

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 assault trial. After killing 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 “bashing her head a couple times and that there was blood coming from her ears.”
	Jan. 22	A 26-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 64-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 five shots, hitting the victim once with a bullet to the back.
	March 22	A 39-year-old mother of one was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Philadelphia. The victim’s 9-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 60-year-old man was stabbed to death by his son in Philadelphia. The son left the house earlier that evening after an argument with his 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 21-year-old mother of three was fatally shot in the back and stomach by 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.
	August 15	A 31-year-old mother of two was stabbed to death by her ex-husband in Philadelphia. Her 4-year-old and 10-month-old children were in another room when their mother was stabbed 58 times. A neighbor heard the 4-year-old son scream, “No, not my mommy!” Police reported that the perpetrator became enraged when he heard rumors that the victim was dating again.
	Oct. 1	A 59-year-old man was stabbed to death by his son in Philadelphia. The perpetrator stabbed his mother in the hand 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 Philadelphia. The perpetrator had been stabbing his niece when the victim went to her rescue. The niece was treated for wounds to her arms and back.
SUSQUEHANNA	April 4	A 34-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Union Dale.
UNION	Sept. 25	A 76-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in a Lewisburg nursing home. He then committed suicide. According to reports, the perpetrator was distraught over the victim’s recent stroke.
VENANGO	May 6	A 30-year-old mother of five was stabbed to death by her husband in Emlenton. 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 Ahrensville. He then committed suicide. The couple had been together about two years and had a child together.
WESTMORELAND	May 3	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 the 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 with the intent to kill himself and his girlfriend. Only one bullet was fired and it grazed his forehead before killing the victim.
YORK	July 4	A man was stabbed to death by a male friend in York. Reportedly, the perpetrator thought the victim was flirting with his fiancée.
	Sept. 21	A 37-year-old mother of one was strangled and stabbed to death by her estranged husband in Yoe on the day the perpetrator received their divorce papers in the mail. The perpetrator failed 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 previous month had spent most of her time away from their 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. 23	A 40-year-old mother of two was fatally shot in the 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, her brother called telling her that he was worried because his father was waving 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.

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PENNSYLVANIA COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

JANUARY-DECEMBER 2000

Domestic Violence In PA Claims 115 Lives In 2000

ALLEGHENY	Jan. 10	A 67-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Penn Hills. The perpetrator was shot during a standoff with police and later died from his wounds. Police were called by the couple’s daughter who also lived at the residence. She 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 beating with a baseball bat on February 18. The perpetrator had been holding her hostage 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 23	A 25-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Monroeville. He then committed suicide. A female friend of the victim also was wounded, but escaped by jumping to safety through a window. The perpetrator set fire to the home before he killed himself.
	April 1	A 22-year-old woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Monroeville.
	July 8	A 42-year-old woman was stabbed 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 for someone to call 911. The father knocked the son to the floor and, after stabbing the victim, attempted suicide by stabbing himself in the chest. He survived. The victim had been separated from the perpetrator for one month and had stopped by to drop off clothes for their son.
	Sept. 24	A 45-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 stalked the former girlfriend 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 Springdale was hit in the head with a hammer by her son while she was in bed. He then set the 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 she had told him she wanted to commit suicide because of “failing health.”
	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 31-year-old grandson beat her with a steel snow shovel. She received a 5-inch gash in the back of her head and died after a five-week stay in the hospital.
BEAVER	Oct. 24	A 44-year-old woman was shot to death by her husband in Alliquippa. The perpetrator then committed suicide. An autopsy revealed that he stood over his wife and fired three shots into her chest before shooting himself in the head.
	Dec. 15	A 21-year-old woman was shot to death 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 downstairs at point blank range, while her three terrified children attempted in vain to hide from their stepfather, who hunted down and murdered the 6,7 and 12-year-old siblings. The mother and her children had fled to a relative’s home the night before after an argument with her husband. They had returned that morning to retrieve their clothes.

The Death Toll...

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 suicide

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 slashed 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 stabbed and beaten
1 was beaten and burned
1 was suffocated
1 was killed in a fire
1 was drowned

