

2008

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

***Domestic Violence Claims 147 Lives  
Across the Commonwealth...***



***...Even in LOVE Park.***

## ***Quarrel turns deadly in LOVE Park***



### **About The Cover**

The cover includes a graphic of the famous "LOVE" sculpture that has anchored J.F.K. Plaza, nicknamed LOVE Park, in Center City Philadelphia since 1976.

We put it on our cover not only because one of the year's domestic violence homicides occurred in that Park, but also because it is such a compelling visual reminder that domestic violence can happen anywhere – even in a place called LOVE Park.

### **About This Report**

#### **Purpose**

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence 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.

#### **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 (such as intervenors, new partners, bystanders) who were killed in domestic violence-related incidents.

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

#### **Source/Limitations of Information**

Information is obtained from Pennsylvania newspapers. We recognize it is not inclusive of all domestic violence fatalities occurring during 2008; however, it's the most reliable information available at this time. Please keep in mind that in no way does this report capture the true scope of domestic violence or the reality that each year many more individuals – beyond those noted in this report – die behind closed doors in all of our communities.

The headlines running across the top of the pages were taken directly from newspaper accounts, either as headlines or quotes within the story.

#### **Victims Not Counted, Not Forgotten**

Relying on newspaper accounts of confirmed domestic violence-related fatalities does not allow us to acknowledge that some victims take their own lives after years of unrelenting abuse. Advocates at local domestic violence programs provide us with anecdotal accounts to confirm that this occurs.

While this report also does not count suspicious or unsolved deaths that may be linked to domestic violence, we do want to recognize those unknown victims who lost their lives during 2008.

#### **Incident Summaries**

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

# ***The Full Story: Daughter's death not 'a joke'***

## **Domestic Violence Fatalities Rise 21.7% in 2008**

### **Deadly Summer Contributes to Increase**

In a year filled with an alarming number of domestic violence fatalities – 147 deaths compared to 121 in 2007 – the summer of 2008 proved to be exceptionally lethal for Pennsylvania.

In the short span of just 31 days (June 22 - July 22), domestic violence claimed 31 women, men and children. The statistics were shocking – 21 murder victims, 8 perpetrator suicides, one perpetrator shot in self-defense, and one perpetrator gunned down in a shootout with another man during an argument over a woman.

The extraordinary resources needed for law enforcement to respond to these incidents also were shocking – at least 30 municipal police departments, seven state police barracks, two Special Emergency Response Teams (SERT), and volunteer fire departments, ambulance services and local fire police. An 8-hour manhunt for one of the killers also involved Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, State Game Commission, two K-9 units, helicopters, Park Rangers, Bureau of Forestry and Red Cross. Another incident involved both the FBI and the U.S. Marshals.

And that was just for 31 days. It's mind numbing to envision the resources that were expended throughout the year in order to respond to the high number of domestic violence fatalities.

What's even more mind numbing is the cumulative toll domestic violence takes on communities, families, and especially children who were caught up in the killings.

### **Never Underestimate the Impact on Children**

As is the case year after year, our 2008 report contains haunting and heartbreaking stories of children who were murdered, children who were orphaned, children who witnessed the murders or murder/suicides of their parents, children who intervened to save their parents' lives, and children who ran for their lives.

When children are present at the scene of domestic violence murders involving one or both of their parents, the media all too often report that the children were "unharmmed."

Unharmmed? While these children may not have received any physical injuries in these lethal incidents, please let's not ever assume that they were not and will not continue to be harmed by the terrible tragedy that forever altered their families and their futures.

Page four offers a glimpse into the horror and terror that children experienced as they were caught in the "crosshairs" of domestic violence. It's included as a reminder that we must never underestimate the impact of domestic violence on children or the fact that they, too, are victims.

PCADV publishes this annual report to convey that domestic violence can be as lethal as it is devastating; that domestic violence can happen in any neighborhood; that where you live has little to do with who you live with and what goes on behind closed doors; that guns and domestic violence are a lethal combination; that leaving a violent relationship is fraught with danger; that more resources, better collaboration, and stronger legal protections are needed to secure safety and justice in Pennsylvania.

### **Ending Domestic Violence is a Shared Responsibility**

Yes, domestic violence is complex – victims and perpetrators represent a diverse cross-section of society and their circumstances are as varied as their experiences. And while there is no one-size-fits-all solution or response, there are steps that can be taken to mitigate the risks and reduce injury and death.

- Better collaboration and coordination between countywide systems can bring about the development and implementation of uniform protocols, policies, and training to improve response, protect victims, and enforce existing laws.

continued on next page

## ***Love letters cited in Montco couple's murder-suicide***

- Heightened awareness that free and confidential services are available in all of PA's 67 counties can lead domestic violence victims out of harm's way and into programs that can help them create safety plans, evaluate their legal options, pursue economic assistance, obtain specialized services for their children, and pursue protection and justice.
- Adequate funding and resources for community-based domestic violence services can provide the safety net for battered victims and their children in times of crisis and the support necessary to help rebuild their lives free of violence.
- Greater availability of safe and affordable housing can make the difference between a victim leaving, returning to, or staying in a violent relationship.
- Restricted access to firearms for domestic violence perpetrators can save lives.
- Broader-based support for school prevention programs targeting students of all ages, and specially designed initiatives on teen dating violence, can stop the generational cycle of abuse.
- Increased personal responsibility to learn the facts and get involved can have a positive and profound impact on our communities. None of us deserve a pass for knowing and ignoring that a family member, friend, neighbor, or co-worker is being abused – OR – is an abuser, simply because we think it's not our business.
- Increased attention to prevention by valuing all individuals and by role modeling and teaching our children that women are to be respected, not objectified, and are not property.

### **Coordinated Response Is Urgent and Necessary**

While all of this seems easier said than done, it's important to keep in mind – it can be done. And the need and the time to work together to make it happen have never been more urgent, especially in this poor economy as more jobs disappear, bank accounts empty, and family stressors spike. Even though these factors don't cause domestic violence, they can increase the frequency and severity where it already exists.

Please join with PCADV in mourning the lives of those who have been lost, supporting the families that have been left behind, reaching out to others who are living in fear behind closed doors, creating communities which prioritize and provide for the safety of all its members, and becoming agents of meaningful and lasting social change toward non-violence.

Do it for the protection of your families... for the safety of your communities... for the well being of generations to come... and for all of the victims whose lives and deaths should never be forgotten.

### **There's Always Something You Can Do to Help**

#### **Your friends or family members who are being abused:**

- Call police if you see/hear abuse
- Ask if they're safe or need someone to talk to
- Explain that FREE and CONFIDENTIAL help is available help for victims and their children at local domestic violence programs
- Offer a ride to a local shelter, a place to make a phone call or to baby-sit while they attend appointments

#### **Your friends or family members who are abusers:**

- Call police if you see/hear abuse
- Tell them there are no excuses for abuse and they may lose their families, friends, homes and jobs if it doesn't stop
- Hold them accountable for their behavior
- Support their efforts to locate and obtain appropriate batterer intervention treatment

#### **Your local domestic violence program:**

- Volunteer your time
- Make monetary donations or donate phone cards, gift certificates, bus tickets, etc.
- Offer to board pets or livestock while victims are in shelter
- Sponsor a family for a holiday meal, holiday gifts, etc.
- Contact your local domestic violence program to learn more about the many ways you can help

