

## Fatality Report Summary

### 2013

#### Allegheny

January 1

**A 33-year-old Pittsburgh woman** was found fatally shot in her home on New Year's Day, nearly a day after two police officers responded to her 911 call. The officers left without entering the home or seeing the victim after speaking to **her 51-year-old boyfriend** through a window. A day after her body was found he ended a standoff with police at his North Point Breeze apartment by tossing them a note that indicated they could have saved her life and then fatally shooting himself. The perpetrator and victim shared a 10-year-old son. The victim had recently graduated from a career institute and was about to start a new full-time job.

February 19

**A 76-year-old Richland woman** was fatally stabbed as she ate breakfast with her husband, a retired minister. Her 26-year-old grandson allegedly walked up the stairs from his room in the home's basement and stabbed his grandmother in the back with a large hunting-style knife. His grandfather got up and struggled with him, eventually subduing him outside the home until police came. He told police that an archangel directed him to "kill the witch." The media reported that crisis counselors accompanied by police visited the home three times in the past year. "There was concern from the family over his mental status," police said.

March 19

**A 31-year-old Pittsburgh woman** was fatally stabbed several times in the neck, face and head in front of her aunt and grandmother at the aunt's home in Sheraden. Her 34-year-old brother was charged with homicide after police found him the next morning covered in blood on railroad tracks near the Duquesne Incline. Police believe the siblings had been arguing about the perpetrator lying on the couch while the family was watching television. The argument escalated, the perpetrator went into the kitchen, returned with a knife and stabbed his sister, police said. In 2006 the perpetrator robbed a bank while dressed as a woman. He served a jail sentence and was on federal probation at the time of the stabbing.

March 28

**A 74-year-old Munhall woman** was fatally shot by her 41-year-old-son in the apartment they shared. He then barricaded himself in the apartment. Police eventually Tased him and took him into custody about three hours later. They found three firearms on the second floor where he was barricaded. He was charged with homicide and weapons violations. One of his sisters was also in the apartment but was unharmed. The perpetrator had called some of his siblings and told them what he had done. One sister told police he said, "I shot Mom last night because she upset me."

March 30

**A 21-year-old Monroeville man** was fatally shot in the stairwell of a housing complex. A 24-year-old Penn Hills man was later arrested by the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force and charged with homicide. Police said the two men argued about the victim's relationship with the perpetrator's girlfriend. During the argument, the perpetrator pulled out a revolver, followed the victim into the building and shots were fired.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

April 2

**A 41-year-old Mount Oliver man** died from complications of blunt force trauma to the head nearly two months after his 39-year-old girlfriend, with whom he shared children, ran over him with a minivan. She was charged with homicide, aggravated assault and robbery. After the couple fought the perpetrator called police. As they were waiting for police to arrive the victim attempted to board a bus. She did not want him to flee the area so, while attempting to block him from entering the bus, she told police she “accidentally” hit him and thought she had run over his leg. Police said the van then drove from the victim’s groin area to his chest -- stopping when the front, driver’s-side tire was on top of his chest -- and then reversed off of him. The perpetrator then removed money from the victim and drove away, returning about five minutes later. She told police she took the money because “I didn’t want anybody else to get it” and fled because she was scared. She said, “That’s my babies’ daddy. I love him. I didn’t mean to hurt him. I didn’t mean to run him over.”

April 11

**A 42-year-old Pittsburgh man** was fatally shot in his home after he shot and wounded his fiancée’s son during a domestic dispute. The man and his 45-year-old fiancée lived in the home with their two young children, who were not home at the time of the shooting. The couple had been arguing the previous night and during the day when the man, who was a convicted felon and not permitted to possess firearms, began brandishing a gun. The woman called her adult daughter, who arrived with her 38-year-old boyfriend, an off-duty state constable, in an attempt to defuse the situation. When the woman’s 19-year-old son arrived they decided their mother’s fiance should leave. As they were packing his bags he pulled out a revolver and shot the son in the shoulder. The constable then pulled out his 40-caliber pistol and badge and ordered the man to drop his gun but instead the man fired another shot. The constable then fired six times, hitting the man in the head, chest, shoulder and arm. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The 19-year-old man survived his gunshot wound. The constable was not charged in the death.

April 13

**A 39-year-old Verona man** died of a gunshot wound to the heart after being taken to the hospital by emergency responders who found him in an East Pittsburgh home. Police charged his 36-year-old brother, of Pittsburgh, with criminal homicide, theft and evidence tampering after he surrendered to them later in the day. Police said the perpetrator took a gun from his uncle and went to the victim’s apartment where the two brothers argued, and the gun fired during a struggle.

April 20

**A 41-year-old University of Pittsburgh Medical Center neurologist** died three days after falling ill at home. Blood test results revealed, after she had already been cremated at her husband’s insistence, that she had been poisoned with cyanide. Her 64-year-old husband, codirector of the Center for ALS Research and a visiting professor of neurological surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, is facing a homicide charge in her death. Prosecutors allege he used a university credit card to buy more than a half-pound of cyanide two days before his wife fell ill and then laced his wife’s energy drink with some of the cyanide. She was chief of women’s neurology at the UPMC. The district attorney announced he won’t seek the death penalty.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

May 1

**A 57-year-old Pittsburgh woman** was found dead in the basement of the home she shared with her 62-year-old husband. Her husband was charged with homicide, abuse of a corpse, tampering with evidence and possessing a weapon of mass destruction. Police went to the home after a coworker of the victim became alarmed when she missed an important meeting. The perpetrator told police he didn't know where his wife was, that he hadn't seen her for three days, but they could check the house. An officer spotted blood and footprints on the floor and followed them to the basement where police found the victim's body under a tarp. The city bomb squad was called after an officer spotted a spray can with PVC tubing, wires and a switch. A bomb tech said it was "a very good facsimile of a bomb," but it lacked some detonation parts. The perpetrator then allegedly told police that after he hit his wife with a mallet several times, she fell to the floor. He tried to suffocate her with a garbage bag, but she was able to rip the bag open. He then struck her in the neck with a pick ax, killing her. He said he covered her body with cedar chips because she "smelled like an alligator."

May 10

**A 44-year-old registered nurse** was shot more than 30 times in the face, neck and chest by **her 46-year-old estranged husband**, a licensed practical nurse, who then killed himself. She had left him about six weeks earlier and obtained a protection from abuse order after his verbal abuse made her feel threatened. "He is begging me to come home, and I feel unsafe seeing him or being in the house with him," she wrote in her application for the PFA order. "I do not want to stay in our marital home. I just want to safely get my belongings, dogs and be safe at work and in my new place of residence. I also want others at my work and residence to be safe from him." She was granted the PFA order but agreed to drop it after he promised the court he would stay away when she came to collect her things. She was collecting some things from her mother-in-law's home, next door to their marital home in Wexford where he still lived, when she discovered her husband inside, according to police. Her mother-in-law was at work at the time. He attacked her almost immediately as a friend who had driven her to the home watched in horror from the car. The friend then ran for assistance. The victim was pounding on the window of the home for help. When police arrived they found both bodies on the floor of the living room, with the perpetrator on top of the victim. Neighbors said the couple had been high school sweethearts but had had marital problems. One neighbor said that when he heard the gunshots and saw the victim's friend run across the street for help he immediately knew what happened. "I said, 'Oh my God. He's killing Stephanie. Dad, call 911.'" The perpetrator was scheduled to go on trial within a few days on a felony firearms violation and a misdemeanor charge of making a false statement. He had threatened the victim before, showing up at her job in 2005 and saying he would kill her. At that time, he pleaded guilty to simple assault and was placed on two years of probation.

June 18

**A 25-year-old Reserve Township woman** was fatally shot in the head in her home by **her 24-year-old ex-boyfriend**, who then turned the handgun on himself. A neighbor said the couple had broken up the day before. The victim's mother, sister and young son, with whom she lived, were not home at the time. They found her body in the shower with the water still running and the perpetrator's body slumped against the bathroom door. A neighbor returned home shortly after and found the victim's mother and sister hysterical in the yard, saying "she's shot! She's shot!"

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

July 2

**A 50-year-old East Deer woman** was found dead in a wooded area in Plum several days after her coworkers in the Postal Service reported her missing. Her 50-year-old husband had told police she left their home after they argued, and he hadn't seen her since. He had scratches and marks on his body and said she had become increasingly physically aggressive with him over several days. Three days later police found the couple's van parked in a street in New Kensington. Police said the husband had loaned it to a man in exchange for illegal drugs. Police then found the husband in a park where he had tried to kill himself by cutting his wrists and ingesting 30 stamp bags of heroin. Police said he told them that he had confronted his wife about an affair he believed she was having with a coworker and during the ensuing argument he struck her in the head with a floor jack. He then wrapped her body in plastic and dumped it in brush off a road. He returned the next day but couldn't bring himself to bury her so he removed the plastic wrap, tape and her clothing and disposed of the evidence in various locations. He was charged with homicide, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence.

July 9

**A 27-year-old Army Ranger** was killed by police in his cousin's home in Sewickley, from which he was barred by a protection from abuse order after threatening his cousin and the cousin's estranged wife, with whom he had had an affair. Police used a Taser gun on him first, but he pulled out the Taser barbs and struggled with an officer before several officers fired at him. He was out on bail on a charge of making terroristic threats at the time. The day before he had broken into his cousin's home, talked to the cousin's estranged wife and then tackled and beat her when she tried to get away. The cousin and his wife were in the process of getting a divorce. Both had protection from abuse orders against the perpetrator. He had made verbal threats against them and, in the wife's case, also physically abused her.

August 14

**A 31-year-old Etna woman** was found strangled to death on the porch of the apartment she shared with her 33-year-old boyfriend. He claimed she committed suicide. Police charged him with homicide because the victim had fresh bruises and scratches, and her fingernails were broken at the tip. The boyfriend was bleeding from cuts and scratches on his head and had scratches on his arms and legs. A neighbor told police that she had heard the couple arguing. An autopsy showed that the victim's death was consistent with homicide because of bleeding within the neck muscles, police said.

August 22

**A 19-year-old college student** was fatally shot at least two times by **her 52-year-old father**, who also shot and critically injured his 51-year-old wife and 21-year-old son before killing himself in their Shaler Township home. He also killed the family dog, a beagle. Police said it appeared that he went from room to room, shooting the children in their bedrooms. The perpetrator had been suspended from his job as an electrician less than a week before but police weren't sure what the motive for the shootings was.

August 31

**A 27-year-old Swissvale man** was fatally shot in the apartment he shared with his girlfriend after her ex-husband broke in and fought with him. The ex-husband, also 27, then fled to Texas where he was captured by U.S. Border Patrol agents after he jumped into the Rio Grande River in an attempt to flee to Mexico. He was charged with homicide.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- September 22 **A 36-year-old Duquesne man** was fatally shot on the street after his friend argued with another man, the accused perpetrator, over a woman. The victim's friend was dating the accused perpetrator's former girlfriend, and the two men had argued earlier that night in a bar. Police believe the accused perpetrator followed his rival and his rival's friends when they left the bar and then fired on them, hitting the victim in the chest. The accused perpetrator's ex-girlfriend told police that he had threatened to kill her and her boyfriend that night. Police charged him with homicide, making terroristic threats and a firearm violation.
- October 20 **A 37-year-old Perry South man** was fatally shot after forcing his way into his ex-girlfriend's Pittsburgh home, punching her in the face, striking her with his pistol and then pointing his gun at her new boyfriend. The new boyfriend shot the ex-boyfriend in the torso with a gun he had a permit to carry and called 911. The ex-boyfriend was a felon who had previously pleaded guilty to various gun and drug charges and so was not permitted to carry a firearm. Investigators are trying to determine how he got his gun. The district attorney will decide whether to press charges against the new boyfriend.
- October 29 **A 45-year-old North Versailles woman** was found fatally shot in the home she shared with **her 48-year-old husband**, who also was dead. The medical examiner said he killed her with a shotgun and then shot himself in the abdomen. Police went to their home and found them after the perpetrator's coworkers called 911 when he didn't show up for work.
- December 8 **A 21-year-old Massachusetts man** was fatally shot by state police at Pittsburgh International Airport after he held a knife to and used as a shield an 8-month-old baby he kidnapped from his ex-girlfriend. He was not the father of the child. During a chase by police, he rammed several gates at the airport, crashed into police cruisers and put a knife to the baby's throat. A trooper shot him in the head. He died at a hospital later. The baby was treated at a hospital for neck injuries from the knife. Police said the child's mother had been driving the accused perpetrator to the bus station in Pittsburgh when they got into an argument over another man contacting her. When they stopped at a convenience store so she and an older child could use the bathroom, he accused her of calling the police and drove off with just the baby in the car. Police issued an Amber Alert, spotted the car and chased it to the airport.
- December 17 **A 52-year-old man** with mental disabilities was found fatally shot in the living room of the Port Vue home he shared with **his 78-year-old father**, who was found dead in a bedroom. Police believe the father, who was taking care of his son, killed him and then himself with a rifle.

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### Beaver

- April 14 **A 25-year-old Aliquippa woman**, the mother of three children, was fatally shot in the neck in the living room of her home. She also had a contact wound to the head. Her back door had been kicked in. The 27-year-old father of two of her children surrendered to police and admitted to the shooting. He told police he had gone to her home to talk about a fight and "could not take it anymore." As he was being handcuffed he told police, "You might want to check on her. She might have a little life in her." He was charged with criminal homicide. Her children were with a baby sitter and did not witness the shooting.

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### 2013

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#### Bradford

May 5

**A 24-year-old Canton woman** was fatally shot in her bed. **The 44-year-old married man** with whom she had a one-month-old daughter was also found inside the home with a gunshot wound to his head. He died later at a hospital. Authorities said he killed the victim and then shot himself. The victim also had a 5-year-old child. State police charged the perpetrator's wife with felony sale and transfer of firearms in the third degree and misdemeanor unsworn falsification to authorities in the third degree for buying the Taurus 9mm gun used in the shooting and providing it to the perpetrator. He was not allowed to possess a gun due to a prior criminal conviction.

July 14

**A 28-year-old Monroeton woman** died of blunt force trauma to the head sustained during a fight with her 29-year-old husband in their home. She was unconscious when police arrived at the home in response to a domestic disturbance call. She was pronounced dead an hour later at the hospital. He told police they were using and fighting over bath salts. She tried to bite his finger so he slammed her head against the wall and struck her in the neck and mouth multiple times. He was arrested at the home and initially charged with simple assault and recklessly endangering another person. The simple assault charge was upgraded to involuntary manslaughter and aggravated assault after her death. He was released on \$50,000 bail.

