



MINNESOTA COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN

2007 Femicide Report

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We remember our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers, our daughters, our sons, our wives, our husbands, our intimate partners, our family members, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our fellow Minnesotans...

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The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women publishes *The Femicide Report*, a report on women and children murdered in our state, to educate the public about the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse. We report on the murders of women and children at the hands of abusers to direct attention to the challenges faced by all of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together to promote justice, provide safety, and prevent future harm for all women and children.

A Challenge to Minnesota Communities

We challenge communities to respond to battered women and their children by investing in funding for safe shelter and advocacy services, prevention education for all elementary and secondary students, laws to protect women and children, effective enforcement of those laws, and aggressive prosecution of all domestic assault crimes and all prostitution crimes targeting perpetrators, pimps, and "johns."

Domestic violence and domestic homicide have a devastating effect on every person living in Minnesota. Each of the victims whose story is told here was someone's daughter, son, mother, father, sister, brother, family member, intimate partner, friend, neighbor, or co-worker. An abusive relationship that ends in the murder of the victim illustrates the failure of our systems and society to respond to the needs of battered women and abused children.

We pledge to remember the women, children, and family members and/or friends who die each year from domestic violence and child abuse, and also the women and children who are murdered while being used in prostitution and sex trafficking. Women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking are battered women and abused children in need of protection from abuse.

Though MCBW tracks all homicides in which the known or suspected perpetrator was a family member, a household member, or a caregiver, we want to pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as these cases account for the majority of murders of women in the United States and in Minnesota. Of the 22 women murdered in Minnesota in 2007 by domestic partners or family members, 16 were murdered by current or former husbands or boyfriends.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violence that affects the level of fear and quality of life for all women. It encompasses both physical and

sexual violence and includes pervasive emotional abuse and threats; control over finances and access to transportation; manipulation of and often harm to the children; and social norms that persist today that a man has the right to put his partner in her place. While these same dynamics are also present in same sex relationships and on rare occasions women use similar tactics against their male partners, it is the broader social institutions that support this pervasive and historically-sanctioned pattern of behavior that MCBW seeks to change.

In reporting the total number of deaths, it is important to note that *at least* this many women and children have been murdered. We cannot be certain we have not missed some deaths since we must use a method of data collection that primarily relies on news accounts. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on domestic homicides. In addition, the murders of women and children of color, Native American women and children, immigrant and refugee women and children, women and children living in poverty, rural women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people, and women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking may be underreported in our listing as they frequently go unreported in mainstream media.

The 2007 Femicide Report is compiled from news accounts. Please contact MCBW if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide. This report only includes victims in cases where the death of the victim was determined to be a homicide; and/or the alleged perpetrator has been arrested, charged, or convicted in the murder; or the case was determined to be a murder-suicide.

We ask that the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women be credited when information from this report is used.

Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1988-2007

| | |
|--|---|
| 1988 <u>At least 18 women</u> died from domestic violence* | 1998 <u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 15 children</u> died from child abuse |
| 1989 <u>At least 18 women</u> died from domestic violence | 1999 <u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic abuse <u>At least 20 children</u> died from child abuse |
| 1990 <u>At least 26 women</u> died from domestic violence | 2000 <u>At least 40 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 6 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 1 family member</u> was murdered |
| 1991 <u>At least 12 women</u> died from domestic violence | 2001 <u>At least 33 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 12 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 family members/friends</u> were murdered |
| 1992 <u>At least 31 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 8 children</u> died from child abuse** <u>At least 3 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution*** <u>At least 2 family members/friends</u> were murdered by a women's current or former partner**** | 2002 <u>At least 16 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 13 children</u> died from child abuse |
| 1993 <u>At least 28 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 13 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution <u>At least 5 family members/friends</u> were murdered | 2003 <u>At least 14 women</u> died from domestic violence. <u>At least 10 children</u> died from child abuse. |
| 1994 <u>At least 19 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 7 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 2 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution | 2004 <u>At least 13 women</u> died from domestic violence. <u>At least 11 children</u> died from child abuse. <u>At least 3 family members/friends</u> were murdered |
| 1995 <u>At least 29 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 11 children</u> died from child abuse | 2005 <u>At least 26 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 1 woman</u> was murdered while being used in prostitution <u>At least 4 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 2 family members/friends</u> were murdered |
| 1996 <u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 17 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 6 women</u> were murdered while being used in prostitution | 2006 <u>At least 20 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 10 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 1 family member/friend</u> was murdered |
| 1997 <u>At least 17 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 5 children</u> died from child abuse | 2007 <u>At least 22 women</u> died from domestic violence <u>At least 10 children</u> died from child abuse <u>At least 3 family members/friends</u> were |

*Cases of women murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, household member, or family member.

**Cases of children murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child; or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

***MCBW recognizes prostitution as a system of violence against women and children.

****Cases of family or friends murdered in domestic violence-related situations

In Minnesota in 2007

At least 22 women

were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner, or the perpetrator was a family member or household member of the deceased woman.

At least 10 children under the age of 18

were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

At least 3 friends or family members

were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

At least 24 children

were left motherless due to their mothers' domestic violence murders.

Key Femicide Statistics (2007 and 2006)

Femicides and Cause of Death

| Cause of Death | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total | Name of Victim |
| Gunshot | 12 | 60% | 8 | 36% | Judy Carrico Reeve |
| | | | | | Alison Daniels |
| | | | | | Sandra Davis |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | | | Doris Warren |
| | | | | | Jacqueline Wells |
| | | | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski |
| Stabbing | 4 | 20% | 6 | 27% | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | | | Rahina Mohamed |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger |
| | | | | | Kira Simonian |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | | | Susan Wolter |
| Strangulation | 3 | 15% | 2 | 9% | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Kristine Larson |
| Beating | 1 | 5% | 1 | 5% | Sheila Chrast |
| Arson | - | - | 1 | 5% | Elizabeth Marxen |
| Vehicle | - | - | 2 | 9% | LaToya Burks |
| | | | | | Sai Xiong |
| Unknown | - | - | 2 | 9% | Judy Lynn Rush |
| | | | | | Eleanor Sprague |
| Total: | 20 | | 22 | | |

Femicides and Alleged Perpetrators

| Relationship to Victim | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|--|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|--|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total | Name of Victim |
| Current or former boyfriend or husband | 17 | 85% | 16 | 73% | LaToya Burks |
| | | | | | Judy Carrico Reeve |
| | | | | | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | | | Sandra Davis |
| | | | | | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Kristine Larson |
| | | | | | Elizabeth Marxen |
| | | | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Judy Lynn Rush (boyfriend is suspect) |
| | | | | | Kira Simonian |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | | | Doris Warren |
| Jacqueline Wells | | | | | |
| Sai Xiong | | | | | |
| Son | 2 | 10% | 3 | 13% | Eleanor Sprague (son is suspect) |
| | | | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski |
| | | | | | Susan Wolter |
| Brother | - | - | 1 | 5% | Rahina Mohamed |
| Other | 1 | 5% | 2 | 9% | Alison Daniels (met in Las Vegas, entered into some kind of intimate relationship, he later killed her in Minneapolis) |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger (lived in same building, believed to be domestic-related homicide) |
| Total: | 20 | | 22 | | |

Geographic Location of Victim

| Location of Victim | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total | Name of Victim |
| Twin Cities Metro Area * | 11 | 55% | 16 | 73% | Alison Daniels |
| | | | | | Sandra Davis |
| | | | | | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Kristine Larson |
| | | | | | Rahina Mohamed |
| | | | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Judy Lynn Rush |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger |
| | | | | | Kira Simonian |
| | | | | | Eleanor Sprague |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | | | Jacqueline Wells |
| Susan Wolter | | | | | |
| Sai Xiong | | | | | |
| Greater Minnesota | 9 | 45% | 6 | 27% | LaToya Burks |
| | | | | | Judy Carrico Reeve |
| | | | | | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | | | Elizabeth Marxen |
| | | | | | Doris Warren |
| | | | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski |
| Total: | 20 | | 22 | | |

* Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties.

According to the 2000 United States census, approximately 60% of Minnesota's population lives in the Twin Cities area and 40% lives in Greater Minnesota.

Victim was Separated from Perpetrator or Attempting to Leave

| | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|------------|--------|------------|--|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of total | Name of Victim |
| Separated or attempting to leave | 8 | 47% | 7 | 42%* | Sandra Davis |
| | | | | | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Kristine Larson |
| | | | | | Elizabeth Marxen |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Judy Lynn Rush (ex-boyfriend is suspect) |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| Unknown | 12 | 53% | 10 | 45%* | LaToya Burks |
| | | | | | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | | | Judy Carrico Reeve |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger |
| | | | | | Kira Simonian |
| | | | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | | | Doris Warren |
| | | | | | Jacqueline Wells |
| | | | | | Sai Xiong |
| Not applicable | - | - | 5 | - | Alison Daniels (never lived together) |
| | | | | | Rahina Mohamed (brother) |
| | | | | | Eleanor Sprague (son is suspect) |
| | | | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski (son) |
| | | | | | Susan Wolter (son) |

* This represents the percentage of cases in which separation or attempting to leave is relevant. There were 17 such situations.

History of Violence

| History of violence | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|---|--------|------------|--------|------------|-------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of total | Name of Victim |
| Known to have abused victim or prior victim | 11 | 65% | 7 | 27% | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | | | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Kristine Larson |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | | | Sai Xiong |
| Prior law enforcement involvement or OFP | - | - | 7 | 27% | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | | | Roselyn Habu |
| | | | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | | | Sheri Lynn Schaumburger |
| | | | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski |
| | | | | | Sai Xiong |
| Unknown | 9 | 35% | 14 | 63% | LaToya Burks |
| | | | | | Judy Carrico Reeve |
| | | | | | Alison Daniels |
| | | | | | Sandra Davis |
| | | | | | Elizabeth Marxen |
| | | | | | Rahina Mohamed |
| | | | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | | | Judy Lynn Rush |
| | | | | | Kira Simonian |
| | | | | | Eleanor Sprague |
| | | | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | | | Doris Warren |
| | | | | | Jacqueline Wells |
| Susan Wolter | | | | | |

Key Statistics Related to Children

Children Murdered and Cause of Death

| Cause of Death | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of total | Name |
| Stabbing | - | - | 1 | 10% | Baby Girl (Oakdale) |
| Beating | 8 | 67% | 5 | 50% | Destiny Jackson |
| | | | | | Nevaeh Jones |
| | | | | | Delijahjuan Winden |
| | | | | | Unborn Baby (Maplewood) |
| | | | | | Unborn Boy (Sauk Rapids) |
| Vehicle | - | - | 1 | 10% | Andrais Burks (Cass County) |
| Poison | - | - | 1 | 10% | Zachary Wolfe-Wagner |
| Drowning | 1 | 5% | 1 | 10% | Cecilia Bodem |
| Suffocation | 2 | 17% | - | - | |
| Burns | 1 | 5% | - | - | |
| Unknown | - | - | 1 | 10% | Baby Girl (Prairie Island) |
| Total | 12 | | 10 | | |

Children Murdered and Alleged Perpetrators

| Relationship to Victim | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total | Name |
| Father | 3 | 25% | 5 | 50% | Destiny Jackson |
| | | | | | Nevaeh Jones |
| | | | | | Zachary Wolfe-Wagner |
| | | | | | Unborn Baby (Maplewood) |
| | | | | | Unborn Boy (Sauk Rapids) |
| Mother | 1 | 8% | 2 | 20% | Cecilia Bodem |
| | | | | | Baby girl (Oakdale) |
| Mother's current or former boyfriend or husband | 4 | 33% | 1 | 10% | Andrais Burks (Cass County) |
| Childcare provider/family of childcare provider | 2 | 16% | 1 | 10% | Delijahjuan Winden |
| Father and Current Wife/Girlfriend | 2 | 16% | - | - | |
| Unknown | - | - | 1 | 10% | Baby girl (Prairie Island) |
| Total | 12 | | 10 | | |

Children Murdered and Geographic Location of Victim

| Location of Victim | 2006 | | 2007 | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|------------|----------------------------|
| | Number | % of Total | Number | % of Total | Name of Victim |
| Twin Cities Metro Area * | 6 | 50% | 6 | 60% | Cecilia Bodem |
| | | | | | Destiny Jackson |
| | | | | | Nevaeh Jones |
| | | | | | Delijahjuan Winden |
| | | | | | Baby Girl (Oakdale) |
| | | | | | Unborn Baby (Maplewood) |
| Greater Minnesota | 6 | 50% | 4 | 40% | Andrais Burks |
| | | | | | Zachary Wolfe-Wagner |
| | | | | | Baby Girl (Prairie Island) |
| | | | | | Unborn Baby (Sauk Rapids) |
| Total: | 12 | | 10 | | |

* Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties

Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

| Children | Number | % of total | Name |
|---|--------|------------|--|
| Murders of mothers | 16 | 73% | LaToya Burks |
| | | | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | Sandra Davis |
| | | | Roselynn Habu |
| | | | Kristine Larson |
| | | | Elizabeth Marxen |
| | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | Mosetta Peters |
| | | | Judy Lynn Rush |
| | | | Eleanor Sprague |
| | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | Doris Warren |
| | | | Jacqueline Wells |
| | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski |
| Sai Xiong | | | |
| Number of minor children who lost mother | 24 | | LaToya Burks (1) |
| | | | Sheila Chrast (2) |
| | | | Roselynn Habu (1) |
| | | | Kristine Larson (1) |
| | | | Elizabeth Marxen (2) |
| | | | Jacklyn Norman (1) |
| | | | Mosetta Peters (1) |
| | | | Savannah Stevens (2) |
| | | | Helen Tomassoni (1) |
| | | | Doris Warren (5) |
| | | | Jacqueline Wells (4) |
| | | | Sai Xiong (3) |
| Number of adult children who lost mother (not including adult child identified as the killer) | 6 | | Sandra Davis (4) |
| | | | Helen Tomassoni (1) |
| | | | Jeanne Wojciechowski (1) |
| Child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body | 7 | 44%* | LaToya Burks |
| | | | Sheila Chrast |
| | | | Kristine Larson (child was likely present – she was meeting ex-boyfriend to pick up her son) |
| | | | Jacklyn Norman |
| | | | Savannah Stevens |
| | | | Helen Tomassoni |
| | | | Jacqueline Wells |

* This represents the percentage of cases in which the woman who was killed was a mother. There were 16 such cases.

Intimate Partner Femicides

In this report we pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as these cases account for the majority of murders of women in the United States and in Minnesota. Of the 22 women murdered in Minnesota in 2007 by family/household members or intimate partners, 17 were murdered by current or former husbands or boyfriends.

Red Flags for Batterer Lethality

It is impossible to predict with certainty which batterers will become lethal to their victims. All batterers should be viewed as potentially deadly, though there are well-documented indicators of lethality of which everyone should be aware. Included in the factors that have been identified as possible lethality indicators are: time of separation, obsession, depression or other mental illness, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, escalation of risk taking, escalation of violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, weapons, stalking, history of rage or antisocial behavior, hostage-taking, drugs and alcohol, violence in his family of origin, cruelty to animals, batterer who is living with children who are not his own, and unemployment.

In assessing these cases for indicators of lethality, MCBW relied almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. The 2006 MCBW Femicide Report described the consistency of the Minnesota femicides with national research findings for batterer lethality, specifically focusing on four of those factors: the victim's attempts to leave the abuser, previous threats to kill the victim, perpetrator access to firearms, and perpetrator history of violence. Results from the 2007 Femicide Report indicate that the Minnesota femicides from the last year were also consistent with those four factors. The 2007 report also brings to light additional factors that were particularly relevant in the past year. We would expect that a more complete analysis of public records and interviews with friends and family of the victims would yield further information on other red flags that were also present at the time of the murder. The most reliable way to assess for potential lethality is to routinely inquire of battered women when they reach out for help about the presence of any of these risk factors. Sadly, our examination is retrospective only.

Pregnancy: In Minnesota in 2007, 2 of the 16 (13%) femicide victims were pregnant at the time of their murder. One woman survived but was beaten so severely that she miscarried. This young victim had endured previous abuse at the hands of her boyfriend and had a one year old child with him. National studies indicate that pregnant women are at a greater risk of homicide by their abusive partners. Pregnant or recently pregnant women are more likely to be the victims of homicide than to die from any other cause.

Depression or Other Mental Illness: In at least three of the 2007 femicides, there are indications that the perpetrator was suffering from mental illness—one son who killed his parents,

one brother who murdered his sister, and one intimate partner who murdered his girlfriend. In each of these situations the perpetrator reported hearing voices, was acting erratically, or showed other indications of mental illness. Research shows that many men who are hospitalized for depression often have homicidal fantasies directed at family members. Batterers who contemplate or commit suicide often kill their partners and/or children first.

Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuser: In 2007, 7 of 17 intimate partner femicides (42%) occurred when the victim was separated or was attempting to separate from the batterer at the time of the murder. This is similar to the 8 of 17 intimate partner femicides (47%) in 2006, and supports the national studies indicating that the most dangerous time for battered women can be when they leave the batterer. While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered woman safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim.

Threats to Kill the Victim: Threats by the abuser to kill the victim are among the most reliable indicators of lethality, and are the most often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice system. A review of the media reports of these murders reveals that in at least 6 of the 17 intimate partner femicides (35%) in 2006, family and friends of the victim reported escalating violence on the part of the perpetrator and explicit threats to kill the victim. While the 2007 data is less complete, there are indications that in at least 1 of the 2007 femicides the batterer had specifically threatened to kill the victim prior to the murder.

Access to Firearms: In 2007, 8 of 22 (36%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms, in comparison to 11 of 17 (65%) intimate partner femicides committed with firearms in 2006. While the percentage of femicides using firearms was lower in 2007, firearms were still the weapon of choice in a significant number of the murders, supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can greatly increase the risk of lethality.

Perpetrator's History of Violence: Although MCBW had less access to information specific to the perpetrator's history of violence in 2007 than in 2006, in at least one third of the 2007 femicides, the perpetrator was known to have abused the murder victim or a prior victim and there had been either prior involvement of law enforcement or applications for an Order for Protection. This compares to 65% of the 2006 femicides.

Children: A Closer Look

Domestic violence has a dramatic impact on individuals, families, and communities across the state of Minnesota. When battering ends in murder, it affects friends, co-workers, colleagues, parents, siblings, and countless others. The effects of this violence ripple through our communities, as we all attempt to come to terms with the brutal actions of a batterer who takes the life of his victim.

When a batterer kills the consequences for children can be devastating. The stories of children in the 2007 Femicide Report make this all too clear, including the horrific situations in which children were present at the time of the murder or who discovered the body of the victim; lost their mother at the batterer's hands; or were themselves murdered by someone who should have been protecting them, not bringing them harm.

Because of these children, and the countless others who are never counted but who suffer every day at the hands of an abuser, this year's Femicide Report is taking a closer look at the effects of batterers' actions on children. The consequences not only for these children, but for our future as a community, as a state, and as a nation, are far too great to be ignored.

In 2007:

10 children were murdered in Minnesota in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, childcare provider, or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner

In 44% of the cases in which the woman murdered was a mother, **a child was either present at the time of the murder or discovered the body of the victim**

24 children in Minnesota lost their mother as a result of domestic violence femicides

In a ten-city 2002 study, the risk of attempted or completed femicide was found to be three-fold higher for women abused during pregnancy.

In Minnesota in 2007, 2 of the 16 (13%) femicide victims who were mothers were pregnant at the time of their murder. One woman survived but was beaten so severely that she miscarried. This young victim had endured previous abuse at the hands of her boyfriend and had a one year old child with him.

Abuse does not end with separation.

Promoting contact between children and a violent father may create an opportunity for renewed domestic violence through visitation and exchanges of children. Although our access to information

is limited in most of these cases, we do know that 3 of the 16 (19%) murders of women with children in 2007 occurred when a mother was picking up her child, during visitation, or was involved in a known custody dispute.

There is a high overlap between domestic violence and child maltreatment.

It is well documented that the presence of domestic violence is a red flag for the coexistence of child maltreatment. In a review of studies investigating this overlap, results indicated that between 30% and 60% of children whose mothers had experienced abuse were themselves likely to be abused. 60% of the children murdered in 2007 were killed by their father or mother's current or former boyfriend or husband.

Perpetrators often use repeated litigation as a form of ongoing control and harassment.

The family court system can become a tool for batterers to continue their abuse. Litigation exacts a high emotional and financial price for abused women already overwhelmed with the aftermath of a violent relationship. This is also the case for surviving family members who take on caring for the minor children when their mother's are murdered.

Parenting assessments in custody cases frequently discount the most evident problem: batterers expose their children to domestic violence.

Parental behaviors that expose children to unsafe conditions, such as chronic substance abuse or production of methamphetamine in the home, are generally important factors to determine the best interests of a child in custody cases. In contrast—hitting, slapping, punching, shoving, strangling, burning, humiliating, insulting and demeaning the children's mother in an ongoing way is quite often separated from the decision.

Implications for the Community

In some intimate partner femicides examined for this report, there were no known red flags for potential lethality. However, in the majority, at least one of the leading lethality indicators was present. As a community, we should not assume that there is nothing we can do to prevent intimate partner homicides. While the ultimate responsibility for these murders rests with the perpetrators alone, opportunities for meaningful intervention in many of these cases were missed. Especially in the cases in which the victim reached out for help, we should examine the reasons why our systems ultimately failed to protect those victims from lethal violence.

Assess Batterer Lethality at Every Opportunity:

In every circumstance in which battered women or abusers encounter the criminal justice system, the civil or family court, or an advocacy program, a concerted effort should be made to assess potential lethality. Many excellent assessment tools already exist, and most rely on a routine, direct inquiry of the victim as to the presence of lethality indicators. In some cases, a review of public records would create sufficient concern to assess a high risk of lethality. Criminal proceedings do not represent the sole opportunity to assess batterer lethality. When battered women seek protection orders, are involved in family court proceedings, or seek services from community advocacy programs, an active, routine inquiry as to the potential lethality of batterers is critical to protecting the lives of battered women.

Demand the Resources to Hold Batterers Accountable:

Assessing for lethality will have minimal impact unless we have the resources to effectively apprehend, monitor and, when necessary, incarcerate dangerous batterers. The role of the battered women's advocate in the criminal justice system is to insist on batterer accountability at every opportunity, and to hold systems accountable when they fail. Law enforcement, the courts, and battered women's advocacy programs all struggle to meet the public safety needs of the community with limited resources. An investment in the whole spectrum of public safety systems is necessary to identify, monitor, and apprehend the most dangerous offenders.

Ensure that the safety net created for battered women and their children remains intact by supporting ongoing funding for battered women's shelter and advocacy services:

Minnesota battered women's programs have faced growing hurdles as a result of increased operating costs and a series of budget cuts at the local level. Although programs received a small increase in crime victim service funding last legislative session, half of the funds were one time appropriations and will not support the ongoing services needed by battered women and their children. The State of Minnesota must continue to strengthen its commitment to these critical services.

Take no action on criminal, family and/or juvenile court policy change proposals until there has been a thorough evaluation of the impact of each proposed change on battered women and their children:

The family court systems is often described as a system that fails to produce safe outcomes for children and as a system that is "broken." The Minnesota Supreme Court should convene a multi-

disciplinary group to take a comprehensive look at the family court system and recommend changes to the family court system and relevant statutes that provide for the safety of battered women and their children.

Screen for Battering as Part of All Routine Prenatal Assessments and Connect Victims to Advocacy Services:

According to the Florida State University Center for Prevention & Early Intervention Policy, abuse is related to late entry into prenatal care and low birth weight deliveries. Pregnancy provides a window of opportunity for abuse assessment and intervention. One study revealed that 26% of mothers age 17 or younger, and 23% of 18- and 19-year-old mothers, experienced violence before, during, or after their pregnancies. In a study of 192 pregnant teens, over 33% reported multiple incidents of violence during pregnancy. Among teens who reported physical violence, over 50% reported being injured in the abdominal area. A Surgeon General's workshop identified pregnancy as a high-risk period for battering and recommended that all pregnant women be screened for battering as part of routine prenatal assessments.

Develop Mechanisms within Communities to Screen Potential Perpetrators for Mental Illness and Other Lethality Indicators:

There are numerous opportunities for members of the criminal justice system, health care professionals, clergy, educators, and others throughout our communities to identify and intervene in high risk situations before fatalities occur. Minnesota communities must develop the tools and resources to not only effectively screen for mental illness and other lethality indicators, but also to plan for interventions that will minimize the risks to battered women and their children.

Examine Batterer Access to Firearms:

As reported above, 36% of the intimate partner femicides committed in 2007 were committed with firearms. While it is impossible to know whether limiting the abusers' access to firearms would have prevented these homicides, ready access to a lethal weapon by a dangerous perpetrator certainly increases the risk of homicide. It is unclear from media reports alone how many of the perpetrators who used firearms to kill were legally barred from possession, but an active Order for Protection or prior felony conviction should have triggered a ban. Though these specific legal bars to possession are automatic under state and federal statutes, the criminal courts can, but often do not, explicitly prohibit possession of firearms as a condition of release. Civil, family, and criminal judges can also routinely inquire as to the presence of firearms and the batterer's access to them. Additionally, there is no uniform process for the collection and storage of firearms seized from prohibited persons, and no agency is specifically charged with coordinating seizures and storage of firearms.

Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner, or the perpetrator was a family member or household member.

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| <p>Sai Xiong</p> <p>Age 31 St. Paul January 5</p> | <p>Tou Thao, 29, was arrested after rear-ending his girlfriend’s car, which caused Sai to crash into a row of parked cars. The mother of three died at the scene. Thao later told police that he and Sai had been romantically involved for two years, but had been arguing recently. Ka Le Xiong, Sai’s father, said, “My daughter’s death took everything from me. It took my identity, my security, my rest, my happiness, my peace, and my ability to enjoy anything.” Sai’s children are now living with family members. Tou Thao pleaded guilty to vehicular homicide. He was sentenced to 55 months in prison.</p> |
| <p>Jeanne Wojciechowski</p> <p>Age 57 Lincoln January 8</p> | <p>The Morrison County Sheriff’s Office received a call from Erik Wojciechowski stating that he had just shot his parents. Deputies found Roger, 64, and Jeanne in their home, both dead of gunshot wounds to the head. Erik had recently spent 8 months in jail on a DWI conviction. Jeanne had told a friend that when Erik returned home in December, he was seeing angels and spirits. Sheriff Michel Wetzel later stated that Jeanne and Roger had called the department in December 2006 because their son was talking religiously and not acting normal. A deputy met with the family and determined that Erik was not a threat to himself or others. “Jeanne was the most happy-go-lucky person in the world,” said a friend. Jeanne worked at a greenhouse, an antique store, and another local store. She enjoyed bowling, bingo, gardening, walking, and spending time with her family and friends. Erik was charged with several counts of first-degree murder and second-degree murder.</p> |
| <p>Mosetta Peters</p> <p>Age 20 New Brighton January 16</p> | <p>Mosetta and her boyfriend, Ja’Naurri Allen, 18, were shot to death in a Brooklyn Park apartment building’s parking lot. Mosetta’s ex-boyfriend, Revelle Loving, 20, was arrested and charged with three counts of first degree murder. Two other men were charged with two counts of first degree murder: Revelle’s brother, Ronelle, and Courtney Saffold. Loving had been charged twice with assaulting Mosetta. The first case, in 2005, was set aside with a continuance for dismissal, which meant the court would wait a year to see what happened before ruling. Loving was charged later that month with assaulting Mosetta again. The continuance should have been revoked at that point but was not. According to a criminal complaint, Mosetta contacted various police departments at least three times to report that Loving was assaulting her. Mosetta leaves behind a 3-year-old daughter. She was described as a loving mother who bought dolls and stuffed animals for her daughter. Mosetta’s sister described her as an “outgoing free-spirited person who liked to joke and was easy to get along with.”</p> |

