

2007 Domestic Violence —Fatality Report

IN PENNSYLVANIA:

121

DEATHS

95

VICTIMS
KILLED

PERPETRATORS
COMMITTED
SUICIDE

23

3

PERPETRATORS
KILLED BY POLICE

PA RANKED

4th

IN NATION
FOR

MURDER-SUICIDES

ON THE STREETS
WHERE WE LIVE

KILLED BY FIREARMS

46

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

NEIGHBORS MUST BE INVOLVED IF ABUSE IS SUSPECTED

THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING WE CAN DO

Each year, PCADV chronicles and reports on domestic violence-related fatalities in Pennsylvania. Each year, the numbers are high and the killings are horrendous. And each year, the public response is negligible and the political impact nonexistent.

So what does it take to move us towards a gentler and safer society? How much blood has to be spilled and how many families have to be decimated before domestic violence is recognized and responded to as the deadly crime and powerfully destructive force it truly is?

In 2007, more than half of Pennsylvania's counties experienced lethal incidents of domestic violence. By year's end 121 people died - 95 of them were victims; 26 were perpetrators who committed suicide or were killed by police.

PCADV joins these communities in mourning for the lives lost and we extend our deepest sympathy to the families and friends who are now struggling in the aftermath of these horrific crimes. There can be no doubt that this loss of life is profound, as is the impact on those left behind. For the children whose parents were murdered, their lives and their futures are forever altered by the terrible tragedies that many witnessed.

Their experiences are haunting....

In January, a 4-year-old girl called 911 as her mother was being beaten to death with a claw hammer by her step-father. The little girl told dispatchers, "My parents are dying. My daddy hit my mommy." Family members report that the 4-year-old says she misses her mom. When the family responds that everyone misses her, the child insists, "I miss her more. She was my mom."

In February, two young children, strapped in the backseat of a car outside a daycare center, watched as their father shot their mother through the car window and then committed suicide.

In August, a mother held onto her 11-month old son as her boyfriend, the boy's father, slashed her throat and stabbed her seven times, repeatedly telling her "Bitch, you're going to die today." The mother survived the attack; the father committed suicide four days later.

In early December, an 8-year old boy watched as his step-father beat and stabbed his mother's male friend, who was staying with them because the mother was fearful of her estranged husband. The couple's three children also were in the home at the time of the killing.

And just a week before Christmas, a terrified 7-year-old boy hid in his room for two days after watching his father beat and stomp his mother to death. The boy tried to intervene several times to help his mother and pleaded with his father to stop. He took cover under the kitchen table as his father first beat his mother, left the room and returned wearing shoes so he could stomp on her face and body, as she lay unconscious on the floor. When the couple's 18-year-old son came home from a friend's house two days later, he discovered his mother's body, his young brother hiding in his room, and listened in horror as his father told him "I killed your mother."

Our Commonwealth and our elected leaders owe these children and the families of every domestic violence homicide victim a commitment to do better, to do more, to do SOMETHING to stop the violence, to end the killings.

Likewise, each and every one of us needs to recognize that the safety of victims and the accountability of batterers reach far beyond the doors of the local domestic violence program and police department; that there are things we can all do in our daily lives to address the violence. (See box at right for suggestions.)

We all share the responsibility of making our communities as safe as possible and, together, we have the potential to succeed.

Too many lives already have been lost; too many lives hang in the balance to stand by and do nothing.

COMPLACENCY IS NOT AN OPTION.

WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

OUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE BEING ABUSED:

- Call police if we see/hear abuse
- Ask if they're safe or need someone to talk to
- Let them know that FREE and CONFIDENTIAL help is available for victims and their children at local domestic violence programs
- Offer a ride to the local program, a place to make a phone call, or to baby-sit while they attend appointments
- Offer to board their pet[s] while they are in shelter

OUR FRIENDS OR FAMILY MEMBERS WHO ARE ABUSERS:

- Call police if we see/hear abuse
- Tell them there are no excuses for abuse and they may lose their families, friends, homes and jobs if it doesn't stop
- Hold them accountable for their behavior
- Support their efforts to locate and obtain appropriate batterer intervention treatment

CONSHY MOM FATALLY STOMPED AFTER TAKEOUT FOOD FIGHT

PA RANKS 4TH FOR MURDER-SUICIDES

Pennsylvania has the third-highest number of murder-suicides in the nation - including 14 cases in just six months - and most involve domestic disputes.

Domestic violence experts say that's even more reason for potential victims to seek help at the first sign of trouble.

The Violence Policy Center, a national nonprofit group working to reduce violence in America, recently released a new study on murder-suicide cases.

The study collected all reported murder-suicides nationwide **DURING THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2007**. In that time, there were at least 554 deaths in 234 murder-suicides - an average of nine murder-suicides a week.

Almost all murder-suicides, or 88.5 percent, involved a firearm.

Using these figures, the Violence Policy Center estimates that nearly 1,100 Americans die each year in murder-suicides.

Nine states had 10 or more murder-suicides in the six-month period of the study, with Florida and Texas the highest at 24 each. California had 17, and **PENNSYLVANIA HAD 14**.

The study also found:

- Of the 554 murder-suicide deaths, 234 were suicides and 320 were homicides. Ninety-five percent of murder-suicides were committed by men.
- Seventy-three percent of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner - spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, or girlfriend/boyfriend. Of these, 94 percent were women killed by their intimate partners.
- Forty-five of the homicide victims were children and teens less than 18 years of age. Forty-four children and teens less than 18 years of age were survivors who witnessed some aspect of the murder-suicide.
- Most murder-suicides - 75 percent - occurred in the home.

STATES COMPARISON

Nine states had 10 or more murder-suicides in the first six months of 2007, the most recent statistics available.

The rates:

Florida, 24

Texas, 24

California, 17

PENNSYLVANIA, 14

Arizona, 12

Georgia, 12

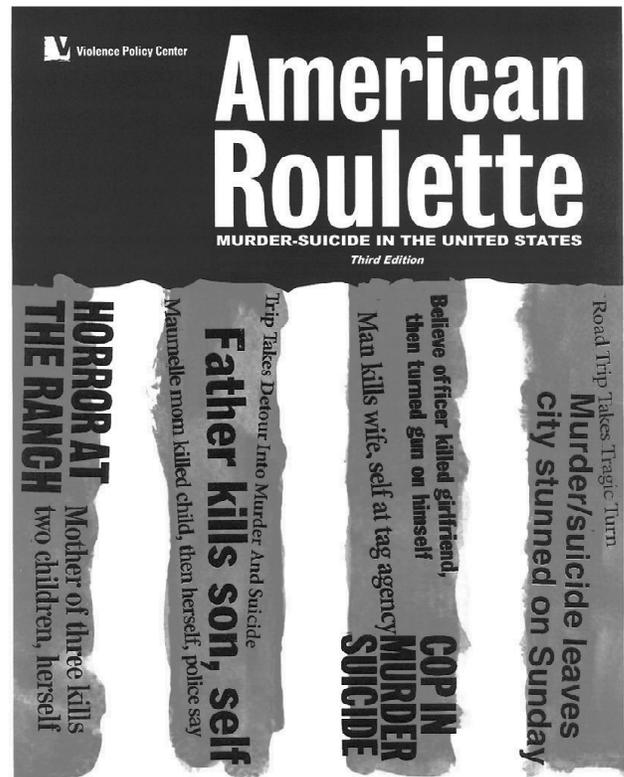
New York, 11

North Carolina, 10

Ohio, 10

The Tribune-Democrat (Johnstown, PA), July 05, 2008

By Susan Evans



FOR THE FULL REPORT, VISIT THE VIOLENCE POLICY CENTER WEB SITE AT:
WWW.VPC.ORG/STUDIES/AMROUL2008.PDF

"LOVE DOESN'T PUT TWO BULLETS IN YOUR HEAD."

121 DEATHS IN 2007...

DURING JANUARY-DECEMBER 2007, 98 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS IN 32 COUNTIES RESULTED IN 121 DEATHS.

WHO DIED

- 95 victims
 - 63 female
 - 57 18+ years of age
 - 2 13-18 years of age
 - 4 1-12 years of age
 - 32 male
 - 28 18+ years of age
 - 1 13-17 years of age
 - 3 1-12 years of age
- 23 perpetrators committed suicide
- 3 perpetrators killed by police

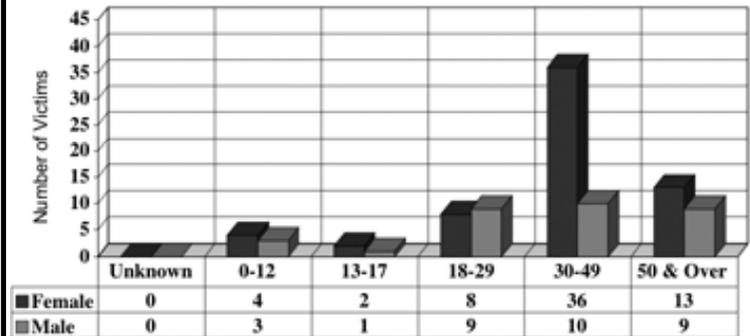
WHO DID THE KILLING

- 90 males
- 15 females

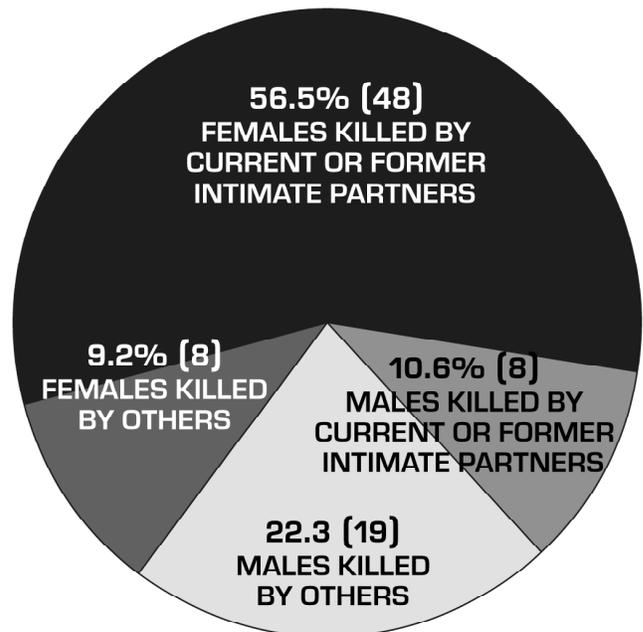
HOW THEY DIED

- 46 shot
- 22 stabbed
- 11 beaten
- 2 beaten with a hammer
- 2 strangled and hanged
- 1 beaten and stabbed
- 1 beaten and stomped on
- 1 beaten and suffocated
- 1 beaten with a brick and stabbed
- 1 beaten, sexually assaulted and strangled
- 1 beaten, stabbed and body set on fire
- 1 run over by a car
- 1 run over by a tractor trailer
- 1 stabbed and body set on fire
- 1 strangled
- 1 strangled and beaten
- 1 killed with an ax

2007 AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS



2007 RELATIONSHIP AND GENDER BREAKDOWN OF ADULT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS



**THE WEAPON OF CHOICE IN 2007 WAS A GUN...
48.4% OF VICTIMS WERE SHOT BY THEIR PERPETRATOR**

TOTAL VICTIM FATALITIES BY COUNTY

Adams	-	1	Dauphin	-	4	Philadelphia	-	13
Allegheny	-	14	Delaware	-	4	Pike	-	1
Beaver	-	3	Erie	-	1	Potter	-	1
Berks	-	5	Fayette	-	4	Schuylkill	-	2
Blair	-	1	Lancaster	-	2	Somerset	-	1
Bucks	-	4	Lehigh	-	2	Warren	-	1
Butler	-	3	Luzerne	-	2	Washington	-	1
Chester	-	3	Monroe	-	1	Wayne	-	2
Clarion	-	1	Montgomery	-	3	Westmoreland	-	5
Clinton	-	1	Northampton	-	6	York	-	1
Cumberland	-	1	Northumberland	-	1			

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, bystanders) 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 from Pennsylvania newspaper clippings. It's not intended to be inclusive of all domestic violence fatalities occurring during 2007, 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.

The headlines running across the top of the pages in this report were taken directly from newspaper accounts, either as headlines or quotes within the story.

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 provide 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.

"MY DADDY HIT MY MOMMY"

ADAMS

JANUARY 10

A 36-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS FATALLY BEATEN BY HER 41-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND in his truck. The perpetrator dumped her body in a nearby wooded area in West Manheim Township. He then enlisted the help of his 18-year-old son to clean the truck and dispose of her cell phone and keys. The perpetrator blamed the victim for "ruining his life" and vowed he would not go back to prison, where he was supposed to report for violating probation. Three days later, the perpetrator committed suicide. Authorities found two suicide notes; one indicating that he made the victim "suffer." According to reports, the perpetrator had a record of abusing family members and current or former intimate partners. The perpetrator's son pled guilty to hindering the apprehension or prosecution of a suspect.

ALLEGHENY

JANUARY 28

A 39-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT IN THE HEAD BY HER 40-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND in his Mt. Lebanon home while the couple's two daughters played upstairs. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against her husband at the time, which he was alleged to have repeatedly violated, and the two often argued over the shared custody of their daughters. According to reports, the husband shot his wife in front of his 48-year-old friend. He then held a gun to the friend's head and ordered the friend to "help" him cover up the killing. The perpetrator's friend loaded the victim's body into her minivan and drove it to Nashville, Tennessee, where he lit her vehicle on fire with her body inside. The perpetrator and the friend were charged with homicide. The friend agreed to testify against the perpetrator if the homicide charges against him were dropped. The perpetrator was found guilty of first-degree murder and faces a life sentence in prison. The friend has not yet been prosecuted.

FEBRUARY 28

A 64-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FIVE WAS SHOT BY HER 65-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND in their Penn Hills home. **HE ALSO SHOT THEIR 26-YEAR-OLD AND 25-YEAR-OLD ADOPTED SONS AND THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the victims were asleep when they were killed. The bodies were found by the couple's biological daughter. The couple also had two biological sons.

MARCH 1

A 76-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 19-YEAR-OLD GRANDSON in the Homewood apartment they shared. According to reports, the victim threatened to throw the perpetrator out of the house for coming home late at night. The perpetrator had already been thrown out of his mother's home. He was charged with homicide and found guilty of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

MARCH 28

A 36-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS STRANGLED WITH AN ELECTRICAL CORD BY HER 36-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND in Clairton. The victim and perpetrator had Protection From Abuse orders against one another. According to reports, the victim was afraid of the perpetrator and feared for her life. One day before she was supposed to testify against him, she agreed to meet him in the woods near her home. He strangled her, then left the scene to purchase a shovel. He returned to the scene, stripped off her clothing and buried her. He was charged with homicide.



ANGER, ABUSE, MURDER

ALLEGHENY (CONTINUED)

- APRIL 5** **A 19-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HER 23-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in a West Mifflin parking lot. The victim was sitting in the driver's seat of her minivan when she was shot. The perpetrator then fled. Authorities responding to the incident found the victim unresponsive. She was taken to the local hospital where she died the next day from her injuries. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in August because he pushed her while she was eight months pregnant. The order was withdrawn one week later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and found guilty of third-degree murder. He faces 20 to 40 years in prison.
- JULY 30** **A 34-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF THREE WAS SHOT BY HIS 13-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER** in his Elizabeth Township home. The perpetrator's mother had a Protection From Abuse order against the victim and, according to reports, the victim also abused his children and had sexually abused the perpetrator since the age of 7. The perpetrator was originally charged as an adult with homicide. Her case was later sent to juvenile court. She pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was placed on probation until age 21.
- AUGUST 28** **AN 11-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS STABBED BY HIS 18-YEAR-OLD HALF-BROTHER** in Pittsburgh. The victim's twin brother also was stabbed and survived the attack. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and aggravated assault.
- SEPTEMBER 15** **A 16-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS STABBED BY HER 19-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in her Monroeville apartment. According to reports, the victim was seen fleeing the home, covered with blood, screaming, "He stabbed me!" before losing consciousness. She was taken to the hospital where she died a short time later. The perpetrator attempted suicide by slashing his throat. One day earlier, the victim received a text message from the perpetrator stating that he intended to harm her. He was charged with homicide.
- NOVEMBER 29** **A 76-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS BEATEN BY A 50-YEAR-OLD MAN** in Harrison. According to reports, the victim made an offensive remark about a previous relationship with the perpetrator's girlfriend, at whose house the incident occurred. After killing the victim, the perpetrator stuffed his body into a closet and then fled the scene. He was picked up at a nearby fast food restaurant and was charged with homicide.
- DECEMBER 7** **A 38-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS BEATEN WITH A BRICK AND STABBED BY HIS FRIEND'S ESTRANGED HUSBAND** in Spring Hill. The perpetrator's estranged wife had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him four days earlier. The victim was staying with the perpetrator's wife and children because they were afraid of what the perpetrator might do to harm them. The couple had three children together and the woman had an 8-year-old son with another man. All of the children were in the home at the time of the attack and the 8-year-old witnessed the stabbing. When police arrived at the home, the perpetrator fled and jumped onto a highway 30 feet below. He sustained major injuries but survived. He was charged with homicide. The perpetrator had a long history of violence against women. His first wife and a former girlfriend both obtained Protection From Abuse orders against him years ago.
- DECEMBER 10** **A 71-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 30-YEAR-OLD STEP-GRANDSON** in Belle Vernon. The perpetrator then wrapped the body in a blanket, tied it to a cement block and dumped it in a nearby river. The body was found one month later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

MURDER-SUICIDE LEAVES TWO CHILDREN ORPHANED

ALLEGHENY (CONTINUED)

DECEMBER 17 **A 55-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED BY HIS 53-YEAR-OLD COUSIN** in Pittsburgh. The victim, perpetrator and the victim's mother were having dinner at her home. She went to bed and the two men watched TV and drank. An altercation erupted and the perpetrator grabbed a knife from the kitchen and stabbed the victim. He then washed the knife and placed it in a drying rack. Before leaving, the perpetrator allegedly attempted to dial 911, but there was no ring tone. The victim's mother found his body the next morning when she awoke. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

BEAVER

JULY 21 **A 40-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED BY HIS 29-YEAR-OLD GIRLFRIEND** in his Homewood residence. The perpetrator claimed she was acting in self-defense. She was charged with homicide and pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter. She was sentenced to 23 months of electronic monitoring and 10 years of probation.

AUGUST 17 **A 45-YEAR-OLD GRANDMOTHER OF TWO WAS STABBED BY HER 54-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in Aliquippa. Her body was found in a weed-filled area by a teenager. According to reports, the perpetrator told friends, "I think I killed her" and then made stabbing motions. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator at the time of the stabbing. The perpetrator served jail time in 1993 for stabbing his estranged wife in the chest. She survived the attack. The perpetrator was found guilty of homicide and sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole. He also was ordered to pay \$5,598 in restitution.

OCTOBER 12 **A 23-YEAR-OLD PREGNANT MOTHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HER 49-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in Industry. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the victim was three-months pregnant at the time and the perpetrator was not the father of the baby.

BERKS

JANUARY 15 **A 22-YEAR-OLD MOTHER AND HER 5-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER WERE STRANGLING AND HANGED BY THE WOMEN'S 27-YEAR-OLD FORMER BOYFRIEND.** According to police, the perpetrator staged the scene to look like the woman hanged her child and herself. Reportedly the perpetrator strangled both victims on a bed then hanged their bodies before typing a note to make it sound like his ex-girlfriend had killed her daughter and then committed suicide. The couple had broken up months before the murders. Police reported that the perpetrator had made the mistake of bragging that it would be easy to murder someone and make it look like a suicide. After a 15-month investigation, the perpetrator was charged with homicide and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

APRIL 24 **A 62-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED IN HIS NECK BY HIS 33-YEAR-OLD SON** in the parking lot of his workplace. A co-worker of the victim said the perpetrator stole the victim's credit card and opened up accounts in his name and the victim was going to have the perpetrator jailed. The perpetrator was charged with criminal homicide and related offenses.

AUGUST 2 **A 47-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE WAS SHOT BY HER 37-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND** in a Reading mall parking lot. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were separated, but attempted to remain friends for their children. After dropping their two children off at the movies, the victim met the perpetrator for dinner. Family members became concerned when the victim did not pick up the children after the movie and they began a search. When they saw the victim's car next to the perpetrator's car in a parking lot, they called 911. According to the victim's daughter from a previous marriage, the perpetrator was having trouble accepting the end of the relationship.

