

# Memorandum

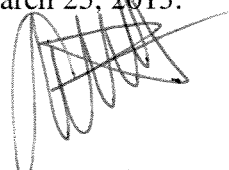


DATE: March 22, 2013

TO: Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT: **Domestic Violence Unit Lethality Assessment Program**

Attached is briefing material on the "Domestic Violence Unit Lethality Assessment Program" to be presented to the Members of the Public Safety Committee on Monday, March 25, 2013.



A.C. Gonzalez  
First Assistant City Manager

Attachment

CC: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Dallas City Council  
Mary K. Suhm, City Manager  
Rosa Rios, City Secretary  
Thomas P. Perkins, Jr., City Attorney  
Craig D. Kinton, City Auditor  
Judge Daniel Solis, Administrative Judge  
Ryan S. Evans, Assistant City Manager  
Jill A. Jordan, P.E., Assistant City Manager  
Forest E. Turner, Assistant City Manager  
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager  
Jeanne Chipperfield, Chief Financial Officer  
Frank Libro, Public Information Office  
Stephanie Cooper, Assistant to the City Manager



# Domestic Violence Unit Lethality Assessment Program

Public Safety Committee

March 25, 2013



[www.dallaspolice.net](http://www.dallaspolice.net)

David O. Brown  
Chief Of Police

# Purpose

- Provide update on the history and purpose of the Lethality Assessment Program
  - Update statistics after 6 month
  - Show form changes

# Goals

- Reduce Domestic Violence by:
  - Identifying victims who are at the **greatest risk of Serious Bodily Injury or Death,**
  - If necessary, getting them **out of harm's way,** and
  - Encouraging them to go ***into Domestic Violence services.***

# History

- Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of John Hopkins University in Maryland.
- DPD applied and was approved for the grant in April 2012 .
- The Family Place & Genesis Women's Shelter are our partners.

# Training

## July 2012



# Form Change

- The new form will have the DPD logo along with our advocate partners logo.
- Five questions were added to track:
  - Sex of victim
  - Sex of suspect
  - Alcohol or drugs involved
  - Suspect status in custody or at large
  - Victim transported to hospital

*The 11 original questions remain intact in order to maintain the integrity of the program.*



## 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.*



# Synopsis on Use

- Patrol Officer fills out the form and placed into the Domestic Violence Packet.
- Data is entered and tracked by the the Domestic Violence Unit and shared with advocate partners.
- Form is forwarded with the packet to the District Attorney for use during prosecution.
- Form customized for DPD use.
- Adaptable, can be modified in the future as need arises.

# Lethality Assessment Results Update

- Lethality Assessment Dallas Police Department October 1, 2012 to March 8, 2013***

YES RESPONSES	2012	2013
Has he/she ever used weapon against you?	27%	26%
Has he/she ever threatened to kill you?	36%	35%
Do you think he/she might kill you or your children?	<b>42%</b>	<b>41%</b>
Does he/she have a gun or can he/she get one?	32%	31%
Has he /she ever choked you?	<b>56%</b>	<b>55%</b>
Is he/she violently or constantly jealous or does he control most of your daily activities?	<b>67%</b>	<b>66%</b>
Have you left him/her or separated after living together or being married?	<b>53%</b>	<b>52%</b>
Is he/she employed?	<b>43%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Has he/she ever tried to kill himself/herself?	13%	14%
Do you have a child that he/she knows is not his/hers?	28%	27%
Does he/she follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	38%	36%
Did victim speak with hotline counselor?	46%	42%
Victim "screened in" according to the protocol	73%	70%
Victim "screened in" based on the officer's observations	3%	3%
Victim did not screen in	20%	21%
No answer to screening questions	4%	6%
Number of Surveys in this Report	<b>1,879</b>	<b>3,044</b>

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

# Anticipated Results From Program

- Increase in victims taking advantage of Domestic Violence resources
- Frequency of Domestic Violence injuries reduced
- Lives Saved

# Summary

The Domestic Violence Unit implemented the Lethality Assessment Program in October 2012. We will continue to use it as a permanent tool and as an aid in the prevention of Domestic Violence. This will help preserve lives in the future by identifying those that may be at a higher risk of death.



QUESTIONS?