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Asking about violence in the health care system

Oslo, March 8th, 2018

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NCK is commissioned by the Swedish Government to:

- Collect and spread knowledge, research and methods
- Provide training for students and professionals
- Do clinical research
- Develop new methods
- Support government agencies and organisations
- Provide support for women

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Governmental commission initiated
by the Minister of Justice in order to
National Action Programme
for the Management of
Victims of Sexual Assault

- improve the medical and psychosocial care
- clarify the health care services' role in the judicial process



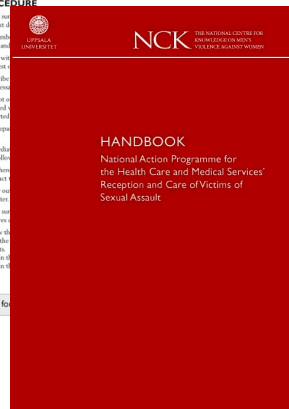
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To bear in mind when meeting the patient

PRIORITY PROCEDURE

Security	Make the patient safe
Control	Remember: Ask and assess
Privacy	Meet in a private room
Information	Describe if necessary
Evidence collection	Do not do anything until you have collected evidence
Allow the patient to recount events	Do not pressure the patient
Child victims	A parallel process
Children at home	Are they safe? Contact the police
The patient's need for protection	Carry out a risk assessment
Follow-up	Make sure the patient receives follow-up
Forensic medical report	Follow the guidelines for reporting. Obtain the patient's consent



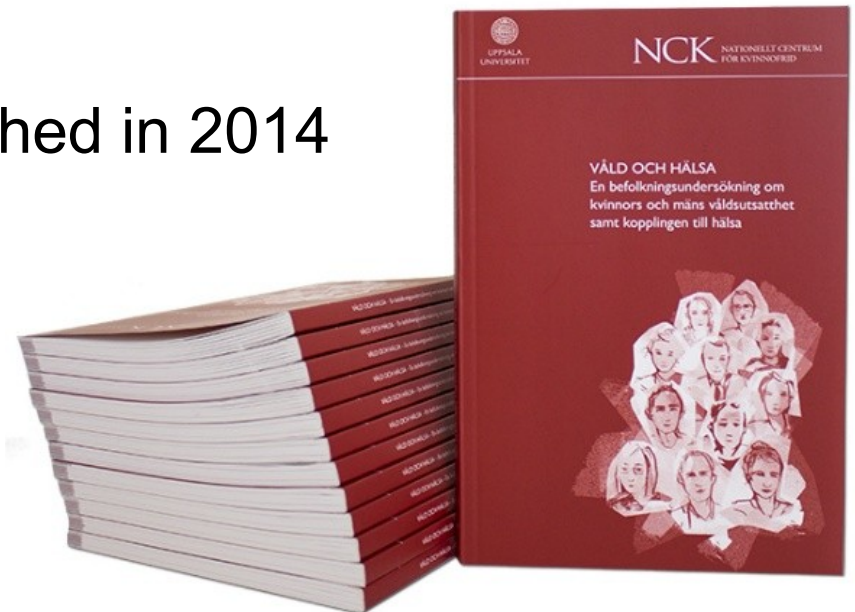
Only include the following



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“Violence and Health in Sweden”

- National prevalence study
- 10,000 women and 10,000 men
- Exposure to sexual, physical and psychological violence during lifetime
- Links to health
- First report published in 2014



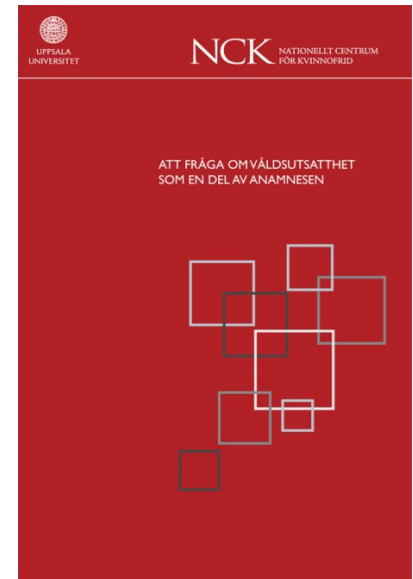
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Governmental commission: Methods for asking about violence in the health care

- Violence affects the health in many different ways
- Very few tell the doctor spontaneously
- Anthology; 19 authors, experts in their fields



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Benefits of identifying abuse

- Adequate help for women subjected to violence can be provided
- Can explain symptoms
- Improved quality of life for the woman
- Less use of health care resources



