

Development of Pan-Canadian Public Health Guidance on Family Violence Project Summary

Family violence is a major public health problem with devastating consequences for children, adults, families, communities and society. There is an urgent need for evidence-based, compassionate and integrated provision of care to adults and children exposed to violence. **This project is developing national, evidence-based public health guidance, curricula and tools for health and social service professionals.** The guidance will fill a crucial gap – the lack of evidence-based and consistent knowledge, education and training available to health and allied social service professionals with respect to the health impacts of violence, and how best to respond to adults and children exposed to family violence across the lifespan.

The 3-year project (2015-2018), funded by the Public Health Agency of Canada, is national in scope, and the primary audiences for the guidance and curricula (in both official languages) are: primary health care and specialist physicians; nurses of all types; midwives; public health professionals; psychologists; oral health professionals; social workers; mental health and addictions counsellors; child welfare workers and women's shelter/transition house workers. Specific project activities (see overview figure) and objectives are:

1. produce **foundational evidence-based guidance** that integrates stakeholder input and provides the best available evidence on effective practices in responding to intimate partner violence (IPV), child maltreatment, and children's exposure to IPV;
2. produce **curricula and related tools and protocols** based on principles of trauma- and violence-informed care and cultural safety, and integrate issues of equity with respect to race, ethnicity, culture, ability and gender; the curricula will be appropriate for adaptation and implementation by different provider groups and types of learners, in various settings;
3. develop **metrics and indicators** so that guidance and curriculum implementations can be evaluated; and
4. develop a **knowledge mobilization** strategy for ongoing communication with stakeholders.

A National Guidance and Implementation Committee with representatives from 22 key Canadian health and social service professional organizations provides overall guidance and assists with specific testing of the curricula and development of metrics and dissemination strategies.

Ongoing integrated knowledge translation and exchange will ensure buy-in from key stakeholders, and a dissemination and public communication plan will guide uptake with key national organizations, and other stakeholders. Visit www.projectVEGA.ca and follow us @VEGA_Canada.

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Overview of Activities

