



Indiana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report 2009-2010

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Project Overview

In the two-year period of 2009-2010, 116 women, children and men died in Indiana when domestic abuse escalated to lethal levels of violence. Deaths in this period were documented among victims, perpetrators, children, romantic rivals and bystanders. Domestic violence related deaths were reported in 38 of Indiana's 92 counties. The youngest identified victim was a seven month-old baby; the eldest was an 80 year-old senior. The majority of deaths were committed with a firearm. Domestic violence fatalities were committed within private homes, in public spaces and at the workplace. With this report we seek to publicly acknowledge these deaths, to learn from them, and to implement strategies designed to prevent future violence.

The number of deaths related to domestic violence perpetrated in Indiana each year has remained relatively stable and unconscionably high over the past decade. The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Advisory Council was convened in the spring of 2011 and charged with the responsibility of evaluating the circumstances surrounding these deaths in order to make preventive recommendations. The work of the team was guided by the belief that we are best equipped to address the problem when we understand its scope and dynamics. Advisory Council members were invited from a range of professions including law enforcement, the judiciary, advocacy, healthcare, education, public health, and the faith community in order to identify opportunities for prevention across service systems and across the lifespan.

The Advisory Council chose to report on deaths from the 2009-2010 period so that we could provide a comprehensive overview of the fatalities including information about events preceding the homicides, through sentencing outcome information for those cases that were adjudicated.

As we reviewed the cases, we found ourselves wanting to know more. We wanted to know more about events in the days, weeks, and years preceding the fatalities, and we wanted to know more about the impact that these deaths had on families and communities. Our ability to report on the broad range of factors that correlated with domestic violence fatalities was constrained by the limited availability of data attending these deaths.

The Advisory Council sought to form recommendations with a focus on the responsibility of implementation. The recommendations submitted in this report will guide the work of the Indiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV), state and community partners for the 2013-2014 period. ICADV will create an interim report describing progress made on these recommendations in 2014. The Council's recommendations include strategies designed to prevent violence from occurring in the first place, and where violence is present, to improve the systems that protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. Additionally, recommendations seek to increase coordination in the delivery of services between systems and to raise awareness about existing supports to better enable those in need to access these services. We will pursue these recommendations, but we recognize that success is contingent on our collective efforts; we encourage all readers to join us in the mission to eliminate domestic violence by identifying opportunities to work for prevention at home, at work and in the community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Colleen Yeakle
Program Coordinator, ICADV

Definitions

In this report we use the term domestic violence to characterize forms of abuse perpetrated within the context of a current or former romantic relationship.

ICADV defines domestic violence as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.

- Abuse includes physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions, or threats of action that influence another person.
- This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound the target.

Domestic Violence Related Homicide

For the purposes of this report, the Indiana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Advisory Council chose to report on those deaths perpetrated in the context of, resulting from, or motivated by domestic violence in a relationship between current or former intimate partners. Such deaths include:

- Homicide—where one partner kills another in the context of an abusive relationship.
- Homicide/Suicide—where the aggressor kills the victim and then commits suicide.
- Primary Aggressor Deaths—these deaths include defensive action undertaken by the victim, a bystander, or by members of law enforcement in the course of a violent incident that result in the death of the primary aggressor.

Suicide—where the aggressor or victim commits suicide in the context of an abusive relationship.

Bystander Deaths—include deaths among individuals other than the primary target occurring in the context of an intimate partner assault—bystander deaths documented in this period include deaths among friends, family members, and children.

Romantic Rivals—where the target either was, or was believed by the perpetrator to be, involved in a romantic relationship with the perpetrator's current or former intimate partner.

Children—where the perpetrator targets the victim's child(ren) as a form of punishment in the context of an abusive relationship.

Deaths that were included in earlier drafts of this report, but that did not fit within these criteria were moved to the appendix of the report.

Methodology

In February of 2011, ICADV convened the state Domestic Violence Fatality Review Advisory Council (Advisory Council) to oversee the development of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Report. Representatives from diverse systems were invited to serve on the council in order to provide expert opinions about their system's work in the context of domestic violence, to inform recommendations for those systems, and to provide leadership within the organizations that they represent to implement the Advisory Council's recommendations. See Appendix A for the Advisory Council membership list.

Deaths related to domestic violence reported for the 2009-2010 period were identified through a combination of media scans and constituent referrals. ICADV subscribes to the Meltwater media search engine and receives notification of all web-based reports that include key words related to domestic violence. Additionally, community-based domestic violence advocates notify ICADV when deaths related to domestic violence are identified within their service area. ICADV staff members compile a list of these deaths annually and submit the draft list to domestic violence service providers statewide for review, corrections and additions. This draft list was then submitted to the Indiana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Advisory Council for final revisions and approval.

With the finalized list of domestic violence related deaths, ICADV staff worked to collect official data sources to validate information about circumstances surrounding the deaths provided in the media reports. ICADV staff conducted online searches for public records, and contacted key informants to request case information. Data sources utilized in the report include coroner's verdicts, law enforcement reports, court records, appellate records, prosecutors' press releases, community fatality review team records and information provided by community domestic violence advocates.

The Advisory Council generated a list of variables attending the deaths that we hoped to evaluate across the 85 cases identified in the 2009-2010 period. Information collected from the described sources was then entered into a database for collection and analysis. The Advisory Council reviewed the data and generated recommendations for this reporting period. The Advisory Council sought to form comprehensive recommendations with strategies located across the lifespan, across systems and across the spectrum of prevention.

Limitations

In compiling this report we were challenged by the dearth of consistent, official data sources attending the identified deaths. Media reports typically provided the most comprehensive overviews, but the Advisory Council sought to validate those accounts with primary source data. Indiana does not currently have a system for collecting data related to domestic violence homicides so ICADV staff worked to contact agencies—coroners, law enforcement and shelters—in the local communities to request relevant records. These requests for records received about a 60% response rate overall.

The sources that we were able to collect varied considerably across communities in the depth of information provided, and each source provided an incomplete snapshot of the variables we sought to identify. For example, coroners' verdicts provided information about the traits of the decedents but are not designed to tell us about broader life circumstances like prior histories of domestic violence, engagement with law enforcement, employment, family structure, etc. Similarly, court records from sources like Odyssey or DoxPop provide case outcome information, but little data about the circumstances surrounding the crimes. Because individual data sources were insufficient for providing information about the variables that we hoped to evaluate, the profiles attending each death were created through a composite of the available sources. We were able to collect official source information for 93% of the identified cases (79 of 85), but six of the case profiles were created from media sources alone.

Probable Undercounts and Topics of Interest for Future Reports

Domestic violence homicides

Though the 116 deaths related to domestic violence reported here are uncountable, we know that this count is low. Because we lack a uniform data reporting system for these deaths in Indiana, the results that we report can only be as successful as our search. Though we worked to implement a comprehensive strategy for identifying deaths, it is probable that some were overlooked. In addition, we may have missed deaths that were not initially identified by law enforcement and the media as related to domestic violence. This includes those deaths characterized as suspicious where perpetration and motive could not be determined. One of the Advisory Council's recommendations seeks to address this undercount by including strategies for enhancing data collection around domestic violence and other crimes statewide.

Suicides related to domestic violence

Suicides reported here are those that were identified in the immediate context of an incident of domestic abuse. Most typically, these deaths are self-inflicted after the aggressor kills, or attempts to kill his or her partner. It is particularly difficult to identify suicides that occur outside of the context of a violent episode—where the victim determines that suicide is their only strategy for exiting the relationship, or where the aggressor commits suicide because the relationship that they sought to control has ended. The Advisory Council has included a recommendation to facilitate the collection of information about these types of deaths to inform future prevention strategies.

Deaths among children

A critical area of interest surrounding domestic violence homicides is the impact that this violence has on Indiana children. We report seven deaths among children that occurred in the context of, or

were directly attributable to, circumstances of domestic violence between adults. We sought to rule out deaths resulting from child abuse—though with the high co-incidence of domestic violence and child abuse, this distinction can be a difficult one to make. We believe that more deaths among Indiana children—those called accidental, deemed suspicious, and attributed to child abuse—occurred in the context of adult domestic violence.

Other variables of interest

Even with the composite approach, data was unavailable, or simply too difficult to track down in many of the categories that the Advisory Council hoped to evaluate. Because of missing data, we are unable to evaluate trends related to risk factors including prior histories of domestic violence between the victim and perpetrator, prior criminal convictions among offenders, the economic statuses of the victim and offender, prior histories of sexual violence, and whether firearms used in the homicides were legally obtained. Another variable of interest for future reports is abuse perpetrated against victims' pets prior to or in the context of domestic violence fatalities.

The Advisory Council also sought to identify additional points of vulnerability among victims that could make it more difficult to separate from an abusive relationship. Such traits, including intellectual disabilities, homelessness and undocumented immigration status, were inconsistently reported in the data sources so we can only report them anecdotally here. We believe that the incidence of these and other points of vulnerability were higher among the victims documented in this period. The Advisory Council will seek opportunities to improve data collection on these variables in subsequent reports, but observed the following points of vulnerability in 2009-2010.

