

2003 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2003

Domestic Violence In PA Claims 162 Lives In 2003

For the past 15 years, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) has chronicled domestic violence murders in the commonwealth to illustrate the devastation left in their wake.

Because there is no central clearinghouse for the reporting of domestic violence-related deaths, PCADV relies on newspaper clippings to keep track of the incidents. Even as our shelves overflow with visible evidence of these horrific crimes, we know we aren't capturing them all. Some fatal incidents of domestic violence, particularly those in metropolitan areas, never make it into the media. We have learned that too many victims go to their graves with no public acknowledgement that their lives were brutally cut short.

On the following pages, you'll read about 162 deaths last year: 125 victims who were murdered, many of them as they fled for their lives; 31 perpetrators who committed suicide; another 4 perpetrators who were killed by police; and an elderly couple who took their own lives because they couldn't live with the shame of their married son killing his mistress.

After all these years of writing and publishing this report, you would think we would lose our capacity to be shocked and outraged. But not true.

Consider this:

One woman was shot to death by her husband on her wedding day - what should have been the most joyous day of her life.

Another woman was stabbed 27 times because, as her husband told police, he thought it was kinder to kill her than divorce her.

Still another woman - who was trying to leave her abuser and had just found housing and a job in Washington, D.C. - was murdered as her young son dialed 9-1-1.

What you won't read is the devastating impact experienced by those left behind:

- Children, more than 60 of them last year, who now must grow up without their mother or father.
- Witnesses who face a lifetime of pain for not being able to stop the violence.
- Grieving families who must learn to live with a never-ending emptiness in their lives.
- Victims - thousands of them each year - who survive the violence but live with the physical and emotional scars inflicted upon them.

PCADV offers this report to remember the victims, document the brutality of their deaths and renew our resolve to seek justice and end violence.

The Death Toll

This report details domestic violence homicides during January through December 2003, 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 fatalities in this state.

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

During January-December 2003, 124 domestic violence incidents resulted in 162 deaths.

WHO DIED

- 125 victims
 - 70 females
 - 62 18+ years of age
 - 3 13-17 years of age
 - 4 0-12 years of age
 - 1 Unknown age
 - 55 males
 - 50 18+ years of age
 - 0 13-17 years of age
 - 5 0-12 years of age
- 31 perpetrators committed suicide
- 4 perpetrators killed by police
- 2 family members committed suicide due to a domestic violence homicide

WHO DID THE KILLING

- 93 men
- 22 women
- 1 unknown

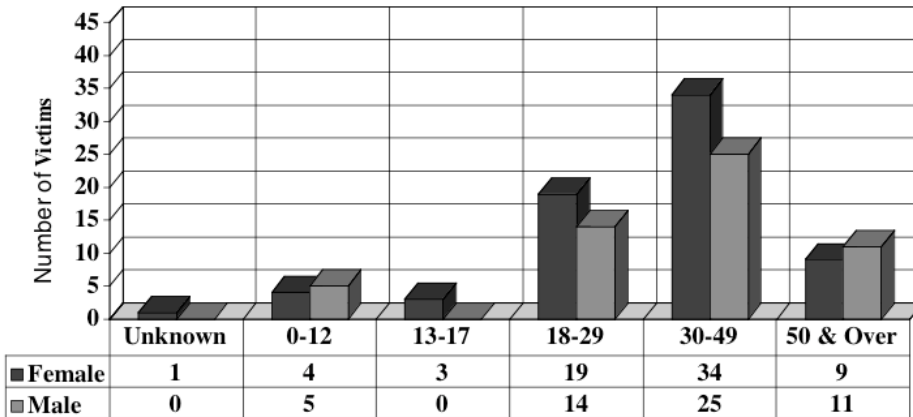
HOW THE VICTIMS DIED

- 53 shot
- 24 stabbed
- 8 strangled
- 5 bludgeoned
- 5 house fire
- 3 beaten & shot
- 3 beaten & stabbed
- 2 beaten
- 2 car crash
- 2 beaten & choked
- 2 strangled & stabbed
- 2 run over by car
- 1 burned
- 1 struck by car
- 1 asphyxiation
- 1 stabbed & shot
- 1 suffocated
- 1 stabbed & sexually assaulted
- 1 fatal injuries from beating
- 1 starvation & dehydration
- 1 stabbed & throat slit
- 1 strangled & lit on fire
- 1 drugged & smothered
- 1 machete, knife & crossbow
- 1 severe head injuries from attempting to escape attacker
- 1 unknown cause of death

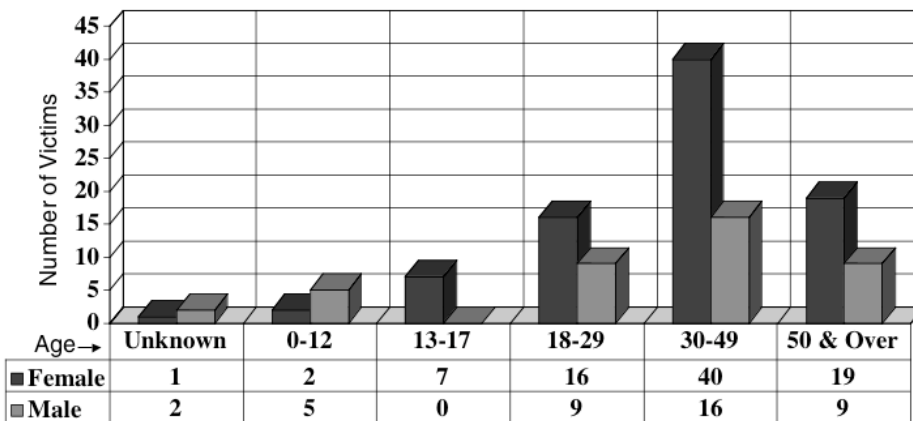
A Made-For-TV Tale Of Murder And Suicide

Age And Gender Breakdown Of Domestic Violence Fatalities

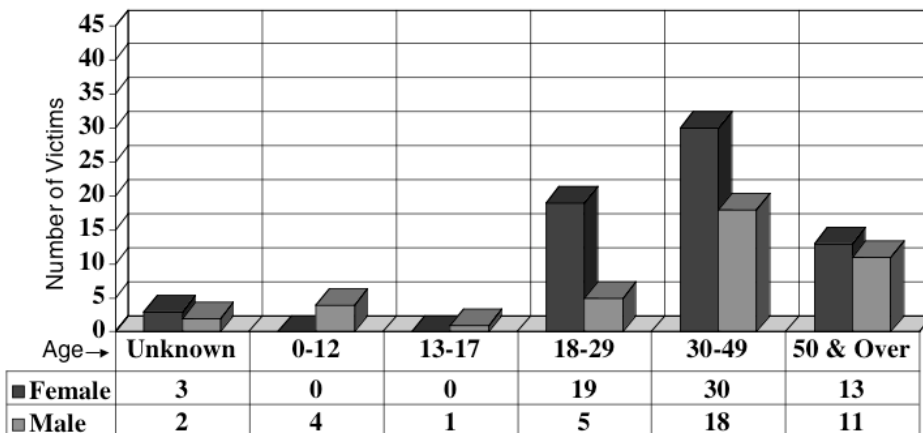
2003



2002



2001



Relationship Of Perpetrator To Victim In 2003...

- 21 boyfriend
- 14 husband
- 13 estranged or ex-boyfriend
- 12 son
- 8 girlfriend
- 5 mother's ex-boyfriend
- 4 girlfriend's ex-boyfriend
- 4 brother
- 3 wife
- 3 cousin
- 2 mother's boyfriend
- 2 sister- or brother-in-law
- 2 nephew
- 2 sister
- 2 estranged husband
- 2 mother
- 2 estranged brother-in-law
- 2 ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend
- 2 stranger in a domestic violence-related incident
- 2 jealous of romantic interest in girlfriend
- 2 unknown
- 1 estranged or ex-girlfriend
- 1 fiance
- 1 children's father
- 1 boyfriend's other girlfriend
- 1 mother's boyfriend's other girlfriend
- 1 cousin's boyfriend
- 1 ex-father-in-law
- 1 ex-wife
- 1 family friend
- 1 father's ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend
- 1 friend's ex-boyfriend
- 1 nephew's friend
- 1 sister's ex-boyfriend
- 1 wife's ex-boyfriend
- 1 girlfriend's friend
- 1 girlfriend's other boyfriend
- 1 girlfriend's estranged husband
- 1 girlfriend's son
- 1 husband's friend

No Stranger To Murder

157 Deaths In 2002...

From January through December 2002, at least 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 | • 1 bludgeoned and strangled |
| • 15 stabbed | • 1 shot with bow and arrow |
| • 7 strangled | • 1 beaten with a board |
| • 3 beaten | • 1 beaten with a baseball bat |
| • 4 bludgeoned | • 1 hit with an axe |
| • 3 fire | • 1 shot and raped |
| • 2 beaten and strangled | • 1 smothered |
| • 2 beaten with a hammer | • 1 poisoned or smothered |
| • 2 kidnapped and shot | • 1 head injuries from forced car crash |
| • 1 beaten and stabbed | • 1 lethal sexual assault |
| • 1 poisoned | |
| • 1 stabbed and shot | |
| • 1 stabbed and sexually mutilated | |

Relationship Of Perpetrator To Victim...

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

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

Domestic Violence Death Toll In 2003...

ADAMS

February 11 A 34-year-old mother of one was shot in her employer's New Oxford parking lot before work by her 34-year-old ex-boyfriend. The couple had dated for five months when the victim ended the relationship. Both were still employed at the same turkey processing plant. The perpetrator pleaded no contest to the charge of first-degree murder and is now serving life in prison.

July 31 A 36-year-old mother of three was shot and killed by her 43-year-old estranged husband in their Abbottstown home. The victim had recently filed for divorce. After the shooting, the perpetrator drove to the York County home of his wife's boyfriend with a loaded rifle and threatened to kill him. A fight ensued and the perpetrator was shot in the stomach by the victim's boyfriend. The boyfriend is not being charged.

ALLEGHENY

January 28 A 33-year-old pregnant woman was pushed from a car by her ex-boyfriend and fatally struck by another car in Coraopolis. The victim and her 35-year-old ex-boyfriend were traveling down the highway in a car. An argument erupted and the victim placed several frantic phone calls to 9-1-1 during the car ride. At some point, the ex-boyfriend claims he "put her out of the car." Another car struck the victim who was lying in the middle of the road. She was almost eight months pregnant with the ex-boyfriend's child at the time. The ex-boyfriend has been found guilty of third-degree homicide and sentenced to consecutive terms of 7 to 14 years in prison.

January 31 A 13-year-old girl was shot in the head and killed while babysitting at her cousin's home in Pittsburgh. When the victim's 21-year-old cousin returned to the residence with her boyfriend, a fight erupted between the couple. The cousin fired a gun in the direction of her boyfriend but the bullet missed him and struck the victim. Both the cousin and her 26-year-old boyfriend pleaded guilty to manslaughter (voluntary and involuntary, respectively) and were sentenced to serve time in jail.

February 8 An 18-year-old man was shot and killed by a 23-year-old man in West Mifflin. The victim was upset because a friend was dating his ex-girlfriend. He and another friend went to confront the woman's new boyfriend, but were turned away at the door. The victim and his friend began to walk away when another man, who was not the new boyfriend, came up behind them and shot the victim in the head. The perpetrator went immediately to police to admit his guilt in the shooting.

March 18 A 61-year-old man killed his 63-year-old wife and then himself in their home in Ross Township. Police found a note explaining the events leading up to the murder-suicide. The victim was suffering from terminal cancer. After she took some painkillers, he placed a plastic bag over her head. She died of asphyxiation. Her husband was found also with a bag over his head.

March 23 A 77-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 42-year-old son in Pittsburgh. According to reports, the victim called his son a "bum" because he was unemployed. The son became enraged, grabbed a butcher knife and superficially cut his own neck on both sides. The next morning, the perpetrator used the same butcher knife to stab his father in the chest. He then dialed 9-1-1 and admitted the stabbing. The victim was taken to Allegheny General Hospital where he died a short time later.



...A Violent End In A Troubled Family

ALLEGHENY (continued)

