

# UNDERSTANDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT AND YOUTH

In 2010-2011, 13% of students in grades 7-12 reported experiencing unwanted sexual contact, according to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).<sup>2</sup>





# SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PROGRAMS

- Sexual Harassment is defined as any unwelcome, unwanted pressure, verbal, visual, or physical contact of a sexual nature. It is any repeated or deliberate action or behavior that is hostile, offensive, or degrading to the recipient.



# FLIRTING

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- • feels good, confidence building for both parties
- • is reciprocal
- • is non-threatening and complimentary
- • feels equal to both parties



# Flirting Vs. Harassment Scenarios

- **You and your crush have been flirting and you both start making jokes about sexting.** Your crush asks if you'd ever do that. You say, "No way!" With normal flirting, that's the end of it. But if your crush starts pressuring you to send sexual pictures, then it's getting into harassment territory
- **Someone in class says your new jeans look great.** That's a compliment. But if they say your new jeans make your butt look great, or they make comments about specific body parts, that's crossing the line.
- **Someone you're not attracted to asks you to go to a dance.** It seems harsh to say you're not interested, so you make up an excuse. The person asks a couple more times but eventually gets the hint. This is a normal social interaction. But if the person hits on you in a creepy way — like making references to sex or your body, sending sexual messages, always showing up wherever you happen to be, or trying to touch you, hug you, or bother you — that's harassment.

# SEXUAL HARASSMENT WITHIN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- feels bad, demeaning

- is unwanted by the receiver

- is threatening and insulting

- builds up the ego of the giver by bringing down the esteem of the receiver

- is used by the person with social/situational power as an abuse of that power





# WHAT DOES SEXUAL HARASSMENT LOOK LIKE WITH TEENS

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- Touching, grabbing, or pinching someone in a deliberately sexual way
- Pulling at someone's clothing and brushing up against them in a purposefully sexual way
- Sending sexual messages or images by text, or "sexting," is not a good idea for many reasons. Sexting can lead to problems for you and the person getting the text, even when you are dating or in a relationship with that person. In some cases these messages can be considered harassment or bullying and can bring very serious consequences. Also, messages or images you intend to be private can get into the wrong hands and be used to embarrass, intimidate, or humiliate. Even if you send someone's picture just to one other person, it can be forwarded to many other people or posted online for the world to see.
- Forcing another person into doing things they don't want to do, such as kissing, oral sex, or intercourse, goes beyond sexual harassment or bullying. **Forcing someone to do sexual things is sexual assault or rape, and it's a serious crime.**



# HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW

Making	making sexual jokes, comments, or gestures to or about someone
Spreading	spreading sexual rumors (in person, by text, or online)
Writing	writing sexual messages about people on bathroom stalls or in other public places
Showing	showing someone inappropriate sexual pictures or videos
Asking	asking someone to send you naked pictures of herself or himself ("nudes")
Posting	posting sexual comments, pictures, or videos on social networks like Facebook, or sending explicit text messages
Making	making sexual comments or offers while pretending to be someone else online



# HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT WITHIN YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- What do you get when you type an eight two zeros and another eight?

- Dude are you gay or something?



- I can totally see her bra strap, she is totally a hoe

- Come on just one kiss, no one is looking

- masturbation around roommates

- I heard she has had sex with like 20 dudes

- Oral Sex Gestures



# MITIGATING HARASSMENT WITHIN PROGRAMS

- Understanding the Abuse Equation
- Proper Supervision
- Reduction of Unstructured Free-time





# HOW ABUSE WORKS WITH MINORS

Access: Peer to Peer

Participation in youth programs.

Sibling Relationship.

Child of a program staff

Residing at a location of programming

Attending the same school



# PRIVACY: PEER TO PEER

How Abuse Works with Minors

Hallways

Bathrooms

Buses

Unsupervised Free Time

Giving a peer a ride home

Social Media





CONTROL: PEER TO PEER

**How Abuse Works with Minors**

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Age Differential

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Popularity

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Blackmail

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Size Differential



# PROPER SUPERVISION: STAFF BREAKS

01

Be sure to maintain student to staff ratio during staff break

02

Specifically ask who is covering your space in your absence

03

Do not take breaks without specifically delegating someone to watch your students.

## Supervision: Bathroom Breaks



If over the age of 12, students may go independently

Staff must keep track of time

Programs should allot no more than 3-5 minutes per independent bathroom break.

If student fails to return, a staff member that makes up the ratio and another student or staff must go check on the child.



# MITIGATING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN PROGRAMS

## The Role of Unstructured Free-time

- It is harder for activities to be properly supervised without structure
- Its harder to notice when youth are missing without structure
- Lack of structure makes it harder to observe and interrupt inappropriate behaviors



## UNSTRUCTURED FREE-TIME

- Give youth multiple options for activities that your program can adequately staff and supervise
- Youth should converse in common areas and not their own rooms during break time
- Staff should proactively survey spaces during breaks
- Assign a staff to each participant that is responsible for knowing where they are at all times
- Explain the parameters of free-time prior to the break

Any  
1.1  
Questions



## RESOURCES

- <https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/harassment.html>
- <https://smartcouples.ifas.ufl.edu/media/smartcouplesifasufledu/docs/pdfs/Teens-and-Sexual-Harassment---Making-a-Difference.pdf>
- <https://www.verywellfamily.com/examples-of-teen-sexual-harassment-at-school-2611301>