

## Welcome to our Learning Network & Knowledge Hub Webinar

### Engaging Men to Prevent & Reduce Gendered-Based Violence

**Presented By:** Dr. Katreena Scott, Associate Professor & Chair, Applied Psychology & Human Development, University of Toronto and Baldev Mutta, CEO, Punjabi Community Health Services (PCHS)

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 from 1:00 to 2:15 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME

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- If you have a question for the webinar speakers, please type into the Q&A box and we will spend 15 mins near the end on Questions and Answers.
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**Western**  Centre for Research & Education on  
Violence Against Women & Children



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## Engaging Men to Prevent & Reduce Gendered-Based Violence

Katreena Scott, Ph.D. C. Psych.  
University of Toronto

**We need to EXPECT, DEMAND and SUPPORT men and fathers in ending their violent and abusive behaviours and in connecting in healthy ways with their families and**

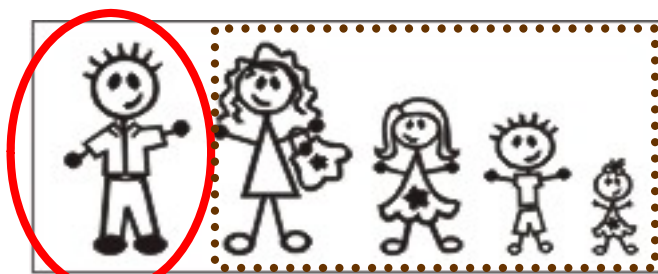
**We need to be able to use the power of our social institutions to respond when he is unwilling or unable to change.**

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## Towards Safer Practice

- Father held accountable for keeping family safe
- Probation monitors and assesses risk
- Ongoing safety planning for him
- Collaboration and information sharing between systems



Court system  
 Probation Services  
 Child Protection  
 Women's Advocates  
 Addiction Services  
 Mental Health Services

- Intervention for trauma and violence
- Support in keeping herself and her children safe
- Support for housing and other practical needs

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## Range of Projects

- How do we more effectively engage men who are highly reluctant to engage with us (let alone change)?
  - PAR programs in Ontario
- What do we do to immediately reduce risk in men who are arrested for DV, who are assessed as being at very high risk to reoffend and who are released on bail to wait?
  - High risk safety project, linking police and service providers
- How do we work across supports for fathers/families and specialized intervention for GBV?
  - Resource development work with fathering programs, current work with family service, engaging with employers to recognize, respond, refer men who have perpetrated GBV

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**Katreena Scott, PhD C Psych**  
**University of Toronto**

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**Caring Dads**

Helping Fathers Value their Children

## Outline

- What is Caring Dads?
- Why programs like this are needed
- Brief description of the program
- Research on this program and on abusive fathers more generally

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## Caring Dads: Helping Fathers Value their Children

- Fathers' Group
  - Individual intake
  - 17 week program – 2 hour group and individual sessions
  - Groups consist of around 10 to 15 fathers
  - Referrals primarily through child protective services and probation, though also from men's perpetrator programs, child and family mental health, substance abuse services, family court, early intervention services, self-referral, etc.
- Mother Contact
- Coordinated Case Management



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## Eligibility

### Basic stance:

*“If the child has to deal with him, then we have to deal with him”*

### Exclusions

- Fathers with no contact with their children
- Fathers referred as a result of child sexual abuse
- Caution: Imminent court involvement

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## Where is Caring Dads Offered?

- At this point, there is at least one Caring Dads program running in most provinces

[www.caringdads.org](http://www.caringdads.org)

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## Why Caring Dads? Child Exposure to Domestic Violence

- Child exposed to domestic abuse is among the most common adverse events experienced by children (Finkelhor et al., 2015, Trocme et al., 2010)
- Child exposure to DV is harmful in itself, and it often co-occurs with other forms of father-perpetrated abuse
- In families involved with child protection, the presence of DV predicts more severe and repeated child victimization and poorer child outcomes (Casanueva et al., 2009; Chan, 2011; Jobe-Shields et al., 2015)
- *And yet still, there is too little attention paid to these fathers*