Additional Points of Vulnerability

Trait	Number of Victims Affected
Intellectual Disability	2
Pregnant	2
HIV Positive	2
Undocumented Immigrant	2
Chronic Health Diagnosis	1
Addictions	1
Homelessness	1

Domestic Violence Fatality Statistics and Analysis

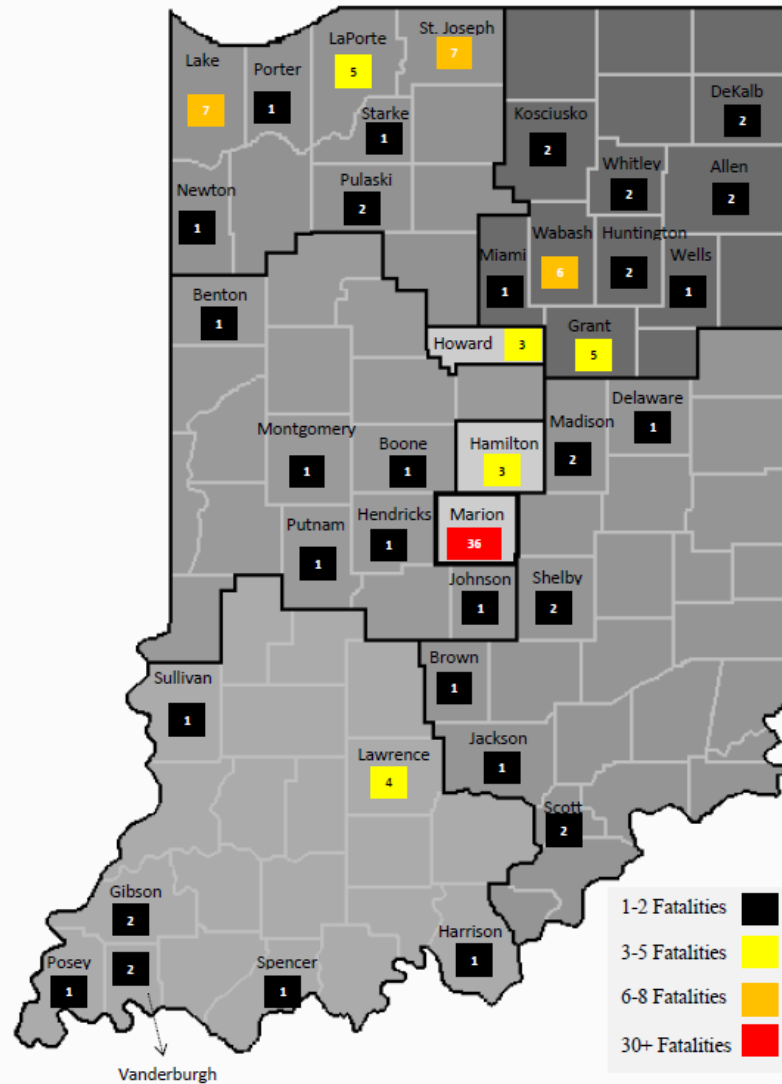
This chart provides a minimal snapshot of the number and ways in which Indiana youth were impacted by domestic violence homicides in the reporting period. We report here on the children whom we knew about through law enforcement and media reports. Additional children who were not present during the crime or mentioned in reports are not counted here.

Also, the determination that children were displaced by deaths was surmised when both parents were killed, it is almost certain that more children were displaced when one parent was killed and the other was incarcerated for the crime. Finally, this snapshot only reports on the impact on Indiana children in the immediate context of the homicide; we can't capture the collective impact of witnessing domestic violence, the loss of one or more parents to this violence, and the scope of life disruptions attending that experience.

The 2009-2010 report describes **85 incidents** resulting in **116 deaths**

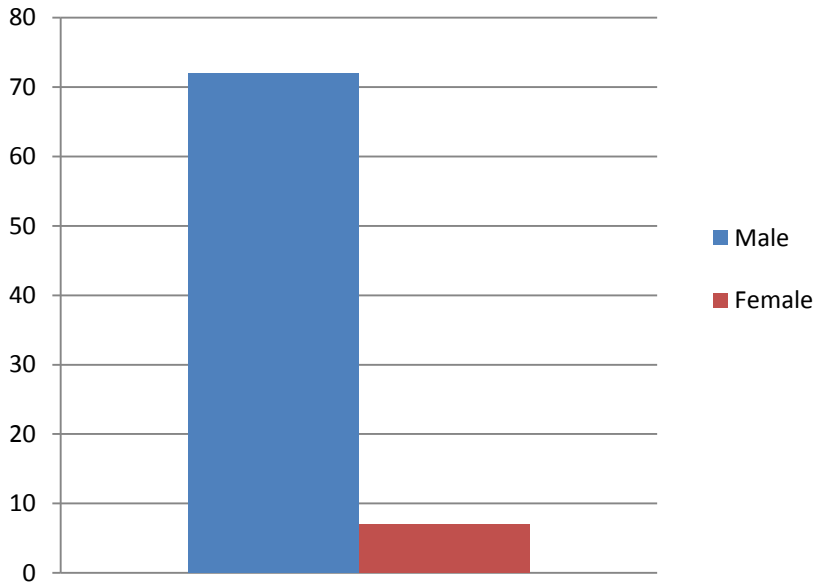
Total Number of Children Impacted: 102			
	Victims' Children	Perpetrators' Children	Mutual Children
Number of children	38	19	45
Children who witnessed crime	12	5	17
Children displaced by the deaths			37
Children killed	5		2

DV Fatalities by County



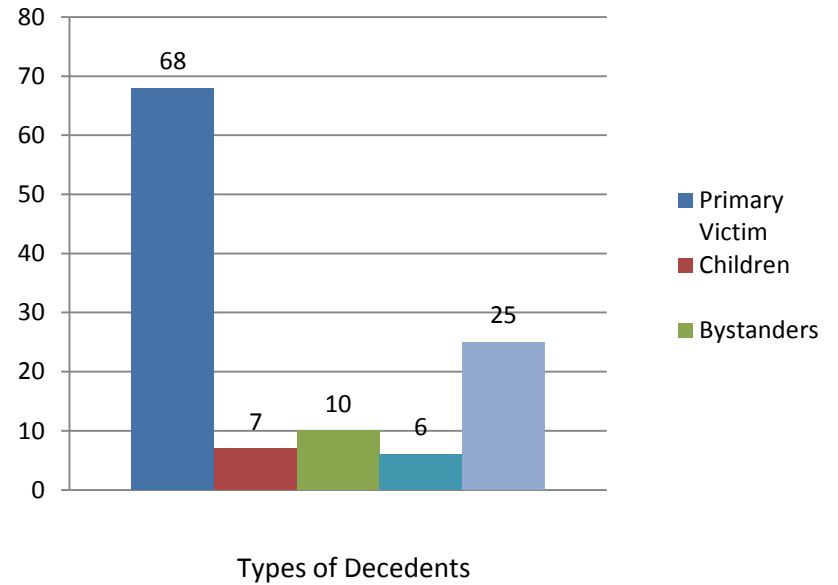
Perpetrators by Sex

This graph depicts the sex of the 79 perpetrators identified for the 2009-2010 period. It does not include the sex of those who used defensive action to protect self or other from a primary aggressor. 91% of domestic violence homicides in this period were perpetrated by men (72 of 79 incidents).



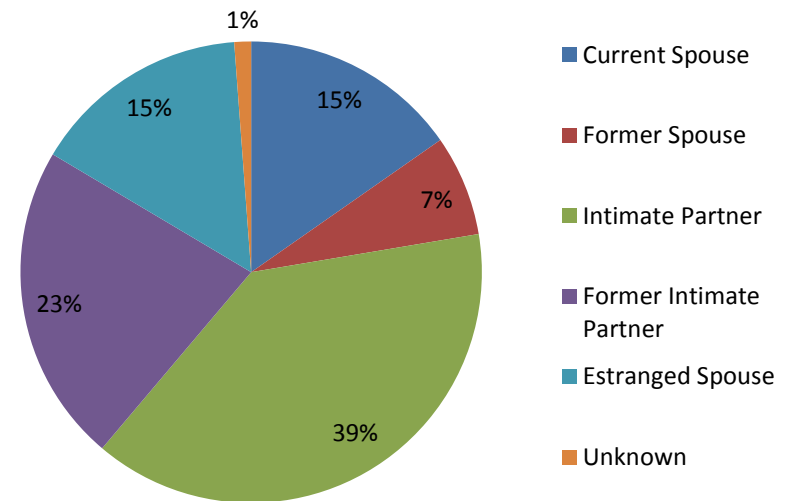
Decedents

This graph depicts all 116 decedents based upon their relationship to the crime.

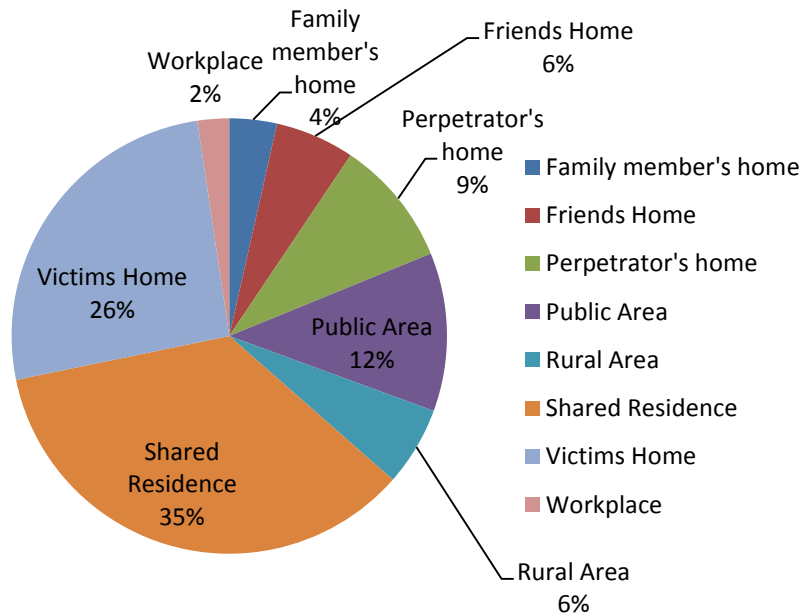


Intimate Partner Relationship Status

This chart depicts the status of the relationship between the intimate partners at the time of the fatality for each of the 85 incidents. This is not always the same as the relationship between the perpetrator and the decedent. In cases where the decedent was a bystander, child, romantic rival or other family member, we identified the status of the relationship between the perpetrator and the intimate partner understood as the motivating factor in the incident. As shown, the victim of intimate partner violence had ended the relationship prior to the homicide in 45% of the cases.

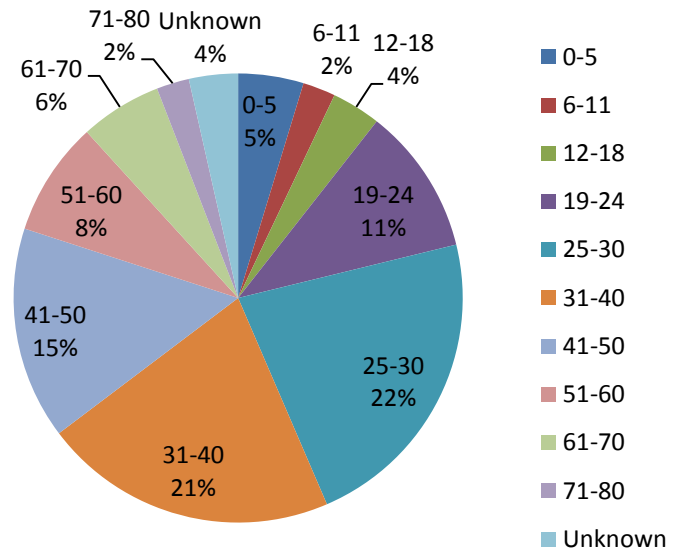


Location of Fatality



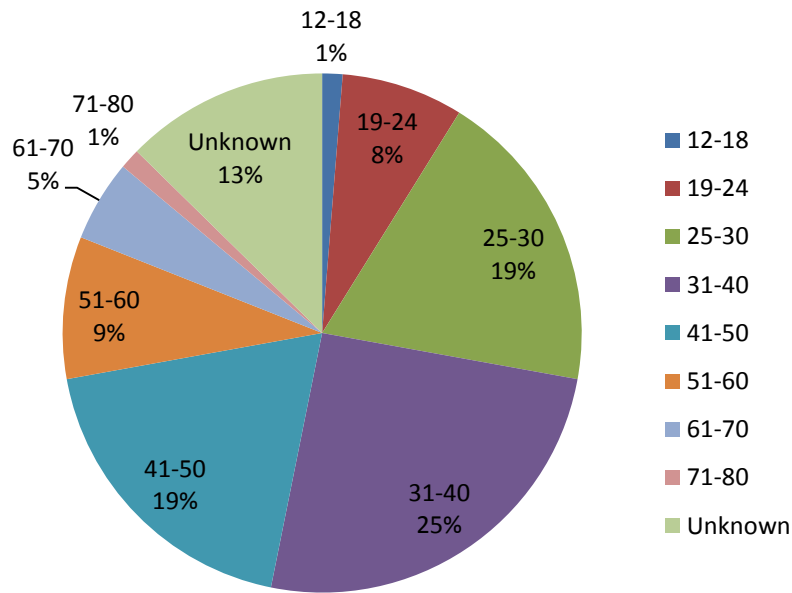
Age of Victims

This chart includes primary victims, children, and bystanders. It does not include aggressors or perpetrators.



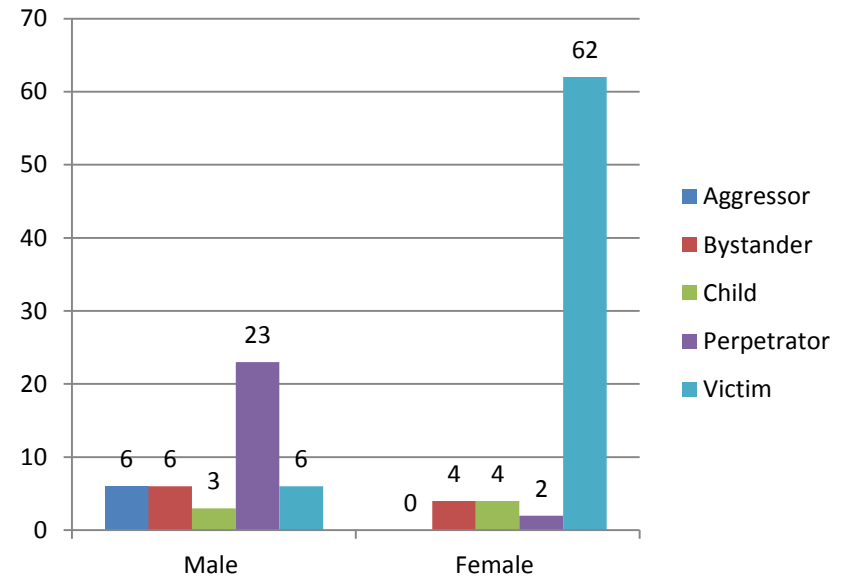
Age of Perpetrators

This chart displays the age ranges for the 79 perpetrators. It does not include the 6 identified primary aggressors.



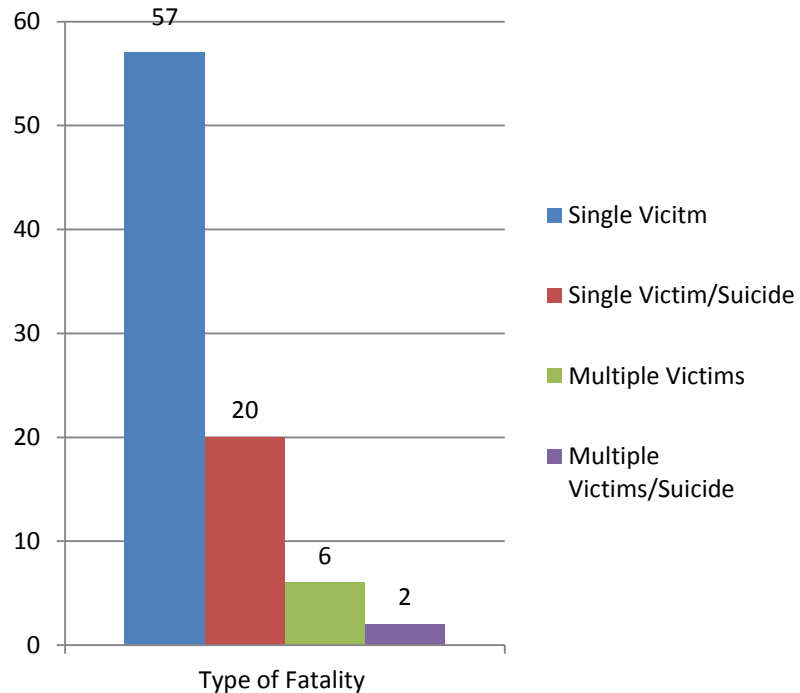
Decedents Relationship to the Crime by Sex

This chart displays each decedent's relationship to the crime based upon sex. This chart includes all 116 decedents.



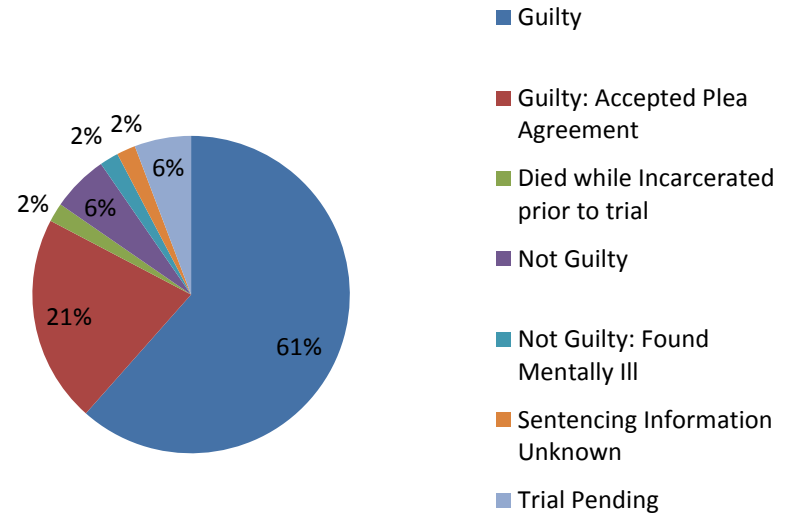
Type of Fatalities

This chart displays the type of fatality for each of the 85 documented incidents.



