

National Bulletin on Domestic Violence Prevention

Edited by Andrew R. Klein, Ph.D., each this monthly newsletter is packed with a variety of articles about what's new in domestic violence prevention nationwide including such topics as:

- News updates
- Program profiles
- Court decisions
- Legislative updates
- Funding opportunities

Learn what's working and what is not working and what funding opportunities are available. Learn about the upshot of recent court and legislative developments. Learn the most effective prevention policies and practices employed by police departments, prosecutors, courts, counselors, health care providers, child service agencies, and clergy.

The newsletter is written and edited by experts in the field. Editor **Andrew Klein** has served as a principal investigator on numerous research and evaluation grants for multiple federal, state and county government and non-profit agencies covering a diverse range of areas from family violence, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), victim rights, batterer intervention programming, faith-based rural domestic violence programming, elder abuse, and residential prison substance abuse treatment. He is a nationally-recognized expert in the study of domestic violence and criminal justice and has served on numerous national commissions and advisory boards on development of domestic violence courts. He has provided technical assistance, headlined conferences and provided professional training in his areas of expertise in almost every state of the Union, United States Military bases abroad as well as the US Coast Guard.

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in this issue:

11 Reasons Why DV Homicides Reduced in DC, Maryland.....	1
Ohio Juvenile Dating Violence Protection Orders Used Mostly for all Girl Abuse.....	1
Editor's Letters, News, and Notes.....	2
From the Desk of Andy Klein.....	3
DV courts mostly work.....	3
DV in the News.....	3
Abuse Victims of Police Find no Help From Milwaukee Police, Prosecutors or Courts.....	4
DV and the Law by Barbara Hart.....	5
Ohio's juvenile civil protection order statute.....	5
Maine Police Officers Complete Fatality Review Call for Serious Legal Reforms.....	6
Legacy Snapshots.....	7
Leading advocates reflect or recalled.....	7

11 Reasons Why DV Homicides Reduced in DC, Maryland

Since police began asking DV victims to answer 11 simple questions to help them understand the danger they faced with their abusive partner and referring those scoring in the danger zone to services, the DV homicides have dropped from 36 to 18 in DC. Maryland has seen almost as impressive a drop, 41% over the past three years its police have been using the lethality scale on victims. The 11 questions come from DV homicide studies and include some obvious questions to others that are less so. The scale leads off with: Has he ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon? It ends with: Does he follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?

Fourteen states and the district use some form of the lethality assessment. Senator Patrick J. Leahy (Democrat-Vermont), who is shepherding the reauthorization of VAWA in Congress, is considering adding the lethality assessment to the list of programs that state and local entities may fund with VAWA dollars. His efforts picked up the endorsement of the *Washington Post*.

Over the years, a number of initiatives have also resulted in similar dramatic drops in DV homicides in disparate jurisdictions. While some featured increased arrests and prosecutions, higher bail, specialized probation supervision, all share what makes the Maryland and DC

initiative effective—a criminal justice commitment to take DV seriously and respond with one shared goal by police, prosecutors, and service providers, victim safety.

Copies of the 11 question lethality survey can be found at http://www.annapolis.gov/Government/Departments/Police/forms/Lethality_fillable_savable.pdf. Information on the Maryland initiative can be found at <http://www.madv.org/lethality.html>.

Ohio Juvenile Dating Violence Protection Orders Used Mostly for all Girl Abuse

In June 2010, a juvenile dating violence protective order laws went into effect in Ohio. The Ohio law was named after Shynera Grant, a 17-year-old girl from Toledo who was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend in 2005. Shynera attempted to obtain a civil stalking protection order after her ex-boyfriend broke her jaw in 2004. She was unsuccessful.

The new Ohio law now allows juveniles to obtain orders, but only against other juveniles. A study un-

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