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## Fathers as Perpetrators of Child Maltreatment Canadian Incidence Study Data

- Intact bio families account for 38% of those where maltreatment is substantiated

Perpetrator Type	Number of Investigations	Percent
Biological Mother	6152	18.8%
Biological Father	13498	41.2%
Both Parents	11929	36.4%
Other Perpetrator	1155	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32734</b>	<b>100%</b>

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## Consequences for Women when we Fail to Engage Fathers



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## Growth of Movements that Support Mother Blaming



"No one is going to come between me and my children, because they are mine"  
"I've told them I will get their mother sent to prison if she does not allow more contact"

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## Escalating Risk with Depression and Step Parents



"I HAVE MORE STEP-DADS THAN YOU DO!"

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## Consequences for Children



From professionals....

“Despite father’s violence, suicide attempts, he is still a good father”

“Father is uncaring and horrible but...he will be alright with the baby and wants to bond”

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## So many reasons to change....

- Mothers are left with the responsibility of protecting children and without the support of our intervention systems.
- Fathers move on to other families. When they do, they often abandon their children. Moreover, in these new families, fathers are more of a risk to children.
- We don't adequately address the needs of families who wish (and intend) to stay together.
- There is a possibility that in our efforts to protect her by removing him, we may ironically increase risk by upping his isolation and depression while at the same time reducing our monitoring.
- We lose an opportunity to promote change in men and in the father-child relationship.

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## Caring Dads: Designed for a Gap and a New Space

- Touched on in perpetrator and parenting programs, but fundamental differences
- Responding to children's needs for safety and well-being, thinking about children's rights and recognizing that that safety and well-being of children is integrally connected to that of their mothers
- Reaching a broader population of men
- Opening new opportunities for collaboration and cross-agency professional training
- Part of a menu/range of services that we might be able to leverage to create non-violent families

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## Caring Dads: Goals & Strategies



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## Caring Dads: Goals and Strategies

### 1 Engaging Men

- Engage men to prevent dropout
  - Enhance motivation to change
  - Promote small successes to lead to later goals
- If we fail to engage these fathers and require evidence of behavioral change, who is addressing and monitoring their risk?
  - A failed referral in the context of mandated intervention is an important indicator of risk:
    - About a 20% increase in risk for re-assault associated with dropout from a batterer program (Bennett et al., 2007; Gondolf, 2001)

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## Goal 1: Engaging Fathers

**Guiding Principle:** Intervention must be prepared to address clients whose motivation for change may be low



- First goal of intervention is **engagement**. Efforts to promote engagement need to begin at the initial intake interview
- Facilitators need to be skilled at motivational interviewing
- There needs to be strong connections between program and referers

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## Tools

### Great Dad

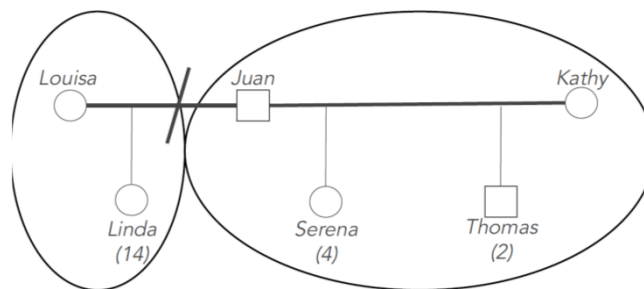
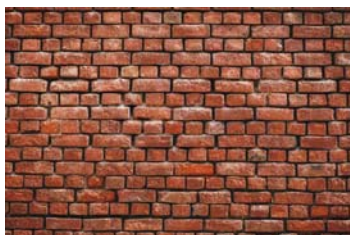
- Listens
- Plays together
- Loving of children's mom

### Just a Dad

- There most of the time
- Is interested
- Leaves a good deal up to mom

### Deal Breakers

- Hurting children
- Hurting children's mothers



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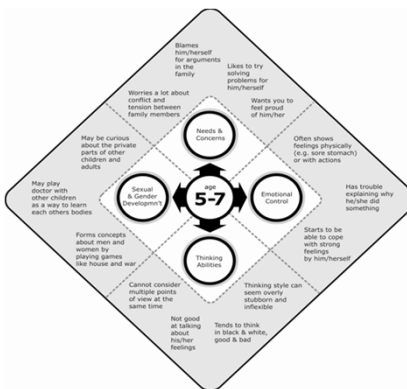
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# Caring Dads: Goals & Strategies

## 2 Child Centered Parenting

- Psycho-Education
- Modelling and Practice
- Constantly Promoting Change

# Tools



**Guiding Principle:** Focus needs to be on promotion of child-centered fathering rather than building on child-management skills.



**Guiding Principle:** Children's safety and well-being is intrinsically connected to that of their mothers

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## Goal 3: Challenging Abusive and Neglectful Fathering

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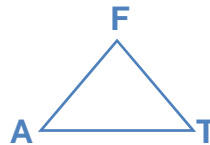
Recognizing and challenging abuse / neglect

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## Putting it Together

- What made you upset?
- What were you trying to do when you got upset?
- Parent-Centred or Child-Centred?
- Thoughts, feelings, and actions:
- How do you think your child felt?
- What could you have done differently?



*Remember - we have already done all of these pieces!*



## Core Topics

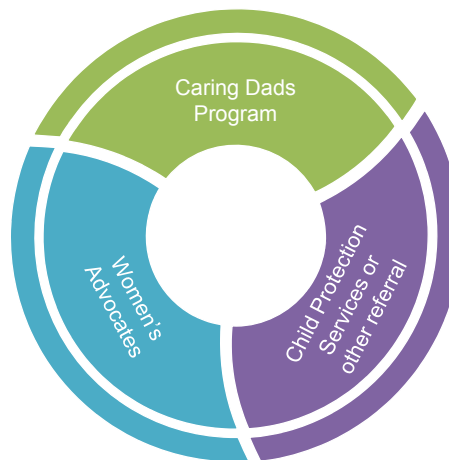
- Session 11: Emotional abuse and neglect
- Session 12: Relationship with my child's mother
- Session 13: Problem Solving for Parents
- Session 14: Decreasing denial and minimization

## Caring Dads: Goals & Strategies

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Rebuilding trust & planning for the future

**Guiding Principle:** Men's participation in Caring Dads must have the potential to benefit children regardless of his success, or lack of success, in change.



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**Guiding Principle:** Because abusive fathers have eroded their children's emotional security, the need to rebuild trust will affect the pace of change and potential impact of relapse on the child

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## Key Publications

Scott, K. L. & Lishak, V. (2012). Evaluation of an intervention program for maltreating fathers: Statistically and clinically significant change. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 36(9), 680-684.

Scott, K. L. & Crooks, C. V. (2007). Preliminary evaluation of an intervention program for maltreating fathers. *Brief Treatment and Crisis Intervention*, 7, 224-238.

McConnell, N., Barnard, M., Holdsworth, T., & Taylor, J. (2016). Caring Dads, Safer Children Evaluation Report. National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. London, UK. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/services-and-resources/research-and-resources/2016/caring-dads-safer-children-evaluation-report/>

Child Welfare Institute <http://www.childwelfareinstitute.torontocas.ca/research>

- Report 1 - Violeta Dubov, Carrie Hoffelner, Izumi Niki & Deborah Goodman
- October 2012 to June 2014
- 87 files referred to the program and reviewed, 38 completed, 49 did not complete
  
- Report 2 – Christine Devine, Chrystal Colquhoun, Sarah Webb, and Deborah Goodman
- October 2014 to March 2016
- 107 files reviewed, 49 completed and 58 did not complete

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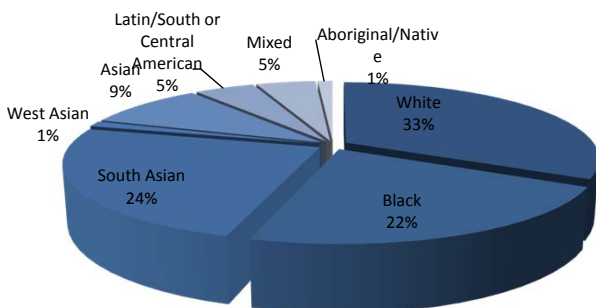
## Does Caring Dads “Work”?

