

2006

Domestic Violence Fatality Report

Hopes... Dreams... Lives... Ended Here

92 Victims Murdered
in Pennsylvania

Shaded areas indicate counties in which domestic violence fatalities occurred

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**"So ended
what was
once a life
of hope..."**

**(Pittsburgh Post-Gazette,
August 15, 2006)**

The newspaper quote at left refers to the murder of a 38-year-old woman by her estranged husband in Allegheny County; however, it very well could have been written about the 91 other domestic violence victims who lost their lives under the most horrific circumstances in Pennsylvania during 2006.

So many of these homicides have a sad and hauntingly familiar pattern: victims attempting to end abusive relationships, many seeking legal protections and hoping to obtain custody of their children. All the while, they were frantically trying to stay safe and desperately clinging to a dream of starting over.

But, tragically, all those hopes and dreams ended abruptly with a bullet to the head... a knife in the heart... a microwave in the face, a pillow over the face... a car pinning the body up against a brick wall... a pair of hands around the neck... a can of gasoline and a match... a crowbar, a flashlight, a bat to the body... a shove out of a moving pickup truck...

These were the vicious and violent acts of perpetrators who shared chillingly familiar patterns of behavior: intimidation, obsession, possession, revenge. Many perpetrators had a history of violence with previous partners and had multiple protection orders issued against them in the past. Their refusal to accept the end of a relationship – even years after a break-up – in some instances resulted in cold, calculated, premeditated murder. One perpetrator killed a woman whom he had dated 17 years earlier. Another perpetrator came to the victim's home with a loaded gun – four years after they parted ways – took her to a wooded area, methodically cocked the gun, shot her... cocked the gun, shot her... cocked the gun, shot her... at such close range that the victim's blood was found inside the gun barrel.

The victims weren't very different from any one else in the communities in which they lived and died. They were expectant mothers and stay at home moms. One was a police officer, another a bartender; one a banker, another a florist. One was a sophomore in college, another a recent college graduate and yet another was retired. One had been married only a few months, another for more than 30 years.

Their murders took place in rural towns, upscale suburbs and inner cities. By year's end, 40 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties experienced domestic violence fatalities, some of which generated extensive news coverage, while others, as the quote below so poignantly conveys, received barely a blurb on an inside page. Once again, a gun was the weapon of choice for the majority of perpetrators.

There is a feeling of almost unbearable sadness as, year after year, we count up the toll of unfinished lives. It is all the more crushing to realize that domestic violence homicides often are preventable. But in order to prevent these fatalities, we first need a clear understanding of what's going on and what can be done differently in our systems, our services, our awareness of and responses to domestic violence.

For this reason PCADV is pursuing passage of Domestic Violence Fatality Review legislation that will bring together key state and local leaders, agencies and systems in a collaborative, focused examination of the circumstances surrounding domestic violence-related homicides and suicides here in our Commonwealth. The proposed legislation will help identify gaps in systems, missed opportunities and barriers to safety with a goal of reducing lethality.

Last year, for the first time since 2001, domestic violence fatalities declined in Pennsylvania, with 52 fewer deaths overall since 2005. (The number reflects both victims and perpetrators.) While this certainly is encouraging, by no means is it cause to cheer. Domestic violence is still a deadly crime in our state as the pages that follow so chillingly depict.

That even one battered victim dies is a tragedy; that almost 100 die is an outrage. This Commonwealth cannot wait one day more to take the necessary action to pursue safety, justice and accountability in their memory.

It wasn't a murder that received much press, sparked angry protests or inspired large candlelight vigils. It was another tick in the city's unrelenting body count.

(Philadelphia Daily News, November 8, 2006)

127 Deaths in 2006...

During January-December 2006,
95 domestic violence incidents in 40 counties resulted in 127 deaths.

WHO DIED

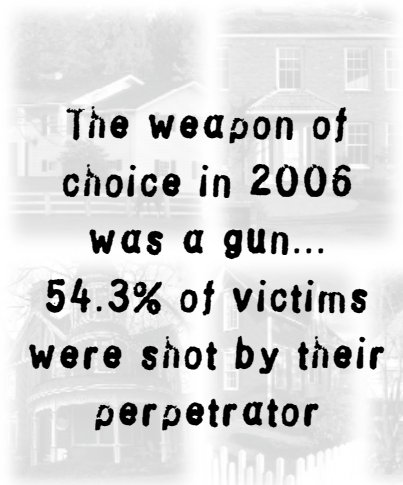
- 92 victims
 - 64 female
 - 64 18+ years of age
 - 28 male
 - 23 18+ years of age
 - 2 13-17 years of age
 - 3 0-12 years of age
- 30 perpetrators committed suicide
- 2 perpetrators killed by police
- 3 perpetrator killed in self-defense