Conviction Information

Charges were pursued against perpetrators in 52 of the 85 incidents identified in the 2009-2010 period (charges were irrelevant in cases where the perpetrator committed suicide, and were not brought against individuals determined to be taking defensive or protective action against a primary aggressor). This chart represents trial outcome information for those cases that were charged.

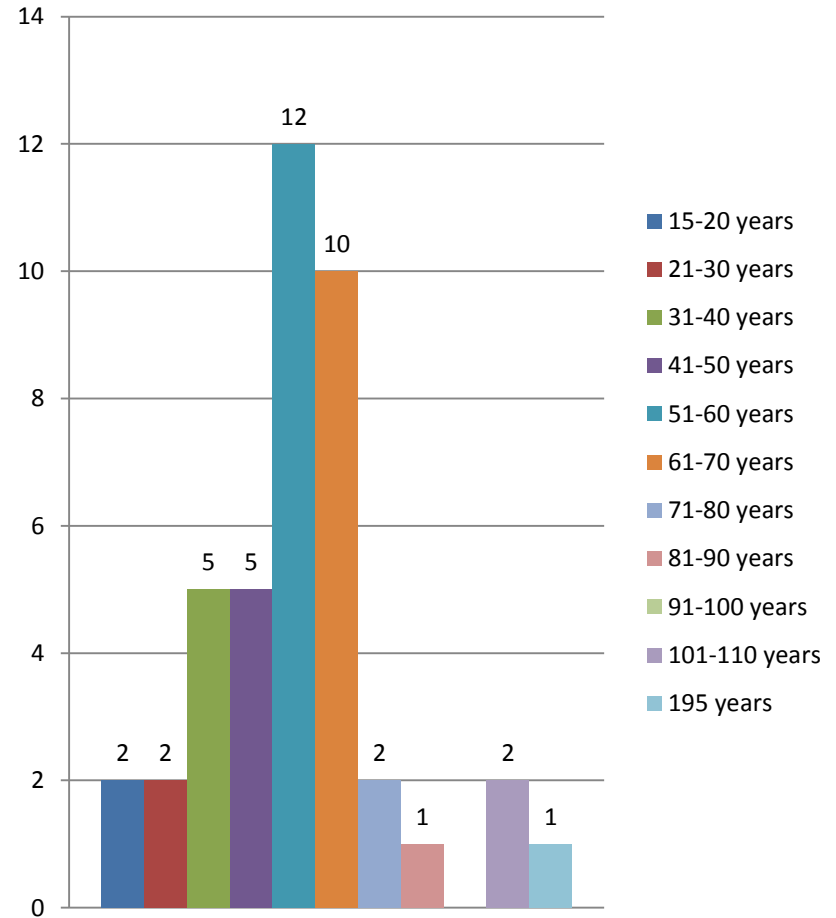


Sentencing Information

Of the 52 incidents that resulted in charges; 42 perpetrators were convicted, three were found not guilty, sentencing was unknown for three cases, and one alleged perpetrator died in incarceration prior to trial.

The chart above represents sentencing for the crime that resulted in the fatality. Charges included murder, manslaughter, voluntary manslaughter, and aiding in suicide.

Many sentences also included convictions for other crimes related to the incident such as battery, arson, rape, invasion of privacy, removal of a body, criminal confinement, and possession of a firearm. These additional charges and corresponding sentences are not included in this chart.



Recommendations

Goal 1: Awareness To raise awareness about domestic violence resources and services in communities across Indiana

Recommendation	Strategy
1.1 Indiana journalists should include domestic violence resource and prevention information in all stories reporting incidents of domestic violence.	<p>1.1a ICADV provides schools of journalism with model articles and Indiana statistics demonstrating that the inclusion of resource information in articles results in a significant increase in the number shelter contacts in a given period.</p> <p>1.1b ICADV provides the same package of materials to community domestic violence programs so that they may conduct similar advocacy efforts with their local media outlets.</p> <p>1.1c Advocates will work with schools of journalism to encourage professors to train students on the importance of including DV resource and prevention information in articles.</p>

Goal 2: Primary Prevention To work with key state systems to implement comprehensive strategies across the lifespan to promote healthy relationships and to prevent domestic violence

Recommendation	Strategy
2.1 Indiana schools should implement evidence-informed teen dating violence prevention strategies in grades 6-12.	2.1 The Indiana Department of Education and the General Assembly collaborate to form prevention recommendations, models and supports to facilitate schools' implementation of best practice prevention initiatives.
2.2 Indiana congregations, across faith traditions, should work with domestic violence providers to implement comprehensive plans to promote healthy relationships and to prevent domestic violence.	<p>2.2a Faith leaders engage in regular training with domestic violence providers about the dynamics of domestic violence, community intervention services, and prevention strategies for congregations.</p> <p>2.2b Faith leaders work with advocates to implement comprehensive education and prevention programs within their congregations.</p>
2.3 Prenatal parent education and birthing classes in Indiana should include a healthy relationship component.	2.3 The Indiana Perinatal Network and advocates collaborate to develop, disseminate and support community educators in implementing a healthy relationship module in prenatal education classes.

Goal 3: Intervention Systems To increase the utilization of best practice intervention strategies among agencies serving in the context of domestic violence

Recommendation	Strategy
3.1 Members of law enforcement, in collaboration with domestic violence advocates, will conduct an evidence-based lethality assessment instrument in all domestic violence cases that are determined by established criteria to present a high danger of lethality.	3.1 ICADV collaborates with the Chiefs of Police and Sheriff's Associations to provide training on the lethality assessment protocol.
3.2 Indiana judges should order individuals found guilty of domestic violence offenses to certified batterer's intervention programs (BIPs), and should hold those offenders accountable for completing the program.	<p>3.2a The Indiana Prosecuting Attorney's Council (IPAC) trains prosecutors to ask judges to order offenders to certified BIPs.</p> <p>3.2b ICADV collaborates with the DV Advisory Committee of the Indiana Judicial Center to provide training and information to Indiana judges about ordering DV offenders to BIPs.</p>
3.3 Where available, Indiana judges will consider lethality assessment information in determining holds, bail and bonds for individuals arrested for domestic violence offenses.	3.3 As described above, ICADV collaborates with IPAC and the DV Advisory Committee of the Indiana Judicial Center to implement this recommendation.
3.4 Increase the availability of low-cost mental health services, and knowledge about the dynamics of domestic violence among providers to better address the needs of victims and offenders.	<p>3.4a The Mental Health Association conducts assessment of the availability of low-cost mental health services.</p> <p>3.4b The Mental Health Association collaborates with advocates to form domestic violence training standards for mental health providers.</p>
3.5 Domestic violence programs should partner with faith leaders to facilitate services for DV victims in faith communities.	3.5 Faith leaders and community domestic violence programs collaborate to develop the partnerships, practices and information necessary to provide appropriate support to DV victims within their faith tradition. One strategy for consideration would be to establish faith community liaisons to provide support for victims across intervention systems.
3.6 Upon release, Indiana jails should provide individuals charged with domestic violence offenses with information about local resources available to support them in changing their abusive behavior.	3.6 ICADV creates an offender resource template and disseminates this model to community-based domestic violence programs. Community DV programs add local resources and work with their Domestic Violence Task Force and Sexual Assault Response Teams to implement the distribution of the resource cards.

Recommendations (cont'd)

4. Domestic Violence Fatality Review To increase the number of community-based domestic violence fatality review teams in order to improve system coordination, prevention strategies and service delivery	
4.1 Additional Indiana counties or regions should form domestic violence fatality review teams to form community-specific recommendations and remedies.	4.1a ICADV conducts outreach to community domestic violence programs to encourage them to work with their local task force to form community DV fatality review teams. 4.1b ICADV conducts a fatality review team session at the Coalition's 2013 conference; representatives from outstanding existing teams will present the session.
4.2 Existing community fatality review teams should include cases of suicide that they believe might be related to domestic violence.	6.2a ICADV communicates with the Chairs of existing teams to request that they include suicide reviews in their work. 6.2b ICADV adds suicide review information to the training agenda for all new community DVFRTs.
5. Public Policy To enhance data collection to improve our understanding of the scope of the problem across Indiana and to increase funding in support of remedies	
5.1 The Indiana General Assembly should increase funding for community domestic violence programs.	5.1 The Governor's Commission on Domestic Violence advocates with the Indiana General Assembly for an increase in funding for community domestic violence programs.
5.2 All 92 Indiana counties should participate in the Odyssey reporting system.	5.2 The Judicial Technology and Automation Committee (JTAC) collaborates with state and community partners to implement a strategy for increasing participation in the Odyssey data reporting system.

Victims

Ella Minix Died January 5, 2009, Age 37, Pulaski County

Jonathan Minix Died January 5, 2009, Age 40, Pulaski County

Jonathan rammed Ella's truck on a public street then fired shots into the vehicle killing Ella. Jonathan then fatally shot himself. The couple's two children were in the truck with Ella at the time of the shooting, but were not injured. Ella had filed for an order of protection that morning. The children were relocated to live with Ella's mother.

