

8.3.5 INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE/DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Policy: Title X providers should screen male and female clients for intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV). Clients who screen positive should be referred to intervention services in accordance with American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommendations and Montana Title X Family Planning Administrative Manual, Policies 8.13.1, *Social Service Referral Guidelines* and 8.13.2, *Medical Service Referral Guidelines*.

Populations at particular risk for IPV and DV include:

1. Pregnant women
2. Male and female adolescent
3. Immigrant women
4. Women with disabilities
5. Elderly women
6. Male and female lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) clients

Procedure:

1. For all clients, screening should occur at visits related to:
 - a. Periodic physical assessments
 - b. Contraceptive services
 - c. Pregnancy testing and counseling
 - d. Sexually transmitted infection (STI)
 - e. Preconception
 - f. Achieving pregnancy
 - g. Basic infertility
2. For women who are pregnant, screening may occur at various times over the course of the pregnancy because some women do not disclose abuse the first time they are asked and abuse may begin later in the pregnancy. Screening can occur:
 - a. At the first prenatal visit
 - b. At least once per trimester, and
 - c. At the postpartum checkup
3. Screening questions for IPV and DV are included on the client health history collected during the initial visit. Reassessment of IPV and DV should be conducted at least annually, or as appropriate for clients with identified risk factors. Screening may be conducted by making the following statement and asking:
 - a. Because violence is common in many women's lives, and because there is help available for women being abused, I now ask every client about domestic violence.
 - b. Within the past year, or since you have been pregnant, have you been hit, slapped, kicked or otherwise physical hurt by someone?
 - c. Are you in a relationship with a person who threatens or physically hurts you?
 - d. Has anyone forced you into sexual activities that made you feel uncomfortable?
4. Title X providers should consider the possibility of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape or incest, and human trafficking when screening for IPV and DV.
5. All providers must be trained in the mandatory reporting or notification of child abuse, child molestation, sexual abuse, rape or incest, and human trafficking (see MT TX FP Administrative Manual, Policy, 2.10, *Mandatory Reporting* and Policy 4.3, *Training and Technical Assistance*).
6. Referral sources should be current and readily available (see MT TX FP Administrative Manual, Policy 8.13.1, *Social Service Referral Guidelines* and Policy 8.13.2, *Medical Services Referral Guidelines*).
7. Referrals must be appropriately documented.