Breaking Isolation: Social Support And "Know Your Rights" for Immigrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

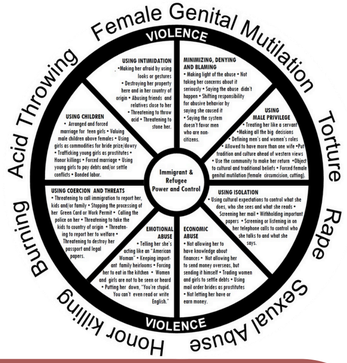
Nathalie Hamel, she/her - MSW candidate - nhamel@uw.edu

Needs Statement

Immigrant and refugee survivors of intimate partner violence (IPV) need culturally relevant social support outside of their families that 1) helps reduce social isolation and 2) enhance knowledge of their rights and IPV-related resources and services.

1 of 3 women in the U.S. experience intimate partner violence. Immigrants have the added risk factor of immigration status and context. Abusers use their partner's immigration status as a tactic to abuse and terrorize. Feeling isolated is one of the impacts.

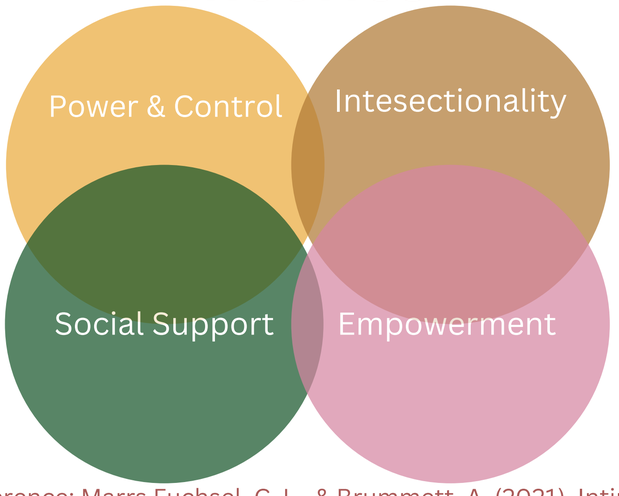
Power and Control Tactics



Goals

The goal of my intervention is to address the impacts of isolation with a culturally-relevant support group that blends activities that foster social connections and increase knowledge of survivor and immigrant rights and IPV-related resources and services (Marrs-Fuschel 2021). With more social connections and knowledge, survivors will feel empowered to reach for help.

Theories



Intervention

- Social support group blending socialization and education; 2hrs/week, ongoing for 1 year
- Trauma based, culturally relevant (language access, interpretation, facilitators from similar culture)
- One social worker and one peer co-facilitator
- Recruitment using peer-based "promotora" model
- Participants referred internally or from partners
- Immigrant survivors who identify as women
- Basic topics: survivor rights, immigration relief options, know your rights with "ICE", safety planning. Participants choose from a menu of topics.
- Activity-based such as cooking, art, outdoors
  - Incentives for participation and childcare

Outcomes and Indicators

#1: Immigrant and refugee survivors feel less isolated.

- Indicator A: 50% of participants in the social support group respond that participating in the support group makes them feel less socially isolated compared to before they participated in the support group.
- Indicator B: 50% of participants in the social support group are able to identify two people in the group that they trust and can turn to for help if needed.

#2: Immigrant and refugee survivors gain knowledge of their survivor and immigrant rights

- Indicator A: 80% of participants in the social support group are able to name two forms of immigration relief and describe eligibility criteria
- Indicator B: 80% of participants in the social support group are able to name two immigrant rights when approached by ICE agents

Reference: Marrs Fuchsel, C. L., & Brummett, A. (2021). Intimate Partner Violence Prevention and Intervention Group-Format Programs for Immigrant Latinas: A Systematic Review. Journal of