DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TAKES ITS TOLL – ONE LIFE AT A TIME

PHILADELPHIA

Jan. 5 A 44-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Philadelphia. He was stabbed May 28, 1999, and remained in a coma until his death Jan. 5.

Jan. 12 A 40-year-old mother of three was beaten and stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend in Philadelphia. According to the District Attorney, the perpetrator killed the victim to stop her from testifying against him at a pending criminal trial. After he killed her, he stole pictures depicting the bruises he allegedly inflicted on her last October. The victim had just returned home from Florida so she could be present at the birth of her first grandchild. The perpetrator admitted “beheading her head a couple times and that there was blood coming from her ears.”

Jan. 26 A 22-year-old woman was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend who had forced his way into her home in Philadelphia. He then committed suicide.

Feb. 6 A 66-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her grandson in Philadelphia. He also raped her after she was dead. Her 56-year-old boyfriend also was stabbed to death.

March 21 A 21-year-old man was fatally shot by his brother in Philadelphia. The perpetrator fired the shot, hitting the victim once with a bullet to the head.

March 22 A 59-year-old mother of one was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Philadelphia. The victim’s 8-year-old daughter reported hearing a loud bang as her mother and the perpetrator were arguing and that her mother said “he (the boyfriend) just kept hitting me.”

May 10 A 66-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her ex-husband in Philadelphia. The victim had a long history of domestic violence. They had been arguing when the perpetrator attacked her with a knife, which he held with both hands. An argument with her father. When he returned later, the doors were locked and he climbed through a window. After they began to argue again, the perpetrator grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed his father numerous times about the head and body.

July 12 A 24-year-old woman was fatally shot in the back and shot her common-law husband in Philadelphia. She was four months pregnant.

July 17 A 51-year-old woman was fatally shot by her son in Germantown. The victim sustained a gunshot wound to the head.

August 15 A 51-year-old mother of two was stabbed to death by her ex-husband in Philadelphia. Her 10-year-old and 8-month-old children were in another room when their mother was stabbed 58 times. A neighbor heard the 8-year-old son scream, “No, my mommy!” Police reported that the perpetrator became enraged when he heard couple’s screams on Feb. 5, 2000.

Oct. 1 A 59-year-old man was stabbed to death by his son in Philadelphia. The perpetrator stabbed his mother in the head as she tried to take the knife away from him. He also stabbed his brother in the neck.

Oct. 4 A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend’s uncle in Uniondale. The perpetrator had been stabbing his niece when the victim went in to rescue her. The niece was treated for wounds to her arms and back.

SUSQUEHANNA

Union

Sept. 25 A 76-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in a Levittown nursing home. He then committed suicide. According to reports, the perpetrator was distraught over the victim’s recent stroke.

VENANGO

May 6 A 50-year-old mother of five was stabbed to death by her husband in Venetia. He then committed suicide. The victim had a 2-month-old child with the perpetrator and four children from a previous marriage.

May 27 A 37-year-old mother of one was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Monessen. He then committed suicide. The couple had been together about two years and had a child together.

WESTMORELAND

May 5 A 77-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Greensburg. He then committed suicide. The perpetrator called his grandson and told him what he had done before committing suicide. According to police, notes left by the perpetrator indicated that the couple had a history of domestic violence.

Nov. 1 A 49-year-old woman was fatally shot in her head by her boyfriend in South Huntingdon Township. He then attempted suicide but survived. Police stated that, following an argument, the perpetrator fired the weapon in the intent to kill himself and his girlfriend. Only one bullet fired and it grazed his forehead before killing the victim.

YORK

July 4 A woman was stabbed to death by a male friend in York. Reportedly the perpetrator thought the victim was flirting with his fiancée.

July 21 A 75-year-old woman was strangled and stabbed to death by an estranged husband in York on the day the perpetrator received her divorce papers in the mail. The perpetrator fainted in his suicide attempt. Just days earlier, the victim had been denied her petition for a temporary protection order, with the judge ruling that she was not in “immediate and present danger.” The hearing for the permanent protection order was to be held the day after her murder. The victim had filed for divorce and for the first time, she had spent most of her time away from her residence. She would go home every morning to get her son ready for school. According to reports, the perpetrator said, “I kept choking her and telling her I loved her.”

Dec. 29 A 40-year-old woman was fatally shot in her head by her husband in York, following an argument outside of her mother’s home. The perpetrator then committed suicide. Their 16-year-old son witnessed the shootings. According to their 20-year-old daughter she called telling her that he was upset because her father was wanting a gun. She told him to call the police, moments later she arrived to find her parents lying dead in the street. The daughter said that her father had threatened to kill her mother many times before, but she had always intervened.

