

SANTA CLARA COUNTY

***DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATH REVIEW TEAM***



22nd

**ANNUAL
REPORT**

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2016

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**ANNUAL REPORT
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM
JANUARY 1, 2016 – DECEMBER 31, 2016**

The Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Team (**DVDRT**) is a multi-disciplinary team of experts that investigates and reviews all domestic violence-related deaths that occur in Santa Clara County. The DVDRT provides monthly updates to the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and prepares an annual report that the Domestic Violence Council posts on its website. The annual report contains recommendations to community leaders and messages to victims and community members based upon what DVDRT members have learned from the review process, with the goal of improving system response and preventing future deaths.

In recent years the team has begun closely reviewing what we call “high lethality” cases. These are attempted murder or stalking cases in which there are multiple predictors suggesting that the victim remains at high risk. In those cases, the team’s discussion has even more purpose and urgency as we brainstorm on ways to make and keep the victim safe.

**OVERVIEW OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED DEATHS
IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY IN 2015**

In 2016 there were **seven** domestic violence related deaths, including **five** victims and **two** perpetrators who committed suicide or “blue suicide”¹. That number represents a slight decrease from 2015 when 13 deaths occurred. This year’s number of domestic violence-related deaths is less than the average occurring in Santa Clara County over the past 22 years, a figure that has been trending downward. Since 1994 there have been an average of 12 domestic violence-related deaths every year. Looking only at the years from 2004 to the present, the average drops to eight domestic violence related deaths each year. While this decrease is encouraging, even a single death is too many.

In 2016, **five** perpetrators killed **five** victims. Of those five killers, three survived and have been charged with murder, and two committed suicide or “blue suicide”. In total then, two of five perpetrators in lethal domestic violence incidents in 2016 – or 40% - committed suicide or “blue suicide”. In 2015 that percentage was 50%.

Older Generations Remain at Risk

For the third time in three years, there was a murder/suicide involving a long-married, retired couple. In contrast to the cases in 2014 and 2015, which both involved male perpetrators, the case in 2016 involved a female partner who killed her longtime male spouse and then killed herself.

Enduring Truths about Domestic Violence Homicide

The deaths in 2016 underscore facts about domestic violence homicide that have been true for the entire time that we have been tracking these deaths in our community, and validate what evidence and research tell us about domestic violence deaths nationally.

¹ Blue suicides are those situations where an individual threatens to kill police officers and/or others and advances on the police with a deadly weapon – intending that they respond by shooting him or her.

- The average age of a perpetrator of domestic violence homicide in our County remains well over the age of 30. The perpetrators this year ranged from age 40 to 64, with an average age of 50.
- These crimes are not limited to any particular socio-economic group or race. This year, at least three of the five incidents happened in upscale communities. They involved victims and perpetrators whose families immigrated from Fiji, India, Vietnam, the United States and Brazil.
- A study of twenty years of domestic violence deaths in our County showed that more than half of the incidents involved a perpetrator killing or trying to kill themselves. This year saw a similar trend. Two of the five perpetrators in this year's lethal domestic violence incidents committed suicide or "blue suicide". Notably, like last year, perpetrators who committed suicide or "blue suicide" were among the oldest of the perpetrators.

Attachment 1 shows the domestic violence related deaths since the formation of the Domestic Violence Death Review Team.

2016 Case Summaries
Domestic Violence Homicides/Suicides/Blue Suicides

#269 MURDER

On March 3rd, 2016, at 4:32 a.m. a 911 dispatcher received a call from a male reporting that his friend was dead. The reporting party said he had gotten into a fight with the victim some time before and probably hit him too hard. The victim had significant bruising on many parts of his body. An autopsy concluded that the victim died of blunt force trauma.

#270 and #271 MURDER / “BLUE SUICIDE”

On March 7, 2016, at approximately 6:00 p.m. the suspect traveled to his estranged wife’s house and confronted his wife’s male friend. The suspect’s wife tried to intervene, telling the suspect that a criminal protective order from a pending domestic violence case precluded him from being there. The suspect pulled out a knife and attacked the male friend, inflicting injuries that led to that victim’s death two weeks later. The suspect also attacked his wife, inflicting non-lethal injuries. The suspect, who was armed with a second knife when officers responded, was shot and killed by police.

#272 MURDER

On April 30, 2016, at approximately 12:45 a.m. a man called 911 to report that he shot his wife. The suspect bought the gun two weeks prior. He reportedly had a(n) (unsubstantiated) belief his wife was having an affair. The suspect had suffered a brain injury seven years prior. The victim died of a single gunshot wound to the face.

#273 and #274 MURDER / SUICIDE

On November 3, 2016, a female suspect killed her longtime male spouse by striking him repeatedly with a dumb bell. An autopsy revealed multiple skull fractures. The death was not discovered until November 17th, 2016, one day after the suspect was found dead in her vehicle, a death likely caused by self-ingested poison. The victim was found, dismembered and frozen, in the trunk of the vehicle.

#275 MURDER

On December 24, 2016, at 6:43 p.m. police received a 911 call from a male reporting that he had just stabbed and killed his wife. The victim was found lying on the kitchen floor with several stab wounds to her chest. The condition of the kitchen, which was otherwise undisturbed, suggested that the victim had been baking. The suspect was the subject of a “peaceful contact” criminal protective order in a pending domestic violence case.

