



**For Immediate Release**

**Honoring Texas Victims: 146 Women Killed in Texas in 2016 — TCFV Calls on Texas to Know, Predict and Prevent Domestic Violence Fatalities**

**Texas – October 12, 2017 – The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)** calls on Texas to **know, predict and prevent** domestic violence homicides in Texas.

To help Texans **know** about domestic violence homicides, today TCFV released a new report that shows 146 women were killed in domestic violence murders in Texas by their husband, ex-husband, intimate partner, boyfriend or ex-boyfriend. Fatalities occurred in 55 Texas counties. 24 family members and friends were also killed (this includes 13 children); 4 family members and friends were injured during the incidents. This represents the largest number of related victims since 2011. Every year more than 100 women are killed in domestic violence homicides in Texas. This year's numbers are a reduction of two from the 148 deaths in 2015 when the Texas Council reported the highest number of deaths in Texas since the Council began releasing its' report.

This year's report shows larger metropolitan areas experienced the most fatalities. Collin, Dallas and Tarrant Counties in North Texas represent three of the top five counties with the highest number of homicides in the state. Bexar County in San Antonio entered the top five. Harris County in Houston continues to have the highest number of domestic violence homicides in the state of Texas. At the same time rural counties like Franklin, Terrell, and Terry also experienced fatalities which deeply affected those close-knit communities.

By knowing about these homicides, TCFV believes Texans can begin to **predict** and ultimately create strategies to **prevent** these fatalities.

Intimate partner homicides end the lives of women who have roles as loving mothers, caring family members, and engaged community members. The women whose deaths are detailed here represent lives that left indelible marks on those around them. Many of them are remembered for the strong bonds they formed in their families and with their friends and for offering those around them kindness, compassion, encouragement and smiles that brightened rooms. Family members often described these women as the glue that held people together' and 'willing to do anything for anyone'. They took pride in their roles as mothers and in the work that they did as students and in their careers. TCFV joins their families, friends and communities in mourning their loss.

**146 women were killed in Texas in 2016.**

**158 women were killed in Texas in 2015, the deadliest year for women in Texas.**

132 women were killed in domestic violence murders in 2014. 119 women were killed in 2013. 114 women were killed in 2012. 102 women were killed in 2011.

## Other Key Stats from the report:

- Counties with the most fatalities are: Harris (28), Dallas (13), Tarrant (13), Bexar (11), Collin (6)
- Tarrant, Bexar, Collin each experienced increases from 2015; Harris is down from 34, and Dallas remains the same as last year.
- 40% of women killed in 2016 had ended the relationship or were in the process of leaving when they were murdered.
- 68% of perpetrators used a firearm to murder their female partner.
- 77% of perpetrators killed their partners in a home.
- Women between the ages of 20-39 represent over half of the total number of victims
- Youngest Victim: 15
- Oldest Victim: 92

“146 innocent lives were lost and families were forever changed in senseless domestic violence murders in Texas. Although we are immensely saddened by the tragic loss of life and we remember the families of the 146 families who lost a loved one this year, we collect these statistics to buttress our response to domestic violence. When a tragic loss happens, it reminds all of us, how dangerous domestic violence can be to a family and a community and how much more work we have to accomplish to help victims find help and safety,” said Gloria A. Terry, CEO of the Texas Council on Family Violence. *“Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities* recognizes all Texas family violence victims lost in this tragic crime. **Know, predict, prevent.**”

The release of the 2016 Honoring Victims Report coincides with Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is in October. Domestic violence all too often ends with tragic results.

Terry further commented, “During Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we focus on three important elements of ending violence – supporting survivors, holding abusers accountable and perhaps, most important, preventing the violence before it begins by challenging the underlying attitudes and beliefs that feed violent behavior.”

The report released by the Texas Council on Family Violence and compiled from data from the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas law enforcement agencies and media reports list names of the victims and gives brief accounts of their deaths.