



**National Network  
For Safe Communities  
at JOHN JAY COLLEGE**

# **Intimate Partner Violence Intervention**

**Institute for Coordinated Community  
Response**

**March 22, 2023**



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**NNSC reduces violence, builds  
trust, and transforms public  
safety in partnership with  
communities around the world**

# Focused Deterrence Principles

1. Most serious crime driven by small number of people
2. Create certainty
3. Provide clear information about risk
4. Mobilize moral voice of the community
5. Offer support & outreach
6. Face-to-face communication
7. Enhance legitimacy and procedural justice
8. Follow up: keep your promises
9. Assess and evaluate

# Legitimacy and Violence Prevention

- Police legitimacy: the community's levels of trust in police, confidence in police efficacy, approval of police actions and willingness to collaborate
- **Low legitimacy** ties to **high levels of violence**
- Legitimacy can be strengthened with **effective violence prevention, procedural justice, community input**, and the **acknowledgement and repair of past and present harm**

Enhancing legitimacy is essential to violence prevention



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# Emerging Consensus

A Campbell Collaboration Systematic Review of the strategies, and others related to them, concluded that there is now **“strong empirical evidence”** for their crime prevention effectiveness.

Braga, A., & Weisburd, D. (2012). The Effects of “Pulling Levers” Focused Deterrence Strategies on Crime. Campbell Systematic Reviews.

“Focused deterrence...has the **largest direct impact on crime and violence**, of any intervention in this report.”

Abt, T. & Winship, C. (2016, February). What Works in Reducing Community Violence. United States Agency for International Development.

“Focused deterrence strategies can have a significant impact **even in the most challenging of contexts.**”

Corsaro, N., & Engel, R.S. (2015). Most Challenging of Contexts: Assessing the Impact of Focused Deterrence on Serious Violence in New Orleans. Criminology & Public Policy, 14(3).

# A process, not a “model” or a “program”

Pick an important, intractable **problem**



Assemble frontline **coalition** of the willing



**Unpack** the problem



Design and implement a **solution**



Create **new facts** on the ground



Use new facts to **drive change**

# **What We Know About Intimate Partner Violence**

## Prevalence of IPV

**1 in 2** women in the US have experienced IPV in their lifetime

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**2 in 5** men have experienced IPV in their lifetime

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**55%** of femicides in the US are IPV related

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**70** women a month are shot and killed by an intimate partner in the US





# Patterns of IPV Offending

- Range of coercive and abusive behaviors used to gain **power and control**
- Victims experience repeat victimization by individual and multiple abusive partners
  - **Intergenerational** cycles of violence and trauma: deep harm to victims, their children, and their extended families
- Cycles of control and psychological abuse
- Common pattern before lethal violence

# IPV Harms and Impacts

## Interpersonal

Between  
individuals



To  
communities



## Institutional

Within  
institutions



To  
individuals



To  
communities



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# Driving Factors

- “Experiential effect” – criminal legal system inadvertently teaches individuals who cause harm they will get away with it
- Criminal legal response is frequently “one size fits all” and has been historically ineffective
- “Specialists” v. “Generalists”
  - Repeat and serious abusive partners aren’t as different from other violent perpetrators as many people thought
- Shifting the undue burden on victims

# **Overview of the Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI)**

# IPVI Approach

- Do no harm
- Deter or prevent IPV
- Take the burden off victims and place it on the CJ system
- Address as many abusive partners as possible: counter the “experiential effect,” establish new norms
- Match with best possible victim support and services
- Mobilize the community’s moral voice against violence

# How Does IPVI Work?



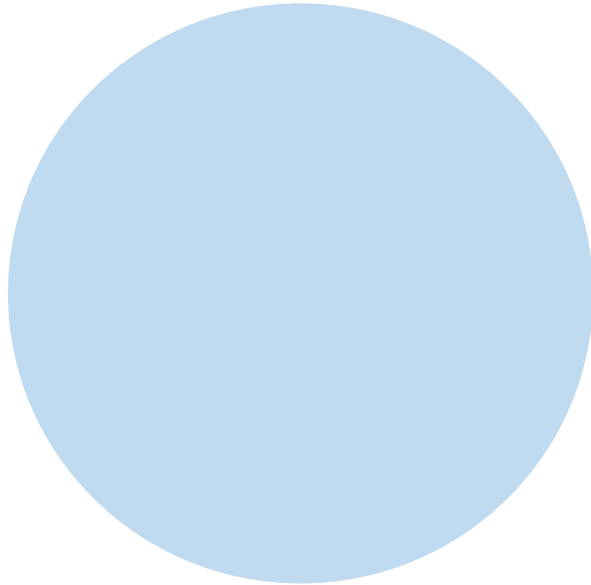
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# Creating Norms for IPV Offending