Derrick Manuel Died January 19, 2009, Age 45, Marion County

Derrick was stabbed to death by his girlfriend, Scarlett Adams. Adams was arrested for Manuel's death; there were prior domestic violence charges between Adams and Manuel and there was a no-contact order in place. The Marion County Prosecutor's office reviewed the case and declined to file charges against Adams.

Christopher Thomas Died January 31, 2009, Age 23, Marion County

Thomas was a bystander trying to intervene in a fight between Jamond Harris and his girlfriend. The girlfriend's sister, Tiera Jones, was also shot and critically injured. Harris was charged with murder and the unlawful possession of a firearm by a violent felon, but was found not guilty in a jury trial.

Michelle Papio Died February 7, 2009, Age 51, St. Joseph County

Michelle was stabbed by her partner, Connie Bumgardner, in the course of an argument. Bumgardner allegedly then made an unsuccessful attempt to commit suicide by overdosing on a drug. Bumgardner was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 36 years in prison.

Nancy Bradley Died February 22, 2009, Age 40, Jackson County

Nancy was fatally shot by her husband, Byron. He then made cuts on himself in an apparent suicide attempt. Nancy's 16 year-old son was home at the time of the homicide. Friends and family reported that there was a recent history of abuse in the relationship. Byron was treated for his injury in Indianapolis. No new charging/trial information as of February 2013.

Shanna Jones-Vogt

Died February 28, 2009, Age 28,

Hamilton County

Media reports indicate that Shanna fatally shot herself after accidentally shooting Charles Vogt, her husband of two weeks, because she mistook him for a burglar. Charles survived the injury. Details of the case are still under investigation.

Pamela Payne-Bennet Died March 2, 2009, Age 55, Lake County

Calvin Douchee Died March 2, 2009, Age 39, Lake County

Pamela was shot by her long-term friend, Calvin Douchee, as they sat in an SUV at the Hammond Marina. Douchee then fatally shot himself. A witness reported that Pamela fell out of the vehicle and it rolled into the lake after Douchee shot himself.

Heather Rush Died March 9, 2009, Age 30, Montgomery County

Heather was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend, Scott Malott. Rush and Malott were living together for financial reasons; he attacked her because her boyfriend spent the night at their house. Malott also fired at Rush's boyfriend but he was not injured. Heather's four children were in the home at the time of the homicide. Malott was found guilty of murder and criminal confinement and was sentenced to 70 years in prison.

Rosalba (Silvia) Ricchio Died March 11, 2009, Age 5, Newton County
Ricchio was abducted from her home by her friend and sometime roommate, Aaron Flynn. Flynn and Matthew Henderson took Ricchio to a rural location in Newton County, killed her with a shovel and then buried her in a shallow grave. The two men dispute who perpetrated the fatal blow. Flynn plead guilty to her murder and was sentenced to 60 years in prison. Henderson was subsequently charged as well, and sentenced to 55 years for Ricchio's death.

Michael Sekula Died March 13, 2009, Age 45, Porter County
After an argument, Sekula pursued his wife firing shots at her car. Sekula died of a self-inflicted gunshot after shooting at his wife who was driving in a separate vehicle--she was uninjured.

Tiffany Wray Died March 21, 2009, Age 21, Marion County
Tiffany was fatally shot in the course of a domestic assault by her sister's boyfriend, Marco Robinson. Tiffany's sister was also shot and critically injured during the incident, but survived. Tiffany's one year-old niece witnessed the shooting but was not injured. Robinson plead guilty to charges of murder and attempted murder and received a consecutive sentence of 65 years.

Christine Ong Died April 4, 2009, Unknown, Shelby County

Tan Tran Died April 4, 2009, Age 41, Shelby County
Tran fatally shot his girlfriend, Christine, in the course of a domestic assault where he also held three other people, including a six-year old child, hostage in the house. After a period of negotiation with Tran, police entered the house in order to assist a second victim who had been shot in the leg. Tran then fatally shot himself.

Nicole Scheiber Died April 9, 2009, Age 25, Huntington County

Jeremy Stroh Died April 9, 2009, Age 26, Huntington County
Jeremy and Nicole were living together at the time of the assault. Jeremy shot Nicole multiple times then fatally shot himself. Family reported that the relationship was troubled.

Dawn Brooks Died April 21, 2009, Age 29, St. Joseph County
Dawn was killed by her boyfriend, Julius Anderson. Anderson beat and stabbed Brooks, then set her house on fire. There were previous police reports of domestic battery perpetrated by Anderson against Dawn. Anderson was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 55 years in prison.

Amenda Yang Died May 6, 2009, Age 43, Marion County
Amenda died of blunt force trauma inflicted by her estranged husband, Michael Yang. Amenda had a protective order in place against Michael at the time of her death. Amenda's four children discovered her body upon returning home from school. Michael Yang was found guilty of murder and invasion of privacy and was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Christina Santana Died May 7, 2009, Age 29, Johnson County
Christina was killed by her boyfriend, James Betts. Betts cut Christina's throat in what he described as a suicide pact, but then did not injure himself. Betts had previous charges for battery and intimidation. Betts was found guilty of aiding another in suicide and was sentenced to 28 years in prison.

Caitlin Walter Died May 13, 2009, Age 21, Marion County

Matthew Ford Died May 13, 2009, Age 28, Marion County
Caitlin was fatally shot in her home by her exboyfriend, Matthew Ford, after she ended their relationship. Ford then fatally shot himself.

Kathyrne Tucker Died May 18, 2009, Age 29, Lawrence County

Kyle Brown Died May 18, 2009, Age 36, Lawrence County
Kathyrne was fatally shot in her home by her former dating partner, Bedford police officer, Kyle Brown. Brown then fatally shot himself.

Wallace "Bill" Earle Died June 5, 2009, Age 65, Gibson County

Wallace was shot several times in the back by his wife, Barbara Earl, as he sat at his computer. Wallace had a prior history of criminal violence including battery with injury and criminal deviate conduct. Barbara was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 55 years in prison.

Amanda Hines Died June 10, 2009, Age 26, Wabash County

Sherry Hines Died June 10, 2009, Age 57, Wabash County

Tony Ricketts Died June 10, 2009, Age 33, Wabash County

Ricketts waited for his exgirlfriend, Amanda Hines, at the home of her mother, Sherry Hines. Ricketts fatally stabbed Sherry, then stabbed Amanda when she returned to the home, and finally stabbed himself. Ricketts was alive when law enforcement arrived on-scene and confessed to killing the two women. Ricketts died from his injuries while receiving treatment in the hospital.

Beth Stayer Died June 12, 2009, Age 34, Marion County

Beth died from blunt force injuries after being struck in the head with a hammer by her ex-husband, Michael Stayer. Their 4-year old child witnessed the assault. The Stayers had been divorced just over two weeks and shared joint custody of their children; Michael was in Beth's home to pick up the children. The prosecutor accepted a plea agreement so that the child witness wouldn't have to testify. Michael plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter and neglect of a dependent and was sentenced to 43 years in prison.

Mary Wireman Died June 14, 2009, Age 53, Starke County

Mary was stabbed in the head by her husband, Ernest; he then set fire to her mobile home. Ernest then went to the home of Mary's adult son and attempted to shoot him. Ernest was found guilty of murder, attempted murder and arson and was sentenced to 110 years in prison.

Robert Crawford Jr. Died June 14, 2009, Age 23, Marion County

Robert was stabbed in the neck by his girlfriend's former boyfriend, Mark Miller. Robert was determined to be the primary aggressor in the fight and no charges were filed against Miller.

Robert Andrews Died June 19, 2009, Age 44, Brown County

Robert was shot by his wife, Dottie, who then set fire to the house. Dottie reported that she planned to shoot herself, too, but that the gun had jammed. Dottie had a protective order against Robert and had filed for divorce. She left a note saying that Robert had physically and sexually abused her. Dottie plead guilty, but mentally ill, to charges of voluntary manslaughter and arson. Dottie received a 35 year sentence for the manslaughter conviction and ten years for the arson conviction; the sentences are scheduled to run concurrently.

Jennifer Peak Died June 21, 200, Age 34, Sullivan County

Jennifer was strangled to death in her home by her ex-boyfriend, Gregory Hale; he then set fire to her trailer. According to court records, Peak and Hale had been involved for about three years and had a two year-old child together. Peak had broken up with Hale a week prior to the fatal assault. Hale had prior criminal convictions for battery and domestic battery. Hale plead guilty to murder and arson and received a concurrent sentence of 45 years in prison.

Angela Warnock Died June 22, 2009, Age 38, Hendricks County

Angela's estranged husband, Joseph, broke into her home and stabbed her to death in front of their two children. The girls hid in a closet and called 911. Angela had filed for divorce and had an order of protection in place against Joseph. Angela was planning to move with the children to Hawaii. Joseph plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 55 years in prison for killing Angela.

