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 20 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, more than 1,500 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 2020, 109 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania. This number includes 59 females and 50 males. Additionally, there were 32 perpetrator deaths.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THRIVES IN ISOLATION.

Victims of domestic violence know too well the fear and anxiety that come with being in an abusive situation and being isolated from the outside world. COVID-19 didn’t cause domestic violence, but abusers leveraged the circumstances to exert new power and control tactics like withholding information about preventing and protecting against the virus, preventing access to medical care by hiding insurance cards, and withholding personal hygiene supplies. In many cases, the pandemic shut off victims and survivors from their families, friends, and workplaces and forced them to quarantine with their abusers.

Another alarming trend spurred by the pandemic was the increase in firearms purchases. According to Pennsylvania State Police Data, background checks for firearms purchases were at an all-time high. Abusers who have firearms are five times more likely to kill their victims.
Domestic violence can be lethal at any time, and pandemic tensions only contributed to an increased risk of harm and lethality. Knowing this, one of the most significant obstacles of the pandemic was communicating to survivors that services were still available. PCADV’s 59 local domestic violence programs across the Commonwealth continued to provide free and confidential services to victims and their children. Service delivery was, of course, modified for the health and well-being of survivors and program staff, but they continued through virtual counseling and advocacy and other adaptive service models.

Fortunately, in Pennsylvania, in 2020, the data suggest that neither the uptick in firearms purchases nor the isolation exacerbated by COVID-19 translated to more domestic violence fatalities than in non-pandemic years.

COVID-19 didn’t cause domestic violence, but abusers leveraged the circumstances to exert new power and control tactics.
2020 VICTIM DEATHS

**TOTAL VICTIMS**

**109**

**VICTIMS BY GENDER**

- **50** Male
- **59** Female

**VICTIMS BY AGE**

- **1** Ages 1-12
- **1** Ages 13-17
- **94** Ages 18-64
- **13** Ages 65+

2020 PERPETRATOR DEATHS

**TOTAL PERPETRATOR DEATHS**

**32**

**HOW THEY DIED**

- By self **29**
- By someone else (self defense) **2**
- By police **1**

2020 STATISTICS
HOW THEY WERE KILLED

VICTIM CAUSES OF DEATH

- **70** Shot
- **22** Stabbed
- **6** Strangled
- **6** Beaten
- **1** Poisoned
- **4** Other

VICTIM DEATHS BY FIREARMS

Death by Firearms

All Other Means

Total Victim Deaths
WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS

PERPETRATOR GENDER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FEMALE</th>
<th>MALE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 FEMALE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89 MALE</td>
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</table>

VICTIM RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR

FEMALE VICTIMS

- **49** Females killed by a current or former intimate partner
- **9** Females killed by a relative

MALE VICTIMS

- **12** Males killed by a current or former intimate partner
- **22** Males killed by a relative
- **9** Males killed by a romantic rival
- **8** Males killed in domestic violence related incidents
In 2020, 109 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania.
In October 2012, PCADV adopted the Maryland Lethality Assessment Program (LAP) 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.

Since its implementation, more than 31,000 LAP screens have been conducted by law enforcement when responding to intimate partner violence calls. As a result, more than 13,000 victims have sought services from LAP-participating domestic violence programs.
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, developed and maintains 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
HONORING VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA (2020)

Allegheny (12)
- Cindy Woods
- Joseph Perlick-Spemak
- Anthony Orosco
- David Howard
- Brittney Alker
- Kristy Jefferson
- Bing Liu
- Niki Alen Happel
- Derrick Stanford
- Makeida Thompson
- Derek Davis
- Junaid Akhlas

Berks (6)
- Carlos Molina-Almendares
- John Vannatter
- Christina Blackburn
- Melissa Gonzalez-Torres
- Randall Wickizer
- Chad Macwilliam

Blair (1)
- Tyler Slippey

Butler (1)
- Robert Wagner

Cambria (4)
- Lee Dill
- Marlene Krens
- Amanda Boring
- Sheila A. Clem

Carbon (3)
- Ashley Belson
- Ava Lerario
- Laura Jean Else

Clarion (1)
- Lexis Ann Walker

Clearfield (1)
- Rebecca “Beckie” Solt

Columbia (2)
- Sharon Kressler
- Flint Kressler

Crawford (1)
- Michael Gregg Thieme

Cumberland (3)
- Sydney Parmelee
- Kaylee Jones
- Ryan Young

Dauphin (4)
- Kyra Haley
- Bernard Everson
- Kelly Anne Patton
- Leon White-Jones

Delaware (3)
- Stephanie Miller
- She’Kierrah Adams
- Shantel Harmon

Elk (1)
- Jessica Thivener
Erie (3)
  Daniel Galvin
  Wendy Mantsch Knepper
  Jacob Carr

