

A Trauma-informed Community Health Center Response to Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking

Quality Assessment/Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Tool

The following quality assessment/quality improvement (QA/QI) tool is intended to provide community health centers with guiding questions to assess quality of care related to promotion of healthy relationships and intervention related to **intimate partner violence (IPV)**, **sexual violence (SV)**, and **human trafficking (HT)** within their health care delivery. The information is to be used as a benchmark for each health center to engage in ongoing quality improvement efforts.

Please complete the tool as honestly and completely as you can—there are no right or wrong answers, and your program should not be penalized for identifying areas for improvement.

We hope that this tool will help provide guidance on how to enhance your community health center's response to intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. For more information on how to implement these practices visit: www.IPVHealthPartners.org.

This tool was developed as part of a national initiative, <u>Project Catalyst</u> focused on fostering intimate partner violence (IPV), human trafficking, and health leadership and collaboration at the U.S. state level to improve the health and safety outcomes for survivors of IPV and human trafficking and to promote prevention. Project Catalyst is sponsored by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC); the HRSA Office of Women's Health; and the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Family and Youth Services Bureau. Training and technical assistance is provided by Futures Without Violence; the evaluation is being conducted by the University of Pittsburgh.

Completed by (name, title):				
Email:				
Health Center Name:				
Date:				
POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS				
Does your health center have a policy and written protocol for assessment* and response to:				
	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Intimate partner violence (IPV)?				
Sexual violence (SV)?				
Reproductive coercion (RC: birth control sabotage, pregnancy pressure and coercion, and STI/HIV risk)?				
Human Trafficking (HT)?				
Are there sample wording, scripts, prompts, questions, or information on medical/health history/risk assessment forms or EHR for staff to:				
Explain to patients why you are discussing IPV/SV/HT?				
Inform patients about confidentiality and limits of confidentiality (any mandated reporting requirements)?				
Educate patients about health impact of IPV/SV/HT?				
Discuss resources available to patients (including hotlines, advocates) to stay safe in an unhealthy or abusive relationship?				
Do your protocols instruct providers to educate abo	out the possible	intersection wit	th IPV/SV/HT du	ıring:
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
A visit addressing alcohol or other drug use?				
A visit addressing depression or suicidality?				
Any primary care visit?				
Any behavioral health visit?				
Any reproductive or sexual health visit?				
A wellness visit/annual exam/preventive care?				
*Throughout this document, we refer to assessment—rather than screening—for intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and human trafficking. Screening refers to stand alone questions or a self-administered checklist, while assessment includes conversation with the provider that includes anticipatory guidance on healthy relationships, direct questions about IPV/SV/HT, and harm reduction strategies and a warm referral to victim advocacy services if				

Community Health Center Quality Assessment/Quality Improvement Tool Developed by Elizabeth Miller, MD, PhD, University of Pittsburgh (2020)

abuse is disclosed.

PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIA	PRIVACY/CONFIDENTIALITY POLICIES AND PROTOCOLS				
Does your health center:	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Provide patients with a written explanation of confidentiality and limits of confidentiality when they check-in?					
Have a policy to routinely see patients alone (without family members, partners, etc.)?					
Have a policy to use professional language interpreters for non-English speaking patients?					
Have a policy that family members or friends may not be used for interpreting for patients?					
Have a privacy screen on the computer to protect the contents of the electronic health record from being viewed by others?					
Have a policy to ensure that each patient is seen alone (without friends or family) for at least a portion of the visit to talk about violence?					
Talking with Pa	tients about	DV/SV/HT			
How are patients assessed for IPV/SV/HT?					
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Patients answer screening questions on a medical/health history form	Yes	No 🗆	N/A	Don't Know	
		-	-		
medical/health history form Staff review the medical/health history form and					
medical/health history form Staff review the medical/health history form and ask follow-up questions Staff ask patients standard screening questions Staff offer universal education with two palm-size safety cards ¹ with information about how violence					
medical/health history form Staff review the medical/health history form and ask follow-up questions Staff ask patients standard screening questions Staff offer universal education with two palm-size					

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Futures Without Violence General Health Safety Card. To order, visit:

http://bit.ly/HealthOutcomesSurvey

Which staff are secondarily responsible for talking w	with patients ab	out IPV/SV/HT,	if at all? (select	t all)
Counselor/Social Worker Medical Assistant Nurses Clinician (MD/DO/CRNP/PA/etc.) Other (Please explain) No additional staff are responsible for this				
How often do providers discuss IPV/SV/HT with pat With each new sexual partner At least every six months At least once a year No established time interval At every visit At initial visit only Not sure	ients?			
Documentation of	Assessment a	nd Response		
On the medical/health history/assessment form(s) are the following steps documented?				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Two palm-size safety cards offered and discussed				
Harm reduction strategies were shared				
Referral to a victim service agency or connection to advocate provided				
Interve	ntion Strategio	es		
Does your staff:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Have sample wording or scripts about what to say and do when a patient discloses IPV, SV, and/or HT?				
Have sample or scripted tools and instructions on how to safety plan and offer harm reduction strategies for patients who disclose IPV, SV or HT?				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Have instructions on how to file a <u>trauma-informed</u> mandated report (e.g., child protective services) when needed?				
Know an advocate or counselor who can provide on-site follow-up with a patient who discloses IPV, SV or HT?				

