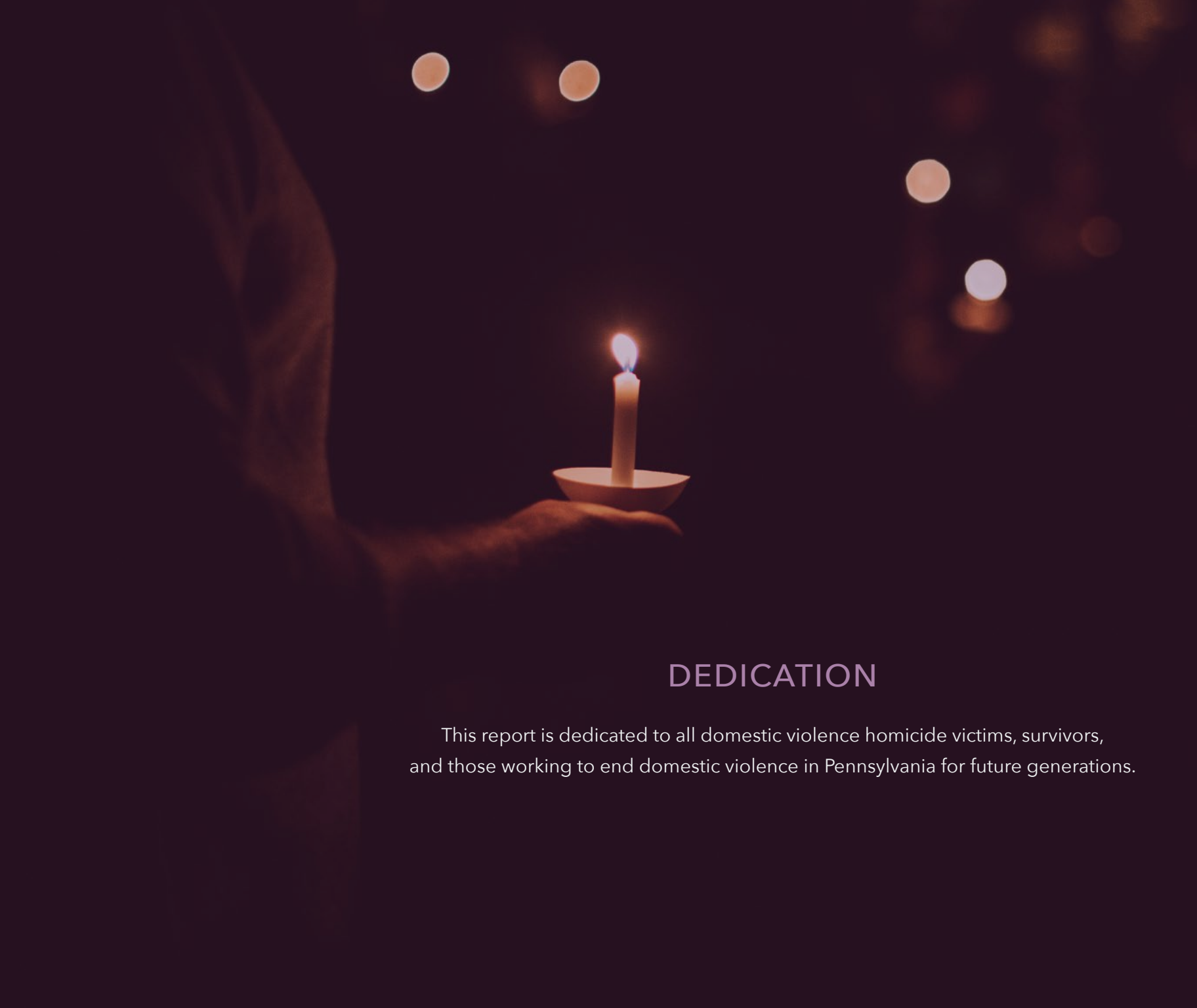




2018

DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE
**FATALITY
REPORT**





DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to all domestic violence homicide victims, survivors, and those working to end domestic violence in Pennsylvania for future generations.



ABOUT THE REPORT

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence's (PCADV) annual Fatality Report has been the single most reliable source for information about domestic violence-related deaths in Pennsylvania for more than 19 years.

Pennsylvania does not have reporting requirements for domestic violence homicides. PCADV compiles its annual list based on news accounts, police departments, and information received from our 59 local domestic violence programs serving all 67 counties.

