

Intimate Partner Task Force: 2025 Progress Report

March 2026

INTRODUCTION/OVERVIEW

The Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Reform Initiative was created in May 2022 by the Allegheny County Executive and City of Pittsburgh Mayor. Designed to coordinate policy and system-level work across agencies in Allegheny County, its purpose is to improve a complex and fragmented system for both survivors of IPV and those who use violence in relationships. In 2024, incoming County Executive Sara Innamorato reinforced the County's commitment to this initiative by including IPV services reform as an element of her "All in Allegheny Action Plan."

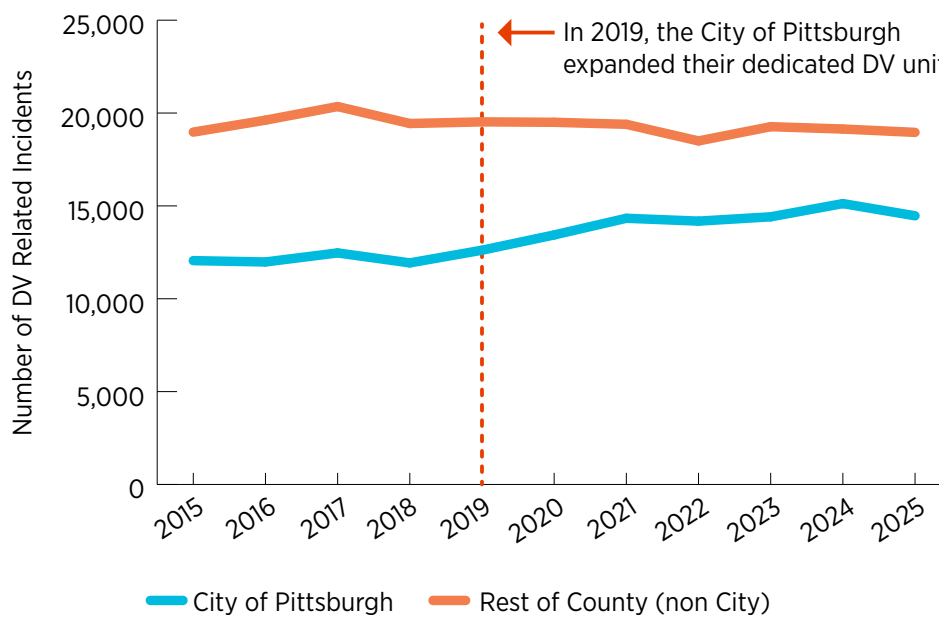
During the past year, stakeholders from local and federal criminal justice systems, victim service organizations, community groups, and the healthcare and human services systems have worked together to improve the ways in which people can access help, to streamline how systems work together and share information, and to improve strategies to prevent the most serious harm. Prior progress reports are available [here](#). This report outlines the progress made during 2025, as well as plans and priorities for continued reform efforts.

TRENDS IN IPV IN THE COUNTY

IPV is historically under-reported, making it challenging to examine trends objectively. Recent research suggests that increases in calls for service or other incident-level metrics may be a result of increases in trust and willingness to report rather than actual increases in incidents. Given this, we should look at multiple metrics to better understand the dynamics of IPV in the County.

In 2025, there were more than 33,000 unique incidents of IPV resulting in a call to 911. The number of calls per year has remained relatively constant for the last 10 years. However, we have seen a slight shift in where the incidents resulting in 911 calls occur. From 2016 through 2019, calls from both the City of Pittsburgh and rest of Allegheny County were consistent. However, from 2020 through 2025, calls from the City of Pittsburgh increased by 15% while calls from the rest of the County decreased by 3% (see **Figure 1**). This increase in calls from the City coincides with the creation, in 2019, of a dedicated Domestic Violence Unit within the City's Bureau of Police. The DV Unit was created through legislation passed by Pittsburgh City Council and included the new positions of a DV sergeant, a DV detective specialist and a civilian clerical specialist.

