

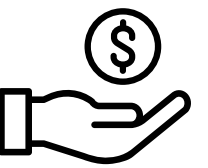
Child Sexual Abuse and Adult Employment Earnings

Child Sexual Abuse

- Child sexual abuse is any non-consensual sexual act/contact or non-contact sexual interaction that was completed/attempted with a child under the age of 18 years old.
- Child sexual abuse may be associated with poor socioeconomic outcomes in adulthood.

Objective

We longitudinally investigated the associations between child sexual abuse and adult employment earnings.



Data Linkage

The Quebec Longitudinal Study of Kindergarten Children was linked to:

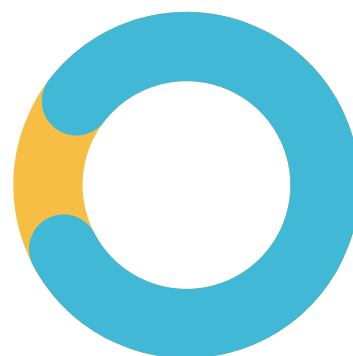
- 1) Quebec Child and Youth Protection Services database
- 2) Canadian Government Tax Return records
 - Self-reported sexual abuse was obtained via questionnaire



Participants

- 3,020 individuals in Quebec French-language school kindergartens in 1986-1988 and followed until 2017

20 participants (0.7%) had official reports of child sexual abuse to youth protection services



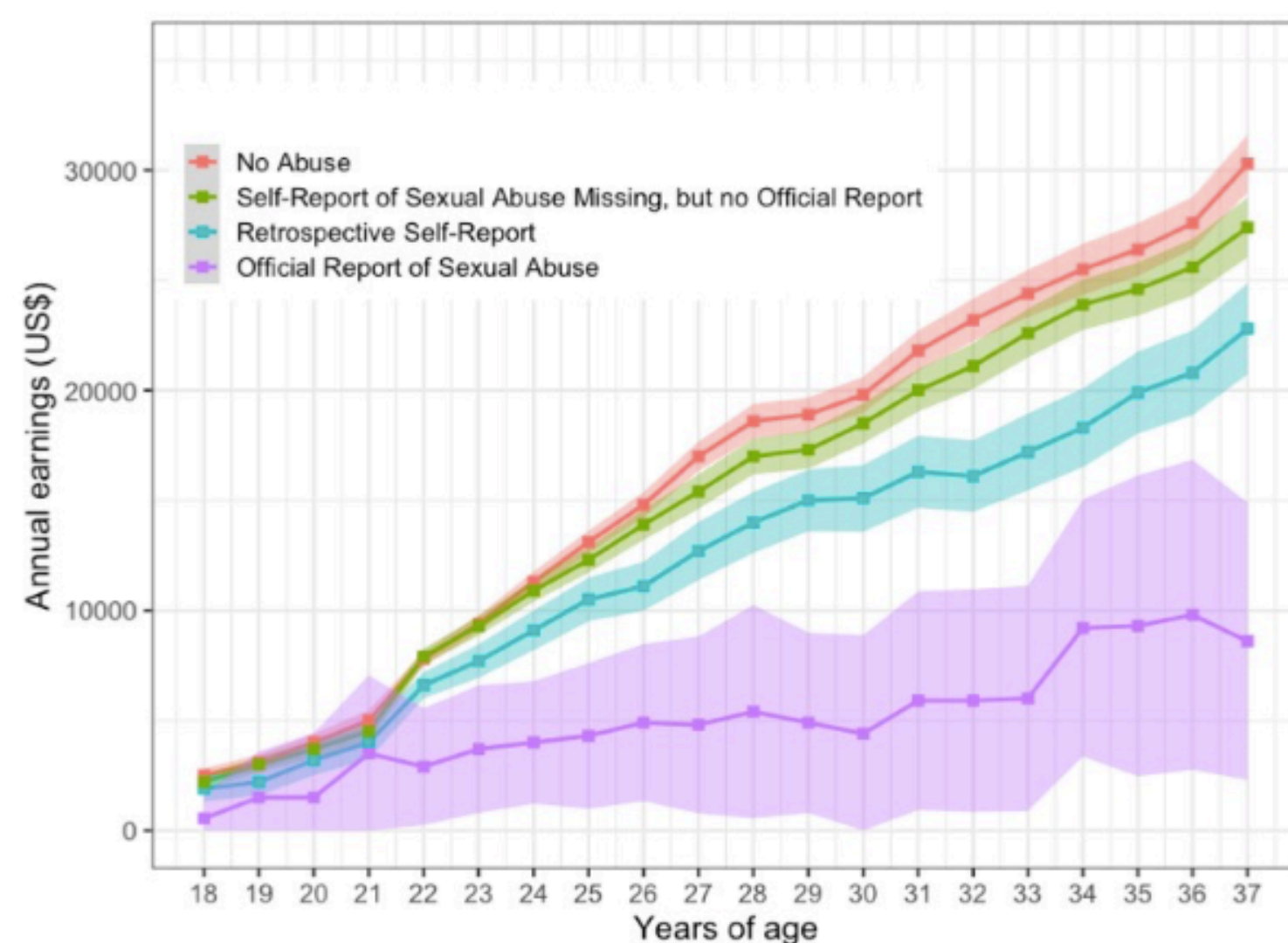
340 participants (11.3%) had no official report but retrospectively self-reported child sexual abuse

What are the associations between child sexual abuse and adult employment earnings?

- Unfortunately, child sexual abuse victims may **struggle with long-lasting consequences** in terms of their functioning, including mental and physical health problems, and socioeconomic difficulties.
- In light of these negative impacts, we wanted to **examine if child sexual abuse was related to a lower adult income**.
- Our results highlighted that **child sexual abuse is related to socioeconomic inequalities** in adults between the ages of 33-37 years old.
 - **Lower annual incomes** were found for adults with a history of child sexual abuse. The disadvantages presented by survivors were more pronounced for those with **official reports to Child Protection Services** and more severe forms of sexual abuse.



This is a visual representation of employment earnings by **sexual abuse group** in our study.



- This visual representation highlights a **lower trend of employment earnings** for 33-37 year old participants with **official reports to Child Protection Services** as opposed to those with **retrospective self-reports**.
 - In this case, **official reports to Child Protection Services** are considered to be the **most severe**, since many involved co-occurrent forms of maltreatment (e.g., neglect, physical abuse), increased familial dysfunction, and family socioeconomic disadvantage.
- Ultimately, these results support the possibility of **cascading negative repercussions** experienced by some survivors of child sexual abuse. Indeed, the negative impacts of child sexual abuse on various areas of functioning (e.g., psychological, behavioral, physical, academic) may **negatively impact socioprofessional functioning through mid-adulthood, leading to socioeconomic inequalities**.



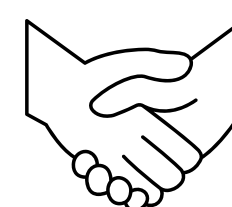
Implications

- Child sexual abuse is associated with socioeconomic inequalities by mid-adulthood. Survivors of more severe child sexual abuse or co-occurrent forms of maltreatment (i.e., including official reports to Child Protection Services) are more strongly impacted.
- Prevention through public policy and therapeutic support are needed to help survivors of child sexual abuse reach their maximal economic potential, and contribute to their resilient functioning in social and economic areas.

Seeking Help

If you or someone you know has experienced child sexual abuse, never be ashamed to seek help!

Resource: <https://infoaideviolencesexuelle.ca/>



Feel free to visit our lab website!

