



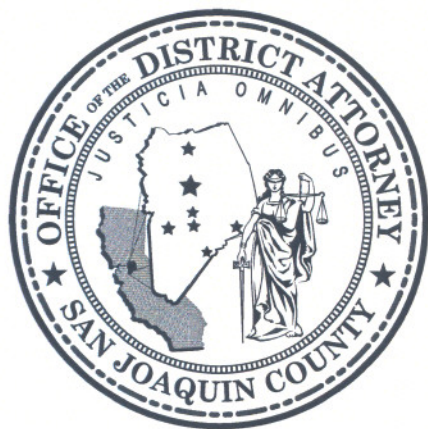
**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY**  
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN

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**JAMES P. WILLETT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

**Domestic Violence Death Review  
Statistics for 2001**

**O F F I C I A L R E P O R T**



**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
COUNTY OF SAN JOAQUIN**

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**JAMES P. WILLETT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY**



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATH REVIEW  
STATISTICS for 2001**

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

Each year, deaths attributable to domestic violence constitute a significant portion of the total number of homicides in San Joaquin County. As courts and communities try to confront domestic violence, the question of what to do about domestic violence fatalities continually resurfaces. Normally, these fatalities are handled by the criminal justice system, which investigates the deaths and identifies and charges the perpetrators when appropriate. Such criminal justice handling, however, does little to review the effectiveness of the various systems charged with servicing and protecting those vulnerable to domestic violence and death.

In October 2002, in an effort to examine and evaluate current policies and practices used by agencies and individuals working with victims and perpetrators in violent relationships, the San Joaquin County Domestic Violence Death Review Team was formed. The DVDR is a multi-disciplinary team made up of a combination of various criminal justice, health, and social service agencies in San Joaquin County and is established pursuant to California Penal Code §11163.3. By conducting a formal review of all agency and criminal justice involvement in domestic violence deaths, domestic violence-related deaths and suicides, we are in a better position to understand why they happened so that strategies can be developed to improve the community's ability to prevent such occurrences in the future.

### MISSION STATEMENT

*The purpose of the San Joaquin County Domestic Violence Death Review Team is to review circumstances leading up to domestic violence - related deaths. Our goal is to improve the response of public and private agencies to incidents of domestic violence, strengthen system policies and procedures, and identify prevention strategies to reduce future incidents of domestic violence related injuries and deaths. In reviewing these cases, we will gather statistical data to determine how our local agencies can implement these goals.*

### CONFIDENTIALITY

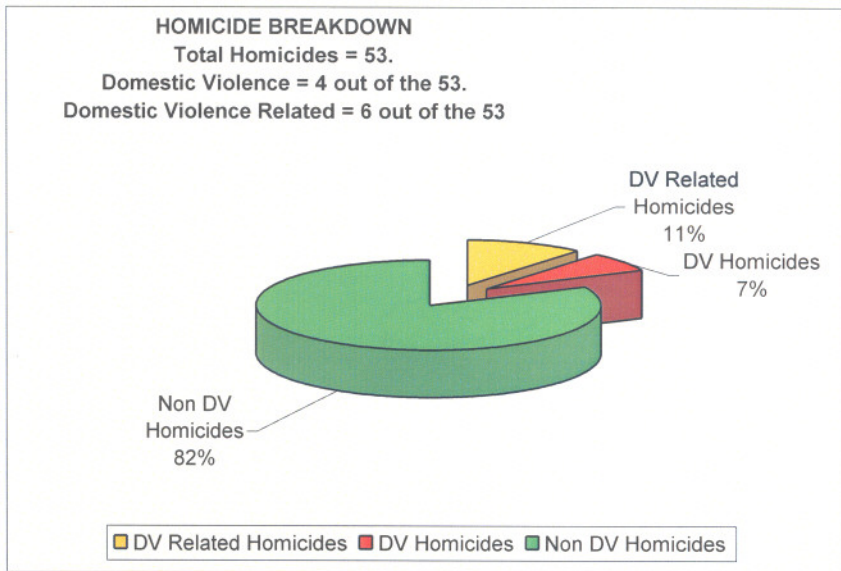
*The Team Members follow the guidelines set forth in California Penal Code section 11163.3. The Members will be required at the start of each meeting to sign a confidentiality form. The Chairperson of the D.V.D.R.T. shall disclose to the County Board of Supervisors and media ONLY STATISTICAL DATA at the end of each year. No names of victims, or any other information about cases reviewed shall be disclosed.*

### CASES TO BE REVIEWED:

The Domestic Violence Death Review Team only reviews cases in which the investigation, prosecution, and sentencing have been completed. If a case is still under investigation or in the court process, we wait until that process is completed before reviewing that case.

The Team reviews three types of cases:

- 1) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES** – Cases in which the homicide victim and perpetrator are married, engaged, dating, former dating, have a child together or formerly married.
- 2) DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES** – Cases in which the homicide victim and perpetrator do not have the prior “amorous” relationship, however the gravamen of the offense involves “domestic violence situations”. (i.e. Old boyfriend kills new boyfriend.).
- 3) SUICIDES** – All cases where the victim of the suicide had any history of prior domestic violence either as a perpetrator or a victim.



## 2001 HOMICIDE BREAKDOWN:

San Joaquin County suffered 53 homicides.

- Stockton – 31 homicides
- County (including Lathrop) – 20 homicides
- Manteca – 1 homicide
- Lodi – 1 homicide
- Tracy – 0
- Ripon – 0
- Escalon – 0

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES = 4**

There were four (4) separate Domestic Violence homicides in 2001. In each case there was only one victim.

- Stockton – 3 D.V. homicides cases
- County – 1 D.V. homicide case

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED HOMICIDES = 6**

There were three (3) Domestic Violence related homicide cases in 2001. One case resulted in 4 homicide victims. The other 2 cases resulted in 1 homicide victim each.

- Stockton – 1 D.V. related homicide case
- County – 2 D.V. related homicide cases

## 2001 SUICIDE BREAKDOWN

There were 53 Suicides in the County in 2001. Two (2) suicide victims had previously been victims of Domestic Violence. (Neither suicide involved a Domestic Violence situation.)

Seven (7) suicide victims had previously been Domestic Violence offenders.

There was one Domestic Violence murder/suicide, where the perpetrator of the homicide then killed himself. (In that case the murder was committed within S.J.C. but the suicide was committed outside of the county.)

There was one (1) Domestic Violence related murder/suicide where the perpetrator of the homicide then committed suicide.

## **2001 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE STATISTICS:**

### **Four (4) Homicides**

#### ***Ages:***

Victims – 25 to 42 years old  
Average – 28.2 years of age

Perpetrators – 23 to 43 years old  
Average – 34.5 years of age

#### ***Race:***

##### *Victims*

Caucasian – 1  
Hispanic – 1  
Pacific Islander – 2

##### *Perpetrators*

Pacific Islander – 1  
Asian – 1  
Hispanic – 2

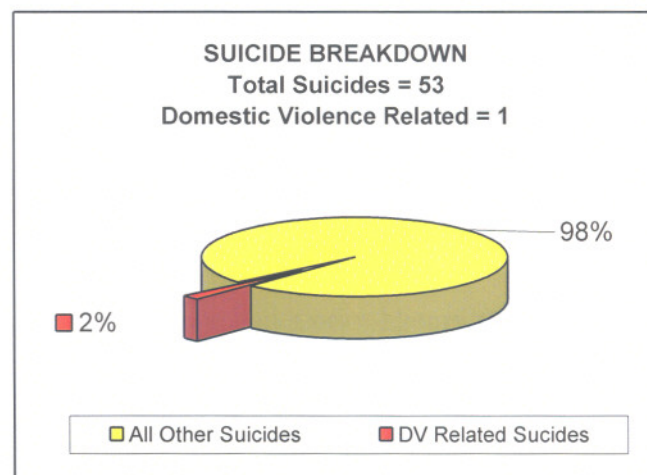
#### ***Prior Criminal Records:***

Victims – 1  
Perpetrator – 1

#### ***Probation/Parole Status:***

*Victim* – None on probation or parole at the time of the offense

*Perpetrators* – Only 1 was on parole at the time of the offense



## **2001 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE STATISTICS (cont'd.):**

### ***Prior Domestic Violence History:***

*Reported* – In 2 out of 4 cases the homicide victims had prior “Law Enforcement” documented history of being a victim of Domestic Violence. However, one of the two the victim’s prior perpetrator was NOT the perpetrator of the current crime.

*Unreported* – In 2 cases the homicide victim had a prior unreported history of Domestic Violence with the current perpetrator.

### ***Relationship:***

Married – 2 out of 4.

The other 2 cases the victim & perpetrator were NOT living together but did have children together.

### ***Children:***

All 4 cases the victim & perpetrator had children together.

In 2 of the cases children witnessed some part of the current crime.

*Injuries* – None of the children were injured.

### ***Third Party Injuries:***

None of the cases involved injuries to third parties.

### ***Restraining Orders:***

In only 1 case was a R.O. in effect at the time of the homicide, and in that case the R.O. had been in effect for several years.

### ***Nationality:***

*Victims* – 3 out of 4 were US citizens.

*Perpetrators* – 3 out of 4 were US citizens. The fourth victim and perpetrator were Mexican Nationals.

### ***Language:***

*Victims* – 2 out of 4 spoke English as their first language or fluently.

*Perpetrators* – 2 out of 4 spoke English as their first language or fluently.

In the other cases the individuals spoke Spanish and Tagalog.

### ***Substance Abuse:***

In none of the cases, by either the victim or perpetrator, was substance abuse an issue in the homicide.

### ***Sex:***

Victims – All 4 were female.

Perpetrators – All 4 were male.

### ***Manner of Death/Weapon:***

- 2 firearms (handguns)
- 1 strangulation.
- 1 nail gun

In the firearms cases the perpetrator illegally possessed a gun.

### ***Murder/Suicide:***

Only 1 case involved a domestic violence/murder suicide and the suicide was committed outside of the county several days later.

### ***Location:***

In 3 out of 4 cases the victims were murdered in their own home.

In the other case the victim was kidnapped and murdered in a remote location of the county.

None were committed in the workplace.

- Stockton – 3 D.V. homicide case
- County – 1 D.V. homicide cases

### ***Evidence of Prior Mental Health:***

*Victims* – None had a prior history of reported mental health problems.

*Perpetrators* – Only 1 out of 4 had a prior reported history of mental health problems.

**2001 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HOMICIDE STATISTICS (cont'd.):**

***Prior Domestic Violence Counseling:***

*Victims* – Only 1 out of 4 had received prior victim counseling.

*Perpetrators* – Only 1 out of 4 had received prior Domestic Violence perpetrator counseling.

***Time in the County:***

Only 1 victim and 1 perpetrator were lifelong residents of S.J.C

*Less than 15 years* – Only 1 victim and 1 perpetrator

*Less than 10 years* – Only 1 victim and 1 perpetrator

*Less than 5 years* – Only 1 Victim and 1 perpetrator

***Resolutions:***

One case was murder/suicide.

Two (2) perpetrators are serving life sentences.

One perpetrator is serving 16 years in prison because the case was a “heat of passion” crime.

**Three out of the four cases were  
PREMEDITATED MURDER.**

**2001 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
RELATED HOMICIDES:  
Six (6) D.V. Related Homicides**

***Ages:***

*Victims* – 4 years old to 48 years old

Average – 18.5 years old

*Perpetrators* – 18 years old to 49 years old

Average – 36.3 years old

***Race:***

*Victims*

Caucasian – 4

Hispanic – 1

Asian – 1

*Perpetrators*

African American – 1

Hispanic – 1

Caucasian – 1

***Prior Criminal Records:***

*Victim* – 1 (misdemeanor non D.V.)

