

CDHPiVP Project Update

About the project

Welcome! The Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations (CDHPiVP) is a five year Partnership grant project supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) to conduct research on domestic homicides in Canada; to identify protocols and strategies that will reduce risk; and to share this knowledge with the wider community.

This, our inaugural newsletter, offers some background about the project, highlights new partners, collaborators, students and other project team members, and shares information about project knowledge translation and exchange activities.

The CDHPiVP focuses on four populations that experience increased vulnerability to domestic homicide: **Aboriginal** populations; **Rural, remote and northern** populations; **Immigrant and refugee** populations; and **Children exposed to domestic violence**.

Research Priorities

National database on domestic homicide - to serve as a central repository for data on domestic homicide cases and the identification of associated risk factors.

Comprehensive literature review - to systematically examine risk assessment, risk management and safety planning strategies that currently exist for domestic violence and homicide in general and for the identified populations specifically.

Qualitative research with stakeholders - to expand our understanding of unique risk factors associated with these vulnerable groups.

Multi-site control study - to compare domestic homicide cases with attempted homicide cases and cases of severe domestic violence in order to identify unique risk factors for lethality.



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Special points of interest

- CDHPiVP National Conference:
Save the Date: October 17– 19,
2017
- Domestic homicide stories in
the media
- New website coming soon!

Graduate Students and Research Assistants

We are pleased to welcome the following people to the project team:

Western University: Kay Reif, Randal David

Native Women's Association of Canada: Natasha Lagarde

University of Manitoba: Olivia Peters

Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration: Abir Al Jamal

Simon Fraser University: Sarah Yercich

University of Regina: Melissa Wuerch

University of Guelph: Nicole Jeffrey, Julie Poon, Gurneet Saini

Student Profile

We will profile a student in each newsletter. This issue we profile Sarah Yercich.

Sarah is a doctoral candidate and sessional instructor in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University (SFU), and she holds an MSc in Applied Criminology and BSc in Criminal Justice from Northern Arizona University (NAU). She works as research assistant for the FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children at SFU. Her areas of interest include intimate partner violence, domestic violence related homicide, fathers' rights activism, and family law, and her Master's thesis focused on women's experiences with fear of victimization. Prior to beginning her doctoral studies at SFU, Sarah worked as adjunct faculty at NAU and volunteered with the National

Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative under the supervision of Dr. Neil Websdale.



This research is made possible through strong local, provincial, and national partnerships that will be fostered and expanded in this initiative. The CDHPVP team is comprised of multiple academic disciplines, professions, and community settings. Partners and collaborators bring specialized domestic violence knowledge and expertise to the project. To learn more about our network visit www.cdhp.ca

Domestic homicide stories in the media

We are compiling a database of media stories about preventing domestic homicide in Canada. If you have a link, or are quoted in the media, please send via Basecamp or email to Randal David rdavid5@uwo.ca

Gurneet Saini is collecting media coverage of domestic homicide cases as they occur across the country. Please forward any new stories directly to Gurneet at gsaini@mail.uoguelph.ca



New Partners

We welcome the following organizations to the project who have signed on as partners:

Provincial Association of Transition Houses and Services of Saskatchewan: PATHSSK

PATHS is the provincial association for 21 member agencies (women's shelters, second stage shelters, and domestic violence counselling agencies) that provide services to women who have experienced domestic violence in the province of Saskatchewan. Their members include urban, rural, northern, and Aboriginal shelters and counselling agencies. They also have connections to other provincial associations doing work to end violence against women. To learn more about this organization: www.pathssk.org

BC Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services – Forensic Psychiatric Commission.

The Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission provides court-related forensic psychiatric assessment, treatment and community case management to adults with mental health disorders who are in conflict with the law. To learn more about this organization: <http://www.bcmhsus.ca/forensic-services>

British Columbia Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV)

PODV was established in 2012 as the permanent lead in British Columbia for coordinating and strengthening services for children and families affected by domestic violence. The office is accountable for ensuring all provincial policies, programs and services related to domestic violence are effective and delivered in a comprehensive and united way across government. PODV led the consultation to produce the three year Provincial Domestic Violence Plan which will strengthen the systemic response to domestic violence, including approaches to address the needs of Aboriginal, immigrant, refugee, and women with disabilities. To learn more about the organization: <http://www.mcf.gov.bc.ca/podv/>

New Collaborators

We welcome the following individuals as collaborators to the project:

Julie Czeck – Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, British Columbia

Julie holds a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice from the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), and is working on her Master of Arts in Dispute Resolution at the University of Victoria (UVIC). She has conducted research for UFV's Centre for Safe Schools and Communities, Centre for Public Safety and Criminal Justice Research, and Centre for Social Responsibility. Julie has worked for Abbotsford Restorative Justice as a Program Coordinator/Mediator, and as a Junior Analyst for the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development branch in Ottawa. Her knowledge of youth issues, restorative justice, global development and research brings a fresh perspective that enhances the strategic work of the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence.

Bev Dicks —Assistant Deputy Minister for the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Priorities

Bev moved from Newfoundland to Northern BC in 1988 where she worked with Aboriginal and rural communities across the North West for the next twelve years. Bev became the Assistant Deputy Minister, Child and Family Development Services in 2009 and in 2012, assumed the role of Assistant Deputy Ministry, Service Delivery. In 2013, Bev became the Assistant Deputy Minister for the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence and Strategic Priorities. As the lead for the Provincial Office of Domestic Violence (PODV) Bev's strong background in operations and service delivery is very relevant as she builds on the establishment of the PODV and the strong relationships it has developed in government and across communities.

Jo-Anne Dusel – Provincial Coordinator, PATHS

Jo-Anne is a long time social justice advocate with a special focus on violence against women and the healthcare system. She worked at Moose Jaw Transition House providing direct service to women who had experienced violence and abuse for 20 years prior to her position as Coordinator for PATHS. She is a board member of the Canadian Network of Women's Shelters and Transition Houses (CNWSTH) and on the North American Working Group of Every Woman Everywhere, whose mandate is to lobby for the creation of an international binding treaty to make all violence against women illegal.

Crystal Giesbrecht – Director of Member Services, PATHS

Crystal has been Director of Member Programs and Services at PATHS since January 2011. She is also a Domestic Violence Counsellor at Regina Transition House and a Sessional Lecturer and Research Assistant for the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Regina. Crystal is a Registered Social Worker and holds a BA, BSW, and MSW from the University of Regina. For her master's thesis research, she conducted qualitative interviews with men who have been violent in their intimate relationships, attended domestic violence treatment programs, and successfully made changes toward ending their violent behaviour.

Margaret Jackson- FREDA, Simon Fraser University

Margaret is a professor of criminology at Simon Fraser University and Director of the Institute for Studies in Criminal Justice Policy. Her research interests include violence against women and children, policy analysis, women offenders, aboriginal justice, risk assessment, sentencing practices, and alternatives to incarceration. Learn more about Margaret at <http://www.sfu.ca/icrc/members/memberprofiles/margaret-jackson.html>

Clark Russell – Provincial Office of Domestic Violence, British Columbia

Clark has 35 years of service in policing in the Victoria area with extensive experience dealing with domestic violence and the prevention of domestic violence. He was involved in the creation of the Victoria Regional Domestic Violence Unit which responds to high risk domestic violence cases and has been a member of the Violence against Women in Relationships Committee in Victoria since 2001. He was a member of the Coroner's Domestic Violence Death Review Panel. As Director of System and Service Coordination, he is able to draw on both these relationships and his previous experiences to ensure the collaboration and coordination of domestic violence supports and services across the province.

