

HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS

FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2017



Texas Council On
FAMILY VIOLENCE



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Join TCFV in our efforts to GO PURPLE.

Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatalities in 2017. Purple counties experienced no fatalities during that time.

ONE IN EVERY 10 HOMICIDES IN TEXAS is perpetrated by a man killing his former or current female intimate partner.

For 38 years, the Texas Council on Family Violence has identified women killed by male intimate partners to both honor their memories and raise awareness. During that time, more than 100 women have lost their lives each year. These statistics represent women remembered for their lives, not the lives of the men who killed them.

136 women were killed by a male intimate partner in 42 Texas counties in 2017.

| County | Fatalities |
|----------------|------------|
| Brewster | 2 |
| Cherokee | 2 |
| Comal | 3 |
| DeSoto | 1 |
| Denton | 1 |
| Dove | 1 |
| El Paso | 1 |
| Ellis | 1 |
| Erath | 1 |
| Falls | 1 |
| Ford | 1 |
| Gaines | 1 |
| Gillespie | 1 |
| Harris | 1 |
| Hemphill | 1 |
| Hidalgo | 1 |
| Hunt | 1 |
| Jefferson | 1 |
| Johnson | 1 |
| Kaufman | 1 |
| Kendall | 1 |
| Kerr | 1 |
| Knox | 1 |
| Lambert | 1 |
| Lavaca | 1 |
| Leake | 1 |
| Leon | 1 |
| Liberty | 1 |
| Lipscomb | 1 |
| Llano | 1 |
| Martinez | 1 |
| Mason | 1 |
| McCombs | 1 |
| McDowell | 1 |
| McKenney | 1 |
| Medina | 1 |
| Mitchell | 1 |
| Monroe | 1 |
| Morris | 1 |
| Murray | 1 |
| Nacogdoches | 1 |
| Nolan | 1 |
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| Panola | 1 |
| Parker | 1 |
| Pecos | 1 |
| Powell | 1 |
| Presidio | 1 |
| Rockwall | 1 |
| Rocky Mountain | 1 |
| Sandoval | 1 |
| Schleicher | 1 |
| Sevier | 1 |
| Shelby | 1 |
| Smith | 1 |
| Sutton | 1 |
| Tarrant | 1 |
| Texas | 1 |
| Throckmorton | 1 |
| Tombs | 1 |
| Travis | 1 |
| Van Buren | 1 |
| Van Housen | 1 |
| Ward | 1 |
| Webb | 1 |
| Wheeler | 1 |
| Willamette | 1 |
| Willis | 1 |
| Wink | 1 |
| Wise | 1 |
| Woods | 1 |
| Wright | 1 |
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| Ellis | 1 |
| Erath | 1 |
| Fisher | 1 |
| Franklin | 1 |
| Gaines | 1 |
| Gillespie | 1 |
| Gray | 1 |
| Harris | 1 |
| Haskell | 1 |
| Hemphill | 1 |
| Hood | 1 |
| Hutchinson | 1 |
| Jefferson | 1 |
| Johnson | 1 |
| Karnes | 1 |
| Kaufman | 1 |
| Kendall | 1 |
| Kerr | 1 |
| Kimble | 1 |
| Knox | 1 |
| Koehn | 1 |
| Kroger | 1 |
| Lamb | 1 |
| Lamar | 1 |
| LaSalle | 1 |
| Lavaca | 1 |
| Leake | 1 |
| Leon | 1 |
| Liberty | 1 |
| Lipscomb | 1 |
| Lubbock | 1 |
| Madison | 1 |
| Marathon | 1 |
| Martinez | 1 |
| Mason | 1 |
| Matagorda | 1 |
| Maverick | 1 |
| McBride | 1 |
| McCombs | 1 |
| McCurry | 1 |
| McIntosh | 1 |
| Medina | 1 |
| Mitchell | 1 |
| Monroe | 1 |
| Morris | 1 |
| Motley | 1 |
| Mulford | 1 |
| Murray | 1 |
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| Nolan | 1 |
| Onitza | 1 |
| Orange | 1 |
| Panola | 1 |
| Parker | 1 |
| Pecos | 1 |
| Perry | 1 |
| Powell | 1 |
| Presidio | 1 |
| Randall | 1 |
| Rea | 1 |
| Real | 1 |
| Reeves | 1 |
| Reynolds | 1 |
| Rice | 1 |
| Rockwall | 1 |
| Rocky Mountain | 1 |
| Rusk | 1 |
| Sabine | 1 |
| Sandoval | 1 |
| Schleicher | 1 |
| Sevier | 1 |
| Shackelford | 1 |
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| Tomlinson | 1 |
| Travis | 1 |
| Van Housen | 1 |
| Van Zandt | 1 |
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| Whitaker | 1 |
| Wichita | 1 |
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| Willbarger | 1 |
| Willcox | 1 |
| Willott | 1 |
| Wink | 1 |
| Wise | 1 |
| Wood | 1 |
| Woodson | 1 |
| Wright | 1 |
| Yamhill | 1 |
| Yates | 1 |
| Zavala | 1 |
| Ziegl | 1 |

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| Rea | 1 |
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| Reeves | 1 |
| Reynolds | 1 |
| Rice | 1 |
| Rockwall | 1 |
| Rocky Mountain | 1 |
| Rusk | 1 |
| Sabine | 1 |
| Sandoval | 1 |
| Schleicher | 1 |
| Sevier | 1 |
| Shackelford | 1 |
| Shelby | 1 |
| Smith | 1 |
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| Tierra Blanca | 1 |
| Tomlinson | 1 |
| Travis | 1 |
| Van Buren | 1 |
| Van Housen | 1 |
| Van Zandt | 1 |
| Victoria | 1 |
| Wade | 1 |
| Waller | 1 |
| Ward | 1 |
| Washington | 1 |
| Webb | 1 |
| Wheeler | 1 |
| Whitaker | 1 |
| Wichita | 1 |
| Wilbarger | 1 |
| Willamette | 1 |
| Willis | 1 |
| Wink | 1 |
| Wise | 1 |
| Wood | 1 |
| Woodson | 1 |
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| Seminole | 1 |
| Sherman | 1 |
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| Van Housen | 1 |
| Ward | 1 |
| Webb | 1 |
| Wheeler | 1 |
| Willamette | 1 |
| Willis | 1 |
| Wink | 1 |
| Wise | 1 |
| Wortham | 1 |
| Wright | 1 |
| Yamhill | 1 |
| Yates | 1 |
| Zachary | 1 |

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| Zachary | 1 |

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FORWARD

Since 1978, the Texas Council on Family Violence has been regarded as the statewide expert, think tank and training entity to community based domestic violence agencies and intersecting systems. More specifically, for the last 38 years, TCFV has documented and analyzed the deaths of women by a male intimate partner. What began as a “Grim Talley” so many years ago of women killed has now evolved to a robust analysis of *Honoring Texas Victims Report* with strong recommendations to spark change in policy, practice, and training.

As we enter our 40th year in this work and present the findings of this report, we must acknowledge severe events which occurred in a 12-month period which also overlaps with this Report’s timeline and its publication. We would be remiss in our responsibility in not elevating awareness, the consequences, and impact of these significant events—three mass shootings.

At no other time in history, has Texas experienced three mass shootings, let alone, with a direct connection to domestic and dating violence. The state and nation reeled from these events that gave us an all-too-close look at the far reach and devastation of domestic and dating violence.

Sunday September 10, 2017, in Plano, Meredith Hight hosted several friends at her home to watch a football game. She had filed for divorce in July. Meredith, 27, and seven friends were killed; her husband killed by police who responded. We capture Meredith’s death and those of Rion Morgan, 31, Tony Cross, 33, Olivia Deffner, 24, James Dunlop, 29, Darryl Hawkins, 22, Myah Bass, 28, and Caleb Edwards, 25. We noted all victims were under the age of 34. We were convinced this event was an anomaly.



Gloria Aguilera Terry
CEO OF TEXAS COUNCIL
ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Sunday, November 5, 2017 in the small, rural community of Sutherland Springs at the First Baptist church, 26 people were killed and an additional 20 injured. This small community was devastated by the brutality of a known domestic violence offender determined to hurt his former wife and her mother. And we learned of inadequate and deficient systems to keep firearms from a prohibited possessor. The victims ranged in age from an unborn child to 77-year-old grandmother. The community lost Annabelle Pomeroy, 14, Keith Allen Braden, 62, Robert and Shani Corrigan, both 51, Dennis and Sara Johnson, 77 and 68, Haley Krueger, 16, Robert and Karen Marshall, both 56, Tara McNulty, 33, Ricardo and Therese Rodriguez, 64 and 66, Joann Ward, 30 and her two daughters Brooke, 5, and Emily, 7, Peggy Lynn Warden, 56, and Lula Woicinski White, 71. The Holcomb family lost nine family members: Bryan, 60, wife Karla, 58, Danny, 36, and his daughter, 1, Crystal, 36 and her four children, Megan, 9, Emily, 11, Greg, 13 and unborn child. Unfortunately, our report does not include any of the victims, as this report centers on the deaths of women killed by their current or former intimate partner.

Friday, May 18, 2018, in the rural suburban community of Santa Fe, Texas, 10 people were killed, eight students and two teachers; another thirteen injured. One of the victims killed, Shana Fisher, 16, had fended the shooter’s unwanted advances for months. Her mother believes the incident embarrassed him so much he targeted Shana. She and the other victims, Jared Conrad Black, 17, Christian Riley Garcia, 15, Aaron Kyle McLeod, 15, Angelique Ramirez, 15, Sabika Sheikh, 17, Christopher Stone, 17, Kimberly Vaughn, 14, Glenda Ann Perkins, 64, and Cynthia Tinsdale, 63 are also not included in this report as this tragedy occurred in 2018. Shana was not in a consensual dating relationship to the shooter.

Of intentional note, the names of the shooters are not found here. These three mass shootings underscored that our homes, our schools and even our places of worship are not safe from domestic and dating violence. The Texas Council on Family Violence is known for lifting the voices of survivors through the agencies that serve them. In this forward, we pay honor to the victims listed here, whose voices will live in perpetuity propelling us in our commitment to create a safer Texas.

Gloria Aguilera Terry

IDENTIFYING TRENDS TO INFORM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RESPONSES

Intimate partner homicides in Texas tracked annually in this report are part of a global epidemic of violence against women. Recent data released by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report an average of 137 women across the world are killed every day by an intimate partner or family member.¹ In 2017, a woman in Texas was killed every 2.5 days, contributing 136 deaths to the worldwide total. The UNODC report determined that 34% of female homicide victims are killed by an intimate partner;² previous estimates by the World Health Organization project that 38% of women are killed by an intimate partner.³ These trends are reflected in Texas, where 39% of women killed in 2017 died at the hands of their current or former male intimate partner.

In 2017, law enforcement officers in Texas responded to 195,315 incidents of family violence; approximately 40% of these incidents were intimate partner violence. Women and girls comprised 72% of victims of family violence. Fourteen percent of family violence assaults (28,125) were classified as aggravated assault, typically involving the use of weapons, strangulation, or more serious injurious assaults. Four percent of assaults against law enforcement officers (180) occurred while responding to family violence calls.⁴

In the United States, rates of women killed by men have dropped from 1.57 per 100,000 women in 1996 to 1.20 per 100,000 women in 2016, as tracked by the Violence Policy Institute in their annual reports *When Men Murder Women*.⁵

Risk Across Lifespan: Age of Victims

The ages of women killed by their intimate partners in 2017 range from the youngest teen victim, Tristan Dilley, 14, shot and killed by her boyfriend, Paul Adams, 19, in her home in Jasper County to the oldest victim, Ella Brown, 84, shot and killed by her husband, James Brown, 90, in her home in Fort Bend County. Across women's lifespan, intimate partner violence poses a grave threat.

Women between the ages of 20-29 (33) and 30-39 (33) represent the highest number of victims year after year. The number of homicides in each age group increases for women between the ages of 25-34 in particular. Women in this age range represent about 14% of the female population in the state, but 30% of women killed in 2017; victims included 22 women between the ages of 25-29 and 20 women between the ages of 30-34. As noted in prior *Honoring Texas Victims* reports, women in their mid-twenties and early thirties generally represent the largest group of women seeking help from family violence services and seeking legal remedies to end relationships.⁶ Women ages 25-34 represented 30% of women seeking a divorce in Texas in 2015, the most recent year statistics are available;⁷ women ages 25-36 represented 41.1% of the Texas contacts to the National Domestic

1 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], *Global Study on Homicide: Gender-related Killing of Women and Girls* (Nov. 25, 2018).

2 *Id.*

3 World Health Organization, *Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-Partner Sexual Violence* (June 20, 2013).

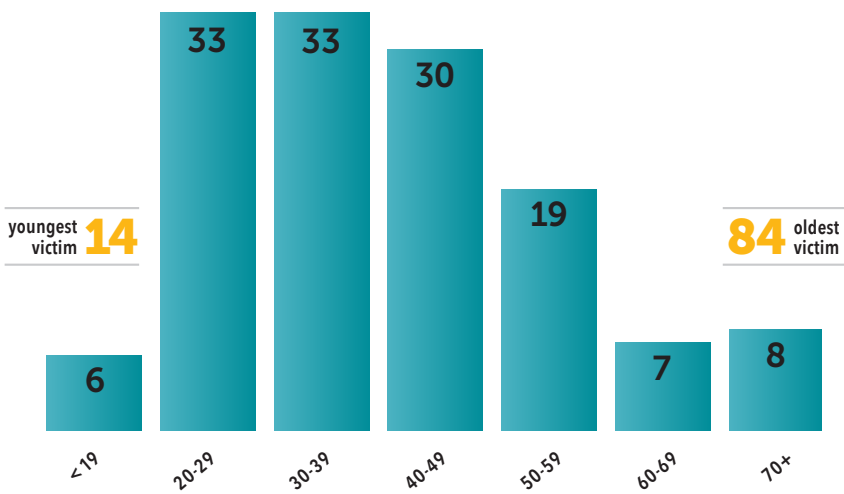
4 Texas Department of Public Safety, 2017 Crime in Texas, Family Violence, available at: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/crimereports/17/citCh5.pdf> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

5 Violence Policy Center, *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2016 Homicide Data* (Sep. 2018), available at: <http://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2018.pdf> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

6 Texas Council on Family Violence, *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2016* (2017), available at: <http://tcfv.org/resource-center/honoring-texas-victims/> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

7 Texas Council on Family Violence, *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2015* (2016), available at: <http://tcfv.org/resource-center/honoring-texas-victims/> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

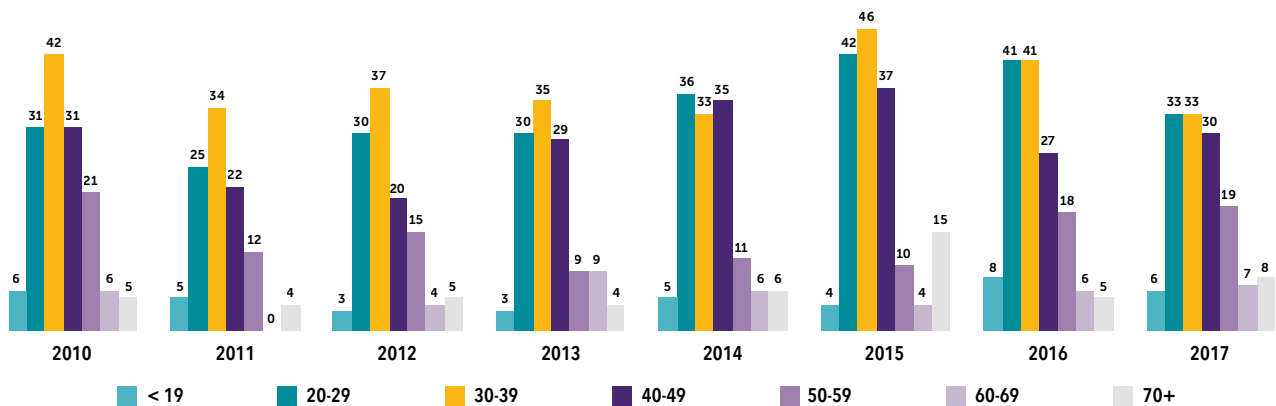
VICTIM AGE: 2017



Women between the ages of 20-39 made up 49% of victims.

The trends of rising numbers of fatalities in later stages of life continue. The number of victims ages 50-59 (19) exceeded the high level of women killed in this age bracket in 2016 (18), while the number of women killed between ages 60-69 (7) increased from 2016 (6) and reached the highest level since 2013 (9). The number of women killed over the age of 70 reached the second highest level in recent years.

COMPARISON OF VICTIM AGE CATEGORIES: 2010-2017



Investing in Forward Thinking Approaches:

Family Violence Service Providers Partner with Colleges and Universities

TCFV analyzes data on the ages of victims and perpetrators to identify interventions and opportunities for and by specific age. As an example, in a prior edition of *Honoring Texas Victims*, recognizing that women in child-bearing ages were particularly statistically present, we identified health care providers, family physicians, and OB/GYN as

8 National Domestic Violence Hotline, *Texas State Report* (2016), and National Dating Abuse Helpline, *Love is Respect, Texas State Report* (2016), available at <http://tcfv.org/resource-center/learn-the-facts/> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018)

uniquely positioned as early interveners when appropriately equipped and trained. Our analysis materialized in a legislatively mandated task force to further build an intervention approach.

This edition we focus on opportunities to bolster safety for college-age women. In 2017, four tragic incidents reinforced the importance of engaging colleges and universities in our communities' responses to domestic violence. Cayley Mandadi was beaten, sexually assaulted, and killed by her boyfriend in Schertz. Zuzu Verk was assaulted and killed by her boyfriend in Alpine, and Molly Matheson was strangled, sexually assaulted, and killed by her former dating acquaintance in Fort Worth. Janeera Gonzalez was shot and killed by a man who had stalked and pursued a dating relationship with her. Each woman was an active student at her local college or university, and the abuse and violence impacted the campuses directly.

Local family violence service providers are keenly aware of the risks and challenges college-age women experience within their communities. Educational institutions can engage these programs for expertise, service provision, education, and resources as communities come together to support young women experiencing intimate partner violence. Two local family violence service providers have had unique success in building partnerships with colleges and universities: Family Crisis Center of East Texas and Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter.

The Family Crisis Center of East Texas partners with Angelina College and Stephen F. Austin State University (SFA). The Family Crisis Center began its partnership with SFA in 2014 and currently provides a university-based advocate on campus 45 hours a week. The university advocate provides fundamental advocacy services to students and serves as an on-call advocate for the University Police Department. Similarly, the Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Shelter has developed strong partnerships with Texas Lutheran University. An advocate provides support services and outreach education on campus one day a week. Both programs participate in university-based coordinated community response teams, which are comprised of victim services agencies, law enforcement, prevention services, and student conduct offices.

Both universities received an Office on Violence Against Women Campus Program grant that specifically requires "the university to create effective, comprehensive responses to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence and stalking. This comprehensive approach includes both prevention and intervention and requires a multi-faceted, coordinated effort that engages key stakeholders from the surrounding community and throughout the campus."¹⁰ Each family violence service provider reports that while they had strong relationships with their local universities prior to the grant award, the funding awards have furthered their partnerships and made them more collaborative and sustainable.

As part of the collaborations, the family violence service providers offer programming to students, including trainings at new student orientations for all incoming students and awareness month events throughout the year. Guadalupe Valley Family Violence Services participates in a "Don't Cancel Class" initiative, which provides professors the opportunity to schedule trainings and presentations with the family violence service providers, in lieu of canceling a class.

“Higher educational institutions recognize that sexual harassment, stalking, dating violence, and unwanted sexual contact deeply affect a student’s ability to learn, grow, thrive and achieve their educational goals while attending college.”⁹

9 The University of Texas System Academic Institutions, *Cultivating Learning and Safe Environments: An Empirical Study of Prevalence and Perceptions of Sexual Harassment, Stalking, Dating/Domestic Abuse and Violence, and Unwanted Sexual Contact* (Spring 2017), available at: <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/47196/clase-2017-academic-aggregate.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

10 OVW Campus Program Strategic Plan, *Strategic Plan: Texas Lutheran University* (Sep. 2017), available at: <http://faculty.tlu.edu/kquiros/OVW%20Strategic-Plan.pdf> (last visited: Dec. 10, 2018)

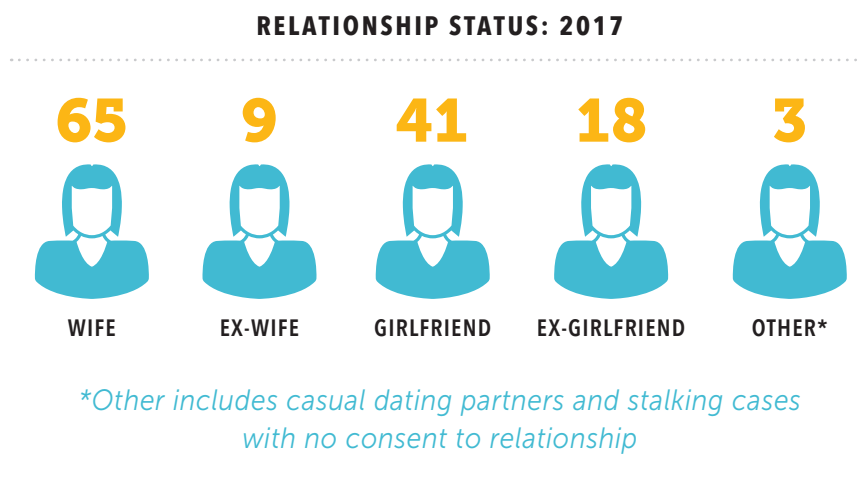
Universities that prioritize domestic violence and sexual assault prevention and intervention efforts can interrupt the impact of violence and abuse on students' ability to take full advantage of the opportunity college affords them. The efforts of these two universities exemplify the importance and potential of actively working in partnership with family violence services providers to support students within their campuses.

Victim Relationship to Perpetrator

The most common relationship between the victim and perpetrator was wife and husband (48%), which includes relationships categorized as common-law marriages, as well as married victims and perpetrators who separated prior to the homicides. Boyfriend and girlfriend relationships comprised 30% and former boyfriend-girlfriend relationships comprised 13% of cases. And while divorced couples comprise the smallest percentage of cases at 7%, it is noteworthy because of the length of time that it takes to legally dissolve a marriage, which requires survivors to remain in contact with abusive ex-partners for an extended time period. The relationship status in three cases were categorized as other: two cases involved casual dating partners, and one case included a victim of stalking who did not consent to a relationship with the perpetrator.

Leaving does not equal safety:

37% of women killed had made attempts or were planning to end their relationships.



In 29% of cases reviewed in 2017, violence in the relationship was a known issue; this includes all cases where relatives or friends reported knowing about the violence and cases where law enforcement had been involved. Thirty-seven percent of women killed in 2017 had made attempts to end their relationships or were in the process of ending the relationships when they were murdered.¹¹

In 2017, perpetrators killed 87 women who were mothers, resulting in 211 adults and minor children losing one or more parents. Of those who lost parents, at least 64% were children, teens, and young adults.¹² Two women were pregnant when they were killed.

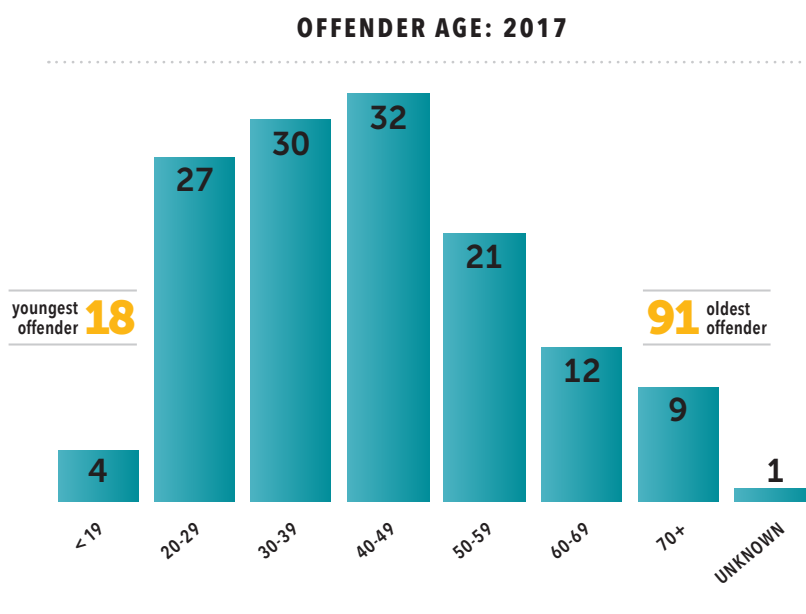
Survivors of family violence often make difficult decisions when balancing their safety concerns with needs to remain in contact with their abusive ex-partners. Custody exchanges and decision making around co-parenting frequently require ongoing contact. Sadly, perpetrators of family violence use these necessary contacts to maintain any measure of control, and there are often devastating outcomes. 2017 was no exception—Maria Carolina Alvarez Pantoja was killed in Kilgore after Juan Vazquez used child visitation to lure her to his home; Crystal Seratte McDowell was killed by her ex-husband Steve McDowell when she went to his home to pick up her children and evacuate in preparation for Hurricane Harvey.

11 This includes women who had reconciled after prior attempts to end their relationships.

12 Of those whose ages are known, 136 were children, teens, or young adults. Young adults refers to those within an age range that indicates likely dependent status.

A Look at Men Who Killed Their Partners

The youngest perpetrator of intimate partner homicide in 2017 was Cedarrius Blake, 18, who shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Tresten Gray in her vehicle in Lufkin. The oldest perpetrator was Byron Everts, 91, who shot and killed his wife Dulce in their home in Galveston. Offenders ages 40-49 (32) represent the most prevalent age group, followed by those ages 30-39, and then by those ages 20-29. The age of one perpetrator was not made publicly available.



Murder Suicide and Familicide

Seventy-six perpetrators (55%) have had involvement in the criminal justice system since committing the homicides. Fifty-six perpetrators (41%) committed suicide. Law enforcement officers killed three perpetrators.

76

CHARGED/CONVICTED

56

COMMITTED SUICIDE

3

KILLED BY POLICE

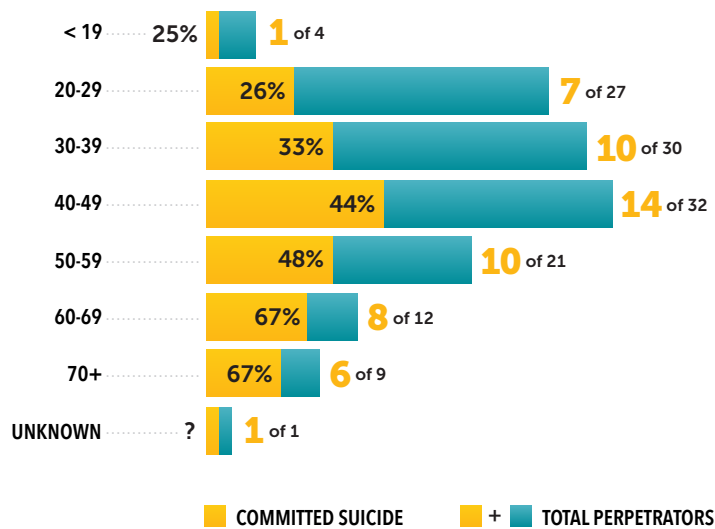
Fifty-six perpetrators committed suicide at the time they murdered their current or former intimate partners. Of those, eighty-eight percent (50) of perpetrators used a firearm to kill themselves; eighty-two percent (47) used a firearm to kill their current or former intimate partner. Use of a firearm is the leading cause of suicide in the United States, and rates of firearm suicide are higher in Texas.¹³

In this analysis, familicide describes incidents when the perpetrator kills his current or former intimate partner and one or more of the couple's children prior to committing suicide. In 2017, two perpetrators committed familicide. Christopher Weiss shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Valerie Martinez and their daughter Azariah, 1, in Waco. Jefferson Stovall shot and killed his wife Penny Stovall and their daughter Makenzie, 8, in their home in Navarro County.

Analysis demonstrates the incidence of a perpetrator committing suicide after killing an intimate partner increases with age. One perpetrator who was 19 (that is, 25% of the perpetrators under 20 years of age) committed suicide. Twenty-six percent of perpetrators between the ages of 20-29 committed suicide, and 33% of those between the ages of 30-39 committed suicide. The trend continues with 44% of perpetrators between the ages of 40-49 and 48% of perpetrators between the ages of 50-59, and it becomes more evident as incidence of suicide increases with 67% of perpetrators between the ages of 60-69 and over the age of 70 committing suicide.

¹³ Texas Health & Human Services, Department of State Health Services, *Texas Injury Data Brief, Suicide Trends and Characteristics, Texas vs. United States* (Aug. 2017), available at: [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/data/Suicide-Data-Brief-\(August-2017\).pdf](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/data/Suicide-Data-Brief-(August-2017).pdf) (last visited: Dec. 10, 2018).

SUICIDE PREVALENCE BY AGE: 2017



Since 2012, the prevalence of suicides among the general population in Texas has steadily increased from 12.0:100,000 to 12.9:100,000, following similar trends nationwide.¹⁴ In analysis of recent data, men in Texas were 3.4 times more likely than women to commit suicide.¹⁵ Among the general population in the state, people between the ages of 45-64 years represent the largest proportion of those who commit suicide.¹⁶

Risk Factors & Domestic Violence Offender Accountability

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 10% of victims of intimate partner violence homicides experienced some form of violence in the

month preceding the murders.¹⁷ These incidents offer opportunities for intervention to expand survivor safety. In 2017, 29% of perpetrators (40) had a known history of violence, though TCFV identified only 14 cases with known criminal justice system engagement prior to the homicides in 2017. Those include three perpetrators on probation at the time, one who received deferred adjudication, six offenders who were released on bond or had pending charges, and at least two victims with protective orders.

Perpetrators tend to pose the highest risk of lethal violence in the days, weeks, and months immediately following the ending of a relationship or being involved in a criminal justice system intervention.¹⁸ In the 2016 analysis, TCFV determined that, in cases where information was available about attempts to end relationships or make law enforcement reports, 62% of homicides occurred within two weeks of an attempt to end the relationship and 33% of homicides occurred within two weeks of law enforcement reports.¹⁹ These tragic outcomes repeated in 2017: Rubin Edwards threatened to kill Lindsey Baldonado the day before her murder; he was previously charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Rodrigo Rodriguez killed his girlfriend Ruby Rodriguez ten days after being released from jail on a family violence charge; he had a previous conviction for a family violence charge. It remains critical to understand each survivor's experience, as some perpetrators maintain their threatening and coercive behaviors indefinitely after the relationship ends and offer multiple opportunities for intervention. Ibeth

14 United Health Foundation, *America's Health Rankings, Suicide in Texas in 2017* (2018), available at: <https://www.america'shealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/Suicide/state/TX>, (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

15 *Id.*

16 Texas Health & Human Services, Department of State Health Services, *Texas Injury Data Brief, Suicide Trends and Characteristics, Texas vs. United States* (Aug. 2017), available at: [https://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/data/Suicide-Data-Brief-\(August-2017\).pdf](https://www.dshs.texas.gov/injury/data/Suicide-Data-Brief-(August-2017).pdf) (last visited: Dec. 10, 2018).

17 Emiko Petrosky et al., *Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence - United States, 2003-2014*, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (2017), available at: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6628a1.htm?s_cid=mm6628a1_w (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

18 Jacqueline Campbell et al., *Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study* (2003) American Journal of Public Health, available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1447915/> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

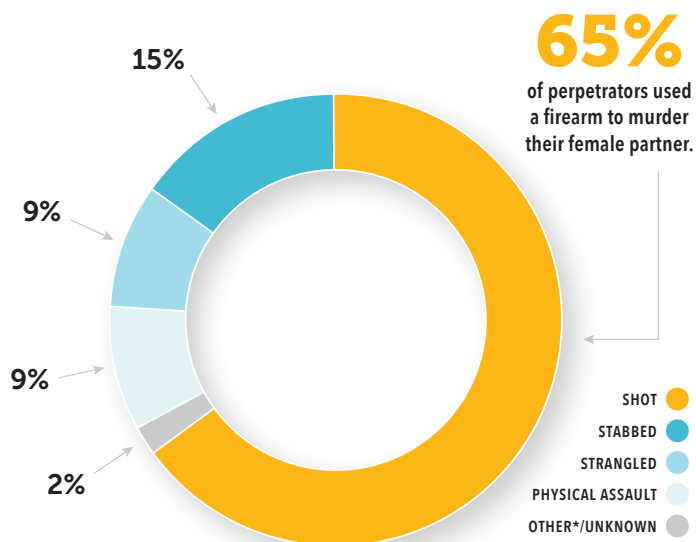
19 Texas Council on Family Violence, *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2016* (2017), available at: <http://tcfv.org/resource-center/honoring-texas-victims/> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

Aurora Lopez experienced repeated stalking and intimidation from her abusive ex-boyfriend, Charles Werchan, two years after she broke up with him. Even after Werchan attempted to kidnap Ibeth at church, he was able to evade any accountability and later murdered her.

Means of Death

In 2017, 88 perpetrators (65%) used firearms to kill their current or former intimate partners. Twenty-one perpetrators (15%) stabbed and killed their partners, 12 men (9%) strangled and killed their intimate partners, and 12 men (9%) used other means, including physical assault, arson, suffocation, and vehicular assault. The cause of death in three cases where the victims were missing for an extended time was not released.

MEANS OF DEATH: 2017



**Other includes arson, suffocation, and vehicular assault*

In 2017, eight victims were 70 or older; in five of these homicides, the perpetrators also killed themselves. Seven of the eight homicides were perpetrated with a firearm. Researchers estimate that approximately 33% of people over the age of 65 own a firearm and another 12% of those over 65 live with someone who owns a firearm.²⁰ Safety planning and risk assessments should include assessment of firearm access in elderly populations. Additionally, this continuing trend prompts questions examining the safety and resource needs of this population.

Firearms and Domestic Violence

Statistics show that abusers with access to firearms are more likely to kill their partners in domestic violence situations than those without access.²¹ The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of fatal intimate partner violence by 500%. Nationwide, a firearm is the weapon of choice in 53% of intimate partner femicides; however, in Texas, the proportion was 65% in 2017.²² Abusers choose firearms to intimidate and kill their partners more than all other means of force combined.

The brandishing of firearms against domestic violence survivors stems from a desire for intimidation and coercive control. "Hostile gun displays are often acts of domestic violence directed against women," according to Harvard

20 Marian E. Betz, Alexander D. McCourt, Jon S. Vernick, Megan L. Ranney, Donovan T. Maust, & Garen J. Wintemute, *Firearms and Dementia: Clinical Considerations* (July 3, 2018), *Annals of Internal Medicine*, available at: # (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

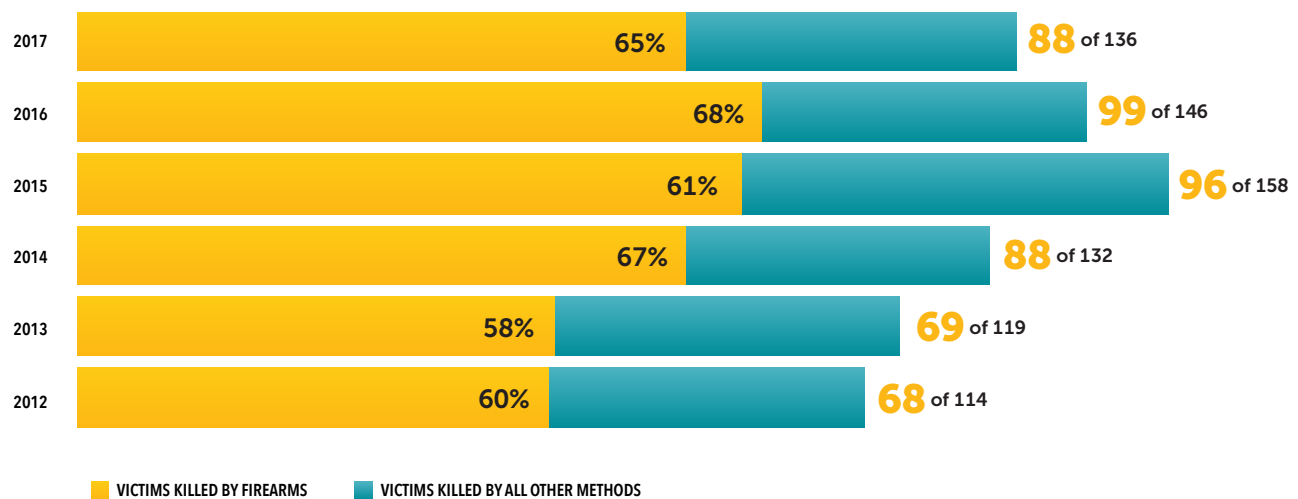
21 J.C. Campbell, S.W. Webster, J.Kozioł-McLain, et al., Risk factors for femicide within physically abuse intimate relationships: results from a multi-state case control study, 93 *Amer. J. of Public Health* 1089-97 (2003)

22 U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Supplementary Homicide Report*, 2011.

School of Public Health researchers, who note that “hostile gun displays against family members may be more common than gun use in self-defense.”²³ In a survey of domestic violence survivors, 22% reported that their partners had threatened to kill them, their family members, friends, or pets with a gun, with one in ten reporting a partner shooting a gun during an argument.²⁴

Gun violence tied to domestic violence also occurs outside of private homes. Research reveals that over half of recent mass shootings, defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as a shooting in which the perpetrator kills four or more people, involved intimate partners or other family members. In the United States, domestic violence offenders accounted for 54% of the perpetrators of mass shootings from 2009 to 2016.²⁵ In 18% of mass shootings, law enforcement officers had previously charged the perpetrator with domestic violence.²⁶ In *Honoring Texas Victims*, TCFV recorded four intimate partner homicides that fit the definition of a mass shooting since 2012.

FIREARM PREVALENCE BY YEAR



Sadly, the Sutherland Springs church shooting of November 5, 2017, where Devin Patrick Kelley killed 26 people and injured 20 others, propelled the intersection of domestic violence, firearms, and mass shootings into the national spotlight. Kelly targeted his mother-in-law in the attack and shattered a community and a nation.

Just two months earlier, on September 10, 2017, Spencer Hight entered his wife Meredith’s home in Plano as she hosted a gathering to watch a Dallas Cowboys game. Hight shot and killed Meredith and seven of her friends, wounding another guest. Hight had a history of domestic violence against Meredith. For her, this gathering of friends represented an attempt to begin a new chapter in her life after filing for divorce a month before.

These high-profile shootings shine a spotlight on gaps in the enforcement system of existing firearm laws that prohibit gun possession by domestic violence offenders. In an analysis of mass shootings between 2009 and

²³ Deborah Azrael and David Hemenway, In the Safety of Your Own Home: Results from a National Survey on Gun Use at Home,” *Social Science & Medicine* 50 (2000): 285-29

²⁴ National Domestic Violence Hotline, *Hotline Firearms Focus Survey* (2014), available at <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/firearms-dv/> (last visited December 27, 2018).

²⁵ Everytown for Gun Safety, *Mass Shootings in the United States 2009–2016* (Everytown for Gun Safety, 2016)

²⁶ *Id.*

2016, law enforcement officers had ordered 34% of the perpetrators to surrender their firearms or had placed other prohibitions on them.²⁷ Both Texas²⁸ and federal law²⁹ bar convicted domestic abusers from gun ownership, but without enforcement protocols in place and adequate criminal database information, authorities often have no means of disarming offenders, leaving many survivors and the community at a higher risk for fatalities.

In 2018, Texas Senator John Cornyn introduced and the President signed into law federal legislation to fix the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The bill's authors designed it to ensure accurate and complete background checks. Although this action is a positive step in tracking citizens prohibited from possessing firearms, local jurisdictions still need to implement surrender protocols and best practices to ensure adequate enforcement and decrease the risk of domestic violence fatalities.

Investing in Forward-Thinking Approaches: Addressing Firearms and Strangulation³⁰

Background checks and permit-to-purchase laws are necessary to prevent the purchase of firearms by prohibited individuals. Similarly, firearm surrender protocols are designed to ensure prohibited possessors relinquish weapons once they belong to a class of prohibited possessors. Surrender protocols informed, developed, and implemented at the local community level to enforce federal statutes can bolster overall community safety. For example, in Dallas County, the community developed and implemented a robust firearm surrender process in a public/private sector approach led by Judge Roberto Cañas. While other factors likely contributed, domestic violence homicides with a firearm in Dallas County decreased the last three years, as shown in each year's *Honoring Texas Victims* report from nine domestic violence homicides in 2015 to seven in 2016 to five in 2017.

An offender's use of strangulation as a form of abuse provides insight into the perpetrator's likelihood of later killing his/her partner. Although in 2017 strangulation was the means of homicide for nine percent of women killed in Texas, the use of strangulation can significantly predict an abuser's escalation toward lethal violence. In 43% of cases where an intimate partner later kills a woman, the perpetrator assaulted her by strangulation in the previous year. Survivors of strangulation are seven times more likely to be murdered by the same partner who hurt them.³¹

In 2009, the Texas legislature passed a law codifying strangulation and suffocation as a third-degree felony in cases of domestic violence, punishable from two to 10 years for the first offense and up to 20 years for those with a prior domestic violence conviction. Section 22.01 of the Texas Penal Code defines strangulation as a criminal offense "...committed by intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly impeding the normal breathing or circulation of the blood of the person by applying pressure to the person's throat or neck or by blocking the person's nose or mouth."

The increase in the penalty for strangulation changed the criminal justice system's prioritization of strangulation cases and aided the prosecution of offenders; however, gaps still exist in the training of first responders, identifying strangulation cases, gathering of forensic evidence, and addressing victims' critical health needs.

27 *Id.*

28 Texas Penal Code 25.07; Texas Penal Code 46.04 (O'Connor's Criminal Codes Plus, 2017–2018)

29 18 U.S.C. 922(G).

30 TCFV acknowledges with appreciation the contribution to this report by Kelsey McKay, President of RESPOND Against Violence and Founder of McKay Training & Consulting, LLC.

31 Nancy Glass et al., *Non-fatal Strangulation is an Important Risk Factor for Homicide of Women*, 35 *The Journal of Emergency Medicine* 329–335 (2008).

Training on the identification of strangulation is inconsistent across Texas. Many first responders receive little to no direction on how to identify and investigate strangulation cases. Consequently, they do not collect critical evidence at the scene and lose the opportunity for valuable documentation. An investment in training for first responders increases the efficacy of the investigation and saves detectives time tracking down a victim for a statement.

In addition to strangulation training for first responders, investment in a strangulation supplement to police reports increased disposition numbers in communities where officers receive guidance on use.³² Before implementation of a strangulation supplement in Austin, the Austin Police Department limited their investigation procedure to asking the victim “Could you breathe?” with no exploration of symptoms like dizziness, nausea, disorientation, changes in voice, or changes in vision or hearing. After the implementation of a strangulation supplement in 2013, the quality of evidence collection markedly increased. The number of filed strangulation cases related to domestic violence now ranges from 600 to 700 a year.³³

“The use of the strangulation form has become vital for these types of investigations,” says Detective Kimberly Orts of the Travis County Sheriff’s Office. “It allows even the most inexperienced officers to be thorough and teaches them to focus on symptoms beyond visible injury. Furthermore, victims of strangulation would not know to provide this information to law enforcement because they may not associate what they’ve experienced with the strangulation act itself.”

Complementing early identification and the use of a strangulation supplement, forensic exams by a medical professional bolster the quality of evidence collection and provide survivors a more thorough healthcare response. Access to a forensic nurse can increase the quality of evidence since the exam is performed in a less stressful setting than a crime scene. Additionally, the forensic exam setting allows nurses to focus primarily on patients’ health needs, in marked contrast to an interview at a crime scene.

A coordinated community response would best address the myriad needs of strangulation victims. Training, guidance and proper accountability can both lower the number of homicides and reduce the severity of short- and long-term health consequences for survivors.

Impact on Communities: County Data

Intimate partner homicides occurred in 42 Texas counties in 2017. Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, had 29 homicides, an increase from 28 in 2016. Bexar County, which includes the city of San Antonio, had 18 homicides in 2017, representing a troubling trend of increases each year since 2014. Tarrant County, which includes the cities of Fort Worth and Arlington, had 12 homicides in 2017, a decrease from 13 in 2016. Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas, had eight homicides in 2017, a decrease from 13 in 2016. Collin County, which includes the city of Plano, had seven homicides in 2017, an increase from six in 2016; Collin County has also experienced increases each year since 2014.

In 2017, 65% of homicides occurred in counties with populations of 500,000 or more. Among large urban counties, homicides decreased in Denton County, which includes the city of Denton, from 3 in 2016 to 1 in 2017, Montgomery County, which includes the city of Conroe, from 5 in 2016 to 1 in 2017, and Williamson County, which includes the city of Round Rock, from 1 in 2016 to 0 in 2017.³⁴ Counties with the highest per capita occurrence of family violence homicides in 2017 are: Bexar (1.8 homicides per 100,000 female residents),

32 The strangulation supplement is available by request at www.mckaytrainingandconsulting.com.

33 Information provided by Travis County District Attorney’s Office.

34 Any decrease in domestic violence homicides in a community is promising, though ongoing assessment is necessary to evaluate if these decreases represent a positive trend, and if so, what factors contribute to the sustained decrease.

followed by Collin and Fort Bend (1.3 homicides per 100,000 female residents), and Harris and Tarrant (1.2 homicides per 100,000 female residents).

The chart below includes all counties with populations over 500,000 where at least one family violence homicide occurred between 2012-2016, listed in alphabetical order.

| COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | AVERAGE PER YEAR | 2017 POPULATION ³⁵ | 2017 NO. OF DEATHS PER 100,000 FEMALE RESIDENTS |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| BEXAR | 18 | 11 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 1,958,578 | 1.8:100,000 |
| COLLIN | 7 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 969,603 | 1.3:100,000 |
| DALLAS | 8 | 13 | 13 | 10 | 20 | 9 | 12 | 2,618,148 | 0.6:100,000 |
| DENTON | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 836,210 | 0.2:100,000 |
| EL PASO | 2 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 840,410 | 0.4:100,000 |
| FORT BEND | 3 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 764,828 | 1.3:100,000 |
| HARRIS | 29 | 28 | 34 | 23 | 19 | 30 | 27 | 4,652,980 | 1.2:100,000 |
| HIDALGO | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 860,661 | 1.1:100,000 |
| MONTGOMERY | 1 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 570,934 | 0.3:100,000 |
| TARRANT | 12 | 13 | 6 | 10 | 11 | 6 | 10 | 2,054,475 | 1.2:100,000 |
| TRAVIS | 3 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1,226,698 | 0.5:100,000 |
| WILLIAMSON | 0 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 547,545 | 0:100,000 |

In 2017, 21% of homicides occurred in mid-sized counties with populations over 100,000 and less than 500,000. Four counties had three fatalities each: Cameron County, which includes the city of Brownsville (1.4 homicides per 100,000 female residents), McLennan County, which includes the city of Waco (2.4 homicides per 100,000 female residents), Ector County, which includes the city of Odessa (3.7 homicides per 100,000 female residents), and Gregg County, which includes the city of Longview (4.2 homicides per 100,000 female residents).

³⁵ U.S. Department of Commerce, *United States Census Bureau. Quick Facts: Texas* (2017 estimates), available at: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/TX> (last visited Nov. 30, 2018)

The chart below includes all counties with populations between 100,000 and 500,000 where at least one family violence homicide occurred between 2012 and 2017, listed in alphabetical order.

| COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 6 YEAR TOTAL | 2017 POPULATION ³⁶ |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| BELL | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 10 | 347,833 |
| BRAZORIA | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 362,457 |
| BRAZOS | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 222,830 |
| CAMERON | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 11 | 423,725 |
| COMAL | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 141,009 |
| ECTOR | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 157,087 |
| ELLIS | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 173,620 |
| GALVESTON | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 335,036 |
| GRAYSON | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 6 | 131,140 |
| GREGG | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 123,367 |
| GUADALUPE | 1 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 159,659 |
| HAYS | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 214,485 |
| JEFFERSON | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 10 | 256,299 |
| JOHNSON | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 167,301 |
| KAUFMAN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 122,883 |
| LUBBOCK | 2 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 305,225 |
| MCLENNAN | 3 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 251,259 |
| MIDLAND | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 165,049 |
| NUECES | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 361,221 |
| PARKER | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 133,463 |
| POTTER | 0 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 120,458 |
| RANDALL | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 134,442 |
| SMITH | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 227,727 |
| TAYLOR | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 136,290 |
| TOM GREEN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 118,019 |
| WEBB | 0 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 274,794 |
| WICHITA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 132,000 |

In 2017, 18 fatalities occurred in counties with populations of less than 100,000 residents. Among counties where fatalities occurred in 2017, Angelina and Victoria Counties have experienced the highest number of fatalities since 2012, with a fatality occurring in each county once in five of the last six years. In this category, the only county to experience multiple fatalities in 2017 is Willacy County, with a population of 21,584, where two fatalities occurred.

36 *Id.*

The chart below includes all counties with populations under 100,000 where at least one family violence homicide occurred between 2012 and 2017, listed in alphabetical order.

| COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 6 YEAR TOTAL | 2017 POPULATION ³⁷ |
|-----------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| ANDERSON | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 57,741 |
| ANGELINA | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 87,805 |
| ARANSAS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 25,572 |
| ATASCOSA | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 48,981 |
| BAILEY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7,077 |
| BANDERA | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 22,351 |
| BASTROP | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 84,761 |
| BOWIE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 94,012 |
| BREWSTER | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 9,337 |
| BROOKS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7,235 |
| BROWN | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 38,053 |
| BURLESON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 18,011 |
| CALHOUN | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 21,744 |
| CALLAHAN | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 13,946 |
| CAMP | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12,855 |
| CASS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 30,012 |
| CHAMBERS | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 41,441 |
| CHEROKEE | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 52,240 |
| COMANCHE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 13,573 |
| CULBERSON | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2,231 |
| DEWITT | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 20,226 |
| DUVAL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 11,273 |
| EASTLAND | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 18,411 |
| ERATH | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 41,969 |
| FAYETTE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 25,272 |
| FLOYD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5,855 |
| FRANKLIN | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 10,767 |
| GILLESPIE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26,646 |
| GOLIAD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 7,562 |
| GRAY | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 22,404 |
| GRIMES | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 28,082 |
| HALE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 34,134 |

³⁷ Id.

| COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 6 YEAR TOTAL | 2017 POPULATION ³⁷ |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| HARDIN | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 57,139 |
| HARRISON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 66,661 |
| HENDERSON | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 81,064 |
| HILL | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 35,852 |
| HOOD | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 58,273 |
| HOPKINS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36,496 |
| HOUSTON | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 23,021 |
| HOWARD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 36,040 |
| HUNT | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 93,872 |
| JASPER | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 35,561 |
| JIM WELLS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 40,871 |
| KERR | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 6 | 51,720 |
| LAMAR | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 49,587 |
| LAMB | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13,210 |
| LEON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 17,243 |
| LIBERTY | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 83,658 |
| LIMESTONE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 23,527 |
| MADISON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 14,222 |
| MARION | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10,064 |
| MAVERICK | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 58,216 |
| MEDINA | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 50,066 |
| MILAM | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 25,053 |
| MOORE | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 22,097 |
| NACOGDOCHES | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 65,580 |
| NAVARRO | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 48,701 |
| ORANGE | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 85,047 |
| POLK | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 49,162 |
| REEVES | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15,281 |
| ROBERTSON | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17,203 |
| ROCKWALL | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 96,788 |
| RUSK | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 52,833 |
| SAN AUGUSTINE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 8,253 |
| SAN PATRICIO | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 67,215 |
| SAN SABA | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5,959 |
| SHELBY | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 25,513 |

| COUNTY | 2017 | 2016 | 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 | 6 YEAR TOTAL | 2017 POPULATION ³⁷ |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| STARR | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 64,454 |
| TERRELL | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 810 |
| TERRY | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 12,715 |
| TITUS | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 32,904 |
| TYLER | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 21,539 |
| UPSHUR | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 41,281 |
| UVALDE | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 27,132 |
| VAN ZANDT | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 55,182 |
| VICTORIA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 92,084 |
| WALKER | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 72,245 |
| WASHINGTON | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 35,043 |
| WHARTON | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 41,968 |
| WILLACY | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 21,584 |
| WISE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 66,181 |
| WOOD | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 44,314 |
| YOUNG | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 17,979 |

NARRATIVES OF WOMEN KILLED BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNER IN TEXAS IN 2017

On the following pages, the Texas Council on Family Violence lists with great respect the names of each victim of intimate partner femicide in 2017.

Each confirmed fatality represents a woman killed by a male intimate partner or a stalking perpetrator and includes the date of the woman's death, the city in which she was killed or the jurisdiction of the investigation, followed by a short description of the circumstances with a focus on language that holds the offender accountable. TCFV includes additional relevant information when available through media and law enforcement reports that highlight lethality risk factors and other information that informs our best practices for enhancing future survivor safety.

Intimate partner homicides end the lives of women who have roles as engaged community members and caring and loving family members. TCFV joins their families, friends and communities in mourning their loss.

ANGELINA COUNTY

Tresten Gray, 26

LUFKIN | DECEMBER 24, 2017

Cedarrius Blake, 18, shot his ex-girlfriend Tresten in her vehicle. Law enforcement responded to a call regarding shots fired and emergency responders transported Tresten to the hospital, where she later died. Authorities arrested and charged Blake with murder. Tresten is survived by her son, age 5, and daughter, age 2.

BELL COUNTY

Samaka Rachel Powell, 27

KILLEEN | NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Raymond Davis, 31, shot and killed his wife Samaka at her place of work. He then shot and killed himself. Earlier that day, Samaka reported to law enforcement that Davis was harassing her at her place of work; when officers arrived, Davis had already left the scene. Davis had a history of domestic violence and Samaka had previously attempted to end the relationship. Samaka is survived by her two children, both under 10.

BEXAR COUNTY

Jeanne Przekurat, 59

CASTLE HILLS | OCTOBER 27, 2017

Richard Sonntag III, 51, stabbed and killed his wife Jeanne in their home. Sonntag then poisoned and killed himself. Sonntag's coworker requested a welfare check; authorities responded and discovered their bodies. Jeanne is survived by her adult daughter.

Cindy Alvarez, 39

CONVERSE | APRIL 3, 2017

Robert Alvarez, 46, shot and killed his wife Cindy in the bedroom of their home. Alvarez then shot and killed himself. Cindy planned to separate at the time of the shooting. Cindy is survived by her three children.

Idalia Celedon Becerra, 29

SAN ANTONIO | DECEMBER 11, 2017

Paulo Gonzalez Chavez, 40, strangled and killed his girlfriend Idalia in the bedroom of their home. Chavez left a note next to Idalia's body admitting to the murder. Law enforcement apprehended Chavez as he was walking down a street with a loaded handgun. Authorities arrested and charged Chavez with murder. Idalia is survived by her four children.

Erica Bright, 32

SAN ANTONIO | NOVEMBER 16, 2017

Lewis Bright, 47, stabbed his wife Erica in her home. Bright left Erica at an emergency clinic before fleeing. Erica died in the emergency clinic after informing staff that Bright had stabbed her. Authorities arrested Bright a few weeks later and charged him with murder. Bright has a history of domestic violence and was on probation at the time. Erica is survived by her three children.

BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

Elizabeth Contreras, 39

SAN ANTONIO | AUGUST 2, 2017

Guadalupe Contreras, 39, killed his wife Elizabeth, then moved her body to a wooded area. Elizabeth's mother reported Elizabeth missing after she did not return home. Law enforcement located the car Elizabeth was last seen in and found blood inside; after reviewing GPS data, they located Elizabeth's body. Authorities arrested and charged Contreras with murder. Elizabeth had separated from Contreras. Elizabeth is survived by her daughter, age 6.

Tamara Dunn Martinez, 31

SAN ANTONIO | MARCH 28, 2017

James Cardona, 31, shot and killed his wife Tamara in their home. He also shot and injured their 13-year-old daughter. Cardona then fled the house. Their 4-year-old twins were present in the home. Tamara's daughter was able to get help from a passing car and was taken to the hospital. Authorities arrested Cardona and charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and murder. Tamara is survived by her three children.

Angie Marie Garcia-Ellison, 42

SAN ANTONIO | SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Baldwin Ellison, 51, shot and killed his wife Angie in their home. Ellison then shot and killed himself. Authorities responded to an emergency call and found their bodies. Angie is survived by her adult daughter and her stepson.

Leigh Gaston, 30

SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 17, 2017

Sebastian Humphries, 24, shot and killed his girlfriend Leigh in the bedroom of her home. Humphries then shot and killed himself. Leigh's friend went to the home after not hearing from Leigh in over a week; found the bodies and called 911.

Allie Marie Holloway, 22

SAN ANTONIO | MARCH 14, 2017

Orlando Valdez Jr., 27, strangled, assaulted, and killed his fiancé Allie in his home. Valdez then called his mother; when she arrived, they called 911. Valdez has a history of domestic violence and Allie had previously attempted to end the relationship. In 2016, Valdez was arrested for harassment and attempted sexual assault and was released on bond at the time of the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Valdez with murder.

Adriana Lejarzar, 47

SAN ANTONIO | OCTOBER 31, 2017

Brann Mills, 47, shot and killed his wife Adriana in the driveway of their home. Mills then shot and killed himself. A neighbor called 911; when police arrived, they found the couple deceased. Adriana is survived by her son.

Rose Limon, 33

SAN ANTONIO | JANUARY 31, 2017

Richard Hernandez, 30, shot and killed his girlfriend Rose in her home. Rose's father was outside when he heard the gunshots. When he entered the house, he found Hernandez holding Rose, who was already deceased. Hernandez fled the scene. Later authorities arrested and charged Hernandez with murder. Rose is survived by her 5 daughters.

BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

Idalia Rodriguez, 66

SAN ANTONIO | AUGUST 19, 2017

Douglas Rodriguez, 62, shot and killed his wife Idalia in their home. Rodriguez then shot and killed himself. Rodriguez's adult daughter found their bodies during a welfare check and then called 911. Idalia is survived by her three adult children.

April Russell, 34

SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 5, 2017

Adrian Hardeman, 37, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend April in her home. When April had refused to let Hardeman into her home, Hardeman broke in. After killing April, he fled with her youngest daughter and took her to her grandparent's house. April's older daughter called 911 and reported the shooting and kidnapping of her sister. Hardeman was later involved in a traffic accident; as troopers responded to the accident, Hardeman fired at them and they shot and killed him. Hardeman had a history of domestic violence; he was released on bond for a family violence charge for assaulting April in 2016. April is survived by her children, ages 1, 8, and 15.

Jennifer Smith, 46

SAN ANTONIO | NOVEMBER 27, 2017

William Smith, 54, shot and killed his wife Jennifer inside their home. He also shot and killed himself. Smith had called 911 to report his plans to kill Jennifer and himself. When authorities responded they heard two gunshots and requested a SWAT unit for support. After the SWAT unit arrived they located their bodies inside the home. Jennifer had filed for divorce approximately three weeks before her murder. Jennifer is survived by her three young daughters.

Cinthia Vargas-Sanchez, 28

SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 2, 2017

Carlos Salazar, 29, stabbed his dating partner Cinthia outside her home. Cinthia's children were at the home. Salazar chased Cinthia as she attempted to flee for help to a neighbor's house. A neighbor who witnessed the attack yelled at Salazar to stop at which point he fled. Neighbors called 911 and Cinthia was taken to the hospital where she later died. U.S. Marshals captured Salazar in Mexico a month later and authorities charged him with murder. Cinthia is survived by her two children, ages 5 and 7.

Linda Vela, 46

SAN ANTONIO | DECEMBER 28, 2017

Mark Espinosa, 48, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Linda in the bedroom of her home. Espinosa then shot and killed himself. Linda's two sons were in the home at the time and called 911. Espinosa had a history of domestic violence and Linda had recently ended the relationship. Linda is survived by her adult daughter and three young children, ages 10, 12, and 14.

Graciela Zamora, 44

SAN ANTONIO | JANUARY 12, 2017

Mario Bocanegra, 46, shot and killed his wife Graciela in their home. Bocanegra then shot and killed himself. The couple's son found them deceased on a welfare check when they did not answer their phone. Graciela is survived by her children.

BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

Cayley Mandadi, 19

SCHERTZ | OCTOBER 31, 2017

Mark Howerton, 22, beat and sexually assaulted his girlfriend Cayley in his car. After the assault, Howerton took Cayley to the hospital. Cayley remained on life support for two days and later died from the blunt-force trauma. Howerton has a history of domestic violence towards Cayley. Cayley was afraid of Howerton and friends witnessed the abuse and his use of a gun to threaten students. A few weeks prior to the murder, campus police issued a criminal trespass order that barred Howerton from the campus for a year. Authorities arrested Howerton and charged him with murder and aggravated sexual assault.

BREWSTER COUNTY

Zuzu Verk, 22

ALPINE | FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Robert Fabian, 25, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Zuzu at his apartment. Fabian then buried her body. Fabian's friend Chris Estrada helped conceal Zuzu's body. Zuzu disappeared October 2016 and authorities conducted a four-month search for Zuzu and discovered her body February 2017. Authorities arrested Fabian and charged him with murder and arrested Estrada in Arizona and charged him with obstruction of justice.

CALLAHAN COUNTY

Meagan Dearman, 31

BAIRD | JANUARY 27, 2017

Justin Bennett, 32, strangled and killed his girlfriend Meagan in Abilene. Bennett and his second girlfriend, Jennifer Herod, moved Meagan's body to a lake in Baird. Family reported Meagan missing; authorities arrested Bennett on other warrants and while questioning him, gathered information to locate Meagan and to charge Bennett with murder. Authorities charged Herod with tampering with evidence. Bennett received a sentence of 70 years in prison. Meagan is survived by her two children.

CAMERON COUNTY

Paola Lopez, 40

BROWNSVILLE | SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Antonio Cruz Lopez-Garcia, 47, assaulted and killed his wife Paola. Emergency responders transported Paola to the hospital where she later died. Lopez-Garcia absconded and remains at large. Paola is survived by her children.

CAMERON COUNTY *continued*

Jessica Cortina, 36

HARLINGEN | OCTOBER 6, 2017

Alvaro Mata Jr., 39, shot and killed his wife Jessica in her home. Jessica's 17-year-old son was in the home at the time. Mata then fled the scene and authorities arrested and charged him with murder hours later. Jessica is survived by her four sons.

Marta Beatriz Adams, 53

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND | APRIL 30, 2017

Terry Adams, 67, killed his wife Marta in his home in McAllen. Marta's son-in-law, Monte Eric Jordan, 59, participated in the murder and placed her body in the bay of South Padre Island; authorities arrested and charged both Adams and Jordan with murder. Marta had separated from Adams, but was staying with him while recovering from a surgery at the time of the murder. Marta is survived by her five adult children.

CHAMBERS COUNTY

Crystal Seratte McDowell, 37

BAYTOWN | AUGUST 25, 2017

Steven McDowell, 44, strangled and killed his ex-wife Crystal in his home. Crystal had gone to the home to pick up their two children from McDowell before evacuating during Hurricane Harvey. McDowell then transported Crystal's body and left it in a wooded area in Chambers County. Crystal's family reported her missing the following day, and authorities located her body two weeks later. After several interviews with law enforcement, McDowell confessed to strangling her in his home. Police arrested and charged McDowell with murder. McDowell has a history of abusing Crystal and she had divorced him a few months prior. He had previously threatened to harm them both and their children and Crystal reported the threats to police. Crystal is survived by her two children, ages 5 and 8.

COLLIN COUNTY

Monica Cortez, 37

ALLEN | MARCH 26, 2017

Bernardo Cortez, 40, shot and killed his wife Monica in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Monica's daughters were in the home at the time of the shooting. Monica is survived by her two teenage daughters.

Rosemary Blackburn, 70

LOWERY CROSSING | MARCH 19, 2017

Jimmy Blackburn, 61, shot and killed his wife Rosemary in their home. Blackburn then shot and killed himself. Someone called 911 to report family violence at the home. When law enforcement officers responded to the home and there was no answer, they called the tactical team. Law enforcement discovered the bodies with a note from Blackburn stating how to handle his assets.

COLLIN COUNTY *continued*

Dania Maria Argueta, 43

McKINNEY | NOVEMBER 13, 2017

Leroy Allen, 44, stabbed and killed his wife Dania in their home. Allen then killed himself.

Patsy Jo Rickman, 72

MURPHY | NOVEMBER 4, 2017

Tommy Rickman, 73, shot and killed his wife Patsy in their home. Rickman then shot and killed himself. Their daughter contacted police after she was unable to reach her parents and unable to enter the home. Rickman had a history of domestic violence. Patsy is survived by her two adult children.

Meredith Hight, 27

PLANO | SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Spencer Hight, 32, shot and killed his wife Meredith in her home. At the time, Meredith was hosting a gathering for friends; Hight also shot and killed Meredith's guests, Anthony Cross, 33, Olivia Deffner 24, James Dunlop, 29, Darryl Hawkins, 22, Rion Morgan, 31, Myah Bass, 28, Caleb Edwards, 25, and injured one other woman. Employees at a nearby bar noticed Spencer Hight carrying a knife and a magazine loaded with bullets. Employees became suspicious and followed him to Meredith's home and called local authorities. Responding officers arrived, heard gunfire and fatally shot Spencer. Hight had a history of domestic violence. Meredith had filed for divorce approximately one month prior to the shooting.

Ludivina Frias, 48

PLANO | MAY 30, 2017

Jose Ynes Oliba-Cabrera, 50, stabbed his girlfriend Ludivina in a public roadway as she fled from their vehicle. Witnesses called 911; law enforcement responded and found Oliba-Cabrera with a self-inflicted stab wound to the chest. Emergency responders transported Ludivina to the hospital where she died from the injuries. Authorities charged Oliba-Cabrera with murder; he received a sentence of 50 years in prison. Ludivina is survived by her three sons and her two daughters.

Kelli Underwood, 46

PRINCETON | SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

Ronnie Welborn, 45, hired Samuel Veal and Delvin Powell to kill his ex-girlfriend Kelli; Veal and Powell entered Kelli's home and stabbed, shot, and killed her. Witnesses reported hearing an alarm and seeing the two men enter the home. At the time of the murder, Welborn had another girlfriend, Katie Robinson, who participated in planning and hiring Veal and Powell to murder Kelli. Welborn and Robinson supplied Veal and Powell with the murder weapon. Authorities arrested and charged Welborn, Robinson, Powell, and Veal with capital murder. Kelli is survived by her two daughters and her son.

DALLAS COUNTY

Tamara Harris, 33

CEDAR HILL | JULY 17, 2017

Delquan Harris, 35, strangled and killed his wife Tamara and transported her body to Ohio in the trunk of her vehicle. Harris also took their son to Ohio. Tamara's family requested a welfare check and Cedar Hill police went to her residence and then tracked her vehicle to Ohio. Ohio authorities discovered Tamara's body in the vehicle and arrested Harris. Harris pled guilty to murder and received a sentence of 15 years to life in prison. Tamara had filed for divorce one month prior to the murder. Tamara is survived by her three children, ages 2, 9, and 15.

Sara Khan, 33

COPPELL | JUNE 9, 2017

Nader Khan, 42, strangled, assaulted, and killed his girlfriend Sara in their home. Khan then shot and killed himself. Nader had a history of abusive and controlling behavior. Sara is survived by her children.

Jaytoyah Davis, 31

DALLAS | OCTOBER 21, 2017

Jimmy Hightower, 30, shot and killed his wife Jaytoyah in the vehicle in the driveway of their home. Jaytoyah's children were in the home at the time. Neighbors saw Hightower get out of the vehicle and alerted authorities. Hightower retrieved some items from the home and fled. A fugitive task force found Hightower, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Jaytoyah is survived by her son and daughter.

Mia Doucet, 28

DALLAS | OCTOBER 7, 2017

Brandon King, 32, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Mia in their home. A guest in the home heard loud sounds and King told the guest that Mia was unresponsive. Emergency responders transported Mia to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. King has a history of domestic violence including two pending charges and a prior arrest in 2013 for assaulting his ex-wife for which he served 87 days in jail. Authorities arrested and charged King with murder. Mia is survived by two sons and two daughters.

Natalie Tavares, 18

DALLAS | MAY 21, 2017

Aldo Saucedo, 19, shot his girlfriend Natalie in a business parking lot. Saucedo and another man were in an altercation when Saucedo shot his gun at the other man several times and shot and injured another woman. Saucedo shot Natalie multiple times. Emergency responders transported Natalie to the hospital where she was later pronounced dead. Authorities arrested and charged Saucedo with murder and aggravated assault. Natalie is survived by her son.

Renaudra Smith, 28

DALLAS | NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Benjamin Bass, 46, shot and killed his girlfriend Renaudra in her home. Bass then fled the scene and authorities issued a warrant placed for his arrest for murder. Bass was later found deceased in Georgia. Renaudra was pregnant at the time of her death.

DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

Maria Dolores Barretero, 50

GRAND PRAIRIE | FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Rodolfo Medina, 61, shot and killed his ex-wife Maria in her home. Medina then shot himself. Emergency responders transported Medina to a hospital where he died two days later. Maria is survived by two children.

Janeera Gonzalez, 20

IRVING | MAY 3, 2017

Adrian Torres, 21, shot and killed Janeera on her college campus. Torres then shot and killed himself. Torres had pursued a relationship with Janeera and stalked her when she did not date him.

DENTON COUNTY

Ruth Bain, 82

DENTON | MARCH 4, 2017

Joe Bain, 79, shot and killed his wife Ruth in their home. Bain called 911 to confess to killing Ruth. Bain shot himself before law enforcement arrived at the home and later died at the hospital. Ruth is survived by her adult children.

ECTOR COUNTY

Lindsey Baldonado, 31

ODESSA | AUGUST 6, 2017

Rubin Edwards III, 33, shot and killed his girlfriend Lindsey in their home. Edwards then shot himself. Authorities arrived at the scene and transported Edwards to the hospital before arresting and charging him with murder. Edwards had threatened to kill Lindsey the day before the murder. Edwards has a history of domestic violence and was previously charged with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Lindsey planned to end the relationship. Lindsey is survived by her two children.

Evangelina Quezada, 52

ODESSA | AUGUST 7, 2017

Quane Taylor, 46, stabbed and killed his fiancé Evangelina in the cabin of his 18-wheeler. After driving around with her body, Taylor called 911 from a truck stop. Authorities arrested and charged Taylor with murder after he confessed to killing Evangelina.

Phyllis Rodriguez, 44

ODESSA | JANUARY 10, 2017

Phillip Rodriguez, 48, shot and killed his wife Phyllis in the driveway of a family member's home. Rodriguez had confronted Phyllis and taken her phone, credit cards, and cash. Phyllis attempted to follow him when Rodriguez returned and shot at her and her niece. Phyllis' niece called 911. Rodriguez fled the scene. Authorities located Rodriguez and arrested and charged him with murder. Phyllis is survived by her two sons and a daughter.

EL PASO COUNTY

Stephanie Herrera, 25

EL PASO | NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Jose Varela, 25, shot and killed his girlfriend Stephanie at her home. Varela had confronted Stephanie, her father, and three others in the driveway her home. Varela shot Stephanie who was taken into the house by three others. Varela shot and killed Stephanie's father, Enrique Herrera, 45, as he walked toward the house. Varela then entered the house to shoot Stephanie again. He fled the scene and shot and killed himself, crashing his vehicle.

Ruby Rodriguez, 26

EL PASO | APRIL 24, 2017

Rodrigo Rodriguez, 27, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Ruby in a home. After the murder, Rodriguez dropped his daughter off at a friend's house. Rodriguez then went to his father's house to confess to the murder and say goodbye before fleeing. Authorities apprehended and charged Rodriguez with murder. Rodriguez has a history of domestic violence; he had been released from jail ten days prior to the murder after he was accused of assaulting Ruby. Rodriguez was also previously convicted on a separate family violence charge. Ruby is survived by her two daughters.

ELLIS COUNTY

Josie Blackburn, 57

WAXAHACHIE | SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Michael Blackburn, 62, stabbed and killed his wife Josie in the front yard of their home. He then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement located Josie, who told officers Blackburn had stabbed her. Blackburn remained inside the home and after several hours of no activity, the SWAT team forced entry and found Blackburn deceased. Emergency responders transported Josie to the hospital where she later died. Josie is survived by her three adult daughters and adult son.

Tia Marie Spearman, 21

ALMA | JULY 15, 2017

Guy Lynch, 47, killed his girlfriend Tia and moved her body to a field in Ellis County. Tia's family reported her missing after not hearing from her since May 2017 and contacted police in Biloxi, Mississippi because they believed she had visited there. Law enforcement in Mississippi contacted the police department in Lancaster, Texas after finding an address for Tia there; after receiving the tip from Lancaster Police Department, Ellis County law enforcement confirmed the remains were a match to Tia. Authorities arrested and charged Lynch with murder.

ERATH COUNTY

Jai-Mee Williams, 33

STEPHENVILLE | FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Fred Gonzales, 22, struck his girlfriend Jai-Mee with his vehicle on a rural road. Gonzales then took Jai-Mee to his father's house in Dublin and called 911. Emergency responders transported Jai-Mee to a hospital where she later died. Authorities arrested and charged Gonzales with intoxicated manslaughter. Jai-Mee is survived by her daughter.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Ella Brown, 84

ROSENBERG | DECEMBER 15, 2017

James Brown, 90, shot and killed his wife Ella in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Ella is survived by her son and two step-daughters.