## ***“I think my mom’s dead. Can you help her?”***

### **Children Involved Lethal Domestic Violence Incidents**

<b>Allegheny</b>	A 14-year-old boy and his 18-year-old sister were bludgeoned and stabbed to death by their mother’s former boyfriend. The perpetrator also stabbed their mother who survived the attack.
<b>Beaver</b>	“I think my mom’s dead. Can you help her?” This is what an 11-year-old boy asked police after witnessing the shooting death of his mother and the suicide of the perpetrator, the mother’s former boyfriend. Police reported the boy was covered in blood.
<b>Bedford</b>	A woman was shot by her estranged husband in the parking lot of a fast food restaurant as patrons, many of them children, watched in horror.
<b>Berks</b>	An 8-year-old girl, sleeping next to her mother, tried in vain to save her by biting the back of the perpetrator, who dragged her mother from the bed, then abducted, raped and strangled her.
<b>Delaware</b>	A 14-year old boy frantically called 911 as he watched his father kill his mother with a hunting knife and machete. The father then attempted to commit suicide by stabbing himself. A 13-year-old girl called 911 for help while she was hiding in the closet as her 20-year-old sister was chased through the house by her ex-boyfriend who stabbed and killed her with a 14-in butcher knife, too many times for police to count.
<b>Fayette</b>	Two young children fled with their mother to a neighbor’s house to call police after the mother’s ex-boyfriend shot and wounded her and then committed suicide. A 12-year-old boy was shot and killed by his father with the gun he sent his son to retrieve from the car. The father had been arguing with his girlfriend and threatened “to shoot somebody.” The perpetrator claimed the gun discharged accidentally.
<b>Lackawanna</b>	A 2-year-old boy was tied up by his mother’s former boyfriend who bludgeoned and stabbed the child’s father and his mother’s 16-year-old and 22-year-old brothers.
<b>Lancaster</b>	A 17-year-old girl was shot and killed by her 17-year-old boyfriend who then committed suicide. Three children were asleep in their home when their father beat and strangled their mother.
<b>Lebanon</b>	A 20-month-old boy and his 3-year-old brother were in the house when their mother was shot to death by her boyfriend.
<b>Northampton</b>	A 2-month-old boy was in his mother’s arms as she shot and killed the baby’s father. A 12-year-old boy watched his father shoot and strangle his mother when she dropped him off at the father’s home for visitation.
<b>Philadelphia</b>	A 14-month-old girl was killed in a car crash when a car driven by her father rammed the car in which she was a passenger. The 17-year-old driver of the car also was killed. Four children, ranging from 1-6 years of age, were at home when their mother was shot and killed by her boyfriend who then committed suicide. The victim’s 1-year-old nephew also was in the home at the time. The victim’s cousin discovered the bodies after he saw the 6-year-old sitting on the sidewalk sobbing. 14-year-old and 19-year-old brothers were confronted by a gun-wielding co-worker of their father’s who came to their home after killing his ex-girlfriend. Five children were asleep when their mother was attacked and had her throat slashed by her ex-boyfriend. A female friend of the victim was injured as she tried to escort the children out of the home to safety.
<b>Susquehanna</b>	A 13-year-old girl was shot and killed by her father who committed suicide. Her 21-year-old brother discovered their bodies.
<b>Warren</b>	Two boys, ages 12 and 15, discovered their father’s body when they returned home from school. They called their grandmother who alerted police. Their father had been gunned down by the brother-in-law of his estranged wife.
<b>Washington</b>	An 11-month-old boy and his 2-year-old sister were asphyxiated by their father, who also asphyxiated their mother as she attempted to pick up the children after visitation with him.
<b>Westmoreland</b>	A teenage girl asked a neighbor to “please call police; my dad shot my mom” after she witnessed the killing.
<b>York</b>	A 16-year-old girl called 911 after she and her 9-year-old brother witnessed the shooting of their mother by her boyfriend. Four children witnessed the stabbing death of their mother by her boyfriend. The victim’s 13-year-old daughter held her mother in her arms as she died. A 2-year-old boy and his mother were shot to death by their father/husband.



# Teen murder-suicide shocks Little Britain

## 147 Deaths in 2008...

Between January-December 2008, 105 domestic violence incidents in 35 counties resulted in 147 deaths.

### Who Died

- 110 Victims
  - 70 Females
    - 66 18-29 years of age
    - 2 13-17 years of age
    - 2 0-12 years of age
  - 40 Males
    - 34 18+ years of age
    - 3 13-17 years of age
    - 3 0-12 years of age
- 35 Perpetrators Committed Suicide
- 1 Perpetrator Killed in Self-Defense
- 1 Perpetrator Killed an Intervenor;  
No Charges Filed

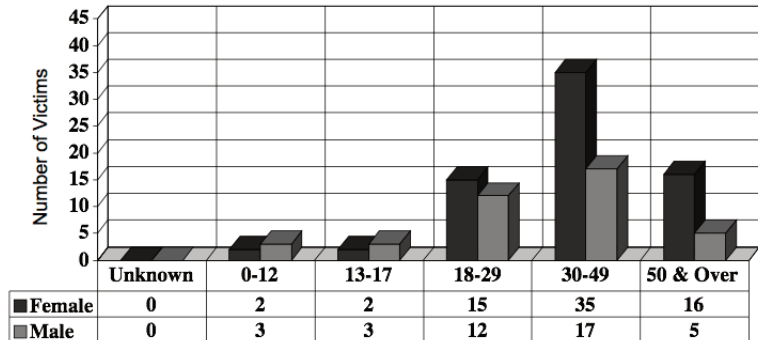
### Who Were the Perps

- 112 perpetrators
  - 99 Males
  - 13 Females

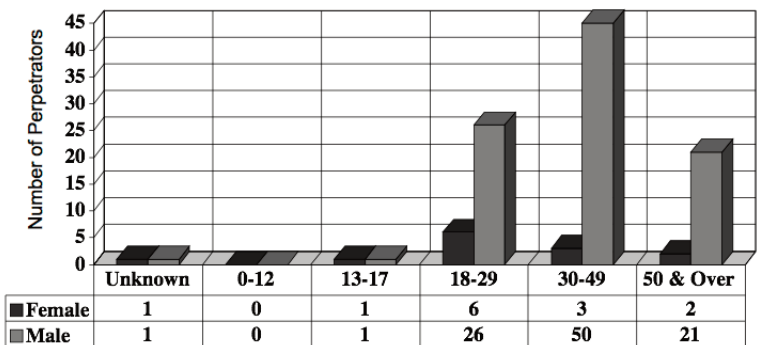
### How the Victims Died

- 61 shot
- 1 shot and body dismembered with a chainsaw
- 17 stabbed
- 5 strangled
- 4 beaten and strangled
- 3 asphyxiated
- 3 beaten and stabbed
- 2 car crash
- 2 beaten
- 1 beaten and stomped on
- 1 beaten and throat/wrists slashed
- 1 beaten with an object
- 1 beaten and pushed off of a 7-foot tall barn ramp
- 1 bludgeoned with 20-lb. dumbbell
- 1 bludgeoned with 20-lb. dumbbell and stabbed
- 1 bludgeoned with a metal rod
- 1 electrocuted
- 1 raped and strangled
- 1 run over by a car
- 1 strangled and throat slashed
- 1 throat slashed

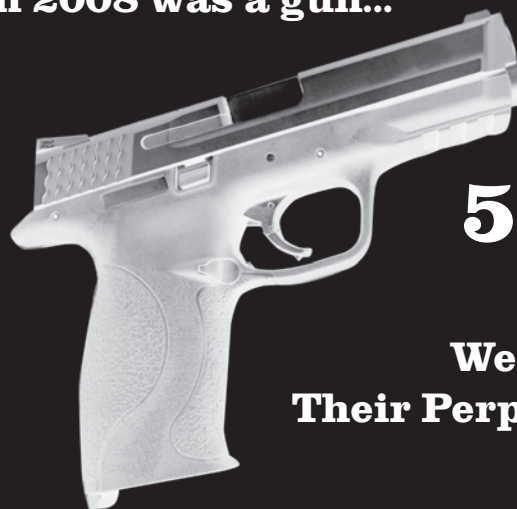
### Age and Gender Breakdown of All Victims



### Age and Gender Breakdown of All Perpetrators



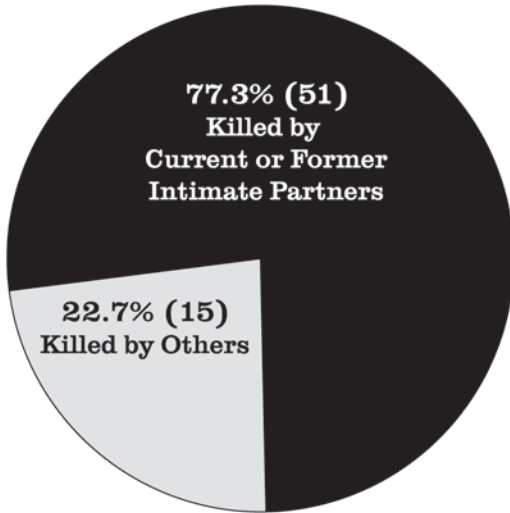
The weapon of choice in 2008 was a gun...



