



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FATALITY REPORT 20 23





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 doesn't 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.*



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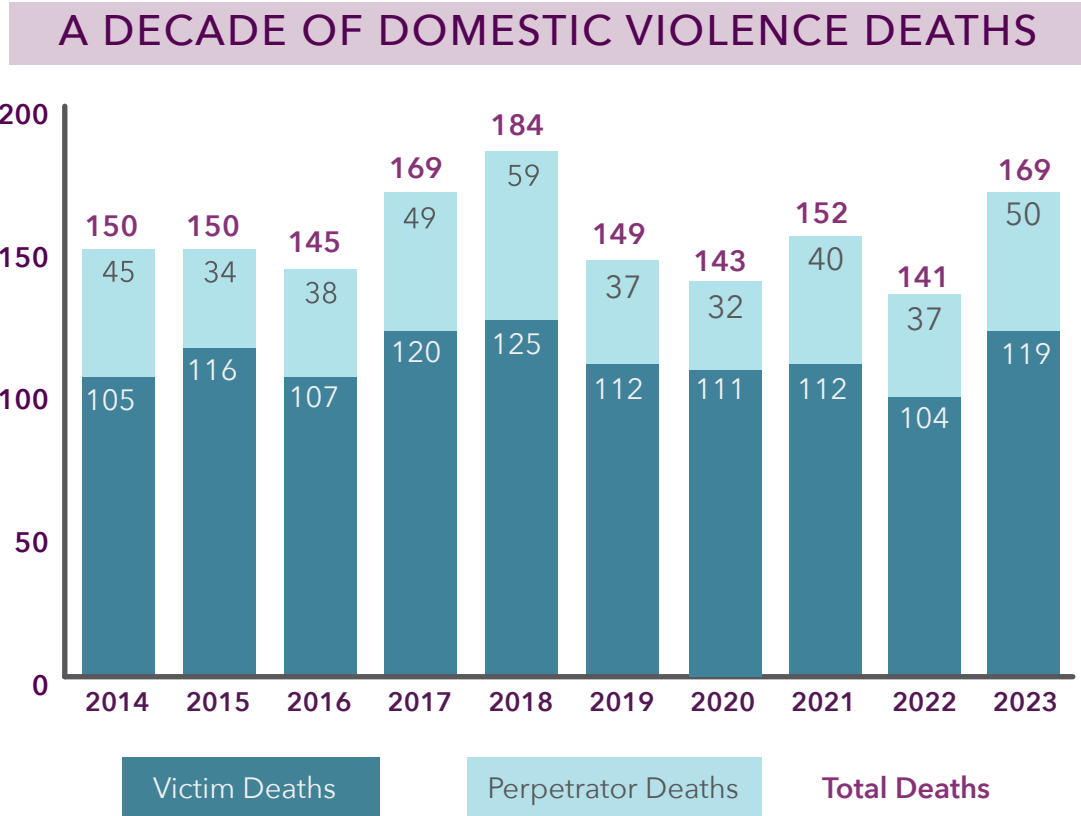
REPORT OVERVIEW

In the last ten years, more than 1,500 victims and perpetrators died in domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania.

