

**How Does Intimate Partner Violence Formal Support Services Differentiate Between Male
and Female Victims in Vancouver, British Columbia?**

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Abstract

Intimate partner violence (IPV) can affect anyone regardless of age, sex, gender, financial status, culture, or religion. A lack of information, support services, and inclusivity within such create barriers for IPV victims finding appropriate resources to best suit their needs and reduce revictimization at the hands of an offender. This research aims to understand the differences in formal support services between male and female victims within Vancouver, British Columbia. Using secondary research, scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles were collected to analyze current trends and find gaps within the literature. Current gaps within IPV data show a lack of consensus on defining terms and theories, hidden figure male data, and stigma being the biggest component to preventing help-seeking initiatives. Results showed that enhanced education, precise allocation and review of community funding, and alternative reporting mechanisms create steps toward enhanced care and safety of victims.

Keywords: Intimate partner violence, formal support services, law enforcement, gender, stigma, criminal justice system

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How Does Intimate Partner Violence Formal Support Services Differentiate Between Male and Female Victims in Vancouver, British Columbia?

Across Canada nearly 600 shelters are in place for intimate partner violence victims, with only four percent of them serving men (Blaff, 2024). Blaff, (2024) shares the story of Matt; a male domestic violence victims' hardship in finding safety, security, and help for himself and his children in Toronto, Ontario. Numerous men and women throughout Canada face the same troubles of escaping intimate partner violence (IPV) situations, with just over 117,000 victims aged 12 or older in 2022 police-reported data (Government of Canada, 2024). Although Matt's experience explains only one case, it may leave other Canadians questioning the support offered in their communities. The aim of this study is to seek strategies of implementing future and adjusting current support services to mitigate revictimization of female and male victims. Given this, the research question posed is: How does intimate partner violence formal support services differentiate between male and female victims in the Vancouver area?

I currently work within the Vancouver criminal courthouse, specifically dealing with the in-custody bail hearing process. Through my experiences, I have witnessed a multitude of IPV victims looking to seek help, understand the criminal justice system, and their role within the process. The story of Matt and his children allowed me to reflect on what I have witnessed within the greater Vancouver area from a small lens. For this reason, I chose to expand upon formal support services and help explain how current methods can be altered to alleviate the pressures that victims face.

Police response to intimate partner violence has shifted through 3 phases since first responding to calls in the 1960's. The first phase; traditional response, did not recognize familial violence of any kind as a social issue. (Hendricks & Hendricks, 2014). For this reason, police

response was considered non-involvement. The consensus became that fights were natural and to be expected in relationships, violence was a normal male response, and non-legal remedies of resolving the issue was preferred. Common law enforcement response methods were to bring the situation to a normal level and leave quickly. This method was deployed until the 1970's when criticism from researchers demanded police accountability. The service perspective focused on providing police with adequate training to improve relationships between social service agencies, improve police attitudes toward family crisis intervention, create officer safety, and develop necessary skills to deal with the crises. However, further criticism ensued as research found that the service perspective focused heavily on the perpetrator instead of the victim and discretionary powers often led to non-intervention tactics being deployed. To combat this, the arrest perspective of the late 1980's posed guidelines of when arrests would become mandatory (Hendricks & Hendricks, 2014). Canada has now fully adopted the mandatory arrest policy nationwide on any circumstance that a domestic violence call is received (Perrott, et al., 1997). Since adapting from the arrest perspective law enforcement today use the mandatory arrest, as well as dual arrest in circumstances that require it, and more focus on the needs of the immediate victim (Hendricks & Hendricks, 2014). Canada's police response has taken large steps toward helping victims of IPV, but more methods are to be implemented to create gender-inclusive help with all victims.

The research report analyzes how enhanced education, allocated funding, and other methods to help-seeking can provide a wider scope of formal support services to IPV victims. A secondary data research approach of scholarly journal articles will provide the base for thematic analysis. The thematic analysis will allow comparable and contrasting themes to emerge. These themes will determine the results of the research paper. Finally, the strengths, weaknesses, and

recommendations for future research will providing an encompassing view to the results concluded.

