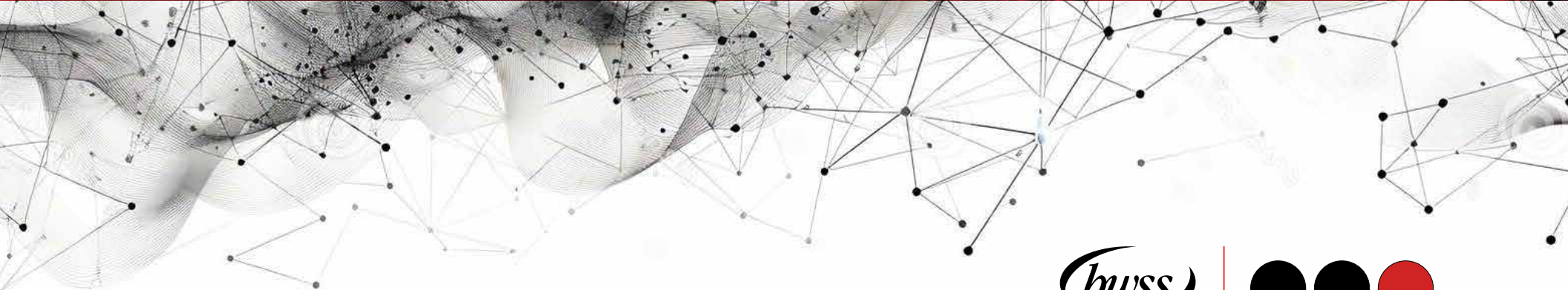


FROM EVIDENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION

A Practice-Based Implementation Framework for Specialized Intimate Partner Violence Response During the FIFA World Cup 2026



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Safety Changes Everything

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STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

FROM EVIDENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION:

A Practice-Based Implementation Framework for Specialized Intimate Partner Violence Response During the FIFA World Cup 2026

This report analyzes the translation of research evidence regarding the relationship between major international football tournaments and intimate partner violence into specialized community-based implementation. Although previous research has demonstrated that major sporting events may coincide with periods of elevated risk, limited attention has been devoted to how specialized organizations prepare for, implement, and evaluate responses during these foreseeable periods.

Drawing on the implementation of Battered Women's Support Services' (BWSS) FIFA World Cup 2026 response in Vancouver, Canada, this report presents a practice-based implementation framework uniting public awareness, community participation, organizational preparedness, specialized crisis response, and practice-based evidence generation. The study shows that specialized community-based organizations addressing intimate partner violence possess unique implementation capabilities that strengthen public safety and generate knowledge not available through police, health, or other administrative systems.

This report intends to contribute to implementation research, intimate partner violence prevention and intervention, and public safety by demonstrating how evidence can be translated

into institutional preparedness and specialized intervention during major public events. The findings are intended to inform governments, researchers, practitioners, host jurisdictions, and community organizations planning for future FIFA World Cups and other foreseeable periods of elevated risk.

CONTENT ADVISORY

This report discusses intimate partner violence, coercive control, strangulation, sexual violence, post-separation abuse and other forms of gender-based violence. Some readers may find this material distressing.

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GRAPHIC DESIGN

BWSS gratefully acknowledges Alex Gonzalez and OAXACA STUDIO for their outstanding creative partnership and graphic design. Their exceptional design expertise transformed this report into a compelling visual publication, communicating complex ideas with clarity, precision, and impact while meeting an ambitious production timeline.

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IMAGES

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The Space Between public service announcement was created through the extraordinary generosity and creative partnership of **Nisha Khare, Sharad Khare, and Human Biography**. Their exceptional storytelling helped translate evidence into public recognition, making the invisible dynamics of intimate partner violence more visible and connecting survivors and communities with specialized support.

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Battered Women's Support Services respectfully acknowledges that our work takes place on the unceded and unsundered territories of the xʷməθkwəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations. We honour their enduring stewardship of these lands and work in solidarity with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples and with Urban Indigenous communities across what is currently known as British Columbia.

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Battered Women's Support Services Association
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Safety Changes Everything

Dedicated to the Memory of **Jan Barnsley** (1943–2026)

A FOUNDING MOTHER OF BATTERED WOMEN'S SUPPORT SERVICES



This report is dedicated to the memory of Jan Barnsley, one of the founding mothers of Battered Women's Support Services, whose life was devoted to advancing feminist knowledge, ending violence against women, and transforming research into action.

Jan believed that research was about producing knowledge and about making women's lives visible, exposing inequality, challenging institutional responses, and creating the conditions for meaningful social change. Throughout

her remarkable life as a feminist researcher, activist, mentor, and community builder, Jan demonstrated that evidence becomes powerful only when it strengthens the lives, safety, and dignity of women.

As a member of the Women's Research Centre and one of the incredible founding women of BWSS Battered Women's Support Services in 1979, Jan helped shape the feminist analysis, organizational philosophy, and specialized practice grounded in strong theoretical underpinnings that continue to deeply guide our

work today. Her brilliant scholarship on violence against women, including her influential contributions to understanding institutional responses to wife assault, helped establish foundations that continue to inform policy, practice, advocacy, and research across Canada.

We hope that the framework presented in these pages in some way reflects the very principles that Jan championed throughout her life: that women's experiences of violence and oppression matter; that rigorous feminist inquiry must remain accountable to those experiences; and that research should lead to implementation, justice, and safety.

Jan taught us that research is an act of hope, and that the knowledge we create together must always to transform the lives of women.

May this report honour her extraordinary legacy by continuing the work to which she devoted her life: building a world where women live free from all forms of violence, where specialized feminist organizations are recognized for their indispensable contributions, and where evidence is translated into action that changes lives.

With tremendous gratitude, profound respect,
and enduring admiration.

JAN BARNSELY (1943–2026)

SCHOLAR. ACTIVIST. MENTOR. FOUNDING MOTHER OF BWSS.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2014, Kirby, Francis, and O’Flaherty reported that FIFA World Cup tournaments may be associated with periods of increased reported domestic abuse, contending that foreseeable periods of elevated risk create opportunities for prevention and planning as opposed to solely post-event analysis. Building on this work, the present report examines how Battered Women’s Support Services (BWSS) translated that evidence into a specialized community-based implementation response during the FIFA World Cup 2026 in Vancouver, Canada.

Although host governments incorporated public safety, security, and human rights considerations into tournament planning, specialized intimate partner violence response—including surge capacity, public awareness, referral pathways, and coordinated frontline intervention—was not systematically integrated into preparedness. In response, BWSS implemented an evidence-informed approach that combined public awareness, expanded crisis response, organizational surge planning, specialized risk assessment, collaborative safety planning, and methodical documentation throughout the tournament.