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#### Bucks

February 19

**An 89-year-old Warminster Township woman** was fatally shot in her apartment as police exchanged gunfire with a man who had barricaded himself in his apartment above the victim's. Earlier in the day police had responded to the 49-year-old perpetrator's apartment for a domestic dispute between him and his girlfriend. Officers referred him to a domestic affairs case worker. The siege began about three hours later when the girlfriend called 911 and told dispatchers the perpetrator had several guns, had already fired two shots and was going to kill himself. When police arrived he fired more shots at them from a large handgun. Ultimately, he was accused of firing 19 shots from his apartment. Police fired at least four rounds in return. Later it was determined that a police officer mistakenly shot the woman when he saw her hand reach out from a door and thought it was a threat from the perpetrator. The perpetrator's girlfriend was able to leave the apartment unharmed before the seven-hour standoff ended with the perpetrator's surrender. He was charged with first-degree murder and other charges because his actions and his intent to harm police sparked the gun battle that led to the victim's death. The district attorney exonerated the police officer of any wrongdoing. In 2007 the perpetrator was charged with simple assault and reckless endangerment, but those charges were dismissed. Police found a .44-caliber Magnum handgun, a 12-gauge Winchester shotgun, a 9 mm handgun, several .22-caliber guns and .380 guns, all legally registered to the perpetrator, in his apartment.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

April 18

**A 45-year-old Northampton woman** was fatally shot to death in front of her 16-year-old daughter as they prepared to leave their car for the final fitting of the victim's wedding dress at a shop in Lower Southampton Township. **The victim's 50-year-old ex-husband** rammed his car into the rear of her car, trapping her inside, went to the passenger side of the victim's car and fired a 12-gauge shotgun three times at her. The girl was injured in the hand by flying glass as she tried to protect her mother by pulling her into the passenger seat with her. He then fled the scene but about 15 minutes later got into a shootout with police who were pursuing him. He shot one officer in the chest. The officer survived because he was wearing a bulletproof vest. He then fatally shot the perpetrator in the head and chest. The victim had a protection from abuse order against the perpetrator. Five months earlier, he had been arrested for appearing at her home with a knife and trying to break in. He was found guilty of several offenses and sentenced to probation. Three weeks before the shooting, he had appeared in court for a parole violation where he was sentenced to 23 months in prison, but was given time served and immediately paroled. Court records show he had a record of aggravated and simple assault and making terroristic threats dating to 2005.

July 6

**A 59-year-old East Rockhill woman** with disabilities was shot twice in the head by **her 78-year-old father** who then shot himself in the head. A caregiver found their bodies in the home they shared.

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### Cambria

August 2

**A 52-year-old Johnstown man** was killed in the home he shared with his 31-year-old son. Police charged the son with homicide and related charges. They said he struck his father in the head with a carpenter's hammer, stabbed him several times, hid his body in the home's basement and then raided his safe for drug money. Police allege the two men had argued over the son's use of his father's car.

August 6

**A 21-year-old Johnstown woman** was fatally stabbed in the neck while she sat in a truck in a car wash bay with her 21-year-old estranged boyfriend. He was charged with the murder. Police said the couple had argued earlier in the day, and he punched her and threatened her life. They separated for a short time and then agreed to meet to talk and exchange a cell phone when the fatal attack occurred. He allegedly stabbed her once and then fled, leaving the knife behind.

September 27

**A 64-year-old woman and her 47-year-old son** were fatally shot in their Allegheny Township home when **their estranged daughter/sister and her husband** knocked on their door. The female victim, who answered the knock, only had time to scream something like "Oh my God, they have guns" before she was shot by her 43-year-old daughter with a sawed-off 12-gauge shotgun, according to police. Then either the female perpetrator or her 43-year-old husband, who also was armed, shot the male victim. The victims' 67-year-old husband/father retrieved a .22-caliber revolver and killed both perpetrators in self-defense. Family members said the female perpetrator, who lived in Blandburg, had been estranged from her family for almost two decades.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

### Centre

March 28

**A 49-year-old woman** was fatally shot twice in the chest by her estranged husband inside the Philipsburg supermarket where she worked as a florist. **The 51-year-old perpetrator**, a former state trooper, then turned the 12-gauge shotgun on himself and killed himself. The murder-suicide occurred days after the victim had filed for divorce. The perpetrator had been arrested about two months earlier when he wrestled the victim to the ground, pinned her arms behind her and attempted to bind her with duct tape after she returned to their home to retrieve some belongings. He also pointed a gun at her and threatened to kill her before a passerby saw him trying to drag her back into the house and intervened. He was charged with simple assault, terroristic threats and harassment and spent a week in jail before posting bail. The victim told prosecutors then, “the next time I see him is going to be at the end of a gun.”

August 23

**A 32-year-old Howard man** fatally shot himself in a field near his estranged wife’s Liberty Township home after violating a protection from abuse order, entering the home using a key, threatening his estranged wife and another man inside and firing a round at one of them. Police said the two males then got into a physical altercation while the perpetrator’s estranged wife called 911. When the perpetrator found out the police had been called he fled and was later found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

### Chester

May 21

**An East Fallowfield Township woman** was fatally shot twice with a single-shot, 12-gauge shotgun in her home. Her 44-year-old boyfriend, with whom she shared a daughter, called 911 and said, “I need the police. I just shot my girlfriend.” When officers arrived he was standing on the porch smoking a cigarette. He was charged with criminal homicide, first- and third-degree murder and a weapons offense. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty. “This was a premeditated and cruel murder. This was not an argument. This was an execution,” the district attorney said. “This is another example of domestic violence accelerating into a murder. A mother is dead and a child has been left an orphan.” Five months before the homicide, the victim had been granted an emergency protection from abuse order, but it was never served on the accused perpetrator. The victim had written in her application for the PFA that she had been trying to get away from him for a long time, but he threatened her. She was afraid he would be at the house when she went home or that he would show up in the middle of the night. The day before the murder, the accused perpetrator changed his Facebook profile picture to a photograph of a shotgun shell, the same type used to kill the victim. And he changed the background photo to that of a shotgun similar to the one used in the murder. Also the day before the murder, the victim returned from a week of vacation, during which time she had been in contact with the police about feeling threatened.

November 3

**A 52-year-old East Fallowfield man** killed himself after he assaulted his roommate, who was once his girlfriend. When the 64-year-old victim gave him a notarized eviction notice, he tied her up and choked, stabbed, beat and raped her. At one point he told the victim, “I have to kill myself now because you will prosecute me, and I’m not going to jail.” The victim did not hear the gunshot. She was finally able to call 911 after drifting in and out of consciousness for nearly five hours. The perpetrator left a suicide note that blamed the victim. He had also told a friend earlier “my girlfriend broke up with me,” although they had not been a couple in more than four years.



## Fatality Report Summary 2013

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### Clarion

September 12

**A Rimersburg woman** was fatally shot in the chest by **her husband**, who then turned the gun on himself. They were both 70. A neighbor discovered their bodies in their home.

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### Crawford

September 14

The decomposing body of a **55-year-old Erie County man** was found, headless and handless, stuffed inside a metal drum, less than a mile from the home of **the 68-year-old Cambridge Springs man** who killed him two weeks earlier. The perpetrator was charged with first-degree murder and abuse of a corpse for shooting the victim through the heart with an arrow and dismembering his body. The perpetrator was the father of the victim's girlfriend. Police said she told the perpetrator she wanted to end her decade-long relationship with the victim, so he killed the victim later that day. The perpetrator committed suicide in his jail cell about six weeks later by hanging himself.