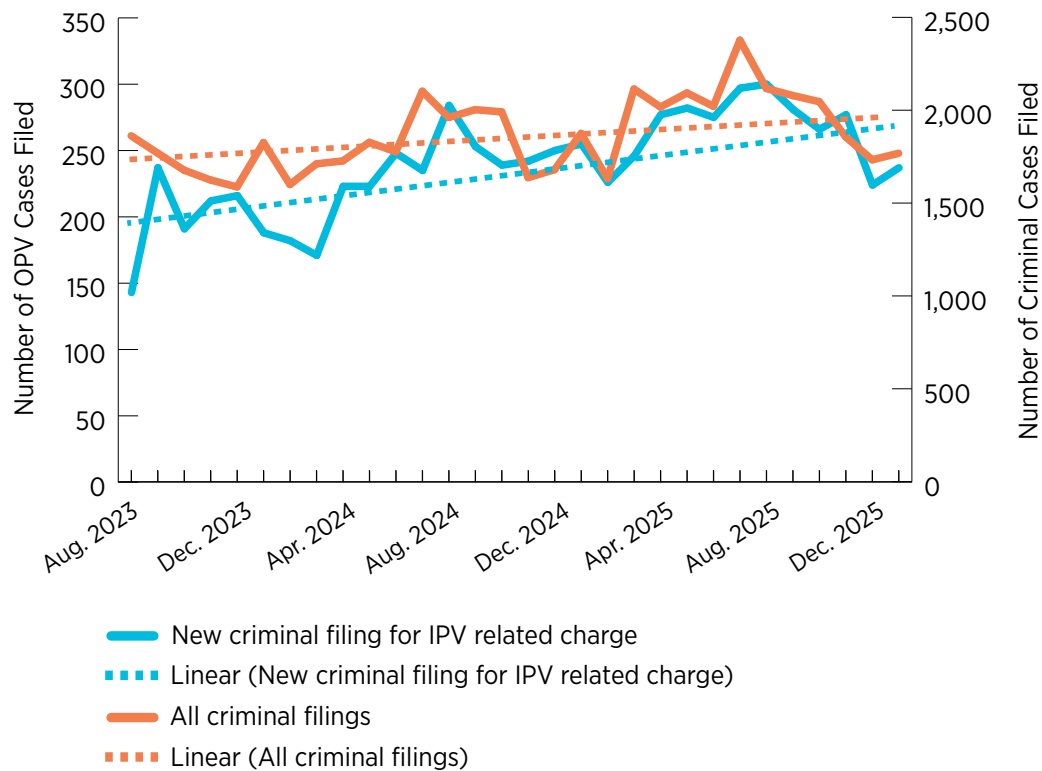
FIGURE 1: IPV-related calls to 911, 2015 through 2025, City of Pittsburgh & Allegheny County



Pennsylvania does not have an IPV/DV statute, making it challenging to track trends in new IPV/DV-related criminal filings. However, in May 2022, Allegheny County Pretrial Services began regularly tracking new IPV/DV-related criminal filings. Pretrial Services assesses roughly 90% of all new cases every year.

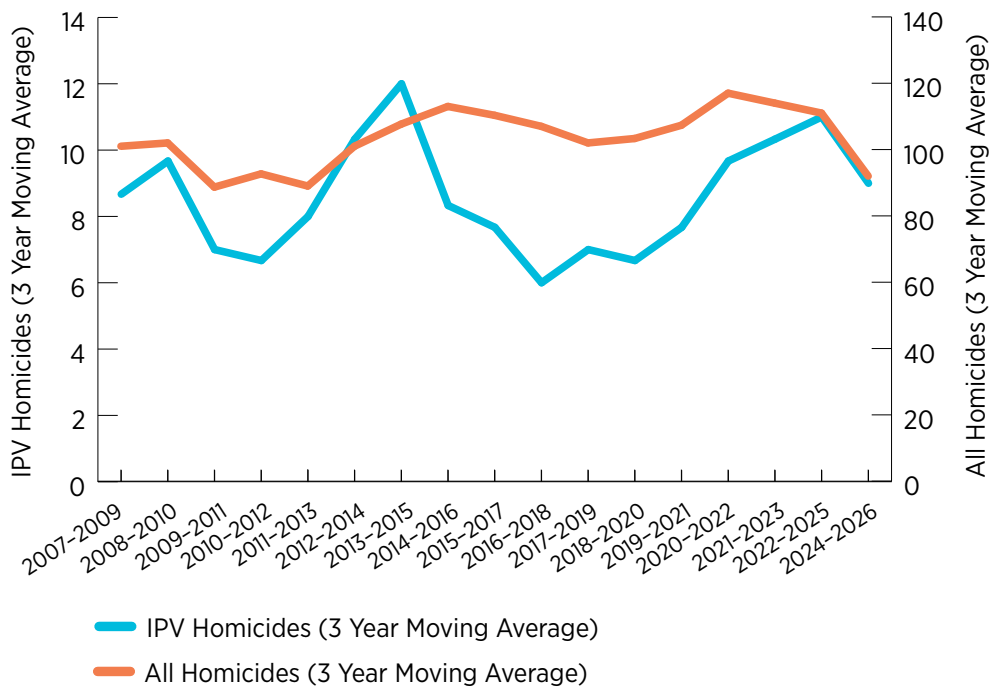
In August 2023, Pretrial Services began to separate DV incidents from IPV incidents. Though often used interchangeably, domestic violence refers to violence among people in a domestic situation and thus includes not only an intimate partner but also violence between siblings, parents or other family members. This change allows the task force to better understand intimate partner violence trends specifically. Since that time, new criminal filings for IPV-related charges have grown at more than double the rate of other new criminal filings. On average, IPV-related charges have shown a month-over-month increase of 23% compared to 10% for other new criminal filings (see **Figure 2**).