2016 CASE SUMMARIES
Domestic Violence Related Attempted Homicide

ATTEMPTED MURDER

On October 14, 2016, the suspect traveled from another state to the Santa Clara County home where his estranged girlfriend was visiting her family. He shot through the glass pane in a back door and forced his way into the house. Once inside the residence he located the victim, grabbed her by the arm and said, "Let's go." By then the homeowner had retrieved his own firearm and fired on the suspect, striking him two times. The suspect returned fire but did not injure anyone.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

I. OVERVIEW

Decedents:	7
Number of Incidents:	5
Murder Victims:	5
Suicides:	1
“Blue suicides”:	1

II. MANNER OF DEATHS

Gun Shot:	1
Stabbing:	2
Blunt Force Trauma:	2
Blue Suicide (gunshot):	1
Suicide (poison):	1

III. LOCATIONS OF DEATHS

Victim’s Residence:	1*
Victim and Perpetrator’s Joint Residence:	4
Other Residence:	1**
Public Place:	1

*This victim was staying at the home of the suspect’s estranged wife.

**This suspect died at his estranged wife’s residence.

IV. POLICE AGENCIES INVOLVED

All seven deaths were investigated by the San Jose Police Department.

V. SOCIAL IDENTIFIERS

1. Ages

Female Homicide Victims:	35, 48
Male Homicide Victims:	39, 54, 62
Male Perpetrators:	40, 43, 46*, 64
Female Perpetrator:	57*
	(*deceased)

2. **Race/Ethnicity of Decedents**

Caucasian:	0
Hispanic:	3
Latin American:	1
African-American:	0
Indian:	0
Asian:	2
Pacific Islander:	1

3. **Race/Ethnicity of Perpetrators**

Caucasian:	0
Hispanic:	2
Latin American:	1
African-American:	0
Indian:	1
Asian:	1
Pacific Islander:	0

4. **Gender of Decedents**

Female:	3
Male:	4

5. **Gender of Perpetrators**

Female:	1
Male:	4

6. **Same Gender Couples**

1

VI. **CHILDREN**

1. **Number of Biological Children Perpetrator and Victim had in Common**

9

2. **Number of Children who were Homicide Victims**

0

3. **Minor Children Present at Time of Incident**

0

4. **Children Whose Parents were Decedents**

- a. Minors – 0
- b. Dependent Adults - 0
- c. Non-Dependent Adults - 9

5. **Children Orphaned**

- a. Minors - 0
- b. Dependent Adults - 0
- c. Non-Dependent Adults - 2

VII. RELATIONSHIP HISTORY AND CURRENT STATUS OF PARTIES

1. **Type of Relationship at Time of Death (Recorded per Incident)**

Married:	3
Divorced:	0
Married and filed for divorce:	0
Married and discussed separation:	0
Married and separated:	1
Unmarried cohabitant:	1
Dating:	0
No longer dating:	0
Dating and seeing other people:	0
No longer dating but living together:	0
Dating but in the process of breaking up:	0

2. **Length of Pre-Separation Relationship**

Less than one year:	0
One year:	0
1-3 years:	1
4-15 years:	1
Over 15 years:	0
Over 20 years:	2
Over 30 years:	1
Over 40 years:	0
Over 50 years:	0

3. **Length of Post-Separation Relationship**

No separation:	4
Less than one year:	1

One year:	0
1-4 years:	0
Over 5 years:	0

4. **Prior Police Reports of Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence had previously occurred in at least 3 of the 5 intimate relationships where lethal violence later occurred. The violence and/or controlling behavior by the perpetrator had been observed by or known to others (family and/or friends) in all three of those relationships. The police had been called at least once in each of those three relationships. However, in two of those three relationships the victims denied domestic violence. One victim never disclosed to police his intimate relationship with the suspect. A second victim blamed the violence on a mental break-down.

5. **Restraining Orders**

There were Criminal Protective Orders in place in two of the incidents, arising out of pending domestic violence cases.

6. **Employment Status of Homicide Victims**

Retired:	1
Full-time Employment:	3
Unemployed:	1
Part-time Employment:	0

7. **Employment Status of Perpetrators**

Retired:	1
Full-time Employment:	0
Unemployed:	4
Part-time Employment:	0

8. **Immigrant Victim**

One.

Note: The DVDRT defines an immigrant as a person who has been in the United States for 10 years or fewer. We do not look at legal status.

9. **Chronic Health Conditions**

a. **Mental Health Issues**

Victim -	0
Perpetrator -	1*

*This figure only includes documented mental health issues.

b. **Physical Health Issues**

(i) **Debilitating Physical Condition**

Victim - 1

Perpetrator - 1

(ii) **Neuro-Cognitive Impairment (age 65 and older)**

Victim - 0

Perpetrator - 0

(iii) **Developmental Disability (under age 65)**

Victim - 0

Perpetrator - 0

NON-LETHAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY
2016

In 2016, there were 5,101 domestic violence cases referred to the District Attorney's Office for review. This represents an increase of 815 cases from the number of cases referred in 2015. Of the 5,101 cases referred in 2016, 2,314 (55%) supported the filing of criminal charges, a decrease from 2015 in which 2,686 (63%) cases referred resulted in criminal charges being filed. In 2016, 981 (42%) of filed cases resulted in felony charges, and 1,333 (58%) of filed cases resulted in misdemeanor charges. In 2016, there were 2,797 cases (45%) where no criminal charges were filed.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE DVDRT TO COMMUNITY LEADERS

The DVDRT has compiled a list of recommendations for agencies throughout Santa Clara County. There are myriad government, private, non-profit and other groups working to end domestic violence. We trust that they will continue their excellent efforts. The recommendations for 2017 are intended to be incorporated into the fine work already underway.