The implementation produced fourteen findings that demonstrate the distinctive contributions of specialized community-based intimate partner violence services. The results indicate that specialized public awareness initiatives create meaningful pathways to support; survivors experience coercive control, cumulative risk, and escalating violence as linked patterns instead of isolated incidents; individualized risk assessment as well as collaborative safety planning are essential interventions;

survivor decision-making is influenced by intersecting legal, economic, housing, and family factors; and specialized organizations generate practice-based evidence not available through police, health, or other administrative data.

The principal contribution of this report is the development of a practice-based implementation framework for specialized community-based intimate partner violence response during foreseeable periods of elevated risk. This framework illustrates how research evidence can be translated towards organizational preparedness and identifies the capabilities required to deliver effective specialized intervention before, during, and after major public events.

BWSS IMPLEMENTED AN EVIDENCE- INFORMED APPROACH THAT COMBINED:

PUBLIC AWARENESS

EXPANDED CRISIS
RESPONSE

ORGANIZATIONAL
SURGE PLANNING

SPECIALIZED RISK
ASSESSMENT

COLLABORATIVE
SAFETY PLANNING

AND METHODICAL
DOCUMENTATION
THROUGHOUT THE
TOURNAMENT.

SETTING THE CONTEXT

The FIFA World Cup is an international men's football tournament organized by FIFA, the global governing body for the sport. It has been held every four years since 1930, apart from interruptions during the Second World War, and brings national teams together to compete for the world championship. The tournament is held to determine the leading men's national football team through an international competition among FIFA's member associations.

The 2026 FIFA World Cup was held from June 11 to July 19 across Canada, Mexico and the United States. It was the first World Cup hosted by three countries and the first to include 48 national teams. Over 34 days, 104 matches were played in 16 host cities, including Vancouver and Toronto in Canada. (FIFA World Cup 2026: Fixtures, groups, teams, tickets, host countries, cities and more, 2026)

When Canada was confirmed as a co-host of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, with Vancouver and Toronto selected as host cities, the announcement was widely welcomed as an opportunity to showcase the country on a global stage. Early planning and public discussion focused on the projected economic benefits of hosting millions of visitors, increased tourism, international exposure, infrastructure enhancements and the potential for lasting community and sporting legacies. Concurrently, governments, host committees, police, and municipal agencies began preparing for the pragmatic challenges of staging one of the world's largest sporting events. Public planning emphasized transportation, crowd management, emergency preparedness, street celebrations, public disorder, alcohol-related incidents and the safety of residents and visitors. As with previous international sporting events, these

considerations formed the dominant structure for understanding host city preparedness at the outset.

Remarkably, hosting the FIFA World Cup also requires cities to temporarily reshape the governance of public space. Host city agreements and FIFA requirements lead to special bylaws, controlled commercial zones, restrictions on advertising and street vending, altered traffic and public-space rules, and limits on the use of FIFA names, symbols and branding. In this sense, the tournament arrives in a city and temporarily reorganizes the city around FIFA's operational and commercial requirements.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar brought unprecedented attention to the human-rights consequences of hosting a global sporting event. Concerns centred on the treatment of migrant workers involved in constructing and operating tournament infrastructure, including unsafe working conditions, unpaid wages, exploitation and barriers to obtaining remedy. The tournament also drew scrutiny over restrictions on freedom of expression and association, discrimination against women and LGBTQ+ people, and FIFA's response when teams and supporters sought to express



solidarity with affected communities. These controversies made it increasingly difficult to treat human rights as separate from the selection, planning, and delivery of major sporting events, generally, and the FIFA World Cup specifically.

Against that backdrop, the 2026 tournament became the first World Cup to incorporate human rights and labour rights requirements into the bidding regulations and host agreements from the outset. FIFA established a common framework, guided by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and required all 16 host cities to develop localized action plans. These plans generally address inclusion and non-discrimination, accessibility, Indigenous rights, worker protections, child safeguarding, human trafficking, homelessness and displacement, rights-respecting public safety, privacy, freedom of expression, public participation and access to remedy.

Toronto. Toronto's FIFA World Cup 2026 Human Rights Action Plan adopted FIFA's Human Rights Framework, organizing its commitments across three areas: Safeguarding and Inclusion,

Workers' Rights, and Access to Remedy. The plan outlined measures to address discrimination, accessibility, labour rights, community participation, Indigenous reconciliation, and protection, while identifying violence against women, girls and gender-diverse people, sexual exploitation, trafficking, harassment and gender-based violence as human rights issues requiring mitigation during the tournament.

Vancouver. Vancouver's Human Rights Action Plan similarly adopted FIFA's framework of Safeguarding and Inclusion, Workers' Rights, and Access to Remedy, situating tournament planning within existing federal, provincial and municipal human rights legislation and policy. The plan addressed safeguarding, inclusion, worker protections, access to remedy, Indigenous rights and participation, and identified gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, trafficking, harassment and the safety of at-risk populations as part of its human rights due diligence for the event.

Together, the two Human Rights Action Plans show that both host cities recognized gendered harms as relevant human rights considerations in planning for the FIFA World Cup. This creates an important implementation question: while the plans considered safety within the tournament environment and associated event footprint, to what extent did those protections extend to intimate partner violence and other gendered harms occurring beyond the formal event spaces?

THE 2022 FIFA WORLD CUP IN QATAR BROUGHT UNPRECEDENTED ATTENTION TO THE HUMAN-RIGHTS CONSEQUENCES OF HOSTING A GLOBAL SPORTING EVENT.

CAN THE FIFA WORLD CUP FOOTBALL (SOCCER) TOURNAMENT BE ASSOCIATED WITH AN INCREASE IN DOMESTIC ABUSE?

In 2014, researchers Stuart Kirby, Brian Francis and Rosalie O'Flaherty published a study asking whether the FIFA World Cup could be associated with an increase in reported domestic abuse. Their research: *Can the FIFA World Cup football (soccer) tournament be associated with an increase in domestic abuse?* was prompted by recurring concerns that major football tournaments, watched by large audiences and accompanied by intense emotion and social activity such as gambling and alcohol use, might occur with increased violence in the home. Rather than assuming that such a causation existed, the researchers set out to determine whether it could be identified in police data.

The study examined domestic abuse incidents reported to one police force in northwest England during the 2002, 2006 and 2010 FIFA World Cup tournaments. The researchers analyzed both daily and monthly incident data, comparing reports on days when England played with other days during and outside the tournaments. They also considered whether the outcome of England's matches, winning, drawing or losing, was associated with changes in reported domestic abuse.

