

LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (LAP)



The Shelter for Help in Emergency joined forces with local law enforcement in 2016 to introduce the Lethality Assessment Program, a **homicide prevention initiative**, to Planning District Ten in effort to reduce domestic/intimate partner violence homicides and serious injuries to victims of domestic violence. Participating law enforcement agencies use an eleven question evidence-based tool to assess the level of danger a victim is in and places a call to the Shelter for Help in Emergency's 24-hour crisis hotline, linking the victim with a trained advocate ready to provide safety and support services.

203 LAP SCREENS GIVEN BY POLICE OFFICERS ON SCENE

62% (126) victims were deemed high-risk based on their LAP screen

LAP Screens Conducted by Locality

Albemarle County Police Department: 82
Charlottesville Police Department: 80

Fluvanna County Sheriff's Office: 36
University of Virginia Police Department: 5

High-Risk Factors

- 55% of victims (111) reported a history of **strangulation** by the offender.
- 41% of victims (83) reported a history of **stalking** by the offender.
- 30% of victims (60) reported their abuser had **access to a gun** or could obtain one easily.

Reported by Victims to Law Enforcement While at the Scene:

*"He just got out of prison. If he's going back he's going to **'make sure it's worth it'**."*

*"**Worried about the dogs**. He has been violent towards them before."*

*"He told her that he's been **having a dream where he beat her**."*

*"He has threatened to have people come to the residence and **assault her**."*

Since 1979, the **Shelter for Help in Emergency** has worked to support and empower victims of domestic/intimate partner violence through a combination of trauma-informed residential and community-based outreach services, including a 24-hour hotline, emergency shelter, safety planning, information and referral, resource assistance, legal advocacy and court accompaniment, supportive counseling, outreach to the Spanish-speaking community, and programs for children and youth.



86 victims spoke with a hotline advocate while law enforcement were on scene.



30 victims received additional services following speaking with the hotline advocate.



26 victims received services from the Shelter for Help in Emergency for the first time.

Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence

is a pattern of physically, sexually, and/or emotionally abusive behaviors used by one individual to maintain power over or to control a partner in the context of an intimate or family relationship. It can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender and occurs in both same-sex and opposite sex relationships.