

# 2005 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

A Publication of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

**Guns Predominant Weapon of Choice**

**Chilling Pattern of Premeditation**

**Disturbing Spike  
in Death Toll**

**Stunning Lack of Remorse**

**Wide Path  
of Death &  
Devastation**

During January-December 2005,  
122 domestic violence incidents resulted in 180 deaths.

## WHO DIED

- 130 victims
  - 92 females
    - 79 18+ years of age
    - 3 13-17 years of age
    - 10 0-12 years of age
  - 38 males
    - 33 18+ years of age
    - 2 13-17 years of age
    - 3 0-12 years of age
- 45 perpetrators committed suicide
- 2 perpetrators killed by police
- 2 perpetrators killed in self-defense
- 1 perpetrator killed by son; no charges were filed

# History Of Violence Preceded Murder

## Yet Another Deadly Year

### Alarming Observations

Here's what jumped out at us as we chronicled the lethal incidents of domestic violence and prepared this report:

- **the stunning lack of remorse on the part of perpetrators**

"Yo, I shot her."

"Get my dead wife's body out of my house."

- **the chilling pattern of premeditation**

"I told you I was going to get you."

"He'll never get my babies."

"See, I told you I could get a gun."

- **the shocking disregard for the value of life**

One victim was shot in the back because she turned off the television.

One victim was shot in the head for not doing the dishes.

One perpetrator took a sleeping pill after viciously beating his girlfriend because he didn't want to be disturbed by her whimpering; the victim died 11 days later from the injuries.

A couple was gunned down because they didn't want their 14-year-old daughter dating the perpetrator.

- **the distorted perspective on the value of life**

One perpetrator strangled his wife but couldn't commit suicide because "it's not that easy to kill yourself."

After stabbing his ex-girlfriend, one perpetrator didn't want to "dishonor" his victim by dumping her in the river; so instead, he threw her body down an embankment.

- **the wide path of death and devastation that extended beyond the home onto roadways and into workplaces**

Seven victims were killed in vehicle-related incidents; two victims were murdered in parking lots, one outside of an elementary school; and seven victims lost their lives at workplaces.

- **the horrifying predilection for overkill**

One victim was stabbed 50 times; one was stabbed, kicked, beaten, suffocated and dumped in the river alive; another was stabbed, bound in a trash bag, tossed in a trash can and lit on fire; still others were beaten and stabbed, beaten and strangled, strangled and smothered, and bound, smothered and drowned.

- **the predictable and predominant weapon of choice**

As in previous years, more than half of the victims were shot to death.

- **the disturbing spike in the death toll**

Pennsylvania experienced 180 domestic violence fatalities in 2005 compared to 153 in 2004.

### Strategic Responses

PCADV is engaged in the following initiatives to address the domestic violence-related fatalities:

- Creation of a statewide fatality review process to identify circumstances leading up to domestic violence-related fatalities and opportunities for system improvement to help prevent future tragedies.
- Collaboration with Pennsylvania employers to strategize on solutions to domestic violence in the workplace.
- Pursuit of increased state funding to support the provision of domestic violence services across the state and to sustain the day-to-day operations of local domestic violence programs.

### Individual Involvement

We invite you to become a **PCADV Partner in Action**:

- Raise your voice. Visit our Web site ([www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org)) to learn more about critical domestic violence legislation and how you can advocate for passage with your state representatives and senators.
- Lend your support by making a tax-deductible contribution. Your gift will make a difference in the lives of those affected by domestic violence. Visit our Web site ([www.pcadv.org](http://www.pcadv.org)) for more information.

### Collaborative Efforts

By working together, we can reduce domestic violence injuries and deaths, secure justice for victims, enhance safety for families and communities and create lasting systems and social change. Please, get involved today!

## 180 Deaths in 2005...

During January-December 2005, 122 domestic violence incidents in 37 counties resulted in 180 deaths.

### WHO DIED

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  - 92 females
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    - 3 13-17 years of age
    - 10 0-12 years of age
  - 38 males
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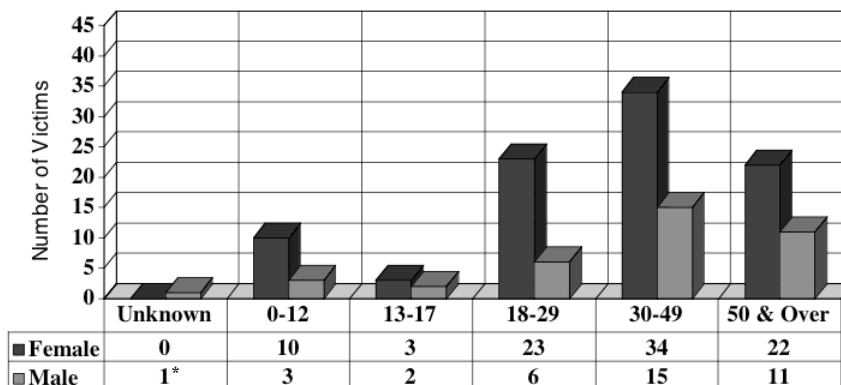
### WHO DID THE KILLING

- 100 males
- 16 females

### HOW THEY DIED

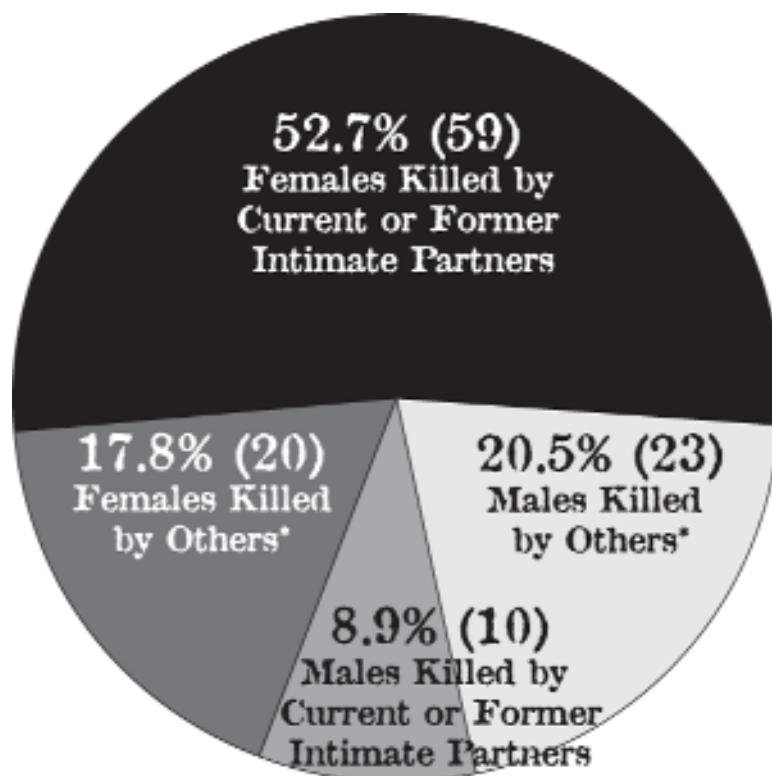
- 67 **SHOT**
- 1 **SHOT** & house set on fire
- 18 stabbed
- 8 strangled
- 7 killed in a house fire
- 5 stabbed & slashed
- 4 beaten
- 3 run over by car
- 2 pushed off road by vehicle
- 2 beaten & strangled
- 1 beaten with a bat
- 1 beaten, stabbed & raped
- 1 beaten & stabbed
- 1 beaten & suffocated
- 1 bound, smothered & drowned
- 1 hit with a sledgehammer
- 1 hit by car
- 1 hog-tied & beaten
- 1 killed in car crash
- 1 stabbed, kicked, beaten, suffocated & dumped in a river alive
- 1 stabbed, wrapped in trash bag, thrown in trash can & lit on fire
- 1 strangled & smothered
- 1 suffocated & thrown out the window

## 2005 Age and Gender Breakdown of Domestic Violence Fatalities



\* Victim is male over the age of 18, but exact age is unknown

## 2005 Relationship and Gender Breakdown of Adult Domestic Violence Fatalities



\*Other relationships are detailed in summaries



## Domestic Violence Death Toll in 2005...

ADAMS	June 25	A <b>90-year-old woman was shot by her 89-year-old husband</b> in their Indiana home. <b>He then committed suicide.</b>
	August 25	A <b>45-year-old Littlestown man</b> fled from police officers attempting to serve him with a Protection From Abuse order. He <b>committed suicide</b> by shooting himself during the chase.
ALLEGHENY	February 23	A <b>45-year-old man</b> , in jail on charges of assault and domestic violence, <b>committed suicide</b> by hanging himself in his holding cell.
	April 8	A <b>36-year-old father of two was shot by his estranged wife's 27-year-old boyfriend</b> on a Pittsburgh street. The victim was visiting his estranged wife and children from West Virginia and was walking his son to school with his estranged wife. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. According to police, the victim and his estranged wife had a history of domestic violence and the woman had a Protection From Abuse order against the victim valid through April 2006.
	April 20	A <b>19-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend</b> in Pittsburgh. The perpetrator was found by police and taken into custody without incident. She was charged with homicide.
	August 8	A <b>45-year-old man</b> attacked his wife, then called 911 and fled the residence. He <b>committed suicide</b> by jumping off a bridge. The wife survived the attack. According to reports, the couple had been going through divorce proceedings.
	September 16	A <b>20-year-old woman was stabbed and her throat was slashed by her 40-year-old mother</b> in Monroeville. The victim's body was found in a local park. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	November 20	A Richland Township man was attacked in his home by a 49-year-old man. <b>The victim survived the attack and stabbed the perpetrator in self-defense.</b> No charges will be filed against the victim. According to reports, the perpetrator believed the victim was having an affair with his wife.
	December 15	A <b>61-year-old woman was shot by her son-in-law</b> in Pittsburgh. The victim was shot twice in the face and her body was found slumped over the steering wheel of her car. Police believe the perpetrator shot her while he was sitting in the passenger's seat. He was charged with homicide.
ARMSTRONG	April 23	A <b>32-year-old man was shot by his 27-year-old estranged girlfriend</b> at the victim's workplace in Elderton. <b>She then committed suicide.</b> According to reports, the victim had recently ended the relationship and moved out of their residence.
	September 25	A <b>44-year-old man was shot by his 51-year-old wife</b> at their Boggs Township home. The perpetrator left his body in the driveway overnight and placed it in a cistern the next morning. She was charged with homicide.
BEAVER	April 23	A <b>22-year-old woman was shot by her 23-year-old boyfriend</b> in the Rochester apartment they shared. Police believe the victim was shot while she was sleeping. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	May 2	A <b>43-year-old mother of four and her 46-year-old husband were shot by the woman's 46-year-old brother</b> in their parent's Freedom home. According to reports, the victims and the perpetrator, who are all deaf, were arguing over the care of their elderly deaf parents. Following the shooting, the perpetrator's father was able to grab the gun from his son and hide it, as the perpetrator calmly walked into another room. After a 90-minute standoff with police, partly due to the communication barriers, the perpetrator surrendered. He was charged with homicide.