Last year (2016) the DVDRT reviewed many cases that confirmed and reinforced the validity of the Lethality Assessment tool (Attachment 6) as an instrument for identifying the most dangerous perpetrators. However, there is a concern that the tool is not being used consistently by every law enforcement agency. There is an even greater concern that the responses obtained when the tool is used are not being communicated to necessary decision-makers. Accordingly, we make the following recommendations with respect to this issue:

- 1) Law enforcement officers should use the lethality assessment tool in every domestic violence case, make appropriate referrals to confidential victim advocacy groups, and **include in their felony affidavits a list of factors present**²;
- 2) Pretrial service officers and Judicial Magistrates should review the results of the lethality assessment tool prior to setting bail and/or conditions of release;
- 3) Issuing prosecutors should review the lethality assessment tool prior to rendering an issuing decision, and make appropriate referrals in light thereof to the Victim Services Unit; and
- 4) Arraignment prosecutors should review the lethality assessment tool prior to arraignment, and bring to the Court's attention any factors present.

A second issue the DVDRT concerned itself with in 2016 is the issue of law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents involving same-gender relationships and/or gender non-conforming individuals. Law Enforcement officers have become very effective in identifying and responding to domestic violence occurring in gender conforming male/female relationships. Law Enforcement officers have also done an excellent job in enforcing the pro-arrest policy called for in the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol – a policy we truly believe saves lives. However, we need to do a better job addressing domestic violence in same-gender relationships and in relationships involving one or more gender non-conforming individuals.

In 2016, the first domestic violence homicide of the year involved a same-gender couple. Evidence collected after the murder suggests that the couple had been together on and off for several years and that police had been called to their residence for a disturbance at least once prior to the murder. However, the couple were not open about their relationship, the incident was not identified as having involved domestic violence, and no domestic violence referrals were ever made to either party. We acknowledge that the responding officers acted reasonably given the information available to them. With the benefit of twenty-twenty

² This requirement has been added to the 2017 Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol.

hindsight, we now see a need to look for clues beyond the statements of the parties regarding the existence of an intimate relationship. We make the following additional recommendations:

- 1) In responding to domestic dispute calls, Officers should not let the apparent genders of the parties affect their judgment as to whether domestic violence has occurred;
- 2) Responding officers should look for clues³ within the residence as to whether the parties share an intimate relationship, and err on the side of making referrals for domestic violence services;
- 3) Responding officers should not make assumptions about the role of each party (victim vs. suspect) based on their gender appearance.

In 2016, as in 2015 and 2014, there was a murder/suicide involving a long-married, retired couple, though in this instance both parties were under the age of 65. As in previous years, at least one partner suffered from a debilitating physical condition. We respectfully recommend that the medical community, perhaps led by the Medical Committee of the Domestic Violence Council, explore training for medical and mental health professionals regarding the need to be vigilant with respect to depression and caregiver stress among their older patients.

³ For example, is there a single bed within a shared room, are there photographs of the parties together, do the contents of the home indicate two people living separately or together?

RED FLAGS AND CHARACTER TRAITS FOR POTENTIAL LETHAL SITUATIONS

The DVDRT has identified numerous “red flags,” or factors that may precede a domestic violence related death. These factors have been reported and discussed in multiple studies.⁴ These red flags may not apply in every situation but may signal that a person is at risk. We hope that people will recognize these risk factors and seek help before it is too late.

Risk factors may include:

- (1) Prior acts of intimate partner violence.
- (2) Resistance to separation or ending the relationship.
- (3) Access to firearms.
- (4) Controlling behaviors which may include social isolation, financial dependency by restricting access to money and information about finances, threats to take away children, or threats involving deportation.
- (5) Stalking behavior including monitoring of daily activities.
- (6) Threats of suicide and/or homicide.
- (7) Kidnapping or imprisoning someone against their will.
- (8) Lack of any, or very few, friends outside the relationship.
- (9) Untreated and inadequately treated mental health conditions or illnesses including depression, anxiety, and related conditions. Issues may stem from early childhood trauma, abuse, neglect or abandonment.
- (10) Previous use of weapons or threat of using weapons.
- (11) Extreme jealousy and/or possessiveness.
- (12) Prior strangulation.
- (13) Aging related diseases (like dementia) which may exacerbate abusive or violent behavior.
- (14) A sense of entitlement, self-centeredness, or a lack of empathy for others (including children).
- (15) Illegal drug use or undue alcohol consumption.
- (16) Unemployment or under-employment.
- (17) Public display of aggression/ violence towards partner.

