

# FACTS VS. MISCONCEPTIONS

## Myth

### Sexual abuse isn't a problem in my organization

## FACTS

- Studies show there are **60 Million sexual abuse survivors** in the United States
- 1 out of 4 girls and 1 out of 6 boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18
- 66% of abuse victims will not speak up until adulthood (if ever)

## Myth

### Background Checks will detect all sexual abusers

## FACTS

- Less than 10% of sexual abusers will **EVER** encounter the criminal justice system
- More than 90% of sexual abusers have no criminal record... and they know it
- Background Checks are necessary but have limitations; **NOT** a silver bullet
- Other Background Check vendors cut corners and further limit search results

## Myth

### I will know a predator when I see one

## FACTS

- There is **NO** visual profile for abusers
- Most abusers appear helpful, trustworthy and responsible
- Abusers come from all segments of society
- Many abusers are educated, married and have children

## Myth

### STRANGERS pose the greatest danger to children in my program

## FACTS

- 'Stranger Danger' is a misconception
- Abduction or 'snatch and grab' offenses are a fraction of sexual abuse occurrences
- 90% of children are abused *by someone they know and trust*
- Child check-in systems don't solve the problem
- Sexual abusers *groom* children *and* gatekeepers prior to sexual behavior
- Staff members and volunteers **MUST** understand the *abuser's grooming process*

## Myth

### Sexual abusers choose a child at random

## FACTS

- Abusers look for low barriers to access
- Low barriers exist where the *wrong* Safety System is in place
- Ongoing failure to address this issue results in increased risk to children

**What we believe shapes what we DO. The first step to *effective prevention* is training your staff members with *accurate information*.**