean.

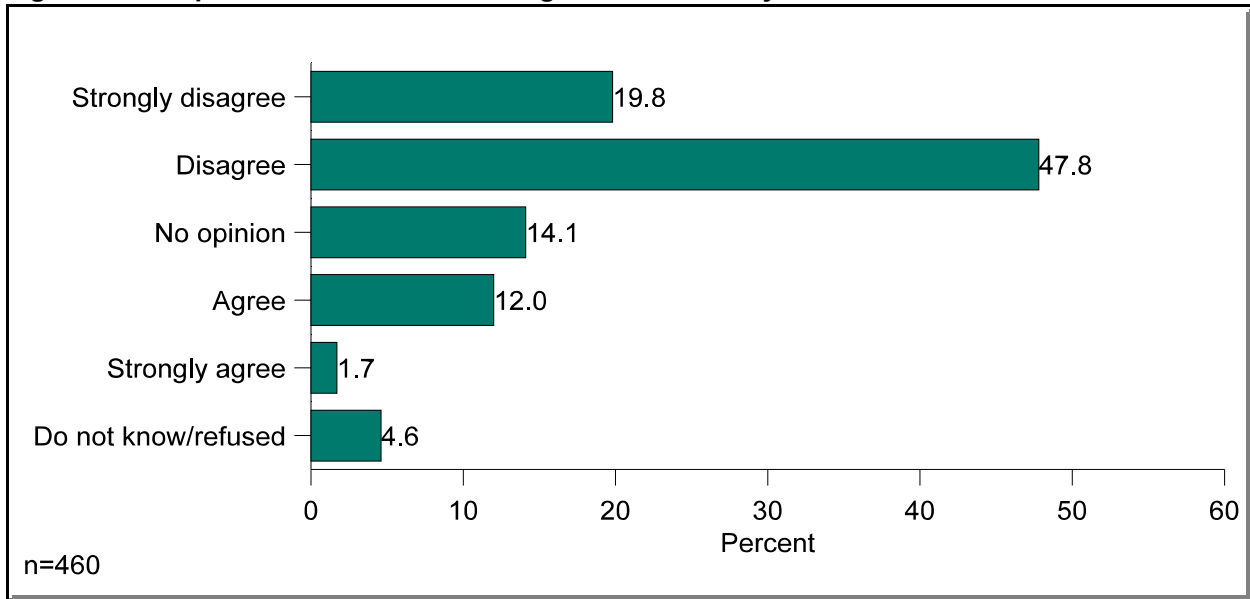
- The majority of respondents indicated that children who are physically abused are more likely to abuse their children when they become parents than children who are not physically abused (Figure 15, Appendix Table 15).

Figure 15. Whether Physically Abused Children are More Likely to Physically Abuse Their Children When They Become Parents



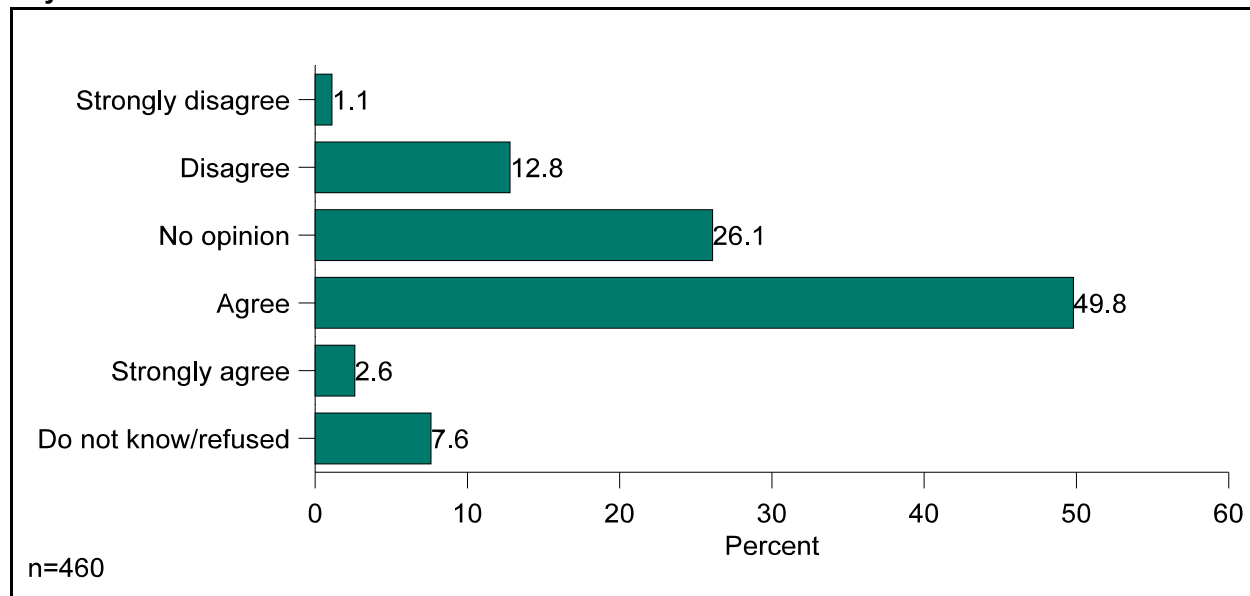
- Approximately two-thirds of respondents disagreed that hitting a child is okay when the child misbehaves. However, approximately 14 percent of respondents agreed that hitting a child is okay when the child misbehaves (Figure 16, Appendix Table 16).

Figure 16. Respondent's Belief That Hitting the Child is Okay When a Child Misbehaves



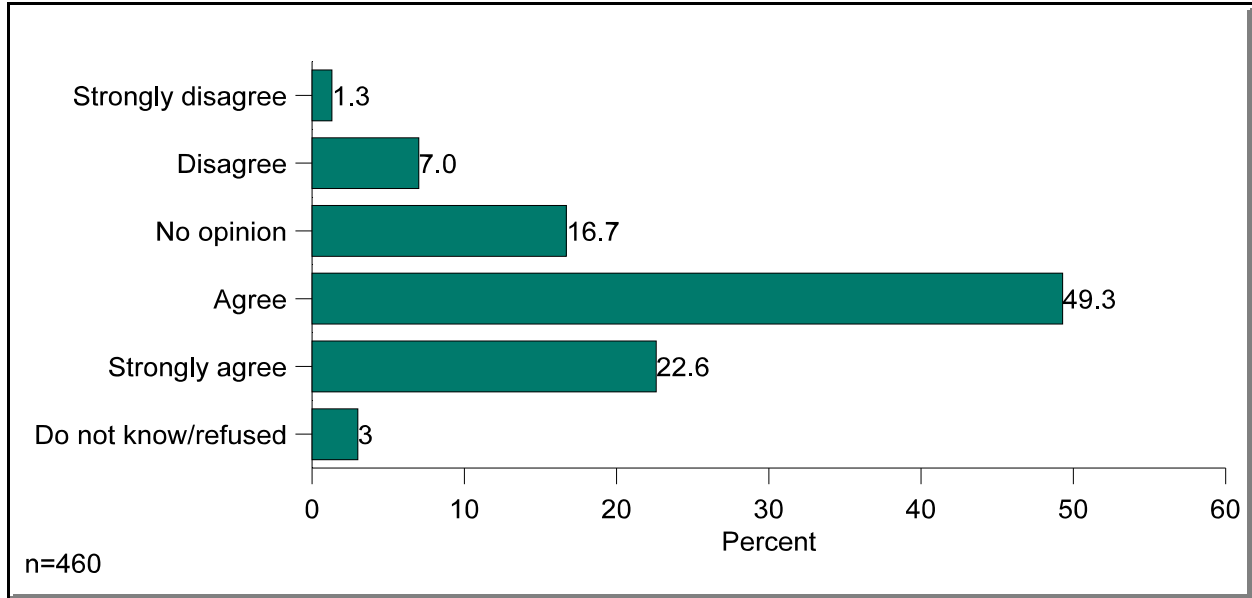
- More than half of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government is actively involved in the prevention of child physical abuse (Figure 17, Appendix Table 17).

Figure 17. Whether North Dakota State Government is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Physical Abuse



- Nearly three-fourths of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government should be more involved in the prevention of child physical abuse (Figure 18, Appendix Table 18).

