

2023

HOMICIDE REPORT

RELATIONSHIP ABUSE IN
MINNESOTA



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

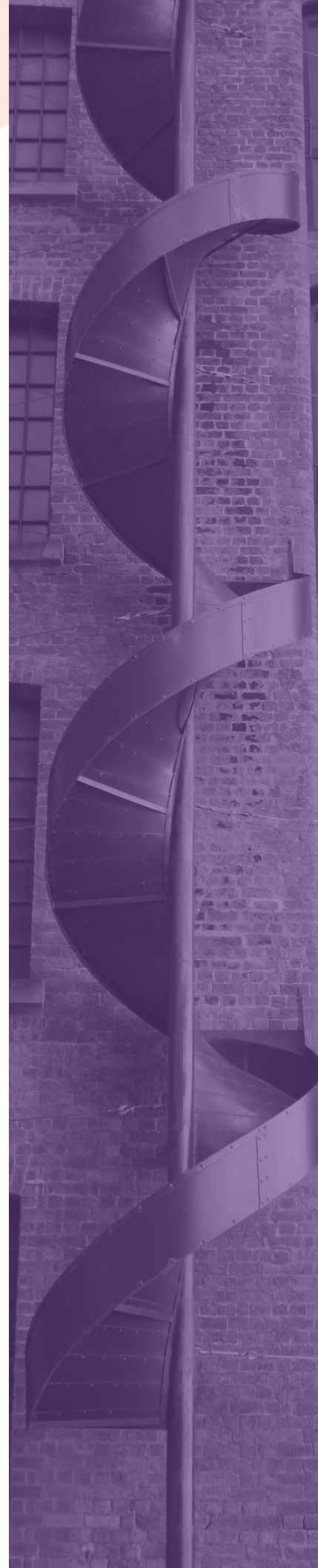
As you begin the process of reading this report, we want to acknowledge that the following content is heavy. It may be upsetting, angering, and disturbing. **Many of the details in this report are brutal and devastating.** Often, this work carries a profound tiredness, frequently layered with the complexities of personal experiences with domestic violence.

However, we believe that explicitly naming both the difficulty and the opportunity of this work is important, and that those with the capacity to fully read this report—especially policymakers, legal systems professionals, healthcare professionals, and journalists—have a critical role to play in supporting the safety of victim/survivors in our state. These deaths are not something we should turn away from. Reading this and acting in tangible ways to prevent relationship abuse in our state may be hard. It may take awhile. **But it is something every victim in this report deserves.**

THANK YOU:

Thank you to **Erin Cain, VFMN Homicide Report Research Intern**, for reviewing and analyzing courthouse criminal complaints to provide contextual details for this report. Thank you also to the inaugural **VFMN Homicide Committee** for providing input on the report recommendations, and to the **Minnesota Elder Justice Center**, the **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office**, **OutFront Minnesota**, and the **Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls (MMBWG) Office** for sharing statements about their work.

Questions, comments, or concerns regarding this report may be directed to Meggie Royer, Communications Senior Manager, at mroyer@vfmn.org.



— FOREWORD —

As we release our *2023 Homicide Report: Relationship Abuse in Minnesota*, we must emphasize two truths—in 2023, Violence Free Minnesota documented 40 confirmed intimate partner homicides in Minnesota, the highest number documented since we began tracking these deaths in 1989—and, even one homicide due to relationship abuse is too many. We cannot speculate as to why last year's number was so high, and want to stress that relationship abuse in our state exists 365 days a year. Since we began tracking these homicides in 1989, the yearly figure has fluctuated without any discernible pattern. **Additionally, homicide is not always the outcome of relationship abuse.** Suffering months or years of abuse, intimidation, and control devastates the lives of far more victim/survivors and their families each year. **Last year in Minnesota, nearly 53,000 survivors received domestic violence services. This does not include the number of survivors who never sought services.**

