

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE **FATALITY REPORT**

2020



This project was supported by Grant No. 2019-DW-AX-0031 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.

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 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.*



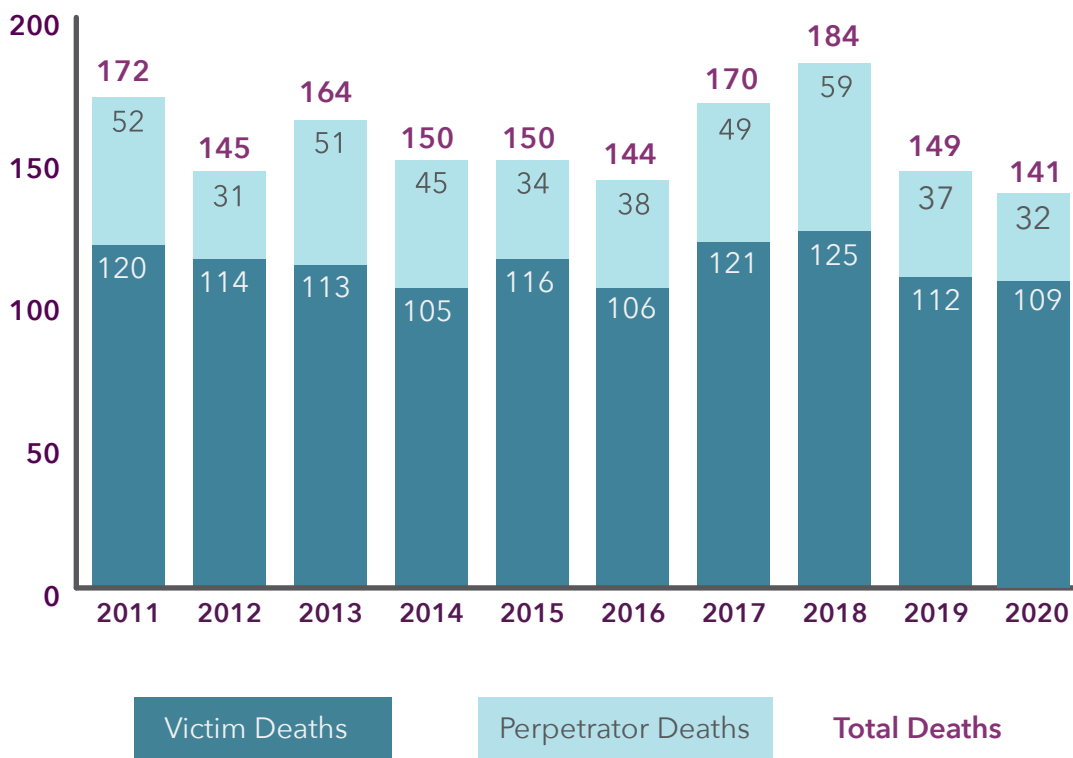
For more information about this report or for media inquiries, contact:

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.

A DECADE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS



A YEAR IN ISOLATION

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.



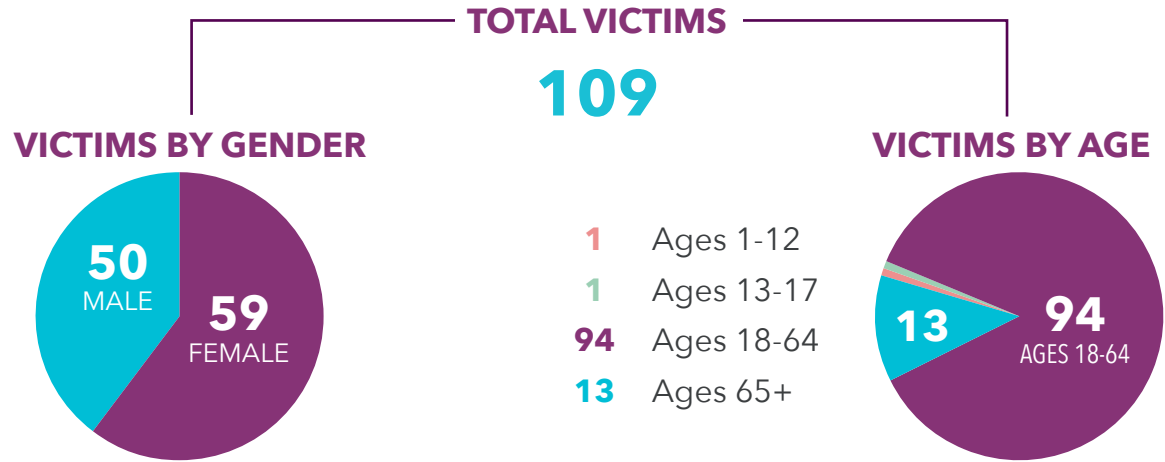
Domestic violence can be lethal at any time, and pandemic tensions only contributed to an increased risk of harm and lethality. Knowing this, one of the most significant obstacles of the pandemic was communicating to survivors that services were still available. PCADV's 59 local domestic violence programs 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