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BERKS (continued)	March 19	An 8-year-old girl and her 9-year-old brother from Reading died from carbon monoxide poisoning when their father deliberately left his van running in the garage until the fumes killed them. He then committed suicide by slitting his wrists. Their mother, who was at work at the time, called the perpetrator's adult daughter from a previous marriage and asked her to go over to his house because he hadn't shown up for an arranged custody exchange. The mother had a protection order against her estranged husband.
	April 20	A 20-year-old woman and her 2-year-old son were killed in Sinking Spring when her ex-boyfriend deliberately rammed her car into the path of an oncoming train. Two other passengers in the car, a 22-year-old woman and her 2-year-old daughter, also were killed . They died during a high-speed car chase as they waited at the railroad crossing and placed a desperate cell phone call to 911 pleading for help. According to police, the perpetrator had argued with his ex-girlfriend at a restaurant before chasing her for more than half an hour through the suburban community. The victim's protection order against the perpetrator had expired just 20 days earlier.
BUCKS	July 4	A 42-year-old man was stabbed to death by his girlfriend in Bristol Township. The perpetrator told police she stabbed him because "he wouldn't shut up and refused to leave her house."
BUTLER	March 17	A 37-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged husband in the parking lot of a tavern in Petrolia. Police said she was shot at least twice at close range with a high powered rifle. Following the shooting, police said the perpetrator drove to the home of a fellow employee, where he was arrested the next day.
CAMBRIA	April 19	A 54-year-old woman was raped and strangled to death by her daughter's ex-boyfriend in Ebensburg. He then set fire to the victim's bed and home to cover up his crime. Several days before, the victim's daughter had broken off the relationship with the perpetrator.
CENTRE	Feb. 26	A 40-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Howard Township. He then committed suicide. The couple had been married for just a few months.
CHESTER	Feb. 28	A 38-year-old mother of one was stabbed to death by her husband of one year in Downingtown. The perpetrator admitted to stabbing her one or two more times after the initial wound to make sure she was dead before he fled the home. The victim was a straight-A student, scheduled to graduate from nursing school just three days after her murder. Her sister and 15-year-old daughter accepted her diploma.
	May 24	A 54-year-old mother of three children was fatally shot by her 17-year-old son in Phoenixville. He then drove to the home of his brother's ex-girlfriend and fatally shot the 19-year-old woman . He then committed suicide.
	August 4	A woman was beaten to death by her boyfriend in Coatesville. Her 10-year-old daughter found her mother's body in their home. Two nights before her murder, the victim told her cousin she feared for her life after the perpetrator argued with her at a bar because he saw her talking to another man.
CLINTON	Sept. 13	A 59-year-old woman was fatally shot by her son in Mill Hall. The perpetrator contended that the person he shot was "someone acting" as his mother. He underwent psychiatric assessment at a state hospital.
COLUMBIA	July 11	A 42-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Berwick – just three hours after he was served with a protection order and evicted from their residence. He then committed suicide. Officials said the victim may have been on the phone with her sister and told her to call 911 right before the shooting. The couple had been married only a few months.
CUMBERLAND	June 10	A 35-year-old woman was fatally shot by her ex-boyfriend in North Middleton Township. The perpetrator failed in his suicide attempt. He had followed the victim on her way to work, cut her off, forced his way into her car, and ordered her to drive to a nearby pistol range where he killed her. According to police, the couple had separated seven months earlier and the perpetrator was upset that the victim had reconciled with her ex-husband.
	Oct. 4	An 18-year-old woman was bound with speaker wire, gagged and placed in the trunk of a car by her co-worker and his girlfriend in West Pennsboro Township. She suffocated while being driven to a farm in Virginia, where they wrapped her in a tent and left her in the trunk of an abandoned car on the property. The co-worker allegedly lured her to his mobile home by stating that his father had died. Police believe she and her male co-worker were exchanging email messages, which were found by his girlfriend.
DAUPHIN	Feb. 2	A 14-month-old boy had his throat fatally slashed by his mother's estranged husband in Harrisburg. The mother's female roommate also was wounded. The perpetrator showed up to retrieve some of his belongings and started fighting with the roommate, who called the police. The perpetrator stabbed the woman, ran down the hall into a bedroom, grabbed the sleeping boy, and fatally slashed his throat – right in front of the responding police officer and horrified mother.
	June 21	A 38-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her estranged husband in Derry Township. She was divorcing her husband and had obtained a protection order in May. The couple's 4-year-old daughter told police that her parents had a fight and her father gave her mother "four boo-boo's with a gun" and that her mother was coughing and crying. She also said that her mother "rode in the trunk" as the father drove them to relatives. The perpetrator dumped her body in a creek where it was discovered several weeks later. The perpetrator fled the country but was arrested and awaits extradition following an international manhunt.
DELAWARE	March 20	A 24-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her brother in Yeadon. Her 11-year-old foster sister also received stab wounds. The victim, a substitute school teacher, had just completed her application for doctoral studies at New York University.
	May 31	A 41-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her ex-husband in Haverford. He then committed suicide. The perpetrator had waited for the victim outside her home and shot her once in the head and once in the chest before turning the gun on himself. The couple's divorce was final in February.
	Nov. 25	A 52-year-old mother of four was fatally shot in the head by her estranged husband in Upper Darby. The couple's 13-year-old daughter was seated next to her mother in the car when the perpetrator walked up and shot the victim in the head. The girl wasn't injured and later identified her father as the assailant. He was captured after a three-day manhunt. In August, the victim had obtained a protection order against her husband, which he violated several times. Relatives stated that the perpetrator had been stalking and harassing her at home and at work. The victim had agreed to have the contempt hearing continued until December 7 because of concerns about taking time off from work.
ERIE	March 6	A 32-year-old man was stabbed to death by his estranged girlfriend's son in Erie. The perpetrator broke into the apartment where his mother and the victim resided.
	Dec. 22	A 26-year-old woman was raped and strangled by her former brother-in law in Erie. She was living with his estranged wife (her sister) at the time of the incident. He shoved her naked body through the window of an adjacent house, which was vacant at the time.
FAYETTE	May 13	A 39-year-old father of two was fatally shot by his girlfriend's estranged husband in Connellsville. The perpetrator didn't carry out his threat to shoot his estranged wife and her two young daughters.
GREENE	Feb. 21	A 36-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Waynesburg. He then committed suicide. Their bodies were found inside a car along the roadside. Police said they were on their way to his mother's home.