WHO DID THE KILLING

- 75 males
- 11 females

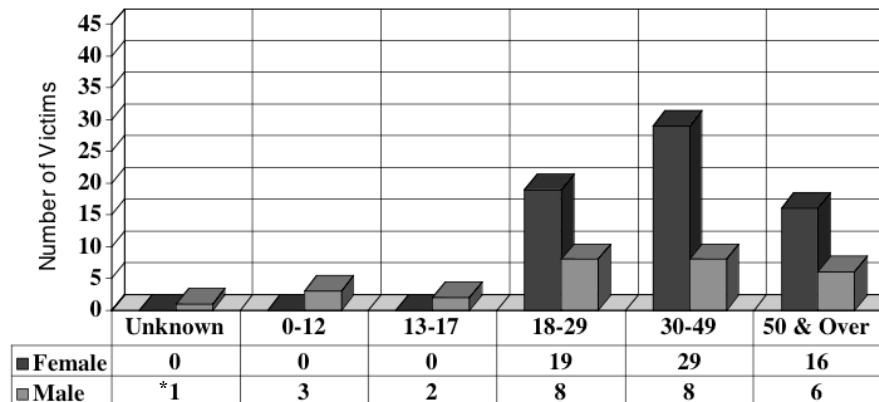
HOW THEY DIED

- 49 SHOT
 - 1 beaten & SHOT
- 10 stabbed
- 6 beaten, strangled & stabbed
- 3 beaten
- 2 beaten with a bat
- 2 stabbed & slashed
- 1 beaten & asphyxiated
- 1 beaten & thrown from a moving truck
- 1 beaten with a bat & strangled
- 1 beaten with a crowbar
- 1 beaten with metal bar, stabbed & slashed
- 1 bludgeoned, strangled & dismembered
- 1 dropped from a window
- 1 hit by a car & pinned to a wall
- 1 hit with a microwave & stomped on
- 1 kicked
- 1 kicked, beaten & bludgeoned with a bat
- 1 killed in car crash
- 1 killed in house fire
- 1 lit on fire
- 1 punched
- 1 smothered with a pillow
- 1 stabbed & dismembered
- 1 strangled
- 1 suffocated

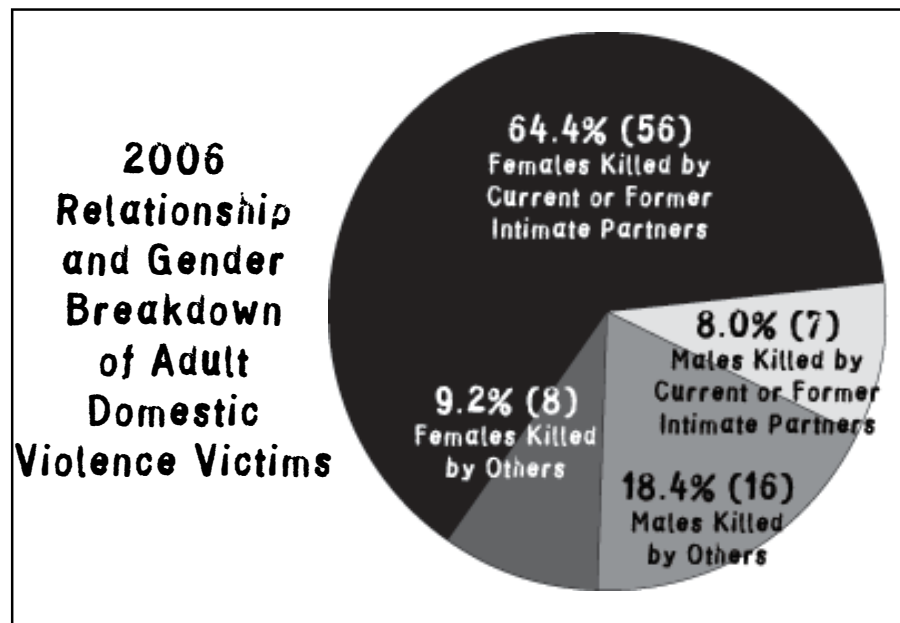


The weapon of choice in 2006 was a gun... 54.3% of victims were shot by their perpetrator

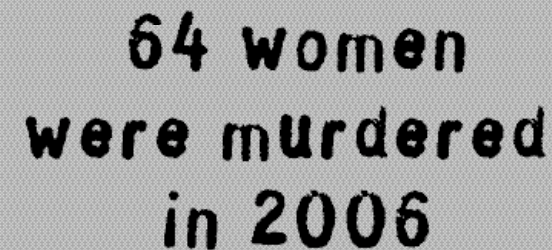
2006 Age and Gender Breakdown of Domestic Violence Victims



* Victim was male over the age of 18, but exact age is unknown



ADAMS	September 21	A 44-year-old mother of one was shot by her 39-year-old husband in their Mount Joy Township home. According to reports, the perpetrator was mad because the victim and her daughter wouldn't give the perpetrator any "respect" and he wanted the victim to stop "running her mouth." He then walked into the local state police barracks and said, "I just killed my wife." The couple had been married only seven months. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
ALLEGHENY	January 12	A 22-year-old mother of one was shot by her 34-year-old boyfriend in her Turtle Creek home. He then committed suicide. According to reports, the victim was in the process of breaking up with the perpetrator and he had threatened to kill her if she did so.
	January 13	A 24-year-old mother of one was shot by her 29-year-old ex-boyfriend in the living room of her parents' Bloomfield home. He then abducted the couple's 1-year-old daughter. The victim had ended the relationship and was staying with her parents at the time of her murder. The perpetrator turned the child over to a third party shortly after the shooting and was taken into police custody one week later. He was charged with homicide.
	February 5	A Beechview man was stabbed by his 25-year-old girlfriend at his home after a Super Bowl party. According to reports, the couple had been arguing because the perpetrator left the party without the victim. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	February 15	A 37-year-old woman was shot in the head by her 37-year-old boyfriend in their Swissvale home. The perpetrator, then-still at large, was charged with homicide. Police believe the perpetrator committed suicide less than one week later. His body was found floating in a West Virginia river on March 16.
	June 23	A 20-year-old mother of five was shot by her 23-year-old ex-boyfriend, father of her two youngest children, in Pittsburgh. He then committed suicide. The victim survived the attack. All five children were in the home at the time but were uninjured. The victim had recently ended the relationship.
	August 13	A 38-year-old mother of two was hit by a car and pinned against a brick wall in Whitehall. The car was driven by her 47-year-old estranged husband. According to witnesses, the perpetrator chased his wife by car, jumped a curb and pinned her to the brick wall of an apartment building. She was still pinned when police arrived and pronounced her dead at the scene. The victim had filed for divorce two months earlier. She obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in August 2002. It was initially granted for nine months and in March 2003 it was extended for another 18 months. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	September 10	A 44-year-old man was shot by his 42-year-old male friend in Pittsburgh. The perpetrator believed the victim was having an affair with his wife. After shooting the victim, the perpetrator turned himself into authorities. He was charged with homicide.



64 women
were murdered
in 2006

ALLEGHENY (cont'd)	September 15	A 42-year-old man was shot in his sleep by his 40-year-old wife in their Emsworth home. She then fled the home and was captured by authorities in Potter County. She was taken to the hospital where she was treated for possible drug overdose and arrested. She was charged with homicide.
	September 16	A 23-year-old man was shot by a 21-year-old man on a Pittsburgh street. The perpetrator was fighting with his girlfriend when the victim – a passerby – attempted to intervene. An argument ensued and the perpetrator walked away but quickly returned with a gun and shot the victim. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	October 12	A 50-year-old mother of three was kicked, beaten and bludgeoned with a baseball bat by her 18-year-old son in her Westwood home. According to reports, the perpetrator had mental health issues but was fine as long as he was taking his medication. He was charged with homicide.
	November 8	A 46-year-old man was stabbed and slashed by his 49-year-old wife in their Clairton home. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator both pulled knives on one another during a fight after a night of drinking. The perpetrator stabbed and slashed her husband a number of times and then went to bed. According to reports, when the perpetrator awoke in the morning, she stepped over her husband and went about her day. Eventually, she called 9-1-1. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	November 29	A 28-year-old mother of one was shot by her 35-year-old husband in North Versailles. He then committed suicide. The victim survived the attack. According to reports, the newly-separated couple was meeting to exchange their 3-year-old son after a court-mandated visit. The child witnessed the shooting.
	December 29	A 24-year-old woman was shot by her 27-year-old boyfriend in a Pittsburgh hotel room. He then committed suicide. The couple had been dating for five months.
ARMSTRONG	December 18	A 44-year-old father of one was shot outside the local high school by his 22-year-old nephew in Kittanning. The perpetrator claims he was the victim of multiple sexual assaults by his uncle. He admitted to shooting the victim as he left his shift as a custodian at the high school. The perpetrator then fled the scene. He was charged with homicide.
BEAVER	June 20	A 24-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend's 30-year-old boyfriend in Paterson Township. One month before the shooting, the two men fought over the woman whom they were both dating and the perpetrator threatened to kill the victim. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
BERKS	March 3	A 44-year-old mother of four was shot by her 50-year-old estranged boyfriend inside a local restaurant. The victim had asked her boyfriend to move out of her Mohnton home two weeks earlier. According to reports, the perpetrator met the victim in the parking lot, fired shots at her and then chased her into the restaurant, firing two more shots at the victim as customers took cover. He then committed suicide.
	November 1	A 58-year-old woman was shot by her 59-year-old husband in their Greenwich Township home. He then attempted suicide. The perpetrator's brother found the couple after failing to get in touch with them. He called 9-1-1 and the perpetrator was flown to a local hospital. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.
	December 19	An 83-year-old man was shot in the head by his 47-year-old girlfriend in their Birdsboro home. She then committed suicide.