PCADV uses a conservative method of identifying domestic violence deaths. We do not include cases where no arrests have been made or where the relationship between victim and perpetrator is unclear. We count fatalities involving current and former intimate partners, family members, police officers, bystanders, interveners, and others such as former partners killed by new partners or new partners killed by former partners.

We exclude child abuse and neglect deaths because they are reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. However, we include certain child deaths when the deaths are a direct result of domestic violence. These may include situations where the perpetrator kills the entire family or the children/child to harm the parent.

**Our homicide numbers may change on a yearly basis. This depends on: when an arrest is made in a domestic violence related homicide; if someone has been acquitted of a homicide; or if it has been determined that the homicide was committed in self-defense.*

For more information about this report or for media inquiries, contact:

PCADV Public Affairs Department
717.545.6400 or publicaffairs@pcadv.org

REPORT OVERVIEW

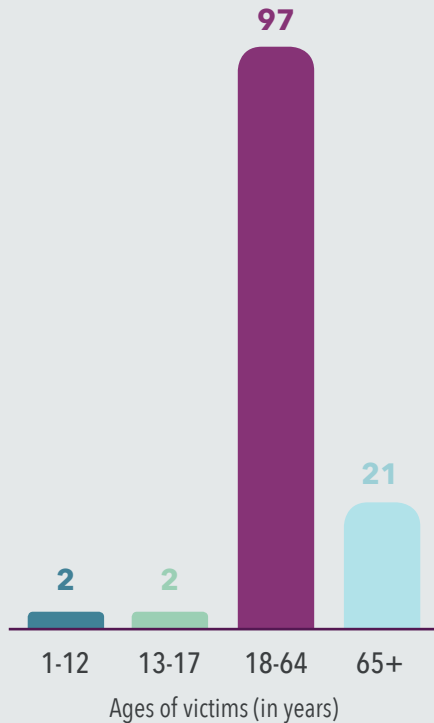
In the last 10 years, more than 1,600 people have died from domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania. Those killed included women, children, and men of all ages, races, sexual orientations, and socio-economic groups. In 2018, 122 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania. **This number includes 85 females and 37 males.** Additionally, there were 59 perpetrator deaths.

