

ENHANCING THE DISTRICT’S PUBLIC SAFETY THROUGH THE

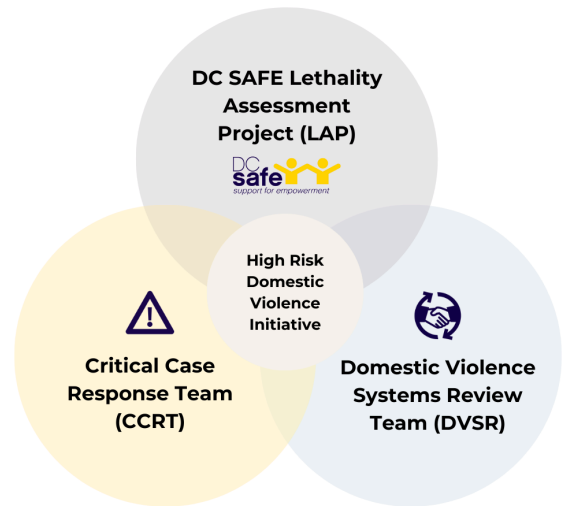
High Risk Domestic Violence Initiative

The District of Columbia High Risk Domestic Violence Initiative (HRDVI) contains a coordinated multidisciplinary approach with 15 District and federal government agencies and nonprofit organizations partnering daily to address domestic violence cases at high risk for serious reassault or homicide.

OVERVIEW OF THE HRDVI

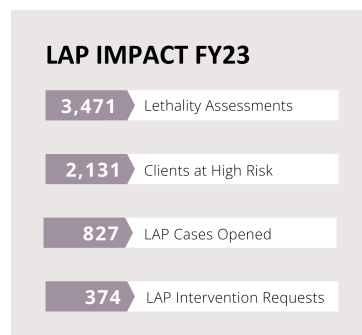
The HRDVI utilizes a multidisciplinary approach, focusing on victim safety and offender accountability across converging systems of care in the District. It prioritizes a victim-centered approach and aims to streamline and coordinate social services and criminal justice processes to reduce barriers for victims of intimate partner violence.

The HRDVI does this work through the Lethality Assessment Project, the Critical Case Response Team, and the Domestic Violence Systems Review Team.



ELEMENTS OF THE HRDVI

1. Lethality Assessment Project (LAP)



In 2009, the City Administrator initiated the HRDVI to establish an interagency response to domestic violence. Modeled on proven risk-based intervention programs, it mandated regular interagency meetings. The LAP was instituted as a result, and has demonstrated continuous growth and successful coordination for those most at risk of re-assault or homicide from domestic violence.

Survivors referred to DC SAFE are assessed for risk using a validated questionnaire, receiving immediate crisis intervention. High-risk survivors may authorize a LAP Advocate to alert partner agencies, initiating a coordinated response within 48 hours, addressing the survivor's needs and potential offender coordination within the criminal justice system.

2. Critical Case Response Team

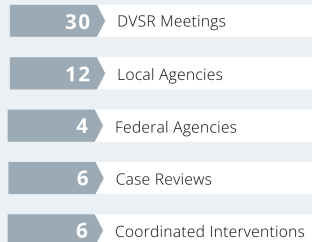
The Critical Case Response Team (CCRT) responds to cases that demand immediate attention, such as an offender threatening immediate harm to the victim or their children, endangerment of the children in the home, or a significant mental health crisis that places the victim and/or their children at risk of physical harm. This specialized team can mobilize within 24 hours of identifying the crisis, offering an acute response beyond the capabilities of the Lethality Assessment Project. The team’s crisis oriented approach allows for swift information sharing, removing the constraints of regular protocols. While the Fatality Review Board convenes to review closed cases, the CCRT activates in real-time to review open cases, determining the best response to prevent serious harm. Once a City Administrator’s Order or a similar legislative structure is in place for resource allocation, District government personnel can proactively identify and trigger this response to prevent imminent serious harm.

3. Domestic Violence Systems Review Team

In 2015, the City Administrator revitalized the initiative to establish interagency leadership meetings, part of the original vision to oversee and enhance the Lethality Assessment Project (LAP). This initiative evolved into the Domestic Violence Systems Review Team (DVSR), which today features key city agencies and community organizations such as DC SAFE, the Office of Victim Services & Justice Grants, the Department of Behavioral Health, the Metropolitan Police Department, the DC Superior Court, the Department of Human Services, the Network for Victim Recovery of DC, the DC Forensic Nurse Examiners, and more.

Beyond ensuring adherence to and coordination on expedited services, the DVSR has served dual purpose since February 2017: (1) to review high-risk and complicated domestic violence cases, assessing unmet needs and exploring avenues for more effective interventions; and (2) to address trends and gaps in services across diverse agencies on a bi-monthly basis to promote data sharing for improved coordination in responding to domestic violence in the District.

DVSR IMPACT FY23

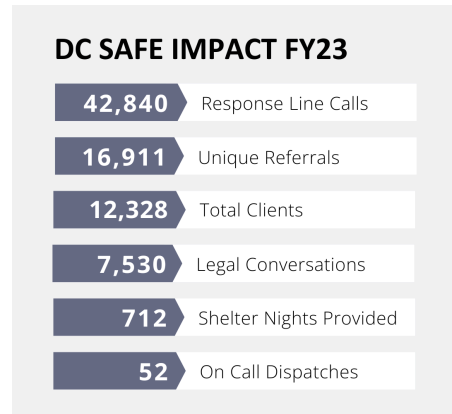


HOW CAN THE HRDVI BE EXPANDED?

The **Domestic Violence Intervention Project**, initially a pilot project between DC SAFE and MPD, has evolved into an organized, data driven case coordination process. It focuses on the top 10-15 families who generate highest volume calls for service for MPD in each District or District Sector, as well as ongoing, complex high lethality cases. The project’s goal is to develop non-acute, non-911 responses that can interrupt the pattern of ongoing distress and possible violence going on in these families’ lives. Interventions include instructing patrol officers to contact a Crisis Intervention Officer for addressing mental health concerns during subsequent 911 calls, providing specific instructions for referral to DC SAFE, seeking non-acute intervention from the Department of Behavioral Health for ongoing mental health and substance use disorder issues, coordinating with the Department of Human Services to address housing concerns, and maximizing criminal justice system coordination to address patterns of

violence. Some cases can also be brought to the DVSR for a comprehensive review, facilitating discussions on gaps in services and processes.

ABOUT DC SAFE



As the District of Columbia’s only 24/7 crisis intervention, DC SAFE plays a vital leadership role in this collaborative initiative. Our comprehensive crisis intervention services help survivors in the critical window immediately following violent incidents. DC SAFE is deeply integrated with the city’s public safety infrastructure, providing emergency response, court based advocacy at the DC Superior Court, and crisis shelter services. Additionally, our systems reform efforts work to improve the District’s community-wide response to domestic violence, underscored by successful partnerships with nearly 50 local city agencies and community organizations.