Literature Review

Through extensive research with secondary, peer-reviewed, scholarly journal articles common conclusions within the field of IPV victims' needs are to be discussed. Conflicting theories surfaced regarding the use of gender theories and the inability to define "victim" for male IPV survivors. Furthermore, an overall agreement led to seeing that male victims are not within a minority of victims, but rather a hidden figure. Finally, stigma throughout all articles is mentioned as a barrier in providing victims of either gender with the help required. These topics are discussed within this literature review in further detail.

Conflicting Theories

A contradicting discovery throughout the analysis of articles discussing IPV victims was the conflicting theories used in approaching data and research for male and female IPV victims. Most research frame IPV experiences as gender-specific which creates an immediate divide. This idea is further pushed as most of the research conducted on IPV victims from a broad perspective looks at only female victims. Reis et al. (2024) focus on gender role conflict, in which restrictive gender roles devalue others or self and affects the attitude toward help-seeking initiatives. This is noted as common in both men and women. Gender symmetry further divides victims in which violence is perpetuated by both men and women through situational couple violence. Although this theory is popular it is widely debated as to how it affects statistics in who is more a victim due to measuring acts of self-defence, overlooking injury severity, and the suitability of a conflict

tactics scale. Alternatively, gender asymmetry seen in intimate terrorism, labels men as the primary perpetrator (Fagerlund, 2021; Roebuck, et al., 2023).

Gender symmetry is polarized by feminist scholars who resist this theory and see it as diminishing a women's experience with IPV. Rather, feminist scholars focus on the centrality of gender in women's experiences with violence and the gender paradigm, where men perpetuate violence against women in defence of the patriarchy (Hine, et al., 2022; Roebuck et al., 2023). Lysova and Dim (2022) study cautions the use of the gender paradigm, as it can affect the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of professionals providing research on the matter and those who use that research to create formal support services. This is concluded through institutional barriers that victims can face from police, professional court members, and child custody services.

Men are Hidden Figures

While these theories lead the way in research for IPV victims, men seem to experience a common occurrence of being noted as hidden figures of violence. Often showing low rating for police reports, men come closer to equal in victimization surveys surrounding IPV involvement (Fagerlund, 2021). Data highlights that men were not considered service consumers in IPV besides as the perpetrators and when men are reaching out for help it is often to friends and family members, further hiding the true number of male victims (Tsui et al., 2010; Reis et al., 2024). It is noted that most men do not come forward as being victims of IPV out of fear or actual reality of being mislabeled as the perpetrator of such violence. Other fears that prevent men coming forward to report can be due to financial instability, employment status, or fear of losing custody of children (Fagerlund, 2021; Lysova,& Dim, 2022). Reporting IPV can be difficult for both men and women as stigma continues to cloud criminal justice personnel

judgments. Male victims only increase in the use of formal services once IPV has reached a severe level, in turn denoting the number of true victims there may be if many men do not face violence past the “threshold” they have individually defined as severe (Lysova,& Dim, 2022). Another factor that contributes to men being hidden within IPV victim data appears as the inability to define being a victim.

Defining Victim

Defining “victim” in relation to male and female victims differed drastically. Traditionally, men have experienced the pressure to conform and present masculinity through emotional resilience, physical-strength, and controlling behavior which goes against those of femineity. When these traditional standards are internalized, this can impact the intent to seek help (Reis et al., 2024). This is especially prevalent regarding reporting to law enforcement, as police are commonly described as powerful, aggressive, and masculine (Fagerlund, 2021). This creates internal restraints of not wanting to appear weak within the eyes of a profession deemed hyper-masculine. This creates male victims that minimize the severity of the violence faced due to lack of information and education showcasing men being labelled as “victims” in IPV (Reis et al., 2024). Oftentimes, male victims refrain from seeking help as a “victim” preferring to see themselves as a “survivor” as they are actively resisting IPV until the conflict becomes extreme (Lysova & Dim, 2022). The survivor mentality places feelings of shame and unawareness on the victim leaving many men feel that police forces are not a guarantee in providing adequate treatment. Due to internal and external judgment male victims feel as though this is a situation that could be handled independently and fear of reaching out conflicts with traditional masculinity. This pattern of fear is cyclical and can result in higher risks of IPV and risks of being a target of emasculating and homophobic comments from others (Reis et al., 2024).

