



FAMILY
JUSTICE CENTER
Sonoma County



SONOMA COUNTY'S
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
HIGH-RISK
TEAM

What We Already Knew

- Sonoma County averages 3,000–3,500 domestic-violence related calls to law enforcement per year.
- This equates to roughly 6–7 DV calls per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the statewide average.
- 2,000–2,500 DV restraining-order filings per year
- Hundreds of criminal DV cases prosecuted annually
- A high rate of repeat DV offenders, consistent with statewide recidivism patterns



- *Domestic violence is one of the county's most common causes of injury-related emergency-room visits for women.*
- *DV is a leading cause of child welfare involvement.*
- *DV is strongly correlated with substance use, housing instability, and economic stress, all of which are elevated in Sonoma County due to wildfire displacement and high cost of living.*



Our County

Police: Man and teenage girl found in Santa Rosa apartment died in suspected murder-suicide

Police investigating the deaths of a man and a teenage girl who were found with gunshot wounds in their Santa Rosa apartment last week believe the shooting was a murder-suicide, officials said Monday. Detectives believe the man, 23-year-old...

PD The Press Democrat / May 9, 2022

News Headlines about Domestic Violence Homicides

6
Domestic
Violence
Homicides
in 2025



MUNDAY, APR 11, 2025
Couple dead in Petaluma shooting

Victim feared husband

Friends, family mourn loss of beloved teacher

Community reeling from young mother's death in apparent homicide

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025 - SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA - PRESS-HERALD.COM
Man kills estranged wife, self

HOMICIDE DATA - 46 PERCENT OF WOMEN KILLED BY PARTNER
Domestic slayings brutal and foreseeable

Murder-suicides spur more hotline calls



Sonoma County sheriff's deputy kills ex-girlfriend, then self

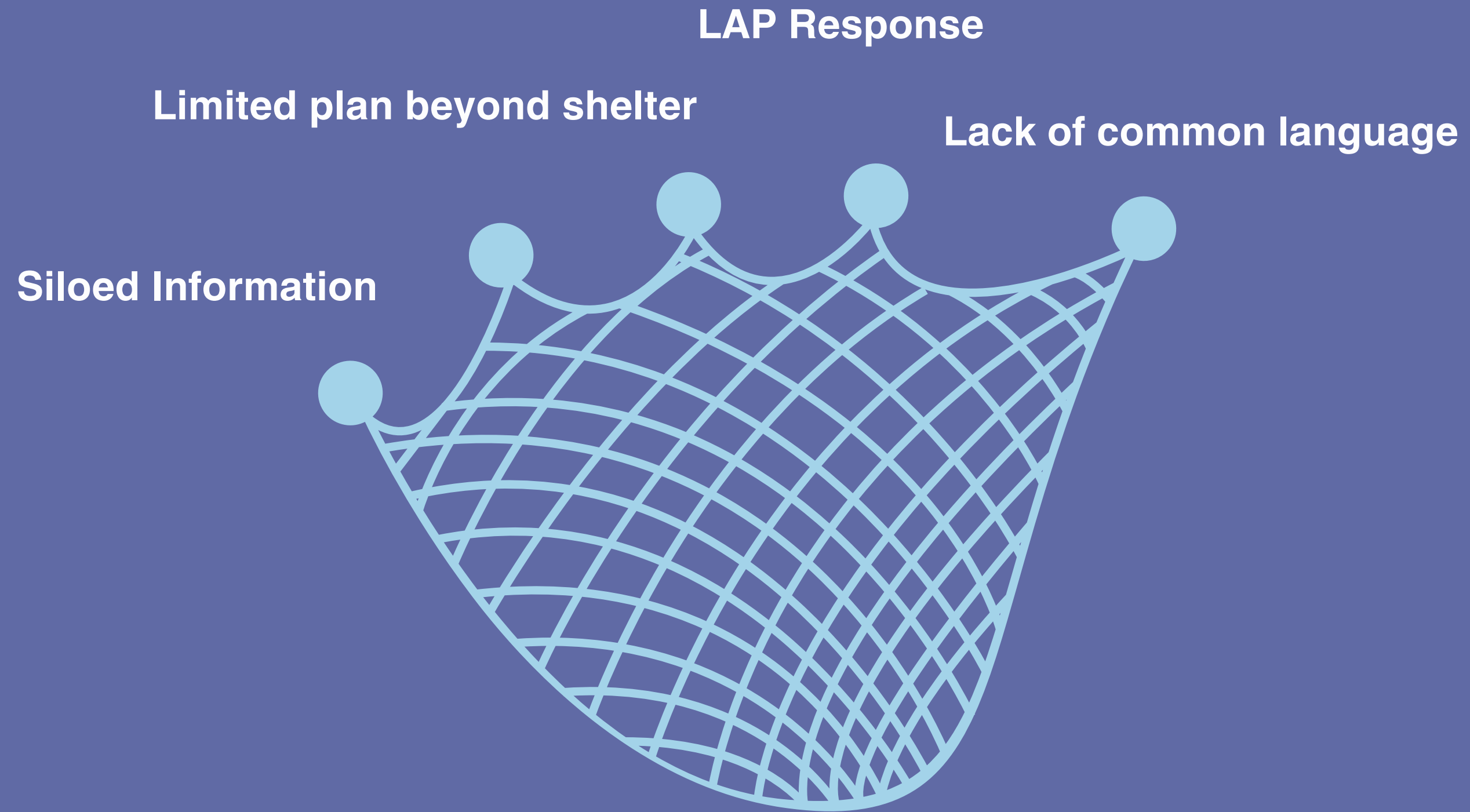
By Henry Lee and KTVU Staff
| Published August 11, 2025 1:00pm PDT