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## File Review Demographics

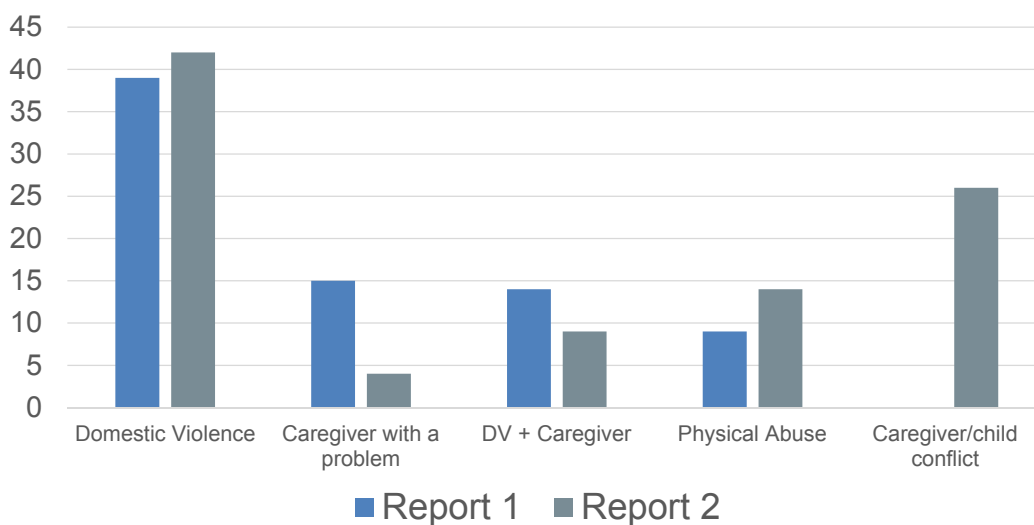


- Average age of fathers was 36
- Mothers PCP around three quarters of the time
- Average of two investigated children per father, so a total of 400 children
- About equal number of male and female children
- Average child age was 6½

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## Reason for Involvement



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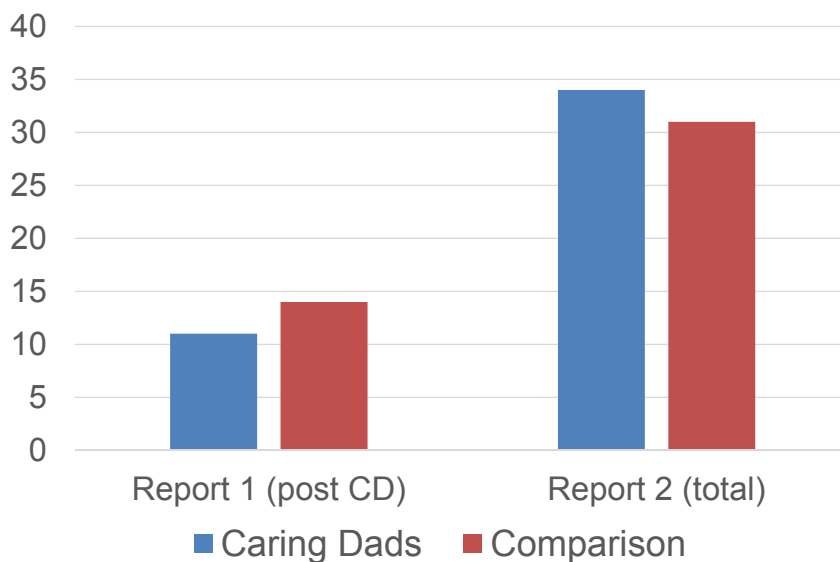
## Does Caring Dads Contribute to a Difference in Worker Contact?