Sherilyn Gordon-Burroughs, 48

RICHMOND | MARCH 18, 2017

Daniel Burroughs, 60, shot his wife Sherilyn in their home. When police responded to a request for a welfare check, Burroughs refused to allow the police entry into the home. After a five-hour standoff with SWAT involvement, SWAT forced entry into the home. As authorities entered, Burroughs shot and killed himself. Sherilyn is survived by her daughter, age 3.

Edith Cevallos-Zapata Alanis, 47

SUGARLAND | FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Gilberto Alanis, 61, shot and killed his wife Edith in their home. He then called 911 and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Alanis has a history of domestic violence. Edith is survived by her adult son.

GALVESTON COUNTY

Kaitlyn Trammell, 18

BARCLIFF | AUGUST 1, 2017

Orlando Martinez, 23 shot and killed his girlfriend Kaitlin in his home. He then asked a friend, Jared Koehler, who was also in the house, to dispose of the gun. Authorities arrived at the scene to find Martinez outside the residence. Emergency responders located Kaitlyn and transported her to the hospital where she died a few days later. Martinez initially told investigators that Kaitlyn accidentally shot herself, but later told police that he accidentally shot her. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with manslaughter and have also arrested and charged Koehler with tampering with evidence. Kaitlyn is survived by her son, age 3.

Dulce Everts, 40

GALVESTON | FEBRUARY 20, 2017

Byron Everts, 91, shot and killed his wife Dulce in their home. He then shot and killed himself. The couple was in the process of finalizing their divorce, and Everts had threatened to kill himself and Dulce. Days before Dulce's murder, the couple had gone to the lawyer's office over a financial dispute. Dulce is survived by her son.

GREGG COUNTY

Maria Carolina Alvarez Pantoja, 24

KILGORE | APRIL 3, 2017

Juan Vazquez, 27, stabbed and killed his wife Maria in his home. He then stabbed and killed himself. Vazquez and Maria had recently separated, and he told Maria she could visit their children if she came to his home. Once Maria arrived and saw that the children weren't there, she attempted to leave. Maria fled to a neighbor's home for help; however, Vazquez chased Maria and forced her back to his home where he killed her. Vazquez was airlifted and received emergency surgery, but died ten days later. Maria is survived by her two sons, ages 5 and 7.

Tracy Lynn Reedy, 50

KILGORE | DECEMBER 31, 2017

Dwight Scott, 51, shot and killed his fiancé Tracy in the parking lot of their apartment. Scott then fled the scene. Neighbors notified authorities of gunshots. Law enforcement responded and found Tracy's body. Authorities charged Scott with murder; he remains at large. Tracy is survived by her adult son and daughter.

Ivory Wilson, 57

LONGVIEW | FEBRUARY 12, 2017

Darrell Wilson, 58, stabbed and killed his ex-wife Ivory in her home. Neighbors requested a welfare check after Ivory had not been heard from in several days. When police entered the home, they found Ivory deceased. Authorities charged Wilson with murder and arrested him three months after Ivory's death.

GRIMES COUNTY

Janet Marie Lester, 74

NAVASOTA | FEBRUARY 10, 2017

Robert Buford Jr., 74, shot and killed his wife Janet on the front porch of their home. Janet called 911 for help and stated Buford had shot her. When law enforcement arrived, they found Janet deceased. Buford confessed that he had shot Janet. Authorities arrested and charged Buford with Janet's murder. Janet is survived by her adult daughter and two adult sons.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

Rebecca Bailey, 55

SEGUIN | OCTOBER 9, 2017

Gregory Bailey, 62, killed his wife Rebecca when he set fire to their home. Bailey also killed himself in the fire. When authorities responded they located a note pinned to a fence next to the home that indicated Bailey had killed Rebecca and himself.

HARRIS COUNTY

Julia Martinez, 34

BAYTOWN | SEPTEMBER 16, 2017

Roy Garcia Jr., 34, shot and killed his wife Julia in her vehicle. Julia's son and daughter were in the car. Julia tried to drive away, but the car crashed into a mailbox. Garcia called his mother and told her he killed Julia, threatened suicide, and then fled. Later, Garcia turned himself into authorities in Guadalupe county. Garcia has a history of domestic violence towards Julia. A year prior to the murder, Garcia fired a gun in the home at Julia and her children and then kidnapped Julia. Three months prior to the murder, Garcia was given deferred adjudication for the previous incident, reducing the felony offense to a misdemeanor. He was ordered to surrender firearms and participate in two years of community supervision, with which he did not comply. Julia is survived by her son, age 5 and her daughter, age 13.

Rose Hunt, 21

BAYTOWN | FEBRUARY 24, 2017

Derrick Metcalf, 23, hired David Galindo, 20, to shoot and kill his ex-girlfriend Rose on a public street. Rose was eight months pregnant. Galindo's girlfriend, Daizy Costello, was also implicated in the plans to murder Rose. Authorities charged Galindo with murder and Metcalf and Costello with capital murder.

Tameka Anderson, 35

CROSBY | JANUARY 6, 2017

Christopher Landry, 46, stabbed his ex-girlfriend Tameka in her home. He then hung and killed himself in a shed near the home. Tameka's son found his mother deceased and called police. Police arrived and found Tameka's missing car a few blocks away along with Landry's body. Landry had a history of domestic violence toward Tameka. In 2016 he pled guilty to a strangulation felony and was given deferred adjudication with four years of supervision. He murdered Tameka while on probation for the offense. Tameka is survived by her teenage children, ages 14, 16, and 18.

Maricela Banda, 33

HOUSTON | MARCH 8, 2017

Marcos Hinojosa, 33, shot and killed his girlfriend Maricela in a car. He then shot himself. Police responded to calls regarding a shooting and arrived to find Maricela deceased. Emergency responders transported Hinojosa to the hospital where he later died. Maricela is survived by her daughter, age 5.

LaTonya Campbell, 32

HOUSTON | MARCH 9, 2017

Andre Campbell, 37, shot and killed his wife LaTonya in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Upon hearing gunshots, the couple's parents entered the home to find them deceased. LaTonya is survived by her children, ages 10, 12, 13, 14, and 18.

Amy Burnett-Combs, 53

HOUSTON | AUGUST 21, 2017

David Combs, 55, shot and killed his wife Amy in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Police were called to the home by family members to perform a welfare check. When police entered the residence, they found the couple deceased.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Linda Chang, 68

HOUSTON | JUNE 23, 2017

Tien-Lai Hsu, 75, shot and killed his wife Linda in a vehicle. He then shot and killed himself. Neighbors called police reporting a shooting; officers located Hsu and Linda deceased.

Amber Flores, 19

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Jeffree Burks, 19, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Amber while she was riding in a car. Burks stalked Amber and her boyfriend, then chased them in his vehicle, and shot Amber and her boyfriend. Authorities responded and pronounced Amber dead at the scene. Emergency responders transported Amber's boyfriend to the hospital where he survived the injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Burks with capital murder and aggravated assault.

Sommer Gatto, 18

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 19, 2017

Marquis Williams, 20, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Sommer on the street where she lived. Williams kicked the door of the Sommer's family house forcing her grandmother, sister, and two other children to hide in a closet. Bystanders called 911 and when deputies arrived, they found Sommer deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Williams with murder.

Rena Hodges, 35

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Jerald Watt, 40, shot and killed his wife Rena in their home. Watt then fled the scene. Watt has a history of domestic violence and had threatened to kill Rena. She had told Watt she wanted to end the relationship and had asked him to leave. Rena was on the phone with a friend when Watt shot her. The next day when Rena did not pick up her daughters, family members went to Rena's home and, with the assistance of the security guard, found her body. Authorities arrested and charged Watt with murder. Rena is survived by her three children, ages 9, 11, and 14.

Ashanti Hunter, 32

HOUSTON | APRIL 30, 2017

Albee Lewis, 31, shot and killed his girlfriend Ashanti in a car outside her home. Lewis had assaulted Ashanti and she ran outside and tried to escape by getting into her cousin's car. Lewis shot Ashanti as she was sitting in the passenger seat. Ashanti's three children and her cousin's three children were present. Lewis fled and called 911 to turn himself in; authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Lewis has prior felony convictions and a history of domestic violence, including multiple instances of strangling Ashanti. He pled guilty and received a sentence of 50 years in prison. She is survived by her three children, ages 4 to 13.

Aracely Jernigan, 37

HOUSTON | DECEMBER 27, 2017

Kenneth Lockings Jr., 45, killed his girlfriend Aracely in his home by cutting across her neck and nearly decapitating her. Lockings' sister and father both attempted to enter the home to perform a welfare check on the day of the murder. Lockings' family convinced him to turn himself into the local police station where he was interviewed. Authorities arrested and charged Lockings with murder. Aracely is survived by her four daughters.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Maritza Lopez, 26

HOUSTON | JUNE 18, 2017

Carlos Gonzalez, 26, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Maritza in their home. Gonzalez called police and claimed that Maritza accidentally shot herself; he then fled with Maritza's infant. When law enforcement arrived, they found Maritza's body in a closet. Gonzalez has a history of domestic violence, including threatening to kill Maritza if she left him. Maritza was in the process of ending the relationship when he killed her. Authorities charged Gonzalez with murder, but he remains at large. Maritza is survived by her infant daughter.

Jennifer Mamo, 24

HOUSTON | DECEMBER 8, 2017

Jasper Davis, 29, shot and killed his girlfriend Jennifer. Davis then put Jennifer's body into his car and drove to a creek to leave Jennifer's body there. He called a friend for help, but his friend refused to help and notified police. Deputies conducted a welfare check, forced their way into the home and found a baby in the house. Authorities arrested Davis and charged him with murder. Jennifer is survived by her daughter, age 7 months.

Fannie McWhite, 61

HOUSTON | APRIL 17, 2017

Russell Cormier, 53, shot and killed his ex-wife Fannie outside her home. Before murdering her, he had threatened to shoot Fannie's adult son, who was inside the home. Neighbors heard gunshots and witnessed Cormier dragging Fannie's body toward the street before fleeing in Fannie's truck. Cormier set fire to his own home and shot and killed another man, Thornton Bivens, 60, as he arrived at work. Cormier also shot and injured his neighbor. Authorities located Cormier a few days later and arrested and charged him with two counts of murder; he confessed to the murders. Fannie had divorced Cormier in 2014. She is survived by her adult son.

Kendra Moore, 29

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 11, 2017

Solomon Morrow, 34, shot and killed his wife Kendra in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Kendra's 9-year-old daughter found their bodies and called 911. Kendra had expressed fear of Morrow to a neighbor and planned to end the relationship and move in with her father.

Thanh Nguyen, 35

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 3, 2017

Phat Van Le, 47, stabbed and killed his ex-wife Thanh in their home. He also stabbed and killed Thanh's mother, Dep Nguyen, 66. Before killing his ex-wife and her mother, Le had taken their two daughters to his niece's home. When neither he nor Thanh returned to pick them up, Le's brother went to check on them in their home. Upon arriving, he found Thanh and Dep's bodies. Authorities arrested and charged Le with capital murder. Thanh is survived by her two daughters, ages 9 and 11.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Guadalupe Ordonez, 56

HOUSTON | OCTOBER 23, 2017

Jorge Cabrera, 54, stabbed and killed his wife Guadalupe in their home. On the day of the murder a 911 call was made about a stabbing. When police arrived, they found Cabrera armed with a knife. Cabrera confessed to police that he had killed his wife and then lunged at the officers with the weapon. The officers fired their weapons at Cabrera, injuring him. Police then entered the apartment where they found Guadalupe deceased. Cabrera was transported to the hospital where he later died.

Lynda Polomo, 56

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

John Castillo, 46, shot and killed his girlfriend Lynda in her home. Relatives found Lynda's body and called police. Authorities arrested and charged Castillo with her murder several months later.

Karen Ramirez, 27

HOUSTON | MARCH 25, 2017

Miguel Buezo, 28, shot and killed his girlfriend Karen in her car. Buezo then fled. Karen's family reported her missing. Police discovered Karen's car a week after her disappearance. The car contained evidence that indicated that Karen was murdered. Buezo has a history of abuse. Karen's body has not been located. Authorities charged Buezo with her murder; he remains at large and is believed to be in Honduras.

Olivia Russel, 27

HOUSTON | JULY 17, 2017

Jawaun Mack, 29, shot and killed his girlfriend Olivia in their apartment. He then shot and killed himself. Police were called to the location where they discovered their bodies.

Ma Salas, 39

HOUSTON | JUNE 16, 2017

Juan Salas, 48, shot and killed his wife Ma in their home. He then shot and killed himself. A call was made to 911 to report that a woman had been shot. Police arrived and found Ma being treated by the fire department, emergency responders transported Ma to the hospital where she later died. Law enforcement found Salas deceased inside the home.

Keishawra Shepherd, 27

HOUSTON | NOVEMBER 3, 2017

Kalandre Adams, 28, shot his wife Keishawra in their vehicle. Keishawra was able to exit the vehicle and died on the street. Adams fled the scene. A neighbor called 911 when they heard gunshots, police arrived to find Keishawra deceased. Law enforcement apprehended Adams in Lufkin. Adams confessed to murdering Keishawra; authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Keishawra is survived by her daughter.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Leticia Sowell, 41

HOUSTON | AUGUST 12, 2017

Joseph Lewis, 53, shot and killed his fiancé Leticia in the doorway of her home. Patrol officers responded to a 911 call reporting shots fired and found Leticia deceased. Witnesses identified Lewis as the shooter and stated that he fled in Leticia's vehicle. Officers apprehended Lewis and arrested and charged him with murder. Leticia is survived by her four children.

Loretta Vance, 63

HOUSTON | JULY 31, 2017

James Hickam, 58, shot his wife Loretta in the parking lot of their apartment complex. Hickam also shot and killed a bystander Krystle Watson, 26, who was driving into the parking lot with her 2 year old child. Emergency responders transported Loretta to the hospital, where she died days later. Authorities arrested and charged Hickam with capital murder. Loretta is survived by her two adult sons.

Mary Jaime, 52

KATY | JANUARY 5, 2017

Rene Jaime, 52, stabbed and killed his wife Mary in their home. Mary's teenage sons were in the home at the time. Jaime called 911, and when officers arrived he confessed to killing Mary. Authorities charged Jaime with murder. Jaime has a history of abusive behavior towards Mary. Mary is survived by her sons, ages 13 and 15.

Gayla Roy, 28

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Don Gaines, 30, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Gayla in the woods along a Louisiana interstate. Gaines had strangled Gayla earlier that day to the point of unconsciousness and drove her from Houston to Louisiana. Gayla regained consciousness during the drive, and Gaines pulled over and shot her in the woods and left her body. Gaines has a history of domestic violence. Three months before murdering Gayla, Gaines had strangled, beaten, and threatened to kill another dating partner which resulted in a felony warrant for strangulation from that assault. Authorities located and arrested him in Georgia for the felony strangulation charge. He later admitted to kidnapping and killing Gayla; Federal authorities charged Gaines with the crime of kidnapping, a legal offense that under Federal law carries the same punishment range as murder. Gayla is survived by her two sons, ages 1 and 6.

