

Belgian Family Violence Sensibilisation Project

2009 - 2010

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Goals

- Improve awareness of prevalence, risk factors, health consequences of violence for the whole family
- Address the related myths and preconceived ideas
- Improve the odds an earlier detection of family violence (FV)
- Identify the barriers why patients don't disclose the problem
- Suggest an effective interdisciplinary handling of family violence cases
- Improve the quality of medical care offered to FV victims
- Promote the drafting of medical statement usable in legal proceedings
- Encourage self-study as well as participation in additional courses on the topic

National Action Plan (2001-2010)

- Designed in collaboration with various ministries
- Coordinated by the Institute for the Equality of Women and Men
- Reinforces the consistency and efficiency of public action in the area

Method and evaluation

- 2.5 hours session officially recognized by the Belgian National Institute for Health and Disability Insurance (INAMI) and presented by two trainers (including a physician)
- PREMIS* tool, as translated and adapted to the project's goals and to Belgian health care requirements

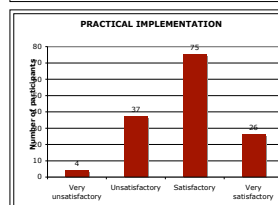
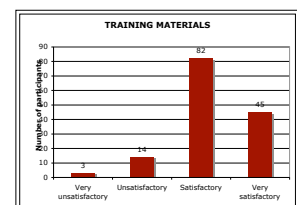
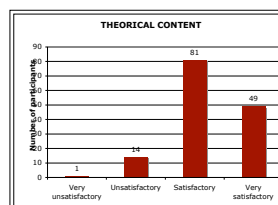
* Short LM, Alpert E, Harris J, Surprenant ZJ., A tool for measuring physician readiness to manage intimate partner violence, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 2006; 30(2):73-180.

Population : 174 French-speaking participants

PROFESSION	Percentage
Medical Assistant	3,8
Social Worker	5,1
Head Nurse	4,5
Nurse	55,1
Physician	12,3
Paramedic (educator, occupational therapist)	1,9
Psychologist	6,4
Childcare worker	1,9
Midwife	8,2
TOTAL	100,0

* 158 responses

Degree of satisfaction



Opinion after session ?

- ↑ **Workplace issues** I can make appropriate referrals to services within the community for FV victims
- ↑ **Self-efficacy** I am able to gather the necessary information to identify FV as the underlying cause of patient illnesses (e.g., depression, migraines)
- ↑ **Preparation** I have the necessary skills to discuss abuse with an FV victim
- ↑ **Legal requirements** I am aware of legal requirements in this state regarding reporting of suspected cases of FV
- ↑ **Victim understanding** Screening for FV is not likely to offend those who are screened

Optimization of knowledge

- Relationship between FV and pregnancy
- Practitioner's role in detecting FV : which questions to ask ? what to say or not to say to the victims ? how to understand denial ?
- Perpetrators of FV and childhood effects of witnessing FV
- Documentation and legal requirements for FV
- Risk assessment and safety planning
- Signs or symptoms of FV
- Referral sources

Post-study Recommendations

- **Organize further sensibilisation actions**
- **Set up effective training upon EBM (Evidence Based Medicine)**
 - over 90% of participants ask for training in new behaviours and attitudes
 - over 90% of participants wish for a follow-up to the sensibilisation action
- **Nominate a contact person in each hospital which would inform and assist all concerned parties**
- **Produce informational supports, such as posters, brochures, etc. for the health care providers**