Protecting Pregnant Youth from Peer Abuse

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Objectives

Participants will learn:

• Recognition strategies
• Intervention techniques
• Legal ramifications
• Practice effective and supportive responses
Bullying

• Unwanted aggressive behavior(s)
• Observed or perceived power imbalance
• Repeated or likely to be repeated
• Inflict harm or distress

Source: Bullying Surveillance Among Youths, Uniform Definitions For Public Health and Recommended Data Elements Center for Disease Control and Prevention
Three components of bullying
Direct bullying
Indirect bullying
Cyberbullying
Signs and symptoms

- Physical
- Psychological
- Social
- Educational
Targets

• Avoid school and work
• Higher absenteeism rates
• Dislike school, lower grades
• Health consequences
Those who bully

• Antisocial
• Violent
• Troubling behavior
Bystanders

- Afraid
- Powerless
- Guilty
- Diminished empathy
Pregnant youth and abuse

- Hurtful behaviors from peers and adults
- Discrimination
- Judgment
- Stereotypes
- Negative comments, facial expressions, gestures, mistreatment, gossip, rumors
Discrimination

- Judgmental comments and opinions
- Low expectations
- Non-accommodating
- Title IX
Title IX

• Public schools receive Title IX funding which protects students from discrimination, this includes discrimination on the basis of sex or pregnancy, childbirth, false pregnancy, termination of pregnancy or recovery from termination of pregnancy.

National Women’s Law Center
http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/final_nwlc_ppfactsheet.pdf
Media and teen pregnancy

- Shaming
- MTV program - 16 and Pregnant
- Care and support programs
I'm not a doll. I'm forever.

Be a kid. Don't have one.

There are only two ways to prevent teen pregnancy — use birth control every time or don't have sex.

www.cccampaign.org
Got a good job? I cost thousands of dollars each year.

Think being a teen parent won’t cost you? Expect to spend more than $10,000 a year to raise a child.

Text 'NOTNOW' to 677877 for the real price of teen pregnancy.
UNEXPECTED?
Most teen pregnancies are.
Trauma and teen pregnancy

• Early childhood trauma
  3 times more likely to become a pregnant teen

• Highest level of childhood trauma
  53% more likely to become a pregnant teen

• Males with traumatic childhood
  5 times more likely to get a female pregnant
Prevention

• Programming
• Educating
• Rules and policies
• Adult supervision
• Prevention programs

• Responses
• Supervision
• Follow up
• Role model
Strategies that work

- Confiding
- Joking
- Not blaming self
Strategies that don’t work

- Fighting back
- Revenge
- Telling to stop
- Ignoring
- Expressing feelings
Criminal or civil repercussions

• Crimes
• Civil violations
• Protected class
• Victim services agencies
• Attorney
Suspected bullying referral

- Assess
- Inform and support
- Additional support
- Complaint process
- Advocacy
Bill of rights

- Dignity and respect
- Free of discrimination
- Excuse absences
- Separate programs/schools
- Same opportunities
- Special services
- No doctor’s note
- Free of harassment and bullying
- Privacy
- Free of retaliation
Resources

Center for Safe Schools
www.safeschools.info

Bullying Prevention Toolkit
www.SafeSchools.info/BP_Toolkit.pdf

Stop Bullying
www.StopBullying.gov

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
www.aclu.org

Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education
www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html

Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission
www.phrc.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/phrc_home/18970

A pregnancy test for schools: The impact of education laws on pregnant and parenting students
Contact

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