

RESOURCE LIST

Preventing Intimate Partner Homicide: Reflections from members of the DVDRC, Part 1

September 23, 2025

Canadian Domestic Homicide Prevention Initiative

<https://www.cdhipi.ca/>

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Preventing Domestic Homicides: Lessons Learned from Tragedies

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/book/9780128194638/preventing-domestic-homicides>

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Preventing Domestic Homicides: Lessons Learned from Tragedies – Audiobook

<https://www.kobo.com/ca/en/audiobook/preventing-domestic-homicides-1>

Saxton, M., Bukhari, S., Jaffe, P., Scott, K., Rajan, P., Reif, K., & Zamfir, D.

**How to prevent domestic homicides: A qualitative study of recommendations from a
Canadian domestic homicide review committee.**

<https://awspntest.apa.org/record/2024-73865-001>

Resources on Elder/Aging Femicide

Canadian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

<https://www.cnpea.ca/en/>

Elder Abuse Prevention Ontario

<https://eapon.ca/>

Neighbours, Friends and Families

It's Not Right! Neighbours, Friends and Families for Older Adults

<http://itsnotright.ca/>

Neighbours, Friends and Families

Rural Roots Pamphlet

https://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/pdf/rural_roots_pamphlet.pdf

Neighbours, Friends and Families

Rural Roots: Seeing, naming and changing intimate partner violence in rural communities

<https://www.neighboursfriendsandfamilies.ca/learn/rural-roots/index.html>

Resources on Firearms

Canadian Police Knowledge Network Course

Firearm Seizures in the Interest of Public Safety

<https://www.cpkn.ca/en/course/firearm-seizures-in-the-interest-of-public-safety/>

Government of Canada

Legislation to reduce gun violence receives Royal Assent

https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2023/12/legislation-to-reduce-gun-violence-receives-royal-assent.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Resources on Mental Health & Substance Use

Learning Network, CREVAWC

Responding to Intimate Partner Violence and Substance Use: Sex-, Gender-, and Equity-Based Approaches

<https://www.gbvlearningnetwork.ca/our-work/special-events/Responding%20to%20IPV/index.html>

Scott, S., & Hovey, A.

Harm Reduction Framework. Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses.

<https://www.oaith.ca/assets/library/Harm-Reduction-Framework-English.pdf>

KNOWLEDGE HUB: kh-cdc.ca

LEARNING NETWORK: gbvlearningnetwork.ca

MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE USE

RISK FACTORS IN INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Cycles can be broken. We can change the story.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) remains a pervasive public health and social justice issue with significant physical, emotional, and economic consequences worldwide. Research consistently demonstrates that mental health disorders and substance use play complex roles as both risk factors for IPV perpetration and victimization. Understanding these dynamics is essential for developing trauma-informed, evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies.



1 Mental Health Risk Factors

- **Depression & Anxiety** – Higher prevalence in both survivors and perpetrators; linked to irritability, aggression, and vulnerability.
- **PTSD** – Survivors often show hyperarousal and intrusive symptoms; perpetrators may have emotional dysregulation from trauma.
- **Personality Disorders** – Borderline, antisocial, and narcissistic traits strongly correlate with IPV perpetration.
- **Suicidality** – Survivors face increased suicide risk; perpetrators may use suicidal threats as control tactics.
- **Childhood Trauma (ACEs)** – Early exposure to violence increases lifetime risk of IPV involvement.

Substance Use Risk Factors 2

- **Alcohol Misuse** – Strongest predictor of IPV; binge drinking lowers self-control and raises aggression.
- **Drug Use** – Stimulants (cocaine, meth) linked with aggression; opioids and cannabis contribute to instability.
- **Survivor Vulnerability** – substance use disorders increase exploitation risk, stigma, and barriers to services.

3 Intersection of Mental Health & Substance Use

- **Comorbidity** – Having both disorders elevates IPV risk significantly.
- **Cycle of Violence** – IPV worsens mental health → leads to substance use coping → perpetuates IPV.
- **Barriers to Help** – Stigma, custody fears, and distrust of systems hinder survivors from seeking support.

Pathways to Prevention & Support 4

- **Integrated Services** – Trauma-informed programs addressing both mental health & substance use are most effective.
- **Protective Supports** – Social support, financial stability, and culturally safe services reduce vulnerability.
- **Policy Action** – Expand treatment access, destigmatize help-seeking, and embed IPV screening in health services.

References (abbreviated): Campbell et al., 2003; Devries et al., 2013; Dutton et al., 2006; Foran & O’Leary, 2008; El-Bassel et al., 2005; Johnson et al., 2015; Logan et al., 2007; Moore et al., 2008; Smith et al., 2012; Testa & Livingston, 2009; Widom et al., 2014.