Bullying



Bullying occurs when there is an imbalance of power. Bullying happens when someone harms another with words or actions on purpose to assert power over the victim. People bully for many reasons. They may bully because they want to fit in with the popular crowd or because they see other people doing it. Sometimes people think bullying will make them feel stronger or better than the other person, and sometimes people bully because it prevents them from being bullied.



Direct and Indirect Bullying

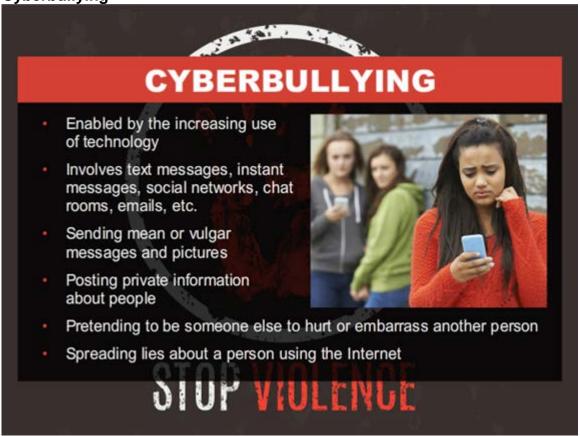


There are two types of bullying: direct and indirect. Direct bullying involves physical aggression that can manifest in punching, hitting, pushing, pinching, kicking and other violent physical contact.

Indirect bullying is also known as social aggression, and is characterized by socially isolating the victim. Indirect bullying is more likely to be verbal and involves gossiping, laughing at someone, saying or doing something that triggers a negative reaction, and poking fun of someone because of their appearance or situation.



Cyberbullying



The most common place for teenage bullying to occur is at school; however, with the use of technology on the rise, bullying can now occur without having to be face-to-face. Bullying can now happen anywhere and at any time. Cyberbullying can involve text messages, instant messages, social networks, chat rooms, and e-mails. Some examples of cyberbullying are sending mean or vulgar messages and pictures, posting private information about another person, pretending to be someone you are not to embarrass or hurt someone else and using the Internet to spread lies about another person.



The Effects of Bullying

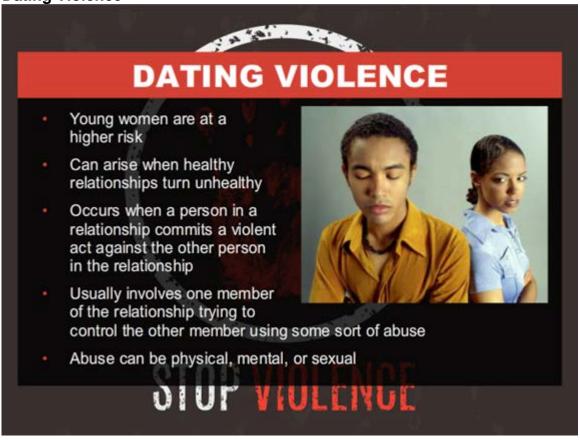


The effects of bullying vary greatly, but are serious. Some effects of bullying are:

- lower self-confidence;
- fear of going to school;
- decreased academic performance;
- anxiety around others; and
- depression and suicide.



Dating Violence



Relationships and dating start to become more prevalent during your teenage years. Young women are at a higher risk for dating violence. When healthy relationships turn to unhealthy relationships violence can arise. Dating violence occurs when a person in a relationship commits a violent act against the other person in the relationship. Usually one member of the relationship tries to control the other member using some sort of abuse. This abuse can be physical, mental, or sexual in nature.



Dating Violence and Teens

DATING VIOLENCE & TEENS

- Encountered by teens because of inexperience or pressure from peers
- Influenced by how teens view themselves and others
- Some young men believe they should control their partners and may lose respect if they are caring
- May attach masculinity with physical aggressiveness



- Young women may believe that abuse is normal
- May confuse their partner's possessiveness with romance and love
- Males can also fall victim to dating violence

Teenagers encounter dating violence because they typically are inexperienced with dating, have romanticized views of love, and are often pressured by peers to have dating relationships. Teen dating violence is greatly influenced by how teens view themselves and others. Some young men believe that they have the right to control their partners and may lose respect in their social group if they are caring towards them. Additionally, male teens may attach masculinity with physical aggressiveness. Young women may believe that abuse is normal because their friends or family are being abused too and feel responsible for solving problems. Female teens may also confuse their partner's possessiveness with romance and love. It is important to remember that males in a relationship can also fall victim to dating violence.



