



Appendix: Toronto Police Services Board Intimate Partner Violence Presentation

1. Overview

The Toronto Police Service (T.P.S. or Service) recognizes that intimate partner violence (I.P.V.) is a serious issue that has a direct, and continued impact on victims, families, as well as community safety and well-being in Toronto.

In responding to I.P.V., the Service is one part of a multi-sector approach, and we are committed to continuing this important work with our partners. This briefing note describes the work the Service undertakes to address I.P.V. in Toronto.

In addressing I.P.V., the goals of the Service are:

- to reduce the incidents of intimate partner violence in the community through multi-sectoral collaboration and education;
- to thoroughly investigate all intimate partner violence and bring offenders to justice wherever possible;
- to enhance the safety of victims through prompt action including referrals to other community partners;
- to build effective and impactful partnerships with community support agencies to ensure a victim-focused response

2. Partnerships and Referrals

a. Partnerships

A victim focused response requires building effective partnerships to ensure that victims are supported and have access to important services. Through the Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit (C.P.E.U.) and the I.P.V. coordinator, the T.P.S liaises and partners with numerous organizations, participating in I.P.V.-focused committees, programs, and community presentations. These organizations include:



The Toronto Network of Gender-Based Violence Shelter

- A T.P.S. Protocol was signed and put into action this year. This Protocol is guided by many objectives, including to establish a collaborative approach, and a mutual understanding of procedures, policies, roles, and responsibilities between the Violence Against Women (V.A.W.) shelters and the T.P.S., benefitting victims and their families in their time of need.
- **Interval House - Intimate Partner Violence & Family Shelter**
 - New T.P.S. recruits are invited to Interval House to increase their awareness and understanding of the shelter and available supports for victims who may need emergency family shelter resulting from an I.P.V. incident.
- **The Toronto Region Intimate Partner Violence High Risk Committee**
 - Formally established in 2024 with a mandate to facilitate a timely, coordinated and effective criminal justice response to high-risk cases involving intimate partner violence. This is achieved through the identification, monitoring, and management of high-risk I.P.V. cases.
 - The committee partners' goal is to enable the sharing of information, and collaboration to enhance the safety of victims/survivors/complainants, their families, and the general community, in a manner that is trauma-informed, and considers the intersectional identities of survivors.
- **The Intimate Partner Violence Advisory Committee**
 - This committee provides a forum for information sharing between members of the judicial system, local Children's Aid Societies, women's shelters, and other community-based agencies with a specific emphasis on improving follow-up support for victims.
- **The Victim Witness Assistance Program (V.W.A.P.)**
 - The program provides assistance and support to victims and witnesses of crime to increase their understanding of, and participation in, the criminal court process.
- **The Domestic Violence Court Advisory Committee (D.V.C.A.C.)**
 - Facilitated by the Ministry of the Attorney General - Court Services Division, Toronto. This committee enables effective communication when issues arise or when changes in process are required.



- **The Partner Assault Response (P.A.R.) Program**
 - A component of Ontario's Domestic Violence Court program which provides educational / counselling services by community-based agencies to people who have assaulted their partners.

b. Referrals

T.P.S. members regularly make referrals to community support partner agencies. Such referrals are fundamental to removing barriers that victims face in navigating their journeys, including the reporting of intimate partner violence.

Currently, there are approximately sixteen community support partner agencies collaborating with the Service to assist victims and their families. Front-line officers have immediate and direct access to many agencies for referrals including:

- Victim Services Toronto;
- Domestic Violence Care Centers (Women's College Hospital, Scarborough Health Network – Birchmount);
- Children's Aid Society;
- BOOST - Child Youth Advocacy Centre;
- MCIS Language Solutions.

3. I.P.V.-Focused Case Management and Service Training

In addition to training T.P.S. members on I.P.V. response, all I.P.V. investigations are case managed by investigators who are accredited in I.P.V. investigations and who use a trauma-informed approach that enhances victim safety and ensures a victim-centred focus.

