

Immigrant Women, Family Violence, and Pathways Out of Homelessness Workshop Agenda

Date: Wednesday June 21, 2006

Location: Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, City Centre Atlantic,
1535 Dresden Row, Suite 209, Halifax. 494-2240

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

10:00-10:30

*Introduce Purpose of Workshop
Introduction to the Study
Key Research Findings*

10.30-11.45

Small Group Discussion

11.45-12.15

Small Group Reports

12:15-1:00

Lunch and Next Steps

1. Introduce Purpose of Workshop

- Present our research findings
- Discuss these findings as a group
- Get feedback about how these findings fit with your experience
- Discuss current initiatives addressing issues faced by immigrant women experiencing family violence and housing insecurity
- Ask you to identify recommendations for policy change

2. Introduction to the Study

Immigrant Women, Family Violence, and Pathways Out of Homelessness

- There has been little investigation into the connections between family violence, immigration and homelessness of women
- This study aims to explore the nature and extent of homelessness or housing insecurity among immigrant women experiencing family violence
- This is a national study with sites in Calgary, Winnipeg, and Halifax

Terminology

- Homeless – temporarily living in an emergency shelter, second-stage shelter, with relatives or friends, or other impermanent housing
- Housing Insecure – living in housing that she can't afford, living with spouse and wanting to leave, left an emergency or second-stage shelter and not clear where she will go next, or even in theoretically permanent, but inadequate or unsafe housing
- Housing Secure – living in a home that she considers permanent and safe

Methods

- Qualitative interviews with immigrant women
- Qualitative interviews with service providers
- Inventory of employment and education services
- Quantitative data from second-stage shelter (Calgary)
- Consultations with key individuals who form and inform policy

Research Questions

- What are the key structural/systemic and individual causes of persistent and repetitive homelessness of immigrant women experiencing family violence?
 - What are the key indicators of an increased risk of homelessness?
 - What are the key indicators for decreased risk?
- What are the pathways into and out of homelessness? What are the specific conjunctures where critical interventions are most effective?
- What existing services are most effective in assisting people exit homelessness, and how can homeless people or those at risk of homelessness access them?

3. Key Research Findings

4. Small Group Discussions

- How do these findings fit with your experiences/information you have heard before?
- Discuss current initiatives addressing issues faced by immigrant women experiencing family violence and housing insecurity. Are there currently initiatives in place? Are there new initiatives being developed or considered?
- Identify possible recommendations for policy change

5. Small Group Reports

6. Next Steps