

Information Sharing to Tackle Violence

and the vital role all ED staff play in crime prevention

March 2025

Your hospital. Your community. The part YOU play.



What is #ISTV and why get involved?

Welcome to your first ISTV special newsletter – a must read for every A&E worker in the country. Whatever your role, you can play your part in helping to reduce violent crime in the communities in which we all live and work.

We will provide regular ISTV updates and share materials to help explain the initiative, and why it relies on you to ask quick questions of the patients you interact with. You most probably ask these already but we're trying to improve overall consistency and data recording.

Who are behind the push to embrace ISTV?

The Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) is running the campaign which is supported by the Home Office. RCEM members often receive information on this but we are upping the ante to create broader awareness, working with stakeholders to reach a wider audience.

Dr Adrian Boyle, President RCEM is firmly behind the campaign, and was recently quoted in a story about a rise in hospital admissions of young victims of knife crime.

"At RCEM we recognise the devastating consequences of violence including knife crime on individuals and

communities, and the emotional toll of responding to these events on medics and other emergency services. We also know that most victims of violence that we see in emergency departments are unknown to the police.

"This is why we are taking part in an ongoing collaborative project with the UK Home Office to reduce serious violence, particularly knife and gang related assaults through information sharing.

"Called Information Sharing to Tackle Violence – (ISTV), the scheme supports clerical and healthcare workers to share information disclosed by patients anonymously, such as location and time of incident and involvement of drugs or alcohol – with community safety teams. This process can expose information unknown to the police and lead to preventative action including alcohol licensing, police patrols and CCTV placement. As hospital staff we are so often involved in the devastating aftermath of violence, this scheme allows us to be part of preventing it."

[Read the full article here.](#)

WHAT IS ISTV? WHY IS IT SO IMPORTANT? HOW CAN YOU HELP?

For those that don't know ISTV is also known as the Cardiff Model, which is where it originated - it is now a national initiative with the overall aim to reduce violent crime, ultimately save lives and alleviate pressure on emergency departments.

It is a partnership initiative, involving the police, community safety teams, local authorities and you (if you're reading this and you work in A&E).

At least 50% of UK violence which results in emergency hospital admission is not known to police. This is where you come in. It involves asking questions on where attacks happened, such as a nightclub, town centre, at home etc. Date and time of the attack. Type of weapon(s) used, if relevant, and whether any drugs or alcohol were involved.

When asked and logged consistently, this information can be shared anonymously with community partnership teams. Used in practice it has enabled those involved to identify hotspots for violent crime and led to interventions being put place to deter it.

Sometimes cutting back on shrubbery or installing CCTV can make all the difference.

We understand why victims of crime may not want to report what's happened so you can fill that void and make a real difference.

Here's an example of the impact of ISTV: In 2010 there were almost 300,000 violence related attendances. Following the introduction of ISTV, there were 147,000 violence related attendances England and Wales in 2022. So, almost half - whilst the position is still not good, with partnership type approaches we can do better.

So, we need you and we need you to help share why ISTV matters.



ISTV ROADSHOW BIRMINGHAM - CARDIFF - YORK

So far we've hosted regional events in Birmingham, Cardiff and York. These are free to attend and specifically for clinicians, clerical staff and other healthcare workers who work in emergency departments – the people who we rely on to make ISTV work in practice.

Leading clinicians, government officials and violence reduction units explain what ISTV is, what's involved and why it's so important.

Here's what one of the delegates had to say following the Birmingham event:

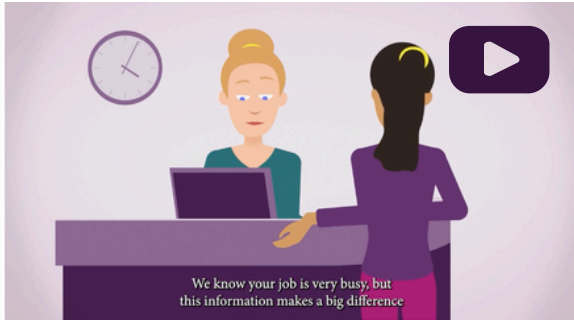
"The talks presented at this event this morning were inspiring. They balanced data presentation with real life results from the view point of clinicians and the community. I've come away feeling like single patient interactions can make a valuable difference to society in a way that I can easily implement in my department."

