

SEXUAL ABUSE FACTSHEET

Did you know?



- Sexual touching was the most common type of sexual assault experienced by adults (1)
- Approximately 17% of adults aged 16 years and over (7.9 million) had experienced sexual assault (including attempts) from the age of 16 years (2)

What is Sexual Abuse?

Sexual abuse is any unwanted sexual activity or sexual behaviour that happens without consent or understanding.

This includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Signs of Sexual Abuse

Signs of either sexual abuse may include:

- Depression
- Withdrawal from regular activities, unusually subdued, or poor concentration
- Unexplained fear or anxiety
- Urinary tract infections, vaginal infections or sexually transmitted diseases
- Experiencing pain, itching or bleeding in the genital/anal area
- Exhibiting significant changes in sexual behaviour or outlook
- A woman who lacks the mental capacity to consent to sexual intercourse becomes pregnant

Report a Concern

If you believe someone may be at risk of sexual abuse or any other abuse/neglect raise a concern by completing a [referral form](#) or contact Knowsley MASH team on Tel: **0151 443 2600**.

If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police by ringing 999.

(1) And (2) Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW)