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Evaluation of Dating Matters®: Strategies to Promote Healthy Teen Relationships 0920-0941
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Comment from (name)

Submitter Information

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General Comment

I support the continued collection of data that allows for a longitudinal evaluation of the Dating Matters initiative. The goal of the program is to prevent teen dating violence (TDV) among middle school students, ages 11-14, living in high-risk urban communities.

The effectiveness and cost of the program can only be determined through the collection of data. Once program effectiveness and cost is evaluated, the feasibility of program dissemination can be determined.

As a former resident of Chicago, IL, one of the cities included in the program, I am certain of the need for such a program. As an aunt of a 13-year old niece attending an inner-city middle school, I have a personal interest in the program succeeding.

There is no other program that duplicates the purpose of Dating Matters so no other data source exists. In this case, data collection is essential to evaluate the program. Further, previously collected data was used in a randomized control trial (RCT) to perform an initial program evaluation. This proves that the data collected is used responsibly and offers a practical utility.

Considering the number of participants, 46 schools in 4 different communities, the estimated burden hours (3,299) to collect data is reasonable. Plus, a web-based survey is offered that further minimizes the burden of data collection.