




CDHPC
CANADIAN DOMESTIC HOMICIDE
PREVENTION CONFERENCE
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London, Ontario


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**Safety Planning with
Vulnerable Populations**

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Dawn Lavell-Harvard, Linda Baker*

Chair: *Jane Ursel*



Jacquelyn Campbell, Anna D. Wolf Chair, The Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and National Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Faculty Scholars

Safety Planning with Vulnerable Populations

Jacquelyn Campbell PhD RN FAAN
 Anna D. Wolf Endowed Chair
 Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing
 Multi City Intimate Partner Femicide Study
 Funded by: NIDA/NIAA, NIMH, CDC, NIJ VAWA R01
 DA/AA1156

Seven Fires Prophecy

- A Time of Adversity – when the world has been befouled and waters turned bitter by disrespect – (by the light skinned race)
- We can choose – prosperity for the few
- Or life for all

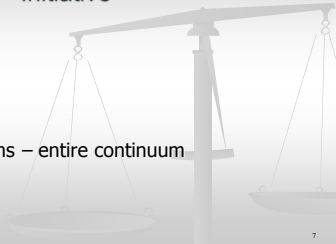
Thanks to Myrna Kicknosway for teaching me

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Vulnerable/Marginalized Populations – CDHPI – Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative

- Aboriginal
- Immigrant
- Rural
- Remote
- Add LBGTQ populations – entire continuum



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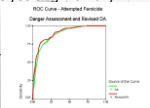
DANGER ASSESSMENT (Campbell '86)



www.dangerassessment.org



- Developed in 1985 to **increase abused women's ability to take care of themselves** (Campbell, 1986)
 - Original DA from risk factors from small femicide study (Campbell '81) – clinical observation that women were underestimating lethality risk
 - Wording of items from multiple support groups in shelters in Detroit
 - Original DA used with 10 samples of 2251 abused women to establish preliminary reliability & validity
- Interactive, uses calendar - aids recall plus women come to own conclusions - more persuasive & in adult learner/strong woman/survivor model –
- "You actually see your own roller coaster ride; it was on the calendar." (Woman in Alberta shelter) in
- Further Refined; tested in Multisite Femicide Study (hidden populations missing) (Campbell '09)



Danger Assessment Versions – available at www.dangerassessment.org

- **DA-R** – N. Glass - Same sex female couples – original version very small sample but being tested in myPlan
- **DA-S** short form for health care (Snider et al '09; Campbell et al 2018)
- **DA-I** Danger Assessment for Immigrant women (Messing et al 2013)
- **DA-LE** – To identify cases for High Risk Teams – JGCC
- Used within DOVE intervention for pregnant women – home visitation (Sharps et al 2016); used in NFP home visitation across Canada (Jack, Ford-Gilboe)
- **LAP – Lethality Assessment Protocol** www.MNADV.org - short form for first responders with Protocol – told that at high risk; officer calls local shelter hotline – offers victim phone
 - Evaluated in OK – found to significantly reduce repeat IPV & significantly increase use of protective strategies – Messing et al 2015

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DA-Circle - & Women's Evaluation of Danger Assessment

In partnership with Alberta Council of Women's Shelters (ACWS) DA Collaborative (Kate Woodman, Jan Reimer, Carolyn Goard)

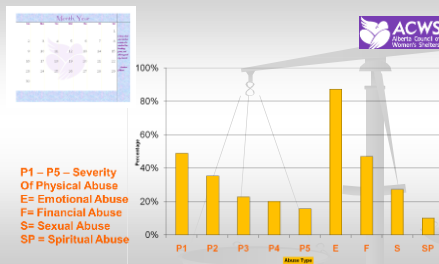
DA completed with advocate within 72 hours of admission to 9 shelters – 3 on reserve

235 participants completed (46% aboriginal; 31% English Canadian; 7% other visible minority [5% foreign born])
198 calendars, answered in depth interview queries, also a staff survey

Funded by Province of Alberta Community Incentive Fund



Results: DA Calendar



What it was like for you to complete Danger Assessment and Calendar?

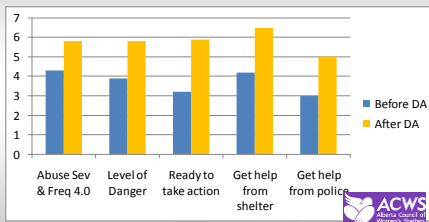
- 180 respondents - thematic analysis
- Hard to do
 - "It's terrible to look back on!"
 - "-very stressed –all the emotional stuff came back – feeling low"
 - "Had to hold back tears." "It hurts."
- Increased Awareness – decrease minimization
 - "Confusing and clarifying because at first impression I minimize, then realize the truth!"
 - "It was eye opening. I have spent a lot of time trying to minimize my experiences so I could be normal."

