

Hyde County Hotline, Inc.

24-Hours Crisis Line 252-925-2500

Visit us at: HydeCounty-Hotline.org Facebook: [Hyde County Hotline](#)

Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault and Individuals with Disabilities

Did you know that...

Women with disabilities have a 40 percent greater chance of intimate partner violence than women without disabilities?

Women with disabilities may experience unique forms of abuse that are difficult to recognize-making it even harder for them to get the kind of help that they need. Such abuse may include:

- Removing or destroying a person's mobility devices (e.g., wheelchairs, scooters, walkers, crutches)
 - Denying access to and/or taking prescribed medications from someone.
 - Forcing someone to lie in soiled undergarments.
 - Forcing someone to take medication against their will.
 - Preventing access to food.
 - Inappropriately touching a person while assisting with bathing and/or dressing.
 - Denying access to disability-related resources in the community and/or to health care appointments.
- (American Psychological Association)

Research suggests that women with disabilities are more likely to suffer domestic violence and sexual assault than women without disabilities. Additionally, women with disabilities report abuse that lasts longer and is more intense than women without disabilities.

Like other women, women with disabilities usually are abused by someone they know, such as a partner or family member. In addition, women with disabilities face a risk of abuse by health care providers or caregivers. <http://www.womenshealth.gov/violence-against-women/types-of-violence/violence-against-women-with-disabilities.html>

What is a disability?

A disability can be a physical, mental health, cognitive or sensory condition that limits talking, thinking, seeing, hearing and/or daily activities. Some disabilities are present at birth; others present later in life or may result from domestic violence. Some disabilities are visible while others may not be seen.

Why is this population so at risk?

- Persons who are deaf or who have speech disability may not be able to report abuse or seek services due to communication barriers.
- Individuals with intellectual disabilities often reside in group homes where they are vulnerable to abuse by staff, caregivers or their residents. They are often taught to be obedient and may be overly trusting of others.
- Persons with physical disabilities may depend on others to meet their basic needs such as bathing or using the toilet; making them vulnerable to abuse. They may also be less able to defend themselves or escape violent situations.
- Persons with disabilities may lack knowledge about their bodies, healthy relationships, and how to protect themselves.
- Persons with disabilities may stay longer in an abusive situation and have fewer options for safety due to barriers at a domestic violence agency or in the community.

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- Predators target people with disabilities because they know they are easily manipulated and will have difficulty testifying later. These crimes go mostly unrecognized, unprosecuted and unpunished.
- Law enforcement and prosecutors are often reluctant to take these cases because they are difficult to win in court.

Mandated Reporting

If you are being abused by someone you rely on to take care of you, you may feel trapped. If you can, reach out for help to someone you trust, such as a doctor, family member, friend, or neighbor.

If someone you know is being abused, you are required by law to report the abuse to Social Services.

General Statute, 108A-102 (a)-(b) states that:

- (a) Any person having reasonable cause to believe that a disabled adult is in need of protective services shall report such information to the director.
- (b) The report may be made orally or in writing. The report shall include the name and address of the disabled adult, the name and address of the adult's caretaker, the age of the disabled adult, the nature and extent of the disabled adult's injury or condition resulting from the abuse or neglect and other pertinent information.

Who must report?

Any person who has a reasonable cause to believe that a person with a disability is in need of protective services.

What does that mean?

If there is suspicion that someone is being abused (sexually, physically, financially, or verbally), neglected, or exploited you must report.

Facts about Sexual Assault and the Disabled Community

- In North Carolina, a person with developmental disability is 5 times more likely to be sexually assaulted than a person without a disability. (National Center of Victims of Crime)
- More than 90% of disabled persons will experience sexual and/or physical abuse at some point in their lives. (Reynold, 2001)

You can make a difference!

Use your voice. Speak up for those who may not be able to speak for themselves!



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The fruit of love is service, which is compassion in action. - Mother Teresa

Hyde County Hotline would like to take a moment to say “THANK YOU” to all of our wonderful volunteers! You are such a blessing to this agency and the community we serve. You are there. No matter how simple or complex the task, you ensure it gets done. Whether you are working on our 24-hour crisis line, working to serve the community in the thrift store, helping to prepare for one of our outreach or fundraiser events, or helping to clean, paint, or repair the shelter or doing one of the other many tasks that needs to be done in our agency; we see how tirelessly you work. You are making a difference! We truly could not do this work without you. Thank you for your kindness, compassion, energy, skills, love, and time. Thank you for showing up week after week, month after month, year after year. Thank you for all you do for each of us, and every survivor we serve.

On behalf of us all, THANK YOU!

Volunteers are
love in motion.



Why be a Volunteer?

It's not for money, it's not for fame.

It's not for any personal gain.

It's just for love of fellowman.

It's just to lend a helping hand.

It's just to give a tithe of self.

That's something you can't buy with wealth.

It's not for medals won with pride.

It's for that feeling deep inside.

It's that reward down in your heart.

It's that feeling that you've been a part.

Of helping others far and near.

That makes you be a volunteer!

Author Unknown



Thank you to the N.C. Council for Women and Youth Involvement-Family Violence Prevention and

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Cyberbullying

Just as the use of technology itself has evolved, so has the ability to bully. Bullying, once restricted to the school or neighborhood, has now moved into the online world. Bullying through electronic means is referred to as “cyberbullying.”

When we were kids we begged to have a phone in our room so that we could easily and somewhat privately stay connected to our friends. Today, a kid or teen’s desire to connect with friends has not changed, but the options for doing so have grown tremendously. Children are not only asking for their own tablets, gaming systems, and mobile phones at a younger age, they also want access to popular social media sites, and the ability to engage in online games and share information.

Just as young people used to spend unmonitored time playing with friends in the neighborhood, outside the periphery of adults, they are now engaging with each other in the cyber world, “talking” with each other, “talking” to each other, and “talking” about each other, often without adult or parental monitoring. While technology allows young people to connect in meaningful ways, such as the opportunity to share ideas, photos, videos, and more, the unsupervised nature of the cyber world also opens up tremendous opportunity for kids to mistreat each other without having to be face to face.

When we have had the opportunity to speak with groups of young people in our schools and at other community events we have asked the teens to describe what bullying is to them and most often they describe events that have happened via media – “cyberbullying”. This is because connecting with people in relationships and friendships often begins or at least is maintained via the cyber world. It is much easier for them to speak to one another if they are not face to face and this makes it much easier to say, do and share things that can be damaging to others.

Recently a student shared “that all bullying hurts, whether in person or through technology, the end result is that bullying in any form is emotionally damaging.”

Contrasting Offline Bullying With Online Bullying:

- Targets might not know who the bully is or why they are being targeted, as cyberbullying can happen anonymously.
- Cyberbullying can have a large audience - the actions of those who cyberbully can go viral.
- It is often easier to be cruel using technology because of greater physical distance and the person bullying doesn’t see the immediate response by the target. The person bullying might not recognize the serious harm from their actions because they lack seeing the target’s response.
- It can be harder for parents and adults to manage cyberbullying. ([Hinduja & Patchin, 2014](#)).

Let us not LOVE with words or speech but with ACTIONS and in TRUTH.

1 John 3:18

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How Cyberbullying Impacts Students

- Those who are cyberbullied are also likely to be bullied offline ([Hamm, Newton, & Chisholm, 2015](#)).
- Cyberbullying can result in serious emotional problems for targets, including anxiety, low self-esteem, depression ([Hinduja & Patchin, 2015](#)), stress, and suicide ideation, ([Kowalski, Giumetti, Schroeder, & Lattanner, 2014](#)).
- Those who are cyberbullied can feel more uncontrollability than those facing traditional bullying, because they have less control over who views the bullying and less ability to make the bullying stop. There can also be more permanence with cyberbullying compared to traditional bullying: nearly everything on the Internet is available to everyone, everywhere. It can be challenging to erase information once it goes on the Internet ([Pearson, Andersson, & Porath, 2005](#)).
- Those who cyberbully are more likely to have anxiety, depression, less life satisfaction, less self-esteem, and face drug and alcohol abuse ([Kowalski, Giumetti, Schroeder, & Lattanner, 2014](#)).
- Both cyberbullies and targets of cyberbullying report less school satisfaction and achievement ([Bernan & Li, 2007](#)).
- Motivations behind cyberbullying include a lack of confidence or desire to feel better about themselves, a desire for control, finding it entertaining, and retaliation ([Hamm, Newton, & Chisholm, 2015](#)).
- Targets of cyberbullying have a greater chance of becoming bullies themselves, as being cyberbullied can lead to revenge bullying as a way to cope. And, cyberbullies have a greater risk at being bullied in return, resulting in a vicious cycle. Being a cyberbully contributes to a twenty-fold increase of also being a target of cyberbullying ([Arslan, Savaser, Hallett, & Balci, 2012](#)).
- Because cyberbullying can occur anonymously, cyberbullies can act more aggressively as they feel there will be no consequences. In face-to-face bullying, the bully can view the impact as the attack happens, whereas cyberbullies cannot see any of the immediate outcomes, often resulting in further aggression ([Kowalski, Giumetti, Schroeder, & Lattanner, 2014](#)).

