

Relationship Assessment Tool

Kansas Home Visiting

Date: _____

This is a self-administered tool for clients to fill out. If the caregiver was unable to complete this tool today, was it because other people were present in the home? Circle one: **Yes/No**

Other reason for not using the tool today: _____

We ask all of our families to complete this form. Everything you share with me is confidential unless I have reason to suspect that your children are being harmed or that you are in immediate danger of seriously hurting yourself or someone else. This information stays between us and helps me better understand how I can help you and your child(ren).

Here are 10 statements that other caregivers have used to describe their lives with their partners. For every question, please look at the scale and select the number (1-6) that best reflects how you feel. Answer the questions thinking about your current (or your most recent) partner. There are no right or wrong answers.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Disagree Strongly	Disagree Somewhat	Disagree a Little	Agree a Little	Agree Somewhat	Agree Strongly

- 1)** My partner makes me feel unsafe even in my own home..... _____
- 2)** I feel ashamed of the things my partner does to me..... _____
- 3)** I try not to rock the boat because I am afraid of what my partner might do..... _____
- 4)** I feel like I am programmed to react a certain way to my partner..... _____
- 5)** I feel like my partner keeps me prisoner..... _____
- 6)** My partner makes me feel like I have no control over my life, no power, no protection..... _____
- 7)** I hide the truth from others because I am afraid not to..... _____
- 8)** I feel owned and controlled by my partner..... _____
- 9)** My partner can scare me without laying a hand on me..... _____
- 10)** My partner has a look that goes straight through me and terrifies me..... _____

Thank you for completing this survey. Please give it back to your home visitor.

Home Visitors: To score, sum all of the items. The range is from 10 – 60.

A score of 20 or higher indicates a positive screen for IPV and referral information should be given.

MIECHV IPV Referral Information

Examples and Non-Examples

A score of 20 points or higher on the Relationship Assessment tool is considered a positive screen for IPV. When you enter the score into DAISEY, you will be prompted for a referral date if the score you entered was 20 points or higher. Examples and non-examples of actions or responses that could be recorded as providing a referral or referral information are listed below:

Examples of Referral Information

The following are examples of actions or responses that can be recorded as providing a referral or referral information after a positive IPV screen. The date when the referral was made or information was provided to a client following a positive IPV screen should be entered into DAISEY.

- Review the Healthy Moms, Happy Babies safety card and leave a copy if possible
- Respond to safety issues by creating a safety plan
- Provide local or national domestic violence hotline numbers or contact information
- Refer to domestic violence advocate or program
- If the caregiver is already receiving help from a domestic violence advocate or program, enter the date of the screening as the date of the referral

Non-Examples of Referral Information

The following examples are not considered as providing a referral or referral information for a positive IPV screen. Although these examples may be ways to respond to clients experiencing IPV, more information needs to be given to be counted as referral information.

- Educating the client about the cycles of abuse
- Making general statements such *“There are programs available to support you”* without providing contact information or helping connect that parent to a program
- Providing validating statements to the client such as:
 - “Domestic violence is common and happens in all kinds of relationships”
 - “Violence tends to continue and often becomes more frequent and severe”
 - “Abuse can impact your health in many ways”
 - “You are not to blame, but exposure to violence in the home can emotionally and physically hurt your children or other dependent loved ones”

Relationship Assessment Tool

Overview and Scoring Guidelines

The Relationship Assessment Tool is a screening tool for intimate partner violence (IPV). The tool, developed by Dr. Paige Hall and colleagues in the 1990's, was originally named the WEB (Women's Experiences with Battering). Terminology has since evolved in the field and the unique characteristic of this assessment tool which measures women's experiences in abusive relationships is more accurately reflected by using the name, Relationship Assessment Tool. References in the literature and publications use the original name, the WEB. The Relationship Assessment Tool and the WEB are the same tool and therefore supported by the same validation studies and research.

As opposed to focusing on physical abuse, the Relationship Assessment Tool (WEB) assesses for emotional abuse by measuring a woman's perceptions of her vulnerability to physical danger and loss of power and control in her relationship. Research has shown that the tool is a more sensitive and comprehensive screening tool for identifying IPV compared to other validated tools that focus primarily on physical assault. Evaluation studies of the Tool have demonstrated its effectiveness in identifying IPV among African-American and Caucasian women. The Relationship Assessment Tool (WEB) has not been validated with same sex partners; it can be adapted for use with same sex couples by changing "he" to "my partner" in the screening tool.

This tool can be self-administered or used during face-to-face assessment by a provider. A series of 10 statements ask a woman how safe she feels, physically and emotionally, in her relationship. The respondent is asked to rate how much she agrees or disagrees with each of the statements on a scale of 1 to 6 ranging from disagree strongly (1) to agree strongly (6). The numbers associated with her responses to the 10 statements are summed to create a score. A score of 20 points or higher on this tool is considered positive for IPV.

PUBLICATIONS ABOUT THE WEB:

Coker AL, Pope BO, Smith PH, Sanderson M, Hussey JR. Assessment of clinical partner violence screening tools. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association*. 2001(winter):19-23.

Smith PH, Thorton GE, DeVellis R, Earp JL, Coker AL. A population-based study of the prevalence and distinctness of battering, physical assault, and sexual assault in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women*. 2002;8(10):1208-1232.

Smith PH, Earp JL, DeVellis R. Measuring battering: Development of the Women's Experience with Battering (WEB) scale. *Women's Health: Research on Gender, Behavior, and Policy*. 1995;1(4):273-288.