BLAIR	October 20	A 32-year-old father of three committed suicide while in a Blair county prison on charges of a Protection From Abuse order violation. According to reports, the perpetrator was distraught to be back in prison and had threatened to commit suicide.
BUCKS	May 7	A 27-year-old mother of one was stabbed by her 32-year-old ex-boyfriend in the backyard of her home. He also stabbed the victim's boyfriend, who survived the attack. According to reports, the perpetrator and the victim's boyfriend got into an argument and the victim was attempting to intervene. The perpetrator previously served jail time for assaulting and threatening to kill a former girlfriend. He was charged with homicide and pleaded guilty to third-degree murder. He was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison.
BUTLER	January 14	A 22-year-old woman was beaten by her 27-year-old husband in her parents' Grove City home. The perpetrator then set the home on fire and stood outside to watch the flames. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator had been married less than seven months. He was charged with homicide.
	February 9	A 36-year-old mother of one was shot by her 38-year-old ex-husband in her Butler Township home. The perpetrator broke into the victim's home and waited a full day for her to return. When she arrived home with their 16-year-old son, the perpetrator ordered the son to go upstairs; he then shot the victim and committed suicide . The victim and perpetrator both obtained Protection From Abuse orders against one another in January 2005, but voluntarily dismissed the orders one week later.
	February 26	A 65-year-old woman was stabbed and slashed by her 26-year-old foster son in her Butler home. The perpetrator then robbed the victim and fled the scene. The victim recovered enough from her injuries to testify against the perpetrator at his preliminary hearing in which he was charged with attempted murder. The perpetrator pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 to 20 years. The victim - who also suffered from diabetes and received kidney dialysis - succumbed to her injuries eight months later.
	December 25	A 55-year-old mother of one was beaten with a flashlight and shot by her 60-year-old husband at their Butler home. He also fatally shot her 17-year-old son . The perpetrator then went outside to play with his dogs and wish the neighbors a "Merry Christmas" before calling 9-1-1 to tell authorities they would find three dead bodies at his residence. He then committed suicide .
CAMBRIA	October 15	A 24-year-old man was shot by a 19-year-old man in Johnstown. According to reports, the victim and the perpetrator's mother had an intimate relationship. The victim had assaulted the perpetrator's mother earlier that day. The perpetrator and his mother and went to the victim's apartment to confront him. Upon seeing them at his doorstep, the victim attempted to flee but was shot. Witnesses reported hearing the perpetrator's mother yell, "shoot him, shoot him!" to her son. The perpetrator and his mother were charged with homicide.
CARBON	August 14	A 42-year-old man was stabbed by his girlfriend's 46-year-old ex-boyfriend in Lehigh. According to reports, the girlfriend ended her relationship with the ex-boyfriend and obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him on May 8. The perpetrator came to the home of the victim's parents and stabbed him. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
CHESTER	February 4	A 37-year-old mother of four was shot by her 47-year-old husband in the bedroom of their West Goshen home. The perpetrator then attempted suicide. The children were home at the time but were uninjured.

COLUMBIA	January 24	A 47-year-old man shot his 4-year-old stepson and 18-month-old son in a Bloomsburg motel room. He also shot and wounded his estranged wife before attempting to commit suicide. The perpetrator had a violent history; his ex-wife, ex-girlfriend and his estranged wife all had obtained Protection From Abuse orders against him and he had threatened to kill all of them on separate occasions. According to reports, the estranged wife was attempting to end the relationship and had moved into the motel room to escape the perpetrator. The perpetrator was charged with two counts of homicide. Prosecutors will seek the death penalty.
CRAWFORD	July 22	A 48-year-old woman was stabbed by her 56-year-old husband in Meadville. He then called 9-1-1 and was taken into police custody without incident. He was charged with homicide.
CUMBERLAND	June 28	A 58-year-old woman was shot by her 63-year-old husband in their Mechanicsburg home. He then committed suicide. The couple had been married for more than 30 years.
	July 15	A 42-year-old mother of three was shot by her 37-year-old ex-boyfriend in his North Middleton Township residence. According to reports, the victim had recently ended the relationship and the perpetrator had threatened to kill himself if she left him. That evening, the victim told her daughter she was going to the perpetrator's home to retrieve some belongings and would be back in five minutes. Her body was found a short time later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
DAUPHIN	February 25	A 23-year-old woman was dropped from a Harrisburg apartment window - 23 stories up - by her 25-year-old boyfriend. According to reports, the perpetrator and victim were drinking at several bars throughout the night. The perpetrator told police that upon arriving back at his apartment, the victim asked him to help her dangle her feet out of the window. He stated that he lost grip of her hand and she plummeted to her death. The perpetrator was charged with homicide, but found guilty of involuntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 11 to 23 months in county jail.
DELAWARE	February 11	A 34-year-old mother of three was shot by her 50-year-old husband in their Thornbury home. He then committed suicide. The couple's three children were in the home but uninjured. The oldest child called 9-1-1.
	June 20	A 72-year-old woman was shot by her 76-year-old husband in their Tinticum home. He then committed suicide. According to reports, the perpetrator was tired of taking care of his ailing wife. Their bodies were found by their caretaker.
	November 13	A 40-year-old mother of two was stabbed by her 44-year-old husband in their Ridley Township apartment. The perpetrator then called 9-1-1 and fled the scene. After a day-long manhunt, the perpetrator was shot by police as they attempted to apprehend him in Philadelphia.



