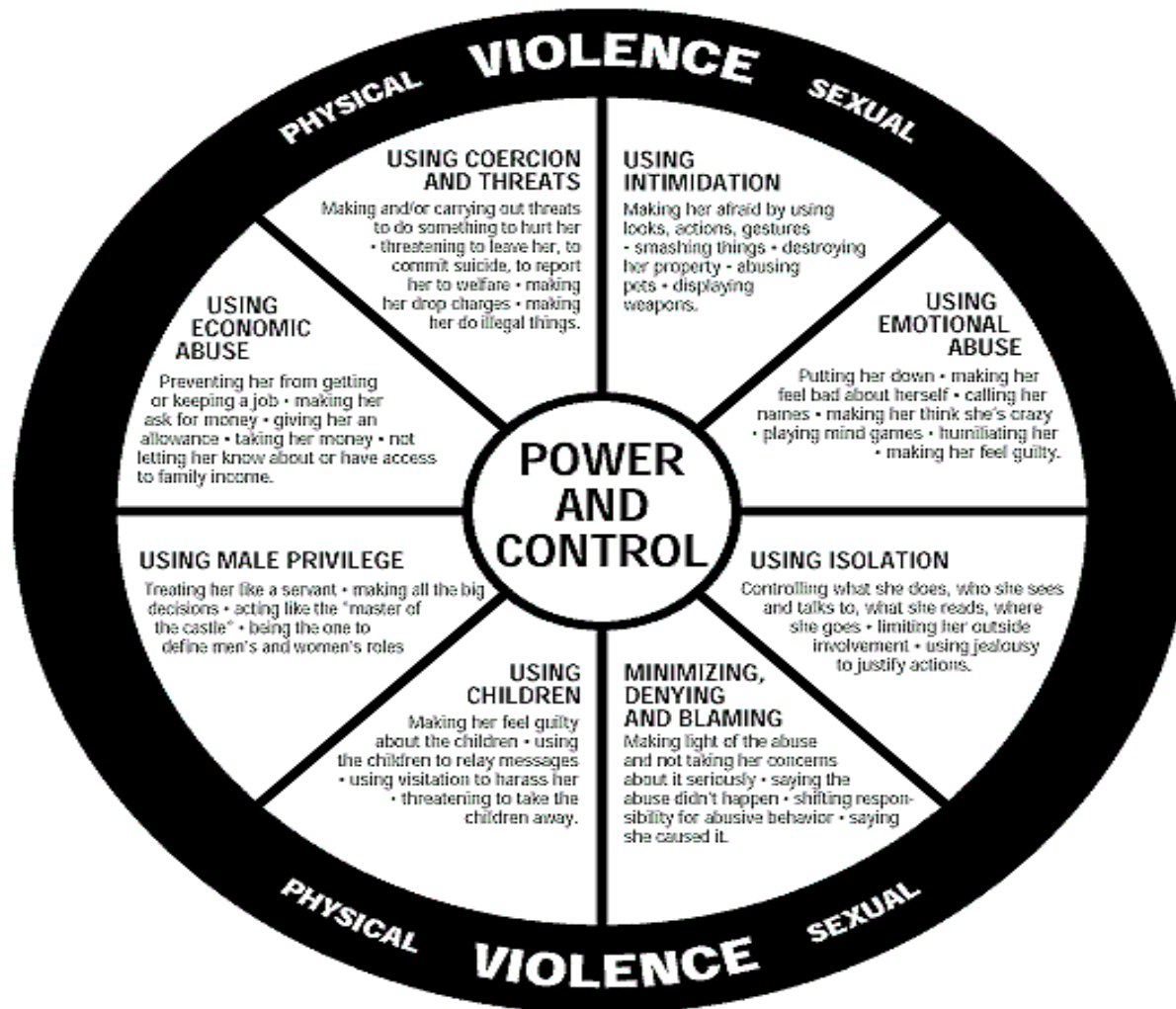




Violence Against Women – Information for Health Care Providers

- Scope of the problem
- Prevention & Intervention Strategies Specific for Health Care Settings
- Tools and Resources

Violence Against Women – About Power & Control





Violence Against Women – The Facts

- One in 3 Washington women has been beaten, coerced or forced to have sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.
- Nationally, more than 3 women are murdered by their boyfriends or husbands each day.
- 1 in 6 women experience a forcible rape (a legal term) in their lifetime.
- In one HMO study, victims of violence health care costs for victims of violence were 92% higher than those who did not experience abuse.