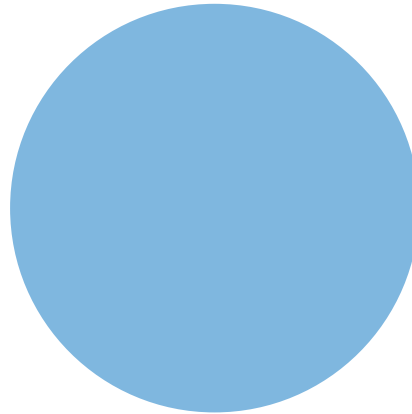
## D-level

Indication of IPV



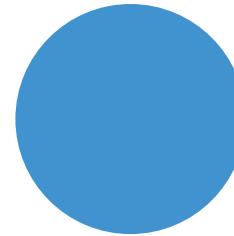
## C-level

1st known offense



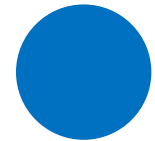
## B-level

Demonstrated  
repeat offending



## A-level

Undeterred,  
serious  
offending



*Low Intensity  
Response*



*High Intensity  
Response*

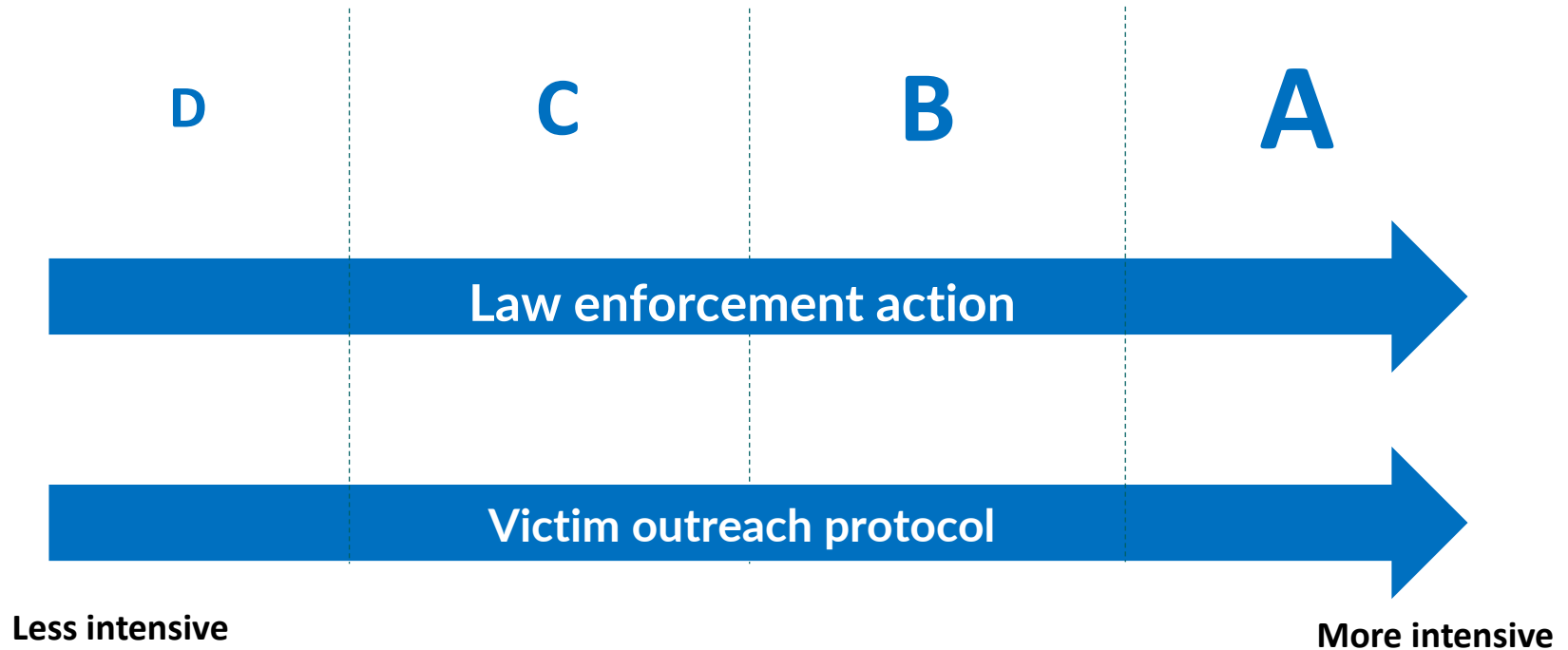


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# Parallel & Graduated Responses

Parallel, graduated responses to abusive partners and victims





# Centering on Survivors

- Affirmative outreach
- Enhanced safety planning and immediate service
- Reliable information
- **Taking the burden off the victim and putting it on the person who harms—where it belongs**
- Deep collaboration with partners
- Voices of victims/victim advocates are consistently at the table

# Direct Engagement with Abusive Partners

- Setting expectations
- “Face to Face” messaging
  - Offer of **help**
  - **Consequences** for continued IPV offending
- Incorporate the voices of the community (CMV)
  - Frequently have **unparalleled standing** and credibility
  - **Culture change** around community’s role in addressing IPV
- Follow up and follow through

# Support & Outreach for Abusive Partners

Development of a support model that:

- Provides a genuine offer of **help**
- Treats abusive partners with respect:  
**procedural justice**
- Emphasizes accountability
- Addresses trauma
- Offer **“big small stuff”** – crucial real-time needs

# Pulling Levers

The most serious IPV perpetrators are often vulnerable to non-IPV sanctions:

- Vigorously enforcing conditions of probation/parole
- Serving outstanding arrest warrants
- Enhancing attention to other current criminal activity
- Evaluating group nexus and conspiracy cases as it relates to guns, drugs, and habitual offenses
- Brainstorming creative, community-based sanctions when legal sanctions do not exist

# Community Moral Voice

- **Culture change** around community's role in addressing IPV
- Enhances law enforcement **legitimacy**
