

Welcome to our Learning Network Resource Webcast

Aging Without Violence

Presented By: Amber Wardell, Project Coordinator, Aging Without Violence

Date & Time: Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 1:00 to 2:00 PM EASTERN STANDARD TIME

- All attendees are muted during the webinar.
- If you are experiencing issues, please type into the chat box.
- If you have a question for the webinar speaker, please type into the Q&A box and we will spend 15 mins near the end on Questions and Answers.
- There will be a link to an anonymous evaluation survey in the chat box at the end of the webinar, please fill out the survey as your feedback will guide our future webcasts.
- Once you complete the evaluation survey, you will be directed to a webpage where you will be prompted to enter your full name and email address. A certificate of attendance will be generated and emailed to you.
- The presentation slides are posted on our website. There will be a link in the chat box.
- The webcast recording will be posted on our website within the next few days:

<http://www.vawlearningnetwork.ca/webinars/recorded-webinars/index.html>

RESOURCE WEBCAST ON AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

Thursday, June 20, 2019 | 1:00-2:00 PM Eastern Standard Time

Learn about resources and tools to support older women living with violence developed by the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH).

This event celebrates World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

Presented by: Amber Wardell

Aging without Violence Project Coordinator, OAITH

Amber has worked for over a decade as a community educator, advocate and counsellor for women and youth who have experienced violence.





AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE (AWV) PROJECT

Amber Wardell, Project Coordinator

Land Acknowledgment

Aging Without Violence (AWV) Project:

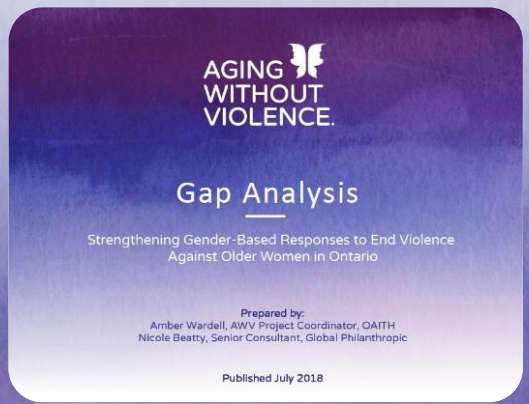


The **Aging With Confidence** Action Plan for Seniors includes dedicated efforts to address violence against older women, under the Strengthening Elder Abuse Prevention section.



January 2018 - March 2021

- Funded by the government of Ontario,
- Sponsored by OAITH
- Guided by an intersectoral provincial advisory
- Focused on ending violence against older women across Ontario by increasing the capacity of service providers and public awareness



The screenshot shows the OAITH website with a navigation menu including 'About Us', 'Our Work', 'Training', 'Library', 'VAW Jobs', 'Join Us', and 'News & Media'. The 'Our Work' section is active, displaying a grid of photos of diverse older women. A sidebar menu lists 'IN THIS SECTION' items: 'Our Work Overview', 'Wrapped in Courage', 'Aging Without Violence' (selected), 'I need safety and support', 'I provide professional support', and 'I am a friend or family member'. Below this, the 'Aging Without Violence' page content is visible, including a 'FRANÇAIS' button and three main support categories: 'I NEED SAFETY AND SUPPORT', 'I PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT', and 'I AM A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER'. The main text describes the project's funding and goals, such as showcasing existing responses and providing training opportunities.

www.oaith.ca

AWV Project Advisory Members

Linda Baker – Violence Against Women Learning Network

Julie B  chard - Centre Passerelle pour femmes du nord de l'Ontario

Denise Christopherson – YWCA Hamilton

Janice Du Mont- Women’s College Research Institute

Miranda Ferrier- Ontario Personal Support Worker’s Association

Jeanine George- Aboriginal Shelters of Ontario

Francine Groulx – Fem’aide

leZlie lee kam - LGBTQ+ Consultant

Marianne Park - Social Services Consultant

Yasmeen Persad- The 519

Huong Pham- Assaulted Women’s Helpline

Nicole Pietsch- Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres

Kripa Sekhar – South Asian Women’s Centre

Raeann Rideout- Elder Abuse Ontario

Barbara Michailk – Rekai Centre



AGING 
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VIOLENCE.

Language- VAW

Violence Against Women (VAW)

The United Nations defines violence against women as: “Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

VAW sector includes emergency women’s shelters, sexual assault centres, transitional housing, and community and school based programs such as counselling. These services are available to women of all ages including trans women, and non cis- gender women.

Violence Against Older Women (VAOW)

This may include physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional or verbal abuse, financial abuse, spiritual abuse, neglect, and includes trauma/violence/abuse experienced throughout the lifetime of the older woman.

This violence may fall under the umbrella of “family violence”, “elder abuse”, “domestic violence”, “intimate partner violence” or “intergenerational trauma” Older = aged 55 or older.

Perpetrators may include family members, care givers, spouses/partners, ex partners, neighbours, acquaintances, service providers. An older woman may experience various types of violence from multiple perpetrators at the same time.

Why focus on older women specifically?



“Freedom from abusive behaviour, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect or financial abuse, by family or professionals has also been identified as a significant concern. Both men and women are at risk for elder abuse and neglect. Because **older women make up a higher proportion of the frail elderly**, they are **more likely to experience certain kinds of abuse**. **Older women are also more likely to experience abuse by their spouse than are older men**. Women 65 years of age or more are **more frequently the victims of violence at the hands of family members than are men**. Accordingly, issues regarding elder abuse are a concern for both male and female victims, although the particular vulnerability of women in the context of elder abuse must be recognised.” - *OHRC*

Older Women vs. Younger women

- Additional barriers to accessing services (including emergency services)
- Older women experiencing abuse/violence more likely to be financially dependent on their abuser(s) than younger women
- Marginalized older women (for example gender diverse, Indigenous, immigrant, racialized, differently abled) described as invisible and often at higher risk for violence and physical harm/lethality by their abuser(s)
- Unique impacts of complex trauma and sexual violence in later life and across the lifespan (post menopausal considerations)
- Different attitudes about abuse and relationships,
- Distrust of services

AWV Language, Terms, and Approaches

Intersectionality

Intersectionality includes “recognizing the ways in which sexism, racism, colonialism, ageism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and poverty intersect in our own lives and shape our own life choices and opportunities” – *OAITH’s Intermediate Foundations course*

Intersectoral Collaboration

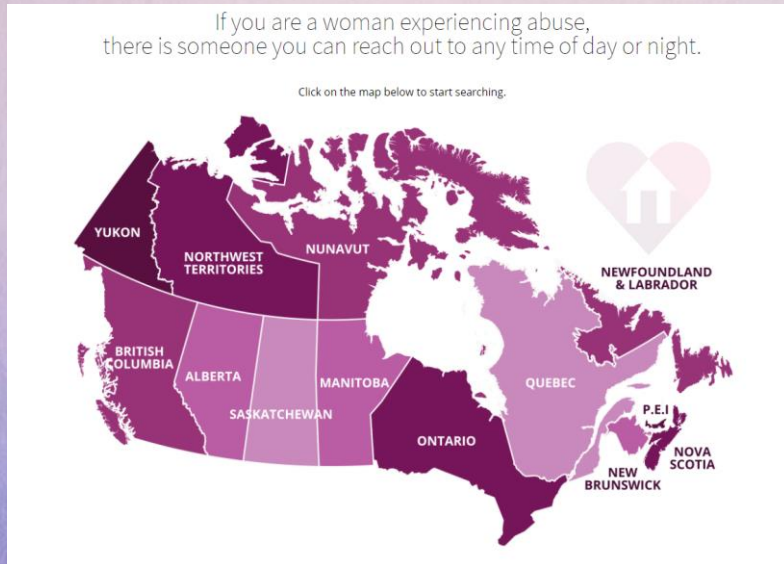
Collaboration between sectors. The AWV Gap Analysis highlights the need to break down silos between sectors including VAW, Elder Abuse, Healthcare, Justice, and Housing in particular.

Overview of VAW Services in Ontario

www.sheltersafe.ca

www.oaith.ca

Older
Women



Get Help Now

Seniors Safety Line (SSL)

The SSL provides contact and referral information for local agencies across Ontario that can assist in cases of elder abuse. Trained counsellors also provide safety planning and supportive counseling for older adults who are being abused or at-risk of abuse. Family members and service providers can also call for information about community services.

Seniors Safety Line: 1-866-299-1011

Assaulted Women's Helpline (AWHL)

AWHL is a anonymous and confidential 24-hour telephone and TTY crisis telephone line to all women in the province of Ontario who have experienced any form of abuse. AWHL provides crisis counselling, safety planning, emotional support, information and referrals accessible 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Deaf, deaf-blind and hard of hearing services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Assaulted Woman's Helpline: 1-866-863-0511 TTY: 1-866-863-7868

Talk 4 Healing

Talk 4 Healing is a free and culturally safe telephone help line for Aboriginal women living in Northern Ontario.

1-855-554-HEAL

Fem'aide

Fem'aide is a provincial crisis line confidential services for Francophone women who are victims or survivors of any form of violence or are in distress, providing crisis intervention, support and referrals to community agencies.
Fem'aide: 1-877-336-2433 (1-877-FEMAIDE) TTY: 1-866-860-7082

VAW services are delivered through more than 100 organizations across Ontario, and include:

- emergency shelters
- crisis and support services
- counselling services
- housing support services
- transitional support services, and
- province wide crisis help lines



Overview of VAW Services in Ontario- con'd



www.sexualassaultsupport.ca

www.sadvtreatmentcentres.ca

OCRCC
ONTARIO COALITION
OF RAPE CRISIS CENTRES

search here ... Go

[Find Support](#) [About Sexual Violence](#) [Policy & Political Action](#) [About OCRCC](#) [What's New](#)

Find Support

Sexual assault centres provide free counselling and information about sexual violence.

Click on a city or region below to get contact information for a centre near you.

Algoma (Sault Ste. Marie)

Barrie

Belleville-Quinte

Francophone support

For French-language sexual assault centres in Ontario, visit **Action ontarienne contre la violence faite aux femmes.**

Ontario-wide

Assaulted Women's Helpline
1-866-863-0511

Kids Help Phone
1-800-668-6868

Talk4Healing, for Indigenous women.

Ontario Network
of Sexual Assault/
Domestic Violence
Treatment Centres

HOME ABOUT US OUR SERVICES NEWS RESOURCES RESEARCH

The Network

35 Centres Across Ontario

585 Staff

OCT.24.18
1-2:30pm EST

**Colonization,
Oppression and
Racism:
Understanding
Violence against
Indigenous
women who are
older**



Amber Skye, Researcher,
Six Nations of the Grand River

[Register Here](#)

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Funded by the Government of Ontario



Tuesday Jan. 22, 2019
11:30am-1:30 pm EST

**Sexual Violence and
Older Women in Long
Term Care: Intersectoral
Approaches and
Promising Practices**



Funded by the Government of Ontario

Presented by

**Rosalyn
Forrester,**
Community Support
& Outreach, Interim
Place
and

**Tammy
Rankin**
Senior Safety Advisor,
Regional Municipality
of Durham
Long Term Care &
Services for Seniors
Division



How can older women in LTC be supported by VAW services?

- Provide a safe, confidential space to connect with a local or provincial crisis line
- VAW services can provide support related to historical or recent trauma (even if not fully recalled)
- Provide information from VAW services in an accessible format
- If mobility issues permit, arrange for counselling appointments or ask if phone/virtual support is possible
- THSP could attend and meet with her within LTC home if services are needed
- Collaborative meeting to manage risk (assess risk, create safety plan, coordinate with perpetrator services)
- Training from VAW staff for LTC staff and vice versa; increase capacity

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Live Polling Question:

What services in the VAW sector have you referred to or collaborated with while assisting an older woman?

Word to the Wise- Monthly Factsheets



AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

WORD TO THE WISE
Unique barriers exist for older women experiencing violence

www.oaith.ca

What barriers do older women experience when accessing services and supports?

AGING Without Violence research participants reported on why they believe older women experiencing violence do not access services:

- Believe it is a personal matter (53%)
- Feel there is no purpose in getting help (49%)
- She is not aware of the available services (39%)
- She doesn't think your organization supports her age group (26%)

Why is an intersectional approach important when working with older women?

Older women's experiences of violence come from a variety of sources. Sex, race, ethnicity, background, and experiences of oppression, all contribute to the experience of violence. Older women's experiences which may impact the way they access services and supports include:

- Age
- Gender
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Religion
- Sexual Orientation
- Disability
- Socioeconomic Status
- Immigration Status
- Language
- Education
- Employment
- Health Status
- Family Structure
- Social Networks
- Cultural Norms
- Power
- Privilege
- Oppression
- Marginality



What is "relational" advocacy?

Relational advocacy is a practice that connects individuals who are experiencing violence with others who have similar experiences. It is a form of peer support that is based on shared experiences and a common goal of reducing violence against older women.

AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

WORD TO THE WISE
Existing resources need to be utilized to meet the needs of older women experiencing violence

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Helpful Resources

Native Women's Association of Canada - NWAC

Founded in the early 1970s, NWAC is a national organization that provides support and advocacy for Native women. NWAC has a long history of working with Native women on issues of violence, and has been instrumental in the development of the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE).

National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE)

NICE is a national network of organizations that provides support and advocacy for older adults. NICE has a long history of working with older adults on issues of violence, and has been instrumental in the development of the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE).

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National Clearinghouse on Abuse Later in Life (NCALL)

NCALL is a national clearinghouse that provides information and resources for older adults who have experienced violence. NCALL has a long history of working with older adults on issues of violence, and has been instrumental in the development of the National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly (NICE).

Capacity Concerns

Capacity concerns are a common issue for older women who are experiencing violence. Capacity concerns can include a lack of understanding of the situation, a lack of resources, and a lack of support. Capacity concerns can be addressed through relational advocacy and other forms of support.

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WORD TO THE WISE
Knowledge of capacity, violence and risk is vital in supporting older women

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What is important to know about capacity issues when working with older women experiencing violence?

Capacity is the ability to understand and appreciate the consequences of one's actions. Capacity is a key factor in determining whether an older woman is able to make decisions about her safety and well-being. Capacity can be affected by a variety of factors, including age, health, and cognitive function. Capacity can be assessed through a variety of methods, including interviews and standardized assessments.

Capacity & intimate relationships

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AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

WORD TO THE WISE
Gender-neutral terms contribute to the invisibility of violence against older women

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Why use the term "Violence Against Older Women?" rather than "Elder Abuse" or "Family Violence"?

Using the term **Violence Against Older Women (VAOW)** is important, policy and practice matter that the general public, family or friends, or age-related services may not be aware of. The term "Violence Against Older Women" is a gender-neutral term that is used to describe violence against older women. It is a term that is used to describe violence against older women, regardless of the gender of the perpetrator.

Population may include culture or language

Population may include culture or language. It is important to consider the cultural and linguistic needs of older women when providing services and supports. It is important to provide services and supports that are culturally and linguistically appropriate.

At what age does a woman become "older"?

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What is "relational" advocacy?

Relational advocacy is a practice that connects individuals who are experiencing violence with others who have similar experiences. It is a form of peer support that is based on shared experiences and a common goal of reducing violence against older women.

AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

WORD TO THE WISE
Strategies to increase visibility, accessibility and staff capacity

www.oaith.ca

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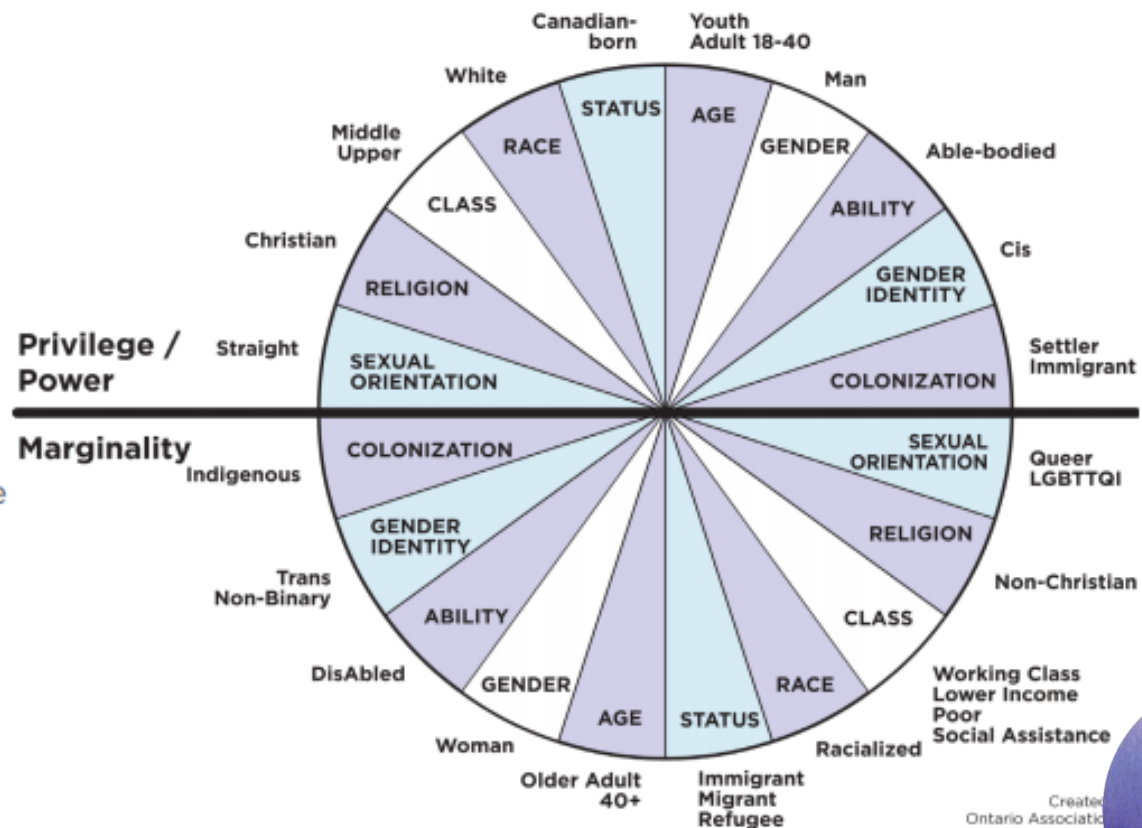
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Word to the Wise- Factsheet Highlight – Intersectionality Wheel

Why is an intersectional approach important when working with older women?

Older women who experience violence come from a variety of communities with diverse needs, backgrounds, and experiences of systemic oppression. Below are some of the intersecting identities and the correlating positions of privilege/marginality which may impact the way an older woman experiences violence and your services. Understanding and challenging your own privilege and preconceptions and their relationship with institutional and systemic oppression is a key element of providing effective, respectful service to older women from a variety of backgrounds and experiences.²



1 Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH). (2018). *Aging Without Violence Gap Analysis*.
2 Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses (OAITH). (2018). *How Does Intersectionality Work?*



Word to the Wise- Factsheet Highlight – Resources related to age, capacity, and consent

What is important to know about capacity issues when working with older women experiencing violence?

Understanding capacity laws and utilizing capacity-related resources and supports may be useful if an older woman you are working with has capacity issues, is experiencing abuse from a caregiver or from her Power of Attorney or is caring for an abusive spouse/family member.

In Ontario, matters related to mental capacity are governed by the **Substitute Decisions Act**, the **Health Care Consent Act**, and the **Mental Health Act**.

Threats to try to have an older woman's rights taken away by means of capacity assessment or misuse of Power of Attorney may be used by an abusive partner or family member as a tactic of power and control. Providing information about her rights, offering support during appointments, and connecting her with a resource to provide more information (such as the **Seniors Safety Line** 1-866-299-1011) can help increase her safety and provide choices.

Under the Ontario Human Rights Code, "before determining that a person lacks capacity, an organization, assessment body, evaluator, etc. has the duty to explore accommodation options to the point of undue hardship."¹

Never assume capacity issues or ability limitations due to age. If you are unsure if an older woman is capable, presume capacity and work with her to get a Capacity Assessment through the **Capacity Assessment Office** (CAO): CAO@ontario.ca 1-866-521-1033

If an older woman is deemed incapable by a capacity assessor, work with the older woman and her **Power of Attorney** (POA) or substitute decision maker to access services and support.

If the POA or substitute decision maker is abusive, call the Office of the Public Guardian of Trustees (OPGT): Toll Free: 1-800-518-7901 TTY: 1-877-425-0575

If the older woman is capable of making decisions she will choose if she wants to report to police, however if she is living in long term care or a retirement home the service provider is obligated to report abuse.

If an older woman has been assessed and disagrees with the incapacity finding, a review can be requested from the **consent and capacity board**: ccb@ontario.ca Toll free: 1-866-777-7391 TTY: 1-877-301-0889

Capacity & intimate relationships

In Ontario, decisions related to marriage, separation and divorce only require a low level of capacity on the "competency hierarchy". One Ontario Court of Appeal case found a woman in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease had the capacity to decide to leave her husband, although she had been deemed as lacking the capacity to understand financial and legal issues and instruct council.²

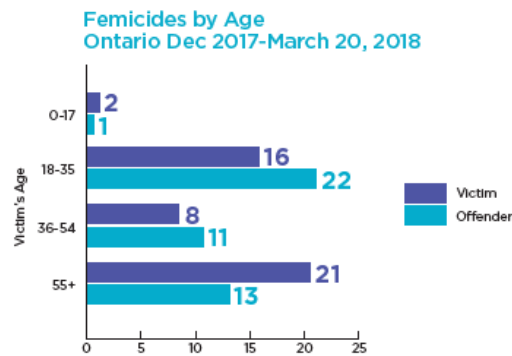
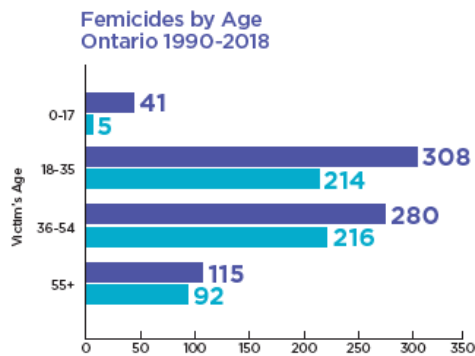
Capacity & sexual consent

When a person with cognitive impairments is deemed incapable, this does not mean they are mentally incapable for all purposes at all times. The assessment of sexual consent capacity is complex, and distinct from other types of capacities due to the fluidity of intimate relationships, barriers to usage of substitute decision-makers or guardians, and lack of assessment and diagnosis strategies.^{3,4}

Word to the Wise- Factsheet Highlight – Women over age 55 are losing their lives to gender-based violence

Are femicide rates of older women increasing?

Media reports of Femicide against older women in Ontario are increasing. 45% (21/47) of femicide victims from December 2017-November 2018 have been women aged 55 or older; this rate has nearly doubled compared to femicide rates between November 2016- December 2017 (29%). (OAITH and University of Guelph Ontario Femicide Data, 2018).

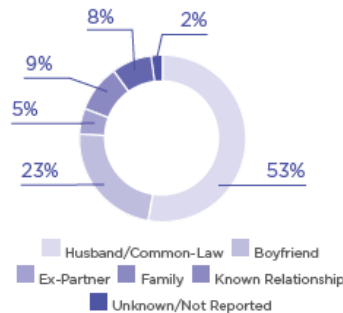


Who are the perpetrators of violence against older women?

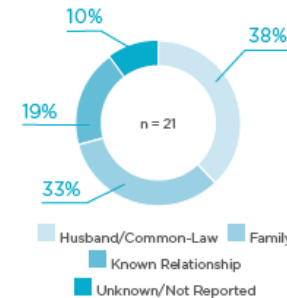
Femicide victims over 55 years old are most **likely to be killed by their partner** (including husband and boyfriend), son, ex-partner, or neighbour.

Between December 2017-November 2018, 38% of femicides of older women were committed by their partners, 33% by a family member such as a son, son-in-law or grandson, 19% by a neighbour or acquaintance, and in 10% of cases the victim-offender relationship is unknown.

Femicides by Victim-Offender Relationship 55+ 1990-2018



Femicides by Victim-Offender Relationship 55+ Dec 2017- March 2018



Elder Abuse Network Community Consultations

One EAN network in each region of Ontario invited to complete an in person focus group, based on EAO consultant recommendations.

- Help to inform and guide the AWW project
- Identify challenges unique to each region in relation to meeting the needs of older women experiencing violence
- Gather information on promising practices already in place
- Feedback on what curriculum, resources, and information might be most helpful for frontline service providers in your area
- Completed in Durham, Brant, Cornwall, Peel, and London
- Survey across all Ontario EANs
- Shelter tour completed in each area



2018 Map of all active EANs in Ontario (38)



SCENARIO

Raneeta is a 62-year-old woman who recently called for support as she is worried about her husband of 40 years. Raneeta and her husband live on a farm and do not have many friends or family, although sometimes Raneeta speaks with her sisters in India via phone. Raneeta seems anxious while you are speaking. Raneeta is worried about her husband, who has started drinking more lately. Raneeta's husband has threatened to kill her on numerous occasions and has been obsessing over her whereabouts, accusing her of adultery and following her. Raneeta's husband recently began to purchase firearms. Raneeta spoke about being shocked when her husband ridiculed her in front of neighbours last week, as he has never done this before. Raneeta's husband has never physically harmed her.

Raneeta and her husband receive social assistance. Raneeta uses a cane due to knee and hip issues and is rarely able to access a vehicle.



High Risk Scenario Responses

- 62 year old racialized woman
- Emotionally, socially and physically isolated
- Increase in abusive behaviours
- Control, tracking
- Recent firearms purchase
- Threats involving firearm

Safety planning – 42%

Explore client's needs, goals, priorities – 18%

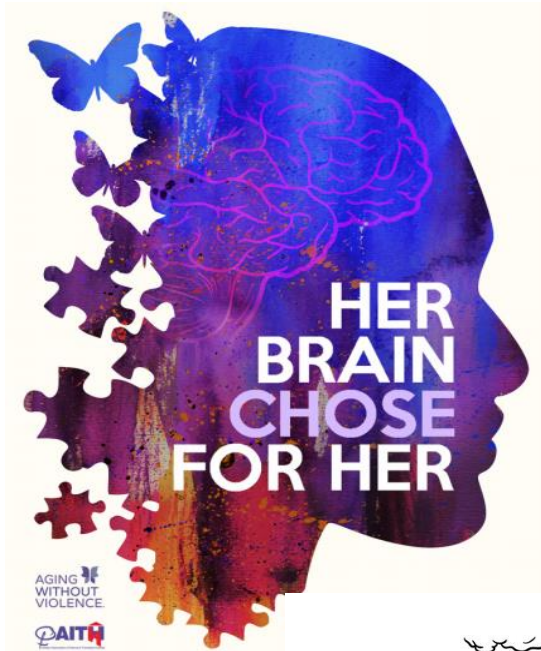




Elder Abuse Network Survey

- 23 responses total – 63% response rate
- Wide range of activities
- 69% of responding EANS do discuss VAOW
- 86% rated older women’s lack of knowledge of services as primary barrier, in addition to not believing what they are experiencing is violence/abuse and transportation (81%)

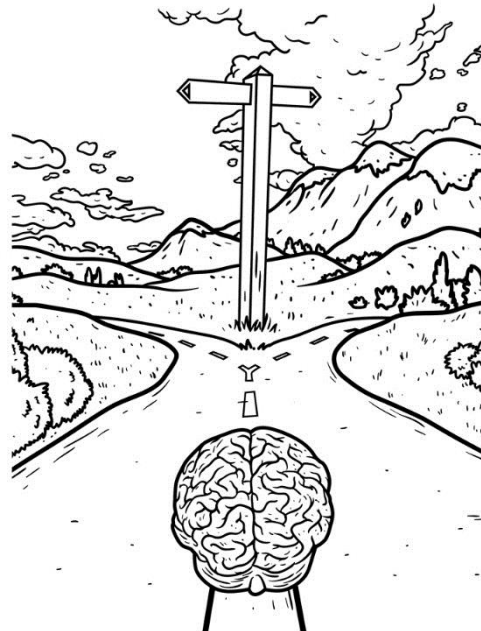
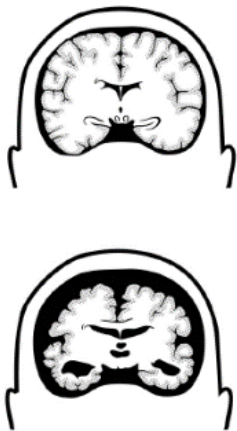
By acknowledging implications of gender when discussing EAN work and projects	63.16%	12
By promoting violence against women specific resources/training/information electronically (email, website, newsletter, social media)	31.58%	6
By developing resources targeted towards service providers of older women specifically	26.32%	5



“Her Brain Chose for Her”

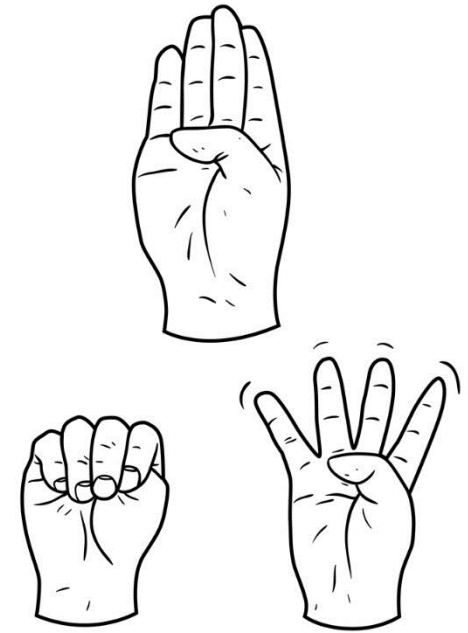
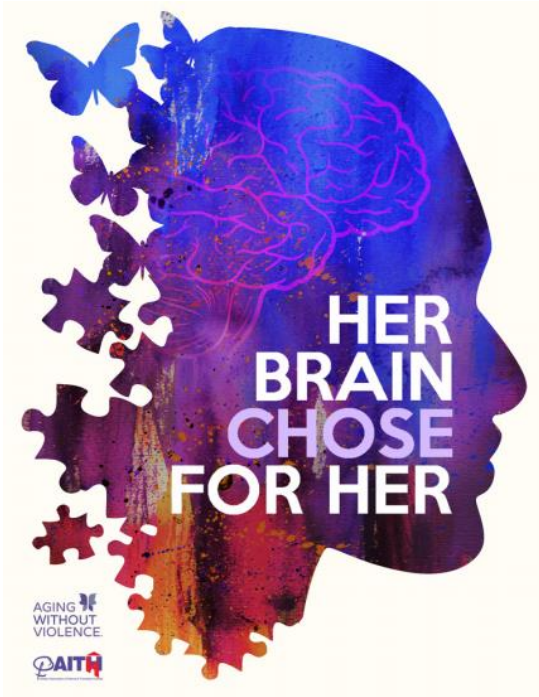
A Visual Training Tool for direct service providers to better understand the neurobiology of trauma and violence against women across the lifespan

“Often it isn’t the initiating trauma that creates seemingly insurmountable pain, but the lack of support after.”- S. Kelley Harrell



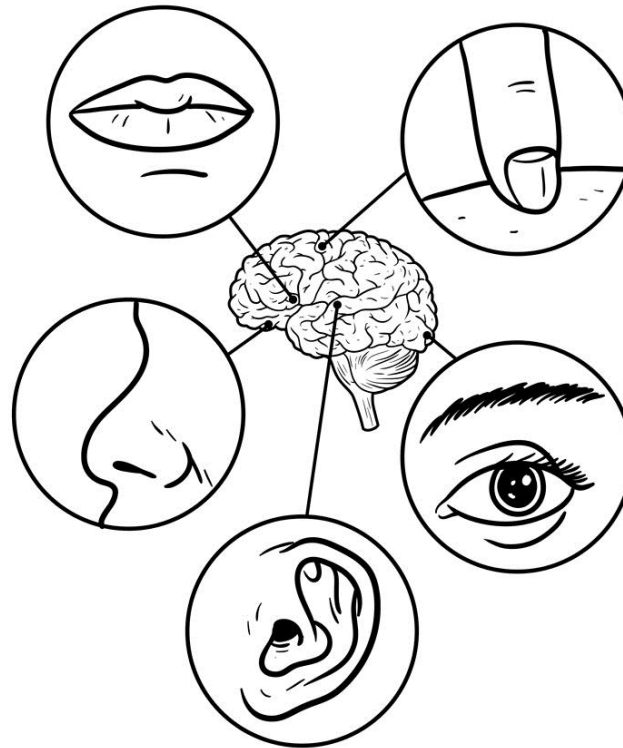
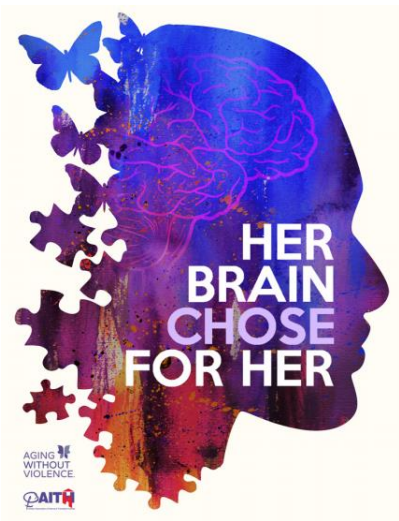
F26 - WHEN OUR BRAIN CHOOSES





F6- FLIPPING YOUR LID

“Her Brain Chose for Her” Flipping Your Lid Exercise



“Her Brain Chose for Her” Trigger Senses & Grounding

AGING WITHOUT VIOLENCE

A Video Introduction to Complex Trauma

Aging Without Violence Public Education Campaign

Pre-Campaign Evaluation

*Completed by Leger on behalf
of OAITH*

- Measure VAW and VAOW attitudes
- Determine awareness of warning signs, support services, and existing public education campaigns and messaging
- Create a baseline for our “Invisibility” campaign

Methodology, Data Analysis & Reliability

- **Sample Size-** 1,012 across Ontario (18+, lived in Ontario 6 + months)
- Non-random internet survey = margin of error not reported as margin of error accounts for sampling error, but if these data had been collected with probability sample, the margin of error would be +3.1 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.
- Raw data weighted according to population distribution from Stats. Can. – age, gender, region, visible minority status
- Online surveys via Leger’s online panel between **March 14- March 24, 2019**

Leger



What does violence against women mean to you?

- Physical abuse/assault/harm/violence/physical aggression – 59%
- Mental/emotional (inc. 5% no rights/ freedom, 2% threats) -32%
- Verbal- 21%
- Inappropriate/negative behaviour/illegal/crime/bad – 15%
- **Sexual assault/abuse/harassment – 14%**
- Financial abuse – 3%





What are the reasons that older women do not report abuse or violence?

- Fear (54%)
- Shame/Stigma (33%)
- Unaware of help available (18%)
- Financial concerns (10%)

What are the warning signs that an older woman is experiencing or may experience violence?

- Bruises/cuts/wounds/marks/scarring/scabs/blood/other physical signs (57%)
- Isolation (34%)
- Change in behaviour (17%)
- Depressed/sad/unhappy (12%)
- Fearful/afraid (10%)
- Nervous/anxious (10%)
- Timid/shy/no self confidence/insecure (9%)



Only Half of Ontarians have knowledge of supports and services related to violence against older women

- Most recognized support – Police (44%)
- Women's shelters- (19%)
- Health services (13%)
- Abuse/crisis/SA/DV hotlines (11%)
- Elder abuse organizations/hotlines (5%)
- Community/social/family services (11%)
- Church/clergy – (3%)



Invisibility posters- Service Providers



The women in
this ad **feel the
way they look.**

Older women experiencing violence often
feel invisible. Learn more about what to look
for and how to confidently provide support.

www.oaith.ca



Invisibility posters- General Public



The women in
this ad **feel** the
way they look.

Older women experiencing violence often
feel invisible, but the warning signs are clear
when you know what to look for.

Senior Safety Line: 1-866-299-1011

 **OATH**
Ontario Association of Inmate & Transition Houses

**AGING
WITHOUT
VIOLENCE.**

oath.ca



TWITTER CHAT

#VAOWchat

Tues.
June
25

1-2pm
EST



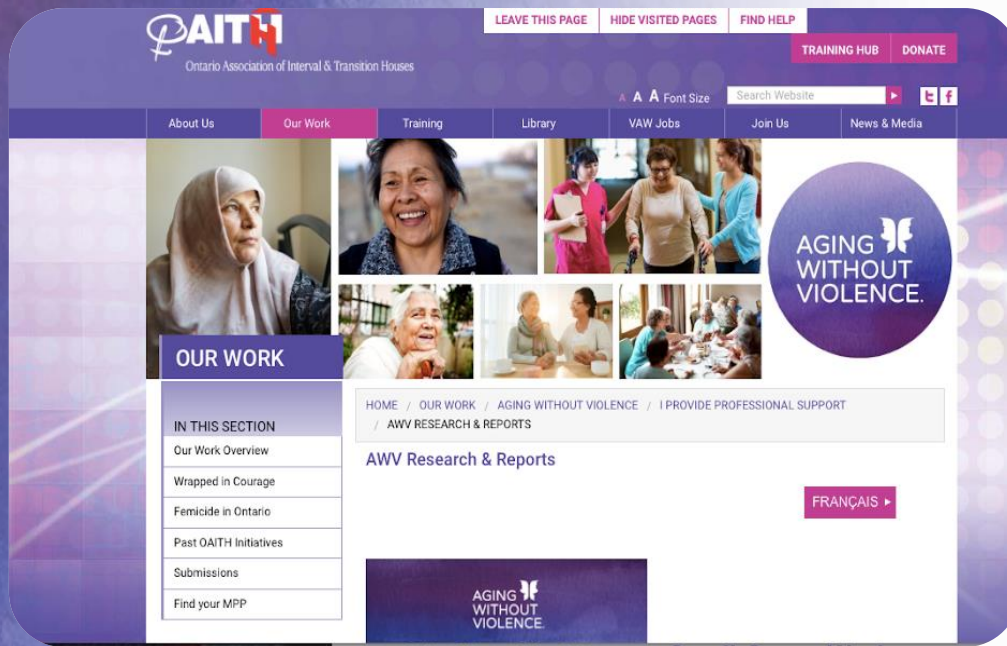
@AgingWV



FOLLOW
#VAOWCHAT
AND JOIN THE
CONVERSATION

Promising Practices:
Increasing the
visibility of violence
against older women

AWV Content Now Online



- Tools and resources for service providers
- Where to find help for older women experiencing violence
- Information for the personal supports of older women
- Aging Without Violence Gap Analysis, Forum Report, and environmental scan

www.oaith.ca



Elder Abuse Ontario

<http://www.elderabuseontario.com/>

(416) 916-6728

Senior's Safety Line: 1-866-299-1011

Assaulted Women's Helpline

www.awhl.org

1-866-863-0511

Ontario Network of Sexual Assault/ Domestic Violence Treatment Centres

www.satcontario.com/en/home.php

(416) 323-7518



Questions?



Contact the Aging Without Violence Project

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Project Coordinator
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Stay informed about our
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