- March 26** A 42-year-old man was stabbed with a steak knife by his 44-year-old wife in their Penn Hills home. The perpetrator initially told police the victim fell on the steak knife and the couple's son corroborated the story. After an investigation, the perpetrator claimed the victim was abusive and she stabbed him in self-defense. The perpetrator is charged with homicide while the son is charged with hindering apprehension of a perpetrator.
- June 2** A 48-year-old mother of one was fatally stabbed by her 40-year-old live-in boyfriend in Turtle Creek. He then attempted suicide by repeatedly crashing his car into a concrete barrier. The perpetrator had previously rented a room in an apartment building behind the victim's home but had moved in with the victim and her teenage son three weeks prior to the homicide. According to her son, the victim planned to ask the perpetrator to move out.
- June 5** A 34-year-old man was killed by his friend in Carrick. The victim frequently stayed with his friend, the friend's girlfriend and their infant son, paying them \$10 each time he did so. When the victim expressed a romantic interest in the perpetrator's girlfriend, the perpetrator became enraged and used a machete, crossbow and knife to kill the victim.
- June 20** A 45-year-old pharmacist's assistant at the University of Pittsburgh was stabbed to death by her 49-year-old boyfriend on the North Side. The couple were at a public park where they argued and he stabbed her several times in the chest before fleeing the scene.
- August 10** A 25-year-old mother of four and her 4-year-old son were killed in a car crash in Pittsburgh, ending a five-month feud between the victim and a 23-year-old woman who dated the same man. Police stated the perpetrator's car hit the victim's car, sending both cars into oncoming traffic. Three others were injured in the collision, including the victim's 1-year-old daughter. The perpetrator is charged with two counts of criminal homicide.
- August 11** A 47-year-old woman was strangled to death by her 24-year-old son in Pitcairn. The victim's landlord went to the apartment to ask the victim to move her illegally parked car. He found the front door ajar and inside he discovered her body wrapped in a blanket on the floor. When medics arrived at the apartment, the victim was pronounced dead.
- August 23** A 46-year-old man was shot and killed by his live-in girlfriend's 20-year-old son in Duquesne. Police had been called to the house several times to break up domestic disputes between the victim and the son.
- August 24** A 26-year-old man was killed by his co-worker's 34-year-old boyfriend in Garfield. The perpetrator accused his girlfriend of having an affair with the victim and the two were driving around looking for him. They pulled up to a corner where the victim was standing. The perpetrator got out of the car, punched him in the face and fled the scene. The victim fell to the ground and fatally struck his head on the concrete. The perpetrator is charged with manslaughter.
- August 25** A 20-year-old man was shot to death by his 22-year-old brother on an East Liberty street corner. According to witnesses, the brothers were arguing when the perpetrator pulled out a gun. They struggled and the gun went off. After the victim fell to the ground, the perpetrator then shot the victim in the head and fled.
- September 2** An 85-year-old woman was suffocated and killed by her 65-year-old son in Baldwin Borough. He then committed suicide. The perpetrator had been taking care of his mother for five years since her stroke.



Man Charged In Violent Murder Of 13-Year-Old Girl

ALLEGHENY (continued)

- October 13** After shooting his 42-year-old wife, a 41-year-old man threatened his three stepchildren, who barricaded themselves in a room and called police. He then sat on top of his wife and took his own life. His wife survived the attack by playing dead. Nine days prior to the incident, the man held his wife and her daughter at gunpoint but the woman was able to "talk him down."
- October 18** A 32-year-old mother of three was strangled with a cord from a vacuum cleaner by her 32-year-old boyfriend in Wilkesburg. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator, who had been previously jailed for a violation of the order. The perpetrator commented to local reporters, "She made me do this. She kept making me go to jail and I was tired of going to jail."
- October 29** An 18-year-old woman and her 24-year-old boyfriend were beaten and shot by the woman's 21-year-old ex-boyfriend in Shaler. The woman's 27-year-old sister also was shot in front of her 2-year-old son and died six days later at Allegheny General Hospital. The perpetrator blamed his ex-girlfriend for the loss of his job earlier that morning. Police had previously responded to several domestic violence calls between the 18-year-old victim and the perpetrator.
- November 13** A 31-year-old father of two was shot by his ex-girlfriend's boyfriend outside of a Station Square bar. The victim approached a group of people, including his ex-girlfriend and the perpetrator. After a confrontation and struggle, the victim was shot and the perpetrator fled the scene. Prior to the incident, the ex-girlfriend obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator who was awaiting trial for assaulting her and their son.
- November 19** A 34-year-old man was fatally stabbed with a kitchen knife by his 29-year-old girlfriend in their Oakland apartment. Police had previously been called to the residence for domestic violence incidents.
- December 7** A 29-year-old quadriplegic died as a result of starvation and dehydration in Shaler. His 36-year-old sister and caretaker has been charged with his homicide. According to reports, the perpetrator waited nearly four hours before reporting her brother's death to authorities. When detectives arrived at the home, they found the victim, weighing only 63 lbs., lying on a soiled bed with open wounds infested by fleas. The victim had been under his sister's care since the 1996 death of their father. She is charged with third-degree murder, voluntary and involuntary manslaughter.
- December 23** A 26-year-old mother of one was fatally shot by her 46-year-old boyfriend in her Clairton apartment. Police responding to a domestic violence call found the victim lying on the kitchen floor. She was taken to a local hospital where she died shortly after arriving. Her 4-year-old daughter was found unharmed, hiding under the covers in her mother's bedroom. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were involved in a custody battle. The perpetrator is being charged with murder.

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- ARMSTRONG
- August 10** A 29-year-old woman was beaten and choked to death by her 30-year-old live-in boyfriend in Kittanning. Two hours before her death, the victim went with a friend to have drinks at a local bar where she told her friend that she was afraid to go home because the perpetrator often beat her. When the two returned to the victim's home, the perpetrator was waiting for the victim upstairs where he attacked her for "spending \$100 of his money."
- September 13** A 21-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 21-year-old ex-boyfriend one week after she broke up with him. He then committed suicide. Family members say the perpetrator stalked the victim throughout the entire 6 week relationship.
- December 29** A 51-year-old man was shot and killed by his 49-year-old wife in their Apollo home. The victim suffered from rheumatoid arthritis and the perpetrator claimed she was "tired of him being in pain." She immediately called emergency dispatchers and remained on the phone until officers arrived. The family's doctor reported the victim was on medication for his illness and was not disabled or incapacitated in any way.

Killing Tarnishes Quiet Year In City

BEAVER

February 7 A 31-year-old woman was shot twice by her 13-year-old son at their home in Harmony Township. The teen then dialed 9-1-1. He told emergency dispatchers his mother had been shot and then fled the scene. The victim's 15-month-old daughter was found in the home unharmed. Police found the perpetrator walking about one mile from the family's residence. When the responding officer approached the perpetrator, the teen replied, "Shoot me. Shoot me now. I killed her." The perpetrator was tried as an adult, pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and will serve 20 to 40 years in prison.

May 15 A 23-year-old man died from severe head injuries sustained when he jumped out of a second story window in Aliquippa. The victim was trying to escape an attack by his girlfriend's 19-year-old ex-boyfriend. The victim, a senior defensive back on the California University of Pennsylvania football team, and his girlfriend were asleep in her apartment when the perpetrator broke a window to enter the home and chased the victim. The perpetrator fired a gunshot at the victim who attempted to escape by jumping through the broken window. He landed on his head on the concrete driveway 25 feet below. The perpetrator punched his ex-girlfriend in the jaw and then fled the scene. The perpetrator was found guilty of second-degree homicide and sentenced to life in prison.

