

Family Support Services – Relevant academic research

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<http://refugeersearch.net/family-support-services/>

As part of the Canadian Council for Refugees 2016 Spring Consultation (in Saskatoon, June 2-4, 2016), the Immigration and Settlement Working Group has organized a workshop entitled “Family Support Services.” The goal of this session is to foster a wider conversation about what family-centered services are necessary in a holistic approach to settlement and integration for diverse newcomer communities. The organizing group’s hope is that this workshop allows for the exploration of the intersections between traditional settlement and other integral areas of family life, such as child welfare, family violence and criminal justice. As well, throughout the workshop cross-cutting anti-oppression themes that are at the root of these issues need to be kept at the centre of this conversation.

In conjunction with this workshop, the Refugee Research Network (based at the Centre for Refugee Studies, York University) has put together this package of research related to the themes of this session. This package provides a scan of research on the themes of this workshop and is available through the RRN website to those who participate in this workshop in Saskatoon.

Articles

Abu-Ras, Wahiba (2007) Cultural beliefs and service utilization by battered Arab immigrant women. *Violence Against Women* 13(10): 1002-1028.

This study examines the relationship between cultural beliefs and the utilization of services among Arab immigrant women.

Ahmad, Farah, Natasha Driver, May Jane McNally, and Donna E. Stewart (2009) “Why doesn’t she seek help for partner abuse?”: An exploratory study with South Asian immigrant women. *Social Science & Medicine* 69: 613-622.

This study explores why South Asian immigrant women with experiences of partner abuse delay seeking help from professionals.

Alaggia, Ramona, Cheryl Regehr and Giselle Rishchynski (2009) Intimate partner violence and immigration laws in Canada: How far have we come? *International Journal of Law and Psychiatry* 32(6): 335-341.

This article considers the barriers immigrant women face in reporting and seeking services for intimate partner violence (IPV) including ones related to immigration laws, policies and legal processes they encounter due to their immigration status and sponsorship relationship.

Annan, Jeannie and Moriah Brier (2010) The risk of return: Intimate partner violence in Northern Uganda's armed conflict. *Social Science and Medicine* 70: 152-159.

This paper describes emerging themes from qualitative interviews with young women who have returned from abduction into the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda, many of whom were forcibly given as "wives" to commanders.

Barnes, Annmarie (2009) Displacing danger: Managing crime through deportation. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 10: 431-445.

This paper traces the development of the introduction of Bill C-44, the "danger to the public" clause that amended the Immigration Act of Canada in 1995, and considers the effects of the amendment to Canadian deportation policy on Jamaican nationals living in Canada.

Bhuyan, Rupaleem (2012) Negotiating citizenship on the frontlines: How the devolution of Canadian immigration policy shapes service delivery to women fleeing abuse. *Law & Policy* 34(2): 211-236.

This article contributes to our understanding of the devolution of immigration policy by examining how social service providers negotiate with different levels of government to advance the rights of migrant women in Canada.

Briones-Vozmediano, Erica, Isabel Goicolea, Gaby M. Ortiz-Barreda, Diana Gil-González and Carmen Vives-Cases (2014) Professionals' perceptions of support resources for battered immigrant women: Chronicle of an anticipated failure (2014) *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 29(6): 1006-1027.

The aim of this study is to explore the experience of service providers in Spain regarding their daily professional encounters with battered immigrant women and their perception of this group's help-seeking process and the eventual abandonment of the same.

Bui, Hoan (2008) Immigration, masculinity, and intimate partner violence from the standpoint of domestic violence service providers and Vietnamese-origin women. *Feminist Criminology* 3(3): 191-215.

Interventions into domestic violence require not only increasing economic opportunities for immigrants to reduce adaptation stress but also changing gender relations that do not reproduce the belief in male supremacy and men's control of women as part of masculine identity.

Carter, Thomas S. and John Osborne (2009) Housing and neighbourhood challenges of refugee resettlement in declining inner city neighbourhoods: A Winnipeg case study. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* 7(3): 308-327.

This study tracks refugee households over a three-year period, documents trajectories in labour-force participation, income and poverty trends, neighbourhood experiences, and housing circumstances.

Catani, Claudia, Nadja Jacob, Elisabeth Schauer, Mahendran Kohila and Frank Neuner (2008) Family violence, war, and natural disasters: A study of the effect of extreme stress on children's mental health in Sri Lanka. *BMC Psychiatry* 8:33.

