

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Virtual Screening Guidance

Screening for IPV can pose challenges under any circumstances.

Here is some guidance for screening for IPV during video and phone call home visits.

At the visit prior to administering the tool...

Just as you would for any screening tool, inform the parent that you will be conducting this screening at the visit prior to the visit you plan on administering the tool. Particularly for the IPV screening, it is a good idea to normalize the screening by saying, “This is a required screening for all parents in the program, but as always, you have the right to not disclose any information you do not feel comfortable sharing.” Remind them that this is a safe space, everything they say is confidential, and that you are not there to judge, but to support them.

At the visit you plan to administer the tool...

At the visit you plan to administer the screening, it is a good idea to tie the conversation to a discussion on healthy relationships. Share a parent handout or resource on healthy relationships and/or the Power and Control Wheel (attached). It is recommended to use a platform in which you can share your screen so that the parent does not have a record of receiving the handout for the user of violence to find. If you would like the parent to have the handout and/or you are doing phone visits/using a platform that does not allow screen sharing, it is advised to only send handouts with language regarding healthy relationships, and to not send handouts that talk about abusive relationships. Either way, if you do send handouts, it is recommended to have the parent delete them after viewing them. Explain the different types of abuse so that the parent is informed when answering the questions on the screening tool. Once you have this conversation, then administer the tool.

At the beginning of the visit that you plan on administering the tool, casually ask in the opening of the visit when you are connecting with them who else is in the home. Especially if you have a concern that IPV is occurring, do not administer the tool if the potential user of violence is in the home. It is also important to be aware of other people besides the user of violence present, including other adults or children. It is recommended to ask the parent to find a private place where the conversation will not be overheard, in case one of these people will report back to the possible user of violence. Ask to schedule a visit or separate video/phone call for when the user of violence is not around.

If the user of violence is always in the home and you are unable to schedule a visit for when he/she is not present, you may use one of the following options:

1. Rephrase all questions as “Yes” or “No” questions.
2. If your tool uses a Likert scale, explain to the parent that you will ask the question, and then you will begin listing the options for answering the question while pausing in between each option. When you get to the response, the parent can answer “Yes” or “No.”
 - Example for the HITS Tool:
“This tool asks 4 questions, and the options to answer each question are Never, Rarely,

Sometimes, Fairly Often, and Frequently. I will ask you the question, and then I will list each of these options slowly, pausing in between each one. When I get to the option that applies to you, say Yes. How often does your partner physically hurt you? Never (pause), Rarely (pause), Sometimes (pause), Fairly Often (pause), Frequently (pause).”

3. Oftentimes, users of violence will monitor and search through texts and emails. Keeping this in mind, only as an absolute last resort, you can text or email the questions and have them respond back so that the user of violence does not overhear the conversation. If using this option, before sending the questions, ensure that you emphasize to the parent that they must delete all correspondence immediately when finished, and remind them again to immediately delete the messages afterwards as well.

If a referral is needed...

If the screen is positive and you are giving a referral, caution should be taken.

1. If providing a hotline and/or domestic violence organization phone number, advise them to enter the number into their contacts but save it as a different, generic name. The parent could also add the number to an existing contact, such as the home visitor’s contact, that is already saved in their phone.
2. If sharing a link to a website, say it over the phone rather than texting or emailing it. If you find it necessary to text or email it, make sure they delete the message. Inform them that most domestic violence websites have an “Escape” button. If the user of violence comes into the room while the parent is looking at the website, they can click that escape button, and it will immediately shut down the website and clear the history/cookies from the browser.
3. It is not advisable to text or email a document or picture of flyers. If you find it necessary to do so, once again, make absolutely sure the parent will delete it after reviewing it. Remind them you are there for them and if they ever need the information again, they can call you and ask for it. You could also send a flyer that has a comprehensive list of other resources in the community (i.e. food pantries, diaper banks, benefits office, etc.) with a domestic violence organization’s information inserted randomly in the list, so it does not appear to be a resource targeted at domestic violence.

