



# The Dynamics of Interpersonal Coercion among College Students

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## OVERVIEW

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health problem among college students and many students have difficulty identifying unhealthy and abusive behaviors.

- The Dynamics of Interpersonal Coercion Among College Students tool is significant because it was developed and piloted in collaboration with a diverse group of college students, advocates, and administrators to reflect the unique experiences among college
- The tool is rooted in theoretical knowledge related to the Socioecological Model and Theory of Planned Behavior to capture and portray the ecological influences experienced by college students as well as to explain and predict situational human behavior.

## BACKGROUND

As many as 50% of college students report experiencing intimate partner violence (IPV) on college campuses (Murray & Kardatzke, 2007) and 57% of college students say it is difficult to identify dating abuse (Knowledge Networks, 2011). However, there has been little attention paid to the unique forms of power and control experienced by college students in their diverse relationships (e.g., romantic and sexual relationships, roommates, faculty/student relationships).

The Dynamics of Interpersonal Coercion Among College Students tool was created using a rigorous scientific process including: 1) semi-structured interviews with college students (n=33) and staff (n=10) from the three University of Michigan campuses; 2) a draft tool was created and then assessed for accuracy using cognitive interviews with college students (n=20) from the three University of Michigan campuses, and 3) the tool was piloted with a sample of 250

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## Category

Content

Software & Content

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students from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

All methods and analyses were informed by the Socioecological Model, to capture the ecological forces influencing college students' lives and behaviors as well as the Theory of Planned Behavior, to understand human behavior in certain situations. This resulted in a unique tool to represent college students' experiences with power and control by taking into consideration diverse identities and emerging tactics represented in a unique puzzle design. Tactics highlighted by college students included academic abuse, technology-based abuse, and stalking.

## **ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

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## **References**

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