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| <p>Roselynn Habu</p> <p>Age 18 Brooklyn Park May 8</p> | <p>Police found Roselynn’s body in the bathtub of her home, covered with a sheet. Her boyfriend, Wilson Kpahn, 21, told police he had struck her in the head with a wooden piece from his bed and then strangled her. After he murdered Roselynn, Kpahn went to sleep, saw his chiropractor the next day, and planned to kill himself. Instead, he called police. Roselynn left behind a 5-month-old daughter, Olin. Friends described her as a sweet, skinny girl who was a talented singer and dreamed of becoming a fashion designer. She had emigrated from Nigeria in 2004. Police were called several times to the apartment that Habu and Kpahn shared. Roselynn fled the apartment barefoot once. After Olin was born, Roselynn went to a battered women’s shelter and the baby was placed in protective care. Friends begged her to leave Kpahn and two days before the murder she threatened to do so. Wilson Kpahn was charged with first- and second-degree murder.</p> |
| <p>Sheila Chrast</p> <p>Age 37 Sauk Rapids May 13</p> | <p>Nathan Hubert, 35, was charged with second-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend, Sheila. On Mother’s Day, Sheila’s young son came home to discover his mother on the floor of their apartment, bleeding. The boy called police, but by the time they arrived his mother was dead, beaten to death. Hubert has a history of making threats against women, including convictions for threatening to harm two other women. Hubert’s ex-wife stated that her former husband had a history of mental illness and drug abuse. Sheila suffered multiple rib fractures, a ruptured spleen, and liver injuries. At the time of her death, she was two or three months pregnant. Sheila’s murder leaves two children motherless. “She was a wonderful woman,” said Samantha Slater, a neighbor. “When you’d get her comfortable, she’d smile all the time.”</p> |
| <p>Jacklyn Norman</p> <p>Age 27 Blaine May 23</p> | <p>Jacklyn was stabbed to death with a knife and hatchet in her own home. After murdering Jacklyn, her husband, Justin Norman, 27, jumped to his death from a nearby freeway bridge. Before he committed suicide, Norman called police, stating that his wife was dead but his child was safe. Police arrived at the Norman’s residence and found Jacklyn’s body on the wooden deck of their home. Neighbors reported hearing a woman’s screams the night of Jacklyn’s murder. The couple’s 4-month-old son was found unharmed and was placed in protective custody. Blaine Police Chief David Johnson stated that police had never been called to the Normans’ home.</p> |

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| <p>Sandra Davis</p> <p>Age 59 Minneapolis May 23</p> | <p>Melvin Davis, 67, was charged with second-degree murder in the shooting death of Sandra, his ex-wife. The couple had been divorced about a month before the murder. Davis called 911 to say that he had shot Sandra, and that "he had left her lying in the basement dead." He then waited on the porch of his house until officers arrived. Police found Sandra lying on her back on a deflated mattress, with a gunshot wound to her forehead. Sandra was a nurse. "She was proud of her four children, and all the grandbabies they have given her. She truly enjoyed being 'Nana.' She was a giver and a healer, and her legacy will live on in her family and all of the patients' lives she touched," stated Sandra's niece.</p> |
| <p>Savannah Stevens</p> <p>Age 24 Brooklyn Center May 26</p> | <p>A neighbor found Savannah stabbed to death in her apartment. She had suffered 76 knife wounds, many of them defensive wounds on her hands. Her boyfriend, Jermaine Dickerson, 24, triggered an Amber Alert when he attempted to flee with the couple's 2-year-old daughter, Tiana. He later surrendered to police after threatening to jump off a bridge near Fridley with the little girl. Savannah's relatives said she endured physical abuse and threats from Dickerson during their four-year relationship. Police found a note from Dickerson in the apartment that had instructed Stevens to go to the bedroom and take off her clothes, and to do so quietly. If she did, he wrote, "I might spare [your] life. [But] if u disobey me I will kill you right now." According to police, he also wrote he was armed with two knives and a gun. In addition to Tiana, Savannah also had an 8-year-old daughter from a previous relationship. In 2005, Dickerson was arrested and convicted in Anoka County for promoting prostitution, and sentenced to 10 years of probation. About a week before Savannah's murder, police had removed Dickerson from the Stevens' apartment. Savannah then told her father that she saw Dickerson sitting on his mother's balcony, which was on the building next door, the following day. "She wasn't feeling very comfortable about it," Tom Stevens recalled. "But she wasn't going to be scared off." Before her death, Savannah Stevens had been making plans to get a protective order against Dickerson, Tom Stevens said. He also stated that she was looking forward to her job at a pizza parlor.</p> |
| <p>Judy Carrico Reeve</p> <p>Age 64 Baldwin Township June 27</p> | <p>Judy was found dead in her Baldwin Township home after the Sherburne County Sheriff's Department received a phone call from a male caller stated that shots had been fired in his home. Judy and her husband, Joe Reeve, 73, were found dead from shots in the head. Neighbors reported hearing two gunshots about 20 minutes apart. It was determined that Judy was murdered and that Reeve committed suicide after the murder.</p> |

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| <p>Kira Simonian Age 32 Minneapolis June 28</p> | <p>On the evening of June 28th a building caretaker found the body of Kira Simonian, a Minneapolis College of Art and Design (MCAD) graduate student, in her ground-floor apartment in South Minneapolis. Police originally characterized her manner of death as “complex homicidal violence.” Kira was stabbed multiple times. According to the criminal complaint, a neighbor was awakened by things banging around the rooms, and at one point she heard the male party saying something to the effect of, “Do you love me?” The last thing the resident heard was two loud screams by the female voice, then only silence. A half-hour after police believe he killed Kira, Matthew Gretz, Kira’s husband, took a cab to the airport and flew to New York for a business trip. Mr. Gretz was arrested two and a half months later. Kira was a talented artist who was a masters of fine art candidate at MCAD. She had shown her artwork at a number of venues throughout Chicago and the Twin Cities.</p> |
| <p>Rahina Mohamed Age 45 Crystal July 7</p> | <p>Rahina’s husband found her dead of stab wounds in their home in Crystal. Her 21-year-old brother, Adel Ahamed Mohamed, was charged with second-degree murder after admitting to police that he had stabbed her and “was angry with her because, among other things, she called him names and she did not like him.” According to the Start Tribune, Rahina grew up in Ethiopia and came to the United States in 1982 with her husband. They were among the first from Oromia, a region in Ethiopia, to settle in Minnesota. Rahina had earned a reputation for helping Oromo immigrants, who turned out by the hundreds at her sister’s home on the day of the murder.</p> |
| <p>Helen Tomassoni Age 45 Blaine July 21</p> | <p>Officers found Helen in a bedroom with a fatal gunshot wound after receiving a 911 call from her 14-year-old son. Helen’s husband, Gary Tomassoni, was arrested on probable cause of murder after being interviewed by the police, and has since been charged with second degree murder. Helen was active in school activities and was described by her employer as being someone the younger employees looked up to for many reasons, “honest, the integrity, the laughter, fun loving. She had this laugh and this giggle that was unsurpassed. Just a fun lady, a nice lady.”</p> |
| <p>LaToya Burks Age 21 Cass County August 1</p> | <p>On August 1, 2007 LaToya Burks (8 months pregnant with her second child), her 5 year old daughter, and her boyfriend, L.C. Wesley Armstrong were driving in Cass County. While Mr. Armstrong was driving the vehicle he was physically assaulting LaToya and the car ran off the road. LaToya and her unborn child, a son, were both killed. Her 5 year old daughter survived the crash along with Mr. Armstrong, who has been criminally charged with the death of LaToya and her unborn child. According to family members there had been a long history of physical abuse towards LaToya and her 5 year old daughter.</p> |

