

## Adolescent Relationship Abuse (ARA) Intervention

**Introduction** AFLP agencies will educate clients on characteristics of healthy relationships and adolescent relationship abuse including reproductive coercion and birth control sabotage. Case managers will use materials and follow procedures provided by the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Division.

**Definition** **Adolescent Relationship Abuse:** Refers to a pattern of repeated acts in which a person physically, sexually, or emotionally abuses another person of the same or opposite sex in the context of a dating or similarly defined relationship, in which one or both is a minor.

**Intimate Relationship:** Defined as a sexual or dating relationship.

**Reproductive Coercion:** Involves behaviors present in same sex or heterosexual relationships whereby a partner uses coercion to maintain power and control in the relationship related to reproductive health. Reproductive coercion includes pregnancy coercion and birth control sabotage.

**Pregnancy Coercion:** Involves threats or acts of violence if a partner does not comply with the perpetrator's wishes regarding the decision of whether to terminate or continue a pregnancy. Examples include:

- Forcing a women to carry a pregnancy to term against her wishes through threats of violence;
- Forcing a partner to terminate a pregnancy;
- Injuring a partner in a way that may result in a miscarriage.

**Birth control sabotage:** Active interference with contraceptive methods by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent. Examples include:

- Hiding, withholding, or destroying a partner's birth control pills;
- Breaking a condom on purpose;
- Not withdrawing when that was the agreed upon method

of contraception.

**Required  
Reporting  
Process**

Each agency is required to report:

- The number of clients who received information on reproductive coercion and birth control sabotage;
- The number of clients referred for “coercion resistant” birth control methods and counseling;
- The number of clients who state they feel safe in their relationship with their partner/other parent.

This information is captured via LodeStar management information system.

All clients, both female and male, are to receive reproductive coercion information at least twice annually, or more often as needed, during a face-to-face case management interaction. For example, clients may be provided Safety Cards created by Futures without Violence: “Did You Know Your Relationship Affects Your Health?” and/or “Hanging Out or Hooking Up?” Female clients who self-identify the need for a referral or who are assessed as potentially at risk by a case manager should be referred for coercion resistant contraception. The first card must be provided within the first three client visits.