



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

MINNESOTA COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN

# 2011 Femicide Report

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## **Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1989-2011**

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

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- 2003 At least 14 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse
- 2004 At least 13 women died from domestic violence  
At least 11 children died from child abuse  
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2005 At least 26 women died from domestic violence  
At least 1 women was murdered while being used in prostitution  
At least 4 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered
- 2006 At least 20 women died from domestic violence  
At least 20 children died from child abuse  
At least 1 family member/friend was murdered
- 2007 At least 22 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse  
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2008 At least 23 women died from domestic violence  
At least 7 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence from his male partner
- 2009 At least 12 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family member/friends/intervener were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence
- 2010 At least 16 women died from domestic violence  
At least 7 children died from domestic violence  
At least 4 family members/friends were murdered.  
At least 2 men died from domestic violence
- 2011 At least 23 women died from domestic violence  
At least 4 children died from domestic violence  
At least 6 family members/friends were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

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

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

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

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

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## **In Minnesota in 2011**

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) tracks all homicides that result from domestic violence involving a current or former intimate partner. This includes the death of the intimate partner but also the deaths of new partners, family members or children that arise out of domestic violence involving the current or former intimate partner. While information on all of the domestic violence homicides is included in the report, we want to pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as these cases account for the majority of murders of women in the United States and in Minnesota. Of the 30 adults killed in 2011 due to domestic violence, 23 were women killed by a current or former intimate partner.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violent behaviors used by men that affects the quality of life for all women. It encompasses both physical and sexual violence and includes the pervasive emotional abuse and threats. Social norms that persist today allow men to control their partner's access to finances, transportation and use children to manipulate their partners, doing harm to children in the process. While these same dynamics are also present in same sex relationships and on rare occasions women use similar tactics against their male partners, it is the broader social institutions that support this pervasive and historically sanctioned pattern of behavior that MCBW seeks to change.

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

**At least 23 women**

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

**At least 4 children under the age of 18**

Were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, or guardian of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

**At least 6 friends, family members or interveners**

Were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

**At least 1 man**

Was murdered in a case where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner.

**At least 11 minor children**

Were left motherless due to their mothers' domestic violence murders. Seven of these young children were present when their mother was killed or they discovered the body.

## Femicide Report:

### Adult Victims and Relationship to the Alleged Perpetrators

	2011		
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Current or former boyfriend or husband	23	77%	Dawn Anderson Lori Baker Krissy Bates Tabitha Belmonte Josselyn Bishop Georgia Bogema Cintia Bustos Susan Courteau Kandace Dunn Renata Fernandez-Ramon Abigail Fedeli Kimberly Grew Cynthia Hickman Laura Hulke Stephanie Maxam Nicole Meier Megan Neely Linda Norman Katherine Pohjonen Kristen Sandeen Leila Scott Rondy Sorgatz
Current or former wife or girlfriend	1	3%	James Omara
Other	6	20%	Angela Uscanga Gonzalez (housemate's husband) Michael Habte (girlfriend's ex-boyfriend) Francisco Hernandez (friend's former boyfriend) Po Lye (friend's husband) Kristopher Miller (friend's estranged-husband) Officer Shawn Schneider (suspect on domestic violence call)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30</b>		

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## Red Flags for Batterer Lethality

In this report we pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as the majority of women murdered in the United States and in Minnesota are murdered by their current or former intimate partners. Various tools to assess for high risk or potential lethality have been developed based on research of women killed by their intimate partners. It is impossible to predict with certainty which batterers will become lethal to their victims. All batterers should be viewed as potentially lethal, though there are well-documented indicators of lethality of which everyone should be aware. Included in the factors that have been identified as possible lethality indicators are: separation, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, access to a firearm, threats to use a weapon, stalking, attempted strangulation, forced sex, extreme jealousy and control of daily activities.

We look at the homicide cases in Minnesota and see whether information was known regarding key lethality factors. In assessing for lethality factors, MCBW relies almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. MCBW specifically focuses on four lethality factors: the victim's attempts to leave the abuser, previous threats to kill the victim, perpetrator access to firearms, and perpetrator history of violence. MCBW has been looking at these four lethality factors since 2006. For the past six years, these lethality factors were present in a significant number of cases. We would expect that a more complete analysis of public records and interviews with friends and family of the victims would yield further information on other cases and further information on the other red flags.

There were 23 women murdered in Minnesota in 2011 by a current or former intimate partner.

***Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuse:*** While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered woman safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim. In 2011, 48% of the intimate partner femicides occurred after the woman had left the relationship or when she was attempting to leave. This statistic has been consistently around or over 50% for the past few years (48-67%) and supports the national studies indicating that one of the most dangerous times for battered women can be when they leave, or attempt to leave, the batterer.

Dawn Anderson of Park Rapids was separated from her husband. She had obtained an order for protection barring her estranged husband, Greg Anderson, from the residence. He was living in a treatment half-way house and was under court ordered probation supervision for criminal charges. Despite separating and taking legal action to keep Greg Anderson away, he came to her house on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and shot and killed her.

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***Threats to Kill the Victim:*** Threats by the abuser to kill the victim are among the most reliable indicators of lethality and are the most often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice systems. A review of the media reports of the 2011 murders does not reveal much information about threats to kill. What we do know is that at least 61% of the victims had experienced prior abuse or the perpetrator had a prior history of involvement with the legal system.

Cynthia Hickman had a long history of being abused by her husband, Henry Hickman. She had sought an order for protection weeks before her death. In her order for protection petition she wrote of waking up next to her photograph with a knife over it. She had also voiced her fears to a friend saying that her husband might kill her. These fears were realized when she was beaten to death by Henry Hickman on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

***Access to Firearms:*** In 2011, 12 of 23 (52%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms. While the percentage of femicides using firearms fluctuates year to year, murder with firearms is the most frequent weapon of choice, supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can increase the risk of lethality. In 11 of the 12 gunshot cases, the perpetrator then killed himself. 5 of the 6 family members, friends, and interveners were killed by gunshot.

Jamie Velasquez shot and killed Cintia Bustos and their live-in babysitter, Angela Gonzalez. Jamie Velasquez then shot and killed himself. All three of these shootings were witnessed by the couple's 3-year old son.

## Key Femicide Statistics (2009-2011)\*

### Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

#### Femicides and Cause of Death

Cause of Death	2009	% of Total	2010	% of Total	2011	% of Total	Name of Victim
	#		#		#		
Gunshot	6	50%	10	60%	12	52%	Dawn Anderson
							Tabitha Belmonte
							Cintia Bustos
							Kandace Dunn
							Abigail Fedeli
							Kimberly Grew
							Laura Hulke
							Stephanie Maxam
							Nicole Meier
							Linda Norman
							Katherine Pohjonen
Rondy Sorgatz							
Stabbing	1	8%	3	20%	6	26%	Lori Baker
							Krissy Bates
							Josselyn Bishop
							Georgia Lee Bogema
							Susan Courteau
							Mauryn Moore
Strangulation	2	17%	2	13%	2	9%	Kristen Sandeen
							Megan Neely
Beating	2	17%		-	2	9%	Cynthia Hickman
							Leila Scott
Vehicle	1	8%	-	-	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	1	7%	1	4%	Renata Fernandez-Ramon (information not yet publically released)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		



## Victim was Separated from Perpetrator or Attempting to Leave

	2009		2010		2011		
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Separated or attempting to leave	8	62%	10	67%	11	48%	Dawn Anderson
							Lori Baker
							Josselyn Bishop
							Kandace Dunn
							Abigail Fedeli
							Kimberly Grew
							Cynthia Hickman
							Stephanie Maxam
							Nicole Meier
							Megan Neely
							Linda Norman
Together	4	33%	6	33%	12	52%	Krissy Bates
							Tabitha Belmonte
							Georgia Bogema
							Cintia Bustos
							Susan Courteau
							Renata Fernandez-Ramon
							Laura Hulke
							Mauryn Moore
							Katherine Pohjonen
							Kristen Sandeen
							Leila Scott
Rondy Sorgatz							
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		

## History of Violence

	2009		2010		2011		
History of Violence		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	Name of Victim
Prior history of abuse but no documented involvement with legal system	3	25%	2	14%	6	26%	Georgia Bogema
							Josselyn Bishop
							Cintia Bustos
							Laura Hulke
							Kristen Sandeen
							Rondy Sorgatz
Prior history of abuse and prior law enforcement involvement or OFP	3	25%	5	33%	8	35%	Dawn Anderson
							Lori Baker
							Susan Courteau
							Kandace Dunn
							Cynthia Hickman
							Nicole Meier
							Mauryn Moore
Megan Neely							
Unknown	6	50%	9	53%	9	39%	Krissy Bates
							Tabitha Belmonte
							Renata Fernandez-Ramon
							Abigail Fedeli
							Kimberly Grew
							Stephanie Maxam
							Linda Norman
							Katherine Pohjonen
Leila Scott							
<b>Total:</b>	12		16		23		

## Geographic Location of Victim

	2009		2010		2011		
Location of Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Twin Cities Metro Area*	6	50%	9	60%	14	58%	Lori Baker
							Krissy Bates
							Georgia Bogema
							Cintia Bustos
							Susan Courteau
							Abigail Fedeli
							Cynthia Hickman
							Stephanie Maxam
							Nicole Meier
							Mauryn Moore
							Megan Neely
							Katherine Pohjonen
							Kristen Sandeen
Leila Scott							
Greater Minnesota	6	50%	7	40%	10	42%	Dawn Anderson
							Lori Baker
							Tabitha Belmonte
							Kandace Dunn
							Renata Fernandez-Ramon
							Kimberly Grew
							Laura Hulke
							Linda Norman
							Rondy Sorgatz
Josselyn Bishop							
<b>Total:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>24</b>		

\*Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties. According to the 2010 United States census, approximately 54% of Minnesota's population lives in the Twin Cities area and 46% lives in Greater Minnesota.

## Homicide – Suicide

	2009		2010		2011		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Homicide with suicide	6	50%	8	50%	11	48%	Dawn Anderson
							Tabitha Belmonte
							Cintia Bustos
							Abigail Fedeli
							Kimberly Grew
							Laura Hulke
							Stephanie Maxam
							Nicole Meier
							Linda Norman
							Katherine Pohjonen
							Rondy Sorgatz
<b>Total No. of Femicides:</b>	<b>12</b>		<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		

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## Key Statistics Related to Children

**Number of Boys - 3**

**Number of Girls - 1**

Cause of Death	2009		2010		2011		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Beating	7	70%	3	43%	1	25%	Devin Drake
Poison	1	10%	-	-	-	-	
Drowning	-	-	2	29%	-	-	
Shaking					3	75%	Aiden Joseph Hoyer Mario Maurizio Ruiz Mejia Alexis VanHoutan
Suffocation	1	10%	2	29%	-	-	
Unknown	1	10%	-	-	-	-	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>4</b>		

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## Children Murdered and Alleged Perpetrators

	2009		2010		2011		
<b>Relationship to Victim</b>	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Father	4	40%	4	57%	1	25%	Alexis VanHoutan
Mother	2	20%	1	14%	-	-	
Mother's current or former boyfriend or husband	3	30%	2	29%	3	75%	Devin Drake
							Aiden Joseph Hoyer
							Mario Ruiz Mejia
Unknown	1	10%	-	-	-	-	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>4</b>		

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## Children Murdered and Geographic Location of Victim

Location of Victim	2009	% of Total	2010	% of Total	2011	% of Total	Name of Victim
	#		#		#		
Twin Cities Metro Area*	7	70%	3	43%	2	50%	Devin Drake
							Alexis VanHoutan
Greater Minnesota	3	30%	4	57%	2	50%	Aiden Joseph Hoyer
							Mario Ruiz Mejia
<b>Total:</b>	<b>10</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>4</b>		

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

## Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

Children	2009		2010		2011		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Murders of mothers with minor children *	5	42%	7	47%	6	26%	Tabitha Belmonte
							Cintia Bustos
							Kandace Dunn
							Renata Fernandez-Ramon
							Cynthia Hickman
							Megan Neely
Number of minor children who lost mother at least:	8		10		11		
Number of adult children who lost mother	9		10		16		
Minor child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body	2		14		7**		

\*This represents the percentage of cases in which the woman who was killed was a mother. There were 6 mothers of minor children killed in 2011.

\*\* Dawn Anderson's 20 year old son was present at the time his mother was shot. He is not included in this figure.



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## Challenge to Minnesota Communities

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

We pledge to remember the women, children, men, family members, and friends who die each year from domestic violence, as well as the women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking, who are also battered women and children in need of protection from abuse.

In 1989, MCBW began keeping track of the domestic violence homicides in Minnesota. Over the past 22 years, at least 774 people have been killed in domestic violence incidents. That is an average of 35 people every year. This is an unacceptable number. While many improvements have been made in how we address domestic violence, we have impacted the number of people dying. The number of people killed each year will not change dramatically until the full community becomes involved.

Our challenge to the community is to not let these deaths go unnoticed, to not expect to have people killed each year from domestic violence. Our challenge to the community is that each person take up the challenge to get involved, to do their part to promote safe and healthy relationships, to promote violence prevention and to support early and effective intervention efforts.

## Recommendations for the Community

For more than thirty years, Minnesota has been a leader in the work to end domestic violence. Minnesota had one of the first shelters in the country for battered women. Minnesota put out the coordinated community response model for intervention in domestic violence courses – referred to internationally as “The Duluth Model”. In recent years, Minnesota created the “Blueprint for Safety: An Interagency Response to Domestic Violence Crimes” which is being tested and adapted around the country. Many of the lead scholars and organizers in the field are Minnesotans. We have been and can continue to be leaders in the work to end violence. To reach the next level in ending violence, the community must become actively engaged in the work. Every person can, and should be, part of the solution to end violence and to make each Minnesota community a truly vital community.

***Get Involved:*** Domestic violence is a pervasive problem that is woven into our societal fabric. The solutions needed to end violence need to be as equally diverse and complex as the

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problem. Each person has different skills and resources to bring to the solution. Participation can range from showing up at an education event, discussing safe and healthy relationship with a youth, volunteering for a local domestic violence agency. There are many opportunities for involvement but the first step is to see domestic violence as an issue that concerns each and every one of us.

***Promote Prevention:*** No one should have to experience domestic violence. It is critical to stem the incidents of domestic violence by creating an environment where everyone knows that violence will not be tolerated and where healthy, respectful and violence-free relationships are the norm for everyone. In order for that to happen, we must promote prevention efforts. Prevention efforts need to focus not only on providing information and skills to individuals but need to engage families, communities, as well as organizations and policy makers. Prevention efforts need to encompass the full spectrum of people from the very youngest to the oldest members of our communities.