Furthermore, a risk-assessment is conducted in each case using the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment tool (O.D.A.R.A.) to determine how likely a person is to assault their partner again. This enhances victim safety, identifies high-risk cases before the courts, and is used in assessing whether offenders should be released.

T.P.S. members are trained in I.P.V. throughout their career, beginning with recruitment, and including specialized courses for those performing dedicated investigative functions. T.P.S. members also attend specialized conferences and seminars offered externally on I.P.V. investigations and on supporting victims.



The training listed in the chart below includes course titles, learner groups, and a number of course completions for recent I.P.V.-related courses as well as courses with a specific focus on I.P.V. in 2024. The chart reflects the current minimum standard of training across the Service. Components of I.P.V. investigations, including trauma-informed victim support principles, are also included in additional courses delivered by the Toronto Police College (T.P.C.) to T.P.S. members.

Training Course Title	Type of Training	Members Trained 2024
Cadet-In-Training Onboarding (recruits)	<p>-T.P.S. Cadets-in-Training attend the Ontario Police College (O.P.C.) for the Basic Constable Training Course, before returning to the T.P.C. for post-O.P.C. training before deployment.</p> <p>-I.P.V. training is included in O.P.C.'s curriculum.</p> <p>-Upon returning to the T.P.C., recruits continue to receive mandatory I.P.V. training including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o An in-class module related to the investigative principles of I.P.V., T.P.S. procedures, and the principles/resources related to victim support. o Scenario based training, where recruits participate in live scenario training involving actors, where they respond to various incidents they would encounter in the field. Three scenarios are related to I.P.V. investigations. 	298
Coach Officer Course	-This mandatory course is delivered to officers taking on the role of a Coach Officer in which they are responsible for mentoring and training new recruit graduates from the T.P.C., and it includes training related to I.P.V.	150
Annual In-Service Training 2024	-Mandatory in-class and scenario training – Constable to Staff Sergeant	3998



Training Course Title	Type of Training	Members Trained 2024
	<p>-2024 In-Service Training Course: the 2024 In-Service Training Course Day-1 curriculum includes a module dedicated to I.P.V. The curriculum was designed to accomplish several learning objectives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the understanding of using a trauma-informed approach to these investigations, • identifying the dominant aggressor during investigations, • the use of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment Tool (O.D.A.R.A.), • and outlined various resources and supports for victims and others impacted by I.P.V. <p>-2022 In-Service Training Course: the 2022 In-Service Training Days 2/3 curriculum included a live dynamic scenario (involving actors) which required the learners to demonstrate their ability to address an event which included an intersection between an I.P.V. and a Person-in-Crisis event.</p> <p>-This scenario took the form of a Domestic Incident (2022 terminology) radio call-for-service. The scenario was designed to range from a non-violent series of events to a serious level of violence.</p>	
Specialized Investigative Training	<p>- In recent years, the T.P.C. has included I.P.V. training components on various courses designed to train T.P.S. members assigned to investigative roles at each Division.</p> <p>-The following investigative symposiums were hosted by the T.P.C. and included content related to I.P.V. investigations. These symposiums were attended by T.P.S. members and by other police services and civilian agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma Informed Training Symposium, 2022; 	