Fayette (2)
  Tina Shetler-Allen
  William Stewart

Indiana (1)
  Jerald Bartlebaugh

Juniata (1)
  Cindy Siennick-Valencia

Lackawana (1)
  Tara Evans

Lancaster (1)
  Kristin Graham

Lebanon (2)
  Lewis W. Hodges, Sr.
  Elena Mercado

Lehigh (1)
  Todd Scholl

Luzerne (6)
  George Bacon
  Patricia Walski
  Brandon Thomas
  Carlos Taffanelly
  Erica Shultz
  Patricia Watkins

Lycoming (1)
  Kristin Walters

Mercer (3)
  Natasha Talley
  Clarice D. Somerville
  Kelli K. Johnston

Monroe (3)
  Frank Azzaretto
  Howard Dowell
  Nicholas Joseph Colatrella

Montgomery (9)
  Sabrina Harooni
  Mary Hatfield
  Jaylin Thomas
  Latiya Clea
  Mekenda Saunders
  Morgan Darlyn McCaffery
  Nadege St. Preux
  Rebecca Hall Evans
  Stephen J. Mihalcik

Northumberland (2)
  Dawn Latsha
  Anthony Hurst (child)

Philadelphia (11)
  Rochelle Jackson
  Nasir Proctor
  Ancil Callender
  Arnim Callender
  Malissa Moczulski
  Dominique “Rem’mie” Fells
  Richard Pryor
  Tam Nguyen
  Nico Rande-Reed-Johnson
  Josalissa Melendez
  Thurston L. Powell, III

Pike (1)
  Ronald Paige

Schuylkill (1)
  April Mahmod

Snyder (2)
  Heather Sue Campbell
  Matthew Bowersox

Somerset (1)
  Joshua Hillegas

Susquehanna (2)
  Rebecca Gordon
  Terrance Whitmire

Tioga (1)
  Ida Storms

Washington (1)
  Joseph Robert Warrick, Sr.

Westmoreland (4)
  Richard Hildreth
  Andrew Pristas
  Sandra Montijar
  Karen Dufford

York (4)
  Carol Heard
  Elizabeth Schlenoff
  David Schlenoff
  Lauren Gallagher
PCADV LOCAL PROGRAMS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>County/Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Safe Place</td>
<td>Forest and Warren Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Way Out</td>
<td>Potter County</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Woman’s Place</td>
<td>Bucks County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abuse &amp; Rape Crisis Center</td>
<td>Bradford County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alice Paul House</td>
<td>Indiana County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center</td>
<td>Allegheny &amp; Westmoreland Counties</td>
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<td>AWARE</td>
<td>Mercer County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackburn Center</td>
<td>Westmoreland County</td>
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<tr>
<td>C.A.P.S.E.A.</td>
<td>Elk and Cameron Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Center for Victims</td>
<td>Allegheny County</td>
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<td>Centre Safe</td>
<td>Centre County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community Action/Crossroads Project</td>
<td>Jefferson and Clearfield Counties</td>
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<td>Congreso De Latinos Unidos</td>
<td>Philadelphia County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crisis Center North</td>
<td>Allegheny County</td>
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<td>Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County</td>
<td>Lawrence County</td>
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<td>Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County</td>
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<td>Domestic Violence Center of Chester County</td>
<td>Chester County</td>
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<td>Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County</td>
<td>Lebanon County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Domestic Violence Service Center</td>
<td>Luzerne and Carbon Counties</td>
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<td>Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland &amp; Perry Counties</td>
<td>Lancaster County</td>
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<td>Domestic Violence Services of Southwestern PA</td>
<td>Washington, Greene and Fayette Counties</td>
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<td>Family Services/Domestic Abuse Project of Blair County</td>
<td>Blair County</td>
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<td>HAVEN of Tioga County</td>
<td>Tioga County</td>
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<td>HAVIN</td>
<td>Armstrong County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Huntingdon House</td>
<td>Huntingdon County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laurel House</td>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lutheran Settlement House</td>
<td>Philadelphia County</td>
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<tr>
<td>PPC Violence Free Network</td>
<td>Venango County</td>
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<td>Roads to Peace/Clinton County Women’s Center</td>
<td>Clinton County</td>
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<tr>
<td>SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone)</td>
<td>Clarion County</td>
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<td>Safe Berks</td>
<td>Berks County</td>
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<td>Safe Journey</td>
<td>Erie County</td>
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<td>SafeNet Domestic Violence Safety Network</td>
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<td>Schuylkill Women in Crisis</td>
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<td>Sullivan County Victim Services</td>
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<td>The Abuse Network</td>
<td>Mifflin and Juniata Counties</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transitions of PA</td>
<td>Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties</td>
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<td>Turning Point of Lehigh Valley</td>
<td>Lehigh and Northampton Counties</td>
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<td>Victim Outreach Intervention Center</td>
<td>Butler County</td>
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<td>Victims Resource Center</td>
<td>Wyoming County</td>
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<td>Victims’ Intervention Program</td>
<td>Wayne and Pike Counties</td>
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<td>Women Against Abuse</td>
<td>Philadelphia County</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women In Need</td>
<td>Franklin and Fulton Counties</td>
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<td>Women In Transition</td>
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Visit PCADV.org to find local programs by location and services offered.