

2001 DOMESTIC
MORTALITY REVIEW REPORT

AN EXAMINATION OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HOMICIDES IN DUVAL COUNTY
JANUARY 1, 2001 THROUGH
DECEMBER 31, 2001

AND AN ANALYSIS OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES
DECEMBER 1996 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001



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June 21, 2002

Members of the Judiciary, Law Enforcement Officials, and Colleagues

RE: 2001 Domestic Violence Mortality Review Report

Dear Members of the Judiciary, Law Enforcement Officials, and Colleagues:

Please find a copy of the 2001 Domestic Violence Mortality Review Report. This report provides an examination of domestic violence homicides that occurred in Duval County from January 1, 2001 through December 31, 2001. As this is our fourth annual report, it also contains patterns from 1997 through 2001.

Our committee hopes you will find this report and its conclusions useful and compelling. We would appreciate any feedback you have on this project. Please feel free to contact me at 630-2502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Libby Senterfitt".

✓
Libby Senterfitt, Chair
Domestic Violence Mortality Review Committee
Assistant State Attorney

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SUBMITTED BY THE DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROJECT'S
SUBCOMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC HOMICIDE

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The 2001 Domestic Mortality Review Report was sponsored by the Domestic Violence Intervention Project Committee (DVIP).

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COMMITTEE GOALS

The Domestic Mortality Review Subcommittee was initially formed by Jacksonville's Domestic Violence Intervention Project to study domestic homicides occurring in Jacksonville in 1997. The purpose of the first study was to examine these homicides to determine if our community could have helped to prevent them. The project has been continued every year resulting in an annual report. The committee has examined all domestic homicides that occurred in Jacksonville between December 1, 1996 and December 31, 2001. This committee did not examine child abuse murders as there is a child death review team.

The following report outlines the facts of the ten incidents of domestic homicide in 2001 which resulted in twelve domestic homicide victims and two suicides. It then tracks patterns by evaluating specific information on a yearly basis. Finally, this report provides for an opportunity to examine trends by reviewing all sixty-one domestic homicide incidents resulting in sixty-seven homicide victims between December 1, 1996, and December 31, 2001.

FACTORS REVIEWED

In order to look at a comprehensive, community services based prevention, the following information was reviewed and considered by our committee:

1. Police reports involving the victim and suspect.
2. Department of Children and Families referrals involving victim or suspect.
3. Shelter services, hotline contact, court advocacy or other domestic violence services utilized by victim or suspect.
4. Civil proceedings including Myers/Baker Acts, Dissolutions of Marriage, and Injunctions for Protection involving victim and/or suspect.
5. Criminal record of victim and suspect.
6. State Attorney files involving victim and suspect including any medical records in previous domestic or homicide files.
7. Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP) participation including performance, completion, violations and victim contact.
8. HARK (Helping At Risk Kids Program) attendance by children of victim and/or suspect.
9. Animal abuse or neglect complaints.
10. Other known services provided to victim and/or suspect.
11. Medical Examiner's report pertaining to the victim.

ORDER OF EXAMINATION

I. CRIME

- Relationship of parties
- Case summary
- Children Present

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

- Domestic violence
- Non-domestic violent crimes
- Substance abuse arrests

III. CIVIL

- Domestic Violence Injunctions
- Dissolutions of Marriage
- Department of Children and Families Referrals
- Baker/Myers Act commitments

IV. SERVICES

- Shelter services/hotline calls
- HARK attendance (Helping At Risk Kids Program)
- Batterers' intervention program (BIP) (Hubbard House/Salvation Army)
- Substance abuse program

V. OTHER CONCERNS

2001 CASES

2001-1

Date of Homicide: 01/06/01

Victim: White Female, 44

Suspect: White Male, 40

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Divorced

B. CASE SUMMARY: On January 6, 2001, a bomb exploded at the residence that resulted in the homicide and two injuries to other parties. According to the police reports, a package was delivered and opened in the bathroom by the victim. She was killed and two other family members were injured. The daughter was in the home at the time but was not injured. After conducting an investigation, the ex-husband was arrested and charged with first degree murder. The case is still pending.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: The 15 year old daughter of both parties was present.

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No Record
2. Suspect - No Record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No Record
2. Suspect - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No Record
2. Suspect - No Record

III. CIVIL

A. Victim

1. 10/19/00 Divorce
2. 1/5/00 Victim Court Order entered granting victim share of suspect's annuity
3. 9/03/99 Injunction for Protection against suspect

B. Suspect - Contempt motions filed for failure to pay victim

IV. SERVICES

A. Victim - No Record

B. Suspect - No Record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

There were two hearings scheduled on January 8, 2001, two days after the bombing, one of which was the "Wife's Amended Motion for Contempt and/or Enforcement." At a prior hearing, the suspect was ordered to pay the wife a lump sum of \$28,000 plus \$16,430 at \$500 a month. The Contempt hearing was for non-payment of the \$28,000.

Date of Homicide/Suicide: 01/11/01

Victim 1: White Female, 73
 Victim 2: White Female, 53
 Victim 3: White Male, 51
 Suspect: White Male, 75

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Wife/Husband (victim 1/co-habitants)
 Daughter/Father (victim 2)
 Son-in-Law/Father-in-Law (victim 3)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On January 11, 2001, the victims and suspect may have been involved in an argument over money outside the residence of victim 1 and the suspect. The suspect shot victim 2 (his daughter) in the chest. He then shot victim 3 (his son-in-law) in the chest and followed victim 1 (his wife) across the street onto school grounds where he shot her three times then shot himself in the head. Victim 1 and the suspect died at the scene. Victim 3 crawled back into their home before collapsing, and he and victim 2 were transported to the hospital where both died. Victims 2 and 3 lived next door to the suspect and victim 1.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victims - No record
2. Suspect - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victims - No record
2. Suspect - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victims - No record
2. Suspect - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victims - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victims - No record

B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

According to other family members, the suspect had chronic mental health problems, though he was never diagnosed with a mental condition. He had been "acting strange" since the previous September and accused victim 1 of cheating on him and giving his money away. Victim 2 took him to a doctor the previous week. She had started locking her doors and windows, because she was afraid of him.

Date of Homicide: 02/09/01

Victim: Black Male, 47

Suspect: Black Female, 54

I. CRIME

- A. RELATIONSHIP: Boyfriend/Girlfriend (co-habitants)
- B. CASE SUMMARY: On February 9, 2001 after a night of heavy drinking, the victim and suspect argued and the victim left the residence. An hour or so later, the suspect was driving down the street and saw the victim walking on the sidewalk. The suspect drove from the roadway and intentionally struck the victim causing him to fly up on the hood of the car. He fell off the car and came to rest underneath the car. Bystanders lifted the car off the victim. The victim died at the scene. Both the suspect's friend and the suspect's grandson were in the car when she ran over the victim. The defendant was found guilty of Manslaughter and her sentence is pending.
- C. CHILDREN PRESENT: The suspect's nine year old grandson was present.

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

- A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
1. Victim - No record
 2. Suspect - 04/21/84 Aggravated Assault. Assaulted ex-husband with firearm (different victim). The charges were dropped.
- B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES
1. Victim - No record
 2. Suspect - No record
- C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS
1. Victim
 - a. 05/21/97 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - dropped
 - b. 12/19/93 Disorderly Conduct - sentence unknown
 - c. 01/15/87 Driving While Intoxicated - convicted
 - (1) 11/29/89 Violation of Probation for Driving While Intoxicated - sentence unknown
 - (2) 11/06/88 Violation of Probation for Driving While Intoxicated - sentence unknown
 - (3) 10/17/87 Violation of Probation for Driving While Intoxicated - sentence unknown
 2. Suspect - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

The suspect has a self-reported history of mental health issues. The suspect was evaluated upon arrest and found to be incompetent to stand trial. The suspect was sent to Florida State Hospital. At the six month review the suspect was found to be competent to stand trial.

Date of Homicide: 04/07/01

Victim: White Male, 27

Suspect: White Male, 31

I. CRIME

- A. RELATIONSHIP: Boyfriend of Suspect's former girlfriend.
- B. CASE SUMMARY: On April 7, 2001, the suspect broke into his former girlfriend's apartment. His former girlfriend and the victim were in bed together. The suspect shot the victim, killing him, and struck his ex-girlfriend in the face while she was fleeing down the stairs to escape. She received a broken jaw. The case is still pending.
- C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

- A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
1. Victim - No record
 2. Suspect - No record
- B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES
1. Victim - No record
 2. Suspect - No record
- C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS
1. Victim - No record
 2. Suspect - 3/24/90 Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Narcotic Equipment, and Possession of Liquor by Person Under 21 - dropped.

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

According to the suspect's friends, he had been depressed and taking anti-depressants. Suspect had made several statements to friends earlier that evening that he could not live without his ex-girlfriend.

Date of Homicide: 04/08/01

Victim: Black Female, 40

Suspect: Black Male, 45

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Wife/Husband (co-habitants)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On April 9, 2001, patrol units responded to a call of a reported suicide. The investigation raised some suspicion of how the victim died. Twenty percent of the victim's body received second degree burns. A knife was found in the bathroom, and a bloody hammer was found in the stairwell. Homicide was called to the scene. The children were interviewed and indicated that the suspect had beaten the mother to death. The autopsy revealed that the victim sustained multiple hemorrhages, fractured ribs on both left and right sides, and scalding burns of the face, chest, upper back, and thighs. Suspect was charged with First Degree Murder. The case is still pending.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT

1. Victim's daughter/suspect's stepdaughter - age 13
2. Daughter - age 10
3. Son - age 11
4. Son - age 6

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect
 - a. 04/12/01 Sexual Battery (Custodial) - Case pending
 - b. 08/22/00 Domestic Battery - five months jail followed by six months of probation
04/09/01 Arrested for violation of probation
 - c. 04/05/99 Domestic Battery - 12 months probation to complete BIP and HARK
08/22/00 Arrested for violation of probation and sentenced to 5 months jail concurrent with 08/22/00 Domestic Battery

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record

2. Suspect
 - a. 07/31/86 Burglary and Possession of More Than One Valid Florida Driver's License - Count one pled guilty - 24 months Florida State Prison; Count two pled guilty - 15 days jail
 - b. 02/13/78 Burglary - three years Florida State Prison
 - c. 05/17/77 Burglary - dropped
 - d. 05/09/77 Prowling, Disorderly Conduct and Making Threats - Count one dropped; Count two adjudication withheld - 1 day jail; Count three convicted - 1 day jail
 - e. 04/17/77 Burglary - dropped
 - f. 09/09/75 Burglary - 13 months Florida State Prison
 - g. 08/19/75 Arrested for Assault - unknown disposition

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect
 - a. 02/18/99 Possession of Cocaine and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia -dropped
 - b. 09/21/94 Possession of Marijuana; No Valid Driver's License and Moving Traffic Violation - Count one pled guilty; 2 days jail. Counts two and three dropped
 - c. 08/04/81 Trespass and Disorderly Intoxication - Count One pled guilty; no sentence. Count Two pled no contest; no sentence.

