An Intimate Connection: Dating Violence and Reproductive Justice
IPV increases women’s risk for UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES

(Sarkar, 2008; Goodwin et al., 2000; Hathaway et al., 2000)
Adolescent girls in physically abusive relationships were 3.5 times more likely to become pregnant than non-abused girls.

(Roberts et al, 2005)
Abortion and IPV

• Women who are exposed to IPV are more likely to have a second-trimester abortion.

• Strong association between IPV and involvement in three or more abortions
Women disclosing physical violence are nearly three times more likely to experience a sexually transmitted infection than women who don’t disclose physical abuse.

One in three adolescents tested for sexually transmitted infections and HIV have experienced domestic violence.
What’s In a Name?
Reproductive Coercion
Reproductive Coercion are behaviors that interfere with contraception use and/or pregnancy. These behaviors may include:

- Explicit attempts to impregnate a partner against her wishes
- Controlling outcomes of a pregnancy
- Coercing a partner to have unprotected sex
- Interfering with birth control methods
Like the first couple of times, the condom seems to break every time. You know what I mean, and it was just kind of funny, like, the first 6 times the condom broke. Six condoms, that's kind of rare. I could understand 1 but 6 times, and then after that when I got on the birth control, he was just like always saying, like you should have my baby, you should have my daughter, you should have my kid.

– 17-yr-old female who started Depo-Provera without partner’s knowledge

Miller et al, 2007
Pregnancy-Promoting Behaviors

\[\frac{1}{4}\] of abused adolescent females reported that their male partners were trying to get them pregnant.
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)
Men who perpetrated IPV in the past year were more likely to report:

- Forcing sexual intercourse without a condom
- Inconsistent or no condom use during vaginal and anal sexual intercourse

(Raj et al, 2006)
How Common Is the Problem?
What We Know About Prevalence

One in four women experience intimate partner violence in their lifetime.

One in three teen girls experience some kind of abuse victimization in their romantic relationships, including verbal and emotional abuse.

Women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience the highest rates of dating abuse.
Disparate Impact

- African-American women reported higher rates of victimization than women of other races.
- One in three indigenous women living in the U.S. will be sexually assaulted in her lifetime.
- Fear of deportation may cause immigrant women to be particularly hesitant to report IPV.

Rennison & Welchans, 2000; Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000; ACOG, 2012
Women with Physical Disabilities Experienced Almost twice the rate of all forms of abuse compared to women without disabilities.

Smith, 2008
Lesbian and gay students were nearly **3 times** more likely to report abuse victimization than their heterosexual peers.

32% of gay and bisexual men reported relationship abuse in past or current relationships.
From Research to Policy
Intervention Tool

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.
Results

71% reduction in the odds of pregnancy pressure and coercion compared to control group

60% more likely to end a relationship because it felt unsafe or unhealthy
Contraceptive options are not just about side effects and efficacy.
We Have A Problem, Houston

• **Only one out of seven** of the most popular curricula addressed relationship abuse.

• **None** of the curricula addressed reproductive coercion.
Healthy Relationships Education
First Steps

Phase 1: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs

Phases 2: Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP)

Phase 3: ??
Healthy Relationships

- Relationship basics
- Gender Norms
- Skills
- Engage Parents/CG
- Train variety of school/program staff
- Fund a variety of programs
- Social norms campaigns
Take The Quiz

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.
What Can You Do?

If you’re in school, see if your health center screens for reproductive coercion.

Go to: futureswithoutviolence.org

Hanging out or Hooking up?
What Can You Do?
Questions?

Thank You!!