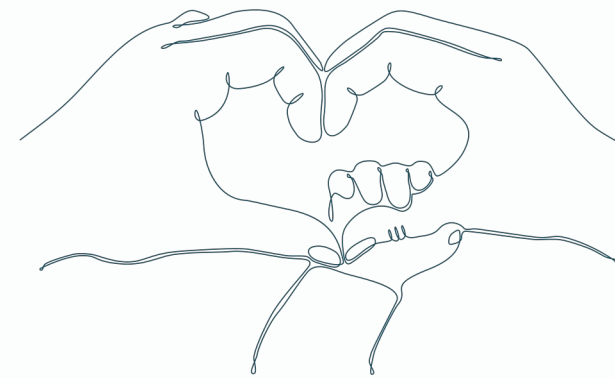


PERSPECTIVES OF CHILD PROTECTION SERVICES FRONT-LINE WORKERS ON CASES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Saskatchewan Survey Findings



European Conference on Domestic
Violence

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Reykjavík, Iceland

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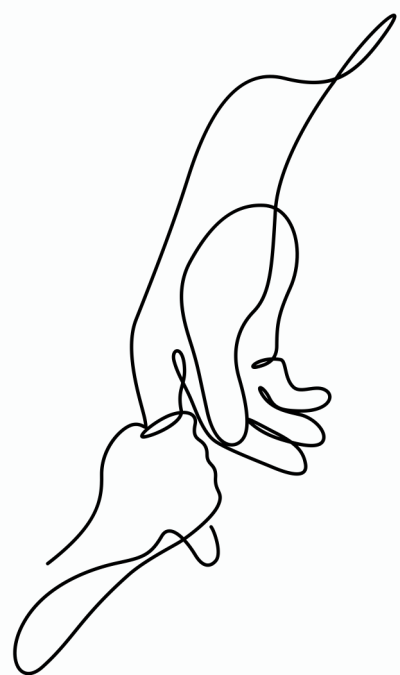
PROJECT BACKGROUND

4 provinces (West to East): Alberta, **Saskatchewan**, Manitoba, Ontario

Study Objectives:

- Investigate promising/advanced Canadian policy and practice approaches to children's exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV).
- Establish a foundational understanding of how CPS organizations respond to IPV.
- Identify gaps or inconsistencies within CPS policy or practice, barriers to policy development.
- Develop usable frameworks that contain tangible, practical recommendations for effective policy/practice development and implementation.

*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Insight Grant





6 phases of research:

National policy scan

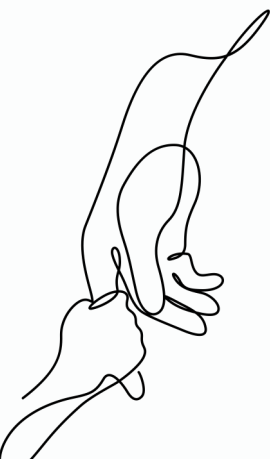
Interviews with CPS supervisors

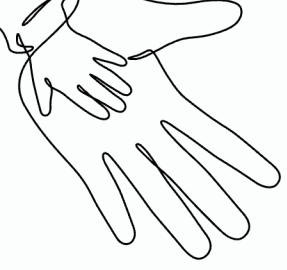
Survey with CPS front-line workers

Focus Groups with CPS front-line workers

Interviews with Collateral supports

Interviews with Survivors





SURVEY: PREMIS

Online survey adapted for front-line child protection workers to understand the knowledge, attitudes, beliefs, and self-reported practice behaviors (KAP model) related to IPV

Based on the *American Physician Readiness to Manage Intimate Partner Violence Survey* (PREMIS) (Short et al., 2006)

Found to be valid and reliable with physicians (Short et al., 2006); students in medicine, nursing, social work, and dentistry (with addition of IPV screening component)(Conner et al., 2011); and has been validated in the Greek language.