2018 VICTIM DEATHS

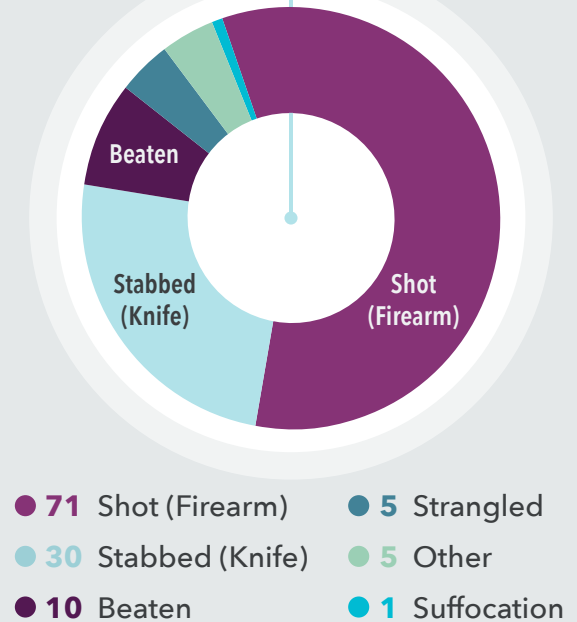
TOTAL VICTIMS KILLED IN 2018

122

VICTIMS BY AGE



HOW THEY WERE KILLED



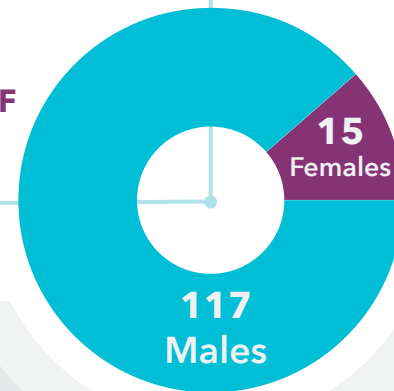
2018 PERPETRATOR DEATHS

TOTAL PERPETRATOR DEATHS IN 2018

59

132 TOTAL PERPETRATORS

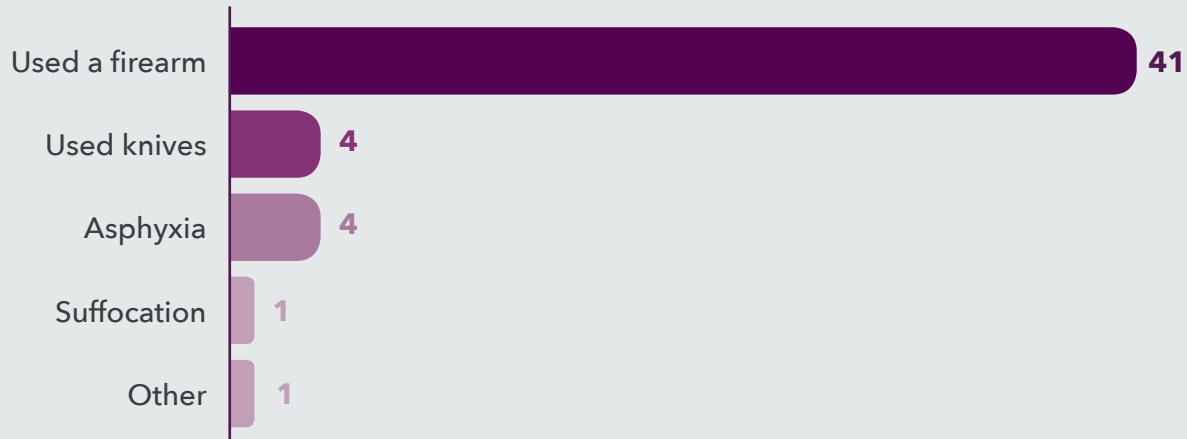
GENDER OF PERPETRATOR



HOW THEY DIED



MANNER OF DEATH IN SUICIDES

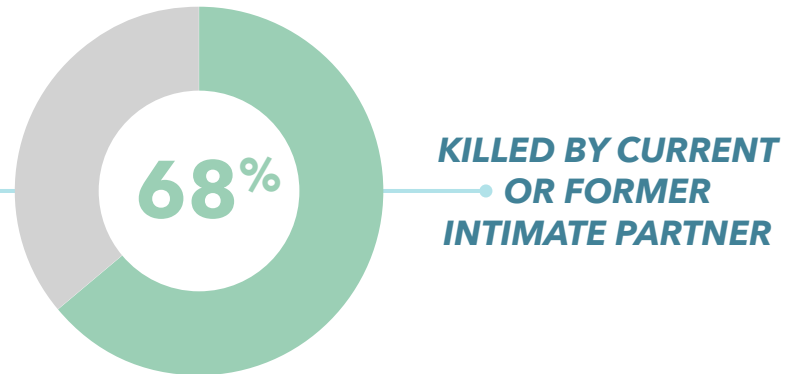


INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE DEATHS

2018 INTIMATE PARTNER DEATHS BY GENDER



Among the 122 domestic violence deaths in Pennsylvania in 2018, 68% of victims were killed by either a current or former intimate partner.



Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is the most common cause of domestic violence homicides. This is why PCADV adopted the Maryland Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) in 2012. LAP is a lethality assessment tool used by police officers responding to intimate partner domestic violence calls. It helps officers screen for potentially lethal situations.

As of February 2019, the Lethality Assessment Program has been implemented in 48 counties, with 46 domestic violence programs and 332 police departments. PCADV is working to implement LAP in more counties in an effort to further reduce IPV homicides and murder-suicides in the Commonwealth.

