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Oklahoma Lethality Assessment

Nikki Lofftus

Domestic abuse continues to affect Oklahomans. In 2013, law enforcement agencies reported 22,801 incidents of domestic abuse. In response, Oklahoma law makers passed a law requiring law enforcement to assess victims of domestic abuse. Effective November 1, 2014, the new law requires responding officers to administer a lethality assessment to victims of domestic abuse. Assessment questions include:

- Has the person ever used a weapon against the victim or threatened the victim with a weapon?
- Has the person threatened to kill the victim or children of the victim?
- Does the victim think the person will try to kill the victim?
- Has the person ever tried to choke the victim?
- Is the person violently or constantly jealous or does the person control most of the daily activities of the victim?
- Has the victim left or separated from the person after living together or being married?
- Is the person unemployed?
- Has the person ever tried to kill him or herself?
- Does the victim have a child that the person knows is not his or her own child?
- Does the person follow or spy on the victim or leave threatening messages for the victim?
- Is there anything else that worries the victim about his or her safety and if so, what worries the victim?

Based on the victim's answers, the responding officer will determine the immediate level of danger to the victim. If the victim is considered "high risk," then the officer will immediately contact a victim service provider. Victim service providers assist victims with developing safety plans and accessing available resources.

For more information about the assessment, please visit: <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/247456.pdf>

In this issue:
Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

Historically, domestic abuse has been viewed as a family or woman's issue. Oftentimes, society has blamed the victim while failing to hold the offender accountable for the abuse. Established in 1981, the Oklahoma Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA) is a nonprofit organization devoted to increasing awareness and eliminating domestic violence and sexual assault in Oklahoma. The Coalition collaborates with victim service advocates to influence domestic violence and sexual assault policy at the state and federal level.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Events in Oklahoma

October is domestic violence awareness month. To increase awareness, service providers and advocates organize events across the nation. Oklahomans can show support for Domestic Violence Awareness Month by wearing purple every Thursday in October. Events in Oklahoma include:

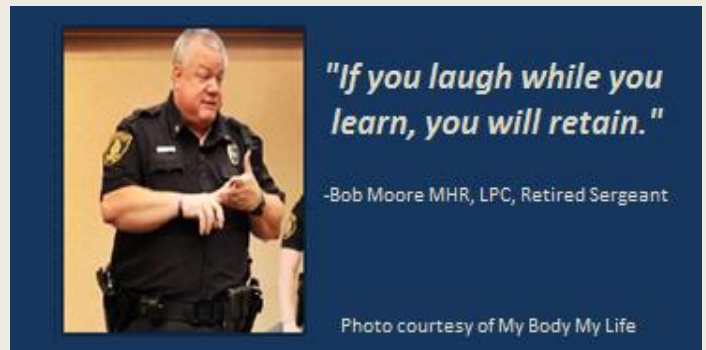
- October 2 (Thursday) – Press conference and honor reception at the State Capitol
 - October 2 (Thursday) – American Indian Domestic Violence Awareness Day of Unity at the State Capitol
 - October 2 (Thursday) – Department of Human Services Wellness Walk
 - October 2 (Thursday) – Press conference and honor reception at the State Capitol
 - October 2 (Thursday) – Metamorphosis: A Fashion Show to Support DV Awareness (Stillwater)
 - October 8 (Wednesday) – “I Stand” Reception and “Telling Amy’s Story” (Philbrook Museum of Art)
 - October 9 (Thursday) – Department of Human Services Wellness Walk
 - October 9 (Thursday) – Wreath of Hope Ceremony at the State Capitol
 - October 18 (Saturday) – Mutt Strut at Hunter Park (Tulsa)
 - October 24 (Friday) – Six Nations Walk Against Domestic Abuse (Pioneer Park)
 - October 29 (Wednesday) – “Walk a Mile in her Shoes” Carl Albert State College (Downtown Stillwater)
 - December 5 (Thursday) – “Women who Care Share” (National Cowboy and Heritage Museum)
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My Body My Life: An Interview with Bob Moore

My Body My Life is a program that empowers women through education, awareness, violence prevention, and self-defense techniques. The program was created in 1994 by law enforcement and educators as a response to the lack of education and awareness of violence against women. The program is nationally recognized, receiving the prestigious National 2013 School Safety Award. Additionally, the program earned the 2013 Human Rights Award, the Oklahoma House of Representative Citation, and the Oklahoma Governor's Commendation. Bob Moore, primary creator of *My Body My Life*, is a retired Norman police officer, Council of Law Enforcement Education and Training instructor, Licensed Professional Counselor, and Behavioral Rehabilitation Specialist. Recently, he responded to questions about violence against women.

Initially, Moore began teaching the program in Norman at the high school level. The principal of Norman High School requested that Moore create a program to teach women how to protect against violence. It was evident from the beginning that the program was well received and filling a much needed gap. The program quickly grew to encompass women of all ages, 13 to 93 to be exact. The program has expanded to schools across Oklahoma, churches, business organizations, and other community organizations. Instructors have traveled as far away as Alaska for training and education on violence.

