



New Jersey  
Coalition  
for Battered  
W o m e n

# HEALTH CARES ABOUT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



**njcasa**  
begin by believing

Domestic and sexual violence are major public health concerns, and these experiences can have a profound impact on health, both in the short and long term. There are 2 million injuries in the U.S. annually as a result of domestic violence and sexual assault. With over a billion health care visits care annually, healthcare providers have a unique opportunity to identify and address these issues with their patients, and thereby help reduce both the immediate and long-term consequences.

- ◆ In the United States, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men will experience domestic or sexual violence in their lifetime
- ◆ In New Jersey, there were 65,060 domestic violence offenses and 1038 reported rapes in 2012
- ◆ 26 women & 12 men were killed by their intimate partner
- ◆ In New Jersey and viewed as a continuum, an incident of domestic violence occurred roughly every 8 minutes and a rape occurred every 8 hours
- ◆ In New Jersey, women were victims in 75 % of all domestic violence offenses.

## S.A.F.E.

The vision for New Jersey is a healthcare culture in which all providers recognize the prevalence and health impact of Domestic and Sexual Violence. In this environment, providing trauma-informed care will be the standard in all healthcare settings.

### S.A.F.E. Initiative Goals are:

- ◆ To increase and support healthcare provider awareness on the magnitude of the issues of domestic and sexual violence and the impact on health; to improve/support providers' ability to screen patients for current or past violence
- ◆ To improve the knowledge/confidence of healthcare providers to provide sensitive, culturally competent, trauma-informed care
- ◆ To encourage collaboration between healthcare providers and domestic and sexual violence agencies
- ◆ To encourage patients to share information with their healthcare providers in order to promote care which is sensitive and relevant to their needs

**S** = Screen all patients (for domestic and/or sexual violence)

**A** = Assess (for current safety, needs, impact of violence)

**F** = Facilitate (referral to appropriate resources/support)

**E** = Educate/empower (validate experience/give information)

## Tips for Screening

- ◆ Providers do not need to be experts on domestic and sexual violence to conduct screenings. Screening can occur during a well-woman visit with a primary care provider or as part of any other health care visit.
- ◆ Screening for domestic violence and sexual violence should be done in a private setting with the patient, without family members, caregivers, significant others or friends.
- ◆ Present screening as routine and something you ask all patients because of the prevalence of the problem for all people. You can introduce topic by saying: Because so many people have experienced violence and that it can affect your health ..I (we) ask these questions of all our patients; normalize these questions as part of patient history.
- ◆ Questions should be asked in direct, non-judgmental language that is culturally and linguistically appropriate; Use open-ended questions.
- ◆ Inform patients of confidentiality and its limits.

## Help is Available

Every county in New Jersey has a free, confidential organization:

Contact information can be found on their websites below

For help with domestic violence or sexual assault, call 1-800-572-SAFE (7233)

### New Jersey:

- ◆ NJ Coalition for Battered Women Hotline: 1-800-572-SAFE (7233) TTY 1-888-252-SAFE  
Web: [www.njcbw.org](http://www.njcbw.org)
- ◆ NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault Hotline: 1-800-601-7200  
Web: [www.njcasa.org](http://www.njcasa.org)

### National:

- National Hotline on Domestic Violence 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) (TTY) 800-787-3224
- National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Web: [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)
- National Network to End Domestic Violence Web: [www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)
- Rape Abuse and Incest National Network 1-800-656-HOPE(4673) Web: [www.rainn.org](http://www.rainn.org)
- National Sexual Violence Resource Center 1-877-739-3895 Web: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)
- National Alliance to End Sexual Violence Web: [www.endsexualviolence.org](http://www.endsexualviolence.org)

## Online Resources for Healthcare Providers:

[www.nomore.org](http://www.nomore.org)  
[www.healthcaresaboutipv.org](http://www.healthcaresaboutipv.org)  
[www.futureswithoutviolence.org](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org)  
[www.ncdsv.org/publication\\_wheel.html](http://www.ncdsv.org/publication_wheel.html)  
[www.vawnet.org/specialcollections/DVHealthcare.php](http://www.vawnet.org/specialcollections/DVHealthcare.php)

## Health Cares About Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Collaborative

- \* NJ Affiliate American College of Nurse-Midwives
- \* NJ Coalition for Battered Women
- \* NJ Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- \* NJ Section of Association of Women's Health, Obstetric, Neonatal, Nurses
- \* NJ Chapter — International Association of Forensic Nurses
- \* Partnership for Maternal and Child Health of Northern NJ
- \* Central Jersey Family Health Consortium
- \* Southern NJ Perinatal Cooperative