- Frequently have **unparalleled standing** and credibility



# Prioritize Victim Safety

Maintain awareness that any interventions made on behalf of victims may put them at risk

There must be an absolute commitment to victim safety—  
**no implementation until this standard is satisfied**



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# Parallel Notifications by IPVI Tier

	To Victims	To Abusive Partner
<b>D-Level</b> ↓	Affirmative outreach; explanation of IPVI and services	Written explanation of IPVI and LE procedures
<b>C-Level</b> ↓	Affirmative outreach; safety planning, review of resources, and CM; LE follow-up	Face-to-face deterrent message, explanation of IPVI and LE procedures
<b>B-Level</b> ↓	Regular affirmative outreach; prior notice of LE contact with abusive partner; intensive CM	Face-to-face LE and community message; informed of legal risk and available services
<b>A-Level</b>	Assessed immediately for emergency needs; intensive CM & LE follow-up	N/A: addressing with any legal means available





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# Abusive Partner Messaging



# Core Elements of the Abusive Partner Response

Direct communication to classified individuals:

- Credible community **moral message** against violence
- Genuine offer of **help and support** for those who want it
- Credible law enforcement message about **legal consequences** for further IPV offending



# Means of Communication

- Notifications
  - Swift response and engagement post-incident
- Custom Notifications/Enhanced Notifications
  - Face-to-face individualized messaging, based on personalized risk
- Call-In
  - Partnership-led intervention within community relaying the community stance against violence, offering support and demanding change

# Serving Different Needs

Notifications help police and communities:

- Reset expectations
- Intervene **quickly and efficiently**
- Reach high risk people with **clear + accurate** information
- Reinforce the **deterrence message**
- Strengthen law enforcement's **legitimacy** within the community