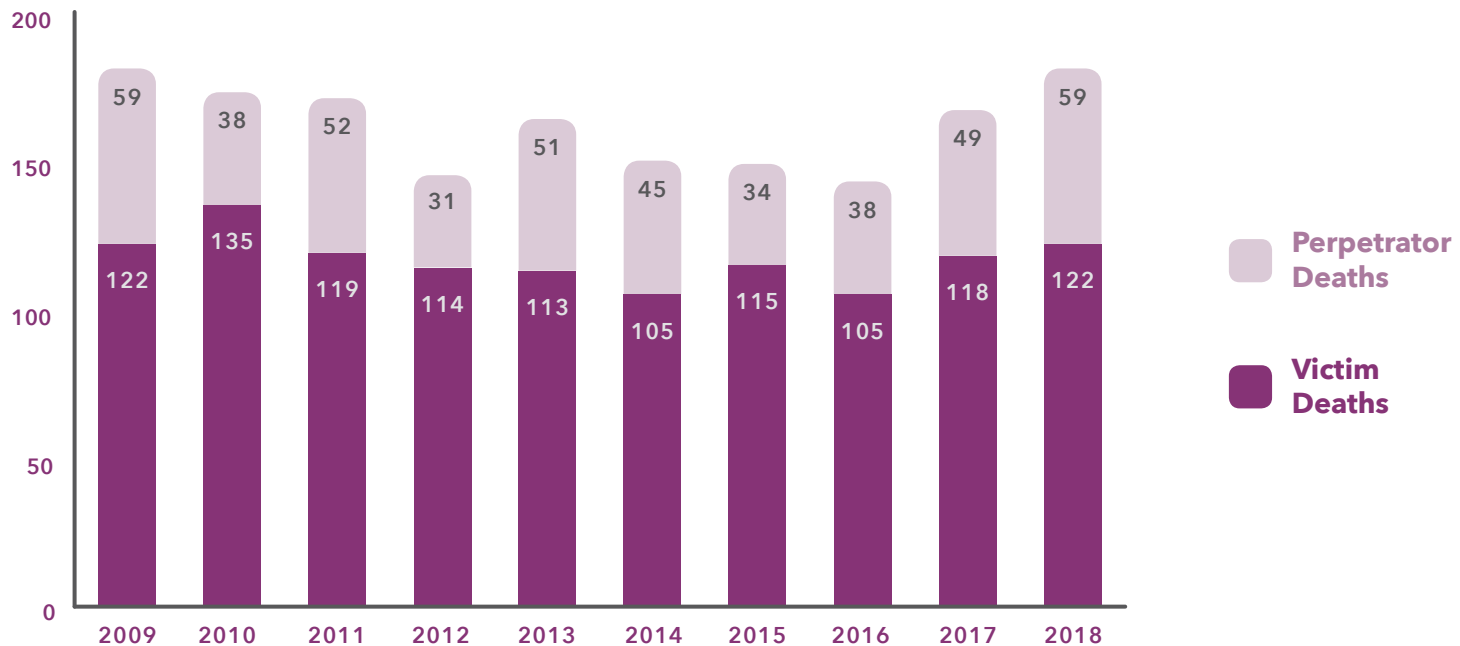
**2019 PARTICIPATION IN THE PCADV
LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM**

48
Counties

46
DV Programs

332
Police Departments

A DECADE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS



VICTIM HOMICIDES

Fayette County

A 61-year old man was at a magisterial district court on domestic violence charges. Outside of the building he opened fire on his wife and followed her inside where he began firing into the lobby. Police fatally shot the man. Three people were taken to the hospital. All were released later that night. Days earlier the man's wife had been granted a final Protection from Abuse order. In the petition for the PFA the man reportedly threatened her with a gun when she asked for a divorce and had choked her with a belt just days earlier.

