

# Introduction to Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Models

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending across the width of the slide, positioned below the title.

“The majority of victims or perpetrators (up to **83%**) or both had contact with criminal justice, victim assistance, and/or health care agencies in the year prior to the homicide..... This indicates opportunities for prevention by identification of women at risk and appropriate intervention.”



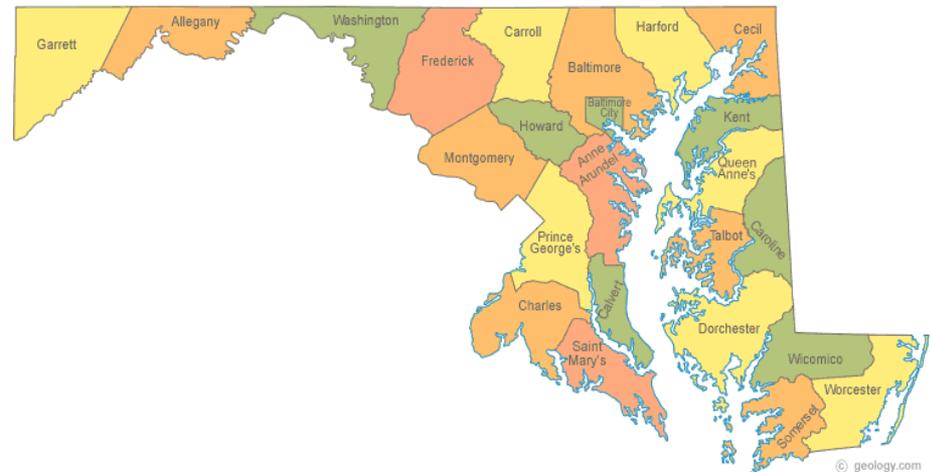


# Lethality Assessment Program

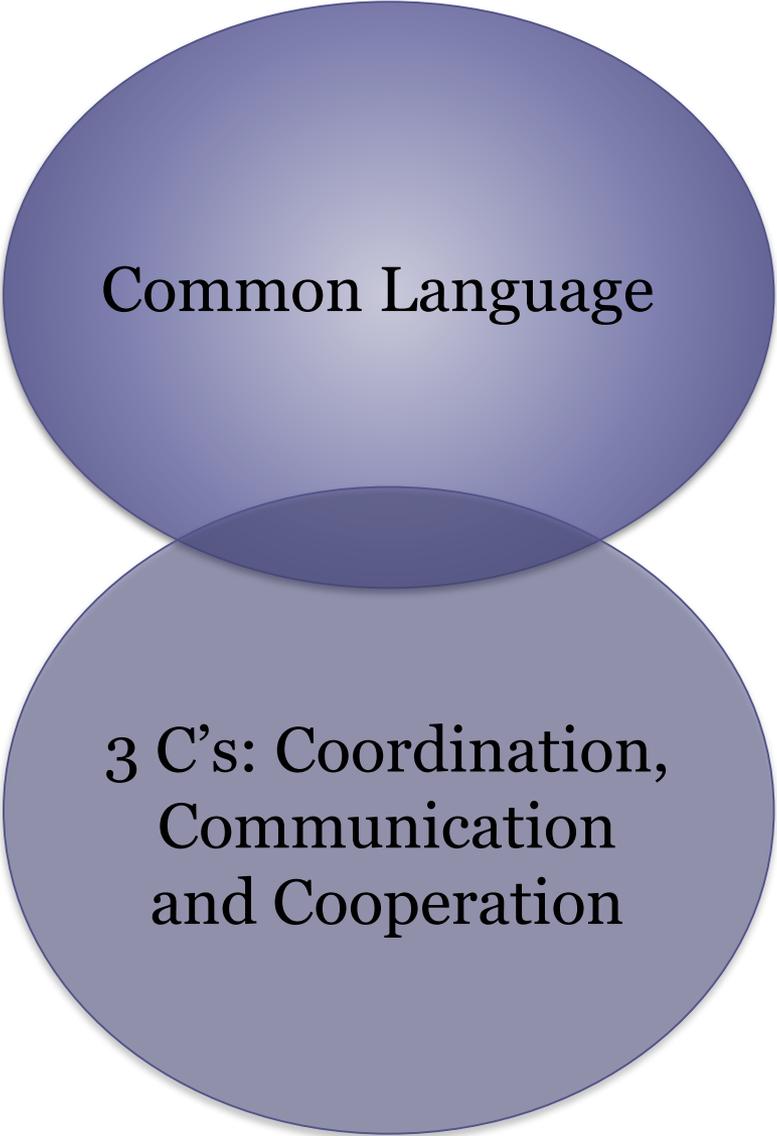
## Goals of the Lethality Assessment Program:

- Identifying victims of domestic violence who are the greatest risk of being killed, and
- Encouraging them to engage with domestic violence services

- Police previously on scene in **50%** DV homicides
- Only **4%** of homicide victims had sought services
- Re-assault dropped by **60%** when victims went into shelter



- Tool and protocol for first responders to identify domestic violence victims who are at greatest risk of being killed and connect them with services on scene



Common Language

3 C's: Coordination,  
Communication  
and Cooperation

- Evidence-based, validated field instrument
- 11 question assessment
- Initiated by a first responder when:
  - Intimate partner relationship involved
  - Manifestation of danger



- Based on scoring and officer discretion a specific protocol is initiated
  - Alerts victim to danger, unequivocally
  - Contacts highly trained advocate
  - Encourages victim to speak with advocate
- Protocol is consistent, simple, and positive
- Both officers and advocates follow guidelines


**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY  
SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**


Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<i>Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.</i>		
<b>A. "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.</b>		
1. Has he/she ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
2. Has he/she threatened to kill you or your children?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
3. Do you think he/she might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
<b>B. Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.</b>		
4. Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one easily?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
5. Has he/she ever tried to choke you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
6. Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he/she control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
7. Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
8. Is he/she unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
9. Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
10. Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
11. Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Ans.
<b>An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below questions, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.</b>		
12. Have any feelings that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in according to the protocol		
<input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer		
<input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in		
If victim screened in: After notifying her/him of a high danger case status, <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No did the victim speak with the hotline counselor?		