# Overall Message

- This message is part of a **citywide effort** to stop IPV and to keep the community safe
- We are focusing on you because of **your actions**
- Violence will not be tolerated—IPV is violence—and you face heightened legal risks. Here is your **personal legal exposure**
- We want you to be a part of this community, and are committed to helping you change your behavior. Here are the **services available** to you
- We just need the violence to stop. **We will help you if you let us, however we will not hesitate to enforce against you if you make us**



# Customized Notifications

- Emphasizes strong collaborations, demonstrates that everyone involved is against IPV and wants a **violence-free community**
- Incorporates personal information, such as help a person may need and the **legal risk** they may face for continued offending
- Custom notifications should be done as a **team** whenever possible

# Moral Engagement

- Individuals should be treated as responsible human beings
- Puts abusive partners in control of their futures
- Treats them with respect: **procedural justice**
- Enhances law enforcement **legitimacy**
- Mobilizes community partners

# Challenges

## Follow Through

- *The importance of following through on promises – both of support & accountability*

## No Levers Available?

- *Brainstorming alternative avenues of accountability when criminal legal obstacles present themselves*

## LE Legitimacy

- *With the current climate, Custom Notifications provide LE with an opportunity to connect with individuals on a personalized level and demonstrate community/LE solidarity*



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# **Victim/Survivor Messaging**



# Importance of Victim-Focused Advocacy and Formal Response

Traditional victim services are **vital**

- Provide support, services, and treatment to victim-survivors
- Develop robust safety plans
- Are essential to providing safety and healing trauma



# Centering on Survivors

- Affirmative outreach before and after at each level
- Enhanced safety planning and prioritized service
- Directly provides victim/survivor with reliable information
- **Taking the burden off the victim and putting it on the person who harms—where it belongs**
- Deep collaboration with partners – real time coordination, triage, and assessment
- Voices of victims/victim advocates are consistently at the table

# The Message: Victim/Survivors

- *We are doing everything we can to keep everybody safe.*
- *We have particular reason to be concerned about you and your safety.*
- ***This is not your fault**, and we are here to help.*
- *We want to make sure you understand what this means, what comes next, and connect you to reliable resources that can help you navigate this process.*

# Increased trust can interrupt IPV

- When victim/survivors know what to expect from the CJ system, they're more likely to reach out for help
- Victim/survivors are more likely to report crimes earlier and more often, which helps law enforcement both stop and effectively prosecute IPV crimes, especially before they escalate or become lethal
- When victim/survivors have reliable and accurate information, they are empowered to make the best choices for themselves and their safety



