

# Intimate Partner Violence Screening for Adults at Risk for Suicide

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a pattern of coercive tactics that can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and emotional abuse, perpetrated by one person against another. On average, about 50% of women seen in mental health settings are survivors of IPV.

## Screening for Abuse and Violence

Behavioral healthcare providers should regularly screen every person for interpersonal violence risk.

1 Ask to speak with the person by themselves and disclose mandatory reporting.

2 Screen for abuse: *"I don't know if this has happened to you, but because so many people experience abuse and violence in their lives, it's something we talk to everyone about."*

*"Is there something about your home life that you would like to be different?"*

*"Are you currently in an abusive relationship?"*

3 Offer support: *"What can I help you with?"*

4 Provide a warm hand-off to a local IPV program.

## Resources for Individuals Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

### Find Your Local Crisis Line

<https://www.ocadsv.org/find-help>

### National Domestic Violence Hotline

800-799-7233 (SAFE)  
or text START to 88788

<https://www.thehotline.org>

### Call to Safety

503-235-5333  
or 800-235-5333

<https://calltosafety.org>

### National Sexual Assault Telephone Hotline

800-656-4673 (HOPE)

<https://rainn.org>

+ More information about IPV and suicide prevention, trainings and other resources can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3wgLaMz>

People in abusive situations might hesitate to involve law enforcement or community justice and may seek help elsewhere, including from mental healthcare providers. You can help.



## Quick Reference:

Intimate Partner Violence Screening & Suicide Prevention Screening



Suicide Prevention Screening

Intimate Partner Violence Screening



# Suicide Prevention for Adults Experiencing Intimate Partner Violence

Survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) may be at increased risk for suicide. Suicide is an impulsive act in a time of severe crisis. If a person in a crisis gets the help they need, they will probably never be suicidal again.

## Resources for Individuals at Risk for Suicide

### National Suicide Prevention Lifeline

800-273-talk (8255)  
[after 7/6/2022: call 988]  
or text 273TALK to 839863 Mon-Fri, 2pm-6pm PT

### Oregon Behavioral Health Support Line

800-923-4357

### Find Your Local Community Mental Health Program (CMHP)

800-923-4357  
<https://bit.ly/3w8X6Qp>

+ More information about IPV and suicide prevention as well as risk screeners and response protocols can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/3wglamz>



OCADSV  
<https://www.ocadsv.org>



OHA Suicide Prevention  
<https://bit.ly/3tBT7up>



PSU Regional Research Institute  
<https://bit.ly/3GoZZ0K>

## Screening for Suicide Risk

IPV advocates should screen every person for suicide risk. Asking someone directly about suicidal intent lowers anxiety, opens up communication, and lowers the risk of an impulsive act.

- 1 **Get trained to help and know your agency's suicide risk response protocol.**
- 2 **Introduce topic:** "Because people in your situation often feel depressed or hopeless, it's something we ask everyone about."

### 3 Ask Suicide-Screening Questions (ASQ):

**A** "In the past few weeks, have you wished you were dead?"

**B** "In the past few weeks, have you thought that you or your family would be better off if you were dead?"

**C** "In the past week, have you had thoughts of killing yourself?"

**D** "Have you ever tried to kill yourself? When? How?"

If NO to A, B, C, or D:

- ✓ Screening is complete. Check in again periodically to see how they are doing.

If YES to A, B, C, or D:

- ! Person should be evaluated for safety before they leave. Follow your agency's response protocol.

**E** "Are you having thoughts of killing yourself right now? Please describe."

If YES to E:

- ! **The risk is acute.** Keep the person in sight, remove all dangerous objects from the room and notify someone trained in responding to suicide risk. Follow your agency's response protocol.

Survivors of IPV may find accessing mental health care challenging for reasons related to the person using violence against them. You can help.