The researchers found two statistically notable patterns. On days when England played, reported domestic abuse increased by 26 percent when the national team won or drew and by 38 percent when the team lost. The increase following wins and draws is important because it suggests the pattern cannot be explained simply as anger or disappointment after a defeat. The researchers also identified a wider tournament pattern: the frequency of reported domestic abuse increased across the three World Cups studied.

The study did not conclude that football causes domestic abuse, nor did it claim that every tournament, community or abusive relationship would follow the same pattern. It was based on reported incidents from a single police force area and was described by its authors as a relatively small study that requires further research and replication. Its central finding was more measured but still significant: **televised World Cup tournaments could be associated with a foreseeable increase in reported domestic abuse, creating an opportunity for services and public authorities to anticipate risk and consider preventive responses.**

This raised an important human rights and public safety question for future host cities: whether planning for a major sporting event should likewise anticipate risks that go beyond stadiums, fan zones, and other official event spaces.

Women's Aid is the United Kingdom's leading national federation of specialist domestic abuse organizations, representing and supporting frontline services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. As both a service and advocacy organization, it has played a central role in public education, policy development and improving responses to violence against women and girls.

Women's Aid UK was among the first organizations to consistently translate the emerging evidence into national public awareness campaigns. Drawing on the findings of the Kirby study, Women's Aid developed a series of campaigns during men's international football tournaments to highlight that, for many women and children, the end of a match could mark the beginning of heightened fear. Their campaigns emphasized an important distinction: football does not cause domestic abuse, but existing abuse can become more frequent or severe during major tournaments. By linking research findings with survivor experiences, Women's Aid helped move the discussion beyond academic literature and into public awareness, encouraging broader conversation about domestic abuse during major sporting tournaments.

Perhaps the most influential of these campaigns was *He's Coming Home*, launched during the 2022 FIFA World Cup. The campaign deliberately reworked England's well-known football anthem "It's Coming Home" into *He's Coming Home*, shifting the meaning from sporting celebration to the fear experienced by women anticipating an abusive partner's return after a match. The accompanying film used a continuous tracking shot through an ordinary English street decorated for the World Cup, culminating at a home displaying a large flag reading "He's Coming Home."

By subverting the familiar football chant, the campaign revealed the sharp contrast between public celebration and the private fear experienced by women anticipating an abusive partner's return after the match. The campaign challenged viewers to view the tournament from a perspective rarely represented in football coverage. Rather than focusing on events inside the stadium, it asked the public to consider what might be happening behind



closed doors after the final whistle and strengthened the message that responsibility for abuse rests entirely with the perpetrator, not with football or the outcome of the match.

While the emerging literature has demonstrated that major football tournaments may be associated with periods of elevated intimate partner violence risk, comparatively little attention has been given to how specialized frontline organizations prepare for and respond to those periods of foreseeable risk. Kirby et al. established the epidemiological association, while Women's Aid translated that evidence into public awareness. This report extends that work by examining how Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS), a specialized community-based intimate partner violence organization in Vancouver, Canada, translated evidence of foreseeable risk towards organizational preparedness, public awareness, specialized service delivery and surge response during the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

So, rather than asking whether the tournament was associated with changes in violence, this report examines how research

evidence can be operationalized in practice. It presents an implementation framework for specialized intimate partner violence response, demonstrating how evidence of foreseeable risk can inform preparedness, strengthen frontline capacity and improve timely entry to specialized support during major international events.

Before the FIFA World Cup, BWSS was already responding to unprecedented demand for specialized intimate partner violence services. Over the preceding year, 2025, the organization documented an approximately 80 percent increase in requests for service, alongside increasing complexity in survivors' experiences. Frontline practitioners were supporting women and gender diverse people experiencing coercive control, non-fatal strangulation, technology-facilitated abuse, post-separation violence, escalating lethality, housing insecurity and increasingly complex family law and criminal legal issues.

Across British Columbia and Canada, organizations that specialized in intimate partner violence service and advocacy provision had reported growing demand, longer waitlists and

increasing case complexity, reflecting broader changes in the nature and severity of intimate partner violence. The FIFA World Cup 2026 therefore entered an environment in which specialized services were already operating under sustained pressure.

BWSS interpreted the emerging international literature through this existing practice lens combined with organizational experience during the COVID-19 pandemic that had demonstrated that major societal events can alter patterns of abuse, intensify coercive control and severity of intimate partner violence as well as rapidly change demand for specialized intimate partner violence services, often before comprehensive data become available.

The findings reported by Kirby and colleagues therefore represented credible evidence of a foreseeable period of elevated risk rather than a question to be tested after the tournament had begun. The relevant question that emerged was whether those findings would be replicated in Vancouver and what level of specialized preparedness was required if the anticipated increase in need materialized. That question became the foundation of the organization's implementation planning for the 2026 FIFA World Cup.

WHILE THE EMERGING LITERATURE HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT MAJOR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENTS MAY BE ASSOCIATED WITH PERIODS OF ELEVATED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RISK, COMPARATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HOW SPECIALIZED FRONTLINE ORGANIZATIONS PREPARE FOR AND RESPOND TO THOSE PERIODS OF FORESEEABLE RISK.

EVIDENCE, ORGANIZATIONAL LEARNING AND EMERGING RECOGNITION

By the time Vancouver prepared to host the 2026 FIFA World Cup, BWSS was drawing on an expanding body of Canadian evidence and policy on intimate partner violence. Kirby et al. stressed the opportunity for prevention and planning. This approach was reinforced by Canada's National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence, endorsed by federal, provincial and territorial ministers in November 2022; the Ontario Chief Coroner's Inquest into the Deaths of Carol Culleton, Anastasia Kuzyk and Nathalie Warmerdam, which issued 86 recommendations in June 2022; and Turning the Tide Together: Final Report of the Mass Casualty Commission, released by the joint Canada–Nova Scotia public inquiry in March 2023. Dr. Kim Stanton served as one of the three commissioners on that inquiry.

In British Columbia, Stanton subsequently led the Independent Systemic Review: The British Columbia Legal System's Treatment of Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence, commissioned by the provincial government in 2024 and released in June 2025. The developing context also included the Supreme Court of Canada's recognition of a new tort of intimate partner violence in *Ahluwalia v. Ahluwalia* on May 15, 2026; the enactment of the federal Protecting Victims Act, formerly Bill C-16, on June 18, 2026; and the BC Coroners Service report *Our Time to Act: A Review of Intimate Partner Violence-Related Deaths in British Columbia, 2016–2024*, released on April 27, 2026. Together, these developments strengthened the case for moving from recognition of risk to proactive, specialized implementation.

