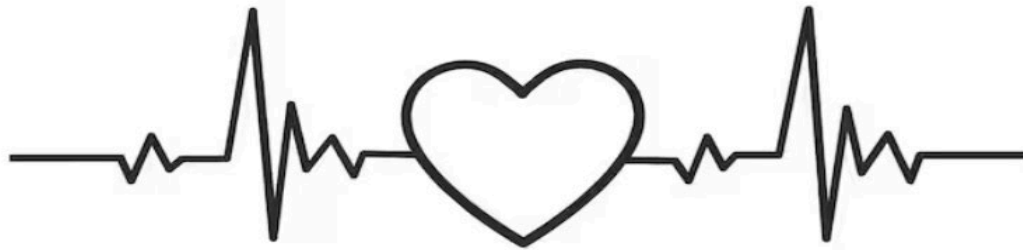


Vital Signs: Enhancing Provider Response to Intimate Partner Violence



Janice Goldsborough MS, BS, AS
Medical Advocacy Coordinator
Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

- ▶ Discuss vital role providers play
- ▶ Providers lack training and system support on how to respond
- ▶ Can learn easy-to use steps to identify, assist and refer
- ▶ CUES
- ▶ easy-to-use steps to identify, assist, and refer DV survivors.

What is Intimate Partner Violence?



Intimate partner violence is a pattern of intimidating, controlling, abusive behavior that occurs in intimate relationships, including current or former partners.

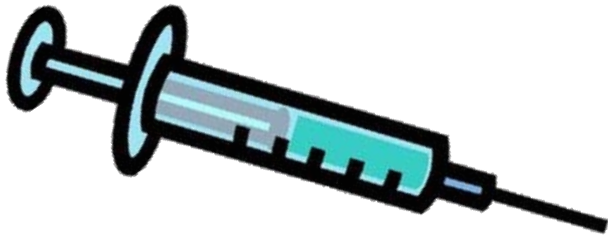
IPV happens in LGBTQIA+ relationships but it is *not reported at the same rate* as in heterosexual relationships.



The methods of abuse may differ, but the dynamics of power and control are always present.

Substance use disorder: victim, abuser or both:

Substance use does not cause domestic violence, but is an added complication in situations where abuse is already occurring.



SUBSTANCE USE AND RECOVERY SPECIALIST



RECOVERY IS BEAUTIFUL

Domestic Violence & Substance Use Support Group

ARE YOU:

In an unhealthy or abusive relationship?

Trying to heal from a past abusive relationship?

Struggling with substance use currently or in the past?

In recovery but need extra support?

When: Mondays, 12pm-1pm

Where: Virtual via Microsoft Teams

No attendance requirements!

Interested in joining?

Contact Kelly: 412.687.8005 x326

kellyn@wcspittsburgh.org



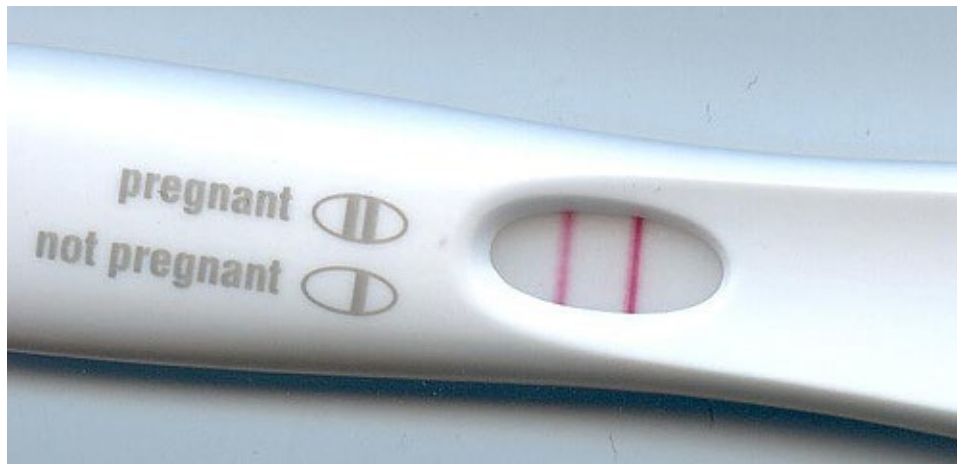
Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

Recovery is Beautiful is a safe space for individuals with similar experiences to talk about domestic violence, substances use, recovery and healing.