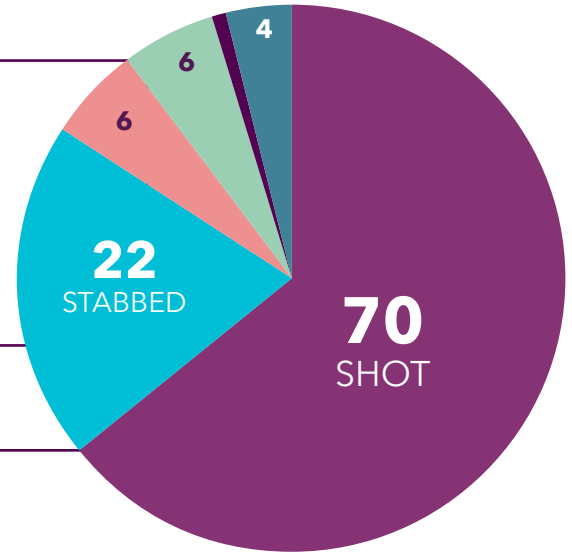
2020 PERPETRATOR DEATHS



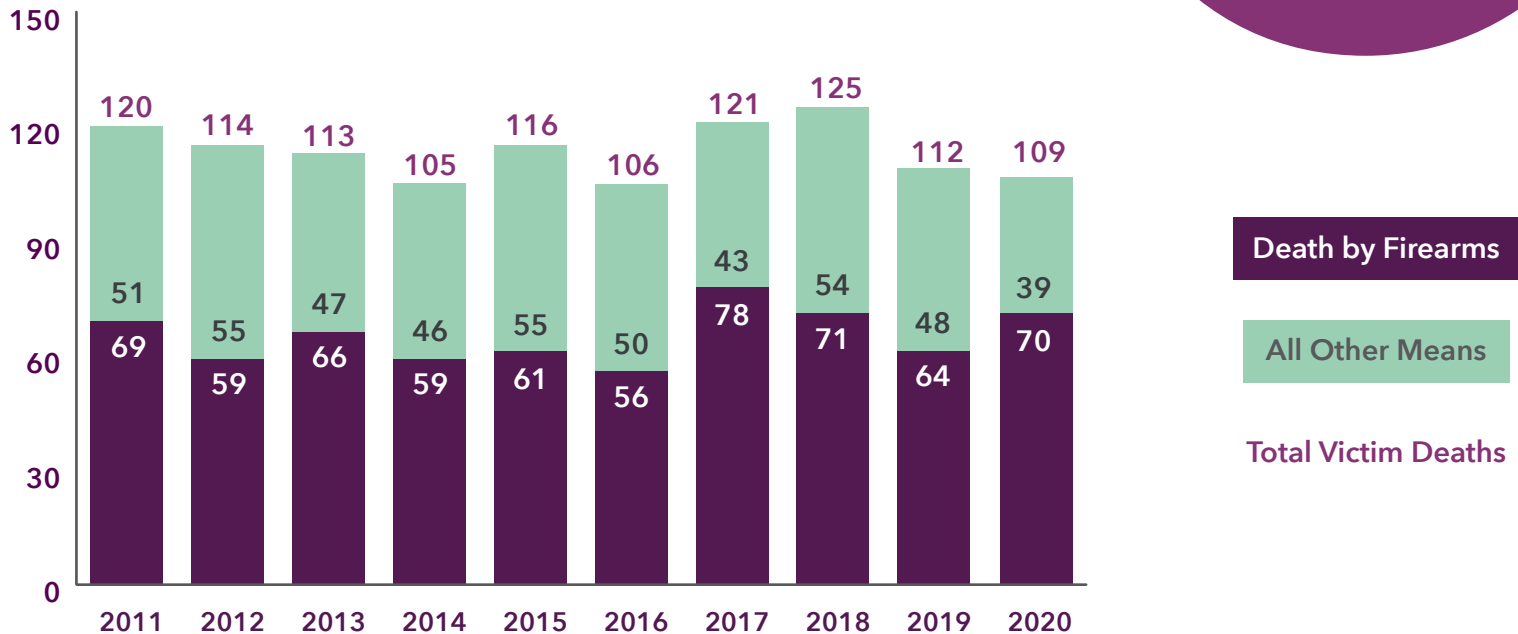
HOW THEY WERE KILLED

VICTIM CAUSES OF DEATH

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



VICTIM DEATHS BY FIREARMS



WHO ARE THE PERPETRATORS

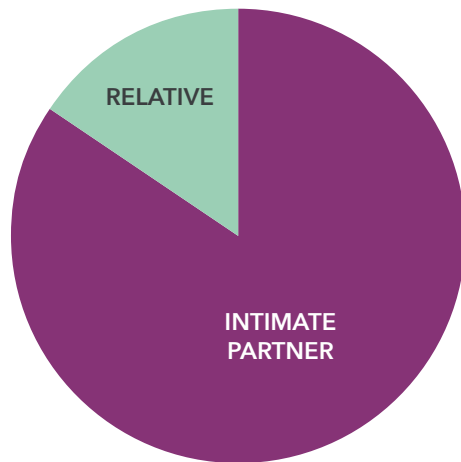
PERPETRATOR GENDER

16 FEMALE

89 MALE

VICTIM RELATIONSHIP TO PERPETRATOR

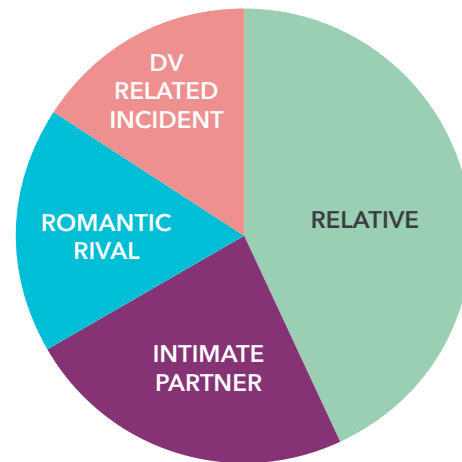
FEMALE VICTIMS



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**

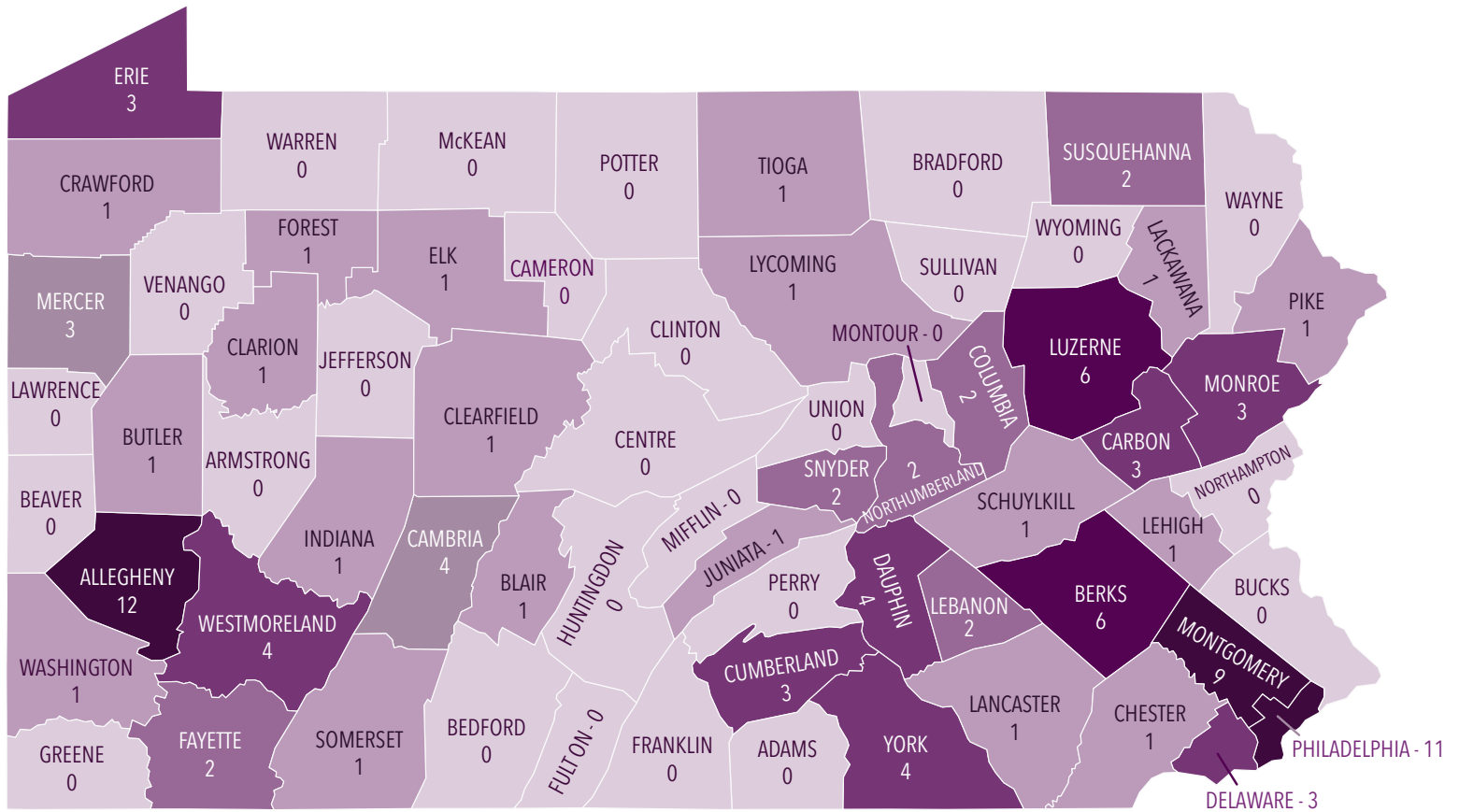
22 Males killed by a **relative**

9 Males killed by a **romantic rival**

8 Males killed in domestic violence related incidents

VICTIM FATALITIES BY COUNTY

In 2020, 109 victims lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania.



PCADV'S LETHALITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM



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.

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, 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 McCafferry
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.