We also wish to acknowledge the broader social and political landscape surrounding the release of this report, both negative and positive. Seven years after the apex of the #MeToo movement led by Tarana Burke, we still have not seen bigotry, histories of violence, or misogyny become disqualifying traits for public figures in political office. In fact, we have seen a rise in the number and intensity of calls to roll back previously gained ground in our movement. Furthermore, during the time this report was written, the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza continued without abatement, significant numbers of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ bills passed in our country, and Sonya Massey, a young Black woman in Illinois, was brutally murdered by a white police officer as she ducked for cover. We also watched with relief as in June 2024 the U.S. Supreme Court upheld abortion pill access in a decision providing comfort to countless terrified domestic violence survivors, and in *U.S. v. Rahimi* upheld a law barring domestic abusers subject to qualifying domestic violence restraining orders from accessing firearms.

In this report, we use repetitive imagery of spiral staircases to denote the many layers and steps involved in domestic violence that ends in homicide. Every event, decision, and policy decided nationally and statewide affects survivors in Minnesota. The staircase may become more and more winding, and more and more complicated, or it may shift, become smaller, less complex. When a person descends a spiral staircase, every row of steps above the subsequent ones affects the experience of traversing those remaining. **In the best of circumstances, sometimes, there are no steps to descend at all, or there are so many steps missing that it becomes impossible to reach the next one.**



— FOREWORD CONTINUED

In 2023, we documented intimate partner homicide cases preceded by egregious failures on multiple levels and steps: relationship, community, and societal. We gathered information about victims who were failed not only by their partners, but blamed by their communities, like Angela Marie McClelland, whose husband was granted widespread community support after running her over with his car while the legal system framed her as an instigator, an angry woman, and a stereotype. We gathered information about victims who were cast aside and punished by the legal system, and whose partners engaged in histories of severe, extensive, prolonged violence against multiple past partners with little to no substantive intervention from institutions that purport to protect the most vulnerable.

Many of these failures were the most pronounced for victims of color, who are vastly overrepresented in 2023's homicides. These cases include Darisha Tela Bailey Vath, whose white abuser still has not been charged for the role he played in her death, and Kesha Latrice Moore, whose abuser killed her after harming so many women that one of them, in her Order for Protection filing against him, wrote that he would threaten her using evidence of what he had done to the other women he was concurrently dating. These cases include Savannah Ryan Williams, a Native and Cuban transgender woman who was shot and killed by a man in Minneapolis in an act of transphobic hate. In this report, we seek to draw attention to many of these failures with the inclusion of commentary from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office and the Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office.

Every decision made nationally, statewide, and locally can either eliminate a step towards intimate partner homicide, or add one that increases its likelihood. **We demand no steps. We demand the dismantling of the entire staircase.** We demand every ounce of justified outrage on behalf of all 40 lives in this report, accompanied by tangible, ongoing change. **And we ask you to remember, as we work towards a violence-free Minnesota, the words of Kyla Bianca O'Neal's family: "It's senseless for her not to be here."**



A NOTE ON THEME

Throughout this report, readers will notice that we consistently use imagery of spiral staircases. For several years now, we have used repeating imagery in our reports to illustrate some larger theme/context of domestic violence. **For 2023, we have chosen to use imagery of spiral staircases to depict the many winding layers involved in domestic violence, layers that intersect with and reinforce one another in a complex spiral that too often gradually narrows down to a final act of power and control: intimate partner homicide.** If one or several layers are eliminated, some of the steps stretching downwards towards intimate partner homicide will disappear. When descending a staircase, a person can still access a step if the one preceding it is gone, but it will be more difficult. If one or several steps are added, the path to homicide grows longer and more elaborate, and the likelihood of exiting the staircase decreases. Each step builds on the next to increase a victim/survivor's chance of being killed by their partner.

Our hope at Violence Free Minnesota is to illustrate the many possible steps in a victim's relationship with their abuser that could serve as an intervention point, and to depict how relationship abuse is perpetuated and complicated by so many factors: sexism, racism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, financial instability, victim-blaming, a culture that values access to firearms over victims' right to live, a legal system that frequently punishes rather than protects survivors...the list continues.

