

Reading the Signs

For participants in the MNADV's Lethality Assessment Program for First Responders

Lethality Participants

The following jurisdictions in Maryland have implemented LAP:

- Allegany County Sheriff's Office, Cumberland PD, Frostburg PD, Frostburg State University PD, FCRC
- Baltimore City PD (North East District), House of Ruth (pilot)
- Calvert County Sheriff's Office, CIC
- Caroline County Sheriff's Office, Denton PD, Federalsburg PD, Greensboro PD, Ridgely PD, MSCFV
- Cecil County Sheriff's Office, Elkton PD, North East PD, Rising Sun PD, Perryville PD, Port Deposit PD, Domestic Violence Center
- Dorchester County Sheriff's Office, Cambridge PD, Hurlock PD, Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence (MSCFV)
- Easton PD, MSCFV
- Garrett County Sheriff's Office, Dove Ctr.
- Harford County Sheriff's Office, Havre de Grace PD, SARC
- Kent County Sheriff's Office, MSCFV
- Prince George's County Sheriff's Office, Family Crisis Center
- Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office, MSCFV
- Washington County Sheriff's Office, Hagerstown PD, Smithsburg PD, CASA

The following agencies are in the Lethality Assessment Program training process:

- Anne Arundel County PD, Crofton PD, YWCA
- Frederick County Sheriff's Office, Frederick PD, Brunswick PD, Thurmont PD, Heartly House
- Aberdeen PD
- Rock Hall PD, Chestertown PD
- Centreville PD

About This Newsletter

This newsletter is a product of the Maryland Lethality Assessment Participants' Committee (LAPC). The Committee, which is coordinated by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, monitors the domestic violence Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in Maryland and sets the standards for it. The Committee consists of agencies and providers participating in the LAP and others who have been involved in its development.

Statewide 2006 Annual Report

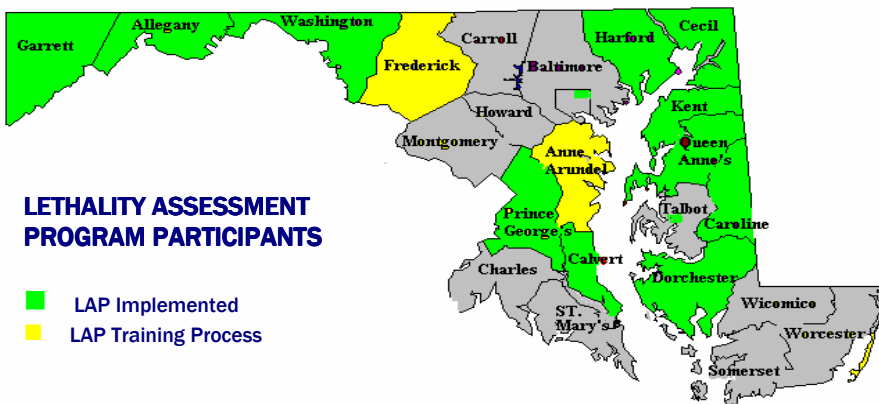
Statewide (Est. Pop.) (% Part. Pop.)	Lethality Screens	Lethality Screens Per Day Per Pop.	Positive	Negative	Did Not Answer	"Positives" Who Spoke to a Counselor	"Spoke to" Who Went for Services
807,000 14%	1,839	0.4 439	990 (54%)	698 (38%)	151 (8%)	531 (54%)	158 (30%)

Summary of 2006 Annual Report

What You Did and What We Hope For

With 21 agencies conducting screens, and only four conducting them the entire year, an average of 5 screens were administered each day.

- With more agencies participating, we hope to at least double that number.
- Of the High Danger screens, 54% spoke with a counselor. We hope to reach 58% this year. (That would have been two more victims per agency.)
- 158 High Danger victims sought services. We hope to reach 250 this year.
- No victim who was screened died; sadly, one victim was killed in a participating jurisdiction.