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Positive reactions

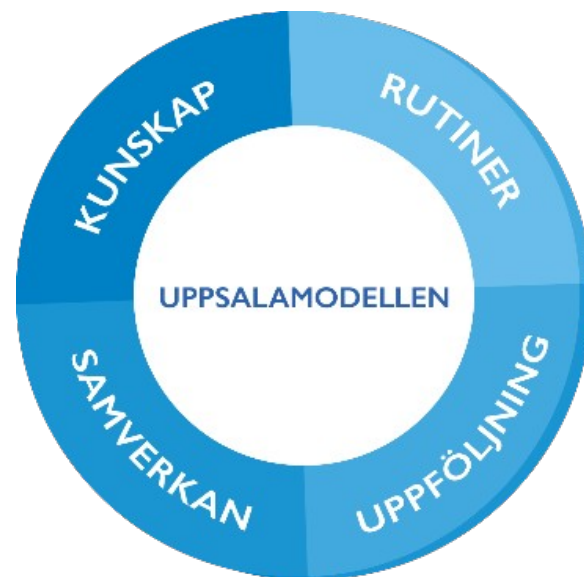
Studies show that

- Most women find it positive to be asked
- Very few find it disagreeable
- They wish to be asked in safe and confidential surroundings

“Men’s Violence against Women – a Challenge in Antenatal Care”
Stenson (2004)



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The Uppsala Model

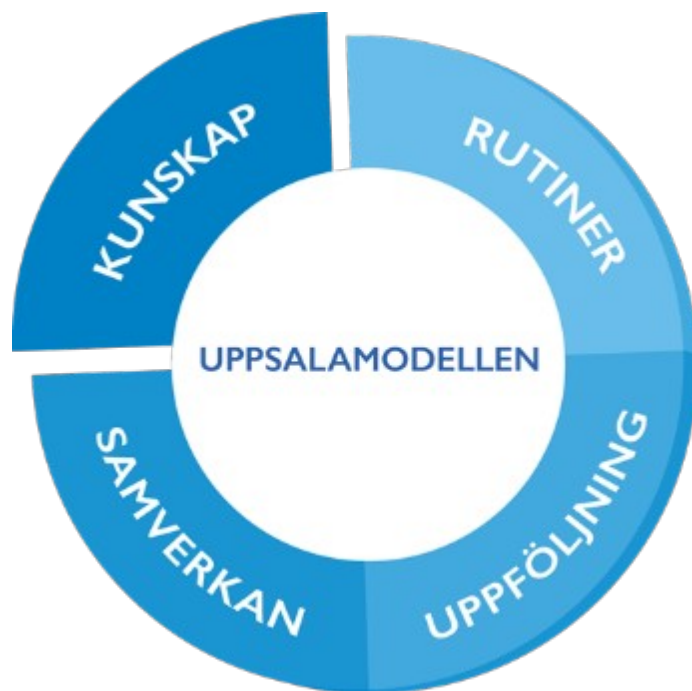
KNOWLEDGE - ROUTINES - COLLABORATION - FOLLOW-UP

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Knowledge is necessary in order to change attitudes and secure that victims of violence receive appropriate support and care.

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”A week against violence”

Implementing the Uppsala Model

Actions linked to WHO’s and UN’s awareness campaigns on ”16 days against violence”

Lectures, training and information package to all heads of clinics



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Web resources for health care professionals

- NCK and the National Board of Health and Welfare
- Facts, methods and training films
- Based on the Uppsala Model



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E-learning on violence against women

- Introduction course for professionals
- Increase the level of knowledge nationally
- Free of charge
- For individuals or groups
- Launched in September 2016



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Kvinnofridslinjen – Sweden's National Helpline

- Commissioned by the Swedish Government
- Run by NCK's clinical unit at Uppsala University Hospital
- Started in December 2007
- 30 000 calls/year (population in Sweden 10 million)

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Professional and easily accessible

- Open 24/7/365
- Professional staff
- Free call, does not appear on the phone bill
- Information about local resources all over Sweden: women's shelters, social service, medical care et cetera
- Access to interpreters
- Website
- Information available in 27 languages



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www.kvinnofridslinjen.se/en

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Kvinnofridslinjen – Sweden's National Women's Helpline

Kvinnofridslinjen [020-50 50 50](tel:020-505050) offers support to those subjected to violence and threats.

Need someone to talk to?

Call us if you would like to talk about your experiences.

[Read more](#)

For Family and Friends

To suspect or know that someone you know is affected by violence can create anxiety and frustration.

[Read more](#)

Questions and Answers

We receive many questions about all forms of violence every day.

[Read more](#)



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