

## The Realities of Violence Against Women Officer and Victim Safety

Trauma Informed Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault Response

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"A victim of domestic  
violence calls the crisis  
line for the first time on  
average after the fifth  
assault".

© 2017 National Center for the Elder Abuse

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**Justice and Safety**

**"I'm more afraid of you than my abuser"**

quote of a partner in a violence hostage situation

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**Realities of VAW Crimes**

Common characteristics of violence against women crimes

- Course of conduct vs. incident-based
- Multiple concurrent crimes
- Traumatic impact
- Minimization by victim
- Underreported
- Serial nature of perpetrators

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**2015 National Domestic Violence Hotline Survey**

- Survey participants who had never called the police shared very specific concerns regarding their fears and personal barriers to involving law enforcement. In fact, 80 percent stated that they were somewhat or extremely afraid to call the police. Reasons include:
- 60 percent stated that they did not want to involve the police due to the desire for privacy

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2015 National Domestic Violence Hotline Survey

- 44 percent said that they feared retaliation from the abuser or the abuser's friends and family
- 22 percent said that they wanted to protect their children

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2015 National Domestic Violence Hotline Survey

- The survey also found that calling the police did not necessarily allay concerns about the victim's own safety or wellbeing. In fact, when it came to victims who had previously involved the police after a domestic violence incident:
  - 1 in 3 victims felt less safe
  - 1 in 2 victims felt no difference in safety
  - Only 1 in 5 victims felt safer

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Realities of VAW Crimes



Officer Ashley Marie Guindon  
Prince William County Police  
Department, Virginia

End of Watch: Saturday, February 27, 2016

Officer Ashley Guindon was shot and killed while responding to a domestic disturbance in the 13000 block of Lashmere Court in the Lake Ridge area.

The male subject at the home murdered his wife and then opened fire on the officers with a rifle as they approached the home. Officer Guindon was fatally wounded and two other officers, including her training officer, were wounded. All three officers were flown to Inova Fairfax Hospital, where Officer Guindon passed away.

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## Realities of VAW Crimes



**Patrolman Robert T. Frazier**  
Nashville City Police Department, Tennessee

End of Watch: Friday, April 30, 1875

- Patrolman Frazier was shot and killed while attempting to arrest a man for beating his wife on Whiteside Street. When he told the man he would have to accompany him to the workhouse the man refused to go. When Patrolman Frazier again told him he was under arrest the man pulled a small pistol from his pocket and shot Patrolman Frazier, killing him.
- The suspect fled the scene but was arrested several minutes later by other officers who had responded to the scene. That night an angry mob broke into the jail, seized the suspect, placed a rope around his neck, and hanged him from a nearby suspension bridge. The rope broke and he was killed when he hit the rocks 60 feet below.
- Patrolman Frazier was survived by his wife.

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## Realities of VAW Crimes



**Police Officer**  
**Steven Michael Smith**  
Columbus Division of Police, Ohio

End of Watch: Tuesday, April 12, 2016

Police Officer Steven Smith succumbed to a gunshot wound sustained three days earlier as the SWAT team attempted to serve a felony arson warrant at an apartment at 14 West California Avenue.

Officer Smith was riding in the turret of an armored vehicle as it approached the apartment building when he was struck by one round. He was transported to a local hospital where he remained until succumbing to the wound.

The wanted subject was taken into custody following the shooting.

Officer Smith had served with the Columbus Division of Police for 27 years. He is survived by his wife and two adult children.

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## Realities of VAW Crimes



**Lieutenant Levi Parker**  
Cincinnati Police Department, Ohio

End of Watch: Sunday, May 4, 1856

Lieutenant Levi Parker was shot on April 27th, 1856, while attempting to stop a man from beating his wife. The unarmed subject pulled a pistol and shot Lieutenant Parker in the left shoulder. Lieutenant Parker died eight days later at 1:50 a.m. on the morning of May 4, 1856.

The subject was charged, convicted, and sentenced to life. However, in January 1862, the Supreme Court ordered a new trial for him. He was again convicted, this time of second degree murder and again sentenced to life. A few years later, convicted that he was to return to Ireland, the governor of Ohio pardoned him and, once pardoned, the man went to Covington, Kentucky.

[www.odmp.org](http://www.odmp.org)

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### Realities of VAW Crimes

Domestic violence offenders have killed Ohio police officers for 162 years.

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### Officers assaulted and killed 1980 - 2005

- 224,900 police officers were physically assaulted while handling domestic violence calls
- 780 of those involved the use of firearms
- 157 officers were killed on the domestic violence call

© 2007 National Police Officers' Association, Inc. All rights reserved. 10/07/07

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### Trauma

is characterized by the feelings of intense fear, helplessness, and loss of control. A hallmark of trauma is that it typically overwhelms an individual mentally, emotionally, and physically.