- Investigated in a subset of cases in each report
- Both reports found that the number of phone and in-person contacts between workers and fathers were double for Caring Dads completers versus comparison fathers
- Face-to-face contacts
  - 5.3 versus 11.2 report 1
  - 8.6 versus 15.9 report 2

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## File Duration in Months – Not significantly different



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## Placement Outcomes

- Review 2
  - 4 became Crown Wards
  - 4 in kin/foster arrangements
  - 12 were in care at one point and, by the end of the case, were returned to parental care

7 of the 8 children who ended up in care had fathers in the comparison group

\*8 removed from analysis of re-referral

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## Subsequent referrals 2 years post Caring Dads

Re-referrals that were formally documented and substantiated and where the father was the perpetrator

- Report 1 re-referral rate
  - Treatment 16% (n=6)
  - Comparison 29% (n=14)
- Report 2 re-referral rate
  - Treatment 23% (n = 11)
  - Comparison 44% (n = 22)

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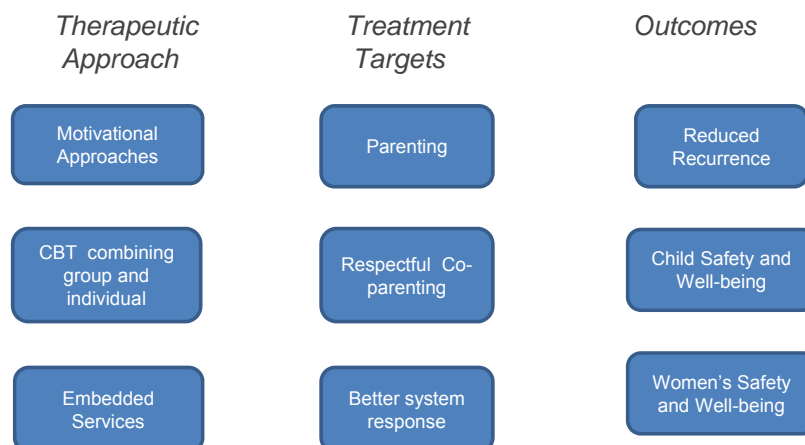
## Thinking About Evidence

- We also need to think about the things in the package – What are the ingredients of successful intervention with fathers who have been abusive?

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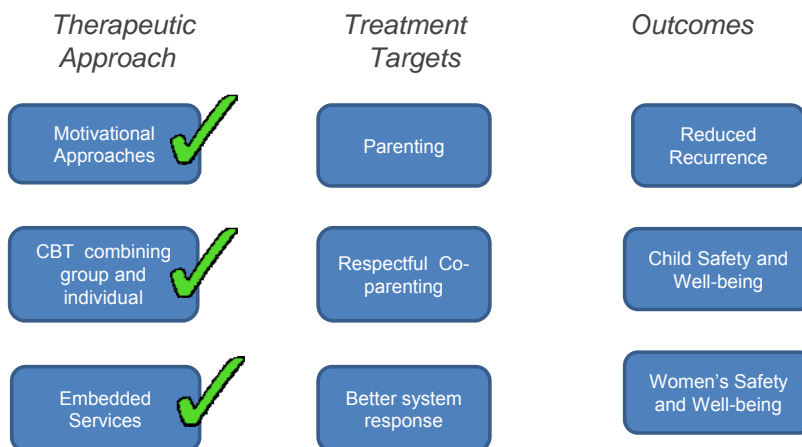
## Thinking About Evidence



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## Thinking About Evidence



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## Continuing Research on Treatment Targets

Fathers and Kids study: 200 fathers, half who have perpetrated DV, along with as many women and children as we could get!

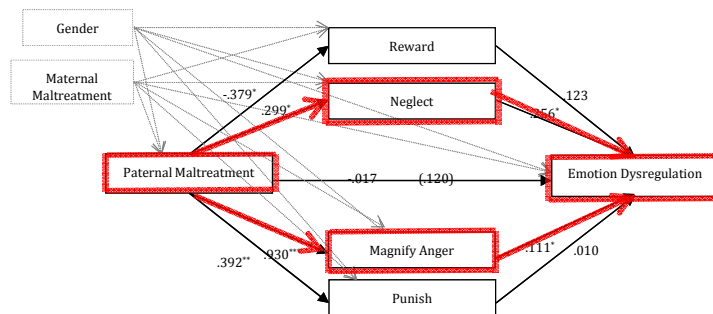
- *What are the differences in the parenting of fathers who have and don't have a history of perpetrating DV?*
- *What kinds of problems "run together?"*
- *What attitudes, behaviours, features predict recurrent abuse?*
- Also pull on studies of change over Caring Dads

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## Hostile and Over-Reactive Parenting

- Hostile and over-reactive parenting
  - Men’s over-reactivity to children’s anger mediates the relationship between DV status and children’s emotional regulation (McGinn & Scott)



The multiple mediation model had a significant total indirect effect with a point estimate of .137 and a 95% bias corrected CI of .0514 to .2513. Unstandardized path coefficients are presented. The coefficient in parentheses represents the total relationship between variables. \* $p < .05$ ; \*\* $p < .01$ ; \*\*\* $p < .001$

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## Co-parenting and DV

- A core difference between DV and non-DV fathers
- Analyses of the narratives of 20 separated, unhappy fathers with and without a history of perpetrating DV (Scott & Thompson-Walsh, 2018)

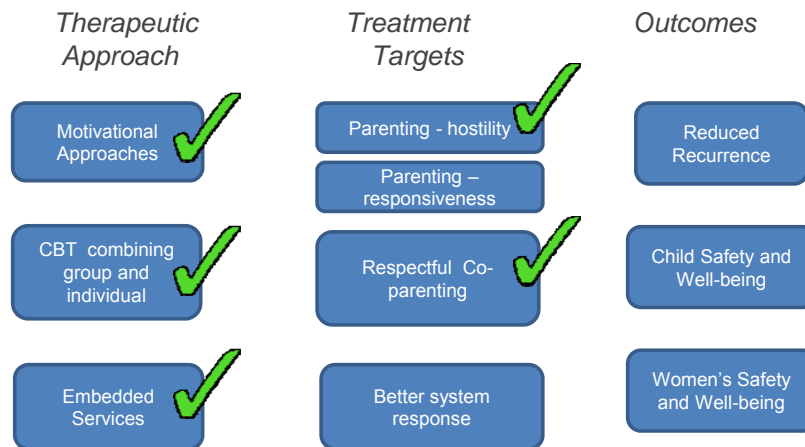
Community fathers	DV fathers
I value my ex-partner’s involvement with our children	My ex-partner is a bad mother
We’re good as co-parents	She is responsible for our difficulties in co-parenting
Howe we co-parents has an impact on our child	

- “I *hate* that and their mother is all up in to that, entertainment, and who’s who [...]. She has these kids, up into that because these kids, Halloween, they want to dress up as these people that they see on TV. My daughter wanted to dress up as Nicki Minaj one Halloween and I had no power over that because I’m not in the household [...]. (6)”

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## Thinking About Evidence



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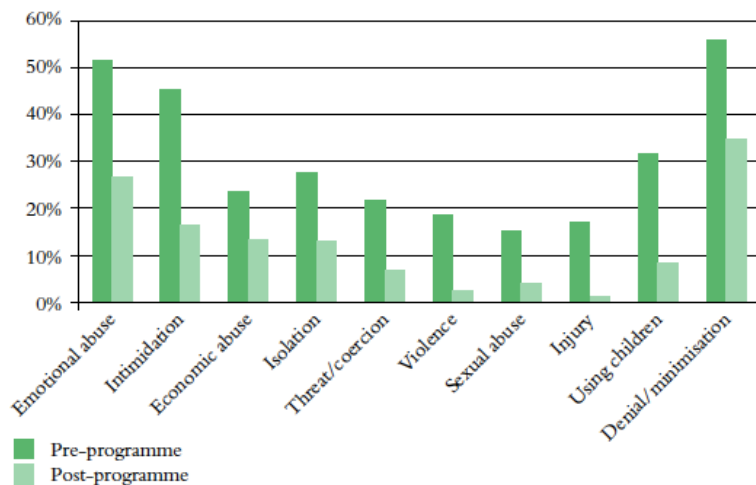
## Women's Experiences (McConnell et al., 2016)

