

HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS

FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2019

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FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2019:
ANALYSIS & INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

*In memory of all Texans whose lives were lost
at the hands of their intimate partners*

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PREFACE

Awareness, Intervention, Prevention

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2019

Since its inception, the Texas Council on Family Violence has identified women killed by male intimate partners annually to raise awareness about the human cost of domestic violence. Knowing the impact these tragedies have on families and communities across the state of Texas, TCFV has maintained a forty-year commitment to telling the stories and honoring the memories of victims of intimate partner homicides. To broaden the understanding of intimate partner violence and enhance communities' systemic responses, in 2018 we expanded the review to include men killed by female partners and men and women killed by same-sex partners.

TCFV publishes the narratives, analysis of demographic, outcome, and risk factors of each fatality to understand the impact of domestic violence and to shape a safer future for Texas women, men, and children. The data points offered in the following pages provide a critical lens that examines intimate partner abuse in the state of Texas, as well as tools and strategies for predicting lethality and preventing violence.

185 Texans
were killed by
their intimate
partners in 2019.

*In addition, these domestic
violence homicide perpetrators
also killed 20 family members,
friends, and bystanders.*

Intimate Partner Homicides in 2019

In 2019, 185 intimate partner homicides occurred in 62 Texas Counties: 150 women were killed by their male intimate partners, 31 men were killed by their female partners, and one woman and three men were killed by same-sex partners. Intimate partner violence deeply impacts communities, profoundly altering the lives of children, family, friends, and neighbors. In addition to killing their intimate partners, family violence offenders killed twenty more victims and injured six other victims.

150
women

killed by their
male partners

31
men

killed by their
female partners

1
woman

killed by her
same-sex partner

3
men

killed by their
same-sex partners

FAMILY VIOLENCE IN TEXAS

In 2019, according to the Texas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), law enforcement officers in Texas responded to 198,899 incidents of family violence; approximately 28% of these incidents identified intimate partner victims.¹ Thirteen percent of family violence assaults were classified as aggravated assault, typically involving the use of weapons, strangulation, or other serious and injurious assaults; 166 assaults against law enforcement officers occurred while responding to family violence calls.² Women and girls comprised 71% of victims of all family violence incidents and 76% of intimate partner violence incidents in 2019. Victims in same-sex relationships represent 1,142 victims of family violence incidents; women comprised two-thirds of the family violence victims in same-sex relationships.

76% of intimate partner violence victims were women.

48% of victims were denied shelter due to lack of space in 2019.

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) estimates that 71,618 victims received services through HHSC funded family violence agencies in 2019. Family violence agencies received 281,816 emergency hotline calls, a 2.6% increase since 2018, and provided 1,095,291 service days to family violence victims and their children.

Family violence agencies across the state are operating at capacity and, unfortunately, the rate of denied shelter due to lack of space has increased over the last nine years from 20% in 2011 to 48% in 2019.³

Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) funded by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) provided abuse intervention services to 5,868 family violence offenders in 2019. Almost 60% of the offenders successfully completed program requirements, exceeding the benchmark of 55% successful completion rate set by TDCJ-CJAD. Approximately half of all referrals to BIPP programs in 2019 came from probation departments. Offenders referred by probation have a slightly higher completion rate of 63%.⁴

5,868 violent offenders were provided abuse intervention services by TDCJ-CJAD funded BIPPs.

- 1 The UCR collects family violence data according to the following relationship categories: current/former spouses, common-law spouses, and same-sex relationships; however, there is no category for dating violence victims. Some dating violence victims may likely be reported as 'Other Family Members,' a category which comprises 40% of the 2019 family violence victims or in some cases as 'Roommates,' a category which comprises 5% of the 2019 family violence victims. 67,106 women and 22,397 men are categorized as family violence victims perpetrated by 'Other Family Members'.
- 2 Texas Department of Public Safety. (n.d.). Crime in Texas online, family violence summary reports. Retrieved from <https://txucr.nibrs.com/Report/FamilyViolence>.
- 3 Texas Health and Human Services Commission Family Violence Program. Family Violence Program Statistics. Available upon request.
- 4 Report to the Governor and Legislative Budget Board, "Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program FY 2018-2019 Biennium," Submitted September 1, 2020

SECTION I

Identifying Trends to Inform Domestic Violence Responses: A Review of 2019 Intimate Partner Homicides

150 women
were killed by
their male intimate
partners in 53 Texas
counties in 2019.

“ She was very loving.
Very giving. She would
give her absolute last to
see someone else smile. ”

WOMEN KILLED BY MALE INTIMATE PARTNERS

Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatality where a woman was killed by her male intimate partner in 2019. No fatalities occurred in counties indicated in purple.

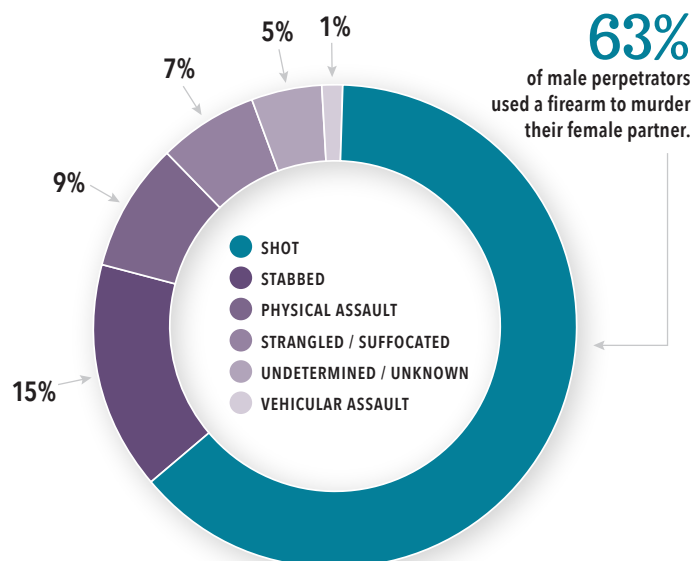
**Women killed by
male partners represent 81%
of intimate partner homicides in 2019 in Texas.**

Method of Murder

Nationwide, a firearm is the weapon used in 53% of intimate partner femicides.⁵ In Texas in 2019, 95 men (63%) used firearms to kill their current or former intimate partners.

Twenty-three of the male perpetrators (15%) stabbed and killed their female partners, 13 (9%) caused their victims' deaths by physical assault, 10 (7%) strangled or asphyxiated their victims, and two men killed their partners through vehicular assault. In seven cases, the means of death were undetermined or not released.

MEANS OF DEATH FOR FEMALE VICTIMS: 2019



Victims' Ages

The ages of women and girls killed in 2019 range from the two youngest teen victims, age 15, to the oldest, age 87. In 2019, approximately 16% of intimate partner femicide victims were under the age of 25. Almost 70% of women killed by their male partners were 40 or younger. The highest represented age group is women between the ages of 30-39. Approximately 6% of women killed by their male partners were over 65.

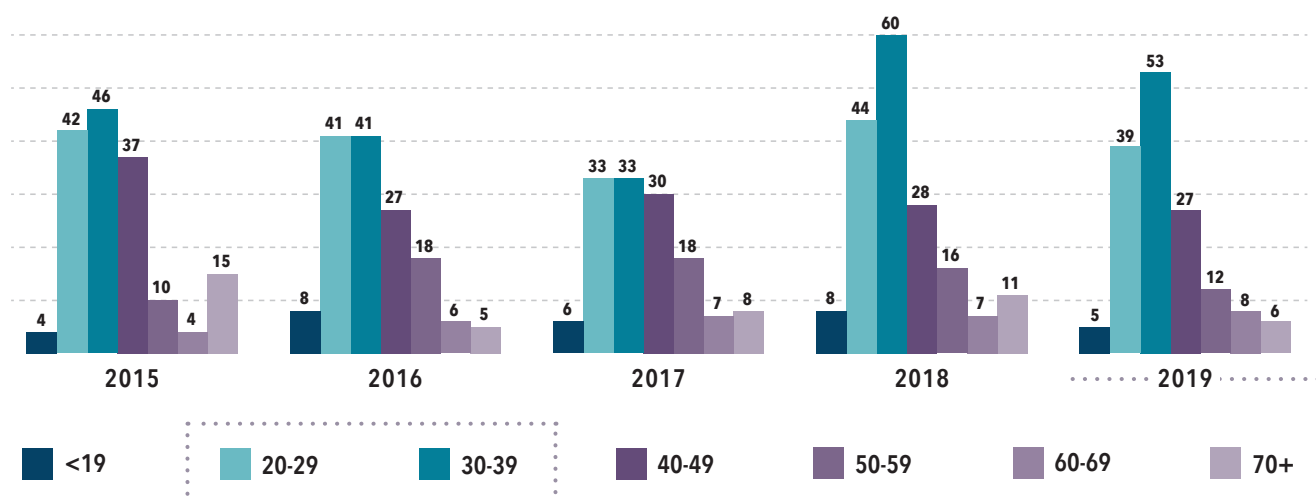
youngest victims in 2019:

15 years old

oldest victim in 2019:

87 years old

COMPARISON OF VICTIM AGES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



More than half of all intimate partner homicide victims in Texas each year are women aged 20-39.

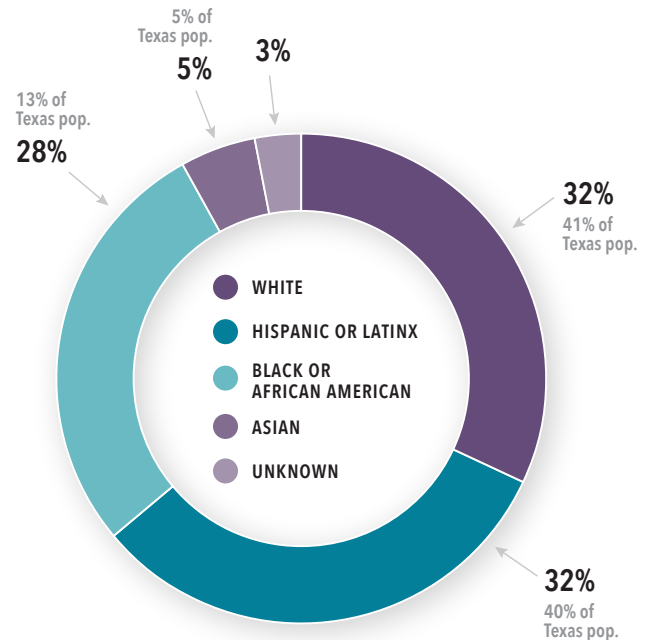
5 Petrosky, E., Blair, J. M., Betz, C. J., Fowler, K. A., Jack, S. P., & Lyons, B. H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence — United States, 2003–2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 66, 741–746. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1>

Victims' Race & Ethnicity

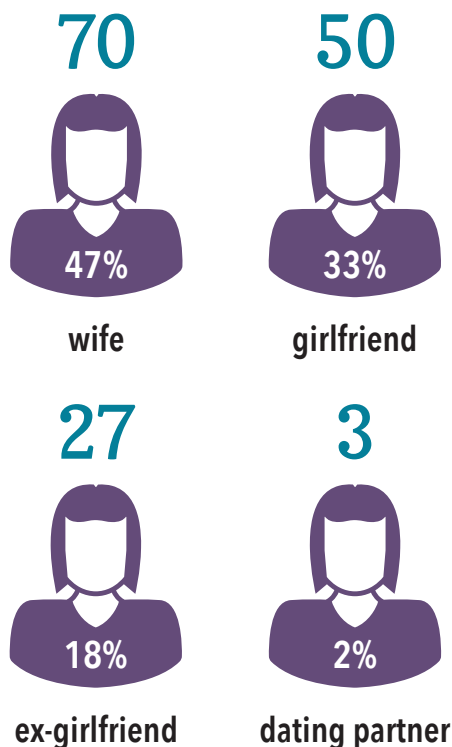
In Texas in 2019, femicide victims included 48 Hispanic or Latinx Women (32%), 42 Black or African American women (28%), seven Asian women (5%), and 48 White or Caucasian women (32%). In five cases, the race and ethnicity of the victims were not determined or released.

Intimate partner homicides disproportionately affect women from racial and ethnic communities impacted by historical and ongoing oppression.⁷

ETHNICITY OF FEMALE VICTIMS: 2019



RELATIONSHIP STATUS: 2019



Relationship Status

In 70 intimate partner femicides (47%), the relationship between the women and their male perpetrators was wife and husband; in 14 of those cases, married victims and perpetrators had separated but not divorced. In 2019, none of the recorded femicides involved couples that had divorced. In 50 femicides (33%), men killed their girlfriends, in 27 femicides (18%) men killed their former girlfriends, and in three femicides (2%) men killed their dating partners.

Nationwide, 62% of female homicide victims killed by men were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.⁸

In 2019, male perpetrators killed four pregnant women and 103 women who were mothers, resulting in 251 adult and minor children losing one or more parents.

⁶ Petrosky, E., Blair, J. M., Betz, C. J., Fowler, K. A., Jack, S. P., & Lyons, B. H. (2017). 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*, 66, 741–746. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1>

⁷ Violence Policy Center. (2020). *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2018 Homicide Data*. Retrieved from: <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2020.pdf>

Safety Steps Taken by Victims

In 39% of the homicides in 2019, victims had taken known steps to end their relationships with their abusive partners and seek help. Higher percentages of women between the ages of 20-29 (72%) and 30-39 (45%) had taken measures to end their relationships and/or seek criminal justice responses. Two of the five women and girls under the age of 19 had ended or planned to end their relationships.

In Texas in 2019, TCFV identified a total of 31% of femicide victims had taken known actions to increase their safety, including nine women who called law enforcement, 14 women who applied for protective orders or sought other protections, and one woman who had accessed services of a shelter. Twenty-two women disclosed abuse and concerns about their safety to friends or family.

Research indicates that IPV survivors seek formal assistance through law enforcement or service providers at low rates and are more likely to turn to their social support systems.⁹

Women in abusive relationships are 3.6 times more likely to be killed in the period immediately after separation than any other time in the relationship.⁹

Perpetrators' Ages

The youngest perpetrators of intimate partner homicide in 2019 were 17, and the oldest was 85. Thirty-seven offenders ages 30-39 represent the most prevalent age group, followed by those aged 40-49.

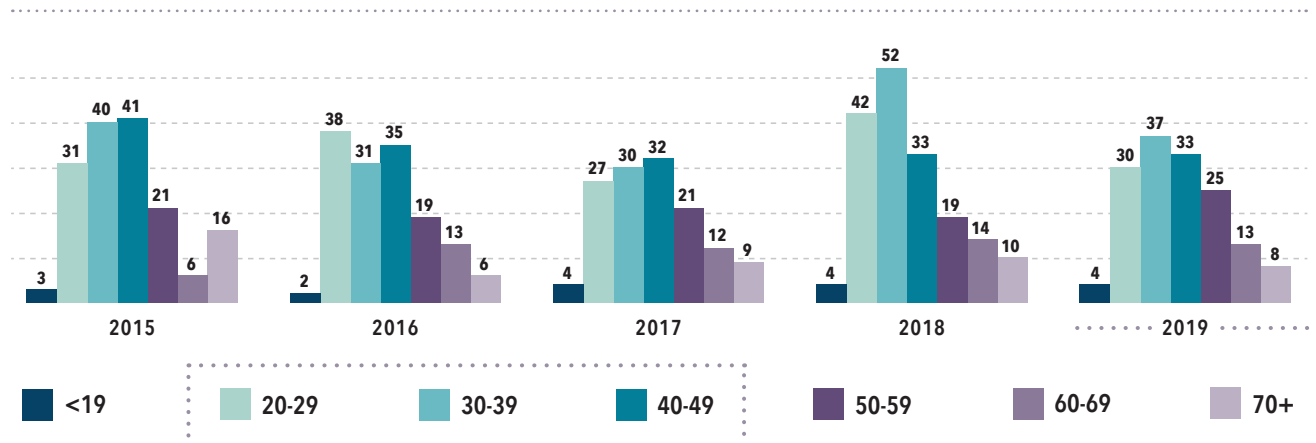
youngest perpetrators in 2019:

17 years old

oldest perpetrator in 2019:

85 years old

COMPARISON OF PERPETRATOR AGES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



Approximately 70% of male intimate partner femicide perpetrators in Texas are between the ages of 20-49 each year.

- 8 Koziol-McLain, J., Webster, D., McFarlane, J., Block, C. R., Ulrich, Y., Glass, N., & Campbell, J. C. (2006). Risk factors for femicide-suicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study. *Violence and Victims*, 21(1), 3-21. DOI: 10.1891/0886-6708.21.1.3
- 9 Davies, K., Block, C.R., & Campbell, J. (2007). Seeking Help from the Police: Battered Women's Decisions and Experiences. *Criminal Justice Studies*, 20(1), 15-41. Kaukinen, C. (2002). The help-seeking of women violent crime victims: findings from the Canadian violence against women survey. *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy*, 22(7/8), 5-44. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1108/01443330210790085>

Nurius, P. S., Macy, R. J., Nwabuzor, I., & Holt, V. L. (2011). Intimate partner survivors' help-seeking and protection efforts: a person-oriented analysis. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 26(3), 539-66.

Perpetrators' Criminal Charges

Authorities charged 65% of male perpetrators with murder or capital murder, five percent with manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide, and one perpetrator with criminally negligent homicide. Of those, six remain at large and three have been sentenced. One perpetrator was killed by law enforcement.

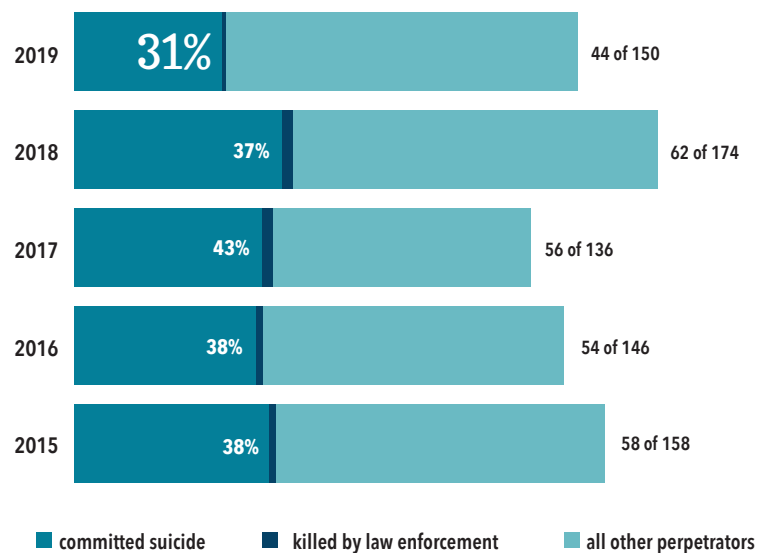


Murder-Suicide

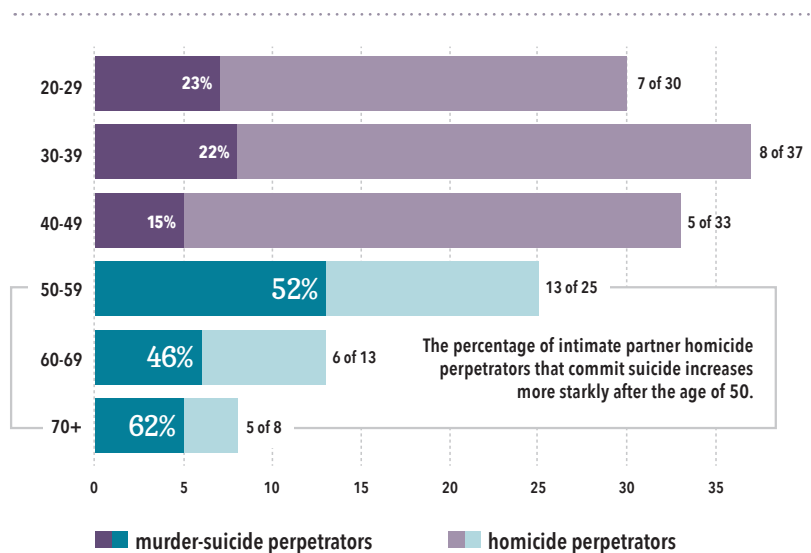
Each year in approximately 40% of Texas intimate partner femicides, male perpetrators kill themselves after killing their partners. In 2019, the rate of murder-suicides was lower than at any time in the last five years. Forty-four perpetrators (31%) died by suicide after they murdered their current or former intimate partner.

90% of perpetrators who killed themselves used a firearm to kill their partners.

MURDER-SUICIDE PREVALENCE OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



SUICIDE PREVALENCE BY AGE: 2019



The incidence of perpetrator suicide increases with age.

The rate of murder-suicides increases significantly among perpetrators over the age of 50. Thirteen perpetrators ages 50-59 (52%) and six perpetrators ages 60-69 (46%) died by suicide. Five perpetrators over the age of 70 died by suicide, representing 62% of perpetrators in that age category. In 2019, seven perpetrators ages 20-29 (23%) committed suicide, eight of those ages 30-39 (22%), and five perpetrators ages 40-49 (15%).

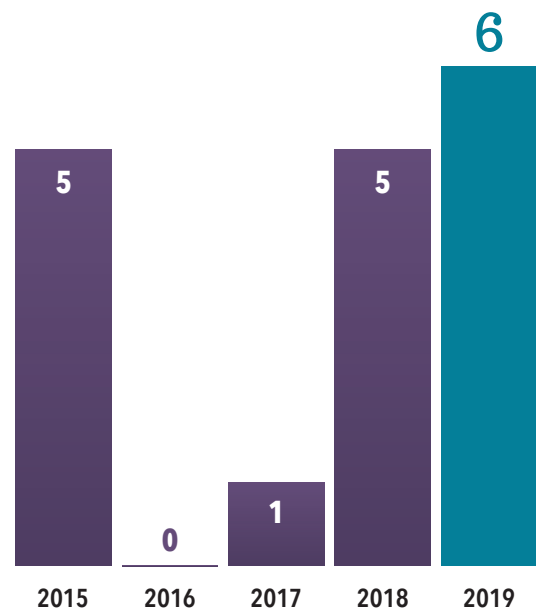
MEN & WOMEN KILLED BY THEIR SAME-SEX PARTNERS

In 2019, TCFV identified six LGBTQ+ victims; one woman and three men were killed by same-sex partners and two transgender women were killed by their male intimate partners.

