

Frontline Workers' Community Response to Intimate Partner Violence in the Northwest Territories, Canada

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Intimate partner violence (IPV) is deleteriously affecting the lives of women and their families in the Northwest Territories. The statistics show a staggering rate of reported violence in the many scattered communities where resources are minimal. The purpose of this presentation is to address the findings to date of a five year Social Sciences Health Research Council funded project and share implications which further our understanding of IPV in the arctic and subarctic communities of Canada. Utilizing IPV statistics and an environmental scan in the first year of the project, geographical information system maps spatially portrayed the picture of IPV and resources available. These maps helped to design and target communities in years two and three data collection processes. In year two, frontline workers (n=31) were interviewed and data analyzed using the constant comparative method of grounded theory. A central phenomenon of hands are tied was identified with social processes of put-up, shut-up, and get on with life . This year the model is shared with two communities being profiled in the north. The communities were selected based on the criteria of north/south and resourced/minimally resourced. Narratives are being created in the community profiling using focus groups, document appraisals, and purposeful interviews. It is anticipated that through the knowledge generated interventions can be identified to assist health planners develop policies to create and sustain non-violent communities.