

**Utah Department of Public Safety**  
**Statewide Information and Analysis Center**  
**Intelligence Note**



250331-1240334

## (U) Utah Domestic Violence Related Homicides July 2023-January 2025

Release: 31 March 2025

### (U) Summary

(U) Between the launch of Utah's Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) program in July 2023 and January 2025, Utah recorded 52 domestic violence related homicides. Of these, 30 were linked to intimate partner violence, while 22 involved familial domestic violence. Among the 30 intimate partner-related homicides nine had LAPs submitted for assessment, although not all nine LAPs were associated with both the suspect and victim involved in the homicide. Each victim in the nine LAP submissions answered yes when asked if the aggressor is violently or constantly jealous, or does the aggressor control most of the victim's daily activities.

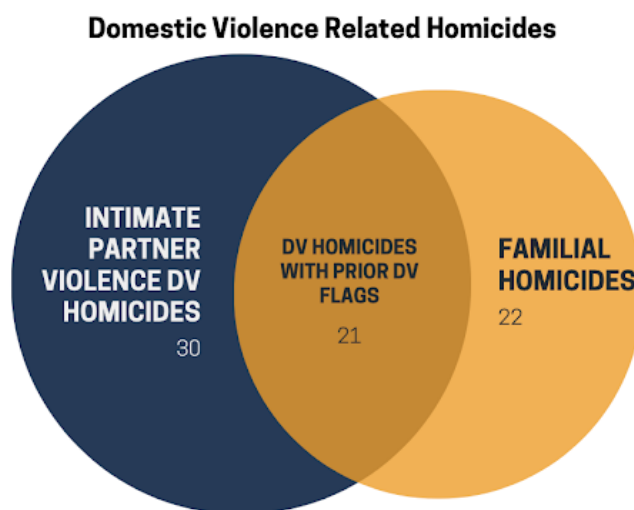
(U) Of the 30 intimate partner-related homicides, only four had LAP submissions involving the suspect and victim before the homicide occurred. This gap limits the availability of critical suspect analysis for law enforcement and reduces opportunities for intervention to prevent escalation to lethal violence.

### (U) Background

(U) In July of 2023, Utah code 77-36-2.1 went into effect, mandating law enforcement to conduct a Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) when responding to domestic violence incidents involving intimate partners. The Statewide Information and Analysis Center (SIAC) assists by providing law enforcement with an analysis of the suspect. Between the launch of the LAP program in July 2023 and January 2025, Utah law enforcement submitted 17,649 LAPs to the Department of Public Safety. During the same time frame, Utah recorded 52 domestic violence related homicides. Thirty of the homicides were linked to intimate partner domestic violence, with 22 familial.

### (U) Prior Domestic Violence Involvements

(U) Of the 52 documented domestic violence (DV) homicides, 21 involved prior DV-related incidents linked to either the suspect or the victim. These incidents included previous DV charges, non-criminal DV reports, and multiple DV-related law enforcement responses. Seven of the 21 cases had LAPs conducted, while 14



This report addresses DHS HSEC codes: - 3.2.1, 3.2.2, 3.5.1, 3.10.1

This report addresses SIAC Standing Information Requirements: UTSIAC-05-01

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cases did not. Nine of the cases with no LAP conducted had prior law enforcement involvements for domestic violence, violent threats, or escalating behavior within the year leading to the homicide.

