
Impact Report // Interpersonal Violence Research

Research in Manitoba Stands Up to Violence



Research
Manitoba



—
Margaret

The day Margaret called the police for the protection of her family and herself, she had no idea she would one day help develop the data that would help address the violence, change societal norms, and improve other families' lives.

“Turning my young family’s terrible experience into real change has taken my life in an entirely different direction. This has been a living example for my children of what is possible with the right people and the right information.”

- Margaret



—
Dr. Jane Ursel, Ph. D.

Jane Ursel is the founding director of RESOLVE, a tri-provincial family violence research network and the Principal Investigator of two groundbreaking longitudinal studies in Family Violence. She and her team, in partnership with the community, have changed the legal and social landscape around family violence in Manitoba.

“Social norms and systems are complex and naturally resistant to change. Only solid research supporting evidence-based decision-making ensures that each change contributes to effective forward progress.”

- Dr. Ursel, Ph.D.

Dr. Jane Ursel, founding Director of RESOLVE (front) and the RESOLVE Manitoba Team (top, from left to right): Dr. Kendra Nixon, Director of RESOLVE, Cyndi Parcher, Office Manager; Dr. Cheryl Fraehlich, Research Associate.

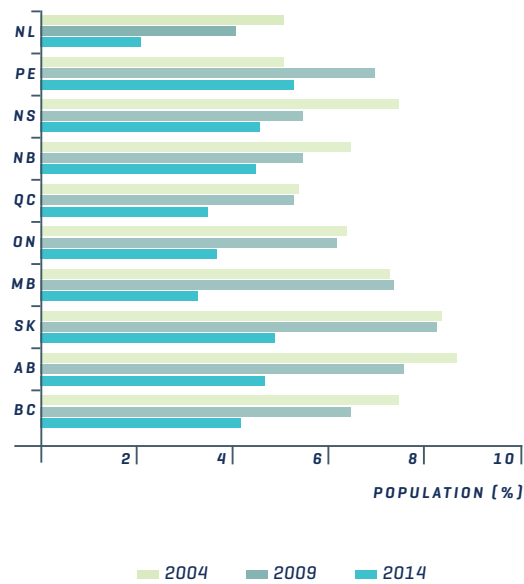
Research in Manitoba is a Smart Investment

Self-reports of spousal assault have started to drop in Manitoba and across Canada.

To the degree this represents a true decrease in spousal violence, the social implications are motivation enough to proceed.

Given the high cost of abuse, funding research and evidence-based programming are also wise investments of public funds.

VICTIMS OF SELF-REPORTED SPOUSAL VIOLENCE BY PROVINCE (%), 2004, 2009, AND 2014.



THE COST OF ONE INDIVIDUAL GOING THROUGH THE COURT SYSTEM IN MANITOBA AVERAGES \$54,629

Investments in research and interventions to prevent IPV from 1990 to the present have brought about significant changes in Manitoba and Canada:

- Policy and programmatic interventions, such as violence-specific laws, have contributed to systemic changes like faster processing of IPV cases and reduction of repeat offenders.
- Community engagement in IPV has led to an expansion in social services.
- There is far greater awareness that violence will not be tolerated and will be prosecuted.
- A reduction in self-reported acts of domestic violence.



\$4.2 Million

LEVERAGED FROM FEDERAL SOURCES FROM 1992-2016

\$15

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENTS FROM EXTERNAL SOURCES IN IPV RESEARCH PER DOLLAR FROM MANITOBA

6x

SIX TIMES THE QUANTIFIED BENEFITS PER DOLLAR IN IPV PREVENTATIVE PROGRAMMING

Interpersonal violence shatters lives and costs our society tremendously.

Interpersonal violence (IPV) is all forms of violence and abuse between people in a relationship e.g. family violence, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence.

50%

HALF OF ALL WOMEN IN CANADA HAVE EXPERIENCED AT LEAST ONE INCIDENT OF PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE SINCE THE AGE OF 16.

67%

OF CANADIANS SAY THEY HAVE PERSONALLY KNOWN AT LEAST ONE WOMAN WHO HAS EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE.

Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Alberta Lead the country in reported Interpersonal Violence

16,894

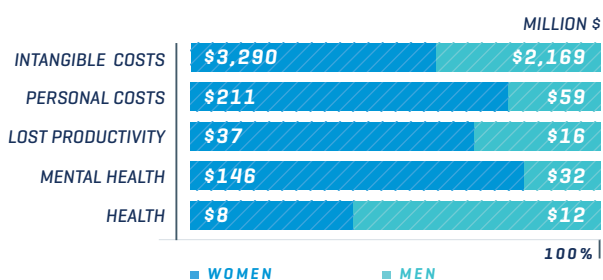
AVERAGE ANNUAL IPV CALLS TO THE WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE (2000-2016)

Estimated total economic impact of spousal violence in Canada, 2009



\$7.4 Billion
\$220 (PER PERSON)

TOTAL COST IN 2009 BASED ON THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WHO REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITIES.



The greatest cost of all is the loss of life that results when domestic violence is not interrupted and domestic homicide is the result.



RECENT DATA INDICATES DOMESTIC HOMICIDES HAVE DOUBLED IN MANITOBA SINCE 2010.

RESOLVE Leads & Guides Social Change

For the past 25 years, Manitoba has led the country in evidence-based innovations in the criminal justice system and the expansion of social services, including shelters, second stage housing, and counselling for victims of interpersonal violence.



RESOLVE is a tri-provincial research network with offices at the Universities of Manitoba, Regina, and Calgary with two primary missions:

1. To foster collaboration among university-based researchers, policy makers, service workers, and representative groups affected by family violence and violence against women;
2. To conduct action-oriented research that facilitates innovation in research, service, and policy.



SYSTEM MILESTONES

1983

Attorney General of Manitoba – sets a directive to lay domestic violence charges where there is reasonable and probable grounds.

Despite the new directive and new programs, outcomes largely unchanged.



1990

With input from the founding director of RESOLVE, the Family Violence Court is established in Manitoba.

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF IT WORKS?

Landmark decision: The Province of Manitoba agrees to share data on all cases heard before the Family Violence Court.



1999

Manitoba introduces the Domestic Violence and Stalking Prevention, Protection and Compensation Act to offer victims of domestic violence and stalking protection orders under civil law. This Act was amended in 2005 and in 2016.

Manitoba Justice introduces a diversion program for low-risk IPV offenders.

2004

Manitoba Justice implements the Front End Project that aims to streamline the administrative process of IPV cases.

RESOLVE MILESTONES

1990

Manitoba's researchers and Justice representatives grappled with a simple question:

HOW WILL WE KNOW IF IT WORKS?

1992

The University of Manitoba [U of M] is selected as one of the five Research Centres of Excellence on Research on Family Violence and Violence Against Women.

1997

The U of M Centre establishes offices in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba creating RESOLVE [Research and Education for Solutions to Violence and Abuse].

2000 & 2010

RESOLVE evaluates the recidivism rates of diverted low-risk IPV offenders.



2003

RESOLVE initiates a tri-provincial study, The Healing Journey, which documented the experience of 665 women about domestic violence, the challenges they faced and the services and programs that were most helpful to them.

2004

RESOLVE evaluates the Manitoba Provincial Court's Front End Project.

Economic Investments

For every dollar of provincial funding received by RESOLVE from 1992 to 2016, \$12 has been leveraged from federal sources. These funds have been used to employ students and train policy analysts.

The Prairieaction Foundation is established in 1997 to provide over \$220,000 annually in infrastructural support for RESOLVE.



Investments in the Community



RESOLVE actively recruits people who may or may not have formal training in the field, but have much experience to draw on. In many cases, the opportunity for victims to contribute to a solution has been life changing.

Research-Supported Investments

2 ▸ 14
ACTIVE SHELTERS IN MANITOBA
In 1980, there were two active shelters in Manitoba. Today, there are 14.

\$0.50 ▸ \$21
PER CAPITA IN 2016
Province-wide expenditure on family violence programs. UP FROM \$0.50 IN 1985.