# Two Sisters, Child Buried Together In Lower Merion

BEAVER (cont'd)	August 4	<b>A 42-year-old woman was “hog-tied” and beaten to death by her 41-year-old boyfriend</b> in Rochester. The perpetrator then fled the residence and was captured five days later by police. He was charged with homicide.
	August 6	<b>A 47-year-old man was shot by his 46-year-old male friend</b> in the friend’s Hanover Township home. The victim and perpetrator were arguing because the victim believed his friend was having an affair with his wife. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
BERKS	September 12	<b>A 31-year-old woman was shot by her 34-year-old estranged husband</b> on a street outside of her workplace in Reading. The victim had filed for divorce on August 30 and obtained a temporary Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator on September 9. The temporary order was never served because the perpetrator could not be located. According to reports, the perpetrator placed an advertisement that ran in the local newspaper the same day as the shooting. The advertisement included a wedding photo of the couple with the caption, “Always & Forever, I love you.” The perpetrator is still at large.
	October 4	<b>A 45-year-old woman was shot by her 61-year-old husband</b> in Birdsboro. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> The victim had left her husband a few days prior to her murder.
BLAIR	January 3	<b>A 69-year-old man was shot by his 24-year-old grandson</b> in Hollidaysburg. According to reports, the perpetrator walked into the victim’s house and said, “See, I told you I could get a gun” before shooting the victim. He then turned to his grandmother and said, “You’re lucky. You could be next.” The perpetrator was charged with homicide. Family members say the perpetrator suffers from a medical condition that affects his brain.
	August 27	<b>A 44-year-old mother of one was run over by a car driven by a 43-year-old male friend.</b> The two were driving together when the woman got out of the car and began walking. The perpetrator then ran her over. He was charged with homicide by vehicle.
	October 11	<b>A 28-year-old woman was shot by a 36-year-old male friend</b> in Altoona. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> The victim was married to another man and police believe the perpetrator had a romantic interest in the victim.
	November 19	<b>A 29-year-old mother of two was shot by her 49-year-old estranged husband</b> in Tyrone. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> According to reports, the victim had recently filed for divorce.
	December 26	<b>A 6-year-old boy was stabbed to death by his mother’s 25-year-old boyfriend</b> in Tyrone. His mother was raped and beaten, nearly to death, but survived the attack. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
BUCKS	April 22	<b>A 50-year-old woman was beaten and stabbed by her 48-year-old husband</b> in Solebury Township. He then drove to a parking lot where <b>he committed suicide</b> by overdosing on antidepressants. Police had previously been called to the residence on several occasions to respond to domestic violence incidents.
	June 15	<b>A 43-year-old mother of two was shot by her 47-year-old estranged husband</b> in her Quakertown apartment. Ten hours later, <b>he committed suicide.</b> The woman’s current boyfriend, with whom she was living, had phoned the victim and overheard an argument with the perpetrator. He then called police. After finding the victim, police went on a manhunt that ended when they cornered the perpetrator in a wooded area where he turned the gun on himself.

# Violence Took The Lives Of Many Area Women

BUCKS (cont'd)

June 18

**A 40-year-old mother of three was shot by her 44-year-old husband** in their East Rockhill Township home. **The perpetrator was then shot and killed by the couple's 15-year-old son. The perpetrator's death was ruled justifiable and no charges were filed against the son.** According to reports, the couple's two sons awoke to find their father holding a knife to their mother's throat. The teenage boys pointed unloaded hunting rifles at their father and threatened to shoot him if he did not let their mother go. The perpetrator let the woman go when he grabbed one of the guns from the boys. He ran to the garage where the ammunition was kept and loaded the gun as the victim locked him in the garage and called 911. The perpetrator shot through the garage door and shot the woman through the dining room window as she attempted to flee the home. The 15-year-old son retrieved ammunition from the garage, loaded the second gun and shot his father.

August 25

**A 28-year-old man was bound, smothered and drowned by his 35-year-old ex-girlfriend and her 39-year-old boyfriend** in Bensalem. They then stole the victim's car and fled to North Carolina where police apprehended them. Both perpetrators were charged with homicide. The ex-girlfriend pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

August 28

**An 18-year-old man was stabbed by a 20-year-old man** in Hilltown during an argument over a woman they were both dating. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and may face a life sentence.

September 1

**A 36-year-old woman was killed in a car crash** in Bensalem. The car was driven **by her 49-year-old boyfriend** who had a history of abusing the victim. A driver following the vehicle witnessed a struggle in the car and erratic, aggressive driving prior to the crash. The victim suffered a fractured spine and head injuries, and she died 25 days later. According to the victim's family, she was attempting to leave the relationship. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to homicide by vehicle. He was sentenced to one to four years in the county prison.

September 9

**A 43-year-old mother of three was beaten and suffocated by her 48-year-old husband** in Warminster. **He then committed suicide.** The victim had filed for divorce in February and relocated to Hatboro. According to police, there was a history of domestic violence.

September 29

**A 46-year-old Newtown police officer was shot, while on duty, by a man** who was in custody for assaulting his girlfriend in a car and suspicion of driving under the influence. The victim and fellow officers took the perpetrator to the hospital to obtain DUI blood work; while there, the perpetrator grabbed one of the officer's guns and began firing. Two other officers and a hospital worker were shot and injured. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and two counts of attempted homicide.

CAMBRIA

January 25

**A 91-year-old great-grandmother of three was beaten to death by her 57-year-old son** in Johnstown. Before her death, the victim was able to speak to police from her hospital bed and she identified her son as the killer. He was charged with homicide.

December 23

**A 50-year-old man was shot by his 36-year-old stepson** in Portage. According to reports, **the victim's common-law wife hired the perpetrator to do the killing.** The perpetrator shot the victim outside of a local gun and pistol club where the victim was a member. The perpetrator was charged with homicide; the victim's wife was charged with solicitation to commit murder.

CHESTER

January 1

**A 35-year-old man, driving a motorcycle, was hit by a car driven by his 36-year-old girlfriend** in Avondale. She then fled. Police apprehended her two miles from the scene. She was charged with homicide.

March 14

**A 24-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 25-year-old husband** in their Londonderry Township trailer home. **He then committed suicide.**

# Man Jumps To Death After Choking Wife

CHESTER (cont'd)	April 19	<b>A 15-year-old girl was shot by her 44-year-old estranged stepfather</b> in her Phoenixville home. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> According to police, the perpetrator and his estranged wife were scheduled to be in court the following day for divorce proceedings. The perpetrator had a history of violence and his estranged wife had an active Protection From Abuse order against him.
	June 2	<b>A 51-year-old mother and her 18- and 21-year-old sons were shot as they slept by their 61-year-old husband/father</b> in Landenberg. <b>The perpetrator then committed suicide.</b> According to family members, the perpetrator was undergoing treatment for depression.
	July 7	<b>A 37-year-old mother of two was shot by her 36-year-old boyfriend, the father of her children,</b> on a West Chester street. According to reports, the victim ran from her apartment into the street, yelling for someone to call 911, as the perpetrator chased her with a shotgun. He shot her and fled the scene. The victim's relatives report she had been trying to get the perpetrator to move out of their apartment. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	August 22	<b>A 54-year-old woman was shot by her 55-year-old boyfriend</b> at their residence near Lincoln University. <b>He then committed suicide.</b>
	November 16	<b>A 51-year-old woman was strangled by her 48-year-old husband</b> in their West Nottingham Township home. The perpetrator then called police to report the murder. According to reports, he intended to commit suicide but claimed it is "not that easy to kill yourself." He was charged with homicide.
CRAWFORD	May 27	<b>A 66-year-old man was killed when his 33-year-old stepson hit him with a sledgehammer</b> in the East Mead Township home they shared. The perpetrator claims he accidentally hit the victim while attempting to kill a bat that had flown into the residence. He was charged with homicide.
CUMBERLAND	May 17	<b>A 32-year-old mother of two was shot by her 47-year-old ex-boyfriend</b> in a Lower Allen Township elementary school parking lot. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> The victim was waiting outside the school to pick up her daughter when the perpetrator pulled into the parking lot. According to reports, the perpetrator began yelling at the victim and then pulled out a handgun. He shot the victim seven times and then shot himself with the last bullet. The victim had broken up with the perpetrator the previous night and moved into her mother's home. She had gone to the police that afternoon to report the perpetrator for abusing and threatening to kill her. Paperwork to file for a Protection From Abuse order was found inside her car at the scene.
DAUPHIN	February 11	<b>A 25-year-old woman was shot by her 50-year-old boyfriend</b> in their Harrisburg apartment. Two calls were placed to emergency dispatchers. One from a man who also lived in the apartment and one from the perpetrator who said, "I just shot my girlfriend." According to reports, police had been called to the residence for domestic violence incidents on several occasions.
	February 15	<b>A 33-year-old father of two was stabbed to death by his 32-year-old wife</b> in Harrisburg. The perpetrator claimed the victim arrived at the home already bleeding from stab wounds. Later, she changed her story. According to police, the couple had a history of domestic violence and police had been called to the home several times. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. She is claiming self-defense.

**5 teenagers &  
13 children  
were  
murdered  
in 2005**



# Slain Woman Obtained Abuse-Protection Order

DAUPHIN (cont'd)

May 18

**A 39-year-old mother of three was stabbed by her 44-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Harrisburg. He then drove to York County where he threw her body down an embankment. According to reports, the perpetrator planned on dumping the victim's body into the Susquehanna River but thought it would "dishonor" her. Neighbors heard screams in the middle of the night but waited until morning to call police. When the woman's apartment was searched, police found only a pool of blood. An investigation ensued and, one day later, the perpetrator turned himself in to police and led them to the victim's body. Two months earlier, the perpetrator threatened to kill the victim and was arrested for assaulting her. He was found guilty of first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.

July 22

**A 23-year-old mother of one was beaten, stabbed and raped by her 22-year-old estranged husband** in his grandparents' Harrisburg home. The victim obtained a Protection From Abuse order against her husband one month earlier and filed for divorce on July 14. She had moved in with her parents and, the day of her murder, was dropping off the couple's 7-month-old daughter for the perpetrator's grandparents to babysit. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

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DELAWARE

January 28

**An 84-year-old Aston man died from stabbing injuries he sustained last August by his 28-year-old grandson.** The perpetrator also assaulted his brother at that time and held police at a standoff. He was charged with homicide.

March 10

**An 80-year-old woman was shot by her 49-year-old son** in Folcroft. **He then** shot and killed the family dog before **committing suicide**. The victim suffered from Alzheimer's disease and the perpetrator was the primary caregiver.

March 18

**A 56-year-old mother of two was stabbed, wrapped in a trash bag sealed with duct tape, thrown into a trash can and lit on fire.** Police found her charred remains after her 19-year-old son reported her missing. **Her 20-year-old son was charged with homicide** and abuse of a corpse. According to the 19-year-old son, the perpetrator had threatened to stab him and his mother on many occasions.

