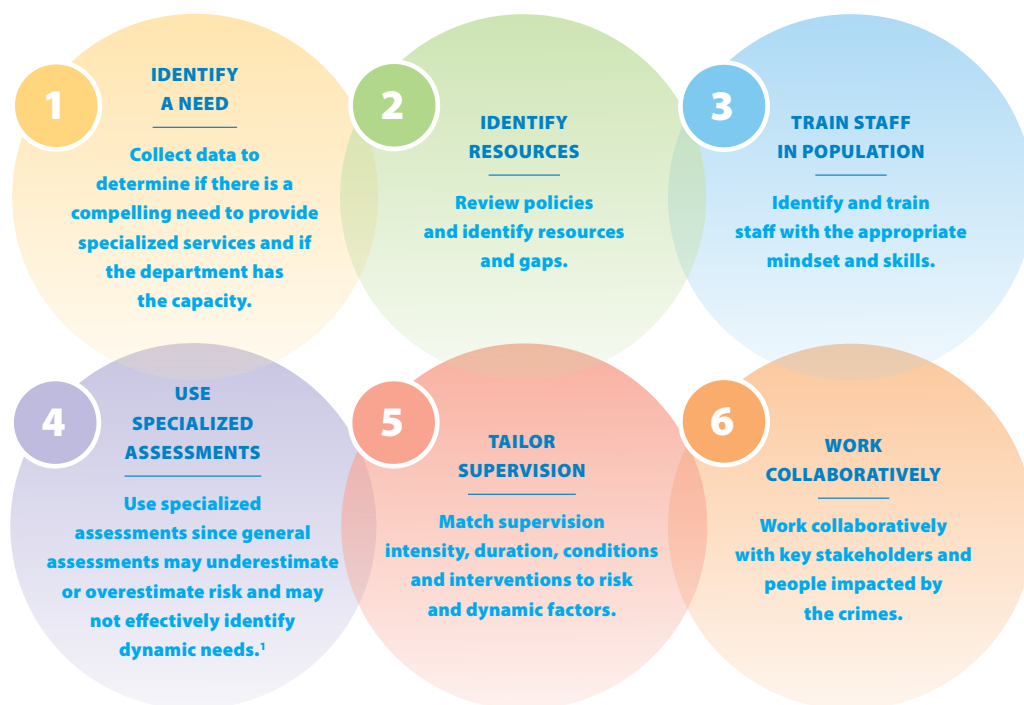


## Specialized Population Caseloads

Certain populations have specialized needs that require a more targeted approach. These populations include, but are not limited to, people who have committed specific offenses such as intimate partner violence and sexually related crimes. In order to be effective, interventions for special populations consider additional factors that affect adherence and outcomes. Matching staff, strategies, and tools can increase effectiveness and ultimately improve community safety.

### 6 Key Steps to Serving Special Populations

The following critical strategies should be used when working with any specialized population.



The next page offers examples of these key steps in practice when working with two specialized populations: intimate partner violence and sexual offense.

<sup>1</sup> Additional information can be found at Risk & Needs Assessment User Guide, Volume 2: Specialized Assessments, [https://ccappoap.com/\\_\\_static/1b2c3e85a27abdb8020b50d162e6c5af/ppcji-risk-assessments-user-guide\\_-1-16-23-\\_final.pdf?dl=1](https://ccappoap.com/__static/1b2c3e85a27abdb8020b50d162e6c5af/ppcji-risk-assessments-user-guide_-1-16-23-_final.pdf?dl=1).

## Key Steps in Practice

People who have engaged in intimate partner violence (IPV) or have been charged with a sexual offense are a very heterogeneous group and have different pathways, typologies, victim profiles, and dynamic needs. While some best practices, such as motivational interviewing and a behavioral change approach centered on risk-needs-responsivity, apply to both groups, tailored intervention is essential for each population to be successful.

### INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

- 1 IDENTIFY A NEED** It is estimated that 1 in 3 people have been subject to intimate partner violence (IPV). Over 100 people die annually in Pennsylvania from domestic violence incidents.
- 2 IDENTIFY RESOURCES** Referring people to programs that have incorporated the principles of effective interventions, such as cognitive behavioral interventions, and include motivation and readiness to change, trauma components, and address substance misuse have shown promising results.
- 3 TRAIN STAFF** Corrections professionals must be trained on how to work with survivors, the resources available to survivors and factors that impact utilization, and the Protection from Abuse process. Understanding how IPV patterns unfold within communities and how they may interact with other issues (such as child abuse, sexual assault, substance abuse, veterans' issues, human trafficking, etc.) is critical.
- 4 USE SPECIALIZED ASSESSMENTS** It is important to screen for propensity for violence, substance misuse, personality disorders, trauma history, and history of witnessing or experiencing abuse as a child.
- 5 TAILOR SUPERVISION** Conditions and supervision practices should have the safety of the survivor as a primary focus. Technology like GPS and bilateral monitoring can be beneficial.

### SEXUAL OFFENSES

- 1 IDENTIFY A NEED** Limited resources, high caseloads, public scrutiny, and the diversity of people labeled as "sex offenders," place a great deal of pressure on corrections professionals to manage this population effectively.
- 2 IDENTIFY RESOURCES** Referring people who committed sexual violence to specialized treatment that follows a model based on risk, need, and responsivity principles has been shown to be highly effective in reducing recidivism.
- 3 TRAIN STAFF** Correctional professionals must be trained to work collaboratively with treatment providers, victim advocates, polygraph examiners, and other partners. They need to be skilled in motivational interviewing and learn to talk with this population openly and without judgment about their law violation patterns and triggers. This can increase motivation and honesty in supervision and treatment.
- 4 USE SPECIALIZED ASSESSMENTS** In addition to standard risk and needs assessments, specialized assessments should be used to determine risk and to identify other dynamic risk factors that correlate with sexual reoffending (i.e., sexual preoccupation, deviant sexual interest, sex as coping, etc.).
- 5 TAILOR SUPERVISION** Conditions that are specific to the person's risk, dynamic needs, offense pathway, and victim profile should be developed.

For more information, see the following resources:

**Intimate Partner Violence among Justice-Involved Persons: Practice Guidelines for Probation Staff**  
<https://www.uscourts.gov/file/57131/download>

**Sex Offender Management Assessment and Planning Initiative** [https://smart.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh231/files/media/document/somapi\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://smart.ojp.gov/sites/g/files/xyckuh231/files/media/document/somapi_full_report.pdf)