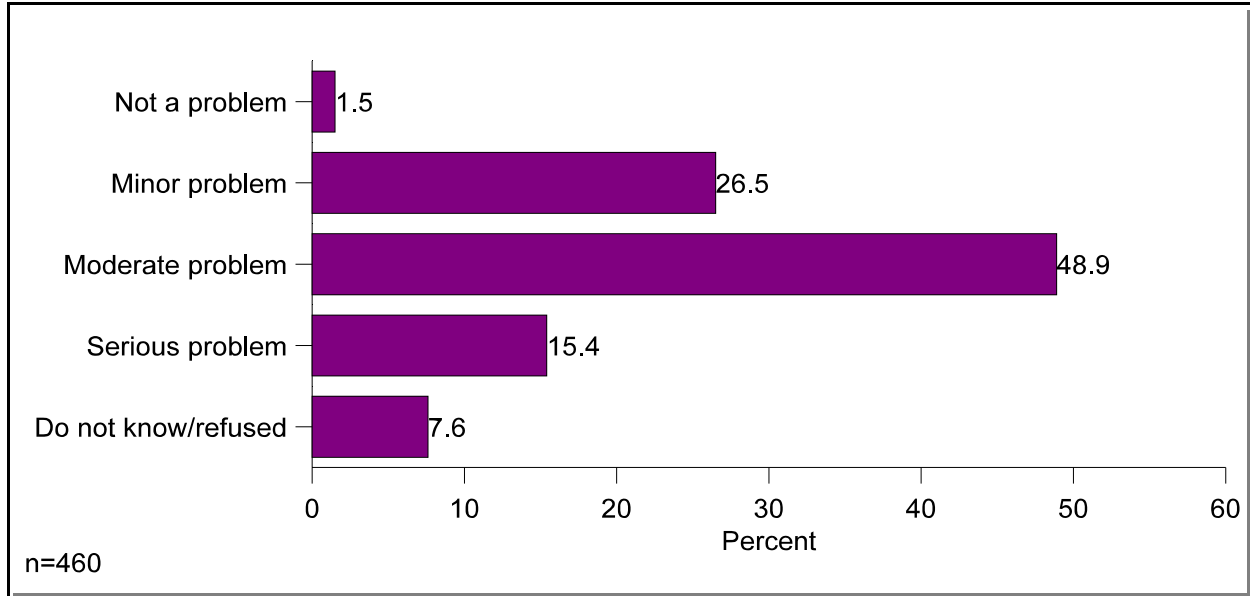
Figure 18. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Physical Abuse



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

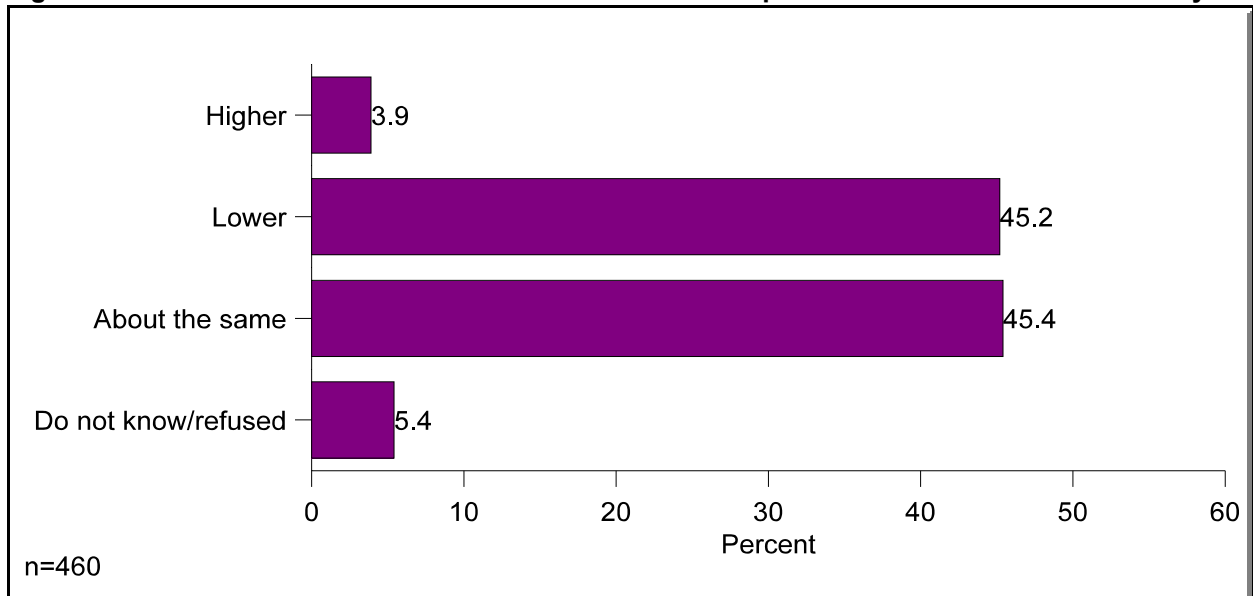
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated child sexual abuse is, at least, a moderate problem in North Dakota, while nearly 27 percent stated it is a minor problem (Figure 19, Appendix Table 19).

Figure 19. How Much of a Problem Child Sexual Abuse is in North Dakota



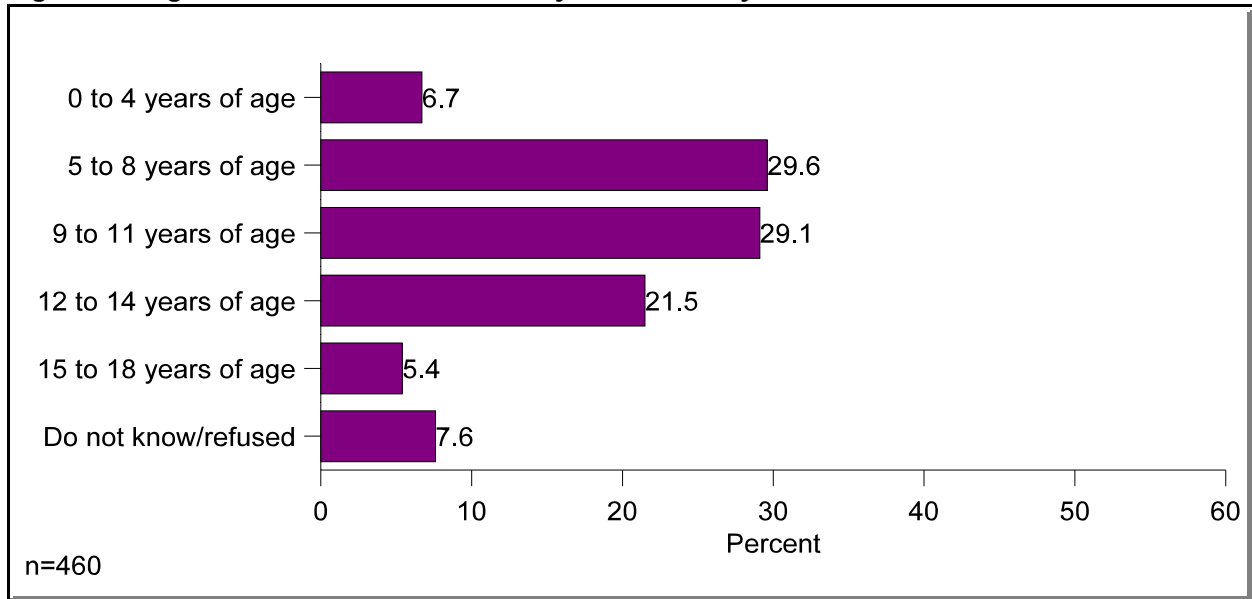
- Slightly more than 45 percent of respondents perceived the rate of child sexual abuse to be lower in North Dakota than in other parts of the country. Nearly the same percentage thought the rate of child sexual abuse was about the same in North Dakota as other parts of the country (Figure 20, Appendix Table 20).

Figure 20. Rate of Child Sexual Abuse in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country



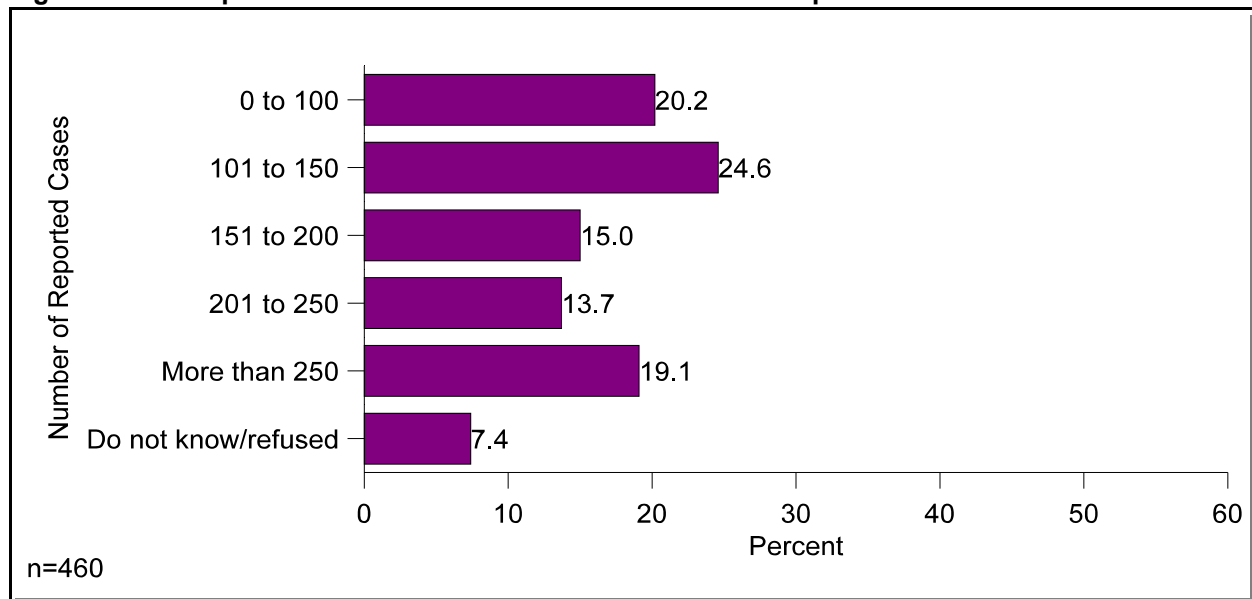
- Nearly 60 percent of respondents indicated children ages 5 through 11 are the most likely to be sexually abused. The distribution of the perceived likelihood of sexual abuse was nearly equal between the ages of 5 to 8 and 9 to 11 (Figure 21, Appendix Table 21).