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Free Roll Call Training Film

**SEXUAL ASSAULT:**  
A Trauma Informed  
Approach to  
Law Enforcement  
First Response  
Part I

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtWD1XJrhNo>

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**Realities of VAW Crimes**

Commonly missed crimes in the context of violence against women

- Stalking
- Intimate partner sexual assault
- Strangulation
- Felony threats
- Weapons violations
- Kidnapping
- Witness Intimidation

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**THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR Victims of Crime** **Stalking resource center**

- <http://www.ncvc.org/src/>
- Creating An effective Stalking Protocol
- Help for Victims – Free brochure
- Stalking Laws
- Stalking Court Cases
- Statistics
- Resources
- Publications
- 202-467-8700 – src@ncvc.org

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**“Surviving victims of strangulation assault are 750% more likely of becoming a homicide victim.”**

• (Glass, et al, 2008).

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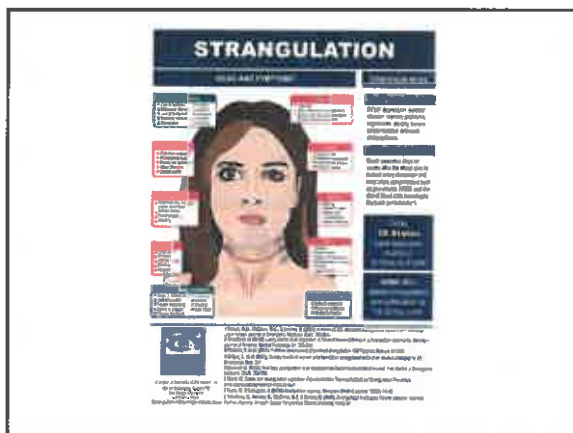
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### Medical Information for Strangulation

**Obstruction of:**  
**Carotid artery:** Most common, 11 lbs of pressure for 10 seconds, unconsciousness, but regained in 10 seconds if pressure released  
**Jugular vein:** Second most common, 4.4 lbs of pressure completely obstructs  
**Tracheal:** 33 lbs of pressure, fracture of tracheal, and death  
Brain death occurs if strangulation persists for 4 to 5 minutes

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## Strangulation: What Do We Know?

- **SIGNIFICANT** of chronic abuse: The act of strangulation symbolizes an abuser's use of Power and Control
- **POTENTIALLY LETHAL**: It takes very little force to cause a great deal of damage in a very small amount of time
- **HARD TO PROVE**: Lack of resources (time, equipment, training), Non-participating victims, Public misinformation (bad jury pools), etc.

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## Riverside County District Attorney's Office 2013 Study

- Law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty 1993-2013
- 50% of officers were killed by a criminal suspect with a public records act history of strangulation assault against a woman in a prior relationship

Gerald Fineman, L.D.

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## Two Oklahoma deputies shot and killed

12:09 PM CDT on Monday, July 27, 2009

SEMINOLE, Okla. — A man opened fire on two sheriff's deputies trying to serve a domestic abuse warrant Sunday in Oklahoma, killing both officers and wounding a woman who was passing by, state investigators said.

Travis Holbert, 35, was being held on first-degree murder charges in the deaths of the two Seminole County deputies, and State Director of Investigation spokeswoman Justice Brown.

The deputies were trying to serve an arrest warrant issued earlier this year for domestic assault and battery by strangulation

Holbert had an attorney or was to be court appearance.

Holbert was arrested on the charges of first-degree murder in the deaths of the two deputies and the woman who was passing by.

When deputies landed on the scene, Holbert started shooting, Brown said. The deputies were trying to serve an arrest warrant issued earlier this year for domestic assault and battery by strangulation, though it wasn't immediately clear Sunday who Holbert was accused of assaulting.

Several law enforcement agencies responded to the shootings, evacuated the area and asked local businesses to shut down as they searched for the shooting suspect.

Holbert was arrested on the charges of first-degree murder in the deaths of the two deputies and the woman who was passing by.

Holbert was arrested on the charges of first-degree murder in the deaths of the two deputies and the woman who was passing by.

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Nationally prosecutors report that witness intimidation plays a role in 75% to 100% of violent crime committed in gang controlled neighborhoods and is near universal in all cases of domestic violence and other areas of abuse.

*Victim and Witness Intimidation: New Developments and Emerging Responses*, October 1995 NIJ.

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**Witness Intimidation & Forfeiture by Wrongdoing**

Stop offenders from committing felonies instead of misdemeanors.

**ÆQUITAS**  
THE INSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE  
SERVING PUBLIC INTEREST THROUGH

1100 H Street NW  
Suite 310  
Washington, DC 20005

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## Almost A Third Of Mass Shooting Deaths In 2015 Were Related To Domestic Violence

The untold story of mass shootings in America is one of domestic violence. It is one of men (yes, mostly men) targeting and killing their wives or ex-girlfriends or families. The victims are intimately familiar to the shooters, not random strangers. This kind of violence is not indiscriminate — though friends, neighbors and bystanders are often killed alongside the intended targets. ... Experts often call domestic homicides **the most predictable and reversible of all homicides**, because of the many warning signs.



