

Intimate Partner Violence Screening Efficacy and Effectiveness: Realist Review

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Opportunity

Abstract

Internationally, almost one-third of women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner. Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses psychological abuse, coercion and controlling behaviors, physical violence, and non-consensual sexual violence and coercion. The underlying assumption of the realist view is that social interventions are complex, open systems and the approach unravels the different layers of social reality that surrounds these systems. Using a realist approach, we will explore and evaluate what IPV screening methods are the most effective in various settings, for whom, to what extent, in what circumstances, and why. We systematically searched EBSCOHost Medline, PsycINFO, CINAHL Complete, PubMed, Social Sciences Premium Collection, and the Cochrane Library for data extraction. We included all empirical studies that have relevant components relating to IPV screening methods using inclusion and exclusion criteria. Full-texts of included studies were coded with NVivo to understand contextual influences that impact interventions and to generate a working program theory. The failure to identify the warning signs during IPV screening can lead to a loss of the only opportunity to offer critical support. This research will provide a review for screening methods to provide support and promote self-efficacy for the patient. Further research is needed among marginalized populations that have been under-researched for IPV exposure.

Background

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) encompasses psychological abuse, coercion and controlling behaviors, physical violence, and non-consensual sexual violence and coercion.
- Internationally, almost one-third of women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner.
- Realist reviews are relatively new methods of evidence synthesis that can mitigate the limitations of traditional systematic reviews when used in social interventions.

Research Question

What is it about IPV screening methods in various settings, for whom, to what extent, in what circumstances, in what respect, how, and why?

Approach

The underlying assumption of the realist view is that **social interventions are complex, open systems** and the approach unravels the different levels of social reality that surrounds these systems.

To identify causal mechanisms, we need to understand the **underlying influences** rather than inferring correlations based on outcomes.

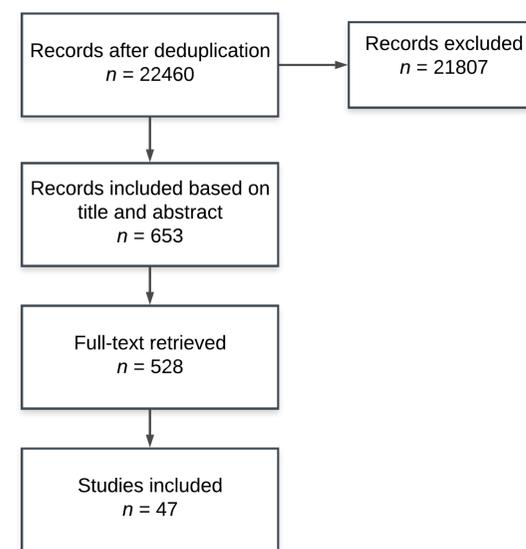


Figure 1. Flow chart for selection of studies

Program Theory

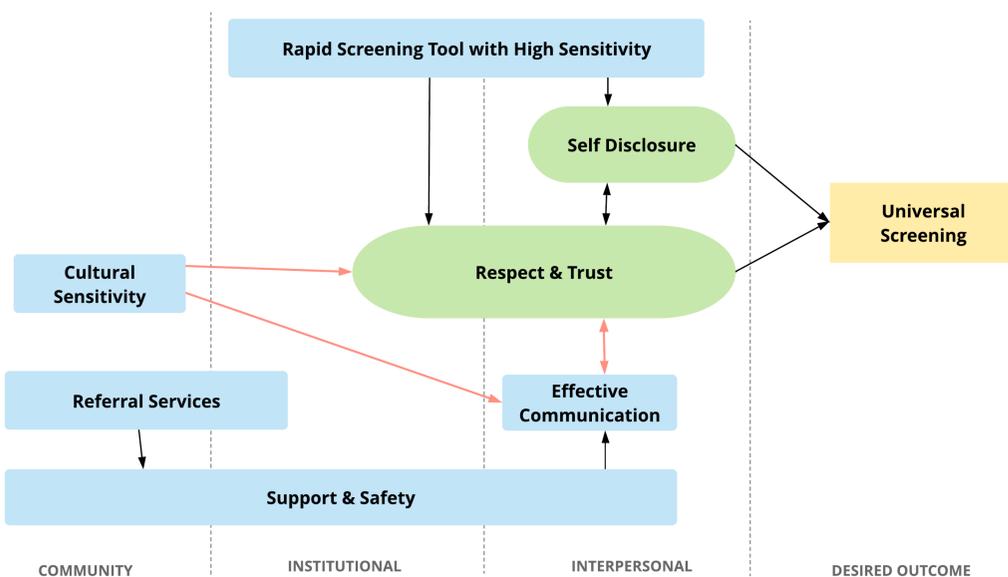


Figure 2. Conceptual Framework for IPV Screening

Impact

The unique feature about my research is that it combines evidence-based policy and a realist approach to account for **contextual influences**.

This addresses the problem of determining **causal mechanisms** behind successful intimate partner violence screening methods.

Future Implications

- The failure to identify the warning signs during IPV screening can lead to a loss of the only opportunity to offer critical support.
- Further research is needed among marginalized populations that have been under-researched for IPV exposure.

Acknowledgements: I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. G.J. Melendez-Torres, for his endless wisdom and support.