Figure 21. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Sexually Abused



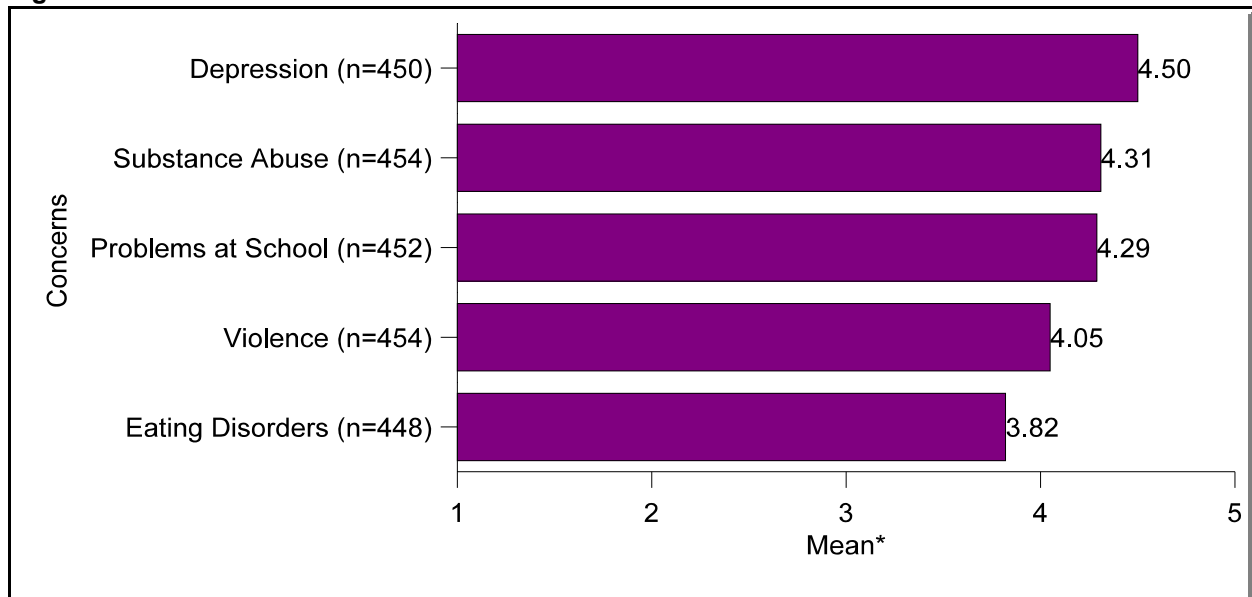
- Respondents were asked for their perceptions of the number of annual child sexual abuse cases reported in North Dakota. Approximately 45 percent of respondents said there were, at most, 150 reported annual cases. Nearly 20 percent perceived the number to be at more than 250 (Figure 22, Appendix Table 22).

Figure 22. Perceptions of Annual Child Sexual Abuse Cases Reported in North Dakota



- Respondents were asked to rate the extent to which they thought child sexual abuse contributes to various concerns. Respondents indicated sexual abuse has the greatest effect on depression, followed by substance abuse and problems at school (Figure 23, Appendix Table 23).

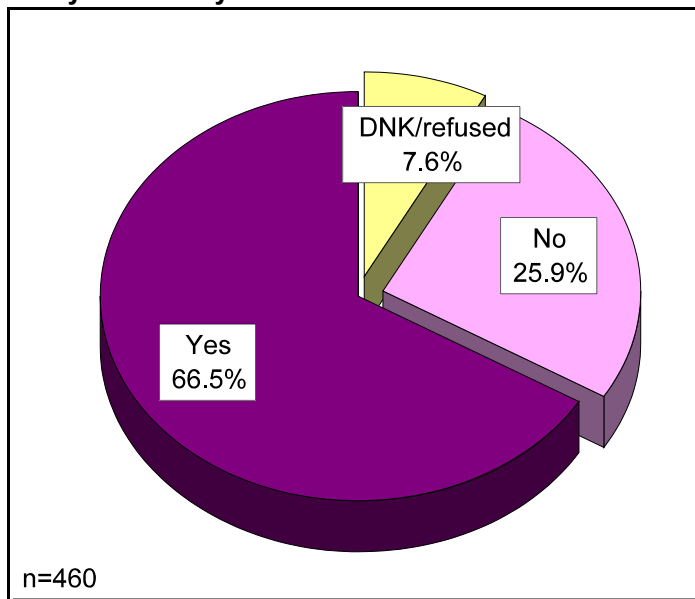
Figure 23. Extent That Child Sexual Abuse Contributes to Various Concerns



*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being “not at all” and five being “a great deal”. “Do not know/refused” was excluded from the mean.

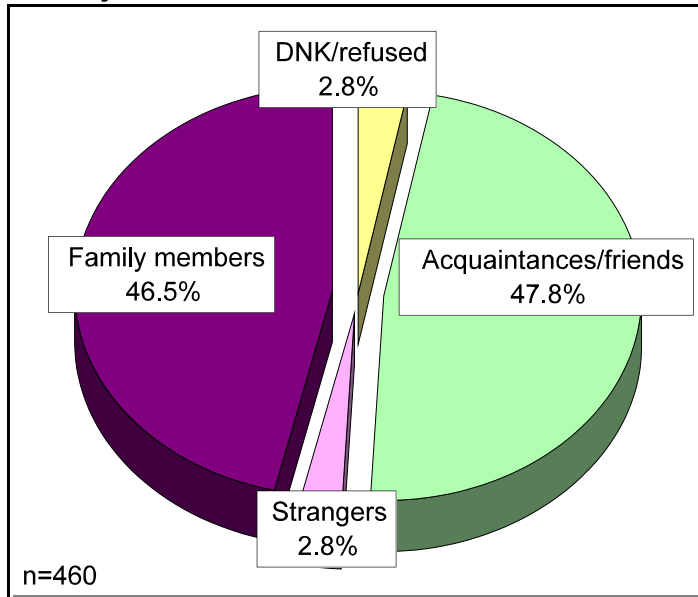
- Approximately two-thirds of respondents indicated children who are sexually abused are more likely to sexually abuse others than those children who are not sexually abused (Figure 24, Appendix Table 24).

Figure 24. Whether Sexually Abused Children are More Likely to Sexually Abuse Others



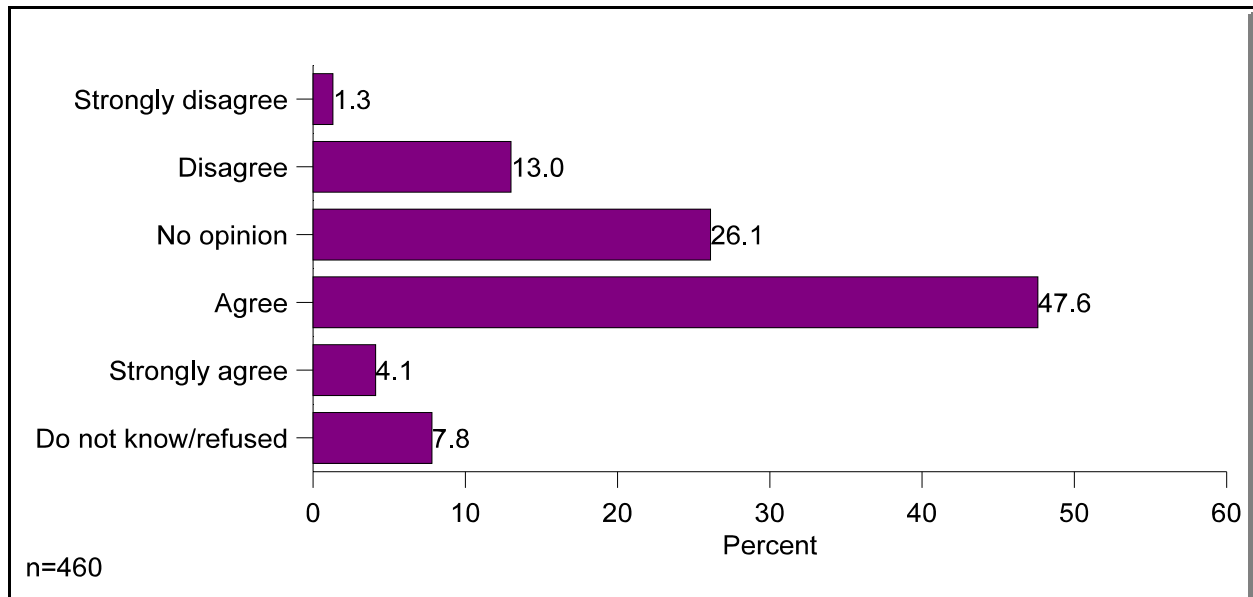
- Respondents perceived acquaintances/friends and family members as the most likely to sexually abuse children (47.8 percent and 46.5 percent, respectively) (Figure 25, Appendix Table 25).