Just as the winding path to intimate partner homicide involves many steps, so too does the path away from homicide, and the path towards dismantling the entire staircase. We have said this many times before and will say it again now: it is not possible to achieve a violence-free Minnesota without concerted effort from individuals, systems, institutions, neighborhoods, communities, and all levels of our society. **This may be our work at Violence Free Minnesota, but it is not our work: it is our entire state's responsibility to commit to ending relationship abuse. We will not accept anything less.** Every single one of the 40 victims killed in Minnesota due to domestic violence in 2023 should still be here. As we write this report in 2024 about the lives lost in 2023, we have continued to lose more lives in the preceding days and weeks. **This is, and must be, ALL of our work.**





WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memory keeping is an essential practice for addressing and responding to intimate partner homicide and domestic violence, and humanizing the lives we have lost. Through grief that often feels insurmountable and overwhelming, we share memorials to the victims in our report to uplift their lives and stories rather than only the moments of their deaths. They were nurses, caregivers, grandparents, students, teachers, and cousins, who brought joy, wisdom, and laughter to their loved ones. Their lives were cut far too short, but they touched so many others. As we share these victims' stories and the statements and memory keeping rituals of their loved ones, we must not forget our communities' capacities for healing and resilience. We bear witness to so many thoughtful, beautiful peacekeeping efforts made by those who have confronted grief and loss, as we look forward to a violence free Minnesota. **This year, we choose to start rather than end our report with Memory Keeping in order to begin with how each victim lived, not how they died. We hope you will choose to remember them the way they are remembered here.**

Memorials



Logan Gregory Barham

"Logan enjoyed music, movies, video games, spending time with his friends, and sharing kindness with people when he knew they needed it. He was a loyal friend, a fierce protector, and an independent soul."



Kyla Bianca O'Neal and Messiah O'Neal

Family members held a candlelight vigil and balloon release outside Kyla and Messiah's North Minneapolis home in January 2023. Of Kyla, a loved one shared *"She loved doing makeup. She loved doing hair. She made sure her kids were good."*



Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado

Manuel's father said his son was a South St. Paul High School student who *"enjoyed hanging around with his friends and was enjoying his teenage years, going out and dancing...He had a great personality, [and] was very outgoing and charismatic. A lot of people loved him."*



Devon Michael Adams

"Devon's favorite quote was 'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get.' He loved trees and nature and dogs."

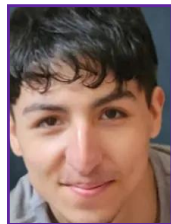
WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Jennifer Yang

Jennifer's family broke from Hmong tradition to plan her funeral entirely on their side instead of her husband's side, and openly discussed domestic violence at her funeral. Her family also held a candlelight vigil remembrance in Shoreview a week after her death. *"She always had a glow from her whenever she came to the room."*



Adrian Montano-Medina

"Adrian received his education in Lester Prairie, Minnesota, and was a graduate of the Lester Prairie High School class of 2021. Adrian was employed at Dura Supreme Cabinetry in Howard Lake, Minnesota. He enjoyed listening to music, playing football, and spending time with his family and friends."



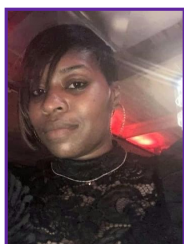
Corrina Dawn Woodhull

"Corrina was an advocate for those in recovery, she had a passion to help others experiencing substance use disorder and domestic abuse and violence. She loved her children so much. You would find Corrina most days helping at church, volunteering at Non-profits including Metro Hope Ministries, FreedomWorks Reentry and Aftercare, Against the Odds Ministries, Twin Cities Outreach Church, Serenity Village Community Church, and many other ministries."