Stigma Prevents Seeking Help

Both men and women have experienced stigma at any point within IPV when dealing with formal services and there are differences and similarities between such genders. Prior to reporting to police both men and women find there is a lack of education and information in what constitutes violence and what resources are available that best suit the needs of their circumstance. Once reported to a formal service, men felt as though their experience was disregarded by authorities. Overall, victims felt as though police did not provide a gender-responsive service (Reis et al., 2024). This is proven through female victims often obtaining support service recommendations from police in comparison to their male counterparts (Fagerlund, 2021).

In Canada a reported 56 percent of women and 20 percent of men sought formal support services. Institutional responses from the criminal justice system delegitimize IPV experiences that are attached to a cultural stigma of femineity and masculinity. Factors such as employment, education status, and bearing children also showed adverse effects on the treatment received within the criminal justice system and in a formal community response. For example, men who were facing abuse and were employed were often exposed to a broader social network which increases the chance for contacting formal agencies in contrast to men who are unemployed. Female victims with no children faced more gender bias than those women who were bearing children, as they were seen as less of a victim from one woman to another. (Lysova,& Dim, 2022; Roebuck et al., 2023).

If victims are opting for formal help within their community such as shelters, hotlines, counselling, or other services there is still limitations put in place by stigma. Women are finding that shelters are at capacity leaving nowhere to turn if family or friends are not an option. Men

also face gender bias and find a lack of community level resources for their needs. This stems from the adherence to traditional gender roles and not being able to recognize themselves as targets of violence. In turn, this creates fear of being labelled as an aggressor, loss of custody with children due to entrenched ideology of stereotypes in men naturing children and delegitimizing their experience further discouraging seeking help (Lysova,& Dim, 2022; Fagerlund, 2021; Hine et al., 2022).

Methodology

To best understand the scope of IPV formal support services I have chosen a transformative worldview. Creswell and Creswell (2018) describes a transformative worldview as intertwining research inquiry with political action to reform social oppressions for those facing it and institutions working within it. This research focuses on the current formal support services offered within Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada and what other resources can be implemented to reach the needs of victims within this domain. The city of Vancouver encompasses a population of roughly 660,000 residents, allowing for a large demographic (Statistics Canada, 2022). Due to the nature and confines of a 14-week course, this study will be limited to the use of secondary data. With the use of secondary data there are limitations to address. In using secondary data, the results from this research are subject to the access, quality, and data structure provided through the sources obtained. Data validity and ethical issues from prior research articles limit the sample. The nature of IPV can come with ethical issues due to sensitivity and information of a criminal matter. Literature chosen for review can often contain sensitive data from prior research raising concern for privacy and anonymity of sample populations. Finally, the specificity is limited by the chosen geographical location, specifically Vancouver, Canada. As IPV within Canada is a research field that has not thoroughly been

researched upon throughout recent decades. To combat this, research done within countries such as the United States, Western Europe, and Australia were used due to similar criminal justice system practices and standards. This also helps to provide a wide variety of ideas that are implemented in these countries that can be adjusted to fit the needs of Canadian victims.