Figure 25. Perceptions of People Who Most Often Sexually Abuse Children



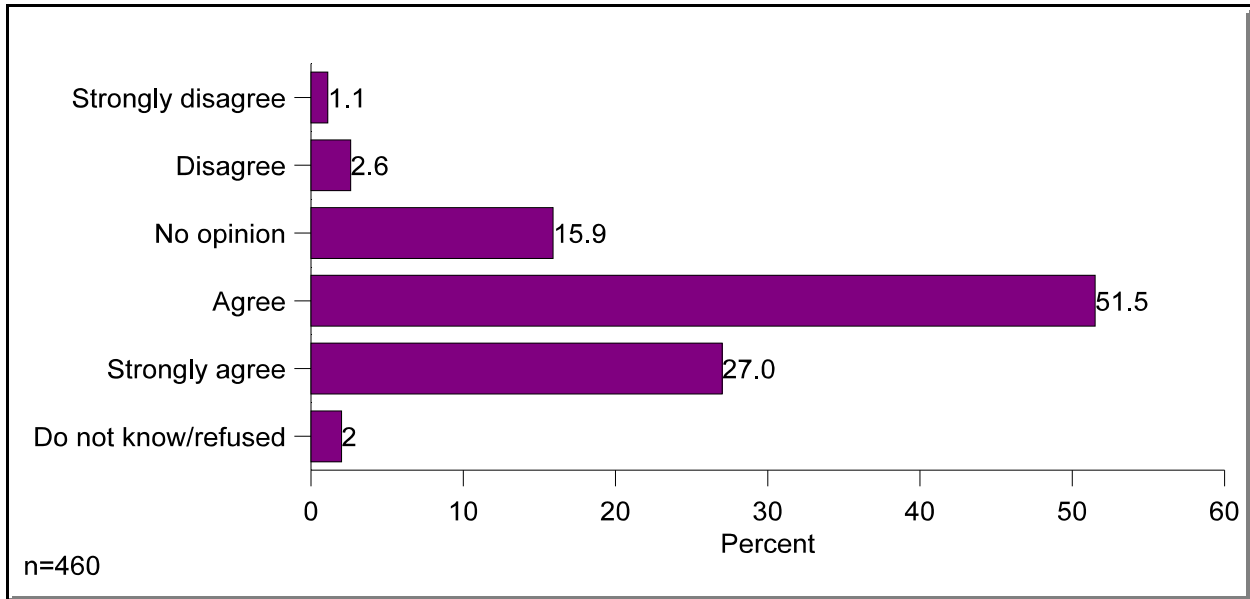
- More than half of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government is actively involved in the prevention of child sexual abuse (Figure 26, Appendix Table 26).

Figure 26. Whether North Dakota State Government is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse



- More than three-fourths of respondents agreed the North Dakota State Government should be more involved in the prevention of child sexual abuse (Figure 27, Appendix Table 27).

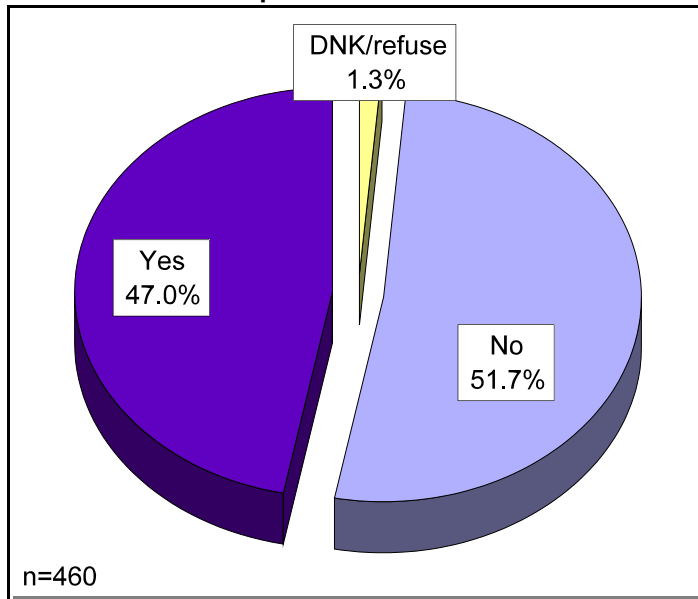
Figure 27. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse



KNOWLEDGE OF ABUSE CASES

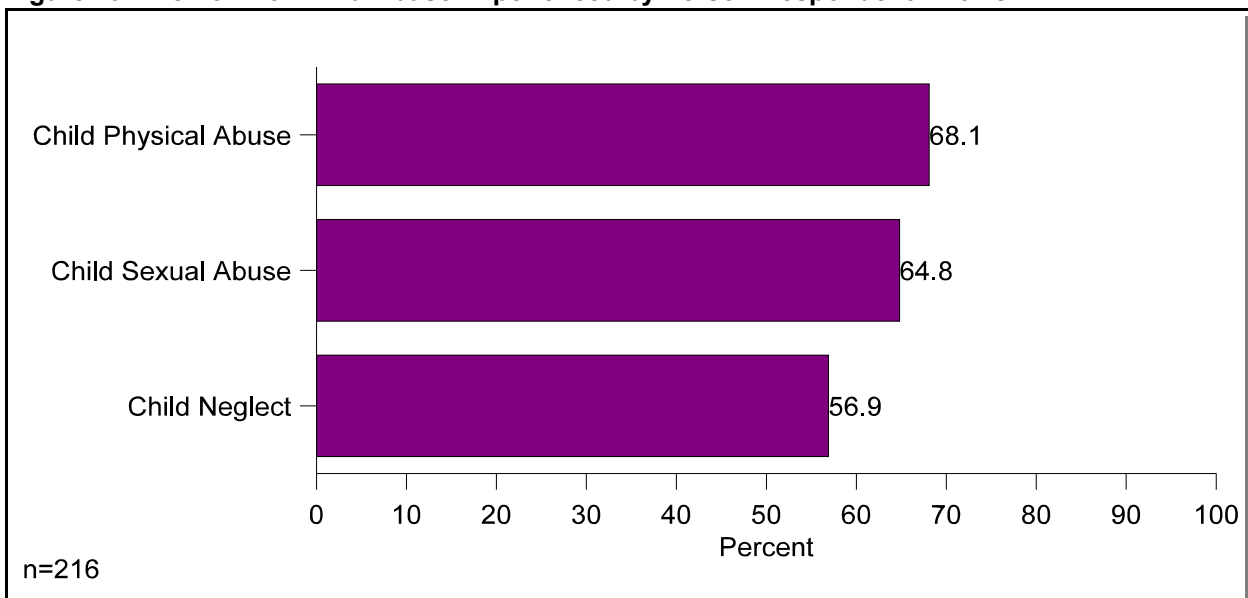
- A slight majority of respondents indicated they did not know of someone who had experienced a form of child abuse. However, 47 percent of respondents reported they did know of a person who had experienced a form of child abuse (Figure 28, Appendix Table 28).