A review of our 2016 cases⁵ validated the prevalence of these known risk factors:

- (16) Unemployment or under-employment – 6 of 6 perpetrators.**
- (1) Prior domestic violence, victim fear of perpetrator – 5 of 6 cases.**
- (11) Jealous/controlling behavior – 5 of 6 perpetrators.**
- (3)/(10) Weapon use/access – 4 of 6 perpetrators.**
- (6) Prior threats to kill – 4 of 6 perpetrators.**

⁴ See:

Campbell J.C. (2005) Assessing dangerousness in domestic violence cases: history, challenges and opportunities. *Criminology and Public Policy*, 4 (4), 653-672;

Campbell, J.C., Glass, N., Sharps, P.W., Laughon, K., & Bloom, T. (2007). Intimate partner homicide: Review and implications of research and policy. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 8, 246-269;

Knopp, P.R., & Gibas, A. (2010) The spousal assault risk assessment guide (SARA). In R.K. Otto & K.S. Douglass (Eds.), *Handbook of Violence Risk Assessment*, 227-250.

⁵ This discussion includes the attempted murder case summarized herein.

- (8) Perpetrator had few friends outside the relationship – 4 of 6 perpetrators.**
- (5) Perpetrator stalked victim – 3 of 6 perpetrators.**
- (12) Prior strangulation – 3 of 6 cases, 1 of 1 involving “blue suicide”.**

A MESSAGE TO VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: “REACH OUT!”

The DVDRT studies domestic violence related deaths within the context of both lethal and non-lethal acts of domestic violence. The Domestic Violence Death Review Team discussed numerous controlling behaviors that are commonly seen in these domestic violence incidents and encourage individuals to reach out for advice and assistance if your partner:

- (1) Physically abuses you in any way.
- (2) Threatens you.
- (3) Makes you afraid they will follow through with their threats.
- (4) Isolates you from friends and family members.
- (5) Becomes emotionally intense and frightening.
- (6) Keeps you on an emotional roller coaster.
- (7) Does not, cannot, or will not accept you ending the relationship.
- (8) Uses force, coercion, or threats to control you.
- (9) Apologizes profusely for “bad” conduct but then repeats the conduct on other occasions.
- (10) Shows anger that is out of proportion to the incident.
- (11) Never takes responsibility for the problems in the relationship and minimizes, denies, or blames you for the partner’s behavior.
- (12) Often or always has access to firearms or other deadly weapons.
- (13) Monitors your phone calls, text messages, emails, letters, and computer usage, or uses social media to detect and follow your daily activities.
- (14) Is extremely jealous and always wants to know your location.
- (15) Wants to have control over your financial situation and restricts your financial independence, keeps important documents and other information from you.
- (16) Wants to know everything about you from the very beginning of the relationship, including phone numbers, access codes, and computer passwords.
- (17) Abuses alcohol or prescription drugs or uses illegal drugs.

All threats must be taken seriously, whether or not you feel the perpetrator has the means to follow through on them and whether or not the perpetrator later says that the threats were just a joke. Listen to your inner voice that says there may be a problem.

If you find yourself in a relationship with someone who displays any of the above-referenced behaviors, REACH OUT to one of the advocacy groups listed in Attachment 5 (pp 29-30.) A new resource is Safe Chat Silicon Valley at www.safechatsv.com where you can have a secure one-on-one chat with a trained advocate. Help is available! Contacting one of the listed resources can be a first step toward safety planning, understanding your legal options, and obtaining a wide range of supportive services including shelter and counseling. Culturally competent help is available. You do not need to go through this alone!

Domestic Violence thrives in darkness. Seek the light.

Reach out!

A MESSAGE TO FRIENDS, FAMILIES, CO-WORKERS
AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS:
“IF YOU HEAR SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING”

Numerous fatalities studied by the DVDRT since 1994 have involved situations where family members, co-workers, friends, and community members were aware of serious problems in a relationship but did not intervene. Intervention and support is necessary when someone may be a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence does not get better on its own, in fact it usually escalates without intervention. Calling 911 or seeking professional assistance could save a life!

Moreover, children, other family members, other household residents, neighbors, co-workers, innocent bystanders and first responders are all put at risk if they are nearby when the violence erupts. Almost every year, including this year, one or more of the victims listed in our report is a family member, friend or first responder. We must continue to educate the public on vicarious victim violence and how these issues affect all those who surround the primary victims.

The DVDRT recognizes that a person may not know what to do when they suspect a person is a victim of domestic violence or if a child is at risk. The DVDRT recommends that one or more of the following actions be taken:

- (1) Call 911.
- (2) Contact a victim advocacy agency and inquire about ways to help the victim. The names and numbers of local agencies can be found on pages 27-28 of this report.
- (3) Ask victims if they are fearful of the perpetrator and why. Let them know that you are there for them.
- (4) Determine if there are deadly weapons in the home and contact local law enforcement or advocacy agencies about the threat of the use of these weapons.
- (5) Assist victims in calling a domestic violence advocacy agency to create a safety plan, obtain a restraining order, or seek domestic violence counseling. This is especially important if the victim wishes to end the relationship.
- (6) Take all threats seriously even if the victim says that the perpetrator is just “blowing off steam.”
- (7) Protect children. Do not be afraid to tell victims that domestic violence is harming their children. When necessary, contact the Child Abuse Hotline at the Department of Family and Children’s Services.
- (8) Learn about domestic violence and share the information with others.
- (9) Encourage people to seek mental health help if they are suffering from the loss of a relationship.
- (10) Reach out to a person who may be depressed or upset about the end of a relationship. Attempt to guide them into counseling or to seek professional help.

Domestic Violence thrives in darkness. Shed some light.