"I DO FEAR THAT MY HUSBAND WILL CAUSE BODILY HARM TO ME OR MY SON"

BERKS (CONTINUED)

OCTOBER 20 **A 32-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HER 60-YEAR-OLD FATHER-IN-LAW** in Birdsboro. According to reports, the victim and the perpetrator had been drinking together when the perpetrator believed the victim was stealing from him. He retrieved the gun he kept by the front door of his home and allegedly was trying to scare the victim by shooting near her. The perpetrator shot her in the forehead and then called his son to tell him his wife was dead. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

BLAIR

FEBRUARY 9 **A 24-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT BY HER 37-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND** outside of a Greenwood day care center. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** That day, the victim drove their children to the day care center where the perpetrator was awaiting her arrival. He shot the victim through the car window as the two children, strapped in the backseat, watched. Two days earlier, the perpetrator lost the custody battle for their children. According to reports, the victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator.

BUCKS

JANUARY 27 **A 34-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF FOUR WAS SHOT BY POLICE** in his Bensalem apartment complex. Police were called to the scene by the perpetrator's girlfriend. The perpetrator had been drinking all day and assaulted the girlfriend when she returned home with their two children. Police reported that they found the perpetrator hostile and wielding a bat when they arrived. He charged at the officers with the bat raised, and the officers shot him. He died at the scene.

FEBRUARY 10 **A 35-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS STABBED BY HER 41-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND** in Falls. The victim separated from her husband to have a relationship with the perpetrator but had decided to try to make her marriage work. The perpetrator admitted killing the victim and stealing her truck and wedding band, which he pawned shortly after the murder. He was charged with homicide and found guilty of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

AUGUST 16 **A 55-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS STABBED MORE THAN 60 TIMES BY HER 21-YEAR-OLD SON** in her Bensalem home. Reportedly the wounds were inflicted with such force that two knives were bent or broken. He also slashed his 90-year-old grandmother when she attempted to intervene. She survived her injuries. The perpetrator was out on bail from an earlier assault on his mother. He confessed to the killing and, in a written statement, said, "She didn't deserve to die this brutally." He was charged with homicide and pled guilty. He was sentenced to 20 to 40 years of incarceration.

OCTOBER 16 **A 27-YEAR-OLD PREGNANT WOMAN AND HER SISTER'S 27-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND WERE SHOT BY A 26-YEAR-OLD MAN** in a Warminster apartment. The woman's younger sister also was shot but survived the attack. The perpetrator allegedly shot the victims because they owed him money for a drug deal. According to reports, the victim's 20-year-old boyfriend set the victims up because he was upset about the pregnancy. Another man, 21, also was involved in the incident. All three men were charged in the incident.

BUTLER

JUNE 23 **A 14-MONTH-OLD BOY WAS BEATEN BY HIS MOTHER'S 23-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in Harrisville. Three weeks earlier, the perpetrator found out that he wasn't the victim's father. According to family members, the perpetrator began acting differently toward the victim, who began having nightmares and seemed to be afraid of the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide.

POLICE: MAN SHOTS WIFE OUTSIDE WORKPLACE, KILLS SELF

BUTLER (CONTINUED)

AUGUST 14 **A 42-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 51-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND** in their Cherry Valley home. **HE ALSO SHOT HER 49-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND.** The perpetrator reportedly told police that he didn't regret killing the victims because his wife told him she planned on divorcing him and selling the 140-acre family farm. A jury convicted him of third-degree murder for killing his wife and voluntary manslaughter for killing her boyfriend.

CHESTER

FEBRUARY 28 **A 68-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 69-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** during an argument in their Oxford home. According to reports, the couple was in the process of separating. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

OCTOBER 6 **A 51-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS STABBED BY HER 31-YEAR-OLD SON** in her West Nottingham Township home. Her body was discovered by the man who rents a room in her home. Police found bloody clothing in the home of the perpetrator and he admitted to stabbing his mother and stealing her wallet. According to reports, the victim was suing her son because he fraudulently sold her home. He was charged with homicide.

OCTOBER 27 **A 39-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE WAS KILLED WITH AN AXE BY HER 22-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in her Exton townhouse. The victim's 14-year-old son found her body and called 911. The perpetrator had fled to his parent's vacation home in Luzerne County. He was apprehended there and charged with homicide.

CLARION

JULY 4 **A 31-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FOUR WAS STABBED BY HER 37-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND, THE FATHER OF ONE OF HER CHILDREN,** in their Knox home. The perpetrator then attempted suicide. According to reports, the victim's family became concerned when they couldn't reach her so they contacted the police. Officers entered the home where they found the victim on the kitchen floor and the perpetrator was found in an upstairs bathroom with a knife in his hand. He was charged with homicide.

CLINTON

APRIL 8 **A 36-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HER EX-HUSBAND** in the parking lot of a Mill Hall gas station on Easter Sunday. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were meeting for a custody exchange of their 3-year-old daughter. He phoned the victim to come to his car because their daughter was asleep in the backseat. However, the perpetrator did not bring the couple's 3-year-old daughter with him to the exchange. She was left in the care of his family members. He shot the victim and then turned the gun on himself. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in Centre County, and that order forbade the perpetrator from having guns. He had turned over his weapons to a "third-party" for safekeeping, as allowed under the state's Protection From Abuse Act. In July, the Attorney General's Office announced that it was investigating the perpetrator's brother for the possible illegal transfer of a weapon back to his brother prior to the murder-suicide.



**TEENAGERS WERE
KILLED IN 2007**

'THREATS' PRECEDED SLAYING

CUMBERLAND

JUNE 30

A 53-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS RUN OVER BY A TRACTOR TRAILER on a major highway in North Middleton Township. The victim was arguing with her brother inside his moving vehicle and she attempted to get out of the car several times. Finally, the man pulled his truck off the highway. They both got out and the verbal and physical confrontation continued on the side of the road. At some point, the woman was struck by a passing tractor trailer. The driver was not charged in the incident. The brother was charged with simple assault.

DAUPHIN

JANUARY 5

A 33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN BY HER 49-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND in their Susquehanna Township home. He was charged with homicide. According to reports, the perpetrator claimed the victim was drunk and she was the aggressor. No alcohol was found in her system. The perpetrator was found guilty of third-degree murder and sentenced to 20 to 40 years in prison.

MARCH 28

A 51-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS BEATEN OVER A 48-HOUR PERIOD BY HER 53-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND in her West Hanover Township home. Two days earlier, the victim had called her daughter and left messages saying the perpetrator was beating her and to please help. The daughter made two visits to the home to check on her mother and pleaded with her to leave but she refused. The daughter had initially called State Police for help but no one was dispatched at that time. State Police are conducting an internal investigation. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. His first trial was declared a mistrial and he currently awaits a retrial.