Figure 28. Whether Respondent Has Knowledge of a Person Who Had Experienced a Form of Child Abuse



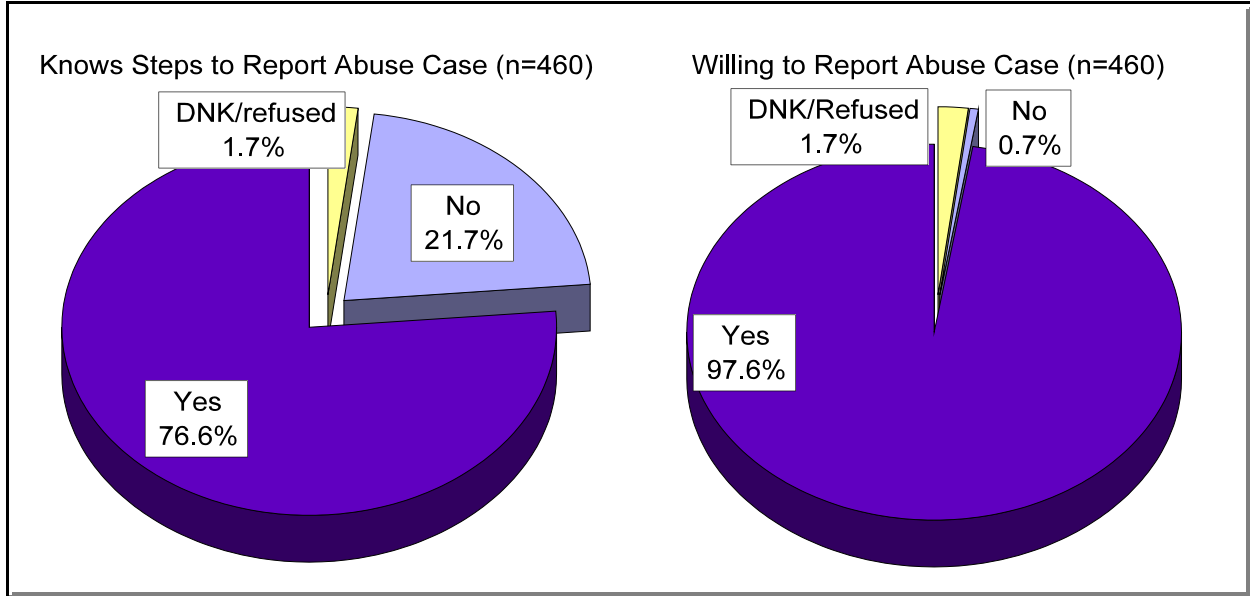
- Respondents who had knowledge of a person who had experienced child abuse were asked what form of child abuse the person experienced. Child physical abuse was most prevalent, however child sexual abuse and child neglect followed closely (Figure 29, Appendix Table 29).

Figure 29. The Form of Child Abuse Experienced by Person Respondent Knows



- More than three-fourths of respondents knew the steps to report a case of child abuse. Nearly all respondents were willing to report a case of abuse to authorities if they were aware of one (Figure 30, Appendix Tables 30 and 31).

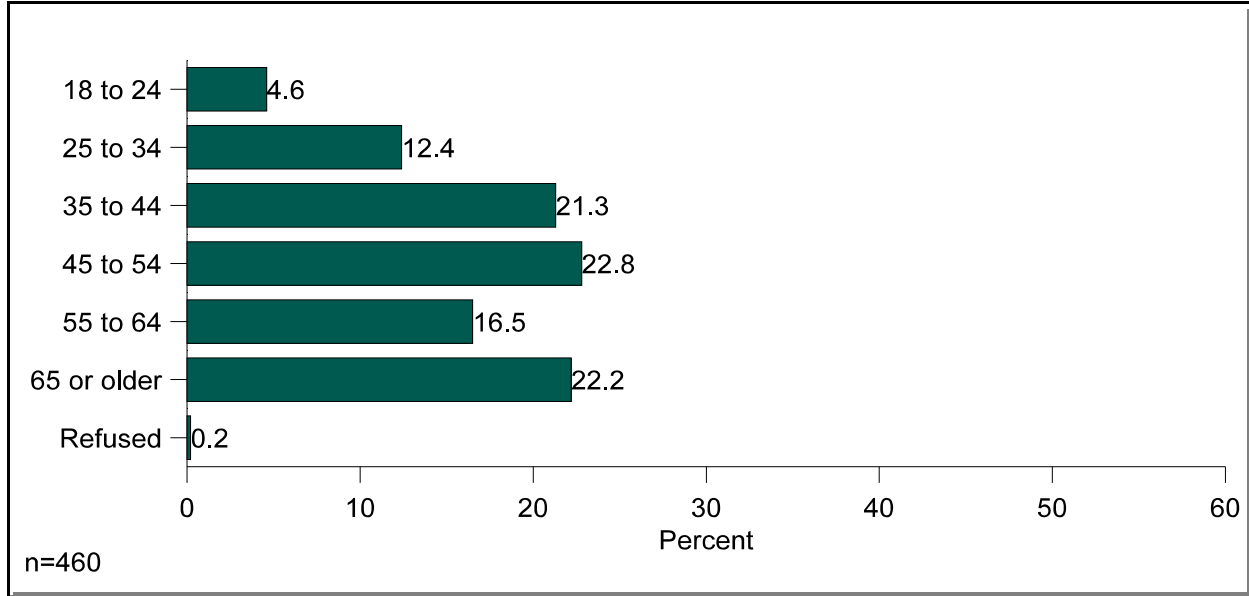
Figure 30. Whether Respondent Would Know the Steps to Report a Case of Child Abuse, and Their Willingness to Report a Case of Child Abuse to Authorities



DEMOGRAPHICS

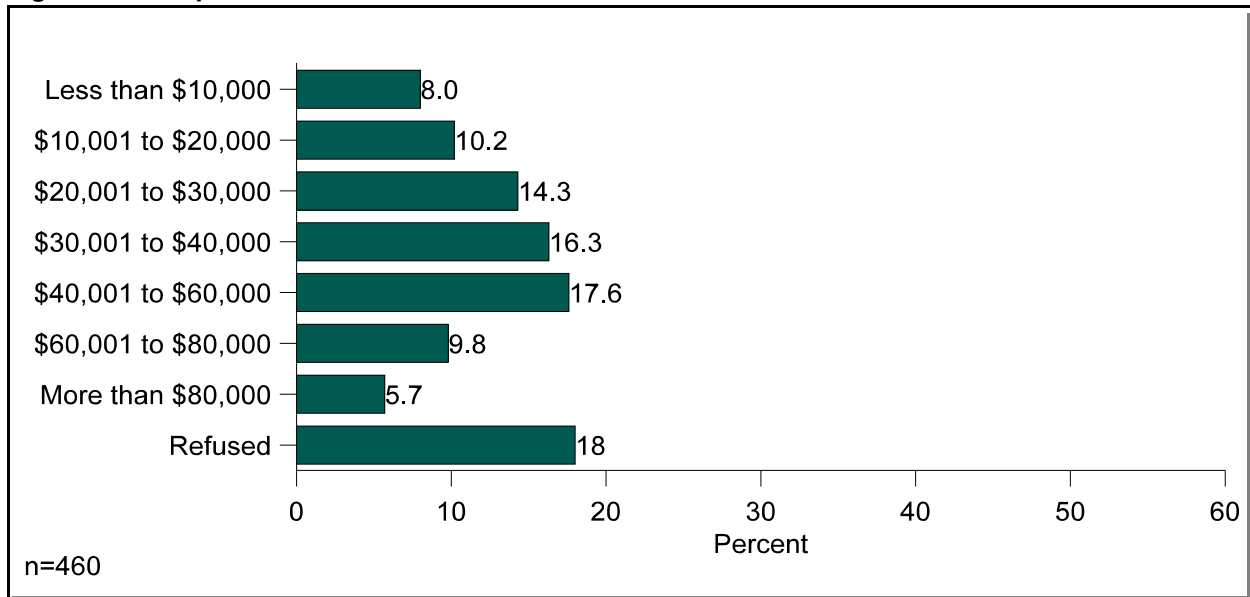
- Nearly 62 percent of respondents were 45 years or older. Only 4.6 percent were ages 18 to 24. One-third of respondents were ages 25 to 44 (Figure 31, Appendix Table 32).

Figure 31. Respondent's Age



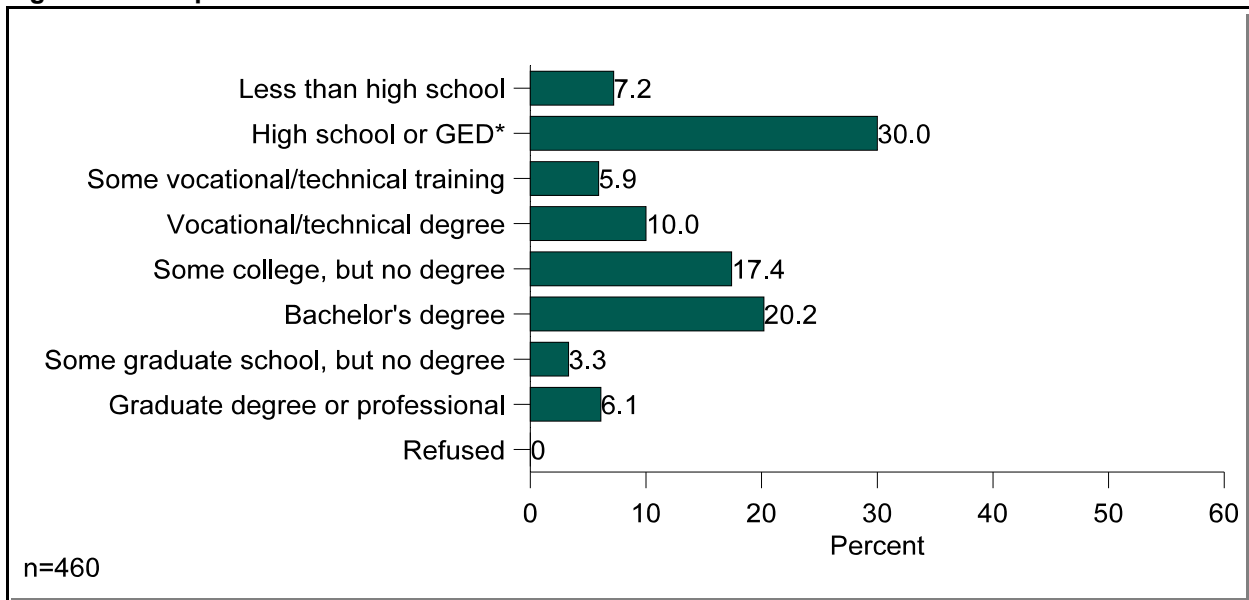
- One-third of respondents had a household income of more than \$40,000 annually (Figure 32, Appendix Table 33).

