

We Don't Know What We Don't Know

PA Education and Needs Assessment in Domestic Violence Awareness and Education

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Introduction

Domestic violence (DV) refers to abuse within the context of a relationship where one partner asserts power and control over the other. DV is a public health epidemic resulting in significant financial losses, increased access of the healthcare system and increased morbidity and mortality for victims. Most survivors interact multiple times with healthcare professionals.

Purpose

To assess PAs' self-perception of confidence in treating and managing patients who are survivors of DV and to gain an understanding of the breadth of provided training that PAs may have had on the topics.

Methods

7,000 attendees at AAPA 2019 were offered the survey, 1,181 PAs provided data; a subsequent survey went out to a random sample of PAs; 523 PAs provided data (rr = 9.4%).

Analyses were run using SPSS and included descriptive statistics, chi square tests of independence, and a mixed measures ANOVA.

Conclusions

- ARC PA Standards state that PA Education must include the “principles of violence identification and prevention.
- PAs see the value in additional training in these areas
- There is an opportunity to mandate more comprehensive training on a standardized basis.
- 30% of PAs regularly ask their patients about DV
- 51% say that they have never had training in the treatment/management of DV survivors.
 - Of those PAs who have, only 60% feel prepared.

Figure 1. Percentage of PAs Who Feel Adequately Prepared to Treat or Refer Victims of Domestic Abuse by Major Specialty Area

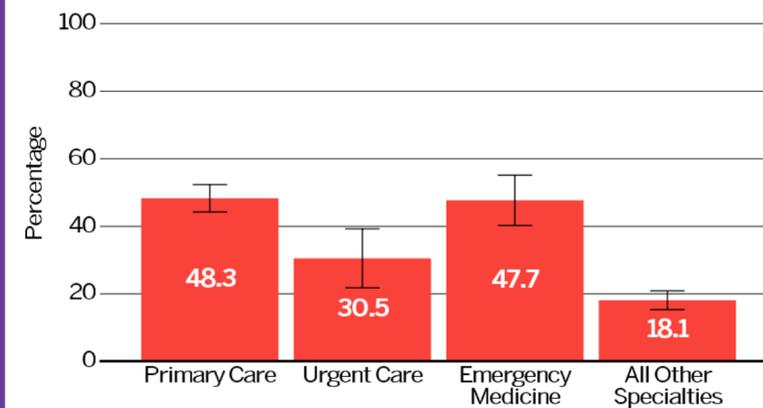
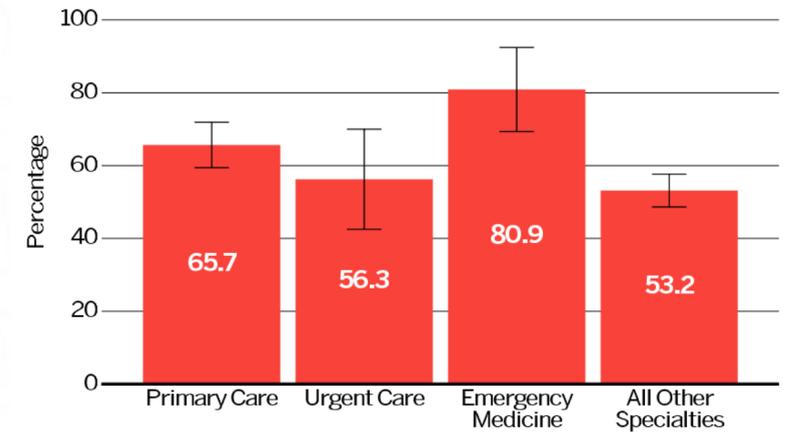
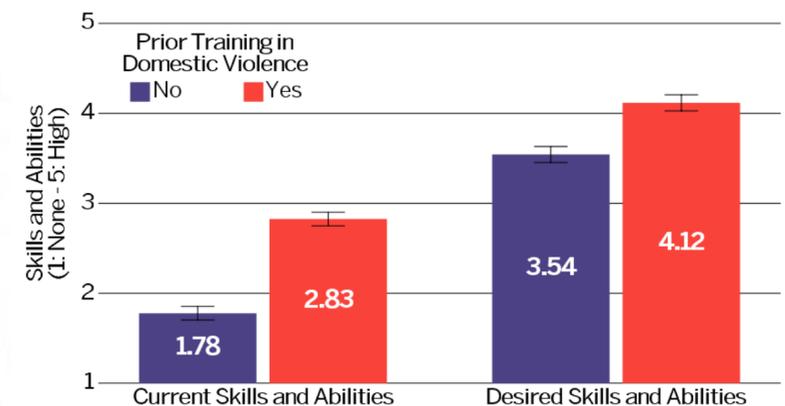


Figure 2. Percentage of PAs Who Regularly Ask New and Existing Patients About Domestic Violence

Figure 3. Current versus Desired Skills and Abilities on “Treating and Managing Survivors of Domestic Violence” by Whether a PA Had Prior Domestic Violence Training



References

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Intimate Partner Violence. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/index.html>.
- McCauley J, Kern DE, Kolodner K, et al. The “battering syndrome”: prevalence and clinical characteristics of domestic violence in primary care internal medicine practices. *Ann Intern Med* 1995; 123: 737–46.
- Wisner CL, Gilmer TP, Saltzman LE, Zink TM. Intimate partner violence against women: do victims cost health plans more? *J Fam Pract* 1999; 48: 439–43.