

Prevention: Keeping children safe from sexual abuse



**Many Australian adults don't realise that child sexual abuse impacts them**

**56%** don't think that child sexual abuse happens in the area where they live

**31%** don't think child sexual abuse directly impacts them

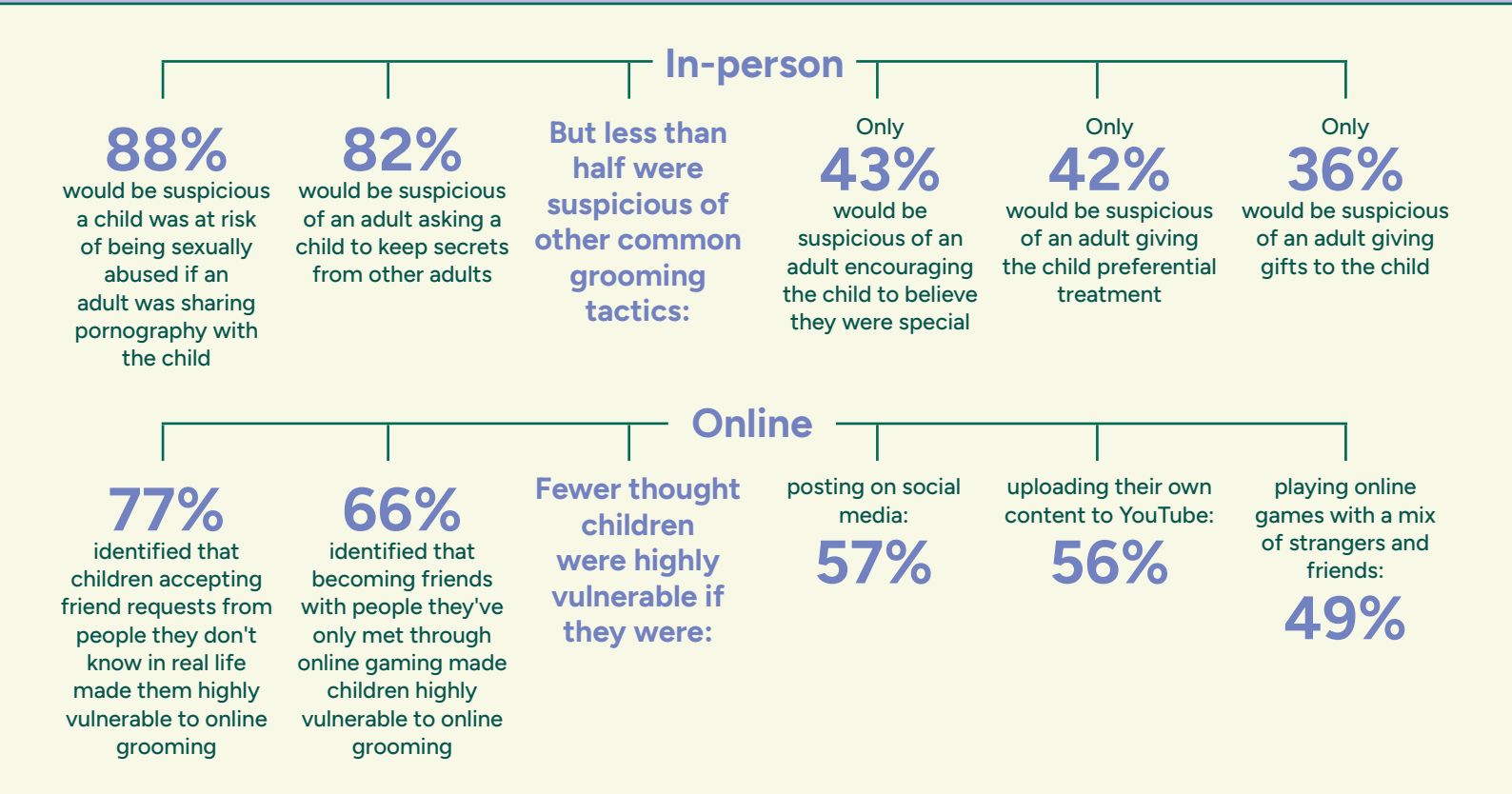
**17%** thought it was unlikely that anyone they know had been sexually abused as a child

**More than half don't know how to prevent child sexual abuse**

**52%** don't know how to keep a child safe from sexual abuse



Not everyone would be suspicious of common grooming tactics or see the risks, leaving some children to fend for themselves



**Many lack confidence they can tell if a child has been sexually abused based on the child's behaviours or other signs**

Only  
**20%**  
had high confidence they could recognise the signs or behaviours of when a child has been sexually abused

**23%**  
were 'not at all' confident

**The community want educators, parents, and governments to do more to prevent child sexual abuse**

**79%**

thought there are things that we can do as a community to reduce the number of children who are sexually abused

**78%**

thought it would be very/extremely helpful if there were more public information campaigns educating adults on how to prevent child sexual abuse

**73%**

thought it would be very/extremely helpful if there was greater government oversight of institutions that engage regularly with children and their child safety policies

**82%**

thought it would be very/extremely helpful if parents/carers were more willing to talk to their child/ren about topics related to sex

**78%**

thought it would be very/extremely helpful if schools taught parents/carers about things that could help them keep their child/ren safe

**82%**

thought it would be very/extremely helpful if reports of child sexual abuse were taken more seriously by authorities

***This data tells us Australians support prevention activities but that urgent action is needed at all levels of society to enhance the capability and confidence of adults to prevent child sexual abuse and to identify and intervene where there is risk.***