

Health Care Providers' Experiences with Domestic Violence

PURPOSE OF THIS SURVEY:

We are seeking information on health care providers' experiences with addressing domestic violence in the community health clinic setting. The findings of this survey will be used to identify training needs, support policy recommendations and determine future strategies for our project. **This survey usually takes less than 10 minutes to complete.**

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Please do not put your name on the survey. Your responses are anonymous and results will only be reported in the aggregate.
2. Please return this questionnaire to _____ by _____.

DEFINITIONS:

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners.

SCREENING FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: For the purpose of this survey, screening means asking patients **direct, specific questions** about domestic violence. While some clinics are screening female and male patients, this survey focuses on female patients, age 14 or older. Examples of direct, specific questions are:

“Have you ever been hurt or afraid when there are fights at home?”

“Has your partner ever hurt or threatened you?”

We are very interested in your opinions and suggestions. Please write your comments anywhere on this questionnaire. Thank you for your time and expertise.

**California Clinic Collaborative on Domestic Violence and It's Your Business—
Survey developed by Linda Chamberlain, PhD and adapted by the Family
Violence Prevention Fund.**

Health Care Providers' Experiences with Domestic Violence

Q-1. When you see female patients age 14 or older under the following circumstances, how frequently do you ask direct, specific questions about domestic violence? *Circle one response for each choice.*

- | | <u>Never</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Often</u> | <u>Always</u> | <u>N/A</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| a. New patient visit | | | | | |
| b. Annual exams/check-up | | | | | |
| c. Patient presents with an injury | | | | | |
| d. First prenatal visit | | | | | |
| e. Follow-up prenatal visit | | | | | |
| f. When I suspect it | | | | | |
| g. When I sense that the patient trusts me | | | | | |

Q-2. Health care providers have different options available to respond to victims of domestic violence. When you identify or suspect that a patient has been abused, how often do you do any of the following? *Circle one number for each choice.*

- | | <u>Never</u> | <u>Sometimes</u> | <u>Often</u> | <u>Always</u> | <u>N/A</u> |
|--|--------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|
| a. Validate patient's feelings and give supportive message | | | | | |
| b. Record domestic violence in patient's chart | | | | | |
| c. Talk to patient about safety planning | | | | | |
| d. Refer to shelter or domestic violence program | | | | | |
| e. Refer to individual counseling | | | | | |
| f. Give brochures/safety cards on domestic violence | | | | | |

Health Care Providers' Experiences with Domestic Violence

Q-3. Please indicate to what extent the following issues are barriers to screening patients for domestic violence. Please circle the number that best represents your experience.

- | | Major
Barrier | Minor
Barrier | Not a
Barrier | N/A |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| a. Not sure how to do follow-up care if patient discloses domestic violence. | | | | |
| b. Patients are concerned about confidentiality-do not want others to know. | | | | |
| c. It is frustrating to screen because even if patient discloses abuse, nothing changes—victim stays in abusive relationship. | | | | |
| d. Patient's primary language is not English. | | | | |
| e. Different cultural values and norms make it difficult to discuss abuse. | | | | |
| f. It is difficult to talk to the patient in private. | | | | |
| g. The use of translators to interpret for patients raises concerns about confidentiality. | | | | |
| h. Many of the patients that I see have other health problems that are a higher priority. | | | | |
| i. I do not have enough time to address domestic violence during patient visits. | | | | |
| j. There is no on-site advocate or trained counselor available to help a patient who victimized. | | | | |
| k. Other: _____ | | | | |

Q-4. Please circle the number of the response that best reflects your own level of agreement or disagreement with each of the following statements.

- | | Strongly
Disagree | Somewhat
Disagree | Somewhat
Agree | Strongly
Agree |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. I believe that I can help a patient who is being abused by their partner. | | | | |
| b. I have a professional responsibility to address domestic violence in the clinical setting. | | | | |
| c. I feel comfortable asking patients about domestic violence. | | | | |

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Q-5. Please indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Circle one response for each statement below.

True False

- a. Women who have experienced domestic violence are at higher risk for attempting suicide.
- b. There is no association between increased risk for sexually transmitted diseases and a history of victimization in female patients.
- c. Women with unintended pregnancies are at increased risk of physical abuse around the time of pregnancy compared with women whose pregnancies are intended.
- d. For women who report physical abuse during their pregnancy, the physical abuse usually decreases during the post partum period.
- e. Women experiencing domestic violence during their pregnancies are more likely to delay entry into prenatal care.
- f. Mothers who are in abusive relationships are as likely to take their infants/children to well child visits as mothers who do not experience abuse.
- g. There is preliminary data that suggests that women experiencing domestic violence are less likely to get mammograms compared to women who do not report victimization by a partner.
- h. Women who are domestic violence victims/survivors have more somatic complaints than women who have not been victimized.

Q-6 Approximately what percentage of female patients, age 14 or older, that you see at your clinic do you suspect have ever experienced domestic violence as defined on page 1 of this survey? Check one response.

less than 5 5-10% 11-15% 16-20% 21-25% more than 25%

Q-7 Have your experiences with screening and talking with patients about domestic violence affected how you deal with other health issues in your practice? Circle one response.

- 1. No:
- 2. Yes:

Please answer the following questions. This information will be used to help interpret the results.

Q-8 What is your age?

Q-9 What is your gender? Female: Male:

**Q-10 What is your profession? Physician: Nurse practitioner:
Physician assistant: Other:**