

UNDERSTANDING THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EPIDEMIC

Public Perceptions and Paths to Prevention in Peterborough City and County

Domestic Violence:

Abuse and violence that happens in close relationships, like dating, living together, and marriage. It can include name-calling, hitting, stalking, physical or sexual harm, control and manipulation



Introduction

Domestic Violence (DV) is a public health crisis impacting people across the world. Peterborough is not exempt and timely action is imperative. It is estimated that in Canada, 44% of women aged 15+ that have been in a relationship experienced psychological, physical, or sexual abuse in the context of a relationship.

Purpose

- To respond to recommendation 24 of the Renfrew County Coroners Inquest.
- To gather public opinion on DV to allow for the revision and strengthening of education and outreach services provided by the Peterborough Domestic Abuse Network (PDAN).

Student Researcher: Brooke Ambury

Faculty Supervisor: Dr. Stephanie Ehret

SOCI-4570Y 2024-2025

TCRC Project Coordinator: Malaura Lucas

Host Organization: PDAN

Host Supervisor: Sarah Bass

Community Partner: Kara Koteles, RN, PHN

Research Questions

- 1) How do members of the Peterborough City and County describe DV?
- 2) Is DV perceived as an important issue by the community?
- 3) Are people able to identify a service or source of information to help someone who is experiencing DV?
- 4) What educational materials or supports related to DV have members of Peterborough been made aware of in the past year? Where and what?
- 5) Does the community believe that enough is being done to prevent or address DV? If not, what do they believe should be changed?

Methods



Public Opinion Survey

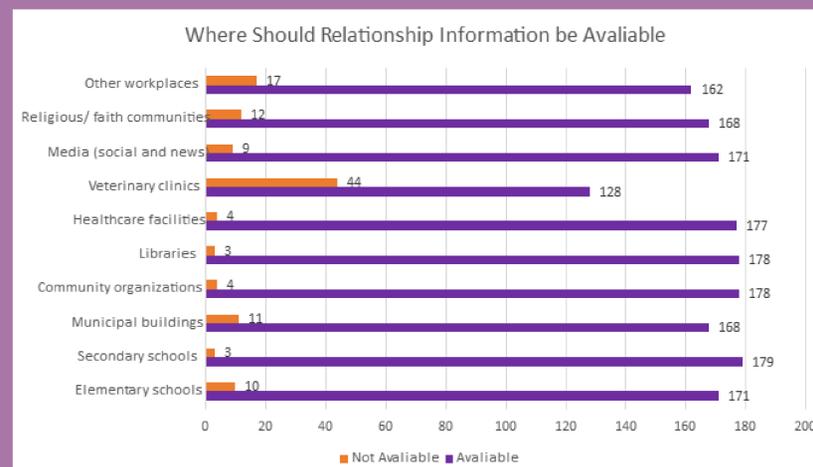


14
Demographic
Questions

n = 199

20
Survey
Questions

Results



A frequency distribution of participant responses

Discussion

- Participants aligned their definition of DV with the one provided in the survey
 - DV is multifaceted
- Most members of the community agree DV should be labelled an epidemic (95%)
- The prevalence of DV/ sexual assault in relationships and Peterborough is understood
- The closer the interpersonal relationship, the better suited participants felt they could help someone experiencing DV
- More educational materials on DV, identifying DV, and healthy relationships is needed for all members of the community
- Healthcare professionals can be a key site of action for identifying DV

Recommendations



- 1 Create educational materials on:
 - (un)healthy relationships for youth and different institutions
 - for those in positions to help. For example, police, legal personnel and DV service providers
- 2 Create a guide for healthcare providers to identify DV and support services referral
- 3 Create a guide to educate the public on how to support someone experiencing DV