**NOTE:** The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk are provided to assist in the best available course of action for a situation of high lethality violence by a current or former intimate partner. However, each situation may present unique factors that influence risk for lethal violence that are not captured by this screen. Although most victims who screen "lethal" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, there remains a much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.

MINUTELY REVISED

## Results

### **Use of Model**

- 100% law enforcement participation
- Other first responders
- LAP used in 31 states

### **Impact on Victims**

- 60% of victims speak to advocate
- 38% victims enter comprehensive DV services
- 34% decrease in domestic violence homicides



# Domestic Violence High-Risk Team Model

# Goal of the Domestic Violence High Risk Team

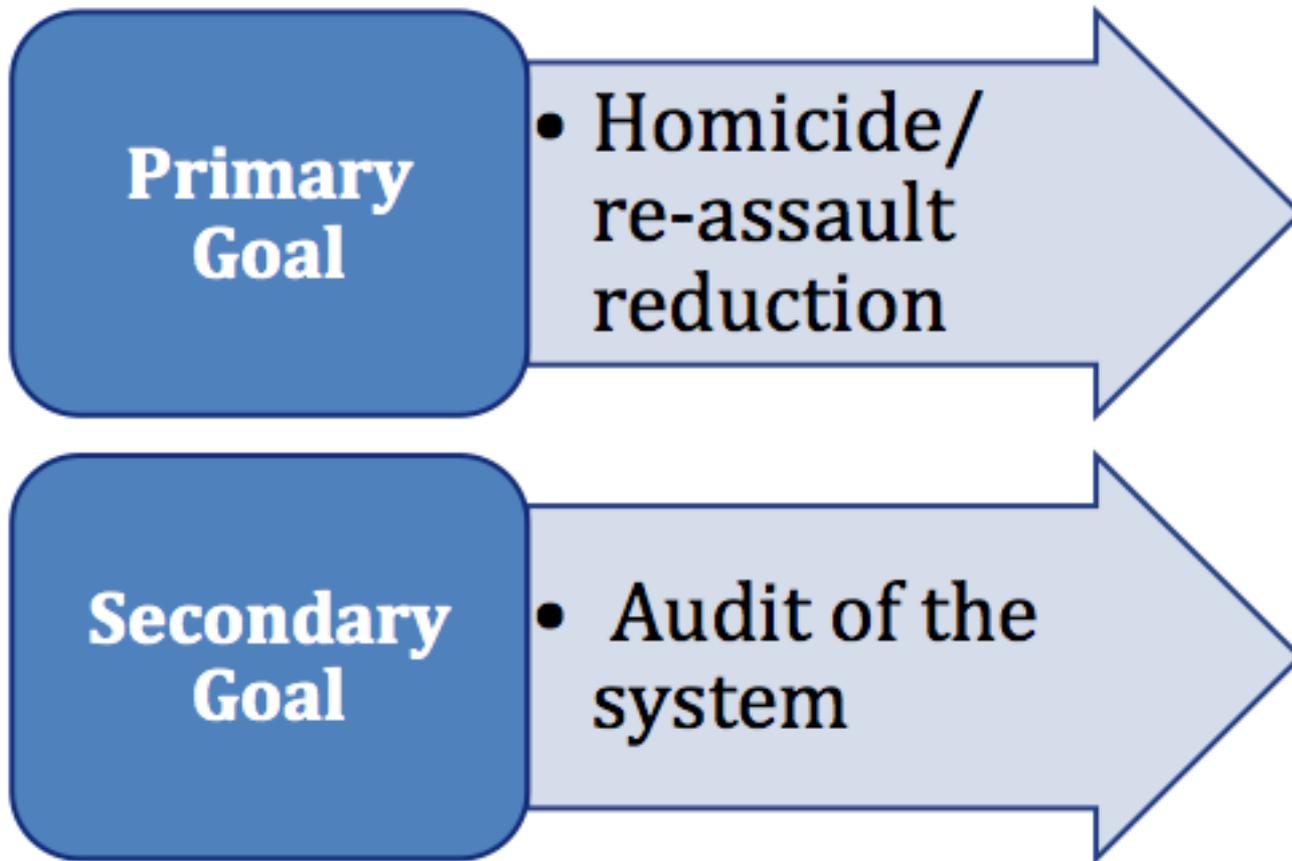
- Create a vehicle for communication among disciplines to provide the best possible response to victims at high risk



- Catalyst was a local tragedy
- Everyone did their job well, with the information they had
- System failure



# Domestic Violence High Risk Team



# Domestic Violence High Risk Team Must Include



- Examining the appropriate cases
- Team members
- Referrals
- Risk Assessment

**All domestic violence cases**



**High risk cases**

- Team process:
- Referral
- Information Gathering
- Case presentation, group risk assessment and discussion
- Fast track option



## High Risk Teams

- 31 communities in MA
- 6 states

## In Newburyport, MA

- 106 cases over 6 years
- ZERO homicides
- 74% cases use law enforcement
- 97% disposition rate
  - 71% plead guilty
  - 12% trial
  - 13% dismissal



## In Newburyport Cont'd.

- 90% victims accessed advocacy services
- 92% of cases, no re-assault reported
- 93% stayed in community without using domestic violence shelter