July 17 A 47-year-old woman was stabbed and fatally shot by her 18-year-old son in Center Township. He then committed suicide. The bodies were found when the victim's husband – the father of the perpetrator – returned home from work. Police found a brief suicide note from the perpetrator.

BERKS

March 28 A 12-year-old boy was shot to death by his 43-year-old mother in South Heidelberg Township. She then committed suicide. Police found the bodies of the woman and her son, along with their two dogs, in the bedroom of her apartment.

April 13 A 31-year-old Reading man fatally stabbed his 48-year-old mother and 29-year-old brother with a kitchen knife. The perpetrator also killed a 67-year-old friend of the family before setting fire to the home and fleeing in his mother's car. The perpetrator became violent after his mother requested he move out of her home. He had been released from jail one month earlier, after serving time on a domestic violence charge filed by his former girlfriend.

June 16 A 47-year-old man committed suicide after shooting his 42-year-old live-in girlfriend in Reading. The victim lay bleeding for 11 hours before neighbors, who heard shots, phoned police. The woman survived the attack but is now in a wheelchair.

June 28 A 50-year-old mother of one was stabbed to death by her 40-year-old husband in Mount Penn. Allegedly, the victim was trying to end the one-month-old marriage when the perpetrator picked up a pair of garden shears and stabbed his wife in the neck, leaving her to die in the basement. Her ex-boyfriend and their 11-year-old son discovered the victim's body.

July 8 A 21-year-old West Reading nurse was fatally strangled with a telephone cord by her 28-year-old ex-boyfriend. The couple met while working together at Reading Hospital. During the police investigation, the perpetrator's co-worker reported the couple had a fight prior to the victim's death and the perpetrator described how the victim died. Investigators had never disclosed the cause of death. The perpetrator was taken to Berks County Prison without bail.

October 11 A 20-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend's female friend in Reading. The victim and his girlfriend went to the perpetrator's house to socialize after a bar closed. The victim and perpetrator argued and the victim punched her in the face, knocking her to the floor. He then left the residence. One hour later, the victim's girlfriend returned to her home when the victim assaulted her. He fled the scene before police and ambulance arrived. The victim returned to his home and sat on his front porch steps when the perpetrator walked up to the victim and stabbed him in front of several witnesses.

Years Of Abuse End With Murder

BRADFORD	August 17	A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death by a 36-year-old male in Canton. The victim and perpetrator were drinking with a group of people at a local bar. When the bar closed, the victim invited 15 to 20 people to his residence to continue the party. Back at the house, the perpetrator watched as the victim argued with his girlfriend and threatened to assault her. As the woman left the party, the perpetrator followed her and picked her up in his car. The two drove around for almost two hours before ending up in the parking lot where the victim was waiting. The victim approached the car and dragged his girlfriend out the car by her hair. The perpetrator then stepped out of the car and a fight ensued between the two men. The perpetrator pulled out a folded knife from his pocket and stabbed the victim. The perpetrator fled the scene but later surrendered to police without incident. He has been charged with homicide and aggravated assault.
	October 24	A 34-year-old Athens man was fatally shot by his 59-year-old former father-in-law in Warren Township. Upon arriving at his ex-wife's home to pick up his children for visitation, the victim got out of the car and approached the house. The perpetrator opened the front door of the home and began firing shots at the victim and his pick-up truck which held the victim's current wife and a friend. The perpetrator then drove to a sheriff's deputy's home to admit to the shooting.
BUCKS	December 1	A 55-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 22-year-old son in Bensalem. Police responded to many domestic violence calls at the house and the perpetrator had a history of violence and substance abuse.
	December 29	A 42-year-old mother of two was beaten and stabbed by her 39-year-old boyfriend in her Upper Southampton workplace after her colleagues had gone home. According to reports, the victim was attempting to break off their 10-year affair. The perpetrator went home and admitted the killing to his wife, who helped him clean the cuts on his hand from struggling with the victim. The perpetrator and his wife then went to the victim's house with friends to console the victim's husband. When questioned by police, the perpetrator's wife said her husband was shopping with her at the time of the murder, but store surveillance tapes showed the wife was shopping alone. On January 7, 2004, the perpetrator and his father flew to Europe to escape further questioning by authorities; however, the father returned to the United States. Six days later, when police went to question the perpetrator's parents about the whereabouts of their son, they found the bodies of the 66-year-old man and his 63-year-old wife, who had slit their wrists. The suicide note stated they could not live with the disgrace of their son's conduct. After an 11-day international manhunt, authorities captured the perpetrator in Grenoble, a city in the French Alps, where he refused to voluntarily return to the United States. In April, while awaiting extradition in a French prison, he committed suicide. His wife is being charged with hindering apprehension and prosecution, a felony.
CAMBRIA	June 6	A 32-year-old mother of one was shot to death after turning down her 31-year-old boyfriend's marriage proposal in Paint Borough. The perpetrator then drove home and committed suicide. The victim's 6-year-old daughter had been sent to the neighbor's house during the argument.
	July 30	A 42-year-old mother of four was brutally beaten and choked to death by her 36-year-old live-in boyfriend in the same Prospect home they shared with his wife and teenage son. A warrant had been issued for the perpetrator's arrest 50 days earlier for assaulting the victim. The warrant was never served.
CARBON	March 6	A 65-year-old man was shot and killed by his 26-year-old son in Penn Forest Township. The perpetrator then committed suicide.
CENTRE	June 12	A 65-year-old woman was beaten to death by her 66-year-old husband in Spring Mills. The couple's daughter came home from work to find her father punching her mother in the front yard. She was unable to intervene, so she retrieved a porcelain jug from inside the home and struck her father with it. She was then able to get her mother into the home, where the two locked themselves in the bathroom waiting for police to arrive. Using a rock, the perpetrator broke a hole in the door and continued his attack. The daughter ran from the home to find help, but to no avail. Police found the victim's body in the bathroom where she was pronounced dead at the scene. A court-appointed psychiatrist declared the perpetrator competent to stand trial.

Eight-Year-Old Boy Dies As A Result Of Love Triangle

CHESTER	June 23	A 58-year-old man was fatally shot by his 48-year-old brother in West Bradford Township. The perpetrator called his son to confess he did "something terrible." He then committed suicide. The two brothers and the perpetrator's wife had been living together with their ailing 82-year-old father and were arguing over his care.
	June 27	A 30-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 30-year-old wife in Coatesville. The perpetrator's 19-year-old boyfriend is also charged in connection with the crime. Police were called to the residence for a burglary and found the perpetrator in the home with her hands loosely bound by a cell phone charging cord. She alleged that two men broke into the home demanding money, tied her hands and stabbed her husband. The couple's two children were also found in the home unharmed.
	December 21	A 37-year-old mother of one was fatally shot by her 43-year-old ex-boyfriend in Pocopson Township. The victim's 18-year-old daughter witnessed the murder. Police found the perpetrator across the street from the home. He surrendered without incident.
CLINTON	April 26	A 35-year-old mother of two was beaten and fatally shot by her 34-year-old husband on their wedding day in Mill Hall. He then committed suicide. The couple was married earlier that day and began to argue at their small reception. Upon returning to their home eight hours later, the perpetrator retrieved a gun from his truck in the driveway and shot his new wife as she stood in the doorway.
CUMBERLAND	January 10	A 27-year-old man hired a hit man to kill his 28-year-old wife in East Pennsboro. The husband admitted planning his wife's murder to receive more than \$100,000 as beneficiary of her life insurance policy. The husband wanted the money to finance a horror film he and the hit man were creating. He also helped the hit man remove a diamond ring, other jewelry and cash from the home in an attempt to receive money from the homeowner's insurance policy. The victim was found strangled and stabbed in the garage. According to the district attorney, the perpetrator thought it was "kinder to kill her" than divorce his wife. Both the hitman and husband pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. They will serve life in prison without parole and pay more than \$9,000 to the victim's family for funeral expenses.
	April 14	A 26-year-old mother of two was fatally stabbed by her 34-year-old ex-boyfriend in Plainfield. The victim had been living with her mother and was returning home after work when the perpetrator jumped out and stabbed her several times in the back and side, and slashed her neck. He then took the victim's car and cell phone and fled. He phoned her employer to explain that he stabbed her and stated she wouldn't be returning to work for awhile. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator that expired in September and she was in the process of obtaining a new order. The victim and perpetrator were in a custody dispute over their 3-year-old son. The perpetrator had a history of violence; he had been convicted once for assaulting the victim and once for assaulting another woman. The perpetrator has been sentenced to life without the possibility of parole and fined approximately \$4,600 to cover funeral costs.
DAUPHIN	December 10	A 24-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 22-year-old girlfriend in their Harrisburg apartment. He had just begun the relationship with her. After arguing for most of the afternoon, the victim left the apartment but returned minutes later. As he entered the apartment, the woman stabbed him.
	December 23	A 46-year-old father of two committed suicide after shooting his 41-year-old estranged wife in Lower Paxton Township. The woman survived the attack. Police report the man and woman were due in court for a custody hearing later that same day.
DELAWARE	May 23	A Ridley Township woman was fatally shot in her apartment by her 29-year-old ex-boyfriend. The victim was shot in her kitchen, but made her way into the hallway of the apartment building where she was found. She had recently graduated from pharmacy school.
	June 5	A 52-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her son at her home in Exeter Township. He also shot and killed the family dog.

Rash Of Domestic Violence Killings Lack "Rhyme Or Reason"

- DELAWARE (continued) June 25** A 54-year-old mother of two was bludgeoned to death by her 40-year-old husband at their home in Bethel Township. The victim was talking on the phone and using the computer when her husband struck her repeatedly on the head with a claw hammer. According to relatives, the couple was arguing over family finances.
- November 15** A 31-year-old Chester Township man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend. The man was asleep at his girlfriend's home when they awoke to a sound like a window breaking. As the victim descended the stairs to investigate the noise, the perpetrator shot him. The perpetrator then told his ex-girlfriend, "I should do you, too" and left the house.
-
- ERIE**
- May 24** A 62-year-old mother of three was beaten and stabbed to death by her 71-year-old husband in Millcreek Township. He then dragged his wife across the kitchen floor, waited a few hours and called his stepdaughter to report her mother's death. According to reports, the perpetrator suffers from dementia and lingering symptoms from a stroke and does not remember attacking his wife.
- June 8** A 27-year-old mother of three was stabbed to death by her 25-year-old boyfriend at her home in Erie. The victim's 17-year-old cousin was asleep in the home when he heard a struggle as the perpetrator tried to rape the victim and stabbed her multiple times. The victim's cousin tried to intervene and was stabbed in the hand. When police arrived, the victim identified her attacker before she died.
- August 12** A 45-year-old man was shot and killed by his 54-year-old girlfriend in her Erie home. The perpetrator then called her ex-fiance to help clean up the murder scene and dispose of the body. The man helped hide the body in a chest freezer in his garage. One month later, the perpetrator purchased an ice chipper to cut up the body. That same day, the ex-fiance called police to report the murder. The perpetrator had been acquitted of murder charges in 1988 in the death of her then-boyfriend.
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- FAYETTE**
- May 3** A 13-year-old female was burned to death by her 20-year-old cousin in Normalville. The perpetrator alleged that he and the teenager had smoked marijuana and walked together to a nearby junkyard owned by the victim's family. They entered a van where they then smoked crack and had sex. The perpetrator panicked when the victim became unresponsive and he set fire to the seat where she was sitting. Police did not find a trace of any drug in the victim's system.
- May 6** A 43-year-old woman was shot in the head by her 55-year-old husband in Upper Tyrone Township. Two nights before the incident, the victim called her daughter, as the perpetrator held a gun to her head, to say goodbye to her and her children. The couple continued arguing through the weekend. At some point, the victim pulled into their driveway and the perpetrator shot in the direction of his wife. The perpetrator claims he wanted to shoot over the car, but hit the driver's side windshield, killing her. He then called his daughter to explain what he had done and she kept him on the phone until the police arrived. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against her husband that had expired.
- September 14** A 76-year-old man died of acute smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning as a result of a fire in Uniontown. The blaze was set by a 29-year-old man attempting to kill his wife who lived in the complex. The victim was staying overnight in a neighboring apartment. The perpetrator was out of jail on bond in connection with a burglary case.
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- LACKAWANNA**
- January 28** A 40-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 21-year-old boyfriend. The perpetrator claimed he was defending himself against the victim's abuse. He called police to report he had been stabbed by his boyfriend and, initially, police issued a warrant for the arrest of the victim who was missing. One week prior to the stabbing, the couple's counselor asked them to take a 30-day break from the relationship due to its violent nature. Friends say the two had split up three days prior to the incident. The victim's body was found submerged in water near the shoreline of a lake between the 16th and 17th holes of Glenmaura Golf Course on March 12th. According to police, the victim could have survived his injuries had he been found earlier. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and faces up to 20 years in prison.

Murder-Suicide Shocker; Couple Dead In Somerset

LACKAWANNA (continued) April 15

A 43-year-old mother of two was shot by her estranged husband in Throop. He then committed suicide. The couple had been separated for approximately one week when he followed her and a friend in a car from the grocery store to a driveway. He parked behind them, got out of the car to argue with his estranged wife and threatened to kill her. He pulled out a gun, shot her and then turned the gun on himself.

