



MEDIA CONTACT:

Amy Connor

803-528-6578

aconnor@sccadvasa.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) Assists Law Enforcement in
Preventing Domestic Violence Homicide by Assessing Victim Danger**

SCCADVASA Working to Expand Its Use Across South Carolina

November 13, 2025 – The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA) is working to expand the use of an evidence-based screening tool that helps law enforcement officers and other advocates responding to domestic violence assess a victim’s risk of homicide or near fatality and connect them with support at the scene.

Developed by the [Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence \(MNADV\)](#), the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) is an innovative strategy to prevent intimate partner violence homicides and serious injuries. Powered by [Forseti](#), the LAP database provides an easy and effective method for law enforcement agencies to identify victims of domestic violence who are at the highest risk of being seriously injured or killed by their intimate partner and connect them with their local domestic violence service program.

Currently used by the City of Spartanburg Police Department in collaboration with domestic violence service provider [Project R.E.S.T.](#), SCCADVASA is working to build partnerships with additional law enforcement agencies to implement the LAP across South Carolina. The tool may be used by trained officers and other first responders including law enforcement victim advocates (LEVAs), hospital staff, social workers, and community advocates.

“We are excited to see this program preparing to roll out across the entire state to connect more survivors with immediate, life-saving support,” says Project R.E.S.T. President/CEO Krystal Watson Smith.

According to [Violence Policy Center \(VPC\) report](#) analyzing 2023 homicides, South Carolina’s rate of female victims killed by males continues to top the national average. More than 95 percent of women knew the men who killed them.

(more)

“Every minute counts for victims experiencing domestic violence,” says SCCADVASA Executive Director Sara Barber. “The LAP’s ability to help first responders assess a victim’s level of danger and connect them with critical resources at the scene saves lives. We look forward to partnering with additional law enforcement agencies across South Carolina to implement this powerful tool.”

How the LAP works:

- If a first responder suspects a domestic violence victim may be in danger, the officer will ask the victim to complete the LAP’s 11-question, evidence-based Lethality Screen to quickly assess their risk of serious injury or homicide.
- If the victim is identified as “high-danger” based on their answers, the first responder will privately relay the concern for their safety and contact the local domestic violence agency hotline from the scene to connect the victim with services and support.

If you are a South Carolina first responder interested in using the LAP in your community, please contact Charity Collier at ccollier@sccadvasa.org to learn more.

About SCCADVASA:

The South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA)’s statewide coalition serves as the collective voice promoting the prevention of domestic violence and sexual assault in South Carolina. Our statewide coalition is made up of the 22 sexual assault and domestic violence direct service and advocacy programs in South Carolina and other allied organizations. Our dedicated staff advance our work through advocacy, education, and collaboration. To learn more about SCCADVASA and ways you can support survivors, visit our website at www.sccadvasa.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

###