HUNTINGDON	Nov. 26	A 29-year-old man was fatally shot in the back by his wife's paramour in Union Township. He was shot as he exited the house. The wife told 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 her several questions about her husband. It was later learned that perpetrator was waiting outside in the bushes for him.
JEFFERSON	Jan. 24	A 28-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Albion. He then committed suicide. A 21-year old man also was wounded.
LANCASTER	Jan. 15	A 41-year-old woman was strangled by her estranged boyfriend in East Earl Township. He then committed suicide. Their bodies were discovered inside the perpetrator's apartment. According to a family member, the victim and perpetrator had dated at one time, but were no longer involved.
	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 3rd floor apartment window. According to police, the perpetrator had a 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.
	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 the process of leaving and moving back home to Ohio. The perpetrator escaped through an upstairs window, but was captured after a 27-hour manhunt.
	July 9	A 69-year-old woman was fatally shot by her husband in Lancaster. He then committed suicide. Police said perpetrator may have killed his wife out of mercy. She suffered from multiple sclerosis and had been confined to a wheelchair for six years.
	July 19	A 35-year-old mother and her 2-year-old and 4-year-old daughters were fatally shot in the head by her husband/ their father 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 livingroom; traces of flammable liquid were found throughout the home. Propped on the front steps was a sign: "STAY AWAY BOMBS." No bombs were found.
LAWRENCE	August 27	A 46-year-old man was fatally shot in the forehead by his estranged wife in Shenango Township. She then committed suicide. The couple was on the verge of divorce.
LUZERNE	Sept. 22	An 11-year-old girl was fatally shot by her mother who then committed suicide at a truck stop in Dupont. The perpetrator had been sought for allegedly shooting her husband a week earlier at their home in Lehigh County. He survived.
MERCER	May 5	A 47-year-old mother of two was drowned by her boyfriend . He struck her head against the bathroom wall, then held her under water in the bathtub. The police reported no previous incidents of domestic violence on file.
	Dec. 12	A 43-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her estranged husband at a Perkins Restaurant in Hemfield Township. The perpetrator then committed suicide. On the day before her murder, a judge denied the victim's petition for an emergency protection order, stating that she made no allegations of any physical abuse or threats of abuse. Police reported that the couple was in the process of a divorce.
MONROE	Sept. 12	A 42-year-old woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend in Long Pond. He then committed suicide. According to police, the couple had been in a relationship for several years and appeared to be having problems.
	Sept. 16	A 19-year-old woman was beaten and burned to death by her ex-boyfriend and his current girlfriend . The victim was assaulted, bound and gagged, and placed in the trunk of his car. She was then taken to a country road in the Pocono mountains where she was doused with gasoline, set on fire and left to die.
	Oct. 14	A 21-year-old woman was fatally shot in the head by her boyfriend in Coolbaugh Township.
MONTGOMERY	March 16	A 66-year-old woman was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in Whitpain. He then committed suicide. Investigators uncovered a history of threats by the perpetrator against the victim, who lived alone.
	June 27	A 60-year-old woman was fatally shot by her nephew in Towamencin Township.
MONTOUR	August 23	A 31-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by the man with whom she had a one-year affair in Washingtonville.
NORTHAMPTON	June 1	A 19-year-old woman had her throat slashed by her female partner and the partner's husband in Delaware Canal State Park, Easton.
	Dec. 15	A 21-year-old woman was shot to death by her boyfriend when she returned to their home in Bethlehem to get some of her belongings. The perpetrator then committed suicide. A neighbor heard her cries for help and ran out of his home to offer assistance. He slipped on the ice and broke his ankle prior to reaching her. Friends of the two said the couple's stormy one-year relationship was "plagued with threats of violence" and that the perpetrator "had threatened to kill her before."
	Dec. 22	A 39-year-old mother of three was strangled with a cord by her boyfriend in Bethlehem. When her 7-year-old twin sons found her body covered with a blanket on the sofa, the perpetrator told them she wasn't dead, just sick. He sent the boys off to school the next morning but when they returned home that afternoon, one of her sons ran out to the bus driver crying that his mother was sleeping with blood coming from her nose and that he couldn't wake her up.
NORTHUMBERLAND	August 27	A 43-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her estranged boyfriend in front of the Watsonstown Police Department. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The victim and her sister had been chased in their car through two counties by the perpetrator. The sister had just stepped out of the car to summon the police. She was uninjured. The victim had been denied a protection order in the spring because of an error on her petition. (She had mistakenly listed her birthdate for the date of the petition.)