Figure 2: Trends in new criminal filings, August 2023 through January 2026



Homicides in Allegheny County decreased almost 40% between 2024 and 2025. This trend was mirrored by intimate partner homicides (IPH), which decreased more than half (from 11 to five) during the same time. However, when examining three-year moving averages (to account for low numbers of IPH each year), we observe a trend in IPH that is only moderately correlated to overall homicide trends (see **Figure 3**). This suggests the need for specific strategies to combat IPH that are separate and distinct from strategies to combat overall homicides.

FIGURE 3: Three-year moving averages in IPH and all Homicides, 2009 through 2025



PROGRESS IN 2025 AND PLANS FOR 2026

The overarching goal of the IPV reform initiative is to increase coordination and collaboration across systems to reduce violence in our community. To achieve this end, the IPV Task Force aims to 1) focus resources on those at highest risk/need, 2) improve access to supports for anyone who needs them, 3) ensure information is available (at the right time), 4) create sustainable training for all relevant stakeholders, and 5) be accountable to the public for what we do.

Focus resources on those at highest risk/need

In January 2024, the County began implementation of an IPV high risk team, aimed at pausing and interrupting violence by focusing resources and attention on the people using violence. In 2025, the National Network for Safe Communities released a [white paper](#) describing Allegheny County's innovations in IPV intervention and highlighting the adaptations used by the County. Allegheny County also participated in a national webinar describing the work being done to combat violence at the intersection of IPV and community violence.

In 2025, the IPV high risk team expanded in both partnerships and geographic coverage. This expansion was informed by the 2024 IPV homicide review conducted in 2025 (see **Appendix** for details). In winter 2025, the team started referring IPV high-risk cases to community violence interrupters (when a set of criteria was met that indicated possible community violence involvement), the County's child welfare office, and—if the case involved a pregnant or new parent—to a network of services (known as Hello Baby) designed to support high-need new parents. The team also began piloting the use of a resource specialist at preliminary hearings to provide standard messaging to people using violence and, when appropriate, to offer social service supports.

In summer 2025, the team piloted countywide expansion, with full implementation beginning in fall 2025. The team expanded to include non-City police departments and all four victim service agencies in the County. The arresting police department is invited to meetings where their cases are reviewed. Over the summer and early fall, the team worked to refine preparation, response and follow-up protocols for all partners.

Priorities for 2026: *In 2026, the team will continue to refine its intervention strategy by hosting messaging workshops to reinforce deterrence messages across systems and to build out a co-owned strategy to intervene with people engaged in IPV and community violence. The strategy includes coordination between the County's hospital-based intervention program (which responds to hospitals when someone is the victim of a gunshot wound), medical advocates who respond to hospitals when someone is the victim of IPV, and referrals to DHS's IPV specialist for any shootings where IPV is indicated.*

