



Institute for Community Health

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"PAVE"ing the way to safety from domestic violence: First steps in the implementation of computerized screening.

Sunni Lyn Mumford; Gretchen Sherwood; Megan Gerber, MD, MPH; and Kathleen Harney, MD.

DEVELOPMENT: Domestic violence (DV) is a major public health problem. Yet, the benefit of universal screening in healthcare settings remains controversial and has not been directly linked to improved health outcomes. Most patients welcome screening. Computerized screening is private and allows for concomitant delivery of basic education and resource information. Prevention Against Violent Experiences (PAVE) is a collaborative project between a local health department, a medical system, and a community-based research institute. We piloted a computerized DV screening program for two Women's Health Clinics at a community-based public hospital system which serves a diverse, underserved population. The goals of the project are to increase screening rates in the clinics, provide advocacy to abused women patients and to measure the change in health status after screening and intervention. **IMPLEMENTATION:** DV response training for providers and clinic personnel is an integral part of this intervention. We will review the initial phases of the project which included 1) staff training, 2) development of the software, and 3) implementation of screening. **EVALUATION:** Pre-intervention screening rates will be based on data from a retrospective medical record review, beginning six months prior to the training and screening intervention. We will examine 300 records for documentation of DV identification and referral. Differences in rates between types of visit (gynecological, prenatal, postpartum), and language group (English, Portuguese, Spanish, Haitian Creole) will also be determined. Evaluation of the staff-training program will be based on pre- and post-training survey results of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors.