

2004

Domestic Violence Fatality Report

2004 Death Toll...

110 Victims in Pennsylvania



63 Adult
Female Victims



38 Adult
Male Victims



7 Female Victims (Age 0-17)



2 Male Victims (Age 0-17)

Red silhouettes represent
gunshot victims

“It’s totally absurd to be killed in the name of love.”

153 “Deaths Worth Noticing”

Another Deadly Year

2004 proved to be another deadly year for domestic violence in Pennsylvania. In the end, 153 people lost their lives – 110 victims murdered in acts of domestic violence; the rest, perpetrators who committed suicide or were killed in the commission of a domestic violence crime.

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV) publishes this report in an effort to convey the lethality of domestic violence and the stunningly brutal manner in which perpetrators kill and victims die right here in this Commonwealth.

Source/Limitations of Information

Information for this report is obtained through newspaper clippings; the banners at the top of each page are headlines or quotations pulled directly from the articles. It’s not intended to be inclusive of all domestic violence fatalities occurring during 2004, but it’s the most reliable information, since Pennsylvania does not mandate domestic violence incident reporting by law enforcement.

Identifying Fatalities

For the purposes of this report, we’ve included fatalities that involved family or household members, spouses/ex-spouses, current or former intimate partners, persons who share biological parenthood and bystanders killed in domestic violence-related incidents.

Please note that we have excluded child abuse deaths since they are officially tracked and reported by the PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families.

Incident Details

The amount of information on each incident varies, depending on the extent of media coverage. It’s astounding to us that domestic violence murders have become so commonplace that some merit no more than a blurb at the bottom of a page. One Pennsylvania newspaper columnist referred to them as “predictable and thus less newsworthy.” His rule of thumb? Three paragraphs – unless, of course, “it’s about a rich or famous victim or perpetrator.” Then the tragedy becomes, as another reporter calls it, **“a death worth noticing.”**

Take Notice

PCADV believes that every domestic violence death is a death worth noticing. So please, as you read this report, notice the ages of the victims, the relationships to their killers, the children who witnessed the murders or discovered the bodies, the communities they lived in and the viciousness with which they died. They were beaten, bludgeoned, burned, strangled, stabbed, slashed and, the majority of them (as represented by the red silhouettes on the cover), shot to death. It should come as no surprise that guns were involved in more than half of all these deaths. Study after study has proven that guns and domestic violence are a deadly mix and, in fact, victims of domestic violence are five times more likely to be killed when batterers possess firearms.

Behind the Numbers

You’ll see in this report that the majority of women (53 of the 63 female victims) were murdered by current or former intimate partners compared to nine (9) of the 38 male victims. The majority of men were killed by other men, which is reflected in the gender breakdown of perpetrators – 87 males and 12 females. Pennsylvania’s domestic violence fatality statistics support national research which indicates that intimate partner violence is primarily a crime against women, and women are much more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner.

A Call for Action

Indeed, every death is a death worth noticing, worth mourning, worth remembering. Every death leaves behind shattered lives, orphaned children, devastated families, shocked friends and neighbors. Every death deserves our outrage and every death requires a collective call to action – to close loopholes in laws, improve systems’ responses, increase public awareness and promote real social change – change that ultimately will stop the killing.

Hope for Change

We can only hope that change will come soon so that in years to follow we’ll have fewer and fewer deaths to notice.

– Judy Yupcavage, Public Policy and Information Manager

153 Deaths in 2004...

During January-December 2004, 105 domestic violence incidents in 39 counties resulted in 153 deaths.

WHO DIED

- 110 victims
 - 70 females
 - 63 18+ years of age
 - 4 13-17 years of age
 - 3 0-12 years of age
 - 40 males
 - 38 18+ years of age
 - 2 13-17 years of age
 - 0 0-12 years of age
- 34 perpetrators committed suicide
- 3 killed in a shootout
- 3 perpetrators killed by police
- 1 perpetrator killed by off-duty police
- 1 killing ruled justified
- 1 man killed by fiance who was found not guilty of all charges

