

GET THE FACTS

How common is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among pregnant people?

Domestic and sexual violence is a costly and pervasive problem, and people of reproductive age, in particular those ages 16-24, are at the greatest risk. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) defines IPV as “physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse”.

Every year in the U.S., more than 300,000 pregnant people experience some kind of violence involving an intimate partner.

(Source: <https://nationalpartnership.org/report/intimate-partner-violence>)

Signs that a pregnant person has been or is being abused may include:

- A pregnancy conceived through sexual assault, marital rape, or inability to negotiate contraceptive use.
- A reluctance or refusal to receive prenatal care, prenatal education, and/or postnatal care.
- Unexplained bruising or damage to their breasts, abdomen, or genitals resulting in serious consequences for the parent, fetus, and/or newborn.
- A refusal to support them financially during pregnancy, refusing to provide money for food and supplies, or forcing the pregnant partner to work beyond what is reasonable.

WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR?

What are the risks to my patient's health and the health of their baby?

People experiencing abuse in the year prior to and/or during a recent pregnancy are 40-60% more likely than non-abused people to report a number of health issues including high blood pressure, vaginal bleeding, kidney or urinary tract infections, hospitalization during pregnancy, and more. Additionally, they are 37% more likely to deliver preterm.

(Source: 6 Silverman, JG, Decker, MR, Reed, E, Raj, A. Intimate Partner Violence Victimization Prior to and During Pregnancy Among Women Residing in 26 U.S. States: Associations with Maternal and Neonatal Health. American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology 2006; 195(1): 140-148).

Violence is linked to a wide range of reproductive health issues including sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and miscarriages. IPV during pregnancy is also linked with higher rates of depression, suicide attempts, and substance abuse, all of which negatively affects the developing fetus.

(Source: “The Facts on Reproductive Health and Violence Against Women. Futures Without Violence, www.futureswithoutviolence.org)

Helping pregnant victims of IPV

If you recognize that your pregnant patient is showing signs of intimate partner violence, there is help available. For a full list of service providers in Nevada, please visit www.ncedsv.org/find-help.

YOU CAN HELP BY...

Annual reproductive health screenings as well as any follow-up appointments are opportunities to screen for domestic and sexual violence.

Clinical studies have proven the effectiveness of private, confidential 2-minute screenings for early detection of abuse in pregnant people. IPV screening is another tool for health care providers to help parents achieve a safe childbirth.

Evidence-based information empowers patients

- Screening for abuse should be private for safety and to encourage trust.
- Survivors simply ask that health providers listen and remain nonjudgmental. Gentle reminders that abuse is never their fault and that nothing justifies mistreatment help build trust.
- Don't push for disclosure. Fear their spouse will see the notes in an electronic record may keep them from it. Any change by the victim can escalate their partners' violence.
- Concern for children's safety and their own is real. Information about and referrals to appropriate services enable victims to act and become not only survivors but to thrive again.
- Provide information that is safe for the patient to have. Posters, discrete printed information with local or national resources is an important first step in their healing.



IF YOU NEED HELP, PLEASE CALL:

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1.800.799.7233

Text "START" to 88788

1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

www.thehotline.org

National Sexual Assault Hotline

1.800.656.4673

www.rainn.org

Both hotlines provide crisis intervention, information, referrals and safety planning. They are toll-free, confidential, anonymous and operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Se habla español

www.stoprelationshipabuse.org

www.preventchildabuse.org

www.loveisrespect.org (chat or text)

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Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is a statewide organization that was formed in 1980 to work toward the elimination of domestic and sexual violence against all persons and the empowerment of women and children.

NCEDSV helps Nevada's communities respond creatively and effectively to the needs of victims of violence by providing information to service providers in the fields of domestic and sexual violence. In addition, NCEDSV provides education and advocacy to the general public and actively educates legislators on issues of concern to Nevada families.



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PREGNANCY & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE



**PREGNANCY SHOULD BE A TIME OF HOPE
AND EXCITEMENT, BUT ABUSE DURING
PREGNANCY IS MORE COMMON THAN MOST
PEOPLE THINK.**