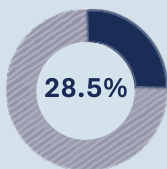


Australian prevalence of child sexual abuse by leaders and adults in religious organisations



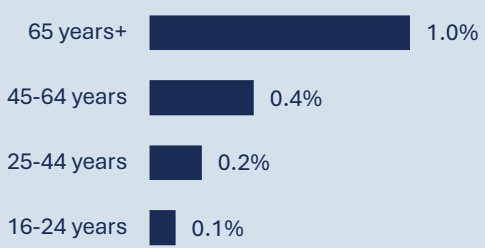
The [Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#) found the national prevalence of child sexual abuse (CSA) by all perpetrators is 28.5%.



Our new analysis used ACMS data to identify the prevalence of CSA by leaders and adults in religious organisations.

We found that 0.4% of Australians aged 16 and over experienced child sexual abuse by leaders or adults in religious organisations.

Prevalence by age group shows **an encouraging decline** in CSA by adults in these organisations.



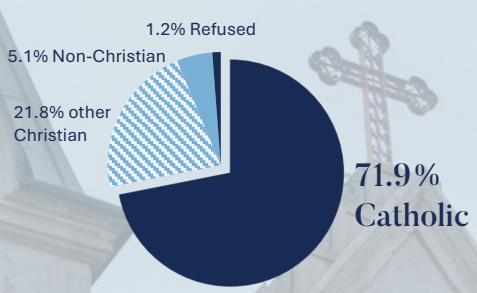
Nationally, more men (0.8%) have experienced CSA by these perpetrators than women (0.1%).



This was an **endemic problem** in former times for male victims.

1 in 45 men (2.2%) aged 65 and over experienced child sexual abuse by this type of perpetrator.

Prevalence by religious organisation



Comparative prevalence by adults in other organisations	0.7%	Schools
	0.4%	Recreational and cultural organisations
	0.1%	Sports

Child sexual abuse by religious perpetrators is particularly wrongful.

National prevalence indicates tens of thousands of Australians have been affected – mostly men.

Declines in recent decades are encouraging, and show societal awareness, monitoring and regulation have influenced prevention.

Those with lived experience deserve support and appropriate responses from health, social, legal and redress systems.

Efforts must continue to further reduce child sexual abuse.

The full article is accessible [here](#) (Hunt, Mathews, Higgins, et al., 2024).