During this period, Canadian policy increasingly recognized intimate partner violence as a distinct policy and implementation

priority. Both the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence (2022) and British Columbia's Safe and Supported: British Columbia's Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (2023) explicitly identify intimate partner violence distinctly as calling for specialized, coordinated and timely responses, additionally supporting proactive organizational preparedness by frontline service providers.

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For BWSS, sufficient evidence existed to justify preparedness for the FIFA World Cup 2026 and to demonstrate how that evidence could be translated into effective action. This required an explicit theory of change that connected research, public awareness, specialized service delivery and organizational preparedness into a coordinated implementation strategy designed to improve survivor access to timely support during the tournament.

THEORY OF CHANGE

BWSS's theory of change was grounded in the proposition that evidence of a foreseeable period of elevated intimate partner violence risk improves safety only when it is translated into a credible public narrative that enables survivors, bystanders and communities to recognize intimate partner violence, including coercive control, and is paired with visible, timely provision of specialized intimate partner violence services.

Under these conditions, victims and survivors are more likely to recognize abuse, seek support and obtain timely risk assessment, safety planning, legal advocacy, crisis intervention and referral before violence escalates.

For bystanders, increased recognition was expected to strengthen confidence in observing patterns of abuse, reduce uncertainty about when to act and encourage supportive responses, including checking in, sharing information about specialized services and facilitating referrals where appropriate.

By making coercive control more visible, the theory is that bystanders will challenge the normalization and downplaying of intimate partner violence, aiding broader social norms that reject abusive behaviour.

While not designed as a perpetrator intervention, the campaign aimed to reduce the social acceptability of abuse by increasing public recognition of intimate partner violence generally and coercive control specifically.

BWSS operationalized this theory of change through an integrated implementation model that combined public awareness, expanded specialized service capacity, strengthened referral pathways, and coordinated engagement with community organizations.

Effective implementation also depended on decisions beyond BWSS's control, including whether provincial and municipal governments and the Vancouver police recognized intimate partner violence as a foreseeable public safety issue, which influenced planning priorities, resource allocation, funding decisions, and public messaging. During major international events, these decisions are often made alongside competing objectives, including security, tourism, economic activity and projecting a positive image of the host city. BWSS's theory of change therefore assumed that the effectiveness of specialized frontline implementation would be determined by organizational preparedness and also by the extent to which public institutions explicitly incorporated intimate partner violence into tournament planning and response.

BWSS OPERATIONALIZED THIS THEORY OF CHANGE THROUGH AN INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION MODEL THAT COMBINED PUBLIC AWARENESS, EXPANDED SPECIALIZED SERVICE CAPACITY, STRENGTHENED REFERRAL PATHWAYS, AND COORDINATED ENGAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS.

RECOGNITION AND PROBLEM DEFINITION

The first implementation challenge was the recognition of intimate partner violence as a distinct and foreseeable public safety issue associated with the FIFA World Cup in Canada generally and Vancouver specifically. As stated, Kirby and colleagues concluded that football caused abuse, and they demonstrated that major men's football tournaments could represent foreseeable periods during which existing intimate partner violence escalated, and the requirement for specialized services increased. From an implementation perspective, the question was beyond whether intimate partner violence would occur, toward whether institutions responsible for tournament planning would explicitly recognize intimate partner violence as calling for specialized preparedness, public awareness and frontline response.

As FIFA World Cup implementation progressed, intimate partner violence was increasingly described using broader categories such as gender-based violence, victim services and sexual violence.

While these frameworks themselves are important and often overlap, they do not necessarily produce the same operational response or resource requirements as specialized intimate partner violence services.

This distinction is more than just the words used to describe things or semantics. As the implementation problem broadened, the specific actions required to prepare for foreseeable increases in intimate partner violence became less visible. Temporary expansion of crisis-line capacity, extended operating hours, intimate partner violence dynamics, coercive control messaging, high-risk assessment, safety planning and formal referral pathways were not identifiable as components of tournament preparedness. The result was an implementation gap between the evidence describing foreseeable intimate partner violence risk and the operational responses focused on during the tournament.



HOW INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DISAPPEARED IN IMPLEMENTATION

The distinction between recognition and implementation became one among the defining features of the FIFA World Cup response. Though intimate partner violence exists in legislation and federal and provincial government strategies, the recognition was not translated into implementation. Specialized organizations were not systematically involved in tournament preparedness, intimate partner violence surge capacity was not funded, formal referral pathways were not established, and public communications did not explicitly prepare communities for a foreseeable increase in intimate partner violence. The implementation question is therefore that even though governments recognized intimate partner violence, it was not given priority in the implementation strategy.

The BC Provincial preparations supported broad gender-based violence and victim services initiatives but did not provide dedicated surge capacity for specialized intimate partner violence response. At the same time, public communications emphasized gender-based violence and victim services while largely eschewing explicit recognition of intimate partner violence as a foreseeable tournament-related public safety issue.

The City of Vancouver's Human Rights Action Plan went further by introducing the term "domestic gender-based violence." While likely intended to acknowledge violence occurring within intimate relationships, the terminology illustrates the implementation problem. "Domestic gender-based violence" is not an established



field of specialized practice, an operational service category or a recognized implementation framework. Rather than clarifying the response required, it further generalized the problem and obscured the specialized organizational capabilities required for intimate partner violence, including coercive-control education, surge capacity, specialized risk assessment, safety planning and coordinated referral pathways.

POLICE RECOGNITION AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PREPAREDNESS

The Toronto Police Service publicly identified intimate partner violence as a foreseeable tournament-related public safety concern and communicated this risk as part of its operational planning. In Vancouver, comparable public framing of intimate partner violence was not evident. Discussions were initiated between the Vancouver Police Department and BWSS to establish a formal FIFA-specific referral pathway to specialized community-based intimate partner violence services, but those discussions did not result in an operational protocol either before or during the tournament. Existing referrals therefore continued to depend on individual officers' practice rather than a coordinated



implementation pathway embedded within tournament preparedness. A foreseeable opportunity to strengthen survivor access during a predictable period of elevated risk was identified but not implemented.

The City of Vancouver supported BWSS's public awareness campaign, *The Space Between*, strengthening the recognition component of BWSS's theory of change. Provincial support for the

corresponding expansion of specialized frontline capacity did not occur. Recognition and implementation became separated. Public awareness advanced through one pathway while specialized response capacity depended almost entirely on BWSS and philanthropic funding.