LANCASTER

August 22

Four children - 10-year-old boy, 9-year-old boy, 7-year-old girl and 4-year-old girl - were killed in a house fire started by their mother's 34-year-old ex-boyfriend in Lancaster. The mother and her current boyfriend were watching television in a second-floor bedroom when they smelled smoke. They jumped from the window to escape flames and were unable to get back in to rescue the children who were asleep in their second-floor bedrooms. The perpetrator was released from prison two weeks prior to the deaths and had tried to reconcile unsuccessfully with the victims' mother. He has been charged with homicide and waived his preliminary hearing.

December 1

A 35-year-old Lancaster man was stabbed to death by his female friend's 45-year-old boyfriend. The victim and the woman were talking in a car parked outside her home. According to reports, the victim tried to hit the woman but she ran away screaming. Upon hearing her screams, the woman's boyfriend ran to her aid. During the fight that followed, the woman's boyfriend pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim. The perpetrator has been charged with homicide.

LEHIGH

April 2

A 27-year-old woman was fatally shot in the back of the head by her 26-year-old ex-boyfriend in their Allentown apartment. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The victim was taken to Lehigh Valley Hospital where she died 11 hours later. The victim's two children from a previous relationship, the couple's 3-year-old son and the victim's nephew were also in the apartment at the time of the shooting. The victim's 9-year-old daughter witnessed the shooting and ran downstairs shouting to neighbors, "He shot my mommy!" The neighbors heard the couple arguing about their recent breakup and overheard the perpetrator stating, "If I can't have you, no one else will."

December 23

A 51-year-old Lynn Township man was fatally shot by police responding to a domestic violence call. After pointing a gun at his wife and threatening to kill her, the man stated he did not like police and would not go peacefully into custody. He then barricaded himself in his home. Four hours later, the man opened a side door and pointed a handgun at an officer approximately 30 yards away. The officer fired one shot at the man, killing him. An investigation determined the shooting was justified. Police had been called to the house two days earlier for a domestic violence incident.

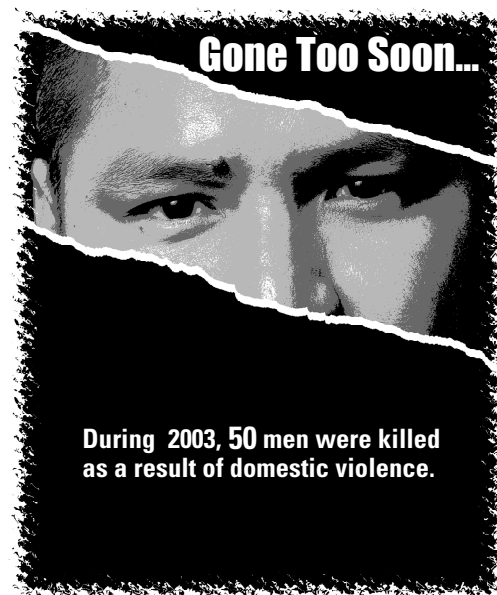
LUZERNE

January 1

A 33-year-old mother of one was strangled to death by her 25-year-old live-in boyfriend in Wilkes-Barre. The victim was six months pregnant at the time. Five days later, the perpetrator turned himself in to authorities. The woman's body was found on January 6 lying in the closet of their apartment. Her wrists and ankles were bound with duct tape while another piece of duct tape covered her mouth. The perpetrator had a criminal history that included burglary, theft, receiving stolen property and carrying a firearm without a license.

August 20

A 36-year-old man was shot and killed in Mocanaqua by police officers responding to a violation of a Protection From Abuse order. According to police, the perpetrator violently swung a metal rake at the officers, injuring one trooper and provoking the other to shoot him in the chest.



Man Guilty Of Murdering Pregnant Girlfriend

LUZERNE (continued)

September 10 A 32-year-old man was bludgeoned to death by his 22-year-old nephew and the nephew's 20-year-old friend.

A warrant had been issued for the arrest of the nephew for late child support payments but was never served. Days before his death, the victim and nephew engaged in a fist fight outside the victim's house. Allegedly, the nephew walked away muttering, "I'll kill that bastard one of these days."

MONROE

April 19

A 40-year-old man and his 37-year-old wife were shot and killed by their 42-year-old estranged brother-in-law in Pocono Lake. He then kidnapped their 13-year-old daughter. Police issued an Amber Alert and apprehended the perpetrator. He released the 13-year-old after a four-hour standoff. The parents had called Pocono Mountain police twice in the month prior to their killing – once to report a sexually-explicit letter written by the perpetrator to their daughter and once when they caught their 13-year-old daughter in the back of the perpetrator's truck. Just a few hours before the murders, police informed the perpetrator that charges had been filed against him for the letter. The perpetrator had a history of violence and a criminal background that included shooting at a couple in a parking lot, cruelty to a child and assault on a former friend.

October 25

An 88-year-old man was bludgeoned to death with sharp objects by his 59-year-old sister-in-law in Stroud Township. The perpetrator had been staying with the victim in his home. The victim was found by his daughter who lived next door and she phone police. When police arrived at the residence, they found the perpetrator locked in an upstairs bedroom, pretending to be unconscious. She is charged with homicide.

MONTGOMERY

March 18

A 23-year-old woman and her 4-year-old daughter were strangled to death simultaneously by the woman's 23-year-old live-in boyfriend in Towamencin Township. The perpetrator claims to have squeezed the victims, one in each hand, until they became quiet. He then fell asleep with the woman's body next to him. He awoke the next morning, hid the bodies in closets, called several relatives to confess and ate rat poison in a suicide attempt. He then dialed 9-1-1. Upon arrival at the apartment, the perpetrator directed police to the closets where both bodies were found. The perpetrator confessed to murdering the two victims over an argument of previous love affairs. He had a history of criminal convictions and police were called to the apartment for incidents several times during the two months prior to the murders.

September 5

A 40-year-old father was shot and killed by his girlfriend's 40-year-old estranged husband in Pottstown. The victim and his girlfriend were having a drink at a local tavern when they heard a crash. The perpetrator had driven his pick-up truck into the side of the building. When the victim went outside to check the damage, the perpetrator chased him with a revolver and shot him twice. The perpetrator then entered the bar and shot the gun at his estranged wife, pulling the trigger four or five times, but it did not fire. He then began beating his estranged wife when a bartender intervened and hit the perpetrator over the head. The perpetrator and his wife had separated three months earlier. In a note to friends, the perpetrator apologized for what he was about to do and stated he "couldn't live without his wife." He has been charged with first- and third-degree murder.