Investments in Professional Capacity

RESOLVE trains key professional groups, including:

- Ministries of: Justice; Status of Women; Family Services and Housing; Manitoba Legislature.
- Manitoba Family Violence Prevention Program and Victim Services.
- Sagkeeng Mino Pimitiziwin Family Addictions Treatment Centre Inc.
- Statement gatherers for Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in preparation for the first TRC national event.
- Justices of the Manitoba Court of Queen's Bench, in conjunction with the National Judicial Institute.
- Ontario Department of the Attorney General.

Federal Investments & Initiatives

1991	\$136M	The Safe Haven Program — shelter expansions across Canada.
	\$2.5M	Establish five Centres of Excellence for Domestic Violence Research.
1993	\$13M	Statistics Canada conducts the first National Survey on Violence Against Women. Report of the Canadian Panel on Violence Against Women.
	\$7M	Third Family Violence Initiative to support innovative programs for victims and child witnesses.
1996	\$7M	Third Family Violence Initiative to support innovative programs for victims and child witnesses.
1997	\$350M	National Healing Fund (Legacy of Residential Schools).
2000		Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) introduces Community University Research Alliance (CURA) recognizing the importance of working in partnership with the community.
2001-05	\$700K	CURA Grant — Evaluate the Justice and Community Response to Family Violence in the Prairie Provinces. RESOLVE Alberta had the lead.
2004-10	\$1M	CURA Grant — Longitudinal study of women who experienced intimate partner violence. ‘The Healing Journey’ crosses three prairie provinces, 665 women participated over 4.5 years. RESOLVE Manitoba had the lead.
2011-16	\$1M	CURA Grant — Rural and Northern Response to Intimate Partner Violence using GPS mapping and interviews with service providers. RESOLVE Saskatchewan had the lead.
2015-20	\$2.7M	SSHRC Grant — National Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations.

Provincial Initiatives

1997	U of M Centre establishes offices in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba creating RESOLVE.
2003	Victim Services Program established for Victims of Family Violence throughout Manitoba.
2016	Specialist Prosecutors for Sexual Assault Cases added to the Winnipeg Domestic Violence Unit.

Municipal Initiatives

1992	Domestic Violence Coordinator Position Created, Winnipeg Police Service.
2000	Sex Crimes Unit Created, Winnipeg Police Service.

“Working for RESOLVE has helped shape the way that I work and engage with all my clients so I can better understand their experience. As an Indigenous person, RESOLVE provided me the tools for success when working with people and groups in a meaningful consultative way. Because of my employment at RESOLVE, I work with people to give them the tools to take pride in who they are, what they do, and ultimately to make the best decisions for their family and community for generations to come.”

Mr. Ken Letander owner and CEO of Urban, Rural, Good, Realistic, Opportunities, Understanding People (URGROUP), which is a First Nation business consulting company, 100% indigenous owned and operated, that works to “influence meaningful change and build capacity with Indigenous peoples across Canada.”



Evidence-Based System Change

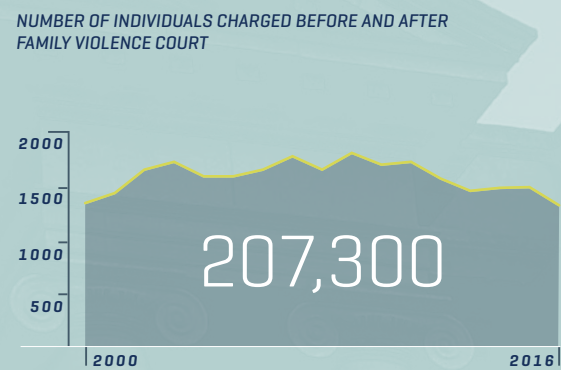
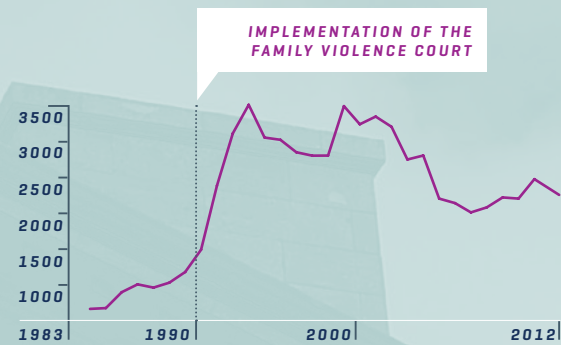
Undeniable data keeps social change moving ever forward.