AS A MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL EVENT, THE TOURNAMENT PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPARE HOW DIFFERENT GOVERNMENTS TRANSLATED EVIDENCE OF FORESEEABLE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RISK INTO POLICY AND PRACTICE. RECOGNIZING THAT ORGANIZATIONS IN ONTARIO ARE BEST POSITIONED TO EVALUATE THEIR OWN PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL RESPONSES, THE COMPARISON BELOW IS PRESENTED TO ILLUSTRATE VARIATION IN IMPLEMENTATION RATHER THAN TO PROVIDE A DEFINITIVE ASSESSMENT OF ONTARIO'S APPROACH.

From Recognition to Implementation: Comparative Government Translation of Foreseeable Intimate Partner Violence Risk During the FIFA World Cup 2026

GOVERNMENT	PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF FORESEEABLE IPV RISK	GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION	SPECIALIZED IPV IMPLEMENTATION	ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION FIDELITY TO KIRBY
GOVERNMENT OF CANADA (WAGE)	Explicit (late). Publicly acknowledged international evidence linking major football tournaments and domestic violence near the conclusion of the tournament.	National public awareness social media communications.	No publicly identified activation of FIFA-specific specialized IPV capacity.	Low. The evidence was publicly recognized but not translated into a comprehensive specialized IPV implementation model.
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	Not identified. No public communications identified IPV as a foreseeable FIFA-related public safety risk.	Expanded VictimLinkBC and sexual assault 24/7 crisis-line capacity through existing provincial infrastructure.	No publicly identified FIFA-specific specialized IPV preparedness, referral framework or awareness strategy.	Low. Existing victim-service infrastructure was strengthened, but foreseeable IPV risk was not translated into specialized IPV implementation.
CITY OF VANCOUVER	Indirect. The City did not publicly communicate foreseeable IPV risk but funded an awareness campaign described as addressing "domestic gender-based violence."	Human Rights Action Plan implementation through contracted community organizations.	Partial. Funded a specialized awareness campaign but did not establish formal IPV surge capacity or institutional referral pathways.	Moderate. The City partially translated the evidence through BWSS but did not embed specialized IPV preparedness across the municipal implementation model.
PROVINCE OF ONTARIO	Indirect. Public communications did not explicitly identify foreseeable FIFA-related IPV risk.	Ministry-funded expansion of Ask for Angela through Victim Services Toronto as part of FIFA preparedness.	Yes. Provincial funding supported a specialized implementation pathway connecting individuals experiencing abuse with trauma-informed IPV services	Moderate. Although public recognition was limited, the Province translated foreseeable risk into a specialized operational intervention.
CITY OF TORONTO	Partial. The Human Rights Action Plan did not foreground Kirby's evidence publicly, but it explicitly identified intimate partner violence within FIFA operational planning, policing, victim services and community safety measures.	Human Rights Action Plan implementation, Host City volunteer training, Ask for Angela, coordinated referral pathways, Toronto Police Service procedures and Victim Services Toronto.	Yes. Integrated specialized IPV referral mechanisms and operational responses into tournament planning through Victim Services Toronto and municipal implementation.	High. Toronto maintained intimate partner violence as a visible implementation object by embedding specialized IPV measures within FIFA operational planning and service delivery.

A PRACTICE-BASED OPERATIONALIZING A FRAMEWORK FOR SPECIALIZED COMMUNITY-BASED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RESPONSE

The FIFA World Cup 2026 response provides an empirical case for examining specialized, community-based implementation of intimate partner violence. The purpose of this analysis is to examine what becomes visible when a specialized organization prepares for a foreseeable period of elevated risk and documents practice in real time.

Drawing on this implementation experience, BWSS proposed a practice-based conceptual framework consisting of 16 interrelated concepts that characterize specialized community-based responses to intimate partner violence. Together, these concepts describe how specialized organizations understand intimate partner violence, organize practice, interpret risk, support survivors, generate practice-based insight and contribute to systems change.

THE SIXTEEN CORE COMPETENCIES ARE:

1. Intimate Partner Violence as a Dynamic and Patterned Form of Violence
2. Intersectional Feminist Analysis of Violence, Power and Inequality
3. Specialized Professional Judgment, Dynamic Risk and Lethality Interpretation
4. Coercive Control, Entrapment and Post-Separation Risk
5. Structural, Institutional and Relational Barriers to Safety
6. Safety Planning as Constrained Decision-Making
7. Complexity and Intensity of Specialized Intervention
8. Relational Practice, Survivor Agency and Practical Resource Mobilization
9. Trauma Stabilization as Part of Safety Practice
10. Children, Companion Animals, Elders, Family Law and Multi-Domain Safety Decision-Making
11. Access Pathways to Specialized Intervention
12. Hotline Practice, Workforce Development, Competence and Clinical Supervision
13. Organizational Readiness, Demand, Surge Capacity and Adaptive Implementation
14. Practice-Based Evidence, Organizational Learning and Methods for Studying Complex Interventions
15. Policy Translation, Social Change, Systems Change and Prevention
16. Interdisciplinary and Cross-System Collaboration.

The FIFA World Cup response illustrates how these concepts were operationalized in practice, and the following findings focus on two dimensions of implementation: public awareness as a channel to recognition and help-seeking, and specialized service data as practice-based evidence of women's lived experiences during a foreseeable period of elevated risk.



PUBLIC AWARENESS AS AN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

In the lead-up to the FIFA World Cup 2026, the findings of Kirby and colleagues moved beyond the academic literature into widespread public discourse. In doing so, Kirby's findings turned out to be more than epidemiological evidence. Mobilized through campaigns by Women's Shelters Canada, advocacy organizations, news media, and online content creators, they served as catalysts for public awareness, policy discussion, and organizational preparedness. The present study builds on that foundation by examining what specialized implementation makes visible once women reach frontline services.

Specifically, BWSS sought to shift this conversation from predicting increases in violence to recognizing coercive control and other patterns of abuse that often precede physical assault. Rather than reinforcing headline statistics, *The Space Between*, a public service announcement video, translated the evidence into observable behaviours that survivors, bystanders and communities could recognize and linked that recognition directly to specialized support.

During the implementation period, the public service announcement video generated more than two million social media views, over 10,000 shares, more than 1,200 public comments and more than 10,000 visits to the BWSS website. Media coverage and extensive sharing by content creators further extended its reach, indicating considerable public engagement with coercive control and specialized intimate partner violence services.

COMMUNITY-BASED PARTNERSHIP

The collaboration with Good Night Out Vancouver extended the implementation framework beyond crisis response through integrating prevention, public engagement and community-based safety into the overall tournament response.