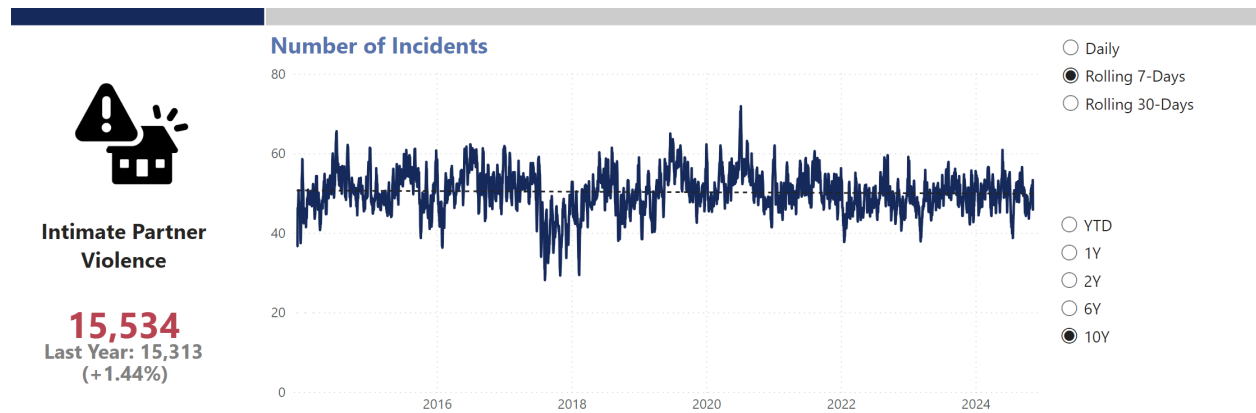
Training Course Title	Type of Training	Members Trained 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vulnerable Seniors Symposium, 2024 <p>-The Intimate Partner Violence Investigators Course is dedicated solely to this topic, however I.P.V. curriculum is included in other related courses to address the intersections between various criminal offences and I.P.V.</p> <p>- Investigative courses are detailed below.</p>	
Intimate Partner Violence Investigator's Course		150
General Investigations Training	Replaced by C.I.T course mid-2024	112
Death Investigators Course		79
Human Trafficking Investigator's Course		19
Sexual Assault Investigator's Course		22
Sexual Assault Investigator's Update Course		22
Sergeant Promotional Onboarding 2024	-In January 2024, the T.P.C. delivered two-week long mandatory training courses for members on the eligibility list to be promoted to the rank of Sergeant. This course included a module dedicated to I.P.V.	80
Re-Integration Course	-This course is designed to prepare a Police Officer to return to front-line duties after returning from a long-duration absence/leave. This course includes training dedicated to I.P.V. investigations.	21
Total trained 2024 year to-date		4951



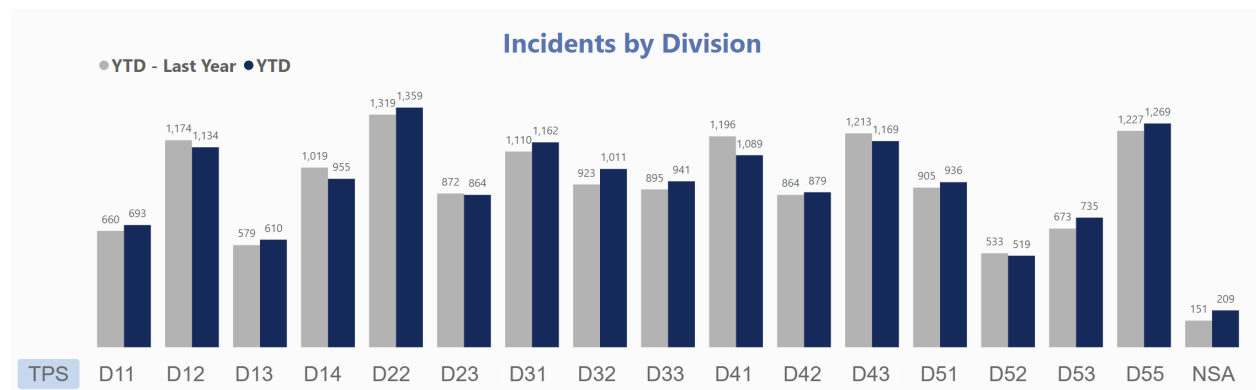
The Toronto Police College will continue its commitment to developing and delivering training to prepare members to effectively investigate I.P.V., and support victims and others using a trauma-informed approach.

