

**GOLISANO CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL AT STRONG**

<p><b>Domestic Violence (DV)</b>  <b>Have you screened today?</b></p>
<p><b>How big is this problem?</b> Statistics from <a href="http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention">www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nearly one out of three women aged 18 and older and one out of four men in the United States have been victims of domestic violence.</li> </ul>
<p><b>What is Domestic Violence?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A pattern of behaviors used to gain and maintain power and control over another person(s).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why do we need to ask?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The AAP recommends pediatricians attempt to recognize evidence of family violence and refer to a domestic violence specialist to maximize safety.</li> <li>Children who witness domestic violence show such symptoms as stuttering, bedwetting, insomnia, separation anxiety, difficulty concentrating, headaches, abdominal pain, and aggressive behavior.</li> <li>Children who live in homes where there is domestic violence happening to an adult also suffer abuse or neglect at high rates.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Why don't we ask?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fear of offending. Lack of time. Discomfort with the subject.</li> <li>Biases about who is affected e.g. socio-economic status, race, age, education, marital status (none of which matter).</li> <li>Inability or discomfort in knowing how to help.</li> </ul>
<p><b>How can we ask? Be gentle but direct with your lead in questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I have a few questions to ask that may be difficult to answer."</li> <li>"I ask all my patients this question because I want you to know this is a safe place where help is available. Your health and well-being are important to me."</li> <li>"Are you in a relationship where you are being hurt physically or emotionally?"</li> <li>"Have you ever been emotionally or physically harmed by someone? By this I mean have you ever been hit, kicked, slapped, punched, isolated from your family or someone important to you by your partner?"</li> </ul>
<p><b>If "Yes:"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"I am sorry to hear this has happened to you. You have the personal right to be safe in your relationships. What do you feel you need to be safe today and how can we support you?"</li> </ul> <p><b>If "No:"</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"That's so great because you have the personal right to be safe and anything less than that is not OK. If anything ever changes for you, this is a safe place that we can talk about it to help you figure out what you may need in order to be safe."</li> </ul>

## RESOURCES AND SERVICES

**2-1-1/LifeLine**  
24 Hour Hotline  
2-1-1 or (877) 356-9211  
Website: [www.211lifeline.org](http://www.211lifeline.org)

**Willow Domestic Violence Center**  
24 Hour Hotline & Text Line:  
(585) 222-SAFE (7233)  
Website: [www.willowcenternv.org](http://www.willowcenternv.org)

**RESTORE: Sexual Assault Services**  
24 Hour Hotline:  
(585) 546-2777 or (800) 656-4673  
Website: [www.restoresas.org](http://www.restoresas.org)

**Lifespan** (Elder Abuse)  
24 Hour Hotline  
(866) 454-5100  
Website: [www.lifespan-roch.org](http://www.lifespan-roch.org)

**National Domestic Violence Hotline**  
24 Hour Hotline  
(800) 799-SAFE (7233)  
Website: [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

**Alert! If you're in danger, dial 911.**

### **For more background information:**

1. New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NYSCADV):  
<http://www.nyscadv.org>
2. National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV):  
[www.nnedv.org](http://www.nnedv.org)
3. National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (VAWNet):  
[www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org)
4. National Sexual Violence Resource Center: [www.nsvrc.org](http://www.nsvrc.org)

### **Domestic Violence and the Law**

If your patient asks how to file an order of protection or has legal questions about domestic violence, call the **Willow Court Advocacy Program (CAP)** at (585) 371-3535 or visit <https://willowcenternv.org/our-services/court-advocacy/>

If you notice anything that needs to be updated or corrected, please contact The Hoekelman Center [www.hoekelmancenter.org](http://www.hoekelmancenter.org)

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