

What Factors Put a Child at Risk for Abuse?

As a parent or community member, watch for these risk factors. Pay special attention to children who come from or live in these circumstances. They are the most vulnerable. You might be the one a child reaches out to when they seek help.

- ❑ Child is disabled, chronically ill, or perceived as different.
- ❑ Alcohol or drug abuse by family members.
- ❑ Parent/legal guardian was physically or sexually abused as a child.
- ❑ A parent/legal guardian has a physical or mental health problem.
- ❑ Family dysfunction/life crises within the home. Dysfunctions distract the family, allowing the perpetrator to groom the child for abuse.
- ❑ Poverty-related stressors (relying on alternative child care, prostitution or transient adults.)
- ❑ Gay, lesbian, or bisexual youth may be at a greater risk because they tend to be socially isolated and are easier targets.