The Coordinating Committee on Women's Health represents Health and Human Services (HHS) agencies and offices throughout the Department. It has identified the prevention and intervention of domestic/intimate partner violence (IPV) as a priority focus for its cross-federal work. There is a critical need for guidelines for health practitioners to effectively screen patients for IPV and provide appropriate counseling, and HHS convened a research symposium at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on Monday December 9, 2013 to discuss it. The purpose of the Symposium was to identify gaps in research in screening and counseling for IPV in primary health care settings and to shape priorities in the national research agenda moving forward. Ultimately, the Department’s goal is to promote effective strategies for health care practitioners for screening and counseling.

The specific areas covered during the symposium were:

- Culturally-competent, comprehensive screening and counseling practices
- Barriers to screening for IPV
- Past and ongoing experiences of trauma
- The intersection of IPV and substance abuse
- Integrating screening into clinical settings
- The effects of screening and counseling on health, safety, and outcomes related to social and emotional well-being
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