Madeline Jane Kingsbury

A public memorial was held on June 25, 2023 at the McCown Gymnasium on the Winona State University campus with over 400 attendees. Madeline had earned a degree in public health from Winona State in 2019. Another public memorial was held on June 1, 2024, her birthday, hosted by the Advocacy Center of Winona, Bluff Country Family Resources, and Hope Coalition. *"Big smile and big heart. That's Madeline."*



Donshay Ina Hardy

A cousin said of Donshay: *"[She] was very outgoing. She was actually one of many that kept the family together. She was always the one who was checking on everybody. She was a great mother and she loved her kids."*



Joshua Anthony Owen

An estimated 4,500 people attended a final salute and procession starting from the Minnewaska Area High School outside of Glenwood, Minnesota on April 22, 2023 in Joshua's honor. *"Josh enjoyed fishing, hunting, boating and weight lifting. He was an accomplished diver and a current member of the Douglas County Dive Team."*

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren

"Mani loved hunting, fishing, camping, skating, swimming, and water skiing. She had a knack for and enjoyed decorating. She was very organized and a 'clean freak.' Mani also loved thrift shopping. She learned she didn't have to spend much to have nice things and was looking forward to teaching that to Colbie."



Antonio Levar Moore

Antonio's aunt said he was her *"cheerleader for living and his smile made my heart melt."* Antonio was described as *"a young, gifted Black man"* who visited her every October for her birthday in Chicago. His daughters never missed a weekly phone call to tell her about school and to express their love for her.



Daniel Joseph Aldridge

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center held a Break the Silence memorial display at Detroit Lakes City Park in October 2023 with silhouettes to represent all known 2023 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, including Daniel.



Sabrina Lee Schnoor

Sabrina's mother created the Sabrina Lee Foundation for domestic violence victim/survivors. The nonprofit will be centered around prevention and survivors' needs, including self-defense, housing, crisis management and more. *"Sabrina enjoyed fishing, camping, music, being in nature, and was a lover of all animals."*



James Craig Koutsky

"Later in life he was self employed doing different things such as plumbing, construction, yard work, working on almost any handyman skills. He enjoyed helping other community members and was always willing no matter what. James loved to do beautiful pencil drawings and was very talented in art. He also loved to cheer on his favorite team, the Minnesota Vikings."



Angela Marie McClelland

In June 2023, community members set up a wooden cross, flags, and flowers for Angela at the spot where her body was discovered, just off the highway in Fort Ripley. Friends and family described Angela as *"loving hunting, fishing, being outdoors, and was a phenomenal constructor of bonfires."*

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien

"Vickie will be remembered for her deep connection with her students and patients, her love for her family and friends, her passion for animals and her legacy of compassion."



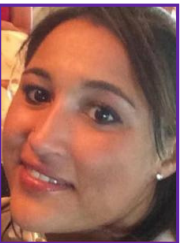
Youa Vue Khang

Youa was described as *"dedicated to all her children, raising them with principles of diligence, obedience, and integrity. Youa's huge heart and practice of her life philosophies to be good and do good kept her very cautious and patient, but ultimately restrained."* Despite the struggles within her marriage, loved ones stated that Youa *"continued to radiate beauty, patience, kindness, and love to all that surrounded her."*



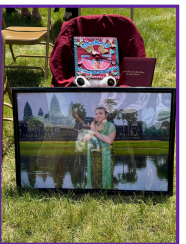
William Lamont Hudson

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center held a Break the Silence memorial display at Detroit Lakes City Park in October 2023 with silhouettes to represent all known 2023 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, including William.



Danicka Marie Bergeson

Danicka's family described her as a smart, honest person who had graduated from the University of Minnesota with a degree in animal science. She had also spent time as a medic in the U.S. Army, once named Soldier of the Cycle. Her father stated, *"She had a huge smile. Really engaging."*



Darisha Tela Bailey Vath

Forest Lake Area Community School included an honorary cap, gown, and chair for Darisha during the Class of 2024 graduation in June 2024. Loved ones said Darisha *"loved any animals that she had contact with. If she could adopt them, she would in a heartbeat. Her biggest dream was to graduate high school and go to college to become a Veterinarian."*



Jean Harriette Mart

"My favorite memory with Jean is playing bingo at an office party at Hinckley casino. All the laughs were a great time." *"[She] had a great laugh."*

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Sarah Kathryn Patrick

"She was an incredible artist and painter," said her father. Her manager at Prohibition Bar, where she had worked for a year, said she was quick to make friends and that "everybody loved her."



