Sexual Abuse Information Series II

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This booklet answers these questions:

Why this booklet?	2
What is sexual abuse?	3
How do I know whether I was sexually abused as a child?	3
How can I get the help I need?	9
What will a counsellor do?	10
What kinds of questions do sexual abuse survivors ask their counsellors?	11
What should I do about my abuser?	15
How much should I tell my partner?	17
Is recovery possible?	18
How do I order the Sexual Abuse Information Series booklets?	20

Why this booklet?

This booklet is addressed to the thousands of men in Canada who were sexually abused as young children or as teenagers. It's also addressed to the people who help these men face each new day with courage: their partners, friends and families.

If you're a survivor of childhood sexual abuse, this booklet will help you understand the impact of sexual abuse on your life today. It will help you come to terms with your damaged childhood, and will help you with your healing. If you're seeing a counsellor, or are considering it, this booklet can help you understand how counselling works.

If you suspect you've been sexually abused as a boy, but have no clear memory of it, this booklet will describe some of the symptoms or indicators of sexual abuse. Recognizing indicators might help you remember details of the abuse.

Many men find it difficult to admit they've been sexually abused. Our culture encourages males to believe they should be in charge of every aspect of their lives, so when boys are abused, they often think they should have been able to stop their abusers. Later, as adults, they blame themselves for having allowed the offender to have power over them. The information in this booklet will help you place the blame on the offender — where it belongs.

It you're a survivor of sexual abuse, this booklet will help you understand the impact of sexual abuse on your life today.

Often we use masculine pronouns to refer to the abuser, because boys and teenage boys are most often abused by other males. When we are speaking of female abusers we do, of course, use female pronouns.

This booklet will:

- **1** Describe the indicators of childhood sexual abuse.
- **2** Explain why males have difficulty admitting they've been abused.
- **3** Discuss treatment issues such as shame and fears about sexuality.
- Explain the relationship between sexual abuse victims and adult sex offenders.
- **6** Explain how childhood sexual abuse affects adult relationships.
- **6** Explain how counselling and support groups can help your recovery.
- **1** Discuss the pros and cons of laying charges against your abuser.

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is an abuse of power. If someone older, stronger or more experienced coerced you into sexual activity when you were a child or an adolescent, then you were sexually abused. Your abuser may have won your trust, and then violated it by abusing you. He or she may have compounded the abuse by forcing you to keep it secret and by making you feel responsible.

Sexual abuse doesn't refer only to sexual touching. If you were forced as a child to watch sexual activity or pornographic videotapes, then you were sexually abused. If an adult continually invaded your privacy — by watching you shower, for example — then you were sexually abused. Or your abuser may have combined sexual with emotional abuse. If he/she made fun of the size or shape of your penis, for example, the teasing could have been as devastating as actual touching.

How do I know whether I was a sexually abused as a child?

You might have clear memories of sexual abuse experiences and be able to describe exactly what your offender(s) did to you. Or you might have hazy memories or no memory at all. If the abuse was particularly painful or humiliating, you may have forgotten most of it in order to keep your sanity. However, you could be having body reactions and behaviours that tell you about your abuse even when you can't remember the details. These are referred to as **indicators**. Paying attention to **physical indicators** such as vomiting and flashbacks, or **behavioural indicators** such as fighting might help you remember specific details of the abuse more easily.

A counsellor can help you understand the meaning of these indicators:

• Confusion about Sexual Identity. You may have difficulty deciding whether you're heterosexual, homosexual or bisexual. You may be unconsciously linking the abuse to your sexuality.

We're not really sure how sexual identity is determined. But we do know that it is **not** usually determined by the abuse — neither by the offender's sexual identity, nor by what he or she



did to your body. If you felt "turned on" and disgusted at the same time by what the offender did, you might feel as though you can't depend on your body.

For example, if the abuser performed oral sex on you, you were probably excited as well as repelled by the experience. Whether you were abused by a male or a female doesn't make a difference. This is because your penis responds to stimulation regardless of the gender of the person who is stimulating it.

It's beside the point to label abusers as either heterosexual or homosexual. The gender of their victims is also beside the point.

Adolescents or adults who sexually abuse children do so because they are sexually attracted to *children*, and enjoy having sexual power over them.

If your abuser was male, you might have an unreasonable fear of other males, especially if you believe they're homosexual. You may avoid friendships with other men, and be overly dependent on women. Your fear of homosexuals may express itself in antigay jokes or in actual persecution of homosexuals. This unreasonable fear is called **homophobia**. However, homophobia is also a negative cultural attitude in our society, and is not necessarily an indicator of sexual abuse.

