



# Protecting Pregnant Youth from Peer Abuse

**Stephanie Roy**

Special Projects Managing Coordinator  
Center for Safe Schools

# 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)

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# 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.DCCAMERICA.ORG](http://WWW.DCCAMERICA.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

Based on average national data with individual costs

**NYC**

Department of Social Services

1-800-368-5838  
www.nyc.gov/teenpregnancy





A young boy with short, light-colored hair is sitting on a skateboard on a concrete sidewalk. He is shirtless and wearing blue jeans and dark sneakers. His belly is significantly enlarged, mimicking a pregnant woman's. He is looking towards the camera with a neutral expression. The background is an alleyway with walls covered in colorful graffiti. The lighting is bright, suggesting daytime.

**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](http://www.safeschools.info)

## Bullying Prevention Toolkit

[www.SafeSchools.info/BP\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.SafeSchools.info/BP_Toolkit.pdf)

## Stop Bullying

[www.StopBullying.gov](http://www.StopBullying.gov)

## American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

## Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education

[www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/index.html](http://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](http://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

[www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/nwlc\\_ppwalletcard.pdf](http://www.nwlc.org/sites/default/files/nwlc_ppwalletcard.pdf)

# Contact



**Stephanie Roy**

**Special Projects Managing  
Coordinator**

Center for Safe Schools

[sroy@csc.csiu.org](mailto:sroy@csc.csiu.org)

(717) 763-1661 x209