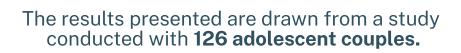




Cyber dating violence in adolescent relationships

What role does anxious attachment play?



Cyber dating violence is...

Using technology to intimidate, control, or humiliate one's partner.

Cyber-control



Aims to **control or spy** on one's partner.

e.g., **reading their private messages** without their permission.

Cyber-aggression

Aims to **hurt** one's partner . e.g., **sending them insults** by text message



Cyber dating violence puts adolescents at **risk of experiencing violence at any time**, even without being in the presence of their partner. Cyber dating violence poses numerous **consequences for the victim**.



Lower relationship satisfaction



Lower self-esteem

Academic problems (e.g., bullying, skipping class)

Click here to learn more about cyber dating violence in adolescent relationships.

Anxious attachment is ..

The tendency to form emotional and affective

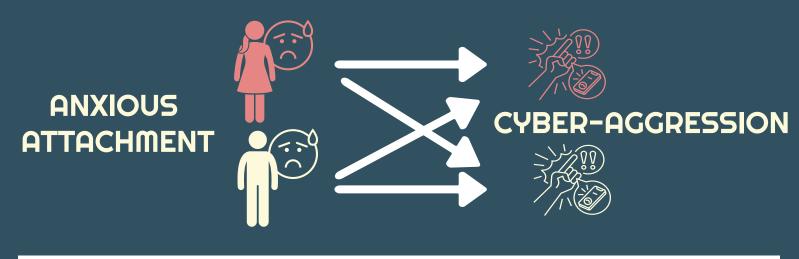


bonds with one's romantic partner, which is characterized by:

Fear of abandonment and separation

Excessive seeking of intimacy and closeness

What is the link between anxious attachment and cyber-aggression?



For girls and boys, a high level of anxious attachment is linked not only to their own use of cyber-aggression but also to their partners' use of these behaviours.

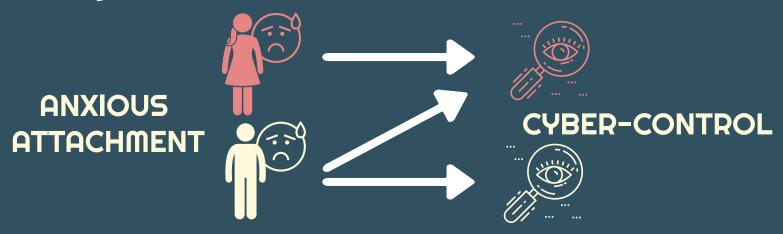
Why do teens resort to cyber-aggression?

Your partner isn't answering your texts, **you feel** abandoned and fear that they might leave you (anxiety).



To alleviate this anxiety, **you send multiple texts** to your partner. If they don't respond, you might react by texting insults due to feelings of **rejection and powerlessness.**

What about the link between anxious attachment and cyber-control?



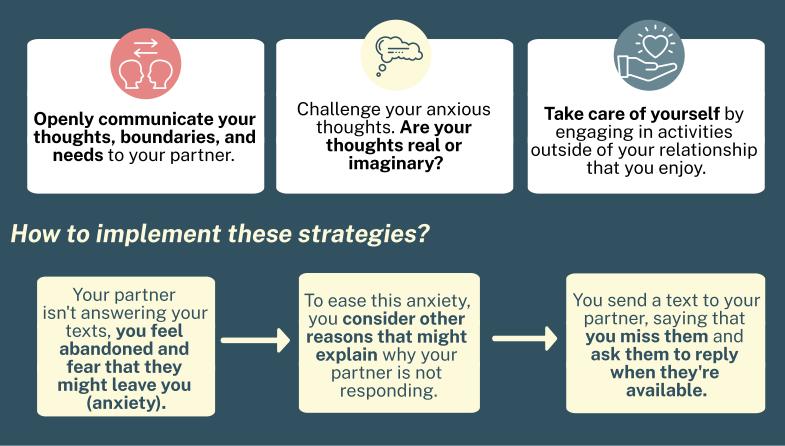
Adolescents with a high level of anxious attachment **tend to engage in cyber-control**.



For girls, the use of cyber-control is also associated with their partners' anxious attachment.

It is possible that girls are **more aware and sensitive to their partner's anxiety**, which could lead them to **resort to cyber-control** to **reassure** and **demonstrate their commitment to the relationship**.

What to do when you feel anxious in your relationship?



To learn more about the lab's projects : www.lefac.uqam.ca

Consult the complete article :

Laforte, S., Paradis, A., Todorov, E., & Cyr, C. (2023). Romantic attachment and cyber dating violence in adolescence: A dyadic approach. *Journal of Adolescence*, *95*(4), 647–660. <u>https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.12141</u>

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