Laura Perales, 43

PASADENA | OCTOBER 16, 2017

Jason Engelke shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Laura in a home. He then shot himself; emergency responders transported him to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

Margarita Pineda, 20

PASADENA | FEBRUARY 23, 2017

Manuel Ochoa, 20, shot and killed his wife Margarita while she was working at her sister's restaurant. He also shot Margarita's sister. Ochoa entered from the back door and demanded the patrons evacuate. When Margarita's sister confronted Ochoa, he shot her. Margarita's sister fled to call the police. Ochoa then shot himself. Emergency responders transported Ochoa to a hospital where he later died. Margarita had begun taking steps to end the relationship. She is survived by her three children, ages 5 months, 1, and 3.

HAYS COUNTY

Christina Pollock-Anderson, 67

WIMBERLEY | FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Jimmy Rhodes, 68, shot and killed his wife Christina in the back porch of their home. Christina called 911 to report her husband's abusive behavior and request assistance; the call disconnected, and dispatchers were unable to reconnect. When law enforcement arrived, they found Rhodes armed and inside the house. Rhodes confessed to the murder and surrendered to police. Authorities arrested and charged Rhodes with murder.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Maria E. Sandoval, 40

DONNA | APRIL 9, 2017

Orlando Sandoval, 39, shot and killed his wife Maria inside their home. He then shot himself. Maria's children were in the house. After receiving a call about shots fired, police arrived at the home and found Maria's body. Emergency responders transported Sandoval to the hospital where he died. Maria is survived by her three sons.

Adaly Tellez Johnson, 30

EDINBURG | OCTOBER 1, 2017

Eduardo Gonzalez Cruz, 29, beat and killed his wife Adaly in their home. Cruz then confessed to his brothers and fled; robbing and kidnapping a woman, her child, and a family member. Authorities arrested and charged Cruz with murder, three counts of aggravated kidnapping, and credit/debit card abuse.

Maria Velasquez, 55

EDINBURG | JANUARY 15, 2017

Angel Bolanos Vasquez, 62, stabbed his girlfriend Maria in their home. Law enforcement arrived and found Maria injured, but responsive. Emergency responders transported Maria to the hospital where she later died. Vasquez has a history of domestic violence. Authorities arrested and charged Vasquez with murder.

Santos Berenice Garcia, 42

MCALLEN | JANUARY 28, 2017

Cruz Orlando Piñon, 30, shot and killed his wife Santos outside their home in presence of police. When police responded to a 911 call regarding a domestic disturbance, they met with Santos and her two daughters outside of the home. Piñon began shooting at Santos, her daughters and the police from inside the home and struck and killed Santos and her daughter, Ashley Segura Garcia, age 16. Police fired back, and Piñon retreated into the home, where he then shot and injured Santos' daughter, age 13, who was with their twin sons, ages 4. He then shot and killed himself. Emergency responders transferred the 13-year-old to the hospital, where she survived the injuries. Santos is survived by her twin children, ages 4, and daughters, ages 13 and 14.

Maria Isabel Hernandez, 35

PALMVIEW | OCTOBER 6, 2017

Conrado Tovar, 31, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Maria in the bedroom of a home. Tovar's mother contacted authorities to report that her son had assaulted his girlfriend with a baseball bat and possibly killed her. Police arrived while Tovar attempted to leave the home. They detained Tovar and discovered Maria's body inside the home. Tovar has a history of assault and family violence charges. Authorities arrested and charged Tovar with murder.

HILL COUNTY

Debra Murdock Ballard, 58

HILLSBORO | FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Michael Hodge, 60, beat and killed his girlfriend Debra and left her body in a field. Debra was reported missing. A rancher discovered Debra's body. Authorities listed Hodge as a person of interest and issued a warrant for his arrest. U.S. Marshals located Hodge and pulled him over. Hodge then exited the vehicle and shot himself. He died from his injuries the following day.

HOOD COUNTY

Betty Scala, 72

GRANBURY | MARCH 27, 2017

Joseph Scala, 72, suffocated his wife Betty while she was at a friend's home. A witness contacted law enforcement and reported seeing a man dragging a woman's body and attempting to place her in a trunk. When law enforcement arrived, Scala admitted to suffocating Betty. Emergency officials transported Betty to the hospital where she later died. Scala was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison.

HOUSTON COUNTY

Ricki Taylor, 46

GRAPELAND | JUNE 21, 2017

Andrew Taylor, 50, shot and killed his ex-wife Ricki on a public road. Ricki was reported missing by her fiancé when she did not return home after moving items into a storage unit with her father. Law enforcement utilized cellphone data and located her body two days after she was reported missing. Taylor was linked to her location through cellphone data and GPS information along with grease type substance found on his hands that connected him to Ricki's car. Authorities arrested and charged Taylor with murder. Ricki is survived by her two adult daughters and son, age 12.

JASPER COUNTY

Tristan Dilley, 14

BUNA | OCTOBER 1, 2017

Paul Adams, 19, shot and killed his girlfriend Tristan in her home and fled the scene. Tristan's younger brother discovered her body. Adams contacted his mother and claimed a stranger entered Tristan's home and shot her. Sheriff deputies tracked Adams' location to a secluded area and when they approached his tent, Adams shot and killed himself. Authorities determined Adams was responsible for Tristan's death.

JOHNSON COUNTY

Joann Gaytan, 34

BURLESON | SEPTEMBER 5, 2017

Marco Gaytan, 32, shot and killed his wife Joann while she was driving. Gaytan was in the passenger seat when he shot Joann, shot himself and the car crashed into a tree. Emergency responders transported Gaytan to the hospital where he died. Joann is survived by her two sons and daughter.

Cynthia Thompson, 52

BURLESON | JANUARY 28, 2017

Richard Ward, 52, strangled and killed his wife Cynthia in their home. Ward called the police to the house to report that his wife died by hanging herself. When police arrived they found Ward performing CPR. Emergency responders transported Cynthia to the hospital where she was declared dead. A friend reported that Ward confessed to him that he killed Cynthia and staged her suicide to cover up the murder. Ward has a history of violence against Cynthia and has a previous conviction for assaulting her in 2015. For that plea, he served 38 days in jail and was ordered to attend a Batterer Intervention Prevention Program. He failed to comply with the program requirements. Authorities arrested Ward; he pled guilty to murder and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Alexandria Jade Wright, 26

BURLESON | OCTOBER 6, 2017

Phillip Campbell, 26, assaulted, strangled and killed Jade in a motel room. After killing Jade, Campbell asked a third party to call for an ambulance. When authorities arrived, Jade was deceased. Campbell was detained and charged with murder. Jade is survived by her daughter, age 7.

LUBBOCK COUNTY

Yvette Ellis, 28

LUBBOCK | JANUARY 5, 2017

Juan Gallardo, 45, shot and killed his girlfriend Yvette in their home. Gallardo then called 911. When the police arrived, they found Yvette's body. Two of Yvette's children were home. A grand jury indicted Gallardo and charged him with the murder. Yvette is survived by her four children.

Leslie Covington, 51

SLATON | MARCH 18, 2017

Monte Covington, 58, shot and killed his wife Leslie in their home. Covington then shot and killed himself. The couple's three children were inside the house at the time. Leslie is survived by her children, ages 10, 15, and 18.

MAVERICK COUNTY

Maria Ibarra, 77

EAGLE PASS | OCTOBER 6, 2017

Ernesto Ibarra, 77, shot and killed his wife Maria outside their vehicle on a rural road. Ibarra called a friend and reported their location; he then shot and killed himself. Maria is survived by her son and daughter.

McLENNAN COUNTY

Monica Tharpe, 31

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY | MAY 20, 2017

Kevin Tharpe, 40, shot and killed his wife Monica in her friend's home. There were several witnesses present in the home at the time of the murder, including one of the couple's young daughters. Witnesses called 911. After a standoff and the arrival of the SWAT team, Tharpe killed himself. Monica had recently moved out of the house, separated from Tharpe, and planned to file for divorce. Two days prior to the murder, Tharpe had been arrested for harassment and criminal mischief involving Monica as the victim. He was out on bond for those charges at the time of the murder. Monica is survived by her two daughters, ages 3 and 7.

Valerie Martinez, 24

WACO | NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Christopher Weiss, 26, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Valerie in her car. Weiss also shot and killed their daughter Azariah, age 1. Authorities arrested Weiss and charged him with two counts of capital murder.

Twila Gail Saulter Mooney, 48

WACO | JULY 20, 2017

William Mooney, 47, shot and killed his wife Twila inside their home. He then shot and killed himself. A coworker was concerned that Twila had not shown up to work and went to the home and discovered their bodies. Twila is survived by her three adult children.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Rose Blake, 38

CONROE | FEBRUARY 22, 2017

Medger Blake, 41, stabbed and killed his wife Rose in their home. Their 11-year-old son tried to protect his mother and had to hide in the bathroom to call 911. When police arrived, the couple's son met officers. Blake did not surrender and instead threatened officers with the knife; officers then shot and killed Blake. Police found a note written by Blake instructing his sons on how to handle the estate and apologized. Rose is survived by her two sons.

NAVARRO COUNTY

Penny Stovall, 43

MILDRED | FEBRUARY 9, 2017

Jefferson Stovall, 46, shot and killed his wife Penny inside their home. Stovall also shot and killed their daughter, Makenzie, age 8, and then shot and killed himself. A family member requested a welfare check after she stated she had not spoken with the family within the past 24 hours. When officers arrived, they observed a body on the ground through a window and entered the home, they then discovered all three bodies.

NUECES COUNTY

Breanna Wood, 21

CORPUS CHRISTI | JANUARY 3, 2017

Joseph Tejeda, 26, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Breanna in October 2016. Authorities found Breanna's remains in January 2017 in an abandoned trailer after an inmate confessed to hiding her body for payment. Authorities charged Tejeda with capital murder and charged six others in connection to Breanna's murder: Sandra Vasquez, 42, Theodore Allen, 65, Christopher John Gonzalez, 28, Gregorio Rolando Cruz, 37, Magdalena Yvette Carvajal, 33, and Rosalinda Musella, 47.

Bertha Saenz, 53

CORPUS CHRISTI | MAY 5, 2017

Danny Flores, 55, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Bertha in a home. Flores then shot and killed himself.

ORANGE COUNTY

Stormy Stanley, 28

ORANGE | OCTOBER 25, 2017

Jerry Williams, 28, beat and killed his girlfriend Stormy in her home. The next day, Williams called 911. When the police and paramedics arrived at the home, they found Stormy unresponsive. Emergency responders transported Stormy to the hospital where she died from the injuries. Williams has a history of domestic violence. Stormy had planned to leave the relationship but was afraid of Williams. Authorities arrested and charged Williams with murder. Stormy is survived by her three children, ages 1, 4, and 9 years old.

POLK COUNTY

Carolyn Carroll, 70

GOODRICH | AUGUST 26, 2017

John Speights, 72, shot and killed his wife Carolyn in their home. Speights called a neighbor and stated that he had killed Carolyn and asked him to care for their dog. A safety monitoring service called law enforcement to report that Carolyn called to report Speights' abusive behavior. When police arrived, they found Speights in the house and Carolyn's body in house next to the shotgun. Authorities arrested and charged Speights with murder. Carolyn is survived by her three adult children.

SMITH COUNTY

Gwendolyn Dorsey, 25

TYLER | JUNE 3, 2017

Charles Moore, 55, shot and killed his girlfriend Gwendolyn in his home. Moore then shot and killed himself. Family members had not heard from the couple for at least two weeks, so Moore's sister went to check on them. She discovered their bodies and notified authorities.

SMITH COUNTY *continued*

Anna Lee, 65

TYLER | MAY 7, 2017

Stephen Lee, 64, shot and killed his wife Anna in their home. Lee then shot and killed himself. A family member heard the gunshots and notified law enforcement. When authorities responded, they discovered their bodies. Anna is survived by her two adult sons.

TARRANT COUNTY

Adrienne Auguster, 45

ARLINGTON | SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Kerry Auguster, 48, stabbed and killed his wife Adrienne outside of a retail store. Auguster also stabbed his 21-year-old son who survived his injuries. When police arrived, Auguster stabbed and injured himself. Authorities arrested and charged Auguster with murder; he was convicted and received a sentence of 45 years in prison. Adrienne is survived by her adult daughter and son.

Keneshia Walker, 25

ARLINGTON | APRIL 14, 2017

Keith Hayes, 27, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Keneshia in her home. Keneshia was pregnant at the time. Hayes has a history of domestic violence; Keneshia had shared threatening messages from him with a friend, asking her to keep a record of his abuse. Authorities arrested and charged Hayes with capital murder. Keneshia is survived by her son, age 8.

LaTonia Partee Harris, 46

ARLINGTON | MAY 30, 2017

Milton Buchanan, 41, stabbed and killed his girlfriend LaTonia in an apartment complex parking lot. Witnesses saw Buchanan chasing LaTonia in the parking lot. Buchanan left the scene but returned shortly after police arrived; authorities arrested and charged him with murder. LaTonia is survived by three daughters.

Michelle Johnson, 41

EDGECLIFF VILLAGE | APRIL 22, 2017

Sean Johnson, 35, shot and killed his wife Michelle in their home. Johnson fled and then called 911 to confess that he had killed Michelle. Law enforcement found Johnson in his vehicle in a church parking lot; authorities arrested and charged Johnson with murder.

TARRANT COUNTY *continued*

Leslie Bailey, 42

FORT WORTH | MAY 1, 2017

David Bailey, 45, shot and killed his ex-wife Leslie while she was sitting in her car at a mall. He fled and led officers on a high-speed chase. Law enforcement located Bailey later that evening and as they attempted to make him stop, he fled, shot and killed himself. Bailey had a history of domestic violence. Leslie had filed for divorce and had a protective order. Less than a month before Bailey murdered Leslie, authorities arrested him for violating the protective order; he was released the next day on bond.

Krista Copeland, 28

FORT WORTH | SEPTEMBER 10, 2017

Brian Kesner, 38, shot his ex-wife Krista in her car at a public library. Witnesses nearby had heard Kesner yelling at Krista before the shooting. Emergency responders transported Krista to a hospital where she died from the injuries. Kesner fled, then reported the shooting to police and shot and killed himself. Krista met Kesner in a public location so that Kesner could visit his children. Krista is survived by two sons, ages 4 and 9.

