

How does the Norwegian police work to prevent violence in intimate relationships?

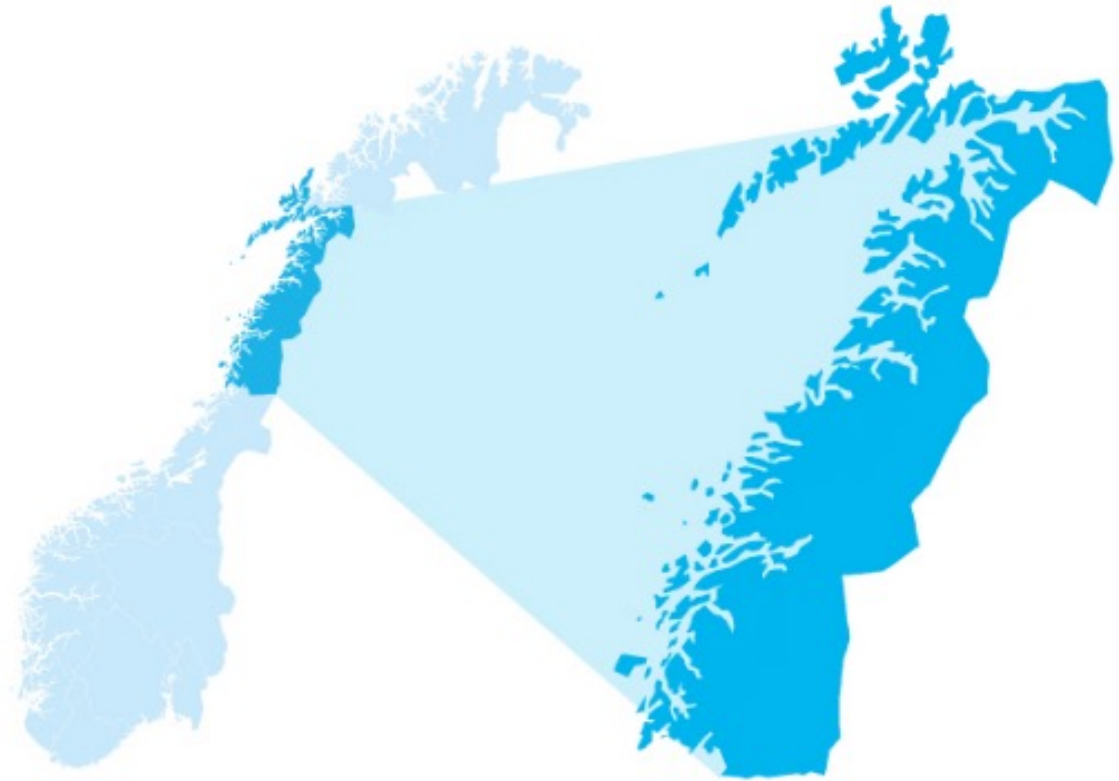
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Risk assessment and prevention of partner- and honor based violence

About Nordland Police District

- 37.200 sq. km
 - 11 hours to drive from north to south end
 - 25 % of the Norwegian coast line
- 41 municipalities
- About 240.000 inhabitants
- 740 employees (police officers and civilians)
- 10.500 reported cases pr. year
 - 400 domestic violence cases



Legislation and investigation of domestic violence

- Domestic violence is a societal problem, not a private matter!
- The police is obliged to report and investigate domestic violence
- Reform 2017 – the police is working to build robust professional environments in all districts
- Criticism: The Intimate Partner Homicide Committee report (NOU 2020:17):
 - About 25 % of all homicide are committed by intimate partner
 - Over 70 % of victims and perpetrators had been in contact with the police and/ or other support services earlier
 - Duty of professional confidentiality presents challenges
- Preventing crime and unwanted incidents is our main strategy
- Getting a conviction for domestic violence:
 - Challenging to gather evidence
 - Doesn't necessarily reduce risk of new violence

Risk assessment and prevention of violence

- SARA:SV (Spousal Assault Risk Assessment: Short Version (Kropp & Hart, 2015))
 - Intimate partners
 - Provides 15 risk factors to be mapped
 - Risk of intimate partner violence for the aggressor: Previous violence, threats, escalation, disregarding restraining orders, attitudes.
 - The aggressor's psycho-social situation: Crime in general, relational problems, work/ economy, substance abuse, mental issues.
 - The victim's vulnerability factors: Inconsistent behavior, extreme fear, lack of resources, vulnerable life situation/ safety, personal obstacles.
 - Helps pin-point optimal risk management strategies

Risk management strategies



- Coercive measures (investigators/ prosecutors/ court):
 - Apprehension, custody, restraining order, no contact order with or without electronic control (anklet), incarceration/ imprisonment, sentenced treatment, portable attack alarm, etc.
- Preventive measures (risk analyst):
 - Voluntary and adapted to the needs of each individual
 - Follow-up interview
 - Cooperation with other support systems
 - Confidentiality exemption
 - Health services, child welfare services , crisis centre, support centre for crime victims, ATV (alternative to violence), Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration, etc.





Questions?

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Thank you for your attention!