

Intimate partner violence (IPV) (other wise known as domestic violence), is both one of the most stable and chronically underreported crimes that affects individuals across all identities and backgrounds. IPV not only affects one in every four women, but also accounts for approximately half of homelessness amongst women and children. While IPV is largely seen as a micro level issue, it has serious macro implications, including the \$8.3 billion it costs annually in regards to medical care, mental health services, and lost productivity. While mandatory policies have marked progress in responding to IPV, research shows that there are great limitations within our current responses and that there is a need to generate and examine other possible responses.

This research sheds light on the limitations of current responses to cases of IPV and seeks to reveal possible future adaptations to responses in respect to the use of restorative justice. Vermont, with its leadership in both domestic violence advocacy and restorative justice, has provided an ideal research site for such exploration. The research consists of a literature review along with case studies generated from in-depth interviews with relevant Vermont professionals who have in some way experienced the professional interface of IPV and restorative justice. While the path of future responses to intimate partner violence remains unclear and debated, there is the growing consensus that to provide women with a sense of justice, we must provide them with more options from which to choose.