The original program focused on teaching young women how to hurt men. Moore, a self-defense instructor, felt that women needed to know how to defend themselves against their aggressor. However, he soon changed his way of thinking while attending OU for his Master's Degree in Human Relations. Moore realized that he was just scraping the surface of the problem; sexual assault is a deeply complex issue that could not be stopped with self-defense tactics alone. The program began to incorporate material on prevention, self-esteem, abuse, and empowerment.



Moore believes the single most important aspect that women should take away from the program is “awareness”. He believes that awareness could eliminate approximately 80% of all attacks. It is extremely important to always be aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Being vigilant and recognizing that certain places carry higher risk for victimization is one more way to decrease your chances of becoming a victim. Equally important is the program's ability to incorporate humor to educate. Those in attendance have fun while learning lifesaving techniques.

The program has expanded to also teach males the importance of awareness. The male program, titled Relationship Education and Awareness for Life (REAL), teaches similar concepts as *My Body My Life*. However, REAL shifts away from self-defense and focuses on non-violent intervention techniques. Additionally, the program educates young men on what enthusiastic consent means and the importance of respect and communication. REAL has seen a great deal of investment in its five year history. Men of all ages have really bought into the program and have made it a success. Moore emphasizes the importance of violence education and prevention for all ages. Starting the program at an early age greatly reduces the chances of becoming a victim.

For upcoming training opportunities, contact Bob Moore at rmoore25@cox.net or Norman Police Department.

Changes to the Prescription Monitoring Program in Oklahoma

Alina Istrate, OBN Prescription Monitoring Program Educator

As part of an ongoing initiative by the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) to enhance the PMP's capabilities, beginning November 1, 2014, OBN will begin sharing dispensary information with neighboring states, including Kansas, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado. Data sharing is subject to the terms and conditions established by each state.

The Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) is a statewide electronic system that collects data on all controlled substances dispensed in Oklahoma. Data are collected in real-time, allowing system users to review dispensary information from around the state. Dispensary information from the PMP is used by physicians, pharmacists, law enforcement, and regulatory boards to reduce prescription drug abuse.

Crime Trends in Oklahoma

The Crime in Oklahoma report for 2013 is now available online. Law enforcement reported a total of 135,892 arrests for all offenses, representing a 4.9% decrease from 2012. Index crimes decreased 3.4% in 2013, with violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) decreasing by 7.3%. Non-violent crime (burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) decreased 2.8% in Oklahoma. Drug and alcohol related arrests made up approximately 40% of all arrests in 2013.

Full-time law enforcement increased 1.7% in 2013, with a police employee ratio of 2.8 employees per 1,000 inhabitants. Assaults on law enforcement decreased 7.3% from 2012. Finally, the clearance rate increased slightly from 2012, with an overall reported clearance rate of 18.2%.

Participation in the State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS) continues to increase. In 2013, 248 police departments and sheriff's offices submitted reports into SIBRS. Approximately 76% of all contributing agencies now participate in SIBRS; however, those agencies serve 42% of the state's population and report 26% of all index crimes in Oklahoma.

Recent Publications

Crime in Oklahoma, 2013

Arrest-Related Deaths, 2013

Murder in Oklahoma, 2013

Domestic Violence in Oklahoma, 2013

Reminder

The Office of Criminal Justice Statistics can assist with statistics for grant applications or other research requests.

[www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical Analysis Center](http://www.ok.gov/osbi/Statistical%20Analysis%20Center)

Baker's Dozen

Angie Baker, SAC Director

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The purpose of the public awareness campaign is to remind us that domestic violence is a social problem across the nation. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation collects domestic abuse data from participating law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma. According to the 2013 *Crime in Oklahoma* report:

1. Oklahoma defines domestic abuse as “threatening, causing, or attempting to cause physical harm between family or household members”;
2. Domestic abuse includes the following offenses: murder, sex crimes, assault, and assault and battery;
3. Family and household members include spouses (current and former), parents (birth and foster), children, persons otherwise related by blood or marriage, and those living in the same household (or formally living in the same household);
4. Law enforcement agencies reported 22,801 incidents of domestic abuse;
5. The most common offense reported was assault and battery;
6. Reports of domestic abuse were highest on Sundays;
7. Law enforcement responded to the most calls (1,485) between 8:01 and 9:00 p.m.;
8. Agencies reported 828 sex crimes related to domestic abuse in 2013, representing an 11.1% decrease;
9. Agencies reported 2,076 incidents of assault, representing an 11.8% decrease;
10. Agencies reported 19,848 incidents of assault and battery, representing a 9.5% decrease;
11. In 2013, there were 49 domestic abuse-related murder (compared to 53 in 2012 and 47 in 2011);
12. Of those 49 deaths, 10 occurred on a Monday while Tuesday and Wednesday experienced 8 deaths each;
13. For more information, please visit: <http://www.osbi.ok.gov>

Mission

To collect, analyze, and disseminate criminal justice research to educate and assist law enforcement and the citizens of Oklahoma.