

PROVIDER GUIDE: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AND SUBSTANCE USE

This guide is designed to help health and human service professionals provide support and safety planning for people experiencing IPV who use substances.

OBSTACLES THE CLIENT MAY FACE

- Stigma for experiencing IPV and for using substances
- Fear of losing their children
- Lack of services for expecting parents experiencing IPV who use substances
- Being forced to prioritize safety over sobriety or sobriety over safety
- Threats and other control tactics to keep survivor under the influence



THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN INTERACTING WITH THE CLIENT

Lethality

Use of substances by either partner in an IPV situation can increase the level of danger.

Stigma

The client may experience shame, guilt, and self-blame because of stigma surrounding substance use and IPV.

Power & Control

The partner acting abusively may keep the client under the influence to maintain power and control. Example tactics: threats of harm for not using substances.

Treatment Program

Some treatment providers may not take safety threats seriously, blame survivor's substance use for the violence, or disempower the survivor further.

Shelters

The client may be afraid to seek shelter, or may not be eligible for shelter, because of policies surrounding substance use.



USEFUL QUESTIONS TO ASK THE CLIENT

① Do you ever use substances to deal with your relationship?

Help the client identify additional areas of risk created by substance use. Intoxication or “blacking out” can make it hard to assess safety or enact safety plans. Discuss options to decrease the amount used or increase safety surrounding substance use. Assess for coping mechanisms that could be tried before turning to substances.

② Is your partner ever high or drunk during violent incidents?

Intoxicated violent partners increase levels of lethality risk. Let the client know that this makes you especially concerned.

③ Does your partner ever pressure or threaten you to take substances with them?

Acknowledge that substance use may be an effective short-term safety strategy in certain situations. Do not pressure the client to become abstinent without a safety plan in place if substance use is part of power and control tactics.

④ Does your partner ever pressure or force you to engage in sex with other people in exchange for money or substances?

The client may be experiencing intimate partner trafficking. Be aware of additional stigma and fear of arrest. Offer client options for IPV support as well as support from organizations that assist survivors of human trafficking.

RESOURCES

Philadelphia Domestic Violence Hotline

1 (866) 723-3014

Confidential help 24/7 with interpretation available.

Salvation Army New Day to Stop Trafficking

(267) 838-5866

easternusa.salvationarmy.org

Confidential support and technical assistance available 24/7. Connection to services for individuals experiencing trafficking or exploitation by the commercial sex industry. Translation services available.

IPV & RECOVERY COUNSELING

Women In Transition

(215) 751-1111

helpwomen.org

Free counseling for adults who have experienced IPV and substance use.

SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT

Community Behavioral Health (CBH)

1 (888) 545-2600

cbhphilly.org

Connection to substance use and behavioral health providers

Behavioral Health Services Initiative (BHSI)

(215) 546-1200

bhsi-dbhids.org

Provide assessments, referrals and funding support for persons who are uninsured or underinsured with substance abuse problems and who can access licensed treatment programs.

HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES

Philadelphia Fight

(215) 709-3381

fight.org

Clinic providing primary care services as well as Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and harm reduction services.

Prevention Point Philadelphia

(215) 634-5271

ppponline.org

Harm reduction clinic providing HIV and HCV testing and treatment, wound care, a drop-in center, and syringe service program.

Project SAFE

(866) 509-7233

Projectsafe.dreamhost.com

A grassroots, peer-based harm reduction organization for sex workers and people who use drugs. Provide harm reduction supplies, food, and safety information.

Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction (SUPHR)

substanceusephilly.com/get-supplies

Provides naloxone and fentanyl test strips to individuals and organizations. Visit the website for a full list of organizations that provide harm reduction training and supplies.

SUPPORT FOR PREGNANT PEOPLE AND PARENTS

Philadelphia Doula Support Program

phillylovesfamilies.com/doula-support

Support for pregnant and postpartum parents with a focus on parents with a history of substance use disorder.

Maternal Addiction Treatment, Education & Research (MATER)

1 (800) JEFF-NOW

Jeffersonhealth.org

Mindfulness-based substance use disorder program for pregnant and parenting women.

Interim House Inc.

(215) 849-4606

Interimhouse.phmc.org

Short and long-term residential treatment program, halfway house, and outpatient counseling program for women with substance use and mental health disorders.

Gaudenzia Kindred House

(610) 399-6571

Gaudenzia.org

A therapeutic and residential community serving pregnant and parenting women with substance use disorder.

Genesis II, Caton Village: Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program

(215) 978-8010

philadelphia.pa.networkofcare.org

Residential treatment center for pregnant and parenting women who use substances.