You might also try to prove yourself sexually by initiating a lot of short-term sexual relationships, and believe that by being a

"Don Juan", your fear of being homosexual will eventually disappear. But no number of "conquests" can overcome this kind of insecurity. All you will succeed in doing is destroying the trust of your partners.

If you are homosexual and were abused by a male, you may wrongly believe, just as many heterosexuals do, that your sexual orientation was definitely caused by the abuse. Both heterosexual and homosexual adult males suffer from similar kinds of sexual identity confusion as a result of their abuse. However, as an adult homosexual, your response to the abuse will likely be different.

Sexual abuse is an abuse of power.

Phil Gray, a Vancouver drug and alcohol counsellor, works with homosexual survivors of childhood sexual abuse. According to Gray, homosexuals who were abused by adult males are:

- more likely than heterosexuals to believe they wanted the abuse;
- more likely than heterosexuals to sexualize all personal contact;
- more likely than heterosexuals to seek out situations where they are re-abused; for this reason they are at high risk to contract HIV/AIDS;
- more likely to turn their homophobia into self-hatred as compared with heterosexual men, who frequently direct their homophobia against homosexual men in the form of gaybashing.

If your abuser was female, you might have felt overpowered and "less than male" when the abuse was happening. You might feel "different" because sexual abuse by women is so much less frequent. This, in turn, could make you feel more isolated and ashamed. You might trick yourself into believing that your abuse was a sexual opportunity, and not really abuse at all. Or you might use sexual conquests or even rape to combat your feelings of shame and helplessness, and to feel in charge.

2 Difficulties with Sexual Functioning. You could at times experience problems with sexual functioning. Painful erections, difficulty maintaining erections, premature ejaculation, lack of desire, or an obsession with sex may all stem from childhood sexual abuse. Both heterosexual and homosexual men can suffer from impaired sexual functioning as a result of their abuse.

However, it's quite normal for men to experience *occasional* difficulty with sexual functioning. If this is true for you it doesn't necessarily mean that you were sexually abused.

Both heterosexual and homosexual men can have difficulty with sexual relationships as a result of their abuse.

Difficulties with Intimacy. If you once trusted someone who abused you when he/she should have been protecting you, you may now have difficulty trusting anyone enough to enjoy a long-term intimate relationship. If you can function sexually only during "one-night stands" or only in short-term relationships, it could mean that your abuser was a close member of your family who had power over you for a long period of time. Long-term relationships could remind you of this, so you would avoid them. For the same reason you may have difficulty committing yourself to a long-term career.

Opendency or Misuse of

Drugs, **Alcohol or Food**. If you abuse drugs, alcohol, or food, it could mean that you are using these substances to mask the pain of sexual abuse. It could also mean that your offender used these substances to lure you into sexual activity.

Because these substances can be addictive, they can block your recovery. Recovery programs like Alcoholics Anonymous and others for people who abuse drugs or suffer from eating disorders can be an important adjunct to sexual abuse counselling.

Self-Abuse, **Re-Abuse** and **Abuse** of **Others**. If you feel worthless as a result of your abuse, you could turn your painful feelings against yourself. This might take the form of cutting or burning yourself. Or you might masturbate so frequently that you reinforce your feelings of shame.

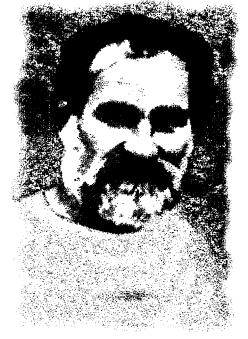
You might seek out situations where you are re-abused, either in a relationship where you tolerate emotional abuse or in sexual encounters where you play a masochistic role.

You might find a younger and less powerful person than yourself to abuse.

If you find yourself acting out your sexual abuse by becoming a sexual aggressor, you need immediate help because of the damage you could be doing to others.

6 Anxiety, Blackouts, Flashbacks and Nightmares. If you have unexplained anxiety or panic attacks and need drugs to cope with unmanageable feelings, you could be re-experiencing the same kind of panic you experienced while you were being sexually abused.

If you frequently forget recent conversations, work commitments or social encounters, your memory loss could be the result of periodic **blackouts**. You might have learned to black out while you were being sexually abused as a defence against pain.



