Lethality Assessment Program

Implemented in 2016, the LAP program is a homicide prevention initiative designed to reduce domestic violence homicides and serious injuries to victims of domestic violence. First developed in Maryland, law enforcement uses 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 services.

Since 1979, the Shelter for Help in Emergency has worked to support and empower victims of domestic violence through a combination of residential and community-based outreach services. Each year, we respond to over 1,200 hotline calls, provide 5,000 nights of safe shelter per year to more than 400 adults and children and assist many other victims of domestic violence through our outreach services.

72% of LAP screenings indicated the victim was in high danger based on the abuser’s access to a weapon, threats to harm themselves or others, and previous abusive history.

56% of high danger LAP victims spoke with an advocate at the Shelter for Help in Emergency. Services offered included safety planning, emergency shelter, legal advocacy, counseling.

“I don’t know what he is capable of.”
“Afraid of what he will do to me if he gets me alone.”
“I’m afraid that he will accidentally kill me.”
~ Reported by victims to Law Enforcement at the scene

DOMESTIC 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.

“The Shelter will continue to work with other rural neighboring counties to expand this program and educate the public on all of the domestic violence services available to them.”
Kathy Richardson
LAP Coordinator

Shelter for Help in Emergency
Albemarle County Police Department
Charlottesville Police Department
University of Virginia Police Department
Fluvanna County Police Department

LAP Screenings Conducted by Locality

- Albemarle (114)
- Charlottesville (152)
- UVA (11)
- Fluvanna (17)

- 86% of victims were women
- 83% of abusers were men

“He is furious right now and I don’t know if he will respect the protective order.”
~ Reported by a victim to Law Enforcement at the scene

54% of victims reported a prior incident of choking
64% of victims reported their abuser engaged in jealous and controlling behavior
42% of victims reported being stalked by their abuser