To narrow down the search of literature studied, I chose to focus on scholarly peer-reviewed articles with a publication date between 2005 and 2025. Although this date range is large this was to encompass research done on both male and female victims, as my initial search with smaller date ranges did not provide sufficient sources. I first began my search in the JIBC EBSCO library database to find a broad range of databases that can be used for the search of articles. Upon my first search in APA PsycINFO, I used the keywords “intimate partner violence” and “gender” with the prior mentioned inclusion criteria to yield 15,234 search results. After reviewing different articles under this keyword search, I reviewed the keywords noted within those articles and concluded to add another keyword being “support services”. This generated 239 results, however, this seemed small considering there was not enough parameters listed in the keywords to close in on the topic of IPV. I continued to add various keywords to refine the search parameters while still upholding the date range and scholarly, peer-reviewed articles as noted features for literature to examine. My final search, shown in the Appendix, yielded 19 results with the following keywords used: "intimate partner violence" or "domestic violence" or "partner abuse", "gender-inclusive", "services or programs or intervention or resources", and "North America" or Canada or "United States". The term “gender” was replaced by “gender-inclusive” to foster search results that iterate the importance of support services to both help and highlight the similarities and differences between male and female resources. Including “North America, Canada, and United States” provided a smaller range of articles that

speak to similar demographic issues victims find in relation to the research question location.

Articles chosen for the literature review were sourced through the following databases:

PsycINFO, Academic Search Complete, and SocINDEX with Full Text.

A full review of the fifteen articles selected provided research from a qualitative and quantitative perspective to ensure a vast framework in comparing data. Validity is ensured through the analysis of scholarly peer-reviewed journal articles. Various articles also referenced each other within their findings and discussions or had the same author throughout multiple articles. For example, Lysova, A. worked on 3 journal articles I had chosen pertaining to qualitative and quantitative approaches to the research. Finally, the evaluated articles research took place within the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and other Western European countries. This is significant to the research as it allows for accuracy by cross-referencing empirical data in North America and other European countries. From the thematic analysis I was able to draw conclusions on what can be done to move forward in research and institutions of formal services in providing IPV victims accommodation to help.

Results

The extrapolated themes examined within the literature review highlight the importance of issues within current IPV research and raise results as to how formal support services can be improved. The current results discuss the driving force of enhanced education, allocated funding, multi-applicable resources, and communication between such.

Enhanced Education

As noted through various researchers, gender biases prevent help seeking initiatives in IPV victims. To combat this, researchers have suggested the push toward education on the topic.

Education can be broken down into three various types: individual, communal, and institutional. Articles discussed that victims often lack information within their community on how to obtain help and what constitutes as IPV no matter the gender of the victim (Sui et al., 2010; Hine et al., 2022). Education at the individual level provides victims with an understanding of the criminal justice legislation in place, knowledge of their rights and role within reporting, and deconstructing stigma showing anyone can become a victim. This in turn, can encourage reporting that allows for more data to be collected in understanding what steps are still missing (Perrotta Berlin et al, 2024). An effective solution to promoting this education can be by using public service announcements (PSAs). These are advertisements that communicate social issues with the goal of changing attitudes and behaviours on the topic at hand. Although the harsh digital media often used in PSAs can be jarring to viewers it leaves a lasting imprint in the mind and creates a connection to the cause that is being advocated for (Mo & Zhou, 2024). PSAs are a successful communication method to share information quickly and effectively with victims in a broad community.

Community support services such as individual and group counselling, shelters, and aid have presented biases towards IPV victims, specifically male victims due to hidden data figures misrepresenting them. Support services may turn men away if they do not support them within the space, rely on entry if other commodities such as employment are given up, or cannot recognize men as victims altogether (Hines et al., 2022). Removing stigma can be sought through training programs such as VEGA's TVIC, Creating Safety module. This module ensures that the multiple layers of trauma and varying violence that is disproportionately experienced in some communities' can be identified and responded to through an influenced approach. (Wekerle et al., 2022). The learning module uses an "environment, approach, and response" model to

educate healthcare and social service providers but, can be expanded to inform non-profit or government funded organizations that support IPV victims, further promoting the availability of victims in seeking help (Wekerle et al., 2022, p. 3).

