

Steps You Can Take To Prepare Your Practice To Respond To Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Create a Safe Environment

- ◆ Display educational posters about IPV in waiting rooms, bathrooms and exam rooms.
- ◆ Provide a confidential space to talk with patients alone. Do not use family members as interpreters.
- ◆ Inform patients of confidentiality and reporting procedures.
- ◆ Have information available including, hotline numbers and safety cards.

Provide Staff With Training

- ◆ **Core training** on IPV and on reproductive and sexual coercion will be most effective if all clinic staff that has contact with patients are trained. When possible, training should include staff from domestic violence and sexual assault programs.
- ◆ **Ongoing training** opportunities should be available for new hires and staff who want to repeat the training.
- ◆ **Refresher training** is important to introduce advances in the field and offer opportunities for staff to discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities.

SAFETY TIP

One key recommendation for clinics or providers is to develop a sign for your waiting room that says: ***"IN THIS CLINIC, WE RESPECT A PATIENT'S RIGHT TO PRIVACY AND ALWAYS SEE PATIENTS ALONE FOR SOME PORTION OF THEIR VISIT"***. Having a clearly stated policy like this helps the staff normalize the experience of seeing the patient alone without a friend or family member.

Tillamook County Women's Resource Center

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Reference

Futures Without Violence (2013). Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Reproductive and Sexual Coercion : A Guide for Obstetric, Gynecologic, Reproductive Health Care Setting (3rd ed.). San Francisco, CA: Chamberlain, L., & Levenson, R.



Tillamook County Safer Futures Project

Improving the Health and Safety of Families in Tillamook County

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About Safer Futures

Oregon was awarded a 4-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Adolescent Health, Pregnancy Assistance Fund. The federal Pregnancy Assistance Fund is authorized by The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148; Affordable Care Act) Sections 10211- 10214.

Tillamook has received 1 of the 4 grants whose main strategies are:

1. Advocacy intervention, accompaniment, and supportive services provided by the on-site advocate.
2. Case consultation, provider training, and resources designed to enhance medical response to domestic violence (DV) survivors.
3. Capacity building efforts designed to sustain the project beyond the grant funding.

Tillamook County was chosen as one of the four health care cohorts. Current partners include:

- ◆ Tillamook County Women's Resource Center
- ◆ Tillamook Family Health Centers
- ◆ Rinehart Clinic
- ◆ Healthy Families



Our Vision

The vision of the Safer Futures Project is to create a safer, more harmonious community by creating a sustainable, accessible and effective partnership between the Tillamook County Women's Resource Center and local healthcare providers.

The Safer Futures project will serve pregnant and parenting teens who are survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) through furthering our understanding of what each agency can provide to these survivors. The Tillamook County Women's Resource Center will work with partners to develop best practices and to ensure continuity of services.

Desired Results

- ✓ Increase safety
- ✓ Improve public health
- ✓ Universal education
- ✓ Normalize screening
- ✓ Promote holistic health and well-being

Tillamook County Domestic Violence Statistics

Pulse Research, of Portland, OR., conducted a statistical random sample of adults in Tillamook County in April 2009. Following are some of the highlights from the survey results:

Incidence of Domestic Violence in Tillamook County

- 50% of residents know someone not related to them who has experienced domestic violence; 59% took place in Tillamook County.
- 37% state that a family member has experienced domestic violence; 30% of those cases took place in Tillamook County.
- 34% of women and 15% of men have experienced domestic violence; 45% of that violence took place in Tillamook County.

Perceptions of Domestic Violence in Tillamook County

- In general, residents think that DV is a big issue, is NOT primarily a problem of minority families and is NOT the victim's fault.
- 88% feel that DV is NOT a private issue and can be discussed in the community.