Postdoctoral Fellow



Dr. Jordan Fairbairn joined the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children as a Postdoctoral Fellow and has taken on the role of National Research Coordinator for the CDHPVP project. She is coordinating the literature review on domestic homicide risk assessment, management, and safety planning among vulnerable populations and is co-lead of the Knowledge Mobilization Hub. Her broader research focuses on the intersections of violence against women and media, including the role of digital technologies in violence prevention.

Collaborator Profile



Claudette Dumont-Smith has been actively involved in the field of aboriginal health since 1974. She is a registered nurse and has acted in various executive capacities with the Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada and worked as a consultant for various national aboriginal organizations at the regional and local levels. She has moderated numerous health conferences and collaborated on publications about aspects of aboriginal health care programs. She served as a member of the Aboriginal circle of the Canadian Panel on Violence against Women; Associate Commissioner for the National Aboriginal Child Care Commission of the Native Council of Canada; and Commissioner for the Indian Residential School Commission. Her publications have been published by the Health Council of Canada, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, Aboriginal Nurses Association of Canada, and others. Claudette holds her Master's degree in Public Administration from Queen's University, and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Québec, Gatineau. Claudette has been the Executive Director of the Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) since 2010, and is retiring April 1, 2016.

Project Activities

Inaugural Meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations was held on October 1-2, 2015 in London, ON with more than 30 people in attendance including principal and co-investigators, students, collaborators and partners. This meeting helped to establish relationships among the research hubs, develop communication and knowledge mobilization strategies, and operationalization of research questions and strategies. Basecamp was identified as a project management and communication tool for all members of the project. Basecamp also allows for division of project into various research hubs. Please contact Anna-Lee Straatman if you are not connected with Basecamp or would like to learn more about the various project hubs.

A comprehensive literature review was

identified as the first priority for all research hubs. As well, the definition of domestic homicide was discussed.

Connecting with Coroners

Myrna Dawson and Peter Jaffe have reached out to all coroners across Canada to seek participation in the project. The CDHPVP hopes to obtain data from coroners' files from all jurisdictions in Canada after approval from their university's ethics boards. Discussions are determining how data will be shared and accessed. A draft research agreement and short coding form are being developed for this data collection aspect of the project.

Ethics

The Management team is currently working on a draft Ethics application to submit to both University of Guelph and Western University for review.

Defining Domestic Homicide

In this research, domestic homicide is defined as the killing of a current or former intimate partner, their child(ren), and/or other third parties.

- An intimate partner can include people who are in a current or former married, common-law, or dating relationship.
- Other third parties can include new partners, other family members, neighbours, friends, co-workers, helping professionals, bystanders, and others killed as a result of the incident.
- Domestic violence includes all forms of abuse including psychological or emotional abuse that has been documented through professionals or interviews with friends, family, and/or co-workers.

Literature Review

A comprehensive literature review is underway. The goal of this literature review is to synthesize research on the process, implementation, and effects of risk assessment, risk management and safety planning on the incidence of lethal domestic violence in Aboriginal communities; rural, remote and northern communities; immigrant and refugee populations; and among children living with domestic violence.

The review is examining international research published from January 1, 2000 onwards. We are looking at both academic and grey literature. Key words were identified for each population area and a systematic search of academic literature conducted, with selected references entered into the EndNote referencing system. The literature review team is currently screening bibliographies of selected articles, embarking on grey literature review, and planning the systematic analysis of literature. Collection of material is expected to be completed in April 2016.

