

# Lethality Assessment Program—Maryland Model

### **Background of MNADV**

The Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) was awarded a Violence Against Women grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention in October 2003 to design a lethality assessment program to predict and prevent intimate partner homicide in Maryland. MNADV aimed to translate clinical research on lethality predictors into practical tools that would help first responders respond more effectively to dangerous and potentially lethal incidents of domestic violence.

### **A Coordinated Effort: Establishment of the Lethality Assessment Committee**

In an effort to engage multi-disciplinary stakeholders in the creation of this program, MNADV established a Lethality Assessment Committee, comprised of representatives from law enforcement, the criminal justice system, domestic violence advocacy programs, and academia. Notably, several leading researchers in the field of intimate partner fatality—including Drs. Jacquelyn C. Campbell and Daniel Webster of Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Cara Krulewitch of the University of Maryland—were instrumental in these discussions.

After two years of development, field testing, and evaluation, the Lethality Assessment Program—Maryland Model (LAP) was implemented on October 1, 2005, in various jurisdictions across Maryland. Presently, all law enforcement agencies use the LAP when responding to domestic violence calls. MNADV has also started incorporating the LAP model in different settings, including hospitals and cabinet-level departments (i.e. Departments of Human Resources, Juvenile Services, and Public Safety & Correctional Services).

### **Why the Lethality Assessment Program—Maryland Model works**

The LAP is a multi-pronged intervention program that consists of an evidence-based tool called the Lethality Screen that helps field practitioners more clearly assess a victim's risk of intimate partner homicide, and an accompanying referral process that proactively connects victims to community-based domestic violence services.

The Screen is adapted from Dr. Campbell's Danger Assessment, a screening instrument used by clinicians and counselors to assess a victim's risk of being killed by an intimate partner (Campbell, 1986).

## Lethality Assessment Committee 2003-2005

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