

## WHAT IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE?

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The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault defines sexual violence as behavior that violates a person's trust and/or safety and is sexual in nature. Sexual violence can take many forms ranging from verbal sexual harassment to unwanted touching of intimate body parts to forced intercourse (rape). The term "sexual assault" refers to unwanted, forced, or coerced sexual contact or intercourse.

## WHO IS AFFECTED?

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People from all walks of life are affected by sexual violence. As many as 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men have been victims of sexual assault at some point in their lives. Often, sexual assault also impacts family members and loved ones of victims.

## DID YOU KNOW?

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Over 90% of all reported sexual assaults are committed by someone the victim knows

Sexual assault is the most under-reported violent crime

The average age of a sexual assault victim is 15. The average age of a perpetrator is 25.

ALL VICTIMS, FEMALE AND MALE, OF SEXUAL ABUSE CAN RECEIVE SERVICES AT WOMEN AND CHILDREN'S HORIZONS.

## COMMON EFFECTS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

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- ⌘ Shock
- ⌘ Disbelief
  - ▶ Denial
  - ▶ Can't believe it happened
- ⌘ Shame
  - ▶ Feeling dirty or wanting to clean one's self
- ⌘ Embarrassment
  - ▶ Concern about what others will think
  - ▶ Not wanting to talk about assault
- ⌘ Guilt
  - ▶ Feeling totally or partially responsible for the assault
- ⌘ Fear
  - ▶ of perpetrator
  - ▶ that people will find out about the assault
  - ▶ of being pregnant or contracting a sexually transmitted infection
  - ▶ for own safety
  - ▶ that things will never be the same again
- ⌘ Anger
  - ▶ at perpetrator
  - ▶ at others for not providing help or protection
  - ▶ at self
- ⌘ Anxiety
  - ▶ Nervousness
  - ▶ Feeling on edge

Most reactions are normal responses to a traumatic experience or event but may not feel normal when compared to reactions and feelings the victim is accustomed to.



## HOW DOES WCH HELP VICTIMS?

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Women and Children's Horizons offers free and confidential advocacy services for victims/survivors and their loved ones. All victims, both male and female, can access sexual assault services whether the assault took place recently, years ago, or during childhood. Loved ones are welcome to call for supportive services or information about how to help the survivor in their life.

## WCH SERVICES

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- ⌘ 24-hour crisis line 1.800.853.3500
- ⌘ 24-hour advocate response to hospitals and law enforcement agencies
- ⌘ Legal advocacy and restraining orders
- ⌘ Food, clothing, and household good pantries
- ⌘ Referrals to community resources
- ⌘ Sexual assault support groups
- ⌘ 24-hour emergency shelter for women & children

## HOW DOES WCH BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY?

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Women and Children's Horizons is committed to increasing community awareness about sexual violence and provided education about the signs, effects and consequences of sexual abuse, assault, and harassment. Advocates are available to provide presentations for professional and general community groups upon request.

## HOW TO HELP A VICTIM

### DO

- ⌘ Believe him or her. The false reporting rate for sexual assault is only 2-5%, the same as any other type of violent crime.
- ⌘ Make sure the victim is safe or has a safe place to go.
- ⌘ Empower the victim to make his or her own decisions.
- ⌘ Educate yourself about options available to sexual assault victims and community resources so you can provide accurate, helpful information
- ⌘ Know that it is okay if you do not feel comfortable helping a victim yourself. Let the victim know that you will help him or her find someone who can help.

### DON'T

- ⌘ Minimize the victim's experience.
- ⌘ Tell the victim what they should or shouldn't do, or what you would've done.
- ⌘ Place partial or total blame on the victim for the assault.



24-Hour Crisis Line  
262.652.9900  
800.853.3503

To speak with a  
Sexual Assault Advocate please call:  
262.656.3500

Office Hours  
Monday - Friday  
9 A.M. - 5 P.M.

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



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Women and Children's Horizons is to provide support, education, training and healing, for victims of sexual and domestic violence/abuse.

## SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAM



**Women & Children's Horizons**  
Kenosha, WI 53143