“She was always helping everybody, making everybody happy.”

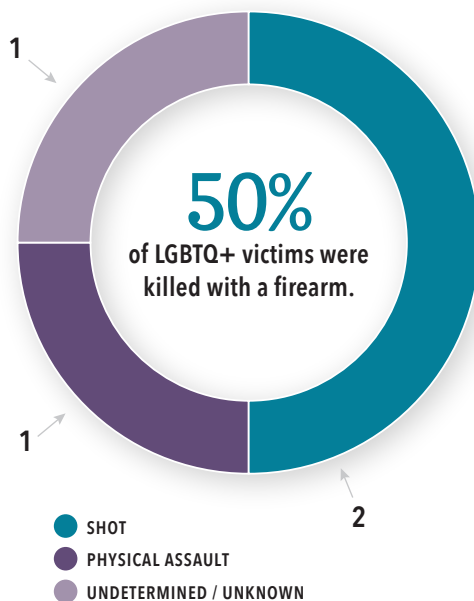
In Texas, in the past five years, 15 same-sex intimate partner homicide victims have been recorded. This statistic unfortunately does not offer a complete view of intimate partner homicides of LGBTQ+ victims since sexual orientation, gender identity, and relationships are not always disclosed accurately, or at all.¹⁰

LGBTQ+ HOMICIDES OVER LAST FIVE YEARS



LGBTQ+ survivors face challenges in reporting violence and accessing services as well as additional risks from bias, stigma, and lack of understanding around sexual orientation or gender identity.¹²

MEANS OF DEATH FOR LGBTQ+ VICTIMS: 2019



Method of Murder

In Texas in 2019, two perpetrators used firearms to kill their same-sex intimate partners. One man physically assaulted the victim to death, while the means of death in the other case was undetermined.

Victims' Ages

In 2019, the youngest victim killed by a same-sex partner was 24 and the oldest victim was 62.

One victim was in his thirties and one victim was in his forties. Similar trends related to the age of victims were noted in the 2018 Honoring Texas Victims Report.

youngest LGBTQ+ victim in 2019:

24 years old

oldest LGBTQ+ victim in 2019:

62 years old

- 10 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2018). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017. Retrieved from: <http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NCAPV-HV-IPV-2017-report.pdf>
- 11 Center for Victim Research. (2019, April). Intimate Partner Violence Involving Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Individuals: A Look at National Data. Webinar. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDVmTwnT3Lg&list=PL2FKeVvCPGOCLXC_ccBcQn3QD8PLCPqq0&index=6&t=0s

The majority of LGBTQ+ victims are under the age of 40.

In Texas since 2018, reported same-sex intimate partner homicide victims have ranged in ages from 20 to 65. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) records intimate partner homicides of LGBTQ+ victims each year and consistently finds that the majority of victims are under the age of 40. Additionally, NCAVP records approximately 2,000 reports of LGBTQ+ intimate partner violence incidents and finds that the majority of survivors are between the ages of 19 and 39 years old.¹²

LGBTQ+ youth experience dating violence at alarming rates, with approximately 43% of lesbian, gay or bisexual youth and 89% of transgender youth reporting experiences of dating violence.¹³

Victims' Race & Ethnicity

In 2019, three victims killed by their same-sex intimate partners were Hispanic or Latino and one victim was White or Caucasian. From year to year, NCAVP documents that the majority of LGBTQ+ and HIV-affected survivors reporting intimate partner violence are survivors from communities of color, particularly Black or African American survivors and Latinx survivors. Intimate partner violence is compounded by barriers faced by LGBTQ+ people from communities of color as economic and social inequities that increase their vulnerabilities, such as higher rates of poverty and housing insecurity. They also experience high rates of bias and discrimination in their workplaces and communities.¹⁴

Relationship Status

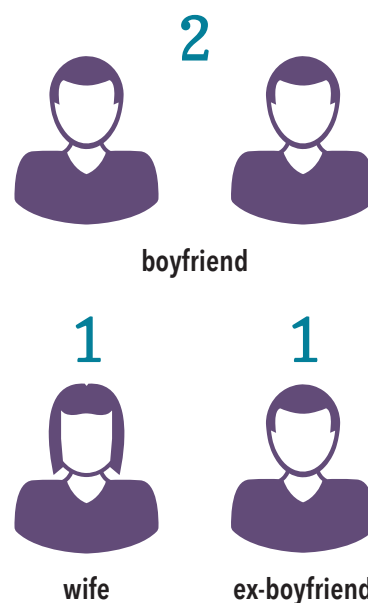
In the four homicides from 2019, the relationship of two same-sex intimate partners between the men and their perpetrators were boyfriends. One relationship was categorized as a wife and in the fourth case, the relationship was categorized as an ex-boyfriend. One victim was a father survived by two adult children.

Safety Steps Taken by Victims

At least three of the four victims had taken steps to end their relationships immediately before they were killed. One perpetrator had threatened to kill the victim if he ended the relationship and, in a second case, the perpetrator lured the victim back to their home and killed her after she had moved out.

“ He told a relative that his partner could kill him and if he ever went missing, she should look for his body. ”

RELATIONSHIP STATUS OF LGBTQ+ VICTIMS: 2019



12 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2018). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017. Retrieved from: <http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NCAVP-HV-IPV-2017-report.pdf>

13 Dank, M., Lachman, P., Zweig, J.M. & Yahner, J. Dating Violence Experiences of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Youth. In Press: Journal of Youth and Adolescence. On-line at <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10964-013-9975-8>.

14 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV- Affected Intimate Partner Violence in 2015: A report from the National Coalition of Anti- Violence- 2015-217 reports National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2018). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Hiv-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017. Retrieved from: <http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NCAVP-HV-IPV-2017-report.pdf>

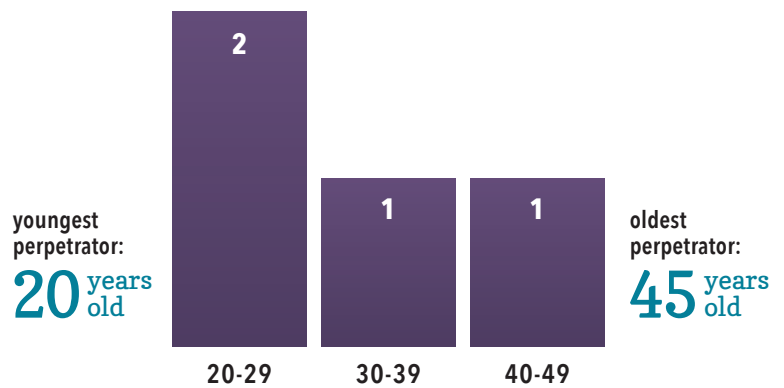
Perpetrators' Ages

The youngest perpetrator was 20 and the oldest perpetrator was 45.

Perpetrators' Criminal Charges

Authorities charged three perpetrators with murder; two were arrested and one remains at large. One perpetrator committed suicide after killing her intimate partner.

LGBTQ+ PERPETRATOR AGES: 2019

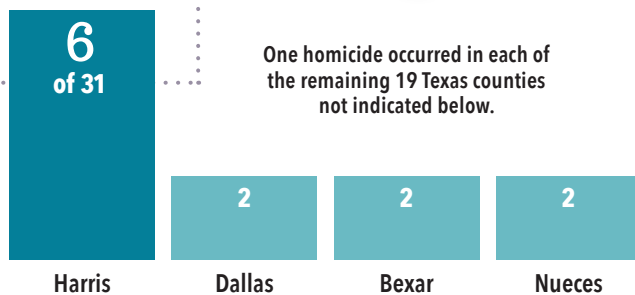


MEN KILLED BY WOMEN

31 men were killed by their female intimate partners in 23 Texas counties in 2019.

Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatality where a woman killed a male intimate partner in 2019. No fatalities occurred in counties indicated in purple.

19% of all Texas homicides in which women killed their male intimate partners occurred in Harris county.



“His smile and sense of humor were always the life of the crowd.”

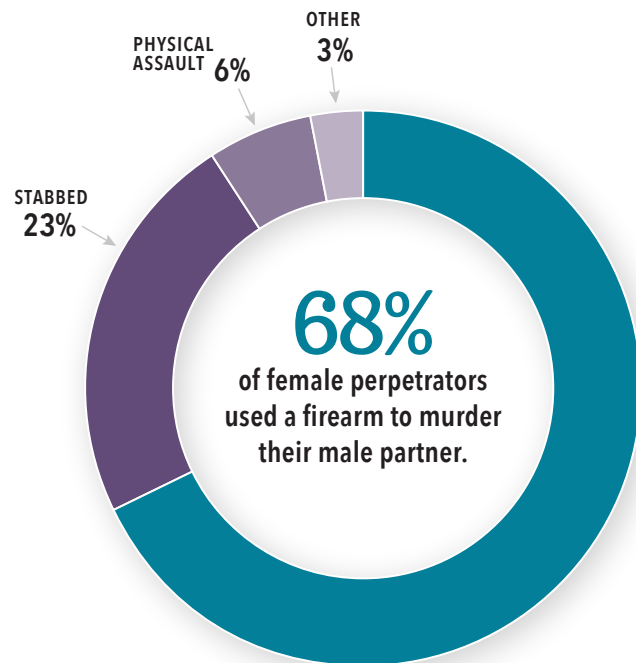
Method of Murder

In 2019, 21 women (68%) used firearms to kill their current or former male intimate partners. Seven female perpetrators (23%) stabbed and killed their male partners, two women physically assaulted the partners to death. One woman cut her partner's wrists to cause his death.

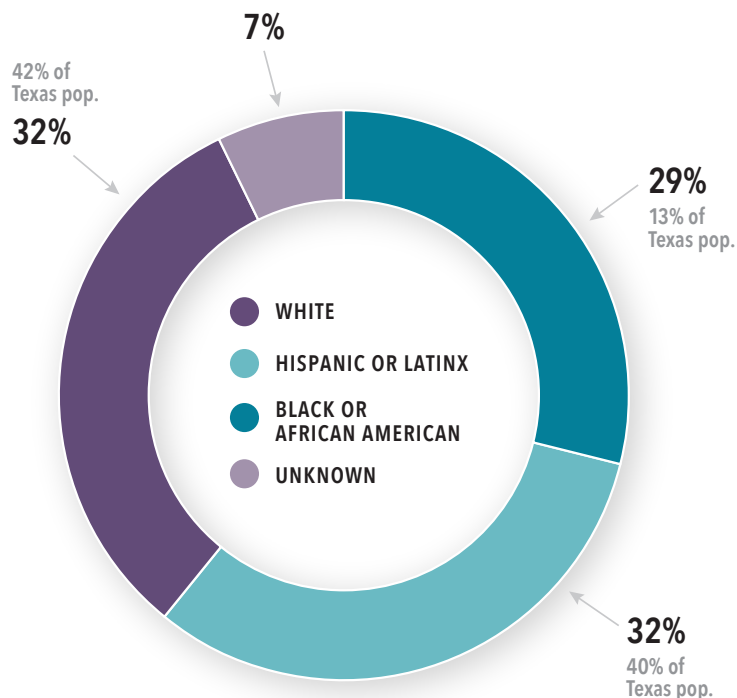
Victims' Ages

The ages of men killed by female perpetrators ranged from 17 to 93 in 2019. Female perpetrators killed five men between the ages of 20-29, three men between the ages of 30-39, six men between the ages of 40-49, seven men between the ages of 50-59, six men between the ages of 60-69, and two victims over the age of 70.

MEANS OF DEATH FOR MALE VICTIMS: 2019



ETHNICITY OF MALE VICTIMS: 2019



Victims' Race and Ethnicity

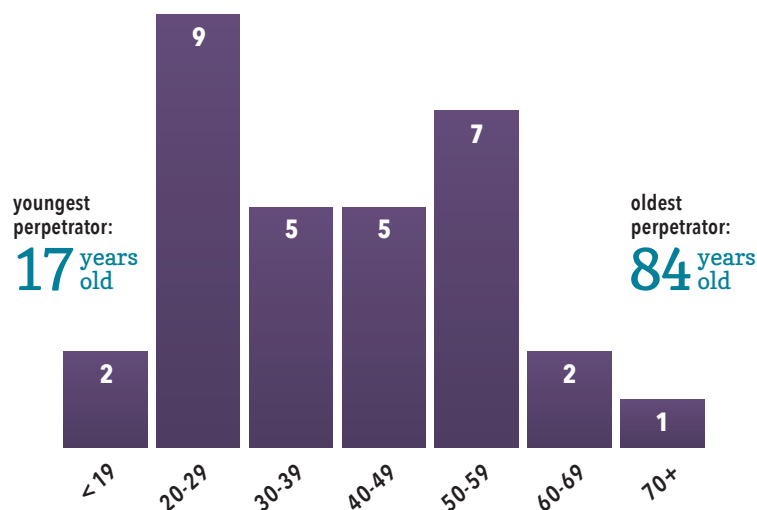
Female perpetrators killed nine Black and African American men (29%), 10 Hispanic or Latinx Men (32%), and 10 White/Caucasian men (32%). In two cases, the race and ethnicity of the victims were not determined or released.

Relationship Status

In the 31 cases of men killed by female intimate partners, the majority were in boyfriend and girlfriend relationships (52%); and a smaller number (39%) were in husband and wife relationships. Three women killed their ex-boyfriends. There were no records of women killing their ex-husbands in 2019.

Thirteen men killed by their female intimate partners were fathers, resulting in 29 adults and minor children losing one or more parents.

FEMALE PERPETRATOR AGES: 2019



Perpetrators' Ages

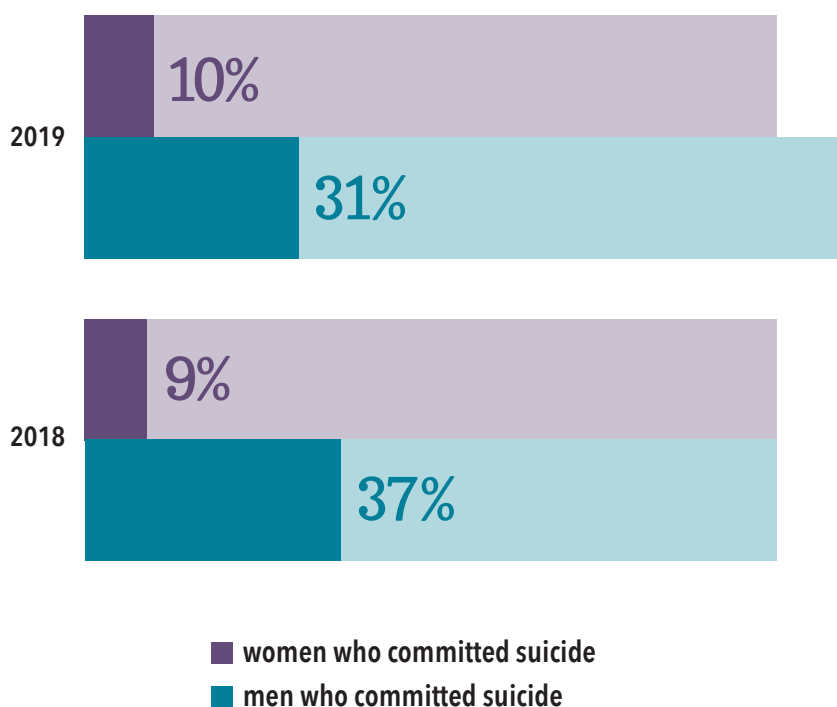
The youngest female perpetrator of intimate partner homicide in 2019 was 17 and the oldest was 84. Nine female offenders (29%) were between the ages of 20-29 representing the most prevalent age group, followed by seven female offenders ages 50-59 (23%). Five female perpetrators were between the ages of 30-39 (16%); five between the ages of 40-49 (16%); two between 60-69 (6%) and one perpetrator over 70 (3%).

Perpetrators' Criminal Charges

Authorities arrested and charged 77% of female perpetrators with murder or capital murder, and 12% with manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide. Of those, two have been sentenced.



MURDER-SUICIDE PREVALENCE: WOMEN VS MEN

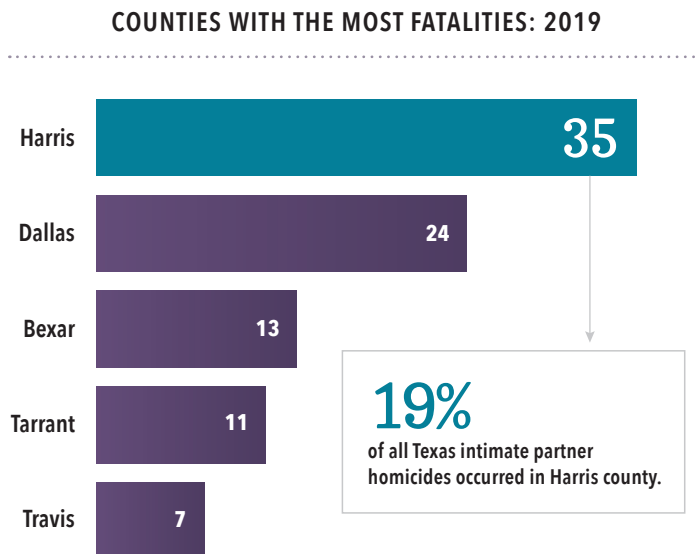


Murder-Suicide

In three cases, women killed themselves after killing their intimate partners. In the course of tracking women who kill their male intimate partners in 2018 and 2019, TCFV documented a significantly lower rate of women committing murder-suicide than men. In 2019, 10% of intimate partner homicides committed by women were determined to be murder-suicides compared to 31% of homicides perpetrated by men. Similarly, in 2018 women perpetrated murder-suicides in nine percent of homicides while men perpetrated murder-suicides in 37% of homicides.

IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES: COUNTY DATA

The 185 intimate partner homicides documented in this report occurred in 63 Texas counties in 2019. These included 38 urban counties, 22 rural counties, and five counties in the Texas-Mexico border area.



Higher numbers of fatalities occur each year in urban counties with the highest populations in the state. In 2019, 35 fatalities occurred in Harris County, which includes the city of Houston and has an estimated population of 4.7 million residents. Twenty-four fatalities occurred in Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas and has an estimated population of 2.6 million residents. Thirteen fatalities occurred in Bexar County, which includes the city of San Antonio and has an estimated population of 2 million residents.¹⁵ Despite high fatality numbers in these counties, the per capita rates do not vary significantly between urban and rural counties.

There is little variation between the per capita intimate partner homicide rate among urban and rural communities and border and non-border counties in the 2019 data. However, survivors experience systemic barriers to safety in urban and rural communities and border and non-border communities in distinct ways.

Almost one-third of Texas counties have femicide rates at or above the state per capita femicide rate.¹⁷

While the high numbers of fatalities in the largest urban counties are reflective of population size more than the prevalence in the community, the cumulative impact on these communities, their service providers and first responders, and survivors and family members of intimate partner homicide victims cannot be dismissed. Urban counties have more residential capacity within family violence programs than rural counties, yet they have higher rates of denying housing due to lack of space.¹⁷

In rural communities, barriers to service include lack of transportation options, limited access to mental health services, as well as potential social isolation in small communities due to less anonymity. While rural family violence service providers serve a smaller population size than their urban counterparts, their service areas often cover several counties, and advocates must build and maintain relationships across numerous law enforcement jurisdictions and with a variety of community service providers to support a coordinated

¹⁵ U.S. Census Annual County and Resident Population Estimates by Selected Age Groups and Sex: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2019 (CC-EST2019-AGESEX), Version 2, March 2020

¹⁶ Wood, L., Backes, B. L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

¹⁷ *Id.*

community response to domestic violence.¹⁸ While access to legal representation through family violence service providers and childcare resources are limited across the state, they are particularly rare resources in rural and border counties. Programs along the U.S./Mexico border serve more immigrant survivors and are adept at finding legal support systems to address this higher level of need.¹⁹

| COUNTY | TOTAL IPV HOMICIDES | WOMEN KILLED | | MEN KILLED | |
|-----------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | | Male Perpetrator | Female Perpetrator | Male Perpetrator | Female Perpetrator |
| Bastrop | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bell | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bexar | 13 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Bowie | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Brazoria | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Brazos | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Callahan | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Castro | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Clay | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Collin | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Dallas | 24 | 21 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Dawson | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Denton | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Duval | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ector | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| El Paso | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Fort Bend | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gaines | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Galveston | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Gregg | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Guadalupe | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Harris | 35 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| Harrison | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Henderson | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hidalgo | 4 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Hockley | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

18 Brereton, A.I., Serrata, J.V., & Hurtado Alvarado, M.G. (2019). Understanding the Needs of Underserved Communities in Texas, Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence.

19 Wood, L., Backes, B. L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

| COUNTY | TOTAL IPV HOMICIDES | WOMEN KILLED | | MEN KILLED | |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| | | Male Perpetrator | Female Perpetrator | Male Perpetrator | Female Perpetrator |
| Hood | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Hunt | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jasper | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Jefferson | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Jim Wells | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Karnes | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Kaufman | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Kerr | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lamb | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lavaca | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lubbock | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| McLennan | 3 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Medina | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Midland | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Montgomery | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Moore | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Nacogdoches | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Navarro | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nueces | 5 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Parker | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Parmer | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Polk | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Randall | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Reeves | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Rusk | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Shelby | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Smith | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tarrant | 11 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Titus | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Travis | 7 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Upshur | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Val Verde | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Victoria | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Williamson | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Winkler | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wise | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

SECTION II

Responding to Lethality Indicators to Prevent Intimate Partner Homicides

Analyzing the factors related to the 185 intimate partner homicides in the state in 2019 provides perspective to understand the needs of survivors more completely and helps identify opportunities to enhance system responses to domestic violence survivors and offenders to expand the social safety net. The most recent State Plan developed by TCFV in 2019, *Creating a Safer Texas: Access to Safety, Justice & Opportunity*, identified significant areas of need through interviews with survivors and family violence agency staff. Housing, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing also emerged as a critical need, and as the most frequently cited by survivors.²⁰

“ I want to see justice...
Everybody that knew her
is truly hurt. ”

Key recommendations from the Texas State Plan included a call for increased collaboration across systems. The narratives detailing the tragic outcomes of intimate partner violence in 2019 reinforce the need for access to services and resources that can be maximized through effective collaboration among community partners. These cases also elevate the need to enhance responsiveness to underrepresented populations, including individuals from historically marginalized communities and LGBTQ+ persons.

INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDES

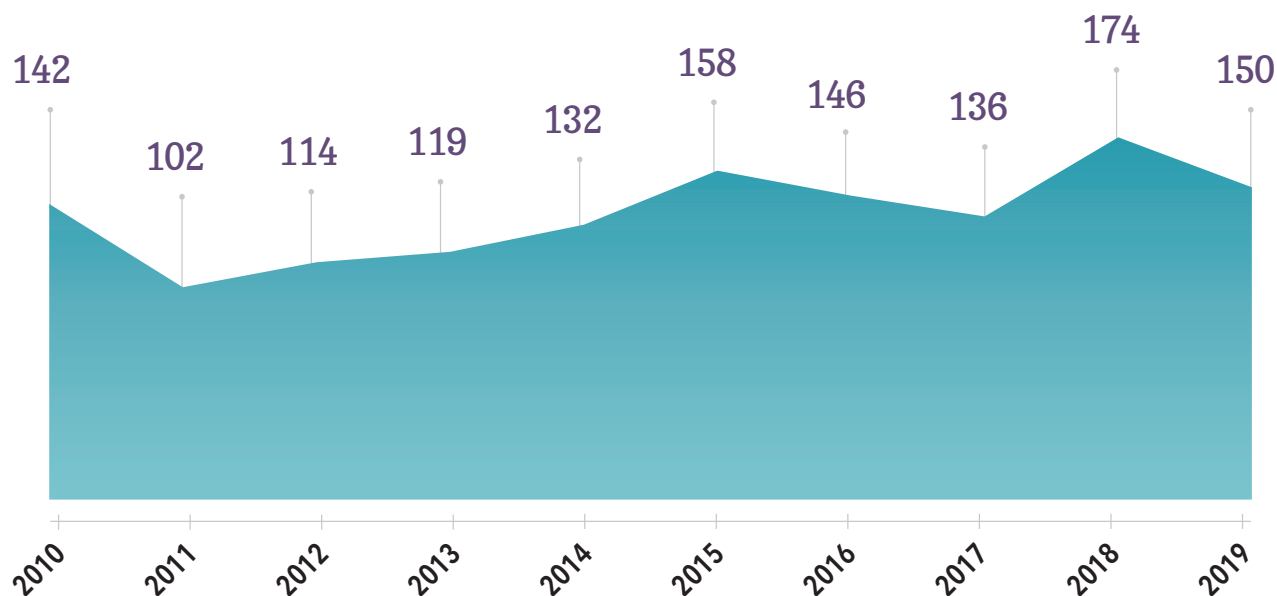
Between 2010 and 2019, TCFV reported the deaths of 1,373 women at the hands of their intimate partners. Tragically, as the figure on the next page illustrates, the number of intimate partner femicides has trended up during that same period. In the first five years of the prior decade, 2010-2014, TCFV documented an average of 121 homicides each year. During the last five years, 2015-2019, TCFV documented an average of 152 homicides each year. This 25% increase in the number of women killed by their male intimate partners exceeds the 15% increase in the state population over the same period and indicates an increased prevalence of intimate partner homicides. Since 2015, Texas recorded the highest number of female homicide victims in the U.S.,²¹ with the exception of 2017 when the state was second to California, and ranked within the top 15 states with the highest per capita femicide rates.²²

20 Findings, recommendations, and county specific data in the 2019 Texas State Plan available at <https://tcfv.org/texas-state-plan/>.

21 The Violence Policy Center reports all female homicides annually. Approximately 62-64% are victims of intimate partner homicides.

22 Violence Policy Center. (2017-2020).
When men murder women: an analysis of 2018 homicide data. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2020.pdf>,
When men murder women: an analysis of 2017 homicide data. Retrieved from <http://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>,
When men murder women: an analysis of 2016 homicide data. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2018.pdf>, and
When men murder women: an analysis of 2015 homicide data. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2017.pdf>

INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDES OVER LAST DECADE



Women are more likely to be killed by their intimate partners than by other family members, non-intimate acquaintances, or persons they do not know.²⁴

FIREARM FACILITATED INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

Of the 185 intimate partner homicides in Texas in 2019, 63% of perpetrators used a firearm to kill their partners; 88% of perpetrators of murder-suicides used a firearm to kill themselves after killing their partners. Male perpetrators also injured five and killed 17 witnesses or bystanders with a firearm. Five male perpetrators threatened or opened fire on law enforcement officers.

Firearm-facilitated intimate partner homicides occurred in 39 Texas counties in 2019. In 35 counties, firearm-related deaths accounted for 50% or more of all the homicides that occurred, including:

→ MONTGOMERY COUNTY

County Seat:
Conroe

Perpetrators used firearms in two of the three intimate partner homicides.

→ HIDALGO COUNTY

County Seat:
Edinburg

Perpetrators used firearms in three of the four intimate partner homicides.

→ GREGG COUNTY

County Seat:
Longview

Perpetrators used firearms in all three intimate partner homicides.

→ DALLAS COUNTY

County Seat:
Dallas

Perpetrators used firearms in 63% of intimate partner homicides.

²³ Violence Policy Center. (2019). When men murder women: an analysis of 2017 homicide data. Retrieved from <http://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.

→ **TARRANT COUNTY**

*County Seat:
Fort Worth*

Perpetrators used firearms in 64% of intimate partner homicides.

→ **BEXAR COUNTY**

*County Seat:
San Antonio*

Perpetrators used firearms in 69% of intimate partner homicides.

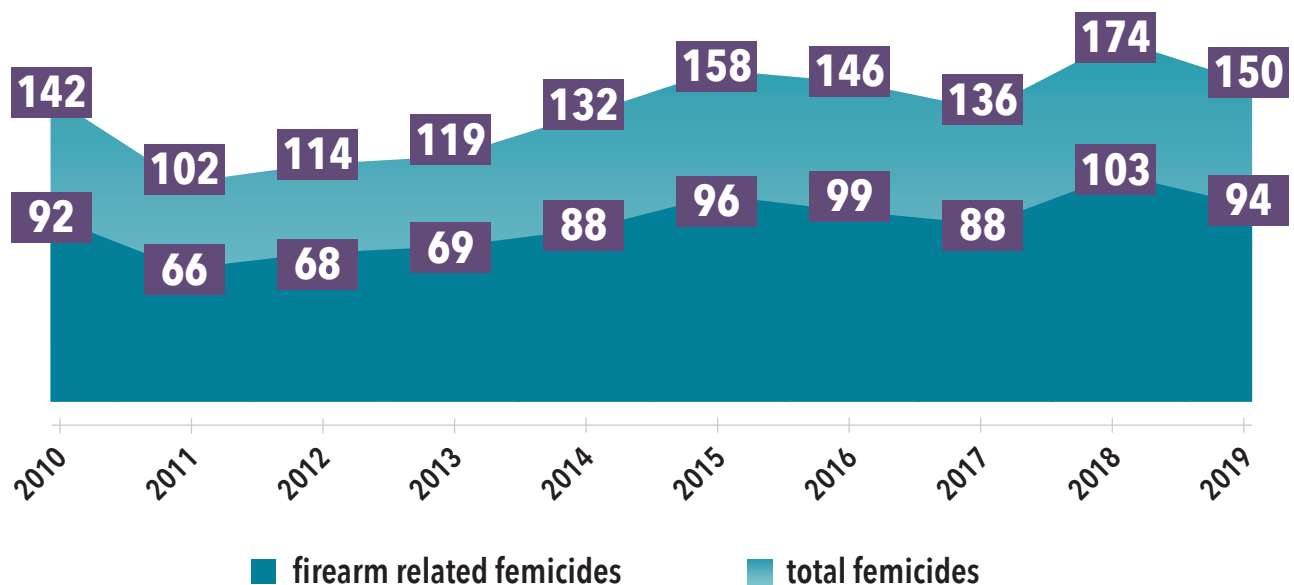
→ **HARRIS COUNTY**

*County Seat:
Houston*

Perpetrators used firearms in 77% of intimate partner homicides.

TCFV identified that 22 perpetrators had criminal backgrounds that are connected to firearm prohibitions. Ten victims had received protective orders against their perpetrators. One perpetrator stole three firearms from his ex-wife's house immediately before killing his ex-girlfriend. Three of the homicides with teen victims and perpetrators involved teens brandishing and mishandling firearms around their dating partners. One homicide occurred with a firearm within an on-campus dormitory.²⁴

FIREARM RELATED FEMICIDES VS TOTAL FEMICIDES OVER LAST DECADE



The number of firearm-facilitated intimate partner femicides in Texas increased from an average of 77 annually between 2010-2014 to 96 annually between 2015-2019.

Domestic violence and guns are a deadly combination:

In 2019, 154 Texans were killed with firearms during intimate partner homicides and murder-suicides.²⁵

²⁴ TCFV was unable to determine if the perpetrator was licensed to lawfully possess a firearm on campus.

²⁵ This includes all intimate partner homicide victims, perpetrators who died by suicide, and witnesses, bystanders, and family members killed who are documented in TCFV's 2019 Honoring Texas Victims Report.

| HIGH RISK OF LETHAL VIOLENCE | TRAGIC OUTCOMES |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ The presence of a gun in the home increases the risk of fatal intimate partner violence by 500%.²⁶ ➔ Threatening with a firearm is an all too common tactic of domestic violence perpetrators.²⁷ ➔ 51% of Texas survivors interviewed in the Texas State Plan indicated their former abusive partner owned or had access to a gun or other weapons.²⁸ | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ 74% of firearm facilitated intimate partner homicides and murder-suicides occurred in a shared home or home where the victim or perpetrator lived and had an ease of access to firearms. ➔ 76 perpetrators had a known history of violence against their intimate partners; 25 perpetrators threatened to kill their partners or others, threatened their partners with a firearm, or fired guns during domestic violence assaults before killing their partners. ➔ Texas exceeds the national level of firearm-facilitated intimate partner homicides by 10%.²⁹ |

Remove Firearms from Family Violence Offenders

Firearm-facilitated intimate partner homicides are predictable and preventable, but resources to address prevention and intervention have been limited. Federal and state prohibitions allow firearms to be removed from domestic violence offenders. However, system gaps perpetuate a lack of enforcement of these laws and offender accountability for violations. Without enforcement protocols in place and adequate criminal database information, authorities often have no means of disarming offenders, leaving many survivors, as well as law enforcement officers and the community at a higher risk for fatalities.

Additional resources and collaborations are required to institute universal practices to prevent firearm-facilitated intimate partner homicides. Firearm surrender protocols designed to ensure prohibited possessors relinquish weapons should be informed, developed, and implemented at the local community level to enforce

26 Koziol-McLain, J., Webster, D., McFarlane, J., Block, C. R., Ulrich, Y., Glass, N., & Campbell, J. C. (2006). Risk factors for femicide-suicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *Violence and Victims*, 21(1), 3–21. DOI: 10.1891/0886-6708.21.1.3

27 Twenty-two percent of survivors surveyed reported that their abusive intimate partner threatened to kill them, their family members, friends, and pets and 10% reported their partner fired a gun during an argument. Azrael, D., & Hemenway, D. (2000). 'In the safety of your own home': Results from a national survey on gun use at home. *Social Science & Medicine*, 50(2), 285–291. DOI: 10.1016/S0277-9536(99)00283-x

28 Wood, L., Backes, B.L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

29 Nationally, firearms are used in 53% of intimate partner homicides; In 2019, firearms were the weapon used in 63% of intimate partner homicides in Texas.

federal and state statutes and bolster community safety. Funding and structural resources are needed to maximize implementation across the state.

Background checks prevent the purchase of firearms by prohibited individuals, including domestic violence offenders. Federal laws require background checks for all sales by licensed firearm dealers, but these requirements do not extend to online sales or sales at gun shows, allowing ease of access for people designated prohibited possessors due to felony convictions and protective orders. States with laws requiring background checks on all gun sales are linked with reduced firearm homicide and suicide rates.³⁰ Accurate reporting of domestic violence convictions and protective orders are needed to ensure background check systems can identify all prohibited possessors and provide law enforcement with the necessary information to enforce prohibitions.

Firearm-facilitated intimate partner homicides are predictable and preventable.

STRANGULATION

In 43% of cases where an intimate partner later kills a woman, the perpetrator assaulted her by strangulation in the previous year.³¹ Yet, strangulation is underrepresented in the data collected about Texas intimate

Strangulation is likely significantly under-reported and not investigated.

partner homicides in 2019. Eleven male perpetrators used strangulation or asphyxiation to kill their intimate partner victims, including ten women and one man. Only six male perpetrators had documented histories of strangulation charges or reports against their female partners. Perpetrators who killed by strangulation had recent criminal justice system violence, had abused their partners during pregnancy, and at least one strangled his partner when she refused to drop charges against him. Given the data

regarding the frequency of strangulation used by domestic violence perpetrators who kill their partners and the number of strangulation incidents documented in this report, it is likely that strangulation crimes are significantly under-reported and not investigated.

“ He threatens me every time I try to break up with him... He choked me until I lost consciousness (and) allowed me to regain consciousness and then he choked me out again... I know he can kill me. ”

Strangulation could easily be a largely hidden epidemic. It most often happens behind closed doors. Ninety percent of strangulation homicides in 2019 occurred in either the victims' or perpetrators' homes or a home shared by both. Injuries and warning signs can remain invisible to the untrained eye. It requires attention and specialized training and resources to thoroughly identify and prosecute each strangulation incident. Strangulation homicide victims have died as much as 36 hours after they were attacked and even when no outward signs of trauma were observed. Strangulation femicides can have lower clearance rates than other

30 Everytown for Gun Safety. (2020). "Update Background Check Laws". Retrieved from: <https://bit.ly/3hVv0xl>

31 Glass, N., Laughon, K., Campbell, J., Block, C. R., Hanson, G., Sharps, P. W., & Taliaferro, E. (2008). Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women. *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 35(3), 329–335. DOI: 10.1016/j.jemermed.2007.02.065

femicides. Between 2010-2019 in Texas, among female homicide victims over the age of 18, 71% of strangulation femicides identified a suspect at the time of the report compared to 85% of cases involving all femicides.³²

This invisibility of the crime can reinforce a lack of accountability for perpetrators who already believe they can choose whether their partner lives or dies. Without training, more subtle evidence of strangulation may likely be overlooked and offenders can escape accountability for the felony crime of strangulation. Survivors who defend themselves while being strangled may be arrested for causing more visible injuries to their attacker. As noted by Pritchard, Reckdenwald, Nordham, and Holton, “The ability of the offender to engage in less “visible” forms of strangulation (at least to the untrained first responder) may allow him to continue this pattern of coercion and control for longer than offenders who engage in more obvious forms of manual strangulation.”³³

Strangulation injuries and warning signs require special training to identify and prosecute.

Enhanced coordination in systems working with strangulation victims and perpetrators can support fuller accountability and safety by:

- ➔ Training for first responders on identifying and documenting strangulation and improving evidence collection.
- ➔ Implementation of a strangulation supplement to police reports that supports thorough documentation of strangulation symptoms.
- ➔ Collaboration with medical professionals who can provide forensic exams for improved evidence collection and healthcare outcomes for survivors.
- ➔ Using available legal remedies and coordinated community response teams to address the high-risk strangulation offenders pose (e.g. bond conditions, protective orders, Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams).

IDENTIFYING & RESPONDING TO RISK POSED BY FAMILY VIOLENCE OFFENDERS

Offenders most often pose the highest risk when victims are involved in the justice system to stop abusive behavior.³⁶

Intimate partner homicide perpetrators had a reported history of violence against their homicide victims as well as previous partners. This included physical assault during pregnancy, strangulation, stalking, sexual assault, terroristic threats, and previous criminal histories of violence.

Forty-one percent of perpetrators (76) had identified histories of abusive and violent behavior. Thirty-one percent of perpetrators (58) had current or previous criminal charges and/or convictions or current or prior protective orders against them. Twenty-five men and two women had active criminal justice system involvement at the time

32 Murder Accountability Project. Available data retrieved from: <http://www.murderdata.org/p/victims.html>

33 Pritchard AJ, Reckdenwald A, Nordham C, Holton J. Improving Identification of Strangulation Injuries in Domestic Violence: Pilot Data From a Researcher–Practitioner Collaboration. *Feminist Criminology*. 2018;13(2):160-181. DOI: 10.1177/1557085116653181

34 Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McClain, J., Block, C., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., ... Laughon, K. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results From a multisite Case Control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089–1097. DOI: 10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089

they killed their partners. A smaller number of perpetrators killed their partners when arrest warrants were issued for family violence but before they were arrested or immediately after being released on bond for a family violence charge. ***Prior abuse by an intimate partner, regardless of the severity of the incident, further increases the risk of a victim being killed or of killing an abusive partner.***³⁵ Seven male homicide victims had violent criminal histories toward their partners or active criminal family violence or sexual assault cases at the time of their murders.

This analysis of the 2019 intimate partner homicides indicates the need for enhanced intervention to prevent intimate partner homicides and lethal violence by improving cross-system coordination and promoting uniformity in responses to domestic violence cases, including:

- ➔ **Risk assessment tools must incorporate domestic violence lethality and re-assault indicators.** Generalized criminal risk assessment tools alone are not effective in determining the risk posed by family violence offenders. However, enhanced uniformity in collection and reporting on family violence is key to effective intervention. Currently, the Texas Criminal Information Database (TCIC) lacks data fields that allow for the accurate reporting and identification of family violence histories, specific court orders, and firearm prohibitions. Access to these types of critical background information is key to supporting the most effective law enforcement intervention as well as addressing family violence in prosecution and judicial determinations.
- ➔ **An effective, evidence-based intervention designed to assess risk and connect survivors to advocacy services is the Lethality Assessment Protocols (LAP).** LAPs equip law enforcement officers with a screening tool to ascertain potential lethality indicators as well as the skills to communicate risk to victims. The protocol is designed to connect victims to advocates at family violence service providers while officers remain on scene to ensure victim safety. The protocol promotes a high level of cooperative working relationships between law enforcement agencies and family violence services providers, which reinforces that the community prioritizes safety for survivors.
- ➔ **Another evidence-based model is the Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (DVHRTs).** The DVHRTs address risk of lethality by working to bridge systemic gaps between the criminal justice system and victim advocates. DVHRTs work across multi-disciplinary teams composed of law enforcement, prosecution, family violence service providers, probation, parole, healthcare systems, and other community-based systems. Texas communities with DVHRTs identify cases with extreme fatality risk and coordinate offender tracking, protective orders, and initiate case management to enhance safety and accountability.
- ➔ **Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) also provide an evidence-based intervention to family violence offenders,** most often involved in the criminal justice system. BIPPs are a crucial component of a community response to family violence. BIPP providers facilitate educational sessions designed to hold men who abuse their partners accountable, challenge their belief structures that support abusive behavior, and ultimately create positive behavior change. BIPPs are effective in helping family violence offenders stop their abusive behavior. The impact increases when BIPP services are paired with a swift criminal justice response for non-compliance and effective identification and appropriate sanctions for high-risk offenders.³⁶

35 Belknap, J., Larson, D.-L., Abrams, M. L., Garcia, C., & Anderson-Block, K. (2012). Types of intimate partner homicides committed by women: self-defense, proxy/retaliation, and sexual proprietariness. *Homicide Studies*, 16(4), 359–379. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1088767912461444>

36 Gondolf, E. (2000). Mandatory court review and batterer program compliance. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 15, 438-437

13 of 185 homicide victims were involved in civil legal proceedings at the time of their murders.

Victims in 13 of the 185 homicides were involved in civil legal proceedings at the time of their murders. Most of these legal cases were related to divorce proceedings, including child custody and child support when there were children of the marriage. Another case directly followed the victim's request for child support modifications and a homicide occurred after the victim requested an order to return her personal property.

While the victims of these homicides were involved in family law and other civil legal cases, they did not seek out or include criminal justice system interventions, indicating a need for family and civil court professionals to be aware of the unique risks present when couples are separating and engaging in civil litigation. ***These professionals have an opportunity to identify family violence and respond to survivors who have most likely not called on law enforcement to respond.*** To assist child custody professionals to be able to better promote safety, the Texas Legislature has required several of these professionals-child custody mediators, custody evaluators, and parenting time coordinators/facilitators to have training on family violence. A variety of tools exist for professionals and courts. The SAFeR model³⁷ is an approach to decision-making in family law matters and aligns with guidance and resources available from the National Resource Center on Child Protection and Custody.³⁸

SECTION III

Access to Safety: Inclusive & Equitable Services

Domestic violence survivors weigh complex factors as they make help-seeking choices. Their choices are informed not only by their safety and the needs of their children, but often also by their concern about the risks they, their children, or their abusive partners might be exposed to when engaging different systems. Survivors consider how to avoid homelessness, deportation, criminalization, removal of their children, and destabilization of financial means, employment, or education as they determine how to interact with community-based service providers, law enforcement, and child welfare. They make these choices while also knowing the risk their abusive partners generate and that violence will occur again.³⁹

37 The SAFeR model involves screening for IPV, assessing the context of IPV, focusing on the effects and responding to the lived experience of IPV survivors. Retrieved from: <https://www.bwjp.org/our-work/projects/safer/safer-approach.html>

38 TCFV Policy staff is available to offer consultation and training on increasing safety in family law and other civil legal matters.

39 Liang, B., Goodman, L., Tummala-Narra, P. & Weintraub, S. (2005). A theoretical framework for understanding help-seeking processes among survivors of intimate partner violence. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 36(5), 71-84. DOI: 10.1007/s10464-005-6233-6

McCart, M.R., Smith, D.W., & Sawyer, G.K. (2010). Help seeking among victims of crime: a review of the empirical literature. *Journal of Traumatic Stress* 23(2): 198-206. DOI: 10.1002/jts.20509.

Systems that can be the link to safety for many have historically perpetuated, and still currently permit systemic racism to remain unchecked, leading to inequities in access to safety among impacted communities. Law enforcement and other formal legal agencies are the main sources of referrals for domestic violence services. In the interviews conducted for the 2019 State Plan, service providers noted that there are significant differences in the training, engagement, and responses of law enforcement; therefore, making it difficult to

Law enforcement and other formal legal agencies are the main sources of referrals for domestic violence services.

promote trust among survivors, especially if they belong to communities that have been impacted by ongoing experiences of oppression within those systems.

