

Responding to Women

Who Experience Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Municipalities Across the Prairies



Background

- Focus on intimate partner violence (IPV) experienced by women in rural municipalities across Alberta, Manitoba, and Saskatchewan.
- Aimed to understand the types of abuse, barriers to help-seeking, and the specific challenges faced by rural women.

Method

- Data collected through interviews with 41 IPV survivors and 5 focus groups with 39 service providers.
- Explored experiences of abuse, help-seeking behaviors, and service accessibility.

Results

- Types of Abuse: Women experienced emotional, physical, financial, sexual, spiritual abuse, coercive control, neglect, and stalking.
- Help-Seeking Barriers: Lack of resources, low awareness, post-separation abuse fears, and unique challenges for Indigenous and immigrant women.
- Service Gaps: Critical need for more rural outreach, legal support, mental health services, and improved shelter conditions.

Conclusion

- Rural women face significant barriers to seeking help for IPV, compounded by geographic isolation and limited resources.
- Recommendations include improving resource accessibility, enhancing legal and mental health support, and providing targeted outreach and culturally sensitive services.