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| <p>Alison Daniels</p> <p>Age 24 Minneapolis August 4</p> | <p>News accounts vary on the relationship between Alison Daniels and Dean A. Barrette. What is known is that on August 6, Alison was found dead of an apparent gunshot wound in a hotel near the University of Minnesota. Mr. Barrette was arrested weeks later in Milwaukee, and prior to extradition he took his own life. Alison, who was originally from East Lansing Michigan, may have known Mr. Barrette through an escort service. It is alleged that Mr. Barrette and Alison had an arrangement that they were to be wed in Las Vegas for \$4,000. The wedding never occurred and Alison left Las Vegas with Mr. Barrette. It is unclear what they were doing in Minneapolis, however it is clear that Mr. Barrette tracked Alison down and murdered her. According to family members Alison was working at a nursing home while attending classes at Lansing Community College to become an ultrasound technician at the time of her death. She was the youngest of three children, and "really, really loved kids." "She loved helping people and she loved being around people." said family members.</p> |
| <p>Judy Lynn Rush</p> <p>Age 56 Columbia Heights August 23</p> | <p>Judy Lynn Rush continues to be missing. The amount and location of the blood found in her apartment have left police unsure that she is still alive. Police have searched the home of Mo Hicks, Judy's former co-worker and ex-boyfriend. In his home, crime lab investigators discovered blood on his shoes and his shoe sole is consistent with the prints found at Rush's apartment. Judy's apartment continues to be a crime scene and her disappearance remains under investigation.</p> |
| <p>Doris Warren</p> <p>Age 86 Rural Manhomen County September 3</p> | <p>Paul and Doris Warren were found dead in their rural Manhomen county home. The Manhomen County Sherriff's office received a 911 call from Paul Warren. During the phone call the Mahnomen County Sherriff's Dispatch heard at least one gunshot after Warren stopped talking. According to family members, Paul and Doris Warren were both suffering from medical problems. The family insists that the incident was an act of euthanasia, however, the Mahnomen County Sherriff said that their deaths will continue to be labeled as a murder-suicide.</p> |
| <p>Elizabeth Marxen</p> <p>Age 29 North Mankato November 17</p> | <p>The bodies of Shawn Marxen and Elizabeth Marxen were pulled from a mobile home in the early morning hours of November 17th when emergency responders were called to an explosion and fire. After three and a half weeks of investigation, the North Mankato police determined that Shawn Marxen flooded a bedroom with natural gas and lit it with a lighter killing his wife and himself. Although a definitive motive is unclear, the couple had been talking about separation or divorce prior to the murder-suicide. The couple had two daughters, ages 12 and 6, who were not home at the time of the explosion</p> |

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| <p>Susan Wolter Age 53 Shoreview November 26</p> | <p>A man who struggled with mental illness fatally stabbed his mother and then took his own life at their Shoreview home. Susan Wolter had been an administrative assistant for the Roseville Fire Department for the past 12 years—doing everything from payroll to schedule changes. She was known and loved by everyone.</p> |
| <p>Sheri Lynn Schaumburger Age 48 Minneapolis December 15</p> | <p>Sheri Lynn Schaumburger was found stabbed to death in a south Minneapolis apartment building corridor. Myron David Norcross was apprehended as he tried to leave the building. He told police that he had stabbed the victim multiple times. He later told police that he had argued with Schaumburger, she ran out of the apartment, and he chased her with a butcher knife and stabbed her. Norcross had a prior conviction for misdemeanor domestic assault in 2006.</p> |
| <p>Kristine Larson Age 19 Minneapolis December 19</p> | <p>Police responded to a burning car in the Seward neighborhood of Minneapolis. Inside they discovered the body of Kristine Larson, who had been strangled. The day Kristine died, she had been planning to go to the house of the father of her 2-year-old son Darion, and then go Christmas shopping. Zachery Matthews, who was Kristine’s ex-boyfriend and father of Darion, was later charged with her murder. Matthews had been grieving with the family until his arrest. Family members report that despite the fact that Kristine ended the relationship, Matthews was obsessive about trying to get back together. He stated that the only relationship in her life would involve him and indicated on his MySpace page that he was married, although they were not. Family members describe Kristine as very gregarious and vibrant. She loved music and dancing and was an amazing mother. Darion is currently living with relatives.</p> |
| <p>Eleanor Sprague Age 90 St. Paul December 22</p> | <p>Eleanor Sprague was found on December 22nd wrapped in a canvas tarp in the back seat of her son’s car. Although the Ramsey County medical examiner found that a bone in Sprague’s neck had been fractured, they were unable to determine cause of death. St. Paul police were called to a house on December 22nd by the homeowner. He indicated that his mother died on December 20th and that he had wrapped her body in a tarp the next day and placed her in the back seat of his Chevrolet. Sprague’s son told police that his mother was last seen alive about 11:30 on December 19th, he indicated to police that he had planned to take her body to a morgue or maybe up north to cremate her. At the time of this writing charges have not been filed.</p> |
| <p>Jacqueline Wells Age 33 Brooklyn Center December 25</p> | <p>The bodies of Jacqueline Wells and her husband here found early on Christmas morning. Although no one is sure what lead to the incident, it is clear that Mr. Wells shot Jacqueline and then took his own life. Public records show that Mr. Wells had been convicted in 2005 of first-degree assault and had been sentenced for first degree assault in 1995. Jacqueline had 4 teenage children from a previous relationship. The children were not home at the time of the incident, but one or more of the children came home to discover the bodies.</p> |

Children murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, childcare provider, or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

