Today’s piece was prepared by Brittany Lee, MD based on a NY Times article, [What #MeToo Means to Teenagers](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/19/well/family/metoo-me-too-teenagers-teens-adolescents-high-school.html?rref=collection%2Ftimestopic%2FBullies&action=click&contentCollection=timestopics&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=3&pgtype=collection).

This article illuminates an area of the #MeToo movement that has not previously been in the forefront: teenagers who experience sexual harassment. The article cites several studies demonstrating the self-reported prevalence of sexual harassment from their peers among middle school students as 43% and of relationship abuse in teenagers as about 30%. Throughout the article, the author uses gender inclusive language including the phrases “female-identifying” or “gender neutral honorific.” The article approaches the topic of sexual harassment in teenagers by speculating some contributing factors early in children’s lives, including socialization of children to behave according to their gender or avoiding teaching children about consent early enough. What follows are several examples of efforts to intervene during these middle and high school years. Included are several student-driven efforts, including a group at Berkeley High School in California who collect and post anonymous stories on Instagram weekly to raise awareness of the problem at their school. Stop Sexual Assault in Schools (SSAIS) is a non-profit group that started the “MeTooK12” movement. The founder of SSAIS recommends that student perpetrators be recommended for activities that could help prevent future sexual harassment, including workshops on gender-based discrimination or counseling. The article does a nice job of summarizing the prevalence of the issue, some examples of where we (as providers, parents, teachers, or simply adults) might intervene, and links to resources.

**RESOURCES ON SEXUALITY AND SAFETY:**

[Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress](https://depts.washington.edu/hcsats/PDF/factsheets/CSA_flipbook_final_WEB.pdf)  *6-page handout on preventing child sexual assault*

[Advocates for Youth](http://advocatesforyouth.org/) *Advocacy & support to make responsible choices about sex & reproductive health*

And that’s today’s Developmental & Behavioral Pediatrics: IN THE NEWS!