Know the national hotlines and how they can support underserved or minority communities (e.g. non-English/Spanish speakers, Native American, hearing impaired, LGBTQ patients)?					
Know the youth relevant services and how they can support vulnerable youth in particular - runaway homeless youth and youth who are sexual and gender minority?					
Have a safe place where the patient can use a phone at your health center to call a national hotline or to talk to a local advocate?					
Do your staff have resource lists that:					
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Identify referrals and resources such as shelters, legal, advocacy, for patients who disclose IPV/SV?					
Identify referrals and resources such as shelters, legal, advocacy, for patients who disclose HT?					
Identify referrals and resources that are specifically relevant to your community's underserved population(s)?					
Include a contact person for each referral agency?					
Does your health center have a formal Memorandum of Understanding with a victim service agency (DV/SA) specifying referral processes between your health center and agency?					
Who is the staff person responsible for updating these lists?					
Are these lists updated at least once a year? How often? Please explain:					
Network	king and Traini	ng			
Network	ang ana-main	" 8			
Within the last year, has your staff had contact with meanscalled to refer a patient, called for assistance	-	-		-	
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
DV/SV advocates or shelter or rape crisis staff					
Experts in serving trafficked persons					

Youth services					
Child protective services					
Legal advocacy/legal services					
Law enforcement					
Are there any community health center staff who are especially skilled/comfortable dealing with IPV, SV and HT whom other staff can turn to for help? Yes No If Yes, please include staff title/position: Do your protocols advise staff on what to do if they do not feel comfortable or adequately skilled to help a					
patient when IPV, SV or trafficking is disclosed? (Exadealing with personal trauma?)				-	
Do any of your staff participate in a local domestic v	violence or SAR1	task force or re	elated subcomm	nittee?	
Yes No Don't know					
If yes, please identify staff and describe task force/subcommittee:					
Do you have staff trained as forensic examiners for	example SANEs	or SANE-Ps?			
Yes No Don't know					
If yes, please identify staff and describe task force/su	bcommittee:				
Do any of your staff participate in a local anti-huma	n trafficking tas	k force or relate	ed subcommitte	e?	
Yes No Don't know					
If yes, please identify staff and describe task force/su	bcommittee:				
				1	
Within the last two years, have representatives from schedule a training, or come to your health center a	•			ntacted to	
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Domestic violence program					
Rape crisis/sexual violence center program					
Experts in care for trafficked persons					
Child protective services					

Law enforcement (e.g., DV unit)					
Legal services/legal advocacy					
What type of training(s) do new staff receive on IPV/SV?					
Does your staff receive booster training on assessment Yes No N/A Don't Know	ent and interve	ntion for IPV/SV	at least once a	year?	
What type of training(s) do new staff receive on HT?					
Does your staff receive booster training on assessment of the second of	ent and interver	ntion for HT at l	east once a yea	r?	
Staff Su	pport and Safe	ty			
Does your health center:					
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Have a protocol for what to do if a staff person is experiencing IPV/SV/HT?					
Have a protocol for what to do if a perpetrator is on-site and displaying threatening behaviors or trying to get information?					
Provide individual clinical supervision for staff where they can discuss any concerns/ discomfort related to IPV/SV/HT cases?					
Provide other types (group supervision, case presentation) of opportunities for staff to discuss any concerns relating to difficult cases?					
Have a buddy system or internal referral for staff to turn to for assistance when they are overwhelmed or uncomfortable addressing violence with a patient?					
Have an employee assistance program (EAP) that staff can access for help with current or past victimization?					
Data a	and Evaluation				
Does your health center:					
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know	
Record the number of patients assessed for <u>IPV/SV</u> ?					

Record the number of patients assessed for <u>HT</u> ?		
Record the number of patients who disclose IPV/SV ?		
Record the number of patients who disclose <u>HT</u> ?		
Record the number of times that referrals and resources were discussed with patients?		
Record the number of referrals made to IPV/SV/HT victim advocacy services to track referrals and outcomes, key health outcomes, and partner communication?		
Record use of longer-acting contraceptives among patients experiencing reproductive coercion?		
Record other health promotion and safety strategies offered to patients experiencing IPV/SV/HT?		
Discuss with patients where and how their confidential information will be handled?		
Do any of your patient satisfaction surveys include any questions soliciting patient's opinions about assessment and intervention strategies for IPV/SV/HT?		
Provide regular (at least annual) feedback to providers about their performance regarding IPV/SV/HT assessment?		
Annually review all health center protocols relating to IPV/SV/HT (both patient and staff related)?		