Flashbacks are sudden intrusive thoughts about the sexual abuse. They might come when you least want them; for example, when you and your partner are making love. When this happens it probably means that your sexual arousal is triggering memories of the abuse.

You might also experience recurring **nightmares** which remind you in some way of the abuse. A counsellor will encourage you to remember your dreams or even write them down, as they can help you recall the feelings associated with the abuse.

Anger. You might feel that, as a male, you're allowed to express and to act out your anger. You might even see yourself as "healthier" than female survivors who often suppress anger and become depressed as a result. But if you feel *only* anger, it means that you're probably suppressing other feelings, most likely shame, fear and loneliness. Your anger might also frighten people who could otherwise help you. A counsellor can help you get underneath your anger and experience your "softer" emotions, and help make it safe for you to feel hurt or afraid.

A counsellor can help you with your anger and help make it safer for you to feel hurt or afraid.

abused as a child, the underlying emotion you share with all other survivors, male and female, is a sense of shame. Shame is a deep sense of feeling unworthy as a person. Your abuser might have cut you off from the support of loved ones during the abuse by forcing you to keep the abuse secret. He might have told you that no one would want anything to do with you if they knew what you were doing.

Shame is also related to feeling responsible in some way for the abuse. Often abusers trick children into believing they want the abuse to occur. For example, the abuser might trick an adolescent boy into believing he wants "to express his feelings for his own sex", "to express his sexual independence" or "to explore his sexuality". If this happened to you, you may now feel ashamed of being taken in by these ideas.

You could now be afraid that you'll experience further shame if you talk about the abuse to a counsellor or anyone else. Shame can make you hold yourself apart from others in your adult life. A survivors' support group, where you can talk and listen to others who've had the same experience that you've had, can help you overcome your shame and the isolation that goes with it.

It's particularly important for you to tackle your sense of shame because of the "snow-ball effect". The snow-ball effect occurs each time you engage in an abuse-related behaviour such as drinking or prostituting yourself all of which adds to your accumulation of shame.

• Guilt is related to shame. Guilt comes from the belief that your were *responsible* for the abuse. You may have felt responsible if you accepted gifts or bribes from your abuser. Remember, this happened when you were a child, and adults are supposed to protect children, not

abuse them. You were not responsible.

O Physical Symptoms. There are a number of physical symptoms that are sometimes related to child sexual abuse. If you suffer from headaches, choking frequent sensations, nausea in the presence of certain smells, blurred vision, floating sensations, or pains in the genitals, buttocks or back, they might be related to your sexual abuse. If your physician can't find a medical reason for these symptoms, your counsellor might be able to help you understand the reason you have them.

Remember, you didn't make the abuse happen.
The abuser did and it wasn't your fault.

How can I get the help I need?

The first step is to admit to yourself that you may have been sexually abused. If you can't remember specific abuse, but have some of the indicators, you owe it to yourself to investigate further. You might have difficulty admitting you were sexually abused, and that another person had power over you. You might even believe that being abused has made you less than a man. This erroneous attitude comes from our patriarchal society which values power, seen as male, and devalues vulnerability, which is seen as "weak" and female. As a result most men resist admitting they were once overpowered and helpless, and this is called "denial". Denial is the single biggest obstacle to getting help. Because of social attitudes, denial is usually stronger in men than in women.

For this reason, to admit you've been sexually abused takes *courage*. But once you've taken this major step, the next step is to look for a counsellor or a support group or both. The best way to find a counsellor is by asking people you trust for personal recommendations. If that isn't possible, professional counselling associations will provide names of people qualified to work with male sexual abuse survivors. You can then check out those qualifications and find a counsellor you feel good working with.

Individual counselling over a long period of time can be expensive unless you can see a psychiatrist through a provincial

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medical plan. In some provinces, when you file a police report against your abuser you might become eligible for counselling from a qualified psychologist, clinical counsellor or clinical social worker through a criminal injuries compensation program. If you're not able to do that, find out if your extended medical plan or employee assistance plan will pay for counselling sessions. If working with a counsellor isn't possible, a support group may be a good second choice.

What will a counsellor do?

Once you admit to your counsellor that you have been sexually abused, you have taken another important step to recovery. This step is sometimes called "overcoming denial".

However, even after you've admitted the abuse, you could still be partly in denial. You'll recognize this if you:

- admit the abuse, but tell yourself it really didn't affect you;
- 2 speak about the abuse in an intellectual, abstract way;
- **3** emphasize positive aspects of your relationship with the abuser, and excuse some of the abuser's behaviour.

