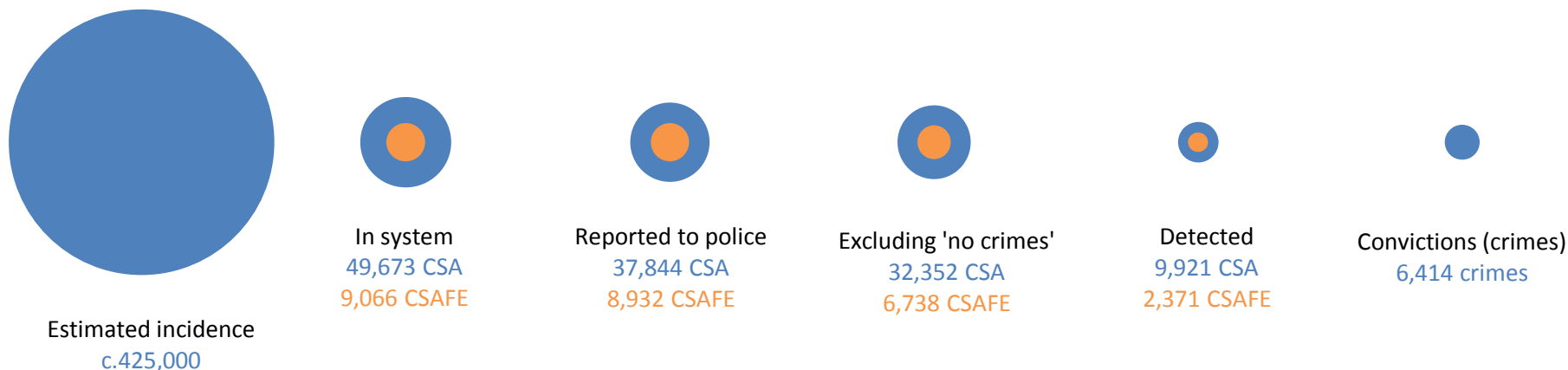




IMPROVING SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

GRAHAM RITCHIE, HEAD OF POLICY

**Promoting & protecting
children's rights**



CSA / CSAFE