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### Cumberland

December 3

**An 85-year-old woman** was found with a "very large mortal wound to the front of her neck" in her Carlisle apartment by police, who rushed there after receiving a call from someone who told them that the woman's son was planning a "violent act." Police said the victim's 54-year-old son used three knives to kill his mother and was attempting to clean the scene with mops when they arrived. They believe he killed his mother so he could steal money from her to buy crack cocaine. He was charged with criminal homicide, robbery, tampering with evidence and abuse of a corpse. The victim's 49-year-old roommate also was in the apartment. She had a bloody \$20 bill that police believe was from the victim's purse and a crack pipe. Police said she later admitted to helping the accused perpetrator move his mother's body from a chair in the living room to the bedroom. She was charged with receiving stolen property, possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with evidence and abuse of a corpse.

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### Dauphin

April 17

**A 65-year-old Bethlehem man** was found dead and wrapped in a tarp behind a motel in Susquehanna Township days after he and his 24-year-old son were reported missing. The victim had been beaten to death. Motel staff found blood in their room. His son, of Lower Paxton Township, was charged with DUI and theft of leased property after a brief chase on Interstate 81. He was driving a rental car that was overdue to be returned. Three-and-a-half months later police also charged him with homicide in the death of his father.

June 6

**A 25-year-old Harrisburg man** was fatally stabbed in his home. An autopsy revealed that he had a stab wound near his groin, and he died of internal bleeding. His 17-year-old cousin, also of Harrisburg, was charged with criminal homicide. Police said the two cousins were fighting in the home. The victim fell or slipped and seemed out of breath, according to his grandfather. He was allowed to rest on the floor before relatives realized he was in distress, and his grandfather performed CPR.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- June 22      **A 53-year-old Harrisburg man** was fatally shot in the chest during a fight outside a city bar. A 40-year-old Harrisburg man was charged with criminal homicide in the killing. Police said the victim had walked into the bar, saw his estranged wife with the shooter and “took exception to that.” When the couple left the bar “to avoid problems,” according to the shooter, the victim followed them, and the two men got into an argument. The shooter retrieved a gun from his car and shot the victim once.
- December 7      **A 32-year-old woman** was strangled in her Lower Paxton Township apartment. **Her 27-year-old former boyfriend** was charged with criminal homicide in the emergency room of Harrisburg Hospital after trying to poison himself. On Dec. 24 he was found dead in his jail cell. An autopsy has so far proven inconclusive in determining what killed him. A 7-year-old child and a 2-year-old child, whose father was the perpetrator, were asleep in the apartment when their mother was killed, police said. Police had responded to many domestic violence-related calls at the apartment in the past. The perpetrator had lived there at one time but was no longer living there. He had been released from jail a week before the killing. The victim had filed a protection from abuse order against the perpetrator at some point but that order was no longer active.
- December 7      **A 27-year-old man** was fatally shot three times in his trailer in Williams Township during a confrontation over a woman. The woman’s 53-year-old husband was charged with murder, attempted murder, burglary, aggravated assault, reckless endangering and possessing an instrument of crime. Police said he was angry and jealous when he found the victim and his wife together in the trailer in the middle of the night. He killed the victim and assaulted his wife.

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### Delaware

- February 11      **A 91-year-old woman** was fatally shot in the garage of the Bethel home that she and **her 89-year-old husband** had just moved out of because of health problems. Police said he shot her and then killed himself. Their bodies were found in their car with the motor running.
- February 11      **A 55-year-old Nether Providence Township man** was fatally stabbed in the neck in his home by his 52-year-old wife. She was charged with first-degree murder. Sources said she waited until he was asleep and then stabbed him in the neck with a kitchen knife. He awakened, and the two struggled before he died. She told police she killed him because she caught him looking at child pornography. “I love kids. I had to do,” she said. Her attorney said she had been having mental health problems. The victim was a former professional basketball player in Europe, and the accused perpetrator was an instructional support teacher. The couple have two children. Friends said the couple didn’t appear to have marital trouble.
- April 27      **A 43-year-old Parkside man** was fatally shot in the chest by his 42-year-old wife while giving her a lesson in gun-handling in the home they shared. The couple, whose 2-year-old and 5-year-old children were also home at the time, had been drinking for hours before the wife asked for the lesson so she could protect herself. She was holding a semi-automatic 9-millimeter pistol, pointed at him, when she pulled the trigger, police said. Initially, she was charged with involuntary manslaughter, aggravated assault and a weapons offense. But six months later authorities upgraded the manslaughter charge to third-degree murder. The prosecutor said her conduct was high-risk and reckless, and he suggested it was intentional.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- May 28 **A 31-year-old former police officer** was fatally shot by U.S. Marshals and a state police trooper in a standoff outside a motel in Upper Darby Township after he broke into his ex-girlfriend's home in Northumberland County, shot her new boyfriend in the foot and then went on the run. Police said he came outside the motel and pointed a handgun at the officers.
- June 9 **A 31-year-old woman** was fatally shot in her Prospect Park home by **her 38-year-old ex-boyfriend**, the father of her 6-year-old daughter. Police had responded to domestic calls at the home twice over the weekend. The first call involved a custody dispute over their daughter. The second call involved a fight between the perpetrator and the victim's new boyfriend. Police issued a warning to both men, and the perpetrator left the scene with his daughter. He apparently dropped his daughter off at a relative's home and returned to the victim's home, where he shot her in the chest and face. She was pronounced dead at the scene. About two hours later, Philadelphia Police found the perpetrator dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head in his parked van in Southwest Philadelphia.
- July 6 **A 35-year-old Chester woman** was fatally stabbed outside her apartment complex by a 22-year-old neighbor who saw her boyfriend engaged in what she believed was a romantic liaison with the victim, authorities said. The accused perpetrator went back inside her apartment, got a knife from a kitchen drawer and then confronted and stabbed the victim, police said. She was charged with first- and third-degree murder, criminal homicide, recklessly endangering another person and possessing an instrument of crime. After a judge ordered her taken to county prison without bail, she asked, "Will I be able to go home to my kids?"
- October 10 **A 61-year-old Upper Darby man** was fatally shot by **his 62-year-old sister** in the Drexel Hill duplex they shared. She also shot her cat. Then she killed herself with a .38-caliber revolver. She was found lying in a hospital bed with the dead cat. Police said she had major health issues, and her brother was her caretaker. He recently had been diagnosed with cancer. He lived in the upstairs apartment, and she lived in the downstairs apartment in the duplex.
- December 13 **A 48-year-old woman** was fatally shot twice in her Wallingford home by **her 44-year-old estranged husband**, who then shot himself. He was pronounced dead at the scene. She died later at a hospital. Police said there was a "long-standing domestic issue" between them, although the husband had moved out of the home some time ago. Police had responded to the home nine months earlier for a domestic dispute. Neighbors said two sons and an older daughter were home at the time of the shooting.