Good Night Out is a Vancouver organization that works to prevent sexual harassment and sexual violence through education, bystander intervention, outreach and safer-space programming in nightlife, hospitality and community settings. During the FIFA World Cup, Good Night Out expanded its visible street outreach and venue-based presence while BWSS expanded specialized crisis response, risk assessment and safety planning for survivors.

Together, the organizations distributed BWSS FIFA Safety Cards throughout community and nightlife settings, providing practical information on recognizing coercive control, accessing specialized support and responding safely to concerns. This joint effort created multiple community entry points into specialized services, connecting prevention in public spaces with intervention behind closed doors.



Instead of relying solely on survivors to locate services after violence had escalated, the partnership embedded specialized information and support within the places where people gathered, worked, and celebrated, demonstrating how community-based organizations can strengthen public safety through coordinated prevention, early intervention, and accessible referral pathways during major international events.

PRACTICE-BASED EVIDENCE FROM SPECIALIZED IMPLEMENTATION

BWSS recorded 881 inbound calls. Of these, 734 specialized intimate partner violence service contacts were coded and analyzed, compared with 535 during the same period the previous year an increase of 199 contacts, representing a 37.2% increase in specialized service demand.

While this increase is consistent with a period of greater awareness and expanded availability for specialized services, the principal contribution of this case study is documenting what women disclosed once they reached specialized services and what those disclosures

reveal about the actual experiences of intimate partner violence and the organizational capabilities required to respond effectively.

Unlike police, justice and health administrative datasets, which primarily document reported incidents and system engagements, specialized community-based services document how women experience abuse while living through it, the cumulative effects of coercive control, escalating lethality, concerns for children and companion animals, and the complex decisions required to pursue safety. The findings that follow illustrate how specialized implementation generated a distinct body of practice-based evidence that augments, rather than duplicates, incident-based administrative data.

WHAT BECAME VISIBLE THROUGH SPECIALIZED RESPONSE

The implementation generated a body of practice-based evidence about how intimate partner violence was experienced, how risk evolved, how survivors sought support and what specialized intervention required in practice. The findings make visible the complexity of intimate partner violence, the organizational knowledge and professional judgment and intervention capacity needed to respond effectively.

1

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE WAS EXPERIENCED AS AN INTERCONNECTED SYSTEM RATHER THAN A SEQUENCE OF SEPARATE INCIDENTS

Administrative datasets commonly organize intimate partner violence through individual offences, police files, emergency-room presentations or court proceedings. The specialized service data presented a different picture. Survivors rarely contacted BWSS with a single, discrete issue. Instead, their circumstances involved overlapping experiences of coercive control and emotional or psychological abuse (64.6%), high-risk intimate partner violence (50.3%), family law and child safety concerns (43.5%), mental health and trauma (43.4%), post-separation abuse and stalking (39.7%), police and justice-system concerns (35.9%), and housing insecurity (30.3%).

Intimate partner violence extended across intimate relationships, parenting, housing, finances, technology, judicial processes and public institutions. Housing instability could be connected to financial control; family-law proceedings could provide new opportunities for intimidation; surveillance could restrict access to help; and post-separation stalking could intensify while women were simultaneously seeking housing, legal protection and safety for their children.

Specialized response therefore encountered intimate partner violence as an interconnected ecology of coercion and subjugation, decision-making constraint and risk of lethal violence.

2 COERCIVE CONTROL FUNCTIONED AS AN ORGANIZING STRUCTURE OF SURVIVORS' EXPERIENCES

High-risk intimate partner violence was identified in 369 contacts representing 50.3% of the dataset. The records included immediate safety-planning needs, escalating violence, preparation to leave, strangulation, death threats, family law protection-order breaches, repeated police attendance, and abuse during pregnancy.

The significance of this finding reveals that the prevalence of coercive control as an explanatory role for which housing insecurity, financial abuse, technology-facilitated abuse, parenting disputes, legal proceedings and post-separation harassment frequently appeared as mechanisms by means of which domination was established or maintained.

Coercive control therefore functioned as one category among many in the context through which numerous other issues became intelligible. The data suggest that specialized organizations are positioned to recognize how apparently separate concerns form part of a wider pattern that restricts autonomy, narrows available choices and shapes survivors' everyday decisions.

3

RISK ACCUMULATED ACROSS BEHAVIOURS, CIRCUMSTANCES AND TIME

Coercive control and emotional or psychological abuse were documented in 474 of the 734 specialized service contacts analyzed, representing 64.6% of all coded contacts. The records included emotional abuse, intimidation, isolation, gaslighting, monitoring and surveillance, threats, psychological domination, and financial abuse, including forced dependency.

These cases were rarely defined by a single high-risk incident as danger emerged through the interaction of multiple factors.

The findings demonstrate that specialized practice recognizes risk as cumulative, dynamic and relational. That risk is assessed through the relationship between different indicators, the timing and escalation of behaviours, the survivor's knowledge of the abusive partner and the practical conditions affecting her safety.

This form of interpretation requires professional judgment. A threat, a breach, a surveillance behaviour or a change in parenting arrangements may carry different implications depending on the broader pattern of abuse and the survivor's circumstances.

4

SPECIALIZED RESPONSE OPERATED WITHIN THE PERIOD BETWEEN INCIDENTS

The records show that survivors frequently sought help while violence remained active. Women contacted BWSS while experiencing escalating abuse, contemplating separation, preparing to leave, responding to stalking, navigating court proceedings and attempting to protect children.

This finding challenges the administrative assumption that help-seeking occurs only after violence has ended or after a clearly reportable incident has taken place. Specialized

services intervene within the period between incidents, when abuse is changing, risk is accumulating, and survivors are trying to prevent further contact with harm.

This space is particularly important because it may remain largely invisible within systems structured around completed incidents. Specialized organizations receive information about unsafe communication, changes in an abusive partner's behaviour, escalating intimidation, surveillance, threats, breaches and anticipated retaliation before these circumstances necessarily produce a new police file or hospital presentation.

Specialized response, therefore, contributes to prevention by recognizing and responding to evolving danger rather than waiting for another incident to occur.

5 SURVIVORS SOUGHT SUPPORT WHILE LIVING WITHIN CONDITIONS OF CONSTRAINED CHOICE

The records consistently reflected women making decisions under conditions of fear, coercion, surveillance, financial dependency, housing insecurity, child safety concerns and legal uncertainty.

These conditions complicate conventional understandings of choice. Decisions about whether to remain, leave, report, seek a protection order, involve police or pursue family-law remedies were not made freely or in isolation. Each option could carry consequences for housing, finances, immigration status, children, privacy and immediate physical safety.

The data therefore document constrained agency rather than unconstrained choice. This shifts the analytical focus away from asking why a survivor did or did not leave and toward examining the conditions under which safe decisions became possible.

