On average > 3 women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States. (1)

Nearly 1 in 4 women in the United States reports experiencing violence by a current or former partner at some point in her life. (2)

Approximately 1 in 3 adolescent girls in the US is a victim of physical, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner (2)

1 in 6 abused women is first abused during pregnancy (3)

Why? Intimate Partner Violence is common and consequential

- Impacts of pregnancy-related IPV include later entry into prenatal care, low-birthweight babies, premature labor, fetal trauma, unhealthy maternal behaviors, and postnatal issues such as postpartum depression and breastfeeding difficulties (3)
- On average > 3 women a day are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in the United States. (1)
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Why? Differing Norms.

Individuals may have differing norms for what constitutes a healthy relationship. Some people who may be in abusive situations may not identify themselves as victims of abuse.

- Asking open ended and in depth questions about interpersonal relationships encourage patients to self reflect without labeling or stigmatizing.
- Approaching the conversation with non-judgmental language, avoiding assumptions, and emphasizing genuine concern for patients facilitates communication.
- Asking the standard question "Do you feel safe at home?" does not adequately screen patients.

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How? Asking is key.

- It doesn't take long:
  - If answer about IPV is no: 10 seconds
  - If answer is yes but abuse occurred in distant past: 2 minutes
  - If answer is yes and abuse is current: 12 minutes
- Screening about IPV annually in reproductively aged women is a Grade B USPSTF recommendation (4)
- Don't be discouraged if patients don't disclose the first time they meet you. Trust, compass, and longitudinal relationships encourage disclosure. (5)

How? Providing Resources

Feeling uncertain how to help can be a barrier to providers asking about IPV.

Conducting a safety assessment for warning signs of escalating abuse, making a safety plan, and providing resources are important steps.

Safety Assessment:
- Is the abusive behavior increasing in frequency? In intensity?
- Are there guns in the house?
- Has your partner ever threatened to kill you?
- Does the partner use substances?
- Is the patient pregnant?
- Has your partner ever tried to strangle you?

Safety Plan: Brainstorm emergency contacts and an exit plan with your patient.

Resources: See patient handout for national and Georgia specific resources.

References: