

Qualitative Assessments with Intimate Partner Violence Service Providers

Semi-Structured Focus Group Guide

This guide is intended to be used as a framework to guide semi-structured focus groups for University of British Columbia Okanagan Behavioral Research Ethics Board approved study #H22-02769.

Context:

This focus group aims to gather insights from diverse intimate partner violence (IPV) advocates. The discussion will revolve around current practices, barriers, facilitators, desired practices, and implementation strategies within the realm of IPV services, all in the context of providing the best and most appropriate care for IPV survivors.

Estimated Length: 45-60 minutes

Opening

- Welcome and thank you for participating in our research study.
- Before we start, we'll go over the consent form. Feel free to ask any questions, and if you're comfortable, please provide your informed consent.
- Acknowledge there are limitations to confidentiality and request that participants not disclose who participated or what was said to others.
- After agreeing to these terms, you can sign and return the paper copies or virtually sign the electronic copies or exit the focus group interview.
- Keep in mind that the focus group interviews will be audio-recorded for research purposes.
- The recordings will undergo transcription, validation, de-identification, and the original audio recordings will be deleted.
- Ensuring your confidentiality is our top priority. If you have any concerns, please feel free to discuss them.

Section 1: Introductions

1. Let's start with introductions. Please share your name.
2. Tell us about your role in the field of intimate partner violence (IPV) services.
3. Briefly describe your experience in this field.

Section 2: Current Practices Among IPV Service Providers

Gain insight into the current practices, scope, and role of each IPV service provider. Suggested questions include:

1. Can you describe your current role and responsibilities as an IPV service provider?
2. What are the main services you provide to individuals experiencing intimate partner violence?
3. How do you collaborate with other service providers in addressing IPV cases?
4. What challenges do you encounter in your current role?
5. Is there consideration for IPV-caused brain injury?

Section 3: Challenges and Solutions

Explore the challenges and solutions each IPV service provider faces in delivering services within their role. Suggested questions:

1. What obstacles do you encounter when providing services to individuals facing IPV?
2. Are there specific resources or support systems that facilitate your work?
3. How do external factors, such as community attitudes, impact your ability to provide effective services?
4. Does IPV-caused brain injury act as a challenge or solution to service provision?

Section 4: Desired Practices for IPV Service Providers

Discuss the ideal and desired practices, roles, and scope for IPV service providers. Suggested questions:

1. In an ideal scenario, what practices should be adopted by IPV service providers?
2. How can roles be enhanced to better serve individuals experiencing IPV?
3. What changes do you believe are necessary within the current system to improve support for survivors?
4. Does IPV-caused brain injury require more attention and consideration?

Section 5: Desired Practice Implementations

Explore the necessary steps and conditions for implementing the desired practices identified in Section 4. Suggested questions:



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1. What resources or support systems are needed to implement the desired practices?
2. Are there any challenges or solutions to implementing these changes?
3. How can collaboration between different service providers be improved to support these changes?
4. Previous findings have suggested survivors would like (*insert relevant findings from associated literature and pilot studies, specific to the IPV service providers in the focus group interview*), what would you need to implement these practices?
5. Are there any challenges, barriers, or facilitators to implementing these changes?
6. Would additional training, education, and infrastructure support these implementations?

Section 6: Pathways Through Service

Examine the perspectives of each service provider on the continuity of care and support for IPV survivors. General questions:

1. How do you envision a seamless pathway of support for survivors of IPV?
2. What coordination efforts do you believe are essential for a comprehensive continuum of care?
3. Are there specific areas where you see the need for improvement in the current system?

Conclusions and Thanks:

- In wrapping up, we want to sincerely thank you for participating in this study.
- Your contribution is invaluable, and we appreciate your time and insights.
- If you have any additional questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to bring them up. Your input is crucial to the success of our research.

Note: The direction and nature of questions may vary based on the makeup of the group. The semi-structured nature of the focus group allows for flexibility aligned with the research objectives. The guide herein serves as an initial framework for the focus group interviews which may be adjusted to meet the directional needs of the group or changed as the project evolves.