Speak Up!

CONCLUSION

Education and action are the keys to ending domestic violence.

Without intervention, domestic violence always continues and usually escalates. It can become deadly in an instant. Immersed in trauma, victims are not always aware of the danger they face. Even when aware, they may feel powerless to act or to escape. The community must act with and for them. We must all work to educate ourselves and others as to the signs of domestic violence and the resources available to help end it.

Friends and families of victims must reach out and speak up. Report abuse and let the victim know that options and support are available. Law enforcement must respond in trauma-informed and culturally competent ways. Advocacy groups and other community organizations must work to provide services that sustain and empower victims.

No socioeconomic group, racial group, ethnicity or gender is immune from domestic violence. It is a problem for all of us, but working all together, we can end it.

Respectfully Submitted: The Domestic Violence Death Review Team 2016

OVERVIEW OF THE DVDRT

Mandate

The DVDRT investigates and reviews domestic violence related deaths in order to make recommendations aimed at preventing deaths in similar circumstances and reducing domestic violence in general. The DVDRT examines lives of the victims and perpetrators with a special focus on any contact the individuals may have had with the justice system, mental health services, or other social service programs. A comprehensive database of victims, perpetrators, and the circumstances surrounding the deaths is created to help identify trends and risk factors. The DVDRT has reviewed 275 deaths since 1993.

If problems, gaps or shortcomings are discovered, the team strives to prepare recommendations for effective intervention and prevention strategies. The recommendations are included in the DVDRT's Annual Report, and often inspire changes to the Domestic Violence Law Enforcement Protocol as well. The Annual Report is given to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and is published on the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council's website and on the District Attorney's website.

Information the team uncovers is used only to accomplish the constructive work of advocating for system-wide change and protecting future victims. The team's job is not to point fingers or place blame. The members of the DVDRT firmly believe that lives have been saved as a result of the team's work.

Creation of the DVDRT

In early 1993, a representative of the United States Department of Justice visited the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and requested that the Council create a domestic violence related death review team. The DVDRT was established by the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council in October, 1993 in response to this request. Santa Clara County was one of the first counties to establish a death review team.

In 1995, the California Legislature enacted Penal Code section 11163.3 which allowed all California counties to establish an interagency domestic violence death review team. These teams were mandated to coordinate and integrate state and local efforts to address fatal domestic violence incidents and create a body of information which would help prevent domestic violence deaths.

In 1996, the California Legislature expanded Penal Code section 11163.3. As a result of the new legislation, information shared in death review team meetings was to be confidential and not subject to disclosure or discovery by a third party. Recommendations and summary data may be disclosed.

Confidentiality

DVDRT members sign an agreement requiring that all information discussed in team meetings remain confidential. The only agreed upon public disclosure of cases involves statistics and fact patterns. The names of particular victims and perpetrators are removed out

of respect for victims, family members, and survivors. The signed agreement is kept on file by the team chair. A copy of the agreement is provided in **Attachment 2**.

Membership

DVDRT membership consists of a cross-section of organizations and disciplines in Santa Clara County that interact with domestic violence victims, perpetrators, and their children. Team members come from the Office of the District Attorney, local law enforcement agencies, the therapeutic community, victim advocacy agencies (including Asian Americans for Community Involvement, MAITRI, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence, Community Solutions, YWCA Silicon Valley), the Probation Department, the Department of Corrections, Pretrial Services, the Department of Family and Children's Services, Adult Protective Services, Family Court Services, Family Law Bar, Victim Services, County Mental Health, the LGBTQ community, batterer's intervention programs, the Department of Public Health, Veteran's Affairs, and the Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office.

Definition of "Domestic Violence Related Death"

The DVDRT defines a "domestic violence related death" as a death that occurs when the perpetrator and victim were involved in an intimate relationship, either at the time of death or at any time prior to the death, and domestic violence was the catalyst for the death. A domestic violence related death also includes the death of a family member, friend, and community member such as a first responder or innocent bystander, if the motivation for the homicide was domestic violence. Domestic violence related deaths include all homicides: murders, murder/suicides, suicides, fatal accidents, and blue suicides. Blue suicides occur when an individual threatens to kill police officers, verbally or by use of a weapon, and intends that the police will respond by firing upon the individual.

Each decedent is counted separately and given their own number, even if multiple people die during one incident.