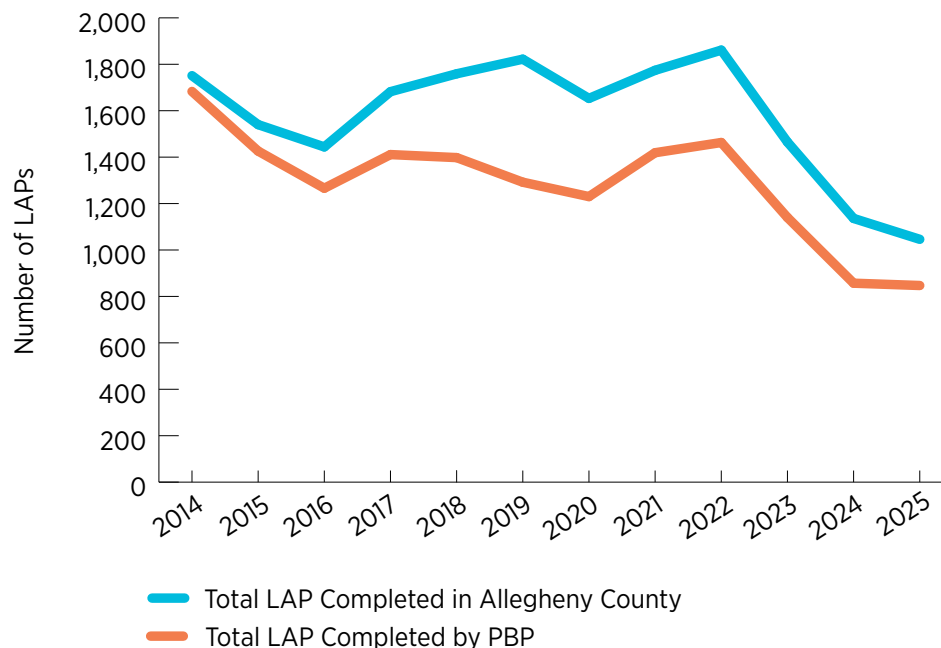
Improve access to supports for anyone who needs them

In 2025, DHS's IPV program manager worked to train, provide resources and improve the ability of workers to deliver universal empowerment messaging at key intercepts. This included training frontline staff working with families with young children (Early Learning Resource Center, family centers, Bedford Dwelling Care Team), teens and young adults (412 YouthZone, Youth Support Partners), and older adults (Area Agency on Aging). Trainings were tailored for each of these groups, creating IPV guides specific to the needs of frontline workers and the clients they serve.

In mid-2024, DHS began implementation of an Alternative Response Initiative, building upon the County's already-established continuum of services and programs to increase timely and appropriate responses to behavioral health crises. As warranted by the situation, Alternate Response teams respond to emergency calls and responses instead of police, at the same time as police, or after police have cleared the scene. In 2025, Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh and DHS worked with these teams (that serve 17 police departments) to make connections with local victim service agencies so they can refer IPV survivors in real-time or for ongoing supports.

The team continued to monitor the use of the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), an evidence-based program from Maryland. LAP includes police officers conducting a lethality assessment protocol and connecting those people at higher risk of lethality to victim services at the scene. At the end of 2024, the team created a dashboard that monitors usage of LAP by month and in 2025, began active use of this tool to monitor LAP. Since 2022, the use of LAP throughout the County has fallen by almost 40%, mostly due to police turnover (see **Figure 4**). Since the Pittsburgh Police Department accounts for an average of 82% of all lethality assessments in the County, this decrease is mostly driven by decreases in their utilization of LAP. However, we have also seen a decrease in lethality assessments completed at other (non-Pittsburgh) departments, from a high of 530 in 2019 to 279 in 2024. There also continue to be areas with high rates of 911 calls in which there is minimal or no adoption of LAP.

FIGURE 4: Trends in the Use of Lethality Assessment Protocol by Police Departments in Allegheny County, 2014 through 2025



Priorities for 2026: In 2026, the task force will create and implement a coordinated plan to improve adoption of LAP across the County, focusing on areas with the highest prevalence. This may include working with the Chiefs of Police Association and meeting with the new Pittsburgh Police Chief to reinforce the use of LAP. The team will also continue exploration of an integrated DV Court across criminal and family divisions, looking at ways to better share information.

Ensure information is available (at the right time)

Judges and justice system staff are uniquely positioned to address the problem of domestic violence. Court intervention can significantly impact victims and families, but to effectively intervene, DV-specific education for judges is critical. DV bench books are generally written and distributed to provide judges with an overview of DV law, to promote consistency and informed decision making. They can also provide judges with a comprehensive DV resource that includes information about local community resources. In 2025, the team worked to update outdated resources for judges to use.

