



UNIVERSITY
OF KENTUCKY

Center for Oral Health Research

UK College of Dentistry
D542 Dental Science Bldg.
Lexington, Kentucky USA 40536-0297
TEL 859-323-8229
FAX 859-257-65663
e-mail: dlsatt00@uky.edu

"Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Training Needs of
Kentucky Dentists Regarding Violence Against Women"

Abstract:

Researchers have found that 23% of head and neck injuries not caused by automobile accidents were a result of domestic violence and that 94% of domestic violence victims had head or neck injuries or both. Dentists may be the first or only health care professional to treat patients who experience oral facial trauma resulting from domestic violence. The dentist is likely to see the signs of abuse while performing an oral examination or while delivering dental treatment related to trauma. However, in one national study it was reported that dentists receive little education in how to interview and treat victims of intimate partner violence in their curricula. A nationwide survey of a small sample of practicing dentists revealed that they feel poorly prepared to respond appropriately when faced with a patient who may be suffering abuse. The purpose of this study is to assess and compare the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and training needs of Kentucky dentists regarding violence against women.

PI: Judy Skelton, Ph.D.

Co-I: Larry Cunningham, Chris Herren, Fonda Robinson, Karen West

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Contact Person:

Judy Skelton, Ph.D.

University of Kentucky

Chandler Medical Center ,M-125

Lexington, KY 40536

Tel: (859) 323-2796

Fax: (859) 323-0066

Email: jskel0@pop.uky.edu