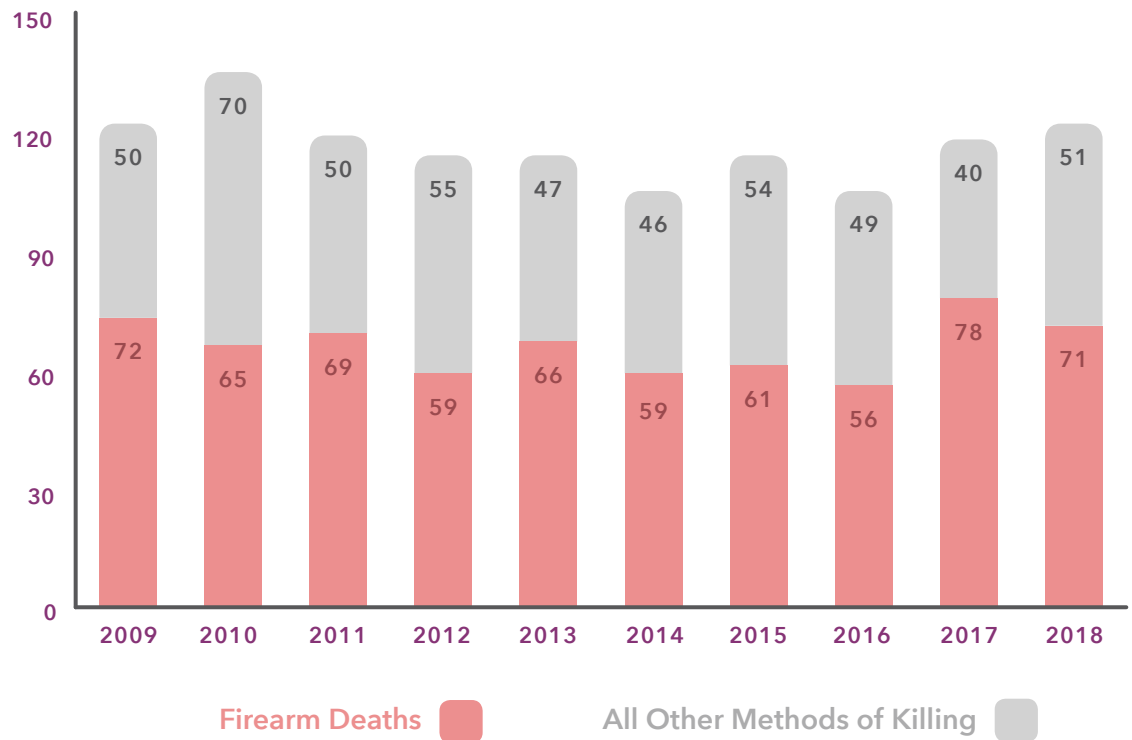
VICTIM HOMICIDES

Dauphin County

A 38-year old man was helping a woman get her belongings from the residence she had shared with her estranged boyfriend following a domestic dispute earlier in the day. While the two were moving belongings from the home, the estranged boyfriend with whom the woman shared the home arrived at the residence and **shot the man who was helping the woman before killing himself**. The woman's friend later died from his injuries.

VICTIM DEATHS BY FIREARM: Firearms Top Method of Killing for a Decade

AT LEAST 49% KILLED BY A FIREARM EACH YEAR.



A DEADLY LINK: MURDER-SUICIDES

A common misconception exists that domestic violence homicides tend to be limited to victims of domestic violence. There is a steady and disconcerting link between domestic violence homicides and murder-suicides. Murder-suicides are responsible for the deaths of not only domestic violence victims, but the perpetrators of domestic violence, and in some cases, family members, police officers and bystanders. Reinforcing trends observed in Pennsylvania and nationally regarding domestic violence homicides, murder-suicides are most often carried out by males with firearms. A national study conducted by the Violence Policy Center revealed that:

***65%** of murder-suicides involved an **intimate partner**, **94%** of which involved a **firearm**. Additionally, the study concluded that **firearms** were used in **91%** of **all murder-suicides**.*

Tragically, some murder-suicides result in a high number (three or more) of victims. Most of these deaths involve family annihilators, who kill their intimate partners, children and sometimes family pets, before killing themselves. In Pennsylvania, in the last decade, six domestic violence homicides were murder-suicides with three or more victims, including a single incident in 2014 that claimed five or more lives.

VICTIM HOMICIDES

Chester County

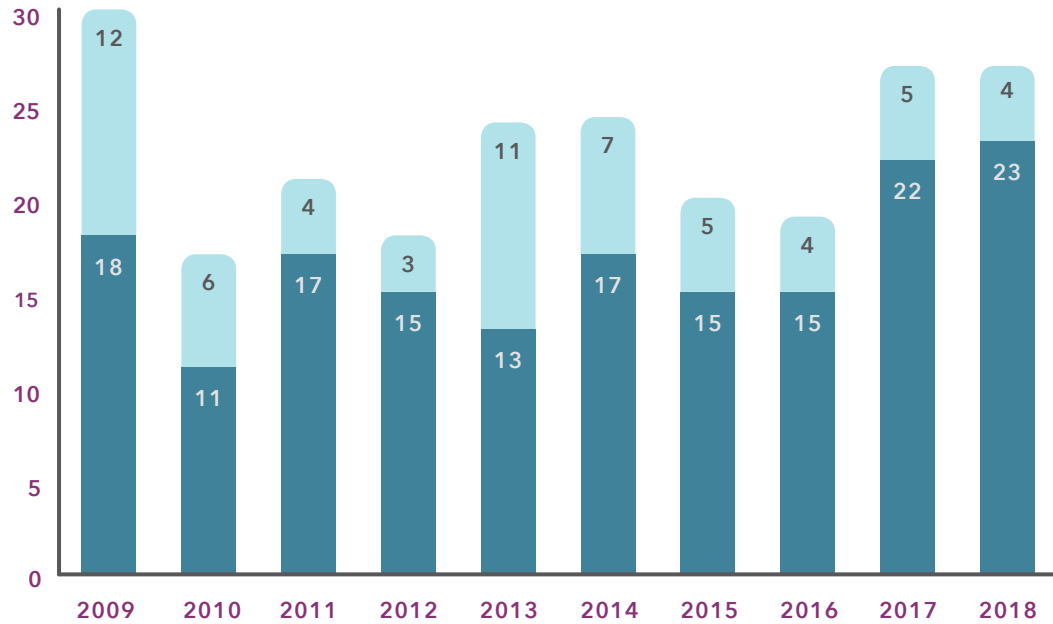
On the day a 59-year-old man's house was awarded to his ex-wife as part of their divorce being finalized, the man drove to the home and shot at his ex-wife in the driveway. She was not injured. **He then drove to the retirement community where his parents, both in their late 80s, lived, and shot and killed them both.** After the man fled the scene, police chased him for hours. The chase ended when the man crashed his vehicle into the side of his ex-wife's house. The police found the man dead with a self-inflicted gun-shot wound.

