

eliminating racism
empowering women

ywca



**ACCESS York &
Victim Assistance Center**

MEDICAL ADVOCACY PROGRAM

The Medical Advocacy Program is responsible for the coordination of YWCA York's hospital-based Medical Advocacy Project, working on behalf of victims of domestic and sexual violence in collaboration with interdisciplinary staff at healthcare facilities in York County. The medical advocacy coordinator provides support and advocacy to victims of domestic violence and sexual violence who seek treatment within any York County Healthcare System. The medical advocate also provides domestic violence training to healthcare providers and serves on a range of community committees and task forces.

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 87% of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) victims report that they would like their healthcare providers to ask them privately about IPV.¹
- Those assessed for abuse by a healthcare provider were 4 times more likely to use an intervention and 2.6 times more likely to end the abusive relationship.²
- For sexual violence survivors, receiving medical care decreased the risk of further sexual assault by 32%.³
- Emerging research indicates that hospital-based IPV interventions will reduce healthcare costs by at least 20%.⁴

"I really think that it's the compassion, the screening, the referral which can happen in a matter of minutes, which can be the hinge, the gateway to the way out."

- The Voices of Survivors

PROGRAMS OFFERED

Addressing Intimate Partner Violence in a Healthcare Setting

Provides healthcare professionals with a solid understanding of IPV as a public health issue. Included in the training are best practices for effective IPV screenings, risk assessments, and referral to victim services.

Intimate Partner Violence and Reproductive Health

Outlines the reproductive risks associated with IPV as well as offer suggestions on how healthcare providers can update their screening/intake process to include questions and information about sexual health.

Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) TBI is one of the most common medical issues for victims of IPV. This training helps practitioners learn to identify a potential brain injury, using the HELPS screening tool and best practices for working with patients who have TBI.

Creating a Trauma Informed Practice This presentation shows providers how to implement small, but significant changes to their intakes, screenings, and patient interactions in order to create a more trauma informed environment for all patients.

By routinely screening all patients for IPV, healthcare professionals can assist victims who may not seek assistance elsewhere. By directly asking patients about IPV, regardless of symptoms, injuries or reason for the visit, there is an increased likelihood that victims will disclose abuse. Routine screening is critical for early detection, education, referrals, and prevention of abuse as well as the effective management of patient care. Healthcare providers can break the deadly cycle of IPV by screening patients, identifying IPV-related injuries and ailments, documenting in the medical record, providing services and referring patients who are abused by their intimate partners or family members to YWCA York's ACCESS York and Victim Assistance Center.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A HIGH-CONTENT, IMPACTFUL TRAINING, PLEASE CONTACT COMMUNITY EDUCATION AT 717.845.2631. TRAININGS CAN BE CUSTOMIZED TO FIT YOUR NEEDS.

References

- 1 Truman, J. L. & Morgan, R. E. (2014). Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.
- 2 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>.
- 3 The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>.
- 4 <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/index.html>.