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect
 1. 04/09/01 Department of Children and Families. The children witnessed the murder of their mother by the suspect, the father. During the investigation, the suspect's 12 year old stepdaughter revealed that the suspect was having oral and vaginal sex with her. This was confirmed by the father's uncle who witnessed the sexual abuse. Case is still pending
 2. 02/12/99 Department of Children and Families. Exploitation of four children by their father, the suspect. The report indicated the suspect used SSI payments for crack and other vices. Did not provide income for the children to buy clothes or to pay rent. The victim lied about the suspect being in the home. Children were being exploited by the suspect to act "weird" to receive disability payments. Case closed without sanctions.

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - 06/25/99 Domestic violence shelter stay; court advocacy; Safe Choices. In addition, children were ordered to be taken to the HARK Program.
- B. Suspect - 04/05/99 Ordered to BIP as part of probation. The suspect had three opportunities to complete the program. Date of his last termination was 04/24/01.

V. OTHER CONCERNS

According to shelter records, the victim had an IQ of 50. Hence, the services that she received were limited because of this disability. Also, during the 1999 Department of Children and Families investigation on the exploitation of the children, the children were not individually interviewed. The sentence in the 08/22/00 criminal case was inadequate in length for the suspect to complete the 26 week batterers' intervention program.

Date of Homicide: 04/20/01

Victim: Black Female, 41

Suspect: Black Male, 48

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Girlfriend/Boyfriend (co-habitants)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On April 20, 2001, the suspect beat the victim to death. Two days later, the police found the victim in a drainage ditch. The police were directed to the ditch by the suspect. The suspect stated that they had argued about his inability to satisfy her sexually because of his small penis. He stated that they smoked crack, and he beat her to death because if he could not please her, no one would. The medical examiner concluded that the victim died from multiple blunt trauma to the head which caused skull fractures and multiple brain contusions. The autopsy of the victim showed a blood alcohol level of .08 but no evidence of cocaine in her system. The case is still pending.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - victim of Domestic Battery on 06/16/00 and 11/01/00 by this suspect
2. Suspect
 - a. 11/01/00 Domestic Battery - 60 days in jail
 - b. 06/16/00 Domestic Battery - 60 days in jail

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim
 - a. 09/02/00 Fighting - 15 days in jail
 - b. 06/02/98 Aggravated Battery - involuntarily hospitalized, pled guilty in 04/99, placed on probation; 08/10/99 violated probation, sentenced to one year in jail with transfer to River Region; 03/22/00 sentenced to remainder of 12 month sentence
 - c. 06/09/97 Aggravated Battery - dropped
 - d. 04/17/93 Robbery - five months in jail
 - e. 08/15/86 Aggravated Battery - dropped
 - f. 04/09/86 Assault - suspended jail sentence
 - g. 04/27/84 Child Abuse - adjudication withheld
 - h. 01/10/83 Aggravated Assault - six months probation

2. Suspect
 - a. 09/03/00 Fighting - 15 days jail.
 - b. 12/25/88 Attempted Robbery - 10 years Florida State Prison (violated parole in 1991 and 1995; subsequently released on 06/18/99).
 - c. 10/15/88 Fighting - 15 days.
 - d. 11/08/83 Manslaughter - Suspect beat a man to death because he insulted his mother; 12 years Florida State Prison (release date 06/03/88)
 - e. 01/28/82 Burglary - 3 years Florida State Prison
 - f. 09/02/81 Aggravated Child Abuse - Suspect beat girlfriend's child with switch and broke his hands with a comb; probation for 24 months. 02/26/82 Violation of Probation, five years Florida State Prison

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim
 - a. 01/20/01 Disorderly Intoxication - 20 days jail
 - b. 05/17/98 Disorderly Intoxication - 2 days jail
 - c. 03/23/98 Disorderly Intoxication - 5 days jail
 - d. 11/22/97 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 2 days jail
 - e. 04/25/97 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 2 days jail
 - f. 06/24/97 Disorderly Intoxication - 5 days jail
 - g. 06/01/97 Disorderly Intoxication - 2 days jail
 - h. 04/04/95 Disorderly Intoxication - 15 days jail
 - i. 11/06/93 Public Consumption of Alcohol - 2 days jail
 - j. 03/01/93 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 5 days jail
 - k. 12/13/91 Disorderly Intoxication - 3 days jail
 - l. 02/21/91 Disorderly Intoxication - 5 days jail
 - m. 01/18/90 Disorderly Intoxication - 2 days jail
 - n. 10/11/86 Disorderly Intoxication - 5 days jail
 - o. 05/80/86 Disorderly Intoxication - 2 days jail
2. Suspect
 - a. 09/16/00 Disorderly Intoxication - 10 days jail
 - b. 11/12/79 Possession of Marijuana, Breach of Peace, and Disorderly Intoxication - unknown

III. **CIVIL**

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. **SERVICES**

- A. Victim - On 08/10/99, she was ordered into substance abuse treatment as part of a probationary sentence
- B. Suspect - No record

V. **OTHER CONCERNS**

Suspect and victim both have a long history of violence. The suspect had previously beaten a man to death for saying something he did not like. The suspect had spent most of his adult life in prison while the victim had spent most of her adult life in jail. The victim had a long history of alcohol abuse.

Suspect received a 60 day jail sentence on each Domestic Battery case. Both Domestic Battery arrests were within five months of each other and the last case was within six months of the murder.

Date of Homicide: 06/28/01

Victim: White Female, 45

Suspect: Black Male, 30

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Wife/Husband (co-habitants)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On June 28, 2001, the victim was murdered by the suspect inside of their apartment. The victim died as a result of multiple stab wounds. The victim was found there on July 2, 2001. The suspect was arrested and confessed to murdering the victim. He stated that he was high on Ecstasy at the time and that he attacked the victim because she was mad at him for using drugs. The suspect was sentenced to forty-five (45) years in prison.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect
 - a. 08/08/01 Armed Robbery - dropped as part of plea agreement for Murder
 - b. 02/23/99 Battery in a Detention Facility - dropped
 - c. 07/13/92 Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer - pled guilty to Violation of Jail Rules, 30 days in jail
 - d. 03/12/92 Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer - 4 months jail

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect
 - a. 06/27/01 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 2 days jail
 - b. 07/21/99 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 2 days jail
 - c. 06/25/99 Possession of Cocaine - dropped
 - d. 06/08/99 Possession of Drug Paraphernalia - 6 days jail
 - e. 04/28/99 Possession of Marijuana - 30 days jail

- f. 09/25/98 Felony Possession of Hashish - 7 months jail
- g. 06/15/89 Possession of Cocaine (Virginia) - guilty, sentence unknown

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

The suspect had a long-term history of drug use with no known treatment. Additionally, the suspect had numerous theft arrests and convictions. The suspect was released from custody on a misdemeanor drug charge on the same day of the murder.

Date of Homicide: 06/30/01 - 07/02/01

Victim: White Male, 27
 Suspect 1: Black Female, 21
 Suspect 2: Black Male, 29
 Suspect 3: Black Male, 29

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Husband/Wife
 Roommates
 Suspect 3 is a friend of Suspect 2

B. CASE SUMMARY: On July 7, 2001, the victim's body was found beside some railroad tracks not far from his home. Suspect 1 (his wife) was involved with their male roommate (suspect 2) unbeknownst to the victim. When the victim discovered them together, suspect 2 stabbed the victim and beat him to death. Suspect 1 and 2 then moved the victim's body to the railroad tracks while suspect 3 acted as a lookout. The victim's father reported him missing about the time his body was found. Suspect 1 has plead guilty to Accessory After the Fact, suspect 2 is charged with 2nd degree murder, and suspect 3 is charged with Accessory After the Fact. The cases are still pending.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT:

There were three minor children who were sleeping during the murder.

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspects - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspects - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARREST

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspects - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspects - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspects - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

None known.

Date of Homicide: 11/30/01

Victim: White Female, 33

Suspect: White Male, 44

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Girlfriend/Boyfriend (co-habitants)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On November 22, 2001, the victim and the suspect had been involved in an argument and the suspect left the residence. Four days later, the suspect returned, climbing through an unlocked window, and began arguing with the victim again. The victim was found lying on her bed covered with a sheet. She died from strangulation. The suspect pled guilty to Second Degree Murder and was sentenced to thirty (30) years in prison.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARREST

1. Victim - 11/01/01 Disorderly Intoxication and Resisting An Officer Without Violence - 2 days jail.
2. Suspect - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - Her father stated that she received Social Security Income.
- B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

Until recently, both parties were homeless. According to the victim's father, she had a history of mental illness.

Date of Homicide/Suicide: 12/08/01

Victim: White Female, 54

Suspect: White Male, 64

I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Wife/Husband (co-habitants)

B. CASE SUMMARY: On December 8, 2001, the victim and suspect were involved in an argument inside their residence. The suspect shot his wife in the head with a shotgun, killing her. He then shot and killed himself.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: None

II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARREST

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

V. OTHER CONCERNS

Family members reported that the victim had decided to leave the suspect after 32 years of marriage.

