

# FROM RESEARCH TO ACTION:



## DISRUPTING WORK INTERFERENCE AMONG TEEN DATING PARTNERS



A survey of nearly 3,000 13-19 year-olds, conducted by Futures Without Violence, in partnership with University of Pittsburgh Medical Center and The Allstate Foundation in 2021, found that economic abuse – when a partner interferes with one’s education, work, or finances – is common among teen dating partners.

These early experiences of economic abuse can have devastating effects on teens’ educational attainment, career pathways, and future economic security.

**Economic abuse** is a deliberate pattern of control in which individuals interfere with their partner’s ability to acquire, use, and maintain economic resources.

**What does economic abuse involving work interference look like?**



When one partner pressures the other to:

- not have a job when they want one
- get a job when they did not want one
- not go to work when scheduled to
- be available to their partner via text or cell while working
- change work schedule or the number of hours they work
- change or quit their job

# Key Findings



67% of all respondents reported experiencing work interference.

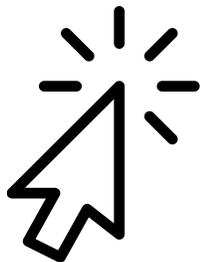
**Who are most impacted?**

# Take Action

Education for school staff, expanding content within prevention programming, and screening youth experiencing problems at school can help youth serving individuals better recognize and respond to economic abuse. Get started with these steps:



- 1** Provide healthy relationship programming within school health classes
- 2** Train school staff about what economic abuse looks like for teens and how it can impact academic success, attendance, and career choices
- 3** Add content around navigating relationship conflict related to school and work to healthy relationship programming
- 4** Include economic abuse as examples of control and coercion in dating violence prevention programming
- 5** Use language inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations in prevention programming curricula and materials
- 6** Screen for signs of teen dating violence and educational interference and control when exploring declines in academic performance, changes in behavior at school, or investigating attendance issues and truancy



For more information visit:  
[www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/teenDV/)