The aim of this investigation is to establish the prevalence and predictors of traumatic stress related to war, family violence and the recent Tsunami experience in children living in a region affected by a long-lasting violent conflict. In addition, the study looks at whether higher levels of war violence are related to higher levels of violence within the family and whether this results in higher rates of psychological problems in the affected children.

Collins, Jock and Carol Reid (2009) Minority youth, crime, conflict, and belonging in Australia. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 10: 377-391

This article probes aspects of the criminality, anti-social behaviour, national identity, and belonging of ethnic minority youth in Australia. The authors conclude that the evidence on minority youth criminality is weak and that the panic about immigrant youth crime and immigrant youth gangs is disproportionate to the reality and rooted in racist stereotypes.

Critelli, Filomena M. (2015) Parenting in a new land: Specialized services for immigrant and refugee families in the USA. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 16: 871-890.

This practice-based research study examines a US-based preventive services program tailored to immigrant and refugee families that have been subject to a Child Protective Services report. The paper offers recommendations for child welfare agencies and practitioners to strengthen their services for immigrant and refugee communities.

Dambrun, Michael, Anne Taillandier, Florence Loose, Christelle Maisonneuve, Esther Gras, Isabelle Turret and Dominique Uhlen (2015) Reluctance to use host social services by ethnic minorities: The role of consensual separation, threat to heritage culture and misunderstanding of the host society language. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

This study examines the relationships between two types of separation orientations, namely forced and consensual separation, and the use of French social service community centers related to this aspect of integration.

Deuchar, Ross (2011) 'People look at us, the way we dress, and they think we're gangsters': Bonds, bridges, gangs and refugees: A Qualitative study of inter-cultural social capital in Glasgow. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 24(4): 672-689.

This paper explores the the relationship between refugee marginalization and the presence of youth gangs. The author considers the potential for community initiatives to build inter-cultural cohesion, and calls for changes to dispersal policy and for further research to explore the most effective vehicles for building social capital in multi-ethnic urban communities.

Drumbill, Gary C. (2009) Your policies, our children: Messages from refugee parents to child welfare workers and policy makers. *Child Welfare* 88(3): 145-168.

In this study, refugee parents living in Canada share their views of parenting and their experiences of Canadian child welfare services.

Ezard, Nadine, Edna Oppenheimer, Ann Burton, Marian Schilperoord, David Macdonald, Moruf Adelekan, Abandokoth Sakarati and Mark van Ommeren (2011) Six rapid assessments of alcohol and other substance use in populations displaced by conflict. *Conflict and Health* 5:1-15

Use of alcohol is linked to a range of health, social and protection problems, including illness, injury, gender-based violence, risky behaviour for sexually transmitted infection, as well as detrimental effects to household economy. Limited access to services, including health services, and exclusion from relevant host population programmes, may exacerbate the harmful consequences.

Finfgeld-Connett, Deborah and E. Diane Johnson (2013) Abused South Asian women in westernized countries and their experiences seeking help. *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 34: 863-873.

This study demonstrates that domestic abuse appears to be grounded in the context of cultural mores and the experience of immigration. Situational circumstances and language barriers make it difficult for women from particular sociocultural communities to reach and utilize helping services. Nurses are urged to consider these barriers as they assist immigrant women.

Friedman, Amy R. (1992) Rape and domestic violence: The experience of refugee women. *Women and Therapy* 13 (1-2): 65-78.

Women refugees are susceptible to additional health and protection problems as a result of their gender. Women and girls who flee their home countries to escape violence and persecution are particularly vulnerable to sexual violence. This paper argues that it is the responsibility of health care providers in both the international community and in countries of resettlement to significantly address sexual violence and its repercussions on the successful resettlement of refugees.

Fugate, Michelle, Leslie Landis, Sara Naureckas and Barbara Engel (2005) Barriers to domestic violence help seeking. *Violence Against Women* 11(3): 290-310.

This study identified immigration status and fear of immigration authorities among other barriers those facing domestic violence identified in relation to seeking help.

George, Usha (2002) A needs-based model for settlement service delivery for newcomers to Canada. *International Social Work* 45(4): 465-480.

The availability of adequate settlement services to meet the needs of newcomers is critical to the resettlement process. This article offers a model for appropriate settlement services for newcomers to Canada.

Gilroy, Heidi, Judith McFarlane, Angeles Nava and John Maddoux (2014) Community resource use among abused immigrant women: Baseline data analysis for a 7-year prospective study. *Journal of Transcultural Nursing* 25(4): 341-347.