Violence Against Women – Health Care

- 1 in 5 domestic violence victims with physical injuries seek professional medical treatment – only 20%.
- More than 50% of abused women present with the following symptoms: fatigue, depression, anxiety, chest pain, back pain, abdominal pain, sleep disorder, shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, headaches, decreased appetite, dizziness – not the disclosure of abuse.
- One Washington State HMO – 3,568 women – 44% experience intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime.



Violence Against Women – AMA Guidelines on Domestic Violence

If an injured victim of domestic violence is treated by a physician or nurse who does not inquire about abuse or who accepts an unlikely explanation of the injuries, and the patient then returns to the abusive situation and sustains further injuries, the physician or nurse could consequently be held liable for those injuries.



Prevention & Intervention – What You Can Do

- ❖ Create a safe environment for disclosure
- ❖ Give supportive messages to clients
- ❖ Discuss strategies to increase safety and self-care
- ❖ Inform clients about community resources



Communication is Important

- ❖ To understand origin of symptoms and presenting issues
- ❖ To communicate support and empathy
- ❖ To minimize unnecessary procedures
- ❖ To reduce health care costs



Violence Against Women – Tools for Health Care Providers

- Website – www.doh.wa.gov/vaw
- Training Opportunities
- Coming Soon – Tool Kit for Individual and Group Practice

WEBSITE – www.doh.wa.gov/vaw



Violence Against Women: Information for Health Care Providers

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Welcome

Welcome to the Washington State Department of Health's web site on the health care provider's role in ending violence against women.

This site offers assistance that can help you support women who are in violent relationships or affected by violence. The goal of this site is to offer a starting point, a gateway to resources, tools and information on how to recognize, talk about and deal with abuse—physical, sexual, psychological and other forms—against female patients and their families.

Violence against women is a silent crisis

Every nine seconds a woman is beaten in the United States. It is possible that at least one in every three women you see has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused during her lifetime. In Washington State alone, one in six women has been the victim of rape at some point in her lifetime. Victims of abuse reside all around us and they are more than statistics: each is a personal tragedy. Because of the insidious nature of abuse, most victims remain silent, and hence, remain abused and alone. By asking the right questions and getting involved, members of the health care community can bridge this gap of silence. Clear, routine communication can help you detect, treat and stop abuse in your patients and their families.

Your role is critical

As a health care provider, you play a profound role in a patient's overall well-being. This relationship can foster a trust that is invaluable in identifying and extending help to patients who are victims of abuse.

In medical communities, more time is spent on violence-related ailments and diseases than any other single cause. Taking the time now to ask your patient about the presence of violence in her life can later help you give more accurate diagnoses, reduce the expense of unnecessary treatments and allow you both to invest in treating the root problem rather than the symptoms.

Routine screening, support and referrals provided to victims of abuse by their health care providers are critical elements in the prevention and early intervention of violence risks. Asking your patients about potential violence in their lives is a wise use of resources, a necessary form of intervention and the very standard of care. By taking these steps, you can help decrease your patients' risk of additional poor health outcomes. By taking these steps, you will help save lives.

What can be found here

This site provides information related to the following areas:

- [Data and statistics](#) relevant to violence against women
- [Guidelines](#) for implementing standard [protocols](#) and procedures within a health care setting
- [Recommendations](#) for [establishing a practice environment conducive to addressing violence](#) with patients
- [Resources and additional links](#) to information that may be useful for health care providers, including contact information for local sexual assault and domestic violence victim service providers

What can't be found here

This site is not intended to provide medical information or serve as a resource for any other health procedure. While it references and provides contacts for community-based services, this site is not intended to provide direct assistance to victims and survivors of abuse.

Emergency

If you are experiencing abuse in your home, work or community, call the [Domestic Violence Hotline](#) at 1-800-562-6025 or click [here](#) for a list of local resources.



More Than a Statistic

One in three — the number of women who are raped, assaulted by a partner, or otherwise victims of sexual or domestic violence. This represents a wife, a girlfriend, a mother, a friend. Many survive. Some do not. Help prevent violence against women. You are in the position to help detect, treat and prevent abuse. You can make a difference, one woman at a time.



TRAINING

Improving Health Outcomes for Women

Addressing Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

Public Health - Seattle & King County in Partnership with the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs and the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Sponsored by the Washington State Department of Health, 2005

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TRAINING

Improving Health Outcomes for Women

Goals of training:

- ❖ Raise awareness about sexual assault and domestic violence
- ❖ Increase providers' skills in responding to sexual assault and domestic violence
- ❖ Increase screening for sexual assault and domestic violence



Tools Kit Coming Soon

- Sample policies & protocols
- Examples from other clinics
- Screening questions
- Assessment tools
- Materials for your clinic/hospital – posters, signs, forms, pocket cards, bathroom signs
- Frequently asked questions



For More Information

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