



Making the
Connection:
**Domestic
Violence, Birth
Control Sabotage,
Pregnancy
Pressure, and
Unintended
Pregnancies**



Formerly Family Violence Prevention Fund

Animated Video



“Making the Connection” introductory video clip demonstrates the link between reproductive health, domestic violence and reproductive coercion

DATING VIOLENCE AND TEEN PREGNANCY



Adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships were **3.5 times more likely** to become pregnant than non-abused girls.

Roberts et al, 2005

DATING VIOLENCE AND CONDOM USE



Girls who experienced physical dating violence were **2.8 times** more likely to fear the perceived consequences of negotiating condom use than non-abused girls

Wingood et al, 2001

Rapid Repeat Pregnancy

Adolescent mothers who experienced physical abuse within three months after delivery were **nearly twice** as likely to have a repeat pregnancy within 24 months

(Raneri & Wiemann, 2007)



What We Know

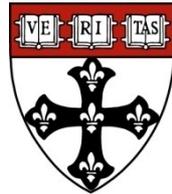


- Among a random sample of 1278 women ages 16-29 in 5 Family Planning clinics
 - **53% experienced DV/SA**
- Mirrors findings from studies nationwide – family planning clients have high rates of violence

Miller, et al 2010

A Community-Based Family Planning Intervention to Reduce Partner Violence

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Intervention Elements

- Review limits of confidentiality
- Provide integrated assessment specific to sexual and reproductive health and relevant to visit using safety card
- Offer support and validation, normalizing domestic violence experiences and connecting those experiences to reproductive health
- Harm reduction strategy
- Offer supported referral



Intervention Results

Among women in the intervention who experienced recent partner violence:

- **71% reduction** in odds for pregnancy coercion compared to control
- Women receiving the intervention were **60% more likely** to end a relationship because it felt unhealthy or unsafe

IPV, Reproductive Control and Unintended Pregnancy

Among women reporting reproductive control (pregnancy coercion and birth control sabotage):

- **IPV increases risk for unintended pregnancy two-fold**
- IPV appears to be a necessary condition for reproductive control to increase risk for unintended pregnancy

Clinical Implications

- **Assess for reproductive coercion and pregnancy coercion as part of routine care**
- **Assess for both physical and sexual violence**
- **Assess for reproductive coercion *before* discussing contraceptive options**
- **Assess safety with positive pregnancy tests and STI partner notification**
- **Develop relationships with local DV/SA programs to provide warm referrals**

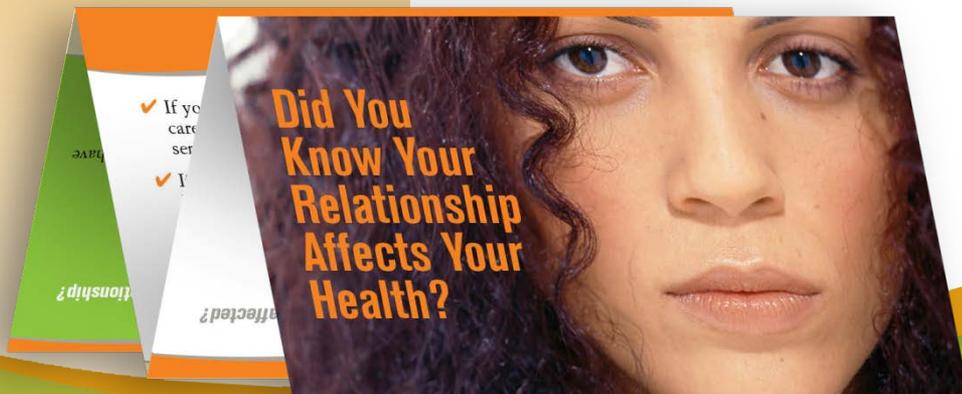
Reproductive Health Safety Card

Are you in an UNHEALTHY relationship?

Ask yourself:

- ✓ Does my partner mess with my birth control or try to get me pregnant when I don't want to be?
- ✓ Does my partner refuse to use condoms when I ask?
- ✓ Does my partner make me have sex when I don't want to?
- ✓ Does my partner tell me who I can talk to or where I can go?

If you answered *YES* to any of these questions, your health and safety may be in danger.



Reproductive Coercion Harm Reduction Intervention

Taking Control:

Your partner may see pregnancy as a way to keep you in his life and stay connected to you through a child—even if that isn't what you want.