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### Elk

- March 23 **An 18-year-old woman** was found fatally stabbed in a garbage bag buried under deer carcasses in Sandy Beach Recreational Park. Her 22-year-old boyfriend was charged with homicide, aggravated assault and abuse of a corpse. Investigators believe the victim was killed in Johnsonburg Borough. A friend testified that the victim's boyfriend told him he had choked the victim and then stabbed her with a screwdriver and a kitchen knife. The friend also said that the victim had told him earlier that the accused perpetrator had threatened to kill her.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

September 3

**A 48-year-old Emporium woman** was fatally gunned down outside the powdered metal plant in St. Marys where she worked. Her 44-year-old boyfriend, who also worked at the plant, was charged with criminal homicide, two counts of felony aggravated assault and a felony count of discharging a firearm into an occupied structure. Eyewitnesses told police they heard two gunshots at the peak of the plant's third shift. Some fellow employees wrestled a big game rifle from the perpetrator's hands, and others restrained him until police arrived. The victim was taken to the hospital where she later died. She had a gunshot wound to the abdomen. The victim normally worked second shift but was covering for a third-shift employee that night. Coworkers said she frequently worked overtime because she was saving up to visit her daughter and grandchildren in Florida.

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### Erie

August 19

**A 27-year-old Summit Township man** was fatally shot in the chest during an argument with his 28-year-old girlfriend in the home they shared. She was found guilty of third-degree murder and assault and sentenced to seven to 15 years in state prison. Authorities said the victim's blood alcohol content was 3 1/2 times the legal limit for drivers at the time of his death. The judge said he took into account pleas for leniency from the victim's mother, who said "alcohol killed my son," and the perpetrator's remorse and lack of a prior record.

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### Forest

April 27

**A 42-year-old Green Township woman and her 43-year-old boyfriend**, of Leechburg in Armstrong County, were fatally stabbed in her home shortly after midnight. Her former fiance was charged with two counts of homicide and two counts of aggravated assault in the slayings. A judge ordered him to undergo a psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

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### Franklin

January 22

**A 45-year-old woman** was fatally shot in her Washington Township home by **her 50-year-old husband**, who then shot her 18-year-old son, his stepson, in the arm before killing himself. The perpetrator used a handgun. The stepson survived. Police said the motive was unknown. The perpetrator was a former Washington Township police officer, and the victim was an administrator for the police department.

July 18

**A 44-year-old Chambersburg man** was found fatally shot on the street. Police said he had been shot with a 12-gauge shotgun after getting out of his parked car. Witnesses reported seeing a dark-colored sport utility vehicle leaving the scene. The victim's wife's alleged boyfriend was charged with first-degree murder. The 37-year-old accused perpetrator, of Gardners, pleaded not guilty.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

August 25

**A 40-year-old Chambersburg woman** was fatally shot in the head with a handgun by **her estranged 60-year-old husband** who then shot himself. She was already dead when police arrived in response to a 911 call. He was pronounced dead a little later at the local hospital where they both worked as surgical technologists. The couple had two sons, ages 11 and 8, and were in the process of divorcing. He was seeking custody of the boys. In his petition for custody, he claimed she was threatening to leave with the children. He had pleaded guilty to a charge of harassment against her about a month earlier which involved holding her down on the bed and pinching her. Three days after he was cited for harassment, she filed for divorce saying the marriage was “irretrievably broken.”

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### Huntingdon

March 23

**A 2-year-old boy** was fatally shot by **his 52-year-old father** during a contentious custody exchange at the perpetrator’s mother’s home in Barree Township. The perpetrator had argued with and shot his estranged wife, the boy’s mother, wounding her in the arm and both legs with a .40-caliber handgun. Then he shot the boy. As he placed the boy’s body in the back of his vehicle, his injured estranged wife tried to retrieve the boy’s body. The perpetrator then shot her again, this time in the face. She survived. The perpetrator also fired at his mother but missed her. He then fled and was found later in a wooded area dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The estranged wife had a protection from abuse order against the perpetrator, but he was still allowed visitation with their son. The perpetrator had been arrested in 2010 for violating a protection order his wife had against him then.

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### Lackawanna

March 20

**A 32-year-old Taylor man** with Down syndrome died of sepsis because of malnutrition and open sores. He weighed just 69 pounds when he died. His 59-year-old mother and 35-year-old and 24-year-old sisters were charged with third-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and neglect of care for a dependent person. Investigators said they were concerned about losing his government assistance if they placed him in a personal care home, and his mother asked if she would still receive his Social Security check after his death. The autopsy revealed that his skin was yellow and laced with scabies with open sores all over his body that were so deep in spots that bone was visible. His few remaining teeth were about to fall out, his head was covered in lice, and there was no food in his stomach.

July 20

**A 24-year-old Scranton man** was shot and then his jeep, with his body inside, was pushed into a ravine near Nay Aug Park in Scranton, where it was found about a week later. He had been at an all-night drinking party with two other men who offered him a ride home. Police said that instead the men, both 23, drove him to the step falls area off Ridge Row in Scranton, and one of them shot him because he was dating the man’s ex-girlfriend. The shooter was convicted of third-degree murder and conspiracy. He faces 20 to 40 years in prison on each count. The other man was convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy. He faces a mandatory life sentence. Both perpetrators are awaiting sentencing.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

### Lancaster

January 6

**An 88-year-old bedridden woman** living in East Lampeter Township died of sepsis after her 66-year-old daughter left her wearing a soiled diaper for 10 days without food, water or her cell phone. The coroner found that the sepsis was caused by an untreated infection. The victim also had a large ulcer from remaining in the same position for an extended period of time. The daughter claimed she was honoring her mother's wish to die at home but pleaded no contest to a charge of third-degree murder. She was sentenced to six to 12 years in prison.

January 13

**A 2-year-old girl** died at a hospital after police found her going in and out of consciousness at her Lancaster home. Police were responding to a report of an injured toddler. The girl's mother's 30-year-old boyfriend was charged with criminal homicide, endangering the welfare of children and aggravated assault. Police said he punched the victim in the head, splitting her retina and blinding her in one eye, and then kicked her in the stomach several times while she was on the ground, damaging her internal organs. He then failed to get her medical help.

February 20

**A 36-year-old Bronx, NY, man** was fatally shot multiple times in the head and chest in the Columbia apartment of his girlfriend. Her 36-year-old estranged husband, from whom she was legally separated, was charged with criminal homicide and burglary. Police said the accused perpetrator forced his way into his estranged wife's home and shot the victim, possibly with a sawed-off shotgun. His estranged wife had protection orders against him because of previous threats of violence. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

March 9

**A 21-year-old mother of two** was fatally shot in the Lancaster apartment she shared with her ex-boyfriend. Their 6-month-old baby was with her but unharmed. Her 35-year-old ex-boyfriend was charged with homicide, aggravated assault, two counts of simple assault, terroristic threats, endangering the welfare of children and weapons violations. Police say he pointed a gun at the victim and two other women in the apartment and threatened to kill everyone there, which included four children under the age of five. The other two women and three of the children were able to escape the apartment. Prosecutors said he also beat, sexually assaulted and strangled the victim. A jury convicted him of first-degree murder, and he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

November 3

**A 28-year-old York man** drove his car into the Susquehanna River and drowned himself after stabbing his estranged wife and another man multiple times during a home invasion in West York. He wore a Halloween mask during the attack. Both stabbing victims survived. His body was found a few hours later by a fisherman. The perpetrator's estranged wife had a protection from abuse order against him. He had been charged with assaulting her three weeks earlier and was out on \$5,000 bail.