Betty Jo Bowman

Betty was described as a "beloved friend, sibling, mom to Corgi, pharmacist, and cherished member of [her family's] lives." Her family said "she showed us the true meaning of love-selfless, unconditional, and boundless." A friend said, "Literally a week before she left, she was describing this double rainbow she saw before work when she was walking Crumpet," her Corgi. "She wished us all happiness and hoped that we found beauty in our day. That was just her."



Mary Agnes Corneliusen

"Her taste in music was impeccable and her playlists were extensive. She knew things about artists that they probably didn't, and loved sharing all of her fun facts with anyone and everyone. Every morning, she would turn on some "tunes", usually "Grateful Dead Radio," drink coffee, and get ready for her day. She really enjoyed bonding with people over her love of music."



Melanie Michele Jansen and Hannah Nicole Parmenter

A family friend shared that Melanie was a hair stylist with more than three decades of experience, while Hannah had been an esthetician for over 5 years, and the two worked together out of their home. "For those of you who knew Melanie and Hannah, you knew that the words that easily defined them were kind, generous, selfless, and genuine."



Sarah Jane Carda

"Being a nurse came very natural for Sarah, she was very compassionate, and altruistic in nature. She was good, and pure, and kind, and filled with love and that's what she did for others, filled them with love."



Jianqin Zhang

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center held a Break the Silence memorial display at Detroit Lakes City Park in October 2023 with silhouettes to represent all known 2023 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, including Jianqin.

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



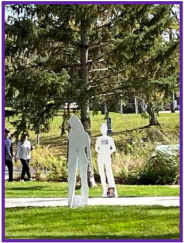
Kayla Rose Hulseley

"Kayla was a really caring person who cared about and loved everyone. She was a good cook and had a great sense of humor. She was an excellent mother who was known to take in other people's children as her own and treated them the same as she would her own. She was always willing to help everyone and forgave easily. No one can take away her big heart from her. Kayla worked really hard, but she loved even harder."



Justin Capri Boyland

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center held a Break the Silence memorial display at Detroit Lakes City Park in October 2023 with silhouettes to represent all known 2023 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, including Justin. Loved ones described Justin as a loving father.



Shaqita Monique Thomas

Lakes Crisis and Resource Center held a Break the Silence memorial display at Detroit Lakes City Park in October 2023 with silhouettes to represent all known 2023 victims of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, including Shaqita.



Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez

Ricardo was a father of four who will be deeply missed.



Savannah Ryan Williams

A public memorial was held to honor Savannah's life in December 2023 at George Floyd Square in Minneapolis. The Queer Legislative Caucus also held a press conference at the State Capitol in December 2023 to call attention to her murder and to uplift her life. Her partner described her as a *"loving, caring person"* and others noted that she was filled with generosity, being willing to give whatever she had to help others.



Kesha Latrice Moore

"She was kindhearted, funny [and] a believer in education moving [people] forward in life." Loved ones described Kesha as *"intelligent with an entrepreneurial spirit."* She held a master's degree in health administration and enjoyed playing Scrabble.

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Meredith Marie Martell

A candlelight vigil was held in December 2023 by Meredith's friends and family in Marshall, Minnesota. Community members left candles and flowers on the steps of her home. At her workplace, customers were fond of her quick wit and positive attitude. Her loved ones described her as *"a strong woman with tenacity who overcame many hardships. She was very generous with her friends and family."*



Franclin Ignacio Orellana

"Nacho was not only a father but a loved son, brother, husband and friend. Nacho's hobbies consisted of ecuaboly, football and spending time with those he loved. Nacho will always be remembered for his big smile, contagious laugh, charisma and warm heart. He was a jokester and always found a way to make people laugh."



