

sexual assault prevention & counseling center

The YWCA Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center (SAPCC) provides support and advocacy for victims of sexual abuse and their significant others in order to facilitate the healing and empowerment of individuals. To meet the unique needs of our clients, SAPCC has specific programs designated for children under the age of 18 as well as for their significant others.

All counseling services are free and confidential. Staff members or trained volunteer advocates are available 24-hours a day.

SAPCC is also deeply committed to heightening the community's awareness of child sexual assault issues through prevention education programs.

facing the facts



- ◆ 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be a victim of sexual assault before the age of 18.
- ◆ 90 per cent of the time, the child knows the abuser.
- ◆ The offender may threaten to harm the child or her/his family, suggest that no one will believe the child, or claim the child is responsible for the abuse.

our mission

YWCA Lancaster is dedicated to eliminating racism, empowering women and promoting peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all.

Other YWCA programs include: childcare, parent support groups, youth mentoring and racial justice initiatives.

eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca

www.ywcalancaster.org

YWCA Lancaster
Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center
110 N. Lime Street
Lancaster, PA 17602
717-393-1735, ext. 225 Office
717-391-6707 FAX

 **24 HOUR HOTLINE 392-7273** 

ywca sexual assault counseling for children



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywca
lancaster

services

- ◆ Short-term counseling for child and adolescent victims of sexual violence and their families
- ◆ Accompaniment to hospitals, child advocacy centers, police departments and court proceedings
- ◆ Information and referrals
- ◆ Legal advocacy
- ◆ Support Groups



learning about the crime

Child sexual abuse is a crime. Child sexual abuse does not discriminate – it can happen to boys or girls and its victims and offenders come from all ethnic, social and economic backgrounds in both urban and rural areas.

Child sexual abuse is the exploitation of a child for sexual gratification by an adult or older child who is in a position of trust, power or authority over the child. It can include, but is not limited to: fondling of the child's or abuser's genitals, attempted or completed oral, vaginal or anal intercourse and exposure to or inclusion in pornographic movies or photographs.

Child sexual abuse is an abuse of power and is a violation of every child's right to normal, healthy and trusting relationships.

counseling

The YWCA Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center provides counseling services for child and adolescent sexual abuse victims and their families. Counseling helps children feel better about themselves. It also affirms that the abuse was not the child's fault. Regardless of the child's gender or how recently the abuse took place, our experienced counselors will provide support for survivors and help them work towards recovery. Counselors use games, role playing, drawing and stories as well as verbal counseling to help children learn how to express and cope with feelings.

Child sexual abuse affects the entire family. The reaction of the caregivers and the intervention provided during this time has a strong impact on the child's welfare. Support groups for children, adolescents, relatives and significant others are available based on the needs of our clients.

Please contact the Center at 717-393-1735, ext. 225 for more information.

"I didn't want to go to counseling. I didn't think I needed it. I discovered I was wrong. Having someone to listen to you feels good and it has helped me a lot."

accompaniment

Going to court proceedings, police departments and hospital emergency rooms can be confusing and upsetting for sexual abuse victims, especially for children, adolescents and their families.

SAPCC staff provide accompaniment, information, support and advocacy for survivors at the District Justice Office for preliminary hearings and at trials and sentencing hearings at the Lancaster County Courthouse.

Medical care is considered an important step following a child's disclosure of sexual abuse. SAPCC staff are also available to accompany victims of sexual abuse and family members who would like support during medical and forensic exams. For more information on how to access accompaniment services please call our 24-hour hotline at 717-392-7273.



For information, emotional support and accompaniment 24 hours a day . . .

contact the **YWCA Sexual Assault Prevention & Counseling Center**

All information is confidential.

 24 HOUR HOTLINE 717-392-7273 