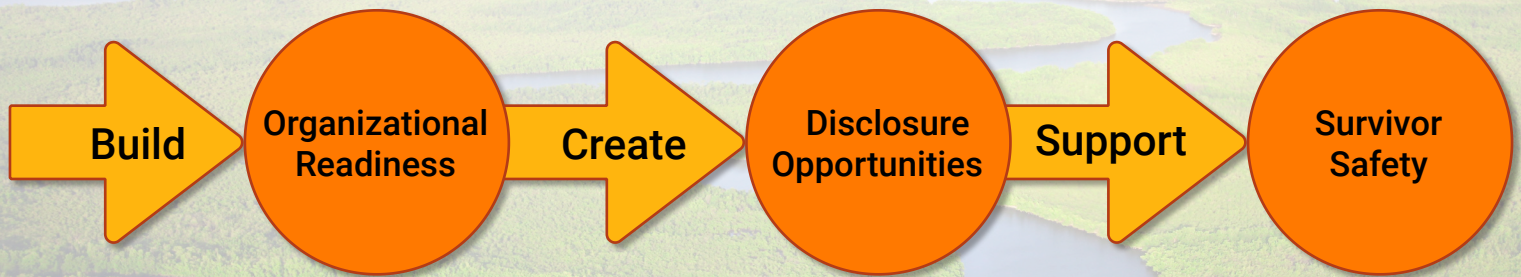


# Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) Programs: Key Recommendations



The Responding to Intimate Violence in Relationship Programs (RIViR) study enrolled 646 adults from community-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 the [National Domestic Violence Hotline](#) at 800-799-7233.

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

## Build Organizational Capacity and Readiness



- ① Cultivate a reciprocal partnership with a culturally competent local domestic violence organization.
- ② Involve staff who share life experiences or culture in common with participants.
- ③ Take time to create a welcoming, safe, caring, and interactive atmosphere for relationship education.

## Create Opportunities for Disclosure



- ① Treat IPV-related work as an integral part of the program.
- ② Address confidentiality protections (and limitations).
- ③ Use brief, plain language assessment tools.
- ④ Deliver questionnaire-style tools in a conversational spirit.
- ⑤ Create repeated opportunities for participant-initiated conversation about IPV.

## Support Survivor Safety



- ① Follow up on what participants share.
- ② Work collaboratively and creatively to support survivors in accessing services and staying safe.
- ③ Offer a variety of resources.
- ④ Stay in communication with participants.

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OPRE

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HEALTHY MARRIAGE & RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD

RTI  
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# Recognizing and Responding to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Healthy Marriage and Relationship Education (HMRE) Programs: Highlights from the RIViR Study

**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 participants between 2018-2019 for the RIViR study.

**Over half  
(54%) of HMRE  
participants  
disclosed  
IPV.**



**Questionnaire-style tools  
were more likely to elicit  
IPV disclosure than  
universal education.**



*"I'd hoped to get access to  
resources, because my  
relationship was going downhill,  
and it was heading into a  
domestic violence issue."  
HMRE participant*



**IPV was more prevalent  
among those who:**

- Had children
- Were not in a steady romantic relationship
- Self-identified as multi-racial or another race\*
- Were not working
- Were in unstable housing
- Received public assistance
- Had incomes under \$500/month

\*A racial/ethnic identity other than Black, White, Native American, or Hispanic/Latino.



**Participants felt more at ease  
disclosing personal experiences  
to others of a similar culture or  
life experience.**



**Some participants had  
enrolled in the HMRE  
program to gain insight on  
IPV experiences or get help.**

RIViR was conducted by RTI International in partnership with Volunteers of America Dakotas (Sioux Falls, SD), Nepperhan Community Center, Inc. (Yonkers, NY), 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.

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