North Carolina Domestic Violence Service Provider Survey

Author(s) of Instrument:
Christine E. Murray

Key References: Publications related to this instrument


Primary Use/Purpose: This section describes what this instrument was designed to measure.

The purpose of this survey is to assess the needs, background characteristics, and opinions of service providers related to research. The survey included an examination of service providers’ motivation for working in the field, research background and training, and perceptions of research as well as the topics they believe are important for researchers to study, the resources they consult to learn about DV, and their suggestions to help researchers learn more about the nature of their work. There are a total of 54 items on the survey, and it is estimated to take approximately 20-25 minutes to complete. The survey was developed for use for a specific study, so the questions may need to be adapted for other uses.

Background and Development: How and why this instrument was developed.

This survey was developed as part of a series of studies examining the research-practice gap related to domestic violence. It was designed to be administered to service providers to gain an understanding of their perceptions of research. This survey was originally developed as a paper-based survey and has not yet been adapted for online use.
Psychometrics (if applicable): Any testing of this instrument.

N/A.

Link to Instrument: Link to the instrument if available.

See attached.

Submitted by: Christine E. Murray submitted this instrument to the CVR Instruments Collection and certified permission to publicly share this instrument.
N.C. Domestic Violence Service Provider Survey

INFORMED CONSENT DOCUMENT

Project Title:  Critical Needs for Research on Domestic Violence: A Statewide Survey of Service Providers
Project Director:  Dr. Christine E. Murray, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT

Dear Participant:

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this research study. The purpose of this study is to learn more about which topics related to domestic violence (DV) service providers believe are important to research, as well as their perceptions and patterns of usage of research findings. The information you provide will be used to help identify pressing needs for research related to DV as well as to develop strategies for bridging the gap between research and practice in the area of DV. You are eligible to participate in this study if (a) you are at least 18 years of age, and (b) you are a paid employee at a DV service agency.

As a service provider, your input is very important to this study, and the time you take to participate is greatly appreciated. As a benefit of participating in this study, I will personally make a $1.00 donation for each survey completed to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV), up to a maximum of $250.00. As you probably already know, the NCCADV provides training, technical support, advocacy, and public education in support of DV agencies statewide. The other benefit for participation in this study is the opportunity to provide your opinions about the types of research that are needed related to DV. The intended benefit of this study for society is greater understanding about the needs for research about DV and about how to increase the likelihood that DV research will be relevant to service providers.

There are six sections included in this survey. The sections are demographic information, professional characteristics, organizational characteristics, research background and training, perceptions of DV research and practice, and a research usage questionnaire. Please read each item carefully. Directions are included within the survey. There are a total of 54 items on the survey, it is estimated to take approximately 20 to 25 minutes to complete. Once you have completed your survey, please mail it back to me in the self-addressed, stamped envelope that has been provided to you. Please return your survey directly to me and not to the person in your agency who gave it to you—this will help to maintain the anonymity of your responses.

Completing this survey is voluntary. You may withdraw your consent at any time without penalty. You do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to answer. Your responses will be anonymous, and there will be no way for me to identify which responses are yours. The only possible risk that is anticipated for participating in this study is the potential that you may experience distress while completing a survey on the sensitive topic of DV. However, since you are an employee in a DV service agency, it is anticipated that this level of risk is no greater than the risk you experience daily as part of your employment.

The research and this consent form have been approved by the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Institutional Review Board, which insures that research involving people follows federal regulations. Questions regarding your rights as a participant in this project can be answered by calling Mr. Eric Allen at 336.256.1482. Questions regarding the research itself will be answered by Dr. Christine E. Murray by calling 336.334.3426 or by e-mailing cemurray@uncg.edu.

By checking the box below, you are indicating that you have read and understand the procedures described above and voluntarily agree to participate in this survey. You are also indicating that you understand any risks and benefits that may be involved in this study. An additional copy of this informed consent document has been included in your survey packet for your records.