AUGUST 16

A 21-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED BY HIS 19-YEAR-OLD BROTHER-IN-LAW in Lower Paxton Township. According to reports, the victim went to the perpetrator's apartment during a domestic dispute between the perpetrator and his wife, the victim's sister. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he died a few hours after the incident. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

AUGUST 26

A 41-YEAR-OLD MAN STABBED HIS GIRLFRIEND SEVEN TIMES AND ATTEMPTED TO SLASH HER THROAT while repeatedly saying, "Bitch, you going to die today." **THE VICTIM, WHO WAS HOLDING THEIR 11-MONTH-OLD SON DURING THE ATTACK, SURVIVED AND THE SON WAS PHYSICALLY UNINJURED.** The perpetrator then fled their Harrisburg apartment. Four days later, the perpetrator told police he would turn himself in at a designated location. When police arrived, they heard a gunshot and closed down the surrounding neighborhood. When members of the Dauphin County Crisis Response Team forcibly entered the building about 45 minutes later, they found **THE PERPETRATOR HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE.**

AUGUST 30

A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY A 21-YEAR-OLD MAN in a Harrisburg bar. According to reports, the perpetrator was making unwanted advances toward the victim's fiancée. The victim stepped in and an argument ensued. The perpetrator left the bar, only to return a short time later with a gun. He shot the victim and then fled the scene. He was charged with homicide.

“HE WAS LIKE A TIME BOMB”

DELAWARE

- JANUARY 28** **A 24-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS BEATEN WITH A CLAW HAMMER BY HER 34-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Woodlyn home. He then attempted to commit suicide by swallowing bleach and pills. The victim's 4-year-old daughter from a previous marriage called 911 and said, "My parents are dying. My daddy hit my mommy." According to reports, the couple was having marital problems and had discussed divorcing. The police had been called to the home four times since November 2006. The perpetrator admitted to the murder. His lawyer argued that he was "driven to kill." He was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison.
- JUNE 18** **A 40-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT BY HER 46-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND** in the parking lot of her workplace in Lower Chichester Township . **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the perpetrator borrowed a car and waited for the victim to arrive at work. After she parked her car, he rammed into the driver's side door with the car. He then shot her and turned the gun on himself. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against her husband in April, stating her husband had threatened to kill her with a shotgun.
- JULY 15** **A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS STABBED BY HIS 13-YEAR-OLD BROTHER** in their Lansdowne home. The perpetrator then called 911 and said, "I just stabbed my brother." According to reports, the two young men were fighting over a video game when the perpetrator went to the kitchen to retrieve a knife. The perpetrator was charged in juvenile court with voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to juvenile residential treatment.
- AUGUST 17** **AN 80-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS BEATEN BY HER 82-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in Brookhaven. The incident occurred on June 2. She was taken to the hospital where she succumbed to her injuries more than two months later. According to reports, the victim was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease and would often become combative and violent toward the perpetrator. The perpetrator told his son he would "Match her slaps, blow for blow." He was charged with homicide.

ERIE

- MAY 10** **A 42-YEAR-OLD MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER A TWO-HOUR STANDOFF WITH POLICE** in the woods behind his Erie home. According to reports, police responded to a domestic violence call at the home involving the perpetrator and his wife. The perpetrator tried to exit the home, and shot at police while attempting to flee into the woods. He then turned the gun on himself. In the past, officers had been called to the home several times for domestic violence.
- SEPTEMBER 11** **A 59-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN BY HER 59-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Erie apartment. According to reports, he then changed clothes, posted a note on the door requesting that no one enter the apartment and walked two miles to a local hospital to turn himself in to authorities. He claimed he needed to "Stop the voices in his head." He pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and faces a maximum sentence of 25 years in prison.

FAYETTE

- APRIL 3** **A 76-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 80-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their home. The perpetrator called 911 to report that he had killed his wife due to an argument over money and that he was going to kill himself. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.**

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE – MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

FAYETTE (CONTINUED)

- JULY 4** **A 53-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF TWO AND GRANDFATHER OF FIVE WAS STABBED BY HIS 43-YEAR-OLD FIANCEE** in their Dunbar Township home. According to the perpetrator, the couple was arguing for an extended period of time and she threatened the victim “So he would shut up.” She held the knife above him as he was sitting down and when he stood up, the knife plunged into his chest. The perpetrator was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 2.5 to 5 years in state prison.
- JULY 18** **A 28-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT BY HER 30-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Saltlick Township home. The perpetrator called 911 and **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.**
- AUGUST 26** **A 43-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 42-YEAR-OLD GIRLFRIEND** in Hopwood. According to police, the perpetrator gave multiple statements as to the circumstances surrounding the incident. The victim underwent emergency surgery and was in the hospital for almost two months before he died from injuries on October 27. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

LANCASTER

- MARCH 20** **A 41-YEAR-OLD MAN** was arguing with his wife when police were called to the couple's Lancaster home. When police arrived, they found the wife and a 4-year-old child had been injured, and **THE PERPETRATOR HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE.**
- MAY 23** **A 48-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN AND STABBED BY HER 25-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in her East Lampeter Township apartment. He then set her body on fire, loaded her two dogs into her car and attempted to flee the scene. After witnessing him leaving the parking lot and hitting a parked car, a neighbor called 911. He was arrested and charged with homicide. He was found guilty of first-degree homicide and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- NOVEMBER 23** **A 45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN AND STABBED BY HER 30-YEAR-OLD SON-IN-LAW** in her Pequea Township home. The perpetrator and his wife were living with the victim. The perpetrator believed his wife was having an affair and that the victim was keeping in touch with the other man. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

LEHIGH

- MARCH 4** **A 32-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS BEATEN BY HIS GIRLFRIEND'S 21-YEAR-OLD SON AND HIS 23-YEAR-OLD FRIEND** in Allentown. According to reports, the victim and the girlfriend's son had been arguing before the incident, and the family reports the victim had a history of abusing the perpetrator's mother. Both men were charged with homicide.
- JUNE 13** **A 46-YEAR-OLD MARRIED MOTHER OF THREE WAS STABBED WITH THREE DIFFERENT KNIVES BY HER 61-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in his Allentown apartment. The perpetrator's adult son was in the home at the time and called 911. According to reports, the victim was without power at her home and went to the perpetrator's home to get a good night's rest. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and pled guilty to third-degree murder and possessing instruments of a crime. He was sentenced to 22.5 to 45 years in state prison.



COPS: [PERP] KILLED OLD LOVER TO MAKE WAY FOR NEW ONE

LUZERNE

- JULY 23** **A 53-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 52-YEAR-OLD WIFE** in their Sweet Valley home. She then attempted suicide by shooting herself. She survived.
- OCTOBER 10** **A 31-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS STABBED BY HER 49-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in Hazleton. The victim had recently moved out of their shared residence and, hours before the killing, had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide.

MERCER

- DECEMBER 27** **A 31-YEAR-OLD MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE** by overdosing in a Hermitage motel room. According to reports, the man was wanted in connection with violating a Protection From Abuse order and assaulting his pregnant wife and her brother.

