

Risk Assessment, Risk Management, and Safety Planning with Immigrant and Refugee Populations: A Review of the Literature

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CANADIAN DOMESTIC HOMICIDE PREVENTION CONFERENCE
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Introductions

Presenters:

- Sarah Yercich, Ph.D. Candidate
 - The FREDA Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children, Simon Fraser University
- Randal David, Ph.D. Candidate
 - Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, Western University
- Abir Al Jamal, MSW
 - Muslim Resource Centre for Social Support and Integration
- Kate Rossiter, Ph.D.
 - Ending Violence Association of BC & Simon Fraser University
- Jordan Fairbairn, Ph.D.
 - Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women & Children, Western University

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative with Vulnerable Populations

- Project overview
- Immigrant and refugee research hub
 - Dr. Kate Rossiter (EVA BC & SFU)
 - Dr. Mohammed Baobaid (MRCSSI)
 - Dr. Randy Kropp (SFU)



The Literature Review

- Research question
 - What risk assessment, risk management and/or safety planning strategies prevent domestic violence in Indigenous communities, rural, remote and northern communities, **immigrant and refugee populations**, and among children living with domestic violence?
- Systematic literature review process



Considerations for RA / RM / SP with Immigrant and Refugee Populations

- **Increased vulnerability**
 - Migration & risk
 - Intersectional factors
 - Avoiding homogenization & understanding heterogeneity
 - Manifestations of violence
- **Working with people from diverse cultures**



Risk Assessment within Immigrant & Refugee Populations

Risk assessment involves evaluating the level of risk of harm to a victim/survivor, including risk of repeated violence and lethal violence.

Risk in I&R populations varies based on:

- immigration status
- length of stay in host country
- culture
- migration processes
- acculturation levels
- gender role expectations
- socioeconomic status
- marginalization
- religious beliefs
- and socio-cultural influences



Risk Assessment within Immigrant & Refugee Populations

Primary risk factors in I&R populations:

- Acculturation level
- Cultural norms and expectations
- Geographic and social isolation
- Length of residency in host country
- Loss of socioeconomic status
- Loss of culture
- Loss of family structures, community leaders
- Power imbalances between partners
- Stress associated with migration
- Strict or changing gender roles
- Unresolved pre-migration trauma
- Victim/survivor immigration status

Risk assessment:

- Culturally informed & multidimensional

Tools:

- Chinese Risk Assessment Tool for Victims (CRAT-V) and Perpetrators (CRAT-P)
- Danger Assessment for Immigrant Women (DA-I)
- Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Honour Based Violence (DASH)
- PATRIARCH
- Four Aspect Screening Tool (FAST)

Risk Management within Immigrant & Refugee Populations

Risk management involves strategies designed to reduce the risk presented by a perpetrator of domestic violence.

Key considerations in RM:

- Risk management strategies and interventions
- Culturally informed
- Focus of prevention & intervention programs:
 - Shifting gender roles & patriarchal structures
 - Migration & culture clash
 - Counselling & education for perpetrators
 - Working with & involvement of the family



Safety Planning with Immigrant and Refugee Populations

Safety planning involves strategies to protect survivors from ongoing or escalating violence. Safety for abused immigrant and refugee women is linked to factors that impact their risk of violence, including migration stress, immigration status, settlement location (e.g., rural versus urban), length of stay in the host country, and levels of acculturation.

Unique considerations for safely planning:

- Cultural
- Legal
- Women who do not leave abusers
- Danger Assessment for Immigrant Women (DA-I)



Safety Planning with Immigrant and Refugee Populations

Barriers to Services

- Wider range of supports & programs needed
- Issues of access

Help-Seeking:

- Services/supports/ disclosure
- Need for awareness raising & knowledge mobilization

Culturally Competent Services

- Culturally informed & specific
- Community-based
- Holistic services

Empowerment-Based Approaches

- Focus on hierarchal systems of oppression & patriarchy

Implications for Research & Practice

Implications for Research:

- Under-researched area
- Research is needed on:
 - RA/RM/SP that is culturally informed & tailored to cultural contexts
 - Culturally informed & specific RA tools
 - "What works" in RM
 - Collaborative & cross-sectoral responses
 - Inclusion of community & religious leaders



Implications for Practice:

- Individual, relationship, community, structural-level responses
- Complex & intersectional nature
- Culturally informed & appropriate interventions are key

Discussion

In what ways could you practically implement or use these literature review findings to inform your work and/or research?

Consider possible intersections between the four hubs in relation to risk assessment, risk management, and safety planning processes. How would these considerations impact or improve RA/RM/SP?

- E.g., immigrant children, immigrants and refugees living in rural/remote/northern areas

Generally, how could an intersectional lens inform RA/RM/SP processes and support the safety of immigrant and refugee survivors?

Thank you!

Questions? Comments?

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