

Realities of _____

Define the crime.

What commonalities do you see across cases when responding to this crime?

What are some common offender behaviors?

What are some common victim responses?

What are some commonly held myths about this crime?

What are some challenges with working on and responding to these crimes?

Realities of Violence Against Women Crimes

www.theiacp.org/projects/police-response-to-violence-against-women-vaw

Common Characteristics	Commonly Missed Crimes	Why Concurrent Crimes are Commonly Missed by Officers	Impact When VAW Crimes are Not Fully Addressed
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course of conduct vs. incident-based crimes • Interrelated crimes (e.g., domestic violence involving sexual abuse, stalking prior to sexual assault) • Involve power and control • Involve verbal abuse • Lack of physical force and visible injuries • Minimization by victim due to feelings of shame, guilt, fear • Multiple concurrent crimes • Perpetrators and victims know each other – have history • Perpetrators isolate victims and make victims dependent on them • Traumatic impact • Reluctant witnesses/victims • Serial nature of perpetrators, significant recidivism • Typically perpetrated by men • Underreported • Use of drugs and alcohol • Victims are often: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doubted or blamed by society ○ Isolated ○ Purposefully selected because of vulnerable status (e.g., disabled, inebriated, prostituted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal abuse • Arson • Child abuse • Coercion • Disorderly conduct • False imprisonment • Felony threats • Forfeiture in wrongdoing • Fraud, extortion • Gang violence • Harassment (telephone & electronic) • Human trafficking • Interference with custody • Interference with crime reporting • Intimate partner sexual violence/rape • Intimidation • Kidnapping/child abduction • Prohibited possession of a firearm(s) • Property damage/vandalism • Protection order/parole violations • Reckless Conduct • Stalking • Strangulation • Tampering with a witness/witness intimidation • Theft/robbery/burglary • Trespassing • Weapons violations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate lines of inquiry not initiated, e.g., in interviews with victims and suspects • Cultural stereotypes • Insufficient supervisory oversight • Lack of cross-jurisdictional communication • Lack of effective policy and procedures • Lack of personnel • Language barriers • Little or no training on the interrelated nature of crimes • Officer bias or lack of officer sensitivity • Singular focus on presenting incident/call/complaint • Time constraints for first responders which limit opportunity to ask necessary questions • Tunnel vision • Victim does not trust police or criminal justice system • Victim fears the perpetrator • Victim feels guilt, shame, self-blame 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bolsters perpetrator confidence and sense of invincibility • Intergenerational perpetuation of violence • Fatality • Liability – failure to act or respond, failure to enforce court order, etc. • Lost community trust, decreased confidence in police department • Officer and/or victim safety compromised • Serial offenders move on to next victim with no accountability • Recidivism/re-victimization • Victims do not report • Violence and risk escalate

This project is supported by Grant No. 2016-TA-AX-K055 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, finding, conclusions, and recommendations expressed here are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.