PATTERNS/2001 ONLY

GENDER

Seventy percent (70%) of the homicides were committed by men who killed their female partners, resulting in nine homicides as one man also murdered his daughter and son-in-law. Two (20%) of the cases were committed by women who killed their male partners (in one of the cases, a male boyfriend is also a suspect). One man (10%) killed his former girlfriend's current boyfriend. Two suspects committed suicide.

RACE

Nine of the victims were white and three were black. Five of the suspects were white, and six were black.

RELATIONSHIP

Five (50%) of the cases involved parties who were married and co-habiting (one of these also involved the homicide of the daughter and son-in-law). In one case, the couple were married and separated (10%) and in one case the couple were divorced (10%). Three (30%) of the cases involved parties who were not married and were co-habiting. One case involved a former boyfriend striking his former girlfriend and killing her current boyfriend. All the cases this year involved intimate relationships, though in one case the person killed was not the one who had been in an intimate relationship.

METHOD

Three of the cases resulting in five homicides (50%) were the result of gunshot wounds, as were the two suicides. Two cases (20%) were knife wounds; one of these also involved blunt trauma and burns. In addition, one case involved blunt trauma; one was a bombing; and one case involved hitting the victim with a car.

CHILDREN

Three of the cases (30%) reported the presence of children during the homicide.

CRIMINAL HISTORY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Three male suspects and one female suspect had a prior arrest for domestic violence.

INJUNCTIONS

One female victim had an injunction.

CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

One victim and two suspects were named in child abuse reports.

SHELTER SERVICES

One victim stayed in shelter services and received court advocacy services.

HARK

There was one HARK referral. Six children were present during the homicides. As to three children, it is unknown if they were present.

INTERVENTION

One suspect was ordered to complete a batterer's intervention program but failed to do so.

ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

There were two victims with a history of illegal drug arrests. Three victims had a history of alcohol-related arrests. One suspect had a history of alcohol-related arrests; two suspects had a history of illegal drug arrests and one suspect had both alcohol and drug-related arrests.

PATTERNS DATE (1997 - 2001) (61 MONTHS)

61 Cases
67 Murders
16 Suicides

GENDER

In thirty-three (54%) of the cases the homicides were committed by men who killed their female partners. (During one of these homicides, the man also killed his wife's boyfriend and during one the man also killed his daughter and son-in-law.) Fifteen (25%) of the cases were committed by women who killed their male partners (in one case the current boyfriend is also a suspect). Two men (3%) killed their same sex partners and one man killed his former girlfriend's current boyfriend. Eight men (13%) and two women (3%) killed other family members. Thirteen (40%) of the men subsequently killed themselves as did three (20%) of the women.

RACE

Thirty-nine (58%) of the victims were white, twenty-five (37%) were black, two victims (3%) were Asian, and one victim was Hispanic. Thirty-five (56%) of the suspects were white, six (42%) were black, and one was Asian.

RELATIONSHIP

Fifty (82%) cases with fifty-two victims involved intimate relationships. Twenty-two (43%) of the parties were married and co-habiting (one man also killed his girlfriend while co-habiting with his wife and one man killed his daughter and son-in-law). Six (12%) of the parties were married and separated. Sixteen (32%) of the parties were not married and co-habiting. Seven (14%) of the parties were not married and currently not co-habiting. Eleven cases (18%) with thirteen victims involved non-intimate relationships.

METHOD

Thirty-five (52%) of the homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Sixteen (24%) were the result of knife wounds (one of these also involved blunt trauma and burns) and eight (12%) were the result of strangulation. Five (7%) were the result of blunt trauma. The

remaining methods of homicides are as follows: one victim was thrown off a bridge; one victim died of a heart attack during the crime; one victim died of a hemorrhage; one victim died as a result of rectal trauma; one victim died of a bombing; and one victim was hit by a car.

CHILDREN

Sixteen (26%) of the sixty-one cases had children present during the homicide. In one additional case, there was a sixteen year old sister of a victim shot.

CRIMINAL HISTORY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Sixteen male victims (80% of intimate male victims; 57% of all male victims) had prior arrests for domestic violence; thirteen male suspects (35% of intimate male suspects; 29% of all male suspects) had prior arrests for domestic violence. Additionally, one male victim and one male suspect were named as suspects by separate victims in other domestic violence police reports. Four female victims (12% of intimate female victims; 10% of all female victims) had arrests for domestic violence. Three female suspects (9% of intimate female suspects; 8% of all female suspects) had prior arrests for domestic violence. Two male suspects and one female victim had arrests for child abuse.

INJUNCTIONS

Four female victims had injunctions in place during the murder, one also had a prior injunction. Three female victims had temporary injunctions that were dismissed for their failure to appear. One of the female victims had an injunction against her husband's girlfriend. One male suspect was the respondent of an injunction, and one male suspect was the respondent of an injunction as part of a prior divorce. Two of the victims with injunctions had reported violations of existing injunctions.

SHELTER SERVICES

Three female victims stayed briefly in shelter years before their deaths. Two of these victims did not attend counseling sessions. Two of the sheltered victims and two additional victims sought court advocacy. One female suspect went through a domestic violence education class.

HARK

There were only two HARK referrals even though children were present in sixteen of the sixty-one homicide cases.

INTERVENTION

Six male suspects were ordered in Batterers' Intervention Programs. Four were terminated for failure to attend; one completed (but later killed his mother); and one committed the homicide before attending. Three male victims were ordered into Batterers' Intervention as a result of domestic violence arrests. Other intervention was ordered as follows: one suspect was ordered into marriage counseling as part of an injunction; one male victim was ordered into generic counseling for a previous domestic battery; four male victims were previously ordered, as part of earlier domestic violence cases, to attend anger management.

ALCOHOL/DRUG USE

(1998-2001 only) Twelve victims (18%) had a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse. Twenty-one suspects (34%) had a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse. Police reports indicated alcohol or drug use at the time of the homicide by nine victims (13%) and eight suspects (13%). One of the suspects was charged with Violation of Probation at the time of the murder for his failure to attend alcohol counseling.

MENTAL HEALTH

(1998-2001 only) Mental health issues were noted on police reports or in statements of acquaintances in cases concerning two victims and eight suspects. Additionally, one victim sought marriage counseling and one victim sought assistance through her employer's assistance program.

CONCLUSIONS

(1997-2001)

In the sixty-one months covered in this study, there were sixty-seven homicide victims and sixteen subsequent suicides by the suspect, resulting in a total of eighty-three domestic violence related deaths. This study does not cover child abuse deaths.

This study notes that 14 women killed their male partners and 1 woman aided two other men in killing her male partner. In 53% of these cases, women had a history of being victimized by the person they killed. In one case, the female suspect had a prior arrest for domestic violence. In 42% of the 33 cases where men killed their female partners, there was a documented history of his prior arrest for domestic violence against her. In 1 additional case, there was a violation of a domestic violence injunction. In 43% of these cases, there was only one opportunity for the criminal justice system to intervene before a homicide occurred. Therefore, it is important that individuals who suspect domestic violence immediately seek professional services, such as law enforcement, the domestic violence center, and other social services.

Two cases involved homicides between same sex male partners. In one of these cases, the suspect had one prior arrest for domestic violence. None of the homicides involved same sex female partners. The only notable relationship pattern in the non-intimate homicides was in the 11 cases where other family members were killed, where 91% of the suspects were male.

Homicide/suicide involves the killing of one or more persons followed soon thereafter by the suicide of the perpetrator. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the homicide cases in this five year period involved homicide/suicides and two additional cases involved attempted suicides following homicides. It is imperative for the individuals who live with violent partners, the social service agencies, and the criminal justice system to take any suicidal tendencies seriously.

Fifty-five percent (55%) of the total number of homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Furthermore, 93% of the suicides were also committed with a firearm. Therefore, limiting access

to firearms in domestic violence cases is warranted and may reduce the total number of domestic violence deaths.

Leading experts agree and state standards acknowledge that marriage counseling or anger management are not appropriate intervention when violence is present. A state certified batterers' intervention program is statutorily recommended and/or required in many domestic violence cases. Of these 61 cases, 15 parties had a prior documented history of domestic violence, yet only 6 (40%) were ordered into batterers' intervention programs. Only one completed the course. Not only is it critical that prosecutors recommend and judges order perpetrators into a certified batterers' intervention program, but it is also critical that there is follow-up to ensure successful completion. It is recommended that judicial training include statutory requirements for a batterers' intervention program and information on the contents of the program.

Though the number of homicides remained stable in 2000 and 2001, this number is still a significant decrease from previous years. There was a 37% decrease in domestic homicides as compared to 1999 and a 30% decrease in domestic homicides as compared to 1998. Although it may be too soon to draw statistical conclusions as to the reason(s) for these decreases, it should be noted that the two-year decline follows the initiation in 1999 of the INVEST Program. INVEST is a collaboration between the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Hubbard House, and the City of Jacksonville specifically targeted at reducing intimate domestic homicides.