SCAN
QR CODE TO
FILL OUT AN
INTEREST
FORM



Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Abuse



“I’m not gonna say he raped me...he didn’t use force, but I would be like “No” and then next thing he pushes me to the bedroom, and I’m like, “I don’t want to do anything” and then we ended up doing it...I was crying, and he still did it. And then after that, he got up, took his shower, and I just stayed there, like shocked.”

- teen girl who was parenting a baby from a different relationship and the abusive relationship started shortly after she broke up with her son’s father. She went to a teen clinic and started Depo-Provera injections without her new partner’s knowledge.

Adolescents birthing people who experienced physical abuse within 3 months after delivery were nearly twice as likely to have a repeat pregnancy within two years.



Miller E, Jordan B, Levenson R, Silverman JG. Reproductive coercion: connecting the dots between partner violence and unintended pregnancy. *Contraception*. 2010 Jun; 81 (6):457-9. PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2872678. PubMed PMID: 20472110

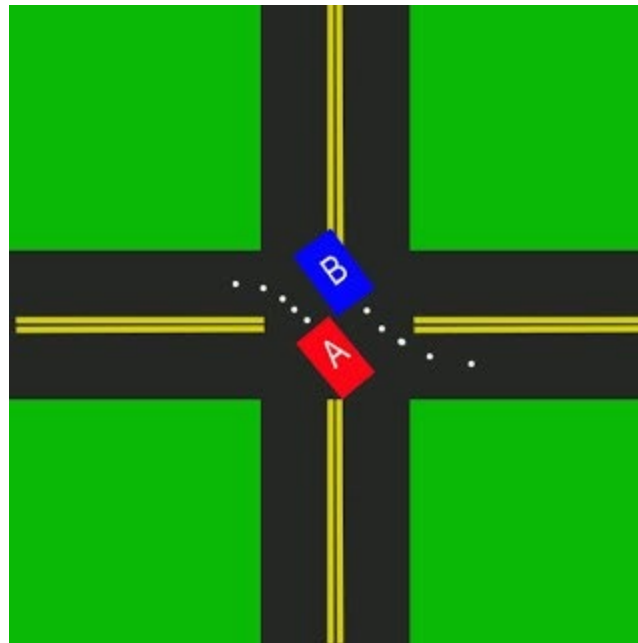
Clinical red flags



- ▶ Injuries to abdomen, breasts, genital area
- ▶ Repeated STI testing, pregnancy testing, EC use
- ▶ Contraceptive non-use

DO NOT ASSUME KNOWLEDGE DEFICIT

Intersection between Brain Injury and Intimate Partner Violence



*“I don’t remember much of anything
half the time.”*

“...describes the night in disjointed phrases. She cries and then stops. She spirals out from the story into another, and it takes some nudging to get her to return to the original. She knows she somehow got wrapped in a cord, and she comes back to this over and over.

...has a mild brain injury from that night, though she does not recall this exact diagnosis. She also has vertigo, hearing loss, poor memory, anxiety, headaches, ringing in her ears (which she describes as a constant “electrical signal”).