As one survivor interviewed for the Texas State Plan said: "I'm always met with, immediately, "Ma'am, you can calm down." In an aggressive tone... I don't know, and I'm

not one to play the race card. I'm not. But, I don't know if it's a race thing. If African American women are just automatically seen as aggressive. Once you see me, what I look like, what I appear, and then you get there and your tone is that way."⁴⁰

To further exacerbate this, family violence centers, which so often strive to offer equitable and accessible services, also can present barriers to survivors from historically oppressed communities. Consider that 18% of Texas hotlines report confusion on if they serve transgender survivors, 11% are unsure if they serve men, and four percent state they do not, and 35% of programs surveyed do not offer assistance related to immigration which is a top need for many survivors.⁴¹

In understanding interpersonal and domestic violence among individuals with intersecting identities it is important to contextualize these findings around cultural norms. This is because culture is less an individual factor and more so a lens that shapes not only how we see the world around us, but also how we interact with the different levels within a system. This means that cultural system factors can impact how an individual seeks help, engages with interventions, has access to culturally responsive services, etc. In addition, understanding cultural norms might not be sufficient to be able to contextualize the experience of individuals from historically marginalized communities.

Individual risk factors generated by intimate partner violence interact with the specific community and societal level context that survivors experience and systemic bias and disenfranchisement can compound barriers to safety.

It is important to add an intersectional lens that accounts not only for the individual-level experiences within a particular group but also how these individual factors interact with macro-level systemic factors. For example, immigrant survivors might not report domestic or interpersonal violence incidents to law enforcement due to fears about potential repercussions on their current status, such as not being able to access certain legal remedies or not being able to access services that are culturally-responsive, including in their language of origin.

40 Wood, L., Backes, B.L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

41 *Id.*

The 2019 Texas State Plan found that individuals from communities impacted by historical oppression had limited access to services for domestic violence.⁴² Individual-level factors such as primary language, sexual orientation, gender identity, as well as systems of oppression create a significant barrier to accessing effective services. To provide effective services to survivors with intersecting identities that experience oppression, it is critical to not only consider individual-level risk factors of violence but to focus on how those factors interact with the specific community and societal-level context that survivors live in.

Without an examination of our collective roles in perpetuating systemic barriers, we can re-victimize survivors from Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), immigrants, LGBTQ+, and other historically marginalized communities.

CONTEXTUALIZING INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN BIPOC & IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

In reviewing 2019 intimate partner homicide cases, TCFV documented known lethality indicators preceding approximately 39% homicides, with a slightly higher prevalence among victims from communities of color, including: offender-generated risk factors, including physical harm, psychological harm (including stalking), threats against their children, drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, or their previous history of criminal history.

Approximately 41% of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx victims had recently ended the relationship, left their home, or tried to leave the relationship. Several of the victims had received support from friends and family with some of them being accompanied by friends or family members at the time of their homicide.

In addition, in most cases, there was limited known historical involvement by law enforcement. For those cases where law enforcement was not involved or their involvement was unknown, the data available about family and friends indicate that some of them were aware of controlling behavior and the history of violence

“ *She told friends that if she ever went missing, it would be because her husband had killed her.* ”

that might not have been reported to law enforcement. In addition, the data indicated that several of the victims had let family and/or friends know about the violence in their relationship and in some cases the potential for homicide.

In several of the cases, victims told family members or friends about an escalation in violence and threatening behavior. The escalation reported included death threats, strangulation, used or threatened with weapons, etc. It is important to note that in most cases when law enforcement was involved, this occurred on the day of or within a few weeks of the homicide. This is consistent with data that shows that communities of color experience more severe instances of domestic violence and therefore, are more likely to report incidents of domestic violence to law enforcement when the violence has significantly escalated in severity.⁴³

Approximately 17% of people living in Texas were born outside of the United States.⁴⁴ Within the intimate partner homicides reported in 2019, victims had various lengths of residency in the United States which could

42 Brereton, A.I., Serrata, J.V., & Hurtado Alvarado, M.G. (2019). Understanding the needs of underserved communities in Texas, Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence.

43 Lipsky, S., Caetano, R., & Roy-Byrne, P., (2009). Racial and ethnic disparities in police-reported intimate partner violence and risk of hospitalization among women. *Women's Health Issues*, 19(2), 109-118. DOI:10.1016/j.whi.2008.09.005

44 American Immigration Council, (2020), Immigrants in Texas Fact Sheet. Retrieved from: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_texas.pdf

translate to varying degrees of knowledge of criminal justice, immigration, and social service systems.⁴⁵ For example, one victim of murder-suicide had immigrated to attend college and lived in the U.S. for more than 20 years, while another victim had only traveled from her home country to live with her husband in the U.S. one week before her murder. Another victim had recently separated from her husband after he was arrested for strangling her and she took her young son to stay with family in her home country before returning to the U.S. when her husband killed her.

“ *She was the true definition of the American dream.* ”

Immigrant individuals might experience other stressors such as experiencing violence in their country of origin and continuance of the abuse once they are in the U.S. For example, one victim had discussed the history of her husband’s violent behavior with her family. She had requested a divorce in the past which her husband denied. She had moved to the U.S. to work on their marriage, but her husband’s violent behavior did not improve. She had reported to her family that she was afraid of him.

Immigrant survivors encounter additional barriers when they seek services. These barriers include stigma about receiving services, not knowing about the services available and what they entail, and limited information about the facilities in which services are provided.⁴⁶ This might be particularly relevant in recent years as there have been significant changes to laws that limit the eligibility of immigrant survivors to access services and the impact this might have on their immigration status.⁴⁷

INVESTING IN FORWARD THINKING APPROACHES: CENTERING THE NEEDS OF BLACK SURVIVORS

The Empowered Survivor Project was launched in Harris County in 2020 to enhance engagement with survivors from Black and underserved communities through culturally specific services that aim to close system gaps that may prevent Black survivors from seeking help from criminal justice or community-based services. The Project particularly identified a strong need to address racial disparities in crime victimization and homicides. While Black women are three times more likely to be killed than white women, homicide clearance rates are far lower for black women.⁴⁸



the **EMPOWERED SURVIVOR**®

To inform their efforts, the project surveyed Black survivors in their service area on issues related to help-seeking, finding that 15% reported “fear of law enforcement” and 60% reported societal messaging that they were “taught to be strong” as preventing them from seeking services for the abuse they experienced. In their report, the Empowered Survivor Project states “when race is coupled with societal issues such as poverty, disparities in the areas of education, employment, and income become more prevalent, which in turn makes marginalized groups even more vulnerable to suffering abuse during a pandemic.

45 One limitation of this report is that TCFV is unable to identify primary language or immigration background information on each victim in order to evaluate how language access and immigration status may impact barriers to help-seeking for intimate partner homicide victims in the state.

46 Erez, E., Adelman, M., & Gregory, C. (2009). Intersections of Immigration and Domestic Violence: Voices of Battered Immigrant Women. *Feminist Criminology*, 4(1), 32–56.

47 Texas Council on Family Violence Texas State Plan 2018: Report - Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence (pg. 5)

48 Empowered Survivor, Inc. (2020), *The Empowered Survivor Project: How COVID-19 Impacted Black Survivors and The Lessons It Taught Us*, a report on a project managed by Empowered Survivor, Inc., and funded by the Texas Council on Family Violence.

Recognizing that survivors from communities of color face systemic societal and economic barriers in accessing safety exacerbated by the economic downturn and social isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Empowered Survivor Project engaged several community partners and developed a whole person service model based on individualized P.O.W.E.R. plans:

- ➔ **P**roviding basic needs and safety through emergency housing, food, and access to a clothing boutique;
- ➔ **O**vercoming barriers to justice through expert legal advocacy supporting a range of civil legal matters, including protective orders, divorce, U-Visas, as well as criminal case advocacy, and providing access to substance abuse treatment and relocation assistance;
- ➔ **W**ellness care that addresses physical and mental trauma through telehealth platforms and access to basic services such as immunizations, physical exams, regular screening exams, treatment for high-risk conditions, such as hypertension and diabetes, and access to forensic medical services;
- ➔ **E**ducation that promotes upward mobility and independence through literacy, post-secondary education, job training, and other economic advocacy resources;
- ➔ **R**estoration of a survivor's mind, body, and soul through therapeutic counseling, exercise, meditation as well as support with record expungement, credit restoration, and first-time homebuyer services.

The Empowered Survivor Project also recognizes the need for and advocates for criminal justice reform. The Project promotes the following recommendations for supporting Black survivors through enhanced coordinated community response efforts:

- ➔ **Use a trauma-informed and culturally responsive approach** that addresses past trauma and systemic factors leading to pain and vulnerability to abuse. Listen to understand and respond with survivor-centered individualized supports.
- ➔ **Utilize danger assessments to close system gaps** for survivors at highest risk of lethal violence in a coordinated response such as High-Risk Teams.
- ➔ **Develop multi-disciplinary crisis response teams** by pairing specially trained victim advocates with law enforcement officers to respond to domestic violence calls for service. This model promotes trauma-informed crisis intervention services and prioritizes agencies' roles in survivor safety.
- ➔ **Offer culturally relevant advocacy and case management for survivors** from communities of color to increase comfort navigating the systems that they are engaged to address the violence.

STRENGTHENING PREVENTION & SURVIVOR SERVICES WITHIN BIPOC & IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES

Drawing from the qualitative analyses of this review of 2019 intimate partner homicides in Texas, as well as the data available in the 2019 Texas State Plan and the studies that were conducted with individuals of diverse identities, TCFV has identified the following recommendations for prevention and survivor services:⁴⁹

Assess Risk and Safety Plan in Culturally Responsive Ways

Providers working with individuals in communities of color must conduct risk assessments in a way that promotes trust and collaboration by using trauma-informed and culturally-responsive approaches that contextualize the experiences of individuals seeking help promotes trust-building. Additionally, based on the data observed, effective safety plans correspond to the identified lethality and re-assault indicators as well as identified barriers, protective factors, and resources available and/or needed.

Build Partnerships with Community Stakeholders

Mainstream family violence service providers can seek to learn and connect with culturally specific community-based organizations to strengthen support for individuals experiencing domestic violence, including religious and community organizations, law enforcement, domestic violence shelters, advocates, mental health, and social work services.

Challenge Partners to Strengthen Relationships within Marginalized Communities

Survivors who have been marginalized by community systems may feel unsafe accessing law enforcement or courts. One role of coordinated community response to domestic violence is relationship building and education about survivor experience that can increase survivors' comfort in navigating systems as they choose. Support community partners in examining the relationship that they might have with different aspects of the community and strategize about ways in which they can engage with community members safely and build trust and safety.

Design and Readily Utilize a Language Accessibility Plan

It is critical to provide language-specific services to survivors, ranging from language-specific programming, having interpreters available, translated and accessible informational materials, and culturally competent staff. Develop a plan that provides appropriate language interpretation and thoroughly train staff to respond to survivors with limited English proficiency with minimal delays.

Bring Services to Survivors with Virtual and Mobile Programming

Individuals experience an array of barriers to access services, including isolation imposed by their abusive partner or other circumstances or a lack of childcare or transportation. Mobile and virtual programming reduce barriers to services and strain on survivors.

⁴⁹ Brereton, A.I., Serrata, J.V., & Hurtado Alvarado, M.G. (2019). Understanding the needs of underserved communities in Texas, Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence.

ADDRESSING THE SAFETY NEEDS OF LGBTQ+ SURVIVORS

Barriers to reporting and seeking help for intimate partner violence reinforce limitations in reporting a complete data set of LGBTQ+⁵⁰ intimate partner homicides. Intimate partner relationships between same-gender couples are frequently minimized and miscategorized as roommates, friends, or acquaintances. Reports frequently misgender or deadname transgender victims⁵¹ and overlook or omit the identities of bisexual, non-conforming, and non-binary⁵² victims leading them to be frequently unrecognized or unreported.⁵³ In 2019, TCFV recorded intimate partner homicides of six people from the LGBTQ+ community, including two transgender women and three men killed by their male intimate partners and one woman killed by her female partner. The limitations in accurate reporting indicate that the number of intimate partner homicides of LGBTQ+ victims could be significantly higher.

While we may lack a complete picture of the outcomes of LGBTQ+ intimate partner violence, these fatalities underscore a continued gap in our systems to support LGBTQ+ victims of family violence and provide the needed assistance when they seek support. It also highlights the importance of increasing efforts towards meaningful inclusion in services for victims. LGBTQ+ survivors need a wide array of support just like any other Texan: the youngest victim was 24-years-old and the oldest victim was 62-years-old. This vast age range displays a need for diverse services that meet an individual across the lifespan. Preventing intimate partner homicide within the LGBTQ+ community, however, will most importantly mean first listening to the community and ensuring services are relevant and affirming.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that those who identify as LGBTQ+ were at a higher likelihood of experiencing partner violence. Individuals who identified as transgender experience even higher rates of partner violence and homicide.⁵⁴ The Texas State Plan identifies the LGBTQ+ community as an underserved population in need of tailored services.⁵⁵ This equates to a need for increased advocacy efforts that specifically support and mobilize the LGBTQ+ community. While some programs work to connect the LGBTQ+ community to their services, barriers related to the stigmatizing of the LGBTQ+ community remain all too prevalent. Family violence programs are historically designed to serve heterosexual cisgender women,⁵⁶ leaving LGBTQ+ survivors inherently unrepresented and service design informed in a similar manner. This lack of representation and specific program considerations prevents LGBTQ+ survivors from safely accessing services.⁵⁷

50 LGBTQ+ is an acronym that is broadly inclusive of people who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer or Questioning with the + representing a spectrum of sexual orientations and gender identities.

51 Deadname is defined as the act of using the birth name of a person who no longer uses that name. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Transgender describes a spectrum of people whose gender identity and/or role do not conform to what is associated with the sex assigned at birth. American Psychological Association. Retrieved from: <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/sexuality-definitions.pdf>

52 Non-conforming refers to conformity to societal norms regarding gender roles. Non-binary describes a spectrum of identities of people whose gender identity does not fit within the binary of man and woman. American Psychological Association. Retrieved from: <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/sexuality-definitions.pdf>

53 National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. (2018). Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and HIV-Affected Hate and Intimate Partner Violence in 2017. Retrieved from: <http://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NCAVP-HV-IPV-2017-report.pdf>

54 Walters, M. L., Chen, J., & Breiding, M. J. (2013). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

55 Wood, L., Backes, B.L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

56 Cisgender describes a person whose gender identity and expression align with sex assigned at birth. American Psychological Association. Retrieved from: <https://www.apa.org/pi/lgbt/resources/sexuality-definitions.pdf>

57 Wood, L., Backes, B.L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.

Barriers for the LGBTQ+ community reporting harm they have experienced are immense and systemic. There are many contributors to the silencing of LGBTQ+ survivors, from the fear of reporting to the police to not wanting to contribute to the negative stigma the LGBTQ+ community already receives. Advocates may wonder how they can effectively support the LGBTQ+ community and begin to create meaningful access to mainstream programming. As outlined in the Texas State Plan supplemental report, Understanding the Needs of Underserved Communities in Texas, increasing access to this underserved community will take a multi-tiered approach rooted in mobilizing the LGBTQ+ community and infusing your program with LGBTQ+ focused programming.⁵⁸

STRENGTHENING PREVENTION & SURVIVOR SERVICES WITHIN THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITIES

Drawing from the qualitative analyses of this review of 2019 intimate partner homicides in Texas, as well as the data available in the 2019 Texas State Plan and the studies that were conducted with individuals of diverse identities, TCFV has identified the following recommendations for prevention and survivor services:⁵⁹

Develop prevention strategies specific to the LGBTQ+ community.

Investing in prevention programs that specifically name and reach LGBTQ+ people will begin to shape a future where LGBTQ+ people (across the lifespan) know they can find support from mainstream programs. Language should specifically include LGBTQ+ youth, adults, and older adults with marketing strategies geared at reaching the right audience.

Promote access through mobile advocacy.

Prioritizing mobilization programs that meet the LGBTQ+ community where they are is essential. These programs should be staffed by LGBTQ+ identified staff to accomplish the needed representation in programs. Marketing and other collateral should seek to engage your local LGBTQ+ community and engage its leaders.

Highlight the importance of flexible funding.

Funding that allows support of “non-traditional” survivor needs may help fill gaps in service that will increase access to support. For example, funds that may allow for specific medical treatments, childcare, rental/housing assistance, and job-search support and training. These support programs should be specifically marketed to the LGBTQ+ community to ensure they are included.

Enhance community collaborations.

Partnering with LGBTQ+-led or affirming organizations will help LGBTQ+ survivors reach your programming. By working with LGBTQ+ organizations or groups, your program can learn more effective and relevant ways of reaching the community locally.

58 Brereton, A.I., Serrata, J.V., & Hurtado Alvarado, M.G. (2019). Understanding the Needs of Underserved Communities in Texas, Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence.

59 *Id.*

**Broaden
organizational
messaging.**

.....

Programs should consider investing in developing and promoting targeted campaigns that address how the LGBTQ+ community is affected by intimate partner violence and how the program is equipped to support them. The LGBTQ+ acronym includes a diverse population of people. Great care should be invested in creating as much visibility for all survivors that make up the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

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**Commit to
organizational
capacity building.**

Prepare your program to serve the LGBTQ+ community by investing in training and other technical assistance to ready your staff and programs. LGBTQ+ survivors may have specific advocacy and support considerations. Anticipating the needs of LGBTQ+ survivors and preparing to meet them will increase trust and community building.

SECTION IV

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Building Allies & Community Partnerships Creates Pathways to Safety

Knowing that survivors of domestic violence may experience barriers or fears regarding access to traditional resources, such as law enforcement or advocacy services, and knowing that many people who abuse their partners may avoid notice and accountability by the criminal justice system, it is critical to expanding community relationships to encompass non-traditional partners. Survivors may be unaware of the community-based family violence service provider and may turn to those in their close networks. Empowering other community leaders to be a part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence through training, outreach, and collaborative engagement builds pathways to survivor-centered resources and ultimately, enhances safety and accountability. Intimate partner homicide prevention will require broad community engagement to promote familiarity with services and options and to demonstrate services are inclusive and accessible. Members of the community also play key roles in responding to people who abuse their partners and encouraging them to seek out appropriate intervention services for their abusive behaviors.

ENGAGING COMMUNITIES OF FAITH IN SURVIVOR SUPPORT

When survivors of domestic violence are seeking support, many initially turn to their faith community and faith leaders. Responses from faith communities vary widely with some leaders supporting and connecting survivors to resources and others minimizing the abuse to insisting the survivor stay in the abusive relationship.

As awareness grows about the pervasiveness of domestic violence, three Texas faith communities, and one ministerial training institute have responded with creativity, humility, and persistence in seeking out resources and building local community programs.

In 1997, Shalom Bayit (Peace of the Home) was formed after the second Texas Jewish Feminist Conference and in the early 2000s, they became affiliated with Jewish Family Services in Houston. Their mission is to raise awareness of domestic violence within the Jewish community and aim to end domestic violence by training faith leaders on their responsibilities to survivors and ways to support them. Since their formation, they have offered trained speakers to engage faith communities and facilitators to implement the “Love Shouldn’t Hurt” curriculum in local synagogues.⁶⁰ Shalom Bayit collaborated with the wider Houston community to promote “the safety and well-being of all members of the community.”⁶¹ Since 2017, the group has promoted Domestic Violence Awareness Month in Jewish Synagogues by remembering Jewish women killed by their intimate partners and promoting domestic violence information.

Early in 2016, Shonda Haywood, a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church in Austin, reached out to her pastor inquiring if the church could start a support ministry for survivors of domestic violence. HOPE Ministry formed and continues to create safety plans, help survivors safely leave abusive situations, and facilitate a monthly support group for survivors. They also raise awareness of domestic violence through an annual conference, distributing resources in their neighborhood, and educating the other Mt. Zion ministry programs on their work and how to support survivors.⁶²

More recently, the Islamic Society of Greater Houston (ISGH) reached out to DAYA, a culturally specific domestic violence support service within the South Asian community in the Houston area, in search of education and resources for their faith and community leaders. In 2019, DAYA provided two presentations to ISGH’s directors and advanced training for imams and community leaders on how to recognize domestic violence, respond in appropriate ways to a survivor, and refer to specialized support services. Several imams proactively address domestic violence in their sermons and community events and ISGH’s leadership is committed to providing resources to the community and continuing future work with DAYA.⁶³

From a systems-level, ministerial training institutions hold a key role in creating safer local faith communities. Few Texas-based ministerial training programs offer education around domestic violence; however, George W. Truett Theological Seminary in Waco is taking positive steps through a Pastoral Care class on responding to crises, including domestic violence. Seminarians learn about domestic violence through reading lists and presentations from the Family Abuse Center (FAC). The hope is that in a domestic violence crisis, faith leaders will proactively ask key questions, identify core needs, and connect the congregant to appropriate resources. Truett also recently held a topical chapel service where the Executive Director of FAC spoke and a student survivor shared her journey of healing.⁶⁴

One survivor reflected on the role of the faith communities in this way: faith leaders should know that abuse is not just physical violence, they should be aware of and have a relationship with those who provide domestic violence support services in their area, and they need to acknowledge abuse from their leadership positions—in sermons, newsletters, and conversations. These actions communicate solidarity with victims.⁶⁵

60 <https://www.jfshouston.org/jfs-central/bmhs-shalom-bayit>. Accessed 5 July 2020.

61 *Id.*

62 Phone Interview with Shonda Haywood and Thelma Williams on 9 June 2020.

63 Email correspondence with Irfana Hussain, Director of Outreach at Daya, on 18 May 2020.

64 Phone interview with Dr. Angela Reed on 21 May 2020.

65 Phone interview with Geneece Goertzen on 28 May 2020.

THERE IS HOPE: SAFETY & CONFIDENTIALITY AT THE INTERSECTION OF CHILD WELFARE & INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

A man who uses violence against his female intimate partner is seven times more likely to use physical violence against his children than a man who does not abuse his partner; he is four to six times more likely to sexually abuse his children than a man who does not abuse his partner.⁶⁶ The strong link between child physical and sexual abuse and intimate partner violence highlights the importance of building a domestic violence-informed child welfare system. This means building a system that understands the dangerous dynamics, patterns, and impact of domestic violence (DV); grasps how those dynamics impact families when additional forms of abuse are being perpetrated in the home; and that remains focused on addressing the

A man who uses violence against his partner is 7 times more likely to use physical violence against his children and 4-6 times more likely to sexually abuse his children.

dangerous behaviors and parenting choices of the person using violence. Without looking holistically at these families, child welfare systems can miss crucial pathways to safety for children and adult survivors.

