



Advocate for DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SCREENING.

Tips for talking to healthcare providers.

75%

OF WOMEN SAY THEY
HAVE NEVER BEEN
SCREENED FOR DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE BY A DOCTOR
OR NURSE

ONLY 6%

OF WOMEN WITH CHRONIC
HEALTH CONDITIONS AND A
HISTORY OF ABUSE BELIEVE
THEIR DOCTOR/NURSE HAS
EVER MADE A CONNECTION
BETWEEN THE TWO

IF YOU ARE BEING ABUSED, WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEEK HELP.

For more information on
local domestic violence
resources, you can call
the **National Domestic
Violence Hotline (NDVH)** at
1.800.799.SAFE
(1.800.799.7233)

round-the-clock. NDVH
counselors also can work
with you by phone, via text
or online through instant
messaging to provide you
with information and
resources, including finding
you a shelter to stay safe
if needed.

Domestic violence may be a hidden issue, but it's one of the most critical public health issues, affecting millions of Americans. The effects are wide-ranging and long-lasting. New findings indicate that domestic violence results in serious chronic health conditions, with a devastating impact on women.

What is domestic violence?

Domestic Violence or Intimate Partner Violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that include inflicted physical injury, psychological abuse, sexual assault, progressive social isolation, stalking, deprivation, intimidation and threats.

These behaviors are perpetrated by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate dating relationship with an adult or adolescent, and are aimed at establishing control by one partner over the other.

CALL TO ACTION: RAISE AWARENESS AND SHARE WITH OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE OF HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS SCREENING PATIENTS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DURING ROUTINE EXAMS.

- Following are some tips/pointers that are designed to help you speak about domestic violence screening with a healthcare professional. "Recently I heard that as many as one-third of American women are abused at some point in their lives, and that routine screening of all female patients for domestic violence by physicians is a great way to help connect victims or survivors to resources. I've noticed that you have never asked me about it. Would you consider routine screening of your patients to help ensure they are not abused or to help them get help if they are?"
- "I noticed that you asked whether I drink or smoke, but you didn't ask if I'm in a safe relationship. I'm curious, if I were being abused, would you know where to refer me for help in our community? I ask because I understand one in three women is in an abusive relationship. I understand every state has a local domestic violence hotline and other support resources, and that information is available from the National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1.800.799.SAFE (1.800.799.7233)**. I'd love to see some posters or flyers with that helpful information in your office. What do you think?"
- Go to <http://vz.to/chronichealthanddv>, and print a copy of "Domestic Violence and the Role of the Health Care Provider" and bring it with you to your next exam. "I saw this and thought you may find the information of interest. Recently I learned about the importance of doctors routinely screening their female patients for domestic violence, and it occurred to me that I don't recall that you have asked me if I am safe in my relationship. I believe this research provides some great insights for you to better screen all of your patients. I hope you find it useful."
- "I recently heard about a survey that found that there is a link between chronic health conditions and domestic violence. Is it possible that any of your patients may be experiencing chronic pain as the result of domestic violence?"

More information on domestic violence awareness and prevention is available at <http://vz.to/chronichealthanddv> or Futures Without Violence (<http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>). Feel free to provide this information to your healthcare provider.

SOURCE: Exploring the Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Chronic Health Conditions, GfK Custom Research, 2013.
The Family Violence Prevention Fund, 2010.

