



## Recognizing Child Sexual Abuse – Know the Facts<sup>i</sup>

### Child Sexual Abuse Happens Often<sup>ii</sup>

- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- 90% of the time, a child victim knows the abuser.
- 88% of child sexual abuse is never reported to authorities.
- 34% of people who sexually abuse children are family members.
- One in five US teens report receiving unwanted sexual messages online.
- Children don't often tell about sexual abuse because of threats of harm to the child or the child's family, fear of being removed from the home, fear of not being believed, shame, or guilt.
- Children with disabilities are almost five times more likely to be sexually abused than peers without disabilities.



- making a child touch him/herself, the abuser, or another child
- Abusive non-touching behaviors include:
  - exposing oneself to a child
  - watching a child while undressing or bathing
  - taking sexually explicit pictures of a child
  - showing pornography or sexually suggestive images to children
  - talking in sexually explicit or suggestive ways to children in person, by phone, by internet or via text messages

### What is Child Sexual Abuse?

- Includes any sexual contact between an adult and a child or teen.
- Sexual abuse includes any kind of sexual act or behavior with a child, and includes activities involving touching as well as non-touching events.
- Can also include sexual contact between children when one child is more powerful than the other because of age (usually 3 years older or more), size, or intellectual development.
- Abusive touching behaviors include, but are not limited to:
  - fondling or rubbing up against a child's privates, buttocks or breasts
  - penetration of the child's mouth, anus, or vagina by the abuser or with an object

### What Parents Should Know About Child Sexual Abuse to Keep Their Kids Safe:

- Most offenders are known to the child; they may be family members, relatives, friends, teachers, coaches, babysitters, or others in positions of authority.
- Children most likely to be abused are those who are quiet and those who may be eager for attention or affection.
- Children who are victims of sexual abuse can display many or few behavioral problems. They may withdraw from family or friends, do poorly in school, be sad, anxious, or angry. But they may not display any outward negative behaviors at all.
- Child sexual abuse often involves more than a single incident and can go on for months.





## What are Some Warning Signs?

### What to look for in a child:

- Behavioral signs:
  - shows sudden changes in behavior or school performance
  - suddenly refuses to change for gym or to participate in physical activities
  - demonstrates unusual sexual knowledge or behavior
  - runs away from home
  - reports sexual abuse by a parent or another adult caregiver
- Physical signs:
  - has difficulty walking or sitting
  - becomes pregnant or contracts a sexually transmitted disease



*i Parenting Tips for Identifying and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. American Academy of Pediatrics, <https://www.aap.org/en-us/about-the-aap/aap-press-room/news-features-and-safety-tips/pages/Parent-Tips-for-Preventing-and-Identifying-Child-Sexual-Abuse.aspx>*

*ii National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Statistics about Sexual Violence. [http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications\\_nsvrc\\_factsheet\\_media\\_packet\\_statistics-about-sexual-violence\\_0.pdf](http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/publications_nsvrc_factsheet_media_packet_statistics-about-sexual-violence_0.pdf)*

### Sexually abused children may also develop the following:

- Unusual interest in or avoidance of all things of a sexual nature
- Sleep problems or nightmares
- Depression or withdrawal from friends or family
- Seductiveness
- Statements that their bodies are dirty or bad, or fear there is something wrong with them in their private area
- Refusal to go to school
- Behavior problems
- Secretiveness
- Acts out sexual molestation in drawings or games
- Unusual aggressiveness
- Suicidal behavior



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