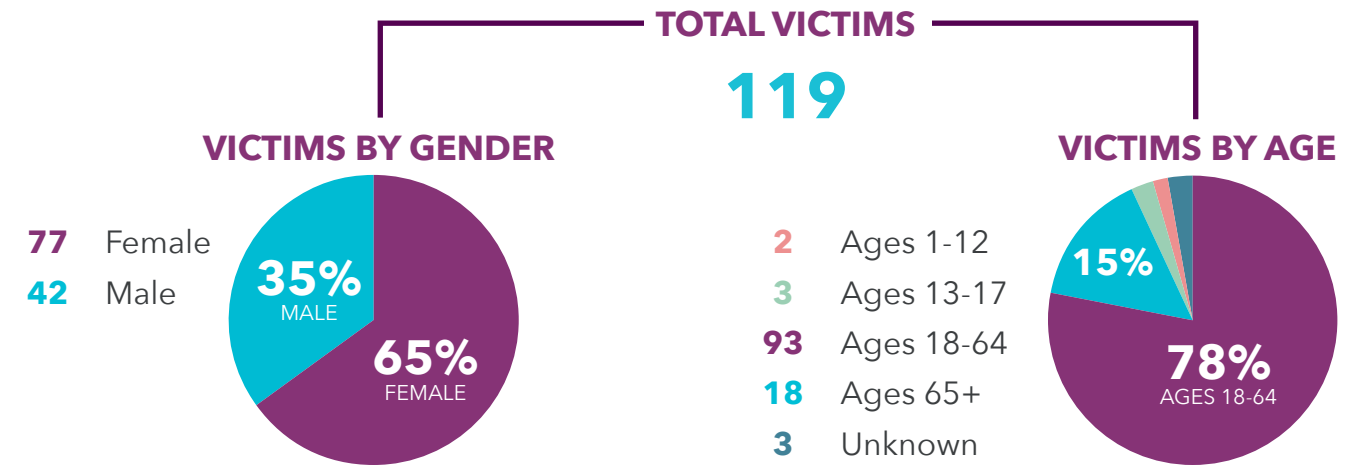
Those killed included women, children, and men of all ages, races, sexual orientations, and socio-economic groups.

In 2023, **119 victims** lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania. This number includes **77 females** and **42 males**.

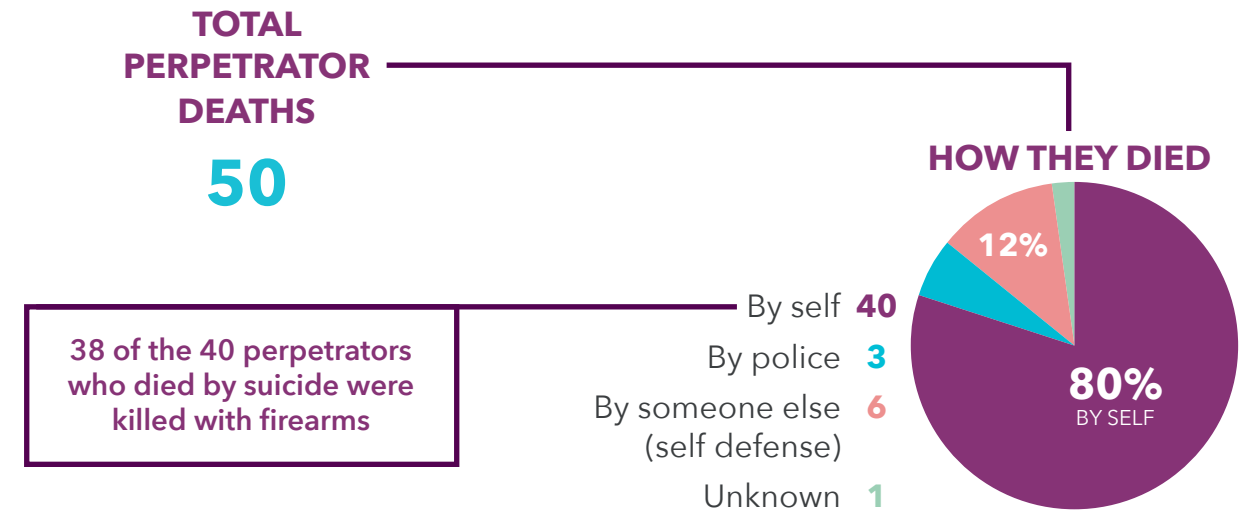
Additionally, there were **50 perpetrator** deaths.



2023 VICTIM DEATHS



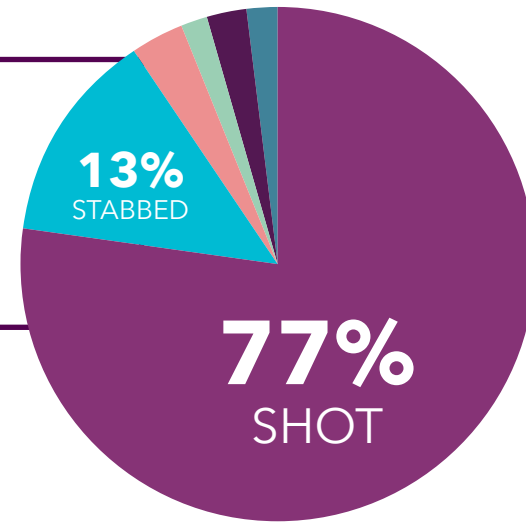
2023 PERPETRATOR DEATHS



HOW THEY WERE KILLED

VICTIM CAUSES OF DEATH

92 Shot	2 Strangled
16 Stabbed	3 Other
4 Beaten	2 Unknown



A Victim's Story

A 50-year-old woman stabbed and killed her 59-year-old husband before shooting and killing herself in their apartment. A third-party called 911 to report a violent domestic incident in which a man had been stabbed, and that the perpetrator—the victim's wife—was inside their residence with a gun. When police couldn't contact the victims SWAT was called in, but by the time they were able to enter the residence, both the victim and the perpetrator were deceased. The victim was a well-respected professor of theology, teaching classes in religious pluralism, freedom of religion, and inter-religious dialogue. He is remembered by students and colleagues as a genuinely sweet, kind-hearted person who truly cared about others.

