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Prevention Initiative



# Service providers' perspectives on the complexity of domestic violence and homicide risk assessments, and its implications for service provision within immigrant and refugee communities

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# KI Data & Methodology

## **152 participants from Ontario & BC**

- All worked with immigrant & refugee populations

## **85% of the participants worked in 4 sectors:**

- Violence against women – 46 (30%)
- Justice – 35 (23%)
- Health – 28 (18%)
- Child protection – 20 (13%)

## **Data coding & analysis**

- Grounded theory

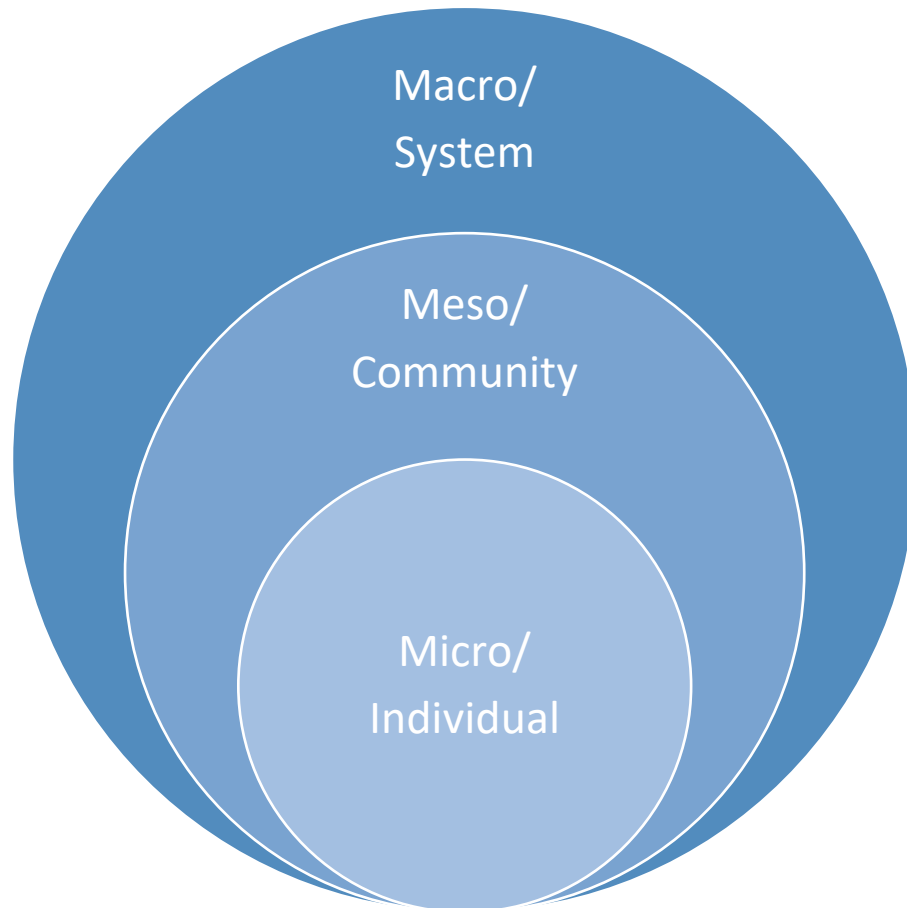
# Risk Assessments with Immigrant & Refugee Populations

## Risk factors in I&R populations:

- Cultural factors
- Pre- & post-migration journey
- Geographic & social isolation
- Family structure & dynamics
  - Pre- & post-migration
- Changes in socioeconomic status
- Immigration status



# Socio-Ecological Model to Risk Factors & Barriers



## Macro

Immigration-related concerns; limited access to support; lack of funding; distrust of systems; racism & discrimination; oppressive practices

## Meso

Intersecting risks; barriers to service & support; accessibility to services

## Micro

Migration journeys; cultural considerations; complexities

# Key Informants Voice: Meso-Level Risk



*“I think that also some of the difficulties are when you come for services and everybody is white and Anglo-speaking that sometimes you are not able to see women of your culture and of your experience role modelling for you and giving you information so sometimes the [violence against women sector] is not good representation of the community as a whole” (violence against women)*



# Interview Findings

- Risk assessment tools
- Organizational & individual factors for risk assessment
- Theory & practice disconnect
- One size doesn't fit all





# Key Informant's Voice: Risk Assessment Protocol



*“I always do it but it is not mandatory, no one governs me to do it but I always do it. It’s the same as developing a safety plan with a number of different women over the years from when I was involved with shelter to when I was doing my own advocacy. I always know how to do it, what to do, and in fact a few years ago I developed a safety planning tool [...] because how we safety plan is different from dominant culture women” (social services & healthcare)*

# Key Informant's Voice: Approaches to Interviewing



*“Yes, we have very comprehensive risk assessment forms. But you know again it depends, sometimes I really don’t have to ask those questions. Once they feel like I speak their language, or whatever, it is that sort of connectivity with each other, they disclose everything [...] When we are doing risk assessment it differs from client to client, depending on their financial status, their family size, cultural background. But for safety planning, definitely, we have the checklist and everything.... We have specific, like when we do the need assessment, that time definitely we have specific questions” (settlement services)*

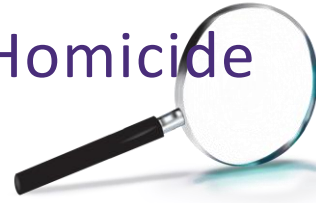


# Reflections on Findings



- Importance of conducting risk assessments
- Professional judgement
- Limited focus on risk assessment with immigrant & refugee populations
- Holistic & hybrid approach to risk assessment
- Professional development & training on risk factors & risk assessment with immigrants & refugees

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