

2003 DOMESTIC  
MORTALITY REVIEW REPORT

AN EXAMINATION OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
HOMICIDES IN DUVAL COUNTY  
JANUARY 1, 2003 THROUGH  
DECEMBER 31, 2003

AND AN ANALYSIS OF  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES  
DECEMBER 1996 THROUGH DECEMBER 2003

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

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Date of Homicide: 03/13/03
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Victim: Black Male, 45

Suspect: Black Female, 35

**I. CRIME**

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

B. CASE SUMMARY: The victim and suspect were arguing all day at a local motel. The victim became more physically abusive throughout the day. The victim's sister and the suspect's mother attempted to intervene. After the victim slapped and punched the suspect, the suspect stabbed him once in the chest with a kitchen knife. The victim was dead when police arrived. The homicide was ruled justifiable.

C. CHILDREN: None.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - a) 10/18/02 - Domestic Battery - Pled -13 days Duval County Jail, 1 year probation and Batterers' Intervention Program
2. Suspect - No record

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

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

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - a) 08/02/92 - Drug Possession - Pled Guilty - 6 months probation  
b) 04/04/98 - Possession of a Controlled Substance - Pled Guilty - 1 day in jail
2. Suspect - No record

**III. CIVIL**

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

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - a) Ordered to complete Batterers' Intervention Program. Terminated for excess absences 03/04/03. (Attended 6 classes)
- B. Suspect - a) Safety planning done through batterers' program.

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Family members witnessed violence by the homicide victim against the suspect earlier in the day and attempted to intervene themselves rather than calling police.

Date of Homicide: 01/25/03 to 03/24/03

Victim: White Female, 55

Suspect: White Male, 62

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Husband/Wife

B. CASE SUMMARY: The suspect reported the victim missing while on vacation in south Florida. The suspect shot the victim twice in the head and then buried her body in Jacksonville. The suspect was charged with first degree murder. The case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: None 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 - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - None known
- B. Suspect - None known

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Date of Homicide: 05/06/03
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Victim: Black Male, 5 months

Suspect: Black Male, 21

## I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: Father/Son

B. CASE SUMMARY: On May 6, 2003, the victim, the suspect, and three children were present in their apartment. The victim's mother, suspect's girlfriend, was beaten by the suspect. She locked herself in the bathroom to prevent further beating. When she exited the bathroom, she found the victim dead and her 16-month-old child severely beaten by the suspect. The suspect fled with her five-year-old son, who is not the suspect's child. The suspect drove the five-year-old to another city where he left the child with relatives. The police later arrested the suspect and charged him with first degree murder. The case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: The homicide victim was 5-months-old. Both a 16-month-old girl and a 5-year-old boy were present in the home during the murder. The 16-month-old girl received severe injuries, but is recovering.

## 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 - Juvenile Arrests:
  - a) 05/25/95 - Battery - Aggravated Assault - Not Guilty
  - b) 01/07/99 - Battery - Probation
  - c) 05/02/99 - Burglary with Assault or Battery - Dropped
  - d) 09/10/99 - Battery - Dropped
  - e) 03/15/00 - Robbery - Adjudicated Delinquent

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - Juvenile Arrest:
  - a) 03/09/99 - Possession of Liquor - Not Adjudicated

**III. CIVIL**

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

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - None known. DCF was called to the home in March, 2003.
- B. Suspect - None known

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

DCF was called to the home in March, 2003 for domestic violence and numerous other concerns. At the time, the victim's mother, suspect's girlfriend, denied any violence in the home. The case was closed as "no findings."

After the homicide, the victim's aunt reported to the police that three days earlier, the suspect had threatened to "snap" her children's necks and kill both her and the victim's mother.

Both the suspect and victim were victims of child abuse.

Date of Homicide: 05/24/03
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Victims: 1) White Female, 30  
2) White Male, 27  
3) White Male, 60

Suspect: White Male, 27

## I. CRIME

A. RELATIONSHIP: 1) Wife of suspect, 2) Brother-in-law of suspect, 3) Father-in-law of suspect

B. CASE SUMMARY: The suspect, the victim, and the victim's brother all lived together. The suspect shot his wife in the head on May 14, 2003 during an argument. The suspect then hid victim #1's body under a pile of clothing. Later the same day, he shot victim #2 in the head when he came home and started looking for the victim. The suspect then hid victim #2's body under some clothing and furniture. A few days later, when victim #1 and #2's father (victim #3), came looking for them, he was shot in the head by the suspect and was hidden in a similar manner. Some days later, the victim's boyfriend came over to the residence and was shot. His body was hidden like the others. The fifth victim was a neighbor who came over to sell the suspect some drugs. He was shot and his body left in the open on a bedroom floor covered by a small sheet. A friend who visited with the suspect called police and reported a foul odor. Patrol responded and the suspect held his 4-year-old son hostage while armed and threatening suicide. SWAT was called and eventually the suspect released his son and surrendered after a 12-hour standoff. The suspect was charged with 5 counts of murder. The case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: Neither of the suspect's two children witnessed the shootings; however, they were on the premises during this time. After the suspect shot the first three victims, he arranged for his 11-year-old stepdaughter to stay with her biological father. His 4-year-old son with victim #1 continued to live in the home until he was released one-and-a-half weeks later.

## II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS

### A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim #1 - No record  
Victim #2 - No record  
Victim #3 - No record

2. Suspect - a) 12/14/01 - Domestic Battery - Pled guilty, adjudication withheld - 1 year probation, Batterers' Intervention Program

### B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim #1 - No record  
Victim #2 - No record  
Victim #3 - No record

2. Suspect - No record



**C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS**

1. Victim #1 - No record  
Victim #2 - No record  
Victim #3 - No record
2. Suspect - No record

**III. CIVIL**

- A. Victim #1 - No record  
Victim #2 - No record  
Victim #3 - No record
- B. Suspect -  
04/09/02 - Baker Act commitment due to suicide attempt.  
09/10/02 - Baker Act commitment due to suicide attempt.  
07/08/03 - Suicide attempt in jail.

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim #1 - None known  
Victim #2 - None known  
Victim #3 - None known
- B. Suspect -  
12/26/01 - Enrolled in Batterers' Intervention Program  
02/21/02 - Terminated from Batterers' Intervention Program  
03/13/02 - Re-enrolled in Batterers' Intervention Program  
04/30/02 - Terminated from Batterers' Intervention Program  
11/08/02 - Re-enrolled in Batterers' Intervention Program  
12/04/02 - Terminated from Batterers' Intervention Program  
Attended only 1 class.

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

The Suspect was allowed to enroll and re-enroll in Batterers' Intervention Program three times and only attended one class without any other consequences by the court. Additionally, there is currently no procedure in place to inform criminal courts of Baker Acts or other known mental health issues.

Date of Homicide: 06/15/03
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Victim: Black Female, 47

Suspect: Black Male, 48

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Husband/Wife

B. CASE SUMMARY: The victim and the suspect were married for approximately ten years. On June 15, 2003, the suspect came home at 3:30 A.M. and argued with the victim about her adult son using his car. The suspect beat the victim to death with a bedpost. The suspect then called 911 and said he killed his wife. The suspect was found guilty of murder and sentenced to life.

C. CHILDREN: No children were present in the home at the time of the homicide.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record

2. Suspect -
- a) 03/09/92 - Aggravated Domestic Battery - Pled to battery, Adjudication withheld, 2 days county jail, 3 months probation, Anger Control
  - b) 03/06/93 - Domestic Battery - Pled guilty, 2 days county jail, 6 months probation, Batterers' Intervention Program
  - c) 12/25/93 - Domestic Battery - Dropped
  - d) 03/01/00 - Aggravated Battery - Domestic - pled guilty, Adjudicated, 2 years probation, Batterers' Intervention Program

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record

2. Suspect -
- a) 05/02/78 - Rape - Adjudication Withheld (Tallahassee, Florida)

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No record

2. Suspect - No record

**III. CIVIL**

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

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - None known
- B. Suspect -
  - a) 07/08/94 - Completed Batterers' Intervention
  - b) 07/12/00 - Enrolled in Batterers' Intervention
  - c) 08/19/00 - Terminated
  - d) 08/23/00 - Re-enrolled, 05/24/01 completed

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

After multiple domestic violence arrests and completion of Batterers' Intervention, this Suspect was ordered a second time into Batterers' Intervention instead of being sentenced to prison. Additionally, this Suspect was sent to Anger Control on his first conviction instead of a certified Batterers' Intervention program.

Date of Homicide/Suicide: 06/23/03
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Victim: White Male, 54

Suspect: White Female, 53

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Husband/Wife

B. CASE SUMMARY: On June 23, 2003, the suspect apparently waited for her husband to go to sleep and then shot him as he was laying in bed. She then called her son-in-law to come to the home. When the son-in-law arrived he found a note on the door from the suspect. After making the phone call, the suspect apparently laid down beside the victim and shot herself in the head. The suspect left several notes behind indicating she was depressed and did not want to leave her husband behind. The victim had been suffering from depression for some time and recently quit taking her medication.

C. CHILDREN: The victim's adult daughter found both bodies.

**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 - No record
- B. Suspect - No record

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - None known
- B. Suspect - Prescribed anti-depressants. No other information known.

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

Date of Homicide: 06/25/03
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Victim: White Male, 34

Suspect: White Female, 32

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Estranged Boyfriend/Girlfriend

B. CASE SUMMARY: Police were called on June 25, 2003 to the residence once shared by the victim and the suspect in reference to a shooting. Upon arrival the victim was found in the yard at a near-by residence. The victim had a gunshot wound to the chest. The investigation revealed that the victim forced his way into his estranged girlfriend's locked residence, in an attempt to commit a battery on the suspect, and was subsequently shot. He retreated from the residence and was helped across a fence to another residence where he collapsed on the ground. The victim was transported to Shands Hospital where he died from his injuries. Preliminary indications are that the shooting was justified. A witness stated that the victim was drinking beer at her home earlier in the evening. The case is cleared/justifiable homicide. Eight months later, the suspect committed suicide.

C. CHILDREN PRESENT: The suspect had a 17 year old daughter living with her who was present during the homicide. They do not have children together.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - a) 08/25/01 - Report Written - Domestic Battery by suspect - the victim was given a domestic violence brochure. Suspect booked into county jail. He was also charged with Battery on a Law Enforcement Officer.
2. Suspect - a) 07/05/03 - Domestic Battery - Suspect booked into county jail. Listed as both the victim and the perpetrator. Her boyfriend was also arrested for the same crime. The suspect received 2 days in jail and had to pay \$125.00 in court costs.
  - b) 10/05/97 - Victim of Domestic Battery by her estranged husband and his sister.

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - a) 12/06/92 - 1) Aggravated Battery-Police Officer and 2) Aggravated Assault. Suspect booked into Lee County Jail. Convicted. 2 years in prison.
  - b) 10/17/98 - Battery. Suspect booked into jail in Jacksonville, Florida. Convicted. 5 days in jail.
2. Suspect - No record

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim -
  - a) 05/22/87 - Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia. Adjudication withheld. \$25.00 and court costs.
  - b) 04/30/90 - 1) Loitering With Intent to Purchase Narcotics and 2) Possession of Alcohol Under Age 21. Violation of probation. Convicted. Received jail time.
2. Suspect - No record

III. CIVIL

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect - Accidental injury. The victim was taking medication for depression and anxiety. Transported to Shands.

Petition for Injunction filed against the victim in 2001. The Injunction was dismissed due to victim's failure to appear at the hearing on 08/06/01.

IV. SERVICES

- A. Victim - No record
- B. Suspect -
  - a) Outreach services through the local shelter

V. OTHER CONCERNS

The victim has a history of resisting and battery on law enforcement officers. He also attempted to escape custody a number of times. The victim has been sentenced to a combined total of 51 years for his crimes and he was only 34 years when he died.

Date of Homicide/Suicide: 07/16/03
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Victim: Black Female, 21

Suspect: Black Male, 26

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Wife/Husband, separated

B. CASE SUMMARY: On July 11, 2003, the victim left the suspect intending to get a divorce and moved in with a friend where the suspect could not find her. The same day she petitioned for an Injunction for Protection from the suspect due to previous domestic violence. On July 12th or 13th, the victim's sister brought the husband to the location where the victim was staying in hopes of facilitating a reconciliation. On July 16, 2003, the suspect drove to the apartment where his wife was staying, bringing a ladder. He climbed onto the balcony of the second floor apartment and broke the sliding glass door with a piece of concrete and entered the apartment with a sawed-off double barrel shotgun. He moved past the friend and sister and shot the victim twice, reloaded and turned the gun on himself. Both were dead at the scene.

