DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to all domestic violence homicide victims, survivors, and those working to end domestic violence in Pennsylvania for future generations.
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
In the last 10 years, close to 1,600 victims and perpetrators 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 2019, 112 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania. This number includes 68 females and 44 males. Additionally, there were 38 perpetrator deaths.

### A DECADE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

![Graph showing the number of deaths by year from 2010 to 2019.](image)

- **Victim Deaths**
- **Perpetrator Deaths**
- **Total Deaths**
2019 VICTIM DEATHS

TOTAL VICTIMS

VICTIM GENDER

- Male: 68
- Female: 44

HOW THEY WERE KILLED

- Shot: 64
- Stabbed: 27
- Strangled: 4
- Suffocated: 4
- Beaten: 7
- Other: 6

HOW THEY DIED

- By someone else (self defense): 4
- By police: 2
- By self: 32

VICTIMS BY AGE

- Age 18-64: 82
- Age 65+: 15
- Age 1-12: 10
- Age 13-17: 3
- Age >1: 1

2019 PERPETRATOR DEATHS

PERPETRATOR DEATHS

- Male: 86
- Female: 18

PERPETRATOR GENDER

- By someone else (self defense): 4
- By police: 2
- By self: 32
In October, 2012, PCADV adopted the Maryland Lethality Assessment Program in an attempt to address the lethal nature of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). LAP is an evidence-based assessment tool used by law enforcement officers responding to intimate partner domestic violence calls. The tool uses a series of questions to determine if the victim is at an increased risk of lethality and helps connect the victim directly with services through the local domestic violence program.

In 2019, PCADV reached a milestone with LAP. Since its implementation, more than 25,000 LAP screens have been conducted by law enforcement when responding to intimate partner violence calls. As a result, 11,108 victims sought services from LAP-participating domestic violence programs.
A 29-year-old man was charged with four counts of criminal homicide in connection with killing his entire family. After purchasing a shotgun, the man took the gun onto the subway and rode home. He then used the weapon to shoot each of his family members in the head. The man’s mother and stepfather worked for the same employer. When neither showed up for work, the employer called the police for a wellness check. Police found the couple and their two other children dead shot dead in various places in the house.

*Philadelphia County*
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/resources/fatalities

VICTIM STORIES

An 80-year-old woman was writing out bills when she was attacked by her 42-year-old son. He allegedly knocked her to the ground and began kicking and stomping her before throwing her down the basement stairs. The man told police that his mother was still breathing after he dragged her across the basement and left her to die. A day later the man called the police and claimed he had killed his mother. The home had a history of domestic disturbance calls to the police.

Allegheny County

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/resources/fatalities
In 2019, 112 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania.
Domestic violence is often thought of as abuse between two current or former intimate partners, which is why we sometimes also use the terminology intimate partner violence. But domestic violence extends beyond intimate partners. Pennsylvania’s PFA Act also defines domestic violence victims as family members, either related by blood or marriage. Pennsylvania’s PFA Act defines domestic violence as the occurrence of one or more outlined acts between family or household members, sexual or intimate partners or persons who share biological parenthood.

Violence against family members is often perpetrated in similar ways to violence against intimate partners. Abusers use tactics of power and control over one or more family members. Emotional, verbal, physical, financial and sexual abuse may be used to harm family members. Unfortunately, sometimes these familial acts of abuse turn deadly.

Over the last decade, PCADV has not only tracked current and former intimate partner homicides, but also domestic violence homicides among family members. In tracking these homicides, we’ve seen far too many accounts of a single family member killing all the household family members in an act of vengeance, which may have started with one individual living on the home.

We highlight these cases as a reminder that intimate partner violence is not a private matter between two or more romantic partners. It’s a public health crisis that infiltrates homes and communities and compromises the safety and well-being of whole families creating lasting impact, especially when children are involved.

**VICTIM STORIES**

A 27-year-old woman attacked her parents, both aged 71, stabbing each with a knife, she also repeatedly hit them over their heads causing blunt-force trauma. The woman killed both of her parents before killing herself with a self-inflicted knife stab to her neck.

*Montgomery County*
**Victim Relationship with Offender (By Gender)**

**Female Victims**
- 42 Females killed by a current or former intimate partner
- 22 Females killed by a relative
- 4 Females killed in domestic violence related incidents

**Male Victims**
- 9 Males killed by a current or former intimate partner
- 18 Males killed by a relative
- 13 Males killed in domestic violence related incidents
- 4 Males killed by a romantic rival
## VICTIMS KILLED BY A RELATIVE IN THE PAST DECADE

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A 45-year-old woman and her 19-year-old daughter were charged with five counts of homicide for the killing of five relatives, three of which were children. The victims ranged in age from 9 to 45. The suspects and victims reportedly all resided together. The women separately admitted to choking the victims.

**Bucks County**

A 71-year-old man was allegedly stabbed in the neck and beaten with golf clubs by his 17-year-old granddaughter, her 19-year-old boyfriend and two friends. After beating the man, the suspects took $30,000 in cash from his basement safe and stole his car.

**Luzerne County**
Allegheny County (8)
Allison Fritzius
Tre Valorie
Gerald Dwain Walker
Kaine A. Williams
Susan E. Jeffries
Nalani Johnson
Margaret Sumney
Dolores Burdick

Bedford County (4)
Scott Alan Rogers
Felicia Nicole Barton
Amanda Jane Figard
Laina Haney

Berks County (4)
Farrah Wertz
Joy Strunk
Joanne DeLuca
Ira Reed Jr.

Blair County (2)
Cassandra Lynn Appleman
Sheldon Howard Appleman

Bradford County (3)
Candy Bidlack
Edwin Bidlack
Johnnie Johnson

Bucks County (8)
Erika Allen
Imani Allen
Jamilla Campbell
Damon Decree Jr.
Naa’Irrah Smith
Robyn Ryan
Eric Braxton
Arthur Hill

Butler County (1)
Mary Jo Kornick

Carbon County (1)
Megan Leland

Centre County (3)
Dean Beachy
Steven Beachy
George McCormick

Chester County (1)
Barbara Palladino

Clearfield County (1)
Ronald Williams Jr.

Clinton County (1)
Agnes Rae Neff

Columbia County (1)
Paula S. (Brown) Deeter

Crawford County (2)
Darrin Whitman
Shannon Whitman

Cumberland County (1)
Linda Brandt

Dauphin County (6)
Nightflower Staats
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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

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

Roads to Peace (Clinton County Women’s Center)  
Clinton 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

Visitors Resource Center  
Wyoming County

Visitors’ 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

Visit PCADV.org to find local programs by location and services offered.