Abused immigrant women have risk factors for abuse, and they face barriers in accessing the services they need. The authors argue that is important for service providers in the community to be aware of the unique challenges of abused immigrant women and to address their needs accordingly.

Ingram, Maia, Deborah Jean McClelland, Jessica Martin, Montserrat F. Caballero, Maria Theresa Mayorga and Katie Gillespie (2010) Experiences of immigrant women who self-petition under the Violence Against Women Act. *Violence Against Women* 16(8): 858-880.

Qualitative research methods were used in this participatory action research to investigate the experiences of Mexican immigrant women filing VAWA self-petitions using the Violence Against Women Act. Emotional, financial, and logistic barriers in applying are identified, and recommendations for practice research and policy are provided.

McMichael, C. S.M. Gifford and I. Correa-Velez (2011) Negotiating family, navigating resettlement: Family connectedness amongst resettled youth with refugee backgrounds living in Melbourne, Australia. *Journal of Youth Studies* 14(2): 179-195.

This paper focuses on changing household composition, and levels of trust, attachment, discipline and conflict in family settings during young people's first years of resettlement. The authors conclude that while families are central to the wellbeing of these young people, changing family dynamics can also pose a threat to wellbeing and successful settlement. The authors argue that youth focused settlement services must explicitly engage with family contexts in assisting refugee youth to achieve wellbeing and successfully resettle.

Menjivar, Cecilia and Olivia Salcido (2002) Immigrant women and domestic violence: Common experiences in different countries. *Gender and Society* 16(6): 898-920.

In this article, the authors assess the still limited literature on domestic violence among immigrant women in major receiving countries so as to begin delineating a framework to explain how immigrant specific factors exacerbate the already vulnerable position—as dictated by class, gender, and race—of immigrant women in domestic violence situations.

Mueller-Bamouh, Veronika, Martina Ruf-Leuschner, Katalin Dohrmann, Maggie Schauer, and Thomas Elbert (2016) Are experiences of family and of organized violence predictors of aggression and violent behaviour? A study with unaccompanied refugee minors. *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*

This study suggests that in addition to the impact of family violence, an elevated trait of appetitive aggression plays a crucial role in aggressive behavior and should be considered in psychotherapeutic treatment. This paper is part of the Special Issue: Global mental health: Trauma and adversity among populations in transition. More papers from this issue can be found at www.ejpt.net

Munro, Kimberley, Catherine Jarvis, Marie Munoz, Vinita D'Souza and Lisa Graves (2013) Undocumented pregnant women: What does the literature tell us? *Journal of Immigrant Minority Health* 15: 281-291.

Existing evidence suggests that pregnant undocumented migrants living in Western societies tend to be younger, unmarried, and more likely to be employed in the domestic sector than documented migrants and permanent residents. They have less access to prenatal care and consult later in pregnancy than controls. The authors found that little has been published on programs to address the needs of undocumented pregnant women living in Western countries and that more research on the particular health and social issues faced by these women is needed.

Nakajima, Yukiko (2005) the need for gender-sensitive medical interpreters for victims with limited English proficiency in sexual assault examinations. *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Services* 3(3/4): 57-72.

This paper addresses the need for trained gender-sensitive medical interpreters for adult female victims with limited English proficiency (LEP) in sexual assault examination, and thus the need for inclusion of trained medical interpreters in sexual assault response teams. The paper closes with a set of specific recommendations that will promote comfortable accessible service to female victims of sexual violence with limited English proficiency.

Peguero, Anthony A., Zahra Shekarkhar, Ann Marie Popp and Dixie J. Koo (2015) Punishing the children of immigrants: Race, ethnicity, generational status, student misbehavior, and school discipline. *Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies* 13(2): 200-220.

This study examines the disproportionate experiences of the children of immigrants with being disciplined at school. Findings reveal that Black/African American second- and third-plus generation as well as Latina/o American third-plus generation youth have increased odds of being disciplined despite having similar levels of misbehavior as their White American peers. The authors discuss the implications of the racial and ethnic, as well as generational, disparities in school discipline practices.

Raj, Anita and Jay Silverman (2002) Violence against immigrant women: The roles of culture, context and legal immigrant status on intimate partner violence. *Violence Against Women* 8(3): 367-398.

A review of the legal, medical, and social science research literature reveals limited data that suggests that immigrant women's cultures, contexts, and legal status (a) increase vulnerability for abuse, (b) are used by batterers to control and abuse immigrant women, and (c) create barriers to women seeking and receiving help. Data also reveal that immigrant culture and context offer resiliency factors through which programs and policy can be used to better serve these populations.

