

**Author Full Name :** Austin Jackson**Received Date :** 01/02/2024 04:27 PM**Comments Received :**

We appreciate the work that the Department does to support efforts to reduce youth risk behaviors. While we do not have any immediate comment relating to the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education (SRAE) Program Performance Analysis Study (PAS), we want to emphasize the importance of comprehensive, evidence-based relationship education as integral to youth risk reduction efforts. These efforts should empower young people with knowledge and evidence-based skills to successfully navigate their intimate relationships in order to build healthy connections now and in the future. Such efforts have been shown to reduce the risk of teen pregnancy by 46%, significantly reduce verbal aggression and violence in teens, help young people exit unhealthy and dangerous relationships, and improve students' social competence and emotional regulation.

As the leading non-profit advancing relationship education that has reached nearly 2 million youth, we at The Dibble Institute offer our expertise and advice to the Department.

The Dibble Institute is a nonprofit that promotes healthy relationship skills training for youth that develops emotional regulation and supports mental health.