

## Topic

A common language for assessing the risk of intimate partner violence (IPV)

## Key question

Can a standard approach to interpreting IPV risk be developed across men, women, and individuals with diverse gender identities?

## Project aims

IPV is the largest type of violent offence reported to police in Canada. Risk assessment is a key tool which makes it possible for police to intervene quickly and effectively to prevent further violence. But there needs to be a consistent way to communicate and act upon cases deemed high risk of IPV.

This project partners with police services and universities in Alberta, New Brunswick, and Ontario to study and share evidence-based approaches for assessing risk of IPV. The project aims to develop a common language for assessing and talking about IPV risk across municipal and provincial police services. We will also work with policing partners to identify how police can recognize and respond to non-physical, coercive, and controlling behaviours when assessing IPV risk, and study the risk of child abuse in the IPV context.

## Activities

- With data from police organizations across Alberta, New Brunswick, and Ontario, testing the validity of the Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA) for individuals who perpetrate IPV, regardless of gender.
- Examining the occurrence of coercive control and how well coercive control can predict IPV.
- Exploring risks for related forms of violence and abuse, including child abuse.

## Helpful terms

- **Coercive control:** A pattern of abusive behaviour used to exert control over the partner.
- **Intimate partner violence (IPV):** Domestic violence by a current or former partner in an intimate relationship against the other partner. Can take a number of forms.

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