The intervention of DV-informed child welfare agencies, especially when working alongside DV experts, can have a positive impact on the safety and stability of families experiencing these types of abuse. Due to the nature of DV, the intervention of child welfare alone can increase the danger and safety risk to the adult survivor and child, especially if safety measures around privacy and

confidentiality are not taken. Federal Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) requirements dictate the policies and practices around confidentiality that DV agencies follow and are critical to protecting the safety of the adult survivor and child from experiencing further harm from the person using violence. When an adult survivor is safer, the child is also safer. Although these laws can make it more challenging for child welfare to collect information, it is important that the survivor has control of their information and where that information goes. Each piece of information released can be a clue that destroys the safety of their family, regardless of where the information comes from.

Collaboration between DV advocacy programs and child welfare systems is a game-changer. Partnering with a survivor to address their safety concerns, while child welfare holds the person using violence accountable for their dangerous impact on the family, is necessary to create safer families. Over the last four years, TCFV has partnered with 16 traditional and non-traditional DV programs to serve and support adult survivors of domestic violence and their children across Texas to do just that. The Growing SAFE project focuses on cultivating relationships and knowledge to support these survivors and their children who are involved in the child welfare system. When DV experts partner with the survivor and share their expertise with child welfare agencies, those agencies can then have a greater understanding of the protective actions that a survivor is taking, which can positively impact the survivor's child welfare case. This work is moving the needle closer to creating safer families—families in which survivors of domestic violence are not punished for being survivors, and children are not removed from the protective parent simply due to someone else's use of violence.

Collaboration between domestic violence programs and child welfare programs is essential to creating safer families.

66 Lundy Bancroft (2007), *The Connection Between Batterers and Child Sexual Abuse Perpetrators*, Retrieved from: <https://lundybancroft.com/articles/the-connection-between-batterers-and-child-sexual-abuse-perpetrators/>

HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS RESPOND TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE & PREGNANCY

In 2019, 103 Texas women who were mothers were murdered by their current or former intimate partners. Four women were pregnant when they were killed. These statistics give us a statewide window into one aspect of the global violence against women problem. Research shows that intimate partner violence has a wide range of effects on maternal and child health, including negatively impacting pregnancy outcomes.⁶⁷

Experiencing intimate partner violence increases a women's risk for unintended pregnancy, particularly in adolescence when adolescent girls in abusive relationships are over three times more likely to become pregnant than girls in healthy relationships.⁶⁸ One study of Texas women reporting intimate partner violence in their lifetime found that over 22% became pregnant as a result of the abuse.⁶⁹ Often survivors are experiencing these unintended pregnancies as a result of reproductive coercion⁷⁰ by their partners. In Texas, survivors experience reproductive coercion at a rate three times greater than the national average, with 42% reporting they had experienced at least one type.⁷¹ Refusal to wear condoms is one of the most widely reported types of reproductive coercion.⁷²

Women who experience abuse during pregnancy are more likely to use unhealthy coping mechanisms such as drugs and alcohol during pregnancy; they are also more likely to have negative mental health outcomes, including suicidal ideation and depression.^{73, 74} Being a victim of abuse during pregnancy is associated with lower gestational weight, poorer nutrition, lower birth weight, and preterm birth.^{75, 76} Postpartum, these negative impacts continue. Breastfeeding complications, avoidance, and cessation are all associated with experiencing abuse during pregnancy.⁷⁷ New parents with controlling or threatening partners are five times more likely to experience persistent symptoms of postpartum depression.⁷⁸

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- 67 Sarkar NN. The Impact of Intimate Partner Violence on Women's Reproductive Health and Pregnancy Outcome. *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2008;28(3):266-271.
- 68 Roberts TA, Auinger MS, Klein JD. Intimate partner abuse and the reproductive health of sexually active female adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2005;36:380-385.
- 69 Busch-Armendariz NB, Cook Heffron L, Bohman T. Statewide Prevalence of intimate partner violence in Texas. *Domestic Violence Research Reports*. 2011.
- 70 According to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), reproductive and sexual coercion involves behavior intended to maintain power and control in a relationship related to reproductive health by someone who is, was, or wishes to be involved in an intimate or dating relationship with an adult or adolescent. This behavior includes explicit attempts to impregnate a partner against her will, control outcomes of a pregnancy, coerce a partner to have unprotected sex, and interfere with contraceptive methods.
- 71 Schroeder E, Cantrell A, Voyles M. Creating a Safer Texas: Access to Safety, Justice, & Opportunity (Executive Summary). Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence; 2019. <http://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-State-Plan-Executive-Summary-11.2.pdf>
- 72 *Id.*
- 73 Fok CCT, Hayes DK, Curtis AB, Nihoa WK, Shim MJ. Prevalence and Risk Factors for Self-Reported Postpartum Depression Symptoms (SRPDS) in Hawai'i, 2012-2015. *Hawaii Journal of Health and Social Welfare*. 2020;79(5):153-160.
- 74 Bailey BA, Daugherty RA. Intimate Partner Violence During Pregnancy: Incidence and Associated Health Problems in a Rural Population. *Maternal and Child Health Journal*. 2007;11(5):495-503.
- 75 Chen PH, Rovi S, Vega ML, Barrett T, Pan KY, Johnson MS. Birth Outcomes in Relation to Intimate Partner Violence. *Journal of the National Medical Association*. 2017;109(4):238-245. DOI: 10.1016/j.jnma.2017.06.017
- 76 Alhusen JL, Ray E, Sharps P, Bullock L. Intimate partner violence during pregnancy: maternal and neonatal outcomes. *Journal of Women's Health (Larchmt)*. 2015;24(1):100-106. DOI: 10.1089/jwh.2014.4872
- 77 Silverman JG, Decker MR, Reed E, Raj A. Intimate Partner Violence Victimization Prior to and During Pregnancy Among Women Residing in 26 U.S. States: Associations with Maternal and Neonatal Health. *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology*. 2006;195:140-148.
- 78 Blabey MH, Locke ER, Goldsmith YW, Perham-Hester KA. Experience of a Controlling or Threatening Partner Among Mothers with Persistent Symptoms of Depression American. *Journal of Obstetrics & Gynecology*. 2009;201;173.e1-9.

Throughout pregnancy, women experiencing abuse often receive less social support and are more isolated as a result of their partner's abusive behaviors; this makes them less likely to seek or obtain medical or mental health services during or after pregnancy.^{79, 80} Many survivors are not aware of or have barriers to accessing traditional IPV services (i.e., shelter, safety planning). Healthcare practitioners are potential gateways to important safety services.⁸¹ Service providers and healthcare services have a great opportunity to partner to increase the safety of survivors and their children. Collaborative partnerships can keep staff and clinicians informed and connected to provide universal education, initial assessments, and warm referrals to relevant resources.

*“ She was an outstanding individual... very loving, very caring.
She was an awesome daughter and will never be forgotten. ”*



SECTION V

Narratives of Women and Men Killed by Their Intimate Partners in Texas in 2019

Each year, domestic violence ends the lives of Texas women, men, and children. These losses, in turn, devastate families and distress communities. The Texas Council on Family Violence documents the narratives of victims of intimate partner violence homicides to honor those whose lives are lost to domestic violence and inform our work to close system gaps and change the culture that minimizes intimate partner abuse.

Historically, TCFV's report has documented women killed by their male intimate partners. Beginning with the 2018 Honoring Texas Victims Report, TCFV expanded the review to include cases of men killed by female partners, and men and women killed by same-sex partners. With these changes, we hope to further inform community conversations, interventions, and solutions to domestic violence. TCFV reports each victim of intimate partner homicides. Some victims may have histories of violence perpetration, recognizing that these homicides also represent the devastating impact of domestic violence. Additionally, the report documents intimate partner homicides with no known previous domestic violence and commonly categorized as mercy killings, believing that a violent death represents the ultimate act of domestic violence.

79 Schroeder E, Cantrell A, Voyles M. Creating a Safer Texas: Access to Safety, Justice, & Opportunity (Executive Summary). Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence; 2019. <http://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/2019-State-Plan-Executive-Summary-11.2.pdf>

80 Campbell JC, Poland ML, Waller JB, Ager J. Correlates of battering during pregnancy. Research in Nursing & Health. 1992;15(3), 219-226.

81 Voth Schrag, R., Ravi, K., & Robinson, S., (2019). Understanding the Needs of Non-service seeking survivors: A Final Report for the Texas Council on Family Violence. Austin, TX: Texas Council on Family Violence.

Each confirmed fatality represents a woman or man killed by an intimate partner or a stalking perpetrator between January 2019 and December 2019 and includes the date of the death, followed by a short description of the circumstances. This information highlights lethality risk factors and other information that informs our best practices for enhancing future survivor safety. Information regarding criminal charges and bond conditions in this report represents what was known about the status of criminal cases at the time of publishing. We hope that a thoughtful examination of each case will shine much-needed light on the issue of domestic violence that leads to improved prevention and intervention strategies.

On the following pages, the Texas Council on Family Violence lists with respect and care the names of each victim of intimate partner homicide in 2019. TCFV joins their families, friends, and communities in mourning the deaths of these individuals.

FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND BYSTANDERS KILLED & INJURED

In addition to the 185 Texans killed by their intimate partners, domestic violence homicide perpetrators also killed 20 family members, friends, and bystanders and injured five family members, friends, co-workers, and bystanders and two law enforcement officers.

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

Camryn Keahey, 15
DAUGHTER OF DEANNA KEAHEY

Justin Cord Smith, 31
BROTHER OF HOLLY JONES

Sonia Quintanilla Trejo, 37
NEIGHBOR OF PRISCILLA DAVILA

Darryn Keahey, 17
DAUGHTER OF DEANNA KEAHEY

Cassandra Shaffer, 26
GIRLFRIEND OF HOLLY JONES'
BROTHER, JUSTIN SMITH

Joseph Granado, 36
BOYFRIEND OF TIFFANY POLVON

Ranley Horn, 1
DAUGHTER OF ASHLEY DELANEY

Reynaldo Ramirez, 79
FAMILY MEMBER OF
ISABEL HERNANDEZ

Fredi Mercado, 31
BYSTANDER WITH
URANIA DE JESUS FLORES

Lynda Delaney, 72
GRANDMOTHER OF
ASHLEY DELANEY

Lori Susan Perez, 58
MOTHER OF KRISTY PEREZ

Olivia Montegudo, 14
DAUGHTER OF
KAREN MONTEAGUDO

Carlos Delaney, 74
GRANDFATHER OF
ASHLEY DELANEY

Rebecca Lee Cantu, 19
DAUGHTER OF
MAGDALENA CANTU

Aria Ellen Dixon, 9 months
DAUGHTER OF ALIA HUTCHINSON

Dafne Medina, 5
DAUGHTER OF
ESTEFINA ARRAMBIDE

Aaron Cortez, 30
HOME CARE PROVIDER IN
MAGDALENA CANTU'S HOME

Theresa Coomes, 71
GIRLFRIEND OF JIMMY FARRIS

Billie Pyers, 65
MOTHER OF HOLLY JONES

Michael Swearingen, 32
FRIEND OF JENNA SCOTT

BASTROP COUNTY

Yuridia Anaya-Espinosa Nava, 32

KYLE | FEBRUARY 22, 2019

Yuridia Anaya-Espinosa Nava died when the person she was dating, Thomas Sanchez-Solorzano, 34, stabbed and killed her. Yuridia's family reported her missing after she did not return home from work. A month after her disappearance, authorities arrested Sanchez-Solorzano on an unrelated charge, discovered Yuridia's remains in a grave on a county road, then charged Sanchez-Solorzano with murder. Yuridia is survived by her son, age 6 months.

BELL COUNTY

Jenna Scott, 28

KILLEEN | JANUARY 3, 2019

Jenna Scott died in a home after her ex-boyfriend, Cedric Marks, 44, assaulted and killed her. Marks also strangled and killed Jenna's friend, Michael Swearingin, 32. Marks' current girlfriend, Maya Maxwell, 26, helped him move Jenna's and Michael's bodies to Oklahoma and then fled with him to Michigan. Authorities arrested and charged Marks with capital murder; he escaped a prison transport returning to Bell County. Authorities apprehended him after several hours and then returned him to Bell County. Authorities also arrested and charged Maxwell with tampering with evidence. Marks has an extensive history of violence against Jenna, including multiple strangulation assaults and threats to kill her and her family. Jenna had ended the relationship with Marks and sought a protective order in August 2018. She received an emergency protective order, but a judge denied her request for a two-year protective order. Jenna is survived by her daughter, age 9.

BEXAR COUNTY

Danny Kennedy, 53

ELMENDORF | MAY 17, 2019

Danny Kennedy died in his home when his girlfriend, Venetta Oniell, 59, shot and killed him. Neighbors called police after hearing gunfire inside the home. Authorities arrested and charged Oniell with murder. Danny is survived by his son.

Lynda Karcher, 72

SAN ANTONIO | JANUARY 28, 2019

Lynda Karcher died when her husband, Gary Karcher, 72, shot and killed her. Karcher then shot and killed himself. Lynda is survived by her three adult daughters.

Brittany Reardon, 21

SAN ANTONIO | FEBRUARY 16, 2019

Brittany Reardon died in her home when her boyfriend, Jaime Guevara, 37, shot and killed her. Brittany was in the bathroom when Guevara loaded and then dropped a firearm outside the door, discharging the weapon and killing Brittany. Authorities arrested Guevara and charged him with manslaughter. Brittany is survived by her son, age 16 months.

Andreen McDonald, 29

SAN ANTONIO | FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Andreen McDonald was killed by her husband, Andre McDonald, 40. Andreen's friends were concerned when she did not meet them at the gym, as planned. They went to her home and called police after they saw evidence of Andre McDonald leaving the property. Andreen had previously told friends that if she ever went missing, it would have something to do with her husband. Four months after she was reported missing, Andreen's remains were discovered in a wooded area. McDonald was charged with tampering with evidence and with murder. Andreen is survived by her daughter, age 6.

Josephine Ramos, 36

SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 1, 2019

Josephine Ramos died after her husband, Brian Ramos, 38, shot and killed her in a parking lot. Ramos has a history of family violence and had a pending case for sexual assault of a child. Josephine planned to end the relationship; Ramos killed her the day before divorce proceedings. Authorities arrested and charged Ramos with murder. Josephine is survived by her two sons and one daughter, ages 7, 14, and 19.

Alicia Wills, 62

SAN ANTONIO | MAY 22, 2019

Alicia Wills died after her husband, Louis Benevento, 71, shot her while she was calling 911 to report Benevento had a gun. Emergency responders transported Alicia to the hospital, and authorities arrested and charged Benevento with murder. Alicia is survived by her adult son and daughter.

Janice Bazan, 16

SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 3, 2019

Janice Bazen died in a hospital after her boyfriend, Bryant Gomez-Olvera, 19, shot her in a home. Gomez-Olvera transported Janice to a local hospital after the shooting, and authorities arrested him for tampering with evidence. He bonded out of jail, removed his GPS monitoring device, and absconded. Gomez-Olvera currently has an active warrant for tampering with evidence and murder. He remains at large.

Marissa Jernigan, 20

SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 8, 2019

Marissa Jernigan died at a hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Brian Ontiveros, 21, broke into her home and shot and killed her. Ontiveros fled. Emergency responders transported her to the hospital. Ontiveros currently has an active warrant for murder and remains at large. Marissa is survived by her son.

Unnamed, 62

SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 17, 2019

An unnamed victim died at home when the person he was dating, Ricardo Rodriguez, 45, assaulted and strangled him. Rodriguez hid the victim at the home. Neighbors called law enforcement to report a potential body on the property, and Rodriguez used the victim's truck to transport his body offsite before officers arrived. Police pursued Rodriguez on a chase, arrested him, and charged him with murder and evading arrest. Rodriguez has a history of violence and had a previous assault charge in 2015. The victim is survived by his two adult children.

BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

Mary Lou Rodriguez, 26

SAN ANTONIO | JULY 30, 2019

Mary Lou Rodriguez died when her husband, Enrique Perez, 25, strangled and killed her in their home. Mary Lou's sister reported her missing. When law enforcement found evidence of a struggle and tampering with evidence, Perez confessed to murdering Mary Lou and disclosed her body's location in Lampasas County. Authorities arrested Perez and charged him with murder. Perez committed suicide in jail. Perez had a history of violence toward Mary Lou, including strangulation. Mary Lou is survived by her three children, all under the age of 10.

Brenda Toney, 69

SAN ANTONIO | OCTOBER 19, 2019

Brenda Toney died in a hospital after her husband, Aaron Toney, 73, strangled her at their home. He then called the police and attempted to kill himself. Emergency responders transported Toney and Brenda to the hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Toney with murder.

Aidee Rueda, 33

SAN ANTONIO | NOVEMBER 21, 2019

Aidee Rueda died in her home when her husband, Yasef Ruiz-Cortez, 36, shot and killed her. Ruiz-Cortez then shot and killed himself. Aidee had planned to end the relationship. The night prior to the murder, Aidee left with her children and returned the following day for their belongings. Aidee went inside the home while her four children and a co-worker waited in the car. Their son entered the home and discovered Aidee and Ruiz-Cortez deceased. Aidee is survived by her two sons, ages 12 and 5, and two daughters, ages 10 and 9.

Gabriella Rodriguez, 24

SAN ANTONIO | DECEMBER 25, 2019

Gabriella Rodriguez died when her ex-boyfriend, William Bayles, 27, shot and killed her at his home. Bayles then shot himself. Gabriella had dropped off her two sons to spend Christmas with Bayles. Gabriela's boyfriend waited in the car; he called 911 when he heard gunshots. Emergency responders transported Bayles to the hospital, where he died a few days later. Gabriella had ended the relationship with Bayles one year prior. Bayles had a history of violence toward Gabriella, including threatening her with a firearm. He had prior arrests for unlawfully carrying a handgun, but the charges were dismissed. Gabriella was 8 months pregnant, expecting a daughter, Emilia. She is survived by her two sons, ages 6 and 2.

BOWIE COUNTY

Willis Sanders, 63

TEXARKANA | MARCH 1, 2019

Willis Sanders died in his home after his girlfriend, Lamarya Bradley, 54, struck his head with a brick and killed him. Weeks later, the landlord requested a welfare check, and law enforcement officers discovered Willis deceased in the home. Bradley admitted to law enforcement to striking Willis. Authorities arrested and charged Bradley with murder. Bradley has a history of violence toward Willis, including an arrest for a family violence assault in December 2018. She pleaded not guilty to murder and later pled guilty to manslaughter and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. Willis is survived by his daughter and two sons.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

Jesika Taylor-Sullivan, 34

ALVIN | MAY 1, 2019

Jesika Taylor-Sullivan died in her home after her husband, Brandon Garrett, 34, strangled her. Officers conducted a welfare check and found Jesika deceased in a bathroom. Two days prior, Garrett had assaulted and strangled Jesika; authorities issued a warrant for his arrest. Authorities then arrested Garrett and charged him with murder. Jesika is survived by her daughters, ages 5 and 9.

Catrina Charles, 39

LAKE JACKSON | JANUARY 16, 2019

Catrina Charles died in her home after her husband, Schubert Charles, 53, shot and killed her. Charles then shot and killed himself. An individual called 911 regarding a possible assault. Authorities found Katrina and Charles deceased. Katrina is survived by her four children.

Trisha Rodriguez, 39

LAKE JACKSON | FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Trisha Rodriguez died in her home after her ex-boyfriend, Darrell Adell Jr., 30, assaulted and killed her. Trisha's son was in the home at the time of the murder. Trisha's mother found her deceased in a bathtub. The day before, Adell killed Trisha, a motion had been filed for Adell to increase his child support. Authorities arrested Adell; a grand jury indicted Adell for murder. Trisha is survived by her son, age 2.

Anita Scott, 43

PEARLAND | FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Anita Scott died in her home when her husband, Kirk Jones, 51, shot and killed her. Jones also shot and killed Roman Cuellar, 40, before shooting and killing himself. Anita is survived by her son.

Belinda Hernandez, 52

PEARLAND | MARCH 23, 2019

Belinda Hernandez died in her home after her husband, Hilario Hernandez, 56, shot and killed her. Hernandez fled. Belinda's adult daughter became concerned when her mother did not respond to text messages and went to the house. She found Belinda deceased. Law enforcement located Hernandez headed to Mexico, arrested him, and charged him with murder. Hernandez has a history of controlling and abusive behavior. Belinda is survived by her two children.

BRAZOS COUNTY

Theia Flakes, 39

COLLEGE STATION | JANUARY 7, 2019

Theia Flakes died in her home after her boyfriend, Terry Ratliff, 54, stabbed and killed her. Ratliff then fled to Midland County and later turned himself into authorities. One of Theia's daughters found Theia's body after returning from school. Authorities arrested Ratliff and a grand jury indicted him for murder and tampering with evidence. Ratliff has a history of abusive behavior toward Theia. Theia is survived by her three daughters.

CALLAHAN COUNTY

Alia Hutchinson, 22

BAIRD | OCTOBER 12, 2019

Alia Hutchison died on a county road when her boyfriend, Cody Dixon, 34, stabbed and killed her. Dixon also stabbed and killed their nine-month-old daughter, Aria. Dixon then fled. A rancher found Alia's and Aria's bodies outside his property and alerted authorities. Dixon assaulted a County Marshall and tried to escape. Authorities arrested and charged Dixon with various crimes, including assault on a police officer, attempted escape, and two counts of capital murder. Alia had recently moved to Abilene from Wisconsin.

CASTRO COUNTY

Raquel Salinas, 42

DIMMITT | AUGUST 27, 2019

Raquel Salinas died after her boyfriend, Francisco Martinez, 37, killed her. Raquel's body was found in a vehicle on private property. A few weeks later, authorities charged him with murder and tampering with evidence. Raquel is survived by her three adult children.

