

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

ISSUE BRIEF

OVERVIEW

Between 40 and 50 percent of female homicide victims are killed by intimate partners,¹ and intimate partner violence comprises 15 percent of all violent crime.² Traditional approaches to intimate partner violence have been ineffective at controlling the most dangerous abusers, and have burdened victims by asking that they leave the relationship and their support networks, relocate themselves and their children, and take criminal justice steps that could put them and their families at further risk. Developed by the National Network for Safe Communities (NNSC), the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI) is an offender-focused, victim-centered approach that addresses the most serious intimate partner violence. The strategy aims to reduce harm to victims; intervene early in cycles of victimization; and shift the burden of preventing intimate partner violence from victims to a partnership of criminal justice actors, advocates, service providers, and community figures.

STRATEGY

Intimate partner violence is often thought of as fundamentally different from other types of violence, but a considerable body of evidence shows that, as with other serious violence, the gravest intimate partner violence with respect to the most vulnerable victims tends to be driven by “chronic” offenders who commit a wide variety of crimes at relatively high rates.³ Research also demonstrates that intimate partner violence offenders who do not fit this profile can be deterred by relatively low-level sanctions; IPVI aims to create meaningful deterrence for the most chronic and dangerous offenders as well.

The goals of the strategy are to identify and intervene in patterns of abuse as early as possible; counter the “experiential effect” by which ineffective criminal justice responses teach abusers that

they will not be held accountable; communicate strong community norms against intimate partner violence; and to deter and if necessary incapacitate the most dangerous abusers by any legal means available, including through “pulling levers” on other actionable offenses such as a probation or parole violation or a weapons charge. Throughout this process, advocates and providers reach out to victims to assess safety and offer appropriate services.

IMPLEMENTATION

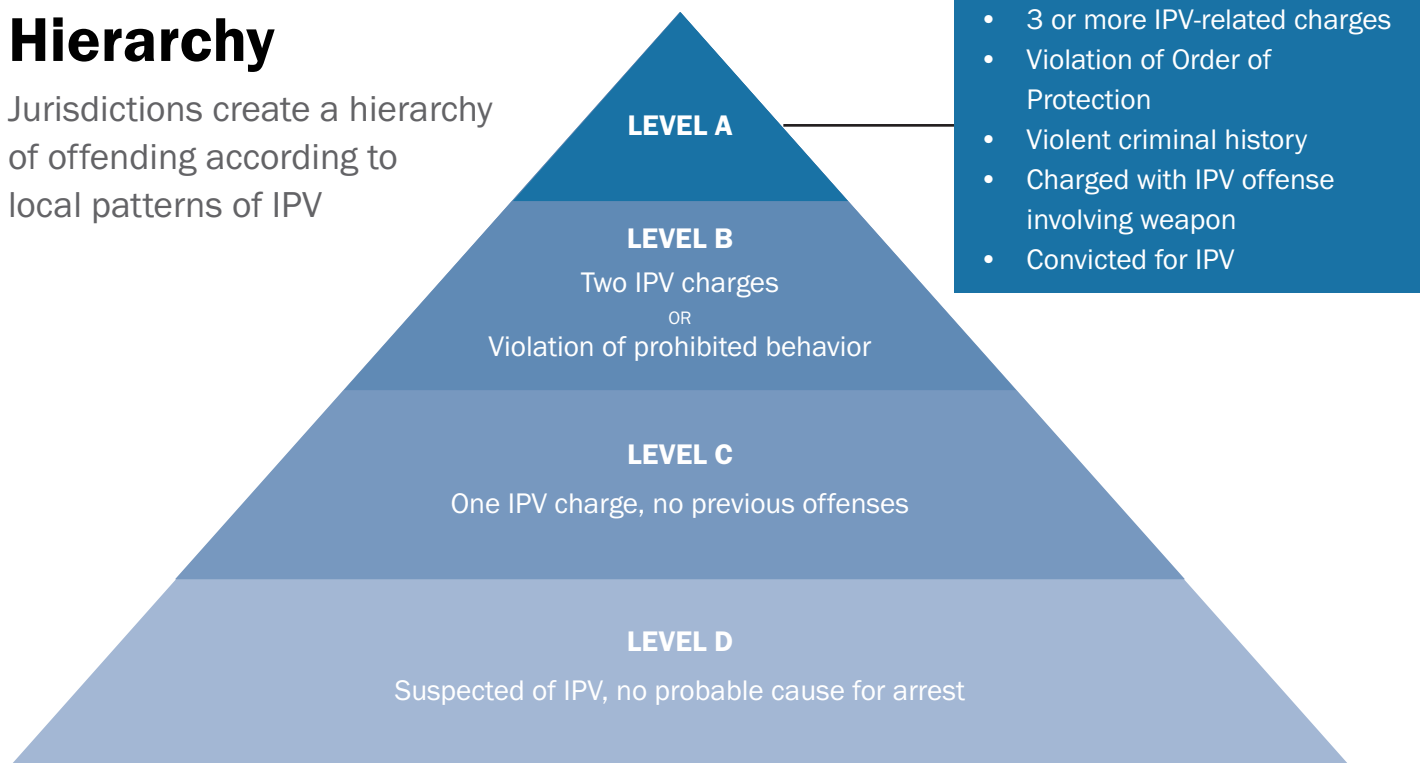
The IPVI strategy addresses all intimate partner violence offenders known to the criminal justice system. First, law enforcement analyzes crime data and arranges offenders into a hierarchy based on their histories of intimate partner