**SANTA ROSA
HOMICIDE**



Our Safety Net Has Holes...



“It’s in the cracks that murders happen”

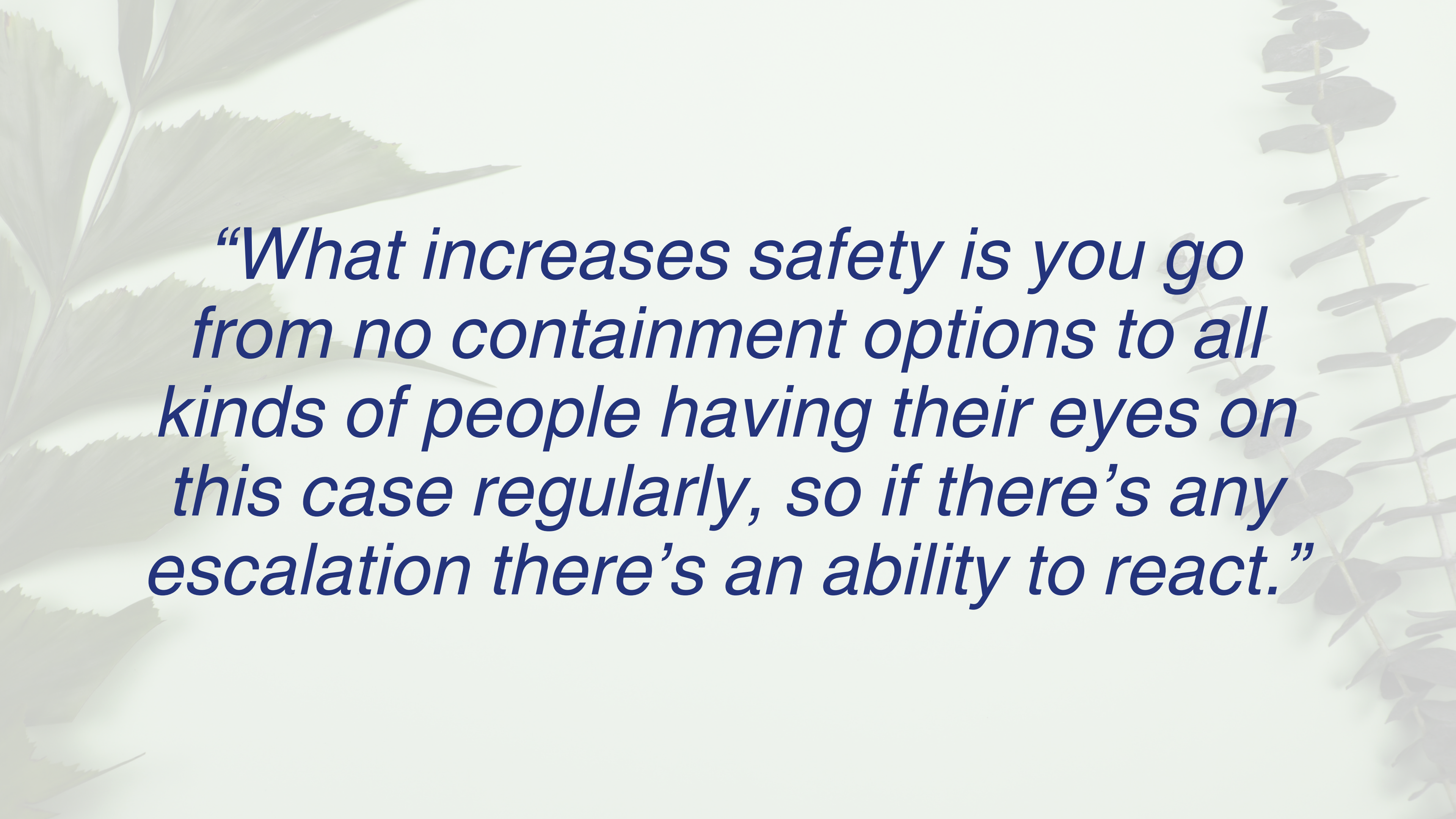
What is predictable is preventable...

