

2002

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2002

Domestic Violence in PA Claims 157 Lives in 2002

For more than a dozen years, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) has contracted with a newspaper clipping service to chronicle the lethal incidents of domestic violence in this state. Regrettably, our shelves overflow with the visible evidence of this horrific crime.

Despite all the years of documenting the death and devastation, we have not lost our capacity to be shocked and outraged. With each new clipping comes the sad realization that still another person has died at the hands of someone they once loved and trusted.

PCADV produces an annual domestic violence homicide report as a chilling reminder of the consequences of unchecked violence and the suffering and loss experienced by families, friends and communities across this state. The banners across the top of each page of this year's report are taken directly from headlines in Pennsylvania newspapers.

During 2002 in Pennsylvania, you'll see that the victims of domestic violence homicides were toddlers and they were grandmothers. They were murdered as they slept in their beds and as they fled for their lives. They were shot, stabbed, strangled, suffocated, beaten, bludgeoned, burned, poisoned and mutilated.

Eliminating domestic violence from our communities is a team effort that hinges on both our individual and collective efforts to influence attitudes of those around us - from neighbors and friends who witness abuse, to healthcare workers who treat the injuries, the criminal justice system that enforces the law and everyone else in between. Only with this cooperation and commitment can we begin to reduce lethality and restore physical, social and economic dignity for victims of domestic violence.

In the meantime, PCADV continues to count up the numbers and record and relay the grim toll that this violence is taking in our Commonwealth. At the same time, we continue to pursue our mission to end domestic violence - one community at a time, one home at a time, one life at a time. We ask you to join in the multitude of efforts that are taking place across the state to make Pennsylvania safer for women and children.

The Death Toll

This report details domestic violence homicides during 2002, as reported in PA newspapers. Although it does NOT reflect the total number of domestic violence-related deaths, this report offers a strong indication of the scope and lethality of domestic violence homicide in this state.

NOTE: Information about each incident varies according to newspaper accounts.

During 2002, **105** domestic violence incidents resulted in **157** deaths.

WHO DIED

- 126 victims
 - 76 women
 - 36 men
 - 14 children
- 31 perpetrators committed suicide

WHO DID THE KILLING

- 96 men
- 14 women

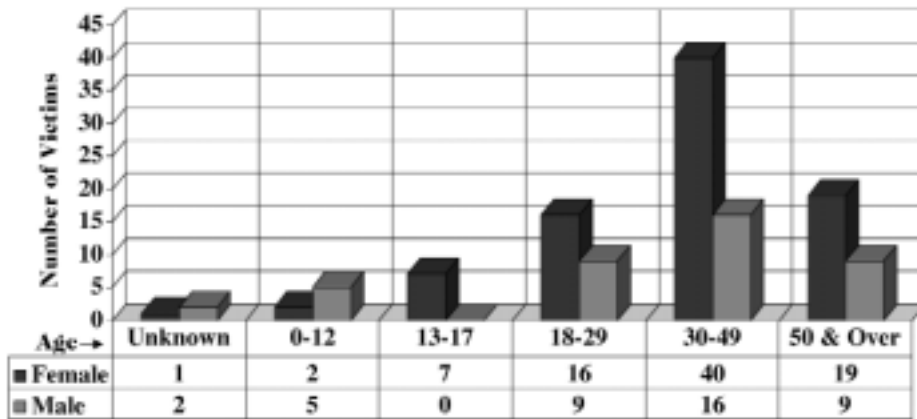
HOW THE VICTIMS DIED

- 74 shot
- 15 stabbed
- 7 strangled
- 3 beaten
- 4 bludgeoned
- 3 fire
- 2 beaten and strangled
- 2 beaten with a hammer
- 2 kidnapped and shot
- 1 beaten and stabbed
- 1 poisoned
- 1 stabbed and shot
- 1 stabbed and sexually mutilated
- 1 bludgeoned and strangled
- 1 shot with bow and arrow
- 1 beaten with a board
- 1 beaten with a baseball bat
- 1 hit with an axe
- 1 shot and raped
- 1 smothered
- 1 poisoned or smothered
- 1 head injuries from forced car crash
- 1 lethal sexual assault

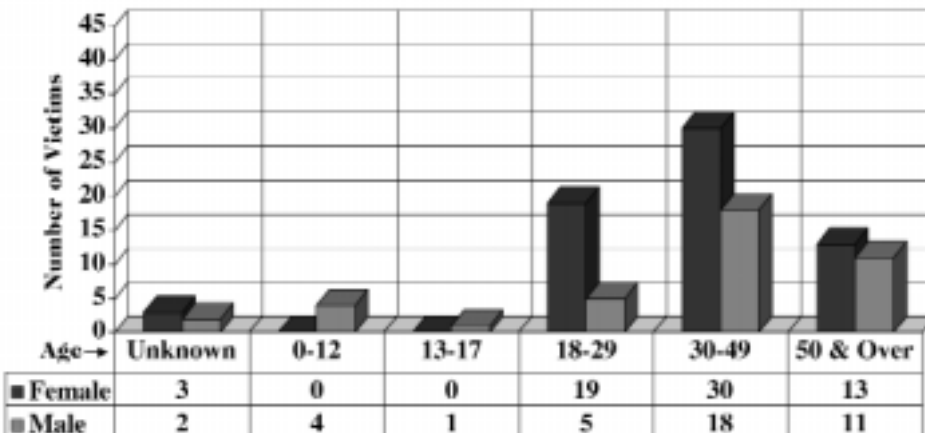
Brutality of Woman's Death Stuns Officials

Age And Gender Breakdown Of Domestic Violence Homicides

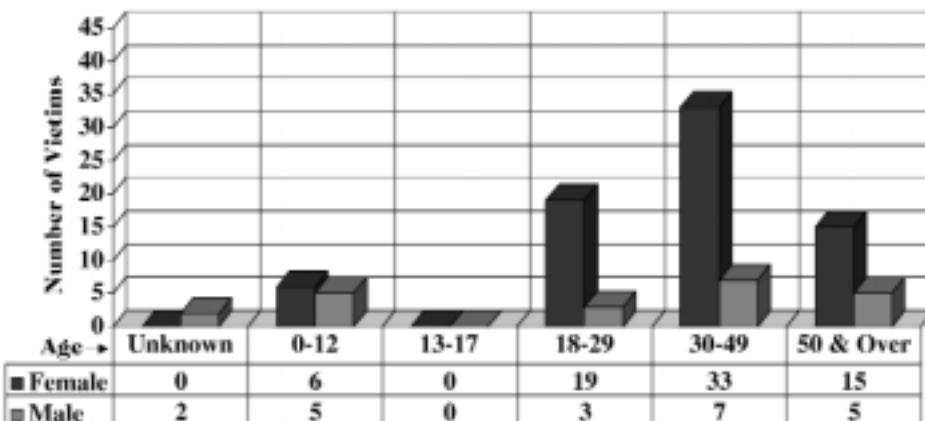
2002



2001



2000



Relationship Of Perpetrator To Victim In 2002...

INTIMATE PARTNERS

- 38 victims killed by a current spouse/intimate partner
- 30 victims killed by a former or estranged spouse/intimate partner

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

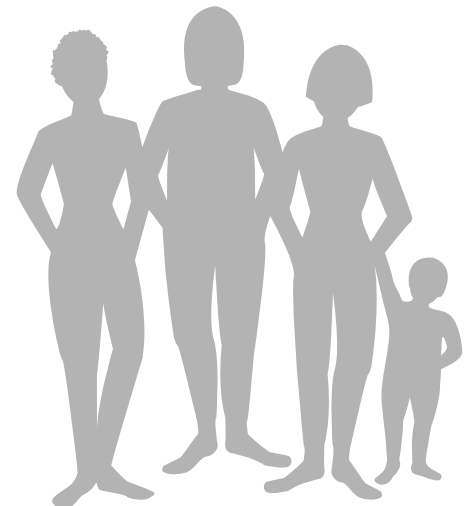
- 20 victims killed by a child, step-child or son/daughter-in-law
- 12 victims killed by a parent or step-parent
- 11 victims killed by a friend's or family member's current, former or estranged spouse/intimate partner
- 8 victims killed by other family members

GOOD SAMARITANS AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

- 3 victims killed by a stranger in a domestic violence-related incident
- 1 victim killed when attempting to intervene in a domestic violence incident

OTHERS

- 1 victim killed by a neighbor
- 1 victim killed by family member of spouse/intimate partner
- 1 victim killed by her/his spouse's other intimate partner



Son, 11, Runs for Help, but Can't Save Dying Mom

135 Deaths In 2001...

From January through December 2001, at least 94 domestic violence incidents resulted in 135 deaths.

WHO DIED

- 106 victims
 - 65 women • 36 men • 5 children
- 29 perpetrators committed suicide

WHO DID THE KILLING

- 81 men • 16 women

HOW THE VICTIMS DIED

- | | |
|--|--|
| • 58 shot | • 1 drugged and strangled |
| • 14 stabbed | • 1 hanged |
| • 6 beaten | • 1 beaten and set on fire |
| • 4 bludgeoned | • 1 blunt force trauma and beaten |
| • 3 strangled | • 1 blunt force trauma to the head |
| • 2 stabbed and beaten | • 1 run over by a car |
| • 2 strangled and beaten | • 1 beaten, strangled and throat slashed |
| • 2 shot and stabbed | • 1 suffocated |
| • 2 stabbed and strangled | • 1 bludgeoned and stabbed |
| • 1 gagged to death | • 1 unknown |
| • 1 throat slashed and set on fire | |
| • 1 asphyxiated and blunt force trauma to the head | |

Relationship Of Perpetrator To Victim...

INTIMATE PARTNERS

- 44 victims killed by a current spouse/intimate partner
- 23 victims killed by a former or estranged spouse/intimate partner

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- 12 victims killed by a friend's or family member's current, former or estranged spouse/intimate partner
- 9 victims killed by a child, step-child or son/daughter-in-law
- 7 victims killed by a parent or step-parent
- 5 victims killed by other family members

GOOD SAMARITANS AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

- 3 victims killed by a stranger in a domestic violence-related incident

OTHERS

- 3 victims killed by a family member of a current, former or estranged spouse/intimate partner

123 Deaths In 2000...

From January through December 2000, at least 84 domestic violence incidents resulted in 123 deaths.

WHO DIED

- 95 victims
 - 67 women • 17 men • 11 children
- 27 perpetrators who committed suicide
- 1 male perpetrator who was shot during a police standoff

WHO DID THE KILLING

- 79 men • 8 women

HOW THE VICTIMS DIED

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| • 48 shot | • 1 bludgeoned and burned |
| • 19 stabbed | • 1 strangled and stabbed |
| • 4 pushed into the path of an oncoming train | • 1 stabbed and beaten |
| • 3 beaten | • 1 beaten and burned |
| • 2 killed by carbon monoxide poisoning | • 1 suffocated |
| • 2 slashed in the throat | • 1 killed in a fire |
| • 2 strangled | • 1 drowned |
| • 2 raped and strangled | • 1 set on fire |
| • 2 bludgeoned | • 1 raped, strangled and stabbed |
| • 1 raped and beaten | • 1 strangled and beaten |

Relationship Of Perpetrator To Victim...

INTIMATE PARTNERS

- 35 victims killed by a current spouse/intimate partner
- 21 victims killed by a former or estranged spouse/intimate partner

FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

- 10 victims killed by other family members
- 8 victims killed by a friend's or family member's current, former or estranged spouse/intimate partner
- 8 victims killed by a parent or step-parent
- 6 victims killed by a child, step-child or son/daughter-in-law

GOOD SAMARITANS AND INNOCENT BYSTANDERS

- 3 victims killed by a stranger in a domestic violence-related incident

OTHERS

- 3 victims killed by a family member of a current, former or estranged spouse/intimate partner
- 1 victim killed by a co-worker

Domestic Violence Death Toll in 2002...

- ADAMS**
- July 12** A 31-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her husband in New Oxford. She was nursing their 4-month-old son at the time. Her husband told police she shot herself. In 1996, the victim filed assault charges against her husband, but the charges were later dropped when she declined to testify. Their two other children were also home at the time of the shooting.
- August 23** A 19-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Mount Joy Township. He then committed suicide. According to her parents, the victim had informed her husband the week before that she wanted a divorce.
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- ALLEGHENY**
- January 12** A 70-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in North Fayette Township. He then committed suicide.
- January 18** A 31-year-old mother was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend in Pittsburgh. The woman's body was found on September 7, 2002, in an abandoned house owned by the father of the perpetrator.
- January 20** A 45-year-old mother of two was stabbed to death by her husband in Pittsburgh. He then stabbed himself, but survived. Their two children were home at the time of the incident. The 11-year-old son ran to a neighbor's house for help. The couple had a history of domestic violence and police had been summoned to the home several times.
- February 4** A 32-year-old man was fatally shot by his brother-in-law in Scott Township. The perpetrator's wife had moved in with her brother the previous October. The day before the incident, she returned to her home to retrieve some belongings. The perpetrator came to the brother's house and demanded to see her. When the victim refused, he was shot three times. Police had responded to several domestic violence calls in the past involving the couple.
- March 8** A 42-year-old mother of one was strangled by her estranged boyfriend in Pittsburgh. He then committed suicide. The couple's three-year-old son was in the apartment at the time of the incident. The couple had a long history of domestic violence. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order in January 2002.
- May 16** A 21-year-old woman was bludgeoned to death by her estranged boyfriend in Mt. Lebanon. He committed suicide later that day. A resident of the apartment building telephoned police to report loud yelling. The police arrived, but could not locate the couple that was arguing. Shortly after police left, the neighbor saw the perpetrator leave the apartment covered in blood, so he called the police again. Friends said the victim had moved to Pittsburgh to avoid the perpetrator, who had become obsessed with her and was acting irrational.
- May 30** A 42-year-old woman was fatally shot by her son in Duquesne. Two days earlier, detectives had spoken with the victim asking her for help in apprehending her son in connection with two recent murders.
- August 28** A 56-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her son in West Deer Township. The perpetrator's two children witnessed the murder. Police had been at the house a few hours earlier and arrested the victim's boyfriend for fighting with her son. They also took the son in, but he was later released. Neighbors reported hearing the victim yelling "He's gonna kill me." and her granddaughter crying "Please, daddy, don't." He fled the scene and was arrested several days later.
- September 20** A 33-year-old man was stabbed to death and sexually mutilated by his girlfriend in Pittsburgh. The police said they had been to the residence several times to break up previous disputes. They further stated that the perpetrator had a Protection From Abuse order against the victim. She is claiming that he raped her and that she acted in self defense.
- September 24** An 18-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend in Pittsburgh. Police state the fight was over the girlfriend.
- November 4** A 72-year-old woman was bludgeoned and strangled by her male neighbor in Pittsburgh. He told police he wanted to have a romantic relationship with her but his advances were rebuffed.



Man Shoots, kills Wife during Breakup

BEAVER	January 8	A 30-year-old woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Ambridge. The perpetrator called police and said the victim shot herself. When police arrived, they observed that she had been shot twice in the head. They determined that the evidence did not support the suicide explanation. The perpetrator later admitted he shot her during an argument.
	July 26	A 40-year-old woman was strangled by her boyfriend in Ambridge. The perpetrator told police they were having sex and she asked him to choke her during the encounter. However, he told his nephew he had broken her neck. The nephew helped him put her body in the trunk of the car. After almost hitting a police car head-on, the perpetrator was pulled over. The police searched his car and found her body.
	October 28	A 40-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her husband in Ambridge. He then committed suicide. Two of their children were in the home at the time of the shooting.
	December 8	A 68-year-old man was beaten to death with a hammer by his stepson in Beaver Falls. The perpetrator told police he asked to borrow money, but the victim refused to give him any. After killing him, he made it look like a robbery had taken place.
BERKS	June 15	A 51-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged husband in Wyomissing. He also fatally shot her 43-year-old boyfriend. He then committed suicide. The estranged couple had been separated for 11 years, but not divorced. Witnesses said the perpetrator pulled up beside the couple's truck in a parking lot of a restaurant and shot the boyfriend at point blank range. He then ran to the other side of the truck and shot his wife.
	June 29	A 21-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Reading. Her 15-year-old sister also was fatally shot. Both victims were shot in the head at close range. Their 12-year-old sister found the bodies the next morning. The 21-year-old mother's three children also lived in the house. The mother's four-month-old child was in a crib in the same bedroom where the murders took place.
BLAIR	September 23	A 44-year-old woman was fatally shot in the chest by her estranged husband in Claysburg. She had returned to their home with two friends to get her belongings. The couple argued and he hit her before shooting her.
BRADFORD	December 1	A 33-year-old woman was fatally shot in the chest by her estranged husband in Towanda. He then committed suicide. Police report the couple was in the process of getting a divorce. The husband's relatives said he had called them, stated he had shot his wife, could hear sirens and was going to kill himself.
BUCKS	January 15	A 68-year-old woman was smothered by her son in Bristol Township. Initially the victim's death was attributed to chronic lung disease. The perpetrator made incriminating comments to his sister, which resulted in a judge ordering that the victim's body be exhumed. The perpetrator later admitted to killing his mother and informed his sister he tried to kill her too, but was thwarted because her bedroom door was locked.
	July 15	A 21-year-old woman was kidnapped and fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend in Middletown Township. He was arrested July 25th in Pittsburgh. In exchange for a promise that he wouldn't face the death penalty, he told police where to find her body. In 2001, the victim testified in an assault case against the perpetrator and according to the terms of his probation, he was to have no further contact with the victim, who was a junior at Kutztown University.
	August 1	A 60-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her son in Richboro. He called 9-1-1 and confessed that he had stabbed his mother to death and then realized she was still alive. He was heard on the 9-1-1 tape saying, "Oh my God, she's still moving." The dispatcher heard "moaning and groaning" as the perpetrator repeatedly plunged the knife into her chest. Police arrived within minutes and found a wood-handled knife embedded in the victim's chest.
BUTLER	September 24	A 61-year-old woman was fatally shot seven times by her son in Winfield Township. He then committed suicide.
	December 1	A 31-year-old woman died of severe head injuries after being thrown out of her car in Connoquessing Township. Her former boyfriend rammed his pickup into the back of her car, causing her to crash. Another man, who was in the vehicle with the victim, sustained severe injuries.



Cops Say Man Used Hammer in Killing

CAMBRIA	June 10	A 33-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her boyfriend in Johnstown. He then took her four-year-old son and fled. He later dropped the boy off at his grandmother's home.
CENTRE	February 4	A 69-year-old man was fatally shot by his stepson in Snow Shoe Township. The perpetrator was having an argument with his mother when his stepfather told him not to swear. The perpetrator then shot him.
	October 19	A 54-year-old woman and 56-year-old man were bludgeoned to death by their son in College Township. The son was missing for a few days before being found in New York. He had withdrawn \$700 from their bank account. The perpetrator had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic. He told police "droids were attacking him and he fought back." He further stated he "hit one 25 times with a bat and the other one 26 times."
CRAWFORD	April 16	A 49-year-old woman was fatally shot in the abdomen by her husband in Troy Township. Her left leg was also broken. The perpetrator called 9-1-1 and told the dispatcher that he dropped his gun, which then went off as he picked it up. He stated that a bullet hit his wife in the leg. The perpetrator took her to the hospital, where she died while undergoing emergency surgery. A neighbor told police that the perpetrator made threats about shooting the victim and breaking her legs just hours before the incident. Further investigation by police revealed she was shot in the abdomen.
CUMBERLAND	March 19	A 39-year-old mother of three was savagely beaten and strangled by her husband in Carlisle. The perpetrator beat the victim 26 times with an iron pestle and then strangled her with a computer cord. The children were in the home at the time of the murder. He reported her missing when she didn't return from jogging. Her body was found in a stream 700 yards from their home the next morning. The perpetrator is a lieutenant colonel at the U.S. Army War College in Carlisle.
DAUPHIN	February 15	A 38-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Harrisburg. The perpetrator had also stabbed him last fall. Police learned that the victim had not reported the first stabbing because he was wanted by law enforcement for an undisclosed charge.
	September 14	A 35-year-old man was beaten to death by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend in Harrisburg. The girlfriend asked her ex-boyfriend to come over and help her evict her current boyfriend after the two of them had fought at a bar earlier in the evening. After the beating, the victim called his father, who came over to the house and found his son short of breath and bleeding from the nose. The father said his son refused to go to the hospital, but after several days of treating him at home, his condition worsened. He later died at the hospital.
	December 24	A 43-year old woman was fatally shot in the head by her estranged husband in Middletown. He also fatally shot his two daughters, ages 15 and 20. His nine-month-old granddaughter was found unharmed. He had recently been accused of molesting his two daughters. A Protection From Abuse order was issued in October. The daughters were afraid of their father and had told police he indicated that he was going to "get them for telling." The perpetrator was scheduled to go to court January 13, 2003, on the molestation charges.
DELAWARE	January 15	A 45-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Ardmore. Also fatally shot were her 14-year-old daughter, her 67-year-old mother and 68-year-old father. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The woman had 9-1-1 on the line, but the call was cut off. By the time law enforcement arrived, the murders had already occurred. Police had been called to the home several times in the previous year. Friends say the perpetrator thought his wife was having an affair and had threatened the man, who was a co-worker of the victim. The co-worker had pressed charges the day before the shooting.
	July 14	An 18-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Chester. Witnesses said the victim showed up at the perpetrator's place of employment and demanded money. They struggled and the victim got the knife away from his girlfriend and left the store. She followed him out with another knife and stabbed him once in the chest.
	November 28	A 30-year-old mother was fatally shot in the stomach by her estranged husband in Darby. He then committed suicide. He had just been released from the hospital where he had been involuntary committed for psychological evaluation. Ten days earlier, police had been called to the residence by his wife because the perpetrator was trying to hang himself.
ERIE	October 26	A 45-year-old woman died from a massive infection to her abdominal cavity after being raped and sexually assaulted by her ex-boyfriend. An upstairs neighbor found her lying in a pool of blood, encountered two men in the apartment and called police. The victim died that night after several hours of surgery at the hospital. Detectives indicate that the perpetrator performed a sexual act on the victim that inflicted severe injuries to her lower extremities, including a perforated colon.

On Her Last Day, Ex Arrives with Roses and Gun

ERIE (continued)	February 26	A man was beaten to death with a board by his wife in North East Township. He was taken to the hospital where he died of cardiac arrest caused by blunt force trauma.
	July 23	A 44-year-old woman was fatally shot in the chest and pelvis by her estranged husband in Erie. He also fatally shot her male companion in the chest. The perpetrator then attempted suicide and later died at the hospital.
FAYETTE	October 19	A 30-year-old man was fatally shot in the chest and abdomen by a woman's former boyfriend in Uniontown. The perpetrator then committed suicide. Police responded to reports of a domestic disturbance and heard people screaming when they pulled into the apartment complex. They heard a woman pleading "Put it down, put it down" immediately before she ran out of the apartment with her shirt torn open. The woman told police she was not romantically involved with the victim.
FRANKLIN	July 6	A 33-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her estranged husband in Fayetteville. A neighbor heard the victim's screams and saw a man chasing her across the front yard. When he realized the man had a knife, the neighbor called 9-1-1. The perpetrator attempted suicide.
	November 24	A 33-year-old woman was fatally shot in the head by her estranged husband in Guilford Township. She had obtained a Protection From Abuse order 11 days earlier.
GREENE	August 4	A 54-year-old woman was fatally shot in the neck by her estranged husband in Richhill Township. He also fatally shot her 52-year-old boyfriend, shooting him six times in the torso and once in the head. He then committed suicide. He had been arrested several weeks earlier for abusing his estranged wife. She had been granted a Protection From Abuse order. Police believe the perpetrator was waiting for the couple when they returned home from visiting relatives.
HUNTINGDON	May 17	A 42-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Mount Union. The police had been called to the residence in the past and were told by the perpetrator at that time that she "would be better off killing him than getting a Protection From Abuse order."
JUNIATA	January 24	A 37-year-old father, his 35-year-old wife and two children, ages 10 and 13, were fatally shot by their 16-year-old son/brother in Delaware Township. Family and police have no motive for the killings.
	October 26	A woman was stabbed to death in the stomach and heart by her ex-boyfriend in Walker Township. Her current boyfriend was there at the time of the stabbing, took the knife away from the perpetrator and called police. The current boyfriend testified he heard the victim say "I can't believe you're stabbing me."
LACKAWANNA	March 31	A 36-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged husband in Jefferson Township. The perpetrator then committed suicide. There was a history of domestic violence. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order in July 2001. She had stopped at a friend's house three days before her murder and left a note saying she was being terrorized by her estranged husband.
	June 23	A 19-year-old woman who was six months pregnant was fatally shot in the face by her stepfather in South Abington Township. He also wounded her boyfriend and beat his estranged wife. The perpetrator later committed suicide. Attempts to save the baby were unsuccessful. At the time of the shooting, the perpetrator was being sought by police for violating a Protection From Abuse order filed by his estranged wife. Police had launched a multi-state manhunt for him when they learned he tried to purchase a gun, but had not been able to locate him in time.
LANCASTER	February 12	An 11-year-old boy was fatally shot by his mother in East Cocalico Township. She then committed suicide. A suicide note found in the house described marital problems between the perpetrator and her estranged husband. The District Attorney said the couple's recent separation likely contributed to the murder-suicide.
	April 27	A 28-year-old man was fatally shot by another man who believed the victim had been flirting with his wife. The perpetrator alleges that one of his friends actually fired the gun. The District Attorney stated that the perpetrator can be held responsible for the murder as an accomplice under Pennsylvania law. Another man, who owned the gun, was charged as well.



Woman killed While Nursing 4-month-old Son

LANCASTER (continued)	June 10	A 32-year-old mother was fatally shot in the chest and abdomen by her ex-boyfriend in East Petersburg. She had recently ended the relationship. After a four-hour police standoff, the perpetrator was arrested.
LEBANON	February 19	A 54-year-old woman was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend in Jackson Township. The victim called 9-1-1 to report her ex-boyfriend was breaking into her home. The dispatcher heard her pleading for her life and then heard gunshots. When police arrived, she was already dead. The perpetrator was apprehended two miles away.
LEHIGH	July 12	A 46-year-old mother of one was strangled by her boyfriend in North Whitehall Township. The perpetrator attempted suicide. Police were contacted after the victim's ex-husband went to the apartment to drop off their son and suspected that something was amiss when no one came to the door.
	September 2	A 22-year-old man was fatally shot by his brother in Bethlehem Township. The perpetrator then committed suicide. They were found several days later by the apartment maintenance man who opened the door and found the bodies after friends of the pair informed him of their concerns about not hearing from the men for an abnormally long time. Relatives stated that the perpetrator was battling depression.
	October 30	A 17-year-old woman was kidnapped and fatally shot on her birthday by her ex-boyfriend in Bethlehem. Four months earlier, the victim ended their relationship after he had broken her jaw. According to friends, the perpetrator showed up at her house with a dozen roses, stating he wanted to be with her for her birthday. When she and her friends said they were leaving to go out to dinner, he asked for a ride to another friend's house. Upon arriving at the apartment complex, he ordered the three friends out of the car at gunpoint. As he drove away with the victim, the friends heard two shots. Her friends called police to report the abduction. Police immediately issued an <i>Amber Alert</i> to help locate the victim.
	November 13	A 22-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her husband in Emmaus. He then attempted suicide. Officers responded to a disturbance call at the couple's home. When no one responded to their knocks, they entered, saw bloody footprints on the floor and heard a baby crying upstairs. The couple's one-year-old daughter was found in a bedroom.
	November 17	A 40-year-old woman was fatally shot in the head by her boyfriend in Hanover Township. He told police she was playing with the gun while they were in the car and it accidentally went off.
	December 31	A 20-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's brother in Allentown. An argument between the victim and his girlfriend over the behavior of her children preceded the shooting. She called her mother and her aunt to come over and speak with her boyfriend. Her brother also came over and was acting as though he had a gun in his pocket. The victim pulled a gun out from under a pile of clothing and said no one was going to shoot him. As the brother was leaving the house, he turned and shot the victim several times. Family members said they were aware that their sister was being abused and that the brother had warned the victim, about a week earlier, to stop the abuse.
LUZERNE	January 29	A 28-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Foster Township. He then committed suicide. Family members said the couple dated intermittently. Several friends had suggested she file for a Protection From Abuse order. There is no record of an order being filed.
	March 13	A 39-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her ex-fiance in Slocum Township. He then committed suicide. The victim's 15-year-old daughter found the bodies when she returned home from school. The perpetrator had a history of domestic violence dating back from 1992-1997, when he repeatedly harassed an ex-girlfriend who had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him.
	July 4	A 38-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her boyfriend in Pittston Township. Her teenage son found her body. The boyfriend was arrested five days later in New Jersey.
	July 5	A 46-year-old man was beaten to death with a baseball bat by a man who had a romantic interest in the victim's girlfriend. The woman had refused the perpetrator's advances a week earlier.
LYCOMING	April 30	A 5-year-old boy died on his birthday in a fire set by his father in Williamsport. Another man has also been charged. The boy's mother and her fiancée were also in the home at the time the fire started, but they managed to escape through a second floor window. A Protection From Abuse order had been filed in 2001 by the boy's mother, prohibiting the father from having contact with his son except through letters and phone calls. Police said the two men came to Williamsport to harass the child's mother.

Suspect Had Violent History

LYCOMING (continued)	July 13	A 32-year-old mother was fatally shot by her estranged husband at a friend's house in Muncy. The perpetrator committed suicide. The victim was granted a Protection From Abuse order the day before, but police were unable to locate her husband to serve him after six attempts that day. Troopers were called to a hostage situation and after a three-hour standoff, shots were heard. When police entered the home, they found the couple dead. The couple's three-year-old daughter and two other children who lived in the home were released when the troopers first arrived.
MERCER	March 10	A 42-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend in Sandy Creek Township. The two had argued at a bar earlier in the evening and the perpetrator ordered the victim out of the house. When she returned to the home later, he was lying on the couch. She got a rifle and shot him in the stomach.
MONROE	March 23	A 17-year-old woman was beaten and strangled by her boyfriend in Ross Township. The perpetrator had a history of violent behavior. After the murder, the perpetrator and his father dumped the victim's body in a remote area. The body was found two weeks later. The father said he feared for his life when his son demanded he help him dispose of the body. His father had a Protection From Abuse Order against him, which he dropped two weeks before the murder, because his son was receiving psychiatric care.
	April 11	A 33-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her estranged husband in Smithfield Township. The perpetrator later committed suicide in a hotel room in New York. The victim had locked herself in the bedroom and told her 14-year-old son to call the police. The perpetrator shattered the bedroom door and killed her while her son was on the phone with emergency dispatch. The victim had obtained Protection From Abuse orders in Pennsylvania and New York.
	November 27	A 56-year-old man was fatally shot seven times in the head and chest by his wife's boyfriend in Stroud Township. His wife has also been charged. Police found a torn-up letter in the garbage can written by the victim that stated if he was found shot to death, his common-law wife and her boyfriend would be responsible. The victim also indicated that he had recently found correspondence between the two in which they discussed their desire to kill him. Police searched a trash bin off route 447 in East Stroudsburg and located numerous letters and cards sent by the perpetrator and the wife to each other, detailing plans for the murder. The wife also told police she stole her husband's gun and gave it to her boyfriend shortly before the murder took place.
MONTGOMERY	May 1	A 47-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend in Norristown. His body wasn't discovered until July 2nd when police officers went to the home to follow up on a two-month-old missing person's report, noticed an odor and found the corpse. The perpetrator was charged with forging the victim's name after his death to give her sole ownership of their house and with forging a notary's name and his seal on several records to make the deal look valid. She is also being charged with forging the victim's name to a request that the couple's son be allowed to change his last name and change the father's name to "unknown" on his birth certificate.
	June 22	A 38-year-old mother was fatally stabbed by her estranged husband in Schwenksville. He also fatally stabbed his 18-year-old stepdaughter. A month earlier, he had been arrested for assaulting his wife and was ordered to stay away from her.
	October 8	A 28-year-old woman was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Norristown. Family members say she was ending the relationship and moving out. Her father reported her missing November 14th, but her body was not found until November 22nd.
	November 9	A 65-year-old woman was fatally poisoned by her husband in Horsham. He then fatally poisoned himself and the family dog. The wife was suffering from an advanced stage of terminal cancer. The perpetrator left a note stating he did not want to live without his wife, nor did he want to burden anyone with caring for their dog.
	December 2	A 63-year-old man was strangled by his son in Lower Providence. The perpetrator also attempted to strangle his mother. The mother told police her husband and son had been watching television and she was in her bedroom. Her son came in and attempted to strangle her. She was able to fend off his attack. He locked her in the bedroom for several hours before she managed to escape and call the police.
NORTHAMPTON	May 10	A 31-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Lehigh Township. He then committed suicide. Co-workers of the victim said she had told them she was leaving her husband. The day before the shooting, a private investigator called her co-workers to ask if she was having an affair. Her co-workers believe that the perpetrator was obsessed with the victim and had hired the private investigator. They stated that the victim went home to confront her husband about the investigator the day she was killed.

Four Family Members Dead; 16-year-old in Custody

- NORTHAMPTON(continued) October 7** A **41-year-old woman was fatally shot in the head by her son** in Lower Saucon Township. Her two daughters were in the home at the time of the shooting. They ran next door after their brother told them he had shot their mother.
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- PHILADELPHIA**
- January 4** A **63-year-old woman was stabbed and fatally shot by her common-law husband** in Philadelphia. He then committed suicide. Neighbors said the couple was arguing loudly when the police were summoned. A standoff ensued during which the perpetrator kept raising the volume on the stereo. A SWAT team eventually entered the house and discovered the bodies.
- January 10** A **26-year-old mother was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend** in Philadelphia. He then went to his mother's house and committed suicide in an upstairs bedroom. The victim's six-year-old daughter called 9-1-1 and let the police and paramedics in when they arrived. Court records show that the perpetrator was scheduled to go on trial later that month on charges he physically assaulted the victim on October 28.
- March 16** A **32-year-old woman was fatally shot by her friend's estranged boyfriend** in Philadelphia. The perpetrator was angry because the victim was helping his estranged girlfriend through their breakup.
- March 30** A **25-year-old mother and her seven-year-old daughter were killed in a fire set by a male teenager who lived in their basement apartment.** Two of her other children, ages three and five, also were severely injured in the fire. The teenager was arguing with his girlfriend and set fire to a chair on the porch.
- April 9** A **77-year-old woman was fatally shot in the back by her brother** in Philadelphia. **He also fatally shot his 56-year-old niece in the head.** Neighbors said that the perpetrator had been drinking when he got into a loud argument with the two women. Police were called to the house for a domestic disturbance, then left. They were called again by neighbors a few hours later to respond to a shooting. The perpetrator waited for police on the front steps and told them that he "just couldn't take the nagging anymore."
- April 27** An **8-year-old boy was stabbed to death by his father** in Philadelphia. The boy and his younger sister were visiting their father for the weekend. His mother was separated from the perpetrator. The victim lived in Baltimore with his mother and sister.
- May 25** A **24-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her boyfriend** in Philadelphia. He later committed suicide by standing in front of a train. The victim's father was notified about the perpetrator's death and became concerned about his daughter. He contacted police when he determined that his daughter had not arrived at a friend's house as planned. The police went to her house and found her body. Friends and family were aware of her plans to break up with the perpetrator.
- July 13** A **60-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband** in Philadelphia. He then committed suicide. Their son had left the house 20 minutes before the shooting and when he returned, police were at the residence. The perpetrator, a retired police officer, apparently chased his common-law wife through the house, shooting her as she tried to exit a second-story window. Neighbors reported hearing five shots fired. Two bullets were found in the stairway leading to the second floor.
- August 8** A **30-year-old woman was beaten to death with a hammer by her husband** in Olney.
- August 21** A **27-year-old woman was fatally shot in the back by her husband** in Kensington. He then committed suicide. A man who lived with them said he heard shots and went back to their bedroom and found them both on the floor. The victim had recently arrived in this country from Vietnam.
- September 7** A **37-year-old mother was strangled to death by her estranged husband** in Philadelphia. **He also fatally strangled his 16-year-old daughter.** Earlier that day, the mother had gotten Temporary Protection From Abuse orders for herself and her daughter. In August, the teen alleged that her father had been sexually assaulting her. The police department's sex-crimes unit had not yet followed up on the report. Two days before the murders the victim had called police several times reporting stalking by her estranged husband. Neighbors also called the police several times the night of the murders, reporting disturbing noises coming from the row home. Some of the calls were declared unfounded and others resulted in written reports. Neighbors called again the following morning to report the victim's front gate and door were wide open. Once inside, police found gas hissing from the stove and the charred remains of balled-up newspaper in the living room. Detectives believe the perpetrator tried to blow up the house to cover the murders of the two women, who were found dead in their beds.
- November 12** An **18-month-old boy was killed by his mother** in Philadelphia. She then committed suicide. Police report that the child may have been poisoned or smothered. The perpetrator had threatened to smother the child in the past. The father arrived to pick up his son and found him unresponsive. Before he could flee with his son, the perpetrator fired a shot at him, missing him. The couple had recently separated.

Woman on Telephone Seeking Help When Shot

SCHUYLKILL	June 17	A 77-year-old woman was strangled by her son in Butler Township. He then committed suicide. Relatives told police that the victim was ill and that the perpetrator had just gone through a divorce.
	August 15	A 22-year-old mother was fatally shot in the head by her estranged husband in Morea. He also fatally shot his 3-year-old son and two family friends, a 34-year-old woman and a 30-year-old man. He then attempted suicide. The victim had been granted a Protection From Abuse order against him in March. Her mother had tried to contact her daughter several times during the day and finally went to the home where she saw the bodies on the kitchen floor. She immediately called 9-1-1.
	November 7	A 44-year-old father of three was fatally shot by the estranged husband of a woman he was dating. The perpetrator lured the victim to a "meeting," where he proceeded to shoot him at close range. The perpetrator then drove to a field and committed suicide.
SOMERSET	July 15	A 51-year-old man was fatally shot in the head by his girlfriend in Windber Township. She then committed suicide. The victim's employer called police after he had not shown up at work for several days. A patron at a local bar, who witnessed the fight between the two the night before the shooting, said they left in a heated argument.
	September 13	A 39-year-old father was fatally shot in the chest by his estranged wife in Boswell. According to records, the two were involved in a child custody dispute.
WARREN	October 31	A 38-year-old man was fatally shot by his father in Grand Valley during an argument at their home.
	November 19	A 34-year-old Warren woman died of blunt force trauma to her head when her husband hit her with an axe. He then called a New York City news station and reported the crime. Police arrested him in Las Vegas two days later.
WASHINGTON	February 13	A 47-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 15-year-old son in Fallowfield Township. He then raped her. The perpetrator was later stopped by police for driving erratically. The police found guns and knives in the car. The perpetrator asked them what would happen if a minor killed someone and then stated that he had killed his mother.
	April 12	A 20-year-old woman was beaten and stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend in Finleyville. He then stole her car and drove to Ohio where police picked him up. Relatives said the two had dated briefly years ago and that the perpetrator had recently been released from prison in Texas. While in prison, he was obsessed with the victim, writing her letters and constantly calling her.
	December 21	A 27-year-old man was fatally shot in the head by his wife in South Strabane Township. Initially it was reported that he committed suicide. The couple had been married only two months and police had been called to the home several times. The victim's sister said he only married the perpetrator so she could get her green card.
WAYNE	August 25	A 54-year-old woman was beaten to death by her husband in Damascus Township. Her husband called 9-1-1 the following day, stating that his wife had been missing and that he found her body in a stream. He gave police two accounts as to how he believed she may have ended up in the stream.
WESTMORELAND	April 19	An 18-year-old man was bludgeoned to death by his brother in Hempfield Township. Another male youth was also charged in connection with the death. After hitting the victim repeatedly in the head with a claw hammer, the pair picked him up and put him in the bathtub. The perpetrator called a friend and asked him to bring over a gun to help finish off his older brother. Instead of bringing a gun, the friend brought his mother. The mother found the victim face down in the bathtub, with the shower running. When she left to find help, the perpetrator changed clothes and ran away. He was arrested later that night. The other accused youth told police officers that the parents were also targets, but they were not home at the time. No motive for the killing has been determined.
	June 20	A 23-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Lower Burrell. The two had been arguing and she grabbed a knife to defend herself. He took that knife away from her and she grabbed another knife and stabbed him in the chest and leg. Charges of first and third-degree murder were dismissed by a judge in August, upholding the perpetrator's claim of self defense. Prosecutors are left with trying the perpetrator on charges of voluntary or involuntary manslaughter.

Man kills Woman, then Himself, as Guests Enjoy Dinner Downstairs

- WYOMING**
- January 6** A 46-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Laceyville. The couple had just remarried three weeks earlier. She called 9-1-1 and said her husband had a gun pointed at her. The dispatcher heard a shot before the line went dead.
- January 16** A 40-year-old man was fatally shot by his stepson and two other men in Mehoopany Township. His wife was raped. The stepson had run away from home and was living in a homeless shelter. He later told the couple that he wanted to come home, but his parents refused because they feared him.
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- YORK**
- May 27** A 66-year-old woman and 59-year-old man were fatally shot by their estranged son in Dover Township during a family party. Their daughter received head injuries trying to prevent her brother from leaving. She allowed him to leave after he threatened to shoot her as well.
- September 25** A 26-year-old man was shot in the chest with a bow and arrow by his brother in Manheim Township. After a five-hour search, police found the perpetrator hiding in a tree. The officers gave numerous commands to surrender but he aimed his bow and arrow at them and was wounded when they were forced to shoot him. The victim was to be married on September 28th. Relatives report that the perpetrator had “mental health problems.”



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6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300 • Harrisburg, PA 17112
800-932-4632 • TTY: 800-553-2508 • Fax: 717-671-8149

www.pcadv.org

PUBLICATION STAFF

Judy Yupcavage, Public Policy & Information Manager
Laura Gardell, Health Projects/Human Resource Assistant
Kelly Harclerode, Graphic Arts Specialist
Amy Ortwein, Public Policy & Information Coordinator
Denise M. Scotland, Communications Specialist