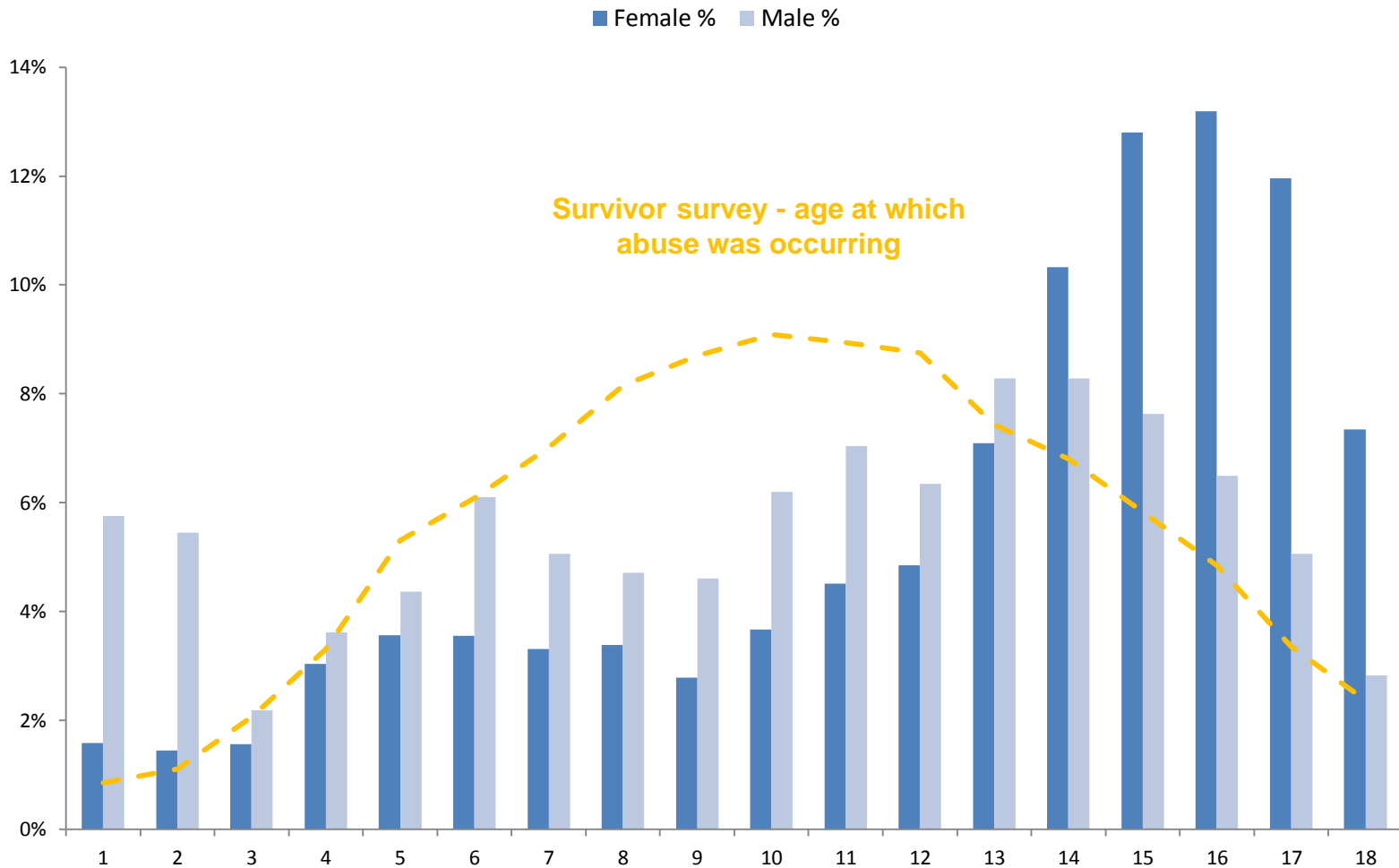
**April 2012 - March
2014**

The data request was issued to police forces in October 2014 and therefore reflects the status of investigations at the time of data collation by each individual force.

