2015 Domestic Violence Fatality Report



www.pcadv.org



NO MORE TOGETHER WE CAN END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

HOW THIS REPORT IS COMPILED

CADV's annual Fatality Report has been the single most reliable source for domestic violence-related deaths in Pennsylvania for more than 17 years.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, unlike some states, has no central database or separate reporting requirements for domestic violence homicides. PCADV compiles its annual list based on news accounts, police reports and information received from our 60 community-based domestic violence centers serving all 67 counties. Our list is based on information available at publication and is subject to change as circumstances warrant. (For updates, please visit www.pcadv.org.)

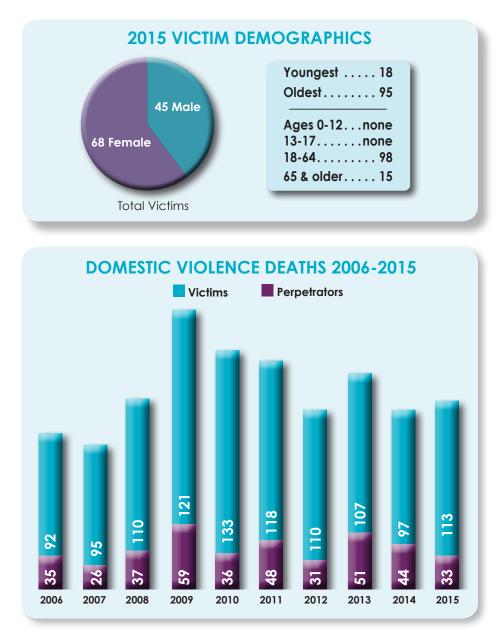
We counted killings among current, former and new intimate partners, including perpetrators who kill their ex-partner's new partner. Our aggregate total also includes perpetrator suicides and perpetrators who were killed by police or other interveners, as well as bystander and intervener deaths during domestic violence incidents.

We excluded unsolved cases; cases where no arrests were made, even if intimate partners or family members are suspects; and child abuse and child neglect cases, because they are reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.



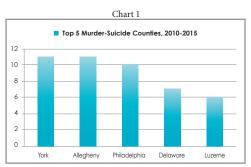
REPORT OVERVIEW

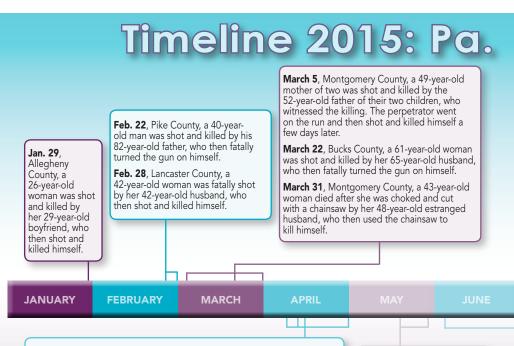
rom 2006-2015 calendar year, 1,496 Pennsylvanians died in domestic violencerelated incidents. Those killed were women, children and men of all ages and socio-economic groups. In 2015 alone there were 113 victims killed: 68 women and 45 men. There were 33 perpetrator deaths in 2015.



MURDER-SUICIDES

There have been 110 murder-suicide incidents in the commonwealth since 2010, including 24 in 2015. Montgomery and York counties topped the list with four murder-suicide incidents apiece in 2015. The chart on the right shows the top five counties for murder-suicides since 2010.





April 12, Mercer County, an 85-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 89-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

April 19, York County, a 33-year-old married woman and her 25-year-old boyfriend were shot and killed by the woman's 35-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

April 22, Chester County, a 77-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 79-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

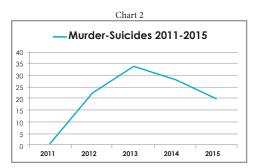
April 22, Washington County, a 54-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 69-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

April 30, Montgomery County, a 36-year-old woman was fatally shot by a 58-year-old man with whom she lived. The perpetrator then fatally turned the gun on himself.

May 17, Perry County, a 25-year-old man shot and wounded his estranged 23-year-old wife and shot and killed her 23-year-old friend, then fatally turned the gun on himself.