If the screen was not positive, but you suspect that abuse is occurring, you may still give the referral, and tell the parent that this is a resource you are required to share with all parents in the program.

Remember, the most dangerous time for a victim/survivor is when he/she leaves, tries to leave, or announces the intention to leave the relationship. Leaving is a potentially lethal event. The most homicides occur at this time.

If the parent discloses abuse, do not immediately urge them to leave. Find out what the parent wants to do and meet them where they are. See the attached resources for more information on how to help a victim/survivor.

POWER AND CONTROL WHEEL

Physical and sexual assaults, or threats to commit them, are the most apparent forms of domestic violence and are usually the actions that allow others to become aware of the problem. However, regular use of other abusive behaviors by the batterer, when reinforced by one or more acts of physical violence, make up a larger system of abuse. Although physical assaults may occur only once or occasionally, they instill threat of future violent attacks and allow the abuser to take control of the woman's life and circumstances.

The Power & Control diagram is a particularly helpful tool in understanding the overall pattern of abusive and violent behaviors, which are used by a batterer to establish and maintain control over his partner. Very often, one or more violent incidents are accompanied by an array of these other types of abuse. They are less easily identified, yet firmly establish a pattern of intimidation and control in the relationship.



Intimate Partner Violence Resources

National Resources	
Organization	Contact Info
National Domestic Violence Hotline 24-hour hotline support and their website is an excellent source of info; click "Get Help" link for info on safety planning .	www.thehotline.org (800) 799-SAFE
National Network to End Domestic Violence Social change organization dedicated to creating a social, political, and economic environment in which violence against women no longer exists. Runs Women's Law program, which provides legal info to victims.	www.nnedv.org www.womenslaw.org
National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Leads, mobilizes and advocates to support efforts that demand a change of conditions that lead to domestic violence such as patriarchy, privilege, racism, sexism, and classism. Supports survivors and holds offenders accountable.	www.ncadv.org
Futures without Violence Programs, policies, and campaigns empowering individuals/organizations working to end violence against women and children around the world.	www.futureswithoutviolence.org
Veto Violence Educates and empowers communities to prevent violence. Provides violence education resources as well as training, tips, and tools designed specifically for prevention practitioners.	www.vetoviolence.cdc.gov
NO MORE Public awareness and engagement campaign focused on ending DV and sexual assault by breaking social stigmas, normalizing the conversation, and increasing resources to address these issues on the local/state/national levels.	www.nomore.org
Teen Resources	
Organization	Contact Info
National Teen Dating Abuse Hotline The website provides excellent materials and resources on teen dating abuse, including the 24-hour hotline for teens.	www.loveisrespect.org (866) 331-9474; Text LOVEIS to 22422
Break the Cycle Provides dating abuse and violence prevention programs, hosts public campaigns, and champions effecting laws and policies.	www.breakthecycle.org
That's Not Cool National public education campaign of teen dating abuse that uses digital examples of controlling, pressuring, and threatening behavior.	www.thatsnotcool.com
Lauren Dunne Astley Memorial Fund Contains teen dating abuse resources, including the <i>Loved to Death</i> workshop, (40-minute video about Lauren's abusive relationship and discussion).	www.laurendunneastleymemorialfund.org
LGBTQ Resources	
Organization	Contact Info
Anti-Violence Project Supports LGBTQ victims through counseling & advocacy; based in NYC.	www.avp.org 24-hour hotline: (212) 714-1141
The NW Network Founded by and for LGBT survivors. Works to end abuse in the diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities and empower survivors.	www.nwnetwork.org
LGBT National Help Center 24-hour hotlines and weekly moderated chat rooms for LGBT youth and teens. Provides vital peer-support, community connections and resource information to people with questions regarding sexual orientation and/or gender identity.	www.glbthotline.org National (all ages): (888) 843-4564 Youth-25 years: (800) 246-PRIDE Senior: (888) 234-7243
The Trevor Project Leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBTQ young people under 25.	www.thetrevorproject.org