

**BE** in the  
**KNOW** about

# CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

*Child sexual abuse is a significant but PREVENTABLE adverse childhood experience and public health problem.*

Child Sexual Abuse includes any sexual contact between an adult and a child or a teen. It can also include sexual contact between children when one child is more powerful than the other because of age, size, or ability.

**Child sexual abuse includes touching and non-touching acts.**

**Touching behaviors** may or may not involve force or pain.

These behaviors include fondling, rubbing, and penetration.

**Non-touching behaviors** involve exposure of children to sexually explicit acts, images, or communication and looking at or photographing children's bodies for sexual gratification.

**Child sexual abuse occurs gradually over time**, progressing in stages referred to as "**grooming**." Abusers target children, quickly gaining their trust by filling some unmet need. Once trust is built, abusers begin isolating children and use secrecy to deepen their emotional dependence on the relationship. Abusers begin sexualizing these relationships, then exploit children's natural curiosity and desire to maintain the relationship. Abusers maintain control using manipulation and threats.

**Child sexual abuse is CRIME and NEVER THE CHILD'S FAULT.**

**1 IN 10  
CHILDREN**

**WILL BE  
SEXUALLY ABUSED  
BEFORE THEIR 18TH BIRTHDAY.**

[www.d2l.org](http://www.d2l.org)

**93% CHILDREN ARE  
SEXUALLY ABUSED  
BY SOMEONE  
THEY KNOW.**

[www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)

If you **know or suspect a child has been abused** or **neglected you are legally required to make a report. A CONCERN is all you need.**

**Call the Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline: 877-237-0004**

or visit online: <https://apps.tn.gov/carat/>

**Failure to report is a violation of the law.**

**The reporter has the right to remain confidential and anonymous.**

**If a child is in immediate danger, call 911.**

**If you or someone you know has been affected by sexual violence, it's not your fault. You are not alone.**

**Help is available 24/7 through the Statewide 24 Hour Crisis and Support Line: 1-866-811-RISE (7473) and online [www.sacenter.org](http://www.sacenter.org).**



**SEXUAL ASSAULT  
CENTER**