Terra Haselberger Died June 25, 2009, Age 22, Lake County

Jeremy Fields Died June 25, 2009, Age 31, Lake County

Terra was fatally shot by her live-in boyfriend, Jeremy Fields, who then shot himself. The couple was planning to marry, but there was a history of domestic violence between them.

Lisa Pattison Died July 2, 2009, Age 36, Wabash County

Lisa died of asphyxiation; she was found with a weight across her throat. Her husband, Scott, argued that it was an accidental injury, but was found guilty of her murder and was sentenced to 60 years in prison. Financial motivation was identified in the crime.

Jeremiah Williams Died July 23, 2009, Age 8, Marion County

Williams was shot and killed as a bystander by his mother's ex-boyfriend, Joshua Germany. Germany fired shots into the home killing Jeremy and injuring another teen in the home. There was a warrant for Germany's arrest for a domestic battery he perpetrated against Jeremiah's mother earlier in the same day. Germany plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 40 years in prison for Jeremiah's death.

Heidi McKinney Died August 7, 2009, Age 40, Grant County

Shannon Michael Lowe Died August 7, 2009, Age 3, Grant County

William McKinney Died August 7, 2009, Age 46, Grant County

William McKinney stalked his estranged wife, Heidi, to the home of a friend where she had spent the previous night. William shot Heidi and her friend Shannon whom he mistook for a romantic rival, and then fatally shot himself.

David Lawton Died August 19, 2009, Age 30, St. Joseph County

David was shot multiple times by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend, Arden Balmer. Believing them to be romantically involved, Balmer lured his friend, David, and his ex-girlfriend to his parent's lake house. Balmer then fatally shot David and held his exgirlfriend at gunpoint. After a lengthy standoff, Balmer was shot in the shoulder by police. Balmer had a history of abusive relationship behavior; a previous victim had an order of protection against him. Balmer was found guilty of murder and criminal confinement and was sentenced to 64 years in prison.

Kathleen Vargas Died August 26, 2009, Age 80, Marion County

Vargas died one month subsequent to being severely beaten and raped by her boyfriend, Monte Ayres. Ayres had 14 prior criminal charges as well as histories with addiction and mental illness. Ayres was charged with murder, aggravated assault and rape, and was sentenced to 80 years in prison for Kathleen's death.

Eboni Richardson Died August 27, 2009, Age 19 months, Lake County

Eboni was shot and killed by her father, Cordell Richardson. Cordell was reportedly angry with Eboni's mother because she planned to relocate out of state with Eboni. He refused to return Eboni to her mother at their agreed pick up appointment. Cordell scheduled a second pick up plan with one of Eboni's family members, as they approached the vehicle to pick up Eboni, Cordell fatally shot her in the chest. He then shot himself in the head, but survived the injury. Cordell plead guilty to murder and received a 56 year sentence for Eboni's death.

Jason Joy Died September 2, 2009, Age 35, Lawrence County

Jason was fatally shot multiple times by his ex-girlfriend, Susan May. Joy and May were both homeless and staying with a friend at the time of the shooting. May alleged that Joy had been physically and sexually abusive with her and that he had made threats to kill her and her daughters. May was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 65 years in prison.

Mardale Totten Died September 26, 2009, Age 30, Allen County

Totten was fatally stabbed by his intimate partner in the context of a domestic assault. The investigation determined that his intimate partner acted in self-defense, and she was not charged in his death. Totten had an extensive history of criminal violence including prior convictions for battery and voluntary manslaughter.

Claudia Tierrablanca Sanchez Died September 30, 2009, Age 21, Marion County

Claudia was fatally stabbed by her live-in partner, Juan Alejandro Silva Capulin. The couple's two year-old child was in the home at the time of the fatal assault. Capulin plead guilty to the charge of voluntary manslaughter and received a 30-year sentence.

Denise Caraway Died October 7, 2010, Age 48, Lawrence County

Denise was shot multiple times by her husband, Larry Caraway. Caraway had numerous drinks on the day of the shooting; he reported to law enforcement that Denise had shot herself, but ultimately plead guilty to the crime. Law enforcement reported a history of domestic violence between the Caraways. Larry ultimately plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 65 years in prison.

Cherlyn Reyes Died October 9, 2009, Age 21, St. Joseph County
Cherlyn was shot by her boyfriend, Brice Webb, after arguing throughout the day. Cherlyn and Webb had an infant child in common. Webb had a previous history of violence including a no contact order and battery charges. Webb was found guilty of murder and of being an habitual offender and was sentenced to a combined sentence of 95 years in prison.

Amy White Died October 27, 2009, Age 28, Wells County
Amy was fatally shot by her estranged husband, Tyler White when she was came to pick up their two year-old child for visitation. The couple had a divorce hearing scheduled for the next day. Amy was pregnant at the time of her death. Tyler was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to 70 years in prison.

Jacob Lord Died October 28, 2009, Age 2, Scott County
Jacob was beaten to death by his mother's boyfriend, Jason Hensley. Hensley admitted to beating Jacob and has numerous criminal convictions related to domestic and sexual violence. Hensley plead guilty to battery causing death and was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Alexis Oesterle Died November 2, 2009, Age 15, Spencer County
Alexis Oesterle died from a neck wound inflicted by her step-father, Ryan Shelby. Alexis' mother had previously filed an order of protection against Shelby, but had dismissed it a few months prior to Alexis' death. Shelby was found guilty of murder and obstruction of justice and received a combined prison sentence of 57.5 years.

Tonya Earley Died November 10, 2009, Age 30, LaPorte County

David Streeting Died November 10, 2009, Age 41, LaPorte County
Tonya was shot by her former boyfriend, David Streeting, as she sat with their two daughters and a male friend at the children's bus stop. Streeting shot Tonya in front of their children, and the bus full of children waiting at the stop. Streeting threatened Tonya's male companion (the man broke his leg while running from Streeting, but was not shot); then drove a couple of blocks from the scene and fatally shot himself.

Debra Houser Died November 18, 2009, Age 49, Whitley County
Debra was beaten to death by her ex-husband, Rodney Houser, who then hid her body in the woods two miles from her home. Debra and Rodney's nine year-old son was in the home at the time of the assault and reported that his parents had been fighting. Houser, confessed to killing Debra although her body wasn't found until a month after her death. Rodney had a history of criminal convictions for violence against Debra including battery, invasion of privacy and stalking. Houser was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 65 years in prison.

Deneisha Watford Died November 20, 2009, Age 28, Marion County
Deneisha was strangled to death by her boyfriend, Robert Sarver. Deneisha's child was in the home at the time of her death. Sarver was arrested for beating and strangling another woman two weeks prior to Watford's death. Sarver was charged with confinement and strangulation, but was found not-guilty through a bench trial.

Jon David Died November 21, 2009, Age 43, Posey County
Jon was fatally shot by his girlfriend's ex-husband, Lee Kershaw. Lee Kershaw attacked Jon and his ex-wife, but she survived the assault; the Kershaw's divorce was finalized within the month of the attack. Kershaw's 17 year-old son was present at the time of the shooting. Kershaw initially fled to Mexico, but turned himself in to the United States Consulate Office. Kershaw was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and attempted voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Christine Craig Died November 27, 2009, Age 40, Benton County
Christine was shot by her boyfriend, Steven Farrell, on the day that they had planned to marry. Farrell reportedly raped Craig's 16 year-old daughter earlier in the day. The couple met in a rural area; Craig confronted him about raping her daughter and he shot her in front of the child. Farrell subsequently fled to Nevada, but was apprehended and returned to Indiana for trial. Prior abuse perpetrated by Farrell against Craig was documented and Farrell had two prior convictions for rape. Farrell was given a combined sentence of 85 years for murder and for the unlawful possession of a firearm.

David Cassady Died December 2, 2009, Age 74, Marion County

Ruth Cassady Died December 2, 2009, Age 75, Marion County

Ruth shot David and then fatally shot herself. There was no documented history of domestic abuse between the couple.

Brittany March Died December 10, 2009, Age 18, Marion County

Corey Dix Died December 10, 2009, Age 19, Marion County

Brittany was shot by her boyfriend, Corey Dix, after an argument. Dix then fatally shot himself. Family reported that the relationship had been rocky and that Brittany planned to end it.

Crystal Ann Curtis Died December 13, 2009, Age 2, Delaware County

Crystal was stabbed to death by her husband, Thomas. A 14 year-old neighbor witnessed the assault. Thomas reported suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and having no memory of the attack. Thomas was initially found guilty of murder and sentenced to 55 years in prison; the charge was subsequently overturned by an appellate court that determined Thomas was insane at the time of the incident.

Melissa Patrick Died January 1, 2010, Age 32, DeKalb County

Melissa was shot to death by her boyfriend, Ronnie Jones at her workplace. Melissa worked in a group home for elderly adults with disabilities; these clients were present at the time of the attack. Jones then drove to his ex-wife's home; he threatened and fired several rounds into the home. Melissa's three children and Jones' three children were present in the home during the shooting. Jones was found guilty of murder, attempted murder and criminal recklessness and received a combined sentence of 103 years in prison.

Stuart Wolfe Died January 7, 2010, Age 39, Miami County

Police responded to a domestic violence call that Wolfe's girlfriend placed from their home. Four children were present in the home at the time of the assault. When police responded, Wolfe was armed and pointed his handgun at Sergeant Mooney; Mooney shot Wolfe and he died at the scene. No charges were filed against Mooney. Police reported that there had been previous domestic violence calls to the home.

Donna Jacks Died January 8, 2010, Age 54, Marion County

Donna died of head injuries; the exact circumstances of her death were undetermined. Her husband, Richard Jacks was arrested for 21 charges related to the possession of destructive devices (firearms and munitions); Jacks was held and questioned in relation to Donna's death, but he died of natural causes while in custody prior to any charges related to her death.

Kathryne Bledsoe Died January 13, 2010, Age 31, Putnam County

Kathryne was fatally shot by her husband, Jeremy, reportedly after she told him that she wanted to divorce. Two of the couple's pre-school aged children were in the home at the time of the assault; their 3rd child was in school. Jeremy had previously been charged with intimidation, but those charges were dropped. Jeremy plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 64 years in prison.

Linda Nickle Died February 20, 2010, Age 61, Marion County

Elizabeth Newcomer Died February 20, 2010, Age 24, Marion County

Linda was fatally shot by her boyfriend, Elwin Hart. Elizabeth was the fiancée of Linda's son. Linda and Hart were living together; the victims accused Hart of having cocaine in the house and asked him to move out. He shot them in the argument that ensued. Hart was found guilty on two counts of murdered and was sentenced to 110 years in prison.

Nicole James Died March 1, 2010, Age 35, Marion County

Daunte Roberts Died March 1, 2010, Age 36, Marion County

Nicole was fatally shot by her boyfriend, Daunte Roberts; Roberts then shot himself. Nicole's four year-old son was also shot in the head, but survived the injury. The boy was alone in the house, critically injured and with the bodies for an extended period of time.

Jennifer Parrett Died March 8, 2010, Age 27, Wabash County

Ryan Hunt Died March 8, 2010, Age 30, Wabash County

Jennifer was fatally by her ex-boyfriend, Ryan Hunt, as she sat in her car with their two sons ages three and four. Hunt then crossed the street and shot himself in a neighbor's yard.

Larry Self Died March 14, 2010, Age 45, Marion County

Larry was fatally shot by his long term domestic partner, Joseph Sachse. Sachse shot Self and then buried his body in the back yard of their home. Larry's body was discovered approximately three months after the murder. Sachse plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Caitlin Wolpinck Died March 14, 2010, Age 19, LaPorte County

Caitlin was fatally shot by her live-in boyfriend, Jeffrey Maldonado. A history of abuse in the relationship was reported by family, friends and law enforcement. Maldonado plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

Kaylin Daggendorf Died March 18, 2010, Age 14, Whitley County

Kaylin was raped, then strangled to death by 17 year-old friend, Joshua Wright. Wright confessed to breaking into Kaylin's home, strangling her, then moving her body to a field about one mile from her home. Wright plead guilty, to charges of murder, rape, burglary and removal of a body and received an aggregate sentence of 100 years in prison.

Amy Nose Died March 25, 2010, Age 39, Grant County

Paul Nose Died March 25, 2010, Age 42, Grant County

Paul Nose attacked his wife, Amy, at her mother's house. Paul fatally shot Amy then participated in a 12-hour standoff with police before fatally shooting himself. Amy had filed for divorce and a protective order a couple of months prior to the homicide, and had filed an intimidation charge in the week prior.

Wayne King Died March 26, 2010, Age 38, DeKalb County

Wayne King was fatally shot by police after he shot his wife, Dawn King, and held her hostage in her home for over 5 hours. Wayne also fired at law enforcement at the scene. After Wayne was shot, Dawn was flown by helicopter to the hospital and survived her gunshot injuries.

Jessica Berg Died April 9, 2010, Age 28, Howard County

Rebecca Berg Died April 9, 2010, Age 57, Howard County

David McPike Died April 9, 2010, Age 62, Howard County

Jessica, Rebecca and David were fatally stabbed by Jessica's ex-boyfriend, Jeremy Blanchard. Jessica had recently filed for an order restraining Blanchard. Blanchard followed Jessica and her mother to Kokomo where they were staying with their friend, McPike. Blanchard broke into McPike's home, and attacked the victims while they were sleeping; each victim was stabbed multiple times. Blanchard had an extensive prior criminal history including charges for battery and burglary. Blanchard was found guilty on three counts of murder and received an aggregate sentence of 195 years in prison.

Beverly Thompson Died April 9, 2010, Age 62, Lake County

Thompson died of blunt trauma injuries to her head inflicted by her husband, Douglas Thompson. Douglas then staged their home to look as if Beverly's murder had been conducted in the course of a robbery. Douglas' employee, Reginald Coleman was initially charged as an accomplice in the crime, but charges against him were dropped. Douglas Thompson was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 65 years in prison.

Caleb Lynch Died April 10, 2010, Age 5, Vanderburgh County

Alyssa Lynch Died April 10, 2010, Age 8, Vanderburgh County

Caleb and Alyssa were killed in a house fire set by their mother's fiancé, Jeffrey Weisheit. Weisheit intentionally restrained the children then fire to the home that he shared with the children's mother. Weisheit has been charged with murder and arson in the deaths of the children and the prosecutor is seeking the death penalty; the trial is currently scheduled for February of 2013.

Carmen Ramos Died April 11, 2010, Age 33, Allen County

Carmen was shot multiple times by her long-term boyfriend, and father of her children, Thomas Majarez III. Ramos had filed for an order of protection against Manjarez, but dismissed it a week prior to her death. Manjarez shot Ramos then fled to Texas, but was apprehended several months later and returned to Indiana for trial. Manjarez plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Lisa Martin-Simeri Died April 17, 2010, Age 49, St. Joseph County
Nicholas Simeri Died April 17, 2010, Age 50, St. Joseph County
Lisa was fatally shot by her husband, Nicholas, who then shot himself. Lisa's body was found by neighbors in the front yard of her home; Nicholas was still alive when police arrived on scene, but died shortly after.

Anthony Echols Died June 19, 2010, Age 31, St. Joseph County
Echols stalked his former girlfriend, Lisa Beattie and broke into her home. Echols attacked Lisa and a friend who was staying with her because she was afraid of Echols; Lisa demanded that Echols leave; he attacked her and she fatally shot him. The St. Joe county prosecutor determined that Lisa shot Echols in self-defense. Echols had an extensive prior criminal history with charges including battery, domestic battery, and invasion of privacy. Beattie filed an order of protection against Echols in 2009, but subsequently dismissed the order.

Debra Aynes Died July 31, 2010, Age 51, Madison County
Robert Jones Died July 31, 2010, Age 56, Madison County
Debra Aynes was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend, Robert Jones. Debra had separated from Jones the week of the killing. Jones went to the diner that Debra co-owned with a friend and shot her in front of customers; he then fatally shot himself.

Nina Keown Died August 7, 2010, Age 26, Clark County
Nina was strangled to death by her ex-husband, Robert Petty, after they attended a concert together. Petty strangled Nina then moved her body to a hidden rural location in Clark County. Nina was reported missing; after 3 weeks, Petty told police about the crime and led them to Nina's body. Petty was convicted of voluntary manslaughter, removal of a body and obstructing justice; Petty will be sentenced as an habitual felon in April of 2013.

Richard Jones Died August 15, 2010, Age 32, Marion County
Jones drowned himself in a lake outside of the apartment that he shared with his girlfriend subsequent to assaulting her and setting their apartment on fire. The Swat team responded on site.

Nickina Cornett Died August 18, 2010, Age 26, Marion County
Maurice Smith Died August 18, 2010, Age 31, Marion County
Nickina was fatally shot by her boyfriend, Maurice Smith, in the house that they shared. Smith, then overdosed on drugs. The couple's three year-old daughter was staying with other relatives at the time of the deaths.

Mary Jane Frisby Died August 26, 2010, Age 44, Hendricks County
David Frisby Died August 26, 2010, Age 58, Marion County
Mary Jane was strangled by her estranged husband, David, in her Hendricks County home. David then traveled to Marion County and shot himself at a public parking garage downtown.

Christine Lindsey Died September 12, 2010, Age 39, LaPorte County
Chad Zolman Died September 12, 2010, Age 39, LaPorte County
Christine and Chad were fatally shot by Christine's ex-husband, Clayton Lindsey outside of her home. Clayton rammed Christine's car at her home, then shot Christine and her friend, Chad. Clayton had prior charges for battery and invasion of privacy; Christine had applied for a no contact order against Clayton, but the motion was denied. Clayton plead guilty to two counts of murder and was sentenced to 75 years in prison.

Traci Shannon Died September 19, 2010, Age 25, Marion County
Juliana Shannon Died September 19, 2010, Age 10 months, Marion County
Traci was allegedly strangled by her ex-boyfriend, Joshwa Carlisle. Traci was Carlisle's former girlfriend and the mother of his 10 month-old daughter; reports said that he was angered by the child support order. Traci was strangled and two fires were set in the apartment; Juliana died in the fire. Carlisle was charged with two counts of murder, but was found not guilty in a bench trial; prosecutorial mistakes were noted including a failure to share DNA evidence in a timely manner with the defense.