Rodriguez, Frank Anthony and Marika Dawkins (2016) Undocumented Latino youth: Migration experiences and the challenges of integrating into American society. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

This study explores the challenges that undocumented and unaccompanied Latino youth face in their migration and their attempt to integrate into American society. The findings indicate that youth are more prone to personal failures across several domains, which can lead to a life of crime. These results help to contextualize the immigration debate as related to undocumented Latino youth and crime and indicate that most of the undocumented Latino youth were victims of crimes more so than perpetrators of crime, making more difficult realizing their full potential.

Rossiter, Marian J. and Katherine R. Rossiter (2009) Diamonds in the Rough: Bridging Gaps in Supports for At-Risk Immigrant and Refugee Youth. *Journal of International Migration and Integration* 10: 409-429.

The potential of immigrant youth in Canada to make a significant, positive contribution to the future of their adopted country is negatively impacted when they and their families face barriers to integration. Those who become marginalised during this process risk becoming alienated or involved with the criminal justice system. The authors provide recommendations for bridging gaps in programming and policy initiatives to support at-risk youth.

Rossiter, Marian J., Sarvenaz Hatami, Daniel Ripley, and Katherine R. Rossiter (2015) Immigrant and refugee youth settlement experiences: 'A new kind of war.' *International Journal of Child, Youth and Family Studies* 6(4.1): 746-770.

This study revealed that the settlement and adaptation of immigrant and refugee youth are negatively influenced by pre-migration experiences, difficult socioeconomic circumstances in Canada, lack of knowledge of Canadian laws and legal sanctions, challenging educational experiences, racism and discrimination, and cultural identity issues. The researchers also found that strong support networks and involvement in prosocial community programs mitigate these negative influences. They conclude with recommendations for facilitating the integration process in school settings and the wider community.

Sapokaite Millett, Lina, Kristen D. Seay, and Patricia L. Kohl (2015) A national study of intimate partner violence risk among female caregivers involved in the child welfare system: The role of nativity, acculturation, and legal status. *Children and Youth Services Review* 48: 60-69

This paper considers the relationship between nativity/immigration status and intimate partner violence (IPV) in connection to child maltreatment. Neither legal status nor acculturation indicators were significantly associated with IPV victimization for foreign-born. Findings indicate that IPV remains a significant problem for child welfare involved caregivers and warrant effective screening, identification and prevention.

Shirwadkar, Swati (2004) Canadian domestic violence policy and Indian immigrant women. *Violence Against Women* 10(8): 860-879.

Immigrant women face cultural constraints in accessing the benefits of Canadian policies for women experiencing domestic abuse. The author discusses the limitations of Canadian policies and programs for these women and the means to improve their access.

Sullivan, Marianne, Rupaleem Bhuyan, Kirsten Senturia, Sharyne Shiu-Thornton, and Sandy Ciske (2005) Participatory action research in practice: A case study in addressing domestic violence in nine cultural communities. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 20(8): 977-995.

This article presents a case study of a PAR project that conducted formative qualitative research on domestic violence in nine ethnic and sexual minority communities. The article describes the specific ways in which a PAR approach was operationalized and discusses in detail how community participation shaped various stages of the research. Furthermore, specific actions that resulted from the research project are reported.

Van Ngo, Hieu, Avery Calhoun, Catherine Worthington, Tim Pynch, and David Este (2015) The Unravelling of Identities and Belonging: Criminal Gang Involvement of Youth from Immigrant Families. *Journal of International Migration and Integration*.

This study examined criminal gang involvement of youth from immigrant Families and showed that gang-involved youth had experienced multiple, severe and prolonged personal and interpersonal challenges in all facets of their lives. The authors found that the gradual disintegration of their relationships with family, school and community had resulted in the unravelling of self-concept, ethnic identity, sense of belonging and sense of citizenship and progressively propelled them towards membership in high-risk social cliques and criminal gangs. Their findings brought attention to the need for coordinated, comprehensive support for youth from immigrant families through family-based, school-based and community-based programs.

Zannettino, Lana (2012) "... There is no war here; It is only the relationship that makes us scared": Factors having an impact on domestic violence in Liberian Refugee communities in South Australia. *Violence Against Women* 18(7): 807-828.

This author found that disruption to traditional gender roles has an impact on domestic violence at the cultural, socioeconomic, familial, and individual levels and that women's experience of domestic violence must be understood in relation to the acute and prolonged stressors of war, loss, and displacement.

Note: In most cases, article annotations are based on article abstracts.