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Impact toolkit guidelines

Toolkit from the Daphne III project "IMPACT: Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes

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Impact evaluation toolkit for domestic violence interventions: Measuring the impact of work with men who are using intimate partner violence

Background to the toolkit

This toolkit was produced by the project [IMPACT](#) - “Evaluation of European Perpetrator Programmes” under the [DAPHNE III programme to prevent and combat violence against children, adolescents and women and to protect victims and groups at risk](#) of the European Commission. During 2013 and 2014 the project reviewed existing measurements, reviewed research and consulted practitioners. The project partners developed the draft tools using the evaluation instruments developed by the University of Bristol (one of the project partners). They then asked practitioners working in programmes across the EU to test out the tool and give feedback. At a European conference in Barcelona in October 2014 the full draft kit was presented and further reviewed. Following final adjustments, this toolkit was completed for use in November 2014.

Availability

The toolkit is available by downloading the tools from the [website of the European Network for the Work with Perpetrators of domestic violence](#) (WWP-EN). You will need to contact the WWP-EN network for a password to use this.

You can then use the online data storage facility to upload data from the questionnaires which can then be anonymously (providing you consent to the confidentiality policy) or use the questionnaires offline only.

Purposes of the toolkit

1. To provide programmes working with men who use intimate partner violence with a toolkit they can use and administer to analyse their impact on their clients and the partners/ex—partners and children of clients.
2. To provide a structure for a report of outputs and outcomes for programmes to use.
3. To provide a way of programmes across EU combining data for analysis by researchers in the WWP-EN network in order to learn more about what helps to end intimate partner violence.

This toolkit is for measuring the impact of programmes on men’s use of intimate partner violence only. By this we mean abuse, coercive control and violence from a man to his current or former female partner.

This toolkit is not a replacement for more detailed, long term academic research.

Outcomes measured

1. Reductions in frequency, severity and types of violence by male participants in domestic violence intervention programmes towards their female partners or ex-partners.
2. Increases in safety and feelings of safety by partners or ex-partners of men on programmes.
3. Reductions in the need for police call-outs.

4. Changes in the lives of children whose fathers or step-fathers are on the programmes.
5. Achievement of the hopes of clients and their partners/ex-partners.

Outputs measured

The use of the context and content form, with the report pro-forma as well as the individual client and partner questionnaires will provide you with the tools to collect and present the following information:

1. Number of men referred to, assessed for, participating in and completing your programme;
2. Numbers of partners contacted and helped;
3. Number of sessions run;

As well as the impact of the intervention on men's abusive behaviour and women's safety.

Who is it for

The toolkit is for use with programmes working with perpetrators of intimate partner violence.

These questionnaires are designed and intended to be used only with men who are or recently have used domestic violence or abuse against an intimate partner.

We know that some programmes are also working with women who use intimate partner violence or young people who use violence and aggression. However, we know that women using intimate partner violence have different risk factors and use different forms of abuse and violence. It would therefore not be appropriate to use the same tools.

Content

The main tools are two questionnaires, with slight alterations for use at specific times during the period when a man is in contact with a programme.

There are separate questionnaires for the man and for his partner or relevant ex-partner.

What to do

You will need to gather data from the men and their partner/ ex-partner ideally at four points (see below). This should then be combined and analysed. This involves simple counting and can be done with commonly used computer software or by hand. If you prefer to use social science software you will then be able to do more complicated analysis but this is not necessary to learn about the project impact.

We know that some programmes are not in contact with the partner or relevant ex-partner and so may not be able to gather information from them. We strongly recommend that programmes attempt to find appropriate, safe and ethical ways of making contact with relevant partners and ex-partners in any case in order to assess their safety and make sure they have support and protection – this may be with another organisation helping. We also recommend that if possible you try to collect data from these women using the questionnaires in this toolkit so that you are not relying on the man's reports of his use of violence and abuse and so that the woman can give her own information about this and about how safe she does or does not feel.

When to do it

1. **Time 0** – as soon as possible after the client is first in touch with the programme, ideally at the first meeting. For partners and ex-partners, this means as soon as the programme has contacted them, again, ideally at the first meeting.
2. **Time 1** – at the start of the programme – this questionnaire is identical to the Time 0 but you may find that you gather more information.
3. **Time 2** – half way through the programme. This will depend on how long your programme is.
4. **Time 3** – at the end of the programme or when the man stops coming to the programme.
5. **Time 4** – 3 months after the man stops coming to the programme.

How to do it

The questionnaires take about 15 minutes to read and complete. You should allow 30 minutes.

You can either give the person the paper copy to complete alone or you can ask the questions – you should record which method you chose at the top of the questionnaire.

Alternatively you can enter the information directly onto the computer.

You should allocate each client and their partner a code – we recommend using initials plus date of birth (day-month-year in numbers only). So if your name is Johann Straus and you were born on the 3 August 1966 the code would be JS03081966.

Data analysis and reporting

1. If you read the Annual Report pro-forma you will see that the analysis needed to enter the data into the report to complete a full document is simple counting.
2. You can do this by hand, counting up the answers to each question first by each individual man and then in a table with all the men's data in to analyse, for example, how many men stopped using all forms of violence by the end of the programme, how many had stopped using all forms of physical and sexual violence, or how many men had no police calls to their home whilst they were on the programme.
3. You can use simple software to help you such as a spreadsheet to make sure you are counting accurately.
4. You can then enter the data into the Annual Report and add or delete text as you prefer.
5. Alternatively you can enter the data into our online database and save a copy to your own computer before submitting it to the WWP-EN confidential dataset. This will help you to keep the data consistently and save paper – you can even enter the answers to the questions as you ask them, if you are using interviews.
6. IF you enter the data into our online database this will allow us in WWP-EN to combine data from across the EU in order to learn more about what helps programmes to help women and men to be safer. We are preparing the confidentiality agreement for this purpose and your data will not and can not be used without your consent to this agreement.

Please remember

When you are analysing your data you will need to take these things into account or at least make sure you keep these statements in the report.

Programmes are not a substitute for the criminal or civil law or other ways of protecting women and children. Women may need support, advice, legal help, refuge or other protection for themselves and their children. The police must not treat the programme as an alternative to arresting and charging men if they are suspected of committing criminal and dangerous acts.

Programmes sometimes appear to have no impact on a man's use of violence and abuse against his partner, or they can't show this because the relationship has ended and there is no contact. Sometimes things may get worse and sometimes this can be because of factors over which the programme has no control, such as a failure in another part of the legal or protection system. We don't always know why this happens and we want to learn more about this.

Sometimes this can mean the woman feels less safe or more fearful. Sometimes her being on the programme means she gets help in other ways to be safer which would not have happened otherwise. For example, she may have been waiting for him to go on the programme as a last chance and decide that she has given him every opportunity to change and is now going to end the relationship. Another example is that she may have support or information and advice from the programme or programme partner organisations which she would not otherwise have had. This should also be treated as a success.

Sometimes the programme will identify problems for women or children which weren't identified before – this is a success, even though it will show up that a problem not identified at the start has been identified by the end. This could be misunderstood but it is an important aspect of how programmes can contribute to community safety.