MONROE

- MAY 30** **A 12-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS SHOT BY HER 41-YEAR-OLD FATHER** in their East Stroudsburg home. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the family struggled during the past year; their home burned down and they lost all their possessions. The perpetrator was on disability.

MONTGOMERY

- AUGUST 5** **A 47-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HIS 47-YEAR-OLD WIFE** in their Whitpain Township home. According to reports, the perpetrator initially told police that her husband was shot by an intruder. After an investigation, police believed the wife killed the victim because he had taken a second wife in Morocco and was going to visit her to conceive a baby. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and pled guilty to third-degree murder and faces 5 to 20 years in prison.
- DECEMBER 7** **A 14-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS BEATEN, SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND STRANGLER BY HER MOTHER'S 48-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in his Plymouth Meeting home. The victim was babysitting overnight at the perpetrator's house for his 4-year-old daughter while the perpetrator spent the night at the victim's mother's house. The perpetrator and the victim's mother admitted to smoking crack together. In the morning, the perpetrator went to his home to pick up the victim and drop her off at school. Instead, he attacked her and then stuffed her body in a blue plastic storage tub. He drove the tub to a relative's home and hid it under a pile of leaves in the backyard. He was charged with homicide and found guilty of first-degree murder and sexual assault. He faces life in prison without the possibility of parole.
- DECEMBER 16** **A 42-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE WAS BEATEN AND STOMPED ON BY HER 44-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Conshohocken home. Two of the couple's sons were not at home at the time; however, their youngest son, age 7, attempted to intervene several times and witnessed the beating while taking cover under the kitchen table. According to reports, the perpetrator was angry that the victim was placing a takeout food order. He began to beat her and slam her against the kitchen table and sink. The victim told her son, "I'm going to die, I love you." When the son pleaded with his father to stop, the perpetrator said "It had to happen." While the victim was unconscious, the perpetrator left the room only to return wearing shoes. He then jumped on the victim's face and body. The 7-year-old son hid in his room for two days until his oldest brother returned from a friend's home. When the 18-year-old son walked into the home, the perpetrator told him, "I killed your mother," and said he was leaving to turn himself into police. He then left the home and was later arrested by police. He was charged with homicide. The judge granted a trial delay, ruling that the perpetrator was not mentally competent to stand trial at the time.

"I KILLED THE WOMAN I LOVED"

NORTHAMPTON

APRIL 26

A 30-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS SHOT BY HER 30-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND in their Bethlehem home. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** The perpetrator had threatened the murder-suicide two weeks earlier. The couple's two children, a 3-year-old girl and an 8-year-old boy, were at home at the time but were uninjured. According to reports, the victim was attempting to end the relationship and had obtained a Protection From Abuse (PFA) order against the perpetrator one day earlier. It was the third PFA she obtained against him since 1999. Although the PFA and his prior criminal history barred the perpetrator from owning or possessing weapons, he was able to purchase and to kill the victim with a replica Confederate handgun. A loophole in the state's ban exempts "any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, or percussion cap type of ignition system" such as the weapon the perpetrator used in the murder-suicide.

JULY 14

A 47-YEAR-OLD MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE by hanging himself in his prison cell. The perpetrator had been in prison since June 15 on charges he assaulted his girlfriend.

AUGUST 11

A 39-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF THREE WAS SHOT BY HER 39-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND in her car in Bethlehem. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** Responding officers found the victim and perpetrator and had them transported to a local hospital where they both died a short time later. According to witnesses, the victim had attempted to exit the car and the perpetrator pulled her back into the car by her hair. He then held her down on his lap, shot her and then shot himself.

SEPTEMBER 18

A 33-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS SHOT BY HER 35-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED HUSBAND in their Bethlehem Township home. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** The perpetrator was a deputy sheriff and part-time police officer who had a history of abusing the victim. Police had been called to the home on many occasions and the victim had obtained two Protection From Abuse orders against him on separate occasions. Both orders were later dropped. Family and friends report they had heard the perpetrator threaten to kill the victim but they didn't think he was serious.

OCTOBER 18

A 43-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS STRANGLER AND BEATEN BY HER 33-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND in their Forks Township home. He then stashed the body in a plastic storage bin in the garage. Police initially arrested the perpetrator for driving with a suspended license and placed him in jail. While there, he admitted killing his wife to a friend over the phone and police were taping the call. Police had responded to the home on several occasions for domestic violence. The perpetrator had a history of violence against women and had two prior Protection From Abuse orders against him by two other women. He was found guilty of first-degree homicide and is serving a life sentence without the possibility of parole.

OCTOBER 26

A 37-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 23-YEAR-OLD GIRLFRIEND IN HIS BETHLEHEM APARTMENT. According to reports, the perpetrator unintentionally shot the victim during a game of "cops and robbers." After her gun discharged, she panicked and set two fires in the apartment before fleeing. She was charged with homicide.

DECEMBER 21

A 71-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 75-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND in their Lower Nazareth Township home. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the victim had returned to the home after a shopping trip and was shot immediately upon entering the home. She was still carrying her purse and shopping bags.

POLICE: WIFE FOUGHT FOR LIFE

NORTHUMBERLAND

JANUARY 5 **A 42-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS BEATEN AND SUFFOCATED WITH PAPER TO WELS BY HER 47-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Mount Carmel home. He then placed the victim's body in a metal crate inside her SUV and drove to a nearby creek in Schuylkill County where he dumped the crate. He then attempted to commit suicide by lighting the victim's SUV on fire while he was inside. He got out of the SUV when it "got too hot." He was charged with arson and sentenced to 1 to 2 years in Schuylkill County prison. He was serving time when the victim's body was discovered in the creek five months later. It took an additional five months to identify her remains. The perpetrator was charged with homicide in Northumberland County exactly one year from the date of the murder.

PHILADELPHIA

JANUARY 10 **A 21-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY A 30-YEAR-OLD MAN** in Philadelphia. According to reports, the perpetrator became angry after he saw the victim speaking to the perpetrator's girlfriend and he believed the two exchanged phone numbers. During an argument, the perpetrator pulled out a revolver and shot the victim several times. He then stole the victim's bike and fled the scene. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he died a short time later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

FEBRUARY 2 **A 36-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY HIS 34-YEAR-OLD FIANCEE** in their Mount Airy home. She was charged with homicide.

MARCH 26 **A 38-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN BY HER 36-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in their Kensington apartment. He then dumped her body in the woods near their residence where it was discovered by a group of children four days later. According to police, the perpetrator killed his girlfriend because a new girlfriend, whom he met over the Internet, was coming to visit him. He was charged with homicide.

MARCH 30 **A 37-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER ESTRANGED HUSBAND** in their Philadelphia home. She was taken to the hospital where she died a short time later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

JULY 21 **A 24-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN BY HER BOYFRIEND** in Philadelphia. Eight days later, her boss called police to report her missing after receiving a call from her parents. Police found her body in her apartment; her head was covered in a plastic bag. The perpetrator had attempted suicide by drinking windshield wiper fluid. The perpetrator was recently discharged from the military for a gunshot wound. He was charged with homicide.

