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The effectiveness of an advocacy intervention for diverse women in midlife and older experiencing intimate partner violence: The AIM Study

Submission date
01/02/2023

Recruitment status
No longer recruiting

Registration date
07/02/2023

Overall study status
Completed

Last Edited
28/01/2026

Condition category
Other

[X] Prospectively registered
[X] Protocol
[_] Statistical analysis plan
[_] Results
[_] Individual participant data
[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims
While our knowledge of intimate partner violence (IPV) among older versus younger women is far less complete, a mistaken assumption is that intimate partner violence ceases with age. Researchers have shown that up to 30% of older women report intimate partner violence at some time in their life. Still, it is generally recognized that, like other types or forms of abuse, IPV among older women is under-estimated. There is now a recognition that services need to be adapted to meet the needs of women in midlife and older. The goal of this study is to test the effectiveness of an AIM intervention "The Advocacy Intervention for women in Midlife and older" for women who are experiencing intimate partner violence

Who can participate?
The study will involve women, and people who identify as women in midlife and older, (i.e., approximately age 50 years and older), living in the Maritime provinces in Canada (i.e. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island), currently experiencing intimate partner violence, and who can participate in an interview in English or French.

What does the study involve?
Trained researchers will deliver the AIM intervention over a period of 13 weeks to the women in the study randomly assigned to the intervention group. The first part of the intervention will be a 1-hour individual one-on-one session that will be delivered virtually by telephone or video call. This session will focus on empowerment, and awareness raising about IPV, but also supports the women to develop changes in the future. The second part of the intervention is the social support component which involves tangible and perceived social support to contribute to health and well-being. This component consists of 12 scheduled weekly telephone or video calls of about 20 minutes each. These sessions are designed to provide encouragement and support and to answer questions the participant may have about utilizing or applying the resources provided

in the empowerment component. Data will be collected from the women in the intervention group and the control group before the intervention begins, and again after 3 months and 9 months.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?
The women in the intervention group may receive benefits from participating to their physical and mental health, knowledge of intimate partner violence, and behaviours related to their abusive partner. This research will result in knowledge about the adaptation and testing of a program to support and empower women in midlife and older who have experienced intimate partner violence. For participants living in the home with a perpetrator, the participant may be at risk if the perpetrator finds out they are participating in the study. We will incorporate many strategies to protect the participants into this study including utilizing only virtual participation in the intervention and virtual data collection.

Where is the study run?
The study is being run from the Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research at the University of New Brunswick (Canada)

When is the study starting and how long is expected to run for?
January 2023 to February 2026

Who is funding the study:
The Public Health Agency of Canada

Who is the main contact?
Professor Lori E. Weeks, lori.weeks@dal.ca

Contact information

Type(s)
Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Protocol serial number
2223-HQ-000381

Study information

Scientific Title
The AIM Study: The impact of an Advocacy Intervention for diverse women in Midlife and older experiencing intimate partner violence on knowledge about intimate partner violence and physical and mental health

Acronym
AIM

Study objectives
The AIM intervention will improve physical and mental health and increase knowledge about intimate partner violence and safety strategies.

Ethics approval required
Old ethics approval format

Ethics approval(s)
1. Approved 11/07/2023, Dalhousie University Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (Research Ethics, Office of Research Services, P.O Box 15000 Halifax, NS B3H 4R2, Canada; +1 (0)902 494 3423; ethics@dal.ca), ref: REB # 2023-6548
2. Approved 16/08/2023, St Francies Xavier University Research Ethics Board (Research Ethics Board, 114J Annex 2323 Notre Dame Avenue Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5, Canada; +1 (0)902 867 5387; clomore@stfx.ca), ref: File # 26598
3. Approved 06/09/2023, Le Comité d'éthique de la recherche avec des êtres humains (CER) de l’ Université de Moncton (cer@umoncton.ca), ref: CER # 2324-005
4. Approved 26/09/2023, University of New Brunswick Research Ethics Board (Office of Research Services, Sir Howard Douglas Hall, room 215; 3 Bailey Drive, PO Box 4400, Fredericton, NB E3B 5A3, Canada; +1 (0)506 453 4674; ethics@unb.ca), ref: REB # 2023-110
5. Approved 06/10/2023, University of Prince Edward Island Research Ethics Board (Research Services, 200 Kelley Memorial Building, 550 University Ave, Charlottetown PE C1A 4P3, Canada; +1 (0)902 620 5104; scpalmer@upei.ca), ref: REB # 6012156

Primary study design
Interventional

Study design
Single-centre interventional randomized controlled trial

Study type(s)
Prevention

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied
Women in midlife and older who experience intimate partner violence

Interventions

After the collection of baseline data, the participants will be randomized into either the intervention group or control group by sealed envelope. The control group will receive usual care. Trained researchers will deliver the AIM intervention over a period of 13 weeks. The first part of the intervention focuses on empowerment and involves an approximately 1-hour individual one-on-one session that will be delivered virtually by telephone or video call. This will include topics such as: recognizing increased danger and using an individualized safety plan adapted for older women; providing information about cycles of violence; community and legal resources; and developing goals and strategies for the future. In addition to discussing this information, print materials will be provided electronically or in hard copy. Thus, this component focuses on awareness raising about IPV, but also supports the women to develop changes in the future. The second part of the intervention is the social support component that involves tangible and perceived social support to contribute to health and well-being. This component consists of 12 scheduled weekly telephone or video calls at a time convenient to the participant. The length of time can vary, but we anticipate this average approximately 20 minutes. These sessions are designed to provide encouragement and support and to answer questions the participant may have about utilizing or applying the resources provided in the empowerment component. These sessions are very individualized and based on the needs raised and questions that the woman wishes to discuss.

Intervention Type
Behavioural

Primary outcome(s)
1. Physical and mental health is measured at baseline, 3 months, and 9 months using:
1.1. Short Form Health Survey
1.2. Centre for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale
1.3. Interpersonal Support Evaluation List
2. Knowledge about intimate partner violence and safety strategies is measured at baseline, 3 months, and 9 months using:
2.1. Women's Experiences of Battering Scale
2.2. Decisional Conflict Scale
2.3. Intimate Partner Violence Strategies Index

Key secondary outcome(s)
There are no secondary outcome measures

Completion date
31/03/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria
1. Women, and people who identify as women
2. Are in midlife and older, approximately age 50 years and older
3. Live in the Maritime provinces in Canada (i.e. New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island)
4. Currently experiencing intimate partner violence
5. Can participate in an interview in English or French

Participant type(s)

Healthy volunteer

Healthy volunteers allowed
No

Age group
Mixed

Lower age limit
45 Years

Upper age limit
120 Years

Sex
Female

Total final enrolment
53

Key exclusion criteria
Does not meet inclusion criteria

Date of first enrolment
01/09/2023

Date of final enrolment
10/07/2024

Locations

Countries of recruitment
Canada

Study participating centre
Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research
University of New Brunswick
Fredericton
Canada
E3B 4G3

Sponsor information

Organisation
Dalhousie University

ROR
https://ror.org/01e6qks80

Organisation
Muriel McQueen Fergusson Centre for Family Violence Research

Funder(s)

Funder type
Government

Funder Name
Public Health Agency of Canada

Alternative Name(s)
Agence de la Santé Publique du Canada, L'Agence de la santé publique du Canada, PHAC, ASPC

Funding Body Type
Government organisation

Funding Body Subtype
National government

Location
Canada

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary
Data sharing statement to be made available at a later date

Study outputs

Output type	Details	Date created	Date added	Peer reviewed?	Patient-facing?
Protocol article		30/10/2024	31/10/2024	Yes	No