

Risk Factors for Child Sexual Abuse

Both boys and girls from every age group, race and socioeconomic status are at risk for becoming victims of sexual abuse.

Risk Factors (age and gender)

- Girls ages 7-13
- Girls under 8 (increased risk for child-on-child abuse by males)
- Boys ages 7-11
- Adolescent girls (increased risk for abuse occurring outside the home)

Specific Risk Factors

- Lack family support
- Have problems at home
- Foster children
- Parent has live-in boyfriend
- Stepfather living in home
- Live in poverty
- Low parental education
- Unemployed parents
- Runaways or homeless
- Disabled
- Mental health issues
- Substance abuse issues
- Impulsive
- Emotionally needy
- Low self-esteem
- Shy, timid, troubled or lonely
- Trusting/naive

Protect Our Students

CSA & Trafficking NC Educator Training

Warning Signs for Child Sexual Abuse

There are a variety of warning signs that are common in juveniles experiencing CSA. Seeing one sign doesn't indicate that a child is being sexually abused. However, multiple warning signs are an indication that something is wrong in the child's life.

Behavior Warning Signs

- Sexual drawing, writing or games
- Adult-like behavior or knowledge
- Gives hints to start a conversation
- Keeps an adult/older child's secret
- Abrupt changes in mood or behavior
- Distracted or uninvolved
- Sudden drop in grades
- Loss of self confidence
- Fear of people or places
- Unwilling to leave school
- Nightmares or sleep problems
- Changes in appetite
- New, older boyfriend
- Unexplained money, toys or gifts

Behavior Warning Signs in Younger Children

- Initiate sexual games
- Sexual play with toys
- New words for private parts
- Revert to young behaviors
- Thumb sucking
- Toileting accidents
- Resist taking clothes off at appropriate times

Behavior Warning Signs in Older Children

- Self-harm
- Drug/alcohol addiction
- Eating disorder
- Frequent absences
- Run away from home
- Promiscuous
- Fearful of closeness
- Poor hygiene
- Depressed/anxious/suicidal

Physical Warning Signs of CSA

- Physical injury
- Pain/bleeding/discharge
- Injuries to mouth
- Pain while toileting
- Bedwetting or accidents
- Sexually transmitted disease
- Pregnancy

Warning Signs of Online CSA

- Secret screen relationship
- Communicate with unknown person
- Hide screen content
- Unwilling to share phone
- Take or send sexual images/videos
- Upset about screen communications
- Lie about where they are going
- Sudden changes in emotions or behavior