

11 Reasons Why Males Don't Disclose Abuse

- 1) A cultural bias maintains that males cannot be victims. Males are expected to be confident, knowledgeable, and aggressive. To be a victim means one is an inadequate male.
- 2) If the boy's body has responded sexually, he feels he is somehow responsible for the sexual abuse.
- 3) Male victims of sexual abuse struggle with issues of homosexuality as most offenders are male. Their homophobia plus their confusion and fear encourage silence. Not to mention the social stigma attached to homosexuality.
- 4) If a boy receives money for sex, he is less likely to be perceived as a victim.
- 5) If a boy has a homosexual orientation, he is often blamed for the "seduction" of the older male, instead of being acknowledged as a legitimate victim of sexual abuse.
- 6) Molestation by an older female is often viewed positively as a kind of "initiation rite" into manhood. Cultural pressure encourages participation while denying feelings.
- 7) Male victims of sexual abuse, more than female victims, may fear loss of freedom and independence if the sexual abuse should be made public.
- 8) Fear of reprisals from the offender plays a role in under-reporting.
- 9) When boys are victimized, they tend to be blamed more for their abuse and are viewed as less in need of care and support.
- 10) Boys fear negative judgment by family and friends.
- 11) Embarrassment and/or confusion prevent male victims of sexual abuse from disclosing.