ERIE	September 23	A 27-year-old pregnant woman was strangled by her 25-year-old coworker, the father of her child, in Millcreek Township. The victim was days away from her due date and, according to reports, the perpetrator was denying paternity of the child. The victim went to the convenience store where they both worked to talk to the perpetrator and he strangled the victim behind a dumpster in the parking lot. He then called a friend and the two men buried the victim's body in a muddy grave off a dirt road. The perpetrator was charged with two counts of homicide.
FAYETTE	April 13	A 54-year-old mother of three, and grandmother of six, was hit with a microwave oven, beaten and stomped on by her 58-year-old boyfriend in their Uniontown home. According to reports, the perpetrator was angry because the victim wouldn't heat up some sandwiches for him. After attacking her, the perpetrator carried the victim's body to the bedroom where he realized she wasn't breathing and called 9-1-1. In the past, two other women had obtained Protection From Abuse orders against the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide.
	August 30	A 40-year-old man was shot by his 44-year-old brother in Dunbar. According to a witness, the men were fighting over money when the perpetrator drew his weapon and fired shots. The perpetrator claimed that the gun went off accidentally. He was charged with homicide, but pleaded no contest to voluntary manslaughter. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 to 20 years in prison.
FRANKLIN	July 28	A 39-year-old mother of two was shot by her 41-year-old estranged husband in her Mercersburg home. He also killed her 50-year-old male friend and then fled. The perpetrator committed suicide and his body was found nearly one month later. According to reports, the woman had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in February.
	August 4	A 48-year-old mother of two was shot by her 50-year-old husband in her Hamilton Township home. According to reports, the perpetrator walked into the home, grabbed a gun and briefly held it to his daughter's head. He then walked into a bedroom, closed the door and fired three shots at the victim. The couple's daughter, her boyfriend and their infant were still inside the home during the shooting and fled to a neighbor's home to call 9-1-1. After a five-hour standoff with police, the perpetrator committed suicide.
	October 15	A 57-year-old mother of two and grandmother of one was beaten by her 46-year-old estranged boyfriend in her Chambersburg home. Police were called to the home for a suspected burglary. Upon their arrival, the perpetrator committed suicide. Authorities believe the victim was trying to end the relationship and had asked the perpetrator to move out of the residence. The perpetrator previously had two Protection From Abuse orders against him obtained by two different women who both claimed the perpetrator broke into their homes and threatened to kill them.
INDIANA	February 13	A 49-year-old woman was shot three times in the face by her 58-year-old estranged husband in their Smicksburg home. He then committed suicide. Relatives found the couple's bodies when they failed to show up for work.
LANCASTER	April 9	A 21-year-old man beat, strangled and stabbed six people – his 64-year-old grandmother, 45-year-old aunt, 43-year-old aunt, 19-year-old female cousin, 17-year-old uncle and 5-year-old male cousin – in their Leola home. According to reports, the perpetrator also was plotting to kill his grandfather, who was in New York City at the time. After killing the victims, the perpetrator continued living in the home and using the victims' credit cards. He was charged with six counts of homicide.

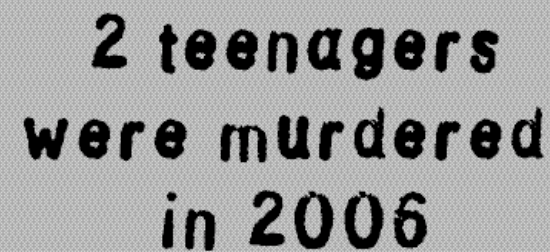
LANCASTER (cont'd)	April 21	A 78-year-old mother of one was kicked in the head by her 47-year-old son in her Mount Joy home. She died in the hospital 20 days later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	October 2	A 45-year-old man committed suicide after arguing with his wife and setting fire to their Pequea home. According to reports, police arrived on the scene before the perpetrator committed suicide and attempted to talk him out of hurting himself.
	November 17	A 29-year-old woman was lit on fire by her 38-year-old boyfriend at their Lancaster apartment. The perpetrator poured gasoline on the victim, lighting her and the apartment on fire before fleeing. The victim died in the hospital eight days later from burn injuries that covered more than 90 percent of her body. The perpetrator was charged with arson and homicide and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.
LAWRENCE	October 21	A 20-year-old woman was shot by her 27-year-old ex-boyfriend in Neshannock Township. The perpetrator told police he thought he had removed the shells from the gun while the victim was sleeping and went to place it on the nightstand when the gun accidentally went off. He was charged with involuntary manslaughter.
	November 1	A 19-year-old woman was shot by her 18-year-old boyfriend in the New Castle home in which she was staying. According to reports, the perpetrator claimed he was playing with the gun and it accidentally went off. He was charged with homicide.
LEBANON	August 12	A 62-year-old man was shot by his 26-year-old son in Jonestown. Allegedly, the son was confronting his father for treating his mother badly. A fistfight ensued and the son grabbed the handgun he kept on his hip and fired shots. He was charged with homicide. A jury acquitted the son of all charges on the basis of self-defense.
LUZERNE	January 21	A 42-year-old woman was suffocated by her 51-year-old ex-boyfriend in Union Township. According to reports, the perpetrator broke into the victim's home, listened to her talk on the phone with her fiancé and then attacked her. He was charged with homicide. The perpetrator had a history of violence against the victim and had threatened to kill her and himself when their relationship ended. The victim had obtained emergency Protection From Abuse orders on two occasions. Shortly before the killing, the perpetrator was due in court for attempting to suffocate the victim and using his vehicle to run into a car in which she was the passenger. He failed to appear in court and a warrant for his arrest was being processed. Twenty years earlier, the perpetrator attempted to smother his then-wife with a pillow.
	February 27	A 30-year-old woman was shot by her husband – a police officer – in her Wyoming home. The perpetrator told investigating officers that the victim committed suicide. According to reports, the victim was a 9-1-1 dispatcher and the perpetrator believed she was having an affair with her coworker. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	April 12	A 67-year-old woman was shot by her 66-year-old husband in their Glen Lyon home. The perpetrator called his son to say that something was “terribly wrong” and then committed suicide. The son arrived at the home and discovered the bodies.
	June 8	A 21-year-old mother of two was shot by her 21-year-old boyfriend in Wilkes-Barre. The victim's ex-boyfriend also was shot but survived the attack. According to reports, all three attended a party where the two men were fighting over the victim's affection. The victim's ex-boyfriend hit the perpetrator, who then shot him in the leg. The victim and her ex-boyfriend fled in a car as the perpetrator followed in his vehicle and continued firing shots. The victim was struck in the head. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

