



## Women's Health Council of RI

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

---

**Ask about abuse in a safe, private setting.**

**Avoid generic questions like  
"Are you being abused?"**

**Use behaviorally specific inquiry. Ask about  
specific acts of violence, for example:**

- Is anyone close to you threatening or hurting you?
- Is anyone hitting, kicking, choking or hurting you physically?
- Is anyone forcing you to do something sexually that you do not want to do?

[www.womenshealthcouncil.org](http://www.womenshealthcouncil.org)

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

---

**If a patient discloses abuse:**

- Validate her situation ("You're not alone"; "No one deserves to be abused")
- Assess her safety ("Do you feel safe to go home"; "Is there a gun in the house")
- Provide resources (e.g., phone numbers of domestic violence hotlines)
- Make a follow-up appointment to discuss the abuse and a safety plan
- Document abuse history in the medical record

**Consider the long term health consequences  
for the woman and her family.**

#### Resources

RI Victims of Crime Helpline (800) 494.8100

Women's Center of Rhode Island 401 861.2760

Sojourner House 401 658.4334

Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center 401 723.3057

Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center 401 738.1700

Domestic Violence Resource Center 401 782.3990

Women's Resource Center of Newport &  
Bristol Counties 401 846.5263

Day One 401 421.4100

RI Coalition against Domestic Violence 401 467.9940

Close to Home: 617.929.5151 info@c2home.org

**GOAL** We are successful when every victim of intimate partner violence is automatically referred to appropriate care and followed up with a safety plan in place.

[www.womenshealthcouncil.org](http://www.womenshealthcouncil.org)