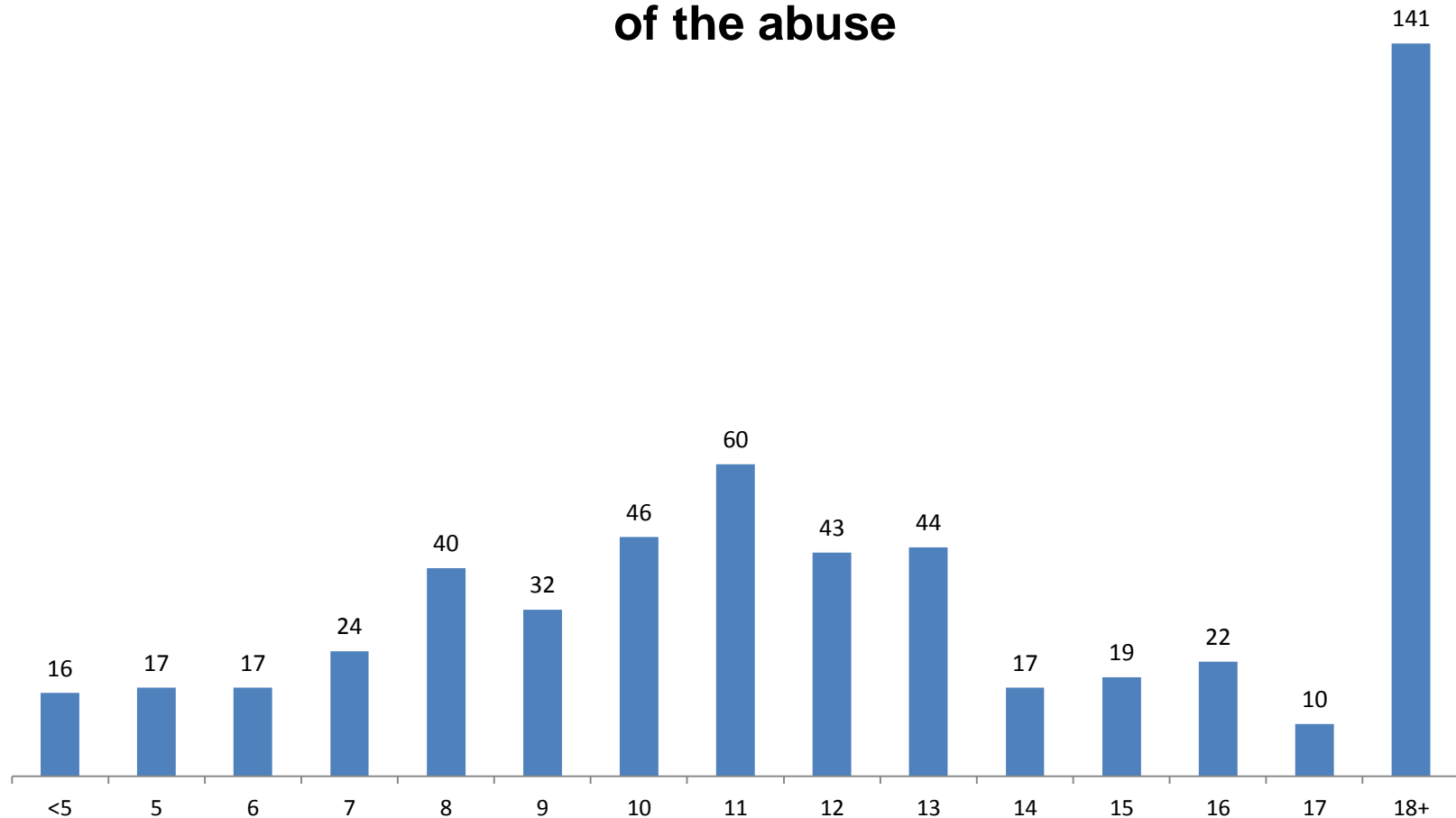
This diagram refers to the number of *victims* of CSA, rather than crimes. However, the conviction data refers to the number of CSA related crimes for which perpetrators have been charged and convicted. Many of these convictions will relate to crimes which were committed before the specific period under analysis.

The relationship between victim and perpetrator is recorded inconsistently by police forces. Data analysed for this report enabled a specific cohort of victims of CSAFE to be identified (c. 18% of all CSA victims). Where this information is recorded rigorously, CSAFE accounts for approximately two thirds of all CSA.