Figure 32. Respondent's Annual Household Income Before Taxes



- Approximately 37 percent of respondents received no formal education beyond high school. Nearly 30 percent have at least a Bachelor's degree (Figure 33, Appendix Table 34).

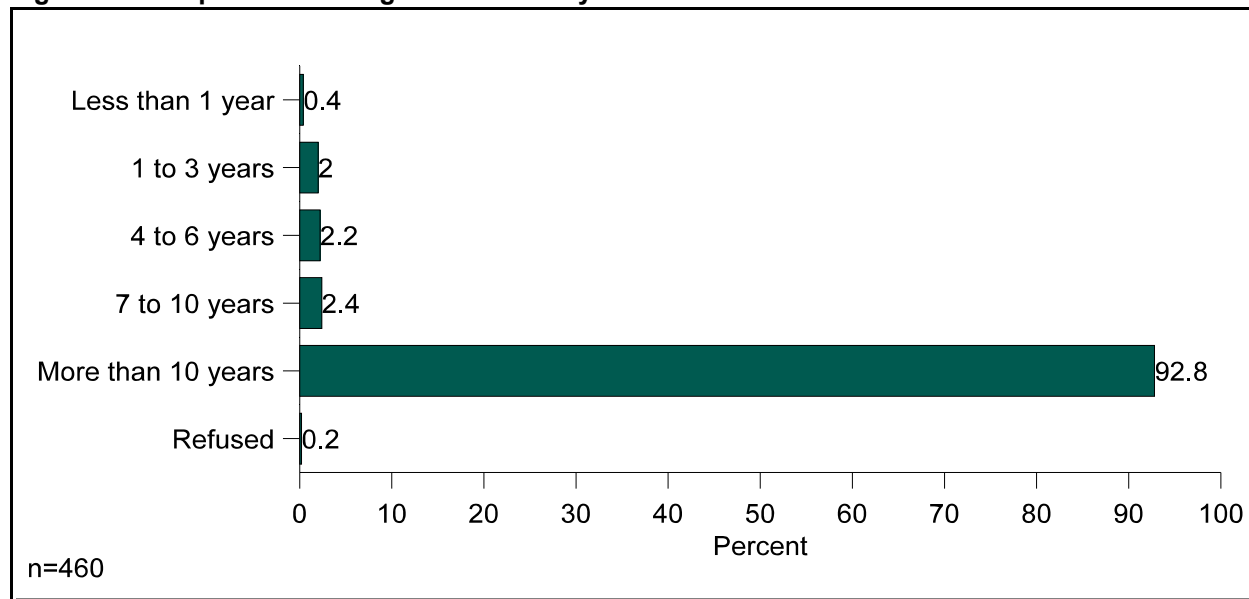
Figure 33. Respondent's Level of Education



*General Education Development graduate.

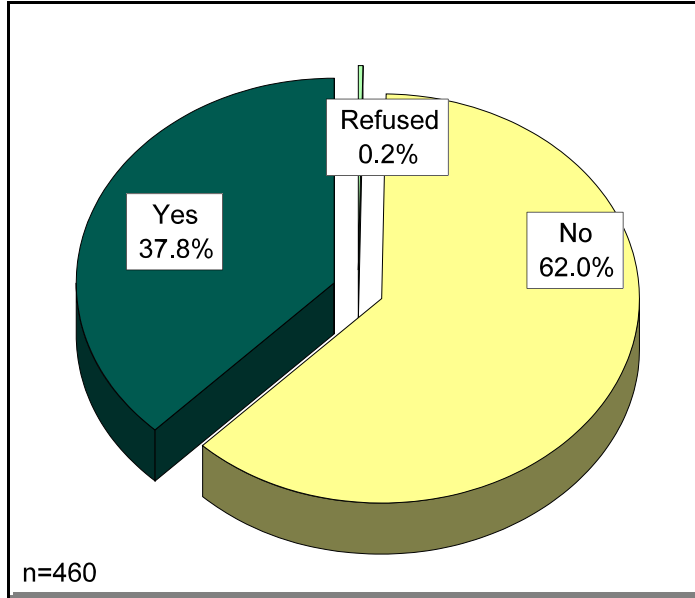
- Almost all of the respondents have lived in North Dakota more than 10 years (92.8 percent) (Figure 34, Appendix Table 35).

Figure 34. Respondent's Length of Residency in North Dakota



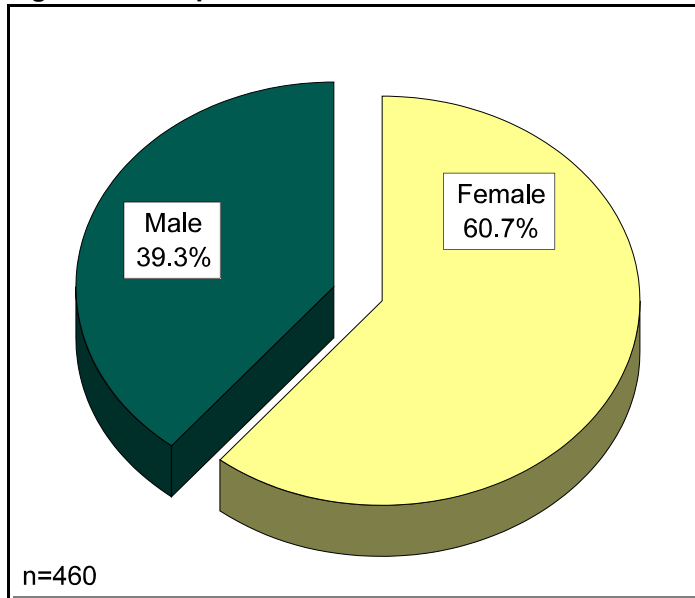
- Approximately 38 percent of respondents were the parents or primary caregivers of a child or children 18 years of age or younger (Figure 35, Appendix Table 36).

Figure 35. Whether Respondent is the Parent or Primary Caregiver of a Child or Children 18 Years of Age or Younger



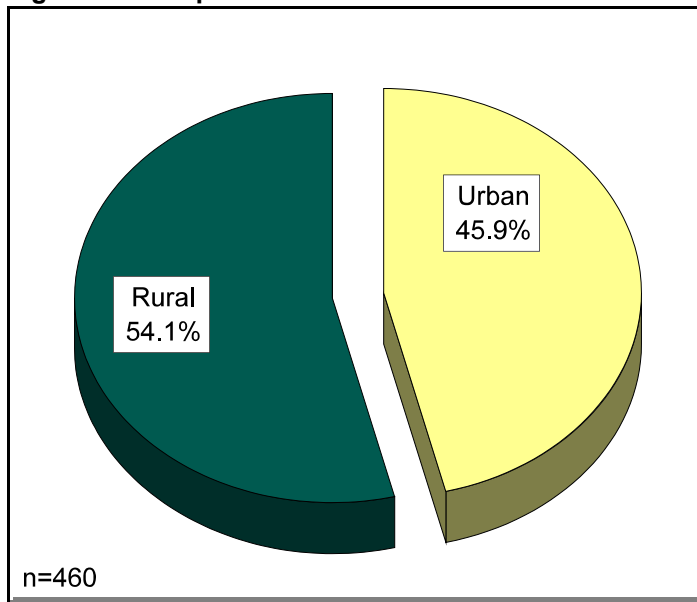
- Nearly 61 percent of respondents were female (Figure 36, Appendix Table 37).

Figure 36. Respondent's Gender



- The distribution of respondent's place of residence was approximately even, with slightly more than half of respondents living in rural areas (Figure 37, Appendix Table 38).

