10 THINGS TO KNOW

1. These crimes affect all members of our communities and are chronically underreported.

2. Offenders must be held accountable for their crimes.

3. These crimes disproportionately impact women, LGBTQ+ communities, and racial and ethnic minorities. There are also unique considerations for male victims.

4. Police have an opportunity to apply proven approaches that address these complex crimes and comprehensively support victims.

5. Establishing core values that reinforce the importance of addressing these crimes and supporting victims are critical to a comprehensive response.

6. Clear policy, ongoing training, and adequate resources are essential to enhancing the law enforcement response.

7. Victims must be supported and included in the criminal justice process on their own terms and their rights must be honored.

8. Deliberate, active partnerships with outside organizations and groups enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of police.

9. Performance monitoring and accountability are vital elements in a comprehensive, data-driven approach to active leadership and organizational and cultural change.

10. Leadership, in word and action, is fundamental to enhancing the law enforcement response.

This document was produced by IACP under 2019-V3-GX-K142 awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the official position or policies of the Department of Justice.