



*Improving maternal  
& child health care  
for vulnerable mothers*

# The MOVE study of Maternal and Child Health nurse screening for women experiencing family violence.

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# Background

- Partner violence
  - 2.1% partner violence prevalence  $\leq$  12 mths (*ABS, 2005*)
  - Risk elevated when women are pregnant or have young children
- Screening
  - Little evidence for health care provider screening effectiveness in healthcare settings (*Taft et al, 2013*) and screening rates low (*Stayton and Duncan, 2005*)
- Many challenges and barriers to screening (*Taft et al, 2009; Feder et al, 2009*)

# MOVE context

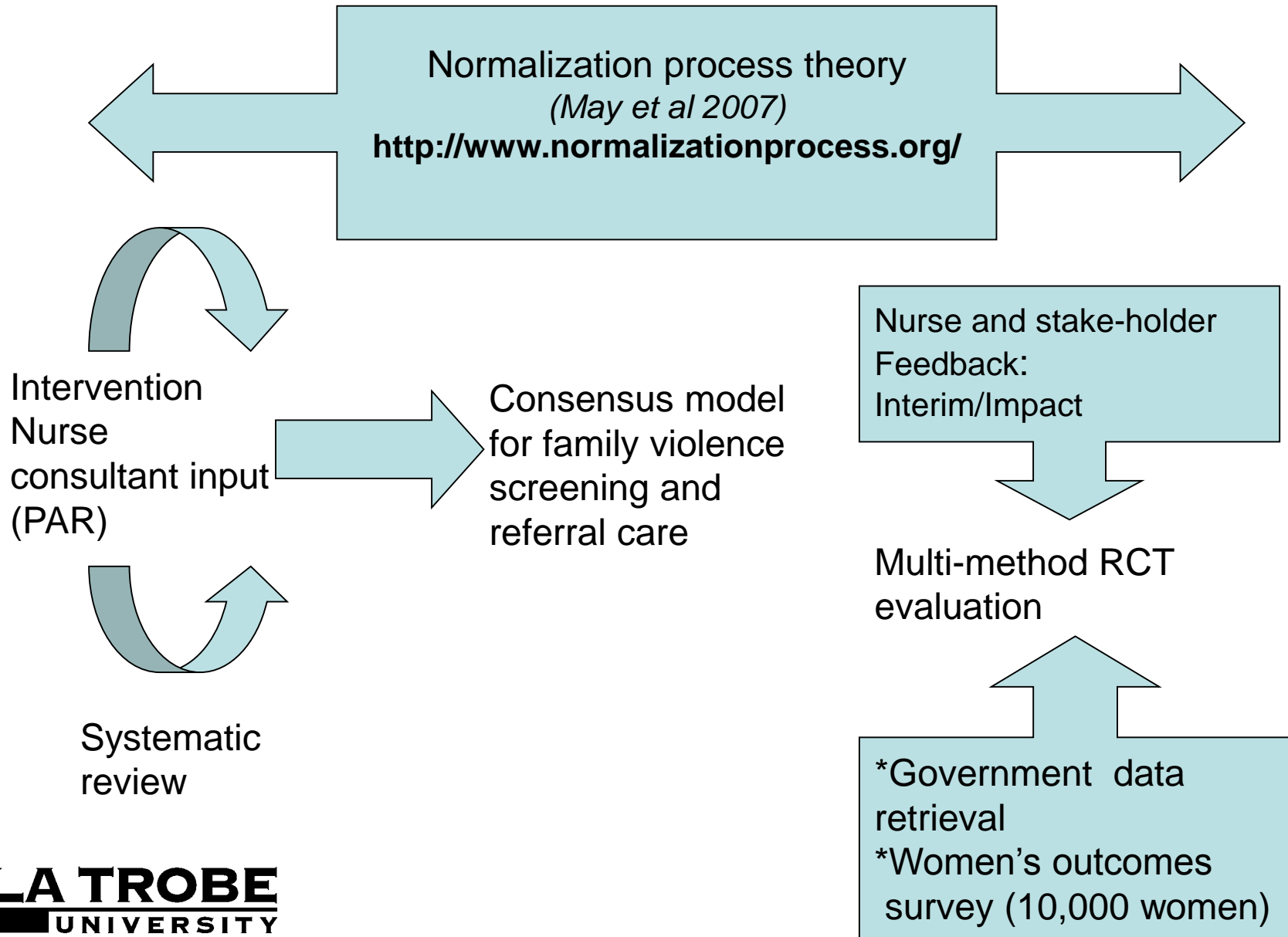


- Victorian MCH nurses universal, free and accessible in Victoria
  - See >95% of all mothers with a new baby,
- Whole of government approach to family violence
  - Sanctions and services available
  - New Victorian protocol for all MCH nurses, includes mandatory screening when baby is 4 weeks old
  - State funding included one-off 3 hours training in 2009/10