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| <p>Unborn Baby</p> <p>Maplewood January 28</p> | <p>On January 28th, Dino Scott was caught on video tape beating his pregnant ex-girlfriend so severely she lost consciousness and miscarried. According to the criminal complaint, Scott pummeled his ex-girlfriend, Namrata Ceisel, with punches. When the young woman slumped over, unconscious, Scott dragged the 18-year-old woman from the elevator. Scott and Namrata had dated for two years before the attack and they have a one year old son.</p> |
| <p>Zachary Wolfe-Wagner</p> <p>Age 7 Luck, WI February 12</p> | <p>Police found Zachary and his father, Jeffrey Wagner, 47, dead on a motel room floor in Richfield, MN on February 14th. It was determined that Wagner poisoned his son with ethylene glycol, a common ingredient in antifreeze, and then killed himself by ingesting the poison. Wagner kidnapped Zachary while the boy waited for the school bus at the end of his Luck, WI, driveway. Zachary's mother, Melissa Horky, called police on February 12 to report the kidnapping after Wagner left her a voice mail indicating he had taken the boy. "I feared for Zachary's life," said Horky. "I feared for his safety. If he was with his father, I felt he would harm Zachary." Horky had filed for a restraining order against Wagner a few days before the murder barring her ex-husband from seeing Zachary because he had taken the boy without permission before and had sent Horky threatening e-mails. The order had not been served because police could not find Wagner. Horky stated she had asked police to issue an AMBER alert, which they never did. Polk County Sheriff Tim Moore later stated why he felt the case didn't warrant an AMBER alert, "All indication from the family was that Mr. Wagner would never harm his son." Zachary was a happy boy with a bright smile. He loved Cub Scouts, T-ball, and his little brother and baby sister.</p> |
| <p>Destiny Jackson</p> <p>Age 15 Months St. Paul February 13</p> | <p>Police were called to a St. Paul apartment and found Destiny "in obvious distress." She was pronounced dead at Regions Hospital. It was determined that Destiny died from internal injuries caused by blunt force trauma to her torso. Destiny's father, Beauford Jackson, 18, was arrested and charged with unintentional second-degree murder. It wasn't the first time the baby was injured while in her father's care. Just after Thanksgiving of the previous year, child protection officials took Destiny from her parents when she was found to have a skull fracture. Jackson told investigators that he had accidentally dropped her. When authorities could not prove that Destiny had been abused, her parents regained custody. The baby was "the sunniest, sweetest, nicest little person," said Mikel Clifford, Destiny's grandmother, who called the toddler "Pinky" because she was always wearing pink. "She smiled the day she was born and was a really sunny, happy girl."</p> |

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| <p>Delijahjuan Winden</p> <p>Age 6 Weeks Minneapolis March 20</p> | <p>Delijahjuan died when his caregiver, Daniel Leikas, 25, raised him over his head and threw him into a car seat. He stated he was frustrated because the infant was fussy and had been crying all night. Leikas also told police he didn't know whether or not he was Delijahjuan's father. An autopsy revealed a severe skull fracture and healing rib fractures. Leikas was charged with second-degree murder. He has a lengthy criminal history and was scheduled to appear for a court hearing in March in connection with a felony loitering charge. He was convicted in 2004 for failing to register as a predatory offender and violated probation several times.</p> |
| <p>Baby Girl</p> <p>Newborn Body Found on Prairie Island Found March 26</p> | <p>A 7-pound, 21-inch infant girl with long black hair was found in a marina near Treasure Island Resort and Casino, several miles upstream from Red Wing. It was the third time in eight years that a baby's body was found in or near water in Goodhue County. Tests indicated, however, that the baby girl found in March was not related to the other two babies. The date and cause of the infant's death is unknown at this time.</p> |
| <p>Baby Girl</p> <p>Newborn Oakdale April 9</p> | <p>Nicole Beecroft, 17, was charged with first-degree murder in the death of her newborn baby girl. The charges stated that the high school senior gave birth to the infant on the floor of the laundry room in her home and, "in a panic state," stabbed her newborn baby 135 times and disposed of her body in a garbage can outside of the home. Police were tipped off when an anonymous caller told authorities that a cashier at a Cub Foods supermarket had given birth to a stillborn baby and had thrown it in the garbage. A search of Beecroft's home found a bloodstained towels, a knife, and the infant girl's body. Beecroft's mother told police she hadn't known her daughter was pregnant. Authorities urged young women who may find themselves in the same situation to use Minnesota's safe haven law which says that anyone can leave a newborn at the hospital up to 72 hours after birth, with no questions asked.</p> |
| <p>Unborn Boy</p> <p>Sauk Rapids May 13</p> | <p>Nathan Hubert, 35, was charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the death of his girlfriend, Sheila and her unborn child. On Mother's Day, Sheila's young son came home to discover his mother on the floor of their apartment, bleeding. Sheila's murder leaves two children motherless. "She was a wonderful woman," said Samantha Slater, a neighbor. "When you'd get her comfortable, she'd smile all the time."</p> |

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| <p>Nevaeh Jones</p> <p>13 months Andover May 16</p> | <p>Jamie Andrews, 25, was charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the death of his baby daughter, Nevaeh. The toddler had been shaken to death and narcotics were also found in her bloodstream. Neveah’s mother, Sonja Navarro, worked a 90-hour workweek as a nursing assistant and was forced to leave her daughter with Andrews’ mother for days. Three days before Nevaeh’s murder, her mother dropped her off to stay at her grandmother’s house. Andrews lived near his mother and often saw Nevaeh, who was born after the couple ended their seven-year relationship. Navarro, received a “hysterical” phone message from Andrews, stating that the baby wasn’t breathing. At the hospital the next day, doctors declared Nevaeh brain dead and took her off life support. Navarro said her daughter called every animal “puppy” and danced to rap music. She had big brown eyes. Navarro stated that she finds some solace in knowing Nevaeh’s organs were transplanted into six children across the country, but she can’t help imagining the instant her daughter was killed. “All I can think,” Navarro said, “is that at some point she was thinking, ‘Mommy, come get me.’” Nevaeh left behind a 7-year old sister and 3 year-old brother who had lived with their father.</p> |
| <p>Andrais Burks</p> <p>Cass County August 1</p> | <p>On August 1, 2007 LaToya Burks, 8 months pregnant with her second child, her 5 year old daughter and her boyfriend L.C. Wesley Armstrong were driving in Cass County. While Mr. Armstrong was driving the vehicle he was physically assaulting LaToya and the car ran off the road. LaToya and her unborn child, a son, were both killed. Her 5 year old daughter survived the crash along with Mr. Armstrong, who has been criminally charged with the death of LaToya and her unborn child. According to family members there had been a long history of physical abuse towards LaToya and her 5 year old daughter.</p> |
| <p>Cecilia Bodem</p> <p>Age 11 months Lakeville August 25</p> | <p>According to family members and friends, Katherine Bodem had a history of neglecting her children long before she was charged with second-degree manslaughter in the death of her 11 month old daughter in Lakeville. Cecilia was drowned in a bathtub at the family’s home. She was in the tub with her brother, age 3, while their mother allegedly was shopping online for shoes. Previous neighbors, both mental health professionals, who continued to stay close to the family had been concerned about Ms. Bodem’s deteriorating mental health. They are quoted as saying, “Kathy often displayed indications of disordered thought-at times grandiose and manic, and at other times listless with almost complete disregard for everything and everyone around her.”</p> |

Friends or family members murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