Figure 37. Respondent's Place of Residence



APPENDIX TABLES

Appendix Table 1. How Much of a Problem Child Neglect is in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Not a Problem	9	2.0
Minor Problem	148	32.2
Moderate Problem	219	47.6
Serious Problem	63	13.7
Do not know/refused	21	4.6
Total	460	100.1

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 2. Rate of Child Neglect in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Higher	11	2.4
Lower	294	63.9
About the same	133	28.9
Do not know/refused	22	4.8
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 3. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Neglected

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
0 to 4 years of age	133	28.9
5 to 8 years of age	137	29.8
9 to 11 years of age	81	17.6
12 to 14 years of age	45	9.8
15 to 18 years of age	23	5.0
Do not know/refused	41	8.9
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 4. Perceptions of Annual Child Neglect Cases Reported in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
0 to 500	146	31.7
501 to 1,000	143	31.1
1,001 to 1,500	72	15.7
1,501 to 2,000	25	5.4
More than 2,000	30	6.5
Do not know/refused	44	9.6
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 5. Extent That Child Neglect Contributes to Various Concerns

Concerns	Mean*	Respondents											
		Not at all 1		2		3		4		A great deal 5		DNK/ refused	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Depression	4.03	13	2.8	28	6.1	94	20.4	116	25.2	204	44.3	5	1.1
Violence	4.11	12	2.6	28	6.1	81	17.6	104	22.6	223	48.5	12	2.6
Substance abuse	4.19	10	2.2	16	3.5	69	15.0	142	30.9	216	47.0	7	1.5
Eating disorders	3.39	28	6.1	73	15.9	139	30.2	107	23.3	99	21.5	14	3.0
Problems at school	4.14	8	1.7	23	5.0	73	15.9	140	30.4	208	45.2	8	1.7

n=460

*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal". "Do not know/refused" was excluded from the mean.

Appendix Table 6. Whether Neglected Children are More Likely to Neglect Their Children When They Become Parents

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	385	83.7
No	58	12.6
Do not know/refused	17	3.7
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 7. Age at Which a Child Can be Left Unattended for Three to Four Hours

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
0 to 4 years of age	2	0.4
5 to 8 years of age	7	1.5
9 to 11 years of age	150	32.6
12 to 14 years of age	259	56.3
15 to 18 years of age	37	8.0
Do not know/refused	5	1.1
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 8. Whether North Dakota State Government is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Neglect

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Strongly disagree	5	1.1
Disagree	69	15.0
No opinion	132	28.7
Agree	196	42.6
Strongly agree	20	4.3
Do not know/refused	38	8.3
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 9. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Neglect

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Strongly disagree	8	1.7
Disagree	35	7.6
No opinion	67	14.6
Agree	246	53.5
Strongly agree	95	20.7
Do not know/refused	9	2.0
Total	460	100.1

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 10. How Much of a Problem Child Physical Abuse is in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Not a Problem	9	2.0
Minor Problem	128	27.8
Moderate Problem	253	55.0
Serious Problem	56	12.2
Do not know/refused	14	3.0
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 11. Rate of Child Physical Abuse in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Higher	10	2.2
Lower	244	53.0
About the same	187	40.7
Do not know/refused	19	4.1
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 12. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Physically Abused

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
0 to 4 years of age	197	42.8
5 to 8 years of age	137	29.8
9 to 11 years of age	55	12.0
12 to 14 years of age	27	5.9
15 to 18 years of age	10	2.2
Do not know/refused	34	7.4
Total	460	100.1

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 13. Perceptions of Annual Child Physical Abuse Cases Reported in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
0 to 250	69	15.0
251 to 500	137	29.8
501 to 750	105	22.8
751 to 1,000	62	13.5
More than 1,000	59	12.8
Do not know/refused	28	6.1
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 14. Extent That Child Physical Abuse Contributes to Various Concerns

Concerns	Mean*	Respondents											
		Not at all 1		2		3		4		A great deal 5		DNK/ refused	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Depression	4.14	9	2.0	27	5.9	78	17.0	118	25.7	221	48.0	7	1.5
Violence	4.37	12	2.6	11	2.4	60	13.0	88	19.1	285	62.0	4	0.9
Substance abuse	4.21	7	1.5	24	5.2	59	12.8	139	30.2	225	48.9	6	1.3
Eating disorders	3.49	24	5.2	60	13.0	149	32.4	104	22.6	113	24.6	10	2.2
Problems at school	4.18	7	1.5	23	5.0	72	15.7	131	28.5	222	48.3	5	1.1

n=460

*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal". "Do not know/refused" was excluded from the mean.

Appendix Table 15. Whether Physically Abused Children are More Likely to Physically Abuse Their Children When They Become Parents

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	400	87.0
No	46	10.0
Do not know/refused	14	3.0
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 16. Respondent's Belief That Hitting the Child is Okay When a Child Misbehaves

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Strongly disagree	91	19.8
Disagree	220	47.8
No opinion	65	14.1
Agree	55	12.0
Strongly agree	8	1.7
Do not know/refused	21	4.6
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 17. Whether North Dakota State Government Is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Physical Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Strongly disagree	5	1.1
Disagree	59	12.8
No opinion	120	26.1
Agree	229	49.8
Strongly agree	12	2.6
Do not know/refused	35	7.6
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 18. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Physical Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Strongly disagree	6	1.3
Disagree	32	7.0
No opinion	77	16.7
Agree	227	49.3
Strongly agree	104	22.6
Do not know/refused	14	3.0
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 19. How Much of a Problem Child Sexual Abuse is in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Not a Problem	7	1.5
Minor Problem	122	26.5
Moderate Problem	225	48.9
Serious Problem	71	15.4
Do not know/refused	35	7.6
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 20. Rate of Child Sexual Abuse in North Dakota Compared to Other Parts of the Country

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Higher	18	3.9
Lower	208	45.2
About the same	209	45.4
Do not know/refused	25	5.4
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 21. Age at Which Child is Most Likely to be Sexually Abused

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
0 to 4 years of age	31	6.7
5 to 8 years of age	136	29.6
9 to 11 years of age	134	29.1
12 to 14 years of age	99	21.5
15 to 18 years of age	25	5.4
Do not know/refused	35	7.6
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 22. Perceptions of Annual Child Sexual Abuse Cases Reported in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
0 to 100	93	20.2
101 to 150	113	24.6
151 to 200	69	15.0
201 to 250	63	13.7
More than 250	88	19.1
Do not know/refused	34	7.4
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 23. Extent That Child Sexual Abuse Contributes to Various Concerns

Concerns	Mean*	Respondents											
		Not at all 1		2		3		4		A great deal 5		Do not Know/ refused	
		n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Depression	4.50	5	1.1	10	2.2	50	10.9	75	16.3	310	67.4	10	2.2
Violence	4.05	2	0.4	35	7.6	105	22.8	110	23.9	202	43.9	6	1.3
Substance abuse	4.31	5	1.1	15	3.3	57	12.4	133	28.9	244	53.0	6	1.3
Eating disorders	3.82	14	3.0	47	10.2	117	25.4	99	21.5	171	37.2	12	2.6
Problems at school	4.29	7	1.5	17	3.7	60	13.0	121	26.3	247	53.7	8	1.7

n=460

*Means were based on a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal". "Do not know/refused" was excluded from the mean.

Appendix Table 24. Whether Sexually Abused Children are More Likely to Sexually Abuse Others

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	306	66.5
No	119	25.9
Do not Know/refused	35	7.6
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 25. Perceptions of People Who Most Often Sexually Abuse Children

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Strangers	13	2.8
Acquaintances/friends	220	47.8
Family members	214	46.5
Do not know/refused	13	2.8
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 26. Whether North Dakota State Government is Actively Involved in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Strongly disagree	6	1.3
Disagree	60	13.0
No opinion	120	26.1
Agree	219	47.6
Strongly agree	19	4.1
Do not know/refused	36	7.8
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 27. Whether North Dakota State Government Should be More Involved in Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Strongly disagree	5	1.1
Disagree	12	2.6
No opinion	73	15.9
Agree	237	51.5
Strongly agree	124	27.0
Do not know/refused	9	2.0
Total	460	100.1

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 28. Whether Respondent Has Knowledge of a Person Who Had Experienced a Form of Child Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	216	47.0
No	238	51.7
Do not know/refused	6	1.3
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 29. The Form of Child Abuse Experienced by Person Respondent Knows

Form of Abuse	Respondents							
	Yes		No		Do not know/refused		Total	
	n	%	n	%	n	%	n	%
Child neglect	123	56.9	84	38.9	9	4.2	216	100.0
Child physical abuse	147	68.1	62	28.7	7	3.2	216	100.0
Child sexual abuse	140	64.8	63	29.2	13	6.0	216	100.0

Appendix Table 30. Whether Respondent Would Know the Steps to Report a Case of Child Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Yes	352	76.5
No	100	21.7
Do not know/refused	8	1.7
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 31. Whether Respondent Would be Willing to Report a Case of Child Abuse

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	449	97.6
No	3	0.7
Do not know/refused	8	1.7
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 32. Respondent's Age

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
18 to 24 years of age	21	4.6
25 to 34 years of age	57	12.4
35 to 44 years of age	98	21.3
45 to 54 years of age	105	22.8
55 to 64 years of age	76	16.5
65 or older	102	22.2
Refused	1	0.2
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 33. Respondent's Annual Household Income Before Taxes

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Less than \$10,000	37	8.0
\$10,001 to \$20,000	47	10.2
\$20,001 to \$30,000	66	14.3
\$30,001 to \$40,000	75	16.3
\$40,001 to \$60,000	81	17.6
\$60,001 to \$80,000	45	9.8
More than \$80,000	26	5.7
Refused	83	18.0
Total	460	99.9