Environment and Resources				
Does your health center have any of the following?				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Brochures or information about IPV/SV that patients can take				
Brochures or information about HT that patients can take				
Brochures, cards, information for patients about how violence exposure affects children				
Brochures or posters offered in languages other than English that reflect those spoken by your patients				
Brochures or posters that visually reflect the diverse backgrounds of patients served				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Posters about IPV, SV and HT displayed				
Adolescent focused brochures, cards or information about adolescent relationship abuse				
Information specific to LGBTQ violence				
Brochures/cards/posters placed in an easily accessible location (like bathrooms)				
Has your health center adapted materials to make them more culturally relevant for your patient population? Yes No If yes, please describe:				
Who is responsible for stocking and ordering materials including safety cards and posters? Please identify staff by title:				
Does your health center sponsor any client or community education to talk about healthy relationships or indicators of abuse? Yes No If yes, please describe:				

What tools and support do you need to strengthen your health center's response to IPV/SV/HT?
Additional Comments and Observations

Integrating Health Services into Domestic Violence Programs for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, and Human Trafficking

Quality Assessment/Quality Improvement Tool for Domestic Violence Programs

The following quality assessment/quality improvement (QA/QI) tool is intended to provide Domestic Violence (DV) programs with guiding questions to assess how they are addressing the health needs of Intimate Partner Violence/Sexual Violence/Human Trafficking survivors. This includes addressing physical and mental health concerns as well as increasing access to health services. The information is to be used as a benchmark for each program to engage in quality improvement efforts. Complete the tool as honestly and completely as you can—there are no right or wrong answers, and your program will not be penalized for identifying areas for improvement.

We recommend that you complete the tool twice: once before you begin making any changes, and again in 6 months after you initiate making improvements

We hope that this tool will help provide guidance on how to enhance your DV program's capacity to address the health and healthcare needs of survivors of IPV/SV and HT. For more information on how to implement these practices visit: www.IPVHealthPartners.org.

This tool was developed as part of a national initiative, <u>Project Catalyst III</u>, focused on fostering intimate partner violence (IPV), human trafficking, and health leadership and collaboration at the U.S. state level to improve the health and safety outcomes for survivors of IPV and human trafficking and to promote prevention. Project Catalyst II is sponsored by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services agencies: Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC); the HRSA Office of Women's Health; and the Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) Family and Youth Services Bureau. Training and technical assistance is provided by Futures Without Violence; the evaluation is being conducted by the University of Pittsburgh.

Completed by (name and title):				
Email:				
Domestic Violence Program Name:				
Date:				
Survivor I	Health Assess	ment		
Does your program assess for the following health concerns during intake, safety planning, and/or case management? We are not recommending that you talk about all of these health issues right at intake (to be trauma informed) but offer this list below to help identify how you are doing this.				
	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Medical concerns				
Dental/oral health concerns				
Strangulation				
Headaches				
Severe or repeated head trauma				
Sleep difficulties				
Mental health concerns				
Alcohol or substance use dependency				
Recovery support; med. assisted treatment				
Last physical (incl. immunizations)				
Most recent pap smear				
Reproductive health needs – including desire for contraception				
Reproductive coercion				
Need for emergency contraception				
Pregnancy and/or postpartum health				
HIV testing (does client want a test?)				
STI testing not including HIV (e.g., gonorrhea, chlamydia, HPV, etc.)				
Nutrition or food availability concerns				
	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Current medications, Rx and non-Rx				

Allergies		
Health insurance and med. home status (whether they have a PCP)		
Access to health services (includes transportation)		
Does your intake form prompt staff to offer clients two palm-size safety cards ¹ with information about how violence can impact health, safety and how to support a friend of relative? (See below)		
Does your intake form prompt staff to offer clients the brochure ² with information for survivors about how trauma can make it difficult to go to health and dental appointments—and trauma informed tips to have a better health care visit? (See below)		
In addition to asking about the clients' health, does the intake form include assessment for children's health needs?		
Is there a private place in your program to complete the intake form and talk with clients about health concerns?		
Does your program offer basic, over the counter health supplies: pain/fever reducers, anti-acids, feminine care products, etc.?		



