



Indian Health Services Community Health ECHO

Addressing Domestic Violence in the Community
Setting during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Indian Health Service

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Presenter



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- Enrolled member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa and reside in Belcourt, ND.
- University of North Dakota-Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Started with the Indian Health Service in 2008-Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Nursing Administration, Hospital Administration
- 2017: Division of Behavioral Health, IHS HQ
- Main focus is to assist forensic health professionals with training, policy, and technical/clinical support.

Learning Objectives

- List four COVID-19-related factors that have increased the risk of experiencing Intimate Partner Violence for vulnerable populations.
- Describe best practices regarding how to screen a client for intimate partner violence within the community or virtual setting
- Compare and contrast intimate partner violence screening tools and the Danger Assessment tool (lethality risk assessment)
- Identify appropriate resources to assist a client experiencing intimate partner violence.

General Knowledge-Intimate Partner Violence

What is “intimate partner violence” or “IPV”?

Intimate Partner Violence. Physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including stalking, that is committed against a person by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples, and does not require sexual intimacy. Intimate Partner Violence (also called domestic violence, dating violence, relationship violence, spousal abuse, or battering) is a pattern of abusive behavior: physical (e.g., striking, shoving, kicking, punching, strangling, restraining); sexual (rape, sexual assault); emotional (e.g., isolation from friends and family, verbal abuse); and psychological (e.g., threats of harm to partner or self, a third party, pets, or property; humiliation, degradation, and harassment) that is used by one person to gain power and control over a current or former spouse or intimate partner, or current or former dating partner, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.

Intimate Partner Violence, Indian Health Manual, Part 3 Chapter 31: <https://www.ihs.gov/ihtm/pc/part-3/p3c31/#3-31.1F>

General Knowledge-Intimate Partner Violence

- In the U.S., **over 1 in 3** (36.4% or 43.6 million) women experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime
- In the U.S., about **1 in 3** (33.6% or 37.3 million) men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime

Smith, S.G., Zhang, X., Basile, K.C., Merrick, M.T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., Chen, J. (2018). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2015 Data Brief – Updated Release. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/2015data-brief508.pdf>

General Knowledge-Intimate Partner Violence

- Physical health impairments: 22% more likely than women without disabilities to experience IPV; in the same study, women with mental health impairments were 67% more likely to experience IPV than their nondisabled counterparts.
- Pregnancy: Especially for adolescent patients, unplanned pregnancy, financial hardship, enter healthcare system in 2nd or 3rd trimester
- STD/HIV: Any incidence, as well as repeat treatment of
- Alcohol and Substance Abuse Positive
- Suicide Attempts
- Parents of Under-Immunized Children

Source

Hahn JW, McCormick MC, Silverman JG, Robinson EB, Koenen KC. Examining the impact of disability status on intimate partner violence victimization in a population sample. *J Interpers Violence*. 2014 Nov;29(17):3063-85. doi: 10.1177/0886260514534527. Epub 2014 May 23. PMID: 24860078.

Latzmana, N., Vivolo-Kantor, A., Clinton-Sherrod, A., Casanueva, C., & Carra, C. (2017). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: A systematic review of measurement strategies. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 37, 220-235. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2017.10.009>

Sugg, N. (2015). Intimate Partner Violence. *Medical Clinics of North America*, 99(3), 629-649. <https://www-clinicalkey-com.ezproxylr.med.und.edu/#!/content/journal/1-s2.0-S0025712515000279>

Intimate Partner Violence in AI/AN Communities

AI/AN people experience high rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) during their lifetime.

An estimated 48% of AI/AN women and 41% of AI/AN men experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). CDC works to prevent violence to American Indian and Alaska Native people. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/injury/pdfs/tribal/Violence-Against-Native-Peoples-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

Increased Risk Factors for IPV during the Pandemic

- Unemployment increase
- Isolation from family, peers, and community resources
- Social distancing measures can lead to more time in the home or in the same space as an abuser
- Victims of violence may be unable to access help due to limited outside social contact, or they may not be able to seek victim services or shelters. *
- Abusers may share misinformation about the pandemic to control or frighten victims or prevent them from seeking medical treatment, if they need it.
- Victims may fear entering shelters for fear of being exposed to COVID-19.
- Travel restrictions may impact a victim's escape or safety plan.*

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Support for People Experiencing Abuse. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/stress-coping/abuse.html>

Screening Best Practices: Intimate Partner Violence

- USPSTF Update: May 2018
 - No change in general recommendation
 - Instruments found to be reasonably accurate: HARK, HITS, E-HITS, PVS, WAST
 - Interventions: Ongoing support services that focused on counseling and home visits, addressed multiple risk factors (not just IPV), or included parenting support for new mothers.

Potential Harms of Screening/Intervention Research:
Total of 7 research studies, rated as good or fair quality, found no harm for either screening or intervention services.

US Preventative Services Task Force. (2018). Recommendation Statement: Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse of Elderly and Vulnerable Adults: Screening. Retrieved from <https://www.uspreventiveservicestaskforce.org/uspstf/recom>

Screening Best Practices: Intimate Partner Violence

- Staff comfort with “the discussion”

Policy-How are you training staff?

Do they know what to do next?

How much time does this take?

DeBoer, M., Kothari, R., Kothari, C., Koestner, A., & Rhos, T. (2013). What Are Barriers to Nurses Screening for Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of Trauma Nursing*, 20(3), 155–160. <https://doi-org.ezproxylr.med.und.edu/10.1097/JTN.0b013e3182a7b5c3>

- Mandatory Reporting

- There is no federal mandate to report IPV or DV when the victim is an independent adult. However jurisdictions vary. Know state and tribal laws. Consult OGC for additional guidance.

- Abuse involving a minor or vulnerable adult is reportable.

Screening Best Practices: Intimate Partner Violence

Universal Education:

- Acknowledges that violence is common across all age groups and genders
- Although most data relates to female victimization, AI/AN men as well as patients in bisexual or same-sex relationships experience IPV and other forms of violence at higher rates than National averages.
- Promotes peer-to-peer intervention, extends reach of supportive resources beyond client interactions
- Decrease in healthcare visits results in fewer opportunities to screen and intervene

Screening Best Practices: Intimate Partner Violence

- Safety of Home Visiting Setting
 - Healthcare Organization Policy
 - Clear guidelines regarding interventions
 - Virtual intervention process for positive screens? How will the clinician accomplish
 - Virtual platform security
- Self-Determination
 - Provider frustration when a patient does not leave a violent relationship: **Barriers.**

IPV Screening Tools Summary

Screener Name and Questions	Scoring	Setting And Population	Sensitivity and Specificity
<p>HITS How often does your partner:</p> <p>(1) Physically hurt you?</p> <p>(2) Insult you or talk down to you?</p> <p>(3) Threaten you with harm?</p> <p>(4) Scream or curse at you?</p>	<p>5-point Likert scale: never (1 point) rarely (2) sometimes (3) fairly often (4) frequently (5)</p> <p>Scores ≥ 10.5 are positive</p> <p>For Spanish version, cutoff score=5.5</p>	<p>Tested in women and men</p> <p>Tested in Hispanic and African-American women</p> <p>Spanish version tested</p>	<p>Sensitivity and specificity tested with optimal data analysis and also compared to CTS and ISA</p> <p>Sensitivity: 30%–100% (30% in study with men)</p> <p>Specificity: 86%–99%</p>

- Rabin, R., Jennings, J., Campbell, J., & Bair-Merritt, M. (2009). Intimate Partner Violence Screening Tools: A Systematic Review. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 36(5), 439-445.e4. <https://www-clinicalkey-com.ezproxylr.med.und.edu/#!/content/journal/1-s2.0-S0749379709000907>