CLAY COUNTY

James Baker, 52

CHARLIE | NOVEMBER 19, 2019

James Baker died at his home when his wife, Cindi Baker, 61, stabbed him. Authorities arrested and charged Baker with aggravated assault causing death; a grand jury indicted her on murder charges. James is survived by his daughter and son.

COLLIN COUNTY

Jimmy Farris, 72

PLANO | NOVEMBER 18, 2018

Jimmy Farris died in his home when Carmen Moreno, 23, a friend of Jimmy's ex-girlfriend, Cynthia Wingate, 29, stabbed and killed him. Moreno stabbed and killed Jimmy's current girlfriend Theresa Coomes, 71. Wingate fled with Moreno. Wingate and Moreno were stopped by law enforcement officers for traffic violations in McLennan County. Officers found a weapon in the vehicle and alerted authorities in Plano that the women had Jimmy's vehicle. Authorities arrested Wingate and Moreno and later charged each with capital murder. Moreno confessed to stabbing Jimmy and Theresa.

DALLAS COUNTY

Deanna Keahey, 51

CEDAR HILL | FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Deanna Keahey died in her home when her husband, Eugene Keahey, 52, set the home on fire and killed her. Keahey shot and killed himself as the home burned. Deanna's two daughters were trapped inside; Camryn, 15, died inside the home, and Darryn, 17, died from injuries sustained in the fire several weeks later. Emergency responders rescued two additional family members from the home. Deanna is survived by her son and daughter.

Y'vonne Perkins, 37

CEDAR HILL | AUGUST 8, 2019

Y'vonne Perkins died in her home when her husband, Curtis Bullock, 44, stabbed and killed her. Bullock then attempted suicide. Y'vonne's three children were present. When law enforcement arrived, they found Y'vonne deceased and Bullock injured in a locked room. Emergency responders transported Bullock to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Bullock with murder. Y'vonne is survived by her three children.

Miles Rogers, 93

COPPELL | SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Miles Rogers died in his home after his wife, Alberta Rogers, 84, shot and killed him. Rogers then shot and killed herself. Rogers had confided in her neighbor and family members about the stress of caretaking while the couple's health deteriorated.

Weltzin Garcia Mireles, 26

DALLAS | FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Weltzin Garcia Mireles died in her home in Grand Prairie when her boyfriend, Alfonso Hernandez, 28, strangled and killed her. Hernandez moved Weltzin's body to a lake in Dallas. He then committed suicide by drowning himself. Weltzin had attempted to end the relationship; she filed a police report against Hernandez. He had a history of being violent; he assaulted Weltzin two weeks prior to the murder. Law enforcement issued a warrant for Hernandez the day Weltzin and Hernandez went missing. Authorities located Hernandez's body a few days later. An individual found Weltzin's body two months after she was reported missing. Weltzin is survived by her daughter, age 6, and her son, age 3.

Sheila Prater, 45

DALLAS | MARCH 3, 2019

Sheila Prater died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, Victor Williams, 49, shot and killed her. Sheila's son called 911 when he became worried that his mother stopped responding to his text messages and became suspicious of Williams's responses. Sheila's son found her deceased. Williams has a history of abusive behavior toward Sheila, and she had told friends she believed Williams might kill her. Authorities arrested and charged Williams with murder. Sheila is survived by her son and daughter.

Kristen Cary, 43

DALLAS | MARCH 14, 2019

Kristen Cary died after her ex-boyfriend, Edward Gaines, 57, stabbed her at an apartment complex. Gaines then fled. Emergency responders transported Kristen to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Gaines has a history of assaults, aggravated assault, family violence assaults enhanced. Gaines later turned himself in. Authorities arrested and charged him with capital murder. He accepted a plea deal for a reduced charge of murder and received a sentence of life in prison.

Sagunda Glosson, 31

DALLAS | MARCH 14, 2019

Sagunda Glosson died in her apartment when her husband, Aaron Glosson, 27, shot and killed her. Glosson then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to a welfare check and discovered Sagunda and Glosson deceased.

Rona Dahlgren, 58

DALLAS | MARCH 17, 2019

Rona Dahlgren died in her home when her husband, Dennis Schmedt, 67, shot and killed her. Neighbors called 911 after hearing gunshots. Law enforcement responded, also heard gunshots, and located Schmedt. Schmedt told investigators he had shot his wife several weeks prior to the call. Authorities arrested and charged Schmedt with murder.

Jennifer Choice, 32

DALLAS | APRIL 5, 2019

Jennifer Choice died when her husband, Julius Gipson, Jr., 51, shot and killed her. Gipson then shot and killed himself. Jennifer is survived by her daughter and her two sons.

Gina Elder, 40

DALLAS | MAY 7, 2019

Gina Elder died in a hotel parking lot when her boyfriend, Jerome Sowell, 36, assaulted and killed her. Sowell then fled. Security footage shows Sowell assaulting Gina. Authorities apprehended him three months after Gina's death and arrested and charged him with murder. Sowell has a history of abuse and violence toward Gina. Gina is survived by her two daughters and two sons.

Kendryck Steward, 19

DALLAS | MAY 21, 2019

Kendryck Steward died when his girlfriend, Ashley Hughes, 27, shot and killed him. Emergency responders transported Kendryck to the hospital where he died. Authorities arrested and charged Hughes with murder. Kendryck is survived by his son.

Andy Longoria, 47

DALLAS | JUNE 17, 2019

Andy Longoria died in his home when his ex-boyfriend, Dennis Jimenez-Hernandez, 22, killed him. Jimenez-Hernandez fled to Mexico, Mexican authorities turned him over to U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents. Authorities charged Jimenez-Hernandez with capital murder.

Urania De Jesus Flores, 34

DALLAS | JUNE 21, 2019

Urania De Jesus Flores died in her home when her husband, Leo Pintor, 40, shot and killed her. Pintor also shot and killed Fredi Mercado, 31. Pintor then fled and later called family members to confess. Authorities arrested and charged Pintor with capital murder. Pintor has a history of abusive behavior toward Urania. She had filed for divorce and had a protective order against Pintor. Urania is survived by her son and daughter.

Gretchen Easton, 45

DALLAS | JULY 8, 2019

Gretchen Easton died in her home when her boyfriend, Donald Henderson, 34, shot and killed her. Henderson called 911 to request police and an ambulance. He then told police he murdered Gretchen, gave the police the address and keys to the apartment. When police arrived at the home, they found Gretchen deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Henderson with murder.

Diana Garcia, 22

DALLAS | JULY 13, 2019

Diana Garcia died in her car after her husband, Marcos Flores-Rodriguez, 25, assaulted, shot, and killed her. Diana had dropped her children off at a babysitter's home and stopped at an intersection when Flores-Rodriguez approached her car and began to assault her. After shooting Diana, he fled. Authorities arrested and charged Flores-Rodriguez with murder after DNA evidence linked him to the murder. Diana is survived by her two children, ages 2 and 4.

Jamie Thigpen, 72

DALLAS | JULY 28, 2019

Jamie Thigpen died in her home after her husband, Wayne Thigpen, 73, shot and killed her. Thigpen then shot and killed himself. Jamie is survived by her two daughters.

Jacqueline-Rose Nicholas, 32

DALLAS | JULY 29, 2019

Jacqueline-Rose Nicholas died in a hotel room when her husband, Peter Nicholas, 30, shot and killed her. Hotel staff and residents contacted 911 after hearing a disturbance in the hotel room. Hotel security attempted to gain access to the room, but no one answered the door. Emergency responders arrived but were unable to enter the room until law enforcement officers arrived. Law enforcement officers were dispatched over an hour later and after Nicholas shot Jacqueline-Rose. Authorities arrested and charged Nicholas with murder. Jacqueline-Rose is survived by her two sons, ages 2 and 8.

Latoya Johnson, 31

DALLAS | AUGUST 9, 2019

Latoya Johnson died after her ex-boyfriend, Marshal Winston, crashed his vehicle into hers. Authorities arrested and charged Winston with manslaughter, endangerment of a child, and violation of probation. Latoya is survived by her two sons.

DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

Layla McDaniel, 38

DALLAS | NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Layla McDaniel died when her ex-boyfriend, Gary Geter, 28, shot her before shooting himself. The police responded to a welfare check and Fire and Rescue forced entry into the apartment. They found Layla and Geter deceased. Authorities ruled the deaths as a murder-suicide.

Mason Varela, 21

DESOTO | DECEMBER 3, 2019

Mason Varela died at a hospital from injuries sustained when her ex-boyfriend, Matthew Gonzalez, 20, stabbed her outside of her home. Gonzalez has a history of controlling and abusive behaviors, and Mason had ended the relationship with him six weeks prior to the murder. Gonzalez hid outside Mason's home and attacked her as she returned from walking her dog. Mason's step-father witnessed Gonzalez fleeing. Authorities arrested Gonzalez and charged him with murder.

Jessica Velazquez, 36

GRAND PRAIRIE | FEBRUARY 2, 2019

Jessica Velazquez died in her home when her husband, George Velazquez Viera, 38, shot and killed her. Jessica had ended the relationship and returned to their home with two additional family members to retrieve her belongings. While they were packing up her belongings, Viera shot and injured Jessica's family members. He then shot and killed himself.

Charanjit Kaur, 52

IRVING | NOVEMBER 7, 2019

Charanjit Kaur died in her home when her husband, Devinder Singh Binopal, 67, shot and killed her. Binopal then shot and killed himself. Charanjit is survived by her son and daughter.

Stephanie Smith, 52

MESQUITE | OCTOBER 3, 2019

Stephanie Ann Smith died after her boyfriend, Melvin Craddock, age 55, shot her in their car before shooting and killing himself. Officers arrived and removed Stephanie from the vehicle to perform CPR. She was pronounced dead when the fire department arrived.

LaDonna Garcia, 48

RICHARDSON | APRIL 14, 2019

LaDonna Garcia died at a hospital after her boyfriend, Jefferey Patterson, 47, stabbed her in her home. Authorities arrested and charged Patterson with murder, who received a sentence of 70 years in prison. Patterson has a history of violence against LaDonna. LaDonna is survived by her four children.

DAWSON COUNTY

Champagne Woods, 28

LAMESA | OCTOBER 19, 2019

Champagne Woods died when her ex-boyfriend, Demarcus Bufford, 30, shot several times through the window of her home. Their son, age 6, was also in the home. Emergency responders transported Champagne to a local hospital, where she died from the injuries. Champagne was seven months pregnant at the time. Authorities arrested and charged Bufford with capital murder. Champagne is survived by her son.

DENTON COUNTY

Bridgette Forte, 39

DENTON | SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

Bridgette Forte died at her home when her fiancé, Anton Thorp, 39, shot and killed her. Thorp's ex-wife called 911 to report that Thorp had shot Bridgette; Thorp then called and confessed. Thorp has a history of violence, including prior family violence charges in 2006 and 2008. Authorities arrested and charged Thorp with murder. Bridgette is survived by her two sons.

Jade Harris, 20

PONDER | NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Jade Harris died in Ponder, Texas, after her ex-boyfriend, Tanner Brock, 21, and his girlfriend, Krystin Ross, 27, stabbed her multiple times. Jade's family reported her missing. Witnesses discovered her body in a creek bank. Jade had ended the relationship with Brock and was married to another person. Brock has a history of violence toward Jade, including arrests three years prior for assault and strangulation. Jade is survived by her daughter, age 2, and her son, age 1.

DUVAL COUNTY

Jessica Cantu, 36

SAN DIEGO | JANUARY 4, 2019

Jessica Cantu, 36, died in her home after her husband, Abel Cantu, 41, cut her throat. Cantu fled. Jessica's son discovered Jessica's body. Law enforcement officers located Cantu with a self-inflicted knife wound to his neck; emergency responders transported him to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder and violation of a protective order. Cantu has a history of violence against Jessica, including kidnapping her from her home at knifepoint. Two weeks prior to the murder, authorities arrested Cantu for assault and charged him with, among other charges, aggravated kidnapping and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Jessica had a protective order against Cantu at the time of her death. Cantu accepted a plea bargain and received a sentence of 15 years for Jessica's murder. Jessica is survived by her five children.

ECTOR COUNTY

Jose Melendez Hernandez, 48

ODESSA | APRIL 2, 2019

Jose Melendez Hernandez died when his girlfriend, Courtney Rice, 34, shot him in his home. Emergency responders transported Jose to a hospital where he died. Authorities arrested and charged Rice with murder. Jose was in the process of ending his relationship with Rice and was attempting to remove her from the home at the time of the shooting.

Tiffany Polvon, 35

ODESSA | NOVEMBER 26, 2019

Tiffany Polvon died in her vehicle when her husband, Fabian Polvon, 36, shot and killed her. Polvon crashed his vehicle into Tiffany's vehicle, then shot and killed the passenger in the car, Joseph Granado, 36. He then shot Tiffany and fled. A witness reported seeing the murders. The next day, Polvon confessed to his father, who then contacted police and stated Polvon would turn himself in. Authorities arrested and charged Polvon with capital murder. Polvon has a history of violence toward Tiffany; in 2005, Polvon was charged with assaulting Champagne. Several months prior to the murder, Tiffany had filed for divorce, and Polvon threatened to kill Tiffany and stalked her with tracking devices. Tiffany is survived by her son and daughter.

EL PASO COUNTY

Lea Grijalva, 26

EL PASO | JUNE 9, 2019

Lea Grijalva died in her home when her boyfriend, Daniel Valles, 23, strangled and killed her. Valles informed witnesses that he had killed Lea and the witnesses contacted police. Authorities arrested and charged Valles with murder. Valles has a history of controlling behavior toward Lea.

Jasmine Marie Castro, 18

EL PASO | JULY 13, 2019

Jasmine Castro died in her home when her boyfriend, Jose Casas, 19, shot and killed her. Jasmine's brother discovered her body and called 911. Casas has a history of abusive and controlling behavior toward Jasmine, including controlling her access to technology, social media, and pointing a gun at her. Jasmine had planned to end the relationship with Casas. Although Casas fled to Mexico, authorities apprehended, arrested, and charged with Casas with murder.

Erika Gaytan, 29

EL PASO | JULY 13, 2019

Erika Gayton died when a person she dated, Ricardo Marquez, 28, killed her in his home. Family members reported Erika missing on July 16, 2019. After conducting several search warrants, interviews, and surveillance, authorities arrested Marquez and charged him with murder in December 2019. Erika's remains have not yet been recovered. Erika is survived by her son, age 7.

EL PASO COUNTY *continued*

Monica Carazo, 24

EL PASO | DECEMBER 4, 2019

Monica Carazo died at a hospital after her wife, Carmen Gonzalez Avendez, 32, shot her. Monica had ended the relationship and moved out of their home. Gonzalez invited Monica back to the home to discuss their relationship. Gonzalez shot Monica as she was entering the home and then shot and killed herself. Monica was transported to the hospital, where she later died.

Amy Contreras Colbert, 27

FORT BLISS | APRIL 6, 2019

Amy Colbert died in Fort Bliss when her husband, Lance Colbert, 29, killed her. Amy had returned from an eight-month combat deployment in Kuwait with the United States Army a week prior to her murder. Military authorities arrested and charged Colbert with murder, threatening, stalking, and using indecent language under military code. Amy is survived by her two daughters.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Brandy Cano, 22

RICHMOND | MARCH 11, 2019

Brandy Cano died in their home after her boyfriend, Santana Losoya, 24, shot and killed her. Brandy's grandmother, who also lived in the home, called 911 after hearing a gunshot. Authorities arrested and charged Lasoya with murder. Brandy is survived by her daughter, age 3.

Jeni-Hongan Nguyen, 35

RICHMOND | APRIL 9, 2019

Jeni-Hongan Nguyen died after her husband, Quang Do, 37, shot her. Do then fled to Louisiana with the couple's two children. An individual called 911 and reported that a family member stated Do confessed to killing Jeni-Hongan and requested a welfare check. Authorities found Jeni-Hongan deceased; arrested Do near the city of Breau Bridge, recovered a weapon, and charged him with murder. Jeni-Hongan is survived by her two children, ages 1 and 3.

Shanti Nakirekanti, 46

SUGAR LAND | FEBRUARY 18, 2019

Shanti Nakirekanti died in the driveway of her home after her husband, Sreenivas Nakirekanti, 51, shot and killed her. Nakirekanti called 911, provided the address, and then shot and killed himself. Shanti's daughter, age 16, was at the home. Shanti is survived by her daughter and adult son.

FOR BEND COUNTY *continued*

Kiva Herrera, 38

SUGAR LAND | AUGUST 11, 2019

Kiva Herrera died in a hotel parking lot after her ex-boyfriend, Sheldon Magee, 44, shot and killed her. Kiva had recently ended the relationship with Magee and checked into a hotel. Three days after Kiva checked in, Magee found the hotel and confronted Kiva in the parking lot. Magee assaulted her and shot Kiva. Magee exchanged gunfire with police when they arrived, but neither he nor officers were injured. Authorities arrested and charged Magee with murder and attempted murder of a police officer. Kiva is survived by her son.

GAINES COUNTY

Susana Neufeld, 40

SEMINOLE | FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Susana Neufeld died when her husband, Jacob Neufeld, 41, shot and killed her in their home. Authorities arrested and charged Neufeld with murder. Susana is survived by her three daughters and four sons, ages 5 to 19.

GALVESTON COUNTY

April Murdoch, 33

LEAGUE CITY | APRIL 12, 2019

April Murdoch died in her home when her boyfriend, Julio Villareal, 26, shot and killed her. Villareal then shot and killed himself. April's children were inside the home. April is survived by her four children.

Chauntelle Bernard, 42

LEAGUE CITY | NOVEMBER 28, 2019

Chauntelle Bernard died in her home after her husband, Dudley Bernard, 40, shot and killed her. After saying goodbye to guests, Bernard went to his car to retrieve a gun. Chauntelle had locked the door and retrieved a gun, but Bernard forced open the door and shot Chauntelle multiple times while their two sons were in the home. Authorities arrested and charged Bernard with murder. Chauntelle is survived by her two sons.

GREGG COUNTY

Timothy Joe Stoudt, 65

KILGORE | DECEMBER 2, 2019

Timothy Stoudt died at his home when his wife Penelope Stoudt, 56, shot and killed him. Stoudt called 911 to report that she shot Timothy. When authorities responded, they arrested and charged her with murder. Stoudt received a sentence of 35 years in prison.

GREGG COUNTY *continued*

Kristy Nicole Perez, 38

LONGVIEW | FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Kristy Perez died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, Troy Rider II, 43, shot and killed her. Rider also shot and killed Kristy's mother, Lori Perez, 58. Kristy's sons were in the home at the time of the shootings and called 911 for assistance. Authorities arrested Rider and charged him with capital murder. Two weeks before the shootings, Kristy had petitioned for a court order for Rider to return her vehicle and house keys. A judge issued an order for Rider to stay away and not communicate with Kristy. Kristy is survived by her two sons.

Kimberly Wallace-Medford, 39

LONGVIEW | JULY 28, 2019

Kimberly Wallace-Medford died in front of her home when her ex-boyfriend, Kenneth Earl Thomas Jr., 41, shot and killed her. When police officers found Thomas at a nearby park, he fired a gun at the officers and fled. The officers returned fire. Authorities arrested and charged Thomas with murder. Thomas has a history of violence and threatening behavior toward Kimberly, including stalking her prior to her murder. Additionally, Thomas had a firearm prohibition. Kimberly is survived by her son, two daughters, and step-daughter.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

Brihana Landrum, 24

SAN MARCOS | FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Brihana Landrum died when her ex-boyfriend, Adrian Diaz, 28, shot her. Diaz then fled, shot and killed himself in Guadalupe County. Brihana's family transported her to the hospital, but she died on the way.

Jesusita Loreda, 46

SAN MARCOS | APRIL 24, 2019

Jesusita Loreda died when her husband, Martin Coca-Maldonado, 53, shot her outside of the home. Emergency responders transported Jesuita to the hospital, where she died a week later. Authorities arrested and charged Coca-Maldonado for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon/family violence. A grand jury indicted Coca-Maldonado for murder and aggravated assault. Jesusita is survived by her two sons and daughter.

HARRIS COUNTY

Dale Blake, 65

ATASCOCITA | OCTOBER 8, 2019

Dale Blake died after his girlfriend, Latonya Jones, 30, shot him at his home. Dale called 911. Law enforcement found Jones outside a neighbor's house. Emergency responders transported Blake to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder. Dale is survived by his son.

Graciela Torres, 66

CYPRESS | JANUARY 17, 2019

Graciela Torres died when her husband, Arthur Edigin, 62, shot and killed her in her vehicle. Graciela's daughter, Penny Zapata, 31, and granddaughter were in the vehicle when Edigin began shooting. Edigin shot and injured Penny. Edigin then fled and barricaded himself in a motel room. Edigin shot and killed himself. Edigin had a history of threatening Graciela. She had ended the relationship and separated from him. Graciela is survived by her daughters.

Rochelle Salazar, 34

HIGHLANDS | AUGUST 6, 2019

Rochelle Salazar died in her home after her husband, Billy Warford, 39, shot and killed her. Rochelle's daughter was in the home. Authorities arrested and charged Warford with murder. Rochelle is survived by her daughter, age 2.

Diane Schneider, 58

HOCKLEY | DECEMBER 4, 2019

Diane Schneider died after her husband, Gilbert Schneider, 60, shot and killed her in her home. Days later, Schneider confessed to law enforcement that he killed Diane and planned to kill himself. As law enforcement arrived at the home, Schneider shot and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to the couple's home multiple times prior to Diane's murder for mental health calls.

Oscar Reyes-Alvarado, 17

HOUSTON | JANUARY 21, 2019

Oscar Reyes-Alvarado died in his home after his girlfriend, Anabel Lopez, 17, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged Lopez with manslaughter.

Jeremy Ray, 21

HOUSTON | JANUARY 23, 2019

Jeremy Ray died when his girlfriend, Curnitra Winzer, 26, shot him in a hotel room. Jeremy's father witnessed the shooting and called the police. Emergency responders transported Jeremy to a hospital, where he died days later. Authorities arrested and charged Winzer with murder.