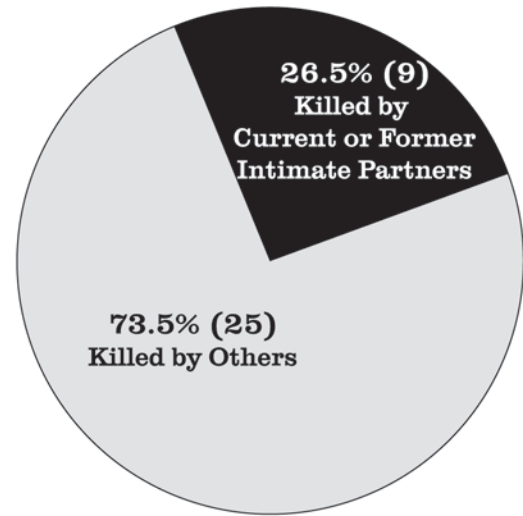
**56.4%**  
of Victims  
Were Shot by  
Their Perpetrator(s)

## ***Jealousy, rage sparked shooting, witnesses say***

### **Relationship to Perpetrators: Adult FEMALE Victims**



### **Relationship to Perpetrators: Adult MALE Victims**

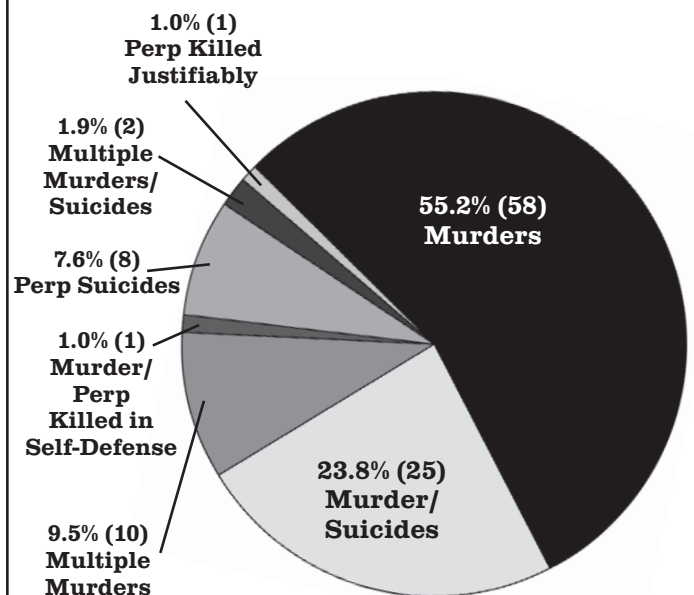


**Others** – anyone who is/was not a current or former intimate partner of the victim. They may have been parents, siblings, family members, perpetrators who killed individuals romantically involved with their former partners, etc.

### **Findings:**

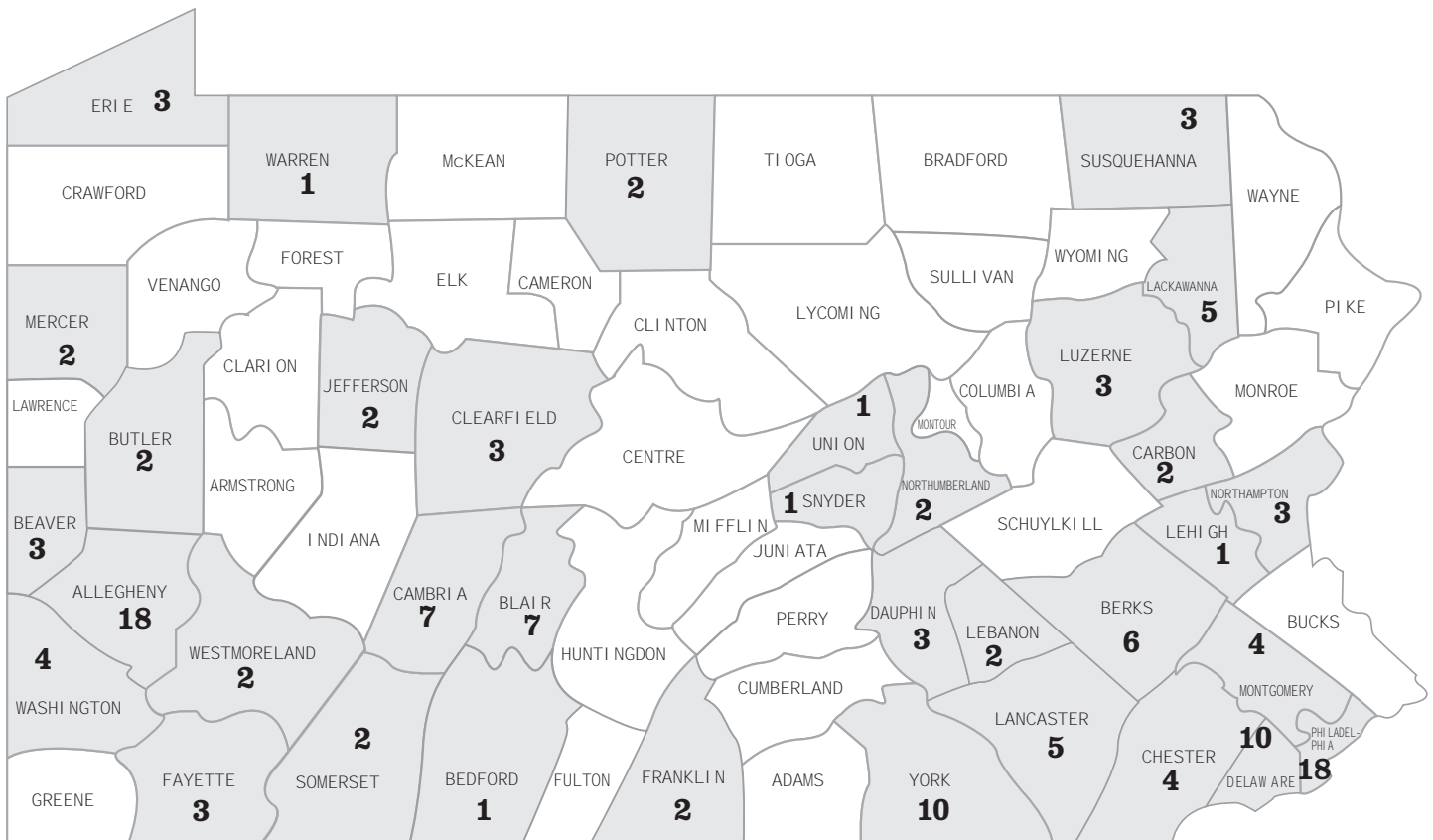
- There was an average of 8.75 incidents per month.
- The most deadly months in 2008 were January, June, July, and October – all had 12 incidents.
- The victims crossed all generations – the youngest, a 2-month-old boy and the oldest, an 85-year-old woman.
- At least 10 minor children were left orphaned.
- At least 45 minor children lost one parent.
- At least 35 minor children witnessed a domestic violence fatality.

### **105 Incidents Resulted in:**



# No “rational why” for double shooting

## Pennsylvania Map of Domestic Violence Fatalities



### Fatalities by County

County	Victim(s)	Perpetrator(s)	Total
Allegheny	16	2	18
Beaver	1	2	3
Bedford	1	0	1
Berks	5	1	6
Blair	5	2	7
Butler	1	1	2
Cambria	5	2	7
Carbon	1	1	2
Chester	3	1	4
Clearfield	2	1	3
Dauphin	2	1	3
Delaware	7	3	10
Erie	1	2	3
Fayette	2	1	3
Franklin	0	2	2
Jefferson	2	0	2
Lackawanna	4	1	5
Lancaster	4	1	5

County	Victim(s)	Perpetrator(s)	Total
Lebanon	1	1	2
Lehigh	1	0	1
Luzerne	3	0	3
Mercer	2	0	2
Montgomery	3	1	4
Northampton	3	0	3
Northumberland	2	0	2
Philadelphia	13	5	18
Potter	1	1	2
Snyder	1	0	1
Somerset	1	1	2
Susquehanna	2	1	3
Union	1	0	1
Warren	1	0	1
Washington	4	0	4
Westmoreland	2	0	2
York	7	3	10
<b>Totals</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>147</b>



## School closed after 2 fatally shot in parking lot

### ALLEGHENY

- January 23** A 20-year-old woman was shot by her 23-year-old fiance in their North Fayette apartment. She survived the attack. **He shot and killed two of her college classmates, a 20-year-old male and a 22-year-old male**, who were studying with her in the apartment. According to reports, the perpetrator was upset because he thought his fiancée was cheating on him. He pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted homicide. He was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences plus an additional 20 to 40 years in prison.
- February 25** **A 30-year-old man was stabbed by his 23-year-old girlfriend** in their Mt. Washington apartment. The victim was taken to a local hospital, where he later died. The perpetrator and her mother, who lives with the couple, called 911 to report the stabbing. The perpetrator was initially charged with homicide, but subsequently convicted of voluntary manslaughter. She was sentenced to 5 to 10 years in prison.
- February 25** **A 43-year-old woman was shot by her 37-year-old boyfriend** in their Lawrenceville apartment. **He then committed suicide.**
- March 14** **A 41-year-old woman was shot by her 34-year-old husband** in the parking lot of a Monroeville restaurant. **He also shot their 37-year-old male friend, whom he believed was having an affair with his wife.** According to family members and friends, the woman had served her husband with divorce papers that morning. She met her friend for dinner to talk about the pending divorce. Police reported the perpetrator was suspicious and drove to the restaurant with a .40-caliber gun that he wasn't legally allowed to carry. He saw his wife and friend embracing next to a pickup truck in the a parking lot. He drove up next to them, said hello, then pulled out the gun and shot them. He then stood over them while they lay on the ground, and shot them one more time. The woman died in the parking lot; the man died one hour later at the hospital. The perpetrator was convicted of two counts of homicide and sentenced to consecutive life sentences without parole.
- July 4** **A 45-year-old woman and her 44-year-old boyfriend were shot in their bed by her 55-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Stowe. According to reports, the victim had obtained an emergency Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator after he stalked her and threatened to kill her. She withdrew the order before the final hearing. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- August 5** A 45-year-old mother of two was beaten by her 46-year-old husband in their Lincoln-Lemington home. She survived the attack and sought shelter at a neighbor's home. Police were called to the scene. Upon entering the home, they found **the perpetrator had committed suicide.**
- August 8** **A 62-year-old man was shot by his 84-year-old stepfather** in Penn Hills. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were arguing when the victim became enraged and began threatening to kill his stepfather and other family members. The perpetrator retrieved a gun from his upstairs bedroom and shot at the victim after the victim allegedly said, "You better shoot me or I'm gonna kill you." The perpetrator pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 10 years of probation.
- September 2** **A 33-year-old man was stabbed by his 36-year-old girlfriend** in his grandmother's Larimer home. The perpetrator then fled the scene. Police apprehended her a few blocks away. The perpetrator was charged with homicide and pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. She is awaiting sentencing.
- October 14** **An 18-year-old woman and her 14-year-old brother were bludgeoned and stabbed by their mother's 41-year-old boyfriend** in Penn Hills. He also stabbed their 38-year-old mother, who survived the attack. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

## Church shooting victim dies

### ALLEGHENY (continued)

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- October 18**      **A 19-year-old man was stabbed by his 57-year-old father** in Homewood. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator hadn't been getting along for months. On the night of the stabbing, the victim's mother said the victim asked his father if they could talk. She then heard her son yelling, "He stabbed me." The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- October 20**      **A 39-year-old woman was beaten and strangled by her 40-year-old boyfriend** in their Pittsburgh apartment. The perpetrator, who is disabled and uses a wheelchair, stayed in the apartment for five days until his parole officer entered the home and found the body. The perpetrator alleges that he and the victim had an altercation in which he punched her, knocking her down on the couch. When she attempted to sit up, he "choked her to death." The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- October 28**      **A 70-year-old woman was stabbed in the neck by her 30-year-old grandson** in the Hazelwood home they shared. He later called 911 to say that he "found his grandmother unresponsive on the couch." According to reports, the perpetrator made dinner for the victim when she began nagging him about his substance abuse problem. The perpetrator told police he "snapped," grabbed a knife and stabbed his grandmother in the neck. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- November 29**    **A 20-year-old pregnant mother of one was shot by her 21-year-old male cousin** who was living with her in Pittsburgh. According to reports, the victim had allowed the perpetrator to stay with her because he had nowhere to go. He was charged with homicide.

### BEAVER

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- February 25**    **A 26-year-old man, who was "choking" his mother, was shot by his 19-year-old half brother** in their mother's Beaver Falls home. According to reports, the younger brother was constantly protecting his mother from the victim, who was often violent. **No charges were filed against the 19-year-old.**
- September 5**    **A 33-year-old mother of one was shot by her 24-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Aliquippa. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The victim's son - who police believe was 11 or 12 years old - witnessed both shootings. According to reports, the perpetrator went to the apartment to confront the victim. Finding the door locked, he shot off the lock and doorknob, and entered the apartment. A patrolling officer heard the shots and called for backup. When responding police arrived on the scene, they encountered the victim's blood-covered son, who said, "I think my mom's dead. Can you help her?"

### BEDFORD

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- November 9**    **A 24-year-old mother of three was shot by her 38-year-old estranged husband** in the parking lot outside a fast food restaurant where she worked in Everett. The victim had a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator. According to reports, the victim was taking a break at her car when the perpetrator shot her with a sawed off shotgun. The restaurant was filled with patrons, including children, who witnessed the attack. The perpetrator then placed his jacket over the victim's body and waited for police to arrive. He claims he brought the gun to scare her and didn't want to kill her. He was charged with homicide.

### BERKS

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- May 1**            **A 45-year-old woman was stabbed 30 times by her 43-year-old boyfriend**, who was also her co-worker, in Reading. The victim's husband reported her missing that evening. Acting on a tip from one of her co-workers, the husband found the victim's body three days later in the rear of her sport utility vehicle in a parking lot. The perpetrator, who had been on a three-day drug binge, was arrested and charged with homicide.

## ***Baby dies after domestic dispute car chase***

### **BERKS (continued)**

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- May 4**      **A 45-year-old woman was shot by her 36-year-old boyfriend** in Douglass Township. **He then committed suicide.** A family member found the bodies and notified police.
- June 22**      **A 30-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend's 25-year-old brother** in Reading. According to reports, the girlfriend was driving a car with the victim in the front passenger seat and her brother in the back seat. While the car was moving, the brother shot the victim several times. His sister then drove to a gas station where they bought gasoline. Afterward, they moved the car to an alley and set the victim's body on fire in the back seat of the car. The girlfriend later reported her car stolen. Both the girlfriend and her brother were charged with homicide. The brother pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in state prison. The girlfriend pleaded no contest to conspiring to commit first-degree murder and was sentenced to 24 to 59 months in county prison.
- August 15**      **A 28-year-old man was beaten by his girlfriend's 18-year-old brother** in Reading. According to reports, the victim had recently assaulted his girlfriend. The perpetrator went to the victim's apartment with a group of people to exact revenge for the assault. The large group all began beating the victim. After he was unconscious, the perpetrator dragged the victim outside the apartment and onto the street where he continued to beat and kick the victim. Responding police found the victim lying on the sidewalk in front of his apartment. He was taken to the local hospital, where he died on August 28. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide.
- September 25**      **A 45-year-old mother of one was raped and strangled by her sister's 32-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Frystown. He then put her body in the trunk of a car and fled the scene. The car crashed a short time later and two state troopers freed the perpetrator from the wreckage. The perpetrator fled the scene while the troopers were interviewing him. They then found the victim's body in the trunk. According to reports, the victim's sister had broken up with the perpetrator and obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him three days earlier when he threatened to kill her. The victim was sleeping next to her 8-year-old daughter when she was dragged from the bed and abducted. The daughter tried to fight the perpetrator by biting him on the back. She was physically unharmed. The perpetrator was arrested in Virginia and charged with homicide. The perpetrator pleaded guilty but mentally ill to second-degree homicide. During his sentencing trial, the perpetrator saw his ex-girlfriend and began screaming at her across the courtroom that he would kill her. He was removed from the courtroom and sentencing was delayed.

### **BLAIR**

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- April 6**      **An 18-year-old father of one was stabbed by his girlfriend's 19-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Altoona. According to reports, the victim had gone to his girlfriend's home to visit her and their child. The perpetrator, who wanted a relationship with the victim's girlfriend, was already at the home when the victim arrived. A fight ensued, the perpetrator pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim. The perpetrator entered a no-contest plea to third-degree murder and agreed to serve a state prison sentence of 18 to 40 years with 5 years probation.
- April 18**      **A 49-year-old mother of two was shot by her 49-year-old husband** in their Hollidaysburg home. He contacted relatives to tell them what he had done and then **committed suicide.**

## ***Homicide victim's mother, daughter wonder 'what now?'***

### **BLAIR (continued)**

- July 5**      **A 39-year-old man was shot by a 37-year-old man** in Hollidaysburg. According to reports, the victim had gone to a camp with the perpetrator and the perpetrator's girlfriend. The girlfriend claimed that the victim got drunk and began making sexual comments and advances toward her. The perpetrator confronted the victim and an argument ensued. The perpetrator pointed his shotgun at the victim. The victim attempted to wrestle the gun away but instead was shot. The perpetrator and his girlfriend fled the scene and then checked themselves into a psychiatric unit where the perpetrator was later arrested. He was charged with homicide. The perpetrator's girlfriend also was charged in the incident.
- July 10**      **A 44-year-old mother of two was shot by her 47-year-old ex-husband** in Logan Township. **The perpetrator also fired shots at the victim's 48-year-old male friend who then returned fire, killing the perpetrator.** The victim's friend survived the attack. According to reports, the victim divorced the perpetrator five months earlier and obtained a Protection From Abuse order. Police determined that the victim's friend was acting in self-defense and would not charge him in the incident.
- August 9**      **A 51-year-old woman was shot by her 33-year-old son** in Hollidaysburg. According to reports, the victim and her husband were arguing and the perpetrator feared for his mother's safety. Allegedly, the perpetrator retrieved a gun and it accidentally discharged, striking the victim in the head. The perpetrator pleaded no contest to involuntary manslaughter and was sentenced to 15 to 30 months in prison.

