

CIFellows 2020-2021

Computing Innovation Fellows

Scaling Clinical Computer Security for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Lana Ramjit

Cornell Tech

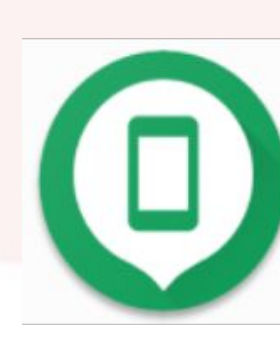
What is Intimate Partner Violence?

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is physical, verbal, fiscal or other abuse by a current or former partner, family member, or caretaker. Per the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence:

- **1 in 4** women and **1 in 6** men experience IPV in their lifetime
- **1 in 7** and **1 in 18** men experience stalking in their lifetime

Technology Abuse in IPV

Abusers use digital means to surveil, harass, and intimidate their target, such as:

 **Tracking someone's location** via their phone, apps, or trackers

Monitoring **private email and texts** 

 Stalking/harassing on **social media**

Accessing **online banking accounts** 

 Installing **recording devices/spyware**

Challenges of Scale

How do we disseminate **best practices** for **safe, ethical** computer security clinics?

- widespread need but also **high stakes**
- many potential **service delivery models**
- requires **multidisciplinary** expertise across **advocacy, HCI, security**

The Clinic To End Tech Abuse

CETA is a **computer security clinic** at Cornell Tech. We partner with the NYC Mayor's Office to offer free tech consultations for IPV survivors.

- received over **400 referrals** since 2016
- staffs **~30** specially trained tech advocates
- research-based^{1 2} framework for **best practices**

¹ E. Tseng, M. Sabet, R. Bellini, H. K. Sodhi, T. Ristenpart, and N. Dell. *Care Infrastructures for Digital Security in Intimate Partner Violence*. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2022.

² S. Havron, D. Freed, R. Chatterjee, D. McCoy, N. Dell, and T. Ristenpart. *Clinical Computer Security for Victims of Intimate Partner Violence*. USENIX Security Symposium (Security 2019).

CETA 
CLINIC TO END TECH ABUSE

NYC Mayor's Office to
End Domestic and
Gender-Based Violence

A Clinical Computer Security Toolkit

One of our current projects is creating a toolkit that:

- **systematically** analyzes and documents **the core components** of a computer security clinic
- provides a **taxonomy of service models** along with **qualitative + quantitative evaluation**
- grounds practice in frameworks of **trauma-informed care** and **advocacy**
- furnishes necessary **tools, resources, and software**

