

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review 2024

Understanding and Preventing Sexual Violence

Year Published/Revised: Not indicated

Publisher: HRM Video

Website: www.hrmvideo.com

Full or Supplemental: Supplemental

Grade Level: 9-12

Student Population: General

Duration/Number of Lessons: 56-minute video

Format and Features: Online video, physical or digital copy of the curriculum, teacher's resource book, student handouts, and pre/posttests in digital format.

Materials Provide Support for online or in-person learning: Yes

Available in Multiple Languages: Spanish subtitles available

Evidence-based/informed: Not indicated

National Standards Alignment: Not indicated

Consistent with WA Health Education Standards? Yes

Consistent with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law? No

Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act? N/A

Inclusive Materials/Strategies: No

Bias-Free Materials: No



Primary Subject Areas and Topics Covered:

- Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction, and Pregnancy (Pregnancy for Grade 6+)
- Growth and Development/Puberty
- Self-Identity (gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Prevention (general):
 - HIV/AIDS Prevention
 - Pregnancy Prevention
 - STD Prevention
 - Health Care and Prevention Resources
- Healthy Relationships (general):
 - Affirmative Consent
 - Bystander Training
 - Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Communication Skills for Healthy Relationships
 - The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships
 - Understanding the influences of family, peers, community, and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships

Reviewer Comments:

Reviewer 352

I do not recommend this material. The video is outdated, contains misinformation, and could be re-traumatizing for viewers.

The video lacked diversity, messages around prejudice and harassment were one-dimensional. I wondered if the writers intended for some scenes to depict as much victim-blaming as it did (e.g., the one girl being shamed even by the "supportive" characters for taking a naked photo).

It has a few promising depictions of bystander behaviors and supportive responses to disclosures. The supportive messages about confidentiality are well-intentioned, but should be followed with discussion on mandatory reporting. It includes teacher and student resources that may help guide critical discussion on norms that perpetuate sexual violence (I was not able to preview them). But there are better quality and less problematic materials available.

Reviewer 354

It lists a teacher's resource book, discussion questions, activities and pre/posttest but these aren't available in the preview without purchase so cannot assess (and without these it's unclear the quality of the resource as a whole because the video does not provide several needed things, more below).

A little concern about the data provided in the video description that states according to the CDC 8% of high

school students experienced sexual violence, there is no citation provided and this is lower than current CDC data. The CDC's Youth Risk Behavior Survey from 2021 lists rates of sexual violence for HS students at 18% for females and 5% for males.

Very little diversity represented of race, ethnicity, body types, or abilities. Only heterosexual relationships represented. Gender diversity not addressed or represented.

Do not agree this is adequate for the range of grades 7- college. Too many unhealthy messages that are not countered and disturbing scenarios for middle school youth, and likely the video would be seen as too juvenile for youth in late high school or college.

Unclear if there is an adequate framing and trigger warnings for scenes of sexual assault, as well as harassment and bullying. Without this being built into the video they are relying on the facilitator to know how to do this. For teens who have experienced sexual assault, this video may be very triggering and especially to watch in a classroom.

A lot of the video scenarios portray unhealthy behaviors without much bystander intervention, this may make it challenging for young audiences to take away the intended messages and may just normalize the bullying and harassment unless there is skilled facilitation afterwards or between. Heavy repeated use of "homo and slut slurs."

The guidance counselor in the scenario does not address mandatory reporting but does offer the survivor adequate options and resources.

Reviewer 361

I found the videos to be relevant to student situations they are experiencing today. It will be engaging for students and they will most likely have a personal connection to the stories or have someone they know who has experienced one of the scenarios. I did notice that there was not a lot of diversity of race/ethnicity, as well as gender.

It looks like a teacher resource book, student handouts, and pre/posttest are available, but I was not able to preview them.

Reviewer 364

As I was not granted access to the teacher resources/guide, my review is based purely on the video provided. While these videos have the potential to be a jumping off point for a more

inclusive and nuanced discussion in the hands of a skilled facilitator with a helpful guide, on their own this series of clips would not be sufficient in preventing gender-based violence.

These video clips did a good job at portraying victims, perpetrators, and bystanders across gender. However, there was little to no representation of different races, sexualities, etc.

The scenarios covered were diverse but all connected/related-- sexual harassment, sexual assault, domestic violence, and digital safety-- which allowed for some intersecting storylines and messaging.

Without additional resources/discussion questions, most of the videos were not explicit about the lesson, takeaways, or potential action for the viewer. Most of what was portrayed was solely the "negative" behavior without a resolution that guides youth to different decision-making. On their own, this has the potential to be confusing at best and problematic at worst.

Lastly, while the topics covered are important and relevant, the actual scenarios, scripts, and content were outdated, unrealistic, and dramatized to the point of being unrelatable to most youth. In some cases the actions/behavior displayed was so unrealistic that it misrepresents the potential trauma of some of these situations. For example, the girl who was sexually assaulted and had the video spread around the school seemed just a little sad, the girl who had her nudes shared around the school was laughing/joking at the end about the consequences with the boy who had stolen the nudes and shared them, etc. While some of the more dramatized/unrealistic aspects can be overlooked, these particular examples serve to downplay the responses an actual young person may have when facing traumatic events.

Med/Sci Reviewer 368

I feel that some of the language is a little dated, "gay" could be updated to "queer." Much of the pre/post tests are merely based on "boys and girls"- not much left or included for non-binary pop.

OSPI Comment

This resource was found to be inconsistent with state requirements for comprehensive sexual health education, due to its lack of inclusive language/strategies and the inclusion of biased materials. Reviewers identified concerns related to outdated and potentially traumatizing approaches to instruction related to sexual violence.