LUZERNE (cont'd)	July 16	A 50-year-old woman was stabbed by her 78-year-old boyfriend in Wilkes-Barre. According to reports, the perpetrator had threatened to kill the victim on a number of occasions. He was charged with homicide.
	August 14	A 49-year-old mother of one was beaten with a baseball bat by her 29-year-old boyfriend in her Edwardsville apartment. The victim's 13-year-old daughter found her body. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. He pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in state prison.
	October 18	A 75-year-old man was punched one time by his 36-year-old son in Wilkes-Barre. Police say the victim then suffered a heart attack caused by the stress and anxiety of the fight. The perpetrator was charged with involuntary manslaughter. More than one year earlier, the victim expressed fear for his life due to the abuse suffered at the hands of his son. A local judge issued a no-contact order but allowed the two men to continue living in the same home.
LYCOMING	May 2	The body of a man who was the focus of a police manhunt was found in Old Lycoming Township. Police believe he committed suicide . One month earlier, when police attempted to serve the man with a Protection From Abuse order, he took a rifle and fled. At one point, police surrounded a cemetery to capture the perpetrator, but were unsuccessful.
	September 1	A 34-year-old man committed suicide inside of his car in Muncy. The perpetrator was scheduled to appear in court on charges of violating a Protection From Abuse order. According to reports, police were notified of a man acting suicidal. Upon their arrival at the scene, the perpetrator fled in his car. Police chased him and fired shots at the car in an effort to disable it. The man then stopped the car, put a gun to his head and killed himself.
MIFFLIN	May 17	A 35-year-old mother of two was shot by her 26-year-old boyfriend in the couple's Belleville home. He then committed suicide . The victim's two children were in the home at the time but were uninjured.
MONROE	November 18	A 28-year-old mother of two was shot by her 31-year-old husband in their Tobyhanna residence. He then attempted suicide. The couple's 4-year-old daughter called 9-1-1 and her 8-year-old brother ran to a neighbor's home for help. The children then led responding officers to the bodies. The perpetrator had a history of using violence and threats against the victim. He was charged with homicide.
MONTGOMERY	February 7	A 25-year-old man was stabbed by his girlfriend's 23-year-old ex-boyfriend in east Norriton. According to reports, the perpetrator was jealous after finding out his ex-girlfriend was pregnant with the victim's child. He was charged with homicide, found guilty of third-degree murder and was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in prison.
	March 25	A 42-year-old mother of one was shot by her 38-year-old husband in their Eagleville home. He then committed suicide . The couple's 10-year-old daughter was in the home at that time and called 9-1-1. She was uninjured.
	November 30	A 22-year-old man was shot by his 71-year-old father in Wyncote. The perpetrator then committed suicide . The victim had taken a semester off from college and, according to reports, had been fighting with his parents over finances. Police believe that after shooting the victim, the perpetrator called 9-1-1, realized what he had done and turned the gun on himself.

MONTGOMERY (cont'd)	December 22	A 49-year-old mother of one was beaten with a crow bar by her 56-year-old husband , a university professor, in the couple's Upper Merion home. The perpetrator attempted to make the scene look like a burglary. The victim and perpetrator were going through divorce and custody proceedings. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
NORTHAMPTON	May 25	A 22-year-old man was bludgeoned, strangled and dismembered by his 26-year-old brother at their mother's Upper Mount Bethel Township home. According to reports, the two men were arguing over the care of their mother when the perpetrator become enraged. He bludgeoned his brother with a crowbar and strangled him. The perpetrator then dismembered the body and drove around Berks and Northampton counties spreading the body parts. The perpetrator was arrested with his brother's severed head and hands still in his car. He pleaded guilty to third-degree homicide and was sentenced to 21 to 42 years in state prison.
	October 23	A 45-year-old Portland man committed suicide while in prison. He was being detained for assaulting his wife and had been in prison since September 17.
NORTHUMBERLAND	October 20	An 82-year-old woman was shot by her 79-year-old husband in the couple's Milton residence. According to reports, the perpetrator and victim had health problems and were living in a home for the elderly; the perpetrator believed he was killing his wife out of "mercy." He then called 9-1-1 and told police he planned to take his own life but couldn't follow through. He was charged with homicide.
PERRY	May 1	A 59-year-old woman was shot by her 65-year-old husband in their Loysville home. He then committed suicide. A family friend found the bodies, which police believe had been there for at least 48 hours. Police also reported there had been a history of domestic violence.
	September 17	A 28-year-old man was killed in a car crash in Duncannon. The car was driven by his 39-year-old girlfriend. According to reports, the couple's car went over an embankment and the victim was ejected through the sun roof. Less than two months earlier, a judge ordered the perpetrator to stay away from the victim after she broke into his home. Police believed the perpetrator may have been attempting suicide. She was charged with vehicular homicide and driving under the influence.
	December 27	A 48-year-old woman was shot four times by her 45-year-old ex-girlfriend in the woods about three miles from the victim's Rye Township home. The victim's friends and family reported her missing two days later. Search parties, that included the perpetrator, scoured the woods surrounding the victim's house for days and found the victim's body on January 6, 2007. According to reports, the perpetrator wished to rekindle a romance with the victim that had ended more than four years earlier, but the victim was involved with someone else. The perpetrator went to the victim's home with her mother's gun, shot her and then returned the gun in a plastic bag to the attic of her mother's home. She was charged with homicide.