Thank you for your time and input!
Christine E. Murray, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT
Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling and Educational Development
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
E-mail: cemurray@uncg.edu

☐ I have read and understand the procedures described above and voluntarily agree to participate in this survey.
## Part One: Demographics

*This section asks you some basic questions about your personal background information.*

1. What is your age? _____ years

2. What is your gender?
   - Female
   - Male

3. What is the highest level of education you completed?
   - High school diploma
   - Associate’s degree
   - Bachelor’s degree
   - Graduate degree
   - Other (Please specify): __________

4. How long has it been since you completed this highest level of education?
   - 0-5 years
   - 6-10 years
   - 11-20 years
   - 21+ years

5. What is your household income level?
   - Below $25,000
   - $25,000 to $50,000
   - $51,000 to $100,000
   - Above $100,000

## Part Two: Professional Characteristics

*This section asks you questions about your professional background and current job.*

6. What is your primary professional affiliation? (Choose only one.)
   - Advocate
   - Healthcare professional
   - Marriage and family therapist
   - Professional counselor
   - Psychologist
   - Shelter staff member
   - Social worker
   - Other (Please specify: __________)

7. What is your current job title? __________

8. Do you work at this position in a full-time (32 or more hours/week) or part-time (up to 31 hours/week) capacity?
   - Full-time
   - Part-time

9. How many years have you been in your current position? _____ years

10. Do you hold any licenses and/or certifications relevant to your work?
    - Yes
    - No
    - If so, what are they? __________
      __________

11. Are you required to complete continuing education hours related to your job or to any professional licenses or certifications you may hold?
    - Yes
    - No
12. Approximately how many times per year do you travel beyond your local community (defined here as traveling beyond 50 miles away from your place of employment) to participate in continuing education programs?

______ times per year

13. Usually, there are many influences on the decisions that professionals make that determine how they work with clients. Of the following list, put the options in order according to which are most (1) and least (9) influential on the decisions you make about how you work with clients affected by domestic violence:

___ Formal policies and procedures mandated by the organization in which you work
___ Research studies published in peer-reviewed journals
___ Directions or instructions from your immediate supervisor
___ Your own personal experiences
___ Previous professional experiences (i.e., what worked before with other clients)
___ Prior formal educational experiences (e.g., courses you took in college or graduate school)
___ Continuing education experiences (e.g., conferences or trainings you attended)
___ Informal conversations with your colleagues about what has and has not worked for them in their work with clients
___ Your intuition about what will work with each particular client

14. What is your primary reason for wanting to work in a position related to domestic violence?
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________
____________________________________________

Part Three: Organization Characteristics

This section asks you questions about the domestic violence-related organization in which you work (i.e., the one through which you received this survey). Please answer the following questions to the best of your knowledge.

15. How many paid employees work for your organization?

   Less than 10
   11-25
   26-50
   51-100
   101+

16. In what type of community is your organization located?

   Urban
   Rural
   Suburban

17. Is your organization a non-profit?

   Yes
   No

18. What is the primary source of funding for your organization?

   Client fees
   Grants—from government
   Grants—from private foundations
   Donations
   Contracts with corporations
   Other (Please specify: ________________)
   I don’t know

19. In your opinion, how financially stable is your organization?

   Not at all stable
   Moderately stable
   Very stable
20. In your opinion, how manageable are client caseloads for the staff members of your organization? (Manageability in this study means the extent to which staff members are able to devote an appropriate amount of time to each client to meet that client’s needs within regular work hours.)

   Not at all manageable
   Moderately manageable
   Very manageable

21. In your opinion, how frequent is the rate of staff turnover in your organization?

   Not at all frequent
   Moderately frequent
   Very frequent

22. In your opinion, how formal is the administrative structure of your organization? In other words, how formal are the relationships between employees and the management of your organization?

   Not at all formal
   Moderately formal
   Very formal

23. Which of the following statements best describes the organization in which you work?

   _____ My organization is dedicated primarily to domestic violence issues.
   _____ My organization is dedicated to a wide range of mental health issues, and domestic violence is one of the issues we address.
   _____ My organization is primarily a substance abuse treatment center, and domestic violence is one of the issues we address.
   _____ Other (Please specify: ____________)
   _____ None

24. In your opinion, how often does the organization in which you work adopt new policies or procedures relating to how you work with clients affected by domestic violence?