Knowledge Translation and Exchange Activities

Conferences

“BC Collaborates to Stop Sexual and Domestic Violence”, December 9-10 2015 at the Hyatt Regency in Vancouver. CDHPVP funded two graduate students and one postdoctoral fellow to attend. The conference hosted more than 900 delegates for the first collaborative joint training forum in British Columbia with the goals of increasing the knowledge and capacity of front-line responders, identifying emerging issues and best practices, and enhancing skills to respond collaboratively to sexual and domestic violence. To learn more about this conference: www.bccollaborates.ca

PATHS Conference – May 17-18, 2016, Regina: Violence is everyone’s business. Please check the website for more details as they become available. Keynote speakers include Cherry Smiley, artist and feminist activist from the Nlaka’pamux (Thompson) and Dine (Navajo Nations and Barbara MacQuarrie of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children, Western University. To learn more: <http://pathssk.org/events/conference-2016/>

SARA-V3 Workshop - June 16-17, 2016, New York City. Spousal Assault Risk Assessment Guide (SARA), developed by Drs. Randall Kropp and Stephen Hart. The SARA is a set of Structural Professional Judgement (SPJ) guidelines for the assessment and management of risk for intimate partner violence. Learn more at <https://concept.leadpages.co/sti-overview-2016/>

Save the Date:

*Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations National Conference
October 17-19, 2017, London, ON.
More details will follow as they become available.*

Knowledge Translation Plan

The following knowledge translation and exchange activities have been proposed for the project to keep people connected:

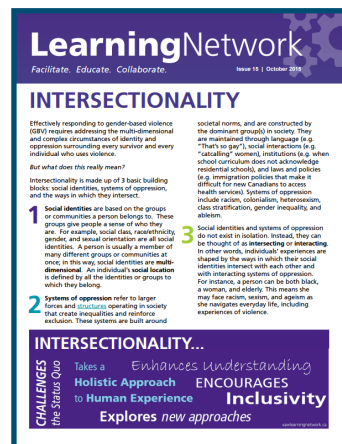
CDHPVP Project Updates newsletters—will be issued electronically semi-annually in January and July and will be located on the website at www.cdhipi.ca. The newsletter will provide updates on project activities. We hope you will share the newsletter with your organization and others.

Domestic Homicide Research Briefs — will be topic oriented publications similar in form to newsletters issued by the Learning Network at CREVAWC.

For examples: <http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/newsletters> These Briefs will be issued semi-annually in the spring and fall. They will profile knowledge gained from our research hubs, research syntheses

of knowledge, and other best practices.

Fact Sheets: one page synopses of facts regarding various topics. The first in this series offers a general overview on domestic homicide in Canada. The factsheet is available on Basecamp and will be available on the website.



Webinars

The **Canadian Women’s Foundation** offered a webinar on “Domestic Homicides – Addressing and Working with the Media” by Bahar Shadpour. Access the recording at <https://sas.illuminate.com/site/external/jwsdetect/nativeplayback.inlp?sid=vclass&psid=2016-01-26.0944.D.309BD253F22388B0D58230CA9AE136.vcr>

Dr. Zoe Hilton offered a webinar for project research assistants and students: “Literature Reviews: Assessing the Evidence” that gave some great tips on questions to ask when doing a literature review, examples of different studies and strategies for assessing their quality, and more. To review this webinar: <https://ca-sas.bccollab.com/site/external/jwsdetect/playback.inlp?psid=2016-01-28.1101.M.97852984512F4C5E42DB90F02E5D50.vcr&sid=2011320>

Please share this newsletter with your organization

We would like your feedback.

Please email astraat2@uwo.ca with comments or suggestions for future editions of this newsletter.

Draft Website <http://cdhpitest.riopelle.ws>

The website was initially established with funding from the Canadian Women's Foundation, and provides a centralized repository of information on domestic homicide review and prevention with a Canadian focus.

A draft updated version which incorporates the SSHRC research project as a central element of the CDHPI has been developed. Please check it out. Thank you to those who have provided feedback on the test website. Please submit feedback through Basecamp or contact a member of the Management Team.

National & Provincial Initiatives



Alberta - British Columbia - Manitoba - New Brunswick - Newfoundland & Labrador - Nova Scotia - Northwest Territories - Nunavut - Ontario - Prince Edward Island - Quebec - Saskatchewan - Yukon

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Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative

