

A Flawed Savior

At age 6, Daisy was brought to a psychiatric hospital for hitting her mother. What Daisy's mother didn't know was that Daisy was being sexually abused by her own boyfriend. Daisy spent years trying to make her mom realize what was happening, but her mom wouldn't listen. After a while, Glenna, Daisy's mom, decided to put Daisy in the foster care system. Daisy was in foster care for 8 months when Glenna was ready to take her back. She spent less than a week with her mother before her mother's boyfriend assaulted her again. Daisy is one of millions of children that has been put into a situation like this.

Each year over 40,000 kids in NYC are put into foster care. 1 in 9 girls and 1 in 53 boys under the age of eighteen experience sexual abuse or assault before entering the foster care system.¹ A lot of children believe that abuse is their fault. But it's not. This makes children, at an early age, susceptible to depression and anxiety and leaves them with emotional scars for the rest of their lives. Although the foster care systems have a bad reputation of abusing children, the majority of child abuse or assault in the foster care system happens either before the child is put into foster care, or while the child is visiting their biological parent.² Foster care can save children from these situations.

One of the best ways to address child abuse in the U.S. is to strengthen the ways that foster care can support kids and address this issue. Foster care is an imperfect solution to a larger problem. Separating families is never ideal, however, it can protect children from risk of abuse and or assault in their own home. There is no easy solution to sexual abuse, but foster care programs should continue to educate foster care providers and case workers about the symptoms of sexual abuse in order to stem this problem. The Children's Rights organization has demonstrated this by educating people about the foster care system. Their job as a non-profit organization is to change flaws in the legal aspect of foster care. They also work on helping people understand how much kids have been through before going into foster care.

¹ **There are Worse Things Than Foster Care**
Naomi Riley-<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/21/opinion/foster-care-child-abuse.html>

² **Children's Rights Organization**
<https://www.childrensrightrights.org/newsroom/fact-sheets/foster-care/>