

Second research

Views of primary health care providers of the challenges to screening for intimate partner violence, Egypt

Background: Health care providers can play an important role in detection of intimate partner violence within healthservices, but barriers exist.

Aims: This study aimed to determine the barriers that health care providers in Fayoum, Egypt consider prevent them fromscreening for intimate partner violence.

Methods: This was a cross-sectional study between June 2018 and January 2019. The sample was health care providers(doctors, nurses, social workers and community workers) selected from government primary care centers in all seven districts of Fayoum. A validated Arabic version of the Domestic Violence Health Care Provider Survey was used to collect data.

Results: A total of 385 health care providers (92.7% women) agreed to participate (78.6% response rate). Just over half of theparticipants did not have access to social workers orcommunity workers or strategies to help victims of intimate partnerviolence. None had received training on screening for domestic violence. More than half (59.7%) thought that investigating the cause of intimate partner violence was not part of medical practice. Sex was significantly associated with perceivedself-efficacy, while age and occupation were significantly associated with referral management and health providers' attitude.

Conclusion: Primary health care providers perceived many barriers to screening for intimate partner violence. Trainingon screening for and managing intimate partner violence should be part of the professional development for all healthcare providers. An effective referral system is needed that ensures comprehensive services for victims.

Keywords: intimate partner violence, screening, health personnel, primary health care, Egypt