



WHAT IS THE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - THE MARYLAND MODEL?

The **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** is an easy and effective method that identifies victims of domestic violence who are at risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partners* and immediately connects them to the domestic violence service provider in their area.

*Such as current or former spouses, dating partners, or people with children in common.

The LAP is not appropriate for use with children, abusers, or non-intimate partners.

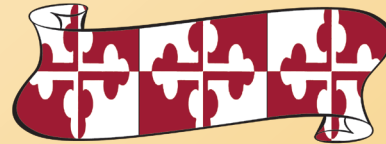
TESTIMONIALS

"Big relationship building [between advocates and police officers] went on at the training!"

–Meg Kuhner, Battered Women's Services and Shelter in Vermont

"Having followed Dr. Campbell's research for some time, it is really gratifying to see how effectively it has been put into practice in Maryland. It is clearly saving lives, while empowering law enforcement and service providers in the process."

*–Victoria B. Titterington, MSW, Ph.D.
Sam Houston State University*



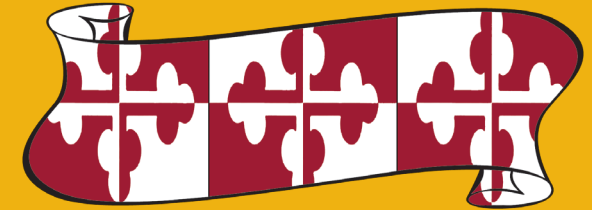
*The Lethality Assessment
Program can save lives.*

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE
PROGRAM AND TO OBTAIN TRAINING
INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



THE MARYLAND MODEL



CAN SAVE LIVES!



WHAT IS THE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM AND HOW DOES IT WORK?

The **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** is an easy-to-use process that features an **11-question lethality screening tool** and an accompanying **response and referral protocol**.

- ❖ The **LAP** is used by **law enforcement officers** and other **field practitioners** to identify high risk domestic violence victims.
- ❖ If a victim screens in at **high risk** of being seriously injured or killed, a phone call is **immediately** made to the local 24-hour domestic violence hotline. The victim is encouraged to speak on the phone.
- ❖ Hotline workers use **LAP** guidelines to **encourage** victims to go in for services.
- ❖ Victims identified at high risk may receive **follow-up** visits or telephone calls.

ASSESS AND CONNECT

ASSESS

- 1 Screen victims for high risk

CONNECT

- 2 Connect victims by telephone to the hotline
- 3 Hotline counselor speaks to the victim
- 4 Follow up by telephone calls or visits

WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THE LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM?

The goal of the **LAP** is to **prevent domestic violence homicides, serious injury, and re-assault** by encouraging more victims to use the shelter, counseling, advocacy, and support services of domestic violence programs.

Studies have proven that the support services of domestic violence programs can **save lives** and **reduce re-assaults**, yet programs continue to be under-utilized.

- ❖ There is a 60% reduction in risk of severe assault when victims utilize domestic violence shelter services.
Jacquelyn Campbell, 1995
- ❖ Abused women who used domestic violence services were almost never the victim of murder or attempted murder.
Jacquelyn Campbell, 2004
- ❖ Only 4% of victims of actual or attempted intimate partner homicide utilized domestic violence programs.
Jacquelyn Campbell, 2004
- ❖ 33% of domestic violence victims identified in Maryland by the **LAP** as high risk went in for services.
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, LAP Statistical Report, 2006-2011

DOES THE LAP HAVE OTHER BENEFITS? YES!

- ❖ It is an **educational tool** for victims and screeners to understand and recognize the potential for danger.
- ❖ It **empowers victims** to take positive action to protect themselves.
- ❖ It provides **safety planning, information and resources**.

The LAP links high risk victims unlikely to seek services to local domestic violence programs.

The LAP enables high risk victims to receive critical safety planning help.

HOW IS THE LAP DIFFERENT FROM OTHER LETHALITY ASSESSMENT METHODS?

- ❖ It is the only **program** of its kind in the nation that makes use of an evidenced-based screening tool *and* an accompanying response and referral protocol.
- ❖ It improves **collaboration and services** provided by field practitioners and domestic violence programs.
- ❖ It was recognized by Harvard University's Ash Institute as one of the "**Top 50**" **Innovations in American Government** programs in 2008 and received the **2010 Celebrating Solutions** award from the Mary Byron Project.