

Creating Trauma-Informed, Culturally Responsive Partnerships among
Domestic Violence Organizations & Advocates, & Healthcare Providers

SCREENING
FOR SIGNS
OF ABUSE



- Build a rapport with the patient
- Don't be afraid to ask questions
 - > Use the acronym AVDR (ask, validate, document, and refer) for screening patients
- Maintain eye contact when asking
- Ask in a private setting
- Discuss a safety plan (leaving may not be an option)
- Respect their autonomy in their decision to stay or leave, other resources may provide support the family and restore their home environment
- Discuss paperwork to be sent home with the patient, as it may pose a risk
- Remain supportive and empathic

PREVALENCE
OF TRAUMA &
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



- 5.3 million women and 3.2 million men are abused by intimate partners.
- 1 in 15 children are exposed to intimate partner violence each year, and 90% of these children are eyewitnesses to this violence.
- Children exposed to excessive levels of domestic violence have additional developmental risk factors, have trouble self-soothing, and have a hard time making and maintaining friends.
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide by 500%.
- Domestic victimization is correlated with a higher rate of depression and suicidal behavior.
- For many survivors the immediate cause of homelessness is domestic violence.

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AS A MEDICAL
PROVIDER, WHAT
CAN YOU DO?



- Build personal and organizational cultural competency
- Encourage cultural humility, sensitivity, and ongoing education among community providers
- Build a strong referral network
- Provide a warm hand-off when possible

AVDR:
A USEFUL
SCREENING TOOL



- A: Asking patients about any abuse**
 - Many survivors have disclosed that they had wished they had been asked about abuse in a doctor's office.
- V: Validating the message that battering is wrong and confirming the patient's worth**
 - "You didn't cause this; it isn't your fault."
- D: Documenting presenting signs, symptoms, and disclosures;**
 - Mandated reporting, police reports, evidence collection.
- R: Referring them to domestic violence specialists**
 - Be knowledgeable of local rape crisis and family violence agencies for referrals and further assistance.

LOCAL AND
NATIONAL
RESOURCES



- East Los Angeles Women's Center
 - > 1-800-585-6231 (24/7 Hotline)
 - > www.elawc.org
- National Domestic Violence Hotline
 - > 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
 - > www.thehotline.org
- 211 Local and National Resource Hotline
 - > Dial 211
 - > www.211.org