4. Analytics & Insights

As with other community safety and wellbeing indicators, I.P.V. data is continuously analyzed with insights used by all levels of the Service from Command to front-line divisions. These insights support planning across many initiatives described within the report. A few highlights are noted below:

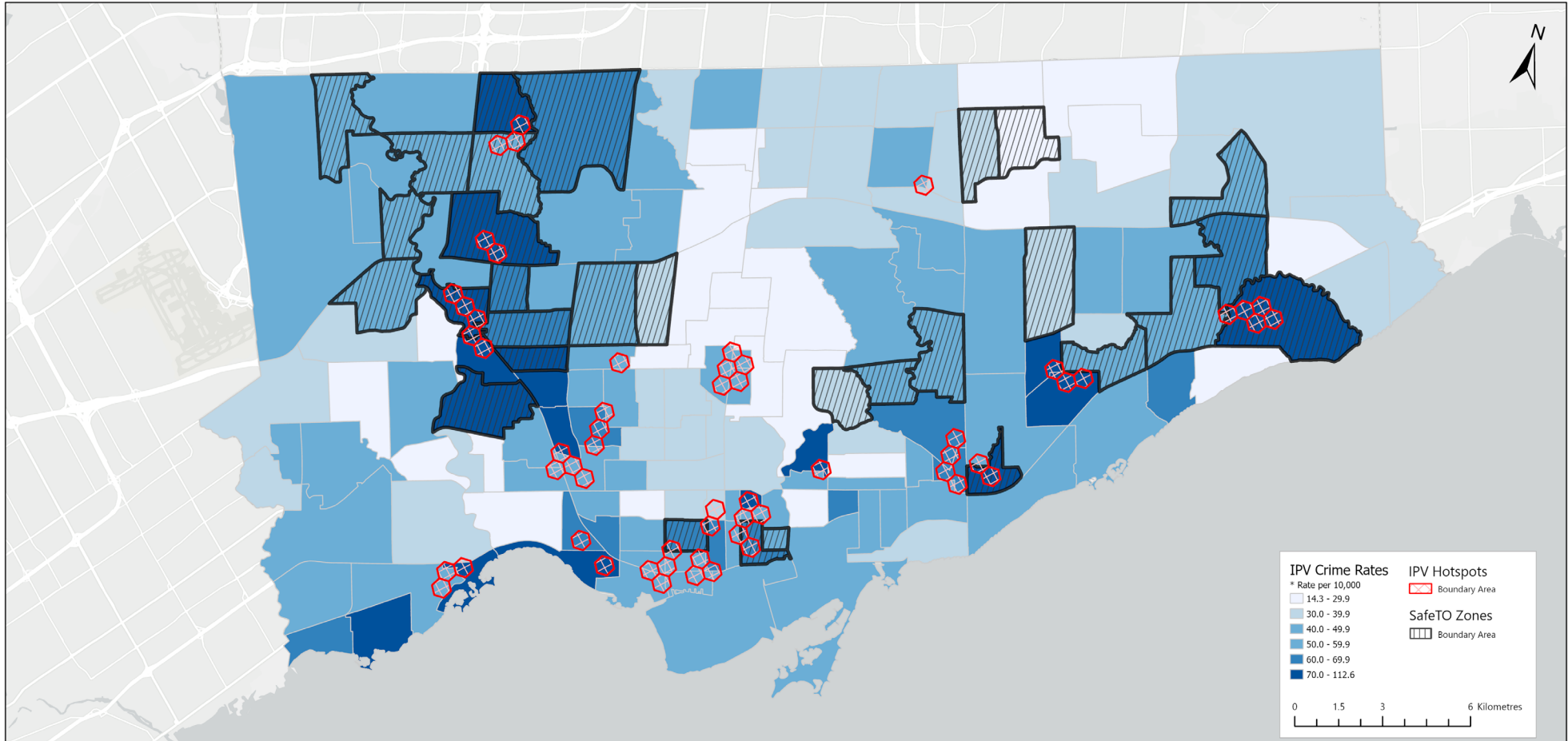


- Approximately 17,000 to 19,000 I.P.V. occurrences have been reported each year over the past 10 years
- Reported I.P.V. occurrences were highest in 2020 (19,283) and lowest in 2017 (17,196).
- In the past 10 years, the largest percentage increase took place in 2018-2019 (*full year*), where I.P.V. occurrences increased by approximately 6%. The largest percentage decrease was in 2016-2017 (*full year*), where I.P.V. occurrences decreased by 10%.