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| <p>Roger Wojciechowski</p> <p>Age 64 Lincoln January 8</p> | <p>The Morrison County Sheriff's Office received a call on January 8 from Erik Wojciechowski, 27, explaining he had just shot his parents. Deputies found Roger and Jeanne, 57, in their home, both dead of gunshot wounds to the head. Erik was found walking on a road a few blocks from the home and arrested. Erik had recently spent 8 months in the Morrison County jail on a DWI conviction. Jeanne had told a friend, Kathy Oldenburg, that when Erik returned home in December, he was seeing angels and spirits. Sheriff Michel Wetzal stated that Jeanne and Roger had called the department in December 2006 because their son was talking religiously and not acting normal. A deputy met with the family and determined that Erik was not a threat to himself or others. He and the Wojciechowskis convinced Erik to get a mental health evaluation. Roger retired in 1997 from the St. Cloud D.V.A. Medical Center, and worked for the Scandia Valley Township and a local store after his retirement. "He would help anyone who needed it," said Gary Deppa, owner of the Lakeview Store. Roger enjoyed building his retirement home, hunting, fishing, and gardening. Erik Wojciechowski was charged with three counts of first-degree murder and four counts of second-degree murder.</p> |
| <p>Ja'Naurri Allen</p> <p>Age 18 New Brighton January 16</p> | <p>Mosetta and her boyfriend, Ja'Naurri Allen, 18, were shot to death in a Brooklyn Park apartment building's parking lot. Mosetta's ex-boyfriend, Revelle Loving, 20, was arrested and charged with 3 counts of first degree murder. Two other men were charged with 2 counts of first-degree murder: Ronelle Loving, Revelle's brother, and Cortney Saffold. Loving had been charged twice with assaulting Mosetta. The first case, in 2005, was set aside with a continuance for dismissal, which meant the court would wait a year to see what happened before ruling. That same month, Loving was charged with assaulting her again. The continuance should have been revoked at that point, but was not. According to a criminal complaint, Mosetta contacted various police departments at least three times to report that Loving was assaulting her. "I'm all torn up," said Hiram Davis, Ja'Naurri's father. "He was a very good son...He took care of his brother and sister and made sure they were all right." Ja'Naurri had graduated from high school the previous spring and was planning to attend barber school. He was working as a personal care attendant for the elderly.</p> |

Friends or family members murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

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| <p>Darrell Buesgens</p> <p>Age 57</p> <p>Emily</p> <p>June 20</p> | <p>Darrell Buesgens was shot to death in his home by his son-in-law, Steven Radke. Radke had a history of domestic violence and his estranged wife, Buesgens' daughter Melanie Radke, had been staying at her parents' home. Radke allegedly told investigators that Buesgens was not going to prevent him from seeing his children. Melanie told investigators that after Radke killed her father, he ordered her to pack clothes for herself and the children because they were going to Mexico. Officers arrived before he could force her to leave.</p> |
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About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women was founded in 1978 to serve as a unifying voice for battered women and to link battered women's programs in the state with the common purpose of ending domestic violence.

MCBW is a statewide, member-based organization serving more than 90 local, regional, and statewide member organizations, and their additional 42 satellite offices, that advocate for an end to battering. The types of programs operated by MCBW members include battered women's shelters and safe homes, community advocacy programs, criminal justice intervention projects, state and national training and technical assistance organizations, human rights organizations, and homeless shelters and transitional housing programs. Members include 16 culturally specific and population specific programs serving differing communities.

MCBW promotes individual, institutional, and cultural social change and works to end oppression based on gender, race, age, sexual orientation, class, and disability. The key program areas of MCBW include: public policy advocacy; information and resources; public awareness; training and technical assistance; and networking.

MCBW's activities include resources and referrals for individuals, legislative and public policy advocacy on a statewide and federal level, sponsoring training events for programs that serve battered women, coordinating statewide task force meetings, serving as an information clearinghouse, publishing a quarterly newsletter and web site, and public awareness and prevention initiatives.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to provide a voice for battered women and member programs; challenge systems and institutions so they respond more effectively to the needs of battered women and their children; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to end violence against women and their children and to achieve social justice for all.

In 2007, at least 35 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

- January 5:** Sai Xiong, 31, St. Paul, murdered by her boyfriend in an intentional car accident
- January 7:** Jeanne Wojciechowski, 57, and Roger Wojciechowski, 64, Lincoln, shot to death by their son
- January 16:** Mosetta Peters, 20, and Ja’Naurri Allen, 18, Brooklyn Park, shot to death by Mosetta’s ex-boyfriend
- January 28:** Unborn Baby, Maplewood, mother miscarried after father beat her
- February 12:** Zachary Wolf-Wagner, 7, Luck WI, poisoned by his father in a murder-suicide
- February 13:** Destiny Jackson, 15 months, St. Paul, beaten to death by her father
- March 20:** Delijahjuan Winden, 6 weeks, Minneapolis, beaten to death by his caregiver
- March 26:** Baby Girl, Newborn, found on Prairie Island, cause of death and perpetrator unknown, but likely a domestic homicide
- April 9:** Baby Girl, Newborn, Oakdale, stabbed to death by her mother
- May 8:** Roselynn Habu, 18, Brooklyn Park, beaten and strangled to death by her boyfriend
- May 13:** Sheila Chrast, 37, Sauk Rapids, and her Unborn Baby, beaten to death by her boyfriend
- May 16:** Nevaeh Jones, 13 months, Andover, shaken to death by her father
- May 23:** Jacklyn Norman, 27, Blaine, shot to death by her husband in a murder-suicide
- May 23:** Sandra Davis, 59, Minneapolis, shot to death by her ex-husband
- May 24:** Savannah Stevens, 24, Brooklyn Center, stabbed to death by her boyfriend
- June 20:** Darrell Buesgens, 57, Emily, shot to death by his daughter’s estranged husband

In 2007, at least 35 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

- June 27:** Judy Carrico Reeve, 64, Baldwin Township, shot to death by her husband in a murder-suicide
- June 28:** Kira Simonian, 32, Minneapolis, stabbed to death by her husband
- July 7:** Rahina Mohamed, 45, Crystal, stabbed to death by her brother
- July 21:** Helen Tomassoni, 45, Blaine, allegedly shot to death by her husband
- August 1:** LaToya Burks, 21, Cass County, and Her Unborn Baby Boy, Vehicular homicide by boyfriend
- August 4:** Alison Daniels, 24, Minneapolis, shot by 'john'
- August 23:** Judy Lynn Rush, 56, Columbia Heights, Serious injury
- August 25:** Cecilia Bodem, Lakeville, 11 months, drowned by mother
- September 3:** Doris Warren, 86, rural Mahnommen County, shot to death in murder suicide/euthanasia by husband
- November 17:** Elizabeth Marxen, 29, Mankato, deliberate arson, murder suicide by husband
- November 26:** Susan Wolter, 53, Shoreview, stabbed murder suicide by son
- December 15:** Sheri Lynn Schaumburger, 48, Minneapolis, stabbed to death by boyfriend
- December 19:** Kristine Larson, 19, Minneapolis/St. Paul Park, strangled and then burned by ex-boyfriend
- December 22:** Eleanor Sprague, 90, St. Paul,
- December 25:** Jacqueline Wells, 33, Brooklyn Center, shot in murder suicide by husband

Remember their names...