



DOMESTIC ABUSE INTERVENTION SERVICES

Domestic Violence Affects Us All

In Our Healthcare Systems...

- More than **33%** of women treated for violent injuries in emergency rooms were hurt by an intimate partner - but fewer than **5%** are identified as domestic violence victims. **44%** of intimate partner homicide victims visited an emergency room within 2 years prior to their deaths
- Of all the victims who reported an injury from intimate partner violence, less than **20%** of them sought medical treatment following that injury.
- **92%** of women who were physically abused by their partners did not discuss those incidents with their physicians - **57%** did not discuss the incidents with anyone.
- As many as **80%** of survivors of abuse reported that they wanted their healthcare provider to privately ask them about domestic abuse during their appointments.
- Intimate partner violence costs the U.S. more than \$5.8 billion per year in healthcare costs. It also results in **18.5 million** mental healthcare visits per year.

What Healthcare Providers Can Do to Help Stop

Domestic Violence:

- 1) Privately and routinely screen all females fourteen years and older for domestic violence. Identify domestic violence by asking questions such as, "Have you ever felt unsafe at home?" and assess risks and needs by asking, "Have you ever felt afraid of your partner or ex-partner?"
- 2) Make statements to show support and concern, such as, "I believe you." or "You are not alone."
- 3) Obtain a signed release of an information form to enable follow-up with the victim. Assure documentation of abuse.
- 4) Provide referrals and limited assistance (i.e. DAIS hotline, law enforcement agencies and providers of legal assistance). Provide information about local programs in different forms and locations so victims can access them confidentially
- 5) Establish a relationship with DAIS or any other organization that works to help victims and survivors of domestic violence. Contact DAIS for more information or if you have any questions or concerns.