



## Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WWW.WCASA.ORG Offers New Resources for Parents**

Sexual violence continues to occur at epidemic rates in Wisconsin and throughout the nation. It is estimated that 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 6 boys are sexually assaulted before the age of 18\*. This presents a frightening reality for parents. The Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Inc. (WCASA) has prepared comprehensive new online resources for parents to help them understand this devastating crime. Parents play a significant role in responding to and preventing sexual violence by helping to protect children and in creating a supportive and healing space for children if they are victimized. Parents can also help to end sexual violence by raising children in an environment where they are less likely to sexually violate others. Family members and acquaintances are the most likely people to sexually violate Wisconsin's children.

**WCASA's new online resources can be accessed at [www.wcasa.org](http://www.wcasa.org). Just click on the "For Parents" icon. These resources include:**

Helping to Protect Your Children from Sexual Violence

Supporting Child Victims of Sexual Violence

What Parents Can Do to Help End Sexual Violence

Who Is Abusing Our Children?

Healthy Relationship Checklist for Teens

Become A Watchdog – A guide for teen girls on reducing risk of being victimized

Don't Be a Player – A guide for teen boys on reducing risk of sexually offending

Child Sexual Abuse Fact Sheet

Teen Sexual Assault and Abuse Fact Sheet

Wisconsin Child Sexual Assault Laws Fact Sheet

So What's the Problem?

So What's the Solution?

And other general information on sexual violence laws, myths, facts, response, and options for finding help.  
([www.wcasa.org](http://www.wcasa.org))

Child sexual abuse is a particularly pervasive problem. Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is exploited sexually by another person. It may take many forms: exposure of the genitals, obscene phone calls, obscene internet solicitation, voyeurism, use of pornography, fondling, and oral, vaginal, or anal intercourse. The latest statistics from the WI Office of Justice Assistance (2001) indicate that 73% of all reported sexual assault victims in Wisconsin were under the age of 18. In addition, 1 out of every 3 reported sex offenders were under the age of 18.

Other national studies indicate that Teens 16 to 19 years of age are 3 1/2 times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault. (*Bureau of Justice Statistics. National Crime Victimization Survey. U.S. Department of Justice, 1996.*) Also, Over 25% of sexual assault victims are less than 13 years of age, with 32.8% of assaults occurring at the victim's residence.

*“It is so important that parents have easy access to comprehensive information related to sexual violence. Parents play a crucial role in providing an end to sexual violence. However, it must be made clear that Wisconsin will only be free from the sexual predators targeting our children when we take the necessary steps to keep sex offenders from becoming so in the first place.”*

– Maggie Thurs, Public Awareness Coordinator, WCASA

\*Source: Diana Russell, Handbook on Sexual Abuse of Children, 1988

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