

Barriers to Identification

Institutional Barriers

- Lack of privacy
- Safety measures
- Ill defined system for intervention
- No routine inquiry
- Lack of defined protocols
- Time constraints
- Personnel needs
- Translation services
- Social services
- Community connections
- No educational/informative information

Professional Barriers

- Time constraints that limit clinical contact
- Possible court appearances
- Reimbursement issues
- Lack of knowledge about how to effectively intervene
- Mandated reporting requirements
- "Not in my job description"
- Cynicism about available resources

Personal Barriers

- Misconceptions about a personality type that is a batterer or victim
- Victims may have multiple layers of social/medical problems—Pandora's box
- Derogatory terms used to describe patients with complicated social/health needs
- Misinformation or lack of training about how to intervene
- Personal biases
- Belief in the family and home as private domain
- Personal experience
- Home is the man's castle
- Concern for personal safety
- Frustration that problem can't easily be fixed
- Frustration as victims return to batterers or return injured

Promoting Disclosure

Establish an ambiance that promotes disclosure

- Posters: designed and posted
- Educational material: generated, distributed and maintained in languages needed in that community
- Referral/shelter numbers: updated and available for patients to access without having to disclose
- Available childcare on premises
- Private, secure space

Provide Clinician Support

- Sufficient time for the interview
- Screening, assessment and response protocols clearly defined
- Clear referral patterns and accessible resources
- Appropriate reimbursement for the complex nature of domestic violence
- Standardized forms readily available
- Coverage for possible court appearances

