

HEALTHY ADOLESCENT RELATIONSHIP PROJECT (HARP)

UPDATE: August 2, 2010

Thank you for making or facilitating referrals to the Healthy Adolescent Relationship Project (HARP) at the University of Denver! As promised, we're sending you a quick update to keep you posted on changes and progress.

A TOKEN OF THANKS FOR THE TIME YOU INVEST IN HARP

We recognize that caseworkers and supervisors are spending extra time in their already-too-busy days to facilitate sending referrals and signed consent forms to us. We are pleased now to be able to acknowledge the time that you invest in HARP by providing a **\$10 Amazon.com gift certificate** for each consent (or release to contact the teen/guardian) that you refer. When you make a referral, simply provide us with your email address and we will send the \$10 Amazon.com certificate directly to your account.

We hope that this small token of thanks begins to express how grateful we are for your efforts!

WE'RE LISTENING! HARP UPDATES FROM YOUR FEEDBACK

Based on feedback from caseworkers about teens on their caseloads who they believed could benefit from this project, we have made several changes to the study:

- As we reported in our last update, we expanded the age range for potential participants to **12-19 years of age**. We, of course, take the age of participants into consideration when composing the groups.
- We have now condensed the two prevention programs into **12 meetings** (versus 15 originally).
- **All teens receive one of the two prevention programs**. We are not asking any teens to wait to start the programs (that is, no more waitlist control condition).

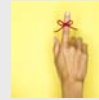
Please send other feedback our way – **we're listening!**

TEENS' FIRST INTERVIEWS

To date, we have received **46 referrals** from Denver, Arapahoe, Adams and Jefferson Counties. Of those referrals, we have interviewed **35** teens.

Your referrals are helping us to reach a diverse group of young women who have experienced significant adversity (including previous violence exposure). Of particular importance, participants seem to include many teens who would not otherwise be reached by traditional school-based violence programming. For example, many of the teens in the study have struggled in traditional schools and are receiving their education through treatment facilities with associated schools and/or are working on/have completed their GEDs.

At the end of each interview, we ask teens to fill out a "Response to Research Participation Questionnaire (RRPQ)" privately. The RRPQ includes 5 scales, three of which tap positive aspects of the research experience, such as perceptions of personal benefits and empowerment in the research process. Sample items include 'I found participating in this study personally meaningful'; 'I was treated with respect and dignity'; 'I felt I could stop participating at any time'. Two scales tap negative aspects of the research, including costs and unanticipated, negative emotional reactions. We are very pleased to report that teens continue to report significantly higher (better!) scores for the positive aspects of the study relative to the negative aspects of the study.



Remember – You can find the most up-to-date HARP materials, including **referral and consent forms**, on our project website: <http://mysite.du.edu/~adeprinc/harp.html>

PREVENTION GROUPS

The **first round** of prevention groups started in late June, involving **14** girls. Groups in the first round will finish by early September. We will start a **second round** of prevention groups at the office building of Arapahoe County Department of Human Services on August 4. We look forward to bringing you news on the progress of those groups soon!

We will continue to start new groups on a rolling basis. That means that we are now **looking for new referrals to fill additional groups**. Thank you in advance for keeping HARP in mind and sending referrals our way.

MAKING REFERRALS

All of the information you need for making referrals (including consent forms, a screening overview, contact information) is available at <http://mysite.du.edu/~adeprinc/harp.html>.

Remember, there are **several potential benefits** for teens participating in HARP, including:

- **At no cost**, teens receive **12-sessions** of prevention group run by graduate-level facilitators under the supervision of a licensed clinical psychologist. Both programs address revictimization and healthy relationships.
- Teens receive \$10/prevention group meeting to offset transportation costs (**up to \$120**).
- Teens receive 4 research evaluations (before as well as immediately, 2 months, and 6 months after the prevention program). Teens will be compensated \$40 for their time for each assessment session and \$10 for transportation costs (**up to \$200**).

THANK YOU!!

In sum, thank you for the referrals you've made or facilitated to date. We look forward to continuing to work with you and we thank you in advance for making future referrals to HARP. If you have any questions regarding HARP, please contact us at (303) 871-4103 or harp@du.edu. **On behalf of everyone at HARP, thank you for helping us with this important research!**

Best wishes,
Anne P. DePrince, Ph.D.
Project Director

Thank you notes!

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