Colorado Physicians' Preparedness, Attitudes, and Practices for Management of Intimate Partner Violence

Medha M. Gudavalli, BA[1], Anmol Singh, MS[2], Steven R. Lowenstein, MD, MPH[1], Karen Hampanda, PhD, MPH[4]

1. University of Colorado School of Medicine
2. Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine
3. Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Colorado School of Medicine

ABSTRACT

Introduction

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health concern with an estimated lifetime prevalence of 30% of the general patient population identifying as women. Patients experiencing IPV report poor experiences with the healthcare system, and physicians report a lack of confidence and resources in response to patient IPV disclosure. This study aims to measure physicians' self-reported preparedness to diagnose and manage IPV and to better understand the factors influencing physicians' preparedness and attitudes across various specialties.

Methods

Surveys were sent to a sample of volunteer, community-based faculty at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Participants (n=182) completed a modified online version of the Physician Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence Survey (PREMIS). Descriptive statistics, ANOVA, and simple and multivariable regression analyses were performed.

Results

Regression models indicated that previous IPV training and IPV clinic protocols significantly influenced perceived preparedness to manage IPV, victim-centered attitudes, and ability to diagnose IPV. About 40% of respondents had previous IPV training, and 40% reported IPV protocols in place at their clinical site. Factors such as age, gender, years in practice, and practice were not statistically significant influencers of preparedness, attitudes, or ability to diagnose IPV.

Discussion

Results from this study indicate a need for additional IPV training among physicians in Colorado and implementation of clinic-based IPV protocols.