

**TITRE / TITLE**

**Research and reflections on childhood sexual abuse by women.**

**THEME / THEMATIC**

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Recherche / Research

**AUTEURS / AUTHORS****Liste des auteurs / authors :**

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**TEXTE / TEXT**

Sexual abuse from women is hardly noticed. Despite the difficulties in having a real number of cases in which females have sexually abused children, the average incidences of this phenomenon is only about 1% of all sexual criminal acts. (USA Department of Justice, FBI 2001, and it does not even reach 2% of condemned sexual crimes in our country ISTAT 2009.)

We present a reflection starting from our data: during personal clinical expertise experience from 2014 to 2018, we were able to study 73 diverse children cases.

In these 73 diverse children cases, 20 had been abused by females. 19 had been abused by their mothers. Must be considered stereotypes that identify women as excellent educators and caregivers, not as potential aggressors (Saradijan 1996, Margolin 1991 and others).

What happens when the abuser is the mother?

Thus these traumatic experiences are so precocious and important that they necessarily induce a protective dissociation of the Self, with an apparent normal side responsible of the daily-life control and a more emotionally connected side charged with suffering and anger, often gathered in a collusive secret.

We present some significant cases and discuss on how maternal abuse can affect revelation, damage assessment and treatment. Through the description of the take charge stages, assessment and treatment, we will show how dramatic the damage is in these children, and how shame (Van der Kolk, 2015) and identification with the aggressor are present.

We would like to show how during therapy it is necessary to allow the child to explore this identification with the aggressor, which is often accompanied by great anger, aggressive acts, and sexualized behavior.