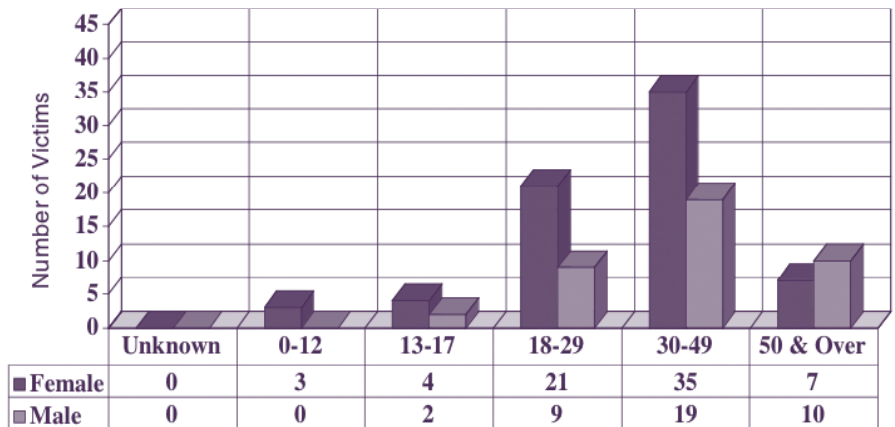
WHO DID THE KILLING

- 87 males
- 12 females

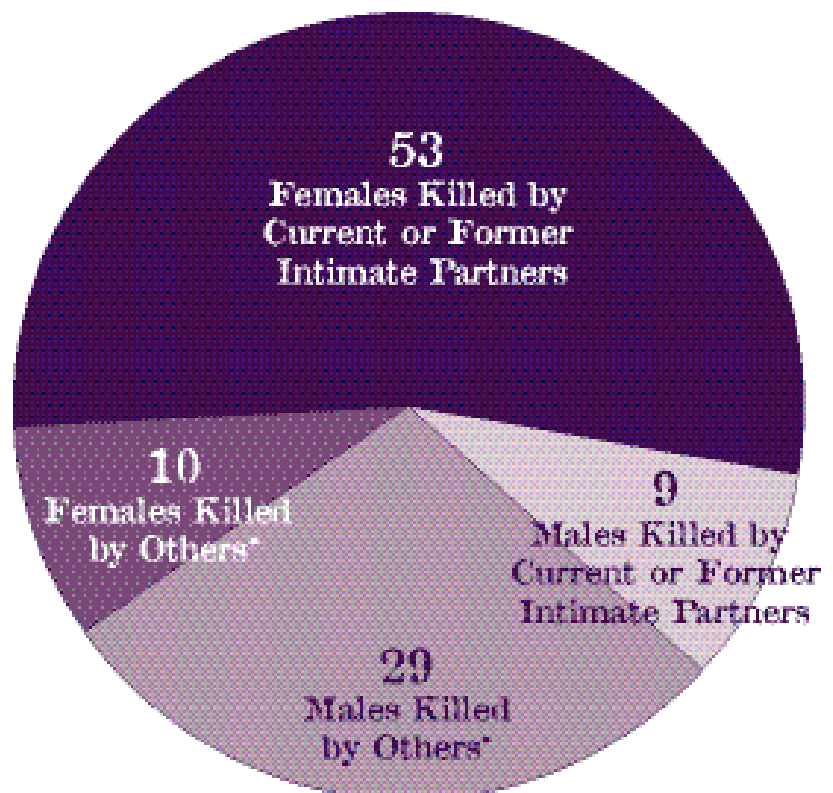
HOW THEY DIED

- 71 **SHOT**
- 1 **SHOT** & stabbed
- 15 stabbed
- 7 strangled
- 3 beaten & strangled
- 3 beaten & stabbed
- 2 stabbed & slashed
- 1 beaten
- 1 beaten & slashed
- 1 beaten with a bat
- 1 beaten, stabbed & sexually assaulted
- 1 drowned
- 1 drugged & smothered
- 1 injuries from push to sidewalk
- 1 smothered & strangled

2004 Age and Gender Breakdown of Domestic Violence Fatalities



2004 Relationship and Gender Breakdown of Adult Domestic Violence Fatalities



*Other relationships are detailed in summaries

Son finds his mother dead in bedroom in Logan

Domestic Violence Death Toll In 2004...

- ALLEGHENY
- January 12 **A 42-year-old woman and her 15-year-old daughter were fatally shot by the woman's 38-year-old ex-boyfriend** in McKeesport. The teenager's friends discovered the bodies when they went to visit. On the same night, the perpetrator also allegedly **shot and killed his 27-year-old male roommate and the roommate's 23-year-old male cousin**. Their bodies were found two days later. According to reports, the two men were teasing the perpetrator about his ex-girlfriend. The perpetrator is charged with at least two counts of homicide.
- February 28 **A 52-year-old Hazelwood man was shot and killed by his 25-year-old stepson** in Beechview. Allegedly, the man was fighting with his wife when the stepson intervened. The stepson was found guilty of voluntary manslaughter and faces up to 20 years in prison.
- March 9 **A 32-year-old man was fatally shot while attempting to break up a fight between his current and former girlfriends** outside an Oakland bar. Police have charged two men, the ex-girlfriend's 23-year-old male friend and her 21-year-old male family member, with the homicide.
- April 18 **A 35-year-old mother of three and her 9-month-old daughter were dragged from a church service at gunpoint and forced into a car by her ex-boyfriend, the baby's father**, in Sheraden. He held the two in his van for a half-hour while authorities attempted to negotiate with him. He then drove the car through a police roadblock and led authorities on a 50-mile chase that ended when the car crashed near Monroeville. As police surrounded the van, **the perpetrator shot and killed his ex-girlfriend; the baby was unharmed**. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in February that he violated when he confronted the victim and allegedly threatened to kill her if she kept him away. According to reports, the perpetrator had recently been released from jail for a previous violation of the order in March.
- May 10 **A 59-year-old woman and her 65-year-old boyfriend were strangled by the woman's 43-year-old nephew** in her home. The perpetrator's two sons, age 8 and 11, were living with the victims and the perpetrator often borrowed money from his aunt. When she refused to give him \$20, he strangled her and her boyfriend, leaving his sons to find the bodies the next morning. Another man has also been charged in connection with the homicides.
- June 12 **A 35-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his 33-year-old cousin**. According to witnesses, the two men were arguing on the street when the perpetrator pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim. The perpetrator then fled the scene but investigators arrested him at his downtown residence. He is charged with homicide.
- June 24 **A 36-year-old mother of three was bound with duct tape and fatally stabbed by her 46-year-old estranged husband** in their West Deer home. The victim and children had moved to her parents' nearby home and she had obtained an emergency Protection From Abuse order. Allegedly, the perpetrator lured the victim to their home with a phone call. He then murdered her and fled the scene with his 9-year-old daughter, who was not harmed. An Amber Alert was issued and authorities apprehended the perpetrator after a motorist spotted the pair near Emlenton.
- July 12 **A 25-year-old mother of four was fatally shot by her 29-year-old boyfriend** in her McKees Rocks home. **The perpetrator then committed suicide**. The victim's children, ages 2, 4, 6 and 9, were in the home at the time and the 9-year-old discovered the bodies.

