



Healthy Start Benchmark:

Increase the proportion of Healthy Start women participants who receive intimate partner violence (IPV) screening to 100%.

Rationale

Intimate partner violence or IPV affects millions of women regardless of age, economic status, race, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or educational background. IPV is described as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, including threats of physical or sexual abuse, by a current or former partner or spouse. Although women of all ages may experience IPV, it is most prevalent among women of reproductive age, and the severity of violence may escalate during the pregnancy or postpartum periods. IPV has been associated with poor maternal and infant health outcomes, including delayed entry into prenatal care, pregnancy complications, preterm delivery, and low birth weight. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) recommends that clinicians screen women of childbearing age for IPV, and provide or refer women who screen positive to intervention services. The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends that all health care providers screen all patients for IPV at regular intervals, including during new patient visits, annual examinations, initial prenatal visits, each trimester of pregnancy, and the postpartum checkup.

Prenatal, postpartum, and interconception care visits provide an important opportunity for Healthy Start grantees to screen Healthy Start women participants for IPV. In addition to increasing awareness of and screening for IPV, Healthy Start grantees should be prepared to coordinate referrals for intervention, prevention and ongoing support when indicated.

This Resource Sheet provides recommended strategies and a selection of resources and evidence-based practices to aid Healthy Start grantee organizations, partners and their staff in promoting IPV screening among Healthy Start women participants during the perinatal period.





INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SCREENING

Program Level Strategy

Build Capacity to Screen for IPV

Strategies

Educate Healthy Start program staff on IPV and the importance of screening and counseling for identification, intervention and prevention of IPV.

Provide training, professional development or other education opportunities to increase Healthy Start program staff awareness, knowledge of screening methods, and referral options/available interventions for IPV.

Train Healthy Start program staff to discuss and conduct culturally and linguistically competent IPV screening using standardized tools and strategies and maintaining confidentiality.

Establish a referral network with local health care providers and IPV-focused human service organizations (e.g., domestic violence shelters or programs) for intervention, prevention, and support to Healthy Start women participants experiencing or at risk for IPV.

Establish a process in your program or workflow to provide safe and confidential screening and counseling for IPV (using a standardized validated tool) among Healthy Start women participants at the first prenatal visit, at least once per trimester, at the postpartum checkup, and periodically during preconception/interconception care.

Integrate IPV screening for Healthy Start women participants with other risk screenings and interventions during the prenatal and/or postpartum periods (e.g., smoking, drug and alcohol use, depression).

Implement a follow-up process with Healthy Start women participants who screen positive for IPV to promote uptake of referral and other resources.

Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices

[ACOG Committee Opinion: Intimate Partner Violence](#)

[Final Recommendation Statement Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse of Elderly and Vulnerable Adults: Screening](#)

[A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression](#)

[Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit](#)

[Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Reproductive and Sexual Coercion: A Guide for Obstetric, Gynecologic, Reproductive Health Care Settings](#)

[ACOG Committee Opinion: Intimate Partner Violence](#)

[A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression](#)

[Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit](#)

[Healthy Start Screening Tools](#)



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SCREENING

Program Level Strategy

Build Capacity to Screen for IPV (continued)

Strategies

Educate Healthy Start grantee staff on ACA requirement for health insurers to offer certain preventive health services free of co-pays or coinsurance, including IPV screening.

Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices

[Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit](#)

[Getting the Coverage You Deserve: What to Do If You Are Charged a Co-Payment, Deductible, or Co-Insurance for a Preventive Service](#)



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SCREENING

Individual & Family Level Strategies

Screen and Refer for IPV During Prenatal, Postpartum and Interconception Care Visits

Strategies	Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices
<p>Screen all Healthy Start women participants for IPV at the first prenatal visit, at least once per trimester, at the postpartum checkup, and periodically during preconception/interconception care. Screen for IPV in a private and safe setting with the woman alone and not with her partner, friends, family, or caregiver.</p>	<p>A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression</p> <p>Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit</p> <p>4Ps Plus©</p> <p>HITS</p> <p>SafeCare Augmented</p> <p>Healthy Start Screening Tools</p>
<p>Provide education and referral for intervention, prevention, and support to Healthy Start women participants experiencing or at risk for IPV.</p> <p>Follow-up with all Healthy Start women participants who screen positive for IPV to ensure uptake of referrals and supports.</p>	<p>A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression</p> <p>SafeCare Augmented</p>
<p>Educate fathers/male partners on IPV and refer for help as indicated.</p>	<p>CDC's Information for Men on Preconception Health and Health Care</p> <p>National Domestic Violence Hotline</p>
<p>Assist Healthy Start participants in enrolling in and obtaining health insurance to support access to health care and other preventive care services as needed.</p>	<p>From Coverage to Care</p> <p>Getting the Coverage You Deserve: What to Do If You Are Charged a Co-Payment, Deductible, or Co-Insurance for a Preventive Service</p> <p>Health Insurance Marketplace</p>



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE SCREENING

Community Level Strategies

Promote Awareness and Screening for IPV Among Community Providers and Partners

Strategies	Select Resources & Evidence-Based Practices
<p>Partner with social services and community programs that serve women, children, and families (e.g., WIC, transitional housing, home visiting) to promote (1) awareness on IPV and (2) integration of IPV screening and referral into their programs and services.</p>	<p>Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit</p>
<p>Distribute cultural and linguistically competent education materials on IPV to community partners and programs that serve women, children, and families.</p> <p>Provide information and education materials on IPV, and resources for help to community partners and programs that serve men.</p> <p>Conduct outreach and education to health care providers in the community (e.g., primary care providers, obstetricians, and pediatric providers) on IPV, and the providers' role in screening, identification, intervention and prevention.</p>	<p>Health Cares About IPV Screening and Counseling Toolkit</p> <p>ACOG Committee Opinion: Intimate Partner Violence</p> <p>A Comprehensive Approach for Community-Based Programs to Address Intimate Partner Violence and Perinatal Depression</p> <p>CDC's Information for Men on Preconception Health and Health Care</p> <p>National Domestic Violence Hotline</p> <p>Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Reproductive and Sexual Coercion: A Guide for Obstetric, Gynecologic, Reproductive Health Care Settings</p>



Healthy Start EPIC Center Webinar Resources:

[Ask the Expert: Domestic Violence Screening and Follow-Up](#)

[Ask the Expert: Overview of Safe Homes/Safe Babies: A Train the Trainer Curriculum on Domestic Violence and Reproductive Coercion](#)

[Ask the Expert: The Value of Integrating Trauma Informed Care for the Healthy Start Community](#)

This Resource Sheet can be accessed electronically: <http://healthystartepic.org/>