



April is National Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Advocates began coordinating activities and events related to sexual assault awareness in the 1990s. Nationally, Sexual Assault Awareness Month was first observed in April 2001. In 2009, President Obama was the first United States president to proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Project AWARE Ohio has developed an information brief entitled: *Sexual Assault/Abuse: Information for Schools, Caregivers, and Peers*. Please refer to the attached information brief that outlines what school professionals, caregivers, and youth need to know about sexual assault in order to recognize this problem and take steps to keep youth safe from harm.

Sexual Assault Awareness Resources

- **RAINN National Sexual Assault Hotline:** RAINN provides a free, 24/7, confidential hotline that survivors of sexual assault/abuse can call at **(800) 656-4673**. There also is an option to chat online for individuals who do not feel comfortable disclosing over the phone. The website provides educational materials and statistics about sexual assault/abuse. For more information, visit: <https://www.rainn.org/>.
- **The National Child Traumatic Stress Network:** The National Child Traumatic Stress Network provides a number of resources about traumatic experiences a child might be exposed to, ranging from natural disasters to sexual assault/abuse. The website also provides free online training to parents, caregivers and teachers in order to better respond to traumatic incidents children experience. For more information, visit: <http://www.nctsn.org/>.
- **National Sex Offender Public Website:** The U.S. Department of Justice National Sex Offender Public Website is a national resource that provides information for families and survivors of child sexual abuse/assault. These resources range from a national registry of registered sex offenders to information about how to create a family safety plan. It also provides a number of resources for survivors of sexual assault/abuse. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nsopw.gov/en/Education>
- **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children:** The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children provides a toll-free hotline to report any information about missing or sexually exploited children to the police. This hotline is available throughout the U.S., Mexico, and Canada and can be reached at **(800) 843-5678**.
- **Darkness to Light:** Darkness to Light is a toll-free helpline to assist individuals living in the U.S. who need local information and resources about sexual abuse. For more information, please call **(866) 367-5444**.

The Project AWARE Ohio team includes partners in 3 county ESCs. If you are from those local areas and want more information about Project AWARE services, please contact:

Cuyahoga County ESC: Mary Wise; (216) 901-4201; mary.wise@esc-cc.org

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For information about Project AWARE in other regions of the state, please contact:

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