

## Resources to Consider

For information to help educators feel informed, confident in their knowledge and understand the criminal law components regarding sexual assault and abuse, the following resources are recommended:

- [Legislation & Policy Related to Victims in the Criminal Justice System - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal/victims/legislation.htm)
- [Crime Examples - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal/victims/crime_examples.htm)
- [Help starts here - Sexual Assault \(gov.bc.ca\)](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/justice/criminal/victims/help_starts_here.htm)

# Topic: Healthy Sexual Decision Making

## Considerations

- Don't impose your beliefs or values on the topics covered.

## Instructional strategies

Strategies to support you in covering these topics with your students could include the following:

- Abortion and contraception
- Review how different contraceptive options are used and how they work.
- Provide information about local resources where students can go to get more information, help, and/or contraceptive devices.
  - Try to provide as much detail as possible: For example, which contraceptive devices are available? What services are provided? Are they free? Where is it located? What are its hours? How can students get there? (Provide walking and bus routes, as many students don't drive.)

## Legalities

- Age difference is determined by birthday, month, and year. So if a 12-year-old is dating someone who is two years and one day older than them, it would be illegal for them to engage in sexual activity.
- Consent can never be given if someone is intoxicated, incapacitated, asleep, or unconscious. Even if a person said beforehand that they would engage in sexual activity, if they are intoxicated, they may not be able to consent and the sexual activity should not proceed.

## Sexually transmitted infections

- Note: Graphic photos are unnecessary.

- Discuss the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine and how vaccination can protect both males and females from several types of cancer.
- Explain which STIs are bacterial and which are viral.
- Explain that a person who has HIV is legally obligated to tell all sexual partners before they engage in any sexual activity.
- Discuss the different types of tests that students who are sexually active should be getting, emphasizing that these tests are not a “one and done” situation.
  - Encourage students to get tested regularly. In B.C., all STI testing is free, and all testing facilities are required to maintain confidentiality (e.g., not tell parents).
- Provide information about local resources where students can go for testing and/or treatment.
  - Try to provide as much detail as possible: What services are provided? Are they free? Where is the resource located? What are its hours? How can students get there? (Provide walking and bus routes, as many students don't drive.)

### Pornography

- Sexual health experts/educators have stated that if parents and educators are not teaching children and youth about sex and sexuality, then those children and youth will learn about those topics elsewhere, and this is increasingly via the internet and pornography.
- Discuss the underlying messages that can be found in pornography, including violence, inequality between men and women, and lack of consent.
  - Adolescent exposure to pornography fosters unhealthy ideas about human sexuality – such as acceptance of sexual coercion and the normalization of teenage sexual aggression.
  - The rise of pornography (and particularly violent pornography) by children and youth at increasingly younger ages (intentionally or unintentionally) complicates the sexual landscape for our students.
- Tell students that a lot of what can be found on the Internet is photoshopped, unsafe, violent, and/or completely fabricated.
- Remind students that once you see something, you can't un-see it. They need to be careful when they search for information.
  - Talk about the difference between reliable and unreliable websites. Students need to be mindful of where they are getting their information from.
- Be clear that having explicit images or videos of people who are under age 18 can be considered as possession of child pornography, and sending explicit images or videos of anyone under age 18 can be considered as distribution of child pornography. Both are illegal and can result in severe and long-lasting consequences.