- 100 items for participants who identified/managed a case involving IPV (past 6 months)
- 68 items for those who had not



RESULTS: DEMOGRAPHICS

Participants ($N=120$)

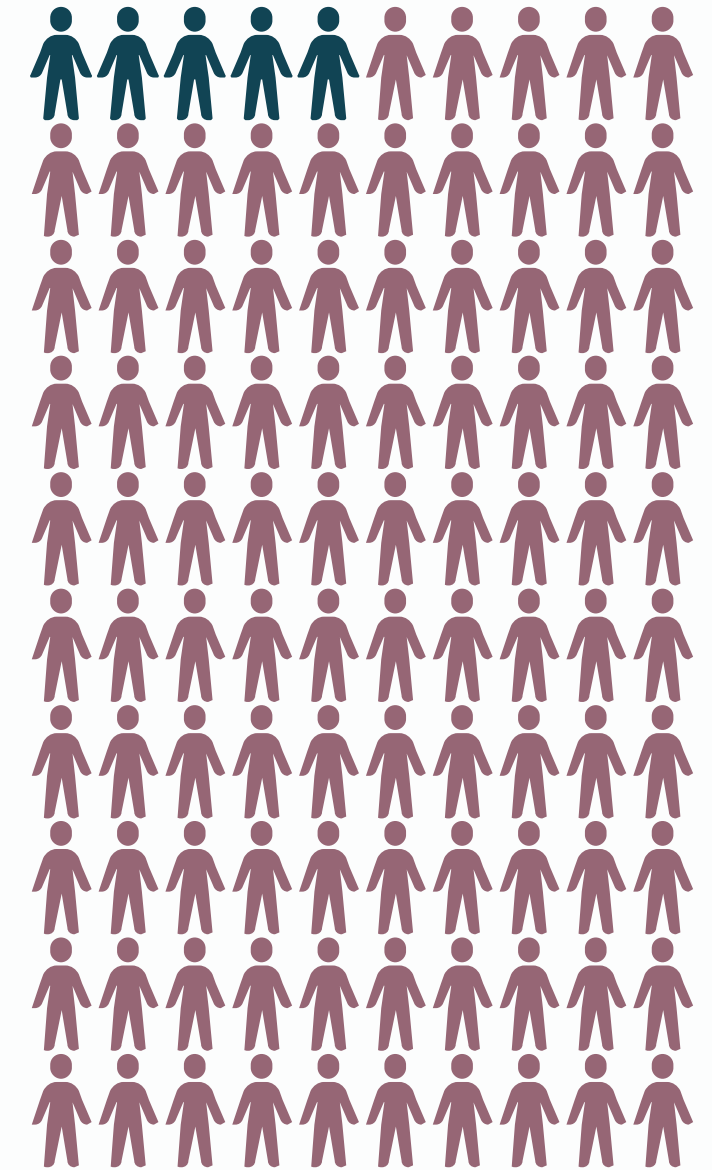
Female: 115 (95.8%)

Male: 5 (4.2%)

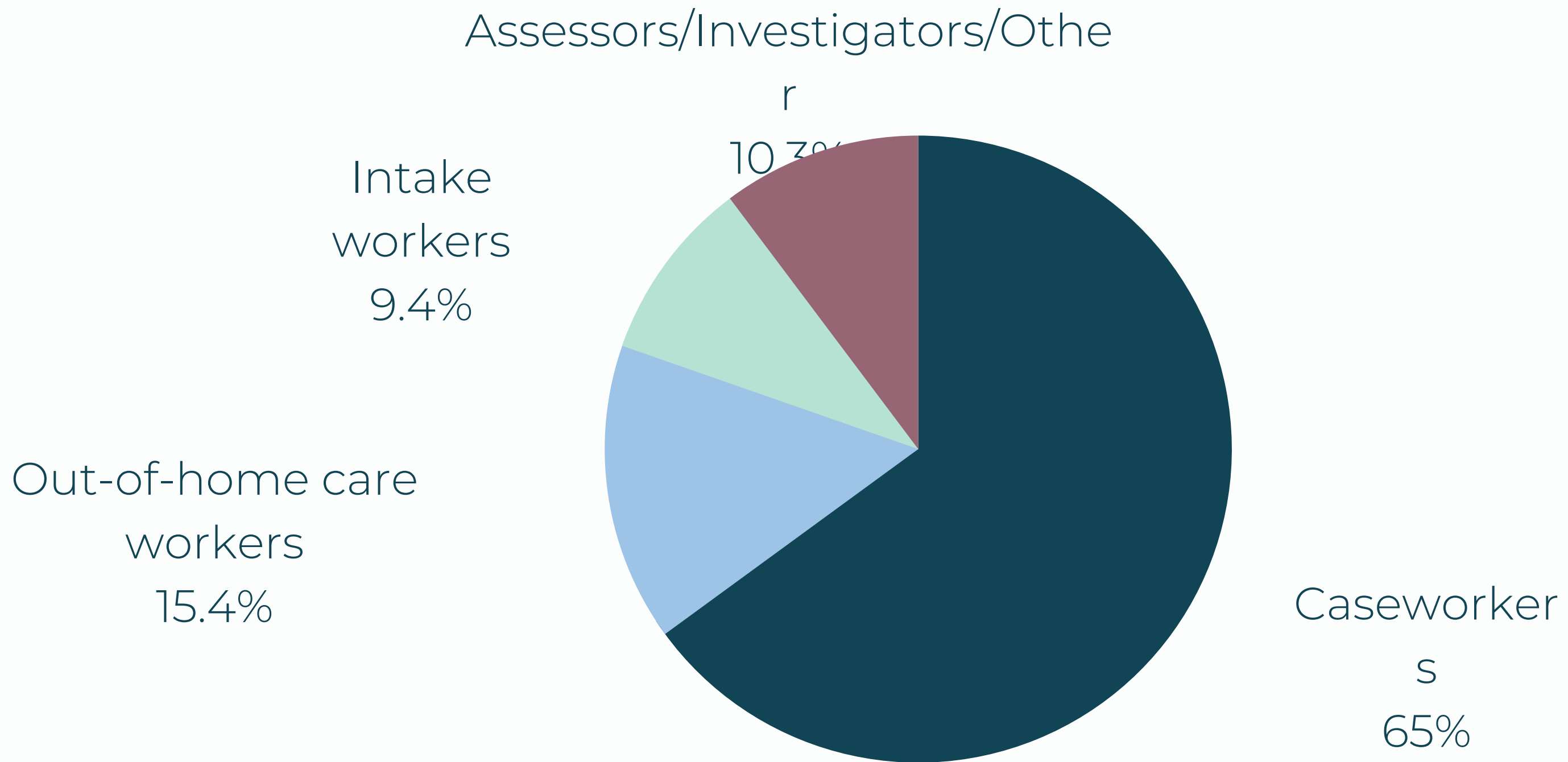
Mean age: 35.58 years ($SD=10.22$) (20-65)