September 27 A 50-year-old man was stabbed in the chest with a steak knife by his 49-year-old girlfriend in

Norristown. She was found lying on top of the victim. According to police, the perpetrator claimed a man entered the room, stabbed the victim and knocked her unconscious, but she later changed her story. The perpetrator was found guilty and sentenced to 6 to 12 years in prison, despite pleas for leniency by the victim's family.

NORTHAMPTON

March 18

A 37-year-old man was run over by a car driven by his 33-year-old girlfriend in Plainfield Township. The couple went bowling earlier in the evening and planned to stay overnight in a local motel. The woman went to the front desk to speak to a motel worker and, upon return to the room, found she was locked out. She got into her car and the victim jumped onto its hood. The woman kept driving and the victim fell off of the car. The perpetrator stated she didn't know where the victim landed and didn't think she hit him. Police found fragments of blood and hair on the underside of the vehicle. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and will serve a sentence of 9 to 23 months in prison.

Duo Bought Equipment To Chop Up Body

- NORTHAMPTON (continued) October 1** A 47-year-old father of five set himself on fire in the Bethlehem apartment building in which his family resided. Nine days earlier a judge granted a temporary Protection From Abuse order prohibiting the man from going near his family. The man's wife was seeking full custody of the three youngest children. The man's death has been ruled a suicide and the three-alarm fire displaced 48 people, including 15 children. Prior to the apartment fire, the man lost his job at a restaurant and he was under investigation for setting fire to it, as well.
- December 21** A 56-year-old man was bludgeoned to death with an aluminum bat by his 50-year-old girlfriend in their Bethlehem home. Believing she only rendered him unconscious, the perpetrator climbed into bed next to the victim and went to sleep. After returning home from a baby shower the next evening, the perpetrator tried to wake the victim without success. She has been charged with criminal homicide and may be facing a first-degree murder charge and the death penalty.
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- PERRY May 2** A 44-year-old man burned to death when his car exploded in the town square of New Bloomfield. Investigators believe he was trying to kill his wife who worked at a nearby pharmacy. He allegedly loaded his car with six containers of gasoline and lit his car on fire several blocks away from the building in which his wife worked. Earlier that day, the man had been served with divorce papers which indicated his wife was seeking custody of their two daughters.
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- PHILADELPHIA January 15** A 24-year-old man set fire to his girlfriend's apartment building before jumping to his death from her 23rd floor apartment in Philadelphia. The couple was arguing when the man became enraged and began throwing furniture out the window. He then set fire to the apartment and jumped as a police officer tried to stop him. **The woman survived the attack.**
- February 25** A 47-year-old man was fatally stabbed with a kitchen knife by his 40-year-old female partner in North Philadelphia. The victim made his way to the street where authorities found him. The woman fled the scene.
- April 5** A 37-year-old man was shot in the head and killed by his 33-year-old girlfriend in their Olney apartment.
- April 22** A 45-year-old man was stabbed with a sword by his 47-year-old sister in their Southwest Philadelphia home. Allegedly, an argument erupted while the two were sitting with family members at the kitchen table. The perpetrator is charged with homicide and related charges.
- May 8** A 50-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 32-year-old son in North Philadelphia. **He then committed suicide.** Police believe the perpetrator was facing an impending prison sentence and would no longer be able to care for his ailing mother. Relatives report there were many people willing to care for the victim.
- June 4** A 34-year-old man committed suicide after shooting his 33-year-old wife, a mother of four in Logan. **The victim survived the attack.**
- June 6** A 34-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his brother-in-law in Southwest Philadelphia. The victim and perpetrator were involved in a fistfight inside the victim's home when one grabbed a knife. The victim was stabbed in the head, chest and leg.
- June 17** A 40-year-old mother of two and her 29-year-old estranged husband were fatally shot by her 54-year-old ex-boyfriend, who is the father of her two sons, in West Philadelphia. The victims, the woman's sons and the perpetrator were all living together in one house and working at a restaurant owned by the woman. The perpetrator made it known he was still in love with the woman. The victims had given the perpetrator until the end of the month to find a new home. After killing the couple, the perpetrator stayed with his two sons in the home for approximately four hours. He then dropped the boys off at the restaurant. They immediately ran home, found the bodies of their mother and stepfather and called the police.

Dispute Over Woman Led To Fatal Shot

PHILADELPHIA (continued) July 3

A 32-year-old woman and her 8-year-old daughter were strangled by the woman's 37-year-old common-law husband in Fern Rock. The woman awoke to the screams of her daughter, who was being raped by the perpetrator. As she attempted to intervene, he strangled her and then her daughter. The perpetrator informed police he had recently tested positive for HIV and blamed his common-law wife.

July 6

A 46-year-old woman was shot and killed by her former boyfriend in Tacony. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The two had been living together, but the victim ended the relationship the day before her death.

July 18

A 35-year-old woman was stabbed to death in the presence of her children, ages 11 and 2, by their father in Philadelphia. She was attempting to use the phone when the perpetrator began stabbing her. Her 11-year-old son placed a call to 9-1-1. The victim had been in the final stages of relocating, having found housing and employment as a nurse's aid in Washington, D.C.

July 21

A 47-year-old woman was fatally stabbed and sexually assaulted by her 49-year-old ex-boyfriend in their South Philadelphia apartment. The perpetrator has been charged with criminal homicide and possessing an instrument of crime.

August 13

A 32-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her 34-year-old husband in their North Philadelphia home. **The perpetrator, a federal prison guard, then committed suicide.** After receiving a phone call from the victim's mother, police entered the home and found both bodies in the basement. The couple's two daughters, ages 3 and 8, were not in the home at the time.

August 13

A 27-year-old Frankford woman was fatally shot by police officers responding to a domestic violence call. Upon arriving at the home, police were confronted with the naked woman yielding a steak knife. The officers attempted to retreat when the woman lunged at them. Both officers shot at her, striking her in the chest and side. She died one day later at Temple University Hospital.

August 16

An off-duty police officer and mother of three was shot and killed by her 36-year-old husband in Lawncrest. When police responded, they found the veteran officer wounded on her row home floor. She identified her husband as the perpetrator before she died. Police previously responded to several calls of domestic violence at the residence.

August 16

A 29-year-old woman was stabbed and had her throat slit by her boyfriend in her Philadelphia home. Reportedly, the victim had been trying to leave her boyfriend for years.

August 17

A 29-year-old woman was killed by her new boyfriend in Philadelphia. She had just begun the relationship with him after ending a five-year abusive relationship with another man.

September 8

A 25-year-old teacher and aspiring musician was strangled and lit on fire by her 20-year-old boyfriend in Philadelphia. The couple met while collaborating on a musical project.

September 10

A 23-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 27-year-old boyfriend. He then committed suicide.

September 14

A 29-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 52-year-old husband in their Germantown home. **He then committed suicide.**

September 17

An 8-year-old boy was shot and killed by his father's ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend. The victim's father was driving his son and the victim's 15-year-old uncle in South Philadelphia. Another car, driven by the perpetrator, began following them and shooting at the car. The boy was shot in the temple. He died 10 days later. Allegedly, the perpetrator's girlfriend was pregnant and the victim's father might have been the father of her baby.

October 23

A 35-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his 39-year-old girlfriend in their East Frankford home.

October 29

A 75-year-old mother of two was drugged and smothered by her 32-year-old son in West Philadelphia. The victim suffered from Alzheimer's disease and her son had been taking care of her for the last 10 years. A representative from Meals On Wheels called police to express concern over not being able to reach her. Police found the victim at her residence and report she had died days earlier.

Community Mourns Its Children; Four Dead In House Fire

- PHILADELPHIA (continued)**
- November 12** A 13-year-old girl was beaten and stabbed by her mother's ex-boyfriend in West Philadelphia. Her body was found in a nearby abandoned row house. The victim's mother had a Protection From Abuse order against her ex-boyfriend which he violated one month before the murder.
- November 16** A 22-year-old man was shot to death in South Philadelphia. The victim's 19-year-old girlfriend and a 17-year-old friend were also shot but survived. Police report the death was a result of a domestic dispute. The perpetrator is still unknown.
- November 25** A 19-year-old woman was shot multiple times by her 21-year-old boyfriend in South Philadelphia. He then committed suicide.
- December 29** A 34-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 34-year-old boyfriend in their office building in North Philadelphia. He then committed suicide. Family members reported the victim and perpetrator were co-workers and there were many problems within the relationship.
- December 30** An 18-year-old man was shot and killed by his 20-year-old male cousin in Philadelphia. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The two men were playing video games when a fight erupted, allegedly regarding a family inheritance.
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- SCHUYLKILL**
- October 25** A 46-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 52-year-old fiance in their North Manheim Township home. The perpetrator claimed he was going to shoot himself and the victim talked him out of it when the gun went off. Police said the story didn't fit the evidence and the perpetrator changed the story several times. Friends say the couple had been arguing about their wedding date.
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- SOMERSET**
- January 25** A 42-year-old woman shot and killed her 21-year-old daughter in Jenner Township. She then drove 10 miles north where she took her own life. Neighbors reported constant fighting between the perpetrator and her husband. The daughter often sought refuge from the fights at neighbors' homes.
- November 8** A 35-year-old mother-of-two was beaten to death by her 41-year-old husband in Somerset. The perpetrator then committed suicide by attaching a hose from the tailpipe of his truck and placing the other end in the cab; he died of carbon monoxide poisoning.
- November 26** A 46-year-old man was shot by his live-in girlfriend's other boyfriend. The victim knew of the affair and "wasn't happy," according to his girlfriend's brother.
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- WAYNE**
- March 12** A 72-year-old man was bludgeoned to death with a dumbbell by his 44-year-old son in Honesdale. The perpetrator picked up a pizza and delivered it to his parents' home with the intent to kill his father. The perpetrator's mother was in the next room and walked in on the scene. She then ran to a neighbor's home to phone the police. The perpetrator blamed his father for a one-year jail sentence in which he was arrested for choking his sister during an argument at their parents' home. He is under psychiatric evaluation and claims to be schizophrenic.
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- WESTMORELAND**
- June 24** A 46-year-old man was fatally shot when police responded to a domestic violence call in Greensburg. Earlier that night, the man held a knife to his wife's throat and threatened to kill her. According to reports, when police arrived at the couple's home, the man raised a knife to the trooper and the trooper shot him.
- August 19** A 37-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 42-year-old boyfriend in their Vandergrift home. He then committed suicide. At the time of the shooting, which occurred upstairs, the victim's teenage daughter and two friends were relaxing downstairs. Emergency dispatchers received a call from the home but the caller hung up. They called back and the victim said everything was okay. Several minutes later, they received a call from the victim's daughter saying she found the bodies of her mother and the perpetrator lying in a pool of blood.
- October 12** A 39-year-old mother of two was shot and killed by her 35-year-old husband in their Greensburg home. The couple's 2-year-old son was with a relative at the time.

Homicide Suspect Blames The Victim

WESTMORELAND (continued) **November 25** A 26-year-old man was strangled and stabbed by his 27-year-old brother during a dispute over the perpetrator's estranged wife. The perpetrator then stole a VCR from the West Newton home to make it look like a burglary.

- YORK**
- July 3** A 42-year-old man was shot and killed by his 18-year-old nephew in North Hopewell Township. The perpetrator and his sister had been living with the victim in his home. The victim had argued with the perpetrator the night before his death about getting a job. After shooting his uncle, the perpetrator took his uncle's truck and fled with his sister and her friend to North Carolina. He was arrested there for carrying a concealed weapon and possession with intent to sell marijuana. The perpetrator faces charges of first-, second- and third-degree murder, theft by unlawful taking and receiving stolen property.
- July 6** A 36-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 60-year-old ex-boyfriend in their Chanceford Township home. He then committed suicide. The victim left the perpetrator several times and, a few days before her murder, had finally made what appeared to be a permanent break. She had returned to the home to collect her belongings.
- July 11** A 28-year-old Dover Township man was fatally shot by his ex-girlfriend in his home. The perpetrator was upset because the victim had recently ended their 15-year relationship to date another woman.
- July 12** A 46-year-old mother of four was fatally shot by her 41-year-old boyfriend in Yorkana. The perpetrator told authorities the victim shot herself and police initially ruled the death a "potential suicide." The couple had been living together for only two months and the victim was allegedly ending the relationship when she was killed. The perpetrator is charged with criminal homicide.
- August 6** A 27-year-old man was fatally shot by his 27-year-old ex-wife and her boyfriend at the victim's auto repair shop in Fawn Township. The victim had recently been awarded sole custody of his son after a four-year custody dispute with his ex-wife. She had accused the victim of assaulting her and sexually assaulting their child. The court awarded custody to the victim after monitoring his interaction during supervised visitations.
- August 11** A 30-year-old man was shot and killed by his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend in York. According to family members, the perpetrator was harassing the victim for days leading up to the murder.
- September 27** A 39-year-old woman was run over by a car driven by her 36-year-old husband near their home in Paradise Township. He reported her death nearly 20 hours later and claimed his wife jumped from the moving vehicle and he "accidentally" ran her over. The perpetrator had a history of abusing his wife. He was prosecuted for an incident in which he hit her on the head with a coffee mug - rendering her unconscious - and watched her lay unresponsive for five hours without calling for help. The perpetrator was charged with criminal homicide; prosecutors dropped the original charges in return of a guilty plea to involuntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 5-10 years in state prison.

2003 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

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