C. CHILDREN: None mentioned.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - 01/28/97 - Domestic Battery - Pled Guilty, 29 days jail, 270 days probation and Batterers' Intervention Program

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - 04/17/97 - Lewd or Lascivious Act - Sexual Battery. Adjudication withheld, 5 months jail, 60 months probation, \$2,000.00 restitution

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

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

**III. CIVIL**

A. Victim - 07/11/03 temporary Injunction for Protection against suspect granted

B. Suspect - Respondent of above Injunction

**IV. SERVICES**

A. Victim - No known

B. Suspect - 01/28/97 - Ordered to Batterers' Intervention but failed to enroll

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

The suspect was arrested for carrying a concealed weapon on 09/06/95 and, according to petitioner had threatened her with a gun in the past. Though victim advocates are available to meet with most petitioners to safety plan at the time of obtaining the injunction, current staffing levels mean they cannot meet with every victim. Injunction paperwork indicates potential lethality factors but no advocate was available to meet with the victim to safety plan. A family member underestimated the potential lethality and revealed the victim's hiding place to the suspect.

The suspect failed to enroll in Batterers' Intervention Program when ordered. There was a violation of probation completed. The suspect's probation was revoked and set aside on 09/11/97. He served 29 days in county jail and was not ordered to re-enroll in Batterers' Intervention Program.



Date of Homicide: 10/18/03

Victim: White Female, 34

Suspect: White Male, 25

**I. CRIME**

A. RELATIONSHIP: Boyfriend/Girlfriend

B. CASE SUMMARY: On October 18, 2003, the victim and suspect were arguing. The suspect began to choke the victim as he has done in the past. When the suspect realized that the victim was not breathing, he cut her throat with a pocket knife. The suspect placed the victim in the bathtub and began cutting her up with a saw and using a hammer to break the bones. The suspect placed the different parts of her torso in bags and put the bags around a wooded area. The suspect confessed to the killing after some of the victim's remains were found. The suspect was charged with first degree murder. The case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: None.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - None known
2. Suspect - None known

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - None known
2. Suspect - None known

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim -
  - a) 05/02/89 - Drug Abuse Prohibited Acts - Pled: Guilty - 2 days County Jail
  - b) 09/08/91 - Possession of Cocaine - Pled: Nolo Contendere - Adjudication Withheld
  - c) 03/13/94 - DUI - Adjudication Withheld - Pled Guilty - probation, Fine and Court Cost
  - d) 04/21/01 - DUI - 8 days County Jail, probation, DUI School, Fine and Court Cost
2. Suspect -
  - a) 06/22/03 - DUI - Adjudicated Guilty - 12 months probation, DUI School, Victims Impact Panel, Fine and Court Cost

**III. CIVIL**

A. Victim - None known

B. Suspect - a) 05/17/02 - Baker Act Commitment due to suicide threats.

**IV. SERVICES**

A. Victim - None known

B. Suspect - None known

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

In May 2002, the suspect was committed under provisions of the Baker Act. His mother claimed that the suspect had a substance abuse problem. There is no evidence that the suspect received any treatment for this abuse.

2003-10

Date of Homicide: 11/25/03

Victim: Black Female, 26

Suspect: Black Male, 31

**I. CRIME**

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

B. CASE SUMMARY: The body of an unknown black female was found in a park. The victim had been shot in the head. Witnesses reported they heard a single gunshot the night before and then saw three young black males flee from the park to a vehicle that was parked outside the fenced area of the park. The victim was subsequently identified by her ex-husband. The primary suspect was identified as the victim's ex-boyfriend who she once lived with in Arizona. The suspect's co-defendants were 17 and 18-year-old brothers and were friends of the suspect. They also sold drugs for the suspect. The suspects lured the victim to the park under the cover of darkness intending to kill her because the victim had obtained an Injunction for Protection and was proceeding forward in prosecuting the primary suspect for domestic battery. The suspect has been charged with murder. The case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: None.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - None
2. Suspect - a) 11/04/03 - Domestic Battery, Pled: Guilty - 90 days County Jail and court costs

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - None
2. Suspect - a) 06/04/01 - Resisting a Police Officer, Nolle Prossed  
b) 05/13/91 - Assault/Battery in a Detention Facility, Dropped  
c) 03/30/91 - Assault/Battery in a Detention Facility, Nolle Prossed  
d) 12/12/90 - Second Degree Murder - Pled guilty before trial; 121 months incarceration (drug related)

C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - a) 05/31/90 - Sale or Delivery of Cocaine - Pled guilty before trial; 15 months incarceration

**III. CIVIL**

- A. Victim - Injunction for Protection granted against suspect 11/10/03
- B. Suspect - Injunction for Protection granted on him 11/19/03

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim -
  - a) Safety planning 11/05/03 by an advocate at the Center for the Prevention of Domestic Violence. An INVEST referral was made at this time by the advocate.
- B. Suspect - None known

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

After receiving the referral, INVEST declined this case because the lethality did not appear high. Procedures were changed after this homicide so all declined cases are reviewed by supervisors. Procedures were changed at the Center for advocates to provide more information on the referral form.

As a result of the domestic battery incident on 11/04/03, an arrest warrant was issued for the suspect on 11/13/03. The warrant was turned in to the Records Section and the investigation was suspended on 11/14/03, pending the suspect's arrest.

Date of Homicide: 12/28/03
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Victim: White Female, 41

Suspect: White Male, 42

**I. CRIME**

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

B. CASE SUMMARY: On December 28, 2003, the victim called a friend asking for help because her boyfriend was beating her again. The friend called 911. When the police arrived, they found the victim unconscious. The victim was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. The suspect was apprehended and arrested on an outstanding warrant. The suspect admitted hitting the victim with a shotgun and his fists. The cause of death was listed in the autopsy as homicide by blunt trauma to the abdomen. The suspect was charged with second degree murder and the case is pending.

