



CHILDREN WHO ARE SEXUALLY ABUSED MAY:

- Blame themselves for the abuse.¹
- Feel guilty or dirty.^{1, 2}
- Feel hopeless.^{1, 2}
- Fear even healthy affection.²
- Feel angry and disconnected from others.^{1, 2}
- Feel that others don't really know them.
- Feel like they will never really be OK.^{1, 2}
- Doubt that they can take care of themselves.
- Have illnesses and body sensations that are traumatizing.
- Feel powerless.²
- Live in secrecy.
- Feel trapped.
- Forget things that have happened.
- Feel tremendous shame.^{1, 2}
- Hate themselves.^{1, 2}
- Put themselves in dangerous situations.
- Get in trouble to show how "bad" they are, or to call attention to their trauma.¹
- Fear being close to others, even in friendships.²
- Be afraid of being "found out."
- Experience memories, pictures, smells, and sounds that are re-traumatizing.
- Feel fearful even during times that are "safe."^{1, 2}
- Startle easily.
- Have nightmares or fear going to sleep.¹
- Feel abandoned by parents and family.
- Lose hope and trust in other people.²
- Feel unloved by God.
- Feel they aren't worthy of being loved.¹

Child sexual abuse is likely the most prevalent health problem children face with the most serious array of consequences.⁴

SEXUALLY ABUSED CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE THE FOLLOWING, DURING CHILDHOOD AND THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES:

- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder^{5,6}
- Anxiety and depression^{6, 7, 8}
- Substance abuse^{5, 6, 7, 9, 10}
- Aggression, oppositionality, and defiance¹¹
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder¹¹
- Sexual promiscuity^{12, 13}
- HIV and sexually transmitted diseases^{14, 15}
- Teen pregnancy and motherhood¹²
- Self-inflicted harm¹⁶
- Delinquency^{17, 20}
- Runaway behavior¹⁷
- Homelessness
- Decreased school performance¹⁸ and drop out^{6, 19}
- Criminal behavior and violent offenses^{17, 20}
- Greater healthcare use^{21, 22}
- Obesity⁸
- Diabetes, cancer, heart problems²³
- Stroke and hypertension²³
- Suicide^{7, 24}

References are located in the Resources area of the online training