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

- 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

- 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. NCADV 2019

SCREENING FOR SIGNS OF ABUSE
PREVALENCE OF TRAUMA & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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
LOCAL AND NATIONAL RESOURCES

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.

- 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

Danley, Gansky, Chow, & Gerbert, 2004