Mean years in CPS: 1.89 ($SD=1.38$) (1-6)

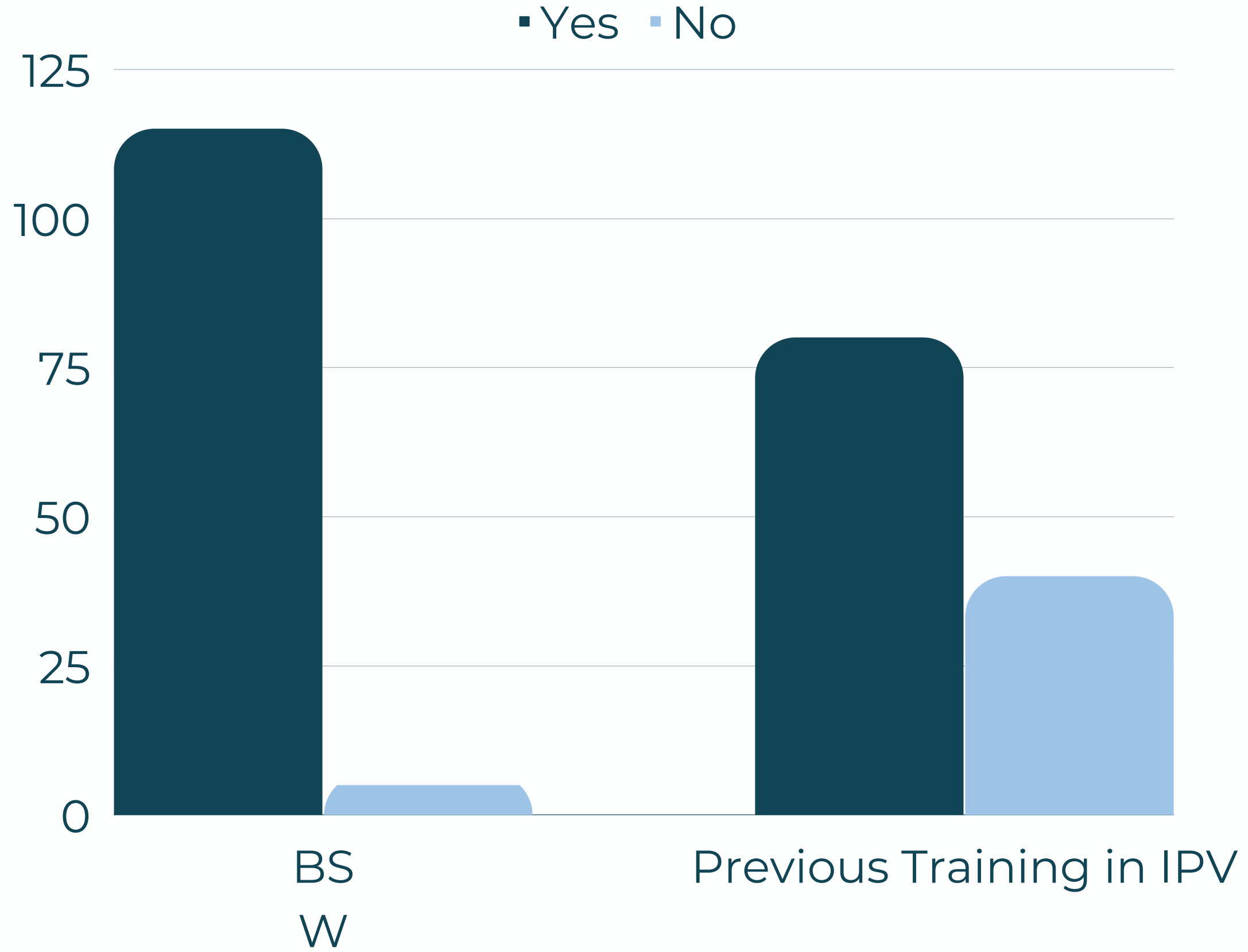
Office Size: 20+ workers (71.7%)



RESULTS: FRONT-LINE WORKER ROLE



PREVIOUS EDUCATION & TRAINING



PERCEIVED PREPAREDNESS TO INTERVENE IN IPV CASES

LOW PROPORTION of those who feel 'fairly' to 'very well' prepared **(25-50%)**:

Engage with marginalized groups:

- immigrant, refugee, newcomer families (25%)
- Indigenous families (48%)
- same-sex families (43%)
- male survivors (45%)
- female perpetrators (50%)

Engage with and assess perpetrator's:

- readiness to stop the behaviour (39%)
- capacity to parent and protect the children (53%)

Engage with and assess survivor/victim's:

- readiness/ability to leave relationship (50%)
- help assess their level of danger (50%)

PERCEIVED PREPAREDNESS TO INTERVENE (CONT'D)

LOW-MOD. PROPORTION: those who feel 'fairly' to 'very well' prepared **(54-73%):**

Understand IPV:

- identify distinct type (56%)
- ask appropriate questions to identify presence (58.0%)
- document clearly in case notes (73%)
- confidently conclude involvement (54%)

Assess safety:

- help survivor/ victim [S/V] create safety plan (63.2%)
- conduct safety assessment for children (72.9)

Assess parenting capacity:

- perpetrator (53%)
- survivor/victim (69%)

PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IPV

LOW PROPORTION: 'fair amount' to 'very much' knowledge **(25-50%):**

- Knowledge re: newcomer/refugee groups (39%)
- Distinct types of violence within relationships, including coercive control (47%)
- Assessment of perpetrator parenting practices (50%)

LOW-MOD. PROPORTION: 'fair amount' to 'very much' knowledge **(51-71%):**

- Assess parenting practices of survivor / victim (68%)
- How to assess risk of danger/lethality (51%)
- Warning signs (59%)
- Relationship between IPV & substance use (71%)



PERCEIVED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IPV

HIGH PROPORTION: 'fair amount' to 'very much' knowledge **(76-83%):**

Unique issues re: violence in Indigenous families, including intergenerational trauma (76%)

Barriers for survivors/victims who want to leave violent relationships (76%)

Effects of exposure to intimate partner violence on children (83%)

ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IPV

LOW PROPORTION with correct responses **(17%)**:

Alcohol/substance use is a leading cause of IPV. (FALSE) (17%)

Because of the violence perpetrated against them, survivors/victims have difficulty parenting, which puts their children at risk of harm. (FALSE) (17%)

LOW-MODERATE PROPORTION with correct responses **(55%)**:

Not every person who assaults their partner is engaging in an ongoing pattern of coercion, intimidation, and abuse. (TRUE) (55%)

ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE ABOUT IPV

HIGH PROPORTION with correct responses **(79-98%)**:

*Women's and men's experiences of being S/V and perpetrators are the same. (FALSE)
(79%)*

There can be valid reasons for staying in an abusive relationship. (TRUE) (86%)

*S/Vs of IPV are at greater risk of injury or even death when they leave the relationship.
(TRUE) (90%)*

IPV is damaging to children, even if they do not see it happening. (TRUE) (98%)