*Perpetrators* – All 3 had prior records

***Probation / Parole Status:***

*Victims* – None on probation or parole at the time of the offense

*Perpetrators* – 2 were felons on probation at the time of the offense

***Prior Domestic Violence History:***

*Reported* – None

*Non-Reported* – Only 1 case

***Relationships:***

In two (2) cases the perpetrator was the ex-boyfriend of a relative of the victim

Two (2) of the victims were the mothers of the perpetrators ex-girlfriend

Three (3) of the victims were the children of the perpetrators ex-girlfriend

In one (1) case the victim was the ex-boyfriend and the perpetrator was new boyfriend

**2001 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
RELATED HOMICIDES (cont'd.):**

***Children:***

*Victims* – 3 children

*Witnesses* – 2 children

***Third Party Injuries:***

*There were 6 other people injured and 2 of them were minors, but none of these injuries were fatal.*

***Restraining Orders:***

None of the cases involved a current or former restraining order.

***Nationality:***

Everyone was a U.S. citizen

***Language:***

All victims & perpetrators spoke English

***Substance Abuse:***

In only one case was there evidence of substance abuse and the substance was alcohol.

***Sex:***

*Victims*

Female – 4

Male – 2

*Perpetrators*

Male – 3

***Manner of Death / Weapon:***

3 – firearms (handguns)

2 – stabbing (knife)

1 – baseball bat

In the firearms cases the perpetrator illegally possessed a gun.

***Murder / Suicide:***

Only 1 case involved murder suicide

***Location:***

*Stockton* – 1 case.

*County* – 2 cases in the County.

All occurred in the victims' homes.

***Evidence of Prior Mental Health:***

No evidence that any of the victims and/or the perpetrators had any prior mental health problems.

***Prior Domestic Violence Counseling:***

There was no evidence that any of the victims, perpetrators, or families had received any domestic violence counseling as either victims of domestic violence or perpetrators.

***Time in County:***

*Victims*

Lifetime – 5

Not from County – 1

*Perpetrators*

Lifetime – 2

Less than 5 years – 1

***Resolutions:***

One case was a multiple murder/suicide, and the murders were premeditated.

One case was not prosecuted because of self-defense issues.

One perpetrator was convicted and is serving 29 years in state prison, and the murder was a heat of passion crime.

## ❖ RECOMMENDATIONS ❖

In addition to reviewing the cases (Domestic Violence Homicides, Domestic Violence Related Homicides, and Suicides) and compiling statistics, the D.V.D.R.T. also formulates recommendations for implementation which are designed to prevent Domestic Violence Homicides.

After careful review of the 2001 year the D.V.D.R.T. has made the following recommendations with respect to two areas. The First area is our Investigation of the cases we review. The Second area is the outreach within our own agencies and the community, in which we will implement the D.V.D.R.T.'s suggestions and recommendations.

### ❖ INVESTIGATION ❖

In the next year the D.V.D.R.T. will investigate the Victim's workplace to see what if anything his/her co-workers knew about any domestic violence. The D.V.D.R.T. found in the investigation of the 2001 cases that many times there may be warning signs in the workplace of domestic violence which has occurred in the home.

In the next year we will contact the surviving family members of the Victim for any information they may have regarding the Victim's relationship. This area is important to determine if there was a history of D.V. that was not reported to any agencies.

### ❖ OUTREACH ❖

*The Team Members through their Agencies will contact and access members of the Business Community to provide training and awareness on Domestic Violence.*

*Team Members will continue outreach into the many new cultures within our community to provide Domestic Violence Awareness.*

*Team Members will translate the current Domestic Violence Awareness literature into many more dialects.*

*Team Members will coordinate with local schools to teach Domestic Violence Awareness to the children of our community. These trainings will take place in high school and colleges.*



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE FOLLOWING  
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