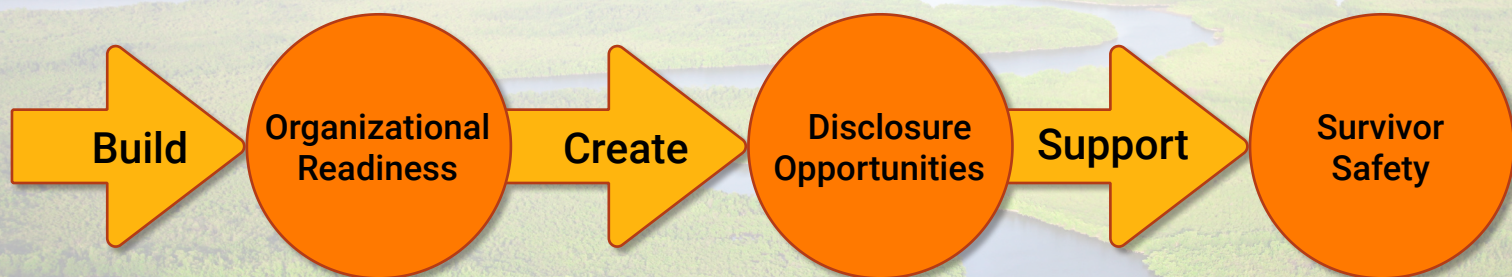


# Recognizing and Responding to Teen Dating Violence (TDV) in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) Programs: Key Recommendations



The Responding to Intimate Violence in Relationship Programs (RIViR) study enrolled 648 youth from school-based healthy marriage and relationship education (HMRE) programs.

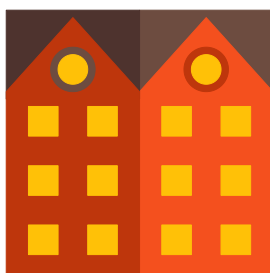
Participants were invited to complete two questionnaire-style screening tools and a one-on-one universal education conversation with staff, given in random order.

Qualitative and quantitative data analysis examined the accuracy, acceptability and feasibility of these three approaches to recognizing and responding to IPV.

If you or someone you know needs help, you can contact [loveisrespect.org](http://loveisrespect.org) or text "LOVEIS" to 866-331-9474.

For more information on responding to teen dating violence (TDV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) in HMRE programs, visit the [RIViR study website](#).

## Build Organizational Capacity and Readiness



- 1 Actively partner with a local domestic violence program committed to meeting youth needs.
- 2 Cultivate a warm environment and relatable, non-judgmental staff.
- 3 Dedicate staff time to careful planning and information management for responding to TDV.

## Create Opportunities for Disclosure



- 1 Offer youth more than one opportunity and more than one way to share relationship concerns.
- 2 Keep questions brief - but be sure to ask about sexual coercion and physical violence.
- 3 Educate all youth about warning signs of TDV and where to get help if they need it.

## Support Survivor Safety



- 1 Plan for a confidential follow-up conversation somewhere comfortable and convenient for youth.
- 2 Offer referrals to a variety of resources, including face-to-face and anonymous online or phone resources.
- 3 Recognize that many youth will not disclose; make sure they know where to get help even if they don't want to talk to you.

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Contract number:

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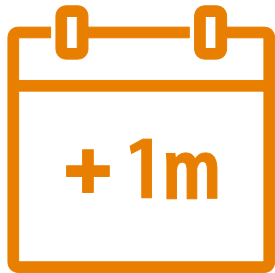
HMRE  
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INTERNATIONAL

# Recognizing and Responding to Teen Dating Violence (TDV) in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) Programs: RIViR Study Highlights

**Source:** Results shown here are based on latent class analysis, regression, and inductive qualitative analysis of data collected with OFA-funded HMRE staff, local domestic violence agency partners, and youth participants between 2018-2019 for the RIViR study.

**One in four youth disclosed TDV.**



**Tools worked best when administered later in the program.**

*"Some things they ask you can actually help make you think about whether or not it's worth it, if you're in a relationship that sounds like that...you have to think about it for a second."*

*Youth participant*



**Several short (3-item) tools were more accurate than longer questionnaires.**



**Youth who identified as non-heterosexual were significantly more likely to experience TDV.**



**Youth felt more comfortable with staff and more familiar with options for keeping themselves safe after the universal education conversation.**



**Youth were more likely to disclose TDV when answering questions on tablets than in talking with staff.**

RIViR was conducted by RTI International in partnership with More Than Conquerors (Conyers, GA) and Youth and Family Services (Rapid City, SD) through a contract with the Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation with funding from the Office of Family Assistance (OFA), both within the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Suggested citation: McKay, T., Kan, M., & Brinton, J. (2020). Responding to Intimate Violence in Relationship Programs: Youth Study Summary. OPRE Report 2020-101. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families. Available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/research/project/responding-to-intimate-violence-in-relationship-programs-rivir>.