

APD's Approach to Intimate Partner Violence

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Abbotsford Police Department Intimate Partner Violence Unit

Det. Mistral Davidson & Sgt. Jamie Gerrits



Just the facts...



IPV Stats for 2021, 2022 and 2023 YTD						
Year	Calls for Service	IPV Files	All files with Charges	IPV Files with Charges	Percentage of Calls for Service that are IPV Related	Percentage of Files with Criminal Code Charges that are IPV Related
2021	38173	1264	1231	472	3.31%	38%
2022	35096	1112	1319	485	3.17%	37%
2023 YTD	28724	1045	892	366	3.64%	41%

IPV Stats for 2021, 2022 and 2023 YTD			
Year	IPV Files*	Charged**	Strangulation***
2021	1264	472	56
2022	1112	485	45
2023 YTD	1045	366	53

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Initial Police Response to Reports of Relationship Violence



- Primary Aggressor Analysis
- Do RPG exist to arrest?
- Safety planning focus
- Apprehension (Child, Family & Community Service Act)
- Sobriety of parties

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Evidence

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Signs of a struggle
 - Smashed glass/broken doors, windows, drywall
 - Broken cell phones
 - Blood
 - Alcohol or drugs present at scene (*MCFD)
 - Weapons, including knives
-
- Injuries (Victim & Accused)
 - Forensic Nurse Examinations

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STRANGULATION



➤ Strangulation (choking)

➤  Lethality 18% domestic homicides
22% child homicide

➤ 7 to 14 seconds = unconsciousness



➤ Section 267 Criminal Code:

Every person is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 10 years or is guilty of an offence punishable on summary conviction who, in committing an assault,

(c) chokes, suffocates or strangles

BC Summary of Intimate Partner Violence Risk Factors



Recent or Threatened Separation
Escalation of Abuse
Children Exposed
Threats
Sexual Coercion
Strangulation / Suffocation
Coercive Controlling Behaviours

Perception of Future Violence
Perception of Safety

Weapons / Firearms
History of IPV
History of Violence / Court Order Breaches
Mental Health
Addiction
Suicidal Ideation
Employment/Financial Instability
Attitudes supporting / condoning violence

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SAFETY PLANNING/IPV FOLLOW UP



- Residency
- Temporary placement
- Accused have a key to the home?
- Accused have passwords/access to records?
- Need for victim's vehicle/phone to be swept for GPS?
- Do her neighbors/friends/family/employer/school know?
- Information for alternate contact person for Victim
- CAD Hazard/Flag Record

- Will Victim provide:
 - Photo of Accused
 - Accused's active phone # (ping warrant) & when they last had contact with them on this phone #
 - Description of device if harassment or breaches via cell
 - Accused's place of employment
 - What vehicle they are driving

- 10 Day IPV Follow Up

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INFO FOR MCFD (and Crown)



- **IMPORTANT:** Were children present for the incident?
- Do either party have custody or access to children?
- What schools do they attend?
- What is the custody status of the children?
- If the children have a different parent who lives elsewhere, obtain the information of that other parent.
- Evidence in the home that children attend there?
- Children added to the file as CHILD RISK regardless.
- Ensure MCFD is notified and note the date/time/worker on MCFD text page.
- Give consideration to interim safety plan for children.

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APD Intimate Partner Violence Unit



- APD IPVU consists of: 1 sergeant, 2 detectives, 2 VS workers, and 2 MCFD social workers
- Work collaboratively with: Dedicated Bail Supervisor, 4 K file Prosecutors, 3 K file Legal Assistants
- IPVU may assume files in first instance if extreme in nature but generally files are reviewed after primary patrol based investigation is complete.
- File reviews generally once a week on Wednesdays.
- IPVU supports current investigation, victim management, ongoing safety planning, conduct interviews, & liaise with partnering agencies.
- Conduct new investigations if evidence surfaces of other offences and breaches.

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IPVU CASE SELECTION



The Decision to assume a file or not is primarily based on:

- Level of violence (lethality, strangulation)
- High-risk offender, repeat offender, history of offender (with current and previous partners)
- Frequency and Escalation of abuse
- Presence of children as witnesses or victims
- Degree of marginalization of victim
(i.e. disability, pregnancy, isolation, cultural barriers etc.)
- Drug use, mental illness, suicidal ideation

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Detective Mistral Davidson

mistral.davidson@abbypd.ca

Sergeant Jamie Gerrits

jamie.gerrits@abbypd.ca

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