JULY 29 **A 20-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS SHOT BY POLICE OFFICERS** in North Philadelphia. According to reports, the perpetrator was arguing with his girlfriend in his car when she got out and flagged down a police officer for help. The perpetrator got out of the car brandishing a gun and fired once at the police officer. The officer fired back twice.

AUGUST 16 **A 29-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF ONE WAS STABBED BY HIS SON'S MOTHER** in front of her Philadelphia home as neighbors watched. According to reports, the victim slapped the perpetrator in the face several times. Witnesses said she told him if he hit her one more time, she would kill him. She then went inside her house and retrieved a knife from the kitchen. When the victim hit her one more time, she slashed him and he died at a hospital a short time later. Police issued a warrant for an arrest of the perpetrator who fled the scene.

AUGUST 17 **A 45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER HUSBAND** in their home in the Nicetown section of Philadelphia. The perpetrator shot the victim twice with his shotgun. Twenty minutes later, he walked into the police station to hand over the gun and turn himself in. He was charged with homicide.

ABUSE CAN BREW DEADLY RAGE IN CHILDREN

PHILADELPHIA (CONTINUED)

- AUGUST 26** **A 39-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 50-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in their Kensington house. According to reports, the police arrived and found the victim dead and her body decomposing. The perpetrator was sitting on the bed, next to the victim's body. He was charged with homicide.
- SEPTEMBER 20** **A 44-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN WITH A HAMMER BY HER 43-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in his parents' Philadelphia home. He then fled to Bucks County where he attempted suicide by slitting his wrists. The victim's body was discovered by the perpetrator's sister, when she went to her brother's room to check on him. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator met through a church pen pal program while the perpetrator was incarcerated for a drug-related homicide in 1993.
- OCTOBER 29** **A 44-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF TWO WAS STABBED AND SET ON FIRE BY HER OLDEST DAUGHTER'S 36-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND** in her Olney home. The flames quickly engulfed most of the home. The perpetrator also assaulted the victim's 17-year-old daughter and bound her with duct tape; she had to jump from a second story window to escape the flames. The perpetrator tried to flee the country but was detained later that day at the Canadian border. He was charged with homicide.
- NOVEMBER 17** **A 42-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF ONE WAS STABBED BY HER 44-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND** in her south Philadelphia home. **THE PERPETRATOR ALSO STABBED HER 15-YEAR-OLD SON WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO INTERVENE; HE SURVIVED THE ATTACK.** The perpetrator fled the scene but was captured one week later at a city-run homeless shelter. He was charged with homicide and attempted homicide. The perpetrator had recently been released on parole after serving a 20-year sentence for homicide.
- NOVEMBER 25** **A 23-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED BY HIS 18-YEAR-OLD BROTHER** in front of their Germantown home. According to reports, the brothers were fighting over clothing.
- DECEMBER 20** **A 53-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 29-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER** in Philadelphia. The perpetrator then set fire to the residence. Two other people were in the home at the time. One was treated for burns at a local hospital; the other, the victim's boyfriend, was uninjured. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

PIKE

- OCTOBER 3** **A 69-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT BY HER 72-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in their Matamoras home. Reportedly, the perpetrator believed he killed his wife out of "mercy" because she suffered from an undiagnosed illness and was dependent on his care.

POTTER

- MAY 20** **A 35-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FOUR WAS SHOT BY HER 36-YEAR-OLD EX-BOYFRIEND** in a wooded area in Sharon Township. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** According to reports, the perpetrator took his brother's truck and his father's gun, and went to the victim's workplace as she was just arriving to start her day. Their bodies were found near the perpetrator's parents' home where he had been living since moving out of the victim's residence.



WOMAN WAS FOUND 'IN A POOL OF BLOOD'

SCHUYLKILL

MAY 9

A 57-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS STABBED BY A 68-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO WANTED TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER in Saint Clair. According to reports, the victim confided to a neighbor that she was scared of the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide and pled guilty to first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

JUNE 15

A 45-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS RUN OVER BY A CAR DRIVEN BY A 42-YEAR-OLD MAN in Girardville. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were introduced earlier at a bar. The perpetrator told police they were making plans to go on a date in the near future. They decided to take a drive together. The perpetrator drove them to a deserted area where he began to make sexual advances toward the victim. She told him to stop and attempted to get out of the vehicle but the perpetrator grabbed her by the shirt. She was able to break free and fled the vehicle. The perpetrator put his truck in reverse and ran over her twice. Reportedly, he knew he hit her and saw her lying on the road but did not attempt to call for help. Instead, he went home and washed his clothes. He was charged with homicide.

SNYDER

NOVEMBER 26

A 52-YEAR OLD MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER ATTACKING HIS WIFE AND ADULT SON in Penns Creek. The perpetrator broke into the home he once shared with his estranged wife, who had an active Protection From Abuse order against him. A struggle ensued between the perpetrator, his wife and their son. The woman and son fled from the house while the perpetrator fired shots at them. He followed them outside, where another struggle ensued. He then went back into the home and committed suicide. The woman and her son were uninjured.

SOMERSET

DECEMBER 29

A 33-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FIVE WAS SHOT BY HER 19-YEAR-OLD FIANCE in the Somerset apartment they shared. He was charged with homicide.

WARREN

FEBRUARY 20

A 44-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS SHOT IN THE NECK BY HER 53-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND in their Brokenstraw Township home. The perpetrator then called 911 and told the dispatcher, "I just killed my wife. I just shot her." While on the phone with the 911 dispatcher, the victim's 17-year-old daughter came home. When the perpetrator would not allow her to come inside, she broke a bedroom window and entered the residence. She picked up the phone and the 911 dispatcher told her to leave the residence. She fled the scene and was uninjured. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide. He pled guilty to third-degree murder and was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in prison.

WASHINGTON

MAY 8

A 47-YEAR-OLD WOMAN WAS BEATEN BY HER 49-YEAR-OLD BOYFRIEND along a street in Washington County. Both the victim and the perpetrator were homeless and living on the street in Pittsburgh. According to reports, they often made the trip to Washington County, usually by bus, but this time they decided to walk. Along the way, an argument erupted and the perpetrator began beating the victim. At one point, she fell into the metal guardrail and began vomiting. It was then that the perpetrator decided to leave her and keep walking. She was found dead along the side of the road.

WAYNE

JANUARY 25

A 33-YEAR-OLD PRESTON TOWNSHIP MAN WAS SHOT BY POLICE AFTER A 15-HOUR STANDOFF at the man's residence where he had been holding his elderly father hostage. The father was released unharmed. After several hours and attempted negotiations with authorities, the perpetrator pointed a rifle at police from an upstairs window. He was shot once.

