



LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - MARYLAND MODEL (LAP)

Training & Implementation Overview



CONTACT

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Homicide Prevention Program
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LEARN MORE & APPLY

www.endabusewi.org/homicideprevention

ABOUT THE LAP

The LAP is an evidence-based domestic violence homicide prevention strategy. It involves two components: law enforcement's use of an 11-question research-based lethality assessment tool while on the scene of intimate partner-related calls for service to identify victims at the greatest risk of homicide, and providing an immediate referral via telephone to a trained domestic violence advocate. The LAP was developed by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and is largely based on research led by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell.

WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED

RESEARCH & RESULTS - LOCALLY & NATIONALLY

- Research shows that in the year prior to being killed or nearly killed by an abusive partner, 33% of victims had contacted the police, but only 4% had ever utilized a domestic violence hotline or shelter.* This illustrates a missed opportunity to capitalize on that initial contact with law enforcement.
- The LAP reinforces the gut feelings officers and advocates already have about the most dangerous cases, and can help save not only victims' lives, but also responding officers and others that may come into contact with potentially homicidal abusers. It also enables victims to see their partner and their situation in a new light and alert them to signs of future danger.
- The program has already experienced success in Wisconsin, where over 180 law enforcement agencies are implementing the program. Victims that have never accessed domestic violence advocacy services before are now doing so, thanks to the LAP. In one month in the city of Beloit, of the 25 victims that were assessed at high danger and spoke with a hotline advocate, 60% had never previously accessed services from their local domestic violence program.
- In Maryland, after statewide implementation of the LAP in 2005, the state experienced a 32% decrease in the domestic violence homicide rate. While not completely attributable to participation in the LAP, it certainly influenced the decline.
- The Wisconsin Department of Justice recognizes the importance of the LAP and encourages all Wisconsin law enforcement jurisdictions to utilize this live-saving program.

*Sharps, P. W., et al. (2001). Health care providers' missed opportunities for preventing femicide. *Preventive Medicine* 33, 373-80.

Roehl, J., O'Sullivan, C., Webster, D., & Campbell, J. (2005). Intimate partner violence risk assessment validation study, final report ("RAVE Report"). U.S. Department of Justice.



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IT'S FREE TO RECEIVE TRAINING AND EASY TO IMPLEMENT!

1 SUBMIT APPLICATION

To implement the LAP-Maryland Model in Wisconsin, communities must first fill out an application and receive training on the tool and accompanying referral protocol. Law Enforcement Agencies and Domestic Violence Programs must apply as a team.

2 DECIDE LAP-RELATED POLICIES & PROCEDURES

Applicant agencies meet with End Abuse and their fellow applicant agency(ies) to discuss LAP-specific policies and procedures. Agencies are asked to record these decisions on a policy decisions worksheet that is provided to them, and communicate these decisions to their partner agencies prior to receiving training or implementing the LAP.

3 RECEIVE TRAINING

A train-the-trainer session will be coordinated by End Abuse and involve trainers from Wisconsin LAP-implementing agencies. The train-the-trainer session is approximately six hours in length if in person, three hours if over Zoom. Afterwards, the training participants will have the knowledge and tools to train the rest of their agency or department's staff in the LAP protocol. In-service training typically lasts anywhere from 45 to 75 minutes. Expanding the LAP to more law enforcement jurisdictions when the partner DV program is already using the LAP does not necessitate a new train-the-trainer session, but all agencies and officers must receive the shorter LAP in-service training prior to implementing.

4 IMPLEMENT & COLLECT DATA

Ideally, all agencies that participate in a LAP train-the-trainer session would implement the protocol within four months of receiving training. Additionally, as an evidence-based tool, agencies are asked to collect and submit basic data related to their implementation so that they, as well as End Abuse, can track and monitor the impact of the program over time. Aggregate data is to be collected and submitted to End Abuse via a web-based database each quarter. Training on this data system is provided.