What it was like for you to complete Danger Assessment and Calendar?

- Healing experience
 - "It was painful when I was thinking [about] all the abuse but it helps me as well to loosen my breathing."
 - "It felt good to get it off my shoulders."
- Realization of danger
 - "It was shocking to realize that you are in a terrible situation and you don't even realize it."
 - "It helped me to know how much danger I was in. It scared me."
- Strengthening Resolve
 - "I should try more to seek outside help to prevent any abuse"
 - "made me stronger in supporting my decision to be free of stress and harm, especially for my baby....stay safe and secure always, not letting my guard down"
 - "Well, I want to be able to see my daughter grow. I want her to be able to be a little girl. I don't want to keep the cycle going. I want her to see good things while she grows up and not abuse."



Key ACWS Outcomes



Culturally Tailored DA-Circle for On Reserve Shelters

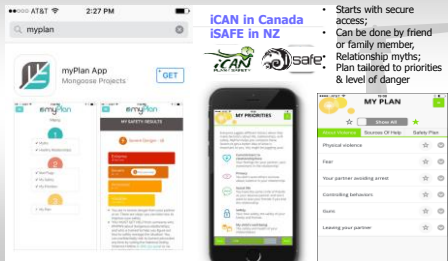
- DA culturally tailored for Indigenous Women – done with on reserve aboriginal shelter directors and workers, Dorothy Sam (ACWS Walking the Path Program) & workers & assessed with aboriginal DV survivors
- Invites narrative/storytelling w/o linear timeline
- Based on Medicine Wheel concepts, First Nations symbols
- Months grouped to 4 seasons
- Can be done in groups or individually



Safety Planning Based (in part) on Danger Assessment

- Woman knowing level of Danger in her situation – risk of homicide – ideally coming to realization herself or getting information from someone knowledgeable about DV – police, DV advocate, health care provider
 - Ideally Lethality Assessment contextualized especially for marginalized populations – e.g. DA-I; DA-Circle
- Safety planning based on level of danger on an aware and informed survivor – based her priorities & preferences – “reclaiming her power”
- And contextualized to **situation, culture, sources of discrimination** – needs to be healing opportunities
 - Ma Mawi Chi Itata Centre – Manitoba – Diane Redsky – Spirit of Peace program –men’s, women’s, youth and children’s programs

myPlan
myPlan – free in app stores – N. Glass

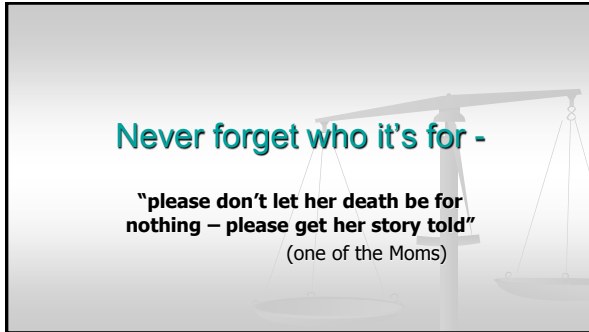


ICAN in Canada
iSAFE in NZ

- Starts with secure access;
- Can be done by friend or family member, Relationship myths; Plan tailored to priorities & level of danger

Developments on iCAN; iHEAL; myPlan

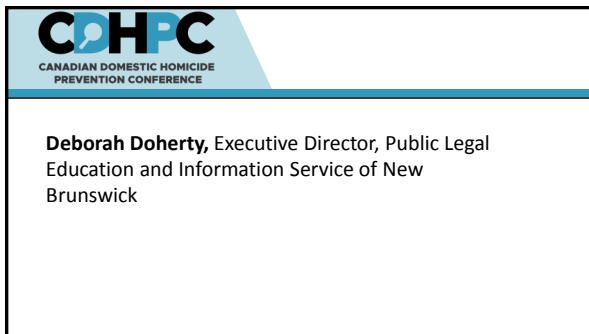
- Indigenous version of myPlan – ourCircle online version testing first – DA-Circle for DA - priorities, myths, safety planning strategies -culturally tailored – led by indigenous team (NICHD R01 HD081179-01) using traditional practices
 - iSAFE in NZ – effective in Maori populations
- Immigrant version of myPlan – weWomen based on DA-I – same cultural adaptation as ourCircle (NICHD R01 HD081179-01)
- iCAN Ford-Gilboe team -evaluation complete findings in press
- iHEAL – “Reclaiming our Spirits” C. Varcoe & team working with aboriginal women in BC – healing after abuse



Never forget who it's for -

“please don't let her death be for nothing – please get her story told”

(one of the Moms)



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Deborah Doherty, Executive Director, Public Legal
Education and Information Service of New
Brunswick



Rural Context

**Safety Planning with
Vulnerable Populations**

Panel Discussion:
Deborah Doherty

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention
Conference, London Convention Centre,
October 18, 2017

The Face of Rurality

- New Brunswick has consistently been one of the most stable rural population bases in Canada.
- The urban to rural population ratio has remained close to 1:1 for the past 30 years (48% of the NB population live in rural areas)
- The urban/rural split in New Brunswick today reflects the divide in Ontario (1921) and Quebec (1911) a century ago.