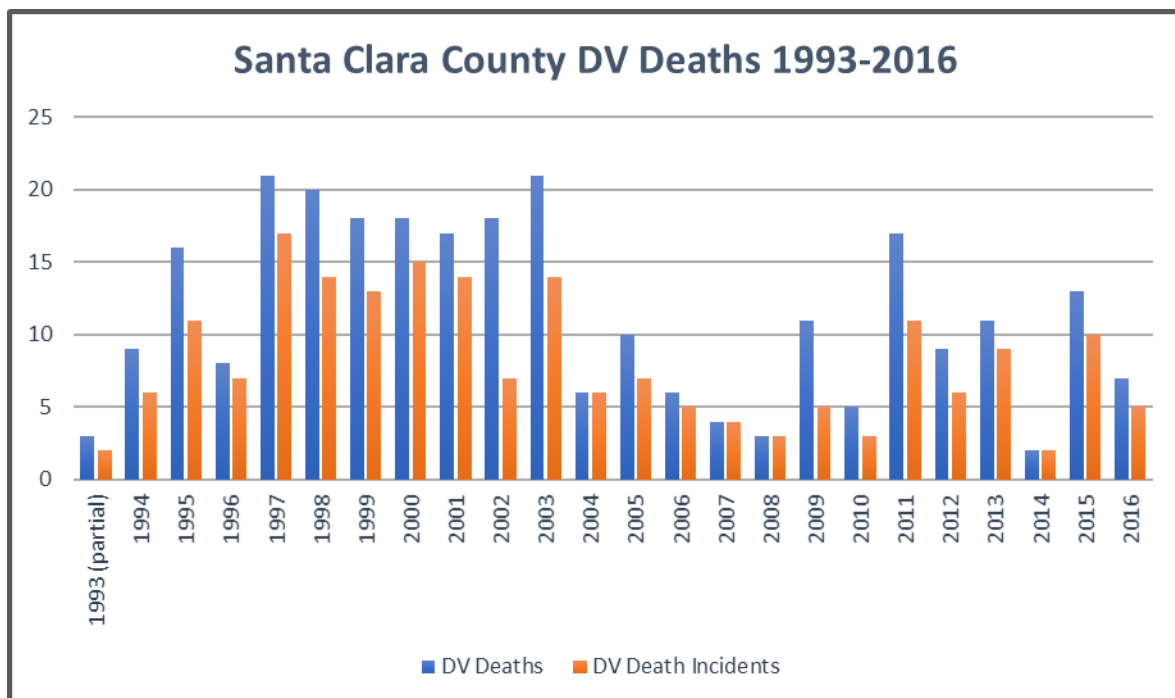
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM MEMBERS
SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
JANUARY 1, 2016 - DECEMBER 31, 2016**

Cindy Seeley Hendrickson, District Attorney's Office, Chair
Alma Tovar, Community Solutions
Amy Caffrey, Domestic Violence Council
Bill Hoyt, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
Blanca Tapia, District Attorney's Office, Victim Services Unit
Brenda Farrell-Thomas, LMFT, Family Court Services
Brian Dutton, Gilroy Police Department
Brian Meeker, San Jose Police Department
Campbell Duncan, Campbell Police Department
Carl McGrew, Pretrial Services
Carlton Sheppard, San Jose Police Department
Carmen Garcia Vargas, Adult Probation Department
Chris King, California Highway Patrol
Claudia Pedroza, Next Door Solutions
Cynthia Guzman, Department of Family and Children's Services
Cynthia Hunter, Office of Women's Policy
Cynthia Spencer, Children's Attorney
Dan Rodriguez, Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office
David Siddall, Veteran's Affairs Palo Alto
Elizabeth Valencia, District Attorney's Office, Victim Services Unit
Eric Bulatao, Palo Alto Police Department
Eric Golembiewski, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety
Geraldine Foley, Adult Probation Department
Gina Tibaldi, San Jose Police Department
Greg Dini, Morgan Hill Police Department
Harold Hoyt, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
Ingrid Infante, Community Solutions
Joaquina Flores-Chavez, Department of Family and Children's Services
Jeanine McKelvey, Legal Advocates for Youth and Children
Jessica Dominguez, Department of Family and Children's Services
Jon Hernandez, Stanford Department of Public Safety
Josephine Suh, Asian Americans for Community Involvement
Julie Saffren, Family Law Attorney
Katelyn Riley-Cook, Pretrial Services
Katherine Webb, Veteran's Affairs
Kevin Elliott, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
Kimberly Nielsen, Family Court Services
Leo Coddington, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
Linda Hsiao, Department of Family and Children's Services
Lindsey Mansfield, YWCA Silicon Valley
Lisa Gannon, San Jose Police Department
The Rev. Maly Hughes, clergy
Mariluisa Diaz, Family and Children's Services of Silicon Valley
Mark Bautista, Los Altos Police Department

Marla Allen, LCSW, Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative
Matthew Breaux, Adult Protective Services
Dr. Michelle Jorden, Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office
Dr. Michael Kerner, Psychologist
Mindy Zen, Morgan Hill Police Department
Nancy Marshall, LMFT, Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative
Rachel Arias Busta, Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence
Ruth Patrick, WomenSV
Saher Stephan, District Attorney's Office, Victim Services Unit
Steve Baron, LMFT, Santa Clara University, Family Court Services (ret.)
Dr. Susan Ditter, Department of Mental Health
Sylvia Mata, District Attorney's Office, Victim Services Unit
Tony Becker, Palo Alto Police Department
Tony Serrano, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety
Valerie Smith, Adult Protective Services
Wayne Boom, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department
William Oberst, Medical Examiner/Coroner's Office

Attachment 1: Domestic Violence Related Deaths Since 1993

<u>Year</u>	<u>Domestic Violence Related Deaths</u>	<u>D.V. Death Incidents</u>
1993 (partial)	3	2
1994	9	6
1995	16	11
1996	8	7
1997	21	17
1998	20	14
1999	18	13
2000	18	15
2001	17	14
2002	18	7
2003	21	14
2004	6	6
2005	10	7
2006	6	5
2007	4	4
2008	3	3
2009	11	5
2010	5	3
2011	17	11
2012	9	6
2013	11	9
2014	2	2
2015	13	10
2016	7	5



Attachment 2: DVDRT's Confidentiality Agreement

**CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT
SANTA CLARA COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW TEAM**

As a participant in the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT) I understand that all cases discussed, information received, and all documents reviewed pertaining to cases presented to the DVDRT, are strictly confidential.