# MOVE aims

- That more Maternal and Child Health (MCH) nurses in the MOVE than comparison arm:
  - Screen for family violence among mothers
  - Have mothers disclose/discuss violence
  - Refer abused mothers to appropriate support agencies
  - Feel safer in the family violence work that they undertake
  - Cause no harm through screening
  - Abused women report more satisfaction with care
- To measure family violence prevalence among mothers attending MCH centres

# MOVE intervention



# The MOVE family violence screening & referral intervention

- What work?
  - Screen @ 4 weeks (mandatory screen)
  - Screen also @ 3 or 4 months (MOVE)
- Who does the work?
  - Nurse mentors, MCH team leaders, universal nurses and family violence liaison workers,
- How is it enacted?
  - Clinical pathway and guidelines
  - Maternal health and wellbeing checklist
- Why did that happen?
  - Team discussions, Quality Assurance and data monitoring

# CLINICAL PATHWAY

Between 3 and 4 months, use the Maternal Health and Wellbeing Checklist to ask about FV.

YES

DISCLOSURE

NO

Woman and/or children in immediate danger

Ask about the safety of children.

Woman and/or children NOT in immediate danger

No clinical indicators of FV, and no concerns

Clinical indicators of FV, or concerns for the woman and/or children

Woman is NOT willing to receive assistance, consider referral to Police. Consult with Team leader/ Nurse mentor on notification to Child Protection

Woman is seeking assistance, refer to police and/or FV Service. Consult with Team leader on referral/ notification to Child First or Child Protection

Woman is NOT willing to receive assistance, provide information about available help, monitor closely. Consult with Team leader/ Nurse mentor on referral/ notification to Child First or Child Protection

Woman is seeking assistance, refer to FV Service. Consider referral for support of children

Give general information card, and continue to monitor

Give general information card and info on FV impact on child development. Do not pressure her to disclose. Consider a referral to EMCH and/or referral for support of children. Ask again, at a subsequent consultation.

## SEEK SUPPORT

Consult your team leader, nurse mentor, FV liaison worker.

## MAINTAIN PRIVACY & CONFIDENTIALITY

## SAFETY FIRST

of nurse, women & children

## BE NON-JUDGEMENTAL

## MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

your role is to listen, support & refer

## MINDFULNESS

Stages of change. Where is the woman up to?

Self-completion  
preferred by  
women and  
nurses



## MATERNAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING CHECKLIST

### Are you currently experiencing:

Headache or backache?  Yes  No

Breast or nipple problems?  Yes  No

Bowel problems, such as constipation, haemorrhoids, loss of control?  Yes  No

Urinary problems, such as leaking, or infections?  Yes  No

Any abnormal bleeding or vaginal discharge?  Yes  No

Abdominal or perineal wound problems?  Yes  No

Unusual tiredness or exhaustion?  Yes  No

Depression or anxiety?  Yes  No

Any weight or appetite changes?  Yes  No

Do you have any problems with prescription or non-prescription drugs?  Yes  No

Do you have any concerns with your use of alcohol?  Yes  No

Do you have any questions about contraception?  Yes  No

Do you have any problems in your relationship or intimacy with your partner?  Yes  No

Are you afraid of someone in your family or household?  Yes  No

Are you worried about the safety of yourself or your children?  Yes  No

Has anyone in your household ever pushed, hit, kicked or punched or otherwise hurt you? Or threatened to do so?  Yes  No

Has anyone in your household ever humiliated you or tried to control what you can or cannot do?  Yes  No

### Office use only

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Which KAS consultation? \_\_\_\_\_

No action [ ] Counselling [ ] Referral [ ]

Entered on to MACHS/Xpedite [ ]



# Screening and referral outcome data

- MCH routine data
  - screening numbers, safety plans and referrals
  - Data all teams 2010-11
  - (n=125,155 consultations)
- MOVE checklists
  - 4143 from all MOVE centres
- 2621 surveys returned (26%)



# Screening rates from routine data by arm

|                         | Women screened at 4 weeks | Women screened at 4 months | Women screened with checklists at 4 months | Women screened with checklists at 3 months (not reported) |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|---|
| <b>MOVE teams</b>       | <b>37.1%</b>              | <b>36.5%</b>               | <b>43.2%</b><br>(53.9% +checklists)        | 61.9%; 89.0%; 60.5%<br><br><b>Average = 70.5%</b>         |
| <b>Comparison teams</b> | <b>42.7%</b>              | <b>23.5%</b>               | <b>23.5%</b>                               |   |