What the Numbers Tell Us



We're just beginning to learn about Lethality Assessment and saving lives. We've been tracking Lethality Assessment information for just over a year. Still, we've learned some things. The Annual Report demonstrates that officers are executing the program and that there may be more victims who are in serious danger than we may have thought. **Nearly 1,000 victims (in only 14% of the state's population) had factors present that, where in similar situations, people were killed!**

Stats from the First Quarter

With nine new agencies in 2007, our 30 Lethality Assessment participants are now serving about one million people (18% of the population) and are keeping their jurisdictions safer for victims. Preliminary information for the first quarter, as compared to the last quarter of 2006, reveals that 2006 participants maintained their same level of assessments, with new participants bolstering those figures. However, **substantially more people** who were in danger of being killed sought services — from 36 to 63, 40% of the 2006 total.

We experienced one homicide of a screened-in victim that occurred in Cambridge. However, the **Cambridge Police Department** is one of the hardest working and most effective agencies in seeking to keep its victims safe. CPD initiates more screens per population than any agency by a wide margin, 59% of High Danger victims spoke with a counselor, and 31% of those victims went to the Mid-Shore Council for Family Violence for services. We are saddened by the death and need to work to prevent even one, but commend CPD for its strong effort. We also commend:

- ★ New participant **Caroline County Sheriff's Office** for having 82% of its High Danger victims speak with a counselor;
- ★ **Allegany County Sheriff's Office and Cumberland Police Department, along with Family Crisis Resource Center**, for having 60% of its victims going in for services; and
- ★ **Harford County Sheriff's Office** for maintaining a very high level of assessments and having 67% (40) of its victims speak on the phone with a counselor. In addition, HCSO, along with new participant **Havre de Grace Police Department, and SARC**, for having 34% (16) of its victims go in for services.

Falling Through the Cracks...

- Check one: Victim screened in according to protocol
 Victim screened in on the belief of officer
 Victim did not screen in



In some cases officers are not marking the boxes on the Lethality Screen that indicate the level of risk a victim faces based on their responses to the Screen.

As a result, 1) screens may not be sent to the program, 2) appropriate services may not be provided, or 3) follow-up may not occur. As a result, victims may be falling through the cracks. **When reviewing screens--check to ensure the boxes are correctly marked.**

Good Job!

Kudos to participating agencies who succeeded in engaging victims. Noteworthy are:

- «**Cambridge PD, Washington County SO, and the Hagerstown PD**: Conducted many more screens than expected.
- «**Baltimore PD (NED)**: Highest number of screens.
- «**Cambridge PD and Easton PD**: % of screens compared to population.
- «**Baltimore PD, Harford County SO, Washington County SO, Hagerstown PD**: Exceeded statewide average of .4 screens/day.
- «**Allegany County SO, Easton PD, and Washington County SO**: % of High Danger victims who spoke to a counselor.
- «**Garrett County SO and the Dove Center; Washington County SO, Hagerstown PD, and CASA**: % of High Danger victims seeking services.

Best Practices

• Law enforcement and program contacts meeting regularly to discuss progress.

Allegany County has begun a practice of holding regular meetings; the meetings are brief. Some noteworthy outcomes of the April 25th meeting were: (1) participants agreed to show the LA video as a refresher; (2) participants proposed that LAP be required training at the local police academy (MNADV will follow-up); (3) a member agreed to see if his agency would participate in doing follow-ups with a counselor; and (4) a member agreed to recruit another agency. "Reading the Signs" of that meeting leads one to believe that they are working well together and taking danger seriously in Allegany!

- ### • Law enforcement and program personnel paying visits together to High Danger victims to encourage them to go into services.
- The Washington County Sheriff's Office and the Hagerstown PD, with CASA counselors, team up—counselor and officer together—to make such visits. In 2006, 43% of their victims who spoke to a counselor went in for services; in 2007, 55% sought services.

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