

PROJECT AT A GLANCE

Child and Youth Mental Health: The implementation of the interRAI Collaborative Action Plans to improve outcomes for children and youth ex-posed to domestic violence

PROJECT GOAL:

This project is implementing and evaluating the interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health instrument (ChYMH), which is an innovative assessment-to-intervention tool that assesses the mental health needs of children between the ages of 4 to 18. This project aims to provide training on the use of the interRAI ChYMH using a trauma-informed lens and subsequently assess the impact of Collaborative Action Plans (evidence-informed guidelines for areas of high need embedded within the assessment tool) on clients who have been exposed to domestic violence and abuse (DVA).

PROJECT OBJECTIVES:

- Assess child mental health assets and needs, social determinants, socio-economic factors and parental profiles to gain a comprehensive understanding of the mental health dynamics of children and families exposed to DVA.
- To implement and evaluate the interRAI ChYMH, a new innovative approach to assessment and practice that will offer a holistic system to identify child and family needs, so that evidence-informed care planning interventions can be employed in a timely, effective manner.
- To strengthen the capacity of practitioners and organizations at the community level to address the health of victims of DVA using trauma-informed care
- To enhance early detection, prevention, monitoring and intervention of developmental issues and mental health problems, improve consistency and continuity of care and potentially reduce the use of inappropriate services.
- To enhance and expand integration across community services for victims of DVA, with an emphasis on collaborative models.

PROJECT ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS:

Building Awareness and Capacity

- Initial training to sites to facilitate early identification of children, youth and families exposed to DVA to facilitate integrated trauma-informed knowledge to practice.

Trauma-informed intervention using Collaborative Action Plans

- Assessment of children and youth between the ages of 4 and 18 that will consist of youth exposed to DVA and youth not exposed to DVA.
- Implementation of Collaborative Action Plans (evidence-based guidelines) related to areas of high need for children assessed using the interRAI ChYMH, using a trauma-informed lens.

Evaluation

- Evaluation of the training/booster sessions, assessment and the interRAI ChYMH Collaborative Action Plans (CAPs) implementation through focus groups, feedback forms and questionnaires.
- The collected data will be analyzed to determine if the CAPs improved outcomes for children and youth exposed to DVA.

Knowledge Exchanges

- At the end of the study, several knowledge exchange initiatives will be completed including the presentation of results at conferences, and a knowledge exchange meeting with stakeholders.
- Throughout the length of the project, researchers will support all partners in translating knowledge into practice with a high level of engagement.

PROJECT LEAD:



Western University is a public research university in London, Ontario

