



Women's Council
· Wisconsin ·

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Health Cares About Violence Against Women Day
brings together public-private coalition to support healthy families
and healthy communities in Wisconsin.

20,000 Pocket Screen cards available to health care professionals in Wisconsin.

October 7, 2008 (Madison, WI) The Wisconsin Women's Council is honored to join with WPS Health Insurance, Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Wisconsin Medical Society, Wisconsin Nurses Association and Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation, and communities and organizations nationwide, in recognizing *Health Cares About Violence Against Women Day*.

As part of this effort, the Women's Council has joined forces to produce 20,000 Pocket Screening Cards to distribute to health care professionals across Wisconsin. A project led by the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Pocket Cards offer health care providers at-hand information to implement routine assessment and intervention for domestic violence, sexual assault and other violence against women and families as part of an ongoing preventative healthcare strategy.

Healthy families are the cornerstone of a prosperous and thriving Wisconsin. Yet we know that violence against women is a health care problem of epidemic proportions. Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives. Research has also documented the short- and long-term health consequence for victims and their families – as well as the costs to our economy for direct medical and mental health care services and productivity losses.

Health care providers have a unique opportunity to help women who are victims of violence by simply asking the right questions. While patients are routinely screened for health issues such as high blood pressure and cholesterol, too few are screened for domestic violence, sexual assault and other such trauma. By routinely screening patients and giving them information and referrals, we can make an enormous difference for women, and their families, across Wisconsin.

Steps Health Care Can Take Today

1. Prioritize routine assessment and screening for violence against women.
2. Hang posters and other information advertising local resource information to patients and staff – and let them know that your organization is a safe and caring place to raise issues of violence and safety.
3. Contact the Wisconsin Coalitions Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to find out about other ways you and your organization can show that *Health Cares*.

The Wisconsin Women's Council is Wisconsin's statutory commission on the status of women and girls. Founded in 1983, the 15-member bi-partisan Council is appointed by the Governor and legislative leaders. Learn more about the Wisconsin Women's Council by visiting our web site at <http://womenscouncil.wi.gov>.