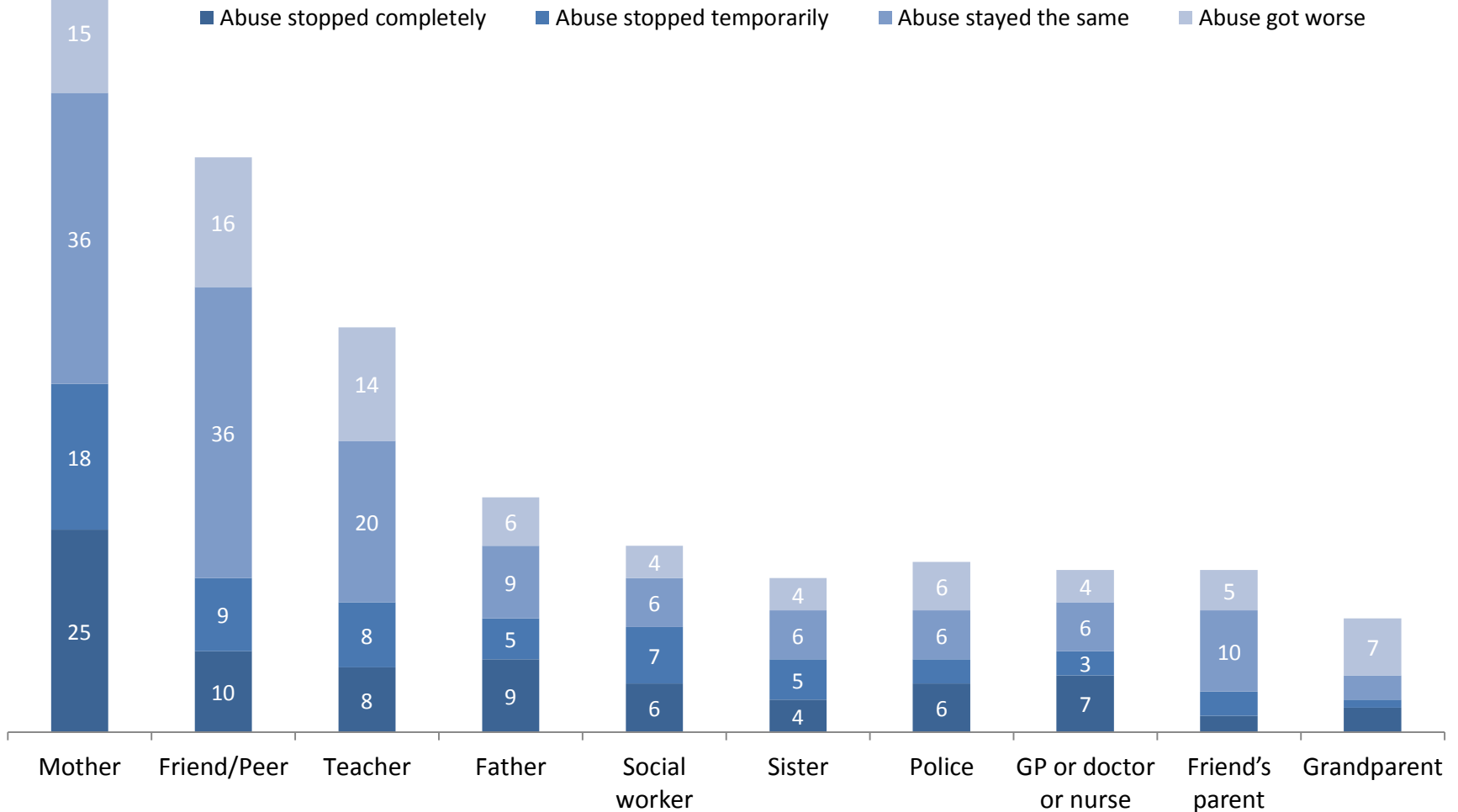
Police data - CSAFE - age at report/discovery

