

New online screening tool and information portal supports reproductive autonomy among people experiencing Reproductive Coercion and Abuse

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Background/Purpose:

Reproductive Coercion and Abuse (RCA) is a form of domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFVSA) that controls reproductive choices of those who can become pregnant. Approximately 1 in 7 people seeking pregnancy options counselling in Australia report experiencing RCA. It is more prevalent among individuals facing other forms of DFVSA, and 70% of Australians want more contraception education. To address this, Children by Choice, in collaboration with the Queensland Government and experts, has developed Australia's first online RCA screening tool and learning hub.

Approach:

The platform integrates reproductive health with RCA screening, offering individuals, health professionals, and social service providers a unique opportunity to explore contraceptive options while raising awareness about RCA. Developed with input from DFVSA and reproductive health experts, the website features a quiz to help identify suitable contraception, with resources in multiple languages and Easy English. "Textversations" provide relatable examples of RCA to help users recognize their own experiences.

Outcomes/Impact:

The website empowers users to identify appropriate contraceptive options and educates both consumers and professionals about RCA. Since going live seven months ago, the tool has improved RCA awareness, facilitated identification, and enhanced self-advocacy among users. It provides valuable resources, especially in settings where providers and consumers may be unaware of all available contraceptive options.

Innovation and Significance:

This presentation will share insights from the tool's use, including lessons from collaboration with professionals and consumers. Though some findings are novel and not yet reflected in peer-reviewed evidence, they contribute to advancing RCA research and prevention. Recommendations for improving RCA screening and supporting informed contraceptive choices will also be provided.

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