



Saskatchewan Anti-Violence Research (SAvR) Network: Community-Established Priorities

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The province of Saskatchewan has one of the highest rates of violence in Canada. This can be seen in statistics, which illustrate the fact that Saskatchewan's rates of police-reported domestic violence are over double the national average (Statistics Canada, 2021a; Statistics Canada 2021b). There is a distinctly gendered slant to these statistics as well, with 80% of domestic violence victims in Saskatchewan being women (Statistics Canada, 2021a). Because of this, RESOLVE SK has been looking to develop the Saskatchewan Anti-Violence Research Collaboration Tool (the SAvR Network) to help with creating partnerships amongst service agencies and universities throughout the province for researching, creating, and evaluating strategies for addressing violence.

The SAvR project is already underway, with a provincial scan of stakeholders and researchers having already been completed. Our next priorities include a needs assessment for the co-development of a research agenda and an invitation to interested parties to be founding partners in the SAvR network itself. One aim of this project is to increase the quality and success of Saskatchewan applications submitted to peer-reviewed funding competitions, related to gender-based violence. Even more important is the creation of opportunities for stakeholders to connect with each other during the development of a community-led research agenda.

RESOLVE SK has already seen that there is a desire for community-engaged scholarship related to gender-based violence in Saskatchewan, with stakeholders who have joined SAvR thus far reporting having felt a desire to engage in research but feeling that their isolation and individual lack of capacity prevented them from doing so. Our hope is that the SAvR Network will help members connect with one another and open the door to exciting future possibilities for work while also serving as a space for community members to support each other as they seek to conduct meaningful research in the field of gender-based violence.