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### Lawrence

May 15

**A 50-year-old Mahoning Township man** shot himself in the head with a .45-caliber handgun after shooting his 50-year-old wife in the abdomen and leg during a domestic altercation. He died later in the hospital. She survived. He was a former sheriff's deputy in Ohio.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- August 21 **A 52-year-old New Castle doughnut shop owner** was fatally shot multiple times while working at a warehouse at night. His 28-year-old son was charged with homicide, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. Police said the father and son were working together when they began fighting over the son's cell phone usage. The son was knocked down and, police allege, pulled out a pistol and shot his father seven times. Police say he then used a hydraulic lift to hoist his father's body into a metal bin, which he loaded into a Jeep with the intention of dumping it later at a state park. Police found the body in the Jeep the next day.
- September 12 **A 50-year-old North Beaver Township woman** was shot in the head with a .22-caliber rifle by **her 54-year-old live-in boyfriend**, who then shot himself. A passerby found his body lying on the ground near a pickup truck by Bessemer Lake. She was found inside the truck and transported to a nearby hospital, where she died.
- November 17 **A 22-year-old New Castle woman** was fatally shot outside a Walmart where she worked by **her 27-year-old ex-boyfriend**. He was the father of her three young children. A police tactical team later surrounded his New Brighton apartment, where he was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The victim's sister said she had lived in fear of the perpetrator. "She was like, 'I don't want to be followed. I hate having to watch over my shoulder'," the sister said. The victim had filed a protection from abuse order against the perpetrator six days before the shooting. He had violated it by stalking her and showing up at her job. Four years earlier, she had filed another protection order against him for threatening to kill her.

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### Lebanon

- November 1 **A 46-year-old Lebanon woman** was fatally shot by **her 54-year-old husband**, who then killed himself. Their bodies were found in a garage at the rear of a residence in the city.

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### Lehigh

- April 10 **A 54-year-old Lowhill Township woman** died in the hospital of blunt force injuries to her body. Her 55-year-old husband, who was accused of dragging her by her arm to the basement of their home, restraining her and beating her, was initially charged with aggravated assault, simple assault, unlawful restraint, false imprisonment and harassment after she was taken to the hospital for treatment of internal bleeding. The charges were upgraded to homicide after her death.
- December 17 **A 37-year-old west Bethlehem woman** was fatally shot in the head outside her home in front of her three children, ages 3, 10 and 16. Her 37-year-old husband fled the scene with their 3-year-old daughter and was arrested about 15 minutes later at a nearby convenience store. He was charged with criminal homicide, burglary and criminal trespass. The girl was brought back to the family home where she cried, "I want my mom." Hours earlier, the victim had obtained a protection from abuse order against the accused perpetrator, barring him from contact with her and the children for six months. Authorities said he surprised the family by showing up at the home. A witness then saw the entire family run out of the house into the street, where the shooting occurred.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

### Luzerne

April 2

**A 26-year-old developmentally challenged man** was fatally shot with a handgun by **his 54-year-old father**, who then turned the gun on himself, in the Lehman Township home they shared near Lake Silkworth. The son's body was found on a bed, and the father's body was found on the floor. Relatives said the two men had been arguing and not getting along well, and the older man had been having mental health issues.

September 26

**A 47-year-old Wilkes-Barre woman** was fatally shot multiple times in her home by her estranged husband, who then shot himself in the face, a few days before their 22nd wedding anniversary. He survived and was charged with homicide. The couple's 15-year-old son ran to a neighbor's house screaming that his father had shot his mother, police said. Officers found the perpetrator bleeding profusely from his gunshot wound with a neighbor restraining him. The victim was found upstairs in the home, also bleeding profusely. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The son told police he was upstairs playing Xbox when he heard his parents arguing. Then he heard a gunshot, and his mother yelled "call 911." He went to a bedroom and found his father holding a pistol and standing over his mother. His father then put the gun to his chin, fired and fell to the floor. The son ran to the neighbor's home. The neighbor went to investigate and found the perpetrator walking down the stairs carrying the pistol and bleeding from the face. The neighbor took the gun and restrained the perpetrator in the kitchen until police arrived. The victim had filed for divorce less than two weeks earlier. Police had removed the perpetrator from the home a few days earlier so the victim could get her belongings. Neighbors believe she returned the night of the shooting to retrieve more clothes, believing he was at work. They described years of a rocky marriage. "When she filed for divorce, and he was served with the papers, we knew he was going to kill her," a neighbor said. "You won't find one person on this street that wouldn't believe that."

October 27

**A 2-year-old girl** was fatally shot by **her 34-year-old father**, who then turned the gun on himself in their Forty Fort home. Police had been dispatched to the home for a report of a man with a gun threatening to kill himself and his daughter. They found the girl dead on a couch and her father injured on the floor, each with one gunshot wound to the head. The father died later at a hospital. The father and the girl's mother had split up a week earlier. The girl's mother had received a chilling call from her estranged husband the day of the killing in which he told her, "Say goodbye to your daughter."

### Lycoming

February 21

**A 38-year-old Hepburn Township woman** was killed by **her 42-year-old ex-boyfriend** when he set fire to her sport utility vehicle. He also died in the fire. He was out on bail from a previous assault on her when he had repeatedly struck her with a rifle as she held one of their young children and threatened to kill her. She obtained a Protection from Abuse Order against him. They were only allowed to see each other when exchanging custody of their two children, ages 2 and 3. She was picking up the kids from his parents' home, where he was living, when he set fire to her vehicle.



## Fatality Report Summary 2013

October 25

**A 50-year-old Williamsport woman** suffered multiple stab wounds, fractures to her neck and blunt force trauma to her head before her dead body was placed in her bedroom closet and the home was set on fire. Police charged her husband with criminal homicide, two counts of aggravated assault, four counts of arson, and one count each of risking a catastrophe, criminal mischief, possessing an instrument of crime, abuse of a corpse, tampering with evidence and obstruction of justice. News reports said that after setting fire to their home he went to a tavern where he was a regular, began drinking and told other bar patrons that he had killed his wife. They thought he was kidding. His sister eventually showed up and told him he had to leave because his house was on fire. He did not want to go, but a bouncer forced him to leave. He was intoxicated when police arrested him and allegedly voluntarily confessed to killing his wife.

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### Monroe

January 20

**A 21-year-old Polk Township man** used bed sheets tied to the steel frame of his bed to strangle himself inside his jail cell six months after choking and stabbing to death his 53-year-old mother in their home. He was facing criminal homicide charges.

February 2

**A 35-year-old man** died of a stab wound to the abdomen incurred during a fight with his 62-year-old father in the father's Saylorburg home. Police initially charged the father, a retired Marine, with aggravated assault but withdrew the charge to investigate further when the son died a short time later at the hospital. The case is now closed.