May 29, York County, a 60-year-old man shot and killed his 53-year-old wife and her 55-year-old friend, before fatally turning the gun on himself. In 2015, there was a 29 percent decrease in the number of murdersuicide incidents from 2013, when there were 34. Chart 2 shows the trend from 2011 – 2015.

ED. NOTE: Murder-suicides are a shockingly common form of gun violence in the United States – an estimated 11 such incidents occur each week and 81 percent occur in the home, according to the Violence Policy Center.



Murder-Suicides

July 2, York County, a 33-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 31-year-old ex-boyfriend at a restaurant in front of about 50 people. He then shot himself.

July 27, York County, a 61-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 50-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

> August 22, Cambria County, a 43-year-old man was fatally shot by his girlfriend's 43-year-old estranged husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

Oct. 5, Allegheny County, a 55-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 54-year-old husband, who then fatally turned the gun on himself.

Oct. 10, Northumberland County, a 20-year-old man shot and killed his 42-year-old mother and her 36-year-old boyfriend, then fatally turned the gun on himself.

Oct. 13, Washington County, a 68-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 61-year-old husband who then fatally turned the gun on himself one day later. Nov. 29, Montgomery County, a 48-year-old woman and her 28-year-old son were fatally shot by the woman's 48-year-old boyfriend, who then fatally turned the semi-automatic rifle on himself.

JULY



PTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMB

DECEMBER

June 3, Luzerne County, a 35-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 28-year-old ex-boyfriend, who then shot and killed himself.

Sept. 7, Lebanon County, a 46-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 47-year-old ex-boyfriend, against whom she had a protection from abuse order. The perpetrator turned the gun on himself.

Sept. 19, Bucks County, a 56-yearold woman was shot and killed by her 58-year-old husband, who then killed himself. **Dec. 28**, Berks County, a 35-year-old woman was fatally shot by her 57-yearold boyfriend, who then fatally turned the gun on himself. The couple, who had a 6-year-old daughter together, were having relationship issues and the victim told the perpetrator she wanted to end the relationship.

FATALITIES BY COUNTY

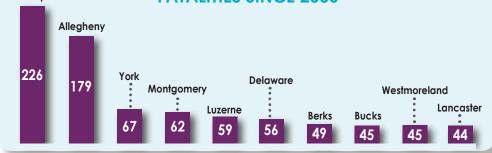
Our records show that domestic violence-related deaths in Pennsylvania, which include victims and perpetrators, increased by about 3.5 percent, from 141 in 2014 to 146 in 2015.

The total number of **victims** who were killed increased by approximately 16 percent from 97 in 2014 to 113 in 2015. However, the number of domestic violence homicide **incidents** increased by 4.6 percent from 108 in 2014 to 113 in 2015.

- For the third year in a row, Allegheny County recorded the most domestic violence-related fatalities (victims/perpetrators) with 20 in 2015. Eight of the 20 fatalities were in Pittsburgh.
- York County experienced seven fatalities in 2014, but 15 in 2015, a 114 percent increase.
- Philadelphia County deaths declined from 20 in 2014 to 16 in 2015.
- Bucks County saw a 200 percent increase, from three fatalities in 2014 to nine in 2015.

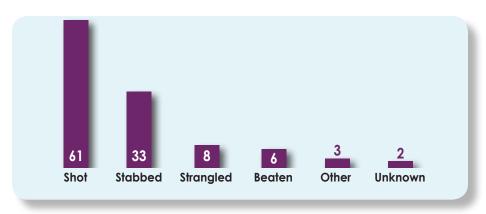
2015 FATALITIES BY COUNTY								
County Allegheny Bedford Berks Bucks Cambria Centre Chester Clearfield Clinton Crawford Dauphin Delaware Erie Fayette Fulton Indiana Jefferson Lancaster Lebanon Lehigh	VICTIM(S) 17 1 3 7 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	PERP(S) 3 0 1 2 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0	TOTAL 20 1 4 9 3 2 1 2 1 2 1 2 1 6 3 4	COUNTY Luzerne Lycoming Mercer Mifflin Monroe Montgomery Northamptor Northumberlan Perry Philadelphia Pike Potter Schuylkill Snyder Susquehanna Venango Washington Westmoreland York	nd 4 16 1 1 0 0 1 1 3	PERP(S) 1 0 1 0 4 1 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 1 1 0 2 1 6	TOTAL 4 1 2 1 12 1 5 2 16 2 1 1 5 3 15	

10 COUNTIES WITH THE MOST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE Philadelphia FATALITIES SINCE 2006



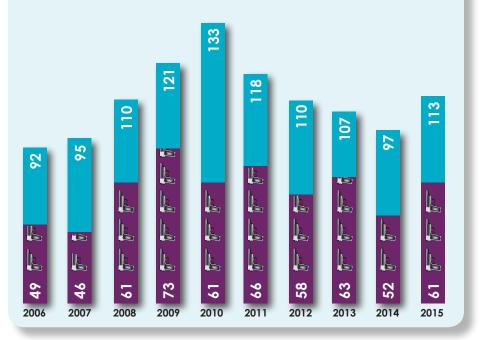
PERPETRATOR PROFILES: HOW THEY KILLED

As in previous years, guns were the primary weapon perpetrators used to kill their victims in 2015. Guns were used in 54 percent of 113 incidents last year.



Since 2006, abusers have overwhelmingly used guns to kill. As illustrated in the graph below, gun-related murders ranged from a low of 46 in 2007 to a high of 73 in 2009. In 2015, perpetrators used firearms to kill more than half of their victims.

TOTAL VICTIMS AND THOSE KILLED BY GUNS



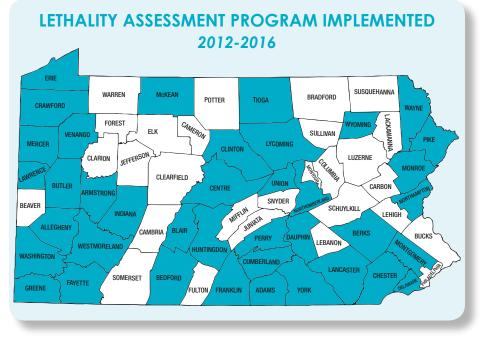
LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Reducing domestic violence homicides is a priority for both domestic violence programs and law enforcement.

A proven method for reducing domestic violence homicides is the Lethality Assessment Program. LAP is a nationally recognized, evidence-based program with demonstrated success in strengthening partnerships between law enforcement and domestic violence service providers and connecting intimate partner victims of domestic violence with lifesaving services, thereby reducing domestic violence fatalities.

In Maryland, where LAP originated and is currently implemented in every law enforcement agency and all 20 domestic violence programs, the incidence of domestic violence homicides has declined by an average of 25 percent over the past six years, a result directly attributable to use of LAP.

LAP provides field officers with a screening tool that helps identify domestic violence victims who are at greatest danger of being killed by abusive partners. Victims who answer affirmatively to a series of questions are placed in immediate contact with domestic violence counselors.



NOTE: Not every police department in the shaded counties is participating in LAP.

In the 2015 calendar year 3,351 LAP screens were introduced at an intimate partner domestic violence scene.

2,316 victims, or 69 percent, screened in as high-danger and 1,526 (66 percent) of those victims spoke with a domestic violence hotline advocate. Also, 996 (65 percent) who spoke to a hotline advocate accessed life-saving domestic violence program services. An additional 613 victims accessed life-saving program services, although they did not screen as high danger, answer questions or speak with a hotline advocate at the scene.

PCADV began implementing LAP in late 2012 with 12 counties participating. By the end of the first quarter of 2016, 167 out of 1,200 police departments with 40 domestic violence programs serving 38 counties will have implemented LAP.

PCADV also is partnering with college police departments to offer LAP screenings on campuses. LAP screening questions educate younger dating violence victims about unhealthy relationships and how some of those behaviors can be lethal. PCADV added six colleges in Pittsburgh in 2015 for a total of 12 colleges trained on LAP.

"Duquesne University police are happy to use LAP as a valuable tool to help reduce domestic violence," said Mike Sippey, assistant chief in the Department of Public Safety.



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Staff

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HERE ARE THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CENTERS AND THEIR LAP LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS:

ADAMS COUNTY

Survivors Inc. Biglerville Borough Conewago Twp. Carroll Valley Borough Eastern Adams Regional Gettysburg Borough McSherrystown Borough

ALLEGHENY COUNTY

Alle-Kiski HOPE Center Inc. East Deer Harrison Twp. Tarentum Borough

The Center for Victims

Castle Shannon Borough Glassport Borough City of McKeesport Swissyale Borough

Crisis Center North

Etna Borough McKees Rocks Borough Moon Twp. Ross Twp. Shaler Twp.

Women's Center and Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh

A creater insourgin Pittsburgh Bureau of Police Carlow University Carnegie Mellon University Chatham University Duquesne University School of Law Point Park University University of Pittsburgh

ARMSTRONG COUNTY

HAVIN Inc. Kittaning Borough Kiskiminetas Twp.

BEDFORD COUNTY

Your Safe Haven Bedford Borough Everett Borough Saxton Borough

BERKS COUNTY Berks Women in Crisis

City of Reading

BLAIR COUNTY Domestic Abuse Project/ Blair Co.

Duncansville Borough

BUTLER COUNTY Victim Outreach

Intervention Center Butter County Sheriff's Office Butter Twp. Cranberry Twp. Middlesex Twp. Slippery Rock Borough Slippery Rock University

CENTRE COUNTY Centre County Women's Resource Center

Borough of State College Bellefonte Borough Ferguson Twp. Patton Twp. Penn State University Spring Twp.

CHESTER COUNTY Domestic Violence Center of Chester County

Caln Twp City of Coatesville Borough of Downingtown East Brandywine Twp. East Coventry Twp. East Fallowfield Twp. East Pikeland Twp. East Vincent Twp. Easttown Twp. Kennett Square Borough Lincoln University Malvern Borough New Garden Twp. North Coventry Twp. Oxford Borough Parkesburg Borough Phoenixville Borough Spring City Borough Tredyffrin Twp. Uwchlan Twp. Valley Twp. West Brandywine Twp. West Caln Twp. West Chester Borough West Chester Univ. Dept. of Public Safety West Goshen Twp. West Grove Borough West Nottingham Twp. West Pikeland Two West Whiteland Two Westtown-East Goshen Reaional Willistown Twp

CLINTON COUNTY

Clinton County Women's Center City of Lock Haven Pine Creek Twp.

Renovo Borough Woodward Twp.

CRAWFORD COUNTY Women's Services Inc.

City of Meadville

CUMBERLAND COUNTY Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties

Camp Hill Borough East Pennsboro Twp. Hampden Twp. Penn Twp. Silver Spring Twp. Upper Allen Twp. West Shore Regional

DELAWARE COUNTY

Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County Inc. Borough of Clifton Heights Collingdale Borough Eddystone Borough Marple Twp. Norwood Borough

Parkside Borough Springfield Twp. Tinicum Twp.

DAUPHIN COUNTY YWCA/Violence Intervention

Program Commonwealth of PA/ Capitol Police

ERIE COUNTY

Millcreek Twp.

FAYETTE/GREENE/WASHINGTON Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA

City of Connellsville Everson Borough Borough of Waynesburg Carmichaels Borough Cumberland Twp. City of Washington

FRANKLIN COUNTY

Women in Need Inc. Chambersburg Borough Borough of Waynesboro

HUNTINGDON COUNTY

Huntingdon House Mount Union Borough Huntingdon Borough Huntingdon County Sheriff's Office

INDIANA COUNTY

Alice Paul House Indiana University of PA Office of Public Safety

LANCASTER COUNTY

Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County East Calico Twp. Lancaster City Bureau of Police

LAWRENCE COUNTY

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County Ellwood City Hickory Twp. Mahoning Twp. Shenango Twp. Union Twp.

LYCOMING COUNTY

YWCA Northcentral PA/ Wise Options Muncy Borough Old Lycoming Twp. Tiadaghton Valley Regional City of Williamsport

MCKEAN COUNTY

YWCA Victims' Resource Center Bradford City Bradford Twp. Foster Twp.

Kane Borough

MERCER COUNTY AWARE Hermitage City

MONROE COUNTY

Women's Resources of Monroe County Stroud Area Regional

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Women's Center of Montgomery County

Abington Twp. Lower Merion Twp. North Wales Borough Pottstown Borough Telford Borough Upper Dublin Twp. Upper Moreland Twp.

Laurel House

Hatfield Twp. Lower Pottsgrove Twp. Upper Gwynedd Twp.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY Turning Point of Lehigh Valley Inc.

Bethlehem Twp.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY Transitions of PA Milton Borough Riverside Borough

PIKE COUNTY Safe Haven of Pike County Inc. Eastern Pike Regional

TIOGA COUNTY HAVEN of Tioga County Wellsboro Borough

UNION COUNTY

Transitions of PA Bucknell University Dept. of Public Safety Buffalo Valley Regional Mifflinburg Borough

VENANGO COUNTY

PPC Violence Free Network City of Franklin City of Oil City

WAYNE COUNTY

Victims' Intervention Program Hawley Borough Honesdale Borough Waymart Borough

WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Blackburn Center Delmont Borough Greensburg City North Huntingdon Twp.

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center Inc. City of Lower Burrell

WYOMING COUNTY

Victims Resource Center Tunkhannock Borough Tunkhannock Twp.

YORK COUNTY

YWCA York/ACCESS Carroll Twp. Hellam Twp. Northem York County Regional Southern Regional Spring Garden Twp. Springetisbury Twp. York Area Regional

SafeHome — Hanover

Hanover Borough Penn Twp. Southwestern Regional West Manheim Twp.

PENNSYLVANIA VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN 2015

ALLEGHENY COUNTY Chalalai Chaihirunkarn

Robert Sellmon II Christopher Katchur Harrison Shaffer Darius Williams Tionna Banks Valorie Crumpton Deontay Hamilton David E. Schreiber Donna See Donna Angle Michael Welsh Cameron Johnson Jamar Nelson Jacquelyn Ross Marqua Wilson Margaret Recasens

BEDFORD COUNTY James Zelanko

BERKS COUNTY Johnny M. Branford Mary Branford Stacy Beilhart

BUCKS COUNTY

Lorraine Patterson Inna Sereda Kristin McNally Miguel Feliciano Alan Goodrich Mary Ellen Curry Dilara Ozen

CAMBRIA COUNTY Allison Vaughn Harry Ondriezek Jr.

CENTRE COUNTY Nuria Kudlach Natalya Podnebennaya

CHESTER COUNTY Roxanne Wisler Nicholas Mruczek **CLEARFIELD COUNTY** Ameyanna Sanchez Nicole Snyder

CLINTON COUNTY Kelley Jo Snyder

CRAWFORD COUNTY Debra Eschweiler Kenneth G. Halsaver Jr.

DAUPHIN COUNTY Shalamar Greenhowe

DELAWARE COUNTY Mark Hudson

ERIE COUNTY Paris Hilton

FAYETTE COUNTY Mya Ann Grady Robert Lee Engle

FULTON COUNTY Laura Lynn Hollenshead Jaedi Rae Weed

INDIANA COUNTY Ruth Shirey

JEFFERSON COUNTY Gregory M. Zickefoose

LANCASTER COUNTY Karlie Hall Monica Lee Miller Yarra Wilson Harris M. Perez

LEBANON COUNTY Stacey Pennington Travis Farrell

LEHIGH COUNTY Cheryl Silvonek Tymel Kenney Jillian H. (Faustner) Rohrbaugh LUZERNE COUNTY Gail Monahan Jennifer Bower Samuel John Vacante

LYCOMING COUNTY Kristina Pope

MERCER COUNTY Marie Gresko William Emmett

MIFFLIN COUNTY Carol White Floris Lewis

MONROE COUNTY Mahuanki Figueroa

MONTGOMERY COUNTY Indra Sheets Brienne Francisco Nicole Peppelman Kevin Brown Marcel Edwin Edwards Quentin Watson Jr. Gretchen Viglione Robert Peploe