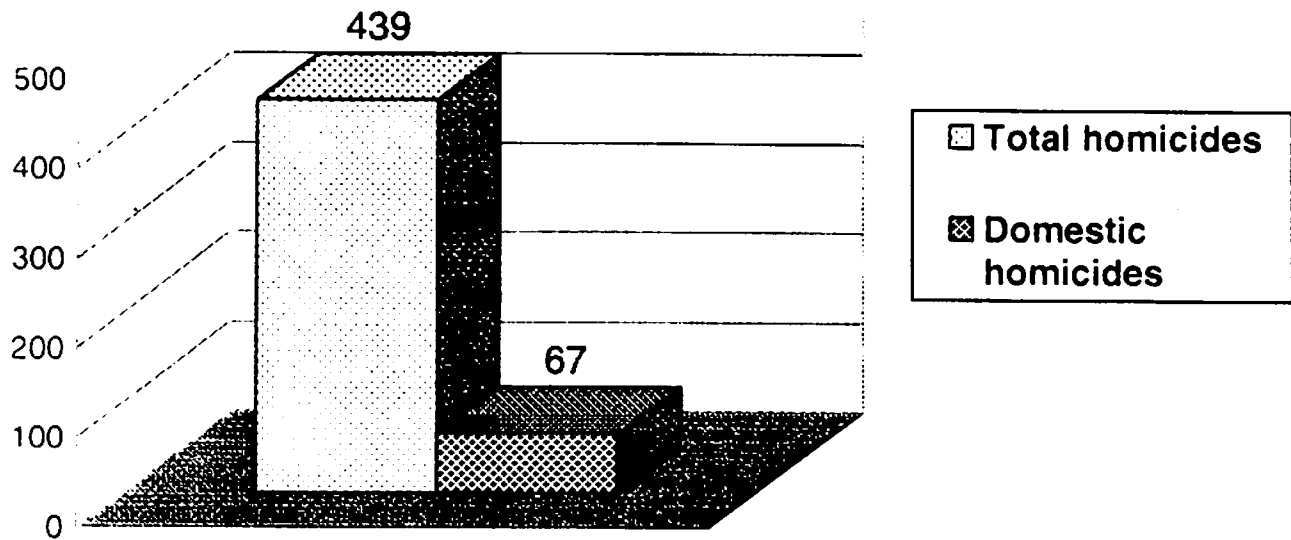
Although only 28 of the 61 cases had any documented police or social service involvement, many police reports noted family, friends or co-workers stating they were aware of some factors that are known lethality indicators, yet they did not act on their concerns. This reluctance to intervene is unfortunately common. It can be addressed through increased awareness and education of the community on what can be done when one suspects domestic violence. In addition to the criminal justice system, every citizen has a responsibility to hold the perpetrator accountable. To this end, there should be a public awareness campaign with the following goals: 1) encouraging victims to seek assistance, 2) educating people as to what domestic violence is, and 3) recognizing that every incident of domestic violence is potentially lethal. Ultimately, the goal is to make domestic violence in any form socially unacceptable.