C. CHILDREN: None.

**II. CRIMINAL RECORDS AND REPORTS**

A. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect - a) 08/18/01 - Domestic Battery - Pled nolo contendere  
- Adjudication withheld - suspended fine

B. NON-DOMESTIC VIOLENT CRIMES

1. Victim - a) 05/22/91 - Child Abuse - Pled nolo contendere -  
Adjudicated guilty - County jail 2 days
2. Suspect - a) 10/09/79 - Aggravated Assault - Dropped
- b) 07/10/80 - Burglary - Adjudicated - 2 years prison
- c) 04/27/84 - Manslaughter (nondomestic) - Pled guilty -  
12 months county jail, 5 months probation
- d) 03/13/85 - Escape - Pled guilty - county jail  
12 months, probation continued
- e) 02/06/92 - Child Abuse - Pled nolo contendere -  
Adjudicated guilty - probation 180 days
- f) 02/05/94 - Battery - Pled guilty - county jail 30 days

**C. SUBSTANCE ABUSE ARRESTS**

1. Victim - No record
2. Suspect -
  - a) 05/30/86 - DUI - Nolo Contendere - Adjudicated Guilty - County jail 60 days
  - b) 03/03/88 - DUI - Nolo Contendere - Adjudicated guilty - probation 180 days - fine \$250 - County jail 90 days

**III. CIVIL**

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

**IV. SERVICES**

- A. Victim - None known
- B. Suspect - None known

**V. OTHER CONCERNS**

The friend that the victim called for help on December 28th said she was aware of at least four past incidences of domestic violence against the victim. Neighbors were aware of fighting and violence of the suspect. The suspect had two previous DUI's but no record of treatment. Suspect had been drinking at the time of the homicide. The friend stated that the suspect drank and used crack cocaine.

FLORIDA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ANNUAL SUMMARY EVALUATION

TEAM: Duval County

YEAR: 2003

NAME OF CONTACT: Libby Senterfitt

PHONE: (904) 630-2502

1) What are the most significant findings from your review(s)? 1) The committee noted that in a number of cases in which the batterer was required to attend a state certified batterers' intervention program, there were no consequences when they failed to complete the program. 2) Family and friends of domestic violence victims do not always take acts of violence seriously and fail to seek intervention. 3) Substance abuse continues to be a problem with perpetrators. Often treatment is not ordered. 4) The judiciary does not always have information on civil actions during criminal proceedings and criminal histories during civil proceedings.

2) What changes in policy or procedure (if any) was made as a result of your review? In Duval County, we have added a follow-up hearing at 30 and 75 days following the final judgement of the injunction. The purpose of the hearing is to ensure compliance with all conditions of the injunction, particularly orders to complete batterers' intervention programs.

2a) Where did they occur? In civil court.

2b) How were they implemented (e.g., formal written policy, memo of understanding, or by formal agreement)? Policy change was implemented by the civil court.

3) What change(s) in law, policy or procedure (if any) does your team recommend for consideration at the state level? 1) Increased funding for domestic violence issues; e.g., batterers' intervention programs in jails and technology for better information sharing; 2) mandated judicial training on the dynamics of domestic violence; 3) statutory recommendations concerning sentencing on violations of probation; 4) domestic violence courts in each circuit.

4) Additional comments or concerns? Increase in hot-line calls following press conference about homicides.

# PATTERNS/2003 ONLY

## GENDER

- 7 males killed female partners; in one of these cases, the male also killed his father-in-law and brother-in-law
- 1 male killed his infant son, during altercation with intimate female partner
- 3 females killed male partners

## RACE

- Victims
  - 8 White
  - 5 Black
- Suspects
  - 6 White
  - 5 Black

## RELATIONSHIP

### Intimate homicides

- 4 married and co-habiting; in one of these, 2 relatives were also killed
- 3 not married and co-habiting
- 1 married but separated
- 2 not married but formerly co-habiting

### Non-Intimate homicides

- 1 father killed son

## METHOD

- 8 gunshot wounds
- 2 stabbed
- 3 beaten/blunt trauma (one against wall, one with a bedpost, and one with a shotgun and fists)

## CHILDREN

- In one case there were three children present; one of the children was killed (5 month old male)
- In one case there were two children on the premises but neither witnessed the homicides
- In one case a 17 year old female (daughter of the suspect) witnessed the homicide

## CRIMINAL HISTORY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Victims
  - 1 male with one domestic battery conviction
- Suspects
  - 3 males with one domestic violence conviction each
  - 1 male with three domestic violence convictions and one domestic battery arrest with the case dropped
  - 1 female with one domestic violence arrest
  - 1 male with a domestic violence case, adjudication withheld



## INJUNCTIONS AND OTHER CIVIL MATTERS

- 1 Injunction petition filed against a male victim, but Injunction dismissed
- 1 suspect with two Baker Act commitments; 1 suspect with one Baker Act commitment
- 2 Injunctions in place against male suspects

## CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

- 1 report against suspect and victim's mother for neglect and domestic violence
- 1 report against suspect

## SHELTER SERVICES

- Victims
  - Safety planning done with 1 female
- Suspects
  - 2 females received services through the local shelter

## HARK

- No record of HARK

## INTERVENTION

- Suspects
  - 1 male ordered to Batterers' Intervention but terminated for excess absences
  - 1 male ordered to Batterers' Intervention but was allowed to enroll 3 times while only attending one class, order was changed to require only Anger Management
  - 1 suspect enrolled twice in Batterers' Intervention and once in Anger Control
  - 1 male ordered to Batterers' Intervention but failed to enroll

## ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

- Victims
  - 1 female with three DUI's and two drug arrests
- Suspects
  - 2 males with two drug possession arrests each
  - 1 male with one DUI arrest
  - 1 male with one juvenile alcohol possession arrest
  - 1 male with one drug conviction
  - 1 male with two DUI arrests

## MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

- Suspects
  - 4 males with mental health issues (1 of these males with three suicide attempts)

## PATTERNS DATE (1997 - 2003)

(85 Months, Includes December 1996)

**77 Cases (63 of these Intimate Cases)  
87 Murders (69 of these Intimate Murders)  
18 Suicides**

### GENDER

#### Intimate homicides

- 44 males killed their female partners resulting in 52 murders
  - 1 also killed the wife's boyfriend
  - 1 also killed his grown daughter and son-in-law
  - 1 also killed his ex-girlfriend's minor daughter and current boyfriend
  - 1 also killed his ex-girlfriend
  - 1 also killed his father-in-law and brother-in-law
- 17 women killed their male partners
  - in one case the current boyfriend is also a suspect
- 2 men killed same sex partners
- 1 man killed former girlfriend's current boyfriend

