

How BOYS Are Affected by Sexual Abuse



AWARENESS is the first step
in protecting your son.

If sexual
abuse is
disclosed by
your child,
please contact
your local
social services
department
for further
guidance.

The sexual abuse of boys is more common than most people expect.

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As many as one in six boys are sexually abused nationally.

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Abuse of boys often goes unreported for many reasons.

Boys can be more reluctant to talk about painful experiences. They do not want to appear weak or they may be afraid of being given a label or called names.

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Did you know that boys are more likely to be physically harmed during a sexual assault?

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The first step you can take as a parent is to be aware that your son can be harmed in this way.

The effects of abuse can be serious and lifelong. They may include: anxiety disorders, aggressive behavior, poor self-image, and substance abuse.

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Talk to your son about the importance of confiding in you about unwanted touching.

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Help him understand that no person, regardless of age, should ask him to keep a secret about touching his body. It's important to remember that not all sexual abusers are adults.