

# How I Practice: Screening for Interpersonal and Domestic Violence



# WPSI

Women's Preventive Services Initiative

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No Conflicts of Interest to Disclose

## Disclaimer

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This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position nor policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government.

# Screening for Interpersonal and Domestic Violence: A Timely Issue

- In Pandemic times, home may not be the safest place for victims
- Intimate partner violence most common form. Lifetime Risk:
  - **1 out of three women\***
  - 1 out of 4 men
- 16%, about **1 in 6, US homicide victims** killed by intimate partners, per CDC\*\*
- Survivors with physical injuries:
  - **41% of female survivors**
  - 14% of male survivors

\*Obstetrics & Gynecology: February 2012 - Volume 119 - Issue 2 - p 412-417 doi: 10.1097/AOG.0b013e318249ff74

\*\*Preventing Intimate Partner Violence. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2020. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>

# WPSI Well-Woman Chart

PREVENTION SERVICES	AGE (Years)						
	13-17 <sup>a</sup>	18-21 <sup>a</sup>	22-39	40-49	50-64	65-75	>75
<b>GENERAL HEALTH</b>							
Alcohol use screening & counseling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Anxiety screening	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Aspirin to prevent CVD & CRC <sup>1</sup>					○ 50-59		
Blood pressure screening	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Contraceptive counseling & methods	●	●	●	●	○		
Depression screening	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Diabetes screening <sup>2</sup>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Folic acid supplementation <sup>3</sup>	○	●	●	●	○		
Healthy diet & activity counseling <sup>4</sup>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
Interpersonal violence screening	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lipid screening <sup>5</sup>	○	●	○	●	●	●	
Obesity screening & counseling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Osteoporosis screening <sup>6</sup>					○	●	●
Fall prevention						●	●
Statin use to prevent CVD <sup>7</sup>				○	○	○	
Substance use assessment	●	●					
Tobacco screening & counseling	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Urinary incontinence screening <sup>8</sup>	○	●	●	●	●	●	●

\*WPSI Well-Woman Chart. Women's Preventive Services Initiative;2020  
<https://www.womenspreventivehealth.org/wellwomanchart/>

# Screening for Interpersonal and Domestic Violence

## Interpersonal and Domestic Violence Screening

**Rationale:** Interpersonal and domestic violence are common among women in the United States, but often remain undetected.

**WPSI Recommendation:** Screen adolescents and women for interpersonal and domestic violence, at least annually. When needed, provide or refer for initial intervention services that include, but are not limited to, counseling, education, harm reduction strategies, and referral to appropriate supportive services.

Agers and Frequency	≥ 13 years at least annually
Clinical Practice	<p>Interpersonal and domestic violence includes physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression (including coercion), reproductive coercion, neglect, and the threat of violence, abuse, or both.</p> <p>Multiple brief screening questionnaires are accurate in identifying interpersonal and domestic violence in women. Screening should occur at least annually, although the frequency and intensity of screening may vary depending on a patient's situation.</p>
Risk Assessment	Although all women are at potential risk for abuse, factors that elevate risk include young age, substance abuse, relationship difficulties, and economic hardships, among others.
References	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Preventive Services Initiative. <i>Recommendations for preventive services for women: final report to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources &amp; Services Administration</i>. Washington, DC: 2016.</li> </ul>

# Interpersonal and Domestic Violence Screening: My Practice

- Include in general self-screening forms, EMR
- Staff and provider verbal history – normalize routine questions
- Use validated brief screening tools, 1 or 2 that you are comfortable with (like HITS or SAFE-T)
- Include some one on one time, if possible
- **Know local resources for referral, have numbers and brochures in bathrooms and exam rooms**
- Patient may seek shelter directly from your office
- Likely to take multiple attempts/visits
- Respect language and cultural variations



# Obstetrical Medical History

## Psychosocial Screening\*

1.  Yes  No Do you have any problems (eg, job, transportation) that prevent you from keeping your health care appointments?

2.  Yes  No Do you feel unsafe where you live?

3.  Yes  No Are you exposed to second-hand smoke?  Yes  No In the past 2 months, have you used any form of tobacco, including smoked, chewed, any type of nicotine delivery system (ENDS), e

4.  Yes  No In the past 2 months, have you used drugs or alcohol (including beer, wine, or mixed drinks)?

5.  Yes  No In the past year, have you been threatened, hit, slapped, or kicked by anyone you know?

6.  Yes  No Has anyone forced you to perform any sexual act that you did not want to do?

7. On a 1-5 scale, how do you rate your current stress level? Low 1 2 3 4 5 High

8. How many times have you moved in the past 12 months? \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you could change the timing of this pregnancy, would you want it  earlier  later  not at all/NA

\*Modified and reprinted with permission from Florida's Healthy Start Prenatal Risk Screening Instrument. Florida Department of Health. DH



## BEHAVIOR



Lack of physical activity



Smoking



Alcoholism



Drug use



Missed work

## PHYSICAL & MENTAL HEALTH



Severe obesity



Diabetes



Depression



Suicide attempts



STDs



Heart disease



Cancer



Stroke



COPD



Broken bones

**REMEMBER:**  
**Adult Abuse  
or High ACEs  
Scores  
May Be  
Associated  
With ...**

# Useful ACOG References



- Adult Manifestations of Childhood Sexual Abuse. Committee Opinion No. 498. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Obstet Gynecol* 2011(reaf2017);118:392-5
- Elder Abuse and Women's Health. Committee Opinion No. 568. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Obstet Gynecol* 2013;122:187-91.
- Human Trafficking. Committee Opinion No. 787. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Obstet Gynecol* 2019;134:e90-5.
- Intimate Partner Violence. Committee Opinion No. 518. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, *Obstet Gynecol* 2012;119:412-7.



## Useful ACOG References (cont.)



**ACOG**  
The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

- Promoting Healthy Relationships in Adolescents. Committee Opinion no. 758. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, **Obstet Gynecol** 2018;132:e-213-20.
- Reproductive and Sexual Coercion. Committee Opinion No. 554. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, **Obstet Gynecol** 2013;121:411-5.
- Sexual assault. Committee Opinion No. 777. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. **Obstet Gynecol** 2019;133:e296–302.

## Useful Links

- Abuse reporting requirements by state:  
[www.ncea.aoa.gov/stop\\_abuse/get\\_help/state/index.aspx](http://www.ncea.aoa.gov/stop_abuse/get_help/state/index.aspx)
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention: Elder Maltreatment.  
<http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/eldermaltreatment/index.html>
- Human Trafficking Toolkit and Guide from U.S. HHS  
<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/otip/resource/nhhtacadultscreening>
- National Domestic Violence Hotline: <http://www.thehotline.org>
- Women's Preventive Services Well-Woman Chart  
<https://www.womenspreventivehealth.org/wellwomanchart/>

## Patient Resources - Phone and Internet

- National Domestic Hotline: (800) 799-7233
- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741
- Intimate Violence Partner Fact Sheet:  
<https://www.apa.org/topics/violence/partner>

**KNOW YOUR LOCAL RESOURCES**