#### Non-Intimate homicides

- 9 men killed other family members resulting in 11 murders
- 2 women killed other family members resulting in 2 murders
- 2 men killed ex-partner's current boyfriend resulting in 2 murders (intimate partners were injured but not killed)
- 1 man killed his infant son (intimate partner was injured but not killed)

#### Homicide Suicides

- 15 men committed suicide
- 3 women committed suicide

### RACE

- Victims
  - 53 White
  - 31 Black
  - 2 Asian
  - 1 Hispanic
- Suspects
  - 46 White
  - 30 Black
  - 1 Asian

### RELATIONSHIP

- 63 cases with 71 victims involved intimate relationships
- 26 married and co-habiting
  - 6 married and separated
  - 20 not married and co-habiting
  - 10 not married and not co-habiting
  - 1 divorced but co-habiting

## 14 cases with 16 victims involved non-intimate relationships

- 6 males killed parents/step-parents/grandparents
  - 2 cases where son killed both parents
  - 1 case where son killed mother
  - 1 case where son killed father
  - 1 case where step-son killed step-father
  - 1 case where grandson killed grandmother
- 3 males killed children/step-children
  - 1 case where step-father killed step-son
  - 1 case where step-father killed step-daughter
  - 1 case where father killed infant son
- 1 male killed his brother
- 2 males killed boyfriend of ex-partner\*
- 1 female killed her son
- 1 female killed her brother

\* Though the relationship does not fit the definition in statute for domestic violence, the committee counted these cases in our study since they happened during an attack on an intimate partner. In both cases, the intimate partner was injured but not killed.

### METHOD

- 49 gunshot wounds
- 19 knife wounds
  - 1 was also suffocated
  - 1 was also beaten
- 8 strangulations
- 6 blunt trauma
- 1 thrown off bridge
- 1 died of a heart attack during the crime
- 1 rectal trauma
- 1 bombing
- 1 hit by car

### CHILDREN

- 28 cases involved individuals with children. In 18 of these cases, the children were present during the homicide. All were intimate cases.
  - In one case victim's 16 year old daughter was killed
  - In one case victim's 16 year old sister was killed
  - In one case suspect killed infant son

### CRIMINAL HISTORY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Victims
  - 17 males had prior arrest(s) for domestic violence
  - 1 male named as domestic violence suspect by different victim
  - 5 females had prior arrest(s) for domestic violence
- Suspects
  - 19 males had prior arrest(s) for domestic violence
  - 1 male had prior arrest for domestic violence against different victim
  - 4 females had prior arrest(s) for domestic violence

## INJUNCTIONS

- Victims
  - 6 females had Injunctions in place
    - 2 reported violations
  - 1 female had a prior Injunction
  - 4 females had Temporary Injunctions dismissed for failure to appear
  - 1 female had Injunction against husband's girlfriend
- Suspects
  - 3 male respondents of an Injunction
  - 1 male was a respondent of an Injunction as part of divorce

## CHILD ABUSE REFERRALS

- Victims
  - 3 females had child neglect reports against them
  - 1 female had a child abuse report against her
  - 1 child victim's mother had a child neglect report against her
- Suspects
  - 4 males had child neglect reports against them
  - 5 males had child abuse reports against them

## SHELTER SERVICES

- Victims
  - 3 females stayed briefly in shelter years before homicide
  - 4 females were provided court advocacy services (2 of these were sheltered above)
  - 1 female received safety planning by phone
- Suspects
  - 1 female went through domestic violence education class
  - 2 females received outreach services

## HARK

- 2 HARK referrals even though children were living in the home in 28 of the cases and actually present and/or witnessed the homicide in 19 of the cases

## INTERVENTION

- Victims
  - 3 males were ordered into BIP as a result of DV arrests
  - 1 male ordered to generic counseling for previous domestic battery
  - 4 males ordered as part of earlier domestic violence cases to anger management
- Suspects
  - 10 male suspects ordered into Batterers' Intervention Program (BIP)
  - 1 suspect ordered to marriage counseling as part of Injunction
  - 1 male suspect ordered into Anger Control for previous domestic battery

## ALCOHOL/DRUG ABUSE

Police reports indicate alcohol or drug use at time of homicide by 9 victims and 10 suspects

- 29 cases noted suspects had a substance abuse history

**MENTAL HEALTH  
ISSUES**

- 15 cases noted mental health issues with suspects (1 of these males with three suicide attempts)

# **CONCLUSIONS**

**(1997 - 2003)**

In 2003, the number of domestic homicides remained consistent with the average number over the years of our review. The majority of these homicides involve intimate partners, as with domestic violence cases in general.

In 69% of these homicide cases, there were no prior police or social service involvement. Awareness needs to be raised within community agencies and the community as a whole about domestic violence and the importance of intervention.

The committee continues to note several mental health issues in our reviews. Many suspects talked with family, friends, and co-workers about suicide before the murders. Depression and suicidal ideations are clearly red flags and lethality indicators in cases of domestic violence. More community awareness about mental health issues and appropriate intervention is needed. Additionally, we note the need for more information sharing between criminal courts and civil proceedings concerning Baker Acts and other civil commitment actions.

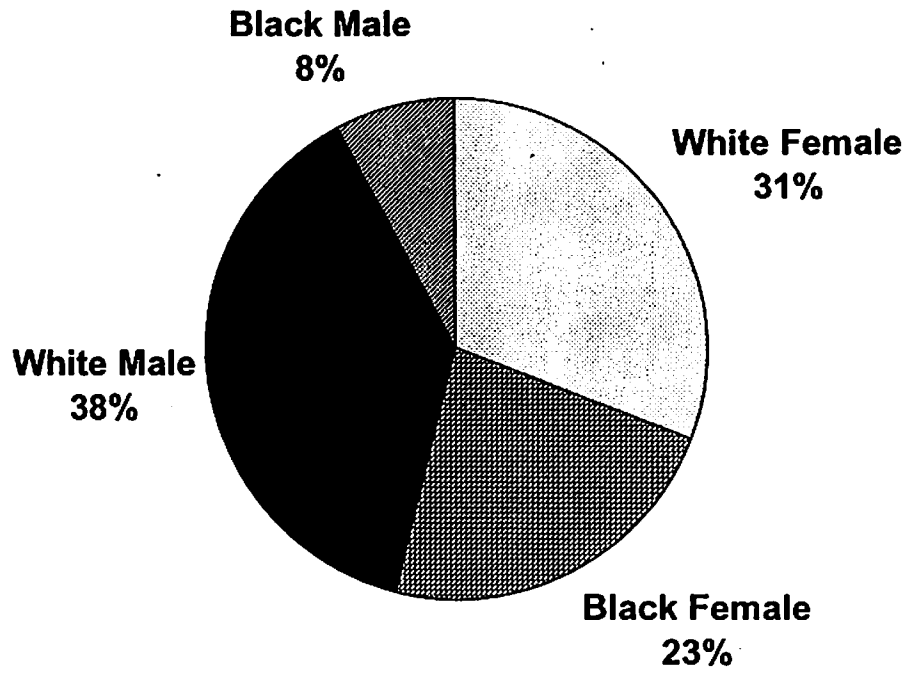
The committee is still concerned that not enough batterers are ordered into statutorily mandated state certified batterers' intervention programs (BIP). It is imperative for the justice system to hold batterers accountable. Perpetrators need to be held accountable when they do not successfully complete BIP. Ninety percent (90%) of participants who complete the program are not re-arrested in the next three years.

