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Andalusian public health system general practitioner trainees' knowledge of gender based violence

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Background: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is considered to be a major public health issue. General Practitioner Trainees (GPT) are often the earliest point of contact for abused women and play an essential role in assisting them and preventing future violence. In this sense, support and training approaches are continuously increasing within the health system.

Objective: the purpose of this study is to: a) assess GPT's knowledge level for the identification of gender-based violence victims; b) evaluate the need to develop instruments to enhance protocol accessibility.

Method: In May 2015 a cross-section study was conducted among GPT working in Córdoba (Andalusia). A "Google Form" was used in order to analyse: age and sex of the respondent, their knowledge level related to the mentioned topic, the attitude when dealing with a real case of GBV and the need to develop instruments that allow easier access to information.

Results: the total participants were 54, 58% of whom were women with an average age of 27. 84,5% think that GBV is a frequent issue and only 13% faced a real case of gender-based violence. With regards to their knowledge level, most of them (86%) had a lack of information or have not received proper training (77%). Access to the protocol is low (54% do not have any access) and all those who were interviewed believe that new instruments must be developed in order to allow easier access to information (94%).

Conclusion: the participants recognize Gender- Based Violence as a major health problem. Therefore, in order to guarantee a substantial improvement in their service, the introduction of training programs is considered to be essential. In the same way, easier access to information needs to be guaranteed through enhancement of available instruments. They believe that only in this way the battle against Gender-Based Violence can be won.