LONDON

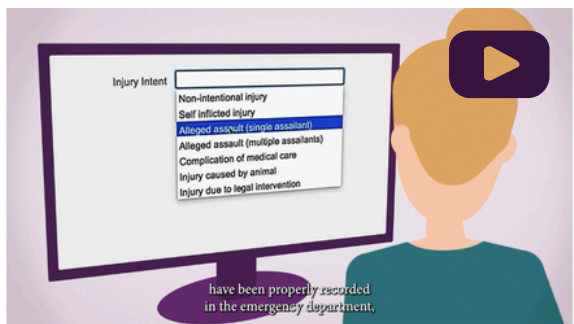
We have one more event in the diary for London on Tuesday 11 March - you can join us for this free event by [registering via RCEM's website](#).

[Read more](#)

THESE SHORT FILMS HELP EXPLAIN ISTV,
RELEVANT TO YOUR ROLE IN THE ED



FOR CLERICAL STAFF



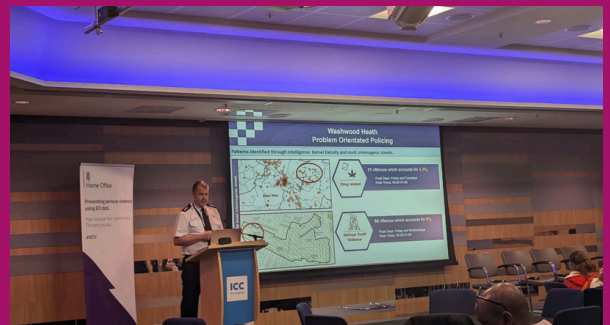
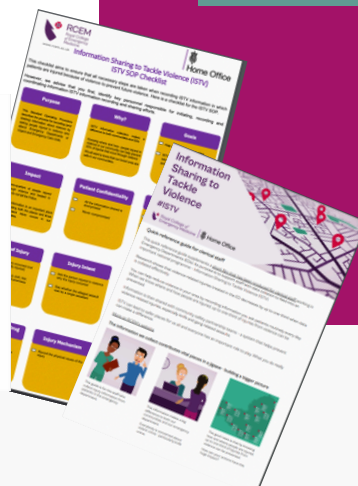
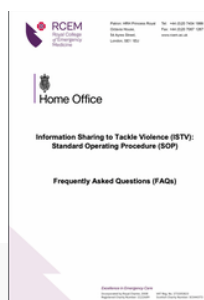
FOR CLINICAL STAFF



FOR ALL HEALTHCARE WORKERS

There is a range of materials available on [RCEM's website](#) to support these informative short films, including:

- [ISTV Standard Operating Procedure](#)
- [ISTV Standard Operating Procedure FAQs](#)
- [ISTV Standard Operating Procedure Factsheet](#)
- [ISTV Standard Operating Procedure Checklist](#)
- [ISTV Clerical Staff Guide](#)
- [ISTV Clinical Staff Guide](#)
- [ISTV All Healthcare Staff Guide](#)

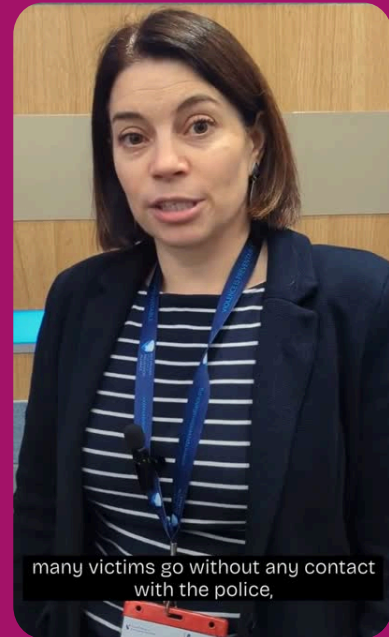


[Read more](#)

UK GOVERNMENT IS FULLY BEHIND ISTV AND WORKING TO REDUCE VIOLENT CRIME

Policing Minister Dame Diana Johnson visited Barts Health NHS Trust in London on 11 February 2025 to see Violence Reduction Unit funded youth work on the trauma ward. The Minister met with London Mayor Sadiq Khan and Martin Griffiths, lead surgeon at the Trust, and Clinical Director for Violence Reduction in London.

Mr Griffiths leads a team of specialists who bring people across London together to better understand why violence happens and to take action to prevent it. ISTV was part of the conversation and we are grateful for the support of violence reduction units in helping to shape and share our messaging.



many victims go without any contact with the police,

Katie Wright, Emergency Physician and
Clinical Lead for
West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit

Over the coming months we will be sharing a range of materials to reinforce the value and impact of ISTV. We ask that you share the materials with your colleagues as the more people that know about this the better for all.

Your hospital. Your community. The part you play.

We hope you have found this first edition useful and ask that you share it with your colleagues.

Be an ISTV ambassador!

You can get in touch by emailing
communications@rcem.ac.uk

[Read more](#)