   Never
   Very rarely
   Somewhat often
   Very often

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**Part Four: Research Background & Training**

This section asks you about the amount and type of training and understanding you have about research studies. For the purposes of the following questions, the definition of **Research** means studies that use data collected from human participants to provide information about the dynamics of domestic violence and the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and intervention strategies.

25. What type of training have you received related to conducting or understanding research studies? Check all that apply.

   ___ Undergraduate research methods course
   ___ Graduate research methods course
   ___ Undergraduate course in which research methods were covered but were not the primary focus of the course
   ___ Graduate course in which research methods were covered but were not the primary focus of the course
   ___ Informal, self-directed reading
   ___ Continuing education experiences (e.g., conferences or trainings you attended)
   ___ Other (Please specify: ____________)

26. How familiar are you with the following statistical terms? By familiar, we mean that you understand what this procedure is and could interpret research findings based on the procedure. In the line before each procedure, please write the letter corresponding with your level of familiarity:

   N = Not at all familiar
   S = Somewhat familiar
   V = Very familiar

   ___ Mean
   ___ Median
   ___ Mode
   ___ Standard deviation
   ___ Factorial ANOVA
   ___ Repeated measures ANOVA
   ___ Chi-square
   ___ t-tests
   ___ Structural equation modeling
   ___ Factor analysis
27. What types of publications have you read within the past year to learn more about domestic violence?

______ Academic Journals (e.g., Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Violence Against Women, and Violence and Victims). Please specify which ones you have read: __________

______ Books. Please specify: __________

______ Organization newsletters. Please specify: __________

______ Other. Please specify: __________

28. What conferences or training workshops have you attended within the past year to learn more about domestic violence? Please include the organization(s) sponsoring the workshops if you can remember them.

29. On a scale from 1 to 7, how influential would you say research findings are to your decisions about how you work?

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Very</td>
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30. In the area of domestic violence, practitioners often differ in the degree to which they believe that the work they do is similar to the work that researchers do. For example, practitioners may view researchers as being different in the extent to which they work face-to-face with individuals affected by domestic violence. On a scale from 1 to 7, to what extent do you think that researchers who study domestic violence understand the dynamics you deal with in your job?

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<td></td>
<td>Not at all</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Very</td>
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<td>similar</td>
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31. What do you think researchers could do in order to understand more fully what your work is like on a daily basis?

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32. There are numerous potential research topics related to domestic violence. In this section, we are interested in learning which topics service providers believe to be most important for researchers to study.

Section One
In Section One, we list six general categories of research topics. Please rank these categories according to which ones you believe are most and least important (1 is most important, 2 is 2\textsuperscript{nd}-most important, 3 is 3\textsuperscript{rd} most important, etc.).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Interventions to treat and prevent domestic violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The causes and consequences of domestic violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Domestic violence in specific populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The dynamics of domestic violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Characteristics of individuals and families affected by domestic violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Characteristics of professionals working in the DV field and other relevant groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Section Two
Now, in Section Two, which includes questions 33 - 38, we are interested in knowing how important you think it is for researchers to study specific topics within each of the above categories of domestic violence (DV) research. For each section, please rank each topic according to which ones you believe are most and least important. Again, 1 is most important, 2 is 2\textsuperscript{nd}-most important, 3 is 3\textsuperscript{rd} most important, etc.; the number of rankings for each category is listed below.