Maricela Davila, 35

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Maricela Davila died in her home after her husband, Luis Alfredo Portillo Gonzalez, 35, shot her. Maricela's mother and two children were present during the shooting. Gonzalez shot and injured Maricela's mother before shooting and killing himself. Maricela is survived by her two daughters, ages 5 and 11.

Cindi Romero Fajardo, 32

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Cindi Romero Fajardo died when her boyfriend, Wilson Rivera-Madrid, 27, shot her. Rivera-Madrid followed Cindi to a nightclub and began arguing with Cindi. The nightclub employees asked Rivera-Madrid and Cindi to leave. Rivera-Madrid shot Cindi in his vehicle, moved her body to the side of the road, and fled. Emergency responders transported Cindi to a hospital, where she died several days later. Authorities charged Rivera-Madrid with murder; he remains at large.

Michael Thomas, 56

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Michael Thomas died in his home when his wife, Cynthia Johnson, 57, stabbed him. Authorities arrested and charged Johnson with murder. Michael is survived by his daughter.

Melina Lopez, 23

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Melina Lopez died at her workplace after her husband, Elmer Rodriguez, 24, shot and killed her. Rodriguez then shot and killed himself. Rodriguez had a history of abuse and violence toward Melina. The day before the murder, Melina filed for a protective order. Melina is survived by her daughters, ages 3 and 6.

Walter Oliver, 64

HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Walter Oliver died in his home when his girlfriend, Sherry Stevens, 58, shot him. Stevens was on parole for aggravated robbery at the time of the murder. Stevens confessed to a law enforcement officer that she killed Walter. Authorities arrested and charged Stevens with murder. Stevens pled guilty and received a sentence of 30 years in prison.

Adaelna Diaz, 34

HOUSTON | MARCH 3, 2019

Adaelna Diaz died in her home when her husband, Auner Rebolledo, 41, shot and killed her. Rebolledo had sent concerning text messages to family members, who then contacted law enforcement to request a welfare check. Authorities charged Rebolledo with murder; he remains at large.

Carrie Nebgen, 40

HOUSTON | APRIL 26, 2019

Carrie Nebgen died at her home when her husband, Aaron Nebgen, 39, shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. Carrie's child, age 18 months, was in the home. Carrie is survived by her two children.

Tiffany Uzor, 40

HOUSTON | MAY 14, 2019

Tiffany Uzor died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, Frederick Lewis, 45, stabbed and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Lewis with murder. Tiffany is survived by her four children.

Shamala Burks, 34

HOUSTON | MAY 20, 2019

Shamala Burks died in her home when her husband, Donald Burks, 40, shot her. Burks then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement officers responded to a call and discovered Shamala and Burks deceased in the bedroom of their home.

Adam Robles, 31

HOUSTON | MAY 27, 2019

Adam Robles died when his girlfriend, Amy Gonzales, 29, shot him. Gonzalez had aimed her gun at two of Adam's friends in front of their home and told them to leave. She shot Adam as she was entering the home. Emergency responders transported Adam to a hospital, where he died five days after the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged Gonzales with manslaughter. Adam is survived by his son, age 8.

Phuong Thuy Vuong, 35

HOUSTON | JUNE 29, 2019

Phuong Thuy Vuong died in her home when her husband, Thang Duc Nguyen, 51, shot and killed her. Phuong Thuy's children were in the home. Nguyen had filed for divorce in January 2019, and the divorce case was dismissed the day before he killed Phuong Thuy. Nguyen confessed to law enforcement that he shot and killed Phuong Thuy. Authorities arrested and charged Nguyen with murder. Phuong Thuy is survived by her two daughters, ages 11 and 12.

Pamela Pratt, 37

HOUSTON | JULY 12, 2019

Pamela Pratt died in a vehicle when her boyfriend, Kenneth Howard, 61, stabbed and killed her. Howard drove back to Pamela's home, called 911, and confessed to killing Pamela. Authorities arrested and charged Howard with murder. Pamela is survived by her three children.

Patricia Spivey, 52

HOUSTON | JULY 28, 2019

Patricia Spivey died in her home when her husband, Renard Spivey, 63, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Patricia is survived by her adult daughter.

Tracy Williams, 22

HOUSTON | JULY 30, 2019

Tracy Williams died after her boyfriend, Joshua Bourgeois, 25, stabbed and killed her. Tracy's body was found in the parking lot of a gas station. Authorities arrested and charged Bourgeois with murder. Bourgeois has a history of abusive behavior toward Tracy, and she had told him she wanted to end their relationship.

Tierney Anderson, 34

HOUSTON | AUGUST 4, 2019

Tierney Anderson died in her home when her husband, Mark Anderson, 33, shot her multiple times and killed her. Tierney also shot Anderson in the attack. Emergency responders transported him to the hospital. Anderson has a history of abusive and violent behavior toward Tierney and other women. He had injured Tierney in previous family violence assaults, threatened to kill her, and fired his firearm frequently in the home. Tierney went to her mother's home to escape from Anderson prior to the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Anderson with murder in April 2020; at that time, he was also charged with another family violence assault against a woman he was dating after threatening to kill her.

Emily Contreras, 20

HOUSTON | AUGUST 4, 2019

Emily Contreras died when her boyfriend, Gerson Pena, 22, shot and killed her. Emergency responders transported Emily to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Pena with murder.

Patra Perkins, 18

HOUSTON | AUGUST 4, 2019

Patra Perkins died in a hotel when her boyfriend, Justin Herron, 31, shot and killed her. Herron then fled out of state. Herron has a history of abusive and controlling behavior towards Patra. Prior to the murder, he had been released on bond for an unrelated charge. Authorities arrested and charged him with capital murder. Patra was eight months pregnant.

Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez, 29

HOUSTON | AUGUST 20, 2019

Maria Jimenez-Rodriguez was killed by her boyfriend Erik Arceneaux, 47, in June 2018. Maria's family reported her missing after she dropped her daughter off at daycare on June 21, 2018, and did not arrive at work. In 2019, evidence led authorities to presume Maria was dead. Arceneaux has an extensive history of violence, including aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, threatening a former partner with a gun. Maria had planned to end the relationship with Arceneaux before he killed her. Authorities charged Arceneaux with murder; he remains at large. Maria is survived by her daughter, age 4.

Estefina Arrambide, 37

HOUSTON | AUGUST 30, 2019

Estefina Arrambide died in her home when her husband, Jesse Medina, 36, shot and killed her. Medina killed the couple's daughter, Dafne Medina, age 5. He then shot and killed himself. Family members requested a welfare check. When law enforcement arrived, they found Estefina, Medina, and their daughter deceased.

Antoinette Sloan, 28

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

Antoinette Sloan, 28, died when her ex-boyfriend, Johnny Green, 40, shot and killed her outside her parent's house. He fled and then called his family to confess to the murder and inform them that he planned to commit suicide. Green then shot and killed himself. Two months prior to the murder, Antoinette had ended the relationship with Green and moved in with her parents. Green rented a car that Antoinette would not recognize and parked outside her parent's home waiting for her. Antoinette is survived by her daughter, age 4 months.

Piper Jones, 20

HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

Piper Jones died when her ex-boyfriend, Logan Losoya, 24, shot and killed her near a reservoir. A passerby located Piper's body on a walking trail and contacted 911. One month prior to killing Piper, Losoya broke into a home and stole three firearms. Losoya was charged with burglary of a habitation five days before he shot Piper but was not arrested at that time. Authorities arrested and charged Losoya with murder. Piper is survived by her two daughters.

Tiesha Robinson, 38

HOUSTON | OCTOBER 28, 2019

Tiesha Robinson died when her boyfriend, Gerald McNeil, 50, shot and killed her at their home. McNeil then shot and killed himself. Family members were concerned that they had not heard from McNeil. When they arrived at the home, they found Tiesha and McNeil deceased. Tiesha is survived by her two children.

Roberta Beaver, 39

HOUSTON | DECEMBER 23, 2019

Roberta Beaver died at a hotel when her boyfriend, Leopoldo Martinez, 39, stabbed her multiple times and shot her. Martinez then shot and killed himself. A hotel employee found Roberta and Martinez deceased in the room. Roberta is survived by her five children.

Carolee Taylor, 46

HOUSTON | DECEMBER 24, 2019

Carolee "CT" Taylor died in front of her uncle's home after her ex-boyfriend, Albert Simon, 52, shot and killed her. Carolee was celebrating her birthday and Christmas Eve with her family when Simon forced his way into the home by pointing a gun at Carolee's uncle. Simon then forced Carolee out of the home before shooting her. Earlier that day, Simon sent threatening texts to Carolee. After the shooting, Simon went to his friend and confessed to killing Carolee. He then absconded but was located by law enforcement four days later. After a confrontation, law enforcement shot and killed Simon. Carolee is survived by her daughter, 19.

Mara Vestal, 29

KATY | MARCH 22, 2019

Mara Vestal died after her boyfriend, Jay Hammersley, 43, strangled and killed her. Hammersley confessed to a friend that he killed Mara and asked his friend for help covering up the murder. His friend advised him to call 911. Instead, Hammersley destroyed Mara's remains by burning them. Authorities arrested and charged Hammersley with murder. Mara is survived by her daughter and son.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Caitlynne Guajardo, 20

PASADENA | AUGUST 3, 2019

Caitlynne Guajardo died in her home when her husband, Alex Guajardo, 22, stabbed and killed her. Guajardo has a history of violence toward Caitlynne. Caitlynne had ended the relationship. Three days before the murder, Guajardo assaulted Caitlynne, who was four months pregnant and killed the family pet. Authorities arrested Guajardo; he was released the next day on a personal recognizance bond. After the killing Caitlynne, authorities arrested and charged Guajardo with murder. Caitlynne is survived by her daughter, age 8 months.

MaKaila Simon, 15

SPRING | JANUARY 27, 2019

MaKaila Simon died in a hospital after her boyfriend, Javon Martin, 17, shot her. Witnesses in the home reported that Martin waved the gun, then pointed the gun at MaKaila and shot her in the bedroom of a home. A video shows MaKaila telling Martin to stop pointing the gun at her. Authorities arrested and charged Martin with criminally negligent homicide; he was indicted for manslaughter.

Tyesha Williams, 31

SPRING | MARCH 16, 2019

Tyesha Williams died after her husband, Andre Holmes, 41, shot and killed her in their home. Holmes' roommate heard the gunshots and told Holmes to call 911. Authorities arrested and charged Holmes with murder.

Brooke Muhlenkort, 34

SPRING | APRIL 5, 2019

Brooke Muhlenkort died in her home after her husband, Cory Muhlenkort, 35, assaulted and killed her. Muhlenkort then killed himself. The couple had begun divorce proceedings in the weeks prior to their deaths. Brooke is survived by her son, age 15, and her daughter, age 12.

HARRISON COUNTY

Key'oceia Pickron-Marsh, 40

LONGVIEW | MARCH 29, 2019

Key'oceia Pickron Marsh died in her home when her husband, Billy Marsh, 45, physically assaulted her with a weapon and killed her. Key'oceia's children were at home and called 911. Law enforcement responded and found Key'oceia's body. Marsh confessed to authorities, who arrested him and charged him with murder. Key'oceia is survived by her four children.

HENDERSON COUNTY

Tabatha Cashion, 34

LARUE | FEBRUARY 20, 2019

Tabatha Cashion died at her boyfriend's home after her boyfriend Charlie Cervantes, 25, shot and killed her. Tabitha was in the process of moving in with Cervantes. Tabitha's mother reported her missing when she was unable to contact her. Sheriff deputies found Tabitha's body in Cervantes' home; he was arrested. A grand jury indicted him for murder. Tabatha is survived by her four children.

Belinda Sue Foster, 66

MABANK | DECEMBER 28, 2019

Belinda Sue Foster died at her home when her boyfriend, Michael Cernock, 58, assaulted and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Cernock with murder. The judge set bond at \$1 million. Belinda is survived by her son and daughter.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Samantha Marie Cantu, 27

EDINBURG | FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Samantha Cantu died in a home after her boyfriend, Isidro Mancilla Jr., 39, stabbed and killed her. Mancilla then fled to Mexico. Mancilla has a history of violence against Samantha and extensive previous history of violence against former partners, including a felony conviction for aggravated assault for which he received a sentence of five years in prison in 2012. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder when he re-entered the U.S. at the Hidalgo port of entry.

Hector De Leon, 48

EDINBURG | DECEMBER 8, 2019

Hector De Leon died in his home when his wife, Karla Marlen De Leon, 47, shot and killed him. De Leon confessed to her son and to officers responding to the 911 call that she shot Hector. Authorities arrested and charged De Leon with murder. Hector is survived by his two children.

Magdalena Cantu, 48

EDINBURG | DECEMBER 19, 2019

Magdalena Cantu died in her home when her boyfriend, Saul Avila, 58, stabbed, shot, and killed her. Avila also stabbed, shot, and killed two more people, Magdalena's daughter, Rebecca Cantu, 19, and Aaron Cortez, 30, a home healthcare provider who cared for Rebecca's son, age 2. Avila then shot and killed himself. Authorities responded to the 911 call and found the three victims and Avila deceased in the home. They found Rebecca's son in the home. Four days prior, Rebecca had reported to authorities that Avila had sexually assaulted her for the past five years. Authorities were investigating the extensive child sexual abuse charges against Avila and had contacted Child Protective Services.

HIDALGO COUNTY *continued*

Jane Fillmore, 87

MISSION | FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Jane Fillmore died in her home when her husband, Clyde Fillmore, 85, shot and killed her. A family member asked for a welfare check. Authorities discovered both Jane and Fillmore deceased when they responded. Jane is survived by three daughters.

HOCKLEY COUNTY

Ethel Florine Edwards, 79

LEVELLAND | NOVEMBER 18, 2019

Ethel Florine Edwards died in her home when her husband, Raymond Edwards, 79, shot and killed her. Edwards then called 911, admitted to killing Ethel, and hung up. Edwards then shot and killed himself. Ethel is survived by her two adult daughters.

HOOD COUNTY

Jennifer Pautenis, 29

GRANBURY | OCTOBER 20, 2019

Jennifer Pautenis died after her husband, Ed Pautenis, shot and killed her in her home. Jennifer's children were in the home. Pautenis moved Jennifer to a field. She was reported missing. After a week-long search, Pautenis confessed to the murder. Jennifer is survived by her son, age 7, and her daughter, age 5.

HUNT COUNTY

Nicole Kennedy-Pride, 34

GREENVILLE | FEBRUARY 15, 2019

Nicole Kennedy-Pride died at her home when her husband, Matthew Pride, 37, strangled and killed her. Nicole's co-workers asked for a welfare check; law enforcement found Pride at the home, and Nicole deceased. Authorities arrested Pride for violation of a protective order and later arrested and charged him with murder. Pride has a history of violence and made multiple threats to kill Nicole. Nicole filed for divorce and received an order of protection two weeks before her death. Nicole is survived by her son, age 14.

JASPER COUNTY

Judy McKinney Arnold, 60

JASPER | SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Judy McKinney Arnold died in her vehicle in the parking lot of a motel when her boyfriend, Royce Larkin, 53, stabbed her to death. Larkin called 911. When law enforcement arrived, they found Judy's body in the passenger seat and Larkin outside of a motel room. Authorities arrested Larkin; he was indicted on murder charges. Judy had informed family members that she planned to end her relationship with Larkin. Judy is survived by her adult daughters.

JASPER COUNTY *continued*

Candi McKee, 43

KIRBYVILLE | MARCH 4, 2019

Candi McKee died when her ex-boyfriend Kevin Byerly, 55, stabbed and killed her. Byerly set fire to Candi's vehicle and placed her body in a river. Family members reported Candi missing when she did not arrive at work. Law enforcement found Candi's vehicle and questioned Byerly, who confessed to killing Candi. Authorities arrested and charged Byerly with murder. Candi had ended the relationship with Byerly, and he had been stalking her. Byerly had previous charges, including indecency with a child in 2018. Candi is survived by her five children.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Olivia Jones, 38

BEAUMONT | FEBRUARY 14, 2019

Olivia Jones died in her home after her husband, Christopher Jones, 40, shot and killed her. Jones has a history of violence toward Olivia. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder. Olivia is survived by her two daughters.

Aletha Gonzalez, 34

PORT ARTHUR | FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Aletha Gonzalez died in her home when her boyfriend, Daniel Shackelford, 34, assaulted and killed her. Shackelford called 911 to state he found Aletha injured. Shackelford has a history of physical violence toward Aletha. Authorities arrested and charged Shackelford with murder. Aletha is survived by her child.

Gerald Taylor, 24

PORT ARTHUR | OCTOBER 12, 2019

Gerald Taylor died outside his home after his girlfriend, Amesty Smith, 23, stabbed and killed him. Smith stabbed Gerald once in the chest and forced him into the trunk of the car. As Smith started driving, Gerald fell out of the trunk, collapsed, and died. Authorities arrested and charged Smith with murder.

JIM WELLS COUNTY

Iris Ramirez, 28

ORANGE GROVE | JULY 3, 2019

Iris Ramirez died at a hospital after her husband, Eric Berber, 33, stabbed her in a hotel. Iris had separated from Berber. Berber attacked Iris when their friends left the hotel room and he then fled. When the friends returned, they found Iris and called 911. Emergency responders transported Iris to the hospital. Authorities arrested Eric at his mother's house and charged him with murder. Iris is survived by her two daughters and her two sons.

KARNES COUNTY

Randal Walden, 48

KENEDY | JANUARY 3, 2019

Randal Walden died in a hospital after his girlfriend, Marina Fifield, 38, shot him in his home. Fifield fled on an ATV and met authorities responding to a disturbance call. Fifield confessed to shooting Randal. Emergency responders transported Randall to a hospital in San Antonio, where he died two days later. Authorities arrested and charged Fifield with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and updated the charges to murder after Randal's death.

KAUFMAN COUNTY

Rita Hargrove May, 65

ABNER | FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Rita Hargrove May died at her home when her husband, Ronald May, 64, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested May, and the grand jury indicted him for murder. Rita is survived by her daughter, two sons, stepdaughter, and four stepsons.

KERR COUNTY

Melissa Villagrana, 38

KERRVILLE | NOVEMBER 10, 2019

Melissa Villagrana died outside of her work when her boyfriend, Fernando Rolon Jr., 45, shot and killed her. Rolon then fled and barricaded himself in a movie theater where he shot himself. Authorities transported him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Melissa is survived by her two children.

LAMB COUNTY

Latisha Smith, 39

LITTLEFIELD | APRIL 12, 2019

Latisha Smith died at a hospital in Lubbock after her boyfriend, Alonzo Caldwell, assaulted and injured her. Authorities arrested Caldwell. A grand jury indicted Caldwell for manslaughter. Caldwell has a history of family violence against Latisha. In 2016, he served 90 days in jail for assaulting her.

LAVACA COUNTY

Jada Lillight, 24

HALLETTSVILLE | MARCH 20, 2019

Jada Lillight died in her home when her dating partner, Keith Lee, 27, stabbed and killed her. Lee then set Jada's home on fire and fled. After several months of investigation, law enforcement arrested and charged Lee. A grand jury indicted Lee for first-degree felony murder and arson causing bodily injury or death as well as second-degree felony tampering or fabricating physical evidence, a human corpse, with intent to impair an investigation.

LUBBOCK COUNTY

Maria Isabel Cervantes, 19

LUBBOCK | JUNE 7, 2019

Maria Isabel Cervantes died at her home when her boyfriend, Detren Ward, 17, shot and killed her. Maria Isabel tried to end the relationship prior to the murder. Ward has a history of abusive behavior. Authorities arrested and charged Ward with manslaughter and tampering with evidence. Maria is survived by her daughter, age 2.

McLENNAN COUNTY

James Olson, 38

HEWETT | NOVEMBER 18, 2019

James Olson died in his home when his wife, Shawn Olson, 37, cut his wrists and killed him. Olson then cut her own wrists. Authorities responded to the home when James did not appear for a court hearing for a felony offense. Olson was transported to a hospital and treated for her injuries. She confessed to killing James. Authorities arrested and charged her with murder.

Sherrell Carter, 26

WACO | FEBRUARY 3, 2019

Sherrell Carter, 26, died when her husband, Quest Aljabaghnn Jones, 28, shot and killed her in their home. Sherrell's three children were in the home. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder. A grand jury indicted Jones for murder. Jones has a history of violence toward Sherrell, including threats to kill her. Sherrell had made attempts to end her relationship. Sherrell is survived by her daughters, ages 5 and 4, and her son, age 3.

Samantha Dragoo, 30

WACO | NOVEMBER 3, 2019

Samantha Dragoo died when her boyfriend, Taylor McKibben, 20, shot and killed her in his home. McKibben called 911. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Samantha is survived by her son.

MEDINA COUNTY

Jessica Sanchez, 37

DEVINE | JULY 9, 2019

Jessica Sanchez died after her ex-boyfriend, Jorge Jaramillo, 48, shot and killed her. He then committed suicide. Jaramillo broke into Jessica's home, locked Jessica's three daughters in a room, and kidnapped Jessica at gunpoint. Jaramillo's ex-wife contacted 911 when she noticed the family gun was missing. Nine days later, a landowner discovered Jessica and Jaramillo's bodies on a ranch in Pearson, Texas. Jaramillo had a history of controlling, jealous and violent behavior. A month prior to the murder, Jessica ended the relationship after Jaramillo held a knife to her throat; authorities arrested Jaramillo and provided Jessica with an emergency protective order. Jessica is survived by her three young daughters.

MIDLAND COUNTY

Patricia Ruedas, 45

MIDLAND | DECEMBER 8, 2019

Patricia Ruedas died at her workplace after her husband, Juan Ruedas, 49, stabbed and killed her. Ruedas fled. He has a history of abusive behavior toward Patricia. She had ended the relationship, moved into an apartment, and told family members she was concerned for her safety. Authorities charged Ruedas with murder; he remains at large. Patricia is survived by her three sons.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Cassandra Benitez, 20

CONROE | MARCH 20, 2019

Cassandra Benitez died when her boyfriend, Lirio Maldonado Jr., 23, stabbed and killed her. He then fled and confessed to his family. Maldonado's family called 911. Cassandra's two young children were in the home during the murder, but were not there when the police arrived. Authorities arrested and charged Maldonado with murder. Cassandra is survived by her two children.