Unhealthy Relationships

UNHEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS Important to recognize warning signs and understand you have choices in your relationships

- Warning signs of an unhealthy relationship include:
 - Excessive calling
 - Always wanting to know where you are and what you are doing
 - Extreme jealousy and anger
 - Trying to control what you do
 - Verbally abusive
 - Threatens physical violence
 - Uses force during arguments
 - Isolates you from family and friends

Identifying unhealthy relationships can be hard. As a teen, it is important to recognize warning signs and understand you have choices in your relationships. Warning signs of an unhealthy relationship include:

- excessive calling;
- always wanting to know where you are and what you are doing, in other words, keeping "tabs" on you;
- extreme jealousy and anger;
- trying to control what you do;
- verbally abusive;
- · threatens physical violence;
- uses force during arguments; and
- isolates you from family and friends.

Everyone deserves respect in every relationship.



Sexual Violence

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Can happen between strangers; however, the aggressor is more likely someone the victim knows
- Victims can be males or females
- Always inappropriate regardless of whether a victim knows the aggressor
- Drugs/alcohol may make victims unable to say "no" or physically stop the violence, or make aggressors unaware that the victim is saying "no"
- Clearly communicate the type of relationship you want
- If someone makes you feel uneasy, try to avoid him or her
- If you feel like you need help, make sure you speak up, and get help as soon as possible

Sometimes violence is sexual in nature. This type of unwanted assault can happen between strangers; however, the aggressor is more likely someone the victim knows. In fact, sexual assault can happen during a date, and victims can be males or females. Whether or not a victim knows the aggressor, sexual violence is always inappropriate. Moreover, at times victims or aggressors may have taken drugs or alcohol, and either are unable to say "no" to physically stop the violence, or are not aware that someone else is saying "no" because of an altered state of mind. Staying sober can help you remain aware of your surroundings.

When spending time with someone, clearly communicate about the type of relationship you want. If someone makes you feel uneasy, try to avoid him or her, especially if you are alone. Most importantly, if you feel like you need help, make sure you speak up, and get help as soon as possible. Talk to an adult, call a hotline, or tell someone.



Self-Injury

SELF-INJURY

- Involves behaviors that intend to or inflict harm or injury to oneself
- Cutting, burning, or using some other method of inflicting harm or injury to one's own body
- A way that some people deal with trauma that has affected them deeply and emotionally
- Is often misperceived as suicidal intentions; generally people who self-injure do not want to die
- Not an attempt to get attention
- An attempt to cope with overwhelming issues, without the knowledge and resources to deal with them in a healthy way



Self-injury involves behaviors that intend to, or inflict harm or injury to oneself. You may know someone who has either cut, burned, or used some other method of inflicting harm or injury to his or her own body. That is self-injury.

Self-injury is a way that some people deal with trauma that has affected them deeply and emotionally. A misconception is that self-injury is meant as suicide, but this is untrue. Although people do die from self-injury, generally people who self-injure do not want to die. Someone who self-injures is not trying to get attention. They are trying to cope with overwhelming issues, but do not have the knowledge and resources to deal with these issues in a healthy way.



Signs of Self-Injury



Signs of self-injury include:

- **Unexplained wounds.** The person may have fresh wounds or scars from cuts, bruises, or cigarette burns, usually on the wrists, arms, thighs or chest.
- **Indications of depression**. Low mood, tearfulness, lack of motivation, or loss of energy can be signs of depression, which may lead to self-injury.
- Frequent "accidents." Someone who self-injures may claim to be clumsy or have many mishaps in order to explain away injuries.
- Changes in eating habits. This could mean being secretive about eating, or unusual weight loss or gain, as eating disorders are often associated with self-injury.
- Covering up. A person who self-injures may insist on wearing long sleeves or long pants, even in hot weather, to cover up wounds, scars, or evidence of an eating disorder.

