



## RISK ASSESSMENT INDICATORS

Intimate Partner Homicide occurs too often in Florida. According to the annual Uniform Crime Report (UCR) there were 180 domestic violence related homicides in 2017. Overall, these tragic deaths reflect a 9.5% decrease in domestic violence murder, however manslaughter deaths increased 28.6% from 2016<sup>1</sup>. The Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence (FCADV) partners with law enforcement agencies throughout the State of Florida to support projects focusing on homicide reduction efforts. Currently, 14 law enforcement agencies, representing diverse communities throughout Florida, are funded to operate domestic violence units that enhance domestic violence investigation and increase survivor safety.

The use of FCADV's **three question palm card** is one strategy utilized by several law enforcement agencies to support these efforts. The FCADV Palm Card has been adapted from current research on domestic violence homicide risk indicators to represent three basic ideas of: that survivors who believe they are at risk of being killed should be believed, that



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the threat to kill can act as precursor to action, and that access to weapons increases the risk of lethality.<sup>2</sup> Working in concert with certified domestic violence centers, law enforcement officers can help victims of domestic violence reach out for support and access resources specific to their situation. Additionally, an understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence can increase officers' ability to assess risk and make quicker determinations in their investigations.

**Advocates at the certified domestic violence centers** are available 24-hours a day to talk with survivors, their friends and families and community partners about the resources available. All certified domestic violence

center core services are available free of charge and are confidential. Per Florida Statute 39.905, all Florida certified domestic violence centers provide the following core services: emergency shelter, 24-Hour hotline, advocacy, children's program, community education, crisis counseling, service management, professional training, safety planning, information and referral.<sup>3</sup> In addition to these core services the centers provide the following: court/legal advocacy, outreach, primary prevention programming, support groups and help with the relocation assistance application. Each center provides a number of specialized services based on the local community needs.

**POLICE RESPONDED TO NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF REPORTED  
NONFATAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMIZATIONS IN 10 MINUTES OR LESS**

**Bureau of Justice Statics**

**FCADV Training Portal** – If you do not have an account with FCADV to access the training portal follow the link and get registered ASAP to see what you are missing out on!

**FCADV Law Enforcement Resources** Check out our newest resources!

To view FCADVs upcoming Events & Institutes

**UPCOMING EVENTS & INSTITUTES**

<sup>1</sup>FCADV. (2018, December 4). Faces of Fatality. Retrieved from FCADV: <https://www.fcadv.org/sites/default/files/FACES%20OF%20FATALITY%20VIII%20web.pdf>

<sup>2</sup>Ibid

<sup>3</sup>Ibid