I agree that I will not discuss, disseminate in any manner, nor otherwise cause dissemination of such information, to any non-member unless otherwise provided by law.

I further understand, and agree, that my duty to preserve and protect the confidentiality of all information received as a team member, is a continuing and permanent duty, and is not contingent upon my status as a team member, and is not terminated upon conclusion of membership.

Name _____ (Please print)
(First, Last and Title)

Signature _____ Date _____

Agency Name _____ (Please Spell Out)

Agency Address _____
Street Suite or Bldg. #

City Zip Code

E-mail Address _____ (Please print clearly)

Telephone No. _____ Fax No. _____

Replacing or Filing in for Current Member _____
(Please print current member's name you are replacing or filling in for)

Guest Only (Please check)

Rev. 03/20/14

Attachment 3: Police Agencies in Santa Clara County

California Highway Patrol	(408) 467-5400
Campbell Police Department	(408) 866-2121 (408) 378-8161*
Gilroy Police Department	(408) 846-0350
Los Altos Police Department	(650) 947-2770 (650) 947-2779*
Los Gatos-Monte Sereno Police Department	(408) 354-8600
Milpitas Police Department	(408) 586-2400 (408) 263-1212*
Morgan Hill Police Department	(408) 776-2101 (408) 799-2102*
Mountain View Police Department	(650) 903-6395 (650) 903-6922*
Palo Alto Police Department	(650) 329-2413 (650) 321-4433*
Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office	(408) 299-2311
San Jose Police Department	(408) 277-8900 (408) 277-8911*
Santa Clara Police Department	(408) 615-5580
Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety	(408) 730-7180 (408) 736-2644*
Santa Clara County Adult Probation Department	(408) 435-2100

CALL 911 FOR ALL EMERGENCIES

* Some of the Law Enforcement Agencies in Santa Clara County have direct emergency telephone numbers that can be programmed into a person's cellular telephone. These numbers are provided by the DVDRT for those individuals who may need these numbers as part of their safety planning. The DVDRT recommends that individuals call 911 for all emergencies.

Attachment 4: Campus Police and Security Agencies

Evergreen Valley Community College Police Department 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Monday-Friday business line (After hours call 911)	(408) 270-6468
Foothill - DeAnza Community College Police Department 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Monday-Friday business line 24-hour dispatch/emergency line	(650) 949-7313 (408) 924-8000
Gavilan College Security Department 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. Monday-Friday business line 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Urgent matters (After hours call 911)	(408) 848-4703 (408) 710-7490
Mission Community College Police Department 7:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line	(408) 748-2797 (408) 299-2311
San Jose City College Police Department 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. dispatch line only; will connect to Evergreen Police Department after 3 p.m.	(408) 288-3735
San Jose State University Department of Public Safety 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. business line 24-hour dispatch line	(408) 924-2185 (408) 924-2222
Santa Clara University Department of Public Safety 24-hour business and dispatch line	(408) 554-4441
Stanford University Department of Public Safety 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday business line 24-hour non-emergency dispatch line	(650) 723-9633 (650) 329-2413
West Valley Community College Police Department 7 a.m. – 11 p.m. business line After hours dispatch line Investigations Bureau	(408) 741-2092 (408) 299-2311 (408) 741-2068

Attachment 5: Crisis Hotlines and Referral Agencies

EMERGENCY POLICE RESPONSE - 911

Adult Protective Services www.sccgov.org/aps		(800) 414-2002
Asian Americans for Community Involvement (AACI) www.aaci.org		(408) 975-2739
Bay Area Legal Aid www.baylegal.org		(408) 850-7066
Billy DeFrank Center www.defrankcenter.org		(408) 293-3040
Child Abuse Neglect and Reporting Hotline www.sccgov.org	San Jose Palo Alto Gilroy/Morgan Hill	(408) 299-2071 (650) 493-1186 (408) 683-0601
Community Solutions (South County) www.communitysolutions.org		(877) 363-7238
CONTACT (Hotline for all hotlines) www.BillWilsonCenter.org		(408) 850-6125
Domestic Violence Intervention Collaborative www.dvintervention.org		(408) 294-0006
Family and Children Services of Silicon Valley www.fcservices.org	HQ	(650) 326-6576
Family Court www.sccourt.org		(408) 534-5600
Family Court Self Help Center www.courtinfo.ca.gov		(408) 882-2900
Family Justice Centers www.santaclara-da.org		
San Jose – Open Thursdays 9:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.		(408) 975-2739
North County – Open Fridays 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.		(408) 749-0793
South County – Open Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.		(408) 779-2113
Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) www.lawfoundation.org		(408) 280-2416

