

HOW BOYS ARE AFFECTED BY SEXUAL ABUSE

If your child disclosed sexual abuse, please contact your local social services department for further guidance, or call 1-800-552-7096.

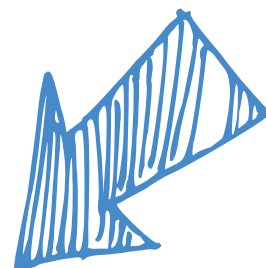
AWARENESS is the first step in protecting your son. The sexual abuse of boys is more common than most people expect.

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.

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

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

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



As many as
ONE IN SIX BOYS
are sexually abused nationally.

