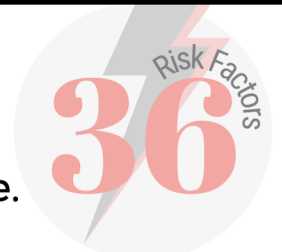


Coercive Control, Risk Assessment and Evidence of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Police Response

RISK FACTORS:

As part of the survey, police officers also **considered 36 known risk factors for intimate partner violence (IPV)**, and **rated each** in terms of their opinions of importance for evaluating level of risk or harm the victim may face in the future.



Overall, officers considered that many of the risk factors would be important to evaluate... **However, the following 5 known risk factors received the most votes from police officers who considered them 'essential' for evaluating risk :**



1. **Using a weapon or threatening to use a weapon (59%)**
2. **Strangulation/choking (53.5%)**
3. **Escalation of abuse (47.5%)**
4. **Making threats to kill (33%)**
5. **Physical assault resulting in injury (31.5%)**

*See official report for more information on known risk factors for IPV & their ratings by police officers involved in the survey

22 police officers who partook in the survey provided additional written commentary on the risk factors provided, 9 of which ultimately identified that **CONTEXT** is important to consider during risk assessments.

6 officers did not believe the list of 36 risk factors provided in the survey was extensive enough, suggesting the **inclusion of cultural and religious issues**, as well as **other controlling behaviours** (e.g., controlling or monitoring finances, property, technology, or friendships).

Other officers discussed the accumulation of lower-level risk factors, with some warning that *"...The mixture between [certain factors] can be very explosive depending on the factors combined."*

Such results clearly indicate that many police officers recognize that there are a broad range of risk factors prevalent in intimate partner violence situations; however, **emphasis and attention on physical-violence related situations continues to prevail.**

Training & Education

Training is an important aspect of quality response to IPV.

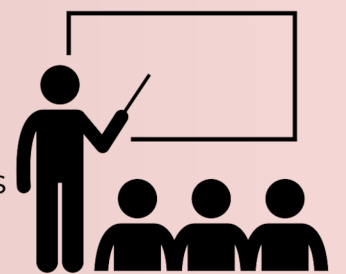
Officers that are taking training sessions regularly have a better understanding of how the issue has evolved over time, as well as changes in policies and practices.

72.0% of police officers who participated in the survey **received formal training on how to respond to IPV cases.** This training was received **in several different formats, four of the most common are displayed to the right.**

However, **28.0%** indicated they have no formal training on IPV.

*See official report for more information on other training formats

For most police officers, IPV training occurs in a **police academy** and outside of this, is **more sporadic than ongoing.**



Importantly, this survey revealed that 40.3% of respondents believe **further training on IPV would benefit them.**