11 FACTS ABOUT CYBERBULLYING (Provided by www.dosomething.org)

1. Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online. 1 in 4 has had it happen more than once.
2. 70% of students report seeing frequent bullying online. Filling up your friends' Facebook feeds with positive posts instead of negative ones can boost school-wide morale. Start a Facebook page for students to submit positive acts they see in school to promote a culture of positivity on and offline.
3. Over 80% of teens use a cell phone regularly, making it the most common medium for cyber bullying.
4. 68% of teens agree that cyber bullying is a serious problem.
5. 81% of young people think bullying online is easier to get away with than bullying in person.
6. 90% of teens who have seen social-media bullying say they have ignored it. 84% have seen others tell cyber bullies to stop.
7. Only 1 in 10 victims will inform a parent or trusted adult of their abuse.
8. Girls are about twice as likely as boys to be victims and perpetrators of cyber bullying.

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9. About 58% of kids admit someone has said mean or hurtful things to them online. More than 4 out of 10 say it has happened more than once.
10. Bullying victims are 2 to 9 times more likely to consider committing suicide.
11. About 75% of students admit they have visited a website bashing another student.

Stop and take the time to talk to the kids in your life about cyberbullying. Pay attention to what is going on with them when they are using media. Help your kids take action to protect themselves from cyber bullying.

For more information on cyberbullying go to www.stopbullying.gov.

Labor Trafficking Story | Agriculture

(Shared from the national Human Trafficking Hotline)

When Daniel first called the National Human Trafficking Hotline, he was in a very remote area, a long way from his native home, and did not know his address. Daniel explained that he had come to the U.S. on an H-2A Visa and began working on a farm with a group of mostly men who also held the same visa.

After arriving, Daniel and his coworkers began working extremely long days with limited access to food and water and were paid less than they had been promised. He reported that his employer verbally abused the workers on a daily basis and also disclosed that he had witnessed his employer physically assault a coworker. Daniel explained that they were afraid to leave the farm, because their employer had confiscated their passports upon arrival and refused to give them back even though the workers had asked repeatedly. Furthermore, the nearest town was far away and the workers had no way of getting there.

Daniel was concerned because his visa was tied to his employer, and if he were to leave the farm abruptly, his visa would be invalid. He worried he might never be allowed to come to the U.S. again. The hotline specialist talked to Daniel about his options. Daniel and his coworkers decided they wanted to report the abuses occurring at the farm to law enforcement. The National Hotline reported this situation to a federal law enforcement contact in the area. At the same time, the National Hotline connected Daniel and the other workers with an attorney. The attorney later contacted the National Hotline and explained that Daniel and his coworkers were able to safely leave the farm. A large scale investigation by the Department of Labor has been opened into this farm, and many of the workers have now been paid the back-wage payments they were owed by the employer.

North Carolina has consistently ranked in the top 10 states in the country for having a human trafficking problem. Both children and adults, male and female are sold for sex or labor for the benefit of another. Trafficking occurs in hotels, homes, truck stops, on farms and in massage parlors. Because of the psychological manipulation that occurs, most victims don't identify as victims and will not seek help.

The National Human Trafficking Hotline and BeFree Text line provide survivors of human trafficking with vital support and a variety of options to get help and stay safe. These could include connecting callers with local law enforcement, emergency shelters, transportation, trauma counselors or a range of other services and supports.

If you are a victim of Human Trafficking or you know a victims of Human Trafficking please call **Hyde County Hotline** staff on our **24-Hour Crisis Line at 252-925-2500** or the **National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888**

SMS: 233733 (Text "HELP" or "INFO")

Languages: English, Spanish and 200+ languages **Website:** humantraffickinghotline.org