

## Facts about Hazing

### What is Hazing?

Hazing is any activity, required implicitly or explicitly as a condition of initiation or continued membership in an organization that may negatively impact the physical or psychological well-being of the individual or may cause damage to others, or to public or private property<sup>1</sup>

### What is Bullying?

Bullying abuse is a form of aggressive behavior that is intended to cause harm. There is an imbalance of power between the peer (or group of peers) bullying and the target. Bullying usually happens over and over<sup>2</sup>

### How are Bullying and Hazing Similar?<sup>3</sup>

- Motivation for bullying and hazing is often identity-based
- Imbalance of power exists
- Left unchecked each can contribute to an environment where the behavior is acceptable
- Each is a precursor to more destructive, hateful behavior
- Both are forms of youth violence

### How are Bullying and Hazing Different?

The primary aim of bullying is exclusion whereas the purpose of hazing is to “legitimize” incoming group members through induction activities that are generally irrelevant to group membership<sup>4</sup>

Hazing is harassment by a cohort of senior members of a group against a cohort of newcomers to the group, whereas bullying is harassment by one or a few individuals against isolated individuals<sup>5</sup>

### Consequences of Hazing<sup>6 7</sup>

- Physical or Emotional Pain
- Loneliness
- Anger
- Traumatic Injury
- Suicidal Tendencies
- Perpetuation of the Cycle of Violence
- Depression
- Legal Issues

### Facts About Hazing

Prevalence rates for hazing among high school students have been found to be as high as 48%<sup>8</sup>

Hazing may be perpetrated by and/or endorsed by parents, coaches or other non-athlete members of the group

Because of the prevalence of hazing and the serious risk of injury and death, 43 states have enacted anti-hazing laws<sup>9</sup>

Group cohesion, the desire to belong, and wanting to be part of something bigger are important factors contributing to the problem of hazing

A clear definition of hazing is needed<sup>10</sup>

### Preventing Hazing<sup>11</sup>

- Develop strong, positive, responsible leaders
- Provide positive alternatives to hazing
- Meet with your leaders and team to discuss your views and policy on hazing
- Cite examples of initiations gone bad
- Install a buddy system – connect new members of team or groups with veterans who can serve as a mentor and/or protector
- Encourage your newcomers to report any anticipated or actual hazing

### Additional Resources

[www.hazingprevention.org](http://www.hazingprevention.org)

[www.hazingstudy.org](http://www.hazingstudy.org)

[http://www.alfred.edu/hs\\_hazing/docs/hazing\\_study.pdf](http://www.alfred.edu/hs_hazing/docs/hazing_study.pdf)

*Preventing Hazing* by Susan Lipkins

### References

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- <sup>1</sup> Nuwer H. Unofficial clearinghouse for hazing and related risks in the news (on-line). Available: <http://hazing.hanknuwer.com/>. Accessed April 10, 2003
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  - <sup>3</sup> <http://www.stopbullying.gov/indes.html>
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  - <sup>8</sup> Hoover, N.C., Pollard, N.J. Initiation rites in American High schools (on-line). [http://www.alfred.edu/news/html/hazing\\_study.html](http://www.alfred.edu/news/html/hazing_study.html). Accessed April 11, 2003.
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  - <sup>11</sup> <http://www.teamcaptainsnetwork.com/public/226.cfm>

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