GRAPHS

DECEMBER 1996 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001

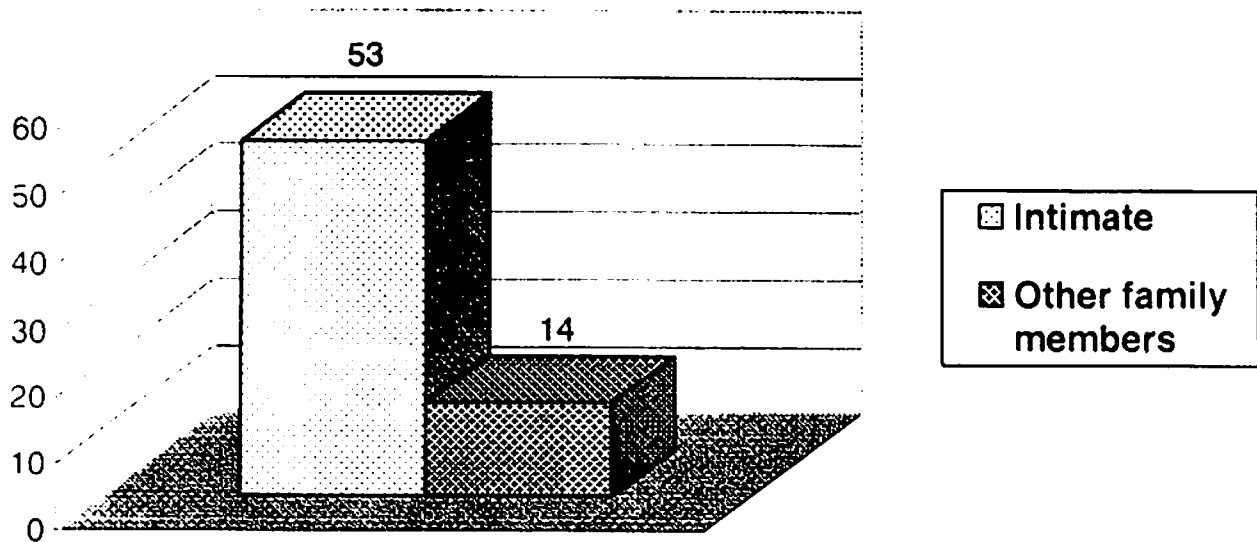
Victims of homicides

12/1/96 to 12/31/01

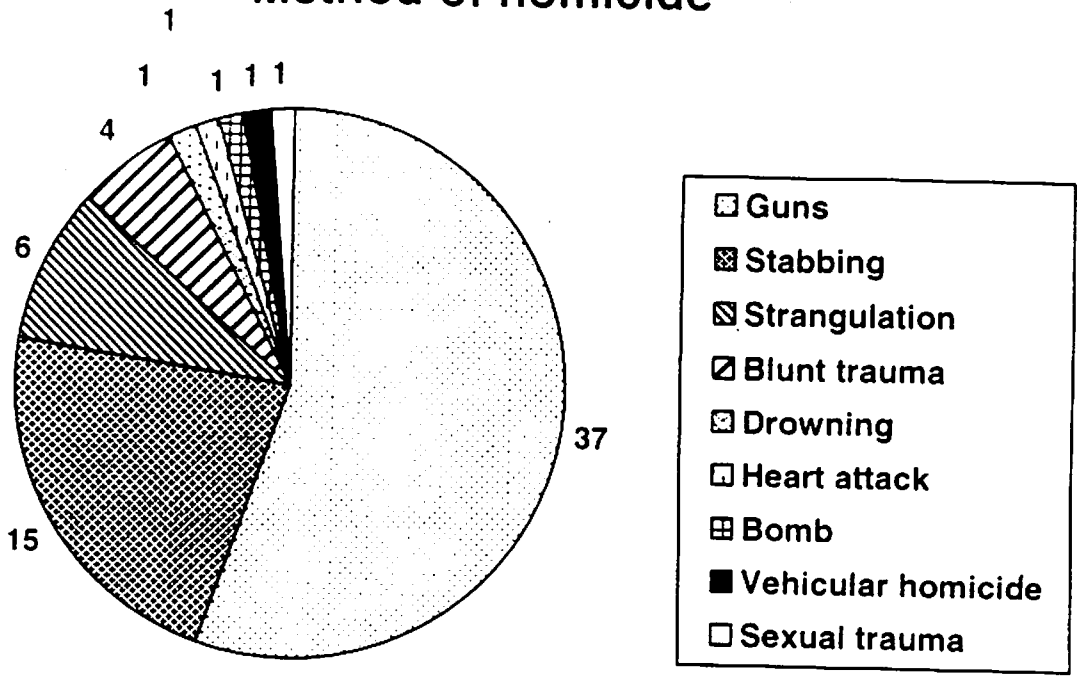


Victims of domestic homicides

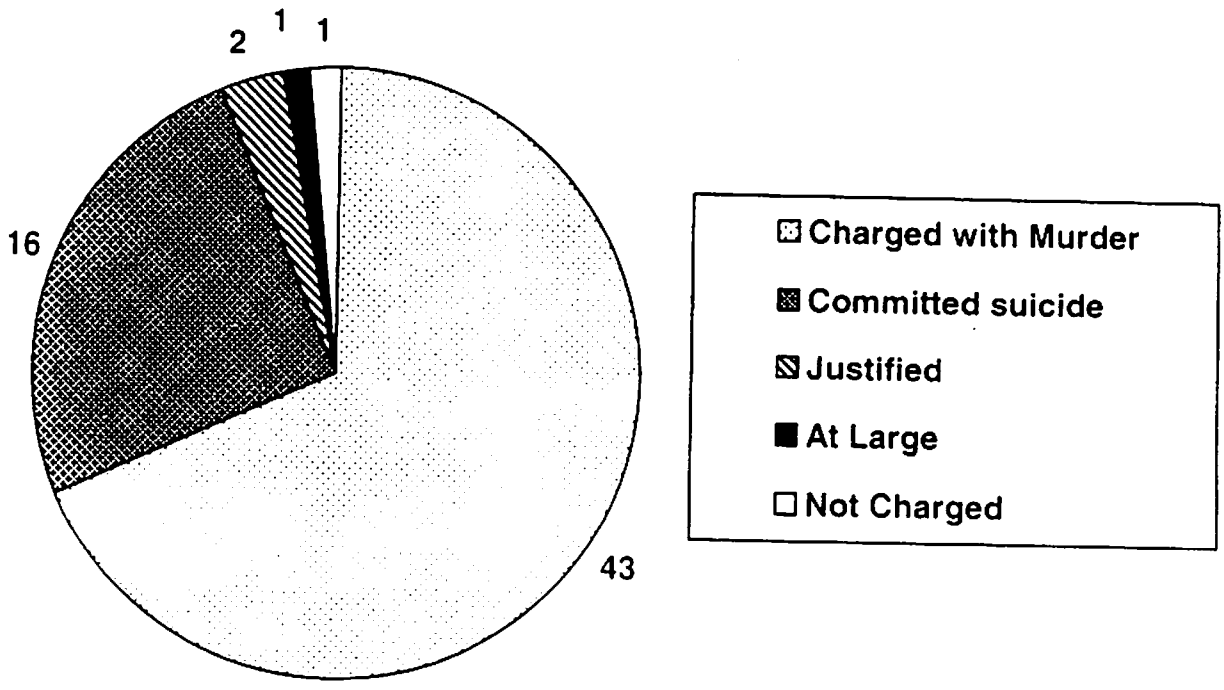
12/1/96 to 12/31/01



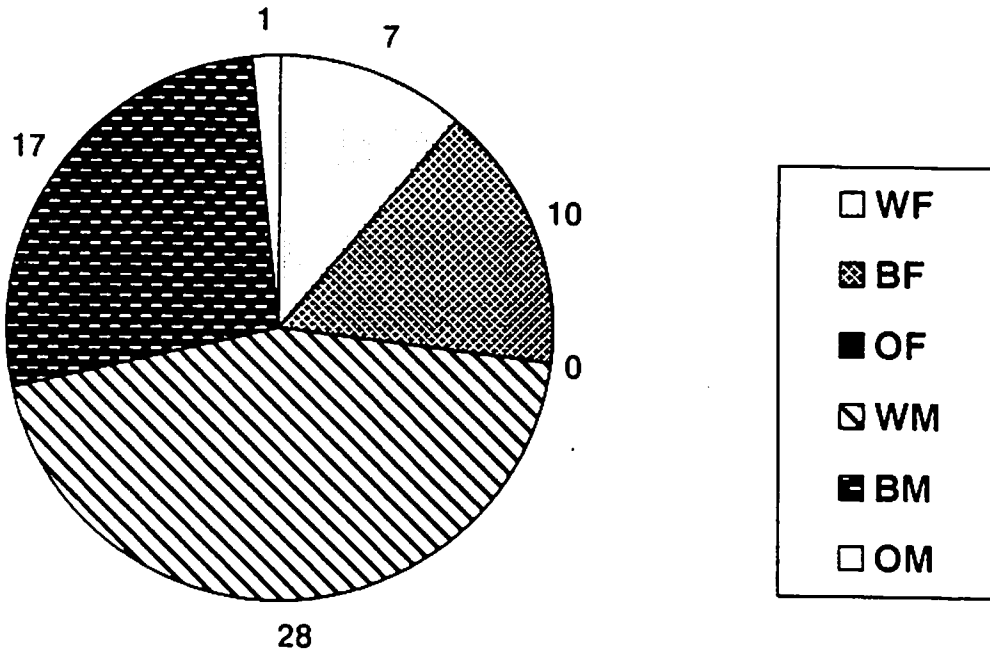
Method of homicide



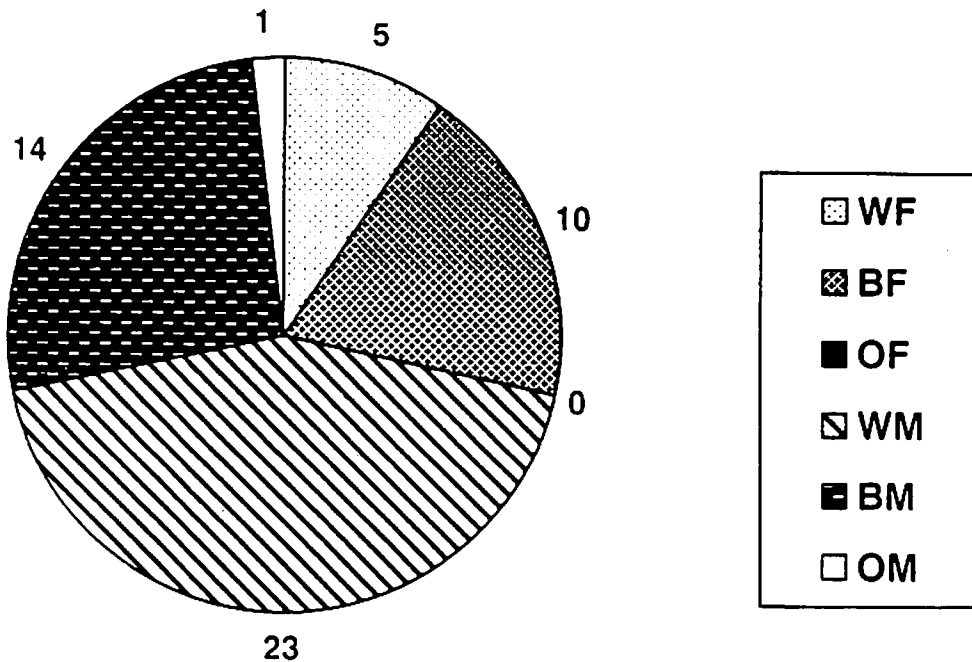
Suspect Status



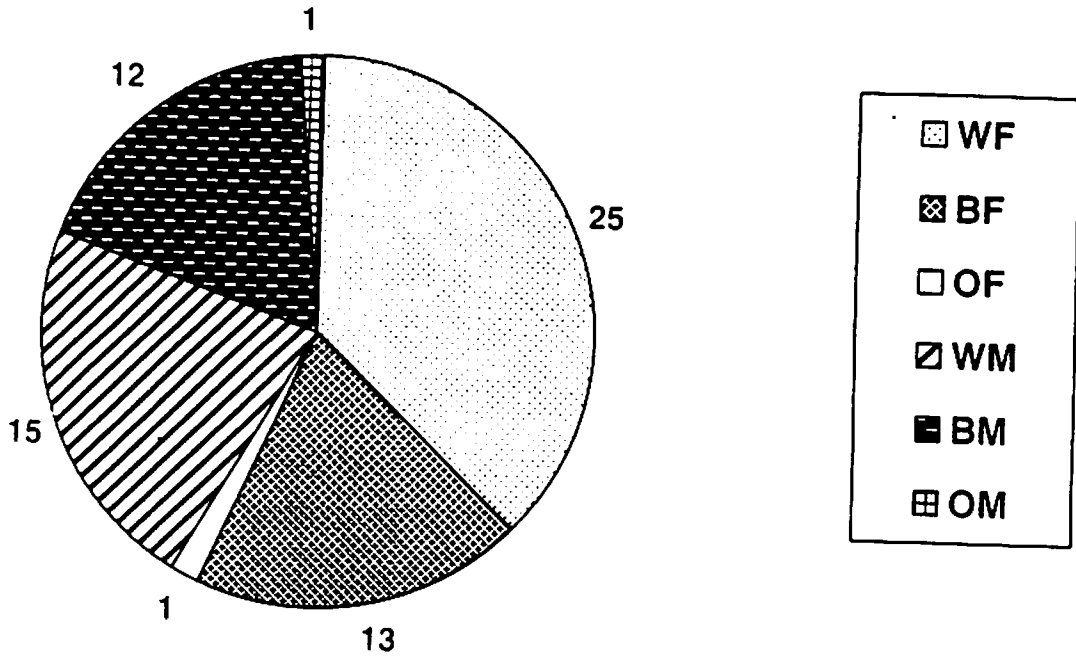
Race and gender of suspects./ domestic homicide



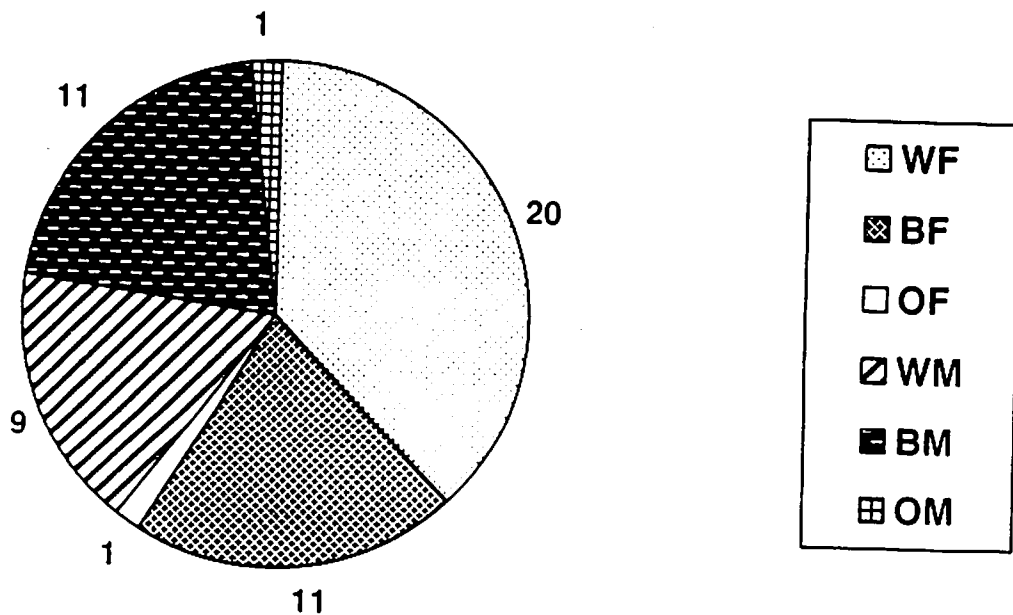
Race and gender of suspects / intimate homicides only



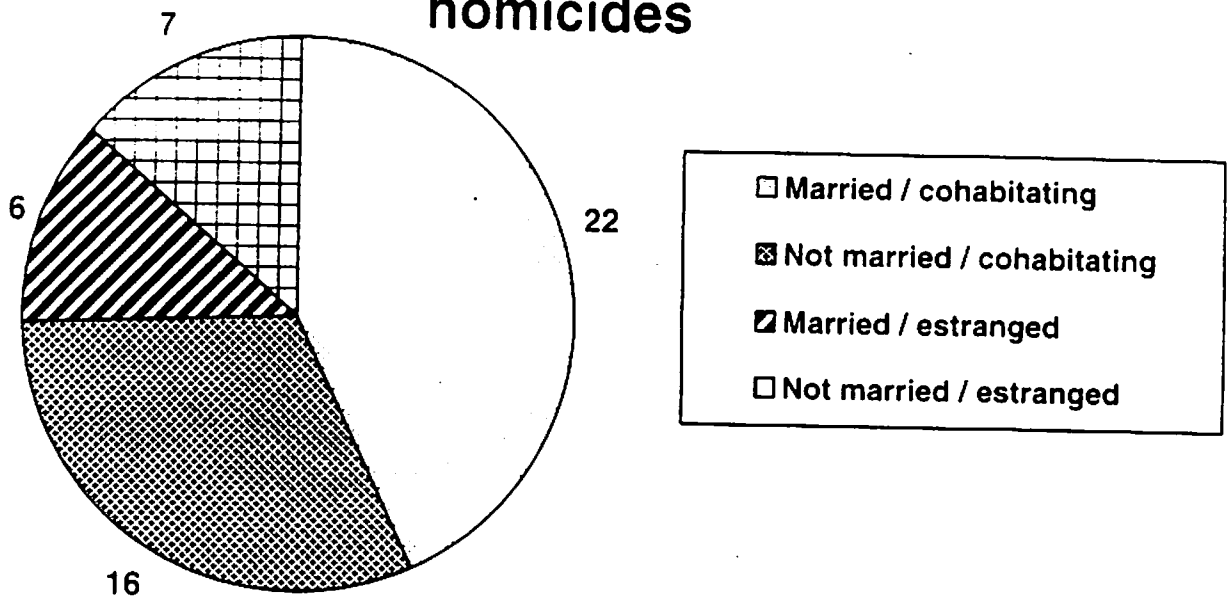
Race and gender of victims / domestic homicides



