Teen Sexual Violence

Sexual violence refers to an actual or attempted act that is sexual in nature where consent is not freely obtained or given. It is a forced, coerced, or manipulated act that is sexual in nature, breaks a person’s trust and safety, and is primarily motivated out of a need to feel powerful by controlling, dominating, or humiliating the victim. This can include rape, sexual assault, incest, child sexual abuse, sex trafficking, sexual contact, or sexual harassment. Non-contact unwanted sexual experiences are also forms of sexual violence and include exposure, voyeurism, making a victim look at or participate in sexual photos or movies, or verbal sexual harassment. Sexual violence is one of the most personal and invasive expressions of violence deeply affecting all genders, ages, races, ethnicities, ability levels, socioeconomic statuses, and sexual orientations.

Youth are at particular risk for sexual violence.

Youth may be exposed to many types of sexual violence. They can be victims of sexual assault, sexual harassment, unwanted sexting (the sending of explicit messages and/or photographs), sexual and reproductive coercion, and sexual exploitation (Cook-Craig, 2012). Perpetrators of the violence may be peers or adults.

Although not inclusive of all forms of sexual violence which youth may experience outside of dating relationships, the data below provides a snapshot of sexual violence happening within dating relationships in Wisconsin.
WCASA is a membership agency comprised of organizations and individuals working to end sexual violence in Wisconsin. Among these are the 56 sexual assault service provider (SASP) agencies throughout the state that offer support, advocacy and information to victims of sexual assault and their families. For information sheets on other topics and for more information about sexual assault, please visit our website. This sheet may be reproduced in its original format only.

This information does not constitute legal advice.