New Holland businesswoman gunned down in parking lot

ALLEGHENY (cont'd)

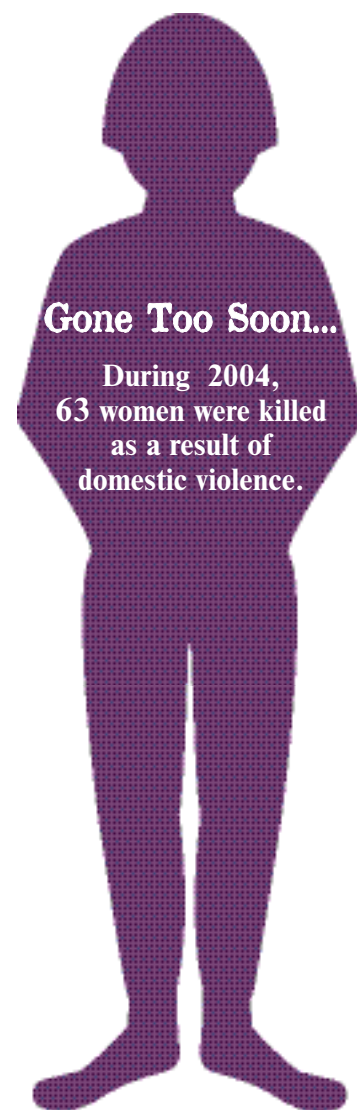
- July 19 **A 63-year-old woman was killed by her 41-year-old son.** The perpetrator pushed his mother, causing her to fall and fatally hit her head on the sidewalk. He is charged with aggravated assault and reckless endangerment.
- July 22 **A 24-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 31-year-old estranged husband** in her Scott apartment. The perpetrator then fled the scene in the victim's car and drove to a parking lot where **he committed suicide.** The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in February 2004 that was later extended until September 2005. The perpetrator violated the order three times; he served time in jail for the violations and was released two days prior to the homicide.
- August 3 **A 41-year-old woman was shot and killed by her estranged boyfriend** in Forest Hills. The perpetrator – reportedly, a White Supremacist – and victim met in an Internet chatroom. After questioning by police, the perpetrator admitted to killing the victim but claimed it was self-defense. He is charged with homicide.
- September 11 **A 51-year-old man committed suicide** in his ex-girlfriend's Springdale Township home. The man entered the home shortly after midnight and, at some point, the ex-girlfriend called police to the residence. Police surrounded the house and the man shot himself.
- October 5 **A 46-year-old woman was fatally stabbed with a butcher knife by her 44-year-old estranged husband** outside her Brookline home. **He then committed suicide.** The victim obtained an emergency Protection From Abuse order against her husband less than one month earlier.
- October 9 **A 40-year-old woman was beaten to death with a hammer and stabbed by her 38-year-old husband** in their Homewood residence. He then took his daughters from the home and dropped them off at his parents' home. He drove back to the residence, lit the house on fire and fled the scene but later turned himself in to police. The morning of the attack, the victim allegedly told the perpetrator she wanted a divorce.
- November 7 **A 38-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his ex-girlfriend's 36-year-old husband** on a Pittsburgh street. Allegedly, the two men were arguing over the perpetrator's wife. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.
- November 9 **A 31-year-old man was fatally shot by police officers responding to a domestic violence call** in Wilkins. Authorities were pursuing the perpetrator after he forced his way into his ex-wife's home where he held her and their 3-year-old daughter hostage for more than two hours. The two were able to escape and hid as the perpetrator drove away from the home. Police were notified, caught up to the perpetrator and blocked his car. The perpetrator fired his gun at the officers and the police shot him. An officer was also shot twice but survived.
- November 24 **A 33-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 46-year-old estranged husband** in her Shaler Township home. **He then committed suicide.** The victim obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in February 2003 and again in March 2004. He violated the orders several times. The perpetrator's ex-wife had also obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him in May 1996.
- December 12 **A 49-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 58-year-old husband** in their Frazer home. **He then committed suicide.**
- December 21 **A 47-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 43-year-old boyfriend** in her Bell Acres home. The victim's 16-year-old daughter found her body in the basement of the home. The perpetrator surrendered to police near his hometown in New York. He is charged with homicide.

Mother leaves trail of death: boyfriend, 3 children, then self

ARMSTRONG	January 12	<p>A 35-year-old mother of two and her 27-year-old husband were shot and killed by her sister's 31-year-old boyfriend in their Parks residence. Also killed was the couple's 19-month-old daughter who was shot and stabbed. The couple's 9-month-old child was unharmed. Several days later, with police attempting to apprehend him, the perpetrator committed suicide by blowing up his car. The perpetrator had recently been released from state prison after serving five years for stabbing an ex-girlfriend. The 35-year-old victim's sister and another man are being charged with conspiracy and three counts of complicity to commit homicide, respectively.</p>
BEAVER	August 25	<p>A 58-year-old father of two was shot and killed by his 54-year-old wife in their Potter Township home. According to reports, the victim had a history of abusing his wife and had been on probation for pointing a weapon and threatening to shoot her in 2002. The woman is charged with one count of homicide.</p>
	November 16	<p>A 60-year-old man was fatally shot by his 25-year-old daughter in his New Sewickley Township home. The man's 60-year-old wife initially confessed to killing her husband. Weeks later, the daughter turned herself in to police. Allegedly, the man threatened to kill his wife, daughter and their pets, placed a loaded gun on the kitchen table and then walked away threatening over his shoulder that "this isn't over." The daughter picked up the gun and shot her father in the back. Her mother and other family members helped the daughter to clean up the scene and place the body in a cistern behind the home. Police had been to the residence many times in the past for domestic violence calls. The daughter and her mother are both charged with homicide.</p>
BERKS	January 23	<p>A 47-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 63-year-old estranged husband in his Brednock Township home. He also fatally shot his 18-year-old daughter and her 24-year-old boyfriend before committing suicide. The three victims arrived at the perpetrator's house to move the daughter's belongings. She had been living with her father while her mother was in the process of relocating after leaving him. The perpetrator had a history of violence toward his family. He threatened to kill them on many occasions and had attempted suicide. Prior to the homicides, the perpetrator's son from a previous marriage, had his father committed to a psychiatric hospital and had his guns removed from his possession. The perpetrator was released from the hospital three days later. The day of the murders, the son made a phone call to the woman to warn her that his father had regained possession of his one of his guns.</p>
	December 3	<p>A 28-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 33-year-old boyfriend outside her parents' home in Exeter. He then committed suicide. The victim had recently moved into her parents home after ending the relationship. That day, the perpetrator confronted the victim and dragged her down the street by her hair. A neighbor called 9-1-1 and the perpetrator fled. According to police, the victim expressed an interest in a Protection From Abuse order and officers left the residence to find the perpetrator. As the victim was leaving the residence, the perpetrator jumped out of the bushes of a nearby home and fired shots at her. He then turned the gun on himself.</p>
BLAIR	February 25	<p>A 26-year-old mother of three was stabbed to death by her 36-year-old ex-boyfriend in the presence of her two children, ages 6 and 11. The victim had obtained a temporary Protection From Abuse order. However, one week prior to the homicide, she asked a judge to vacate the order because the perpetrator had relocated out of state and she no longer believed she was in danger. The judge denied her request and the final order was issued February 19. The perpetrator had recently been released on probation for stabbing another woman in Maryland.</p>

