

CONTINUUM OF SEXUAL BEHAVIORS

	Harmful	Unhealthy	Healthy
Dynamics	<p>Sexual interactions are nonconsensual (one or more of the following conditions is met):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not legally age-appropriate • One partner is unconscious, asleep, or has limited mental awareness due to alcohol/drug use • One partner violates another's sexual boundaries using force/physical domination • One partner violates another's sexual boundaries using coercion or manipulation (e.g. explicit or implied threats, intimidation, guilt tripping, or other forms of pressure). <p>Sexual interactions involve a repetitive, cyclical pattern of physical and/or emotional abuse.</p> <p>Sexual interactions may be criminal or non-criminal. (Behavior may be legal <u>and</u> harmful/abusive.)</p> <p>Sexual interactions are characterized by a lack of respect. One partner is primarily interested in how they can exploit/benefit from the other person through manipulation, coercion, or force.</p> <p>Sexual relationship contains unequal power dynamics.</p> <p>Partners buy in to rigid gender roles and stereotypes, believing that women or feminine individuals must be submissive and men or masculine individuals should be dominant; that men naturally deserve sexual access to women's bodies; or that men can be sexually experienced but women must be "pure."</p> <p>One or more partners do not communicate about, understand, or acknowledge the other's emotional needs and desires.</p>	<p>Sexual interactions are consensual (all of the following conditions are met):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally age-appropriate • Conscious & Aware • Mutual agreement • Absence of force, coercion, or manipulation <p>Partners do <u>not</u> communicate openly and in-depth about many important aspects of themselves and their relationship, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual values • Sexual health status and STI prevention/birth control • Relationship boundaries, status, expectations, and intentions • Emotions and thoughts related to sexual interactions and relationship • How prior experiences (positive and negative) impact their perspectives on sexual interactions • Sexual desires, preferences, and boundaries; what is pleasurable for them (and what is not) during sexual interactions <p>One partner is more interested in what they can get from the other person than in being considerate and respectful of the other's feelings, concerns, values, and choices.</p> <p>One or more partners lack basic information about human sexual health and development.</p> <p>Partners may or may not find pleasure in sexual interactions with one another.</p>	<p>Sexual relationships are equitable.</p> <p>Sexual interactions are enthusiastically consensual (all of the following conditions are met):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legally age-appropriate • Conscious & Aware • Mutually enthusiastic verbal and physical agreement • Absence of force, coercion, or manipulation <p>Partners are mutually informed of and openly communicate on an ongoing basis about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual values • Sexual health status and STI prevention/birth control • Relationship boundaries, status, expectations, and intentions • Emotions and thoughts related to sexual interactions and relationship • How prior experiences (positive and negative) impact their perspectives on sexual interactions • Sexual desires, preferences, and boundaries; what is pleasurable for them (and what is not) during sexual interactions <p>Partners respect each other's implied or stated boundaries around sexual activity.</p> <p>Partners are considerate of each other's feelings, concerns, values, and choices.</p> <p>Partners are informed about basic sexual health and human development.</p> <p>Partners find pleasure in sexual interactions with one another, care about each other's enjoyment during sexual interactions, and support each other in discovering what is pleasurable for them.</p>