

# Service Use Patterns in Canadian Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

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# The Healing Journey (SSHRC/CURA)

- Tri-provincial study examining women's experience of intimate partner violence (IPV):
  - Principle Investigator: Jane Ursel (University of Manitoba)
- 7 waves of interviews at 6 month intervals examining:
  - Impact of IPV on health and parenting
  - Utilization and satisfaction with services
  - Detailed labour force questionnaire for cost analysis study
- In-depth qualitative interviews
- Data collected with the help of community partners
- The Current Analyses used data from:
  - Waves 1 and 2
  - Saskatchewan and Manitoba



# Objective

- To discuss differences of service use patterns between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal women in the Healing Journey project.
- Hymen et al. (2009) has suggested that help-seeking behaviors are not statistically different for racial minority and White women in Canada.
- To discuss statistically significant differences in service use patterns of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women.
- Is there something unique happening in the Saskatchewan/Manitoba population?

# Demographic Information

- Age: 34.0 years (median)

| Cultural Background | Wave 1            | Wave 2            |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aboriginal          | 255 women (58.4%) | 217 women (55.6%) |
| Non-Aboriginal      | 188 women (41.6%) | 173 women (44.4%) |

| Geographic Location | Wave 1            |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Urban               | 405 women (92.5%) |
| Rural               | 20 women (4.6%)   |
| Northern            | 13 women (3.0%)   |

# Results: Shelters, Second Stage Housing, Counseling, and Crisis Lines

|                | Service              |                      |                        |                 |
|----------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Background     | Women's Shelters (*) | Second Stage Housing | Counseling Program (*) | Crisis Line (*) |
| Aboriginal     | Yes: 65.5%           | Yes: 16.9%           | Yes: 78.4%             | Yes: 35.7%      |
|                | No: 34.5%            | No: 83.1%            | No: 21.6%              | No: 64.3%       |
| Non-Aboriginal | Yes: 48.9%           | Yes: 12.6%           | Yes: 90.7%             | Yes: 57.7%      |
|                | No: 51.1%            | No: 87.4%            | No: 9.3%               | No: 42.3%       |

Note: statistical significance tested using Chi-square analyses. Statistically significant results are denoted by an asterisk (\*)



# Results: Education & Job Training, Social Assistance, and Social Housing

|                | Service                  |                       |                    |
|----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
|                | Education & Job Training | Social Assistance (*) | Social Housing (*) |
| Background     |                          |                       |                    |
| Aboriginal     | Yes: 63.9%               | Yes: 93.7%            | Yes: 60%           |
|                | No: 36.1%                | No: 6.3%              | No: 40%            |
| Non-Aboriginal | Yes: 58.8%               | Yes: 66.5%            | Yes: 49.5%         |
|                | No: 41.2%                | No: 33.5%             | No: 50.5%          |

# Results: Involvement with Legal System

|                | Service                 |                         |                         |                         |                         |                     |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Background     | Never Involved          | Family Law (*)          | Police                  | Criminal Courts         | Protection Orders       | All of the Above    |
| Aboriginal     | Yes: 20.7%<br>No: 79.3% | Yes: 30.2%<br>No: 69.8% | Yes: 77.3%<br>No: 22.7% | Yes: 45.9%<br>No: 54.1% | Yes: 59.6%<br>No: 40.4% | Yes: 24%<br>No: 76% |
| Non-Aboriginal | Yes: 19.5%<br>No: 80.5% | Yes: 52.2%<br>No: 47.8% | Yes: 76.4%<br>No: 23.6% | Yes: 44.5%<br>No: 55.5% | Yes: 59.3%<br>No: 40.7% | Yes: 32%<br>No: 68% |

# Results: Legal Representation

|                | Service (*)      |           |                 |                               |                                       |
|----------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Background     | No Legal Counsel | Legal Aid | Private Counsel | Legal Aid and Private Counsel | Difficulty Securing Legal Counsel (*) |
| Aboriginal     | 64.9%            | 29.4%     | 5.7%            | 0%                            | 17.8                                  |
| Non-Aboriginal | 45.3%            | 28.6%     | 23.6%           | 2.5%                          | 29.6                                  |



# Results: Called Police

|                | Frequency (*) |           |                   |                 |
|----------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Background     | No            | Yes, Once | Yes, 2 or 3 Times | Yes, Many Times |
| Aboriginal     | 20.7%         | 14.7%     | 30.0%             | 34.6%           |
| Non-Aboriginal | 23.9%         | 26.4%     | 20.2%             | 29.4%           |

# Results: Someone Else Called Police

|                | Frequency |           |                   |                 |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                | No        | Yes, Once | Yes, 2 or 3 Times | Yes, Many Times |
| Background     |           |           |                   |                 |
| Aboriginal     | 41.1%     | 22.4%     | 20.6%             | 15.9%           |
| Non-Aboriginal | 53.7%     | 20.4%     | 16.7%             | 9.3%            |

# Results: Health Services

|                | Service                 |                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |
|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Background     | Annual Physical         | Doctor or Nurse (*)     | ER Patient              | Overnight Hospital (*)  | Walk-in Clinic (*)      | Specialist              |
| Aboriginal     | Yes: 56.5%<br>No: 43.5% | Yes: 49.3%<br>No: 50.7% | Yes 50.5%<br>No: 49.5%  | Yes: 29.2%<br>No: 70.8% | Yes: 63.3%<br>No: 36.7% | Yes: 32.9%<br>No: 67.1% |
| Non-Aboriginal | Yes: 56.4%<br>No: 43.6% | Yes: 64.3%<br>No: 35.7% | Yes: 41.2%<br>No: 58.8% | Yes: 18.7%<br>No: 81.3% | Yes: 47.4%<br>No: 52.6% | Yes: 41.8%<br>No: 58.2% |