Family Violence Court

The Family Violence Court demonstrated to the public that domestic violence was dangerous and that the system was willing to address that danger.

Prior to the implementation of specialist police, prosecutors and courts, the most frequent sentence for a convicted offender was conditional discharge — effectively no consequences.

Increasing public confidence after the implementation of the Family Violence Court led to an increase in the number of domestic violence calls for service, as well as number of individuals charged and incarcerated, or put on probation.



Front End Project's Impact on IPV Case Processing

Increased reporting and charges laid created backlogs and delays within the Justice System.

In addition to increasing personnel in 2004, the Manitoba Provincial Court introduced the "Front End Project" to reduce the time cases took to be processed. All members of the front end of the justice system (police, crown attorneys, and defense attorneys) signed on to strict timelines to share information and prepare for court.

While efficient use of court time and court personnel are very important, RESOLVE demonstrated that reducing processing time was not at the expense of the quality of justice.

The Results

These Research-supported administrative changes delivered:

24% Reduction
IN THE NUMBER OF DAYS FOR ALL CASES

33% Reduction
FOR CASES ENDING IN A STAY OF PROCEEDINGS

FROM 2003/04 TO 2012/13

CONVICTION RATES HAVE RISEN FROM 53% TO 60%

Diversion Project's Impact on Recidivism

RESOLVE research identified the potential to divert low-risk cases from court. Ongoing project assessments helped refine the processes to maximize the results.



Impacts at the Individual, Community, and System Levels



Knowledge Translation

Moving research into the hands of people and organizations who can put it to use.

Knowledge Translation

40+ PROGRAM MANUALS & REPORTS
including the report on domestic violence policies and their impact on Indigenous people.

40 PRESENTATIONS IN FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

08 BOOKS PUBLISHED

17 INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS HOSTED

07 TRAINING MANUALS for professional groups

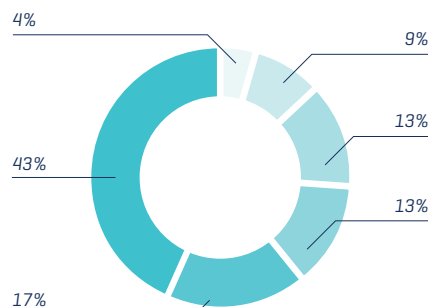
Community Engagement

RESOLVE's founding director has served as an expert witness in two court cases, has held 12 separate community board positions, and partnered or collaborated with 50 community organizations in Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan.

Building Capacity

MENTORING AND TRAINING STUDENTS HELPS BUILD CAPACITY OF COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSING INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE.

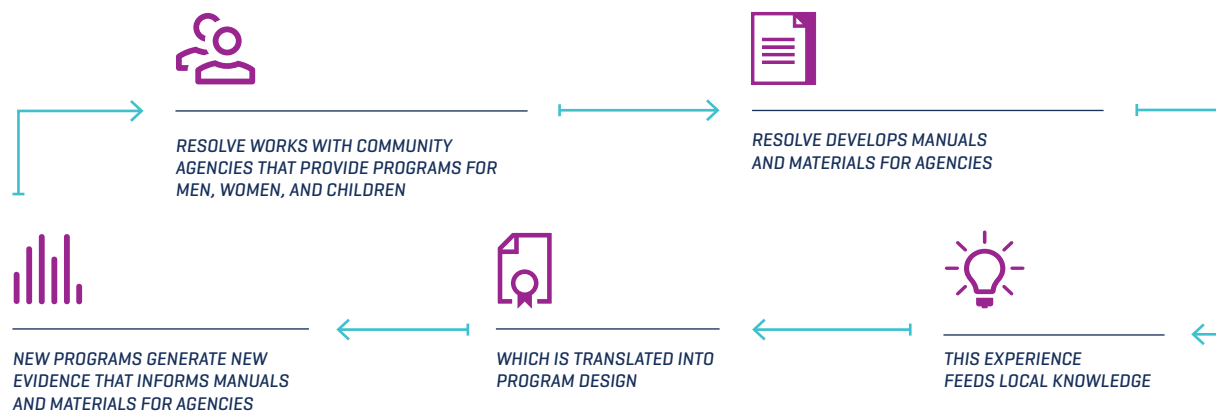
- Among the community employees hired by RESOLVE as research assistants, six were part of an Indigenous Internship program funded in partnership with Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development [CAHRD].
- RESOLVE sponsors an annual conference highlighting cutting edge research and innovative programming to build capacity among professionals addressing interpersonal violence across the prairies.
- Community members are recruited for their specific knowledge and experience.
- 75 students have been employed and trained from 2003 to 2017.



DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS IN RESOLVE'S BURSARY PROGRAM BY DISCIPLINE, 2000-2016

■ SOCIOLOGY
■ FAMILY SOCIAL SCIENCES
■ PSYCHOLOGY
■ SOCIAL WORK
■ NURSING
■ GRADUATE STUDIES

How Knowledge Improves Capacity



Creating Our Future

RESOLVE continues their applied research activities at local, regional, and national levels. Ongoing and future studies will focus on domestic homicide prevention, best practices on child protection responses, and the processing of a sexual assault case from the initial report to the final court decision in Manitoba. These studies help to inform the justice and social-service systems about efficient and effective ways to make decisions about IPV cases that will have meaningful impacts on improving the lives of IPV victims.

Our Current Projects

2015-2020

All three RESOLVE offices are participating in a National Homicide Study funded by SSHRC (\$2.7M), entitled “National Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative for Vulnerable Populations”.

2017-2021

The innovative Manitoba Justice “Wellness Program” was introduced in 2013 to address the potential impacts of secondary exposure to violence and trauma among victim services workers, crown attorneys and others in the Criminal Law Branch. RESOLVE is in the second year of an ongoing program evaluation that involves interviews with staff and an analysis of data collected by Manitoba Justice.

2016-2018

Sexual Assault Tracking Project

Working in partnership with Klinik Community Health Centre, Manitoba Justice, and the Winnipeg Police Service, RESOLVE will record all sexual assault incidents reported to the police and follow these cases through to final court disposition. The intent is to identify factors that lead to successful prosecutions and factors that contribute to case attrition.

Our Future Projects

2018-2020

In Search of Promising Practices: Canadian Child Protection Responses to Cases of Intimate Partner Violences

In partnership with Ikwe Widdjiitwin, a Winnipeg Indigenous Shelter, RESOLVE seeks to develop a better understanding of new policies and practices that have been implemented by Canadian Child Protection Services in response to children exposed to violence in the home.

2018-2019

Prairieaction Foundation has awarded funding for a tri-provincial project “Exploring Men’s Experience as Victims of Intimate Partner Violence”. RESOLVE Centres in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta will work with community partners in each province to examine the nature of men’s experience of victimization, their experience help-seeking, and the challenges and gaps in services they have encountered when they do seek help.

2018-2022

Working with Principal Investigator Dr. Brenda Elias from the Department of Community Health Sciences, RESOLVE is in the early phases of a study recently funded by SSHRC entitled “Looking after each other: A dignity promotion project partnership for those living with FASD”. This project involves Manitoba academics and community partners who are collaborating to decrease the stigma and discrimination experienced by individuals, families, and communities impacted by Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder [FASD]. In this project, RESOLVE will investigate the role of trauma in FASD.

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SOURCES

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The Research Manitoba Impact Framework guides the development of Impact Reports and Impact Narratives. For more information visit www.researchmanitoba.ca/impacts/impact-framework/

Limitations of the Data: Many victims choose not to report to the police or seek services. We use official reports and the Canadian General Social Survey to begin to piece together a more comprehensive measure.

Prepared by Ryan Catte, Ambrosio Catala Jr., and Kristen Hooper



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA