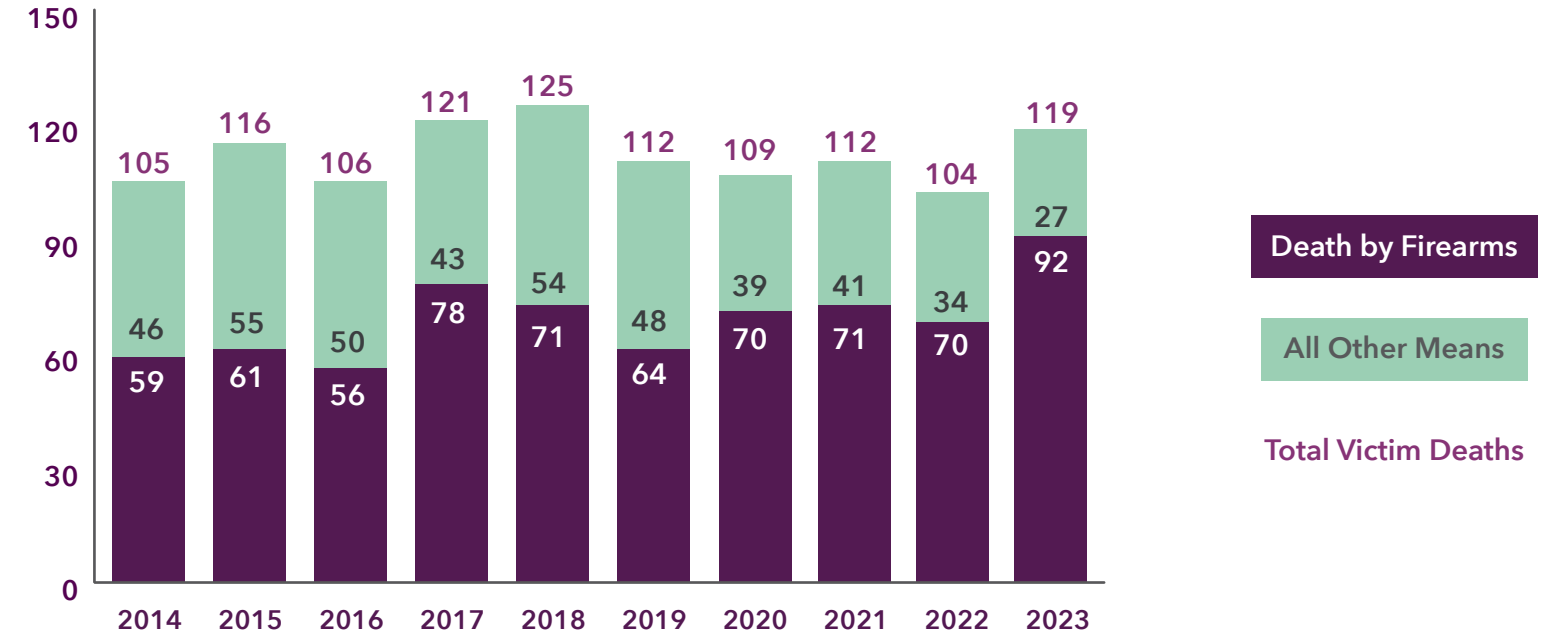
A Victim's Story

A 17-year-old killed his 16-year-old ex girlfriend and her 39-year-old mother. Both victims were stabbed; the 16-year-old victims was also strangled. The couple had broken up about a month before, and the perpetrator was already being investigated for claims of abuse and threats made against his ex-girlfriend. He had recently learned that his ex-girlfriend was in a new relationship. The day of the attacks the 16-year-old victim texted a friend saying that her ex-boyfriend was coming over, and then later texted that he refused to leave their house. After the murders, the perpetrator crashed his mother's car, seriously injuring a 14-year-old female passenger that was in the car with him. The 39-year-old victim is fondly remembered by loved-ones as having a passion for singing and dancing. Her passion for dance was shared by her daughter, who has only a junior in high school.

A Victim's Story

A 60-year-old man shot and killed his 55-year-old wife, before turning the gun on himself. Her husband had repeatedly threatened over the years that he would shoot her and her dog, then transitioned to threatening that "he was going to the gun cabinet." The victim had moved out of the home in May, when she was granted a temporary protection from abuse order. As part of that order, her husband was required to relinquish his firearms to their local sheriff. A few weeks later, the victim's request for a permanent protection from abuse order was denied, allowing her husband access to his firearms again and to even buy a new handgun—the one he would go on to use to shoot and kill the victim when she pulled into his driveway to pick up their 15-year-old son. The victim's family was upset that her permanent PFA was denied, saying "If people considering murder can't immediately access a gun, tomorrow they may feel different. And maybe you save a life." The victim is remembered fondly by family, friends, neighbors, and the people she impacted in her work helping people with disabilities find and maintain jobs. Many noted her exquisite home garden and how she beautified her office and her friend's homes with a stream of gifted homegrown flowers. She shared tomato plants and vegetables, and made cookies, whoopie pies and homemade vanilla extract to give to friends.

VICTIM DEATHS BY FIREARMS



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 programs.

Since its implementation a decade ago, more than 43,000 LAP screens have been conducted in Pennsylvania by law enforcement. As a result, nearly 19,000 victims have sought services from LAP-participating domestic violence programs.



43,318
LAP
Screens



18,896
Victims
Accessed Services

HOMICIDE DASHBOARD

In partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and made possible by STOP Grant 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](https://www.pcadv.org/resources/fatalities)



A Victim's Story

A 45-year-old man shot and killed his 37-year-old wife, before turning the gun on himself. Their 19-year-old son was a witness and was the one who called 911 after the shootings. The wife had a protection from abuse order against her husband. The victim's son said that she was a kind, hardworking woman who did not deserve to die like this.

A Victim's Story

A 47-year-old man shot and killed his 8-year-old son and then himself inside their home. The victims were discovered by police during a wellness check after the victim's mother returned home and couldn't get inside

HONORING VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA (2023)

Allegheny County (13)

Tarae Washington
Jade Baker-Wright
Marinus Chijioke Iwchukwu
Megan Campbell
Lyla Campbell
India Wright Christian
Rosemary Washington
Richard Coward
Misty Lake
Sheldon Zevola
Antoine Lee Williams, Jr.
Kristen B. Smith, Jr.
Luis Mayahua Soto

Armstrong County (1)

Alesha Kirkwood Johns

Beaver County (3)

Vincent Ciccone
Mary Lihosit
Delores Selby

Berks County (5)

Richardson Riveria-Lugo
Winifred Boakye
Librad A. Reyes De Peralta
Ellis C. Garman, Sr.
Tomas Medina, Sr.