MAITRI www.maitri.org	(888) 862-4874
National Domestic Violence Hotline www.thehotline.org	(800) 799-7233 (SAFE)
Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence www.nextdoor.org	(408) 279-2962
Pro Bono Project www.probonoproject.org	(408) 998-5298
Restraining Order Self Help Center www.courts.ca.gov	(408) 534-5709
San Jose State Counseling Service (SJSU students) www.sjsu.edu/counseling	(408) 924-5910
Santa Clara County Mental Health	(800) 704-0900
Senior Adult Legal Services www.sala.org	(408) 295-5991
SJPD Family Violence Center www.sjpd.org/boi/fvc	(408) 277-3700
Suicide Crisis Service www.suicide.org/hotlines/california-suicide-hotlines.html	(408) 279-3312
	North County (650) 494-8420
	South County (408) 683-2482
Victim Services Unit – District Attorney’s Office www.santaclara-da.org	8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (408) 295-2656
Victim Notification System (Victims can register and be informed when a defendant is to be released.) www.vineline.com	(877) 411-5588
WomenSV www.womensv.org	(650) 996-2200
YWCA Silicon Valley 24-hour Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Support Line http://ywca-sv.org/our-services/support-services/	Eng / Span 1-800-572-2782 Business Line (408) 295 4011

**Attachment 6: SANTA CLARA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
LETHALITY ASSESSMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS**

Date:	Case #:
Officer:	Agency:
Victim:	Offender:
Victim's Safe Numbers to Call: Home: Cell: Work:	Would you like to provide names/phone numbers of 2 people that can reach you? 1. 2.
Is the victim monolingual/limited English proficient? If yes, what language do they speak?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if the victim did not answer any of the questions.	
<i>If the victim answers YES to any questions 1-3, please call the appropriate domestic violence crisis hotline and have the counselor speak with the victim.</i>	
1. Has your current or previous partner ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
2. Have they threatened to kill you or someone else?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
3. Do you think your current or previous partner might try to kill you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
<i>If the answers to the above questions are NO but at least 4 of the questions below are YES please contact the hotline. ("They" refers to the current or previous partner.)</i>	
4. Do they have a gun or can they easily get one?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
5. Have they ever tried to choke /strangle you?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
6. Are they violently or constantly jealous or try to control most of your daily activities?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
7. Have you left or separated from your partner after living together or being married?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
8. Are they unemployed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
9. Have they tried to commit suicide?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
10. Do you have a child that they know is not theirs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
11. Do they follow or spy on you or leave threatening messages?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> No Answer
12. Is there anything else that worries you about your safety? If yes, what concerns do you have?	
<i>Officers are encouraged to call the hotline whenever they believe the victim is in a potentially lethal situation regardless of the victim's responses to the questions above.</i>	
Check one:	<input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on responses <input type="checkbox"/> Victim did not screen in <input type="checkbox"/> Victim screened in based on the belief of officer
Did the victim speak with the hotline counselor?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
San Jose, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Los Altos, Sunnyvale, Milpitas, YWCA Silicon Valley: 1-800-572-2782 / FAX: 408-293-9696	Sheriff's Office, Campbell, Santa Clara, Los Gatos-Monte Sereno, Next Door Solutions: 408-279-2962 / FAX: 408-279-7577
Morgan Hill, Gilroy, South County Sheriff, Community Solutions: 1-877-363-7238 / FAX: 408-778-9672	
PLEASE FAX THIS DOCUMENT TO THE APPROPRIATE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGENCY	

Conducting the Lethality Assessment:

This evidence-based Lethality Assessment tool is a user-friendly, straightforward instrument that predicts danger and lethality in domestic incidents between intimate or former intimate partners to a high degree. Research shows that only 4% of abused victims had used a domestic violence hotline or shelter within the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner. This Assessment encourages victims in high danger to seek domestic violence program services to prevent serious injury or death.

Purpose:

- a. To improve the way law enforcement and the community respond to victims;
- b. To educate and empower victims;
- c. To respond more strategically to high danger or lethal situations; and
- d. To enhance cooperation, communication and collaboration among law enforcement and domestic violence service providers.

Step 1 – Fill out the Lethality Assessment form with the victim.

The officer should advise the victim that **they** will ask a short series of questions to help the officer determine how much immediate danger the victim is in. The assessment questions should be asked in the order they are listed on the form.

Ask all the questions, even if the victim responds positively to questions 1-3, which triggers a hotline call. The more questions the victim responds to positively, the clearer and more immediate it is that the victim is in danger.

Step 2 – Assess the responses to the lethality assessment.

“Yes” to Questions 1, 2 or 3 = Call Hotline

“No” to Questions 1-3 but “Yes” to four of Questions 4-11 = Call Hotline

*“No” responses may still warrant a hotline call if the officer believes it is appropriate. An officer may call the hotline and assess the victim as being in high-danger whenever **they** believe the victim is in a potentially lethal situation.*

Step 3 – Victim is Assessed as High-Danger – Referral Process.

1. Explain assessment to victim.
2. Advise that you need to call hotline and you would like for victim to speak with an advocate. (Remember: You are seeking the victim’s permission.)
3. If victim does not want to speak with an advocate, tell victim you need to speak with an advocate to seek guidance and gently ask victim to reconsider.
4. Call the hotline and give them the basic facts.
5. If victim still does not want to speak with an advocate, follow procedures under step 4 below.

Step 4 – Victim is assessed as non-high danger, or the victim did not/could not participate in assessment or hotline call:

1. Advise of dangerous situation.
2. Advise to watch for signs of danger.
3. Refer to providers on DV resource card.

Step 5 – Provide the victim with the DV resource card, case number and Marsy’s card as per the DV protocol.

Step 6 – Please fax all Lethality Assessment forms to the appropriate DV organization listed on the bottom of the form regardless of the answers or whether or not the victim answered any of the questions.