1 Futures Without Violence Reproductive Health Safety Card. To order, visit: http://bit.ly/HealthOutcomesSurvey



2 Futures Without Violence Health Survivor Brochure, a trauma-informed guide to promote survivor's access to health services and validate why it may be hard for them to go to visits and names the common experience of disassociation. To order, visit: http://bit.ly/HealthOutcomesSurvey

Documentation o	f Assessment a	nd Response		
On the intake form are the following steps docume	nted?			
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Two palm-size safety cards were offered and discussed				
Harm reduction strategies were shared				
Referral made to a community health center provider				
Intervention Strate	gies and Follov	v Up Protocols		
Does your staff have:				
	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Scripted tools/instructions about what to say and do when a client discloses a medical concern and how to incorporate into safety planning?				
Scripted tools/instructions on how to discuss reproductive coercion and how to incorporate into safety planning?				
Scripted tools/instructions on how to discuss human trafficking and how to incorporate into safety planning?				
Scripted tools/instructions on how to assess for suicidality and how to incorporate into safety planning?				
Scripted tools/instructions on how to assess for strangulation and the health effects and how to incorporate into safety planning?				
Instructions or guidelines on how to determine urgency of health concerns?				
Protocol for connecting client to urgent health services (mental, reproductive or physical health)?				
Protocol for obtaining emergency contraception for a client?				
Protocol for connecting client to general (non- urgent) health services?				
A medical professional to contact/call with medical questions?				
Referrals/resources related to prescription medication assistance?				

	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Protocol for connecting clients exposed to HT to services specific for trafficked persons?				
Does your program have resource lists that:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Identify clinical referrals/resources for clients who need medical care?				
Identify referrals/resources for clients who need mental health care?				
Identify referrals/resources for clients who need reproductive/sexual health care?				
Identify referrals and resources that are specifically relevant to your community's underserved population?				
Identify referrals and resources that are relevant to victims of HT?				
Includes a contact person for each referral agency?				
Does your agency have a formal Memorandum of Understanding with a community health center specifying referral processes between your agency and the health center?				
Does your program offer <u>onsite</u> health services? For example, partnerships with community health centers, health professional students and academic programs, mobile health vans, public health nursing programs, etc.?				
, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Health services for adults				
Health services for children/youth				
Preventive services like immunizations				
Reproductive health services (emergency contraceptives, pregnancy testing, STI testing, doula support, etc.)				
Mental health services/counseling/support grps.				
Substance abuse counseling or treatment				
Dental services				
Complementary or alternative medicine				

	Yes (if so, please attach)	No	N/A	Don't Know
Other (please list, such as a mobile van service)				
Self-Care, Support, and Safety				
Does your program:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Have specific training or in-service on secondary trauma and self-care for staff?				
Have a protocol for what to do when a staff person is experiencing DV/SV/HT?				
Have a structure for staff to meet and discuss challenges and successes with cases involving complex medical and/or mental health needs?				
Data :	and Evaluatior	1		
Does your program:				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Track medical and mental health referrals made on behalf of clients?				
Track medical and mental health referrals completed?				
Conduct an annual review to update all scripts, instructions, and protocols addressing survivor health and healthcare needs?				
Use client satisfaction surveys or client focus groups that ask clients' opinions about assessment and intervention strategies for health related concerns?				
Provide regular (at least annual) feedback to staff about their performance regarding assessment and referrals for survivors' health and healthcare related concerns?				

Education a	nd Prev	ention		
Education as	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Does your program provide information to clients on how DV/SV/HT can impact their health and comfort level of being seen by a health care provider? (For example with the health survivor brochure.)				
Does any of the information that you provide to clients address healthy relationships? (For example by sharing a safety card or other brochure.)				
Does your program sponsor any client or community education to talk about the impact of DV/SV/HT on health?				
Does your program offer workshops on how to get health insurance?				
Does your program offer workshops on sexual health and healing?				
Does your program offer workshops on mindfulness, or yoga?				
Environment and Resources				
	Yes	No	N/A	Don't Know
Are there any brochures or other information				
about the health impact of DV/SV readily available for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)?				
for clients to take (such as the survivor health				
for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)? Are there any brochures or other information			_	
for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)? Are there any brochures or other information about HT readily available for clients to take? Are there any posters about health and healthcare				
for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)? Are there any brochures or other information about HT readily available for clients to take? Are there any posters about health and healthcare displayed at your site? Are materials available specific to LGBTQ				
for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)? Are there any brochures or other information about HT readily available for clients to take? Are there any posters about health and healthcare displayed at your site? Are materials available specific to LGBTQ relationship abuse and health concerns? Have these brochures/cards/posters been placed				
for clients to take (such as the survivor health brochure)? Are there any brochures or other information about HT readily available for clients to take? Are there any posters about health and healthcare displayed at your site? Are materials available specific to LGBTQ relationship abuse and health concerns? Have these brochures/cards/posters been placed in an easily visible location? Are brochures or posters reflective of the diverse				

Has your program adapted any materials to make them more culturally relevant for your patient population?
☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please describe:
What tools and support do you need to strengthen your program's support for survivors of DV/SV/HT related to their <u>health care needs</u> ?
Additional Comments and Observations