



**WOODS CROSS CITY  
POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
EXCELLENCE THROUGH LEADERSHIP, PRIDE AND DEDICATION



**Safe Harbor**

**LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

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### What is the LAP?

- ▶ 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 partner **and**,
- ▶ Immediately connects them to the domestic violence service provider in their area.

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### Program Background

- ▶ This project is supported and funded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice.
- ▶ Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV) developed lethality assessment **instrument and protocol** between 2003-2005.
- ▶ Implemented in 2005 and is currently being utilized in 30 states.




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### Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN

- ▶ Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing.
- ▶ Director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation–Nurse Faculty Scholars program.
- ▶ In 1980, began violence against women research and advocacy policy work.
- ▶ Published more than 220 articles and 7 books.
- ▶ Principal Investigator on 10 major NIH, NJ and CDC research grants.
- ▶ Co-Chaired the Steering Committee for the WHO Multi-country Study on Violence Against Women and Women's Health.
- ▶ Board of Directors of the Family Violence Prevention Fund.
- ▶ American Society of Criminology Vollmer Award.
- ▶ Member of the US Department of Defense Task Force on Domestic Violence




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### Research -

- ▶ In a 12-city study, 50% of women who were killed or almost killed did not perceive their intimate partners to be highly dangerous or tended to underestimate their level of danger. (Campbell, Webster, et al., 2003).
- ▶ The majority (67%–80%) of intimate partner homicides involves physical abuse of the female by the male before the murder, no matter which partner is killed. (Campbell, Webster, et al., 2003).
- ▶ In 50% of domestic violence-related homicides, officers had previously responded to a call on the scene. (Campbell, Journal of Preventive Medicine, 2001).
- ▶ On average, more than three women are murdered by their husbands or boyfriends in this country every day. In 2000, 1,247 women and 440 men were killed by an intimate partner. (Intimate Partner Violence, 1993–2001, Bureau of Justice Statistics Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of Justice, February 2003).

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### Research (cont.)

- ▶ Abused women who took advantage of community-based domestic violence program services were almost never the victim of murder or attempted murder (Campbell, 2004).
- ▶ There is a 60% reduction in risk of severe assault when victims utilize the services of a domestic violence advocacy program (9th International Family Violence Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH, July 2005).
- ▶ Only 4% of victims of actual or attempted intimate partner homicide utilized the services of domestic violence programs (Campbell, 2004).

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### How to Conduct a Lethality Assessment

- ▶ Use *Lethality Screen for First Responders*.
- ▶ After asking questions, handle information as follows:
  - ▶ -Yes to Q.1, 2, or 3 = Protocol Referral
  - ▶ -No to Q.1-3, but Yes to four of Q.4-11 = Protocol Referral
  - ▶ "No" responses may still trigger Protocol Referral if first responder believes it appropriate. Ask unnumbered question to help determine whether protocol referral should be triggered.

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### Not Screened in or Did/Could Not Participate in Assessment

- ▶ Advise of dangerous situation.
- ▶ Advise to watch for signs of danger.
- ▶ Refer to provider.
- ▶ Provide first responder contact information.
- ▶ Prepare report.

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### What is the goal of the LAP?

- ▶ 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.

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### Impact of LAP on victims

- ▶ "Lethality assessments may provide a touchstone for victims themselves as they seek to strategize about their futures and those of their children. Risk assessment scores may provide another and very different lens through which to see themselves, their batterers, and their overall predicaments."

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### LAP Impact

Maryland has seen a

**41% reduction**

in intimate partner homicides in the last three years.

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To learn more about the program and to obtain training information, contact:

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Utah LAP Coordinator  
Woods Cross Police Department  
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