

Sample IPV assessment for the pediatric setting when all children in the room are ≤ 3 years

1) Introductory statement:

- **"The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Violence is so common and help is available, so I now ask every caregiver if they are being hurt by someone close to them."**

2) Sample Assessment questions

- **"Has your current or former partner threatened you or made you feel afraid?"**
(stalking, threatens to hurt you or your children if you did or didn't do something, controls whom you talk to/where you go, goes into rages)
- **"Has your partner hit, choked or physically hurt you?"**
(“hurt” includes being hit, slapped, kicked, strangled, bitten, shoved)
- **"Has your partner ever forced you to have sex?"**

Options if a child in the room is >3 years

Option 1:

1) Introductory statement:

- **"The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Because safety issues are so common and help is available, I now ask every caregiver some questions. Please take this card/read these questions and let me know if any of them are something that you are experiencing"**

2) Sample Assessment questions written on a card or piece of paper that is handed to the caregiver*

- **"Has your current or former partner threatened you or made you feel afraid?"**
(stalking, threatens to hurt you or your children if you did or didn't do something, controls whom you talk to/where you go, goes into rages)
- **"Has your partner hit, choked or physically hurt you?"**
(“hurt” includes being hit, slapped, kicked, strangled, bitten, shoved)
- **"Has your partner ever forced you to have sex?"**

*It may be useful for the caregiver to read the questions while you are starting to examine the child.

Option 2:

- Screen the caregiver when she is in the room alone using the same introductory statement and questions that you would for a caregiver with a child ≤ 3 years.
- Good times to complete this screening may include when the child is getting weighed and measured or when the child is at hearing and vision screening.

Option 3 (can be done in front of children >3 years):

1) Introductory statement:

- **"The health and safety of caregivers can affect the health and safety of their children. Because safety issues are so common and help is available, I now ask every caregiver some questions. "**
- #### 2) Sample non-graphic assessment questions*
- **"How do you and your partner work out arguments? With no difficulty, some difficulty or great difficulty?"**
 - **"In general how do you describe your relationship with your partner? No tension, some tension or a lot of tension"**
 - **"How is your partner treating you? Always well, well most of the time, not well most of the time, never well?"**

* From Zink et al Clinical Pediatrics 2007; If you are concerned about the verbal or non-verbal responses, have a more detailed discussion without the child present.