IPV Screening Tools Summary

Screener Name and Questions	Scoring	Setting And Population	Sensitivity and Specificity
<p>WAST (1) In general, how would you describe your relationship—a lot of tension, some tension, no tension?</p> <p>(2) Do you and your partner work out arguments with great difficulty, some difficulty, or no difficulty?</p> <p>(#3–#7 response options: often, sometimes, never)</p> <p>(3) Do arguments ever result in you feeling down or bad about yourself?</p> <p>(4) Do arguments ever result in hitting, kicking, or pushing?</p> <p>(5) Do you ever feel frightened by what your partner says or does?</p> <p>(6) Has your partner ever abused you physically?</p> <p>(7) Has your partner ever abused you emotionally?</p> <p>(8) Has your partner ever abused you sexually?</p>	<p>WAST-SF consists of the first two questions only; positive if “a lot of tension” and/or “great difficulty”</p> <p>WAST scoring: cutoff for what constitutes a positive score not available</p>	<p>Tested in white, African-American and Latina women</p> <p>Spanish version tested</p>	<p>WAST compared to CAS</p> <p>Sensitivity: 47%</p> <p>Specificity: 96%</p> <p>WAST-SF plus injury location compared to self-report of IPV</p> <p>Sensitivity: 92%</p> <p>Specificity: 56%</p> <p>One study tested sensitivity and specificity of the WAST-SF plus the PVS, plus injury location</p> <p>WAST-SF vs WAST</p> <p>Sensitivity: 93%</p> <p>Specificity: 68%</p>

IPV Screening Tools Summary

Screener Name and Questions	Scoring	Setting And Population	Sensitivity and Specificity
<p>PVS (1) Have you been hit, kicked, punched, or otherwise hurt by someone in the past year? If so, by whom? (2) Do you feel safe in your current relationship? (3) Is there a partner from a previous relationship who is making you feel unsafe now?</p>	<p>Positive response to any question denotes abuse</p>	<p>Women and men with a range of ethnicities and SES</p>	<p>Sensitivity and compared to the CTS, ISA, and CAS : Sensitivity: 35%–71% Specificity: 80%–94% PVS plus injury location compared to self-report of IPV : Sensitivity: 79% Specificity: 80% One additional study by the same authors tested sensitivity and specificity of the WAST-SF plus the PVS plus injury location</p>

IPV Screening Tools Summary

Screener Name and Questions	Scoring	Setting And Population
<p>Danger Assessment</p> <p>20 items assess a woman's potential danger of homicide by an intimate male partner.</p> <p>DA-5 Short form</p> <p>DA-R 18 items</p>	<p>Varies by form: Full form requires training-weighted scoring for some items</p> <p>DA-5: Yes answer to three or more is positive result</p>	<p>Abused women in the community, battered women shelters, prenatal clinics, and primary care clinics. African-American, white, and Hispanic women</p> <p>Same-sex female relationships</p>

Johns Hopkins School of Nursing. (2019). The Danger Assessment. Retrieved from <https://www.dangerassessment.org/>

Interventions

Be Ready to Intervene: *COVID Considerations*

- Safety Plans
- Victim Advocacy Contact Information
- Shelter Contact Information
- Forensic Examination Referral

• From Look to End Abuse Permanently (LEAP): Safety plan. www.leapsf.org/pdf/LEAP-Safety-Plan-bro-10_05_09_ENG-OUTSF-B&W-low-res-for-web.pdf

■ **Steps to staying safe:**

- Keep a little money with me.
- Keep my cell phone charged and with me.
- Teach my children to go to a safe place (a friend's, neighbor's, or relative's home).
- Teach my children to call the police when there is danger and to give their full name, address, and phone number.
- Keep an emergency bag ready in a safe place.

■ **Building my independence:**

- I can start saving money and store it in a safe place (like my own bank account).
- I can get help from a counselor, an advocate, a health care provider, or legal services.
- I can try to keep in touch with a friend or family member who I trust.