### **BUTLER**

- January 18**      **A 48-year-old mother of three was shot by her 50-year-old estranged husband** in their East Butler home. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator in December 2007, which required him to relinquish his firearms.

### **CAMBRIA**

- January 18**      **A 21-year-old father of one was stabbed by his 17-year-old girlfriend, the mother of his child,** in Johnstown. She was charged, as an adult, with homicide. She pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter and faces a two- to four-year state prison sentence followed by six years of probation.
- June 29**      **A 41-year-old mother of four was shot by her 42-year-old estranged husband** in Cambria Township. **He also shot her 44-year-old male friend and then committed suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator was upset with his wife over the custody of their children as well as the sale of their house. The couple's children were not in the home at the time. According to reports, the perpetrator threatened to kill his estranged wife on multiple occasions. In a prior incident, the perpetrator attempted to stab the victim but their children formed a protective circle around their mother. The following day, the victim obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator.
- October 4**      **An 85-year-old woman was strangled by her 51-year-old son** in her Johnstown home. The perpetrator then dumped her body in Westmoreland County and fled the scene. He was apprehended by police a few days later in West Virginia and confessed to the murder. According to reports, the perpetrator had been in and out of jail his entire adult life and had been released from state prison in June. He had returned home to live with his mother. He was extradited from West Virginia and returned to Pennsylvania where he was charged with homicide.

## ***Murder suspect: 'I had fun'***

### **CAMBRIA (continued)**

- November 10** **A 65-year-old woman was shot by her 67-year-old husband** in their Upper Yoder Township home. **The perpetrator later committed suicide.** According to reports, the victim survived the first shot and was able to call 911. The perpetrator interrupted the call to say that there was no problem. Police arrived on the scene just as the perpetrator again shot the victim. Police attempted to coax him out of the home but, an hour later, the perpetrator shot himself.

### **CARBON**

- October 12** **A 50-year-old woman was shot by her 52-year-old husband** in their Franklin Township home. **He then called 911 before committing suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator suffered from depression for many years.

### **CHESTER**

- April 26** **A 25-year-old mother of one was strangled with twine by her 26-year-old boyfriend, the father of her child,** on a West Fallowfield farm where the perpetrator worked. The perpetrator contacted the victim's family, saying that the victim was with him and they wanted to pick up their 3-year-old daughter. When the victim's family asked to speak to her, the perpetrator hung up. The victim's parents filed a missing person report the following day, when they were still unable to get in touch with her. Investigating police found the victim's body in a composting pile on the farm. The perpetrator had been picked up in Louisiana by border patrol agents after a routine bus search. Agents detained him for an immigration violation and entered his information into the national system, which automatically alerted Pennsylvania State Police to the perpetrator's whereabouts. The perpetrator was extradited to Pennsylvania where he was charged with homicide, abuse of a corpse and related offenses. He also was charged with attempted kidnapping for planning to kidnap his 3-year-old daughter.
- August 17** **A 52-year-old woman strangled by her 49-year-old ex-boyfriend** in a house in Chester Springs. According to reports, the victim was house-sitting when the perpetrator showed up. He admitted to police that he was angry the victim had ended the relationship, so he killed her. The perpetrator had a history of violence against women, especially once they ended the relationships. In 2006, he broke into the home of a former girlfriend after driving his car through a fence on her property. In 2005, while going through a divorce, he threatened to kill his estranged wife. Both women obtained Protection From Abuse orders against the perpetrator after the incidents. Police apprehended the perpetrator at the house and found the victim unresponsive. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide.
- August 28** **A 54-year-old mother of one was shot by her 89-year-old father** in East Goshen. He then attempted to commit suicide in front of responding police. According to reports, the police went to the home after a relative called to report a domestic dispute. When police entered the home, they found the perpetrator sitting in the living room, pointing a gun at the officers. He then put the gun to his head and pulled the trigger. He was flown to a local hospital where **he died four days later.** Family members said the perpetrator was ill and had been living with his daughter.



## ***Police: Man killed wife, two young children***

### **CLEARFIELD**

- March 13**      **A 49-year-old woman was beaten and her throat and wrists were slashed by her 20-year-old son** in her Houtzdale apartment. He then read the bible to her as she died. According to reports, the perpetrator and his mother were arguing about a computer he stole from her apartment. The victim threatened to call the police if it was not returned. Since the perpetrator had a criminal history as a juvenile and adult, he was upset that he would end up back in prison. As he was leaving his girlfriend's house after arguing with his mother over the phone, the perpetrator winked at his girlfriend and said, "I'm gonna kill my mom." When he didn't return after 20 minutes, his girlfriend became alarmed and called several friends to ask advice about what to do. Her friends notified police and the victim's body was found by her parents. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- June 26**      **A 72-year-old man, who was having an affair, was shot by the 53-year-old husband of his girlfriend** in the basement of a Clearfield church. The perpetrator then fled the scene and called 911. After a daylong manhunt, **the perpetrator committed suicide.**

### **DAUPHIN**

- April 14**      **A 62-year-old woman was shot by her 62-year-old husband** in their Linglestown home. He called 911 to "report a killing" and **then committed suicide.** The victim was taken to a nearby hospital where she died six days later.
- October 30**    **A 76-year-old woman was beaten with a lamp by her 50-year-old nephew** in her East Pennsboro Township home. The perpetrator left a note outside his aunt's house telling neighbors not to worry if they noticed she was not around because she had gone to visit relatives. According to reports, the perpetrator had been in and out of prison 10 times in the last 22 years, and he often stayed with his aunt when he was out of prison. Neighbors report that the victim and perpetrator had a falling out prior to the murder. Police found the victim's body three weeks later. The perpetrator was taken into custody and charged with homicide.

### **DELAWARE**

- January 19**    **A 53-year-old blind woman was shot by her 84-year-old father** in Drexel Hill. He then shot the family dog before **committing suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator was ill and family and friends believe he couldn't imagine leaving his daughter on her own.
- February 4**    **A 56-year-old woman was shot by her 55-year-old husband** in their Stowe home. The perpetrator then drove the body to their Delaware vacation home and **committed suicide.** The victim's body was found in the front seat of a car parked in the garage. According to reports, the perpetrator found a box of old love letters written to his wife and police believe that was the motive for the killing.
- February 25**   **A 47-year-old man was shot by his 33-year-old stepson** in Darby Township. According to reports, the victim said he was "the only man in the house who could fix things." The perpetrator felt threatened and shot him. The perpetrator's mother called police to report the shooting. He was charged with homicide.
- March 17**      **An 85-year-old woman was beaten by her 26-year-old nephew and his 22-year-old girlfriend** in Yeadon. According to reports, the perpetrators were both drug addicts who had been living with the victim and were angry because the victim refused to give them money. They were charged with homicide.

