



January 2014

Stewards of Children® Participants...Never Stop Learning!

You are receiving this email because you have attended a Stewards of Children training with Chaucie's Place. We want to continue to provide helpful information, tips, stories in the news, trainings, and other valuable resources to expand your awareness and strengthen your role as a steward of children. Without ongoing education and dialogue in our community, it is impossible to move forward and end this epidemic.

Myths & Facts About Boys Who Are Sexually Abused

Many times society has the perception that girls are the victims referred to when talking about childhood sexual abuse victims, but the reality is that boys are victims too. One in 6 boys are sexually abused before they turn 18 and this statistic is only for *reported* cases of abuse*. This month we want to discuss myths and facts associated with boys who are sexually abused. We hope this information will continue to expand your understanding of childhood sexual abuse and increase your efforts in prevention.

FACTS

1. Boys and men can be sexually abused, and it has nothing to do with how masculine they are.
2. If a boy liked the attention he was getting or got sexually aroused during abuse, this does not mean he wanted or liked being manipulated or abused, or that any part of what happened, in any way, was his responsibility or fault.
3. Sexual abuse harms boys and girls in ways that are similar and different, but equally harmful.
4. A boy abused by a male is not necessarily gay, nor was he abused because he's gay, nor can the abuse make him gay.
5. Girls and women can sexually abuse boys. The boys are not "lucky," but exploited and harmed.

MYTHS

1. Boys can't be sexually abused, and if one is, he can never be a "real man."

Our society expects males to be able to protect themselves. They are depicted as never being vulnerable, either physically or emotionally, but boys are not men...they are children. They are weaker and more vulnerable than those who sexually abuse or exploit them - who use their greater size, strength, knowledge or power to manipulate or coerce boys into unwanted sexual experiences and staying silent. This is usually done from a position of authority or status. Abusers will often use whatever means available, such as attention, special privileges, money or other gifts, promises or bribes, even outright threats to reduce resistance from the victim.

What happens to any male as a child does not need to define him as an adult or man. It is important to remember that boys who are sexually abused can grow up to be strong, powerful, courageous and healthy men.

2. If a boy experienced sexual arousal during abuse, he wanted and/or enjoyed it.

Many males believe this myth and have feelings of guilt and shame because they got physically aroused during the abuse. It is important to understand that males can respond to sexual stimulation - even in sexual situations that are traumatic or painful. That's just how male bodies and brains work. Those who sexually abuse boys know this. They often attempt to maintain secrecy, and to keep the abuse going, by telling the child that his sexual response shows he was a willing participant and complicit in the abuse. But that doesn't make it true.

3. Sexual abuse is less harmful to boys than girls.

Studies show that the long-term effects of sexual abuse can be quite damaging for both males and females. The harm caused by sexual abuse mostly depends on things not determined by gender, but rather the abuser's identity, the duration of the abuse, whether the child told anyone at the time, and if so, whether the child was believed and helped.

4. Most sexual abuse of boys is committed by homosexual males.

People who sexually abuse or exploit boys are not expressing homosexuality; just as in sexual assault of adults, this is often a crime of violence, not sex. They are deeply

confused individuals who, for various complex reasons, desire to sexually use or abuse children, and have acted on that desire.

5. Boys abused by males must be gay or will become gay.

Despite different theories of how sexual orientation develops, experts in human sexuality agree that sexual abuse does NOT play a significant role.

It is common, however, for boys and men who have been abused to express confusion about their sexual identity and orientation. Some males fear that, due to their experiences as boys, they must "really" be homosexual or that they can't be a "real man."

Also, many boys abused by males believe that something about them sexually attracted their abuser and will attract other males. While these are understandable fears, they are not true. One of the great tragedies of childhood sexual abuse is how it robs a person's natural right to discover his own sexuality in his own time.

6. If a female abused a boy, he was "lucky," and if he doesn't feel that way there's something wrong with him.

This myth comes from the image of masculinity that boys learn very early. It says that any sexual experience with girls and women, especially older ones, is evidence that he's a "real man." Again, the confusion comes from focusing on the sexual aspect rather than the abusive one - the exploitation and betrayal by a more powerful, trusted or admired person (who can be a child or adult).

In reality, premature, coerced or otherwise abusive or exploitative sexual experiences are never positive. At a minimum, they cause confusion and insecurity, and they almost always harm a survivor's capacities for trust and intimacy.

Information made available through 1in6.org.

We hope after reading the facts and myths about boys who are sexually abused you are able to better understand this topic. If you would like more information about male survivors of sexual abuse, please see the resources provided below.

Resources Available:

1in6.org

1 in 6 helps men educate themselves about sexual abuse, reflect on their

situations, find answers to their questions and explore their options in complete privacy.

MaleSurvivor.org

MaleSurvivor is dedicated to preventing, healing and eliminating all forms of sexual victimization of boys and men through online support, education, advocacy and activism.

MenThriving.org

MenThriving is a peer-support resource offered to men who survived sexual abuse in their childhood or adulthood.

Please forward to your friends, family and colleagues!

**Stewards of Children Training:
February 25, 2014**

5:15pm - 8:00pm

Fishers United Methodist Church
9691 E. 116th St.
Fishers, IN 46037

\$15 per person

Register [HERE!](#)

Board of Directors:

Jon Kizer
President
Direct Path Alliance

Sean Devenney
Vice President
Drewry Simmons Vornehm, LLP

Melissa Lorson
Treasurer

Helmer Scientific, Inc.

Elizabeth Childers
Secretary
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP

Aaron Atlas
Jewish Community Center

John Barbee
Envoy

Natalie Chavis
Chavis & Chavis

Jeremy Cox
Crowe Horwath

Lynna Leatherman
Technicolor

Beth Stickles McDaniel
Get Results, Inc.

Steve Schwartz
Hamilton County Councilman

Kelley Singleton
Eli Lilly and Company



About Chaucie's Place

Chaucie's Place works passionately to ensure the welfare of children by offering evidence-based; high-quality prevention programs to end the cycle of abuse and to empower children and adults to ensure that children of central Indiana have the opportunity to live to their highest potential. Additionally, the center provides a neutral, child-focused environment where forensic interviews may take place for cases of alleged child sexual and physical abuse and neglect to help reduce trauma for child victims.

[Forward this email](#)



This email was sent to cortney@chauciesplace.org by cortney@chauciesplace.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Chaucie's Place | 4607 E. 106th St. | Carmel | IN | 46033