Blair County (1)

Brooke Nia Zimmerman Raia

Bradford County (1)

Fay Ann Pedro

Bucks County (4)

Carol Clark
Faisal Iqbal
Fabian Rozario
Joan Alpaugh

Butler County (4)

Anthony Dwayne Smith
Tyler J. Whitlatch
Jacob Christian Smith
Jenna Christine Smith

Cambria County (2)

Kandace L. Mervin
Emerald Nugent, Jr.

Columbia County (1)

Bonnie Lou Cospier

Cumberland County (1)

Carolyn Eash

Dauphin County (1)

Marshall Vujasinovich

Delaware County (6)

Tameisha James
Anthony Bryd
Zieneb Sayed
James Ford
Matthew Wilcox
Maurice Parker

Erie County (5)

Rani Rai
Deborah Walker
Janikqua Anderson
Treavon Hopkins
Autumn Christine Bassham

Fayette County (2)

Tiffany Raymer
Franyerlys Nicold
Zambrano Briceno

Jefferson County (1)

Trisha Renee Cole

Lackawanna County (1)

Danielle Barbuti

Lancaster County (6)

Lois Gift
Mary Sigman
Anthony Serrano
Angelica Morales Damarts
Aiden Kimmet
Elliot Corbin

Lawrence County (2)

Krista Knechtel
Brandi Genova

Lebanon County (2)

Jenny Hilario-Veras
Teresa Sanchez De-Sena

Lehigh County (1)

Patricia White

Luzerne County (7)

Jessica Romano
Wilbert Smalls
Carla Pina
Brian Edwards
Kevin Kilpatrick
Anne Marie Murphy
Lastarr Williams

Lycoming County (1)

John Roskowski

Monroe County (2)

Deborah Oliver
Leilani Greaves Ramos

Montgomery County (10)

Miriam "Tonee" Beck
Reid Beck
Margaret Seltmann
Rachel King
Wesley Smith
Derek Mayo
Florence Brown
Adam Deshong
Wanda Deshong
Symphony Chendaya Ty Yin Blue

Northampton County (3)

Shante Mason
Rianna Lynn Glass
Rosalyn Siobal Glass

Northumberland County (1)

Eliud Marrero-Morales

Philadelphia County (15)

Cesar Santos
Rosaida Sostre Firgueroa
Christopher Crump
Sabrinna Shontaya Stanley
Rima Ablyamitova
Michael R. Houston
Katie Dales
Margaux Leuzzi-Messina
Fengjiao Lin

Jane Doe
Gregory Doran
Denise Snead-Doran
Nina O'Brien
Richard Respes
Tatiana Vargas

Schuylkill County (2)

Lisa Mae Long
Renee Bentley

Tioga County (1)

Layanah Griffin

Union County (1)

Tharifah Wenrich

Venango County (1)

April Michelle Dunkle

Westmoreland County (2)

Brianna Lartz
Alice Robson

York County (10)

Deborah Daub
James Daub
Grace Kinard
Alexander Thomas
Lourdes Ramos Baez
Brenda Bowersox
April Rehbein
Megan Saunders
Guadalupe Morales
Dylan Arvizu

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 and Westmoreland Counties

ARISE
Lawrence County

AWARE
Mercer County

Blackburn Center
Westmoreland County

CAPSEA
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

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

SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone)
Clarion County

Safe Berks
Berks County

Safe Journey
Erie County

Safe Monroe
Monroe County

SafeNet
Erie County

Schuylkill Hope Center
Schuylkill County

Sullivan County Victim Services
Sullivan County

The Abuse Network
Mifflin and Juniata Counties

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

Transitions of PA
Union, Snyder, and Northumberland Counties

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Victim Outreach Intervention Center
Butler County

Victim Services Inc.
Cambria and Somerset Counties

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

Women's Center of Montgomery County
Montgomery County

Women's Resource Center
Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties

Women's Services
Crawford County

Your Safe Haven
Bedford County

YWCA Bradford/McKean Victims' Resource Center
McKean County

YWCA Hanover/Safe Home
Adams County

YWCA North Central PA Wise Options
Lycoming County

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg Violence Intervention & Prevention Services
Dauphin County

YWCA York/ACCESS
York County



National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1.800.799.7233
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.