*A year following an attack where the
victim’s ex-boyfriend punched her in the
face repeatedly and strangled her with a
telephone cord*

IPV/BI survivors as clients

- ▶ Depression
- ▶ Short term memory deficits
- ▶ Difficulty with concentration and attention/long-term goal planning
- ▶ Increased impulsivity
- ▶ Problems with emotional regulation and tolerance for frustration

Strangulation and IPV



- ▶ Strangulation can lead to serious physical and psychological health problems. Common visible signs of strangulation include petechiae (red spots) in the eyes, blood-red eyes, swollen lips, and cord, rope burns, scratches, and bruising (particularly on the neck).
- ▶ Strangulation may also coincide with other forms of domestic violence that leave bruising due to kicking, hitting, or pushing down the stairs.
- ▶ Signs of strangulation are not always visible

Always ask – victims may not mention if strangulation has occurred

My role as provider:

- Do I understand my role as a healthcare provider in relation to intimate partner violence?
- Am I comfortable with my level of knowledge regarding my legal obligations around mandatory reporting vs. HIPAA?
- If I have questions about reporting requirements, do I know where to find more information?

HIPAA and Mandated Reporting

- ▶ Delays in seeking medical attention for injuries may indicate a fear that the provider will call the police against their wishes or fear there is a possibility of losing custody of their children.
- ▶ Pennsylvania does not have mandatory reporting for intimate partner violence or sexual assault, except under specific circumstances.

You can report if you suspect maltreatment:

Abuse

Abandonment

Neglect

Exploitation

If you report abuse:

- You have legal protection from retaliation, discrimination and civil or criminal prosecution
- Anyone with a concern is encouraged to call

Reporting Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect Under age 18

The Pennsylvania ChildLine and Abuse Registry is known as "ChildLine".

ChildLine accepts and assigns reports of child abuse to county children and youth agencies for investigation.

Mandated reporters can report electronically:

<https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>

Or call:

[1-800-932-0313](tel:1-800-932-0313)

Reporting the Abuse or Neglect of an Adult with a Disability

Ages 18 to 60

- ▶ If you are concerned about the well-being of a person ages 18 to 60 years with a disability.
- ▶ The disability may be physical, intellectual or related to mental illness.
- ▶ Calls answered 24 hours
- ▶ 1-800-490-8505

Reporting the abuse, neglect or concerns about the
well-being of an elderly person
Over the age of 60

- ▶ Local: 412-350-6905
- ▶ Statewide: 1-800-490-8505
- ▶ Calls answered 24-hours

“Why don’t they just leave?”



Support system

Childcare

Housing

Food

Healthcare

Employment

Transportation



Preparing Your Practice:

Get ready!

ARE YOU
READY?



The importance of preparation:

- ▶ Healthcare providers play a crucial role in assisting patients who are victims of IPV by providing them practical and emotional support.
- ▶ Despite this important role, most providers do not receive sufficient training around screening and response to intimate partner violence.
- ▶ Commonly cited barriers include lack of confidence, knowledge and training, low system-level support, and lack of time.

WOMEN'S CENTER & SHELTER NOW OFFERS:

Text & Chat Help

For Those Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

Text & Chat 9am - 5pm Monday - Friday


Text: (412) 744-8445

Chat: Visit WCSCanHelp.org & click "Chat for Help"

Hotline: 412-687-8005 (Available 24/7)

We can provide emotional support, safety planning, & resources.




Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

Staffed by WC&S
employees and volunteers



ARE YOU WALKING ON EGGSHELLS?

DOES YOUR PARTNER:

- Control where you go, how you spend money, with whom you talk, or how you spend your time?
- Force or pressure you to have sex when you don't want to?
- Say it's your fault, promise it won't happen again, but then it does?

**IF EVEN ONE OF THESE THINGS IS HAPPENING TO YOU,
YOU MAY BE IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP AND YOU
COULD BE IN DANGER.**

WC&S IS HERE TO HELP.

Call: 412-687-8005 (24/7)

Text: 412-744-8445 (9a-5p, Mon-Fri)

Chat: [WCSCanHelp.org](https://www.wcscanhelpprogram.org) (9a-5p, Mon-Fri)

Do you use abuse or control? WC&S' **Battering Intervention Program** offers counseling, education, and tools to help you understand and begin to **gain control of your feelings**. Call the WC&S MENS Program at **(412) 687-8017 ext. 340** for more information.



Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh

WOMEN'S ADVOCACY GROUP



We are here to help you explore your feelings and understand your options in a supportive and non-judgmental space.

Gain support from other survivors and grow stronger through shared experiences.

JOIN OTHER WOMEN. SHARE YOUR STORY.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Healthy relationships
- Self esteem
- Safety
- Anger
- Self-care
- Coping skills
- Healthy communication

TO ENROLL OR GET MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT JENNY AT:



412-894-4584



JENNYE@WCSPITTSBURGH.ORG

Are you a **PRISONER** in your own phone?



Does your partner...

- Frequently monitor your social media activity and/or constantly check up on you through your social media posts?
- Text you excessively?
- Send you negative, insulting, or threatening e-mails, tweets, comments or text messages?
- Demand online passwords and/or access to your phone to monitor text messages or call logs?

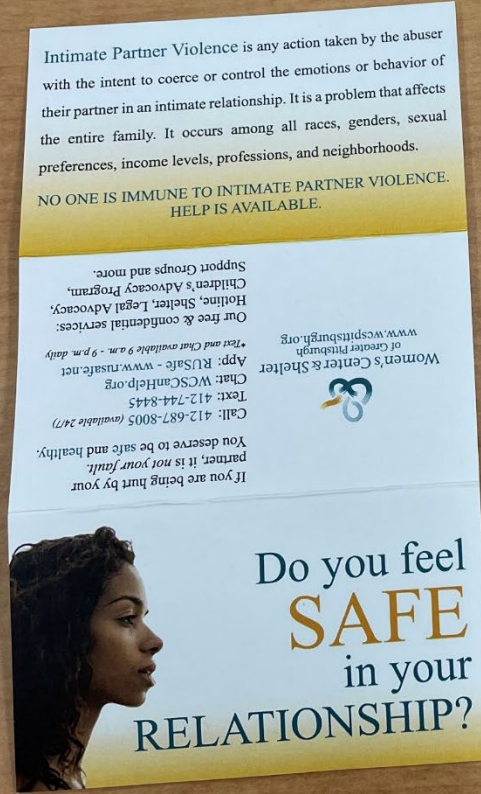
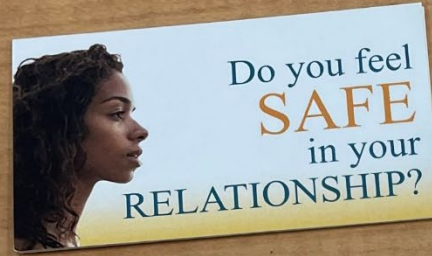
If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, you may be a victim of dating violence.

Women's Center & Shelter can help.
Call our 24-Hour Hotline
412-687-8005

**Thank You For
Not Smoking**



Safety Cards



Understanding Your Options

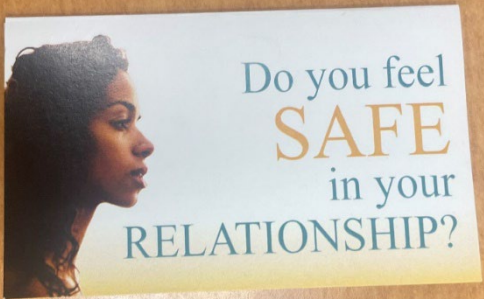


Domestic violence is a crime. And a victim of abuse has the right to call the police for help, seek assistance from the courts, and obtain information on where to find safe shelter and services.
Here's how to start.