Institutions such as the law enforcement and criminal justice personnel require further training like those at a community level as these are often the first forms of formal support reached by victims. Mentioned prior, law enforcement have fallen short on gender-inclusive training in supporting male victims when reporting IPV, by not believing the victim, assuming they are the perpetrator, and not providing other resources for them to access throughout their process in the criminal justice system (Fagerlund, 2021). A need for specialized training that incorporates community partnership and review of agency policies can be beneficial. This provides feedback directly to police on their own biases they may bring to emergency IPV encounters and what other investigative steps can be taken to provide victims with the best assistance in preventing revictimization (Blaney, 2010). A change in perspective can be beneficial to gaining a complete understanding in IPV victim experiences. Gill et al. (2021) noted in a study on police IPV knowledge that law enforcement personnel often adopt a conventional view of IPV through naming conventions and definitions provided within the Canadian criminal code. This narrows the focus to the incident itself and does not recognize other complex nuances associated with IPV that can be missed. As an example, an officer may recognize no signs of injury on a victim, yet significant efforts to control the victim are evident at the scene and missed in the investigation (Gill et al., 2021).

Allocated Community Funding

It has been seen often that community funding has been enacted, yet there is little to evaluate its effectiveness. City of Vancouver's 2024 budget breakdown discussed plans to create

single room occupancy (SRO) investment strategies and provide continued support to wrap-around services (City of Vancouver, 2024). A risk, need, and responsivity model (RNR) has been previously used to assess IPV offender treatment through three phases. Risk implies that an offender should be matched to an appropriate service to their risk level. Needs refers to an offenders criminogenic or non-criminogenic needs. Support for either form of needs is provided to alter it on the basis that lowering this need will reduce recidivism. Finally, responsivity dictates which interventions are employed (Giesbrecht, 2023). A similar assessment model could be used to interpret what current programs are working within communities for IPV victims. By providing a step-by-step process as to the various aspects that can affect a victim's ability to seek help, it can help create data that shows where community funding should be appropriately allocated to create changes in those areas.

Allocating community funding effectively has been practiced for decades. The first cases of this stemmed from Duluth, Minnesota in the mid-1980's, who implemented the concept of community coordination specifically for IPV. Community coordination is still used today as a formalized system of collaboration between service agencies within a community. From the perspective of IPV, the main priority is safety of survivors and accountability of perpetrators. This method recognizes that a victim's lack of economic security is often a main factor in not being able to achieve safety from an abuser. Expanding community support systems to include employers of victims can increase economic security to address social morality about IPV in a workplace (Pennington-Zoellner, 2009). This can be especially important for male victims as a workspace may provide a more comfortable environment with familiar assets to reach out to than an unknown organization.

Alternative Routes to Seeking Help

In Hine et al. (2022) study, confidentiality was crucial to many male victims in reporting the violence they were facing. Similarly, other studies proposed the idea that male victims would not refer to themselves as such due to shame and embarrassment (Fagerlund, 2021; Lysova, & Dim, 2022; Reis et al., 2024). I propose from these conclusions that offering other avenues for victims to report IPV can be beneficial for themselves and communities as it can provide additional data on victims reaching out for help. For example, Vancouver Police Department currently employs an option to report crimes against property through an online portal. This creates a police file through answering basic questions surrounding the initial circumstance of the crime committed (Admin1, 2021). Creating a similar web portal for IPV victims may help those that are unable to reach out during dire circumstances or feel more comfortable with reporting anonymously in the first step of the criminal justice process. This opportunity allows for exploration and opens the doors for victims to disclose details they may not want to discuss with a police officer in person. With the right safeguards in place, two-way dyadic follow-ups, allow for risks to be assessed and anonymity can be adjusted later within reporting stages after initial follow-up (Elphick et al., 2021).

Training of law enforcement officers in gender-inclusive tactics to understanding the nuances of IPV is important, however other first responder fields should also be trained to report IPV circumstances. Medical mandated reporting has become common practice throughout the United States wherein a “health care practitioner who treats a person brought into a health care facility or clinic who is suffering from specified injuries is to report that fact immediately, to the local law enforcement authorities” (Gwinn et al., 2024, p.9). A health care practitioner includes practices such as nurses, doctors, psychiatrists, dentists, chiropractors, paramedics and much

more. Practitioners that oppose this mandate often describe that it can violate victim autonomy and may prevent a victim from seeking needed medical attention out of fear of reporting.