Jayden Lee Kline

"She loved playing with her family and friends – from camping with her aunties, uncles and cousins, to boating on the St. Croix, to organizing game nights, or just shopping, watching movies or sitting around a bonfire with her family and many friends. She was a force of nature and she was unstoppable." The synchronized swim team at her school created the Jayden Kline Award to memorialize Jayden. The recipient is nominated by their teammates for always making practice a fun and positive place.



Kayla Marie Watts

"She volunteered with Camp Gratitude, a week-long camp for military veterans and their families. Ms. Watts loved her children."

WE REMEMBER

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN MINNESOTA: 1989–2023

1989

At least 17 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse

1990

At least 15 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse

1991

At least 9 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 6 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 2 bystanders/intervenors died

1992

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 5 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

1993

At least 24 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors died

1994

At least 14 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 children died due to relationship abuse

1995

At least 23 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 2 bystanders/intervenors died

1996

At least 17 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

1997

At least 13 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse

1998

At least 18 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 1 bystander/intervenor died

1999

At least 19 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 11 bystanders/intervenors died

2000

At least 29 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

2001

At least 22 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors died

2002

At least 18 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse

2003

At least 13 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 bystanders/intervenors died

2004

At least 12 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors died

2005

At least 16 women died from intimate partner violence

2006

At least 17 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 men died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 bystander/intervenor died

WE REMEMBER

Intimate Partner Homicides in Minnesota: 1989–2023

2007

At least 18 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 bystanders/intervenors died

2008

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 4 bystanders/intervenors died

2009

At least 12 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

2010

At least 14 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 men died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

2011

At least 22 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse
At least 6 bystanders/intervenors died

2012

At least 15 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

2013

At least 22 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 6 men died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 7 bystanders/intervenors died

2014

At least 16 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors died

2015

At least 22 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 men died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors died

2016

At least 18 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 1 bystanders/intervenors died

2017

At least 21 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 6 bystanders/intervenors died

2018

At least 9 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 4 bystanders/intervenors/bystanders died

2019

At least 16 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 3 bystanders/intervenors/bystanders died

2020

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 3 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 6 bystanders/intervenors died

2021

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 4 bystanders/intervenors died

2021

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 4 bystanders/intervenors died

2022

At least 21 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 man died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 bystanders/intervenors died

2023

At least **26 women** died from intimate partner violence
At least **3 men** died from intimate partner violence
At least **11 bystanders/intervenors** died