HARK is still being under utilized. There were 24 cases where suspects had prior domestic violence arrests, yet of all the cases reviewed, there have only been two HARK referrals. Our community and the agencies involved here should make intervention for these children a high priority.

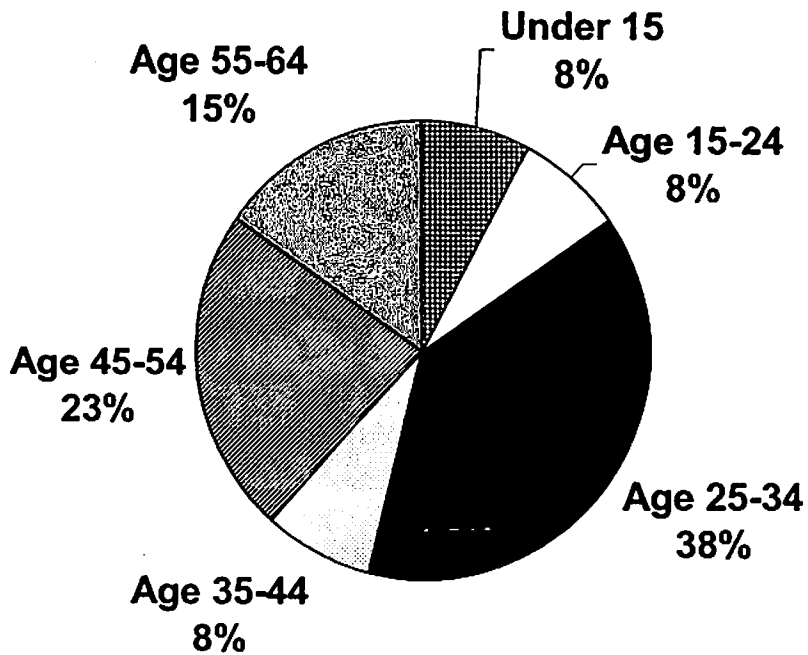
After a careful review of these homicide cases, the committee feels strongly that those working in the legal system need training about the dynamics of domestic violence and the effectiveness of intervention.

