

2017 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT



pcadv.org

This report is dedicated to all domestic violence homicide victims and survivors in Pennsylvania, and to those working to end domestic violence for future generations.



ABOUT THE REPORT

The **Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence's (PCADV)** annual Fatality Report has been the single most reliable source for information about domestic violence-related deaths in Pennsylvania for more than 18 years.

Pennsylvania does not have reporting requirements for domestic violence homicides. PCADV compiles its annual list based on news accounts, police reports, and information received from our **60 community-based programs serving all 67 counties**.

PCADV uses a conservative method of identifying domestic violence deaths. We do not include cases where no arrests have been made or where the relationship between victim and perpetrator is unclear. We count fatalities involving current and former intimate partners; family members; and bystanders, interveners and others, such as former partners killed by new partners or new partners killed by former partners.

We exclude child abuse and neglect deaths because they are reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. However, we include certain child deaths when the deaths are a direct result of domestic violence. These may include situations where the perpetrator kills the entire family or the children/child to harm the parent.

**For more information about this report or
for media inquiries, contact:**

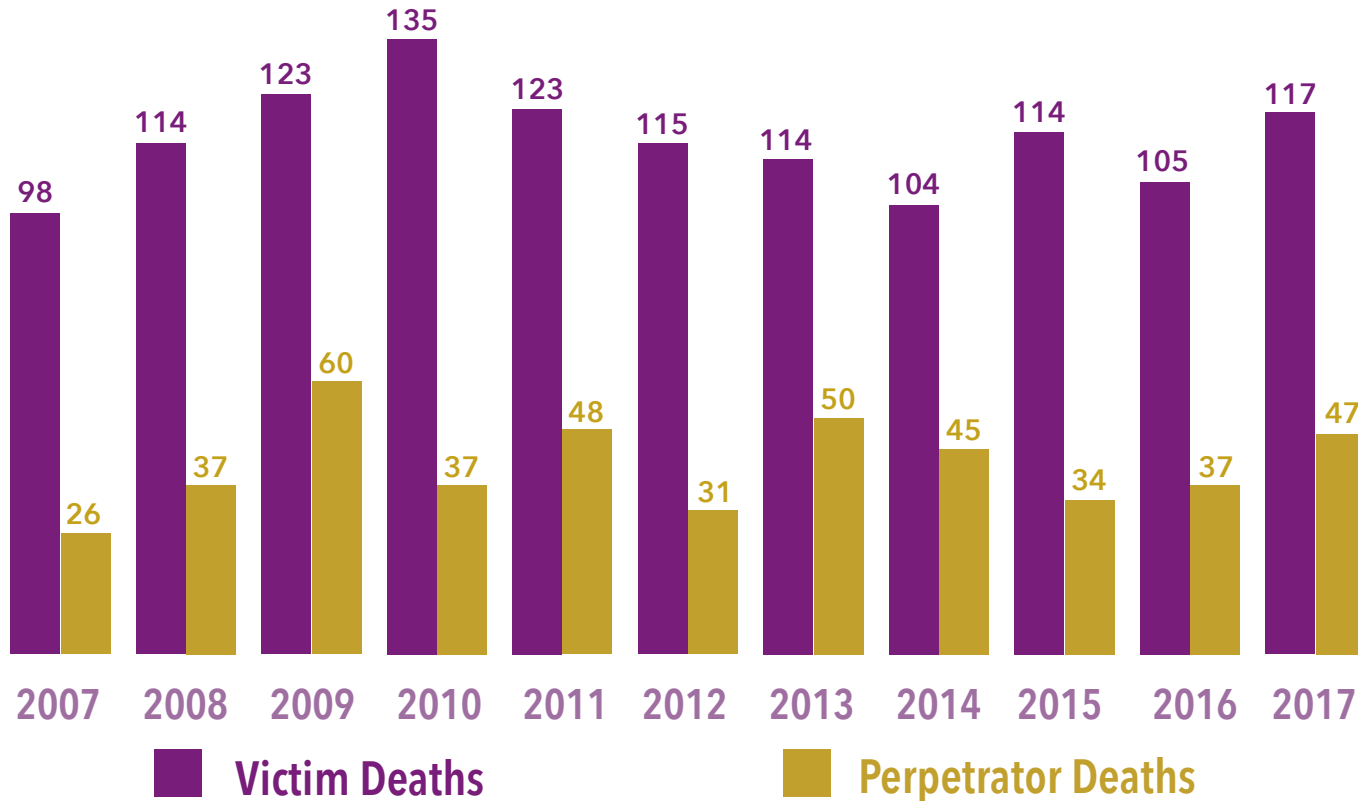
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REPORT OVERVIEW

In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 people have died from domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania. Those killed included women, children, and men of all ages, races, and socio-economic groups. In 2017, 117 people were killed as a result of domestic violence. This includes 78 females and 39 males. There were also 47 perpetrator deaths in 2017.

A DECADE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

NUMBER OF VICTIM & PERPETRATOR DEATHS



2017 VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS

TOTAL VICTIMS IN 2017: 117

78 Females



39 Males

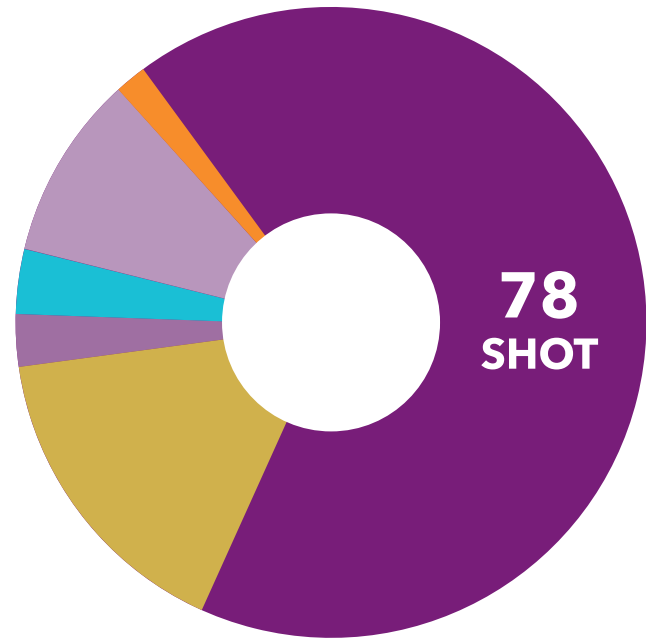


VICTIMS BY AGE



6 Victims Age 1-12
2 Victims Age 13-17
100 Victims Age 18-64
9 Victims Age 65+

HOW THEY WERE KILLED



78 Shot
19 Stabbed
11 Beaten
4 Other*
3 Strangled
2 Poisoned

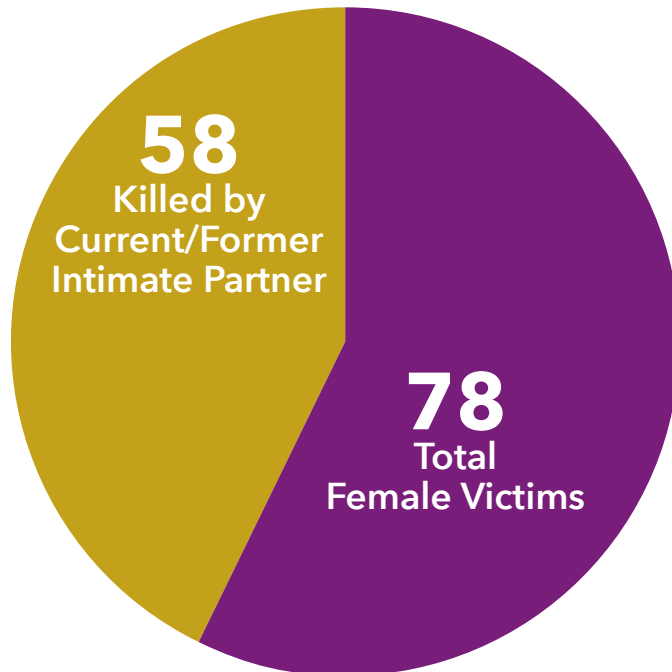
*Other methods of killing included: child burned to death, victim run over with car, victim found in burning building and victim killed by crossbow.

INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DEATHS

Intimate Partner Violence is the most common cause of domestic violence homicides. Among the 117 domestic violence deaths in 2017, 60% of victims were killed by either a current or former intimate partner.

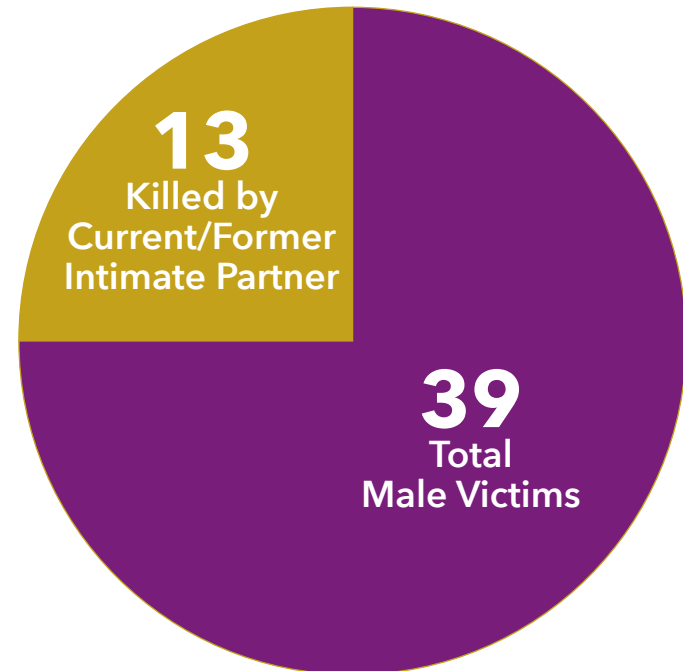
60% OF VICTIMS WERE KILLED BY A CURRENT OR FORMER INTIMATE PARTNER

FEMALE VICTIMS



48 Killed by Current Intimate Partner
10 Killed by Former Intimate Partner

MALE VICTIMS



12 Killed by Current Intimate Partner
1 Killed by Former Intimate Partner

FIREARMS CONSISTENTLY TOP KILLING METHOD

A DECADE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
DEATHS BY FIREARM

2017: MOST NUMBER OF FIREARMS DEATHS IN 10 YEARS



LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM: CONNECTING VICTIMS WITH LIFE-SAVING SERVICES

Police respond to domestic violence calls every day. In fact, these calls are some of the most dangerous ones managed by law enforcement. In Pennsylvania, before 2012, police had limited options in encouraging victims to seek help.

The **Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)** changed that. Now in its fifth year, LAP has helped thousands of domestic violence victims connect with the critical, and at times life-saving services, offered by our network of domestic violence programs.

LAP involves police asking victims, at the scene of an intimate partner domestic violence incident, a series of

screening questions to determine if they are at high-risk of being killed. Depending on the victims' answers, the officer(s) immediately put the victim in touch with advocates from the local domestic violence program.

When developing the program, PCADV implemented Maryland's nationally recognized evidence-based LAP model. We learned that too few abuse victims received services from local domestic violence programs. Research showed only 4% of victims killed as a result of domestic violence had contacted a hotline, shelter, or program prior to being killed.

That needed to change. And it did.

Since 2012:

- There have been 14,227 lethality assessment screens in Pennsylvania
- Of those, 9,761 screened as "high-danger"
- 6,183 spoke with a hotline advocate at the scene
- 63% of high-danger victims accessed program services

The LAP pilot program began with just 12 counties: Adams, Centre, Chester, Clinton, Erie, Franklin, Indiana, Lycoming, McKean, Montgomery, Tioga, and York. The early program had participation from 12 domestic violence programs and 20 law enforcement agencies.

Five years later, the program has grown to include **278 law enforcement agencies and 43 programs in 45 counties**. The growth of LAP has been nothing short of remarkable.

At PCADV, we know that lives have been saved as a result of connecting victims with domestic violence services and we

are extraordinarily grateful for the law enforcement agencies and programs that have participated in the program.

While we are proud of the progress of LAP, we know there is more work to do. We are currently working with the Pennsylvania State Police to incrementally expand the program.

In recognition of LAP's five-year anniversary, PCADV published a report with more information about the program's history and successes, which can be found on our website at pcadv.org.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND MASS SHOOTINGS: A DEADLY LINK

In the last two years, we've witnessed some of the deadliest shootings in U.S. history.

Orlando, FL
June 2016

49

people killed
in a nightclub.

Las Vegas, NV
October 2017

58

people killed
at a concert.

Sutherland Springs, TX
November 2017

26

people killed
at church.

*In each of these shootings, the gunmen were either
accused or convicted of domestic violence.*

54%

of perpetrators of mass shootings had a history of domestic or family violence

A history of domestic violence is not limited to the most recent perpetrators of mass shootings. The massacre at Virginia Tech in 2007 was carried out by a man accused of harassing women. The perpetrator of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting shot his mother four times before killing 20 children and six adults.

In fact, a study by *Everytown for Gun Safety*, which used FBI data and media reports to analyze mass shootings from January 2009 to December 2016, showed that 54% of the perpetrators of these mass shootings had a history of domestic or family violence.

Guns do not belong in the hands of domestic abusers. It's a deadly combination that we can no longer ignore.

66%

of domestic violence homicide victims in 2017 were killed with a firearm

Federal law already prohibits those convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence crimes or subject to a domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms. But we need to go further. Additional protections need to be passed at the state level, making the laws easier to enforce and providing added security and safety for victims and survivors of domestic violence.

Senate Bill 501 would keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

In 2017, 117 people died as a result of domestic violence – and 66% of victims were killed by a firearm. In the past 10 years, more than 1,600 Pennsylvanians have lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a public epidemic that affects one in every 4 people in the United States. The senseless killings need to stop.

VICTIM STORIES

These vignettes represent a small sample of police accounts and media stories related to the 117 lives lost in 2017. These stories illustrate that no age, race, gender or socio-economic class is immune to domestic violence. They also represent its brutality.

A Northumberland County man fired more than 100 rounds at police as his mother's body, whom he had killed, laid in the yard during an eight-hour standoff. The man was found dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. His body was surrounded by dozens of spent rounds, a shotgun and two semi-automatic rifles. A prior criminal record should have prevented the man from obtaining the guns, but it is believed that he got the weapons from his father. The father killed himself days later.

In Lawrence County, a 57-year old woman was killed after being stabbed in the head, neck and body with a screwdriver, by her son when he arrived at her home with a stun gun, screwdriver and extension cord. The son believed his mother had killed two of his cats. He then attempted to kill himself by cutting his wrists and immersing a toaster in a bathtub of water.

A 70-year old Philadelphia grandmother was stabbed more than 30 times by her 29-year old grandson before she died. The grandson had a history of violence against family members. He allegedly killed his grandmother because she yelled at him.

A 29-year Allegheny County woman was shot in the neck and killed by her uncle with his vehicle. The victim's body was found in an abandoned garage. The uncle attempted to burn the vehicle, but was unsuccessful.

A 41-year old man was attacked with a hatchet by his wife as he laid in bed. The couple's three children were in the Armstrong County home at the time of the attack. Police found the wife walking up the street in a blood-stained shirt. The husband later died.

A 25-year old York County woman died when her 35-year old husband attacked her with a sword. She was pregnant at the time of the attack. The couple's two-year old son was at home during the incident, but was unharmed. The husband called 911 and reported that he had struck and killed his wife with a sword. Police found the victim's body on the rear deck of the home.

HONORING VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN 2017

Adams County (1)

Tracy Williams

Allegheny County (10)

Angela Ceccarelli
Christopher Dancy
Dennis Drum
Makebia Morgan
Anthony Nicassio
Bhim Rai
Alina Sheykhet
India Stewert
Sarah Villarreal
Daryl Waite

Armstrong County (2)

George Burdette Jr.
Thomas Snyder

Beaver County (2)

Lesli Kelly
Alan Patterson

Berks County (4)

Catherine Kriebel
Stephen Kriebel
Nicole Monderwicz
Tara Marie Serino

Bucks County (3)

Maria Choo Lin Choo
Helen Lynn Farr
Michael McNew

Butler County (1)

Melissa Barto

Cambria County (3)

Amanda Bennett
Jessie Gordon
Jessica Lunn

Carbon County (1)

Sandra Marie Barndt

Centre County (3)

Jeremy Cantolina
Courtney McGee
Richard Smalley

Chester County (1)

Mildred Abrams

Clarion County (1)

Katrina Seaburn

Clearfield County (2)

Beth Schultz
Victoria Schultz

Crawford (2)

Sarah Schaff
Julie Willey

Dauphin County (3)

Veronica Santana-Costa
Earl Watlington, Jr.
Martha Watson

Delaware County (2)

Nicole Katerynczuk
Crystalin Thomas

Erie County (5)

Pamela Buren
Christopher Feucht
Karen Leclair
Kevin Lucas
Teresa Maroglio

Fayette County (3)

Steve Bricker
James Plance
Tasha May Walton

Franklin County (2)

Jamie Ruth Daley
Kathleen Lange

Greene County (1)

Melanie Howells

Huntingdon County (1)

Kayla Ruby

Lackawanna County (1)

Mary Reynolds

Lancaster County (7)

Bellailani Arnau

Noah Arnau

Hugo Ernesto Garcia-Hernandez

Justin Halstead

Janet Morris

John Teffeteller

Jacqueline Vera

Lawrence County (1)

Lauri Craven

Lehigh County (4)

Dagmary Baez-Arocho

Emily Fatzinger

Maria Santos

Kelsy Thomson

Luzerne County (5)

Lorraine Ambrose

Erik Dupree

Rebecca Getz

Devon Major

Ezekiel Major

Mercer County (1)

Olivia Maria Gonzalez

Monroe County (3)

Morgan McGee

Steven Mineo

Ethan Robles

Montgomery County (2)

Harry Bachman

Annette House

Northampton County (7)

Catrina Adams

Ryan Boomer

Holly Cernobyl

Terrance Ferguson

Mary Louise Mixell-Moyer

Joseph Mullner

Lisa Menzo Santoro

Northumberland County (1)

Penny Mansfield

Philadelphia County (13)

Terrance Corrigan IV

Erica McClellan

Virginia Cruttenden

Raymond Finney Sr.

Robert Girard

Tracy Hedgepeth

Marisol Garcia-Infante

Tavonia Love

Geraldine McCoy

Florence "Tina" Pompey

Robin Potter

Michelle Saint-Aude

Nadirrah Taylor

Potter County (1)

Krystal Howard

Schuylkill County (4)

Diane Bailey

Diane Brobst

Gary Marchalk

Todd Swantek

Somerset County (1)

Brittney Kyle

Susquehanna County (1)

Robert Hubai

Union County (1)

Aaron Boone

Venango County (1)

Sally Nichols

Warren County (1)

Jessica White

Washington County (1)

Loraine Gladys Smith

Westmoreland County (1)

Frances Smith

Wyoming County (1)

Debra Benedict

York County (6)

Ahshantianna Johnson

Collin McGlen Smith

Samantha Stein

Kelly June Williams

Tammy June Williams

Diana Heilner

PCADV PROGRAMS

To learn more about these programs and the services they provide, visit PCADV.org or dial **1.800.932.4632**.

A Safe Place, Inc.
Forest and Warren Counties

A Way Out
Potter County

A Woman's Place
Bucks County

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center
Bradford County

Alice Paul House
Indiana County

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc
Allegheny County

AWARE, Inc.
Mercer County

Blackburn Center
Westmoreland County

C.A.P.S.E.A., Inc.
Elk and Cameron Counties

Center for Victims
Allegheny County

Centre County Women's
Resource Center
Centre County

Clinton County Women's Center
Clinton County

Community Action, Inc./
Crossroads Project
Jefferson and Clearfield Counties

Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc
Philadelphia County

Crisis Center North, Inc.
Allegheny County

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County
Lawrence County

Domestic Abuse Project
of Blair County
Blair County

Domestic Abuse Project of
Delaware County, Inc.
Delaware County

Domestic Violence Center
of Chester County
Chester County

Domestic Violence Intervention of
Lebanon County, Inc.
Lebanon County

Domestic Violence Service
Center, Inc.
Luzerne and Carbon Counties

Domestic Violence Services of
Cumberland & Perry Counties
Cumberland and Perry Counties

Domestic Violence Services of
Lancaster County
Lancaster County

Domestic Violence Services of
Southwestern PA
Washington, Greene and
Fayette Counties

HAVEN of Tioga County, Inc.
Tioga County

HAVIN, Inc.
Armstrong County

Huntingdon House
Huntingdon County

Laurel House
Montgomery County

Lutheran Settlement House
Philadelphia County

PPC Violence Free Network
Venango County

SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), Inc
Clarion County

SAFE Berks
Berks County

Safe Haven of Pike County, Inc.
Pike County

Safe Journey
Erie County

SafeNet Domestic Violence
Safety Network
Erie County

Schuylkill Women in Crisis
Schuylkill County

Sullivan County Victim Services
Sullivan County

Survivors, Inc.
Adams County

The Abuse Network
Mifflin and Juniata Counties

Transitions of PA
Union, Snyder, and
Northumberland Counties

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Victim Outreach Intervention Center
Butler County

Victims Resource Center
Wyoming County

Victims' Intervention Program
Wayne County

Women Against Abuse, Inc.
Philadelphia County

Women In Need, Inc.
Franklin and Fulton Counties

Women In Transition
Philadelphia County

Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh
Allegheny County

Women's Center of Beaver County
Beaver County

The Women's Center, Inc. of
Columbia/Montour
Columbia and Montour Counties

Women's Center of
Montgomery County
Montgomery County

Women's Help Center, Inc.
Cambria and Somerset Counties

Women's Resource Center, Inc
Lackawanna and
Susquehanna Counties

Women's Resources of Monroe
County, Inc.
Monroe County

Women's Services, Inc.
Crawford County

Your Safe Haven, Inc.
Bedford County

YWCA Bradford - McKean County
Victims' Resource Center
McKean County

YWCA NorthCentral PA
Wise Options
Lycoming County

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg/
Violence Intervention &
Prevention Services
Dauphin County

YWCA York/ACCESS
York County



National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.779.7233

National Teen Dating Violence Hotline: 1.866.331.9474