**3 children
were murdered
in 2006**

PHILADELPHIA	January 2	A 38-year-old father of five was shot by his 38-year-old wife at the day care center they were about to open in Philadelphia. The perpetrator claimed she shot the victim in self-defense. She was charged with homicide and convicted of voluntary manslaughter. She faces a 12 to 25 year prison sentence.
	January 3	A 21-year-old woman was stabbed by her 23-year-old ex-boyfriend in Philadelphia. He also beat the woman's 79-year-old great-grandmother and set the house on fire. The perpetrator was charged with two counts of homicide and pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to life in prison.
	January 5	An 80-year-old woman was shot by her 82-year-old husband in their Philadelphia home. He then committed suicide. The couple's caretaker found the bodies.
	February 14	A 47-year-old mother of one was beaten with a metal bar, slashed in the throat and stabbed in the heart by her 44-year-old boyfriend in Philadelphia. Her body was found by her son, who then called 9-1-1. Nine hours later, the perpetrator surrendered to police. He told authorities he "couldn't stop hitting" her. He was charged with homicide.
	March 12	A 22-year-old pregnant woman was shot in the head by her 24-year-old boyfriend, the father of her child, in her Philadelphia apartment. The victim was found alive in a bathtub with a gunshot wound to the head. She was taken to a local hospital and underwent an emergency cesarean section. The baby survived; the victim did not. According to reports, the perpetrator told police the victim was suicidal. After an investigation, the perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	March 19	A 32-year-old off-duty police officer was killed in a house fire intentionally set by his 13-year-old daughter in Philadelphia. According to reports, the perpetrator was angry that her father had disciplined her so she lit a pile of clothing on fire and fled the house. Police believe the victim, realizing the house was on fire, was searching for his daughter inside the home. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and will be tried as an adult.
	April 24	The body of a 27-year-old mother of three was found in a New Jersey state park. The victim had been missing since May 12, 2005, when she reportedly was smothered with a pillow by her 42-year-old ex-boyfriend in his West Philadelphia apartment. According to the perpetrator's family, he killed the victim because she was "pressing domestic violence charges" against him and he was sure he would return to jail. In 1993, he had been convicted and served time for an unrelated rape. After killing the victim, the perpetrator kept the body in his apartment for a few days before burying her in the state park. He was charged with homicide and abuse of a corpse.
	May 5	A 41-year-old woman was shot by her 56-year-old estranged boyfriend in her Philadelphia home. According to reports, the perpetrator, after shooting the victim, calmly put the gun on top of the victim's body and waited for police to arrest him. He was charged with homicide.



**2 teenagers
were murdered
in 2006**

PHILADELPHIA (cont'd)	May 5	A 38-year-old mother of four was stabbed by her 30-year-old estranged boyfriend in her Philadelphia home. Two of her children – a 17-year-old pregnant daughter and 12-year-old son – also were stabbed but survived the attack. Police apprehended the perpetrator and removed him from a plane that was bound for Puerto Rico. Prior to the murder, the victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator, but it wasn't served since authorities believed the perpetrator already had fled to Puerto Rico. He was charged with homicide.
	August 2	A 29-year-old mother of six was beaten with a bat and strangled by her 32-year-old husband in Philadelphia. He then set the house on fire. The perpetrator initially said that he killed the victim in self-defense and, when he realized what he had done, he panicked and set fire to the house. After police interrogation, the perpetrator confessed to the murder. He was charged with homicide.
	August 23	A 33-year-old mother of four was shot outside her Philadelphia home by her 54-year-old male neighbor, whom she had dated 17 years earlier. According to reports, the perpetrator had a romantic interest in the victim, but she did not want a relationship with the man. Witnesses report that the two were arguing when the victim hit the perpetrator with a beer bottle; he then shot her. The perpetrator then fled the scene. He was later apprehended and charged with homicide.
	October 3	A 76-year-old man was stabbed 15 times and dismembered by his 49-year-old girlfriend in his southwest Philadelphia apartment. According to reports, the perpetrator grabbed a knife during an argument, stabbed the victim and then cut off his penis. She was charged with homicide.
	December 2	A 61-year-old man was shot by a 70-year-old man in Philadelphia. According to reports, the two men were fighting over a woman. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
SCHUYLKILL	July 6	A 44-year-old woman was beaten with a bat by her 47-year-old husband in Orwigsburg. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator got into an argument at the home of the victim's parents. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. He was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.
SOMERSET	January 1	A 21-year-old woman was forced off a road while driving near Confluence and abducted by a 38-year-old man who was upset that the woman rejected his romantic advances. A 46-year-old man, who was passing by, attempted to intervene on the woman's behalf and was shot but survived. The perpetrator then drove the woman to his house where a 12-hour standoff with police occurred. The woman convinced the perpetrator to let her go and she was uninjured. The perpetrator eventually came out of the house, shot at police, and injured one officer and a neighbor. Police fired back, shooting the perpetrator. He was pronounced dead at the scene.
TIOGA	August 15	A Tioga Township man, who was in his early 60s, committed suicide after law enforcement attempted to serve him with a Protection From Abuse order. According to reports, when deputies arrived at the house to serve the order, they saw a weapon and heard a gunshot, then called for back-up. When police finally entered the home, they discovered his body.
WASHINGTON	August 14	A 26-year-old man broke into his ex-girlfriend's Union home and attacked her and her new boyfriend. The boyfriend stabbed the perpetrator, then the couple fled to a neighbor's home where they called 9-1-1. The perpetrator was taken to a local hospital where he died a short time later. No charges were filed against the boyfriend.