May 8

**A 44-year-old mother of two was shot by her 44-year-old husband** in their Upper Darby home. The perpetrator also shot his 16-year-old son. **He then shot himself.** The son and perpetrator were taken to a local hospital where the perpetrator was pronounced dead. The son survived the attack.

May 21

**An 83-year-old woman was shot by her 83-year-old husband** in their Broomall home. **He then committed suicide.**

June 30

**A 22-year-old pregnant mother of three was beaten and strangled by her 23-year-old male cousin** in her Feltonville residence. The victim's three children, ages 7 months, 3-years-old and 6-years-old, were also beaten. **The 7-month-old girl died 15 days later in the hospital.** When police responded to a 911 call from the residence, the perpetrator threw the 7-month-old girl at the police and attempted to grab a gun from one of the officers as they were trying to subdue him. **He was shot and killed by police.**

July 9

**A 55-year-old woman and her 67-year-old husband – parents of six children – were stabbed by their 29-year-old son** in their Upper Darby home. The perpetrator then went to the neighbor's house where **he stabbed a 42-year-old man** and injured the man's wife. The woman was able to escape the attack and call for help. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator had a history of violence and mental health issues. His mother obtained a Protection From Abuse order, valid through June 2006, against him for her and the couple's daughter. The perpetrator had been released from a mental-health crisis center two days prior to the murders.



# Ex-prison Guard With Violent History Charged In Death of Ex-girlfriend

DELAWARE (cont'd)	August 17	<b>A 39-year-old mother of three was stabbed by her 46-year-old estranged husband</b> at the victim's workplace in Haverford. According to reports, the couple had been separated for more than two years. He was charged with homicide and found guilty of first-degree murder.
	September 6	<b>A 33-year-old mother of one was shot by her 35-year-old estranged husband</b> , who was a paraplegic, in Chester Township. <b>He also shot and killed the couple's 13-year-old son and his 11-year-old daughter before committing suicide.</b> The woman had an active Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator at the time of the killings.
ERIE	March 19	<b>An elderly woman, in her late 70s, was shot by her husband</b> in their Millcreek Township home. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> Family members report that both victim and perpetrator suffered from serious health problems.
	June 14	<b>A 19-year-old mother of one was strangled and smothered by her 20-year-old boyfriend</b> in their Erie apartment. <b>The perpetrator then shot himself; he died two days later.</b>
	August 14	<b>A 38-year-old mother of three was strangled by her 39-year-old boyfriend</b> in Erie. Her body was found four days later on the side of the road. The victim had an active Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator at the time of her death. He was charged with homicide.
	September 13	<b>A 29-year-old mother of two was shot by her 42-year-old husband</b> in Union City. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> The couple's two children were in the home at the time of the shooting.
FAYETTE	May 10	<b>While riding a motorcycle in German Township, a 44-year-old mother of six and grandmother of one and her 54-year-old male friend were intentionally pushed off the road by a car driven by the woman's 45-year-old ex-boyfriend. Both victims died at the scene.</b> Witnesses stated that the perpetrator stood over the bodies, yelling, "I told you I was going to get you." According to police, the perpetrator had been released – a few hours earlier – from jail where he was being held for assaulting the woman. She had an active Protection From Abuse order against him. He was charged with homicide.
	October 19	<b>A 50-year-old Conellsville man was shot by his girlfriend's 49-year-old husband.</b> The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
FULTON	June 20	<b>A 51-year-old man was charged with the strangulation of his then-47-year-old wife</b> in Todd Township. The victim's body was found in May 1995, about three months after her family reported her missing. The identity of the victim was not uncovered until December 2004. The perpetrator, who was originally from Maryland, was charged with homicide and awaiting extradition from New Jersey.
GREENE	July 7	<b>A 17-year-old girl was shot in the head by her 27-year-old husband</b> in their Graysville home. Reportedly, the perpetrator was upset because the victim wouldn't do the dishes. He grabbed a shotgun off of the entertainment center and shot the victim as she sat in a nearby chair. He was charged with homicide and found guilty of voluntary manslaughter.
INDIANA	December 12	<b>A 56-year-old mother of two was shot by her 53-year-old boyfriend</b> in his Indiana apartment. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> Police found the bodies after receiving reports that the victim had not been seen in days.
JEFFERSON	January 9	<b>A 37-year-old mother of one was shot and killed on her birthday by her 37-year-old husband</b> in Summerville. The victim's son was in the home at the time of the shooting but was not injured. The perpetrator was found guilty of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to 7 to 20 years in state prison.