33. Interventions to treat and prevent DV (Rank from 1 to 11)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Interventions to treat DV offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Interventions to treat DV survivors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Interventions to prevent DV targeting children and adolescents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Interventions to prevent DV targeting adults</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The appropriateness and effectiveness of couple therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>The law enforcement response to DV</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>The effectiveness of coordinated community responses to DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>The effectiveness of protective/restraining orders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>The effectiveness of DV hotline services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DV screening in healthcare settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>DV assessment and screening instruments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34. The causes and consequences of DV (Rank from 1 to 5)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Risk factors for DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The physical health consequences of DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The economic consequences of DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The mental health consequences of DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from DV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35. DV in specific populations (Rank from 1 to 10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>DV in gay male relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DV in lesbian relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>DV among elderly people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>DV within ethnic minority populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>DV in immigrant populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>DV in rural communities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>College student dating violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Teenage dating violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Pregnant women who experience DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DV in workplace settings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

36. The dynamics of DV (Rank from 1 to 12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sexual violence within DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Physical violence within DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Emotional and psychological abuse within DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The reasons victims stay in abusive relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The incidence and prevalence of DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Stalking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>DV and substance abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>DV and animal abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Gender role expectations and DV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>DV fatalities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>DV and religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Power and control dynamics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### 37. Characteristics of individuals and families affected by DV (Rank from 1 to 12)

- The effects of DV on children
- The long-term emotional effects of DV on adult survivors
- Characteristics of DV victims/survivors
- Family patterns of DV across generations
- Coping strategies used by DV survivors
- Help-seeking behaviors among DV survivors
- Characteristics of female DV perpetrators
- Characteristics of male DV perpetrators
- Different types of batterers
- Childhood experiences of DV perpetrators
- DV and marital satisfaction
- DV and parenting effectiveness

### 38. Characteristics of professionals working in the DV field and other relevant groups (Rank from 1 to 6)

- Burnout among professionals who work with DV issues
- Police officers’ attitudes toward DV
- Politicians’ attitudes toward DV
- Physicians’ attitudes toward DV
- Religious leaders’ attitudes toward DV (e.g., clergy)
- Mental health professionals’ attitudes toward DV
- Awareness of DV among the general population

### 39. Are there any topics that are important for researchers to study that you think we missed in the lists above? If so, please list those here.

______________________________

______________________________

**Part Six: Research Usage Assessment** (modified from Wester & Mobley, 2006)

Finally, for the remaining questions, circle the number that you feel is most accurate for you. Again, for the purposes of the following questions, the definition of **Research** means studies that use data collected from human participants to provide statistical and/or qualitative information about the dynamics of domestic violence and the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and intervention strategies. **Professional Literature** refers to scholarly journals and books that include full reports of research studies, including descriptions of the methodologies used and study findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strongly Disagree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>SA</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Answer the following questions concerning your consumption of research from literature and other professional sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40. I read professional literature to determine if research studies support interventions I currently use in practice</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41. I read professional literature to learn new research-supported techniques</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42. I read professional literature to remain current on research-based practices</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43. When attending professional conferences/workshops, I learn information about research-supported practices to use with my clients</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44. I consult with colleagues in order to determine if the techniques I currently use in practice are supported by research</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45. I consult with colleagues to learn about new research-supported techniques that I can use in practice</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46. I conduct searches online to find research-supported interventions to use in practice</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answer the following questions concerning your *application* of research from literature and other professional sources:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47. I apply the information that I learn from professional literature in my practice</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48. I recall information from research studies as I engage in interventions with clients</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49. When developing plans for assisting my clients, I base my interventions on research-supported information</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50. I apply the information that I learn from professional conference/workshops in my practice</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51. In my practice, I apply the information about research-supported techniques I learn from colleagues</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52. When I feel “stuck” with a client, I search for research-supported information to determine my next steps</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53. When presented with a client issue with which I am unfamiliar, I consult professional literature to find research-supported interventions</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54. I use professional literature to guide the development of my prevention/treatment/intervention programs</td>
<td>SD D N A SA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**THE END**

We appreciate your input into helping us to better understand your needs and ideas about domestic violence-related research.

As a reminder, for each survey completed as part of this study, I will be making a donation in the amount of $1.00 to the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), up to a maximum of $250.00. I hope that this donation, as well as the opportunity to provide your opinions about the topics covered on this survey, make your effort worthwhile.

*Thank you again for taking the time to participate in this study!*