

# The Benefits & Challenges of Risk Assessment: An Overview of the Lethality Assessment Program- Maryland Model

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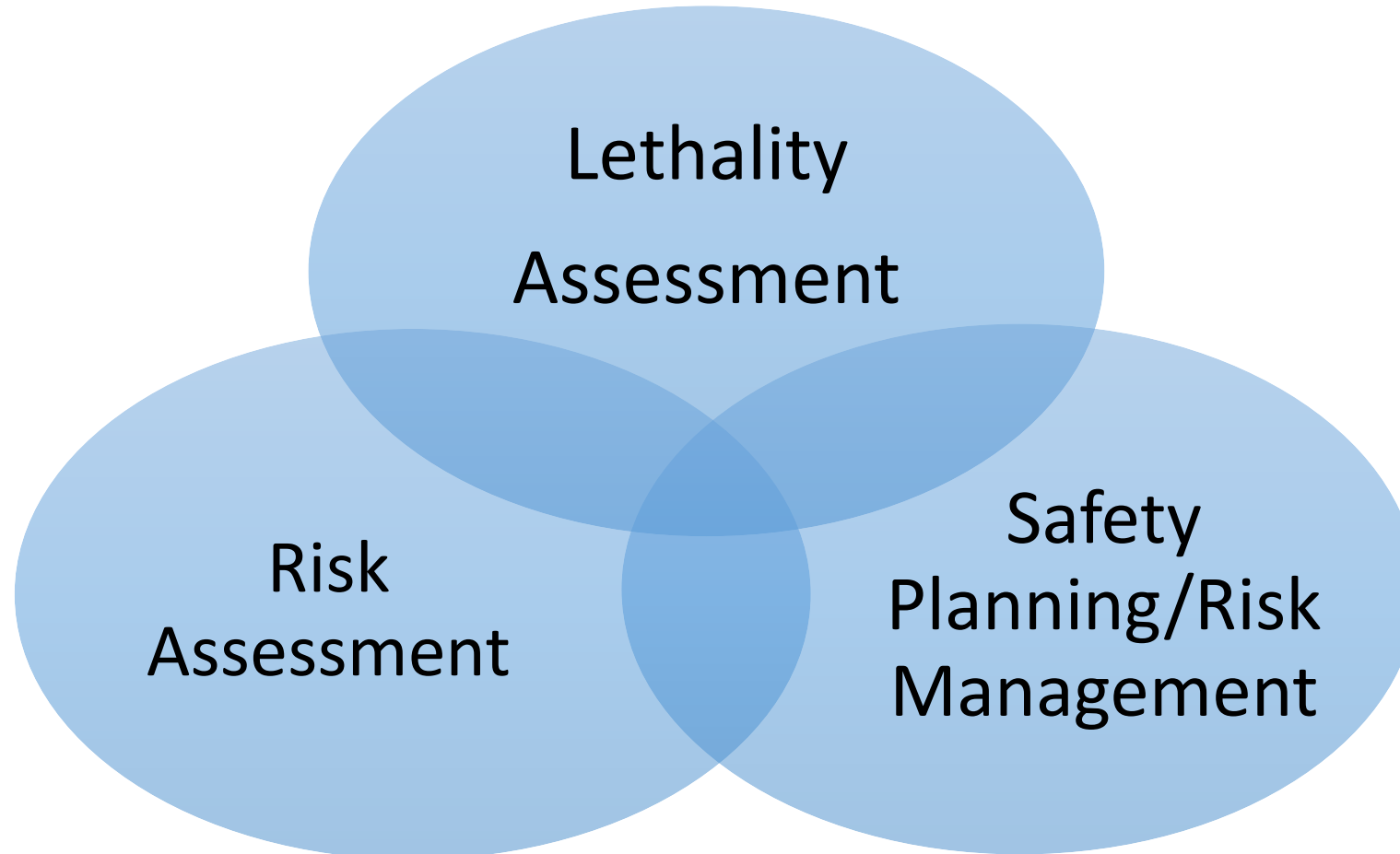


Lethality  
Assessment  
Program

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# Overlapping Spheres



# What is lethality assessment?



- Lethality assessment is a way to assess the level of danger in an intimate partner relationship.
- Risk factors for re-assault are different than risk factors for lethality.
  - Examples: pet abuse, substance use, abuse during pregnancy, etc.
- **Why prioritize lethality assessment?**
  - 1,500 intimate partner homicides per year in the U.S., not including collateral deaths
  - For every 1 homicide, there are 8-9 near-homicides.

# Predictable = Preventable



- For 28-33% of victims, the homicide or attempted homicide was the first act of violence.
- More than 44% of perpetrators were arrested in the year prior to the homicide.
- Only 4% of abused victims had used a DV hotline or shelter within the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner.
- Women who went to shelter were significantly less likely to experience re-assault than those who did not go to shelter.

# Is Your Community Ready?



- The LAP requires a strong collaboration and trust between law enforcement and the local domestic violence service program.
- Are you prepared to handle the practical realities of the LAP?
  - The local domestic violence service program needs to be prepared to provide services to more clients.
  - The law enforcement agency needs to understand this will extend calls for High-Danger victims by approximately 15 minutes.
  - The 24-hour hotline *must not* be an answering service and it *must* be managed by a domestic violence service program directly.
  - Are both partnering agencies ready to “go the extra mile”?

# Contact Information



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