Latrice Long-Payton Died Septmeber 29, 2010, Age 29, Marion County
Latrice was beaten and strangled to death by Joseph Coleman during an argument. Latrice was staying with Coleman and he reportedly wanted her to move out. Coleman strangled Latrice then hid her body in the apartment's crawl space; weeks later he moved her body to a dumpster where it was discovered by police. Coleman plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 45 years in prison.

Shirlen Dyson Died October 10, 2010, Age 46, Hamilton County

Vincent Dyson Died October 10, 2010, Age 46, Hamilton County

Shirlen was fatally shot by her estranged husband, Vincent, while in her car near her home. Vincent followed Shirlen in a separate vehicle, forced her off of the road in a neighborhood and fatally shot her through the driver's window. Vincent left the scene and was pulled over by law enforcement on 465; as law enforcement members were issuing verbal commands to Vincent, he fatally shot himself in the head. Shirlen had filed for an order of protection in August of 2010.

Patricia Heichelback Died November 2, 2010, Age 7, Gibson County

Patricia was beaten to death by her boyfriend, Robert Spangler. Spangler struck Heichelback several times in the head with a crowbar after she informed him that she no longer wanted an exclusive relationship. Spangler plead guilty, but mentally ill to the charge of murder and was sentenced to 60 years in prison.

Catherine Lowe Died November 8, 2010, Age 46, Harrison County

Catherine was fatally shot by her husband, Larry. Police were called to the residence to conduct a welfare check based on a report that a prolonged domestic disturbance was going on in the home. When police arrived, Larry was armed with a handgun. The Police persuaded Larry to drop the gun; they then found Catherine in the basement. She had been shot twice in the back. Larry was charged with murder; the trial has not been concluded as of February 2013.

Tishwanda Reynolds Died November 8, 2010, Age 19, Lake County
Tishwanda was strangled in her bed by her ex-boyfriend, Marcus Matthew II, after she denied his sexual advances. Tishwanda's 7 month-old son was in the room at the time of her death. No charging or trial information could be found as of February 2013.

Merissa Kelley Died December 9, 2010, Age 31, Marion County

Merissa was strangled to death by her ex-husband, Howard Sanders. Sanders reportedly strangled Merissa because she had formed a new relationship and planned to move out of state with their two children. Sanders was on house arrest for identify theft at the time of the homicide and cut his house arrest monitor off at Merissa's home. Sanders plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter and burglary and received a concurrent sentence of 20 years in prison.

Penny Savage Died December 11, 2010, Age 44, Kosciusko County

Adam Jarrett Died December 11, 2010, Age 30, Kosciusko County

Adam Jarrett argued with his girlfriend, and phoned her mother, Penny Savage, to come and pick her up from his home. When Penny arrived, Jarrett shot at his girlfriend (she was injured, but not fatally), shot Penny, and then shot himself. Jarrett and his girlfriend's two-year old son was in Savage's car at the time of the shooting.

Melissa Field Died December 12, 2010, Age 44, Marion County

Kevin Field Died December 12, 2010, Age 51, Marion County

Kevin stabbed Melissa to death in her bed during an argument; two of their three children witnessed the attack. Kevin then fled the home, crashed his car and was pronounced dead at the scene of the accident.

Angela Dodson Died December 13, 2010, Age 32, Marion County

Angela was fatally shot by her boyfriend, Curt Lowder. Lowder shot Angela shot in the head inside of his truck in a public area because he believed that she was engaging in sexual activity with another man. Lowder was charged with murder and battery and received a combined sentence of 90 years. Lowder had an extensive criminal history prior to this assault.

Susana Bernabe Silvestre Died December 25, 2010, Age Unknown, Marion County

Oscar Martinez Died December 25, 2010, Age 26, Marion County

Mr. Martinez was identified as the aggressor in a dispute with a romantic rival. The other man stabbed Martinez in self-defense. Ms. Bernabe-Silvestre was the woman over whom the men fought; she was reportedly distraught over the fight and hung herself in her apartment. No charges were filed in the case.

Rachel Wurster Died December 28, 2010, Age 25, Marion County

Rachel Wurster was strangled to death by her foster brother, Braxton Vaughn. Vaughn turned himself into police reporting that he had strangled Rachel to death. Rachel was found dead in her apartment nude from the waist down with her bra and blouse cut off. Vaughn reported that he had removed her clothing because he wanted her to be seen that way; media reports indicated that Vaughn and Wurster had dated in high school. Vaughn plead guilty to murder and was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

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- Grant County Team; Linda Wilk, Chair
- Hendricks County Team; Patricia Baldwin, Chair
- Lake County Team; George Deliopoulos, Chair
- Madison County Team; Don Allbaugh and Holly Renz , Co-Chairs
- Marion County Team, Alfarena Ballew, Chair
- St. Joseph County Team, Patricia Hancock, Chair
- Tippecanoe County Team; Danielle Gaylord, Chair

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Appendix B: Other Identified Deaths

These deaths were included in earlier ICADV domestic violence fatality statistics, but were determined not to fit within the criteria used to identify deaths for this report. Such deaths include:

Deaths among children occurring in households where we were unable to identify a history of domestic violence between the child's parents or guardians. The primary context for these deaths was understood as child abuse.

Deaths among family members occurring outside of the context of a romantic relationship—these included deaths among siblings and deaths among parents and their adult children.

Deaths between adults engaged in other types of relationships where we were unable to identify any prior history of domestic violence.

Jennifer Stafford Died March 19, 2009, Age 29, Delaware County

Jennifer was beaten to death by Robert Murphy who came to her apartment to talk to her about money that her boyfriend owed him. There was no history of a romantic relationship between Murphy and Jennifer. Murphy had extensive prior criminal charges for drug possession, criminal confinement and battery by means of a deadly weapon. Murphy was sentenced to 65 years in prison for Jennifer's death.

Jamison Essick Died July 16, 2009, Age 7 months, Lawrence County

Jamison died of blunt force trauma to his head after being beaten by his mother's boyfriend, Casey Garrison. Garrison plead guilty to reckless homicide and was sentenced to eight years in prison.

Mya Lee Died July 24, 2009, Age 21 month, Lake County

Mya was beaten to death by her mother's boyfriend, Stacey Daniels. Daniels struck Mya with a hairbrush causing her to fall and hit her head. Mya died in a Chicago hospital where several bruises were found on her head and body. There was no documented history of abuse between Daniels and Mya's mother. Daniels was charged with murder, two counts of battery and neglect of a dependent.

John C. Hall Died August 21, 2009, Age 52, Montgomery County

John was beaten to death by his girlfriend's son, Justin Morris. Morris then set the house on fire in an attempt to cover up the murder. There was no documented history of abuse between John Hall and Morris' mother. Morris was reported to be upset with Hall because his mother was moving to California with him. Morris plead guilty, but mentally ill, to murder and arson and was sentenced to 80 years in prison.

Leroy Johnson Died September 26, 2009, Age 27, Allen County

Leroy was shot and killed by his brother, Brandon Johnson, in the course of an argument. Another man present at the scene was also shot. Both brothers had extensive criminal histories with alcohol and drugs, and violence. Brandon was found guilty of murder and attempted murder and was sentenced to 105 years in prison.

Jeffrey Spence Jr. Died June 26, 2010

Age 28

Allen County

Jeffrey was fatally stabbed by his brother, Jeremy, during an argument. Jeremy had prior convictions related to alcohol. Jeremy was charged with murder. No trial outcome information is available as of February 2013.

Marjorie Bellows Died April 15, 2010, Age 73, Marion County

Marjorie was stabbed by her son, Bart, in the course of an argument. The assault happened in Hendricks County; Marjorie was taken to an Indianapolis hospital for treatment, but subsequently died from her injuries. Bart reported that he acted in self-defense because he believed that Marjorie was going to shoot him with a shotgun, but police were unable to find any other weapons in the house. Bart was initially charged with attempted murder, aggravated battery, battery with a deadly weapon, criminal confinement and interference; no trial information is available as of February 2013.

Thomas King Died July 5, 2010, Age 38, LaPorte County

Thomas was fatally stabbed by John W. Adams. Police responded to the house on a report of a domestic dispute—Adam’s girlfriend might have been present. Adam’s was found not guilty on charges of manslaughter and criminal recklessness.

Vincent Jackson Died August 18, 2010, Age 53, Monroe County

Vincent was fatally shot during an argument by his girlfriend’s mother, Clansic Cox. There was no documented history of abuse between Cox’s daughter and Jackson. Cox was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Savannah Ross Died September 4, 2010, Age 10, Montgomery County

Savannah was fatally shot by her mother’s live-in boyfriend, Steven Bixler. Bixler claimed that the shooting was accidental. Bixler plead guilty to reckless homicide and was sentenced to 8 years in prison.

Daniel O’Janovac Died September 15, 2010, Age 45, Jasper County

Daniel was fatally shot by his son, Daniel Jr. during an argument in which the younger accused the elder of making sexual advances to his girlfriend. Daniel Jr. plead guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 9 years in prison.

Tyniese Quiller Died December 7, 2010, Age 2, Marion County

Tyniese died from multiple blunt force injuries while in the care of her mother, Tiara Peoples and her boyfriend, Terrence Taylor. There was no documented history of abuse between Tiara and Terrence.