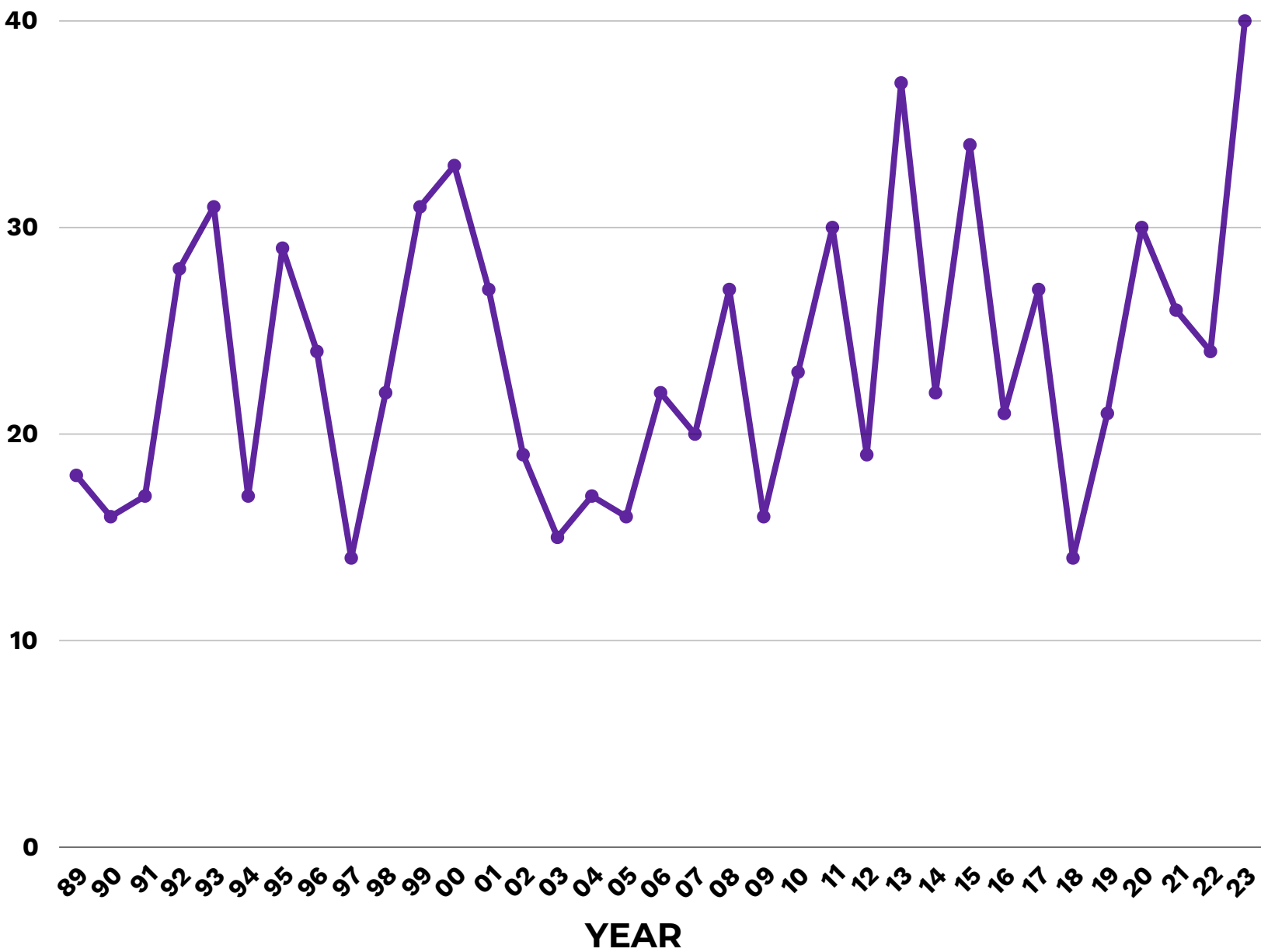
1989-2023

TOTAL INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

IN MINNESOTA

1989-2023

INCLUDES: INTIMATE PARTNERS, FRIENDS, FAMILIES AND BYSTANDERS/INTERVENORS



VICTIM TOTAL: 827

VICTIMS AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

Key Intimate Partner Homicide Statistics: 2023

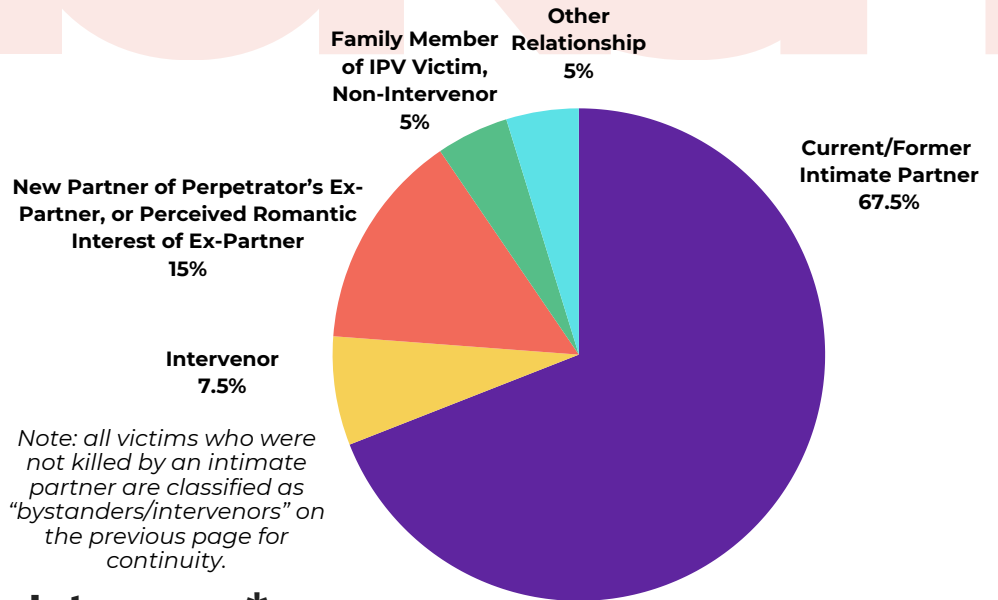
Current/Former Intimate Partner 27 victims