**OVER THE LAST
DECADE IN PA, IN
90%
OF INTIMATE
PARTNER
MURDER-SUICIDES,
THE OFFENDER
USED A FIREARM
TO COMMIT
SUICIDE.**

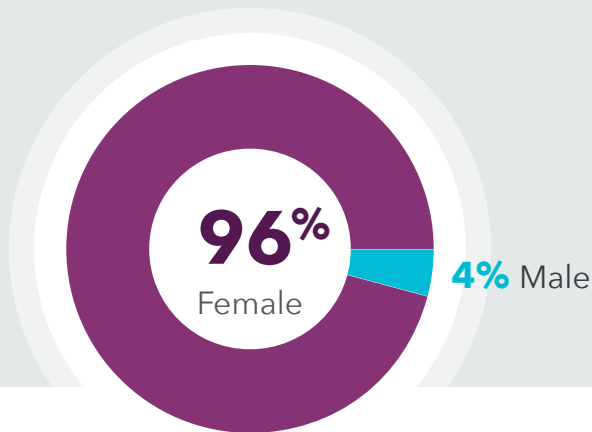
INTIMATE PARTNER MURDER-SUICIDE

Murder-Suicide by Former Partner

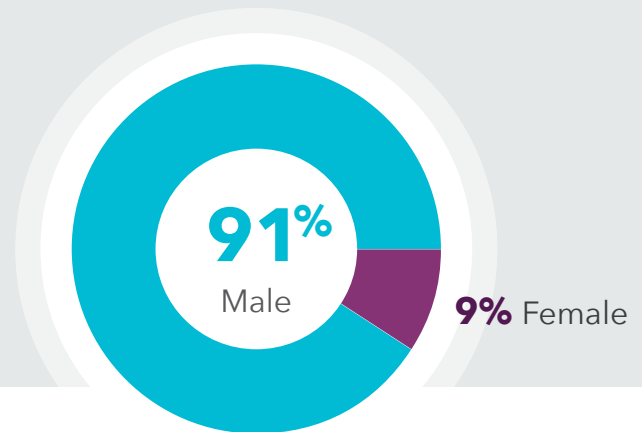
Murder-Suicide by Current Partner



GENDER OF VICTIM



GENDER OF OFFENDER



A DECADE OF ADVOCACY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE PREVENTION SIGNED INTO LAW

PCADV continues to assess the deadly link between firearms and domestic violence. For the last decade, domestic violence homicide prevention has been and continues to be, PCADV's leading legislative priority. After a decade of ardent advocacy by PCADV, its members, and a coalition of partners, HB 2060 was signed into law by Governor Wolf in October, 2018. Act 79 goes into effect on April 10, 2019. This potentially life-saving law does the following:

- mandates relinquishment of weapons for all final orders adjudicated by a judge
- removes friends and family members as options for third-party safekeeping
- reduces the time to relinquish weapons from 60 days to 24 hours for misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence, making the time frame consistent with final PFAs
- adds accompaniment by a sheriff or law enforcement during service of a PFA
- allows a plaintiff to extend a PFA against an incarcerated defendant who has been, or will be, released from custody within 90 days without having to show new instances of abuse

After a decade of ardent advocacy by PCADV, its members, and a coalition of partners, HB 2060 was signed into law by Governor Wolf in October, 2018. Act 79 will help ensure the safety of victims and survivors of domestic violence.

