

Family violence and routine screening - the impact on women's health



The Health of New Zealand Adults/children 2011/12:MoH

- 5% - adult diabetes
- 5% - adults with ischaemic heart disease
- 14% - children take medication for asthma
- 16% - adult depression/anxiety/bipolar
- 18% - adult current smokers (41% Maori)
- 28% - adults obese
- **25% - girls sexually abused before age 16.**
(10% - children physically abused)
- **33% - women hit or forced into sex with a partner.** *(rises to 55% when emotional abuse is included)*

Effects On Pregnancy

- Maternal Mental Health
- Repeated miscarriage
- Termination of pregnancy
- Ante partum haemorrhage
- Premature rupture of membranes
- Intra-uterine growth restriction
- Premature labour
- Abruptio placenta
- Stillbirth
- Low birth weight infants
- Fractures to foetus
- Ruptured uterus, liver or spleen



Some Health Consequences of Family Violence

- IHD – ischaemic heart disease Dong 2004
- Brain development and structure Anda 2006
- Liver disease Dong 2004
- Preterm labour Haran 2000
- Ovarian function Allsworth 2001
- Pituitary-adrenal and automatic dysfunction Helm 2000
- Thyroid dysfunction Friedman 2005
- Rheumatoid arthritis Felliti 2005
- Asthma Subramanian 2007
- Fibromyalgia Felliti 2005
- Chronic pain syndrome Felliti 2005
- Irritable bowel syndrome Dong 2004

Women's Health Family Violence Rates

Dept	Jan '13 Screening %	Jan '13 Disclosure %	April '13 Screening %	April '13 Disclosure %
Ward 97	72%	0	57%	3%
Tamaki	16%	0	15%	0
Ward 96	33%	0	32%	0
Ward 98	25%	0	30%	0
NICU	40%	2.5%	60%	0

Community Midwifery 2010

Number audited	1 st antenatal screen	2 nd antenatal screen	Post natal screen	Disclosure rate
60	57%	15%	45%	12%
4 patients were screened the 3 times that are recommended (7%)				

Family Violence Disclosure Rates

- 4.5% of general population disclosed FV in the last 12 months
- 21% of women presenting to CMDHB ED disclosed FV in the last 12 months
- 18% of women presenting to Whangarei ED disclosed FV in the last 12 months

Koziol-McLean J, Fanslow J. 2004

- 89% of women receiving antenatal care in NSW were screened
- 3.3% of those women disclosed

2011: New South Wales Ministry of Health. Snapshot Report 9

Low Disclosure rates

Patient factors

- Not safe or ready to disclose.
- Feels healthcare may be jeopardized by response.
- Concerned about outcome of disclosure

Health factors

- Lack of privacy
- Lack of time
- Language difficulties
- Lack of confidence
- Poor technique
- Not seen as health issue

LK 2012

- Ward 97
- Ward 98
- Outpatients (74 visits)
- APU
- Ward 96
- Wau
- Ward 91
- CEd
- 24A
- 23B
- Paediatric Homecare
- 25B
- DSU
- Paediatric outpatients
- Ward 61
- Physiotherapy
- General surgery
- Surgical readmission
- Gastroenterology
- AED



She said

- “every time she came into hospital she wanted to tell someone, that she wanted to say something to somebody”
- “she had made threats to her partner before to disclose the abuse but only got a ‘real hiding’ for saying that she was going to tell”
- “she said that in hindsight, if she had been asked each time she was in hospital, she may have said something”
- ‘why did you eventually tell? I thought my babies were going to die’”

Child protection cases and the women's health link. June 2013

- LB 4mth baby thrown on bed during FV. Possible head injury.
- T is 17yr old Mum.
- 10 inpatient visits
- 2 ED visits
- 143 outpatient visits

Never screened for Family violence according to ADHB documents.

- Disclosed to Te Puaruruhau, 2 year history of FV. # finger during assault by partner.

July 2013

- CF 25year old with 2 children
- Gang affiliations
- Ex partner grabbed her, she punched him and said
“don’t ever hit me while I’m pregnant or in front of my son”
- Ex partner left and she has not seen him since.
- Screened 1 month previously, didn’t disclose.