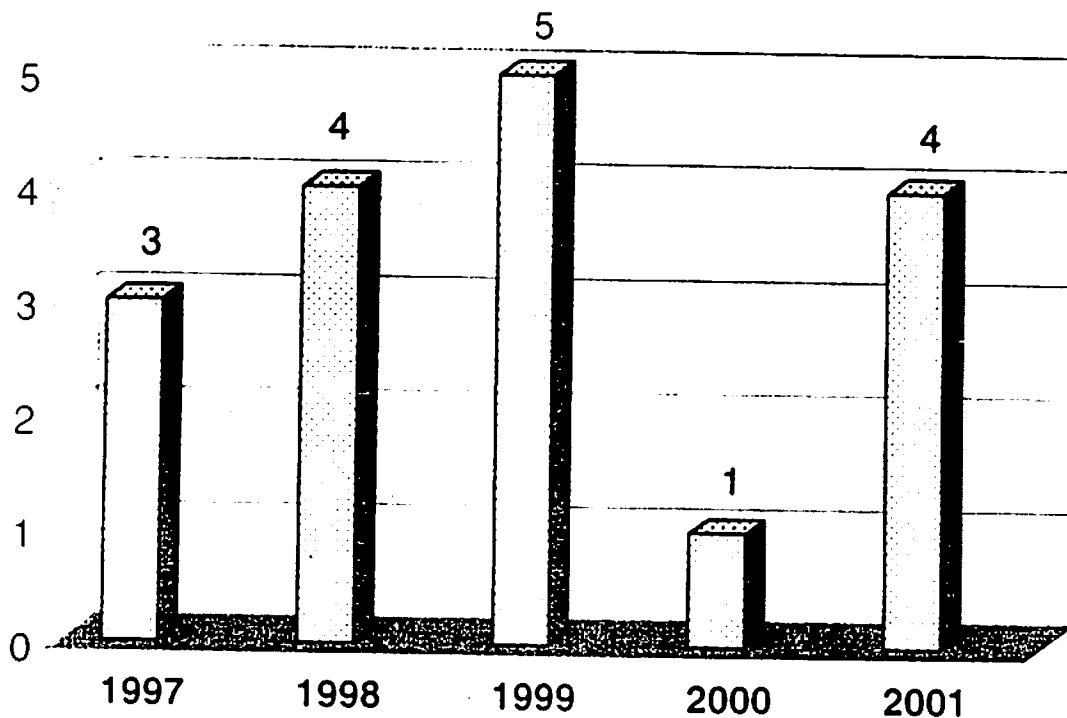
Race and gender of victims / intimate homicides only



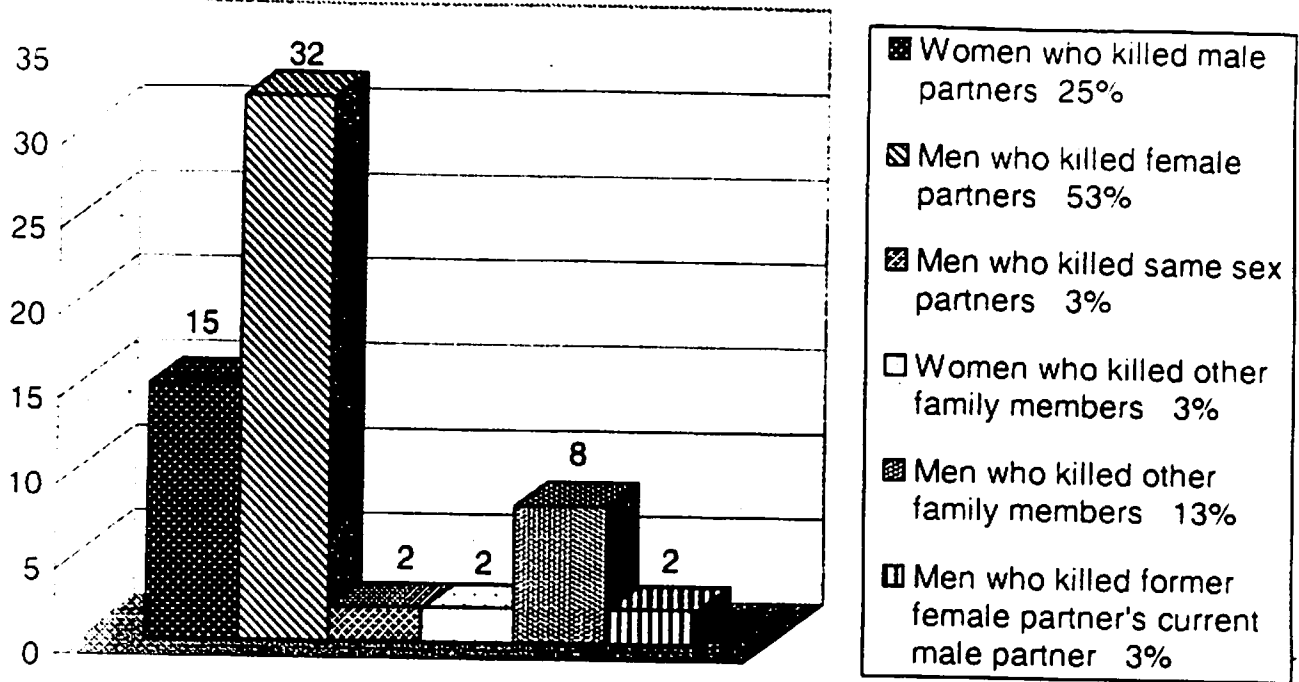
Relationship status of intimate homicides



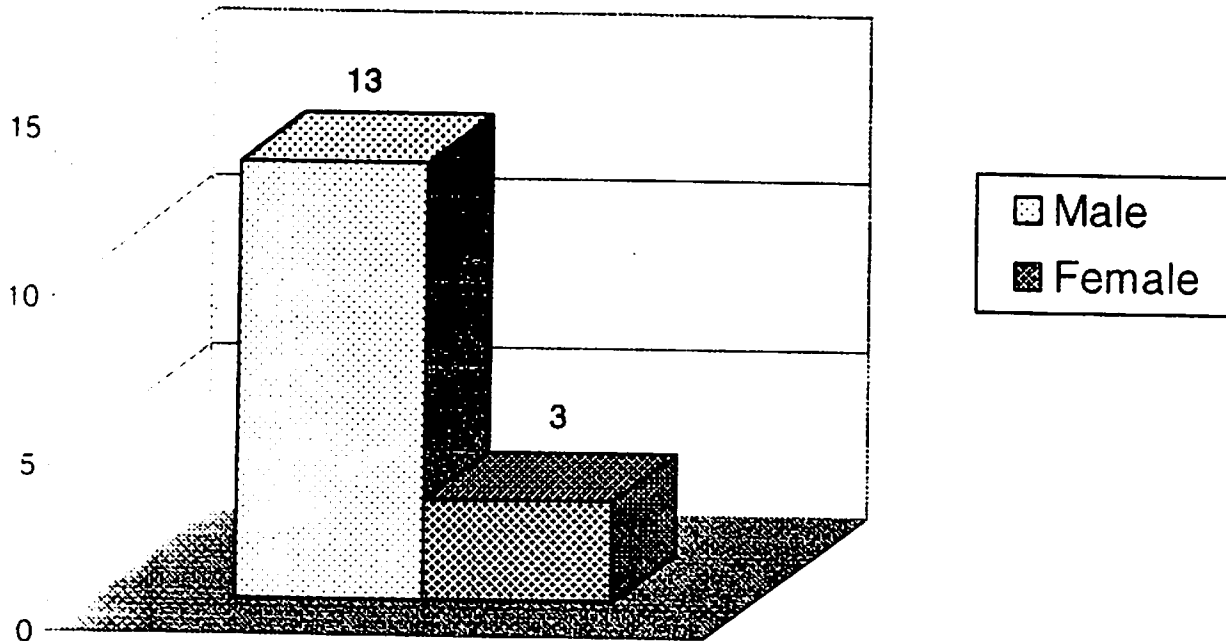
Cases where children were present and may have witnessed the homicide