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### Montgomery

May 25

**A 17-year-old Royersford high school senior**, set to graduate in two weeks, was found fatally stabbed along a hiking trail in Skippack Township. State police charged her 16-year-old boyfriend with first- and third-degree murder and possession of a weapon in the killing. They say she was killed during an argument over the victim "going out too much" and a breakup. The boyfriend allegedly told police he stabbed her in the throat and body and then dragged her body off the trail and into the woods to conceal the murder. Later he told his mother who alerted authorities. Before police arrived the boy's father had to wrestle a knife away from his son that he was holding to his own neck. The couple had dated about nine months. Friends said they had issues but the victim believed she could "fix" the perpetrator, who is a recovering drug addict and on medications for depression. "This whole incident is just a tragic case," said Montgomery County First Assistant District Attorney Kevin Steele. "You have a young woman whose life was taken from her and a 16-year-old who faces potential life in prison for his actions." He has pleaded not guilty.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

June 7

**A 30-year-old Hatfield Township woman** was repeatedly stabbed with a 14-inch carving knife until she died while her 5-year-old twin daughters slept upstairs. Her 36-year-old husband was charged with first- and third-degree murder and possessing an instrument of crime. He called 911 and told them his wife had attacked him, but he got the knife away from her and then stabbed her. Police found her lying in a pool of blood on the couple's living room floor with the carving knife beside her. She suffered at least 15 stab wounds to her torso, neck, face, arms and the back of her head. Her trachea had been severed, both lungs had been punctured and one kidney was nearly severed. Police found numerous surveillance cameras throughout the home. In the months before her death, her husband had accused her of cheating on him, had filed for divorce, had obtained a temporary protection order against her which the judge dismissed after the family's nanny testified on her behalf, and had tried to have her involuntarily committed to a mental health facility. "He is going to kill you," the nanny warned her after seeing a text message he had sent her stating he was doing all these things to get back at her. After the victim found out that her husband had taken out extra life insurance on her, she and her daughters slept in a separate bedroom with the door locked.

November 21

**A 48-year-old Cheltenham man** was found fatally stabbed in the chest, in a bedroom of the home he shared with his 52-year-old wife, by police responding to a domestic disturbance call. She was charged with first- and third-degree murder and possession of an instrument of crime. She pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter on June 25, 2014. The prosecutor said, "At the time of the stabbing, she was being physically attacked by a much bigger and stronger person. She delivered one blow to the chest of the deceased and that was only an attempt to get him to stop beating her. The injuries to her were consistent with the claims she made." She is awaiting sentencing. She faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison with a \$10,000 fine, but the standard range for involuntary manslaughter is three to twelve months.

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### Northampton

July 29

**A 44-year-old Moore Township woman** was fatally shot in her home by **her daughter's 27-year-old fiance**, who then killed himself. A neighbor reported that just before midnight the perpetrator's fiancée frantically banged on his front door. She was "shaking like a leaf" and told the neighbor's wife that her fiance had just shot her mother, the neighbor said. She left her baby with them and went back to get the couple's toddler. The perpetrator was an Army veteran who suffered traumatic brain injury and lost a leg in Afghanistan.

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### Philadelphia

January 18

**A 52-year-old Philadelphia man** was fatally shot in the head inside a home in South Philadelphia. **His 48-year-old roommate** shot him and then killed himself, city police said.

January 30

**A 48-year-old Overbrook man** was fatally stabbed multiple times in his home. His 55-year-old roommate was arrested and charged with murder. Police said the two men had been arguing.

February 14

**A 55-year-old Philadelphia man** was fatally stabbed in his home. His 48-year-old girlfriend was charged with murder and possession of an instrument of crime.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- February 26 **A 37-year-old West Philadelphia woman** was fatally shot with a shotgun in front of family members as she walked home from taking two of her four children to school. Her 61-year-old boyfriend was charged with first-degree murder. Police said he began chasing her, caught up with her as she tried to get in her car and shot her. She had obtained a protection order against him the previous day. He was found guilty and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The judge called it a “horrible and senseless, outrageous crime.”
- March 22 **A 59-year-old military veteran** was found fatally stabbed in the chest in his West Philadelphia row house. His 37-year-old, live-in girlfriend was charged with his murder. Police said a domestic argument led to the slaying.
- March 31 **A 29-year-old Philadelphia woman** was fatally shot multiple times in the head and body in the luxury high-rise apartment in Spring Garden she shared with **her 30-year-old husband**. Police said he shot her and then killed himself during an apparent domestic dispute.
- April 7 **A 30-year-old Philadelphia woman** was fatally shot twice in the head on a street in Tioga where her boyfriend lived. He was charged with her murder. The victim’s sister told media that he had been violent with the victim in the past and only stayed at her funeral for 20 minutes. He was previously accused and acquitted of five other murders.
- April 17 **A 50-year-old Philadelphia man** was beaten with a bat at his home in the fall of 2012. His 51-year-old brother was charged with attempted murder. The victim died of his injuries six months later. Police upgraded the charges against the perpetrator to murder.
- May 6 **A 74-year-old Castor Gardens woman** was strangled to death in the apartment she shared with her 75-year-old husband. They had been married for more than 50 years. He was charged with her murder after police investigated and eventually dismissed his claims that their 26-year-old neighbor broke into their apartment, raped and beat her and attacked him. Police said he later admitted that he punched and strangled her after accusing her of stealing rents he had collected for their landlord, which she denied. Their daughter said her father had beaten her mother in the past.
- July 18 **A 45-year-old Philadelphia man** was fatally shot with a handgun on the street. His 21-year-old stepson was charged with murder in the case.
- September 6 **A 10-year-old Philadelphia boy** was fatally shot as he slept in his bed, and his 41-year-old mother was shot twice in the back of the head and injured, by their **48-year-old father** and husband, who then fatally shot himself with the revolver. The couple’s 14-year-old daughter had locked herself in her room and called police as a violent fight erupted between her parents. When police arrived at the row house in the city’s Juniata Park section, they heard four gunshots and rushed inside. They found the female victim wounded on the second-floor landing and the two males dead. Investigators described the scene inside as “gruesome.” Court records show that in 2002 the perpetrator was arrested for violation of a protection order, but the charge was withdrawn.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

- September 8      **A 33-year-old Philadelphia man** was fatally stabbed in the chest during an argument at a North Philadelphia block party. His 33-year-old ex-girlfriend was charged with the murder. A city homicide detective, who was the current boyfriend of the accused perpetrator, was investigated and fired for helping her flee to a hotel in upstate New York after the killing and being less than forthcoming with information about two other murders with connections to her family.
- October 5      **A 35-year-old Wissinoming woman and her 12-year-old son** were found dead under a burning mattress in their apartment. The woman had been strangled and beaten, the boy had been fatally stabbed, and their apartment had been set on fire. The woman's 25-year-old boyfriend was charged with both murders. Police said he told neighbors not to call 911 about the fire, that he would take care of it, but they did anyway. Police speculated that he may have been attacking the female victim when her son came to her aid. He allegedly told police that he strangled "the love of my life" and stabbed her son in a "blind rage" after an argument.
- November 18      **A 25-year-old Philadelphia man** was fatally stabbed. His girlfriend's ex-husband was charged with the murder.
- December 1      **A 36-year-old Philadelphia man** was found dead, wrapped in a sheet and plastic packing material, in the basement of his 34-year-old brother's home in the Castor section of the city. Police said the victim died of blunt force trauma, and they suspect his brother beat him with a bat during an argument. The brother was charged with murder.
- December 29      **A 50-year-old woman** was fatally shot in the head in her North Philadelphia home. Her 22-year-old son, who lived with her, was charged with murder, resisting arrest and weapons offenses.