A counsellor will help you work through this, and once you fully overcome your denial you'll find it easier to get in touch with your painful feelings.

Then you can begin to resolve the trauma of the abuse so that it no longer has negative effects on your life.

Your counsellor will probably ask you about indicators such as alcohol abuse, flashbacks and nightmares. This can help you identify other details of your abuse. Remembering the details and the feelings may be part of your recovery. However, your counsellor will caution you not to move too quickly, because remembering too much too quickly can overwhelm you. Tell your counsellor when you need more time to understand and integrate what's happening. Your counsellor might also recommend that you read books such as *Broken Boys, Mending Men* by Stephen Grubman-Black. Your counsellor might speak to your spouse or partner to suggest ways in which he/she can support you in your recovery. Your counsellor might also recommend that you join a male survivors' support group.

Your relationship with your counsellor is a partnership. You'll decide together what subjects you'll discuss, and when it's appropriate to slow down or end counselling. If you aren't happy with your counsellor, you have a right to find a different one.

What kinds of questions do sexual abuse survivors ask their counsellors?

"I've heard of five-and six-year-old boys being abused, but I was ten when my supervisor made me perform oral sex on him in the paper shack. Wasn't I old enough to know better and shouldn't I have been able to tell him to take a hike?"

Age has nothing to do with it, but power has everything to do with it. Boys who are emotionally or financially dependent on an adult or an adolescent are vulnerable to being sexually abused.

"I was eighteen and in my first year of college when Dr. Adams asked me to read some of my writing at a party. I was so proud it went completely to my head. Then everyone drank a champagne toast to me. I wasn't used to it, and all I can remember after that is waking up later with Dr. Adams lying beside me on a bed, passed out, with his hand between my legs. If I was smart enough and old enough to be in college, shouldn't I have been able to figure out what he was up to?"

A teacher is in a position of power and can easily appeal to a student's insecurity and vanity. When teenage boys are sexually abused, they feel even more ashamed and responsible than younger boys. They have a hard time reporting abuse, and often when they do, they aren't believed. The boys in both of these stories grew into young men believing that they were responsible for the abuse, and feeling guilty as a result.

A counsellor will probably have to remind you repeatedly that *you were neither responsible for nor guilty* of the abuse.

"I was thirteen and on the Grade 7 basketball team when my principal felt me up after the game. I told my Uncle Gordon, and he said the principal was a faggot. Could that be true? Do you think there's something about me that turned him on?"

Sexual orientation has nothing to do with sexual abuse. More important, it's not some quality about *you* that makes you responsible. Sexual abusers are people who want to exercise sexual power over children because they're smaller and less powerful. Uncle Gordon's response was misleading because of its anti-homosexual bias.

a counsellor will probably have to remind you repeatedly that you were neither responsible for nor guilty of the abuse.

"When Mr. Martin molested me at summer camp, I felt completely worthless. The other day I was talking to a woman I know who was sexually abused by her stepfather for five years, and she says she felt exactly the same way. Do men and women who've been sexually abused have the same feelings?"

For the most part, yes. They have the same feelings of shame, isolation and low self-esteem. They have many of the same indicators. However, because of differences in social conditioning, men may deal with their abuse in ways that are different from women. Men are much more likely to vent their anger, engage in anti-homosexual behaviour, and become sex abusers themselves. Women are more likely to turn their anger against themselves, and continue to be victimized in their adult relationships.

"So if I was sexually abused as a kid, does that mean that sooner or later I'm going to start going after kids myself? The other day I saw a couple of kids on a slide in the playground. When I went to bed that night, I was masturbating to my fantasies about them. I'm worried sick about it."

Many convicted adolescent and adult sex abusers were themselves sexually abused as children. It *does not follow* from this that all boys who have been sexually abused grow up to be abusers. You might have disturbing feelings about children from time to time, and sexual fantasies about children are a warning sign. It is important that you keep your feelings and fantasies

conscious and discuss them with a counsellor, to ensure that you do not act them out by offending.

"When I was eight, my baby-sitter made me put my penis right into her vagina. Hey, don't talk to me about sexual abuse. I learned about sex long before the other kids, and to this day I'm still a hit with the older women. Last month at a convention this older woman invited me up to her hotel room and offered to pay me for sex. What's wrong with that?"

Males in our society are conditioned to think of *any* sexual experience with a female as an "opportunity". When young boys are sexually abused by women or teen-



age girls, they tend to deny their feelings of being overpowered, used and shamed. If you were sexually abused as a young boy by a woman or a teenage female, you may use the experience to enhance your ego, and not understand how it distorted your adult relationships.