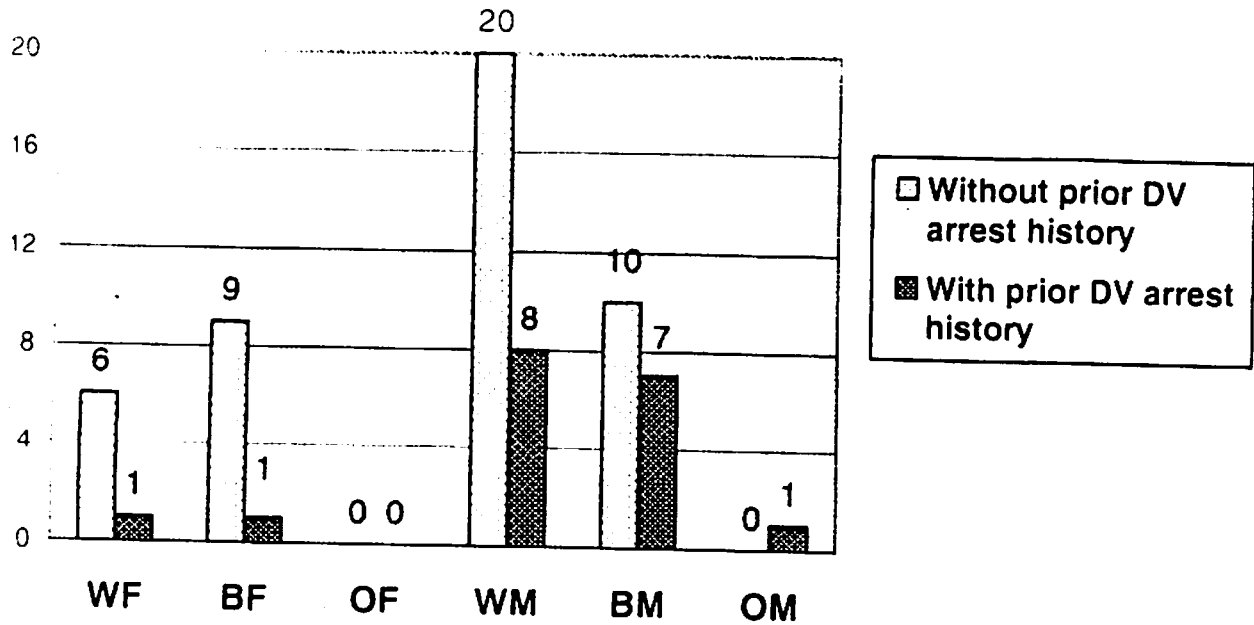
Gender of suspects



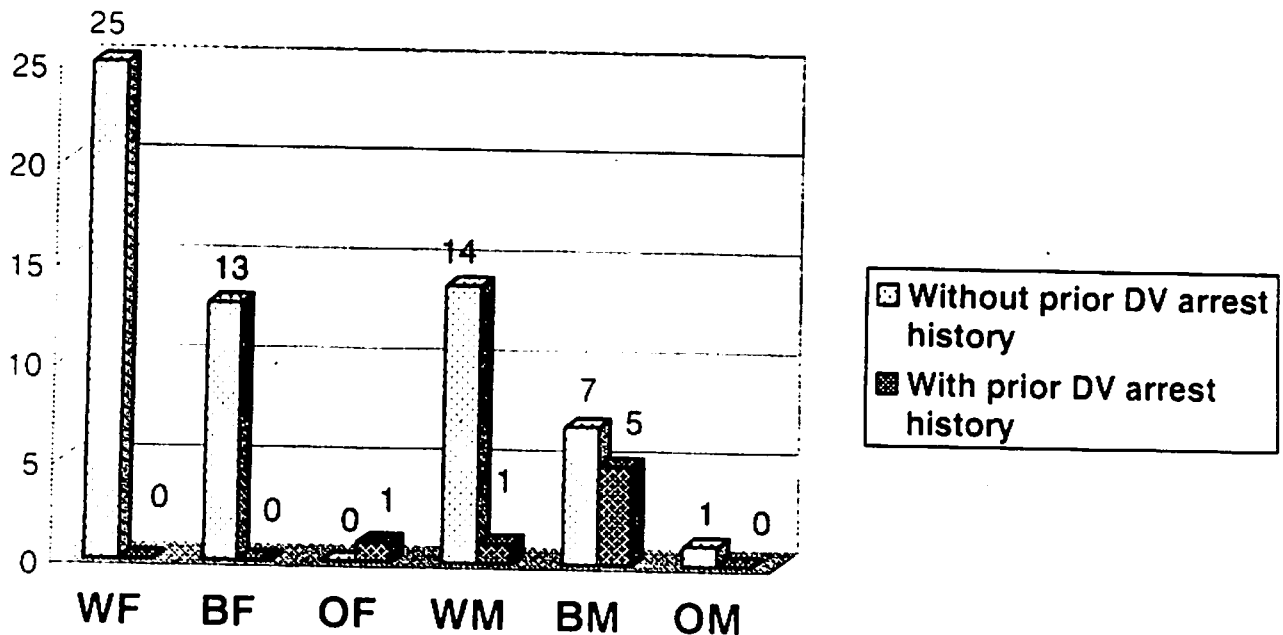
Gender of suspects who commit suicide



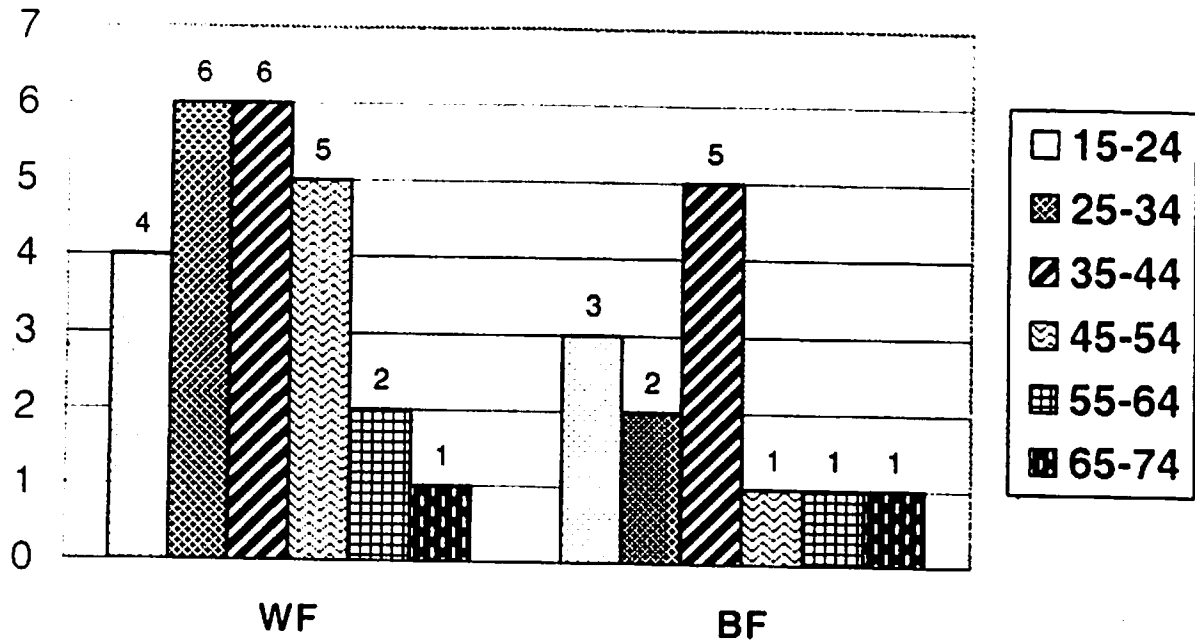
Prior domestic violence arrest history / suspects



Prior domestic violence arrest history / victims

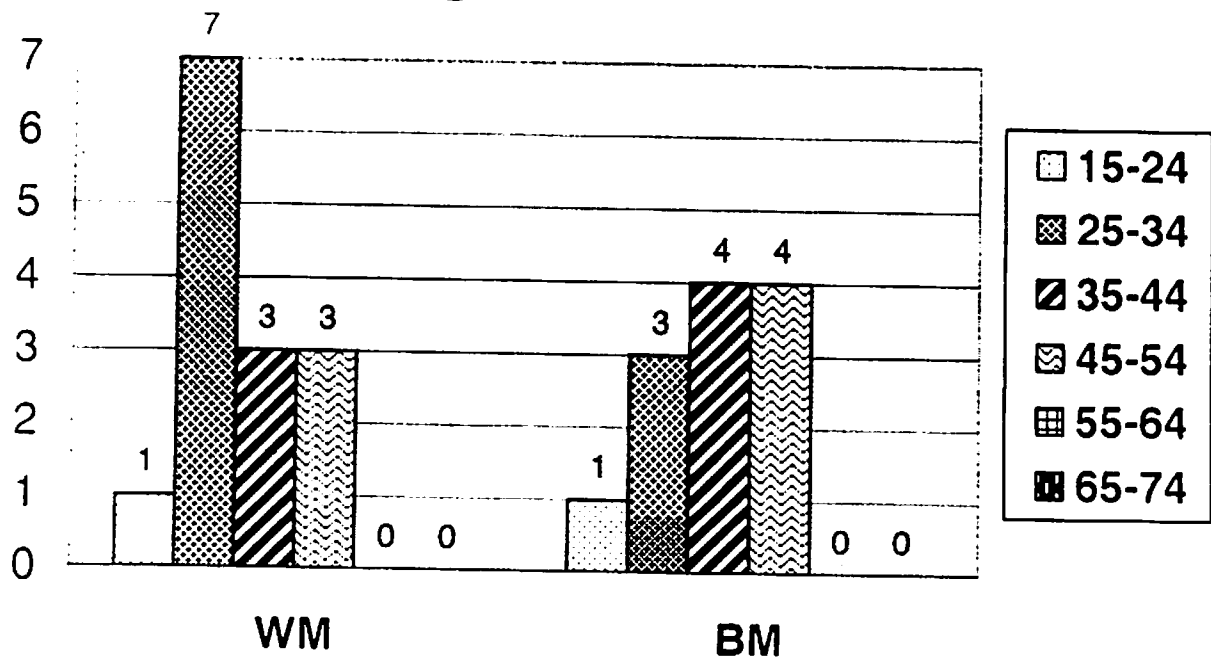


Age range of female victims



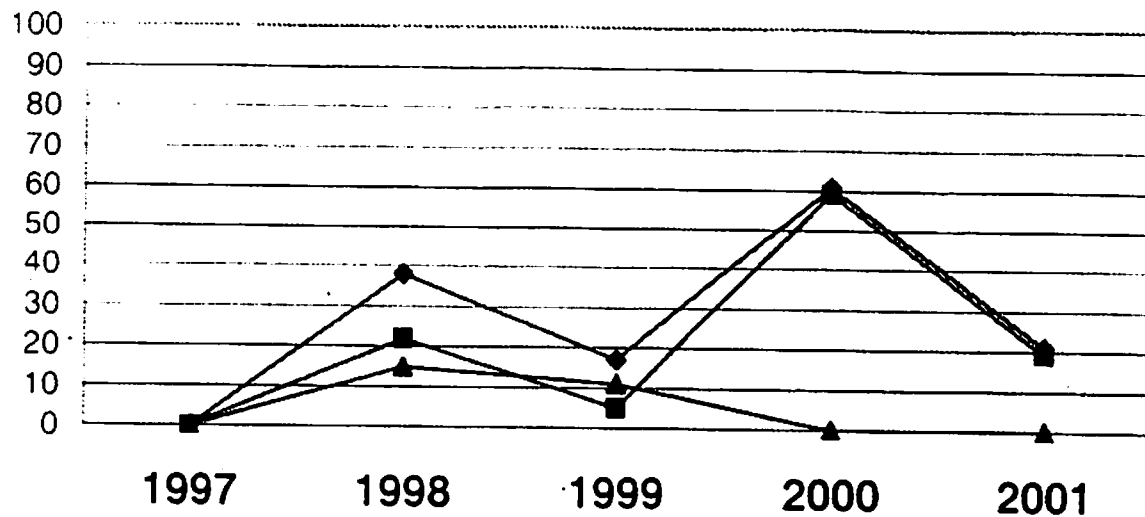
* Unknown age on one white female and one other female

