## A New Approach to Screening for Intimate Partner Violence: Investigating and Addressing Current Intimate Partner Violence Screening Tools in the Primary Care Setting

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### Background

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses a
  wide range of behaviors ranging from sexual or
  physical violence to psychological aggression
  such as limiting access to financial resources,
  demeaning or threatening remarks.
- Some of the devastating health consequences of IPV include depression, PTSD, STIs, and unplanned pregnancies. These outcomes have a negative impact on patients' holistic health; therefore, providers should have a way to screen those who may be at risk.
- Some of the concerns with current IPV screening tools include the lack of standardization, underutilization, outdated questions, and the self-reported nature.

### Study Aim

• To investigate the **frequency** and **effectiveness of IPV screening** within a primary care setting with the goal of **improving the quality and utilization of standardized IPV screening tools.** 





### Methods

### Design

- Perform a retrospective systematic literature review, using recently published and peer reviewed sources, on current IPV screening practices to identify gaps in current screening tools
- Condense these findings into recommendations for an improved approach to screening practices in primary care settings.
- IRB exempt

### Results

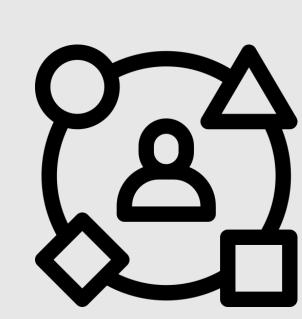
### Themes Description

## Lack of frequent and diverse screening



- A recent systematic review found that rates of routine screening vary and are typically low, ranging from 2% to 50% of clinicians reporting "always" or "almost always" routinely screening for IPV
- USPSTF current recommendations for IPV screening:
  - 1. Women of reproductive age  $\rightarrow$  screen
  - 2. Older and more vulnerable adults  $\rightarrow$  no recommendation

# Lack of inclusivity of current ACOG screening tool



### Current recommendation – 5 question screening tool from ACOG, 2019 (not standardized)

1. Has anyone ever touched you against your will or without your consent?

A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control found that:

- 2. Have you ever been forced or pressured to engage in sexual activities when you did not want to?
- 3. Have you ever had unwanted sex while under the influence of alcohol or drugs?
- 4. Do you feel that you have control over your sexual relationships and will be listened to if you say "no" to sexual activities?
- 5. Is your visit today because of a sexual experience you did not want to happen?

## Changing demographics of those experiencing IPV •



- 13.1% of lesbians and
- 46.1% of bisexual women report experiencing rape during their lifetime
- 46.4% of lesbians,
- 74.9% of bisexual women,
- 40.2% of gay men, and
- 47.4% of bisexual men experienced other forms of sexual violence
- This literature shows that we need to start expanding recommendations for screening and recognize the diverse demographics of those experiencing

### Outdated definition of IPV



- Intimate partner violence has been most studied in the male-female binary as a man committing an act of violence against a woman
- Classical definitions of IPV focus on the physical and sexual abuse that women face, leaving out the emotional and psychological aggression and our screening tools reflect this
- Recent literature shows that this definition no longer correctly characterizes the wide breadth of relationships, gender identities, sexual orientations and other identities of our population

### Conclusions

### **Key Findings**

- **IPV disclosure** to PCPs can be key for trauma survivors
- The changing demographics of those experiencing IPV requires more frequent and diverse screening using informed and inclusive screening questions.

#### **Future Research**

- Survey of Primary Care Providers to further elucidate frequency of screening, screening tools used and anecdotal demographics of their patient populations experiencing IPV
- Creation of a new screening tool with trial of its efficacy
- Increased research on demographic prevalence of IPV in marginalized communities to strengthen USPSTF recommendations

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