# Argument Turns Deadly

LANCASTER	April 12	A <b>17-year-old male was beaten with a baseball bat by a 17-year-old female</b> in Brownstown. The perpetrator found out her girlfriend was pregnant by the victim. All three lived in the same house. According to reports, the victim disappeared in March 2003. The perpetrator hid the body in her closet for six weeks and then, with the help of her girlfriend, buried the body in the backyard. No one reported the victim missing and no police investigation took place. In April 2005, the perpetrator's girlfriend told police where the body was buried. The perpetrator was charged with homicide; no charges are being filed against her girlfriend.
	July 14	A <b>19-year-old man was charged in the murder of his 19-year-old girlfriend</b> in Lancaster. On July 20, 2004, the victim, who had given birth to her first daughter two weeks prior to her death, was suffocated and thrown out of the second story window of their apartment. The perpetrator then moved her body to a local wooded area and set it on fire. According to reports, the victim went to police on July 12, 2004, and they explained how to obtain a Protection From Abuse order, but the victim never applied for one. After an investigation of nearly one year, police have charged the perpetrator with homicide.
	September 23	A <b>21-year-old woman was strangled by her 24-year-old boyfriend</b> in East Hempfield. The perpetrator then went to a friend's house to confess the killing and talked about committing suicide. The friend called police who charged the perpetrator with homicide.
	October 1	A man was attacked by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend in Lancaster. The victim <b>shot the 42-year-old perpetrator in self-defense. Police have ruled it a justifiable homicide</b> and no charges will be filed against the shooter.
	November 13	A <b>50-year-old man and his 50-year-old wife, parents of five children, were shot by an 18-year-old man</b> who was dating their 14-year-old daughter in Lititz. The man then fled the house with their daughter. The two were captured in Indiana. According to reports, the perpetrator and the 14-year-old girl maintained a relationship online and by cell phone. The parents did not approve of the relationship and, upon finding their daughter sneaking into the home after a night out with the perpetrator, asked the perpetrator to come to their house to discuss the relationship. Police confiscated 54 weapons from the home of the perpetrator's parents. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole. The victims' daughter was found not to be involved in her parents' murder and no charges were brought against her.
	November 28	A <b>30-year-old man</b> shot his 25-year-old ex-girlfriend and then <b>committed suicide</b> . The woman survived the attack. According to reports, the man chased the woman with his car for 20 minutes throughout Lancaster, finally running her off the road. He then walked over to the car and shot her through the driver's side window. The woman had obtained a Protection From Abuse order days prior.
LEBANON	May 12	A <b>32-year-old mother of five was shot by her 34-year-old estranged common-law husband</b> at their workplace in Fredericksburg. <b>He then committed suicide</b> . According to reports, the victim and children had moved out of the couple's residence a few months earlier. The victim's parents also worked with the couple and the victim's father witnessed the shooting.
LEHIGH	March 19	A <b>71-year-old man and 71-year-old woman were stabbed by their 56-year-old son</b> in their Allentown apartment. <b>He then committed suicide</b> . Family members report the perpetrator had a history of mental illness. The perpetrator's father had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator that expired in 1990.

# Strattanville Man Kills Himself After Reported Assault On Woman

LEHIGH (cont'd)

- May 21 **A 52-year-old woman was strangled by her 44-year-old husband** in their Salisbury Township home. The perpetrator then called his landlord and left a voicemail asking him to “call 911 and get my dead wife’s body out of my house.” The landlord immediately called the police. The perpetrator was arrested in Luzerne County and has pleaded guilty to third-degree murder. He faces 20 to 40 years in prison.
- June 21 **A 35-year-old man committed suicide in his ex-girlfriend’s Allentown home** after shooting and attempting to kill her current boyfriend. The victim survived the attack and was taken to the hospital with a serious wound to his arm.
- July 25 **A 44-year-old woman was shot by her daughter’s 28-year-old estranged boyfriend** in Allentown. The perpetrator fled and authorities are currently searching for him. He will be charged with homicide.
- August 18 **A 28-year-old mother of one was shot by her 42-year-old boyfriend** in Bethlehem. The victim was shot while on the phone with police. The perpetrator had two Protection From Abuse orders filed against him by another woman in 1991. He was charged with homicide.
- September 12 **A 44-year-old mother of two was strangled by her 56-year-old estranged husband** in Allentown. **He then committed suicide.**
- November 1 **A 30-year-old woman was strangled by her 34-year-old husband** in their Allentown apartment. He then stuffed her body in a nearby trash can where it was discovered by a police officer one day later. The perpetrator was released from New York State Prison four months earlier. He had an extensive criminal record, including, as a teenager, murdering a 14-year-old for a pair of shoes. He was charged with homicide and will serve at least 22 years in prison.

LUZERNE

- January 19 **A 49-year-old man was shot by his 47-year-old girlfriend** in Wilkes-Barre. She was charged with homicide.
- February 21 **A 24-year-old woman was shot by her 32-year-old boyfriend** in Glen Lyon. **The perpetrator committed suicide four days later** in North Carolina. The crime scene was staged to look like a suicide. According to reports, the victim was attempting to end the relationship.
- March 16 **A 22-year-old Hazleton man** hijacked a car at gunpoint and then fired gunshots at his ex-girlfriend’s home. **He was shot by responding police officers** after a 100-mph chase that ended in a crash and shootout. No police officers were injured. After an investigation, the incident was ruled a justifiable shooting.
- November 2 **A man was shot by his ex-girlfriend’s 21-year-old boyfriend** in Wilkes-Barre. The victim was upset because his ex-girlfriend ended their relationship and began dating the perpetrator. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator engaged in a fistfight the week before the shooting. The victim was upset about the outcome and wanted a rematch. During the rematch, the perpetrator fired two shots at the victim. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