Daria Khoussinov, 27

LAKE CONROE | DECEMBER 31, 2019

Daria Khoussinov died when her boyfriend, Mark Anthony Briseno, 28, shot and killed her in her bedroom. A neighbor called 911 to report they had retrieved the weapon, and that Briseno was at the home. Authorities arrested and charged Briseno with murder.

Tina Cappa, 52

NEW CANEY | MARCH 8, 2019

Tina Cappa died at her home when her boyfriend, Jimmy Lane, 55, shot and killed her. When authorities responded to the call regarding a shooting, they were initially unable to gain entry. They returned to the home and found Lane there. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Lane has a history of violence, including previous assault charges. Tina is survived by her three sons.

MOORE COUNTY

Sergio Perez, 24

SUNRAY | MARCH 25, 2019

Sergio Perez died in a vehicle after his girlfriend, Abigail Widener, 18, shot and killed him. Widener then shot and killed herself.

NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

Curtis Washington, 51

NACOGDOCHES | OCTOBER 24, 2019

Curtis Washington died after his ex-girlfriend Milanikii Ybarra, 29, stabbed him. Authorities responded to 911 calls regarding an injured man lying in the road. Emergency responders transported Curtis to the hospital where he died. Authorities arrested Ybarra and charged her with murder. When Ybarra killed Curtis, she was awaiting trial for another stabbing death of her boyfriend in 2018.

NAVARRO COUNTY

Paula Watson, 56

CORSICANA | SEPTEMBER 11, 2019

Paula Watson died in front of her home after her husband, Joe Watson, 57, struck her with his vehicle and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Watson with manslaughter. He pleaded guilty and received a sentence of ten years of deferred adjudication.

NUECES COUNTY

Priscilla Davila, 32

CORPUS CHRISTI | MARCH 7, 2019

Priscilla Davila, 32, died at her neighbor's home after her boyfriend, Larry Moore, 41, shot, stabbed, and killed her. Priscilla had fled to a neighbor's home to escape Moore's abuse. Moore followed her and killed Priscilla, then he shot, stabbed, and killed her neighbor, Sonia Quintanilla Trejo, 37. When law enforcement officers arrived, Moore opened fire on officers. Authorities arrested and charged Moore with two counts of capital murder and two counts of attempted capital murder and set his bond at \$3 million. Moore has a history of abuse toward Priscilla. Priscilla is survived by her daughter, age 12, and her son, age 9.

Dolores Salazar, 36

CORPUS CHRISTI | OCTOBER 15, 2019

Dolores Salazar died in her home after her ex-boyfriend, Robert Rosales, 38, assaulted and killed her. Dolores had ended the relationship; however, he refused to leave the home and continued to be controlling. Family members requested a wellness check; law enforcement officers found Dolores's body in the bedroom. Authorities arrested and charged Rosales with murder. His bond was set at \$1 million; a grand jury indicted Rosales.

Eddy Soranaka, 48

FLOUR BLUFF | SEPTEMBER 29, 2019

Eddy Soranaka died in his home after his girlfriend, Tiffany Ogg, 28, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged her; a grand jury indicted Ogg for murder.

NUECES COUNTY *continued*

Vanessa Pecina, 36

PETRONILA | SEPTEMBER 4, 2019

Vanessa Pecina died in her vehicle when her ex-boyfriend, Jose De Luna Jr., 46, strangled and killed her. Authorities had arrested De Luna for assaulting Vanessa three weeks prior to her murder, and she had received a protective order against him. De Luna killed Vanessa when she refused to drop the assault charges against him. De Luna left Vanessa's body on a roadside in a remote area. Authorities located Vanessa a week later and arrested and charged De Luna with murder. Vanessa is survived by her two daughters and her two sons.

Epimenio Cabrera, 50

ROBSTOWN | MAY 5, 2019

Epimenio Cabrera died in the hospital after his wife, Maria Cabrera, 45, stabbed him. Cabrera's sister called 911 and stated that Epimenio was assaulting Cabrera and asked for assistance. Cabrera then called 911 and reported that she had stabbed Epimenio. Authorities arrested and charged Cabrera with murder.

PARKER COUNTY

Michelle Steinman-Davis, 24

MILSAP | MARCH 26, 2019

Michelle Steinman-Davis died at a hospital after her boyfriend, Stephen Martinez, 32, shot her on the side of the road. Martinez called law enforcement to inform them that he had shot Michelle. Authorities responded and transported Michelle to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. Authorities arrested Martinez, and he is indicted for first-degree felony murder.

Kenneth Walker, 61

WEATHERFORD | OCTOBER 21, 2019

Kenneth Walker died in a hotel room after his wife, Catherine Walker, 64, shot and killed him. Walker then shot and killed herself. Kenneth is survived by his two sons.

PARMER COUNTY

Erica Sanchez, 30

BOVINA | AUGUST 5, 2019

Erica Sanchez died at her home when her ex-boyfriend Michael Orozco, 39, stabbed and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Orozco with murder. Erica had relocated and received a protective order against Orozco about one month prior to the murder. Erica is survived by her son and her two daughters.

POLK COUNTY

Ashley Delaney, 27

BLANCHARD | FEBRUARY 11, 2019

Ashley Delaney died in front of her grandparent's home when her husband, Randy Horn, 54, shot and killed her. Horn also shot and killed Ashley's daughter, Ranly Horn, 15 months, her grandmother, Linda Delaney, 72, and her grandfather Carlos Delaney, 74. He then shot and killed himself. Ashley's mother was in a bedroom of the home and called a family member for help, who then called 911. Ashley had filed for divorce in 2018 and then dismissed the case. She moved into her grandparent's home and planned to file for divorce again.

Barbara King, 71

SEGNO | FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Barbara King died at her home when her husband, Willie King, 75, shot and killed her. Law enforcement arrested and charged King; a grand jury indicted King for murder.

RANDALL COUNTY

Aaron Carter, 27

AMARILLO | SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

Aaron Carter died in a hospital after his wife, Brittney Carter, 28, shot him at their home. Authorities arrested Carter, and a Grand Jury indicted her for murder. Aaron is survived by his son and daughter.

Richard Garza, 30

AMARILLO | DECEMBER 17, 2019

Richard Garza died in his vehicle after his ex-girlfriend, Mollie Williams, 47, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested Williams after recovering the firearm she used and discarded in a lake. Williams has a history of violence against Richard and had threatened to kill him. Richard is survived by his daughter and two sons.

REEVES COUNTY

Isabel Hernandez, 44

PECOS | OCTOBER 24, 2019

Isabel Hernandez died at her home when her boyfriend, Arthur Gallegos, 48, shot and killed her. Gallegos also shot and killed Reynaldo Ramirez, 79, in Isabel's home and then fled. Isabel's roommate discovered their bodies and called 911. Gallegos was later apprehended at the El Paso port of entry. Authorities arrested and charged Gallegos with capital murder. Isabel is survived by her son and daughter.

RUSK COUNTY

Holly Jones, 37

HENDERSON | FEBRUARY 17, 2019

Holly Jones died at the hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Randy Winn, 62, shot her at her brother's home. Winn broke into the home during a family celebration and shot Holly's mother, Billie Peyers, 65, shot and killed Holly's brother, Justin Cord Smith, 31, and shot and injured Justin's girlfriend, Cassandra Shaffer, 26. Billie and Cassandra died later from the injuries. Holly's two children and Justin and Cassandra's child were in the home. Winn fled. Holly had ended the relationship with Winn and moved in with her mother and brother. Authorities detained him, arrested, and charged him with capital murder charges. Holly is survived by her two children, ages 4 and 6.

SHELBY COUNTY

Harold Glyne Glaze, 63

TENAHIA | SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

Harold Glynn Glaze died of blunt force trauma at his girlfriend's home when his girlfriend, Devail Renshaw, 51, killed him. Renshaw has been arrested and indicted on murder. Glaze is survived by his five adult children.

SMITH COUNTY

Karen Monteagudo, 47

WINONA | MAY 6, 2019

Karen Monteagudo died in her home after her husband, Vincente Monteagudo, 55, shot and killed her. Monteagudo also shot and killed their daughter, Olivia, 14, and then shot and killed himself. Officials at Olivia's school became concerned when she did not arrive at school and contacted Karen's son, who requested a welfare check. Authorities discovered Karen, Olivia, and Monteagudo deceased. Karen is survived by adult children.

TARRANT COUNTY

Wasam Moussa, 23

ARLINGTON | MAY 28, 2019

Wassam Moussa died when her husband Tareq Alkayyali, 36, asphyxiated her. Emergency responders transported Wasam to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Wasam recently traveled from Jordan to Texas. She had asked for a divorce in the past and had told her family about Alkayyali's violent behavior. Authorities arrested and charged Alkayyali with murder.

Alyssa Rogers, 24

ARLINGTON | MAY 29, 2019

Alyssa Maria Mejia Rogers died at her home when her husband, Edward Rogers, 66, assaulted and killed her. Rogers placed Alyssa in a freezer. He confessed to a friend, who reported the crime to the police. Rogers later shot and killed himself. Rogers had an extensive history of violence, including a prior conviction for a manslaughter charge in 2004 and previous charges for assault and assault with a deadly weapon. Rogers had an upcoming court hearing for a strangulation charge involving Alyssa and expected to serve sentence time for a guilty plea for assaulting Alyssa. She had filed for a protective order and planned to divorce Rogers. Alyssa had taken their child back to family in the Philippines for his safety. Alyssa is survived by her son, age 1.

Karen Finney, 32

FORT WORTH | JANUARY 18, 2019

Karen Finney died at her home when her boyfriend, Jarvis Franklin, 26, shot and killed her. Three of Karen's children were present and ran to the neighbor's house to get help and call 911. Authorities arrested Franklin and charged him with murder. Franklin had previously served seven years on a manslaughter conviction and had been convicted for aggravated assault. Karen is survived by her two daughters, ages 11 and 12, and her two sons, ages 7 and 14.

Kathryn Kirk, 55

FORT WORTH | JANUARY 18, 2019

Kathryn Kirk died in her home when her husband, Douglas Kirk, 58, shot and killed her. Kirk then shot and killed himself. He left a suicide note with his neighbor and staged Kathryn's death as a suicide. Investigators ruled her death a homicide.

Sheila Rowland, 71

FORT WORTH | APRIL 30, 2019

Sheila Rowland died at her home when her husband, Thomas Rowland, 79, shot and killed her. Rowland then shot himself. Emergency responders transported Rowland to the hospital, where he died the next day.

Vanessa Mayfield, 31

FORT WORTH | AUGUST 17, 2019

Vanessa Mayfield died outside of a church after her boyfriend, Jared Seavey, 21, assaulted and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Seavey with Vanessa's murder. Seavey has a history of violence. In 2018, Seavey was charged with assault when he held another girlfriend captive and held his hand over her nose and mouth to keep her from breathing. Vanessa planned to end the relationship with Seavey. Vanessa is survived by her five children, ranging in age from 6 months to 9 years.

Vincent Smith, 54

FORT WORTH | AUGUST 21, 2019

Vincent Smith died in the hospital after his girlfriend, Tameka Packnett, 41, shot him. Authorities arrested and charged Packnett with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Vincent is survived by his three children.

TARRANT COUNTY *continued*

Elizabeth Moore, 60

GRAND PRAIRIE | FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Elizabeth Moore died in her home when her husband, Gary Moore, 47, shot and killed her. Moore turned himself in at a police station. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Moore threatened to hire someone to kill Elizabeth's son and a girl who accused him of sexual abuse and was charged with solicitation of capital murder. Moore shot and killed himself in December 2019 while he was released on bond. Elizabeth is survived by her two daughters and her son.

Mary Baxter, 40

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS | MARCH 11, 2019

Mary Baxter died at her home when her husband, Victor Baxter, 58, strangled and killed her. Authorities arrested Baxter on unrelated charges and was later charged with murder.

Emily "Susan" Teeter Law, 40

WATAUGA | APRIL 22, 2019

Emily Susan Teeter Law died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, James Freeman, 40, shot and killed her. Freeman had a history of violence; he had strangled Emily leading to an emergency protective order five days prior to killing her. The day he shot Emily, her son called 911 to report that Freeman was violating the protective order. When officers arrived, Freeman pointed a gun at them. They shot and killed Freeman. She is survived by her adult son.

Dianne Marie Cole, 63

WATAUGA | JULY 20, 2019

Dianne Marie Cole died at her home when her husband, Mark Thorley, 56, shot and killed her. Thorley then shot and killed himself. Police received a call from a man believed to be Thorley, which led them to dispatch a SWAT team to enter the home. Upon entry, officers located Dianne and Thorley deceased inside a bedroom in the home.

TITUS COUNTY

Roberto Espinoza, 26

MOUNT PLEASANT | MARCH 8, 2019

Roberto Espinoza died after his wife, Araceli Espinoza, 23, stabbed him. Authorities responded to a 911 call; emergency responders transported Roberto to the hospital where he died. Authorities arrested and charged Araceli with murder. Roberto is survived by his son, age 3.

Michelle Lee Bragg, 50

MOUNT PLEASANT | JUNE 28, 2019

Michelle Lee Bragg died at her workplace when her husband, Mark Southerland, 51, shot her multiple times and killed her. Southerland then shot and killed himself. Southerland had a history of threatening Michelle. Michelle sought services to increase her safety, including seeking a safe place to stay and requesting a protective order. A judge granted a protective order, but Southerland had not yet been served. Michelle is survived by her two daughters and her son.

TRAVIS COUNTY

Juan Angel Zapata, 38

AUSTIN | MARCH 17, 2019

Juan Angel Zapata died when his boyfriend, Juan Eduardo Rendon, 20, shot and killed him in a park. Friends and colleagues contacted authorities when Juan did not arrive at work. Rendon has a history of abuse, including threatening to kill Juan if he ended the relationship. Juan had planned to end his relationship and tried to keep Rendon out of the house. Authorities charged Rendon with homicide. He fled to Mexico and remains at large.

San Juana Macias, 40

AUSTIN | JULY 7, 2019

San Juana Macias died when her ex-boyfriend, Jamie Wingwood, 40, killed her in a hotel. San Juana's family reported her missing. Wingwood confessed to his sister that he killed San Juana. Law enforcement pursued Wingwood from Jefferson County into Louisiana. When Wingwood was detained, he confessed to killing San Juana and told them where to find her body. Authorities arrested and charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and tampering with evidence, and later updated the charge to murder. Wingwood has a history of violence against San Juana. San Juana is survived by her six children.

Francy Martinez, 41

AUSTIN | AUGUST 4, 2019

Francy Martinez died in her home after her boyfriend, Sergio Gomez-Herrada, stabbed and killed her. Francy's daughter found her body and called 911. Gomez-Herrada fled and remained at large for four days before surrendering. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Francy is survived by her daughter and her two sons.

Robin Hatcher, 52

AUSTIN | AUGUST 13, 2019

Robin Hatcher died in her home when her boyfriend, Paul Adams, 37, strangled, suffocated, and killed her. Robin's daughter reported her missing after not hearing from her. In April 2020, Adams contacted law enforcement and admitted to killing Robin and placing her body in a dumpster. Authorities arrested Adams and charged him with murder and tampering with a corpse. Adams has a history of violence against Robin and of violence against previous partners, including strangulation. Robin is survived by her adult daughter.

Amira Mahler, 23

AUSTIN | NOVEMBER 4, 2019

Amira Mahler died in her home after her boyfriend, Travis Ford, 28, shot and killed her. Ford had positioned his head next to Amira's, then shot and killed himself. The bullet exited his body, killing Amira. After failing to report to work, family members requested a welfare check; family members and law enforcement found their bodies inside the home.

TRAVIS COUNTY *continued*

Veneranda Gutierrez, 36

AUSTIN | DECEMBER 6, 2019

Veneranda Martinez-Gutierrez died after her husband Florencio Barron shot and killed her in her vehicle at the gas station where she sold tamales. Barron then shot and killed himself. Veneranda's children were in the vehicle. Veneranda had separated from Barron. He had a history of violence, had stalked Veneranda for several months prior to her death. Veneranda is survived by her two daughters and her son.

Diamond Bridgeman, 29

AUSTIN | DECEMBER 21, 2019

Diamond Bridgeman died at a hospital after her husband, Jaunya Touchstone, 29, assaulted her in their home. Diamond had ended the relationship and was packing when Touchstone began assaulting her. Touchstone's mother was also at the home. When she called the police, he also assaulted and injured her. Touchstone has a history of violence toward Diamond and had been charged with multiple family violence cases against Diamond. Authorities arrested and charged Touchstone with murder and third-degree injury to an elderly person.

UPSHUR COUNTY

Cara Cardinal, 42

ORE CITY | DECEMBER 15, 2019

Cara Cardinal died outside her home when her boyfriend, Bernard Furstonberg, 60, shot and killed her. Furstonberg then shot and injured Cara's mother, Gay Wagner, 68. Gay was able to call 911. When law enforcement officers arrived, Furstonberg shot and killed himself. Cara was attempting to end the relationship due to his emotional and verbal abuse and was placing his belongings in his vehicle when he shot her. Cara is survived by her son and her two daughters.

VAL VERDE COUNTY

Amanda Riojas, 27

DEL RIO | APRIL 26, 2019

Amanda Riojas died when her boyfriend, Robert Evans Jr., 26, shot her in a vehicle parked at a convenience store. Evans fled. Authorities arrested and charged Evans with murder and tampering with evidence. Evans has a history of abusive behavior toward Amanda. Amanda is survived by her three daughters and two sons.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Tracy Lovell, 44

VICTORIA | JANUARY 9, 2019

Tracy Lovell died in her home when her boyfriend, Charles Bailey, 60, shot and killed her. Bailey then shot and killed himself. Tracy had moved from England to live with Bailey. When her son did not hear from her, he requested a welfare check. Authorities found Tracy and Bailey deceased. Tracy is survived by her two sons.

VICTORIA COUNTY *continued*

Mario Garcia Sr., 59

VICTORIA | JUNE 18, 2019

Mario Garcia Sr. died near his home when his wife, Rose Marie Garcia, 56, shot and killed him. Garcia moved Mario's body to a ravine behind their home and reported Mario missing. Mario's son discovered his remains and alerted authorities. Garcia confessed to killing Mario, and authorities arrested and charged her with murder. While released on bond, Garcia fled the state and remains at large. Mario is survived by his six adult children.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Amanda Gordon, 30

CEDAR PARK | DECEMBER 10, 2019

Amanda Gordon died in her home when her husband, Samuel Byrd, 32, shot and killed her. Byrd moved Amanda's body to a ranch in Dale, Texas, and burned her remains. He asked his brother to help him cover up the crime. Amanda's mother requested a welfare check when she had not heard from Amanda. When law enforcement contacted Byrd, he refused to allow them to enter the property. Byrd has a history of abusive and controlling behavior toward Amanda. She told coworkers he threatened to kill her if she left. Authorities arrested and charged Byrd with murder, tampering with physical evidence, and two different counts of possession of a controlled substance. Amanda is survived by her son, age 2, and her daughter, age 8.

Justin Silas, 43

ROUND ROCK | JUNE 26, 2019

Justin Silas died at a hospital after his wife, Tyesha Tanner-Silas, 37, shot him in front of their home. Authorities arrested and charged Tanner-Silas with murder. Justin had planned to end his relationship with Tanner-Silas. Justin is survived by his son, age 19.

WINKLER COUNTY

Leonard Rios, 43

KERMIT | FEBRUARY 13, 2019

Leonard Rios died at his home when his girlfriend, Precilla Banuelos, 47, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged Banuelos with murder. Leonard is survived by his three daughters and three sons.

WISE COUNTY

Brandy Wallen, 45

DECATUR | JANUARY 7, 2019

Brandy Wallen died at a hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Ronnie Brezina, 63, stabbed her at a tanning salon. Brezina fled. Emergency responders transported Brandy to the hospital. Brezina crashed his vehicle ending a police pursuit; he was flown to a hospital. Authorities arrested him, and a grand jury indicted him for capital murder. Brandy had ended the relationship a few months prior to the murder. Brandy is survived by her daughter and son.

HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS REPORT METHODOLOGY

TCFV has recorded, honored, and published the names of women killed by their intimate partners each year for over 42 years. For the last eleven years, TCFV has published *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities* focused on 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. In 2018, TCFV expanded the scope to include family violence cases where women killed male intimate partners and men and women were killed by a same-sex intimate partner. The 2019 Report includes intimate partner violence adult homicides during the time frame of January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2019, for cases in which the perpetrators have either been charged with murder or manslaughter or committed murder-suicide by September 30, 2020.

To identify all victims of intimate violence homicides in 2019, TCFV monitored media in all 254 Texas counties and reviewed law enforcement and County and District Attorneys' communication releases. In addition, TCFV researched homicide cases with local and state partners. TCFV confirmed the accuracy of the information, primarily through law enforcement, the Department of Public Safety, media, victim advocates, and family violence agencies.

TCFV engaged a quantitative and a qualitative researcher for assistance with data analysis and contracted with an attorney with domestic violence case experience to provide a legal review of the narratives.

TCFV acknowledges that unfortunately homicides related to family violence go unmentioned in this report. Sadly, each year, family members, particularly children, become homicide victims when perpetrators target their current or former intimate partner. Equally devastating, each year perpetrators kill bystanders. When the intimate partner violence victim survives the attack, this report does not include the children, bystanders, or related homicide victims in the data. Additionally, cases are excluded if charges were not brought against the perpetrator or were dismissed before publication.

Researchers, advocates, and the general public use the terms "*family violence*," "*domestic violence*," and "*intimate partner violence*" somewhat interchangeably. This report focuses on 'intimate partner homicides' and 'intimate partner homicide-suicides' and also uses the terminology "*domestic violence*" and "*family violence*" because they are used more broadly in criminal justice and advocacy services. The State of Texas uses the term "*family violence*" in criminal justice settings as well as in other statutory frameworks, which is why this report often uses that term to describe the violence that occurs not only between dating or intimate partners but also members of the same household.

REPORT CONTRIBUTORS

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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.

Communities across the state mobilize to increase victim safety and offender accountability through innovative approaches to prevention and intervention in our response to domestic violence. Through collaboration, family violence service providers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, community resource programs, and healthcare providers, among others, we strive to improve outcomes for survivors and their families. To join these efforts, connect with us at TCFV.

Individually, we power change. Together, we power a movement.



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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.



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