# Why This Works

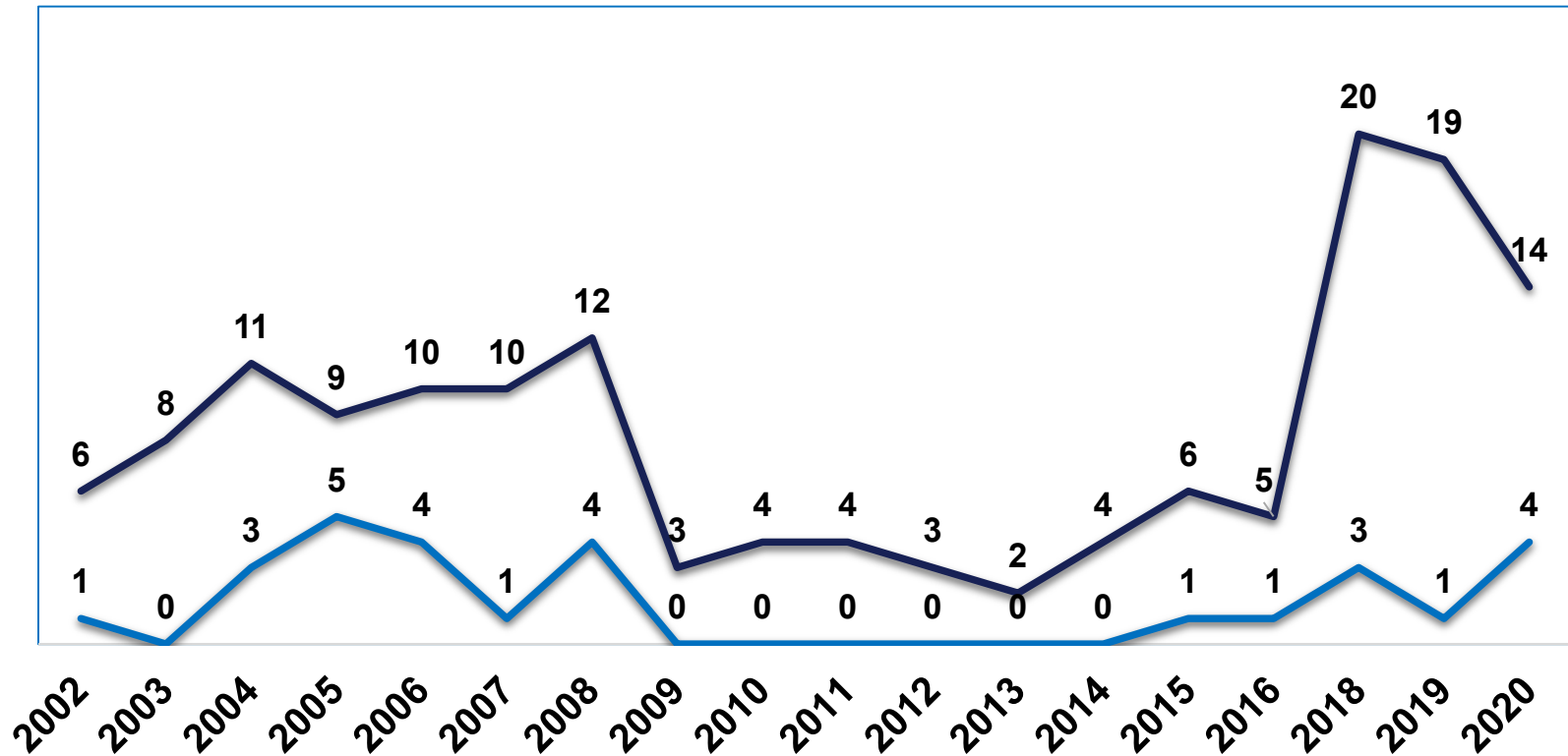
- Prior notice and clear messaging are integral elements of **successful violence reduction** strategies
- Custom notifications create routine communication with high risk individuals committing IPV and those victimized
- Continuously keeping the message fresh and fueling positive individual **accountability**

# **Focused Deterrence's Impact on Intimate Partner Violence in the U.S.**

# Results in High Point, NC

## IPV Homicides in High Point

— IPV Homicides — Total Homicides



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# Evaluation

Research Article

## Assessing the Impact of a Focused Deterrence Strategy to Combat Intimate Partner Domestic Violence

Violence Against Women

2018, Vol. 24(3) 243–265

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Stacy M. Sechrist<sup>1</sup> and John D. Well<sup>1</sup>

- ↓ **20%** Calls for service
- ↓ **20%** Arrests
- ↓ **20%** Incidents resulting in injury



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# National U.S. Recidivism Rates

**Recidivism rate in High Point vs. recidivism rate in traditional DV interventions**

High Point IPVI

**19%**

Olympia, WA (George 2012)

**45%**

Rhode Island (Klein, et al 2005)