■ **Things to put in my emergency bag:**

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medications/ prescriptions | <input type="checkbox"/> Cell phone/charger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photo ID/ Driver's license | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo ID/ Driver's license |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Phone card/change | <input type="checkbox"/> Restraining order |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Extra keys | <input type="checkbox"/> Passports/ immigration papers/green cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bank card/ credit cards | <input type="checkbox"/> Custody order |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card | <input type="checkbox"/> Work permits |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photos of abuser | <input type="checkbox"/> Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Address book | <input type="checkbox"/> Clothes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Special toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Toiletries and diapers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Money | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

If you have proof of abuse, bring it with you.

■ **Important phone numbers:**

- Police 9-1-1
- Local Domestic Violence Hotlines _____
- Local Sexual Assault Hotline _____
- For restraining order help call _____
- LGBT support _____
- Legal Aid _____
- National DV Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-HOPE
- National Teen Abuse Hotline 1-866-331-9474
- National Suicide Hotline 1-800-SUICIDE

■ **Help after sexual assault:**

- If my partner or anyone else has forced me to have sex when I did not want to, I can:
- Go to a local hospital emergency room.
- Call the local or national 24-hour sexual assault hotline: _____
- Other resources: _____



My Safety Plan developed by LEAP 05/2009. May be used unaltered without permission as long as you credit LEAP (Look to End Abuse Permanently), c/o Mavna Hill Health Center, 1301 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94115 www.leapsf.org LEAP thanks San Francisco Kaiser Permanente and La Casa de las Madres for their contributions to this safety plan.

You deserve to be safe and happy.

My Safety Plan

Do not take this with you unless it is safe to do so.

My Relationship and My Safety

■ **Being in a relationship that is hurtful can cause a lot of different feelings. It is normal to have some or all of these feelings.**

- Check all that you feel:
- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ashamed | <input type="checkbox"/> Confused |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hopeful | <input type="checkbox"/> Sad |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Afraid | <input type="checkbox"/> Love |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Angry | <input type="checkbox"/> Numb |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hopeless | <input type="checkbox"/> Happy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trapped | <input type="checkbox"/> Alone |

■ **What do I think about my relationship?**

- I'm not sure how I feel about this relationship.
- I think this relationship will get better.
- I want to end this relationship.
- Other: _____

■ **Many people love their partners and also feel that their relationships put them in danger.**

Does my relationship have any of these signs of danger?

- My partner has injured me badly enough that I needed medical treatment.
- My partner follows me everywhere I go.
- My partner has threatened to hurt my children.
- My partner uses alcohol or drugs.
- My partner has forced me to have sex when I didn't want to.
- My partner has threatened to kill me.
- My partner has threatened to kill himself/herself.
- My partner has a gun or can get a gun easily.
- Other things my partner does that concern me: _____

■ **Safety during a fight:**

- Move away from:**
- Weapons (guns and knives)
 - Small and dangerous places (car, kitchen, bathroom)
- Move toward a safer place such as:**
- Room with exit
 - Room with phone
 - Public place
- If I need to call the police:**
- I will give them my address and tell them if there is a weapon.
- **The closest place I can go if I need help or need to leave:**
- Police/fire station: _____
- Hospital/clinic: _____
- Friend's/neighbor's/family member's house: _____
- (name/address/phone number) _____
- Other: _____

Interventions

Domestic and Sexual Violence, The Impact on Health, and the Patient Safety Card Approach to Integrated Education, Assessment, and Response: an on-demand Webinar that fulfills mandatory clinical training required in IHM Part 3, Chapter 31.

Tribal Forensic Healthcare (www.tribalforensichealthcare.org)

- Danger Assessment 3.5 hour certification course-May reach out to Erica Gourneau for certification fee waiver after completion of the course (Erica.Gourneau@ihs.gov)

Questions?

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https://www.ihs.gov/listserv/topics/signup/?list_id=251