Angela Gagne, 41

FORT WORTH | JUNE 12, 2017

Qjuan Holmes, 30, shot and killed his girlfriend Angela in the bedroom of her home, where he was staying at the time. Police responded to a request for a welfare check after Angela had not been heard from for several days. Authorities arrested and charged Qjuan Holmes' brother, Xondadric Holmes with capital murder. Qjuan Holmes, who was on parole at the time, remained at large for a month; authorities located and arrested him in Florida and charged him with capital murder. Angela is survived by her five daughters.

Elanceia Gardner, 32

FORT WORTH | NOVEMBER 2, 2017

Shalen Gardner, 32, strangled, sexually assaulted, and killed his wife Elanceia in her bedroom. Their two children were in the home and sought help from neighbors. Gardner has a history of domestic violence, and Elanceia had separated from Gardner and planned to file for divorce. Prior to the murder, authorities had placed Gardner on probation and required Gardner to wear a GPS for killing a family pet and unlawfully carrying a weapon. Authorities utilized his GPS monitor to verify his location in the home during the murder and arrested and charged him with murder; Gardner confessed to the murder after his arrest. Elanceia is survived by her son, age 12 and daughter, age 10.

Molly Matheson, 22

FORT WORTH | APRIL 10, 2017

Reginald Kimbro, 23, strangled, sexually assaulted, and killed his former dating acquaintance Molly at her apartment near campus. Molly's mother became concerned when she did not hear from Molly and went to her apartment to check on her and discovered her body. Less than two weeks later, Kimbro sexually assaulted and killed another woman in Plano. Kimbro has a history of sexual violence and strangulation with charges pending from 2014; he was indicted on one charge of aggravated sexual assault in 2017 related to that case. Authorities charged Kimbro with capital murder for killing Molly.

TARRANT COUNTY *continued*

Diossy Ndiaye, 39

FORT WORTH | JUNE 14, 2017

Hermann Gninia, 41, strangled his wife Diossy in the home. Emergency responders transported Diossy to the hospital where she died. Gninia confessed to killing his wife; authorities charged him with murder. Diossy is survived by her four children.

Cam-Tu Tran, 30

FORT WORTH | JANUARY 12, 2017

Viet Quoc Nguyen, 32, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Cam-Tu while she was sitting in a parked car with her boyfriend. Nguyen also shot her boyfriend, who survived his injuries. Cam-Tu told friends, family, and co-workers that she was afraid of Nguyen. She ended the relationship with Nguyen six months prior to the shooting after he strangled her in her parents' home; Nguyen stalked her and vandalized her vehicle on multiple occasions. Cam-Tu's parents installed security cameras outside of their home a week before the murder. Authorities charged Nguyen with murder. There was a mistrial and the case is set to be retried.

Michelle Morris, 50

HASLET | MARCH 3, 2017

James Morris, 53, shot his wife Michelle at her home. He also shot and killed Michelle's boyfriend James Brantley, 24. Morris then shot himself; he died from his injuries at the hospital. Their three children were in the home. Emergency responders transported Michelle to the hospital, where she died the next day. Morris had a history of domestic violence, including assault and strangulation charges; a month prior to the shooting, Michelle obtained a protective order against Morris. Michelle is survived by her three teenage children.

TAYLOR COUNTY

Jennifer Cunningham, 40

ABILENE | MAY 3, 2017

Christopher Hale, 45, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jennifer outside her home as she tried to enter her vehicle. Several neighbors reported hearing gunshots. Hale fled the scene and then shot and killed himself. Hale had a history of controlling and abusive behavior. After Jennifer ended the relationship several months prior to her murder, Hale continued to stalk and harass her. Jennifer is survived by her two adult children.

TRAVIS COUNTY

Paisley Langmade, 37

AUSTIN | JUNE 21, 2017

Caleb Harris, 31, stabbed and killed his wife Paisley in their home. He then killed himself. A 911 caller requested an urgent welfare check. Law enforcement entered the home and discovered their bodies. Law enforcement indicated they had responded to the home more than once in the year preceding Paisley's murder.

TRAVIS COUNTY *continued*

Andrea Faye Lindsey, 43

AUSTIN | DECEMBER 15, 2017

Aubrey Garrett, 50, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Andrea in the courtyard of his brother's apartment. Neighbors witnessing the assault called 911. Law enforcement responded; Garrett continued to stab Andrea. After being shot by an officer, Garrett was transported to the hospital. Emergency responders attempted to save Andrea, but she died on scene. Authorities arrested and charged Garrett with murder. Andrea is survived by her son.

Ibeth Aurora Lopez, 26

DEL VALLE | FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Charles Werchan, 26, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Ibeth on a public road. He then shot himself. Werchan had entered Ibeth's place of employment and demanded she come with him; when she resisted, he threatened her with a gun and forced her to leave. Later, as two deputies approached them in their vehicle, Werchan shot and killed Ibeth and then shot himself. Werchan was transported to a hospital and died the next day. One hour before the murder Werchan posted a video of himself with the gun on social media. Werchan had a history of violence towards Ibeth. She had ended the relationship two years prior; however, Werchan continued to stalk and harass her. Three weeks before the murder, Ibeth had called law enforcement for help when Werchan approached her at her church and attempted to force her into a car. Werchan fled before law enforcement could arrest him but returned a second time and continued to harass her. Ibeth is survived by her daughter, age 8.

VAN ZANDT COUNTY

Brenda Combs, 67

VAN | FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Terry Combs, 68, shot and killed his ex-wife Brenda inside their home. Combs also shot and killed their granddaughter, Fawn Combs, 20. He then shot and killed himself. Two other family members were in the home at the time. Brenda is survived by her four adult daughters.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Laura Leticia Moreno, 45

VICTORIA | MARCH 27, 2017

Francisco Galvez, 26, strangled, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Laura in her home. Galvez then fled the scene. Family members found Laura's body in her apartment. Laura had wanted to end the relationship, but was afraid that Galvez would hurt her family. Galvez has a history of abuse toward Laura, including strangulation, threatening her with a firearm, and financial abuse. Authorities charged Galvez with murder. Galvez remains at large.

WILLACY COUNTY

Sandra Durbin, 54

LASARA | MAY 8, 2017

Donald Durbin, 55, shot and killed his wife Sandra in their home. He then shot and killed himself. A visitor found the bodies and contacted 911.

Nora Conde Villalobos, 49

RAYMONDVILLE | APRIL 19, 2017

Juan Tobias, 35, kidnapped, strangled and killed his girlfriend Nora. Nora was missing for over a month before her body was recovered from a local lake. Tobias has a history of domestic violence. Nora had planned to end her relationship with Tobias. Authorities arrested and charged Tobias with capital murder and aggravated kidnapping. Nora is survived by her two adult children.

FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BYSTANDERS KILLED

In addition to the 136 women who were killed, perpetrators killed 14 family members and friends, including three children, during the murders of their current and former intimate partners; they injured seven family members and friends. In two cases, perpetrators killed two people unrelated and unknown to the victims within days of the intimate partner homicides.

With care and respect, TCFV acknowledges the immense loss of each of these lives:

James Brantley, 24

BOYFRIEND OF
MICHELLE MORRIS

Enrique Herrera, 45

FATHER OF
STEPHANIE HERRERA

Rion Morgan, 31

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Fawn Combs, 20

GRANDDAUGHTER OF
BRENDA COMBS

Dep Nguyen, 66

MOTHER OF THANH NGUYEN

Myah Bass, 28

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Ashley Segura Garcia, 16

DAUGHTER OF SANTOS GARCIA

Anthony Cross, 33

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Caleb Edwards, 25

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Azariah Martinez, 1

DAUGHTER OF
VALERIE MARTINEZ

Olivia Deffner, 24

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Megan Getrum, 36

UNRELATED VICTIM KILLED
BY REGINALD KIMBRO
FOUR DAYS AFTER MOLLY
MATHESON'S MURDER

Makenzie Stovall, 8

DAUGHTER OF PENNY STOVALL

James Dunlop, 29

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

Thornton Bivens, 60

UNRELATED VICTIM KILLED
BY RUSSELL CORMIER
THE SAME DAY AS FANNY
MCWHITE'S MURDER

Darryl Hawkins, 22

FRIEND OF MEREDITH HIGHT

HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS REPORT METHODOLOGY

Each year, TCFV publishes *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities* revealing the stories of women killed by their male intimate partners in Texas and offering data analysis on the nature of the femicides as they occurred in the previous year. This report includes only family violence cases where a male perpetrator murdered an intimate partner during the time frame of January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017 and was charged or committed suicide. In order to identify all female victims of intimate violence homicides in 2017, TCFV monitored media in all 254 Texas counties and reviewed law enforcement and County and District Attorneys' communication releases. In addition, TCFV researched each femicide case with local and state partners. TCFV took care to confirm the accuracy of information through various means, primarily law enforcement, Department of Public Safety, media, victim advocates, and family violence service providers.

TCFV has been documenting and analyzing deaths of women killed by a male intimate partner for 38 years. It is a deliberate decision to analyze and report this very specific relationship type. It is not intended to diminish anyone's pain and suffering who may have lost a loved one in an intimate partner homicide not represented within this narrow approach. Our philosophy is strongly rooted in the recognition that intimate partner homicides disproportionately affect women in heterosexual relationships. We believe elevating awareness, monitoring trends, and looking for solutions in these homicides will by design have positive impact and raise awareness of all intimate partner homicides. We are also acutely aware of further considerations such as in same sex partner homicides. We are considering expanding our report to include aggregate data, taking care that discussing this type of relationship without being able to gain consent from the victim may bring complexity to their families. Of significant note, the body of research on women who use violence indicates that women's use of violence most often occurs in response to violence against them by their male partners, that women and men generally use violence that differs in level of severity, and that women's use of violence is not connected to coercive control in the same way as men's.³⁸

38 Suzanne C. Swan, PhD, Laura J. Gambone, MA, Jennifer E. Caldwell, MA, Tami P. Sullivan, PhD, David L. Snow, PhD, *A Review of Research on Women's Use of Violence with Male Intimate Partners* (2008), Violence and Victims, available at: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2968709/> (last visited Dec. 27, 2018).

CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS

TCFV acknowledges that significant barriers to safety remain for survivors of intimate partner violence, particularly those from communities of color, immigrant communities and the LGBTQ+ community. A 2017 report published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention emphasizes the “importance of targeting prevention and intervention efforts to populations at disproportionately high risk.” Intimate partner homicides and domestic violence occur across all races and ethnicities, but African American/black women (4.4 per 100,000) and American Indian/Alaska Native women (4.3 per 100,000) are disproportionately represented among homicide victims.³⁹

Key protections for immigrant survivors of domestic violence exist under statute; however, a 2017 survey of advocates and legal service providers indicated that survivors are experiencing heightened concerns about seeking legal remedies to support their safety because of increased enforcement efforts. Seventy-five percent of advocates surveyed reported that immigrant survivors have concerns about going to court, and 43% reported having worked with an immigrant survivor who dropped criminal and civil cases because of their fears regarding immigration policy enforcement.⁴¹ Lack of meaningful language access and legal representation reinforce perceived barriers to safety.⁴²

Prevalence rates for intimate partner violence in the LGBTQ community match and sometimes exceed rates of violence women experience at the hands of their male partners and LGBTQ victims are less likely to reach out to law enforcement or domestic violence shelters. Recent studies have highlighted the prevalence of partner violence in the LGBTQ community. Lesbian women and gay men experience partner violence at equal to higher rates than heterosexual individuals. Bisexual women experience a higher prevalence of partner violence than heterosexual women.⁴³ In a study conducted by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), it was identified that transgender women, especially women of color, are two times more likely to experience threats, intimidation, and harassment within their relationships.⁴⁴ In Texas, 20 LGBTQ victims have been killed by intimate

“Addressing violence will require an integrated response that considers the influence of larger community and societal factors that make violence more likely to occur.”⁴⁰

39 Emiko Petrosky, Janet M. Blair, Carter J. Betz, Katherine A. Fowler, Shane P.D. Jack & Bridget H. Lyons, *Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence - United States, 2003–2014*, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (July 21, 2017) available at: https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6628a1.htm?s_cid=mm6628a1_w (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

40 *Id.*

41 Marium Durrani, Cecelia Friedman Levin, Rosie Hidalgo, Grace Huang, Terri Poore, Archi Pyati & Qudsia Raja, *2017 Advocate and Legal Service Survey Regarding Immigrant Survivors*, available at: <http://www.tahirih.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-Advocate-and-Legal-Service-Survey-Key-Findings.pdf> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

42 Tahirih Justice Center, *Nationwide Survey: A Window Into the Challenges Immigrant Women and Girls Face in the United States and the Policy Solutions to Address Them* (Jan. 31, 2017) available at: <https://www.tahirih.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Tahirih-Justice-Center-Survey-Report-1.31.18-1.pdf> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

43 Mikel L. Walters, Jieru Chen & Matthew Breiding, *The National Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation* (2013), available at https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_sofindings.pdf (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

44 Shelby Chestnut, Chai Jindasurat & Preeti Varathan, *Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2012* (2013), available at: http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_2012_ipvreport.final_.pdf (last visited Dec. 10, 2018).

partners since 2012, including one in 2017.⁴⁵

As we strengthen efforts to work in a coordinated manner with agencies throughout Texas communities with the singular goal of reducing barriers to services for survivors and enhancing lethality reduction efforts, centering the experiences of survivors from marginalized communities will identify gaps in policy and systems response that strengthen the safety net for all survivors. Continuing the work to provide culturally and linguistically relevant, trauma informed services will expand access to community services and criminal justice systems that provide life-saving resources.

Lastly, TCFV acknowledges the limitations of this report. Several homicides related to family violence go unmentioned in this report. These include incidents where abusive ex-partners shot and injured their intimate partner victim and killed family members and friends in the attacks. Additionally, TCFV reviewed complex cases that demonstrate the risk and vulnerability of young women, but fall outside the scope of this report, Jennifer Delgado, 15, in San Antonio killed by Armando Garcia-Ramires, her former stepfather who also fathered her children through a non-consensual relationship and Layla Ramos, 14, in Humble killed by Anthony Valle, 43, who had a non-consensual relationship with her.

These deaths further underscore the vulnerability of women and girls and those closest to them.

ABOUT TCFV

Texas Council on Family Violence is the only statewide nonprofit in Texas dedicated solely to creating safer communities and freedom from family violence. With the collective strength of more than 1,300 members, TCFV shapes public policy, equips service providers, and initiates strategic prevention efforts with statewide reach and direct local impact. Since 1978, TCFV has been regarded as the statewide expert, think tank, and training entity for domestic violence programs and intersecting systems, including civil and criminal justice, child support and welfare, economic and workforce organizations, healthcare, and the general public.

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⁴⁵ Texas Department of Public Safety, *Crime in Texas Online, Summary Reports, SRS Summary, Supplemental Homicide Report Queries* (2012-2017), available at: <https://txucr.nibrs.com/SRSReport/AnnualSRSSummary> (last visited Dec. 10, 2018). LGBTQ homicides per year: 2012 (6), 2013 (5), 2014 (3), 2015 (5), 2016 (0), 2017 (1)



The Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.