

Adjusting to New Life in the Prairies: Needs of Newcomer Women who Experience Intimate Partner Violence in Saskatchewan

RESOLVE RESEARCH DAY

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Background

- ▶ Funding: *Prairieaction* Foundation Tri-Provincial Special Call Out
- ▶ Part of tri-provincial research project (Saskatchewan, Manitoba, & Alberta)

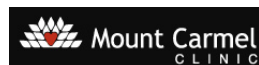


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- ▶ Partners:



Research Purpose

- ▶ To consider the impact of and unique circumstances surrounding interpersonal violence on the lives of Newcomer women and their children to determine what services are needed to ensure the safety of Newcomer families.

Research Questions

- a) What are Newcomer women's experiences with IPV and the consequences for them and their children in the Prairie provinces?
- b) What are the formal (institutions such as shelters) and informal service (including family, friends, places of worship and cultural groups/association) barriers Newcomer women face when seeking services and/or supports associated with IPV?
- c) What are the formal and informal interventions that work or do not work for Newcomer women who experience IPV?
- d) How do service providers respond to challenges of IPV as experienced by Newcomer women and what do they think can improve services and supports?

Methods

- ▶ Qualitative study
- ▶ Service provider focus groups
- ▶ Individual interviews with newcomer women
- ▶ Presentation focus: Regina & Saskatoon
- ▶ Full study: Regina, Saskatoon, Brandon, Winnipeg, Calgary, & Edmonton
- ▶ Research ethics approval from U of R, U of C, and U of M

Saskatchewan Research Participants

- ▶ Saskatoon & Regina
- ▶ Individual interviews (Newcomer women)= 15
- ▶ Focus group participants (service providers)= 29
 - ▶ Settlement Agency (11, 39%)
 - ▶ Domestic Violence Shelter (10, 36%)
 - ▶ Other (policing, post-secondary education, sexual assault services, counselling agencies): (8, 25%)
- ▶ Almost ½ of service providers were Newcomers themselves

Service Providers: Themes

- ▶ Impermanence, tension, and loss
- ▶ Victimization
- ▶ Improving engagement with newcomer women

Service Providers: Preliminary Findings

- ▶ Newcomer women's experiences of IPV
- ▶ Challenges for Newcomer Women
- ▶ Impact on children
- ▶ Challenges for Service Providers
- ▶ Needed Improvements

Newcomer Women: Preliminary Findings

- ▶ Experiences of Violence
- ▶ Starting Over
- ▶ Interventions

Themes: Newcomer Women

Experiences of Violence

- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Control
- ▶ Abuse Relating to Immigration Status
- ▶ Financial Abuse (including interference with women's workforce participation)
- ▶ Stalking
- ▶ Violence from Extended Family
- ▶ Impacts on Violence on Children
- ▶ Barriers to Leaving (including awareness of services and waitlists)

DVDR Risk Factors

- ▶ Isolation
- ▶ Control
- ▶ Victim vulnerabilities and lack of supports

Themes: Newcomer Women

Starting Over

- ▶ Legal challenges
- ▶ Shared custody
- ▶ Lack of understanding

Interventions

- ▶ Women's experiences with shelters, police, and other services
- ▶ Services that are needed

Recommendations: Training and Education for Newcomer Women

- ▶ Women-only orientations
- ▶ Legal information
- ▶ Financial literacy training
- ▶ Information on domestic violence shelters and services

Awareness of Services

"When immigrants come in Canada, maybe you can talk to people like at [settlement agency]. Just make a meeting for woman, orientation only for women. And then they can show them where's the shelter, how the shelter look like. Because my mind was the shelter, I say, 'Oh, I cannot put my children there. Never.'"

Recommendations for Service Provision

- ▶ Affordable legal services for newcomer women
- ▶ Ongoing outreach services
- ▶ Access to childcare
- ▶ Access to (and funding for) interpretation services
- ▶ More shelters, support groups, and counselling services are needed to meet demand
- ▶ Education for newcomer men
- ▶ Training and education for medical professionals

Contact

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