



IDVAAC
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Institute on Domestic Violence In
The African American Community

**SAFE
RETURN**

Safe Return Initiative



Each year, more than 650,000 prisoners nationwide are released from state and federal correctional institutions. These individuals face myriad challenges post-release, including finding housing, maintaining employment, complying with parole stipulations, and completing treatment programs for various issues. While such issues are essential to ex-offenders' successful reentry, one concern remains largely unaddressed among this population: the potential for domestic violence and the safety of the intimate partners and families to whom they will return.

We know that African American men are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. In addition, studies show that the incidence of intimate partner violence is particularly troublesome in the

African American community, with some sources showing rates for intimate partner homicides among African Americans as 2.5 times higher than rates for Whites.

Established by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, the Safe Return Initiative (SRI) was originated to provide technical assistance to grantees of the federal Serious and Violent Offender Reentry Initiative. An initiative of the Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community (IDVAAC), SRI's efforts are intended to address the intersection of prisoner reentry and domestic violence in the African American community, with an emphasis on examining, developing, and communicating culturally competent approaches to prevention and intervention among this population.



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Through SRI, IDVAAC has initiated a number of events, such as roundtables, Webcasts, trainings, and conferences, and has generated several products, including reports and award-winning DVDs.

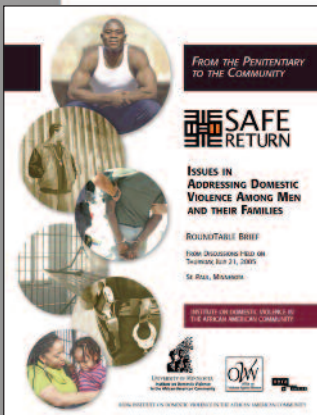
The resources and findings that have emanated from SRI are

useful for domestic violence advocates, parole and prison professionals, policymakers, researchers, and other stakeholders whose work connect with ex-offenders and battered women in the African American community.



Current efforts focus on examining the challenges faced by battered women whose partners are incarcerated or are on community supervision; the role of parole officers in facilitating batterer accountability and safety for battered women whose partners are on their caseload; effective strategies for building bridges between battered women’s advocates and prison and parole programs; and engaging the community in developing coordinated, community-specific approaches to reduce criminal recidivism due to domestic violence and to support battered women and their families within the context of reentry.

For more information on the SRI, visit www.idvaac.org and click on “Current Initiatives” on the left menu bar.



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