WAYNE	May 18	A 39-year-old woman was shot by her 45-year-old boyfriend in the couple's Dyberry Township home. He then placed a call to the victim's employer to state that she wasn't coming to work. He called the victim's family to tell them she was dead and he phoned 9-1-1 to request an ambulance. He then committed suicide.
WESTMORELAND	February 28	A 19-year-old woman was beaten and asphyxiated by her 21-year-old boyfriend in the perpetrator's Slickville bedroom. The victim, a sophomore in college, was visiting her boyfriend that night. According to reports, the perpetrator beat the victim and placed a plastic bag over her head. He then left the body in his bedroom, locked the door and left to watch television and play video games with his cousin. While there, the perpetrator asked his cousin to help dispose of the body. The perpetrator also stole the victim's car and used her debit card to withdraw \$300. He was apprehended two days later. He was charged with homicide, found guilty of first-degree murder and will be sentenced to life in prison.
	May 30	A 25-year-old man was shot by another 25-year-old man in Manor. The perpetrator and three other people - two men and one woman - have been charged with killing the victim. According to police, the perpetrator and the victim were arguing over their relationship with the same woman. Police say the 24-year-old girlfriend, and three other men helped lure the victim to an ambush where the perpetrator killed him. Police are still looking for the fourth man, who has been charged in connection with the murder.
	December 22	A 35-year-old mother of two was beaten and thrown from a moving pickup truck by her 35-year-old boyfriend in Greensburg. He then drove to his residence and called 9-1-1. He was charged with homicide.
WYOMING	April 30	A 32-year-old man was stabbed by his fiancée at a local campground. The stabbing was ruled self-defense and no charges were filed against the woman. According to reports, the man had a history of violence against women. Three women - including the fiancée - obtain Protection From Abuse orders against him.
YORK	March 14	A 23-year-old mother of one was shot by the 23-year-old father of her child in York. He then committed suicide.
	April 7	A 50-year-old man was stabbed by his 39-year-old girlfriend in her York home. She was initially charged with homicide. However, after a court evaluation determined she was a victim of battered woman's syndrome, she pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to time already served.

About This Report

Purpose

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence publishes this report in an effort to convey the lethality of domestic violence and the stunningly brutal manner in which perpetrators kill and victims die right here in this Commonwealth.

Identifying Fatalities

For the purposes of this report, we've included fatalities that involved family or household members, spouses/ex-spouses, current or former intimate partners, persons who share biological parenthood and others (such as intervenors, new partners) who were killed in domestic violence-related incidents.

Please note that we have excluded child abuse deaths since they are tracked and reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families.

Source/Limitations of Information

Information for this report is obtained through newspaper clippings. It's not intended to be inclusive of all domestic violence fatalities occurring during 2006, but it's the most reliable information available at this time. Please keep in mind that in no way does this report capture the true scope of domestic violence or the reality that each year many more individuals - beyond those noted in this report - live and die behind closed doors in all of our communities.


Victims Not Counted, Not Forgotten

Relying on newspaper accounts of confirmed domestic violence-related fatalities does not allow us to acknowledge that some victims take their own lives after years of unrelenting abuse. Advocates at local domestic violence programs have provided us with anecdotal accounts to confirm that this occurs. Data from the Philadelphia Women's Death Review Team indicates that, between 1997 and 2003, 13 women (7%), who died by suicide, had a known history of domestic violence. Furthermore, according to the 2003 National Violent Death Reporting System established by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention, problems with a current or former intimate partner contributed to 27.9% of the 3,603 reported suicides in 2003.

While this report also does not count suspicious or unsolved deaths which may be linked to domestic violence, we do want to recognize those unknown victims whose hopes, dreams and lives also ended because of this deadly crime.

Incident Summaries

The information on each incident varies, depending on the extent of media coverage.



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