**64.2%**

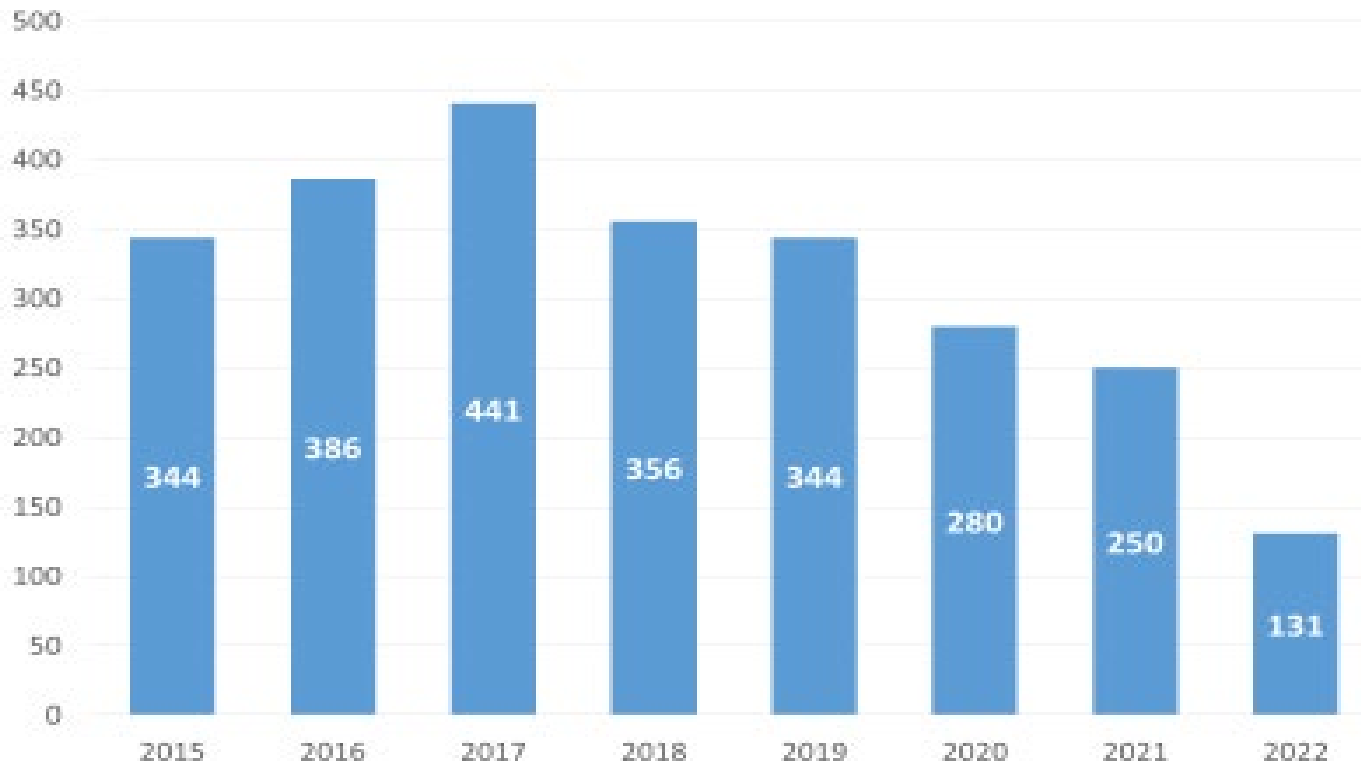


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# Results from Kingston, NY

## IPV DIR Incidents in Kingston



# Offending Pre and Post First Perpetrator Notification

Observation Period	Number of offenders	Pre # DIRS	Pre Offending Rate	Post # DIRS	Post Offending Rate
± 12 months	450	498	1.11	186	0.41
± 18 months	393	489	1.24	189	0.48
± 24 months	314	427	1.36	172	0.55



# Kingston Recidivism by Classification Level

Classification Level	Recidivism % based on classification
A	48.8
B	52.5
C	38.9
D	27.3



# **IPVI Transforms Communities**

# Reduce Harm and Enhance Legitimacy

- **Breaks with traditional approaches** to violence prevention, which have been ineffective, harmful to communities, and counterproductive for partnership
- Engages directly and **respectfully** with individuals who cause harm, and **prioritizes** the immediate needs of victim/survivors
- Law enforcement **works closely with communities** to increase trust and collaboration towards shared goals
- Works better: **proactive** = prevention

# Partners Creating Certainty

- Collaboration and communication
  - (i.e. Arrest alert system, interagency working groups)
- Focus increases based on level of severity and risk
- Clear legal message about the consequences of further violence
- Follow up and follow through – keep your promises
- Taking the onus off the victim and putting it on the person who harms—where it belongs

# Benefits of IPVI for Survivors

- Enhanced safety
- Affirmative outreach to and immediate services for the survivor
- Deep collaboration with law enforcement and other partners
- Shifts the burden from the victim-survivor
- Voices of victims/victim advocates are consistently at the table



# Successful Interventions

- Persistence in finding a way to intervene in the midst of a pandemic
- Advocates strengthen trust between victim-survivors and law enforcement
- “All hands on deck” results in more timely sanctions

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