- Experiences of DV
- Well-being
- Hopes and reflections from women themselves

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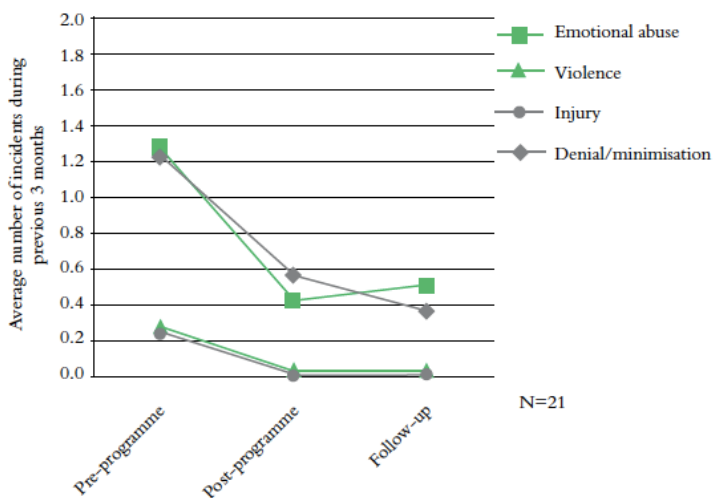
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Chart 6: Percentage of partners reporting one or more incidents of controlling behaviour before and after the programme, N=66



Source: NSPCC Caring Dads: Safer Children teams

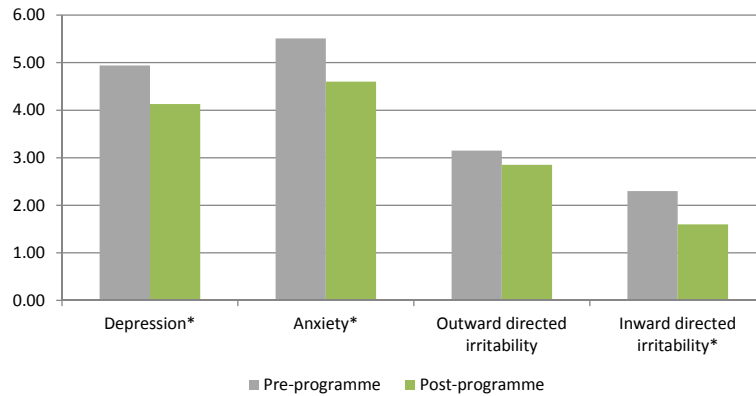
Chart 8: Differences in the average number of incidents of controlling behaviour from the father during the previous three months reported by partners at each time point



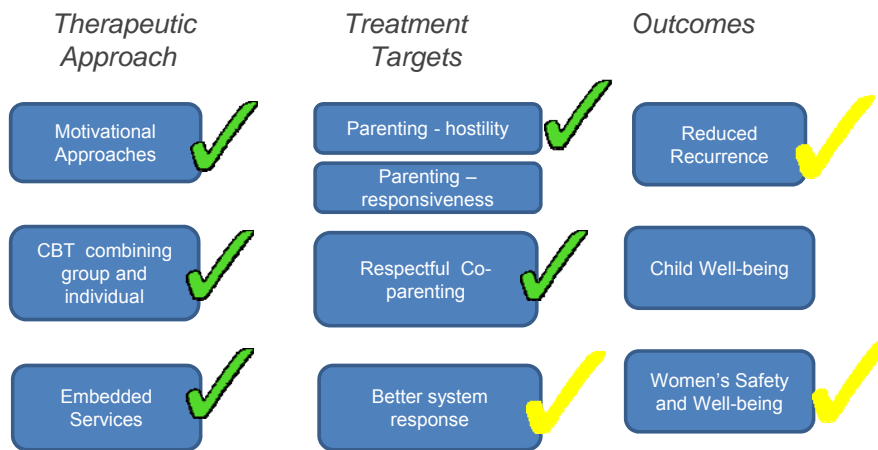
N=21



## Women's Well-Being (McConnell et al., 2016)



## Thinking About Evidence



## Current Research

- Large multi-site study launching in Melbourne, PI is Cathy Humphreys
- Independent studies being conducted in two Ontario provinces
- Safe and Understood research is underway



## Thank you!

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