

There were 192 Domestic Homicides in Massachusetts between 2003 and 2009

130 Intimate Partner Victims

- 114 Female
- 16 Male

62 Non-Intimate Partner Victims

- 16 Children
- 4 Females associated with victim
- 26 Males associated with victim
- 9 Other family members
- 7 Perpetrators

If we first accept that there is no such thing as low risk in domestic violence, then we conclude that there is only risk and higher risk. Our charge is to identify the risk level and take steps to minimize that risk.

As a community, we have an obligation to ask ourselves these questions when it comes to domestic violence:

First, are we dealing with an isolated incident or a pattern of behavior?

Second, how can we work together to prevent future violence?

“He seemed like such a nice guy.”

People are often shocked after a domestic homicide. No individual is dangerous at all times to all people. A person who commits domestic violence is typically the most dangerous to the people they *love*.

HOW TO MAKE A REFERRAL

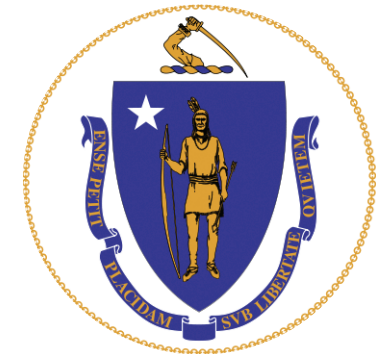
Contact the High Risk Team Coordinator at the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office:

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Domestic Violence High Risk Team

A Multidisciplinary Team of the Office of Northwestern District Attorney David E. Sullivan



A Law Enforcement Collaboration of the District Attorney’s Office, Police Departments, Sheriffs’ Departments, Probation, Parole, Victim Advocates and Emergency Dispatch

Building Safer Communities by Increasing Offender Accountability and Maximizing Victim Safety



THE TEAM

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there were 1,333 reported cases of intimate partner homicide in the United States.*

The Domestic Violence High Risk Team (Team) was developed as a result of the Northwestern District Attorney's safety audit findings. The increase in frequency and level of violence perpetrated on victims is an indicator that domestic abuse is a prevalent community issue.

The Team is a law enforcement-based collaboration of the district attorney's office, police departments, probation, parole, sheriffs' departments, victim advocates and emergency dispatch.

Evidence-based research shows that a set standard of high risk behaviors, perpetrated alone or together, substantially increases the level of risk for victims.

*FBI statistics (2008)

HIGH RISK ASSESSMENT

High risk assessment is the identification and management of dangerous behaviors, using a set standard of evidence-based indicators, in order to maximize victim safety and offender accountability.

By identifying high risk behaviors and sharing information, the Team will make recommendations to help achieve true offender accountability and maximize overall safety for victims and first responders.

Recommendations may include: Priority prosecution; ELMO/GPS; batterer's intervention program evaluation; and enhanced probation conditions.

Definition of Risk:

"The possibility of loss or serious injury"

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary



WHO ARE HIGH RISK OFFENDERS?

Upon referral, offenders may be identified as high risk if 3 or more of the following criteria exist:

Threat to Kill

Strangulation

Use or threat to use Weapon

Child Witness to Violence

Suicidal Ideation

Visible Injuries to Victim(s)

Multiple Victims

Other factors to be considered:

Criminal History

Number of Restraining Orders

Escalation of Violence

Violations of Restraining Orders

Alcohol/Substance Abuse History