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
Allegheny & Westmoreland Counties

AWARE
Mercer County

Blackburn Center
Westmoreland County

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

Center for Victims
Allegheny County

Centre Safe
Centre County

Community Action/Crossroads Project
Jefferson and Clearfield Counties

Congreso De Latinos Unidos
Philadelphia County

Crisis Center North
Allegheny County

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County
Lawrence County

Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County
Delaware County

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County
Chester County

Domestic Violence Intervention of Lebanon County
Lebanon County

Domestic Violence Service Center
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

Family Services/Domestic Abuse Project of Blair County
Blair County

HAVEN of Tioga County
Tioga County

HAVIN
Armstrong County

Huntingdon House
Huntingdon County

Laurel House
Montgomery County

Lutheran Settlement House
Philadelphia County

PPC Violence Free Network
Venango County

Roads to Peace/Clinton County Women's Center
Clinton County

SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone)
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

The Abuse Network
Mifflin and Juniata Counties

Transitions of PA
Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Victim Outreach Intervention Center
Butler County

Victims Resource Center
Wyoming County

Victims' Intervention Program
Wayne and Pike Counties

Women Against Abuse
Philadelphia County

Women In Need
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
Cambria and Somerset Counties

Women's Resource Center
Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties

Women's Resources of Monroe County
Monroe County

Women's Services
Crawford County

Your Safe Haven
Bedford County

YWCA Bradford Victims' Resource Center
McKean County

YWCA NorthCentral PA Wise Options
Lycoming County

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Violence Intervention & Prevention Services
Dauphin County

YWCA of Hanover/Safe Home
Adams 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.