



# MOTHERING INFANTS IN VIOLENT FAMILIES

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## INFORMATION SHEET 1

We hope to learn more about the impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) on children's development, and the relationships between mothers and their children. This information will be used to develop specific programs to support the health and development of mothers and children affected by IPV.

Recent research has found that some mothers of preschool-age children affected by IPV may be more sensitive and respond more quickly and appropriately to their children than other mothers. These qualities in mothers may be the key to the successful development of some children exposed to IPV. This theory has never been studied. This research will look at: (1) the relationships between mothers and infants exposed to IPV, (2) how mother-infant relationships affect infant development in families affected by IPV, and (3) the support needs, resources, barriers to support, and preferences for support that help positive relationships develop between mothers and infants.

Mothers of infants 36 months of age or less exposed to IPV and service providers from across the three Maritime Provinces (New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island) will take part in this study. There will be both a community and an academic research team to make sure that the research is applicable to the people it affects.

**MISSION:** The purpose of this research collaboration is to explore and understand the (1) impact of intimate partner violence on the relationships of mothers with their infants and (2) unique support needs, resources, barriers to support, and preferences for support intervention for mothering infants in violent environments.