"How long is this counselling going to take? I want to get it over with and get on with my life."

Like most men you were probably conditioned to act on a problem and get results fast. Dealing with sexual abuse is not like mowing the lawn or putting together a business deal. Personal change takes time, and if you were also subjected to physical and emotional abuse you'll need to work on those issues as well.

"There's something else there. There's one important thing I haven't remembered, and I just can't get hold of it. Can you hypnotize me?"

This type of question comes up when you think that just below the surface, there is a key that will unlock the whole puzzle, and once you discover it, you'll be instantly cured. Like the previous question, it comes from a common male desire for a "quick fix". As you continue working with your counsellor, you'll begin to appreciate the value of gradual change.

Kevin's story

Kevin began counselling at the recommendation of his minister, who'd heard enough of his story to suspect that he was a victim of childhood sexual abuse. Kevin suffered from night sweats, and would often wake up with his bedsheets drenched. Sometimes he'd wake up screaming after dreaming that a large animal was overtaking him. His wife had urged him to speak to their minister because of his habit of breaking off sexual intercourse before he reached orgasm. He frequently complained that his penis hurt during intercourse, and that he would rather avoid sex altogether.

During the course of his marriage, he had had three short homosexual relationships in which he played a passive role. Kevin was ashamed of these relationships, and felt that he was dishonouring his marriage. His wife was afraid that he would contract HIV/AIDS and infect her. She threatened to leave him if it happened again.

After Kevin started counselling he was able to explain that he had spent much of his childhood living with his mother and five brothers and sisters in a small logging town. After his parents separated, his mother started drinking and began a series of short-term relationships. Some of her new boyfriends were violent with her and with the children. One of them, a rough millworker named Willard, was not only a violent alcoholic but a child abuser as well. The children never knew when to expect Willard, so they were in a constant state of anxiety. Kevin recalled how Willard would climb into bed, drunk, and masturbate Kevin before passing out.

As the details emerged, Kevin's physical symptoms and his behaviour started to make sense. The night sweats, the nightmares about large animals, his hurting penis, his sexual avoidance and his homosexual encounters were related to his sexual abuse. The counsellor saw Kevin and his wife together for a session, and explained to her the connection between Kevin's symptoms and his abuse.

The counsellor suggested ways in which she could support Kevin. Kevin took the counsellor's suggestion to join a support group. Because he had spent so

much of his time alone in a small community, and because shame of the sexual abuse made him feel separate from his brothers and sisters, he found the group especially helpful. He could talk in the group because he knew these people understood.

Kevin's recovery took a long time, but with the help of his counsellor, the support from the group, and his wife, his symptoms gradually disappeared. The nightmares do come back occasionally, but when he wakes up, he understands where they came from, so it's easier to get back to sleep. Kevin is still tentative about sex, but his wife now talks excitedly about their "new relationship". Their children sense the change, and are much more relaxed when their parents are together.

Hhelps to talk to other who've had experiences like yours and who understand how you've feeling.

What should I do about my abuser?

Deciding what kind of relationship you want with your abuser can be difficult, but you have to do it yourself. Here are some of the possibilities:

Q Pursue Criminal Charges. Initiating criminal charges against your abuser is one option. This means reporting the matter to the police. The police will in turn bring the matter to a crown prosecutor, who must decide whether or not there is sufficient evidence to take the case before a provincial or federal court. A successful prosecution may be aided by corroborative evidence (such as photos taken by the abuser) or similar fact evidence (information provided by other victims).

Laying criminal charges has the advantage of placing retribution where it belongs — with society at large. Sexually abusing children is against the law: it's a crime against society as well as a personal crime against you. Criminal charges are also a

It's your droice, to forgive forgive other Choice valid

way of channelling your anger in a constructive way, by obtaining justice. The problem with using the court system is that the court proceedings are often lengthy and may be very frustrating.

You could also sue your abuser in a civil court. This may be easier because the burden of proof is less in a civil court than in a criminal court. If the judge finds in your favour, your abuser might have to pay you money in compensation. This can help defray the cost of your therapy, and compensate you for work time you might have lost as the result of the abuse.