***Support Intervention:*** While prevention is critical to ending violence, it is essential that we continue to support early and effective intervention when there is domestic violence. There has been much work done creating and improving our interventions. These interventions often focus on the legal system but also include medical systems, educational systems and social services systems. All of these interventions are important. We must continue to support these efforts and to support the ongoing work of early and effective intervention.

***Safety is the Priority:***

Safety must be a priority. When talking about healthy relationships, when considering criminal or family court policies, when making funding decisions, the starting point needs to be safety. All too often, important decisions are made and policies are enacted that provide for an “opt out” or other special considerations for domestic violence—relegating safety to an afterthought and not a priority. When mistakes are made, people can and do lose their lives. The stakes are too high for us to get it wrong. We must prioritize safety.

If we as a state do not step forward and take on the issue of domestic violence, we will continue to report deaths every year. We must get all of our community involved, we must invest in prevention, we must support intervention. If we fail to keep safety as a top priority, women and children will continue to be killed.

***We cannot afford to compromise on safety.***

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

<p>Krissy Bates Age 45 Minneapolis  January 10, 2011</p>	<p>Krissy Bates was strangled and killed by her boyfriend, Arnold Waukazo. Arnold strangled Krissy at her apartment in Minneapolis. When her body moved, he then stabbed her four times in the torso and one time to the left side of her neck and broke her ribs. Arnold was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 367 months in prison.</p>
<p>Leila Kim Scott Age 44 St. Paul  January 21, 2011</p>	<p>Leila Scott was beaten and killed by Michael Sherman. Michael beat her in the head and neck with a baseball bat. The evidence indicates that he had wanted sex for money and a dispute arose concerning the money. He was convicted of unintentional second-degree murder and sentenced to 12 1/2 years in prison.</p>
<p>Katherine Marie Pohjonen Age 19 Vadnais Heights  January 25, 2011</p>	<p>Katherine Pohjonen was murdered by her husband, Kalen Pohjonen. Katherine was shot by Kalen who then shot and killed himself. Investigators were called to their home in Vadnais Heights after a colleague of Katherine's reported she had not shown up for work. Investigators looked in a window and saw the couple unmoving inside. The Ramsey County medical examiner ruled in a preliminary report that Katherine was shot with a handgun by Kalen. The handgun was found at the scene.</p>
<p>Nicole Marie Meier Age 26 Blaine</p>	<p>Nicole Meier was shot and killed by her former boyfriend, Jesse Oakley. Nicole ended her relationship with Jesse in the summer of 2010. When she moved out of the townhouse the two shared in Circle Pines, she asked for police protection. Nicole was trying to collect back rent that Oakley owed. She indicated at the time to co-workers that she was afraid to meet Oakley at his home. When she did not come to work the next day, her co-workers called 911. The authorities found Meier dead from gunshot wounds at the townhouse. They also found the body of Oakley and concluded that he killed her and then himself. Oakley also had a documented history of violence against his ex-wife, including stalking. Oakley's ex-wife had received a protective order against him that was to expire in March 2011. He had violated the order in December. The police found notes in</p>

February 1, 2011	Oakley's home indicating that he was "obsessed" with both his ex-wife and Nicole. The protective order required him to give up his guns. The police found two 9-millimeter handguns in his home when they found Nicole.
Rondy Sorgatz Age 75 Truman February 22, 2011	Rondy Sorgatz was shot and killed by her husband, Carl Sorgatz. Family members were concerned and called police to check on Rondy and Carl. Police officers went to the Sorgatz residence on February 22nd and found the couple dead. The investigation has shown that Carl killed his wife with a gunshot and then killed himself.
Cynthia Hickman Age 34 Brooklyn Park  February 26, 2011	Cynthia Hickman was beaten and killed. Her estranged husband, Henry Hickman, is charged with second-degree murder and attempted second-degree murder for setting fire and leaving their minor sons in the house. Cynthia had obtained an order for protection less than two weeks before she was murdered. When Cynthia sought the protective order, she testified that Henry had abused her for years and had been increasingly emotionally volatile since she talked of divorce. She testified to waking up next to her photograph with a knife over it and said he slapped, punched, and pushed her on different occasions. Evidence shows that on February 26 <sup>th</sup> , Henry beat Cynthia with a baseball bat. He then lit a mattress, threw it on top of her body and ran out of the home, leaving the bat on the lawn and his two sons, ages 8 and 5, in the basement where he told them to stay. The man who had been dating Cynthia received several phone calls from her number. When he answered, the caller identified himself as "Hank" and said that "she's done." The man then called 911. The police went to Cynthia's house, rescued the children from the burning house and found Cynthia's body. The prosecutor plans to go to the grand jury to ask that Henry Hickman be charged with first-degree murder.
Tabitha Lee Belmonte Age 16 Amor  March 21, 2011	Tabitha Belmonte was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Dylan Cox. Dylan was found injured at the scene. He shot Tabitha multiple times and then shot himself. He died the next day from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The shooting took place in the home of Cox's parents where Tabitha was living with Dylan and their seven-month-old daughter.

<p>Dawn Anderson Age 45 Park Rapids</p> <p>March 22, 2011</p>	<p>Dawn Anderson was shot and killed by her estranged husband, Gregory Duane Anderson. Dawn had obtained an order for protection in November 2010, indicating in her petition that Gregory had an alcohol problem and was becoming increasingly erratic and out of control. On March 22<sup>nd</sup>, Dawn called 911 and said that her husband was threatening to kill her. In the background of the call, there was a loud noise and then the phone went dead. The couple's 20-year old son ran for help to a neighbor and they also called 911. Gregory had had his firearms taken away after a 2007 gun conviction and authorities are not sure how he obtained a rifle. Before the police arrived, Gregory shot himself after killing his wife.</p>
<p>Abigail M. Fedeli Age 20 Brooklyn Park</p> <p>April 8, 2011</p>	<p>Abigail Fedeli was shot and killed by her former boyfriend, Aaron Parson. Abigail was killed by a gunshot wound to the neck while she was in the break room at Festival Foods with Michael M. Habte, another employee at the store who had recently started dating Abigail. Aaron, also an employee at Festival Foods and someone who Abigail had previously dated, came into the break room and shot both Abigail and Michael. Abigail had broken up with Aaron about three months earlier. Abigail died at the scene and Michael died later during surgery. Aaron Parson fled the store. When officers approached him, he shot and killed himself.</p>
<p>Linda Kay Norman Age 51 Granada</p> <p>June 2, 2011</p>	<p>Linda Kay Norman was shot and killed by a former boyfriend, Curtis Lynn Larson. Curtis shot Linda in a minivan in a relatively secluded area of Imogene. The minivan was parked outside Our Place Bar. The authorities believe that the two had previously had an intimate relationship. Linda was shot in the head with a .22 caliber rifle by Larson and then he shot himself in the head with the same rifle. There were no witnesses to the shootings.</p>
<p>Kristen E. Sandeen Age 40 New Hope</p> <p>June 5, 2011</p>	<p>Kristen Sandeen was strangled and killed. The Hennepin County Attorney's office has charged her boyfriend, Douglas Manney with second-degree murder and he is currently in custody. On Saturday evening June 4<sup>th</sup>, police were called to the home of Kristen Sandeen and Douglas Manney. Police escorted Douglas to a nearby motel for the evening. The next morning, Douglas called Kristen's sister to say that Kristen was unconscious and that he did not know if she was dead or alive. He asked her to call 911 and told her he was leaving the apartment. Police found Kristen dead on her living room floor. The autopsy shows that she died of strangulation.</p>

<p>Georgia Lee Bogema Age 58 Dayton</p> <p>June 10, 2011</p>	<p>Georgia Lee Bogema was stabbed and killed by her husband, John Bogema. John killed Georgia Lee with a knife, inflicting multiple wounds, including a slit to her throat. The police found Georgia Lee's body in her bedroom under blankets. The knife he used was placed on top of the blankets. John was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 359 months in prison.</p>
<p>Kandace Blaine Dunn Age 22 Cass Lake</p> <p>June 26, 2011</p>	<p>Kandace Dunn was shot and killed. Her former boyfriend, Ross Zangigabo Littlewolf is charged with second-degree murder and two counts of assault in the second degree for aiming a shotgun at two other people. Ross shot his way into Kandace's home at 3 a.m. in the morning, went to the bedroom where she was sleeping with her two children, and shot her in the head. He then went to another bedroom and pointed the gun at a couple asleep there and ordered them to go into the other bedroom to care for the crying children. Ross has a criminal history, including a conviction of felony domestic assault in 2009. Ross Zangigabo Littlewolf was sentenced to 45 years in prison.</p>
<p>Josselyn Bishop Age 19 Henderson</p> <p>July 8, 2011</p>	<p>Josselyn Bishop was stabbed and killed. A grand jury charged her former boyfriend, Damone Tillman-Williams with first-degree murder. Josselyn had ended her relationship with Damone. According to court documents, Damone picked Josselyn up in a car on July 8<sup>th</sup>. He pulled the car over to the side of the road near a cornfield and stabbed her once in the stomach. As she tried to flee, he chased her down and continued to stab her in the stomach. Damone said that the last time he saw Josselyn she was lying in the grass bleeding. Less than two hours later, construction workers found Josselyn. Police and paramedics tried to revive her, but she was pronounced dead at the scene.</p>
<p>Kimberly Paulette Grew Age 51 Virginia</p> <p>August 13, 2011</p>	<p>Kimberly Paulette Grew was shot and killed by her estranged husband, Brian Grew. Brian shot Kimberly four times with a .38 caliber handgun the evening after he received notice that Kimberly had filed for divorce. The couple had separated recently. Kimberly Grew had been home with two of her friends. A call for help came into 911 at 8:02 p.m. another at 8:06 p.m. reporting that a husband had shot his wife. When the police arrived a couple of minutes later, they found both Kimberly and Brian dead. After shooting Kimberly, Brian Grew shot himself.</p>

<p>Laura Therese Hulke Age 51 Linwood Township August 19, 2011</p>	<p>Laura Therese Hulke was shot and killed by her husband, Todd Arthur Hulke. After her employer called the police for a welfare check, the authorities found Laura dead from one gunshot wound to her head. Lying beside her in the couple's bed was her husband, Todd, who had also died of a single gunshot wound. Friends report that the couple had marital problems. There are no police records of domestic abuse. The authorities have ruled that Todd killed his wife and then shot himself.</p>
<p>Mauryn E. Masire-Moore Age 38 Brooklyn Park September 13, 2011</p>	<p>Mauryn Masire-Moore was stabbed 63 times with a kitchen knife. Her husband, Prince O. Moore, Jr. has been charged with second-degree murder. Prince had minor stab wounds and claimed he acted in self-defense. They had been married for four years.</p>
<p>Cintia Guadalupe Ornelas Bustos Age 28 Oakdale September 15, 2011</p>	<p>Cintia Guadalupe Ornelas Bustos was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Jamie Velasquez. Cintia was killed by one gunshot wound to her head. Jamie also killed Angela Uscanga Gonzalez with one gunshot wound to the head. Angela was the live-in babysitter and housekeeper for the couple. Jamie took his own life with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple's three-year old son was in the home during the killings and their six-year old daughter found the three bodies when she came home from school.</p>
<p>Stephanie Jaeb Maxam Age 51 St. Paul October 3, 2011</p>	<p>Stephanie Maxam was shot and killed by her former husband, David Maxam. David shot and killed Stephanie at 8:03 p.m. in a parking lot at Parkdale Plaza. Stephanie had divorced David in 2006. David's body was found later that evening in Minneapolis near 37<sup>th</sup> St. and Hiawatha Ave. S. He had apparently died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.</p>

Renata Fernandez-Ramon Age 30 Ortonville October 6, 2011	Renata Fernandez-Ramon was reported missing on October 6 <sup>th</sup> . The next day her boyfriend left the country with the couple's two minor children. On November 24 <sup>th</sup> , Renata's body was found buried outside of Ortonville. The crime is currently under investigation. Renata's boyfriend is the prime suspect. His name has not yet been released.
Susan Marie Courteau Age 44 St. Paul October 13, 2011	Susan Marie Courteau was stabbed to death. On October 13 <sup>th</sup> , she called police to say that her boyfriend, Patrick Benton, had been drinking and was scaring her. Officers escorted him off the property and cited him for trespass. Later that day Susan was stabbed to death. Patrick told a family member that he needed a "cooling off period" after having a fight with his girlfriend. Patrick has a criminal record that includes assaults and violations of protective orders. He has been charged with 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder.
Megan Sheree Neely Age 27 St. Paul October 15, 2011	Megan Neely was strangled and killed. Authorities found Megan dead in a 3'x 3' cubbyhole in her home. Her estranged boyfriend, Corey Dean Thomas, who has a history of domestic violence against another woman, has been arrested in Miami as a "person of interest" in the death of Megan.
Lori Christine Baker Age 39 Oakdale December 28, 2011	Lori Baker was stabbed and killed. She was found dead in her Oakdale apartment having been stabbed several times. Her boyfriend, Thomas James Fox, had absconded from a halfway house while on a work release permit. He is the sole suspect in the stabbing death of Lori.



**Minor children murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.**

<p>Aiden Joseph Hoyer 4 months Rochester  February 7, 2011</p>	<p>Michael Smith, the boyfriend of Aiden's mother, returned from a Super Bowl party where he had been drinking. He fell asleep in a bed close to Aiden's crib. When Aiden awoke and started crying, Smith shook him, threw or dropped him into his crib, and put a pillow over his face. Emergency services could not revive Aiden and he was declared dead. Smith has been charged with second-degree unintentional murder.</p>
<p>Alexis VanHoutan 5 months Coon Rapids  May 15, 2011</p>	<p>Alexis VanHoutan died at the age of five months. Her mother, Tina Ginter, took her to the hospital on May 11<sup>th</sup> after she returned home from work, because Alexis's father, Joshua VanHoutan, called to tell her Alexis would not wake up. Alexis underwent surgery, but died on May 15<sup>th</sup> when life support was removed. The cause of death was severe shaking. Joshua has been charged with unintentional second-degree murder.</p>
<p>Devin Drake Age 3 Anoka  September 4, 2011</p>	<p>Elizabeth Moorman and Anthony Urban brought Moorman's three-year old child, Devin Drake, to a Coon Rapids hospital on Tuesday, August 30. Devin was airlifted to HCMC and put on life support due to the extent of the injuries to his head. He also suffered from punctured lungs and contusions over his body. The exact cause of death remains unknown. The injuries most likely occurred on Monday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, when Anthony physically abused him. Elizabeth is reported to have delayed taking Devin to the hospital, because of her outstanding warrants. Devin died in the hospital on September 4. Both Elizabeth and Anthony were immediately arrested and remain in jail. Elizabeth has been charged with second-degree manslaughter and Anthony has been charged with second-degree murder.</p>
<p>Mario Maurizio Ruiz Mejia Age 5-Months Pelican Rapids  November 26, 2011</p>	<p>Pedro Mendoza is charged with the killing of 5-month old Mario Maurizio Ruiz Mejia. Medical experts believe that the baby had been abused earlier in light of evidence of skull fractures, fractured ribs, and a broken wrist. The baby appears to have died of brain and retinal hemorrhaging consistent with a shaking injury. Pedro had been caring for Mario while his girlfriend and mother of Mario was working. Efforts to save Mario on Friday night, including airlifting him to a Fargo hospital, failed and he died the next day.</p>

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**Friends- Family members- Interveners murdered in domestic violence-related situations:**

Michael Maurice Habte Age 21 Brooklyn Park April 8, 2011	Michael Maurice Habte was killed by Aaron L. Parson who shot him several times with a gun. Michael was with Abigail Fedeli in the break room at Festival Foods where he worked. Aaron Parson, who had previously been seeing Abigail, came into the break room and fatally shot both Abigail and Michael. He then fled and killed himself when police approached him.
Kristopher Miller Age 27 Minneapolis May 11, 2011	Kristopher Miller spent an evening out with the estranged wife of Derrick Griffin. Derrick was stalking his wife. After seeing Miller walk his (Griffin's) wife to her car, Griffin followed Miller to his home and shot him twice on his front porch. Derrick Griffin has been convicted of first degree premeditated murder. The conviction carries a mandatory life sentence without parole.
Angela Uscanga Gonzalez Age 43 Oakdale September 15, 2011	Angela Uscanga Gonzalez was killed by one gunshot wound to the head by Jaime Anival Almaras Velasquez. Angela was the live-in babysitter and housekeeper for Cintia Guadalupe Onelas Bustos and Jaime Anival Almaras Velasquez. Jamie also killed Cintia with one gunshot wound to the head before he took his own life with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple's three-year old son was in the home during the killings and their six-year old daughter found the three bodies when she came home from school.
Francisco Hernandez Age 21 Minneapolis October 30, 2011	Felix Hernandez-Pedraza shot Francisco Hernandez four times in the chest at a Halloween Party. At the party Felix saw Francisco talking to a woman who Felix had dated in the past and who had invited Felix to the party. Felix has been charged with second-degree murder.

<p>Po Lye Age 40 Albert Lea</p> <p>November 19, 2011</p>	<p>Pah Ber has been charged with 2<sup>nd</sup> degree homicide in the stabbing death of Po Lye. Po Lye was a friend of Pah Ber's 21-year-old son. Po had asked to spend the night. When Pah came home at 6 a.m. after a night of drinking and card playing, he saw Po on the living room sofa. Pah apparently believed that Po wanted to have sex with Pah's wife. Pah is reported to have told police that he was being teased by his fellow refugees from Burma about his wife cheating on him. Pah stabbed Po in the stomach and then chased him around the apartment. Pah's wife, Paw Pree, fled to her bedroom and locked the door. Pah broke in and stabbed her numerous times including several times in her eyes, blinding her. The couple's young daughter was in the bed with her mother when Pah stabbed her. A child led Paw Pree out of the apartment when Pah retreated to the kitchen to sharpen the knife.</p>
<p>Officer Shawn Schneider Age 32 Lake City</p> <p>December 30, 2011</p>	<p>Police officer Shawn Schneider was shot in the head while responding to a domestic assault call. On December 19<sup>th</sup>, Officer Schneider, a 9-year-veteran of Lake City Policy Department, responded to a report of domestic violence. Alan Sylte, Jr. shot the officer as he helped Alan's 17-year-old former girlfriend escape the house. The ex-girlfriend was not injured. Alan died from self-inflicted gunshot wounds. Officer Schneider died on December 30<sup>th</sup> from the gunshot wound.</p>

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## Men murdered by Intimate Partners

<p>James Kelly Omara Age 43 Sauk Rapids</p> <p>October 29, 2011</p>	<p>The last time James Kelly had been seen was October 28<sup>th</sup> when a delivery man brought him a pizza. Neighbors saw Angelina Omara, James's ex-wife, enter his apartment on the 29<sup>th</sup>. James was found dead with a gunshot wound to his head November 1st when the odor led the building manager to enter James's apartment. In trying to locate Angelina, the Sauk Rapids police had contact with the Ashland, Wisconsin, police on November 1st at a hotel in their city. The hotel staff had called police because Angelina wanted to prepay for several nights of lodging with cash. On November 1st relatives of Angelina's boyfriend Michael Pies, reported him missing-they had not heard from him since October 29th. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> officers found Pies dead from an apparent gunshot wound to the head in the hotel room. Police in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, found Angelina there on November 2nd and she was arrested on foot at 2:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 3rd. Angelina has three misdemeanor convictions on her record, including a domestic assault in August, 2007, against James prior to their marriage. The couple divorced in February, 2008. Michael Pies was arrested twice in Cold Spring, Wisconsin after he assaulted Angelina on October 2nd. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, he was arrested again for violating a no contact order. Angelina waived extradition to Minnesota. Her attorney said that Angelina has terminal cancer. She has been charged with second-degree murder of James. The Ashland, Wisconsin, district attorney is expected to charge Angelina with the equivalent of first-degree murder for the death of Michael.</p>
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## **About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women**

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

**MCBW** is a statewide, member-based organization serving more than 84 local, regional, and statewide member organizations, and their additional 42 satellite offices, that advocate for an end to battering. The types of programs operated by MCBW members include battered women's shelters and safe homes, community advocacy programs, criminal justice intervention projects, state and national training and technical assistance organizations, human rights organizations, and homeless shelters and transitional housing programs. Members include 16 culturally specific and population specific programs serving differing communities.

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

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

### **Mission Statement:**

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

### **Vision Statement:**

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

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## **In 2011, at least 34 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.**

### **Remember their names...**

1. January 10, 2011            Krissy Bates, Minneapolis, died as a result of strangulation and stabbing
2. January 21, 2011        Leila Kim Scott, St. Paul, died as a result of blunt force trauma.
3. January 25, 2011        Katherine Marie Pohjonen, Vadnais Heights, died as a result of a gunshot.
4. February 1, 2011        Nicole Marie Meier, Blaine, died as a result of a gunshot.
5. February 7, 2011,        Aiden Joseph Hoyer, Rochester, died as a result of shaking.
6. February 22, 2011       Rony Sorgatz, Truman, died as a result of a gunshot.
7. February 26, 2011       Cynthia Hickman, Brooklyn Park, died as a result of a beating.
8. March 21, 2011        Tabitha Lee Belmonte, Amor, died as a result of a gunshot.
9. March 22, 2011        Dawn Anderson, Park Rapids, died as a result of a gunshot.
10. April 8, 2011        Abigail M. Fedeli, Brooklyn Park, died as a result of a gunshot.
11. April 8, 2011        Michael Maurice Habte, Brooklyn Park, died as a result of a gunshot.
12. May 11, 2011        Kristopher Miller, Minneapolis, died as a result of a gunshot.
13. May 15, 2011        Alexis VanHoutan, Coon Rapids, died as a result of shaking.
14. June 2, 2011        Linda Kay Norman, Granada, died as a result of a gunshot.
15. June 5, 2011        Kristen E. Sandeen, New Hope, died as a result of strangulation.
16. June 10, 2011        Georgia Lee Bogema, Dayton, died as a result of stabbing.
17. June 26, 2011        Kandace Blaine Dunn, Cass Lake, died as a result of a gunshot.
18. July 8, 2011        Josselyn Bishop, Henderson, died as a result of stabbing.
19. August 13, 2011        Kimberly Paulette Grew, Virginia, died as a result of a gunshot.

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20. August 19, 2011 Laura Therese Hulke, Linwood Township, died as a result of a gunshot.
  21. September 4, 2011 Devin Drake, Anoka, died as a result of a beating.
  22. September 13, 2011 Mauryn E. Moore, Brooklyn Park, died as a result of stabbing.
  23. September 15, 2011 Cintia Guadalupe Ornelas Bustos, Oakdale, died as a result of a gunshot.
  24. September 15, 2011 Angela Uscanga Gonzalez, Oakdale, died as a result of a gunshot.
  25. October 3, 2011 Stephanie Jaeb Maxam, St. Paul, died as a result of a gunshot.
  26. October 6, 2011 Renata Fernandez-Ramon, Ortonville, died – cause of death not yet released.
  27. October 13, 2011 Susan Marie Courteau, Coon Rapids, died as a result of stabbing.
  28. October 15, 2011 Megan Sheree Neely, St. Paul, died as a result of unknown.
  29. October 29, 2011 James Kelly Omara, Sauk Rapids, died as a result of a gunshot.
  30. October 30, 2011 Francisco Hernandez, Minneapolis, died as a result of a gunshot.
  31. November 19, 2011 Po Lye, Albert Lea, died as a result of stabbing.
  32. November 26, 2011 Mario Maurizio Ruiz Meja, Pelican Rapids, died as a result of shaking.
  33. December 28, 2011 Lori Christine Baker, Oakdale, died as a result of stabbing.
  34. December 30, 2011 Officer Shawn Schneider, Lake City, died as a result of a gunshot.

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The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women publishes The Femicide Report, a report on women and children murdered in our state, to educate the public about the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse. We report on the murders of women and children at the hands of abusers to direct attention to the challenges faced by all of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together because it takes the entire community to end violence.

The 2011 Femicide Report is compiled from news accounts. Please contact MCBW if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide.

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