In February, a gunman killed his wife, two children and a neighbor in rural Washington state before turning the gun on himself, police say.

[Melissa Johnson](#) / [World Economic Forum](#), [The Washington Post](#)

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## Assessing Threats

- Does she/he **believe** the threat?
- Was it made in the presence of other people? In writing? In a recorded phone conversation or text messaging?
- Is it detailed and specific?
- Is the threatened act consistent with past behavior?
- Have there been "rehearsals" of the act that is being threatened?
- Does the threat extend to others, (the children, police, her new lover, the workplace)?
- Does the threat involve murder, suicide or both?

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## Realities of VAW Crimes

### Victims of VAW:

- Not going to be a "perfect" victim
- Often delay reporting crime
- Experience trauma because of the violence
- Are often threatened, afraid & reluctant
- May feel powerless to stop the violence
- May have vulnerabilities that perpetrator will exploit

*Other?*

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## Faith Trust Institute

• <http://www.faithtrustinstitute.org>

FaithTrust Institute is a non-profit organization headquartered in Seattle, Washington, U.S.A. Founded in 1977 by the Rev. Marie M. Fortune, FaithTrust Institute is an interreligious educational resource addressing issues of sexual and domestic violence. Our goal is to engage religious leaders in the task of ending abuse, and to serve as a bridge between religious and secular communities.



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## Realities of VAW Crimes

### Perpetrators of VAW:

- Plan their crimes
- Ensure there are no witnesses
- Are strategic and calculating
- Engage in "testing" to select victims
- Are often repeat offenders with a series of and/or multiple victims
- Escalate violence over time

*Other?*

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## What is risk assessment?

Risk assessment is a procedure whereby we measure some characteristics of a person or situation, and then use that information to predict the likelihood of a future negative event, such as re-assault. Risk assessment tools in the domestic violence field have been developed to assess both an offender's risk of re-offending, and a victim's risk of lethal assault

National Commission on Domestic and Sexual Abuse: Risk Assessment Committee 2014

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## Why assess for lethality?

- Reduces the likelihood of future harm to victims, officers, advocates and others
- Helps us recognize, understand and quickly interpret risk factors
- Helps transfer information across disciplinary lines and fosters collaboration
- Creates a focused approach for criminal justice intervention
- A more effective management of police power
- Promotes effective case management

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## Why Lethality Assessment?

1,500 DV fatalities a year in U.S.

In the year prior to the homicide, more than 44% of abusers were arrested and almost one-third of victims contacted the police.

Only 4% of abused victims had used a domestic violence hotline or shelter with the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner.

MNADV

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## Lethality Assessment for First Responders mnadv.org



The Maryland Network against Domestic Violence has developed the Maryland Domestic Violence Lethality Screen and Protocol for First Responders, which offers practical methods of working with victims to assess and act upon the danger they may face. The MNADV established a statewide Lethality Assessment Committee in Fall 2009, composed of law enforcement officers, a prosecutor, an investigator, a parole and probation agent, domestic violence advocates, and researchers who have done significant work in the area of domestic violence. The committee developed a short screen which is an application of the research of Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell of The Johns Hopkins University, who created the nationally respected domestic violence Danger Assessment, and is a member of the MNADV team. The accompanying protocol developed by the committee is the first of its kind, providing guidance on what to do when someone is assessed to be in high danger.

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## The Ontario Domestic Assault Risk Assessment (ODARA)

- Prior domestic incident
- Prior nondomestic incident
- Prior custodial sentence of 30 days or more
- Failure on prior conditional release
- Threat to harm or kill at the index assault
- Confinement of the partner
- Victim concern
- More than one child
- Victim's biological child from a previous partner
- Substance abuse
- Assault on victim when pregnant
- Barriers to victim supported

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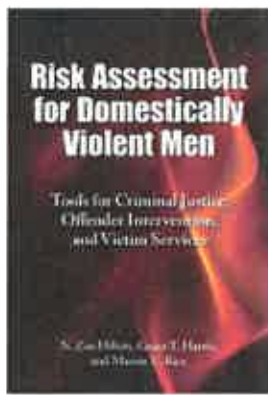
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ISBN - 781433804663

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The screenshot shows the user interface of the ODARA mobile application. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the 'ODARA' logo and several menu items: 'Home', 'Resources &amp; Help', 'About Us', 'Contact Us', 'Privacy Policy', and 'Terms of Use'. Below the navigation bar, the 'Resources &amp; Help' section is active, displaying a grid of icons for 'Part 1: Assessment', 'Part 2: Risk Management', and 'Part 3: Victim Support'. A 'THE HOTLINE' section is also visible, featuring a phone icon and the text 'Ontario Domestic Violence Helpline 1-800-387-5828'. At the bottom of the screen, a footer reads 'iPhone or Android - Designed for ages 16 to 24'.

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