

# Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative



## **Risk Assessment, Risk Management and Safety Planning Research study – Key Informant Interviews**

We recently conducted an online survey regarding domestic violence risk assessment, risk management and safety planning practices, particularly with the following vulnerable populations:

- Indigenous,
- immigrants and refugees,
- rural, remote, and northern populations,
- children exposed to domestic violence.

More than 1400 people completed the survey! Following up on the survey, we are conducting interviews with people who volunteered to do so through the survey, and through recruitment of other key informants.

We are looking to interview community-based service providers (shelter workers, settlement services, indigenous services, mental health) legal professionals, and other key stakeholders who work in the risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning fields to gain understanding of potentially unique risk factors, barriers to effective risk management and safety planning, and strategies currently being used with these vulnerable groups and the communities in which they live.

**Risk Assessment:** an evaluation of the level of risk a victim of domestic violence may be facing including the likelihood of repeated or lethal violence. It may be based on a professional's judgment based on their experience in the field and/or a structured interview and/or an assessment tool/instrument that may include a checklist of risk factors.

**Risk Management:** strategies to reduce the risk presented by a perpetrator of domestic violence such as close monitoring or supervision and/or counselling to address the violence and/or related issues (e.g., mental health, addictions).

**Safety Planning:** finding strategies to protect the victim that may include such actions as educating victims about their level of risk, a change in residence, an alarm for a higher priority police response, a different work arrangement and/or readily accessible items needed to leave the home in an emergency including contact information about local domestic violence resources.

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This research has received ethics clearance through Research Ethics Boards at University of Guelph, Western University, Saint Mary's University, Université du Québec à Montréal, University of Manitoba, University of Regina, University of Calgary and Simon Fraser University. We have also obtained research licenses in the north from Aurora Research Institute, Nunavummi Qaujisaqtulirijikkut/Nunavut Research Institute and Vuntut Gwitchit Government.

If you are interested in learning more about this study, or participating in an interview, please contact Anna-Lee Straatman, [astraat2@uwo.ca](mailto:astraat2@uwo.ca) or call 519-661-2111 ext 81133.