## ***Rocky marriage ends in fatal shootout***

### **DELAWARE (continued)**

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- April 20**      **A 46-year-old mother of one was stabbed with a hunting knife and a machete by her 45-year-old estranged husband** in Bethel. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator were going through divorce proceedings. The victim and the couple's 11-year-old son were staying with the victim's brother. The perpetrator came to the home to pick up their son. The perpetrator grabbed a knife and machete and began stabbing the victim in the driveway while their son watched. The couple's son dialed 911 while a neighbor attempted to intervene. The perpetrator was coming toward the neighbor with the knife when he began shouting at the neighbor to shoot him. **The neighbor fired three shots but only one hit the perpetrator, who then began stabbing himself. He later died at the local medical center.**
- July 19**      **A 48-year-old mother of two and grandmother of three was stabbed by her 44-year-old boyfriend** in Philadelphia. The victim's sister attempted to intervene and was assaulted. She survived the attack. The victim's family then went to confront the perpetrator and they attacked him. A police officer who had followed the family, without their knowledge, was able to break up the fight and the perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide. No charges will be brought against the family.
- December 30**      **A 20-year-old woman was stabbed by her 22-year-old ex-boyfriend** in her parents' Drexel Hill home. According to reports, the victim and perpetrator had been dating on and off since junior high school. The victim had recently moved out of their shared apartment and ended the relationship. The perpetrator was waiting outside of her parents' home when the victim arrived. He asked her for one last hug. She quickly went inside the house, told her 13-year-old sister to hide and call 911 and their father. The perpetrator broke into the home by breaking the glass on the front door. He grabbed a 14-inch butcher knife from the kitchen and chased the victim upstairs to a bathroom. He then stabbed her too many times for police to count. The perpetrator was found in the home with a self-inflicted stab wound to the chest. He was arrested and charged with homicide.

### **ERIE**

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- May 7**      A woman was held at knifepoint by her 39-year-old estranged husband in her Corry home. The victim was able to escape and call 911. The perpetrator barricaded himself in his estranged wife's home. After a police standoff, authorities entered the home with tear gas to find **the perpetrator had committed suicide.**
- November 13**      **A 52-year-old mother of two was shot by her 56-year-old husband** in their Erie home. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the victim was talking about divorcing the perpetrator but had not yet filed any paperwork.

### **FAYETTE**

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- April 11**      **A 58-year-old mother of two was stabbed and slashed in the throat by her 29-year-old daughter** in Smock. The perpetrator also stabbed her brother with a scissors; he survived the attack. The victim's brother and aunt were able to disarm and subdue the perpetrator until police arrived. She was charged with homicide.
- June 24**      A 29-year-old woman was shot by her 37-year-old ex-boyfriend in South Union Township. The victim survived the attack. She and her two children, who were uninjured, escaped to a neighbor's home and called police. According to reports, the couple had recently ended their relationship and the perpetrator was in the process of moving from the woman's residence when the shooting occurred. Responding police officers set up a perimeter around the house and then entered the home where they discovered **the perpetrator had committed suicide.**

## ***“...please call police; my dad shot my mom.”***

### **FAYETTE (continued)**

**November 23** A 12-year-old boy was shot by his 39-year-old father in Redstone Township. According to reports, the perpetrator was fighting with his girlfriend inside his house when he asked his son to retrieve a shotgun from his car. The victim returned with the gun and he handed it to his father, who threatened “to shoot somebody because he wasn’t going to have this problem anymore.” The gun discharged, hitting the victim. The perpetrator claimed the gun fired accidentally. A neighbor heard the shot and called 911. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene and the perpetrator was charged with homicide. He pleaded guilty in exchange for a jail sentence of 2.5 to 5 years.

### **FRANKLIN**

**July 3** A 35-year-old woman and her 38-year-old husband were shot and injured by a 26-year-old man in Southampton Township. Seven hours later, after a standoff with police, **the perpetrator committed suicide**. According to reports, the perpetrator drove to the home looking for a woman who recently ended a relationship with him. He fired shots into the windows of the victims’ home. The couple was able to escape out a back door. He followed them and continued firing shots at them. Both victims survived the attack. When the perpetrator did not find his ex-girlfriend (who was hiding in the bathroom), he then got back in his car, dialed 911 and drove to her parents house, where the standoff occurred.

**September 9** A 27-year-old woman and her 49-year-old mother were held hostage by the younger woman’s 30-year-old ex-boyfriend in Antrim Township. **The perpetrator then committed suicide**. The two women were physically unharmed. According to reports, the perpetrator was upset because his ex-girlfriend had recently ended the relationship and he was afraid he would no longer be able to see their children. The perpetrator broke into his ex-girlfriend’s mother’s home, tied up the mother, and then forced his ex-girlfriend into another room. The mother was able to escape and call 911. Responding police officers and the State Police’s Special Emergency Response Team arrived at the scene and entered the home. They found the perpetrator dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

### **JEFFERSON**

**March 22** A 74-year-old man and his 74-year-old wife were shot by their 44-year-old son in their Brookville home. According to reports, the perpetrator moved in with his parents five months earlier. He was charged with homicide.

### **LACKAWANNA**

**July 17** A 25-year-old man bludgeoned and stabbed his ex-girlfriend’s 22-year-old brother, her 16-year-old brother, and 21-year-old ex-boyfriend, the father of her child, in Scranton. He first subdued the victims by pointing a gun at them. He also tied up his ex-girlfriend’s mother and her 21-year-old brother, who has disabilities. The perpetrator then waited until his ex-girlfriend arrived home from work and escorted her up to her bedroom where he assaulted her, tied her up and showed her the body of her 21-year-old ex-boyfriend. According to reports, the ex-girlfriend broke up with the perpetrator a few days prior to the incident. The perpetrator, who lived in the basement of the family’s home, went away for a few days but eventually returned to the home. The ex-girlfriend’s 2-year-old son was in the home at the time and he also was tied up, but was physically uninjured. After the murders, the perpetrator went to a friend’s house nearby where he played video games until the SWAT team arrested him. As officials took him into custody, the perpetrator blew a kiss at the media and said, “I had fun.” He was charged with homicide.

## ***Bizarre machete attack stuns Bethel neighbors***

### **LACKAWANNA (continued)**

**December 16**     **A 46-year-old mother of two was shot by her 59-year-old ex-boyfriend** at their workplace in Archibald. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the victim had ended the relationship with the perpetrator several weeks before the incident. The perpetrator, who was a security guard in the building where the victim worked, used his service weapon to shoot the victim and kill himself.

### **LANCASTER**

**March 12**     **A 17-year-old girl was shot by her 17-year-old boyfriend** in his parents' Little Britain home. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator was a high school dropout, had been in and out of rehabilitation, and previously threatened suicide. The victim had broken up with the perpetrator and obtained a Protection From Abuse order against him, but they later reconciled. The perpetrator's sister found the bodies. The victim was still alive and the perpetrator was lying dead across her legs. She was transported to the local hospital, where she died a few hours later.

**July 22**     **A 45-year-old mother of four was beaten and strangled by her 41-year-old husband** in their Reinholds home. He then dumped her body in the family's backyard swimming pool to make it appear like she drowned. Three of the couple's four children were asleep in the home at the time. According to reports, the perpetrator killed his wife because he wanted to marry his mistress. He was charged with homicide.

**October 18**     **A 38-year-old man was stabbed 17 times by his ex-girlfriend's 25-year-old boyfriend** in East Lampeter Township. According to reports, the perpetrator was upset that the victim had been calling the perpetrator's girlfriend numerous times the day of the incident. The victim showed up at the home the perpetrator shared with his girlfriend and a fight ensued. Witnesses report the perpetrator allegedly said, "If I have to go into combat, someone's gonna die." He was charged with homicide.

**November 9**     **A 28-year-old woman was beaten and stomped by her 29-year-old boyfriend** on a sidewalk in Lancaster. According to reports, the perpetrator was beating and "choking" the victim from behind her as she was driving. A friend in the passenger seat attempted to remove his hands from her throat. The victim stopped the car and when they got out, the perpetrator began beating her and stomping on her. The friend tried again to stop the attack. The perpetrator picked the victim up, threw her into the back seat of her car and drove away. Her body was found in East Donegal Township. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

### **LEBANON**

**June 26**     **A 23-year-old mother of two was shot by her 43-year-old boyfriend** in her Lebanon apartment. **He then committed suicide.** The victim's two children, a 3-year-old boy and a 20-month-old boy, were in the home at the time but were physically uninjured. The victim's employer called the local hospital and police when she didn't show up for work that morning.

### **LEHIGH**

**March 1**     **A 37-year-old man was shot by his ex-girlfriend's 44-year-old boyfriend** in Allentown. According to reports, the perpetrator said he shot the victim because the victim repeatedly threatened to kill the perpetrator. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to 7 to 14 years in prison.

## ***“Three families have been destroyed. More than that... a community.”***

### **LUZERNE**

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- January 25**      **A 62-year-old woman was shot by her 62-year-old husband** in Rice Township. **He also shot their 28-year-old son.** According to reports, the perpetrator had lost his job the day before the killings. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to two counts of homicide and was sentenced to 25 to 50 years in state prison.
- June 12**      **A 36-year-old man was shot by his 73-year-old stepfather** in Jackson Township. According to reports, the two men were helping to set up tables and chairs for a family wedding that was taking place the following day. The two men began to argue. The perpetrator pulled a gun from his pocket and shot the victim. The perpetrator then went inside the house to change his clothes so that he was “presentable to authorities.” He was charged with homicide.

### **MERCER**

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- January 4**      **A 37-year-old woman was shot by her 59-year-old male friend** in Sharon. The victim was flown to an Ohio hospital where she was pronounced dead. The victim and perpetrator reportedly had some romantic involvement but the extent is unknown. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- October 12**     **A 62-year-old man was intentionally hit by a car driven by his 48-year-old girlfriend** in Sharon. She was charged with homicide.

### **MONTGOMERY**

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- February 19**    **A 35-year-old woman was shot by her 48-year-old ex-boyfriend** in Hatfield Township. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the couple had ended their relationship one year earlier. The victim told friends the perpetrator was coming to visit her and she was afraid for her safety.
- October 24**     **A 34-year-old woman was strangled by her 45-year-old estranged husband** in her Pottstown home. According to the reports, the perpetrator went to the victim’s home to confront her about a department store bill. He first attempted to strangle her using his hands. When he saw she was still alive, he strangled her with a rope. He flushed the rope down the toilet, attempted to have sex with her body, then called 911. In June, the victim had moved out of their shared residence and obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator after he punched her and pointed a loaded rifle at her. The victim was scheduled to testify against the perpetrator at his trial for that incident. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison.
- November 28**    **A 46-year-old father of one was shot by his daughter’s 20-year-old boyfriend** in his Abington Township apartment. According to reports, **the victim’s 22-year-old daughter paid her boyfriend to kill her father** because he often yelled at her. After the victim was shot, the couple attempted to dismember him with a chainsaw. When they weren’t successful, they rolled the body into a rug, with the help of a 19-year-old male friend, and dumped it in New Jersey. Both the daughter and her boyfriend were charged with homicide and related charges. The perpetrators’ friend was charged with tampering with evidence and abuse of a corpse.

### **NORTHAMPTON**

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- April 10**      **A 29-year-old father of four was shot by his 25-year-old girlfriend** outside of an apartment in Easton. According to reports, the victim had recently fathered triplets with his ex-girlfriend and the perpetrator became angry when she found out the victim was “leading a double life.” The perpetrator shot the victim while she was holding their 2-month-old son. She then fled the scene. The perpetrator was apprehended by police a short time later. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he died the following day. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.



## ***One life was cut short. Another life will be spent behind bars...***

### **NORTHAMPTON (continued)**

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- June 7**      **A 43-year-old mother of three was strangled and her throat was slashed by her 67-year-old husband** in Bethlehem. He then wrote a three-page letter to their children before attempting suicide. He survived the attempt. According to reports, the victim planned to divorce the perpetrator. He was charged with homicide.
- October 26**      **A 35-year-old mother of one was shot by her 41-year-old estranged husband** outside of his West Ward home. He then fled the scene but was apprehended a short time later. According to reports, the victim was dropping off her 12-year-old son at his father's house; she was shot when walking out of the home. The son was not physically injured but witnessed the entire incident. The couple had been separated for two years and the victim had full custody of their son. She filed for child support one month prior to the incident. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

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- January 18**      **A 25-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend's other boyfriend, a 40-year-old man,** in Sunbury. **The perpetrator also shot the girlfriend's 24-year-old cousin.** He then fled the scene. According to reports, the perpetrator was upset about the "love triangle" between his girlfriend and the other man she was dating. He was arrested and charged with homicide.

### **PHILADELPHIA**

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- January 17**      **A 35-year-old woman was strangled by her boyfriend** in their Roxborough apartment. According to reports, the couple had recently moved in together and neighbors heard them arguing prior to the incident. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- February 21**      **A 36-year-old woman was stabbed by her 26-year-old boyfriend** in Philadelphia. He was charged with homicide.
- June 6**      **A 21-year-old woman was shot by her 27-year-old ex-boyfriend** in the parking lot of a parochial school in Philadelphia. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator had a violent history; the victim had recently moved out of their shared residence and into an apartment with a friend. He ambushed the victim and her friend as they were getting into a van to go to work. He shot the victim, then turned the gun on himself. The victim's friend was physically uninjured.
- July 17**      **A 14-month-old girl was killed in a car crash when the car she was a passenger in was rammed by a car driven by her 19-year-old father in Philadelphia. The 17-year-old driver of the car also was killed.** The child's mother and two other females were injured. According to reports, the perpetrator was upset about an argument he had with the child's mother the day before the incident. The perpetrator rammed the car four times before the car crashed into the closed entrance of a pedestrian tunnel. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- July 21**      **A 41-year-old woman was shot by her 59-year-old boyfriend** in South Philadelphia. A passerby found the victim on the street and called police. As responding officers closed in on the perpetrator, he began firing shots at the officers. He missed but they returned fire and struck him in the stomach and hip. According to reports, the perpetrator, who is married to another woman, became angry because his girlfriend used his cell phone. The perpetrator spent half his life in prison for murder and had been released three years earlier. He was charged with homicide, aggravated assault, attempted murder and weapons violations.

## **'Street justice' follows murder of 'saint'**

### **PHILADELPHIA (continued)**

- August 5** A 45-year-old woman was stabbed by another woman in LOVE Park in Philadelphia. Both women were homeless and they were fighting over the victim's boyfriend. The victim punched the perpetrator, who then pulled out a knife and stabbed her. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- August 27** A 24-year-old mother of four was shot by her 34-year-old boyfriend in Philadelphia. The perpetrator then committed suicide. The couple's four children, ranging in age from one to six years, and the victim's 1-year-old nephew were all in the home at the time of the shooting. They were physically unharmed. According to reports, the victim ended the relationship with the perpetrator one month earlier but he wanted the relationship to continue. The victim's cousin saw the couple's 6-year-old son sobbing as he sat on the sidewalk. The cousin got the children settled in the house and then went upstairs where he discovered the bodies.
- September 2** A 38-year-old woman was shot on the street by her 41-year-old ex-boyfriend in Mayfair. According to reports, he shot the victim as she sat in the back of her mini-van. He then fled the scene on foot and ended up at the nearby apartment of his former co-worker. The co-worker was not at home, but his two sons, ages 19 and 14, were there. They became concerned when they saw that the perpetrator had a gun and they called their father. The father came home, got his boys to safety and called police. The perpetrator barricaded himself in the apartment for several hours. When the SWAT team finally went inside, they found the perpetrator had committed suicide.
- October 11** A 32-year-old mother of five had her throat slashed by her 28-year-old ex-boyfriend in her North Philadelphia apartment. All five children were asleep in the home when the attack took place. A female friend of the victim, who was visiting at the time, was able to escort some of the children out of the home. The perpetrator stabbed her in the arm as she was attempting to stop him from attacking the victim. None of the children were physically injured. According to reports, the perpetrator had been arrested for an unrelated assault on another woman and had been sentenced four days earlier to a minimum three-month jail term. It was unclear why the perpetrator was not in jail at the time of this attack. He was charged with homicide.
- November 30** A 35-year-old New York City man was shot by a 42-year-old man, who was obsessed with the victim's girlfriend, as the victim was entering his car on a Philadelphia street. The perpetrator then abducted the victim's 27-year-old girlfriend, who witnessed the shooting. He sexually assaulted her and held her hostage, while making phone calls to his parents, saying he was going to commit suicide. Four hours later, the perpetrator released the woman. After a 9-hour standoff with police, the perpetrator committed suicide.
- December 2** A 30-year-old man barged into the retail store where his ex-girlfriend worked and threatened her. She took cover in the management office. Her 35-year-old manager confronted the perpetrator and she was shot several times; he survived the attack. The perpetrator fled the scene. The following day, after a standoff with police, the perpetrator committed suicide as SWAT officers attempted to arrest him.
- December 14** A 65-year-old man was stabbed by his 52-year-old girlfriend in Philadelphia. According to reports, the couple was fighting when the perpetrator grabbed a knife and stabbed the victim. She was charged with homicide.
- December 25** A 43-year-old woman was stabbed by her 47-year-old boyfriend in Northeast Philadelphia. According to the victim's family, the perpetrator had a mean streak and the victim suffered abuse at his hands in the past. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

## Family erupts in violence

### POTTER

July 13

**A 29-year-old mother of one was shot by her 32-year-old estranged husband** in his Roulette home. **He then committed suicide.** According to reports, the victim went to the perpetrator's home to discuss custody arrangements for their 2-year-old son. It was not known where the child was at the time of the incident. The perpetrator shot the victim in the head, then set the home on fire before turning the gun on himself. The fire caused minor damage to the home; responding police and fire police found the bodies.

### SNYDER

March 1

**A 46-year-old man was shot by his step-daughter's 26-year-old fiance** in Richfield. According to reports, the perpetrator and the victim's step-daughter have two children together, while the step-daughter had a child from another relationship. The perpetrator was angry with the victim believing he favored the oldest child and did not want to visit with their children. On the day of the incident, the perpetrator was allegedly drinking all day and had a fight with his fiancée about his drinking. He then left the house with his shotgun and drove to the victim's home. The victim was standing on the porch, smoking a cigarette. The perpetrator fired one shot at the victim, killing him. He then drove home and did not tell anyone what had happened. He even helped the victim's wife move out of the house a few days later. He was charged with homicide and pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to 20 to 40 years in state prison followed by 10 years of probation.

### SOMERSET

June 9

**A 47-year-old man was beaten and pushed off a barn ramp, falling seven feet, by his 46-year-old boyfriend** in Somerset. According to reports, the two men were arguing about their relationship when the perpetrator beat the victim and pushed him off the ramp. He left and came back to check on the victim several hours later. The perpetrator claimed the victim was still breathing at that time. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

July 14

A 47-year-old woman fled from her Milford Township residence after her 45-year-old boyfriend held a gun to her head and threatened to kill her. The victim escaped to a neighbor's house and was physically uninjured. State police Special Emergency Response Team was dispatched to the residence and surrounded the house. After a 7-hour standoff, the team entered the home to find **the perpetrator had committed suicide.**

### SUSQUEHANNA

June 30

**A 13-year-old girl was shot by her 47-year-old father** in their Springville Township home. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.** The victim's 21-year-old brother, and son of the perpetrator, discovered the bodies. While the motive is unknown, police report that there were financial problems.

August 30

**A 37-year-old woman was bludgeoned with a metal rod by her 37-year-old boyfriend** in Montrose. The perpetrator's neighbor became suspicious about the victim's whereabouts and discovered her body inside the closet of the perpetrator's apartment. The neighbor alerted police. The perpetrator, a Uruguayan national who was in the country illegally, was arrested and charged with homicide.

## **Killings rattle Sunbury; Shooting latest problem for crime weary city**

### **UNION**

**September 27** **A 27-year-old mother of four was shot by her 46-year-old ex-fiance, the father of three of her children,** in Lewisburg. **She died three days later at a local hospital.** According to reports, the victim had ended the relationship, obtained a temporary Protection From Abuse order, and moved in with a friend. The perpetrator broke into the friend's home and found the victim in a bedroom with a male friend. He pointed the gun at the friend, who was able to flee from the room. According to police, the perpetrator then turned the gun on the victim, who buried her head in her hands facing the floor. The perpetrator shot the victim once in the back of the head, execution-style. The perpetrator then stayed in the bedroom and called his sister and mother, confessing to the shooting and threatening to shoot himself. He then called 911 and confessed to the shooting. Responding police found him in the bedroom with a handgun pointed at his head. After 40 minutes, he surrendered and was taken into custody. He was charged with homicide.

### **WARREN**

**December 5** **A 39-year-old father of two was shot by his estranged brother-in-law** in Limestone Township. The victim's dog was also fatally shot. According to reports, the victim's estranged wife enlisted the help of her brother and his friend to kill the victim and make it look like a hunting accident. The friend waited in the car while the perpetrator waited near the victim's house for the victim to return from work. As the victim was about to enter his home, the perpetrator shot him. He joked afterward that he "got his buck for the year." The victim's two sons, ages 12 and 15, found his body upon their arrival home from school. They immediately called their grandmother, who called 911. All three perpetrators were charged with homicide and conspiracy to commit murder. The victim's estranged wife and her brother were each convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison without parole. The friend agreed to testify against the two in exchange for a lesser charge of conspiracy to commit aggravated assault.

### **WASHINGTON**

**January 6** **A 22-year-old woman was strangled by her 28-year-old boyfriend** in Charleroi. According to the perpetrator, the couple was fighting over drug money. After killing the victim, the perpetrator placed her naked body in a dumpster behind the apartment building. Her body was found later that day. The perpetrator pleaded guilty to third-degree murder and abuse of a corpse. He was sentenced to 15 to 30 years in prison.

**July 9** **A 22-year-old mother of two was asphyxiated by her 38-year-old estranged husband** in the home they used to shared in Marianna. **He also asphyxiated their 2-year-old daughter and their 11-month-old son.** The perpetrator fled the scene and called a friend. He told the friend that he was in trouble for violating the Protection From Abuse order so he and the friend disposed of his car and he checked into a local motel. According to reports, the couple was going through a divorce and the victim had moved out and taken the children with her. Three weeks before the murders, she obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator who had threatened to "take her and the children out." After the Protection From Abuse order was issued, the perpetrator was ordered to have no contact with the victim, but was permitted have supervised visitation with his children. Police believe the victim and her children were killed when she was attempting to pick up the children after an unofficial visit with their father. Their bodies were found by the woman's father and a friend. After a manhunt, that ended in a foot chase, the perpetrator was arrested and charged with three counts of homicide.

## ***“I stabbed him, but I loved him.”***

### **WESTMORELAND**

- January 11**     **A 34-year-old woman was shot by her 33-year-old ex-husband** at her home in Mt. Pleasant Township. The victim’s teenage daughter witnessed the shooting and told a neighbor to “please call an ambulance. My dad shot my mom.” The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- November 27**     **A 32-year-old man was shot by his 30-year-old male cousin** in Jeannette. According to reports, the perpetrator and his wife invited the victim to their house for Thanksgiving dinner. When dinner ended, the two men went for a ride in the perpetrator’s truck. An argument erupted in the truck and continued when they arrived back at the house. When the argument became physical, the perpetrator reached for a gun and shot the victim. He then attempted to resuscitate the victim while his wife called 911. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.

### **YORK**

- January 6**     **A 36-year-old woman was shot by her husband** in their Dover Township home. **The perpetrator then committed suicide.**
- January 23**     **A 29-year-old woman was electrocuted by her 37-year-old husband** in Lower Windsor Township. The perpetrator told police the couple was engaging in a sex act, in which the perpetrator electrocuted the victim through her nipples causing cardiac arrest. The perpetrator’s high school girlfriend testified at trial that the perpetrator “shocked” her in a similar manner as “punishment” for talking to other men. The perpetrator was found guilty of third-degree murder, involuntary manslaughter and reckless endangerment. He received the maximum penalty of 20 to 40 years in prison. Ten days after sentencing, the perpetrator filed an appeal to overturn the conviction and seek a new trial.
- March 20**     **A 29-year-old man was shot by his girlfriend’s 28-year-old ex-boyfriend, the father of her child,** in York. According to reports, the two men had fought in the past and were arguing the day of the shooting. After the shooting, the perpetrator called 911 and told the dispatcher that he shot the victim in self-defense. The victim was taken to a local hospital where he died two hours later. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- June 3**     **A 38-year-old mother of two was shot by her 39-year-old boyfriend** in their York Township home. The victim’s 16-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son were in the home at the time but were physically uninjured. According to reports, the perpetrator shot the victim in the garage of the home, then fled the scene. The victim’s daughter called 911. The perpetrator was arrested and charged with homicide.
- June 7**     **A 31-year-old mother of four was stabbed by her 41-year-old boyfriend** in York. All four children witnessed the stabbing and the victim’s 13-year-old daughter held her mother in her arms as she died. According to reports, the victim had obtained a Protection From Abuse order against the perpetrator that expired on May 5. The perpetrator was charged with homicide.
- August 14**     **A 62-year-old man committed suicide in front of police officers after exchanging gunfire** at his Newberry Township home. According to reports, police were arriving to question the perpetrator regarding allegations that he kidnapped, beat and threatened to kill his estranged wife earlier that day. Upon their arrival, the perpetrator shot at the police officers who returned fire that was later ruled justifiable. An autopsy determined the perpetrator died from the self-inflicted gunshot wound.
- November 2**     **A 39-year-old mother of one was shot by her 39-year-old husband** in their Spring Garden home. **He also shot their 2-year-old son before committing suicide.** According to reports, the perpetrator had recently lost his job.



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## **2008 Domestic Violence Fatality Report**

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