# 2003 Graphs

## Race and Gender of Domestic Homicide Victims

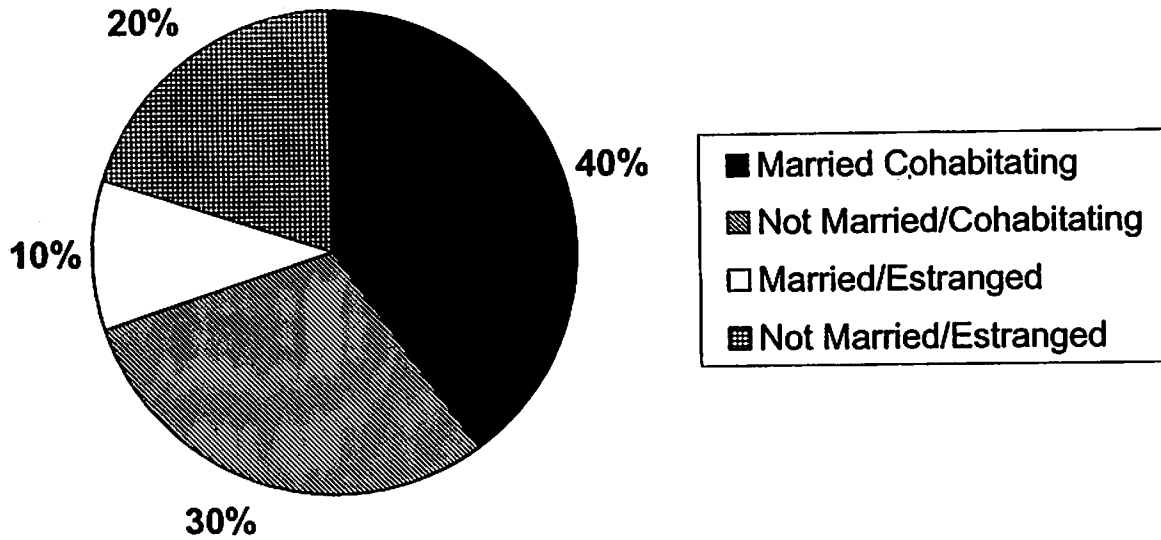


## Age of Domestic Homicide Victims

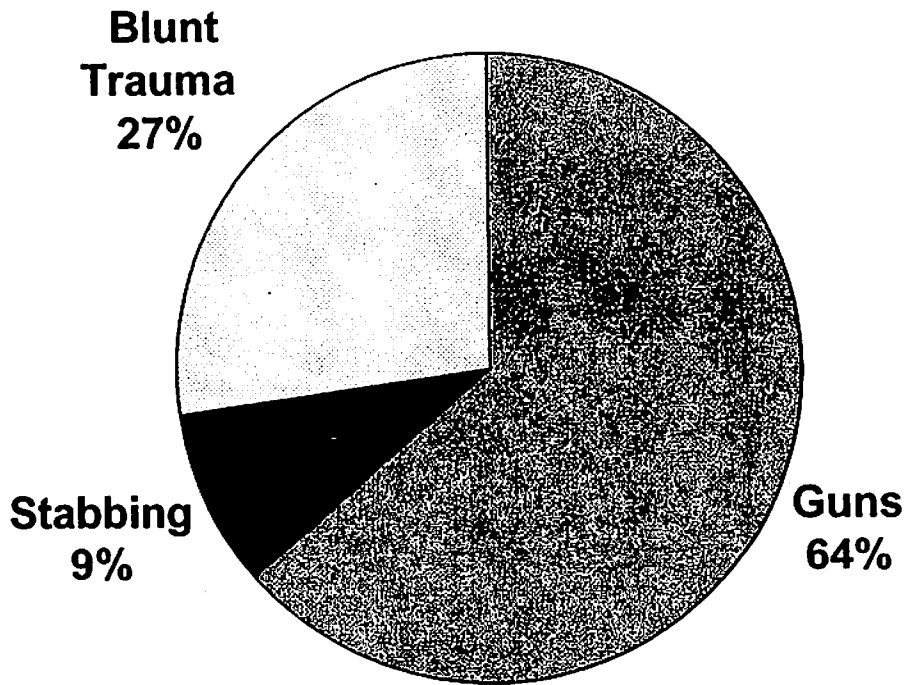




## Relationship Status of Intimate Homicides



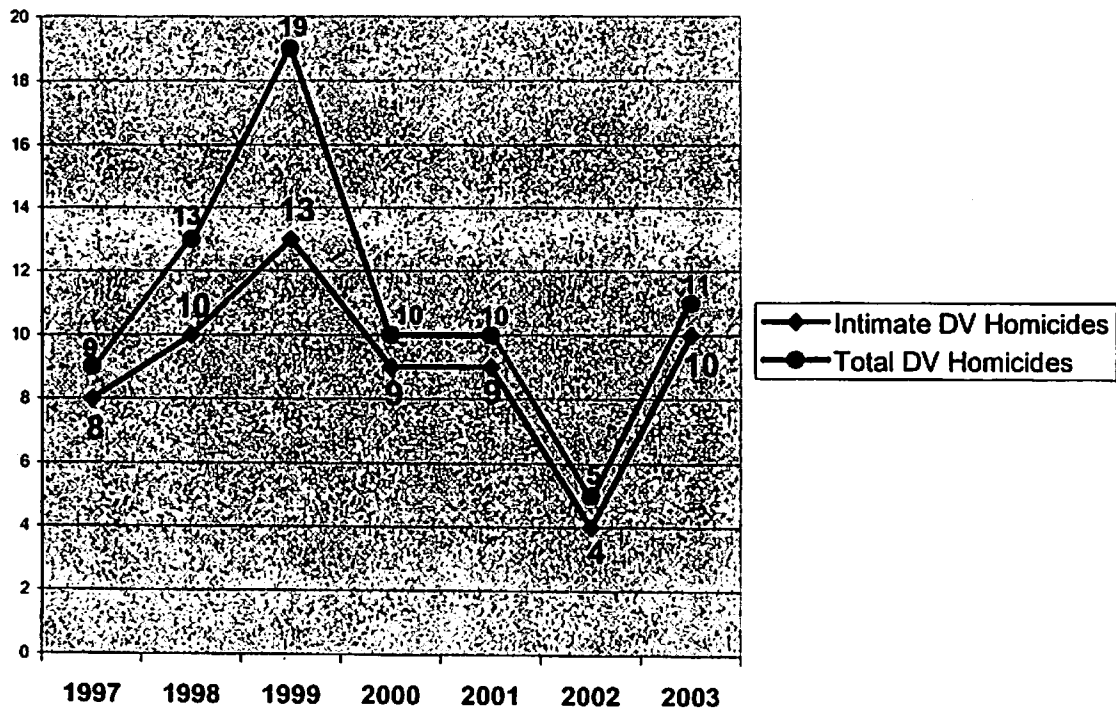
## Method of Homicide



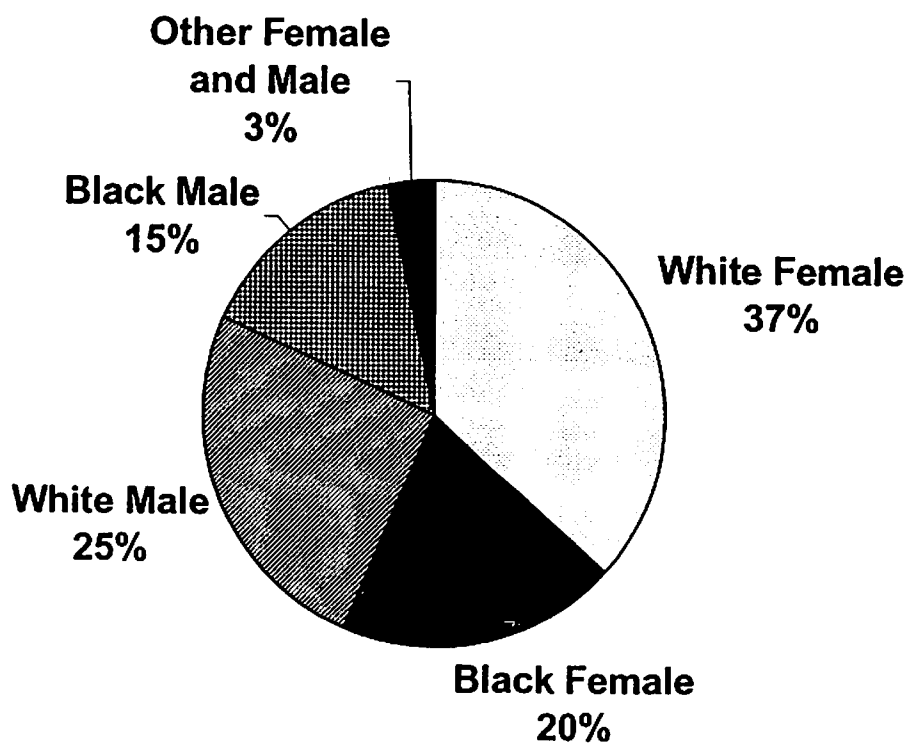
