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.

### LAP Screens Conducted by Locality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albemarle County Police Department</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fluvanna County Sheriff’s Office</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlottesville Police Department</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Virginia Police Department</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 203 LAP Screens Given by Police Officers on Scene

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

**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.

**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.