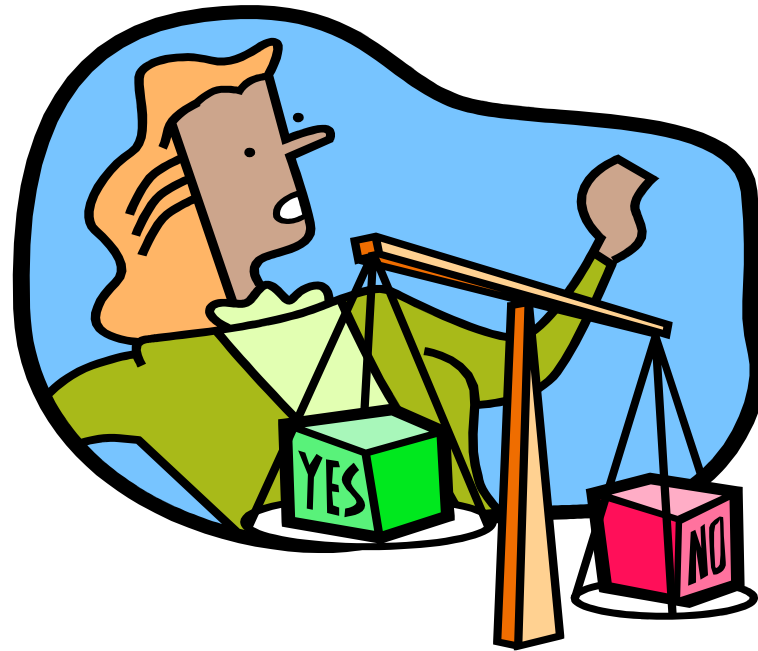


Do you feel
SAFE
in your
RELATIONSHIP?

Do you feel
SAFE
in your
RELATIONSHIP?



The goal of intervention is to help the patient locate the resources they need to make an informed decision, *not to talk them into leaving the relationship.*



"Change in an inside job."

Patients need not disclose abuse in order to get information and resources.

“Because partner violence is so common, we ask all our patients about it. We have information we can give you for yourself or for someone you know.”

- ▶ Develop a protocol to respond if a patient answers **YES** to an assessment question.
- ▶ Develop relationships with community service organizations in your area so that you have information readily available.
- ▶ Brochures, tear-offs, and posters in restrooms, exam rooms and common areas
- ▶ All staff should have domestic violence awareness training.

Sample IPV Assessment

Does your current or former partner make you feel unsafe?

In the past year, have you...

- felt controlled, unable to come and go as you please?
- been hit, shoved, punched, kicked or otherwise hurt?
- experienced sexual contact that made you feel uncomfortable?

If you need information or need someone to talk to, the Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh is available 24 hours:

Hotline: 412-687-8005

If the explanation is inconsistent with an observed or reported injury:

“It’s been my experience that a fall down the stairs usually doesn’t cause an injury like this. If someone did this to you, we have a number you can call for information.”

Lethality Assessment

1. Threats of homicide/suicide, even with no history of physical abuse
2. Threats to use weapons/access to weapons, particularly guns. In domestic violence situations, the risk of a lethal outcome increases by 500% when a gun is present.
3. Has strangled in the past
4. Stalking
5. Rape

*“Often when people experience [strangulation;
gun] they end up being seriously injured or
killed.*

*This makes me afraid for your safety so I wish
you would consider calling a hotline for
information.”*

Separation Assault

The risk of lethality is greatly increased when the victim is in the process of leaving or has already left.

Leaving does not guarantee safety and often increases danger. When the victim leaves, the abuser may feel angry and abandoned. *“If I can’t have you, no one can.”*

It is useful to have a safety plan when exiting an abusive relationship. Hotline workers are very helpful in developing safety plans and one can use this service without coming in to Shelter.

Safety Planning with Patient

WAYS TO HELP MYSELF

While I am working on a plan, what are some ways I have kept myself and my children safe?

What is a good plan if I have an emergency?

Do I know of places I could call for help or information?

Women's Center & Shelter Hotline can provide help with safety planning and information, such as how to get a Protection From Abuse (PFA)

412-687-8005

“24-48 hours”

- ▶ Stabilize - address clinical effects of abuse
- ▶ Refer - to appropriate services
- ▶ Report - if applicable according to your obligation as a mandated reporter
- ▶ Document

THE END

