

ABSTRACT FROM THE STAR RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED (2008)

Title: The Chronic Burden of Partner Violence: Measuring the Mental Health of Māori Mothers

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Mental health issues pose a significant health burden for Māori mothers. While a link between intimate partner violence (IPV) and poor mental health is well documented, relatively little is understood about the mechanisms of IPV that impact on the mental health of Māori mothers. Post traumatic stress disorder, postnatal depression, and depression are emerging in the international research as mediators in the relationship between violence and health outcomes for young women. In a phased approach moving toward testing interventions to reduce the chronic burden on health resulting from IPV for Māori mothers, we first need to ensure we have psychometrically rigorous mental health measurement instruments. We propose to develop a mental health assessment instrument for use with Māori mothers exposed to IPV. This will involve critiquing existing instruments assessing their cross-cultural equivalence, reliability, validity and responsiveness. Instrument development will be followed by selected instrument psychometric testing.