

HITS (Hurt-Insult-Threaten-Scream) is a domestic violence screening tool developed and tested in a female population at Christ Hospital in Chicago. This tool was developed as a simple, brief instrument for use in clinical settings to identify victims of domestic violence.

HITS consists of the following four screening questions: “Over the last 12 months, how often did your partner: physically hurt you, insult you or talk down to you, threaten you with physical harm, and scream or curse at you?” Patients respond to each of these items with a 5-point frequency format: never, rarely, sometimes, fairly often, and frequently. Score values could range from a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 20.

Over the last 12 months, how often did your partner:	Never 1	Rarely 2	Sometimes 3	Fairly Often 4	Frequently 5
Physically HURT you					
INSULT you or talk down to you					
THREATEN you with physical harm					
SCREAM or curse at you					

Although the performance of HITS under research conditions is notable, physicians should investigate domestic violence whenever they believe a patient is faced with this problem, irrespective of a score on a screening instrument. Neither HITS nor any other tool should be used in lieu of good clinical judgment. As always, clinical acumen should outweigh test scores if there appears to be a discrepancy between the two.

Sherin KM, Sinacore JM, Li XQ, Zitter RE, Shakil A. HITS: a short domestic violence screening tool for use in a family practice setting. *Fam Med* 1998; 30(7):508-12.