HOMICIDE DASHBOARD

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and made possible by STOP funding, PCADV in collaboration with the Penn State Data Center, Institute for State and Regional Affairs at the Pennsylvania State University of Harrisburg, has created a publicly-available Homicide Dashboard. The interactive digital dashboard visually summarizes homicide data we tracked from news accounts, domestic violence programs, and police departments.

Information on domestic violence fatalities in PA and the Homicide Dashboard can be accessed at: [PCADV.org/fatalities](https://www.pcadv.org/fatalities)

VICTIM HOMICIDES

Montgomery County

A 33-year old woman was attacked in her vehicle at her workplace by her ex-boyfriend. The ex-boyfriend broke the windows of the woman's car and chased her as she ran. **He threw her to the ground, beat her, and then stabbed her repeatedly.** The woman's coworkers attempted to aid her and called 911, as she was still alive at that point and was able to speak words. At that time, **the ex-boyfriend got into a large SUV, weighing approximately three tons, and drove over his estranged girlfriend multiple times, crushing her to death.** The entire incident was caught on video.

Lehigh County

A 26-year old father **intentionally exploded a vehicle using a homemade explosive device.** The explosion resulted in a double-murder-suicide which killed the father who made and detonated the explosive, **and his 2-year old son** who was strapped into a car seat in the back of the vehicle, as well as 66-year old acquaintance. The explosive went off seconds after that man entered the vehicle. Authorities believe that this event was planned and intentional based on letters that the man sent to his family that were dated with the date of explosion.

Washington County

Following a domestic dispute, a 38-year old man shot and killed his 35-year old pregnant fiancé before taking his own life with a self-inflicted gunshot. **The fiancé was expecting a baby boy to be born two months later.**

Philadelphia County

A 7-year-old girl was killed by her father before he hanged himself. The girl's mother had a protection from abuse order against the father due to a history of documented violence. The girl's mother and father had endured an extended and tenuous custody battle. **Despite** having ordered a mental health evaluation of the father due to a documented history of violence, a Judge allowed the father to continue to share custody with the mother.

**HONORING
VICTIMS
WHO LOST
THEIR LIVES
TO DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE IN
PENNSYLVANIA
(2018)**

Adams (1)

James Stephens

Allegheny (8)

Vera Williams Butler

Miranda Grimm-Gilarski

Lanny Hutson

Tiffany Korbelic

Louise Lewis

Dolores Miller

Kevin Thompson

Dolores Williams

Bedford (2)

Lekevia Bush

David Glenn Focht, Sr.

Berks (3)

Suzanne Lenkiewicz

Raniel Natera

Maureen Taulker

Bradford (1)

Patricia Haverly

Bucks (5)

Anna Angok

Autumn Bartle

Chung Sook Chang

Colleen Patterson

Teresa Priestley

Butler (1)

Ryan Minett

Centre (1)

Daniel Pedrazzani

Chester (5)

Nancy Rogal

William Rogal

Stephanie Burtnett Williams

Heather Woodward

Rachel Yeager

Clearfield (1)

Richard Bennett

Cumberland (1)

Sue Lyons-Grundon

Dauphin (1)

Jeremy Cadwallader

Delaware (7)

Alita Byrd

Meredith Chapman

Chadease Coleman

Devanna Cornitcher

Robert Coult, Jr.

Henry Hox

Keith Jackson

Elk (1)

Richard Hicks



Erie (10)

Michele Brown
Keeno Butler
Erica Castro
Dorothy Gilkey
Amanda Grazioli
Tammy Greenawalt
Tanesha Harkless
Miranda Matasowski
Alicia Stalheim
Selena Wall

Fayette (6)

Chelsie Lou Cline
Seth William Cline
John Maki
Tre Montel McCargo
William Scott Porterfield
Courtney Sue Snyder

Indiana (1)

Brenda Zelenski

Jefferson (1)

Janice Wildnauer

Juanita (1)

Tammy Dorward

Lackawanna (4)

Tammy Fox
Sister Angela Miller

Rosemary Smith
Andrew Staretz

Lancaster (1)

Ghada Saleb

Lehigh (7)

Ashley Campfield
Latricia Ezell
Kristina Fenstermaker
Carolina Monsanto
Janis Munsch
Jonathan "J.J." Schmoyer
Lwam Tesfamarian

Luzerne (9)

Valerie Arangio
Cindy Lou Ashton
Brian Breyemeier
William Denman
Linda Frick
Joseph Lewis
Sandra Martin
Sandra Lee Montanari
Antoinette Wilkinson

Lycoming (2)

