

# Developing and Testing a Readiness Tool for Partnerships with Community-Based Projects

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# BTC Programs and Services

## Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)

### Addictions

- Relapse Prevention Group
  - Recovery Group
  - Life Skills Group
- Individual Counselling

### Developmental Clinic

- Screening and Assessment
- Developmental and Interactional Guidance
  - Parent-Child Dyadic Interventions
  - Home Visiting
  - Early Intervention

### Connections Interpersonal Violence Intervention

### Mental Health Counselling

### Health/Medical Services

- FASD Assessment/Diagnostic Clinic
- Pre-Postnatal Counselling

### Basic Needs Support

- Food • Clothing • Transportation

### Probation Services



### Childminding

### Pregnancy Outreach Program

### Parenting

- New Mom's Support Group
- Circle of Security Parenting Program
  - Cooking Healthy Together
- Parent-Child "Mother Goose" Program
- Make the Connection Program
- "Learning Through Play" Group



# Building Connections (2015-2021)

Funded by PHAC: Supporting the Health of Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence and Child Maltreatment through Community Programs

## Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



**Building Connections** (2015–2021) was a 5-year initiative in Canada where facilitators from 34 community-based projects were certified to deliver Connections.



**Connections: A Group Intervention for Mothers and Children Experiencing Violence in Relationships** is a manualized, 6-topic intervention program developed at BTC which focuses on mothers' experiences with interpersonal violence (IPV), its impact on maternal parenting and self-esteem, as well as on their children's development.



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# Creating Violence Prevention Partnerships: The Need to Consider Readiness

## Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)

Community-based projects (CBPs) are in a unique position to offer a range of services for vulnerable children, youth, and families

CBPs are often successful because they can engage the most marginalized community members (e.g., PHAC, 2010a; 2010b)

Yet, to effectively and safely implement (and evaluate) intervention programs, CBPs require readiness: an established baseline of knowledge, competence, and capacity

We used trauma-informed (Poole, 2014) and relational approaches (Jordan et al., 2004) as frameworks to guide the creation of a self-assessment readiness tool for CBPs



# Theoretical Frameworks: Trauma-Informed Practices

Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)

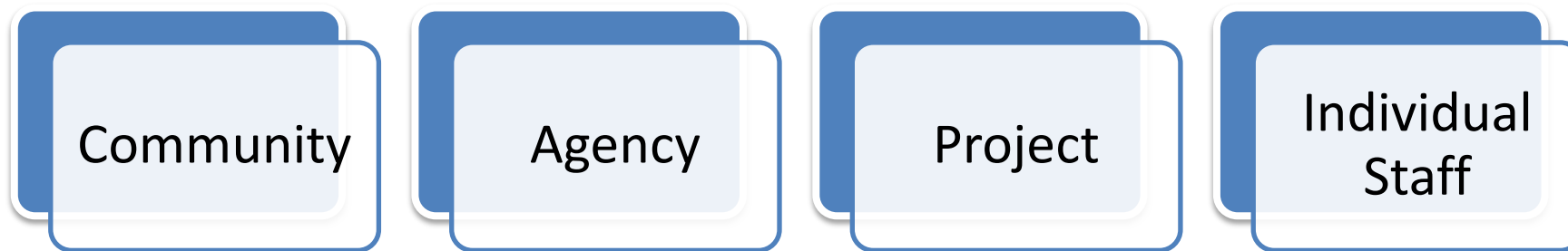


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# Theoretical Frameworks: Relational Approach

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# Readiness Assessment Tool Development

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We developed a list of components using our guiding frameworks, review of relevant literature, and existing checklists/tools

Your Starting Point Story (YSPS) assessed CBP readiness to participate in the dissemination of an intervention for mothers experiencing interpersonal violence

After piloting and through an iterative revision process, a total of 25 components were included in YSPS



	Community	Agency	Project	Individual Staff
Trauma Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identified IPV as a problem in the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicated addressing IPV is a priority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicated families would benefit from an IPV intervention</li> </ul>	
Strengths-based, Skill building, and Competencies		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have facilities for group, individual, and childminding</li> <li>Project has adapted to meet community needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collected information/data on families and outcomes</li> <li>Can commit to participation in delivery, community of practice, and evaluation</li> <li>Offer an array of services</li> <li>Have programming for both children and parents</li> <li>Have had a project evaluation</li> <li>Includes evidence-informed programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project staff have had relevant training</li> <li>Have a complete YSPS</li> </ul>
Collaborations and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a formal relationship with child protective services</li> <li>Have a formal relationship with a women's shelter</li> <li>Offer counseling services for women or have a formal relationship with someone who does</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a wide array of partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage families with a range of challenges</li> </ul>	
Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have an informal relationship with child protective services</li> <li>Have an informal relationship with a women's shelter</li> <li>Offer counseling services for women, or if not, have a relationship with someone who does</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have appropriate policies (except for reflective supervision)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Indicated readiness to deliver an IPV intervention</li> <li>Integrates a trauma-informed approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have a policy addressing reflective supervision for staff</li> </ul>



## Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



### BUILDING CONNECTIONS

Supporting Community-Based Programs to Address Interpersonal Violence and Child Maltreatment



#### Your Starting Point Story

In the fall of 2016, all CAPC/CPNP/AHSUNC programs received the *Building Connections* resource manual and had the opportunity to view the training webinar *Building Connections: Using Trauma-Informed and Relational Approaches to Help Women and Children Experiencing Interpersonal Violence*. **We are reaching out to you now because, following the webinar, you indicated that you were interested in receiving additional training regarding interpersonal violence and child maltreatment.**

