



# Domestic Violence Data Task Force Report

## Previous Gap Assessment

Based on 2021 HB 301, the Utah Department of Public worked with DCFS and CCJJ to identify aggregate data regarding domestic violence and specifically the prevalence of stalking, strangulation, violence in the presence of a child, and suicidal or homicidal threats.

### Analysis of Domestic Violence in Utah Release: 3 November 2021

DPS assessed DV data likely to be incomplete due to a lack of consistency in Utah law enforcement and non-law enforcement agencies sharing data or reporting on domestic violence. Not every agency was sharing data through the same platform, while some agencies did not report at all.

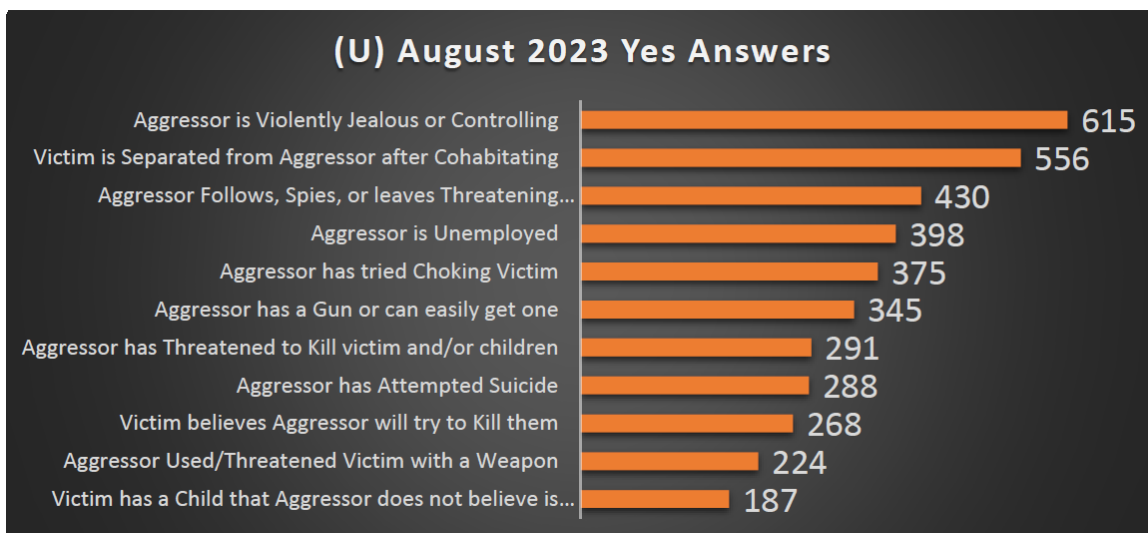
### Analysis of Domestic Violence in Utah Release: 22 August 2023

DPS now assesses that many of the gaps in law enforcement sharing of domestic violence incidents have improved. Due to Utah Senate Bill (S.B.) 117 that went into effect requiring all Utah law enforcement to conduct lethality assessments (LAP) when responding to domestic incidents involving intimate partners. The new LAP is now co-operated by Utah's DPS and UDVC along with 16 community-based service providers who assist law enforcement when a lethality assessment is high risk. This updated LAP enables better collaboration between agencies, ensures all Utah law enforcement are screening IPV victims for lethality, and compiles IPV data into one source. It also assists in identifying the number of lethality assessments, the prevalence of stalking, strangulation, violence in the presence of children, and threats of suicide or homicide.

However, there are still gaps in Domestic Violence Data. Utah currently does not gather information on DV cases of non-intimate partners. The new LAP does not provide information on the outcome of victims and aggressors. Without that information, it is difficult to assess the LAP's full impact. The LAP does not tell how it affects an aggressor's jail pre-trial release, sentencing, or intervention efforts. Similarly, it does not capture details on the success of services or intervention efforts provided to victims.

## LAP Data

In August 2023, Utah law enforcement was able to collect and report data on 1,015 Intimate Partner Violence Lethality Assessment Protocols (LAPs) submitted by 106 agencies. Per the LAP, victims most often reported 375 times the aggressor tried to choke the victim, 291 times the aggressor had threatened to kill the victim or children, 288 times the aggressor had attempted suicide, and 430 times the aggressor followed, spied, or left threatening messages.



## 2023 Domestic Violence Data Task Force Commission & Questionnaire

In September 2023, the Domestic Violence Data Task Force was established in accordance with the recently enacted legislative House Bill 43, focused on Domestic Violence Modifications. This task force has been formed with the purpose of effectively coordinating efforts and providing recommendations to the Legislature concerning the collection of domestic violence data within the state.

### Membership:

Utah Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Chair of the Board of Pardons and Parole, Utah Chiefs of Police Association, Utah Sheriffs' Association (awaiting designee), State Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice, Division of Child and Family Services, Division of Indian Affairs, Office of Homeless Services, the Department of Health and Human Services, Administration Office of the Court's, Utah League of Cities and Towns and the Utah Association of Counties (awaiting designee), Statewide Association of Prosecutors, Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, Utah Domestic Violence Coalition, a Criminal justice system advocate, and a Nongovernment organization victim advocate

### 2023 Data Task Force Questionnaire:

H.B. 43 sought to compile information pertaining to various aspects of domestic violence, with a specific focus on identifying gaps in data collection and sharing. In September, task force members participated in a questionnaire aimed at pinpointing these gaps. Highlighted below are some of the questions and corresponding responses.

- 100 % believed the Utah IPV Lethality Assessment will assist officers in providing better awareness to survivors on the seriousness of the circumstances surrounding an incident of intimate partner violence.
- 90 % believed the Utah IPV Lethality Assessment will provide more resources to victims that will strengthen their safety following an incident of intimate partner violence. (The other 10 % was unfamiliar with the question)
- 90 % believed there is not sufficient data being collected on what intervention resources are being provided throughout the judicial process to aggressors of domestic violence. (The other 10 % was unfamiliar with the question)
- 90 % believed the state should create an additional assessment tool to better assess the aggressor and their possibility of recidivism. (The other 10 % was unfamiliar with the question)
- When asked what categories were not being tracked well, 70 % indicated offender Intervention efforts, 20 % indicated victim services provided by community-based advocates and 10% indicated law enforcement assessments.
- 70 % believed there should be a shared database among community service providers, law enforcement, and the courts to better share information on what intervention resources are being provided to the convicted aggressor of domestic violence. (The other 30 % was unfamiliar with the question)