

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention



What to Know

What to Do

How to Help

www.safecommunitiespa.org

What do I need to know?

- One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before they turn 18 years old
- 34% of people who sexually abuse a child are family members of the child
- Only 12% of child sexual abuse is ever reported to the authorities
- More than one third of women who report being raped before age 18 also experience rape as an adult

Source: National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC)

- 80-90 percent of sexual abuse is committed by someone the child and parent know and trusts. The perpetrator may be regarded well in the community and be loved by many.
- 30-50% of child sexual abuse is committed by other children or teens
- Men abuse girls. Men abuse boys. Women abuse girls. Women abuse boys.
- As many as 60% of children don't tell. Some survivors never tell

Think About It

Child Sexual Abuse requires secrecy and inaction to thrive. By educating yourself, you are going to be able to shine light and take action to end the cycle and promote healing.



It is only in the last number of decades, out of all of human history, that society has begun to recognize publicly the scope and effect of child sexual abuse.

Awareness is growing, policies are being put in place to protect children, and laws are strengthening to end the access of perpetrators to children and to allow survivors to seek justice.

We are going to continue to get better and better at ending abuse and getting survivors help early!

YOU can be part of ending the cycle of child sexual abuse.

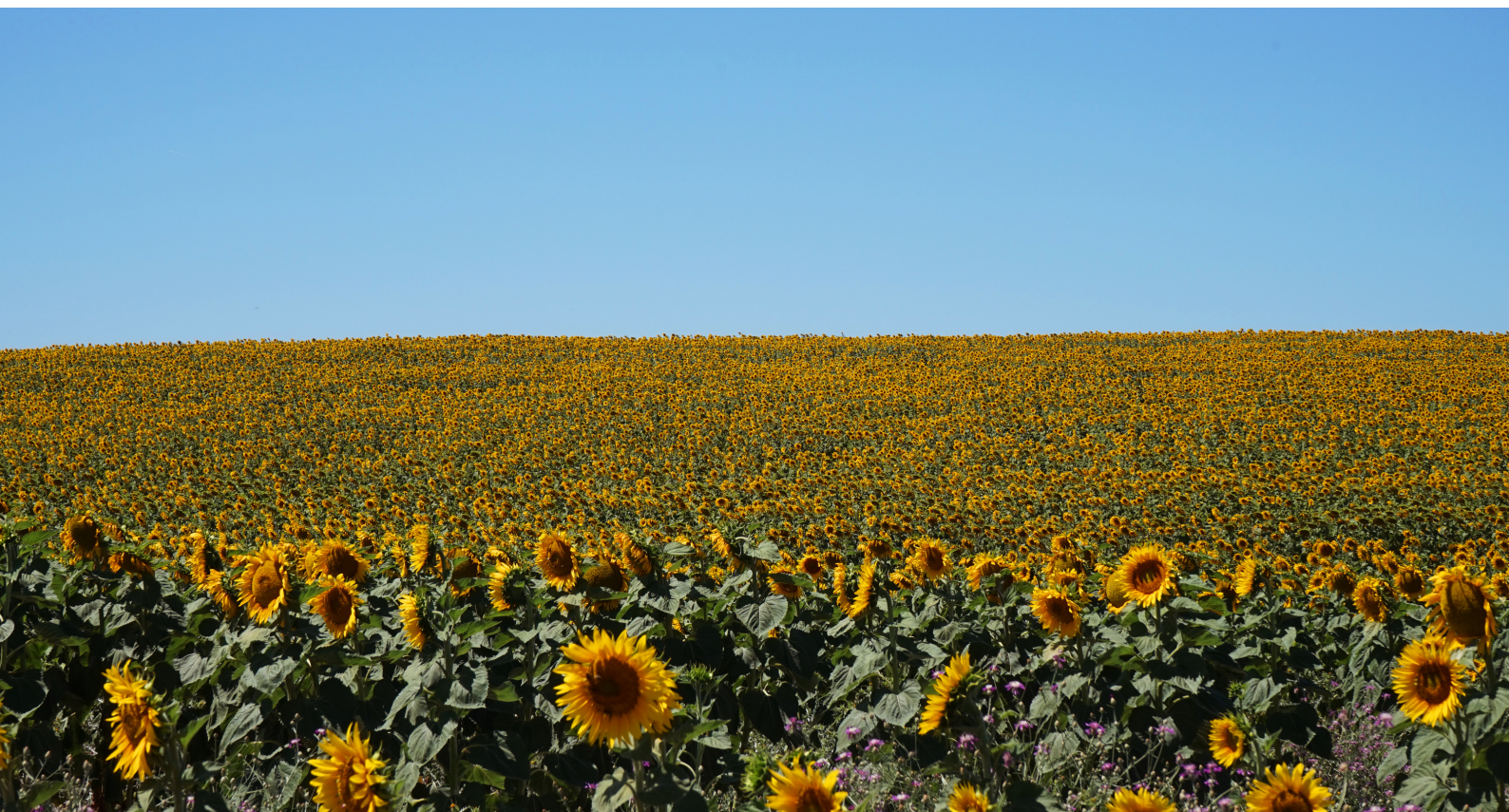
YOUR response and action can result in healing.

What are some Red Flags?

- Signs will rarely be physical. Red flags can include these behaviors in the child:
- Nightmares or sleeping problems
- Regressive behavior (acting much younger)
- Child does not want to be around a certain person
- Spacing out at odd times (dissociation)
- Angry, manipulating, resistant, oppositional defiant, aggressive, acting out
- Withdrawing. A large change in academic performance or activity involvement.
- Flinching when a hug or other touch is attempted.
- Psychosomatic complaints – body aches
- Sexual knowledge, talk or behavior that is beyond their years
- Compulsive masturbation
- Constipation, frequent sore throats
- Baggy clothes, weight gain
- For teens: Early unexplained pregnancy, self-harming behaviors (such as cutting), disordered eating, numerous sexual partners, alcohol and drug use, running away, suicide attempts.

Why wouldn't a child just tell me?

Children feel great confusion. They may think they are the ones who will get in trouble or did something wrong. They may be threatened by the abuser, or the abuser may tell them if they comply, the abuser will not hurt their siblings. The child is afraid no one will believe them. They are assessing their options with a child's knowledge and reasoning.



Who do I call?

**Child sexual abuse is a crime
and requires a professional response.**

Our job as caring and supportive adults
is to get the professionals involved.

Professionals to make sure the child is in a safe place.

Professionals to provide counseling to the child.

Professionals to determine how to make the abuser stop
their behavior which could be the criminal justice system, or
counseling or both. The behavior of abuse does not stop
with a 'talking to' or even public embarrassment.

**Get professionals involved by calling:
PA ChildLine 1-800-932-0313**

The Pennsylvania ChildLine is a toll-free hotline available
24 hours a day, seven days a week to receive reports of
suspected child abuse.

Find more information at www.keepkidssafe.pa.gov

In Pennsylvania, anyone can report child abuse. There are
also some professions and positions that are mandated
(required by law) to report.

Abuse is never the fault of the child.

**It is the responsibility of the adult
not to commit a crime.**

**It is the responsibility of adults to keep
children safe.**

**I'm concerned about the behavior of an adult or
teen I know. What should I do?**

**Visit www.StopItNow.org or call their Helpline
at 1.888.PREVENT for excellent information
when you are concerned someone you know
may be sexually abusing children.**



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CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**



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