White supremacist admits killing girlfriend

BRADFORD	April 23	A 50-year-old man was fatally shot while attempting to break into another man's Towanda home. The home belonged to the 57-year-old boyfriend of the man's estranged wife, and she witnessed the shooting. No charges will be filed against the boyfriend; the killing was ruled justified.
BUCKS	February 8	A 24-year-old woman was beaten to death with a hammer and stabbed with shards of a broken ceramic lamp by her 46-year-old aunt in Bensalem. The perpetrator has been charged with homicide.
	December 9	A 31-year-old mother of one was beaten and strangled by her 33-year-old boyfriend in Bensalem. He then fled to his home in New Jersey and called police to turn himself in. He is charged with homicide.
BUTLER	January 3	A 31-year-old man barricaded himself in his Butler apartment for 8 hours before committing suicide. Police contacted the man earlier that day to inform him of a domestic violence complaint filed by his girlfriend. According to reports, police attempted to negotiate with the man for five hours. Allegedly, he had served time on a drunken driving conviction and was distraught at the prospect of returning to jail.
	November 20	A 36-year-old mother of three was fatally stabbed by her 44-year-old estranged husband in Butler. The victim had separated from her husband and moved into her own apartment. The perpetrator went to see his wife and fatally stabbed her. He then left the apartment and made up stories to explain her whereabouts. Thirteen days later, the perpetrator returned to the apartment and set it on fire to hide the evidence and body. He confessed to the killing and is charged with homicide, arson, burglary, causing or risking catastrophe and abuse of a corpse.
	December 12	A 21-year-old pregnant woman was fatally shot by her 24-year-old husband in Penn Township. A family driving to church found the vehicle and called police. Initially, police believed she died from injuries resulting from a car crash. After an investigation, it was discovered that the victim was barefoot and backing her car out of the driveway to escape her husband's attack. He shot her in the forehead and the car continued down the driveway and over the hillside opposite their home. The perpetrator is charged with homicide and may face the death penalty.
	December 23	A 29-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's 28-year-old ex-husband in a parking lot. The perpetrator and his ex-wife used the parking lot for the custody exchange of their 2-year-old son. The perpetrator and his ex-wife were arguing when the victim attempted to intervene. The perpetrator shot and killed the victim, then dialed 9-1-1. He is charged with homicide.
CARBON	February 12	A 49-year-old woman was stabbed and her neck was slashed by her 18-year-old son and his 23-year-old friend in her Franklin Township home. According to reports, the son was angry at his mother for selling her house to his sister and refusing to share the profit with him; he planned to kill the victim for the inheritance money. Both perpetrators are charged with homicide and, if convicted, face the death penalty. The perpetrators' 19-year-old roommate, who drove them to the murder scene, is also charged with homicide.



When Abuse Turns To Murder

CHESTER	July 12	A 22-year-old woman was shot by her 29-year-old husband before he committed suicide in their Honey Brook residence. The woman died two days later.
CLARION	January 15	A 29-year-old mother of two was fatally shot by her 32-year-old husband in their Richland Township home. He then committed suicide. The couple's children, ages 12 and 13, were not at home at the time of the shooting but later discovered the bodies.
	September 5	A 50-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 49-year-old estranged husband in her Perry Township home. He also shot her 51-year-old friend before fleeing the residence. The friend was on the phone with 9-1-1 dispatchers when the perpetrator returned to the scene and shot him again, killing him. Upon hearing strange noises, a neighbor went to the home to investigate and was wounded by a stray bullet that passed through the residence. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The estranged wife had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator one month earlier. At that time, the judge ordered the perpetrator to relinquish his weapons. However, the man agreed to waive the proceeding if he could keep his guns and the woman consented.
CLINTON	January 1	A 21-year-old mother of one was fatally shot by her 24-year-old boyfriend in their Pine Creek Township home. Allegedly, the victim told the perpetrator that she wanted to break up with him. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and will be sentenced to 20-40 years in prison.
DAUPHIN	February 14	A 25-year-old Harrisburg man was shot and killed by his girlfriend's 20-year-old brother at her request. According to police, the girlfriend and victim dated for several years and occasionally lived together. Approximately six hours after she threatened to "have him shot," she solicited her brother to do so. The perpetrator and his 20-year-old friend confronted the victim in his Harrisburg apartment and fired at least one shot at him. The victim's girlfriend received a sentence of 18 months to 5 years for soliciting to commit murder; her 20-year-old brother and his 20-year-old friend each received a sentence of life in prison.
	July 11	A 27-year-old mother of two was beaten and strangled by her 36-year-old boyfriend in her Harrisburg home. The victim was threatening to leave the perpetrator. After he killed their mother, the perpetrator drove her children to their daycare provider and never returned for them. The perpetrator was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.
	September 12	A 26-year-old man was shot and killed by a 24-year-old man on a Harrisburg street. Allegedly, both men fathered a child with the same woman and were arguing over the shared relationship. According to police, the perpetrator called the victim a few days before the murder to ask whether he preferred an open or closed casket at his funeral. The perpetrator is charged with homicide, terroristic threats and recklessly endangering another person.
DELAWARE	July 26	A 28-year-old woman was fatally stabbed by her 37-year-old estranged boyfriend before he set fire to her residence. Initially, authorities believed she died as a result of the house fire but autopsy results showed the victim was dead prior to the fire. The perpetrator was apprehended by Delaware police on an unrelated domestic violence charge.
	August 11	A 44-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's 57-year-old estranged husband outside a Folcroft tavern. The perpetrator fled the scene but was apprehended minutes later by police. He is charged with homicide.