**79 women  
were  
murdered  
in 2005**

# Stabbing Death Is Called Senseless Tragedy

LYCOMING	March 23	<b>A 32-year-old mother of two was shot by her 36-year-old boyfriend</b> in the driveway of her Williamsport home. Earlier that day, the perpetrator had asked his friend to take his guns so he wouldn't be able to shoot the victim. The friend arrived as the victim was getting something out of her car. The perpetrator picked up the rifle, shot the victim and then fled the scene. He was later captured without incident. The police had been to the residence two weeks earlier for a domestic violence call. At the time of the murder, the perpetrator was supposed to be moving out of the residence at the victim's request. He was charged with homicide.
McKEAN	June 30	<b>A 33-year-old woman was shot by her 23-year-old boyfriend</b> in Port Allegany. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> Police initially responded to two calls to the residence – a car blocking the roadway and a man brandishing a weapon – and discovered the two bodies. Sources reported the couple was discussing their future.
MERCER	May 12	<b>A 35-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend's 35-year-old ex-boyfriend</b> in Slippery Rock. The perpetrator assaulted his ex-girlfriend and then shot the victim when he attempted to intervene. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
MIFFLIN	November 4	<b>A 3-year-old girl was killed in a house fire set by the girl's 37-year-old father</b> in Lewistown. <b>The perpetrator also was killed in the fire. Their deaths were ruled a homicide and a suicide.</b> According to authorities, the perpetrator was not married to the child's mother.
MONROE	July 3	<b>A 40-year-old man was stabbed by his 37-year-old wife</b> in their Chestnuthill Township home. Police responding to a domestic violence call found the victim lying in the driveway in front of the residence. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
	August 11	<b>A 37-year-old woman was shot and her house was set on fire by her 38-year-old boyfriend</b> at her Mountainhome residence. In May 2006, he was arrested in Florida and charged with homicide.
	December 9	<b>An 11-year-old girl was killed in a house fire set by her 12-year-old male cousin</b> in Polk Township. The victim's mother, siblings and the perpetrator escaped the home. The perpetrator admitted to spilling tiki torch fuel outside of the victim's bedroom and then lighting it on fire because he had argued earlier with the child's mother. He was charged with homicide as an adult.
MONTGOMERY	February 20	<b>A 24-year-old man committed suicide</b> after attempting to kill his girlfriend in Norristown. She survived the attack.
	March 25	<b>A 29-year-old mother of one, her 4-year-old daughter and her 24-year-old sister were stabbed and slashed by a man who was upset because she didn't want to date him.</b> The 33-year-old perpetrator admitted to killing another woman, five years earlier in New Jersey, for the same reason. He was charged with three counts of homicide in Pennsylvania and one count in New Jersey.
	April 19	<b>A 49-year-old mother of two was stabbed by her 18-year-old son</b> in Norristown. Authorities believe the perpetrator planned the murder after an argument over his use of the home computer. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and found guilty of first-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.
	June 3	<b>A 21-year-old woman was stabbed and slashed – more than 50 times – by her 28-year-old boyfriend</b> in Conshohocken. The victim allegedly asked the perpetrator to move out of her apartment. After his arrest, the perpetrator initially told police that the victim stabbed him first and he stabbed her in self-defense. He later changed his story, claiming he stabbed himself in an attempt to commit suicide. Local hospital authorities reported that the perpetrator was treated for superficial wounds. He was charged with homicide.



# Tragedy In Media: Police Say Son's Threats Turned Real

MONTGOMERY (cont'd) July 4

**A 53-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her 57-year-old husband** in Norristown. According to police, he then drove to his New Jersey summer home, waited a few hours and drove back to the Norristown residence, stopping for gas to create an alibi. When he returned to the couple's residence, he called 911 to report finding his wife's body. He was charged with homicide.

July 25

**A 73-year-old woman was shot in her sleep by her 77-year-old husband** in Upper Providence Township. Police were called to the home for suspicious activity. When they knocked on the door, **the perpetrator committed suicide.**

MONTGOMERY January 27

**A 57-year-old man committed suicide** after attempting to kill his wife. She survived the attack.

NORTHUMBERLAND August 24

**A 31-year-old mother of two was shot by her 31-year-old ex-husband, a police chief**, outside of the hospital where she was employed in Mount Carmel. The gun used to kill the victim was issued to the perpetrator by the police department. Several hours later, the perpetrator was caught trying to cross the border into Canada and charged with homicide. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were in an on-going custody dispute.

PHILADELPHIA January 18

**A 21-year-old woman was shot by her boyfriend** in a Philadelphia hotel room. The perpetrator, his four friends and the victim were visiting from California when the incident took place. All five men were questioned by police and the perpetrator was charged with homicide.

March 13

**A 10-year-old boy and his 6-year-old sister were stabbed by their 37-year-old mother** in their South Philadelphia home. **She then committed suicide.** The perpetrator's 13-year-old son was upstairs in the home at the time of the murders and he heard screaming downstairs. He discovered the bodies and then called 911.

March 29

**A 59-year-old man was shot by his daughter's 28-year-old ex-boyfriend** in her Philadelphia row home. The victim's daughter, who has two children with the perpetrator, had recently obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him. In violation of the order, the perpetrator was waiting in the woman's home when her father arrived. A fight ensued and the perpetrator shot the victim, hid the body in the basement and proceeded to set the residence on fire. He was charged with homicide, arson and related offenses.

April 14

**A 39-year-old father of one was run over by a car driven by his 53-year-old boyfriend** on a Philadelphia street. The two men had been out together at a bar and were arguing in the parking lot after the bar closed. A witness heard the perpetrator say to the victim, "I'm going to run you over." According to the witness, the victim was standing on a concrete median when the perpetrator drove onto the median, ran over the victim and then fled the scene. With police watching, the perpetrator changed the license plate on his car and got out a bucket to wash away the evidence. He was arrested and charged with homicide.

April 24

**A 15-year-old girl was stabbed, kicked, beaten and suffocated and then dumped in a Philadelphia river alive.** Her body was discovered 13 hours later. **The victim's 20-year-old boyfriend and his friends – a 17-year-old male, a 19-year-old male and a 17-year-old female –** have been charged with the homicide. The perpetrators allegedly met four times to plot the killing in retaliation for an incident one month earlier.

# Pregnant Woman's Body Found; Ex-boyfriend To Be Charged

PHILADELPHIA (cont'd) May 8

A **33-year-old man** shot his 60-year-old mother and then **committed suicide** in their apartment above a well-known Irish pub in Philadelphia on Mother's Day. She survived the attack.

May 14

A **7-year-old girl, her 5-year-old brother and 4-year-old sister died in a fire set by a 22-year-old woman** in Kensington. **The children died of burns and smoke and soot inhalation.** The victims' mother and two other children were injured in the fire. The perpetrator was reportedly upset because the victims' mother was dating the perpetrator's boyfriend. The perpetrator threatened the victims' mother the night before. The perpetrator was charged with homicide. A 23-year-old man had also been charged with homicide in connection with the incident.

May 28

A **54-year-old woman was stabbed by her 59-year-old boyfriend** in their Philadelphia apartment. The couple was arguing when the perpetrator stabbed the victim repeatedly in the stomach, back and face.

June 22

A **79-year-old woman was shot by her 47-year-old son** in their Wynnefield apartment. **He then committed suicide.**

July 13

A **66-year-old man was strangled and beaten to death by his 28-year-old son** in Philadelphia. The perpetrator, a skinhead with "berserker" tattooed on his forehead, cut up the body into eight pieces and placed them in the basement freezer. He was charged with homicide.

July 18

A **24-year-old pregnant mother of one was strangled by her 25-year-old boyfriend**, the father of her child, in Philadelphia. The victim was missing for several weeks when an acquaintance of the perpetrator came forward with information about her body's whereabouts and helped to set up a trap for the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide.

July 19

A **19-year-old man was stabbed by a 20-year-old man** in Philadelphia. According to reports, the victim had gone to a house with a friend. When the victim's friend saw his ex-girlfriend with the perpetrator, a fight between the three ensued. Both the victim and his friend were stabbed; the victim's friend survived the attack. Because the victim was found to be unarmed, the perpetrator was charged with homicide.

September 11

A **30-year-old woman was shot by her 34-year-old husband** in their Philadelphia home. **He then committed suicide.**

September 24

A **48-year-old man was shot by his 45-year-old girlfriend** in their Philadelphia apartment. She was charged with homicide.

October 7

A **43-year-old woman was shot by her 45-year-old ex-husband** inside her car in a Northeast Philadelphia parking lot. **He then drove to a nearby deli and shot the owner, his ex-wife's 35-year-old female friend**, who reportedly had encouraged the perpetrator's ex-wife to obtain a Protection From Abuse order against him. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator blamed both women for ruining his life.

October 18

A **23-year-old woman was shot by her 23-year-old boyfriend** in her Philadelphia residence. **He then committed suicide.**



**33 men  
were  
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# Former Millerstown Police Chief To Stand Trial In Ex-wife's Slaying

SOMERSET	June 11	<b>A 20-year-old woman was hit and pinned underneath a truck driven by her 24-year-old boyfriend</b> on a Jenner Township road. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene. The boyfriend was charged with homicide by vehicle. The perpetrator also was a passenger in a crash seven years earlier in which his then-girlfriend was killed.
	June 28	<b>A 55-year-old woman was shot by her 65-year-old husband</b> in their Boswell home. <b>He then committed suicide.</b> Police report there was a mutual suicide note.
WARREN	March 12	<b>A 30-year-old man and his 18-year-old girlfriend were shot in Pine Grove Township by the man's 53-year-old father, who then committed suicide.</b> Police believe the perpetrator set the house on fire before killing the victims and himself.
	May 22	<b>An 8-year-old girl and her 2-year-old sister were killed in a house fire started by their 29-year-old mother</b> in Warren. The perpetrator started the fire by dousing the house with gasoline. According to reports, the father of the 2-year-old girl threatened to take the children from the perpetrator. At the scene of the fire, the perpetrator was heard saying, "He'll never get my babies. He will not take them from me." Both girls were dead at the scene. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
WAYNE	January 4	<b>A 48-year-old woman died from injuries sustained when she was beaten by her 45-year-old boyfriend</b> in Honesdale. According to the perpetrator, the victim woke him in the middle of the night on December 24, 2004, so he punched her in the head. The victim was whimpering and the perpetrator then took a sleeping pill so he wouldn't be disturbed by her. He later called 911. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she died 11 days later. The perpetrator was originally charged with homicide but pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.
	December 3	<b>A 55-year-old woman was shot by her 56-year-old husband</b> at her daughter's Browndale home. The perpetrator then drove back to his residence in Lackawanna County where <b>he committed suicide.</b>
WESTMORELAND	February 4	<b>A 48-year-old woman was shot by her 52-year-old husband</b> in their Rostraver home. According to reports, the perpetrator went "berserk" when the victim turned off the television. He retrieved a shotgun and shot her as she stood with her back was to him. He was charged with homicide.
	October 5	<b>A 19-year-old woman was shot by her friend's 28-year-old boyfriend</b> in Hempfield. According to reports, the perpetrator was arguing with his girlfriend and the victim attempted to intervene. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
WYOMING	March 1	<b>A 44-year-old mother of three was beaten by her 38-year-old boyfriend</b> in her Lake Winola home. The victim's husband was asleep on the couch during the beating and awoke but did not want to get involved. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were arguing about a car accident in which the perpetrator was driving the victim's car. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.





# About This Report

## Purpose

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 2005, but it's the most reliable information available at this time.

## 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 others killed in domestic violence-related incidents.

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

## Incident Summaries

The information on each incident varies, depending on the extent of media coverage.

## Insert Details

The enclosed insert contains a chronological listing of the 2005 incidents, as well as a six-year comparison of domestic violence-related fatalities in Pennsylvania.

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