



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

CHILD SAFETY:

KENTUCKY YMCA YOUTH ASSOCIATION



2018

FACTS ABOUT CHILD ABUSE



1 in 4 girls are abused before age 18



1 in 6 boys are abused before age 18

How often is Abuse Perpetrated by Youth?

50%

What is the percentage of abuse that is estimated to be unreported?

80%

In the last 10 years, what percentage increase have we seen in Peer-to-Peer Abuse?

300%

WHY?!?

- Why has there been such an increase in Peer-to-Peer abuse?
 - Electronic Communication
 - More avenues for reporting
 - More awareness and people asking questions
 - Safe spaces
- Why is there still an estimated 80% of abuse unreported?
 - Fear of reporting
 - Lack of nearby safe spaces



At the Kentucky YMCA, we want to be sure all participants feel safe speaking up. We are making every effort we can to open avenues of reporting to students.

CHILD ABUSERS



- Family Members
- School Personnel/Caretakers
- Program Staff/Volunteers
- Acquaintances
- Other Youth



*NOTE: the common denominator—
All of these are
people a student
would know.*



So what about Strangers? How often is an abuser a stranger? **10%**

STRATEGIES OF ABUSE



- Seduction—building a relationship over time so that a child feels trusting of their abuser
- Trickery—using untruthful promises or creating confusion for the child
- Manipulation—making a child think it was their decision or pointing out rules they broke to make a situation happen (so they won't tell)
- Intimidation/Force—using force or physical/verbal threats

THE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF ABUSE



• Emotional Abuse:

any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development and sense of self-worth.

- Ex: constant criticism, threats of rejection, bullying, controlling, manipulating

• Physical Abuse:

any intentional act causing injury or trauma to another person by way of bodily contact.

- Ex: hitting/kicking, bruising, cutting, burning, shaking, bone breaking



• Neglect:

the failure to provide for a child's basic needs.

- Ex: physical needs, educational needs, emotional needs

• Sexual Abuse:

undesired sexual behavior by one person upon another.

- Ex: indecent exposure, commercial exploitation, sexually suggestive interactions, sexually explicit interactions, fondling, rape

RED FLAGS (SIGNS) TO LOOK FOR



NEGLECT

- Dirty, ill-fitting, inappropriate clothing/accessories
- Untreated illness or injury
- Hoarding/stealing basic need items

SEXUAL ABUSE

- Knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to age
- Trouble walking or sitting
- Overly affectionate with adults OR frightened by forms of physical, non-sexual contact

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

- Excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious
- Lack of or slow attachment to others
- Acts inappropriately adult-like (as if a caretaker)

PHYSICAL ABUSE

- Always Watchful or overly alert
- Shies away from touch/sudden movements
- Frequent and/or unexplained injuries

DISCLOSURES



Direct Disclosures

- Tells you
- Tells a friend to tell you
- Comes with “strings attached”

Indirect Disclosures

- Makes subtle complaints
- “Accidentally” shows signs of abuse
- Makes jokes about being abused



RESPONDING TO ABUSE



Responding to abuse is one of the hardest things we will have to do. If a child comes to you to report abuse, always take them seriously. Make sure you have a compassionate tone of voice and show you are listening.

- Thank them for trusting you
- Tell them **IT IS NOT THEIR FAULT** (repeat this throughout the conversation if needed)
- Tell them you will do everything you can to help
- **BUT**, be honest. You have to report this
- Walk them through the next steps you will take

REPORTING ABUSE: THE NEXT STEPS



You will need to make a few notifications of the abuse disclosure. Please notify the following (in order) until someone takes over reporting process:

- Y-Staff: Praesidium Guardian (Nikkey) or KYA Director (Josh)
- YMCA Executive Administration (Beth or Amanda)
- Parents/Guardians*
- Advisors/Chaperones*
- KY Child Protective Services
1-877-597-2331
- Local Authorities (as needed)

*If alleged abuser is a parent/guardian or advisor/chaperone, please SKIP this notification level.



REPORTING ABUSE



WHEN REPORTING CHILD ABUSE, FIND OUT:

- Name, age and sex of the child
- Names and addresses of parents/guardians
- The school that the child attends
- Details of the incident being reported
- Identity and other details of the alleged perpetrator
- Any other information that can assist in the completion of the report and intervention

Be sure to sit down with Y-Staff to complete the following:

- SafeKeeper Form
 - A quick, simple form to document any red flags and/or general concerns, but not needing to be reported
 - Ex: a student comes to you and says they are struggling with depression
- Incident Report Form
 - A detailed form used when making reports of disclosures
 - Ex: a student comes to you and says they are suicidal

HOW DO I HANDLE IT IF...

BEST PRACTICES

- **Sleeping rooms:** NO! You should never be in sleeping rooms.
- **Bathrooms:** If it is a public restroom, you can also use it. If there are showers and students may be showering or changing clothes, you can NOT go in. Find an alternative option or hold it.
- **Driving Students:** You can NOT drive students in your personal vehicle (unless you knew them prior to YMCA participation). If driving students in a YMCA vehicle, be sure to have a minimum of 2 adults or 3 students with.
- **Meeting students in public:** NO! You should never be meeting students in public unless organized by the Kentucky YMCA.
- **If a student asks to speak to you alone,** let Y-Staff know so they can check on you. If possible, use a corner in a large, open room. Position yourself in an open room with an open door so that your face can be seen. Make sure the student has full access to exit. Keep more than arm's length distance between you two at all times.
- **Child Safety Policy:** Review some of the appropriate and inappropriate interactions, most importantly physical interaction. Never initiate hugs, always let go first, never have arms around a student or vice-versa.
- **Social Media:** Do NOT send students friend requests. Only accept friend requests on YMCA accounts (never personal). Keep record of all conversations you have electronically.



**BEST
PRACTICES**

RECAP

- Abuse is much more common than we realize.
- 90% of the time, a child knows their abuser.
- 4 common types of abuse
- Direct and Indirect Disclosures
- Responding with compassion. IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT.
- You only have to SUSPECT abuse to report it.
- Reporting is MANDATORY.
- Avoid unsafe situations: Best Practices





THANK YOU!

Praesidium Guardian:

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Conference Director:

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