Priorities for 2026: *The team will complete and publish the IPV handbook on Court Procedures, making it available and accessible online for all stakeholders.*

Create sustainable training for all relevant stakeholders

In 2025, the team conducted trainings for community violence interrupters, police officers and social service providers. The County has funded several programs to combat community violence, including Cure Violence—a public health approach to treat and disrupt the spread of violence, Becoming a Man—a school-based program for youth that using cognitive behavioral therapy and peer support, a supported employment program and a hospital-based intervention program (HVIP). These programs operate in communities that are most highly impacted by community violence. These are the same communities that are highly impacted by IPV. In the first quarter of 2025, DHS partnered with victim service organizations, visiting each to provide an overview of IPV and its dynamics, to have open discussion about the overlap of community violence and IPV, and to establish or strengthen relationships between these teams and the victim service organizations.

DHS has a team of resource coordinators who sit in courtrooms and help to connect people to needed resources. In the summer of 2025, these staff received IPV training and helped to develop protocols for how to deliver messaging to people identified by the IPV high risk team.

Priorities for 2026: *The courts will develop a sustainable training plan for specially trained DV probation officers, working with the team to implement the training.*

Be accountable to the public for what we're doing.

The County updated its [intimate partner homicide dashboard](#) to include 2025 numbers and the National Network on Safe Communities published [a white paper describing the work on IPV in the County](#).

In July 2025, stakeholders in Allegheny County conducted a review of 2024 intimate partner homicide incidents. In 2024, there were 10 IPV homicide incidents with 11 victims. Of these, two involved both a homicide and the suicide of the perpetrator. Because the 2023 homicide review focused on the incidents involving homicide and suicide, stakeholders focused on the eight incidents that did not meet that criteria. Since law enforcement partners, including prosecutors, are limited in what they can share about open cases, this review focused on community interventions and included participation by organizations working in child welfare, behavioral health, victim services, probation and community violence intervention. An analysis of 2024 data can be found in the **Appendix**.

Priorities for 2026: *The team will publish the Year 3 Progress Report, continue analyses of the overlap between community violence and IPV, and continue to examine data on the efficacy of the IPV high risk team.*

APPENDIX A**APPENDIX A: 2024 INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES DATA ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS****In 2024:**

- More men were homicide victims than in 2023 (45% compared to 32%) and people involved were younger (38% were 18 through 24 compared to 16% in previous years)
- 8 of the 10 incidents occurred outside the City of Pittsburgh
- All incidents involved firearms

Specific to the 8 cases reviewed (cases that did not include both a homicide and a suicide):

- Only 2 of the 8 incidents had PFA histories between parties; 2 had criminal filings (3 out of the 8 had one or the other)
- There is little evidence that police were being called for IPV-related incidents
- It's hard to know if there was a pattern of violence in some of these relationships
- Access to firearms:
- 5 of the 8 incidents involved a person under the age of 25
- 4 of 8 incidents involved individuals with shared children under the age of 5

Some initial next steps:

- The high-risk team is expanding to cover the entire County
- Hold an internal DHS meeting to discuss IPV and related strategies with child welfare
- Include new child welfare director on the task force
- Train community violence interrupters on IPV, connect them to victim services as a resource, and provide tools to help with safety planning

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX B: ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS OF THE IPV TASK FORCE

- Allegheny County Adult Probation
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Allegheny County Health Department
- Allegheny County Police
- Allegheny County Pretrial Services
- Allegheny County Sheriff
- Allegheny Health Network: Center for Inclusion Health
- Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center
- Center for Victims
- Crisis Center North
- Fifth Judicial District of PA (Criminal Division, Family Division, Court Administration)
- FISA Foundation
- Neighborhood Legal Services Association
- Office of the District Attorney
- Office of the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh
- Pittsburgh Police Department
- U.S. Attorney's office, Western District
- U.S. Federal Probation
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh
- University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC), Magee Women's Hospital
- Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh
- YWCA

APPENDIX C**APPENDIX C: MEMBERS OF THE IPV REFORM INITIATIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

The leadership team was convened by the Mayor of the City of Pittsburgh and the County Executive of Allegheny County. It includes leadership from:

- Alle-Kiski Hope Center
- Allegheny County Department of Human Services
- Allegheny County Health Department
- Allegheny County Office of the District Attorney
- Allegheny County Public Defender's Office
- Fifth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
- FISA Foundation
- Gwen's Girls
- Nina Baldwin Fisher Foundation
- Office of the United States Attorney, Western Division
- Pittsburgh Bureau of Police
- Urban League of Greater Pittsburgh
- Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (WC&S)
- YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh