

# National Pilot Project 'Medical Intervention against Violence' Germany



## Background

In Germany, 1 in 4 women aged 16-85 have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner (IPV). In medical practice, IPV is often undetected and intervention programmes are lacking.

## Goal

Development of a brief intervention program to address IPV with 20-25 pilot GP and Ob-Gyn practices in 5 locations.  
Objectives: Sensitization and training, improvement of legal documentation and networking with organisations against violence.

## Participant organisation

SIGNAL e.V. (Berlin) / GESINE Netzwerk (Ennepe-Ruhr-Kreis), Institute of Forensic Medicine Düsseldorf (Düsseldorf, Kiel, München)

## Scientific Advisory Board

Medical Associations, Prosecution, Women's Association etc.

## Scientific Evaluation

Institute of Women and Gender Research (GSF), Frankfurt

## Funding

Federal Ministry of Family, Seniors, Women and Youth (2008-2011)

## Methods and Design

- Multiple recruitment strategies (articles, mailing, presentations)
- Snapshot patient survey
- Development of training modules
- Pre and post training evaluation
- Follow-up survey (1 -1.5 year post training)

## Participants in Berlin

- 2009: starting with 27 medical practices (19 GPs, 8 Ob-Gyn)
- 2011: 20 medical practices (drop out: 2 no training, 5 external reasons)
- Two thirds female and one third male physicians (mean age 49 yrs)



## Comprehensive Training Program

Basic Module (8 h)	
„Identify“ (Epidemiology, Phenomenology, risk factors ...)	„Act“ (Active Asking, Risk-Assessment, Skills ...)
„Legal Documentation“	
Specific Modules (2-3 h)	
Sexual violence, Migration, Disability, Perpetrator ...	
Accompaniment (2-3 monthly)	Multiprof. Conference (1x y)
Jour fixe / Quality Circle	Networking, Knowledge, Exchange

## Training attendance

Basic Module (n=58): 26 Physicians & 32 Medical assistants  
Specific Modules (n=122): 8 – 23 Physicians/Med. assistants per Module

## Supporting Material

Flow chart, poster, leaflets / information for patients

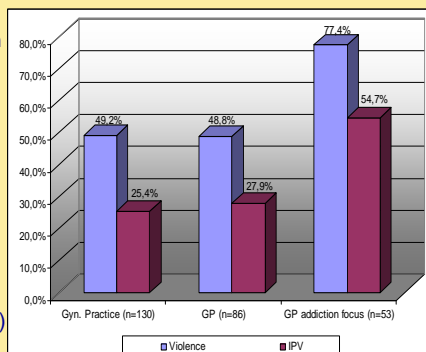
## Results

### Patient Survey (Snapshot)

#### Aim

Examine the prevalence of IPV

### Prevalence of violence / IPV (n=269 female patients 18-65 years)



#### Implementation

1-page questionnaire (based on HITS), 1-3 days (10/11-2009)

#### Sample

10 medical practices (3 Ob-Gyn, 4 GPs, 3 GPs – focus on addiction treatment)

#### Response

517 questionnaires (70.8% female, 28.6% male patients, 0,6% gender unknown)

Every second female patient in medical practice with addiction treatment reported IPV.

### Follow-up Survey

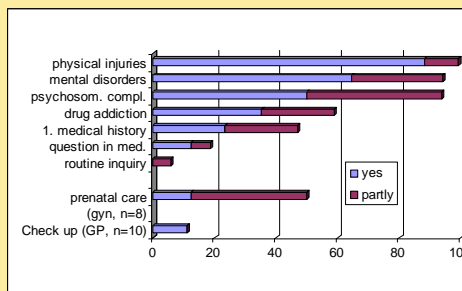
Qualitative interviews (n=19) and questionnaires (n=18)

#### What has changed? Comments from GPs:

*"I've changed. Before, I thought: I couldn't ask this teacher anything about violence, now I am doing so."*

*"Before, I used to think: How can I help the patient if I know it, but I can't offer anything? Now I can respond professionally and offer something."*

#### When do you ask about violence? (n=18)



If a patient discloses, consultation takes on average **20 min.** longer.

## Conclusions and Perspective

### Conclusion

- Positive evaluation of training (interactive, role play) by physicians
- Increased awareness of IPV in medical practices
- More confidence in asking about IPV
- Knowledge about support network & increased referrals
- Supportive material (structured legal documentaion, safety card)
- Asking about IPV is a continuous learning process
- High commitment of the participating physicians & assistants (time – „talking medicine“ is not paid)

### Products of MIGG project

- Curriculum „MIGG“
- Implementation guidelines for the intervention in other regions
- Supportive materials for physicians and patients
- Quality Circle Dramaturgy „Domestic Violence“ (KBV)
- Guidelines / Recommendations (German Association Ob-Gyn)

### Effects (Federal State Level)

- IPV recognized as an important public health issue
- Response to IPV by Medical Organizations/Institutions
- Medical and professional organizations involved in IPV intervention
- Promotion of interactive training programs by Medical Associations
- Funding of 1st Coordination and Intervention Center, Berlin (Senate Department for Health)



### SIGNAL - Coordination and Intervention Center

- Training, Vocational & Continuing Education
- Material (flowchart, safety cards ...)
- Counseling and Coaching (program implementation)
- Public relations
- Quality Assurance