

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

8. **He may seem like the answer to your problems.**

It may seem like an older guy will take you away from problems at home or school – at least for a while. But the risks, such as an STD or pregnancy, may make problems worse. Can you talk to a trusted adult about better ways to get the help you need?

9. **He says he'll take care of you if you get pregnant.**

Did you know that one out of ten teenage girls become pregnant each year? Or that most babies born to teen moms are fathered by men who are 20 or older? And, he may not stick around once the child is born. You could end up taking care of a child by yourself.

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10. **Consider the risks.**

While it may be normal to admire an older guy, dating him might not be best for you. If you are unsure of the relationship, talk with a trusted adult. Make the best decision for you.

BEFORE YOU DATE AN OLDER GUY

10 Things You Need to Know Before You Date an Older Guy

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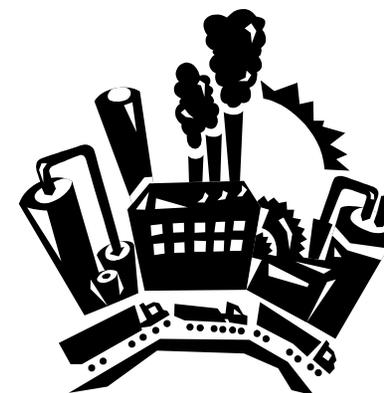
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Before You Date an Older Guy...

CONSIDER THE RISKS



*Rogers Young Women's Action Team
(YWAT)*

Are you dating an older guy? Thinking about it? One or two years difference may not matter. But what if he's much older – four, five or more years? Look at the ten statements below. Is dating an older guy really what's best for you?

1. **It's normal to admire older guys.**

Guys your own age may seem immature. And an older guy has a car, money, his own place — it all sounds good. But dating an older guy has certain risks. Will he expect you to act a certain way or do things you are not ready for?

2. **You may find it harder to say no to sex.**

Older guys have had more experience with dating – and sex. In fact, he may expect sex. Don't let him talk you into sex when you're not ready. Just because he's done it, that doesn't mean you have to!

3. **You may be risking an STD or HIV**

An older guy, especially one who has been sexually active, is more likely to have been exposed to a sexually transmitted disease or infection (STD or STI). Herpes, chlamydia, HIV – it's a big risk.

4. **He's old enough to drink – and he may expect you to.**

Alcohol and other drugs can change the way people act. If you've been drinking, it may be harder to keep the limits you've set – especially around sex. Even when he means to respect your wishes, if he's been drinking, he may not.

5. **You may lose your friends.**

You may be hanging out with him and his friends. You may drift away from your friends without meaning to and regret it later.

6. **He says he loves you. But sometimes it feels like control.**

Does he treat you like an equal? Some men date younger women so they can feel more powerful. Does he tell you how to dress? How to act? Are you afraid to do or say the wrong thing? Are you always trying to please him, even if your actions don't feel right to you?

7. **What about the law?**

Laws vary from place to place, but if you are having sex, your boyfriend could be charged with unlawful intercourse. It doesn't matter if you've said yes. He can still be fined and put in jail.