“Daddy just shot Mommy in the head.”

DELAWARE (cont'd)	September 4	A Chester man witnessed his 18-year-old daughter being choked by her boyfriend, who was the father of her child. He intervened and fled with his daughter and her 6-month-old baby. Later, the boyfriend and his brother went to the girlfriend's home to confront her father and brother; neither was home at the time. They returned once more but this time a shootout ensued between the woman's 23-year-old brother, 19-year-old boyfriend and the boyfriend's 23-year-old brother. All three men died from gunshot wounds. A 21-year-old man, unrelated to either family, survived the shootout and is charged with homicide.
	November 14	An 18-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 19-year-old male friend in her Chester home. According to witnesses, the couple entered the victim's bedroom and locked the door. A short time later, a gunshot was heard and the perpetrator yelled for someone to call for an ambulance because he shot the victim. The perpetrator claims he was reaching for cigarettes when the gun went off accidentally. He is charged with homicide.
	December 6	A 31-year-old mother of five was strangled to death by her 33-year-old boyfriend in Springfield. The victim obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in February 2001 and again in March 2004. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.
ELK	July 6	A woman was shot by her 44-year-old estranged husband in her St. Marys home before he fled and committed suicide. The woman survived the attack.
ERIE	January 18	A 42-year-old father of four was brutally stabbed and slashed by his 17-year-old son in Edinboro. The perpetrator also stabbed his 15-year-old brother; the teen survived the attack. The perpetrator called the Erie County Crisis Services Hotline after the attack and said voices in his head were commanding him to kill. A friend of the perpetrator, in a report to a school guidance counselor, stated that the perpetrator made a suicide pact with his girlfriend and two friends. Police now question whether the incident was premeditated. The perpetrator is charged with homicide and has been committed to a mental health facility.
	February 2	A man was fatally stabbed by his 30-year-old fiance in Erie. The woman claimed to be protecting herself and there was documentation that she had previously been abused by the man. An Erie County jury found her not guilty of all charges, including third-degree murder.
FAYETTE	May 7	A 53-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 28-year-old daughter in his Uniontown home. The perpetrator was visiting her father when he asked her for money. When she told him she had none, he yelled at her and punched her in the face several times. She retrieved a knife and stabbed him in the neck. She then turned herself in to authorities and was charged with the stabbing.
	July 5	A 41-year-old mother of one was shot and killed by her 55-year-old ex-boyfriend. The victim's 18-year-old son also was shot but survived the attack. The perpetrator is charged with homicide and may face the death penalty. Eleven years earlier, the perpetrator kidnapped his then-estranged wife and held her at gunpoint. He was convicted and served time in prison for the incident.
GREENE	September 28	An 18-year-old woman was strangled to death by her 19-year-old boyfriend in an abandoned Jefferson Township house. The perpetrator is charged with aggravated assault and homicide.
JEFFERSON	May 23	A 31-year-old woman shot her 36-year-old husband and their 9-year-old son before committing suicide. Both victims were critically injured but survived the attack. No motive has been identified.
LACKAWANNA	January 5	A 56-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 56-year-old husband in their East Mountain home. He then committed suicide. Police report the couple was going through a separation or divorce. They were found in the garage after a friend of the family called 9-1-1, after receiving a call from the perpetrator.

Slain city school principal mourned...A life too soon over

LACKAWANNA (cont'd)	August 13	A 38-year-old paraplegic and mother of one was fatally shot by her 40-year-old ex-boyfriend in her Madison Township home. The perpetrator also shot and killed her 40-year-old current boyfriend. He then returned to his own residence and committed suicide. The victim's daughter was staying with relatives at the time. The woman was granted a Protection From Abuse order on July 23.
	September 4	A 20-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 22-year-old boyfriend in Scranton. He then committed suicide.
LANCASTER/ BLAIR	February 16	A 43-year-old woman was shot and killed – in the parking lot outside the Lancaster fitness center she co-owned – by her 41-year-old ex-boyfriend. He also fatally strangled his 13-year-old son in his East Cocalico Township home before fleeing to a cabin near Altoona (Blair County), where he committed suicide. The ex-girlfriend had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in mid-January. He surrendered eight firearms at that time but reportedly owned more than 20.
LANCASTER	December 20	A 34-year-old mother of one was fatally shot by her 47-year-old husband in his Caernarvon Township residence. The victim had moved out of the home one month earlier and returned, with the couple's 9-year-old daughter, to help the perpetrator decorate a Christmas tree. Their daughter was in the residence at the time of the shooting and ran to a bus stop to get help. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.
LAWRENCE	February 15	A 46-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 53-year-old ex-husband in his Ellwood City home. He then committed suicide. The couple had separated one year earlier.
LEBANON	June 21	A 79-year-old woman was drugged and smothered to death by her daughter in South Annville Township. The perpetrator then attempted suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning but a neighbor interrupted. The perpetrator had been scheduled to enter a drug and alcohol rehabilitation program later that weekend.
	November 4	A 40-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her 41-year-old boyfriend in their Fredericksburg home. Police, inside the home, were attempting to negotiate with the perpetrator when he backed into a bedroom and killed the victim. He then immediately surrendered.
	November 30	A 55-year-old man was shot and killed by his girlfriend's 51-year-old husband in Jonestown. The perpetrator was allegedly distraught that his wife was having an affair with the victim, who was her coworker. Reportedly, the perpetrator had been following his wife and the victim for several weeks in a borrowed vehicle and asked a friend to back up his alibi if police questioned him. He is charged with homicide.
LEHIGH	July 17	A 48-year-old father of one was fatally stabbed by his 41-year-old wife in their Allentown home. Allegedly, the perpetrator threw the knife at her husband, which struck him in the neck. She is charged with homicide.
LUZERNE	June 19	A 46-year-old man was shot and killed by his estranged boyfriend as they shot target practice in Nanticoke. The victim threatened to expose the perpetrator as gay after the perpetrator refused to have sex with him.
LYCOMING/ NORTHUMBERLAND	August 11	A 61-year-old man was fatally shot by his 36-year-old male roommate in the victim's Delaware Township residence. The perpetrator then stole the man's shotgun and vehicle, which he drove to his estranged wife's Montgomery home. At the woman's residence, he attempted to shoot her 14-year-old son before holding authorities at a standoff for several hours. Police used tear gas to enter the residence but not before the perpetrator shot and killed his 34-year-old estranged wife and committed suicide. The woman had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator which he allegedly violated a few weeks earlier.

Coroner: Murdered woman was pregnant

- LYCOMING** August 11 A **61-year-old man committed suicide** after holding police in a standoff for hours at his estranged wife's home in Jersey Shore. Allegedly, the man broke into his estranged wife's home and was awaiting her return. She immediately went to police when she saw her husband's vehicle in her driveway. The couple had recently separated and the woman filed for a Protection From Abuse order.
- September 25 A **34-year-old woman and her 36-year-old boyfriend were fatally shot by the woman's 47-year-old estranged husband** in Loysock Township. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The woman's teenage daughter was in the home at the time of the shootings, but was unharmed. The woman had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator at the time of the incident.
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- MERCER** January 13 A **31-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 33-year-old ex-boyfriend**, the father of her children, in his Sharon home. The perpetrator then shot himself in the chest in a suicide attempt and drove to a hospital in Ohio to receive treatment. The victim had recently moved to Ohio to escape the abuse but allegedly returned to the perpetrator's home to retrieve medicine for their children.
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- MONROE** July 2 A **40-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 50-year-old girlfriend** in Coolbaugh Township. The perpetrator claims the victim had an epileptic seizure and fell on the knife. She is charged with homicide.
- October 18 A **31-year-old mother of two was fatally stabbed by her 48-year-old husband before he committed suicide.** The couple's 11-year-old daughter was in the home at the time. The victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against her husband earlier that day.
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- MONTGOMERY** April 12 A **43-year-old father of three was fatally shot by his 41-year-old wife** in Lansdale. The couple were allegedly fighting over the victim's infidelity. Allegedly, the victim asked his wife if she wanted to separate or die. He then slapped her and pulled her hair. She became angry, retrieved his gun from the bedroom and fired at him. After hearing gunshots, the couple's 14- and 17-year-old sons, who were in the basement, ran upstairs to find their father unresponsive and their mother holding a gun. She was crying and saying, "I deserve to die." She is charged with homicide.
- September 4 A **40-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 49-year-old husband** in their Upper Pottsgrove home. **He then committed suicide.** Authorities report that the victim had consulted a lawyer about filing for divorce on August 30. Years ago, the victim obtained a Protection From Abuse order against her husband and recently told friends she feared for her life.
- September 25 A **47-year-old mother of two was shot and killed by a 14-year-old boy** who was living in her Norristown home. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The victim's 13-year-old daughter was also shot but survived the attack. According to reports, the perpetrator was a friend of the victim's son and had been living with the family.



Ex-husband waits 20 years to kill couple

- NORTHAMPTON** April 13 A **41-year-old father of one was fatally shot by his 44-year-old wife** in their home. The perpetrator claims she shot the victim in self-defense as he pointed a gun at her and their 2-year-old daughter, and told her to put their daughter down so he could end her life. Instead, she grabbed a gun and fired one shot, hitting him in the head. She then dialed 9-1-1 and surrendered to police. She is charged with homicide.
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- NORTHUMBERLAND** January 4 A **45-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 45-year-old estranged husband** in a cornfield outside Sunbury. He then attempted suicide. Allegedly, the victim refused to give the perpetrator a second chance at a relationship. According to authorities, the perpetrator wrote a note before committing the homicide that stated his wife would soon be dead. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to the death penalty.
- April 22 A **40-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 41-year-old boyfriend** in their Shamokin residence. **He then committed suicide.** Police responding to a 9-1-1 call arrived as three children, who also lived in the house, were fleeing.
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- PHILADELPHIA** February 4 A **46-year-old woman was fatally beaten with a vase, stabbed and sexually assaulted by her 42-year-old boyfriend** in her Logan home. The victim's body was discovered by her 21-year-old son. The perpetrator attempted suicide two days later while staying at a New York City hotel. He was apprehended in New York City and faces a charge of homicide in Pennsylvania.
- February 27 A **24-year-old mother of one was shot by her 26-year-old boyfriend before he committed suicide** in their Northeast Philadelphia residence. **The woman was critically injured but survived the attack.** Officers responding to a robbery call were met at the residence by the woman. She told them she needed to go upstairs to get dressed. While police waited outside, they heard suspicious noises and burst inside just as three gunshots were fired. Police had frequently responded to domestic violence calls at the residence and the woman had recently obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator.
- March 6 A **75-year-old woman and her 70-year-old husband of nearly 20 years were shot and killed by her 78-year-old ex-husband** in Northeast Philadelphia. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The woman was able to call 9-1-1 and identify the gunman before dying. All three were rushed to the hospital but pronounced dead one hour later. According to friends of the victims, the woman had divorced the perpetrator more than 20 years ago after he threatened to kill her.
- March 13 A **50-year-old woman was shot by police** responding to a domestic violence call in Logan. According to reports, the woman set a fire inside her house before calling 9-1-1 and stating she was going to kill everyone inside the house. Four other people were inside the house at the time. When officers arrived, she was holding a gun and did not comply when asked to put her weapon down.
- March 21 A **60-year-old woman was beaten and strangled by her 36-year-old son** in the South Philadelphia home they shared. Officers went to the residence after receiving a call to check on the victim because she didn't come to church that morning. Initially, the perpetrator told police that his mother was fine but officers noticed blood on his clothing. He was taken into custody and is charged with homicide.
- May 19 A **27-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 25-year-old husband** in their home. When police responded to a domestic violence call, the perpetrator claimed an unknown man shot his wife and fled. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.

Slain wife feared husband's violence

PHILADELPHIA (cont'd) May 26

A 36-year-old mother of one was shot and killed by her 46-year-old boyfriend, the father of her child, in their Fox Chase apartment. **He then committed suicide.** Police were notified by the victim's concerned coworkers that she had not shown up for work in two days. When they arrived at the house, it was apparent that both the victim and perpetrator were dead for some time. The couple's 3-year-old daughter was in the home at the time of the shooting and later placed with her maternal grandmother.

May 30

A 43-year-old father of three was shot by police officers responding to a domestic violence call at his residence. The man's wife and two of their three children were evacuated by police. The couple's 17-year-old son was being held by his father. Armed with a shotgun and a pistol, the man stood at the front door of the home and aimed his weapons at the officers. Police fired two shots, both of which struck the man in the chest. The man was rushed to a local hospital where he later died.

June 28

A 26-year-old Dauphin County woman was shot and killed by her 22-year-old boyfriend while visiting him in Philadelphia. **He then committed suicide.**

July 25

A 6-month-old girl was fatally shot by her 23-year-old father in his Philadelphia residence. **He then committed suicide.** Allegedly, the perpetrator was distraught because his relationship with the baby's mother had recently ended, and the perpetrator only had weekend visitations with his daughter.

August 13

A 26-year-old mother of four was fatally shot by her 28-year-old boyfriend, the father of her children, in her North Philadelphia residence. The perpetrator is charged with homicide and related offenses and is also wanted in connection with the slaying of a cabdriver earlier in the year.

September 3

A 36-year-old mother of three was fatally shot by her 38-year-old estranged husband in her Philadelphia home. The couple's 8-year-old son stated he heard his parents arguing prior to the shooting. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.

November 8

A 21-year-old woman was beaten and her throat was slashed by her 25-year-old ex-boyfriend and his 26-year-old friend in her mother's Germantown home. The perpetrators then set fire to the home before fleeing. Both men are charged with homicide.

December 25

A 42-year-old man was fatally shot by an off-duty police officer in Philadelphia. The man was violating a Protection From Abuse order, obtained by the officer's aunt, when he was shot. Allegedly, the woman called her nephew to her home to protect her. The man pointed a gun at the officer and the officer shot him, then called for police backup. An investigation is pending.

December 30

A 34-year-old mother was beaten and stabbed by her boyfriend in his Philadelphia home. He then drove the victim's car from the scene and crashed. He was taken to a local hospital and police have charged him with homicide.

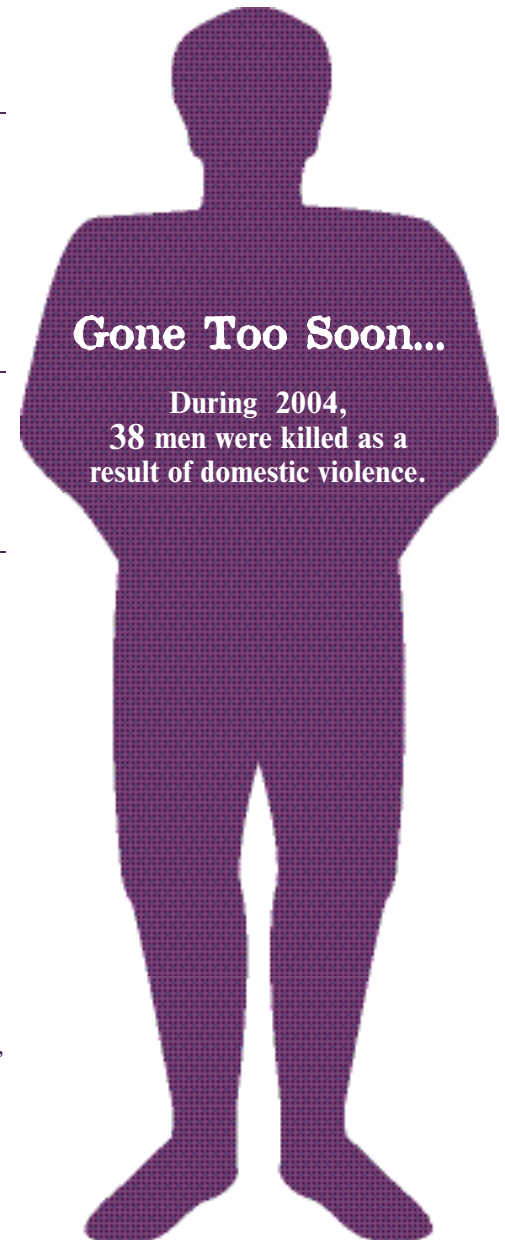
PIKE

May 4

A 17-year-old mother of one was strangled by her 18-year-old ex-boyfriend in her Greene Township home. **He also killed their 7-month-old daughter by drowning her in the bathtub.** The perpetrator set up the murder scene to look like a suicide but investigators found evidence to the contrary. Police initially arrested the perpetrator on charges of child pornography found on his computer but later charged him with two counts of homicide. The perpetrator's mother, who awaits trial for solicitation of homicide in the 1999 homicide of her boyfriend, is charged with hampering a police search in connection to the current homicide.

Student found slashed to death in her home

SCHUYLKILL/ COLUMBIA	May 2	Over a five-hour period, a 39-year-old woman fatally shot her three children, her boyfriend and her two dogs before committing suicide . She first killed her 13-year-old daughter and left her body alongside a Conyngham Township road. She then drove to Barry Township where she killed her 18-year-old son. At her home in Zion Grove, she fatally killed her 16-year-old daughter and 39-year-old boyfriend and then committed suicide. Authorities believe she was distraught over losing custody of her children.
SCHUYLKILL	June 20	A 27-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 38-year-old wife in Shenandoah. The perpetrator claims the two were arguing when she picked up a knife. During a struggle for the knife, the woman stabbed the victim. After checking his pulse, the perpetrator claims she panicked, cleaned up the blood with a mop and placed the knife under a sofa cushion before calling paramedics. She has been charged with homicide.
	August 7	A 42-year-old man was fatally stabbed by his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend while retrieving his possessions from her home. A confrontation erupted, beginning in the home and continuing in the victim's truck, after he attempted to remove items from the home. The victim's ex-girlfriend tried to intervene and received superficial wounds as a result. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.
SOMERSET	November 5	A 39-year-old man committed suicide after an argument with his 15-year-old daughter in Conemaugh. The perpetrator and his daughter were fighting. The teenager was able to escape the home without harm. The man entered the basement and shot himself. Authorities ruled the death a suicide.
WASHINGTON	November 27	A 46-year-old man was fatally shot by his 20-year-old stepson in Washington. The victim's wife and a male acquaintance were also present at the time of the shooting.
WESTMORELAND	February 24	A 20-year-old Hempfield Township woman was fatally stabbed by her 26-year-old ex-boyfriend outside a Greensburg tavern. The perpetrator confronted the victim inside the tavern and forced her outside into an alley where he stabbed her. She died at the hospital two days later. The victim's new boyfriend and another man chased the perpetrator down the alley. When they reached him, the perpetrator stabbed the boyfriend four times before fleeing. He survived the attack. The perpetrator is charged with homicide, attempted homicide and aggravated assault.
	May 15	The body of 49-year-old man , missing since September 2002, was found on a Salem Township farm. An autopsy revealed he died of smothering and strangulation . The man's 21-year-old son and the son's 20-year-old friend are charged with homicide and may face death by lethal injection.



Milton man gets death in wife's murder

WESTMORELAND (cont'd) June 4

A 42-year-old man died from complications after a fistfight with his girlfriend's estranged husband in Jeannette. The woman applied for an emergency Protection From Abuse order against her estranged husband on March 2, but withdrew the application.

YORK

February 10

A 50-year-old man was beaten to death with a baseball bat by his 23-year-old son. According to reports, the father and son were arguing about the son's disrespectful treatment of his mother. The perpetrator is charged with homicide.

March 9

A 32-year-old father of three was fatally shot by his ex-girlfriend's 24-year-old boyfriend on a York basketball court. According to reports, the perpetrator and victim had an ongoing feud over the woman. Reports also show the victim had a history of domestic violence and the ex-girlfriend had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him in July 2002 that expired January 2004. The perpetrator was in a car when he fired the shots. **Both he and the 20-year-old male driver of the vehicle are charged with homicide.**

March 19

A 48-year-old mother of three was strangled by her husband in her Fairview township home. Her husband reported her missing two days later and the victim's body was found in a car outside a New Cumberland supermarket. The perpetrator had a history of violence against his family and, allegedly, the victim was attempting to leave the marriage. After a seven month investigation, the perpetrator is charged with homicide.

April 25

A 48-year-old woman and her 17-year-old son were shot and killed by her 70-year-old husband in her Shrewsbury Township home. The perpetrator, a retired college professor, then attempted suicide by drug overdose. His wife had filed for divorce on April 8.

July 20

A 36-year-old man was stabbed to death by his 21-year-old estranged girlfriend in their friend's York residence. The woman was visiting friends when her ex-boyfriend arrived unexpectedly and in violation of a Protection From Abuse order, demanding to see his daughter. When the woman refused, the man left but later returned to again confront the woman. An argument ensued and she stabbed him with a kitchen knife. The woman had obtained two Protection From Abuse orders against her estranged boyfriend within the year - one for her and one for their child. She is charged with homicide.

July 21

A 24-year-old Lancaster Township woman was fatally shot by her 24-year-old boyfriend in a wooded area in Peachbottom Township. **The victim was five months pregnant** at the time and the boyfriend is believed to be the father of the child. According to reports, the perpetrator and victim met at work and were having an affair. The perpetrator, married with two children, killed the victim to conceal the relationship, cleaned his gun and then drove to Atlantic City to create an alibi. He is charged with two counts of first-degree murder and prosecutors are seeking the death penalty.

Total Fatalities By County

Allegheny County	- 28	Dauphin	- 3	Lycoming	- 6
Armstrong	- 4	Delaware	- 7	Mercer	- 1
Beaver	- 2	Elk	- 1	Monroe	- 3
Berks	- 6	Erie	- 2	Montgomery	- 5
Blair	- 2	Fayette	- 2	Northampton	- 1
Bradford	- 1	Greene	- 1	Northumberland	- 4
Bucks	- 2	Jefferson	- 1	Philadelphia	- 20
Butler	- 4	Lackawanna	- 7	Pike	- 2
Carbon	- 1	Lancaster	- 3	Schuylkill	- 6
Chester	- 2	Lawrence	- 2	Somerset	- 1
Clarion	- 5	Lebanon	- 3	Washington	- 1
Clinton	- 1	Lehigh	- 1	Westmoreland	- 3
Columbia	- 1	Luzerne	- 1	York	- 7

16 Incidents Involving Current Protection From Abuse (PFA) Orders Resulted In:

- 18 victims murdered
- 11 perpetrators committing suicide
- 1 perpetrator fatally shot by an off-duty police officer

30 Total Fatalities

2004 Domestic Violence Fatality Report

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6400 Flank Drive, Suite 1300 • Harrisburg PA 17112
800-932-4632 • TTY: 800-553-2508 • Fax: 717-671-8149
www.pcadv.org

Publication Staff
Judy Yupcavage, Public Policy & Information Manager
Kelly Eyler, Graphic Arts Specialist
Amy Ortwein, Public Policy & Information Coordinator
Denise M. Scotland, Communications Specialist