



# Parents as Protectors: A Brief Parent-Focused Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Module

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# Child CSA Education

Main method of prevention.

Children are taught how to:

- Recognise
- Resist
- Report

Mainly school programs

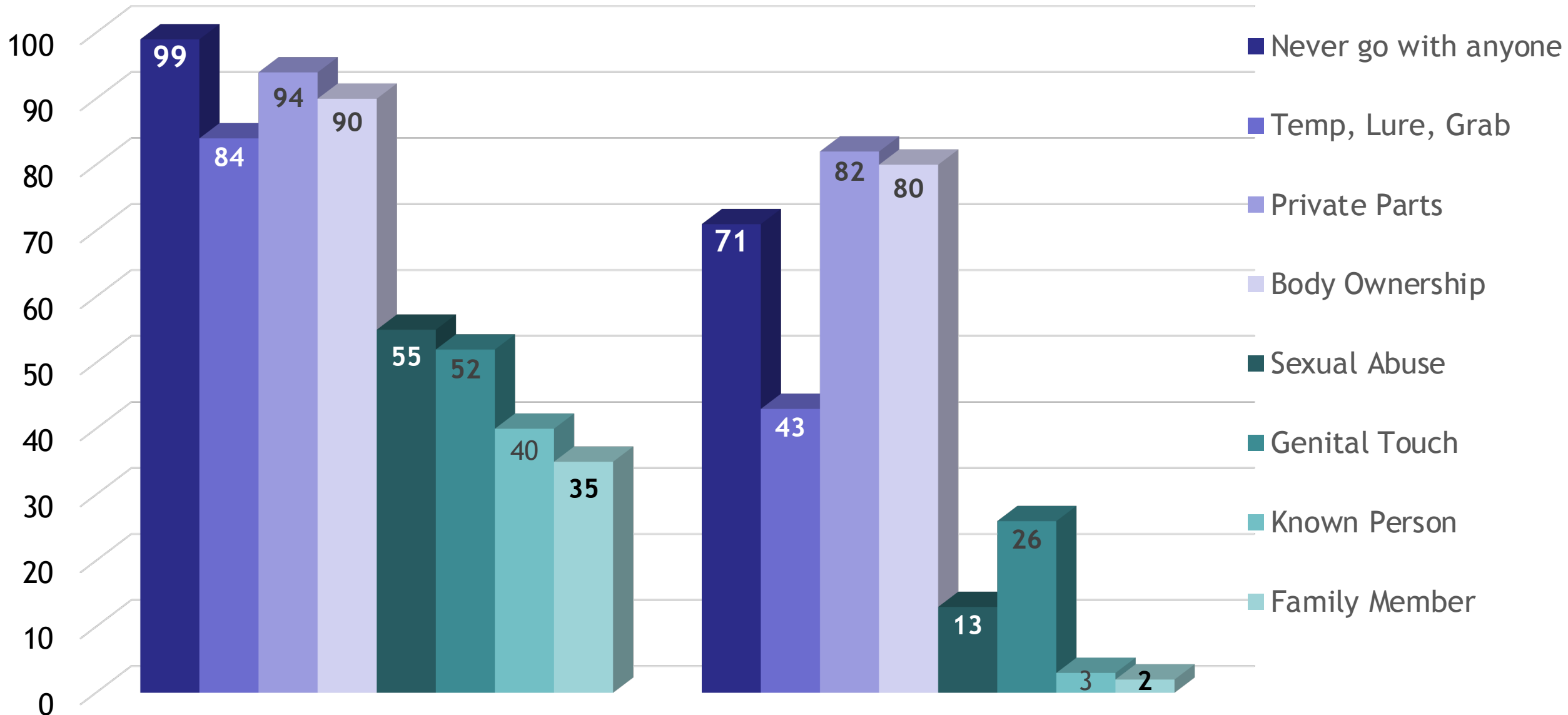
Limited role of parents

Problem:

They are not very good at it!!



# Rates of Parent-Led CSA Education (%)



Sample 1 N=252. High SES.

Child age = 6-11

Sample 2 N=92. "Vulnerable"

Child age = 2-6

## Discrepancies

# Support for CSA Education ≠ CSA Education

95%

Parents should teach how to recognise, resist and report CSA

55%

74%

Children should be taught that family members could be perpetrators

35%

Sample = 252 parents of 6-11-year-olds from Australia and the UK

Parental discussion of child sexual abuse: Is it associated with the parenting practices of involvement, monitoring and general communication?

Rudolph, Zimmer-Gembeck, Shanley, Walsh, & Hawkins, 2018

## Parent-led CSA Education

**Finkelhor et al.  
1995**

- 2000 10-16 year olds.
- Parent-led education => more knowledge, use of strategies and disclosure
- But not less sexual victimization

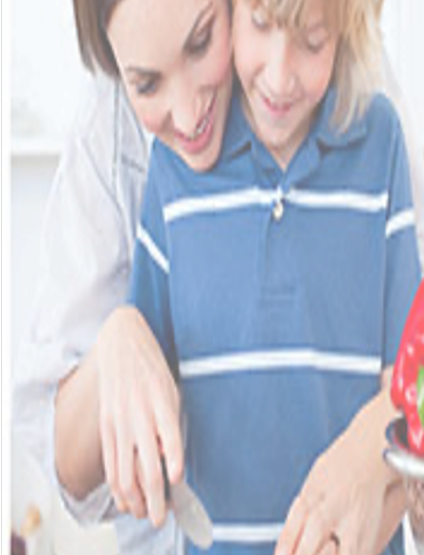
**Rudolph et al.  
2022**

- 1265 university students.
- Parent-led education => less CSA in preliminary analyses
- BUT in follow-up analyses controlling for protective parenting: Protective Parenting => less CSA, not education

# Parents as Protectors

Theory and Evidence demonstrates that:

- Parents are an important part of prevention
- That they may be better employed as protectors rather than educators





# Two Pathways of Parental Protection:

**1** The creation of **safe environments** where CSA is less likely to occur. Achieved through effective parent supervision, monitoring and involvement.

**2** Fostering **child well-being**, lessening the child's risk of being a vulnerable target. Derived from adequate parenting practices, parent-child relationships and communication.

# Parents as Protectors Module

Target both pathways:

Embedding a module which teaches parents about safer environments into existing evidence-based parenting programs teaching parents positive parenting (with the aim of increasing child emotional well-being).

- Pathway 2 is well address by evidence-based parenting programs
- Non-attendance at standalone CSA programs (stigma)
- Risk factors

## Pathways:

1. Creation of safe environments through parent supervision, monitoring and involvement
2. Child well-being derived from adequate parenting practices, relationships and communication



# Parents as Protectors Module

- 5 digitally animated scenarios
- Therapists assist parents to assess their children's risk through the identification of warning signs and risky behaviour/situations
- To lower the risks by making environment safer
- Partner with parents - workable plans



# Parents as Protectors CSA Module

Supporting parents to create safer environments.

**Thank you**

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