violence. At each level of offending, a partnership of law enforcement, community representatives, and service providers clearly communicates to offenders that intimate partner violence will not be tolerated, and gives explicit notice of the criminal justice action that will be taken both at that and the next level. The partnership also emphasizes to offenders that victims are not directly involved in any action that law enforcement takes.

To ensure victim safety, IPVI utilizes a parallel affirmative outreach structure, corresponding to each level of offending, that matches support services to victims and addresses issues of safety. Led by local victim advocates, this includes an enhanced protocol of written and in-person outreach informing victims of available services, as well as safety planning.

Example of Offender Hierarchy

Jurisdictions create a hierarchy of offending according to local patterns of IPV

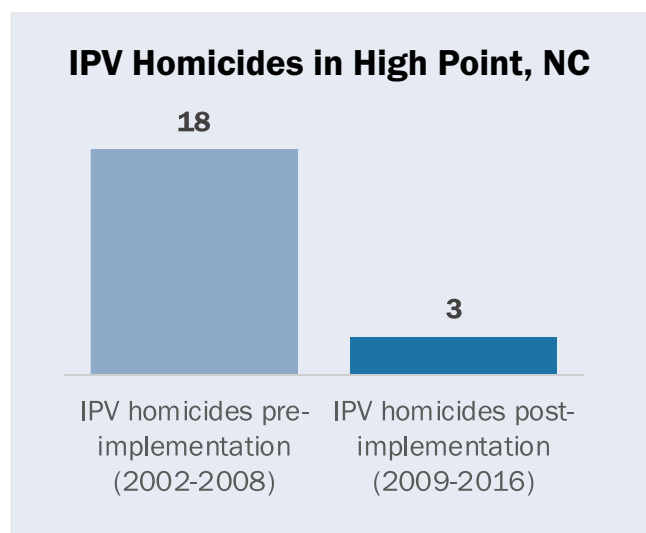


Law Enforcement Actions and Parallel Victim Outreach Protocol

Level of Offending	Law Enforcement Action	Victim Outreach Protocol
A	Legal action by any means available. Law enforcement may employ “pulling lever” non-IPV actions that do not require victim cooperation or produce more effective sanctions than IPV options.	Victims assessed on-scene for emergency needs and offered all available support and services.
B	Offender must attend “call-in” meeting where they receive moral and legal message against IPV as well as offer of help. Law enforcement message includes an explicit warning about enhanced agency attention offenders are now exposed to, including “pulling lever” actions mentioned above.	Victim receives notice before offender is called in. Victim advocates conduct risk assessment and safety planning.
C	Detective gives offender face-to-face deterrent message explaining IPVI and legal consequences for further offending such as increased bail, enhanced prosecution, and tightened probation conditions.	Victim notified of available services. Victim advocates make in-person visits to offer services.
D	Offender receives letter detailing close police monitoring; community moral message against IPV; and personal legal consequences for further offending.	Victim receives letter explaining IPVI and available services. Victim advocates conduct outreach.

