

# DVC/Region 6 Intimate Partner Violence Survey Results

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## Network Provider's Survey

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF RESPONDERS

**73 providers completed the survey**

**\*\*IPV—Intimate Partner Violence**

#### Licenses:

- Majority were 'none' (64%)
- Second was LMHP (22%)
- Third was LIMHP (11%)

#### Job Titles

- Majority were Case Managers (46%)
- Second were Therapists (28%)
- Third were Social Workers (21%)

#### Years Working in Behavioral Health

- Almost one-third have been in the field for 6-10 years

#### Percentage of Clients you believe are victims of IPV

- Majority (33%) answered between 10-25%
- Second (27%) answered 25-50%
- Third (22%) answered 50-75%

#### Percentage of Clients you believe are offenders of IPV

- Majority (36%) answered under 10%
- Second (28%) answered between 10-25 %
- Third (24%) answered between 25-50%

# Overview of Responses

## Areas of Strength

- 97% of participants would tell the client if they were concerned about their safety
- The majority were able to define intimate partner violence, were able to identify red flags and were knowledgeable of prevalence rates.
- The majority understood that intimate partner violence takes place at the same or higher rates in same-sex couples as with heterosexual couples.
- The majority were able to identify lethality risk factors.
- The majority understood the need to assess for their own personal risk when working with victims of intimate partner violence.
- The majority agreed or slightly agreed that children exposed to intimate partner violence are also at risk of being victims of other forms of violence.
- 86% agreed that it was their responsibility to voice concerns and assess for violence without the potentially abusive partner being present.
- 98% responded that community support was critical for victims of intimate partner violence.

## Areas for Improvement

### **IPV Batterer Dynamics**

- Almost 50% of participants believe that the most likely contributing factor of offender behavior is having a traumatic history. Only 15% believe it is based on beliefs, values and entitlements.
- About 69% of participants answered either slightly agreed or strongly agreed that the best intervention for batterers is psychotherapy.
- About one-third of respondents disagreed with this statement
- 82% slightly or strongly agreed that intimate partner violence can be caused by stress.
- 87% believe that alcohol and drug use is a major cause of intimate partner violence.

### **IPV Victim Dynamics**

- 34% disagreed with this statement: 'Men are victims of intimate partner violence as often as women'. In other words, the majority of respondents believe men are victims at the same rates as women.
- About 25% of participants answered neutral, slightly agree or strongly agree that some episodes of IPV are clearly provoked by the victim.
- Only 15% disagreed with this statement: If a victim is being beaten by an intimate partner they should immediately leave the relationship.
- Only about one-third of respondents believed victims would disclose if asked about intimate partner violence.

### **Lethality of IPV**

- Over 45% believed that victims are safer after leaving the relationship. However, over 86% slightly or strongly agreed that the victim is in the most danger when they have decided to leave the relationship.

### **Victims of IPV who are immigrants**

- Over half of participants responded that undocumented victims could not obtain a protection order.

### **Community Resources**

- Almost 50% stated that Douglas County Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Agency offers shelter services in Douglas County—this program does not exist.
- Almost 60% indicated WCA, which does not offer shelter services.
- Unfamiliar with SANE referrals

### **Training topics Requested**

- 43% answered ‘all topics’
- Almost 51% answered Treatment Approaches
- 49% answered community Resources
- 45% answered Batterer Dynamics, Impact on Children and Dynamics of IPV

### **Essay questions**

Most participants responded that they would suspect IPV and would further assess for IPV. However, some seemed to hesitate about conducting an assessment for IPV—‘would not ask directly’, ‘Would wait until more trust was developed’ ‘No, I don’t want to scare her off’. Question # 42 asked about comfort level in assessment and around 73% stated they were comfortable asking their clients about IPV, but there is discrepancy in the qualitative answers. This indicates that some providers may not have skills or knowledge in asking those tough questions.