*Perpetrators will often try to hurt S/V's relationships with their children and/or
undermine their parenting as a way to control or hurt them. (TRUE) (98%)*

PRACTICE ISSUES

Areas of concern identified:

- few resources for perpetrators, therefore hard to hold them accountable
- inadequate time to respond to S/Vs effectively
- more effective intervention would occur with greater collaboration with other systems

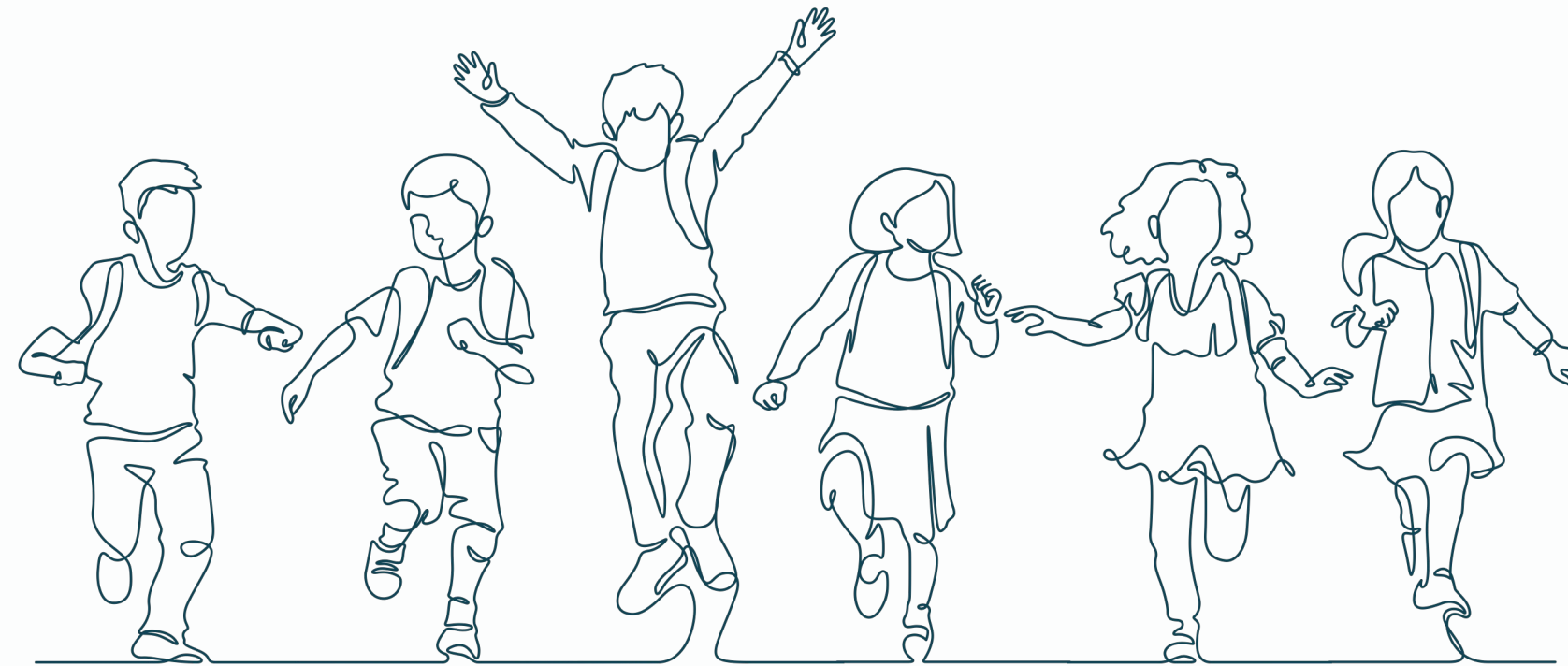
OVERALL RESEARCH THEMES: SASKATCHEWAN CPS

- INADEQUATE TRAINING ACROSS SECTORS
- CONSEQUENCES OF HIGH STAFF TURNOVER & OTHER CPS BARRIERS
- PUBLIC MISCONCEPTIONS, & NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES WITH CPS AND "THE SYSTEM"
- BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY ON SURVIVORS
- INSUFFICIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, COMMUNITY SUPPORTS, AND RESOURCES
- INSUFFICIENT INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION & COMMUNICATION
- NEED FOR PREVENTION TO REDUCE THE NORMALIZATION OF VIOLENCE
- COMPLIANCE VS SINCERE ENGAGEMENT WITH SUPPORTS & PROGRAMS





Any Questions?



Thank you for your time!

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