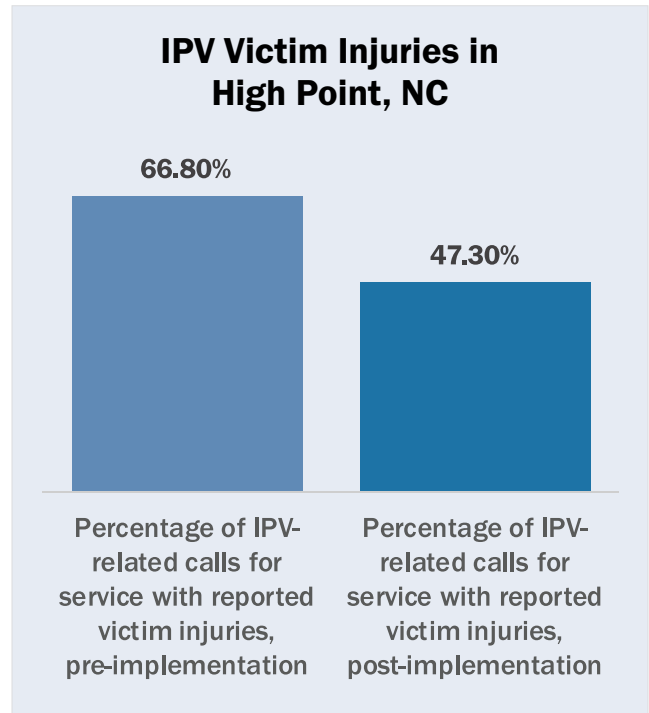
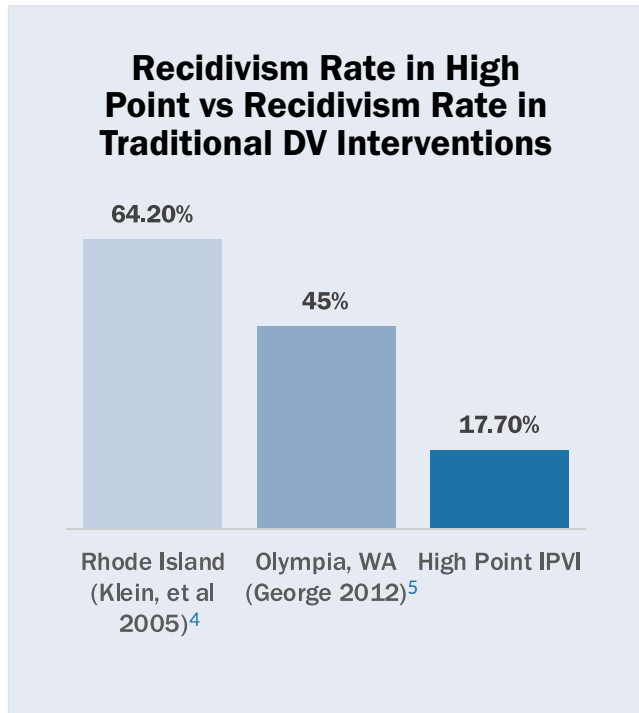
RESULTS

An evaluation of the pilot IPVI implementation in High Point, North Carolina found dramatic reductions in intimate partner homicides, reoffending among notified intimate partner violence offenders, and victim injuries.



The results in High Point suggest an approach that holds great potential for other American cities seeking a new way to address serious intimate partner violence. As a result of the successful pilot implementation, NNSC and the Department of Justice are supporting expanded implementation

in three cities nationally and making the underlying logic of the intervention available to both law enforcement and victim advocate communities.



ENDNOTES

1. Campbell, J.C., D. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, C.R. Block, D. Campbell, M.A. Curry, F. Gary, J. McFarlane, C. Sachs, P. Sharps, Y. Ulrich, and S.A. Wilt. "Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide." *NIJ Journal* 250 (November 2003): 14–19, NCJ 196547.
2. Truman, Jennifer L. and R.E. Morgan. "Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012." Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report (April 2014): 3, NCJ 244697.
3. Engel, R. S., Tillyer, M. S., & Corsaro, N. (2011, November). Reducing Gang Violence Using Focused Deterrence: Evaluating the Cincinnati Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV). *Justice Quarterly*.
4. George, T. (2012). Domestic violence sentencing conditions and recidivism. Olympia: Washington Center for Court Research, Administrative Office of the Courts.
5. Klein citation: Klein, A., D. Wilson, A. Crowe, and M. DeMichele. "Evaluation of the Rhode Island Probation Specialized Domestic Violence Supervision Unit." Final report for National Institute of Justice, grant number 2002-WG-BX-0011, March 31, 2005, NCJ 222912.

The **National Network for Safe Communities at John Jay College** supports cities to implement and advance proven strategies to reduce violence and improve public safety, minimize arrest and incarceration, strengthen communities, and improve relationships between law enforcement and communities.