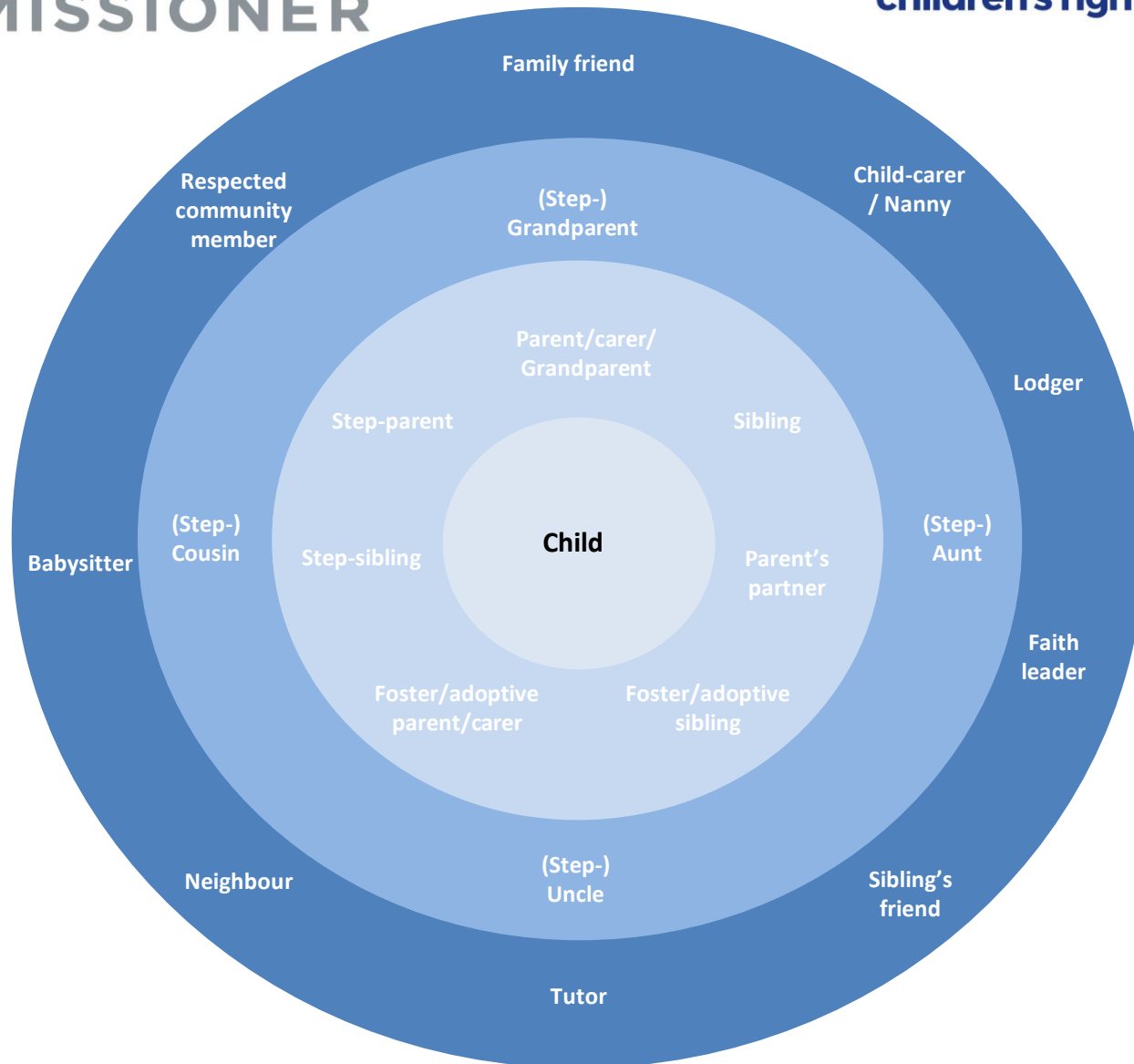


Survivor survey - age when survivor became aware of the abuse



Survivor survey - who did you tell / did the abuse stop?