- May want to find your abuser, and tell him exactly what you think of him as a person. You might find this more difficult than you imagine, especially if, when you face your abuser, you suddenly feel like the same powerless little boy you once were. You might find it satisfying to tell him how the abuse affected you, but the risk is that he may deny the abuse or simply tell you he doesn't care. Your plan has to take the abuser's possible responses into account.
- Take Revenge. You might find satisfaction in the thought of beating up or maiming your abuser. You might feel justified in doing it, but you can damage yourself by expressing your anger that way. You could do yourself further psychological harm, or even end up in jail.

Forgive Your Abuser. You might choose to forgive your abuser as part of your healing process. Or you might choose not to forgive him because the abuse was severe, because he violated a trust and because he isn't sorry. People in your community might pressure you to forgive the abuser. However, premature forgiveness can increase self-blame and block healing. If you can't personally forgive your abuser, you could look upon forgiveness as a process between the abuser and whatever deity he believes in. It's your choice, to forgive or not forgive, and either choice is valid.

S Let Go. "Letting go" means you have decided to do nothing about your abuser right now. You might decide this because you want to focus all of your energy on healing yourself. Letting go is not the same as forgiveness. After you've worked on your healing for a while, you might then decide to do something about your abuser.

You'll probably want to discuss these alternatives with your counsellor, your partner, or a friend, but *your first responsibility is to yourself.* The final decision is yours.

How much should I tell my partner?

If you're in a relationship, your partner can be an invaluable source of support. Support means your partner can empathize with your pain, offer you love and encouragement, and support your decisions. **But: do not use your partner as a counsellor.** This places too great a strain on your relationship and it's unfair, if not impossible, to expect your partner to give you objective advice. Get support from your partner and counselling from your counsellor.



Get support
from your
partner and
counselling
from your
counsellor.

What is possible in recovery is that your sexual abuse symptoms will diminish, your self-esteem will increase and your relationships will be more satisfying. In other words, you can have a good life!

It's important to talk to your partner about what's happening and what has happened. This can create both difficulties and opportunities. If your partner is also a sexual abuse survivor, your story may trigger painful memories for him/her. What may happen then is that both of you will be counsellors seeing working on recovery at the same time. If you express the same emotional needs at the same time, you can strain the relationship. You help one another most if you can tell each other when you need support, when you're prepared to give support, and when you need to be left alone.

Is recovery possible?

YES, but look on recovery as a process, not as a project with an end result. You can't expect that at some magic moment in the future your problems will all disappear and you'll be eternally happy. More likely, different issues will come up for you at different points in your life, and you may want to go back to your counsellor for a few more sessions.

What is possible in recovery is that your sexual abuse symptoms will diminish, your self-esteem will increase, and your relationship(s) will be more satisfying. You'll feel more in charge of your life. In other words, instead of having the effects of your sexual abuse run your life, you'll be running it yourself. You can have a good life!

It's reasonable to expect the kind of recovery described in Kevin's story. Kevin's symptoms almost disappeared, his relationship with his wife improved, and his children were less anxious. That's not perfection, but it's better than the hell he was living before he began his recovery.

Lock on recovery as a process, not as a project with an end result.

Suggested Reading

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This is one of five booklets in the Sexual Abuse Information Series II:

When Girls Have Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Young Girls (Cat. # H72-21/101-1994)

When Males Have Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Adult Male Survivors (Cat. # H72-21/102-1994)

When Your Partner Has Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Partners (Cat. # H72-21/103-1994)

When Teenage Girls Have Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Teenagers (Cat. # H72-21/104-1994)

Sibling Sexual Abuse A Guide For Parents (Cat. # H72-21/105-1994)

Sexual Abuse Information Series I includes the following booklets:

Sexual Abuse – What Happens When You Tell A Guide For Children (Cat. # H72-21-67-1991)

When Teenage Boys Have Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Teenagers (Cat. # H72-21-68-1991)

When Boys Have Been Sexually Abused A Guide For Young Boys (Cat. # H72-21-69-1991)

Sexual Abuse Counselling A Guide For Children And Parents (Cat. # H72-21-70-1991)

When Children Act Out Sexually
A Guide For Parents And Teachers (Cat. # H72-21-71-1991)

The booklets are available from:

National Clearinghouse on Family Violence Health Canada Health Promotion and Programs Branch Health Issues Division Address Locator: 1918C2

18th Floor, Jeanne Mance Building, Tunney's Pasture

Ottawa, Ontario K1A 1B4

Tel: (613) 957-2938 or 1-800-267-1291

Fax: (613) 941-8930

FaxLink: (613) 941-7285 or 1-888-267-1233 TTY: (613) 952-6396 or 1-800-561-5643 Internet Homepage: http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/nc-cn