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 34. Respondent's Level of Education

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent*
Less than high school	33	7.2
High school or GED	138	30.0
Some vocational/technical training	27	5.9
Vocational/technical degree	46	10.0
Some college, but no degree	80	17.4
Bachelor's degree	93	20.2
Some graduate school, but no degree	15	3.3
Graduate degree or professional training	28	6.1
Refused	0	0.0
Total	460	100.1

*Percentages do not equal 100 due to rounding

Appendix Table 35. Respondent's Length of Residency in North Dakota

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Less than 1 year	2	0.4
1 to 3 years	9	2.0
4 to 6 years	10	2.2
7 to 10 years	11	2.4
More than 10 years	427	92.8
Refused	1	0.2
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 36. Whether Respondent is the Parent or Primary Caregiver of a Child or Children 18 Years of Age or Younger

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Yes	174	37.8
No	285	62.0
Do not know/refused	1	0.2
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 37. Respondent's Gender

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Male	181	39.3
Female	279	60.7
Total	460	100.0

Appendix Table 38. Respondent's Place of Residence

	Respondents	
	Number	Percent
Rural	249	54.1
Urban	211	45.9
Total	460	100.0

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Statewide Child Abuse Survey
March, 2002

Hello, my name is _____ and I'm calling from the Center for Social Research at North Dakota State University. May I speak with the person in your household with the most recent birthday who is at least 18 years old?

We are conducting a survey to ask your opinions about child abuse and neglect in North Dakota. May I have a few moments of your time?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No [If possible, try to establish a call-back time]

"Thank you for your time and have a good evening."
"[Press any key to begin next interview.]"

Before we begin let me give you some information about the study. The project is sponsored by the University of North Dakota Department of Neuroscience. Information gathered will help us gain insight into people's perceptions of child abuse and neglect, and will assist us in developing educational programs aimed at reducing child abuse and neglect cases in North Dakota. Your household was chosen at random, and the survey will take approximately 10 minutes. Your responses are strictly confidential, and you are free to withdraw from the survey at any time. Should you have questions about any component of the survey, you may call Dr. Stephen Wonderlich at 701-293-4112, or Dr. Richard Rathge at 701-231-8621.

Let's begin. The first portion of the survey contains questions about child neglect. Child neglect is defined as "failure to provide for a child's physical needs to the extent that there is harm or risk of harm to the child's health or safety. This refers to children younger than 18 years of age". All of the questions I ask you about neglect will be based on this definition.

Q1

To begin, how much of a problem do you think childhood neglect is in North Dakota?

- 1. Not a problem
- 2. Minor problem
- 3. Moderate problem
- 4. Serious problem
- 5. [Do not know/refused]

Q2

Compared to other parts of the country, the rate of child neglect in North Dakota is:

- 1. Higher
- 2. Lower
- 3. About the same
- 4. [Do not know/refused]

Q3

At what age do you think a child is most likely to be neglected?

1. 0 to 4 years of age
2. 5 to 8 years of age
3. 9 to 11 years of age
4. 12 to 14 years of age
5. 15 to 18 years of age
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q4

How many cases of child neglect do you think are reported in North Dakota each year?

1. 0 to 500
2. 501 to 1000
3. 1001 to 1500
4. 1501 to 2000
5. More than 2000
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q5

Using a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal", to what extent do you think childhood neglect contributes to the following:

Depression
Violence
Substance abuse
Eating disorders
Problems at school

1. Not at all
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. A great deal
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q6

Do you think that children who are neglected are more likely to neglect their children when they become parents?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q7

At what age do you think a child can be left unattended for three to four hours?

1. 0 to 4 years of age
2. 5 to 8 years of age
3. 9 to 11 years of age
4. 12 to 14 years of age
5. 15 to 18 years of age
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q8

Please respond to the following statements:

The North Dakota state government is actively involved in preventing childhood neglect. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q9

The North Dakota state government should be more involved in preventing childhood neglect. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

The next section of the survey addresses physical abuse issues. The definition of physical abuse is: "Physically harming the body of a child under the age of 18, by a person who is responsible for the child's welfare. This does not include accidents". All of the questions I ask you about physical abuse will be based on this definition.

Q10

In North Dakota, how much of a problem do you think childhood physical abuse is?

1. Not a problem
2. Minor problem
3. Moderate problem
4. Serious problem
5. [Do not know/refused]

Q11

Compared to other parts of the country, the rate of child abuse in North Dakota is:

1. Higher
2. Lower
3. About the same
4. [Do not know/refused]

Q12

At what age do you think a child is most likely to be physically abused?

1. 0 to 4 years of age
2. 5 to 8 years of age
3. 9 to 11 years of age
4. 12 to 14 years of age
5. 15 to 18 years of age
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q13

How many cases of childhood physical abuse do you think are reported in North Dakota each year?

1. 0 to 250
2. 251 to 500
3. 501 to 750
4. 751 to 1000
5. More than 1000
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q14

Using a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal", to what extent do you think childhood physical abuse contributes to the following:

Depression
Violence
Substance abuse
Eating disorders
Problems at school

1. Not at all
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. A great deal
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q15

Do you think that children who are physically abused are more likely to physically abuse their children when they become parents?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q16

Please respond to the following statements:

I believe that when a child misbehaves, hitting the child is okay. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q17

The North Dakota state government is actively involved in preventing childhood physical abuse. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q18

The North Dakota state government should be more involved in preventing childhood physical abuse. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Next, I'd like to ask you some questions on childhood sexual abuse. The definition for childhood sexual abuse is "sexual activity that occurs before the age of 18 that was unwanted or involved another person five or more years older than the child". All of the questions I ask you about sexual abuse will be based on this definition.

Q19

In North Dakota, how much of a problem is childhood sexual abuse?

1. Not a problem
2. Minor problem
3. Moderate problem
4. Serious problem
5. [Do not know/refused]

Q20

Compared to other parts of the country, the rate of childhood sexual abuse in North Dakota is:

1. Higher
2. Lower
3. About the same
4. [Do not know/refused]

Q21

At what age do you think a child is most likely to be sexually abused?

1. 0 to 4 years of age
2. 5 to 8 years of age
3. 9 to 11 years of age
4. 12 to 14 years of age
5. 15 to 18 years of age
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q22

How many cases of child sexual abuse do you think are reported in North Dakota each year?

1. 0 to 100
2. 101 to 150
3. 151 to 200
4. 201 to 250
5. More than 250
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q23

Using a one to five scale, with one being "not at all" and five being "a great deal", to what extent do you think childhood sexual abuse contributes to the following:

Depression
Violence
Substance abuse
Eating disorders
Problems at school

1. Not at all
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
5. A great deal
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q24

Do you think that children who are sexually abused are more likely to sexually abuse others?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q25

Do you think that people who sexually abuse children are most often...

1. Strangers
2. Acquaintances or friends
3. Family members
4. [Do not know/refused]

Q26

The North Dakota state government is actively involved in preventing childhood sexual abuse. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q27

The North Dakota state government should be more involved in preventing childhood sexual abuse. Do you...

1. Strongly disagree
2. Disagree
3. No opinion
4. Agree
5. Strongly agree
6. [Do not know/refused]

Q28

Do you have knowledge of a person who has experienced one of the forms of child abuse I've mentioned?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q29

Did they experience...

Child neglect

Child abuse

Child sexual abuse

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q30

Would you know what steps to take to report a case of childhood neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse if you were aware of one?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Q31

Would you be willing to report a case of childhood neglect, physical abuse, or sexual abuse to authorities if you were aware of one?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Do not know/refused]

Just a few more questions and we're done.

Q32

Would you mind telling me your age?

1. 18 to 24
2. 25 to 34
3. 35 to 44
4. 45 to 54
5. 55 to 64
6. 65 or older
7. [Refused]

Q33

What was your annual household income in 2001 before taxes?

1. Less than \$10,000
2. \$10,001 to \$20,000
3. \$20,001 to \$30,000
4. \$30,001 to \$40,000
5. \$40,001 to \$60,000
6. \$60,001 to \$80,000
7. More than \$80,000
8. [Refused]

Q34

How much formal education have you completed?

1. Less than high school
2. High school or GED
3. Some vocational/technical training
4. Vocational/technical degree
5. Some college, but no degree
6. Bachelor's degree
7. Some graduate school, but no degree
8. Graduate degree or professional (law, medical, etc.)
9. [Refused]

Q35

How long have you been a resident of North Dakota?

1. Less than 1 year
2. 1 to 3 years
3. 4 to 6 years
4. 7 to 10 years
5. More than 10 years
6. [Refused]

Q36

Are you the parent or primary caregiver of a child or children 18 years of age or younger?

1. Yes
2. No
3. [Refused]

End

That completes our survey. Thank you so much for taking the time to help us with this important study.
Goodnight.

Q37

Record gender based on voice.

1. Male
2. Female