

Healthy Families Healthy Nations
Domestic Violence Training

for Professionals and Service Providers

Theme - Improving Our Communities - Understanding Violence

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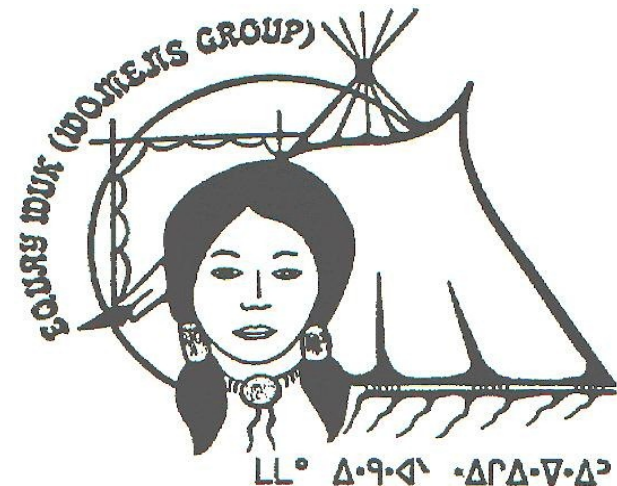
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How Family Violence
**Impacts Our
Communities**



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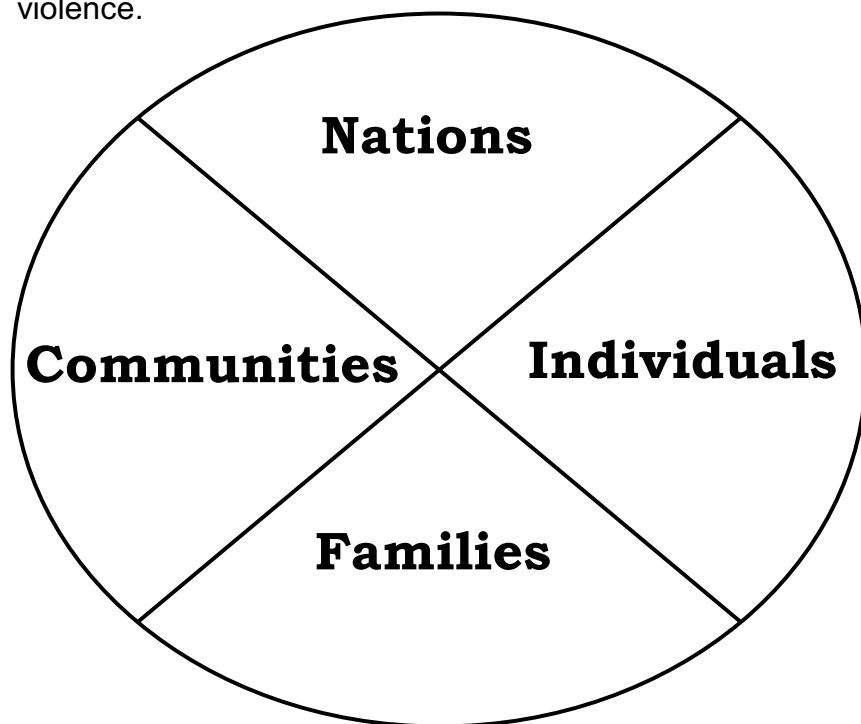
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2009

How Family Violence Impacts Our Communities

Family violence in Aboriginal communities has negative effects on all community members, from individuals to families, families to communities, and from communities to Nations. Family violence affects everybody, including: the victim, abuser, family members (extended), community leadership and helpers, and the different Nations of Aboriginal people.

In northern, remote Aboriginal communities, there are struggles to identify family violence, struggles on how to deal with family violence, and struggles on how to prevent family violence.



NOTES:

Factors That Contribute To Family Violence:

- government interventions and their intention to disrupt Aboriginal family life (colonization, assimilation, racism, discrimination, etc)
- abuse of substances (drug, alcohol, solvents, medications)
- loss of culture
- poverty
- gender stereotypes
- substandard living, overcrowding
- high rates of unemployment
- past history
- lack of parenting skills
- lack of communication
- negative learned behaviours
- denial of the problem
- lack of healthy coping skills
- lack of knowledge

Group	Impacts Of Family Violence
Individuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • overall well-being (victim and abuser) • negative coping skills (lack of healthy coping skills) • unhealthy relationships, role modeling • lost identity • withdrawal and isolation • negative cycle • denial of the problem
Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family dysfunction • negative coping skills (lack of healthy coping skills) • child apprehension, high suicide rates • withdrawal and isolation • unhealthy relationships, role modeling • negative cycle • denial of the problem

Group	Impacts Of Family Violence
Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • community conflict and dysfunction • lateral violence (gossip, blaming others, name calling, etc) • weakened support systems • unhealthy relationships, role modeling • negative cycle (lack of healthy coping skills) • crisis-related approach to healing • unhealthy leadership • denial of the problem
Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • weakened support systems • negative cycle (lack of healthy coping skills) • unhealthy relationships, role modeling • crisis-related approach to healing • random intervention strategies • no unity • unhealthy leadership

Contributing Factors To Family Violence:

Individual

- ▶ moods and temperament (how they cope with their feelings)
- ▶ learned behaviours (what they learned growing up)
- ▶ attitudes and values (what they value and believe in)
- ▶ coping ability (how they cope with stress and anger)
- ▶ knowledge (how much they know about violence and healthy living)

Family

- ▶ unsure how to form healthy relationships within the family
- ▶ attitudes and values (what they value and believe in)
- ▶ ability to cope with stress (how they cope with stress and anger)
- ▶ available resources (support available in community)
- ▶ living conditions (overcrowding, poor housing creates stress)

Community

- ▶ lack of available supports (lack of funds available for community programs)
- ▶ lack of learning opportunities (lack of opportunities for training workers)
- ▶ attitudes about family roles and responsibilities (what they value and believe in)
- ▶ amount and kind of violence that is allowed (socially accepted abusive behaviour)

Nation

- ▶ attitudes about family roles and responsibilities (traditional and present family roles and responsibilities)
- ▶ attitudes about abuse to solve problems (use of force to control people)
- ▶ amount and kind of violence that is allowed (socially accepted abusive behaviour)