

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

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More than 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 20 boys are sexually abused or assaulted before they turn 18, according to an analysis of national surveys in the U.S.

While child sexual exploitation can be a difficult topic to discuss, education and awareness can help to prevent and combat further harm.



One study revealed that
1 in 3 children won't
disclose sexual abuse
until adulthood (if they
choose to disclose at all).

Among those least likely
to disclose abuse are
younger children, male
victims, and those who
have never before
disclosed abuse.



According to one longitudinal study, 85.8% of child sexual abuse survivors developed mental health issues. Of this group, 44% experienced suicide ideation, 14.2% had attempted suicide, 19.1% experienced alcohol dependence, and 22% experienced illicit substance addiction.



While most estimates of child sexual abuse focus primarily on contact abuse, online forms of child sexual exploitation are becoming increasingly common and have increased during the pandemic.

Through the use of technology, abusers can exploit children without ever coming into physical contact with them.



Technology is increasingly being used to groom young people for sexual abuse.

According to research on victims who were trafficked in 2015, over half (55%) met their traffickers through the use of technology (i.e. online enticement, texting, app usage).

While there's no way to eliminate all chances of abuse for yourself or your loved ones, working to educate yourself on consent, internet safety, abuse prevention, and recognizing the signs of abuse can help reduce risk.

If you have experienced
or are experiencing
sexual abuse, please
know that you are not
alone and that healing is
absolutely possible.

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