- To-date in 2024, D32 recorded the largest increase (88 more occurrences) compared to 2023.
- To-date in 2024, D41 recorded the largest decrease (107 fewer occurrences) when compared to the previous year.
- As shown in the map, below I.P.V. rates across neighborhoods vary, however the higher rates generally follow a U-shaped pattern across the city.
- The I.P.V. hotspots, which represent locations with higher incidents of I.P.V. reports are generally located in high-density residential areas.



INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE CRIME RATES / HOTSPOTS (2024 YTD)

NOVEMBER - TPSB MEETING

Data Sources
Toronto Police
Service
City of Toronto

Data Extracted
2024.10.10

Date Prepared
2024.11.08

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5. Intimate Partner Violence Awareness Month: Current and Planned Initiatives

As November marks Intimate Partner Violence (I.P.V.) Awareness Month, the Toronto Police Service's (T.P.S.) Community Partnerships and Engagement Unit (C.P.E.U.) spearheaded a comprehensive and multifaceted strategy. This strategy is not just about Service-based initiatives but also highlights our community's crucial role in our ongoing commitment to stopping I.P.V. Our collaboration and engagement with the community are vital to support our efforts. It involves cooperation with our community agencies, consultative committees, established community safety networks, divisional Crime Prevention Officers (C.P.O.), Neighbourhood Community Officers (N.C.O.), the Corporate Communications Unit, and front-line members, each of which plays an essential role in this collective effort.

C.P.E.U. has consulted with key stakeholders, including the Sex Crimes Unit (S.C.U.), the Analytics and Innovation Unit (A&I), the Corporate Communications Unit, Victim Services Toronto (V.S.T.), and SafeTO's Violence Prevention Liaison Officer, to develop materials focused on I.P.V. awareness and community resources to support I.P.V. crime survivors and their families. The objectives for this initiative and beyond are summarized as follows:

- **I.P.V. awareness:** T.P.S.'s proactive approach aims to raise understanding of I.P.V. through information and education. We do this by promoting the availability of community resources to stop victimization. This emphasis on prevention is designed to reassure our community that we are committed to their safety and well-being.
- **Promoting available community support and resources:** To increase the public's awareness of available resources and support services through social media and mainstream media in collaboration with partner agencies and organizations.
- **Deliver focused training to members:** Provide additional internal training to all Divisional Crime Managers to help inform all front-line members on I.P.V. awareness, focusing on the importance of referrals and timely community engagement to support crime prevention efforts.
- **Increase referrals:** Reduce I.P.V. by increasing Toronto Police Service referrals to Victim Services Toronto and other community support networks.

The C.P.E.U. has created an educational pamphlet and poster for public dissemination to help achieve these goals. The informative materials include Q.R. codes that provide quick access to information on I.P.V. and community resources for support. This easy access to information



empowers our community with the knowledge they need to stay safe and informed. To disseminate this information, the T.P.S. developed a social media strategy to engage the community on I.P.V. awareness; posters and pamphlets will be distributed to community partners, including the Toronto Community Housing Corporation, the Toronto Transit Commission, Toronto Public Health, and all Toronto school boards. The materials will be shared through other established public safety and health networks (universities, colleges, downtown security networks, public libraries, and hospitals). The SafeTO Violence Prevention Liaison Officer will continue collaborating with the City of Toronto to share analytics and information to support program alignment in this area.