# Graphs

**1997 THROUGH 2003**

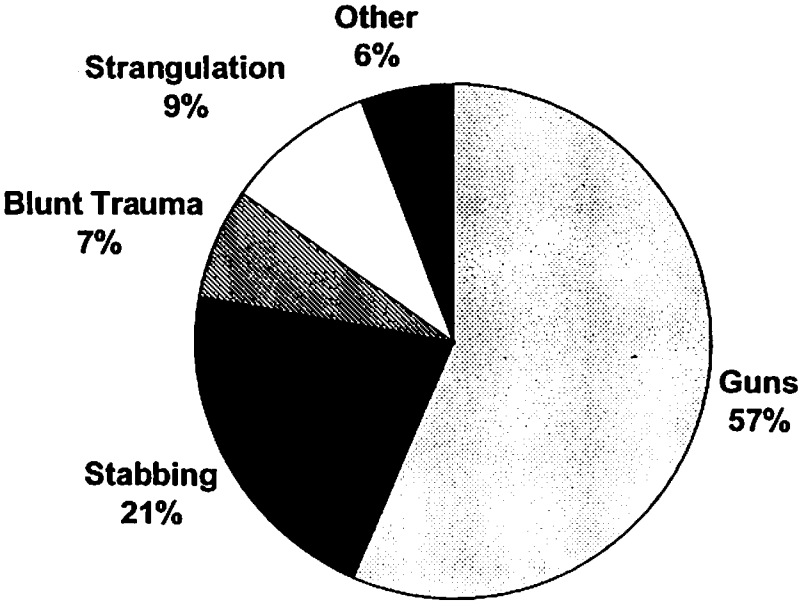
## Domestic Homicides



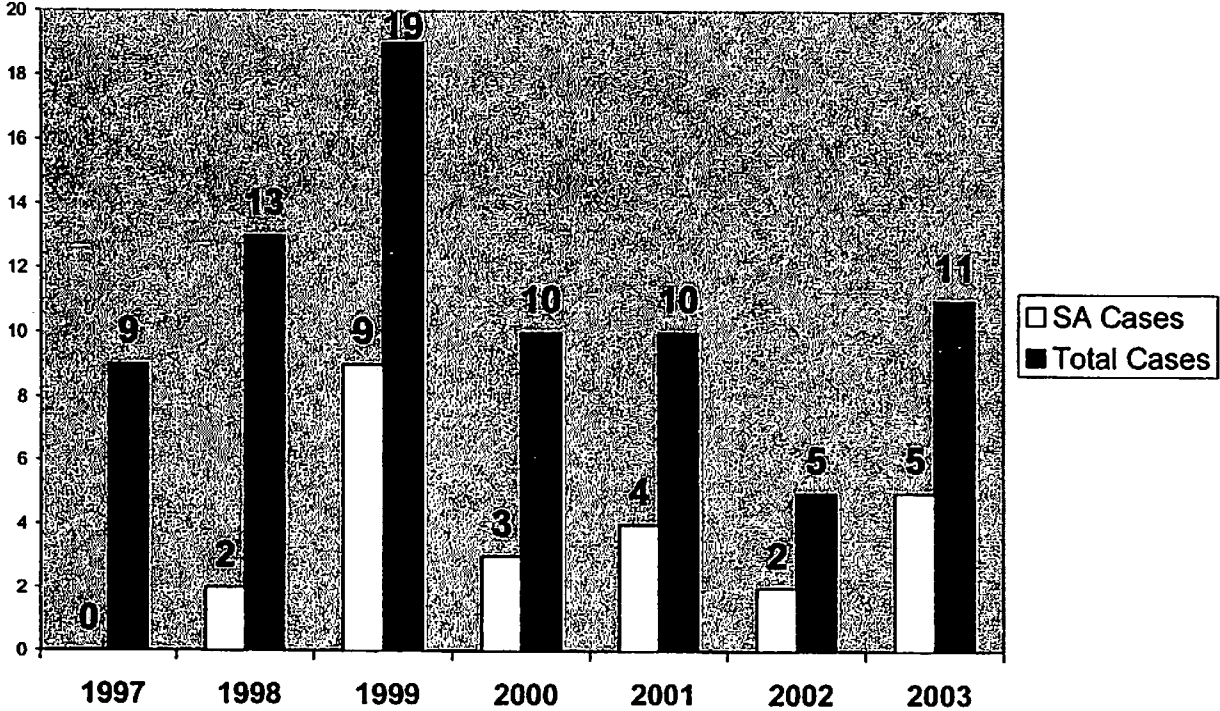
## Race and Gender of Domestic Homicide Victims



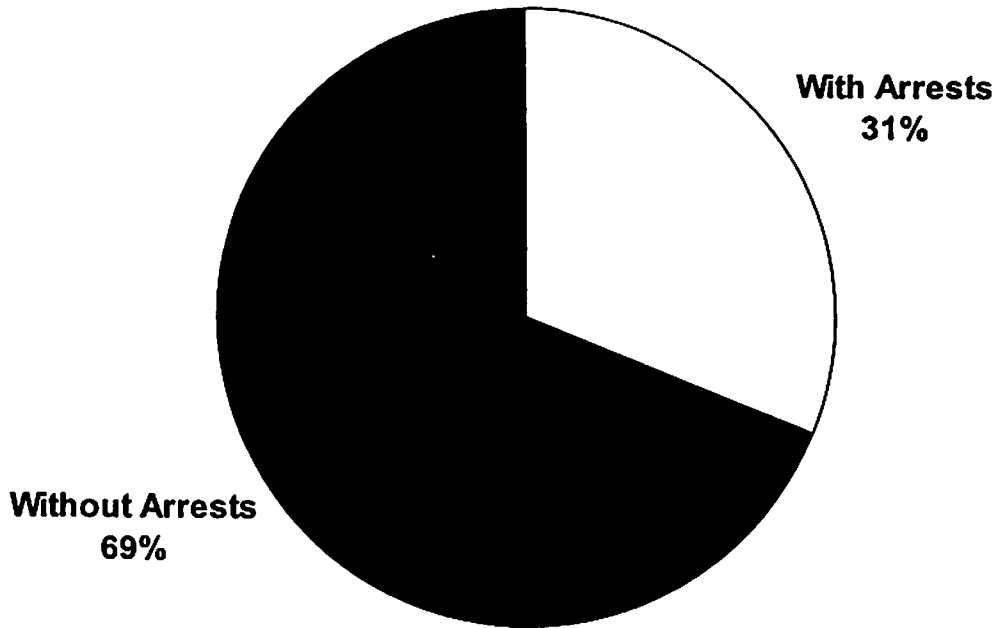
# Method of Homicide



# Suspects with Past Substance Abuse Arrests



## Suspects With Prior Domestic Violence Arrest History



## Suspects With Prior Mental Illness History

