Online Supplement 2. Decision Rules for Assessing Stage of Change for Using Healthy Relationship Skills and Stage of Change for Keeping Oneself Safe in Relationships

*Assessing Stage of Change for Using Healthy Relationship Skills*. The development and validation of the stage of change measure for using healthy relationship skills are described elsewhere (author citation, 2007). “Using healthy relationship skills” was defined as: “1) trying to understand and respect the other person's feelings and needs; 2) using calm, nonviolent ways to deal with disagreements (for example, leaving the room to cool down, offering solutions); 3) respecting the other person's boundaries (for example, how close they want to get and what they're comfortable and uncomfortable doing); 4) communicating your own feelings and needs clearly and respectfully; and 5) making decisions that you know are good for you in relationships.” The stage of change measure then read, “Next are some questions about your attitudes and behaviors concerning healthy relationship skills. Please tell us how much you disagree or agree with each statement.” Current daters were asked to focus on their relationship(s) with the person (or people) they were currently dating, and non-daters were asked to focus on their relationships with other people they interact with. Response options ranged from 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree. The 15- item stage measure has three 5-item scales representing Precontemplation, Contemplation, and Action with alphas ranging from .80 to .87 (author citation, 2007). The *Teen Choices* program scored the measure by: computing scale scores by taking the sum of the five items composing each scale; converting the scale scores to T-scores; using a least squares approach to calculate the distance between a participant’s profile of scores on the three dimensions and each of nine stage profiles; assigning a profile with the closest squared distance from participant’s own; and then classifying the participant into one of the five following stages based on their profile: Precontemplation (represented by 3 profiles), Contemplation (2 profiles) Preparation (1 profile), Action (2 profiles) and Maintenance (1 profile). Cross-sectional data show that stage of change is significantly related gender (females are more likely to be in the later stages of change), skill use, and dating violence experienced and perpetrated during the past year. It is also related decisional balance and other TTM constructs in a manner predicted by the TTM (author citation, 2007).

*Assessing Stage of Change for Keeping Oneself Safe in Relationships.* “Keeping oneself safe in relationships was defined as: “1) getting help; 2) developing a safety plan; and 3) deciding whether the relationship is right for you. In the computer-delivered assessment, three questions assessed whether high-risk victims had done each of those three things. Individuals who responded “yes” to all three questions were classified in the Action stage. Those who responded “no” to one or more questions were asked about their future intentions. Those who did not plan to do all three things in the next six months were classified in the Precontemplation stage; those who planned to in the next six months were classified in the Contemplation stage; and those who planned to in the next 30 days were classified in the Preparation stage.

Those who hadn’t and didn’t plan to in the next 6 months were classified in the Precontemplation stage; those who planned to in the next 6 months were classified in Contemplation; and those who planned to in the next 30 days were classified in Preparation.