

Arise to Safety

Project Summary & Goals

An investigative report from WDRB in December of 2014 found that domestic-violence related murders in Louisville tripled in number from 2013 to 2014. Research demonstrates that many victims seek medical care for conditions both directly and indirectly resulting from domestic violence. But without a standardized method to proactively screen for it, many instances of abuse go undetected. In response to this, KentuckyOne Health, the Center for Women and Families, and the Mary Byron Project decided to engage in strategic planning efforts to embark on a violence prevention initiative that addresses this issue.

Arise to Safety tested a standardized screening protocol and intervention to identify those at risk of experiencing domestic violence as well as connecting them with proper services from the Center for Women and Families. Utilizing the Bridge Program model, domestic violence training was provided to emergency room medical staff at both the University of Louisville and Jewish Hospitals. The project aimed to achieve four objectives:

Objective 1: Achieve hospital-level systems change to improve screening for domestic violence.

Objective 2: Increase number of patients identified and referred for services and employment stability.

Objective 3: Achieve positive health outcomes for domestic violence victims treated in the emergency department.

Objective 4: Decrease homicides resulting from domestic violence in Louisville.

Based on these objectives, the CIK team designed an evaluation to help KentuckyOne Health examine the effects of implementing the program and to measure success. Through surveys and semi-structured interviews, the utility and applicability of the screenings being used at University of Louisville Hospital and Jewish Hospital were analyzed.

Project Dates

July 2014-December 2017

Principal Investigators

Monica Wendel, DrPH

Monique Ingram, MPH

Communities and Partners Involved

The CIK team worked in conjunction with KentuckyOne Health, Center for Women and Families, as well as the Mary Byron Project.

Funders

KentuckyOne Health

Key Findings

The results of the surveys and interviews show that the emergency department staff at University of Louisville Hospital and Jewish Hospital have similar experiences when it comes to patients of domestic violence as well as the screening process in general.

We recommend that KentuckyOne Health do the following:

- Continue using the Arise to Safety screening protocol with every patient that enters the ED

Arise to Safety

- Ensure the screening protocol is being conducted in a private space
- Provide follow-up trainings with emergency department nursing staff, especially those who did not participate in the original training
- Continue evaluating emergency department nursing staff's self-efficacy toward facilitating the protocol and using the screening tool

The recommendations provided are intended to ensure the screening protocol is being utilized to the full potential of the program and that the emergency department staff are identifying and referring as many victims of intimate partner violence to the Center for Women and Families as well as other appropriate services as possible.