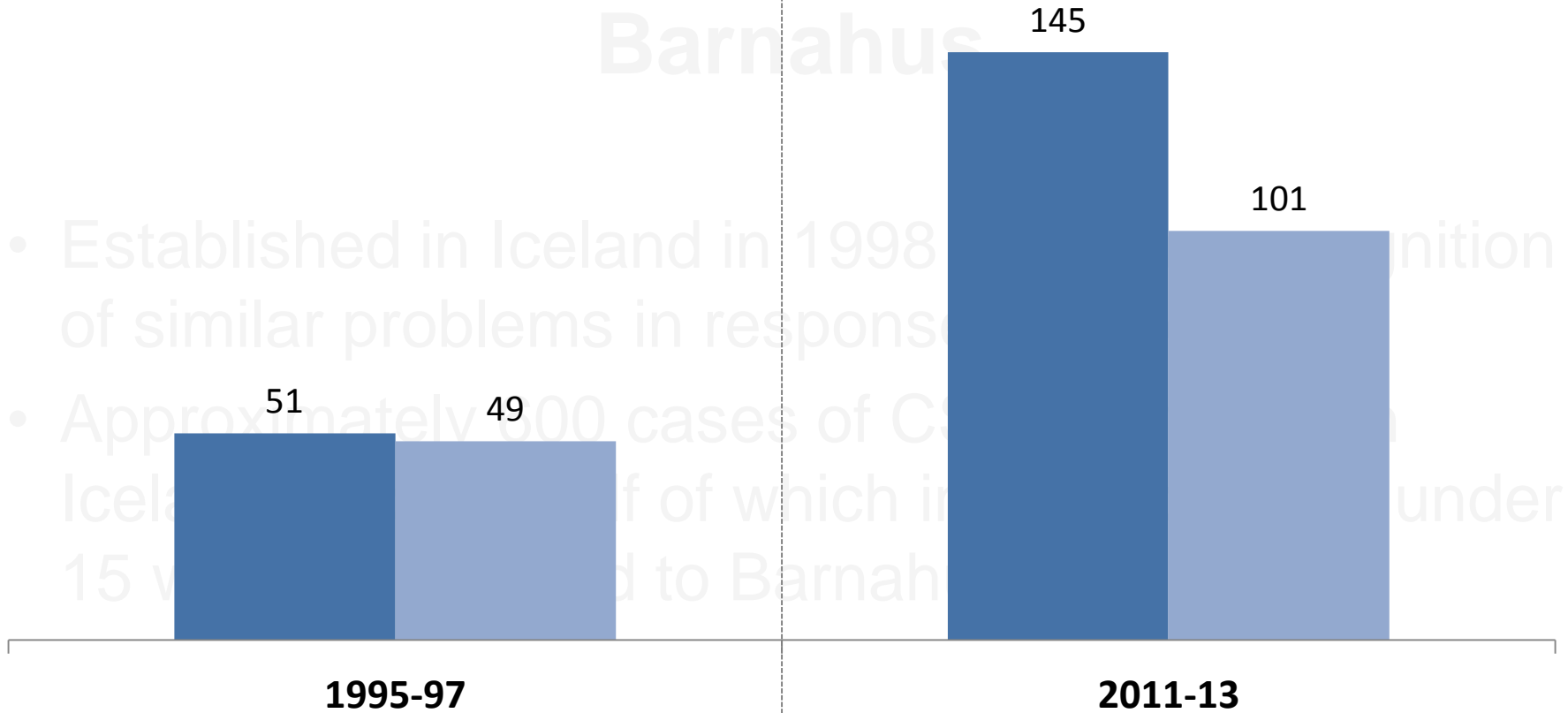


■ Indictments

■ Convictions

Before Barnahus

Promoting & protecting
After Barnahus



*Based on aggregated figures provided by Icelandic Child Protection Service

All services delivered under one roof, including forensic interview, medical examination and child/family therapy.



The Barnahus is a typical house on a typical residential street in Reykjavik



Exploratory interviews with children who exhibit signs/symptoms suggestive of sexual abuse

Many victims of sexual abuse do not disclose until adulthood

Exploratory interviews with children provides an opportunity for disclosure, guided by professional trained to ask questions in a non-leading manner

In 2014, approximately 48% of exploratory interviews resulted in a disclosure of sexual abuse

Interviews conducted by trained child psychotherapists.



Most cases of sexual abuse do not involve any physical evidence – the evidence obtained through interview is vital

Interview process is traumatic for victims of abuse

Investigative interviews are judge-led – the police, child protection service, independent legal advocate, prosecution and defence can ask questions

Embedded criminal justice process.



Recorded interview serves as testimony for the court – no question of diminished recall or inconsistency with accounts previously given to professionals

Similar to the pilot of pre-recorded cross-examination of victims led by MoJ

Interviews/testimony undertaken within a matter of weeks.



In 2014,
approximately 50%
of referrals to the
Barnahus led to
court testimony
being recorded in
less than a week

A further 30% of
referrals resulted in
court testimony
within 1-2 weeks



The Barnahus model has been successfully adapted and implemented in a number of other countries

Over 30 'children's houses' in Sweden

A Barnahus in each police district of Norway

In Denmark, local authorities mandated to refer CSA cases to their Barnahus within 7 days

Each version is different – tailored to the particular social, legal and judicial context without compromising the core aspects of the model



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