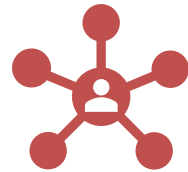


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# Participants and Procedure

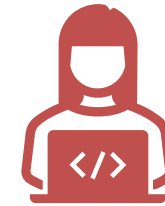
## Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



Participants were service providers from CBPs, recruited as part of a broader initiative called Building Connections



Participants were asked to complete YSPS individually or in consultation with others from their CBP



After receiving completed YSPSs, two researchers independently coded all YSPSs (Kappa = .93)



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# Scores on YSPS

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Accepted Applicants (N=18)				Not Accepted Applicants (N=15)			
	Mean	Min	Max		Mean	Min	Max
Key Components (/22)	21.00	18.00	21.00	Key Components (/22)	18.63	14.00	22.00
Recommended Components (/28)	21.22	12.00	27.00	Recommended Components (/28)	16.87	10.00	20.00
Total (/50)	42.11	34.00	49.00	Total (/50)	35.50	24.00	41.00



# Validation

Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



## Expert opinion

100% agreement between expert recommendations and recommendations based on the scoring system



## Uptake and Implementation

96% of accepted applicants attended and completed training

84% of trained projects have implemented the intervention



## Response from Community-Based Projects

Utility and importance of the tool for selecting projects

Utility as a self-reflection tool

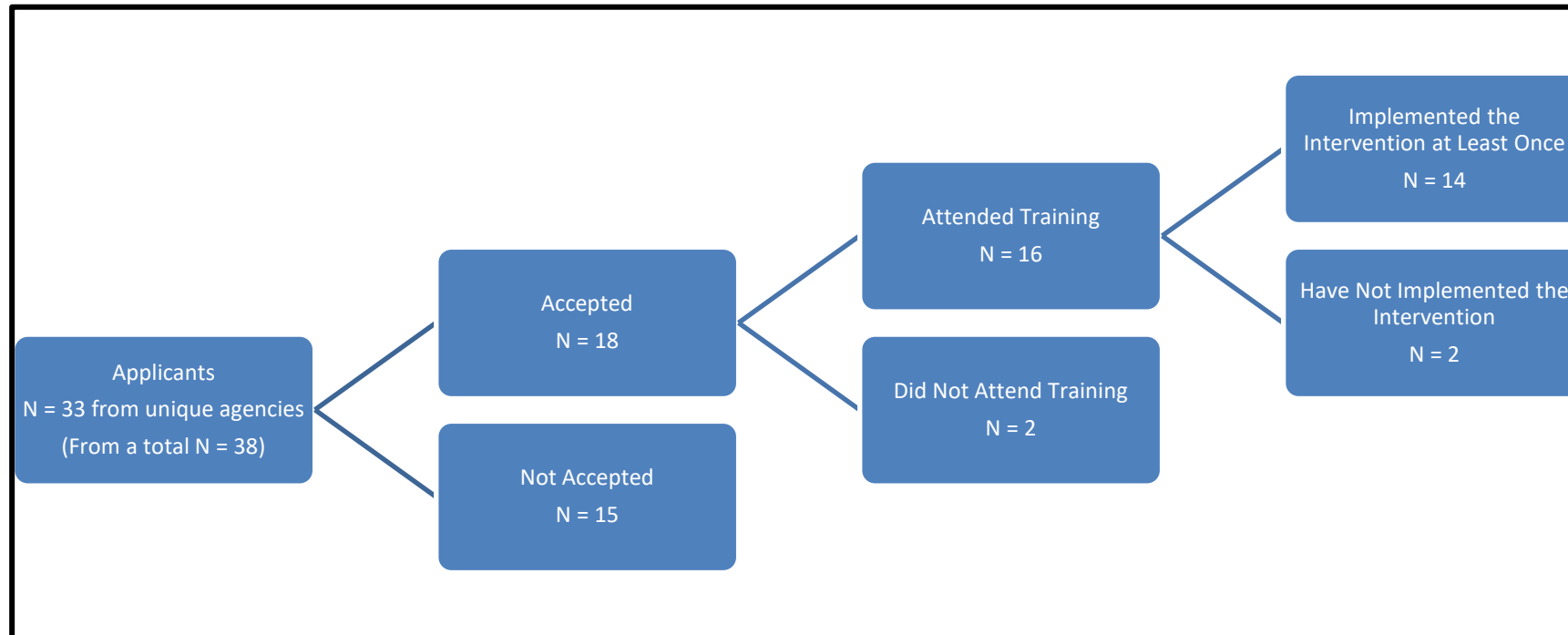


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# Uptake and Implementation

Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



# What We Learned

Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)

The YSPS tool assesses organizational readiness to provide trauma-informed services for families with complex needs. It can be used:

1. By researchers, program developers, and/or practitioners wishing to form a partnership with a CBP
2. As a self-reflection tool for CBP staff



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# Your Starting Point Story

Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)


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## Developing and testing a readiness tool for interpersonal violence prevention partnerships with community-based projects

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### Abstract

Community-based projects that serve vulnerable families have the opportunity to identify and respond to interpersonal violence (IPV). We developed a readiness assessment tool to support selection of projects to participate in an initiative that involved implementing a community-based IPV intervention for mothers. The overarching aim of the current study was to describe the development of this tool and examine the reliability of coding, validity, and utility of the tool.



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# Connections for Breaking the Cycle of Violence (C-BTC)



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