However, mandated reporting can be used as a tool for early intervention before IPV victim circumstances evolve into serious injury or death (Gwinn et al., 2024). The likelihood of direct advocacy for victims and offender accountability also increases; specifically, those that may be considered high-risk victims, such as an individual faced with brain injury due to traumatic strangulation (Gwinn et al., 2024). The implementation of medical mandated reporting may be an effective tool for male victims as many do not report until they reach a serious injury threshold that may require medical attention.

Discussion

A vast amount of data has been sourced through the literature review of secondary, scholarly, peer-reviewed journal articles. The chosen date range of 2005 to 2025 impacted the results of the research as some articles analyzed may not account for emerging theories used in studying IPV and the inclusion of male victims. However, the date range chosen provided a wide range of sources from various countries as Canada currently does not supply a broad range of data pertaining to the specificity of this research. For this reason, research studies from the United States and Western European countries have also been used to provide a scope of information on IPV victims and formal support services. With this can come varying differences in definitions, legislation, and criminal justice procedures that can alter the data collection standards in comparison to Canada. This can also be looked at as positive change to compare what strategies are being employed effectively in other demographics like that of Canada.

The limitations of a 14-week course does not employ the use of primary data collection for a topic of such complexity, as there are factors that are not discussed within this research that

could also affect the results obtained. The reliance on secondary resources can lack specificity to the overall gap in research. The research was focused within Vancouver, Canada as the city encompasses a wide majority of victims from various cultures, ethnicities, and traditions that all require varying needs. While this is important, this research does not speak to the efficacy of formal support services to varying genders in remote cities within British Columbia or other regions of the country. Furthermore, IPV is characterized as the victimization of a person with which they have or had an intimate relationship with (Reis et al., 2024). Although not directly stated anyone can be a victim of IPV whether between female and male, same-sex, or transgender partners. This research exclusively focused on opposite sex couple violence which may have differing needs or responses to IPV than same-sex or transgender partner violence victims.

For future research endeavours I would employ primary research as it allows all data obtained to directly answer the gaps in literature to the specific geographical region I am focused on. I would use a mixed methods approach to gain a qualitative and quantitative understanding of the data. To obtain quantitative data, I would send surveys to formal support community services for IPV victims, such as shelters, counselling, and therapy practices. The surveys would focus on questions that understand what gender-inclusive practices are currently implemented within the support programs, if any. Contact with the Vancouver police department would be used to conduct in-person focus group interviews. The open space of focus group interviews may allow questions to be answered freely and built upon. Topics of focus within the setting would pertain to what gender-inclusive training looks like, how IPV, formal support, victimization, and other facets associated with IPV are defined, and stigmas and myths persist within a law enforcement framework that prevent safe and responsive practices to victims in need.

Recommendations

Knowledge gaps still exist within Canadian IPV literature. This is due to a lack of research conducted within Canada. Through this research, it has been noted that complexities in gender theories, hidden figure male victim data, defining victim, and stigma prevent barriers in formal support services to reach the target audience. Within other research subjects it is rare where men are the minority sample population. However, the IPV field of research should focus to promote gender-inclusive studies, as focusing on mostly female victims promotes the stigma of men being invisible data figures. A common gap that should be explored through future research is the lack of information surrounding policies and institutions affecting IPV victims. Policies such as peace bonds; a document that ensures the person assigned to the peace bond will keep within good peace of the individual who is the victim, is vital to preventing revictimization at an institutional level. Peace bonds are often used in IPV files as it applies for up to one year and provides conditions to which an offender must abide by (Government of British Columbia, 2025). A study on prior cases wherein peace bonds or similar protection orders for victims were used may help to understand the efficacy in the use of such provisions and if they are preventing revictimization and offender accountability. Like most responses from the criminal justice system and community formal support services, actions are taken from a reactive measure. Research into preventative measures, such as understanding the warning signs of IPV may provide further clarity for victims and law enforcement personnel as to steps that can be taken before severe violence occurs.

