

Memorandum



DATE: May 8, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee: Sheffie Kadane (Chair), Adam Medrano (Vice Chair), Dwaine Caraway, Jennifer S. Gates, Sandy Greyson, Scott Griggs

SUBJECT: **Lethality Assessment Update**

On Monday, May 11, 2015, you will be briefed on the Lethality Assessment Update. The briefing materials are attached for your review.



Eric D. Campbell
Assistant City Manager

Attachment

cc: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
A.C. Gonzalez, City Manager
Warren M.S. Ernst, City Attorney
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor
Rosa A. Rios, City Secretary
Daniel F. Solis, Administrative Judge
Ryan S. Evans, First Assistant City Manager

Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager
Mark McDaniel, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer
Sana Syed, Public Information Officer
Elsa Cantu, Assistant to the City Manager



Lethality Assessment Update

Public Safety Committee
May 11, 2015



www.dallaspolice.net

David O. Brown
Chief Of Police

Purpose

- Update the Public Safety Committee on the history and purpose of the Lethality Assessment Program
- Update on the statistics since the implementation of the program
- Explain challenges

Domestic Violence Facts

- One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime
- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year
- 80% of domestic violence victims are women
- Females who are 20-24 years of age are at the greatest risk of nonfatal intimate partner violence
- Most cases of domestic violence are never reported to the police

History of Lethality Assessment Program

- Designed by Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of John Hopkins University
- Department was awarded grant in April 2012
- Implemented program October 2012
- The Family Place & Genesis Women's Shelter are our partners

Lethality Assessment Program Goals

Reduce domestic violence by:

Identifying victims who are at the greatest risk of serious bodily injury or death,

- Reduce domestic violence murders
- If necessary, get victim away from the offender
- Encourage victims to allow domestic violence advocates to help

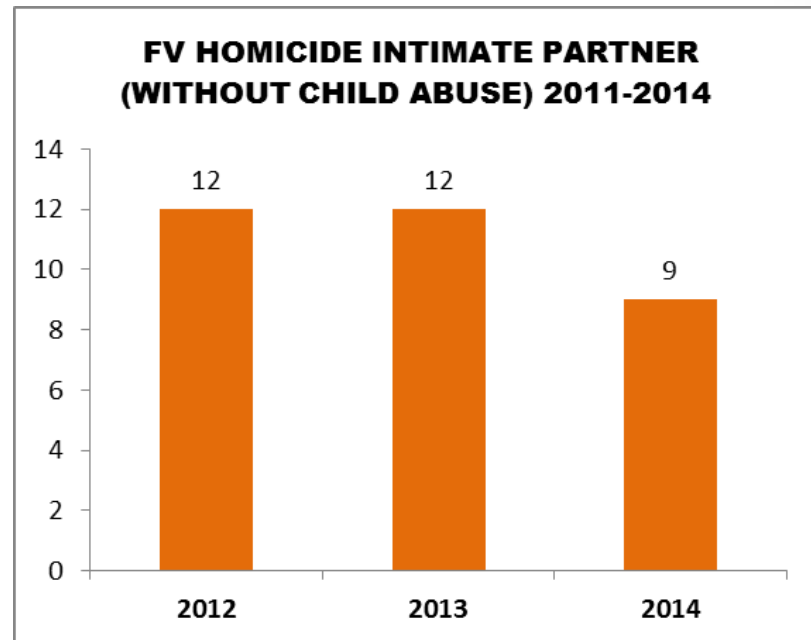
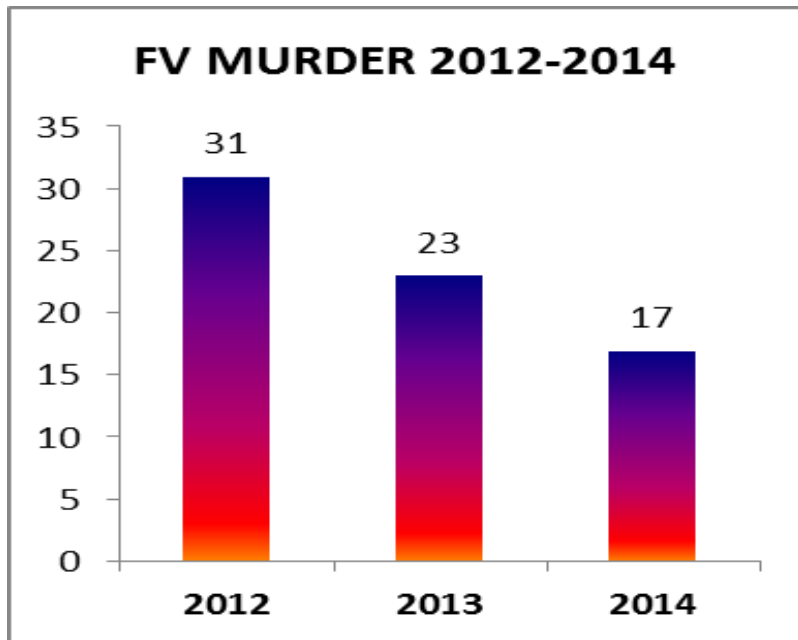
Purpose of Assessment

- Identify victims in need of greater intervention by the High Risk Team
- Raise victim's awareness of level of danger
- Provide Courts and District Attorney's Office with offender information regarding condition of release on bail
- Indicate need for ankle monitoring

Domestic Violence Crime

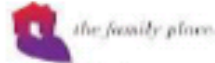
Offenses Reported by Year			
Offense	2012	2013	2014
Murder	31	23	17
Aggravated Assault	1,247	1,217	1,275
Assault	11,013	10,811	11,168
Robbery	85	93	90
Rape	85	91	132
Other Offenses	868	800	1,058
Total	13,324	13,035	13,740

Domestic Violence Murder Reduction





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LETHALITY SCREEN FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



(214) 941-1991

(214) 946-4357 (HELP)

Officer:	Date:	Case #:
Victim:	Offender:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if victim did not answer any of the questions.		
▶ A "Yes" response to any of Questions #1-3 automatically triggers the protocol referral.		
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.
▶ Negative responses to Questions #1-3, but positive responses to at least four of Questions #4-11, trigger the protocol referral.		
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.
▶ An officer may trigger the protocol referral, if not already triggered above, as a result of the victim's response to the below question, or whenever the officer believes the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.		
Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? (If "yes") What worries you?		
What is the victim's gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
What is the suspect's gender?	<input type="checkbox"/> Male	<input type="checkbox"/> Female
Was the Victim Transported to a Hospital?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Was the suspect intoxicated/high during this offense?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the suspect At Large?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
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 advising her/him of a high danger assessment, did the victim speak with the hotline counselor? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

Note: The questions above and the criteria for determining the level of risk a person faces is based on the best available research on factors associated with lethal 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 "positive" or "high danger" would not be expected to be killed, these victims face much higher risk than that of other victims of intimate partner violence.

Program Statistics

2014 Dallas Police Department Lethality Assessment “Yes” Responses

• <u>Has he/she ever used weapon against you?</u>	27%
• <u>Has he/she ever threatened to kill you?</u>	36%
• <u>Do you think he/she might kill you or your children?</u>	42%
• <u>Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one?</u>	35%
• <u>Has he /she ever choked you?</u>	55%
• <u>Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he control most of your daily activities?</u>	67%
• <u>Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?</u>	53%
• <u>Is he/she employed?</u>	44%
• <u>Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?</u>	15%
• <u>Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?</u>	27%
• <u>Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?</u>	40%
• <u>Did victim speak with hotline counselor?</u>	21%
• <u>Victim “screened in” according to the protocol</u>	57%
• <u>Victim “screened in” based on the officer’s observations</u>	04%
• <u>Victim did not screen in</u>	24%
• <u>No answer to screening questions</u>	16%
• <u>Number of surveys in this report</u>	4,825

*** Significant factors that remain high during the screening during intimate partner violence**

Summary Facts

- Participation is voluntary, victims can refuse to answer
- Officers are required to offer screening in all intimate partner violence offenses
- In 2013 and 2014, 1,645 victims reported 3,700 offenses
- 31 victims generated 181 calls for police
- Numbers in LAP decrease as repeat victims are aware of the dangers and services available

Summary

- The department will continue to use the LAP as a tool to aid in the prevention of domestic violence
- The Domestic Violence Unit will continue to use the assessment results to identify victims that may be at a higher risk of death

Questions?