Domestic Violence Homicide Report is published by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence. 6600 Flask Drive, Suite 1300 • Harrisburg, PA 17112 800-932-4652 • TTY 800-555-2508 • Fax 717-671-8149 www.pcadv.org

PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE JANUARY - DECEMBER 2000

Domestic Violence In PA Claims 115 Lives in 2000

ALLENSVILLE

Jan. 10 A 67-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Pensilvania. The perpetrator shot during a stand-off with police and later died from his wounds. Police were called by the couple’s daughter who also lived at the residence. And her two sons hid in a closet until police arrived.

Feb. 29 A 72-year-old Pittsburgh woman died as the result of injuries inflicted by her grandson in a motor vehicle accident on Feb. 18. The perpetrator had been hiding her heritage for several hours in the attic of the home in which she had raised him. Several police officers were injured as they tried to apprehend the perpetrator after storming the house.

March 21 A 25-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Monenessen. He then committed suicide. A female friend of the victim was also wounded, but escaped by jumping through the window. The perpetrator set fire to the house before killing himself.

April 1 A 22-year-old woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Monessen.

July 12 A 42-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her common-law husband in Pittsburgh. Their 10-year-old son attempted to intervene when he saw his father carrying a knife into the bedroom and heard his mother scream nonsense to call 911. The father knached the son to the floor, and after stabbing the victim, attempted to stab himself in the chest. He survived. The victim had been separated from the perpetrator for one month and had moved in with a friend to escape the abuse. Police believes the perpetrator was upset because the victim recently asked him to move out.

Sept. 24 A 65-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Pittsburgh. Their 16-year-old daughter was wounded. The victim and neighbors had placed calls to 911, but police were unable to reach the home in time to prevent the stabbings. Police believe the perpetrator was upset because the victim had recently asked him to move out.

Sept. 29 A 21-year-old man died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning in an apartment fire in Oakland. The fire was set by the former boyfriend of a woman who also resided in the building. The victim was a college senior who was on the dean’s list. The perpetrator is believed to have caused the female friend since their breakup. A fire at her former residence was initially ruled accidental. She previously told friends and family that she was afraid the perpetrator would harm her.

Nov. 5 A 77-year-old woman from Springville was hit in the head with a hammer by her son. He then set fire to his bed on fire. She died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning. The son told detectives he could not stand to watch his mother in pain and that he had told him that she wanted to commit suicide because he was afraid of his father.

Dec. 28 An 82-year-old woman from Rostraver Township died as a result of injuries sustained from an attack by her grandson on November 22. At that time, her 51-year-old grandson beat her with a steel snow shovel. She received a 4 inch gash in the back of her head and died after a five-week stay in the hospital.

BEAVER

Oct. 24 A 46-year-old woman was shot dead by her husband in Aliquippa. The perpetrator then committed suicide. An autopsy revealed he stood up and fired three shots into his chest before shooting himself in the head.

Dec. 15 A 21-year-old woman was shot dead by her estranged boyfriend in New Brighton. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The victim had moved from their residence one week prior to the shooting.

BERKS

Jan. 1 A 27-year-old mother and her three children were fatally shot by her husband of one year in Reading. He then committed suicide. The mother was killed down at her blank range, while her three terrified children attempted in vain to hide from their stepfather, who burned down and murdered the 6, 7 and 12-year-old siblings. The mother and her children had recently moved into a rental home the night before after an argument with her husband. They had returned that morning to retrieve their clothes.

This report details domestic violence homicides during 2000, as reported in PA newspapers. Although it does NOT reflect the total number of domestic violence deaths, this report offers a strong indication of the scope and lethality of the crime.

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

From January through December 2000, at least 76 domestic violence incidents resulted in 115 deaths.

WHO DIED

87 victims
62 women
14 men
11 children
27 perpetrators who committed murder
1 male perpetrator who was shot during a police standoff

WHO DID THE KILLING

71 men
8 women

HOW THE VICTIMS DIED

46 were shot
17 were stabbed
4 were pushed into the path of an oncoming train
3 were beaten
2 were killed by carbon monoxide poisoning
2 were stabbed in the throat
2 were strangled
2 were raped and strangled
1 was raped and beaten
1 was bludgeoned
1 was bludgeoned and burned
1 was strangled and stabbed
1 was strangled and beaten
1 was bludgeoned and beaten
1 was suffocated
1 was killed in a fire
1 was drowned
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TAKES ITS TOIL—ONE LIFE AT A TIME**

**VICTIMS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PERPETRATORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partner's husband</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-partner</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Co-worker</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family member</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT JANUARY – DECEMBER 2000**

**BERKS**

- **April 26**: A 20-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Quarryville. The perpetrator set the house on fire before committing suicide. When the fire department arrived and tried to get inside the home, they found the doors barricaded. Two propane tanks with their valves open were found in the living room; traces of flammable liquid were found throughout the home. Prepped on the front steps was a sign: “STAY AWAY BOMBS.” No bombs were found.