Specialized response addresses these conditions by supporting survivors in evaluating options without assuming that any one course of action is universally safe or feasible.

6 LEAVING WAS A PROCESS RATHER THAN A SINGLE EVENT

The data repeatedly documented preparation to leave, post-separation abuse, stalking, legal conflict, parenting disputes and continuing coercive control. In 219 contacts, survivors were preparing to leave an abusive partner, while post-separation abuse and stalking were documented in 301 contacts.

Separation did not necessarily represent the conclusion of abuse, as the abuse by the abusive partner often changed form. Physical proximity could be replaced or supplemented by stalking, technological surveillance, economic abuse, litigation, parenting-related intimidation, child withholding and repeated breaches of agreements or protection orders.

Specialized response must therefore be longitudinal. The intervention required while a woman is living with an abusive partner differs from what may be required during separation, immediate departure, post-separation stalking, family-law litigation or longer-term recovery.

The findings demonstrate the limitations of episodic models that treat a crisis contact, police attendance or court order as the end point of intervention.

7 WOMEN'S SAFETY AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY WERE INSEPARABLE

Family law and child safety concerns were identified in 320 of the 734 specialized service contacts analyzed (43.6%), while children's exposure to intimate partner violence was documented in 214 contacts (29.2%).

The records included parenting arrangements involving an abusive partner, family law protection orders, child-support violations, breaches of parenting agreements, child withholding and involvement with the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Children were primary considerations within women's safety planning. Parenting responsibilities, concerns about children's immediate safety, legal obligations and the possibility of retaliatory actions involving children shaped whether, when and how women could seek help or leave.

The findings demonstrate that specialized intimate partner violence response cannot separate women's safety from children's safety. Both must be assessed simultaneously, while avoiding the assumption that responsibility for protecting children rests solely with the survivor rather than with the abusive partner and the systems responding to the violence.

8 **COMPANION ANIMALS AS A DIMENSION OF COERCIVE CONTROL AND SAFETY**

Companion animals also emerged as an important dimension of survivor safety. In several cases, women's decisions about remaining, leaving, seeking emergency housing or returning home were shaped by concern for the safety and care of their animals. Abusive partners could exploit these relationships through threats, neglect, withholding or harm, using companion animals as a means of intimidation, retaliation and continued coercive control.

Specialized safety planning therefore extended beyond the individual survivor to account for the safety of children, companion animals, and others for whom she was responsible. This required workers to consider whether emergency accommodation could accept animals, whether temporary foster care or veterinary support was available, and how plans involving an animal could be carried out

without alerting the abusive partner or increasing risk.

The presence of companion animals further demonstrates why leaving cannot be understood as a single individual decision. Survivors' safety choices were relational and practical, shaped by responsibility for children, animals and other family members whose safety could also be threatened. Where services failed to accommodate these relationships, the available pathways to safety narrowed.

9 **SURVIVORS NAVIGATED MULTIPLE INSTITUTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY**

Survivors were often interacting with family courts, criminal courts, police, housing providers, health services, child-welfare systems and community organizations at the same time.

Police and justice-system concerns were identified in 35.9% of contacts. The records included police advocacy, court navigation, criminal proceedings, protection-order enforcement and instances in which survivors reported not being believed. Housing needs included fleeing violence, emergency accommodation, transition housing, homelessness risk, unsafe housing and eviction.

A woman could be seeking emergency housing while navigating family court, requesting enforcement of a protection order, managing trauma symptoms and responding to threats involving her children all concurrently.

Specialized response consequently extended well beyond emotional support and information-requiring systems navigation, advocacy, institutional translation, and coordination across otherwise fragmented service domains. Referral alone was frequently insufficient; survivors needed assistance in understanding and navigating systems whose processes could directly affect their safety.

10 FEAR WAS BOTH A LIVED REALITY AND A SOURCE OF RISK INFORMATION

Indicators of fear and perceived danger were identified in 415 contacts representing 56.5% of the records. These indicators included explicit expressions of fear, fear of retaliation, fear for children, hiding or fleeing, unsafe communication, inability to return home, stalking, surveillance, hypervigilance, and concern about escalating violence.

In specialized practice, fear is not treated solely as an emotional response that requires reassurance. It can also provide important information about danger. Survivors possess detailed knowledge of the abusive partner's behaviour, threats, patterns and capacity for retaliation.

Specialized assessment therefore considers what the survivor fears, why she fears it, what changes she has observed and how those concerns interact with other risk indicators. This approach recognizes survivor knowledge as essential to understanding evolving risk.

11 COMPLEXITY WAS THE ORDINARY CONDITION OF SPECIALIZED IPV WORK

Complexity is sometimes described as an exceptional feature of particularly difficult cases. The present findings suggest the opposite.

Multiple overlapping issues appeared throughout the dataset. Coercive control, escalating violence, family-law proceedings, child safety, housing instability, trauma, financial abuse, stalking, surveillance and institutional involvement were commonly interconnected.

Complexity was the ordinary context within which specialized intervention occurred.

This finding has important implications for implementation. Services designed primarily to provide brief information,

narrow referrals or single-issue interventions are unlikely to address the circumstances documented in the dataset. Specialized organizations require sufficient staffing, time, training, supervision, technological infrastructure and referral relationships to respond to overlapping and rapidly changing needs.

12 SPECIALIZED RESPONSE WAS AN ACTIVE SAFETY INTERVENTION RATHER THAN AN INFORMATION SERVICE

The clearest evidence of the nature of the specialized response is found in the safety and risk assessment data. Of the 734 specialized service contacts analyzed, 513 (69.9%) involved a documented safety and risk assessment with individualized safety planning.

These contacts required workers to evaluate immediate and ongoing danger, identify indicators of escalation and lethality, interpret relationships among multiple risk factors, and collaboratively develop an individualized response. Safety planning included strategies for safe communication, consideration of options for remaining safely or leaving, identification of emergency supports and coordination with legal, housing, health, police and community services where appropriate.

Specialized intimate partner violence response was therefore not primarily informational or referral-based. More than two-thirds of contacts required active intervention involving professional judgment, relational practice and individualized safety planning.

The intervention was survivor-centred but not passive. It respected survivor self-determination while actively assessing danger, identifying possible strategies and addressing the practical constraints within which decisions were being made. It did not presume that leaving was always immediately possible or that involving a particular institution would necessarily increase safety.

The defining features of specialization included the population served, the organization's capacity to recognize patterns, interpret dynamic risk, and translate that understanding into individualized safety interventions.

13 PUBLIC RECOGNITION CREATED OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPECIALIZED INTERVENTION

During the implementation period, BWSS received **881 inbound calls**, of which **734 specialized service contacts were coded and analyzed**, compared with **535** during the same period the previous year,, an increase of **199 contacts**, representing a **37.2% increase** in specialized service demand. Among contacts for which a referral pathway was known ($n = 220$), **community organizations** accounted for **29.5%** of referrals, followed by **public awareness** sources, including internet searches, brochures, safety cards, and digital tools, at **20.0%**. **Justice system** sources accounted for **18.2%**, while the **health system** accounted for **12.3%**. services.

These findings can be interpreted to suggest that the establishment of a public awareness campaign independently caused the increase in contacts, and that recognition and visible access pathways were an important part of implementation.

Public awareness can create opportunities for survivors and people around them to identify behaviours as abuse, reduce uncertainty about whether support is warranted and connect individuals with specialized services. Awareness therefore becomes most meaningful when it is linked to an organization capable of receiving disclosures and providing timely intervention.

The implementation translated awareness into a pathway to safety: recognition created the possibility of help-seeking, and specialized organizational readiness enabled intervention when survivors reached out.

14 SPECIALIZED SERVICE DATA GENERATED KNOWLEDGE UNAVAILABLE THROUGH INCIDENT-BASED SYSTEMS

Administrative datasets remain essential for measuring reported offences, police responses, health-system presentations, court outcomes and deaths. However, they provide limited information about the conditions under which survivors seek help, the interaction of multiple forms of abuse, the decisions survivors are attempting to make and the interventions required to support safety.

Specialized service records capture a different dimension of intimate partner violence. They document violence as it is lived across time and institutions. They make visible coercive control, cumulative risk, fear, constrained decision-making, post-separation abuse, parenting concerns, unsafe communication and the practical consequences of housing, financial and legal instability.

They also document the work required in response: professional judgment, dynamic risk assessment, trauma- and violence-informed engagement, individualized safety planning, systems advocacy and coordinated intervention.

Specialized service data therefore complement rather than duplicate incident-based administrative evidence. They provide practice-based knowledge about how intimate partner violence presents and evolves, how survivors attempt to access safety and what organizational capacities are required to respond.



WHAT SPECIALIZED INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE RESPONSE MADE POSSIBLE

THE FOLLOWING PAGES PROVIDE A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT IMPLEMENTATION MADE POSSIBLE: THE REACH OF PUBLIC AWARENESS, THE SCALE AND COMPLEXITY OF THE SPECIALIZED RESPONSE, AND THE ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY REQUIRED TO DELIVER IT.

TOGETHER, THESE OUTCOMES DEMONSTRATE HOW EVIDENCE, SPECIALIZATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION STRENGTHEN SAFETY FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS WHILE GENERATING NEW KNOWLEDGE TO INFORM FUTURE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC POLICY FOR SPECIALIZED INTIMATE PARTNER violence response.

FROM IMPLEMENTATION TO ACTION

PUBLIC AWARENESS

2 MILLION+

PUBLIC AWARENESS VIDEO VIEWS

10,000+

WEBSITE VISITS DURING THE CAMPAIGN

10,000+

SOCIAL MEDIA SHARES

1,200+

PUBLIC COMMENTS

250

SAFETY CARDS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS
FAN ZONES AND COMMUNITY
LOCATIONS

EVIDENCE BECAME RECOGNITION.

Recognition increased opportunities for survivors to seek specialized support.

The public awareness component of the FIFA World Cup 2026 response was funded in part by the City of Vancouver, enabling BWSS to develop and implement a targeted campaign focused on recognizing intimate partner violence and connecting survivors to specialized support.

IMPLEMENTATION IN NUMBERS

734

SPECIALIZED INTIMATE
PARTNER VIOLENCE
CODED SERVICE
CONTACTS

513

DOCUMENTED SAFETY
AND RISK ASSESSMENTS
WITH INDIVIDUALIZED
SAFETY PLANNING

474

SURVIVORS
EXPERIENCING
COERCIVE CONTROL
OR EMOTIONAL/
PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

369

SURVIVORS
EXPERIENCING HIGH-
RISK INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE

296

SURVIVORS REQUIRING
IMMEDIATE SAFETY
PLANNING

231

SURVIVORS
EXPERIENCING
ESCALATING VIOLENCE

212

SURVIVORS PREPARING
TO LEAVE AN ABUSIVE
PARTNER—ONE OF THE
HIGHEST-RISK PERIODS
FOR SERIOUS VIOLENCE
AND FEMICIDE

94

SURVIVORS DISCLOSING
STRANGULATION

85

SURVIVORS DISCLOSING
DEATH THREATS

320

CONTACTS INVOLVING
FAMILY LAW AND CHILD
SAFETY CONCERNS

291

SURVIVORS
EXPERIENCING POST-
SEPARATION ABUSE OR
STALKING

415

RECORDS CONTAINING
CLEAR EXPRESSIONS OR
INDICATORS OF FEAR

The operational capacity required to deliver the specialized FIFA World Cup response was supported through philanthropic investment in BWSS's specialized services.

Specialized intimate partner violence response is not created during an emergency. It is built through sustained investment in specialized organizations, skilled practitioners, and implementation capacity before the emergency begins.

SPECIALIZED RESPONSE CAPACITY

960 HOURS

SPECIALIZED FIFA WORLD
CUP RESPONSE

40 DAYS

CONTINUOUS SERVICE
(JUNE 10–JULY 20)

9

PEER SUPPORT WORKERS
PROVIDING SHIFT
COVERAGE

12 WEEKS

SPECIALIZED TRAINING
BEFORE DEPLOYMENT

2

CRISIS TEAM LEADS
PROVIDING FRONTLINE
LEADERSHIP AND SHIFT
COVERAGE

1

CRISIS LINE COORDINATOR
LEADING TRAINING

1

LEAD MANAGER
COORDINATING THE
SPECIALIZED FIFA WORLD
CUP RESPONSE

5

ON-CALL MANAGERS
PROVIDING SUPERVISION,
CONSULTATION AND
ESCALATION SUPPORT

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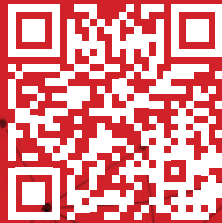
The public awareness component of the FIFA World Cup 2026 response was funded in part by the City of Vancouver, enabling BWSS to develop and implement a targeted campaign focused on recognizing intimate partner violence and connecting survivors to specialized support.



FROM EVIDENCE TO IMPLEMENTATION

A Practice-Based Implementation Framework for Specialized Intimate Partner Violence Response During the FIFA World Cup 2026

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