T.P.S.'s Chief's Consultative Committees (C.C.C.) and Divisional Community Police Liaison Committees (C.P.L.C.) will also be essential in sharing information and materials with community members. These efforts will be strategically coordinated with T.P.S. Liaison Officers and Divisional Unit Commanders to help engage local associations, such as the Business Improvement Associations (B.I.A.), and other community organizations to share I.P.V. resources within their channels and networks.

T.P.S. Liaison Officers will produce and launch podcasts focusing on I.P.V. These sessions will be co-developed with input from V.S.T. and the respective C.C.C.s to identify and address potential cultural differences and issues within our communities. Liaison Officers will also engage and distribute the material to ethnic media outlets, including radio and television.

An integral element of this initiative includes the active engagement of T.P.S. members within our communities and neighbourhoods to enhance community safety and well-being while building relationships with community members through meaningful conversations. To achieve this, C.P.O.s will host I.P.V. information sessions and share resources at identified hotspots within their respective divisions. The C.P.E.U. will work with A&I to identify locations and prioritize the roll-out of information sessions with the respective Unit Commanders.

T.P.S. recognizes the importance of ongoing learning and information sharing amongst T.P.S. members to support crime prevention initiatives. In November 2024, an I.P.V. training workshop is scheduled with all divisional Crime Managers to help inform all front-line members on I.P.V. awareness, focusing on the importance of referrals and timely community engagement as significant tools for crime prevention. Additionally, the C.P.E.U. will share a video created by Victim Services Toronto to all Service members as a component of internal training, focusing on the impact of referrals and timely notifications.



"Ask for Angela" Campaign, 2024 Youth Symposium and Crime Prevention Week

In addition to our comprehensive I.P.V. awareness strategy, N.C.O.s will promote the 'Ask for Angela' campaign through social media. This program, introduced by Victim Services Toronto in October 2023, involves a person discreetly approaching staff members at participating venues and asking for "Angela" as a code phrase for help. The staff members are trained to understand this code and assist the person in need, which can be particularly useful in situations of potential I.P.V.

On November 7, 2024, the C.P.E.U. co-hosted the Youth Safety Symposium with 150 Toronto District School Board students, community partners and stakeholders in attendance. The symposium, in collaboration with the Toronto District School Board, Victim Services Toronto, Covenant House, and the S.C.U. focused on human trafficking education and awareness, with a specific emphasis on its intersection with intimate partner violence. The event aimed to educate and empower young people to recognize and respond to these issues in their communities.

The T.P.S. also leveraged this month's Provincial Crime Prevention Week campaign as an opportunity to further share I.P.V. resources and information, as I.P.V. was identified as an ongoing priority for the T.P.S. during this year's campaign.

Future Initiatives to continue to support IPV Awareness:

T.P.S. remains committed to ongoing I.P.V. initiatives that raise awareness and promote prevention through community engagement and resources. The C.P.E.U. is committed to implementing Project Hope, a local divisional initiative as a corporate program within the C.P.E.U. in 2025. This program provides resources and information to new Canadians within Toronto. I.P.V. awareness and resources will be a recurring theme in these information sessions to support individuals and families during a potentially challenging transitional period.

6. Conclusion

The Service's response to I.P.V. is multi-faceted and comprehensive. Training on I.P.V. is embedded in the Service throughout all members' careers including specialized training courses for those directly involved in investigating I.P.V. cases. Furthermore, all I.P.V. incidents are case managed by specially trained officers.

Recognizing the complexity of addressing I.P.V. and supporting victims, the Service builds effective partnerships with a wide range of community organizations. Through the relationships



with community organizations, the Service assists victims to navigate significant barriers to obtaining services and to reporting incidents by referring them to appropriate organizations.

The Service's continued commitment to addressing I.P.V. is also reflected in the numerous programs that are planned each November to bring awareness to this significant problem in our communities.