- **July 4**: A 42-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Bredis Township. The perpetrator told police she stabbed him because “he wouldn’t stop cheating on her.”

- **August 4**: A woman was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Grantville. Her 10-year-old daughter found her mother’s body in the home. Two nights before the murder, the victim told her cousin she feared for her life after the perpetrator argued with her at a bar because she said she was talking to another man.

- **August 23**: A 66-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Coolbaugh Township. The perpetrator had a history of threats by the victim, who lived alone.

- **September 12**: A 59-year-old woman was fatally shot by her ex-husband in Long Pond. He then committed suicide. According to police, the couple had been in a relationship for several years and had two children.

- **October 12**: A 41-year-old woman was strangled by her estranged boyfriend in White Horse near Tamaqua. According to police, the perpetrator had expressed an interest in killing her husband so he could be with her. On the night of the murder, the perpetrator called and asked several questions about her husband, then waited outside her home. When the perpetrator appeared, the victim was outside and asked what she could do for him. According to police, the perpetrator had an history of domestic violence. In March, he was charged with punching the victim in the eye and smashing her head into a wall. In 1999, he served 47 days in jail for assaulting her.

**BERKSHIRE**

- **Jan. 24**: A 28-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her estranged boyfriend in Shira. He then committed suicide. A 21-year-old man was also wounded.

- **Feb. 4**: A 29-year-old man was shot and killed by his estranged girlfriend in Kutztown. They had been separated since last year. The victim’s brother told police the perpetrator had expressed an interest in killing his sister.

- **March 17**: A 37-year-old woman was fatally shot in the parking lot of a tae Nam in Perkasie. Police said the victim was at least twice as close to a high-powered rifle. Following the shooting, the police said a driver at the crime scene was a fellow employee, who was shot at a nearby market.

- **April 15**: A 42-year-old woman was strangled to death by her ex-boyfriend in Ephrata. According to police, she had called her ex-boyfriend on April 12 to tell him she was pregnant. The morning of the murder, she called her cousin to ask her to go over to her house because the perpetrator hadn’t shown up.

- **May 24**: A 34-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her 17-year-old son in Phoenixville. He then drove to the home of his ex-girlfriend and fatally shot the 18-year-old woman. He then committed suicide.

- **June 9**: A 41-year-old woman was shot and killed at her ex-boyfriend’s home in Shira. The victim had a protection order against the perpetrator, but he had been harassing her for a few months.

- **July 11**: A 69-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged husband in Erie. It was the victim’s 11th wedding anniversary.

- **Aug. 26**: A 28-year-old woman was raped and strangled to death by her former boyfriend in Antrim Township. According to police, they had split up just over a year ago. The victim’s father said she had called him the day before her murder to say the perpetrator was “after her.”

- **Sept. 10**: A 35-year-old woman was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend in North Middleton Township. The perpetrator killed in his suicide attempt. He had followed the victim home from work, entered her home, and forced her to write a letter to her family saying she was being held captive. When she called police, the perpetrator had separated seven months earlier and the perpetrator was upset that the victim had reconciled with her ex-husband.

- **Oct. 28**: A 34-year-old woman was threatened with a gun in front of the Watsontown Police Department. The perpetrator then committed suicide. According to police, the victim had been a restaurant employee and had been upset because the perpetrator had masturbated in the restaurant.

- **Nov. 26**: A 29-year-old man was fatally shot in the back by his wife’s paramour in Easton Township. He was shot as he exited the house. The wife told police she had been having an affair with the man for over two years. On the night of the murder, the perpetrator called and asked several questions about her husband. It was later learned that the perpetrator was waiting outside in the bushes for him.

- **Dec. 2**: A 28-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her estranged boyfriend in Chicora. They had split up in December 1999, and she was seen at a bar the night before her murder. The perpetrator had learned she was seeing another man and stabbed her.

**BRADFORD**

- **Jan. 15**: A 41-year-old woman was shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend in East Farrell Township. He then committed suicide.

- **Feb. 2**: A 20-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her estranged boyfriend in Honesdale. She then called police and asked several questions about her husband, who was not home. The perpetrator was later arrested and charged with killing the victim.

- **March 1**: A 25-year-old woman was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend in Spring City. The perpetrator had a history of domestic violence.

- **April 28**: A 34-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her boyfriend in Lancaster. After she was stabbed, the victim either fell or was pushed from her bed by her boyfriend. According to police, the perpetrator had a history of domestic violence.

- **May 14**: A 20-year-old woman was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Lancaster. The victim died 10 hours after being beaten and raped. After living with the perpetrator for just one month, the victim was in process of leasing and moving back home to Ohio. The perpetrator escaped through an upstairs window, but was captured after a 27-hour manhunt.