Age range of male victims



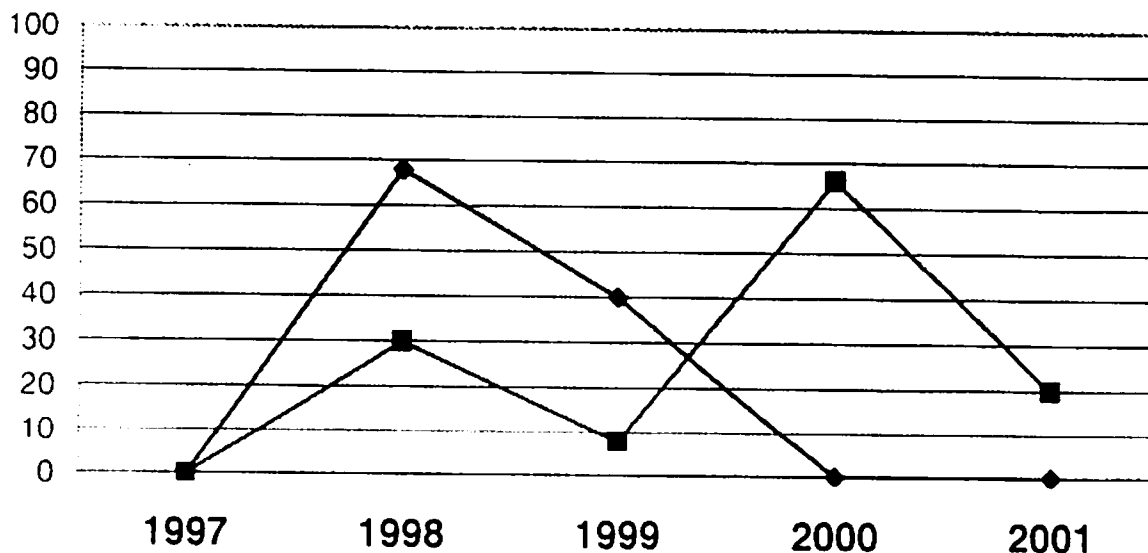
* Unknown age on one white male and one other male

Percentage of total DV homicide cases which are also suicides



◆ Murder/suicide ■ Murder/suicides, intimate ▲ Murder/suicides, non-intimate

Percentage of intimate and non-intimate DV homicide cases which are also suicides



◆ Murder/suicides, non-intimate ■ Murder/suicides, intimate

APPENDIX A

FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ANNUAL SUMMARY EVALUATION

APPENDIX A

FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ANNUAL SUMMARY EVALUATION

TEAM: DUVAL COUNTY

YEAR: 2001

NAME OF CONTACT: LIBBY SENTERFITT

PHONE: (904)630-2502

1) What are the most significant findings from your review(s)? Please see conclusion section on page 34.

2) What changes in policy or procedure (if any) was made as a result of your review? Please see conclusion section (page 34) for recommendations. Implementation not in place yet as report just concluded.

2a) Where did they occur? N/A

2b) How were they implemented (e.g., formal written policy, memo of understanding, or by formal agreement)? N/A

3) What change(s) in law, policy or procedure (if any) does your team recommend for consideration at the state level? Please see conclusions on page 34.

4) Additional comments or concerns? Please read and review entire report.

APPENDIX B
1997 PATTERNS

APPENDIX B

1997 PATTERNS

GENDER

Six of the homicides were committed by women who killed their male partners. Two were committed by men who killed their female partners. One was committed by an adult male who killed his parents.

RACE

Six of the victims were black; four were white; seven of the suspects were black; two were white.

RELATIONSHIP

Three of the parties were married and cohabitating at the time of the homicide; three were non-married partners who were not currently cohabitating; two were non-married partners cohabitating, one was an adult man and his parents, thus non-intimate partners.

METHOD

Five of the homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Three of the homicides were the result of stab wounds, one victim died as the result of strangulation and one victim died of a heart attack during the crime.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Four male victims had prior arrests for domestic violence. One male suspect had a prior arrest for domestic violence. Additionally, four male victims were named as suspects in other domestic violence police reports.

No females had arrest records for domestic violence, but one female suspect was named as the suspect in a domestic violence report.

CHILDREN

Children were eyewitnesses to two of the murders. In one other murder, a one year old child was present in the home.

CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

One family had an HRS referral for child neglect before the murder.

SHELTER SERVICES

None of the victims used local shelter services.

HARK

No children attended the HARK Program.

INJUNCTIONS

In the nine domestic homicides, one female suspect filed a prior injunction against the victim.

INTERVENTION

Three male victims were ordered in the Batterers' Intervention Program and one appears to have completed the program. No male suspects were ordered in a batterers' intervention program and thus none completed one.

APPENDIX C
1998 PATTERNS

APPENDIX C

1998 PATTERNS

GENDER

Seven of the homicides were committed by men who killed their female partners. During one of these homicides, the man also killed his wife's boyfriend. Two of the homicides were committed by women who killed their male partners. One man killed his same sex partner. One man killed his father. One man killed his stepdaughter during a fight with his wife. One woman killed her brother. Four of the men subsequently killed themselves as did one of the women.

RACE

Six of the victims were black, six were white, and two of the victims were Asian. Eight of the suspects were white, four of the suspects were black, and one of the suspects was Asian.

RELATIONSHIP

Three of the parties were married and cohabitating. Three of the parties were married and separated. Two of the parties were not married and cohabitating. One of the parties was not married and currently not cohabitating. Three of the parties were in a non-intimate relationship.

METHOD

Ten of the homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Three were the result of knife wounds. One was the result of strangulation.

CHILDREN

Five of the cases had children present during the homicide, one additional case involved an infant who may or may not have been present.

CRIMINAL HISTORY

Two male victims had prior arrests for domestic violence; four male suspects had prior arrests for domestic violence. Additionally, one male victim and one male suspect were named as suspects in other domestic violence police reports.

Three female victims had prior arrests for domestic violence; two female suspects had prior arrests for domestic violence.

INJUNCTIONS

In the 13 domestic homicides, three of the female victims had injunctions in place during the murder. Two of them had reported violations in these existing injunctions. One of the aforementioned victims had a separate injunction two and one-half years prior to her death which resulted in the suspect being violated with the court dismissing the case because the victim failed to appear.

CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

Two families had referrals to the Department of Children and Families.

SHELTER SERVICES

One female victim received shelter and court advocacy. Two additional female victims sought court advocacy services. One female suspect went through the Safe Choices class twice.

HARK

In one case the children were referred to HARK.

INTERVENTION

One male suspect was ordered to attend a batterers' intervention program two years prior to the murder; he was violated for failure to enroll. Another male suspect was ordered to attend a batterers' intervention program in the month preceding the murder. Other intervention was ordered as follows: one suspect was ordered into marriage counseling as part of an injunction. One male victim had been ordered into generic counseling for a previous Domestic Battery. Three male victims were previously ordered as part of an earlier domestic violence case to attend Anger Control.

APPENDIX D
1999 PATTERNS

APPENDIX D

1999 PATTERNS

GENDER

Nine of the homicides were committed by men who killed their female partners. Three of the homicides were committed by women who killed their male partners. One man killed his same sex partner. One man killed his brother, one man killed his son, one man killed his mother, and one man killed his grandmother. One man killed his estranged wife's boyfriend. One elderly woman killed her disabled son and then herself. Two of the men subsequently killed themselves, and one man shot himself in the face, but lived. Two men attempted suicide after their incarceration.

RACE

Five of the victims were black, thirteen were white, and one was hispanic. Five of the suspects were black, and four were white.

RELATIONSHIP

Four of the parties were married and cohabitating. Two of the parties were married and separated. Six of the parties were not married and cohabitating. One of the parties was not married and currently not cohabitating. In one case, the boyfriend of the suspect's estranged wife was murdered and the wife was injured. Five of the parties were in a non-intimate relationship.

METHOD

Seven of the homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Seven were the result of knife wounds. Two were the result of strangulation, two were the result of blunt trauma to the head, and one was thrown off a bridge and drowned.

CHILDREN

Five of the cases had children present during the homicide.

APPENDIX E

2000 PATTERNS

GENDER

Seven of the homicides were committed by men who killed their female partners, resulting in eight deaths (as one man murdered his wife and ex-girlfriend). Two of the homicides were committed by women who killed their male partners. One man killed his parents. Six of the male suspects subsequently killed themselves as did one of the female suspects.

RACE

Seven of the victims were white and five were black. Seven of the suspects were white, and three were black.

RELATIONSHIP

Five of the cases involved parties who were married and co-habiting. One of these cases also involved a victim (ex-girlfriend) who was not married or co-habiting with the suspect. Four of the cases involved parties who were not married and were co-habiting. One case involved a non-intimate relationship where a mother and father and adult son were living in one household.

METHOD

Eight of the homicides were the result of gunshot wounds. All six suicides were the result of gunshot wounds. Three of the homicides were the result of strangulation and one homicide was the result of rectal trauma.

CHILDREN

None of the cases reported the presence of children during the homicide.

CRIMINAL HISTORY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

One male suspect had a prior arrest for domestic violence.

INJUNCTIONS

One female victim had a permanent injunction against her husband's ex-girlfriend.

CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

No victims nor suspects were named in any child abuse reports.