Much research is still to take place within Canadian IPV victim populations. Future research should look to focus on including other demographics of IPV victims such as those within same-sex relationships or transgender domestic violence. Canada is often defined as a

multi-cultural country. Vancouver withholds a current population of roughly 660,000 residents, just over half of which are considered visible minorities (Statistics Canada, 2022). Focus on racial or cultural stigma within criminal justice institutions, law enforcement personnel, and community support services should also be studied to identify the impact this has in comparison to gender biases. Furthermore, a quarter of Vancouver residents identified non-official; French or English, languages as the mother tongue within their household (Statistics, 2022). Research on communication barriers can aid ways of help-seeking in a multi-linguistic community. Specific to Canada, would be the importance of researching data on Indigenous victims. Throughout Canada, more than 1.8 million people currently identify as Indigenous, comprising 5 percent of Canada's total population and expected to grow within coming years (Catherine et al., 2025). Indigenous women specifically have faced higher rates of IPV, related to multi-generational trauma, historical outcomes of colonization, and forced assimilation (Rizkalla et al., 2020). Attention to the allocated formal services of Indigenous people can provide better needs to risk factors that affect them within remote or dense locations.

Conclusion

Intimate partner violence is the most common form of gender-based violence around the world (Rizkalla et al., 2020). Specific focus to Vancouver, Canada's multi-cultural and dense population sheds light to the missing information found in Canadian IPV research. A secondary research approach allowed for literature review of scholarly, peer-reviewed articles to find the current gaps. This has uncovered conclusions in research that require further investigation. Conflicting gender theories require further discussion to provide consensus that one may not be better than another, rather it provides a different lens to analyze data. Defining the term "victim" within male IPV survivors can contribute to the number of hidden figure data, further stretching

gaps within current literature. Understanding the major impacts of unconscious stigma in preventing help is a major component in the differences of formal IPV victim services. Further analysis of secondary research and the implementation of other scholarly resources provide results that can create steps in gender-inclusive support services attending to all victim needs. Attention to enhanced education on stigma and violence recognizance can be impactful at an individual, communal, and institutional level. Collaborative approaches and inclusion of third-party support such as employers of victims adds an additional way to report. Programs that can be successfully reviewed for performance enhancement allows for victim voices to be shared and careful allocation of community funding to support it. Expanding lines of communication creates comfortability in the first step of seeking help and broadens education on IPV to other first responder fields. In doing so, an increase in police reports can lead to more data to be analyzed and further strengthen current and incoming services in place.

Recommendations look toward researchers within Canada and institutions to provide clarity, funding, and enhanced training on gender-inclusive practices. This is to ensure formal support services reach broader communities. Future research can expand upon the current similarities and differences found within IPV support services by focusing on other factors of victim demographics. Language, culture, race, and relation can play intertwining roles on the type of service needed for victims and may have varying needs compared to gender alone. Further focus on Indigenous IPV victims in relation to the multi-generational trauma may provide support to culturally sensitive healing programs. Although more research, data, and time is to be collected, understanding the differences in current formal support services takes a step forward in providing adequate and well-rounded help to prevent revictimization, enhance community relations and improve biases toward victims.

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Appendix

Database	Search Term(s)	Search Results
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence" and "gender"	15,234
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence", "gender" and "support services"	239
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence", "gender" and "services or programs or intervention or resources"	7,893
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence", "gender", "services or programs or intervention or resources" and "police officers" or "law enforcement" or cops or police	591
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence", "gender", "services or programs or intervention or resources" and "police officers" or "law enforcement" or cops or police and "North America" or Canada or "United States"	118
APA PsycInfo	"Intimate partner violence" or "domestic violence" or "partner abuse" and "gender-inclusive" and "services or programs or intervention or resources" and "North America" or Canada or "United States"	19