Luke Beatty
Sonya Heck

Mercer (1)

Sierra Nicole Madison

Monroe (3)

Brianna Burkhart
Richard Fells
Isadora Fortune

Montgomery (8)

Sharon Burke
Donna Marie Donato
Thomas Lane
Sera Lee
Siani Overby
Mark Quadrel
Angela Maya Stith
Ebony White

Northampton (2)

Kristen Eberhardt
John Schmook

Philadelphia (15)

Liliana Alvarez
Gwendolyn Anderson
Tammy Blount
Shanae Brown
Renee Cosom
Eric Eberhart
Adeline Hill
Amber Therese Jackson
Kayden Mancuso
Etleva Meta
Linda Rios-Neuby

Drita Strelca
Vianela Tavera
Isis Williams
Oscarina Zarzuela

Somerset (1)

Diane Rosey

Susquehanna (1)

Joseph Amrein

Union (1)

Terry Minnier

Venango (1)

Kariann Joelle Beach

Washington (2)

Kelly Bryan
Michelle Krek

Wayne (3)

Carrie Martini
Dale Thomas
Carol Vaverchak

Westmoreland (2)

Frank Novak
John Small

Wyoming (1)

Haley Lorenzen

York (1)

Edna Pinder

PCADV LOCAL PROGRAMS

PCADV has a statewide network of local domestic violence programs that are ready to help.

A Safe Place
Forest and Warren Counties

A Way Out
Potter County

A Woman's Place
Bucks County

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center
Bradford County

Alice Paul House
Indiana County

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc.
Allegheny & Westmoreland Counties

AWARE, Inc.
Mercer County

Blackburn Center
Westmoreland County

C.A.P.S.E.A., Inc.
Elk and Cameron Counties

Center for Victims
Allegheny County

Centre Safe
Centre County

Clinton County Women's Center
Clinton County

Community Action, Inc. / Crossroads Project
Jefferson and Clearfield Counties

Congreso De Latinos Unidos, Inc.
Philadelphia County

Crisis Center North, Inc.
Allegheny County

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County
Lawrence County

Victim Services of Family Services, Inc.
Blair County

**Domestic Abuse Project
of Delaware County, Inc.**
Delaware County

**Domestic Violence Center
of Chester County**
Chester County

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

Domestic Violence Service Center, Inc.
Luzerne and Carbon Counties

**Domestic Violence Services
of Cumberland & Perry Counties**
Cumberland and Perry Counties

**Domestic Violence Services
of Lancaster County**
Lancaster County

**Domestic Violence Services
of Southwestern PA**
Washington, Greene
and Fayette Counties

HAVEN of Tioga County, Inc.
Tioga County

HAVIN, Inc.
Armstrong County

Huntingdon House
Huntingdon County

Laurel House
Montgomery County

Lutheran Settlement House
Philadelphia County

PPC Violence Free Network
Venango County

SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), Inc.
Clarion County

Safe Berks
Berks County

Safe Journey
Erie County

SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network
Erie County

Schuylkill Women in Crisis
Schuylkill County

Sullivan County Victim Services
Sullivan County

Survivors, Inc.
Adams County

The Abuse Network
Mifflin and Juniata Counties

Transitions of PA
Union, Snyder and
Northumberland Counties

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Victim Outreach Intervention Center
Butler County

Victims Resource Center
Wyoming County

Victims' Intervention Program
Wayne County

Women Against Abuse, Inc.
Philadelphia County

Women in Need, Inc.
Franklin and Fulton Counties

Women In Transition
Philadelphia County

**Women's Center & Shelter
of Greater Pittsburgh**
Allegheny County

Women's Center of Beaver County
Beaver County

**The Women's Center, Inc.
of Columbia/Montour**
Columbia and Montour Counties

Women's Center of Montgomery County
Montgomery County

Women's Help Center, Inc.
Cambria and Somerset Counties

Women's Resource Center, Inc.
Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties

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

Women's Services, Inc.
Crawford County

Your Safe Haven, Inc.
Bedford County

YWCA Bradford Victims' Resource Center
McKean County

YWCA Northcentral PA / Wise Options
Lycoming County

**YWCA Greater Harrisburg / Violence
Intervention & Prevention Services**
Dauphin County

YWCA York / ACCESS
York County



National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.779.7233
National Teen Dating Violence Hotline: 1.866.331.9474

Visit [PCADV.org](https://www.pcadv.org) to find local programs
by location and services offered.