If your partner makes you have sex, messes or tampers with your birth control or refuses to use condoms:

- ✓ Talk to your health care provider about birth control you can control (like IUD, implant, or shot/injection).
- ✓ The IUD is a safe device that is put into the uterus and prevents pregnancy up to 10 years. The strings can be cut off so your partner can't feel them. The IUD can be removed at anytime when you want to become pregnant.
- ✓ Emergency contraception (some call it the morning after pill) can be taken up to five days after unprotected sex to prevent pregnancy. It can be taken out of its packaging and slipped into an envelope or empty pill bottle so your partner won't know.



**FUTURES
WITHOUT VIOLENCE**™

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Teen Safety Card



These safety cards are a simple, evidence based intervention

- Opportunity to talk about healthy relationships
- Provide primary prevention by identifying signs of an unhealthy relationship.
- Educate clients about what they can do if they have a friend or family member who may be struggling with abuse
- Plant seeds for adolescents who are experiencing abuse but not yet ready to disclose.
- Help victims learn about safety planning, harm reduction strategies and support services.

Anticipatory Guidance on Healthy Relationships

How is it Going?

Does the person you are seeing (like a boyfriend or a girlfriend):

- ✓ Treat you well?
- ✓ Respect you (including what you feel comfortable doing sexually)?
- ✓ Give you space to hang out with your friends?
- ✓ Let you wear what you want to wear?

If you answered YES—it sounds like they care about you.

Recognizing Signs of an Unhealthy Relationship

And on a Bad Day?

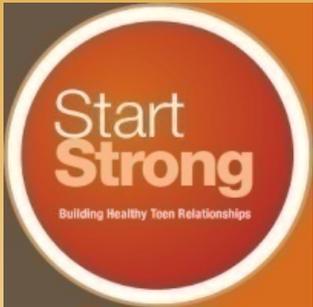
How often does the person you are seeing:

- ✓ Shame you or make you feel stupid?
- ✓ Pressure you to go to the next step when you're not ready?
- ✓ Control where you go, or make you afraid?
- ✓ Grab your arm, yell at you, or push you when they are angry or frustrated?

Nobody deserves to be treated this way. If these things ever happen in your relationship, talk to someone about it. For more info, go to www.loveisrespect.org.

Overview of Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships

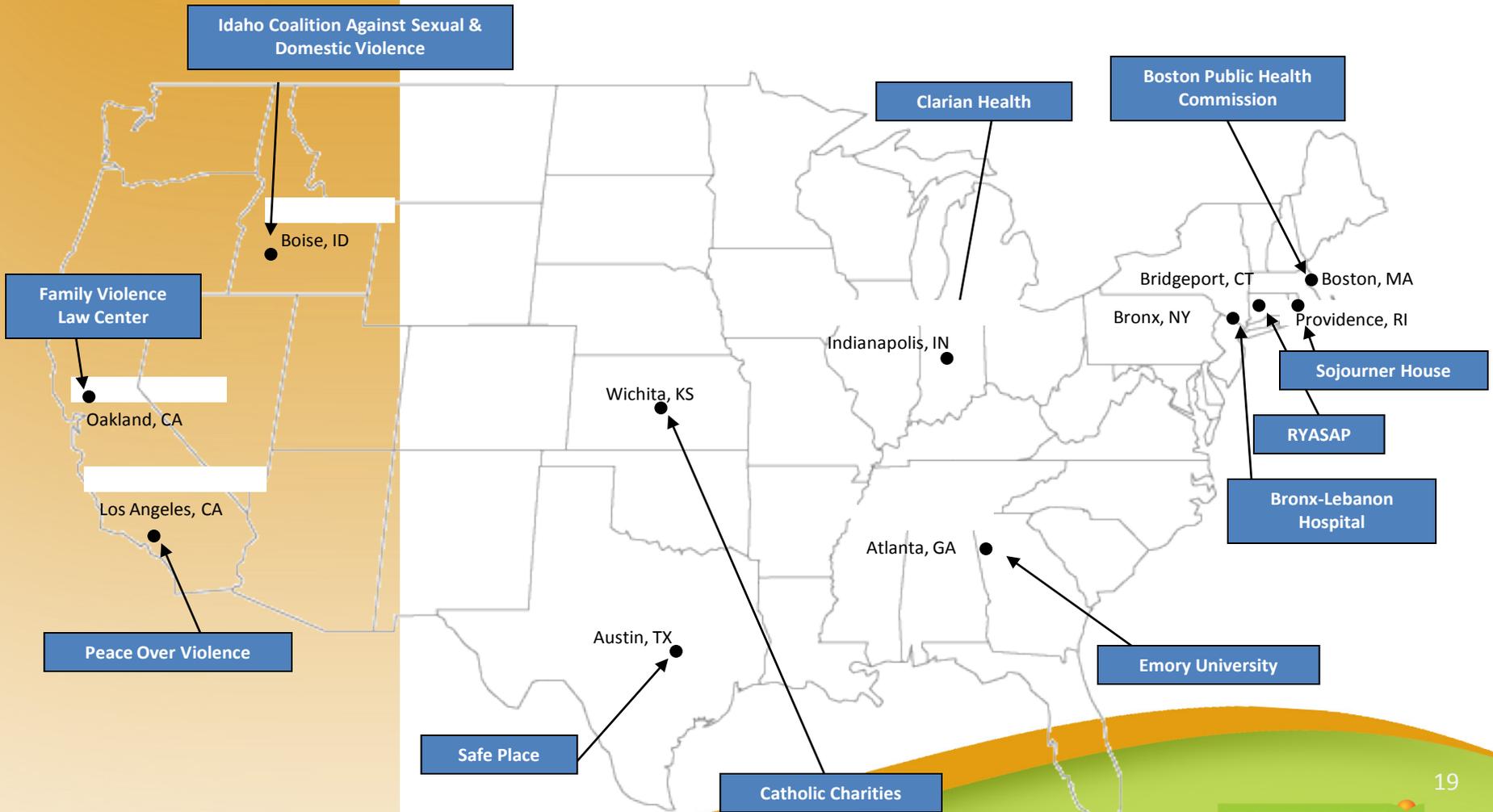
- ❑ Four years: Nov 2008 – Nov 2012
- ❑ \$18 million investment in 11 communities
- ❑ Focus on 11-14 year old youth
- ❑ Four core components:
 - Educate and engage youth in & out of school
 - Educate and engage influencers
 - Change policy and environmental factors
 - Social marketing and social norms change





Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships

The Communities





Start Strong Strategic Direction



- Middle School Matters

• Identifying and Utilizing Influencers is Key



• Bullying Intervention May Be Key Entry Point





Start Strong Strategic Direction

- Schools are Focal Points for Youth



- Youth-Informed Social Marketing is Crucial

- Social Media and Mobile Technology are Key



Lessons Learned

- ❑ Parent engagement is crucial, but difficult.
- ❑ Schools seem the right place to start, but with budget cuts it is a difficult space to work:
 - Strategies to integrate healthy relationships and prevention work into subjects other than health?
 - Look to after-school or other arenas?
- ❑ Is it about creating the right activity to educate and engage youth, or is youth development the benefit?
- ❑ Involve teens in developing programs

Overview of Project Connect

National initiative to build partnerships between the public health and violence prevention and intervention fields to improve the health responses to domestic and sexual violence:

- State leadership teams
- Provider education
- Patient education materials
- Health services within domestic violence programs
- Evaluation



Project Connect

A Coordinated Public Health Initiative
to Prevent Violence Against Women

Funded by the Office on Women's Health, US Dept of Health & Human Services

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Project Connect: Adolescent Health Successes

- ME: SBHCs have partnered with family planning clinics to provide universal education and targeted assessment.
- MI: Six pilot sites serving teens, including SBHCs and community resource centers
- OH: Universal education on reproductive coercion with minors included in Title X workplan
- IA: Staff at PREP programs required to receive Project Connect training, have IPV protocol, and use safety cards
- All sites have a cadre of trainers, offering workshops & presentations on Project Connect intervention & tools across their states

Project Connect: Feedback from Training

“In the two days after the training I started asking about healthy relationships using the teen safety card, and **every one of the patients disclosed some form of violence in their past or present relationship.**”

– Adolescent health nurse in Ohio

“I was comfortable asking because I had resources to share and knew who I could call if the client needed more help than I could give.”

– Family planning provider in Iowa

“Giving out the Project Connect cards gives **us a more natural way to discuss healthy relationships with the women we see...** a springboard for talk about what IS a healthy relationship. So many women have not really thought about that.”

– Adolescent health & family planning provider in Maine

Resources
available from
Futures
Without
Violence

- Patient safety cards and posters
- Clinical Guidelines
 - Reproductive Health
 - Adolescent health
- Training Vignettes
- E-learning CME Module
- Partnerships (PPFA and ACOG)
- Model School Policy on Preventing TDV

We are here
to support
your work

Thank you!

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