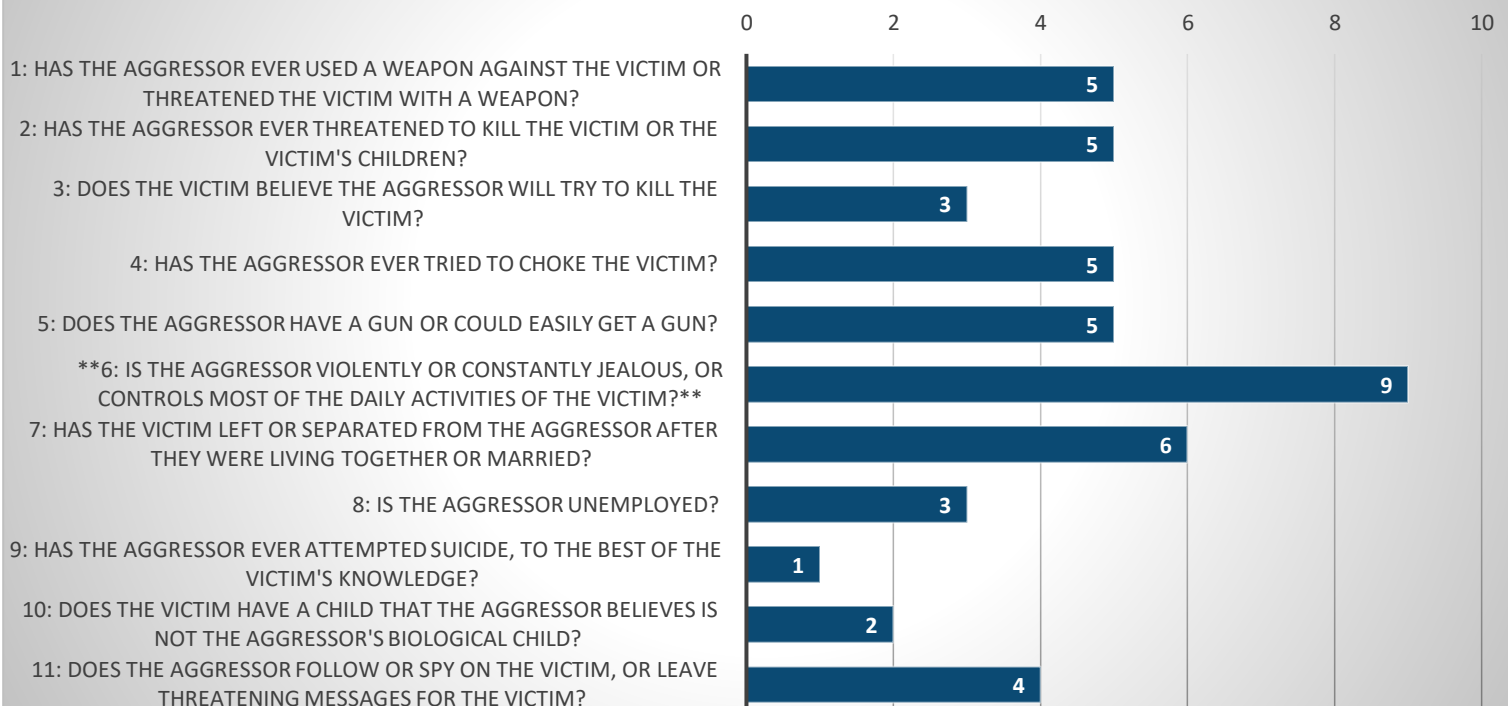
#### DV Homicides with Prior DV Flags



#### (U) Lethality Assessment Questions

(U) During each Lethality Assessment, victims respond to 11 yes-or-no questions, followed by an open-ended 12th question. In all 9 LAP assessments associated with a DV homicide, victims answered "yes" to the question: **"Is the aggressor violently or constantly jealous, or does the aggressor control most of the victim's daily activities?"** The chart below provides a breakdown of additional responses of yes to the LAP questions.

#### Positive Responses in the Lethality Assessment



**(U) Domestic Violence Homicides with Lethality Assessments**

(U) For the 52 DV homicides, nine had LAPs submitted. Of the nine LAPs submitted, three had their assessments completed after the homicide occurred. In two cases, the LAP assessments were conducted for incidents involving individuals not directly connected to the homicide.

(U) The remaining four cases displayed a clear pattern of escalating behavior from the suspect - one case had six LAP assessments submitted by two different police agencies, along with additional non-criminal DV incidents that did not trigger a LAP assessment. On average, the last LAP assessment occurred three months before the homicide.

**(U) Assessment**

(U) Since the implementation of the LAP program in July 2023, there have been 30 intimate partner-related DV homicides. However, only four of these cases had LAP assessments submitted prior to the homicide. This gap limits the availability of critical suspect analysis for law enforcement and reduces opportunities for intervention to prevent escalation to lethal violence. The SIAC assesses that if LAPs were fully implemented, it is somewhat likely that intimate partner-related DV homicide rates would decrease and allow for more effective intervention and de-escalation.