(2011 census),



IPV and DH: Understanding the Rural Context

- Research in NB has consistently shown that the clustering of risk factors associated with female domestic homicide (and IPV) differs from the patterns found at the national level or in more urban provinces.

Deborah Doherty, 2017, *Re-thinking Safety Planning: A Self-Directed Tool for Rural Women who are Abused*, Innovations in Interventions to Address Intimate Partner Violence: Research and Practice. Routledge Press.



Some Notable Differences in NB

Factors more likely to be associated with domestic homicide of women in NB than elsewhere in Canada :

- Killed while **living together (65%)** (In Ontario, 81% of the women were killed at or after separation)
- Killed with **hunting rifle or shot gun** (55% of deaths)
- Serious involvement of **alcohol/drugs** (75% of court cases)
- Killed in **murder-suicide** (over two thirds)
- **Older** (average age of women killed in domestic murder-suicides the past seven years was 55)
- Living in a **common-law relationship** (66%)



Safety planning – for safer outcomes

- Safety planning has emerged as a critical component in helping women in crisis to achieve safer outcomes.
- Based on the clustering of factors nationally, there has been a tendency to focus on safe leaving in an emergency (for women in crisis).
- If women decide to stay (which is not unusual in rural communities), there may be no assistance to help them develop strategies to mitigate their personal risk.



Re-thinking safety planning for rural women

Living in an Abusive Relationship: Strategies for Staying Safer


<http://www.legal-info-legale.nb.ca/en/safety-planning>

NB tool developed to help women living with IPV, especially outside of large urban areas, to self-assess their situation, strategically mitigate their risks, and access resources (with or without the help of a professional)





Sepali Guruge, Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing
Research Chair in Urban Health




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Dawn Lavell-Harvard, First Peoples House of Learning,
Trent University

THE LEGACY OF COLINZATION: GBV IN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES



SPECIAL CHALLENGES: RURAL AND REMOTE RESERVES



MOVEMENTS WITHIN ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES



The high
cost of
doing
nothing



Linda Baker, Learning Director, Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children

Safety Planning with Children and Youth

Linda Baker, Ph.D., Learning Director,
Centre for Research & Education on
Violence Against Women & Children



vawlearningnetwork.ca

Safety Planning for Children and Youth in the Context of DV

- Limited literature specifically on safety planning
- Helps to prepare for the possibility of further violence by providing a guideline to follow if one's safety is at risk
- Promote personal agency and coping
- Remove burden of self-blame and inappropriate responsibility



vawlearningnetwork.ca

Guiding Principles:

- Support mothers/caregivers to enhance their safety
- Learn about the child/youth's experiences and build on strengths
- Know the mother/caregiver's safety plan and how it relates to the child/youth
- Collaborate with all involved service providers



vawlearningnetwork.ca

Guiding Principles cont'd

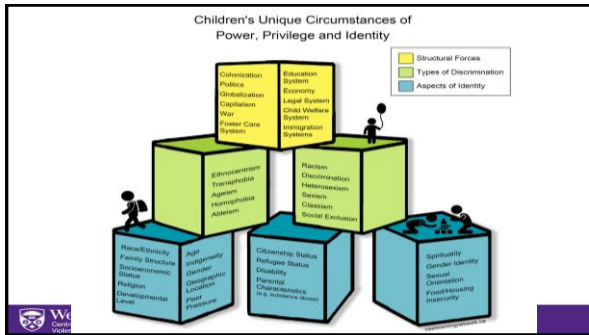
- Individualize safety plans based on
 - Age and developmental level
 - Mental health
 - Physical health
 - Relationship to each parent
 - Circumstances
- Ensure plan reflects the reality of their community
- Revisit and revise regularly

Core Safety Planning Messages for Children and Youth:

1. Go to a safe place
2. Don't get in the middle
3. Call for help
4. You are not alone
5. You are not to blame
6. DV ("fighting") is dangerous and "is not okay"

Additional considerations:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| • Trauma | • Groups |
| • Psychological and physical safety | • Online safety plans |
| • Repetition | • School, community and media based safety messages |
| • Siblings | |



Recommended Resource:

Safety Planning with Children and Youth:
A Toolkit for Working with Children and Youth
Exposed to Domestic Violence

British Columbia, Ministry of Justice, 2011
(updated March 2013)
ISBN 978-0-7726-6494-5