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### Schuylkill

- December 1      **A 52-year-old Mahanoy City man** was fatally stabbed in the kitchen of the home he shared with his girlfriend and her 33-year-old daughter. Police said the daughter stabbed him once in the chest during a fight they were having after she confronted him about slapping her mother, causing a bloody nose. She told police she reached for a knife and stabbed him after he grabbed her by the throat and pinned her against the counter. After a 4 1/2-month investigation, police charged her with voluntary manslaughter, aggravated assault, possessing an instrument of crime and recklessly endangering another person.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

### Snyder

February 17

**A 71-year-old Middleburg woman** was fatally stabbed in the neck in her home, and her husband was stabbed in the arm but survived. The couple's 28-year-old grandson and his 30-year-old wife were arrested for the killing. Police said the perpetrators were at a bar when a fight broke out between the male perpetrator and a friend, reportedly because the friend had expressed interest in the female perpetrator. The perpetrators then drove to the grandparents' home. The female perpetrator waited in the car while the male perpetrator went inside and took a Ruger P85 9mm handgun, police said. A struggle between him and his grandparents then ensued. After both grandparents were stabbed, he returned to his car and wife, and they drove off. Police stopped the couple about a mile from the grandparents' home. The male perpetrator eventually pleaded guilty to criminal homicide. His plea agreement calls for a state prison term of 20 to 60 years. The female perpetrator pleaded no contest to conspiracy to commit murder and conspiracy to commit burglary. She faces a prison term of five to 15 years.

### Somerset

March 30

**A 49-year-old Sipesville man** shot himself after waving a gun during a dispute with his ex-girlfriend and then fleeing police. He was facing charges for a previous incident. He pulled into a parking lot in the Acosta area, took a gun from the back seat and shot himself under the chin.

December 16

**A 59-year-old Berlin woman** was fatally shot twice in the chest by **her 57-year-old husband** in the home they shared. He then fatally shot himself in the head.

### Susquehanna

November 17

**A 55-year-old Jessup Township man** was fatally shot in the yard of a property he shared with his 52-year-old brother. The brother surrendered to police, telling them it was a "mercy killing," and the victim wasn't rational. He was charged with one count of criminal homicide. The victim's body was found shortly afterwards. Relatives said the brothers, who lived in separate houses on the property, had been fighting for years.

### Tioga

April 19

**A 34-year-old Westfield woman** was fatally shot by **her 51-year-old ex-boyfriend** as she tried to escape her apartment. He had forced his way into the apartment, and the two became engaged in a physical altercation. He then retrieved a shotgun from a bedroom and shot her. A police officer outside the apartment went in and approached the stairwell, where he saw the perpetrator fire the gun again. The officer told him to drop the gun but he refused. So the officer shot and killed him.

### Washington

September 27

**A 52-year-old South Strabane woman** was fatally shot in the chest in her home, and her boyfriend was wounded, by **her 56-year-old estranged husband**, who then fatally shot himself in the head after an all-night standoff with police. The boyfriend escaped the home and survived.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

November 30

**A 48-year-old West Virginia man** died of a shotgun wound to his head in the Avella home of his father and brother. His 46-year-old brother was charged with homicide. Police said an argument between the two men turned physical. Their father said he was in the kitchen trying to cook while “they were arguing a little bit, and the first thing I heard was a gunshot. Just one shot.” The father said he did not know what his sons were arguing about. Over the years the accused perpetrator has been charged with 77 counts in Pennsylvania and Florida, ranging from traffic offenses and assault to harassment and making terroristic threats. Many times the charges were dismissed.

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### Wayne

March 23

**A 35-year-old White Mills man** was fatally shot multiple times in his home during a dispute with his 30-year-old brother. The younger brother was charged with criminal homicide. He told police he fired in self-defense, that the victim had come at him so he got his gun and shot him. A third brother said the two men had been arguing and fighting all night.

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### Westmoreland

February 23

**A 50-year-old Allegheny Township woman** was fatally shot in the chest, and her daughter was wounded, in the parking lot of a bar near an animal hospital by **a 21-year-old Murrysville man**, who then killed himself. He had lured his wife there by falsely telling her her dog had been hit by a car. He brought a suicide note and a .30-30 rifle with him. The wife had been visiting the victim’s family. The victim, her two daughters and another family member came along with the wife. When the victim tried to intervene when it appeared the wife was being threatened, the perpetrator shot her and her 22-year-old daughter. Another daughter, 11, was present when her mother and sister were shot. The perpetrator’s wife was unharmed.

December 19

**A 36-year-old mother of four**, who was shot nine times with a .380-caliber handgun as she lay in bed watching television with her 15-year-old daughter, died eighteen days later in the hospital. Her 51-year-old ex-boyfriend had been charged with attempted murder and related offenses. Prosecutors upgraded those charges to murder after her death. He was “angered over a change in their relationship,” so he entered the Derry home and shot her, police said. The victim’s daughter was unharmed, as were her three other children – ages 9, 13, and 21 – who were in a nearby bedroom. “It was a very brutal ... quick attack. I can’t imagine the emotions and trauma those children in the home experienced, witnessing that,” police said.

December 31

**A 51-year-old Salem Township woman** was repeatedly bludgeoned on the head with a hammer and strangled to death in the home she shared with her 25-year-old daughter and the daughter’s 2-year-old son. Police charged the daughter with homicide. They allege she struck her mother 18 times with the hammer and then strangled her when she was still making gurgling noises because the victim wouldn’t let her borrow her car to go buy drugs. As the victim lay dying, she reportedly told the accused perpetrator, “Sarah, you can use my car. I’m sorry. You can use my car.” Police said the accused perpetrator also struck the victim’s dog with the hammer and attempted to clean up the bloody murder scene while her son watched television nearby. The victim’s body was found 10 days later when her estranged husband went to the home to check on her because her employer had called him to report she hadn’t been showing up to work.

## Fatality Report Summary 2013

### York

- January 31 **A 37-year-old York man** was fatally stabbed nine times as he slept in his bed beside his girlfriend. Her 25-year-old ex-boyfriend was convicted of second-degree murder and burglary in the stabbing and sentenced to life in prison, plus 10 to 20 years. He told police he broke into the home with a long kitchen knife after the victim had told him he couldn't see his three daughters, who were living in the house, when he came to the door the night before. "I shouldn't have lost it. I should've just punched him in the face," the perpetrator told police.
- February 5 **An 84-year-old woman** was fatally shot with a .22-caliber rifle as she slept in bed by **her 85-year-old husband**, who then shot and killed himself. Police said the couple had been married 63 years, and the wife had terminal cancer.
- March 9 **A York College math professor**, the mother of two children, was fatally shot multiple times by **her husband** in their Chanceford Township home during an argument. The husband then called 911, told the dispatcher he had just shot his wife and then turned the gun on himself while still on the line.
- April 2 **A 41-year-old Manchester Township woman** was fatally shot in the head with a .38-caliber revolver by **her 43-year-old husband** as she slept. He then fatally shot himself in the chest. Investigators said the couple was having marital problems. The couple leaves behind two teenage children who were not at home at the time of the shootings.
- August 1 **A 62-year-old Hanover man** was stabbed and decapitated in his home. His 32-year-old son was charged with murder. Police said they responded to a 911 call from a man at the home who said he had killed his father. They found the perpetrator on the porch with the victim's blood on his hands and clothing and a knife in his possession. Psychiatrists for both the prosecution and defense agreed the perpetrator suffered from schizophrenia and a delusional disorder but was competent to stand trial. He pleaded guilty but mentally ill to third-degree murder and abuse of a corpse. He was sentenced to 20 to 40 years for murder and a consecutive two to four years for abuse of a corpse.