# Safety planning and referral rates for 12 months

|                             | Safety plans | Referrals    |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| <b>MOVE teams</b>           | <b>4.2%</b>  | <b>0.62%</b> |
| <b>22,888<br/>clients</b>   | <b>962</b>   | <b>143</b>   |
| <b>Comparison<br/>teams</b> | <b>1.4%</b>  | <b>0.71%</b> |
| <b>28,215<br/>clients</b>   | <b>402</b>   | <b>201</b>   |

# Survey results

Partner violence prevalence in last 12 months

| <b>Composite Abuse Scale</b>      | <b>n= 2621</b> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>3-6 (probable)</b>             | <b>5.9%</b>    |
| <b>≥7 (confirmed)</b>             | <b>6.7%</b>    |
| <b>Ever afraid of partner</b>     | <b>9.6%</b>    |
| <b>Abused when pregnant</b>       | <b>2.8%</b>    |
| <b>Abused by previous partner</b> | <b>10.3%</b>   |

# Survey results

## MCHN screening reported by women ( $n=2621$ )

| Question   | Comparison (%) | MOVE (%) | Odds Ratio | 95% CI      |
|--|----------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Asking about family violence (fear, safety, physical violence) | 41.7           | 47.6     | 1.17       | 0.8 – 1.70  |
| Humiliate or tried to control you?                             | 19.7           | *32.1    | 1.77       | 1.26 - 2.51 |
| Relationship problems  | 34.3           | *44.7    | 1.50       | 1.03 - 2.20 |

# Survey results

MCHN family violence screening:

*who is being screened?*

| Question           | *Adj Odds Ratio | 95% CI      |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Income \$51-70,000 | *1.55           | 1.15 – 2.09 |
| Income \$71,000+   | *1.84           | 1.25 – 2.71 |

*Adjusted for income, Health Care Card, education)*

# Survey results

Are abused women more satisfied with nursing care?

Q: *The MCH nurse listened to me regarding my needs and medical concerns n=170 abused women*

|                            | MOVE<br>(%,n) | Comparison<br>(%,n) |
|----------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Not well                   | 8.9% (7)      | 18.7% (17)          |
| Very well or somewhat well | *91.1% (72)   | 81.3% (74)          |
| Total                      | N=79          | N=91                |

\*No harm from screening

# MCH nurse impact evaluation

'I feel uncomfortable when I have to ask all women about family violence' (n=107)

|                               | MOVE            | Comparison      |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Disagree or strongly disagree | <b>36 (66%)</b> | <b>24 (46%)</b> |



# MCH nurse impact evaluation

‘There are people in my MCHN team who encourage the team’s family violence work’ (n=105)

|                         | MOVE     | Comparison |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| Agree or strongly agree | 45 (83%) | 36 (69%)   |

# MCH nurse impact evaluation

'I feel that our work practices mean I feel safe when visiting women at home' (n=108)

|                         | MOVE     | Comparison |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| Agree or strongly agree | 46 (84%) | 33 (62%)   |

# MCH nurse impact evaluation

‘We get useful feedback about how well we are doing in our family violence work at team meetings’ (n=106)

|                         | MOVE     | Comparison |
|-------------------------|----------|------------|
| Agree or strongly agree | 19 (35%) | 11 (21%)   |

# Barriers to screening and referral

Screening rates may remain unsatisfactory due to

- Heavy workloads
- Lack of privacy
- Limited family violence links and referral support
- Lack of monitoring and reflection on family violence work

# Facilitators to screening and referral

The successful screening rates at 3 months and MOVE 3 fold increase in safety plans may be attributed to

- Maternal health checklist and guidelines/pathway
- Increased discussion around family violence work
- Family violence liaison worker support

# Limitations and strengths

- Demanding organisational change context
- Survey response rate
- Recall bias
- MCH data limitations
- Strong design
- Comprehensive participatory approach
- Comparison with all routine consultation data
- Screening results consistent with most systematic reviews re low screening rates

# Conclusions

- Routine screening rates remain low (*Stayton & Duncan, 2005*)
- Greater effectiveness with focussed women's consultation and self-completed screening
- Screening rates, safety planning and satisfaction for abused women can be improved
- Screening may be more effectively targeting high income women
- Sustainability of screening? Is screening the best and most effective strategy?
- What offers the best outcomes for women and children?

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Improving maternal  
& child health care  
for vulnerable mothers