

## Exposure: Where Camps are Vulnerable

### Incident Reports from Companies that Insure Camps

[from summer, 2000<sup>1</sup>; source: five camp insurance companies/agencies]

<u>% of total calls</u>	<u>nature of call (area of concern)</u>
27	•Inappropriate conduct between counselor and camper (physical or sexual)
24	•Inappropriate conduct between campers (camper-to-camper abuse, physical or sexual; bullying)
12	•Camper psychiatric problem (medication or other)
9	•Report of parent physical abuse
8	•Personnel problem
6	•Counselor-to-counselor inappropriate conduct (sexual harassment; other grievance)
4	•Adolescent camper use of alcohol
10	•Other: •CIT-to-camper sexual involvement •serious camper injury or medical problem •incest allegation by camper or staff •camper scanned photo of other camper onto website; •camper used Internet to spread malicious lies about camper

### Areas of Exposure

#### Day Camps

- sleepovers and trips out of camp
- Coed staff sleeping together during overnights, witnessed by campers
- bathroom duty with younger children, especially when away from group
- evidence of sexual or physical abuse at home showing up at camp (signs include bruises, burn marks, precocious knowledge of sex, etc.)
- camper-to-camper abusive treatment, bullying

#### Resident Camp

- sleepouts or overnights and overnight trips out of camp
- hazing activities by counselors or fellow campers
- showers or changing time, especially when apart from the group
- unsupervised one-on-one time between a counselor and camper

#### Children Targeted

- boys 8 to 12 at resident camp (boys are abused outside the family 11 times more than girls –national statistic)
- girls 11to14 at resident camp
- children 3-6 at day camp
- generally speaking, *children who are emotionally hungry, physically handicapped, mentally impaired or who lack clear boundaries*

#### Perpetrators

“Offenders”

- males 95% of the time in counselor-to-camper abuse
- males 80% of the time in camper-to-camper hazing or bullying
- males tend to be physical; girls tend to be relational in their attacks

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<sup>1</sup> Some 2001 data averaged in