Only 4% of abused victims had used a domestic violence hotline or shelter within the year prior to being killed by an intimate partner.

Sharps, P. W., et al. (2001). Health care providers' missed opportunities for preventing femicide. *Preventive Medicine* 33, 373-80.

In the year prior to the homicide, more than 44% of abusers were arrested, and almost one-third of victims contacted the police.

Sharps, P. W., et al. (2001). Health care providers' missed opportunities for preventing femicide. *Preventive Medicine* 33, 373-80.



“What increases safety is you go from no containment options to all kinds of people having their eyes on this case regularly, so if there’s any escalation there’s an ability to react.”

A top-down view of approximately ten hands of various skin tones stacked together in a circle. The hands are positioned over a grey floor with a yellow safety stripe. The overall image conveys a sense of unity and teamwork.

High-Risk Team Framework

Guiding Principles



- Domestic violence homicides are the most predictable homicides
- Some forms of DV are more dangerous than others
- What is predictable is preventable
- Collaboration between partners yields better case results
- Swift outreach to survivors increases likelihood of their participation in advocacy services and / or law enforcement investigations and / or prosecution
- Being allowed an opportunity to give input to the DVHRT can empower survivors: empowerment increases resiliency
- ID of the high-risk cases creates opportunities for immediate intervention and services

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM



Family Justice Center



Prosecutor's Office



Law Enforcement (SRPD & SO)



VEST



Probation/Parole Department

FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER

Sonoma County

2025 Summary

Domestic Violence High-Risk Team



137

High-Risk Cases Reviewed



71 Cases Had Access To Firearm



21 Cases Where Firearms Are Taken



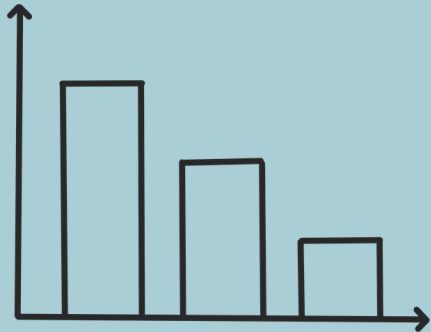
112 Cases Involving Strangulation



105 Believed Their Partner Will Kill Them



68 Cases Involving Unreported DV



125 LAPs
Average LAP score: 6.67



122 Emergency Protective Orders Granted

QUESTIONS?

CONTACTS:

MARSHA LUCIEN
FJC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MARSHA.LUCIEN@SONOMACOUNTY.GOV

KELSEY PRICE
FJC ANALYST
KELSEY.PRICE@SONOMACOUNTY.GOV