# Results: Health Services

|                | Service                   |                                  |           |                                                    |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Background     | Dental Check-up/Treatment | Brest self-exam or mammogram (*) | Home Care | Naturopath, chiropractor, physiotherapist, etc (*) |
| Aboriginal     | Yes: 60.4%                | Yes: 38.8%                       | Yes: 6.3% | Yes: 21.1%                                         |
|                | No: 39.6%                 | No: 61.2%                        | No: 93.7% | No: 78.9%                                          |
| Non-Aboriginal | Yes: 59.3%                | Yes: 53.5%                       | Yes: 5.9% | Yes: 38.6%                                         |
|                | No: 40.7%                 | No: 46.5%                        | No: 94.1% | No: 61.4%                                          |

# Results: Health Services

|                    | Service                                                |                                         |                         |                                            |                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Background         | Counselor,<br>social<br>worker,<br>psychologist<br>(*) | Indigenous<br>Traditional<br>Healer (*) | Religious<br>Leader (*) | Self-Help<br>Group<br>(health-<br>related) | Drug or<br>Alcohol<br>Treatment<br>(*) |
| Aboriginal         | Yes: 51.9%                                             | Yes: 35.5%                              | Yes: 46.9%              | Yes: 24.9%                                 | Yes: 25.2%                             |
|                    | No: 48.1%                                              | No: 64.7%                               | No: 53.1%               | No: 75.1%                                  | No: 74.8%                              |
| Non-<br>Aboriginal | Yes: 68.2%                                             | Yes: 8.9%                               | Yes: 32.7%              | Yes: 32%                                   | Yes: 10.1%                             |
|                    | No: 31.8%                                              | No: 91.1%                               | No: 67.3%               | No: 68%                                    | No: 89.9%                              |

# Traditional Indigenous Healing Usage

- **Aboriginal Participants:**
  - Yes: 35.3% (73)
  - No: 64.7% (134)
- **Non-Aboriginal Participants:**
  - Yes: 8.9% (15)
  - No: 91.1% (153)



# Traditional Indigenous Healing Usage

- Puchala, Paul, Kennedy, & Mehl-Madrona (n.d.) suggest that symptom severity in victims of abuse declined after speaking with “traditional healing elders”.
- Evans-Campbell, Lindhorst, Huang, & Walters (2006) found that in reference to Alaska Native/American Indian women the following numbers of women sought “traditional native healing”:

| Child Physical Abuse | Rape  | Touched Against Will | Domestic Violence | Multiple Victimization | No Abuse History |
|----------------------|-------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 71.0%                | 77.4% | 82.2%                | 65.9%             | 73.0%                  | 57.9%            |

# Why don't more Aboriginal women use traditional healing?

- Evans-Campbell, Lindhorst, Huang, & Walters (2006) state that one possible explanation for high usage rates could be “an increasing number of services available”. It may then be that the services simply are not available within the population in the Healing Journey study.
- It may also be because “traditional healing [has] declined because of the colonial process” (NWAC, 2007). This may lead to:
  - Embarrassment
  - Christianization
  - Believed financial strain
  - Lack of knowledge
- What does the term “traditional Indigenous healer” mean? There are different ways to define the term.

# Shelter vs. Transitional Housing Use

- 65.5% (167) of Aboriginal women stayed had stayed in a “battered women’s shelter” as compared to 48.9% (89) of non-Aboriginal women.
- 16.9% (43) of Aboriginal women had stayed in “residential second stage housing”, as compared to 12.6% (23) of non-Aboriginal women. In this case, there was no statistically significant difference between the two groups.

# Shelter vs. Transitional Housing Use

- Although there is a lack of research on this topic regarding the general female Aboriginal population, Shepherd (2001) purports that on-reserve First Nations women are less likely to use second stage housing because:
  - Strong value placed on family
  - Living on husband's First Nation
  - Fear/unwillingness to leave their community
  - Ability to flee to “safe houses” rather than to formal shelters or transitional housing.





# Breast Health

- In the current study, our Aboriginal participants were more likely to report that they have NOT performed a breast self-exam, or had a mammogram, in the past 12 months:

|                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| <b>Aboriginal</b> | <b>38.8%</b> |
| Non-Aboriginal    | 53.5%        |

- If Aboriginal women are less likely to access preventative breast care, then they may also be at risk to be diagnosed at later stages of breast disease (McMicheal et al., 2000)



# Breast Health

- A 2002 study out of New Brunswick reported concern about breast cancer in First Nations communities
- 65% of the women reported having a mammogram in the last 2 years (Tatemichi et al., 2002)





# Breast Health

## Access to the Health Care System

- Locations of services are not always accessible (i.e. having to fly to another city to have a mammogram)
- Lack of health care workers with shared background and experiences (McMicheal et al., 2000)
- Health care workers behaving in inappropriate, racist, or disrespectful ways

# What do Service Providers in Regina think?

- Is traditional healing accessible and/or appealing for survivors of IPV who wish to participate in it?
- Is transitional housing accessible and/or appealing for survivors of IPV who wish to participate in it?
- Is breast cancer screening information available and/or appealing for Aboriginal women?