

Strengthening Communication - How Do You Feel About...?

To better serve your clients, you need to feel comfortable discussing a variety of sensitive topics with clients AND have the ability to provide care to a variety of clients. The following exercise will help you evaluate your own readiness to discuss important issues with your diverse clientele who come to you with a wide range of needs. **Instructions:** For each of the 20 topics listed, put a check in the column(s) that reflect your feelings. Notice which statements are more challenging for you.

TOPIC	<i>I have enough information to talk about this topic with a client.</i>	<i>I have enough experience to talk about this topic with a client.</i>	<i>My own values will <u>not</u> prevent me from talking about this topic with a client.</i>	<i>I feel uncomfortable with this topic.</i>
Substance use disorders including opioids and other illicit substances				
Substance use screening				
Sexual activity and sexual history				
Contraceptive methods and method efficacy				
STI & HIV information				
Safer sex and risk reduction strategies				
Harm reduction strategies for substance use				
Pregnancy and pregnancy desires				
Abortion				
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) and Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)				
Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) or Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)				
Ambivalence (client not ready for or ambivalent to change)				
Breastfeeding				
Intimate partner violence (IPV)				
Trauma-informed care				
Medical mistrust				
Informed Consent				
Community resources around family planning and other sexual health services				
Community resources and laws around substance abuse and substance use disorders				
Confidentiality laws				