FAILED ROMANCE TRIGGERED KILLING AND FIRE, POLICE SAY

WAYNE (CONTINUED)

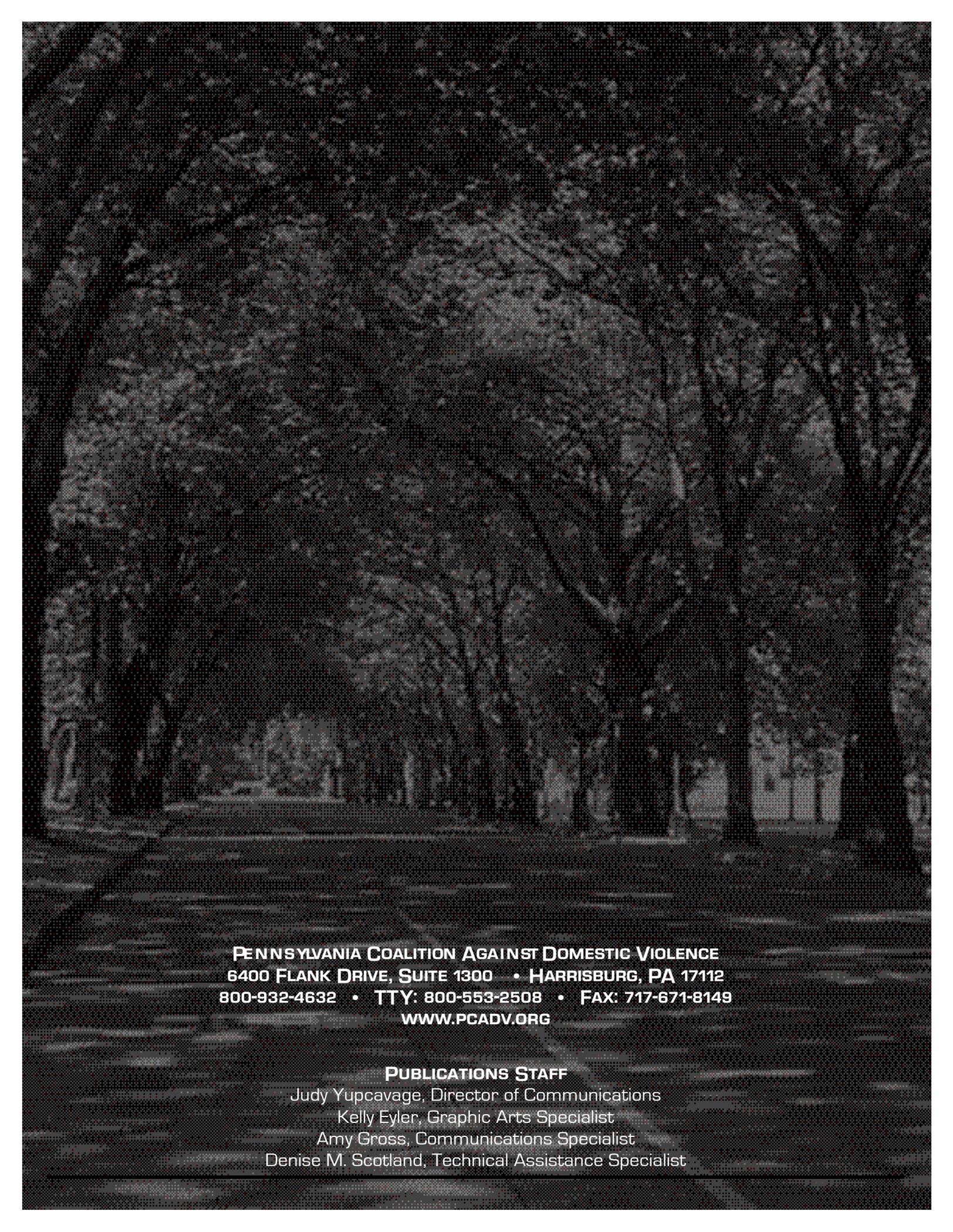
- APRIL 14** **A 41-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF NINE WAS SHOT BY A 22-YEAR-OLD MAN** in Honesdale as he was arriving home after dinner with some family members. According to reports, **THE PERPETRATOR WAS HIRED BY THE VICTIM'S 37-YEAR-OLD WIFE** to kill her husband, who was abusive. Prior to the murder, the victim's wife had obtained two Protection From Abuse orders against him on separate occasions. **THE VICTIM'S 18-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER ARRANGED THE MEETING BETWEEN HER MOTHER AND THE PERPETRATOR, WHO WAS HER BOYFRIEND.** All three entered pleas to avoid first-degree murder charges and possible life sentences. The perpetrator pled guilty to third-degree murder and was sentenced to 15 to 30 years in prison. The victim's wife and daughter pled guilty to conspiracy to commit first-degree murder. The wife was sentenced to 15 to 34 years in prison; the daughter to 15 to 30 years.
- JULY 7** **A 42-YEAR-OLD MOTHER OF FIVE WAS SHOT BY HER 42-YEAR-OLD HUSBAND** in Texas Township. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** Two of the couple's children were in the home at the time but were uninjured. According to reports, the perpetrator had threatened to kill the victim on a number of occasions.

WESTMORELAND

- FEBRUARY 4** **AN 8-YEAR-OLD GIRL, HER 6-YEAR-OLD BROTHER AND THEIR 4-YEAR-OLD SISTER WERE EACH SHOT TWICE IN THE HEAD BY THEIR 39-YEAR-OLD FATHER** in Rostraver. **HE THEN COMMITTED SUICIDE.** The perpetrator and his estranged wife were in the middle of divorce and custody proceedings. The perpetrator had been abusive toward his estranged wife who has stated that she "never believed he would harm the children."
- APRIL 12** **A 54-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS STABBED BY HIS 25-YEAR-OLD SON AND 31-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER-IN-LAW** in Rostraver. The perpetrators then fled to North Carolina. They were charged with homicide and related charges.
- OCTOBER 23** **A 52-YEAR-OLD FATHER OF THREE WAS STABBED BY HIS 43-YEAR-OLD ESTRANGED WIFE** in Trafford on their 25th wedding anniversary. She then fled the scene, barefoot, wielding the knife she used in the stabbing. The victim called police and was able to identify his wife as the attacker. He was transported to a local hospital where he died a short time later. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide. She pled guilty, but mentally ill, to third-degree murder.

YORK

- AUGUST 12** **A 34-YEAR-OLD MAN COMMITTED SUICIDE AFTER HOLDING HIS WIFE AT GUNPOINT IN THEIR YORK HOME. THE VICTIM SURVIVED THE ATTACK.** When police responded to the home for a domestic violence incident, the victim fled the house and the perpetrator hid. As police were searching for him, they heard gunshots and found the perpetrator dead in the basement.
- SEPTEMBER 5** **A 28-YEAR-OLD MAN WAS BEATEN AND STABBED BY HIS GIRLFRIEND'S 15-YEAR-OLD BROTHER** in York. He was charged with homicide. Four other juvenile males also were charged in the assault.



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