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY

Ellen Jackson Robert Blake Joananne E. Grodzki Richard Erb

PERRY COUNTY Thad Garrett Gayman



PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

Keisha Northington Melizza Wiley Kelly Hepfl Brittany Green Antoine Wilkerson Andrea Roberts Jukena Palmer Agatha Hall Bonnie Eckstrom Jacquell Rountree Solomon Gethers David Slusher Frederick Drake **Kimberly Foster** David Wood Sharnise Sanders

PIKE COUNTY Joseph Matrongolo Jr.

POTTER COUNTY Ronald Miller

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY Lisa Ball

VENANGO COUNTY Cathy Goodman

WASHINGTON COUNTY Jerred Price Caryn Verno Carolin M. Kern

WESTMORELAND COUNTY Thomas Guercio Lloyd Reed Jr.

YORK COUNTY

Samantha Young Shaquana Graham Kristopher Pittman Laurie Kepner Barbara Schrum Sharon Williams Donna Wilk Ruby Mercado Juan Pozar-Felipe

PCADV PROGRAM LISTING

AWARE County: Mercer

A Safe Place, Inc. County: Warren and Forest

A Way Out County: Potter

A Woman's Place County: Bucks

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center County: Bradford

Alice Paul House County: Indiana

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc. County: Allegheny

Berks Women in Crisis County: Berks

Blackburn Center County: Westmoreland

C.A.P.S.E.A., Inc. County: Elk and Cameron

Center for Victims County: Allegheny

Centre County Women's Resource Center County: Centre

Clinton County Women's Center County: Clinton

Community Action, Inc./ Crossroads Project County: Jefferson and Clearfield

Congreso De Latinos Unidos, Inc. County: Philadelphia

Crisis Center North, Inc. County: Allegheny

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County County: Lawrence **Domestic Abuse Project of Blair County** County: Blair

Domestic Abuse Project/ Delaware County County: Delaware

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County County: Chester

Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County, Inc. County: Lebanon

Domestic Violence Service Center, Inc. County: Luzerne and Carbon

Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties County: Cumberland and Perry

Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster County County: Lancaster

Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA, Inc. County: Washington, Greene and Fayette

HAVEN of Tioga County, Inc. County: Tioga

HAVIN, Inc. County: Armstrong

Huntingdon House County: Huntingdon

Laurel House County: Montgomery

Lutheran Settlement House/Bilingual DV Program County: Philadelphia

PPC Violence Free Network County: Venango SAFE (Stop Abuse For Everyone) County: Clarion

Safe Haven of Pike County County: Pike

Safe Journey County: Erie

SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network County: Erie

Schuylkill Women in Crisis County: Schuylkill

Sullivan County Victim Services County: Sullivan

Survivors, Inc. County: Adams

The Abuse Network County: Mifflin and Juniata

Transitions of PA County: Union, Snyder and Northumberland

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc. County: Lehigh and Northampton

Victim Outreach Intervention Center County: Butler

Victims' Intervention Program County: Wayne

Victims Resource Center County: Wyoming

Wise Options County: Lycoming

Women Against Abuse, Inc. County: Philadelphia

Women In Need, Inc. County: Franklin and Fulton Women in Transition County: Philadelphia Women's Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh County: Allegheny

Women's Center of Beaver County County: Beaver

Women's Center of Montgomery County County: Montgomery

Women's Center, Inc. of Columbia/Montour County: Columbia and Montour

Women's Help Center, Inc. County: Cambria and Somerset

Women's Resource Center, Inc. County: Lackawanna and Susquehanna

Women's Resources of Monroe County, Inc. County: Monroe

Women's Services, Inc. County: Crawford

Your Safe Haven County: Bedford

YWCA Bradford — McKean County Victims' Resource Center County: McKean

YWCA of Greater Hbg/ Violence Intervention & Prevention Services VIP County: Dauphin

YWCA York/ACCESS County: York





National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-7233 National Teen Dating Violence Hotline: 1-866-331-9474