Logan Gregory Barham
 Kyla Bianca O'Neal
 Manuel Bernal Jurado
 Jennifer Yang
 Corrina Dawn Woodhull
 Madeline Jane Kingsbury
 Donshay Ina Hardy
 Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren
 Daniel Joseph Aldridge
 Sabrina Lee Schnoor
 Angela Marie McClelland
 Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien
 Youa Vue Khang
 Danicka Marie Bergeson
 Darisha Tela Bailey Vath
 Jean Harriette Mart
 Sarah Kathryn Patrick
 Betty Jo Bowman
 Mary Agnes Corneliussen
 Melanie Michele Jansen
 Sarah Jane Carda
 Jianqin Zhang*
 Kayla Rose Hulsey
 Shaqita Monique Thomas
 Savannah Ryan Williams*
 Kesha Latrice Moore
 Meredith Marie Martell
 Jayden Lee Kline
 Kayla Marie Watts

Family Member of IPV Victim, Non-Intervenor* 2 victims

Messiah O'Neal (delivered prematurely after his mother Kyla Bianca O'Neal was shot and killed; Messiah died 9 days later in the hospital)
 Hannah Nicole Parmenter (killed alongside her mother Melanie Michele Jansen)

*Like Antonio Levar Moore, Messiah and Hannah were family members of an IPV victim or IPV survivor, but were not intervening in DV when they were killed.



Note: all victims who were not killed by an intimate partner are classified as "bystanders/intervenors" on the previous page for continuity.

Intervenor* 3 victims

Devon Michael Adams
 Joshua Anthony Owen
 Antonio Levar Moore

*Devon, Joshua, and Antonio were intervening in domestic violence when they were killed by the perpetrator. Devon was killed while confronting a male stranger who was assaulting his (the man's) girlfriend. Joshua, a police officer, was killed by a domestic violence suspect while responding to the call. Antonio was killed by his sister's abusive boyfriend when he stepped in to protect her.

New Partner of Perpetrator's Ex-Partner, or Perceived Romantic Interest of Ex-Partner 6 victims

Adrian Montano-Medina
 James Craig Koutsky
 William Lamont Hudson
 Justin Capri Boyland
 Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez
 Franclin Ignacio Orellana

Other Relationship 2 victims

Jianqin Zhang*
 Savannah Ryan Williams*

*Jianqin Zhang and Savannah Ryan Williams were both killed by men during brief alleged sexual encounters. Both women had only met each man once. As these interactions do not amount to an ongoing intimate relationship, we classify the relationship as "other" here. We recognize that dynamics of exploitation, coercion, and harm often exist within such sexual encounters, and it is not up to us to define whether such encounters began consensually. Finally, we recognize that the murder of Savannah Ryan Williams occurred within a context of transphobia and must explicitly be acknowledged as an act of hate.

For data purposes, for the remaining pie charts in this section, both women will be included alongside the 27 adult IPV victims.

CAUSE OF DEATH

Key Homicide Statistics (2021–2023) for Adult Victims Murdered by Their Current or Former Intimate Partner

2023

2023 IPV VICTIMS : 29

VEHICULAR HOMICIDE: 2

Angela Marie McClelland
Darisha Tela Bailey Vath

UNKNOWN HOMICIDAL VIOLENCE: 3

Madeline Jane Kingsbury
Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren
Danicka Marie Bergeson

STABBING: 3

Logan Gregory Barham
Corrina Dawn Woodhull
Meredith Marie Martell

STRANGULATION: 3

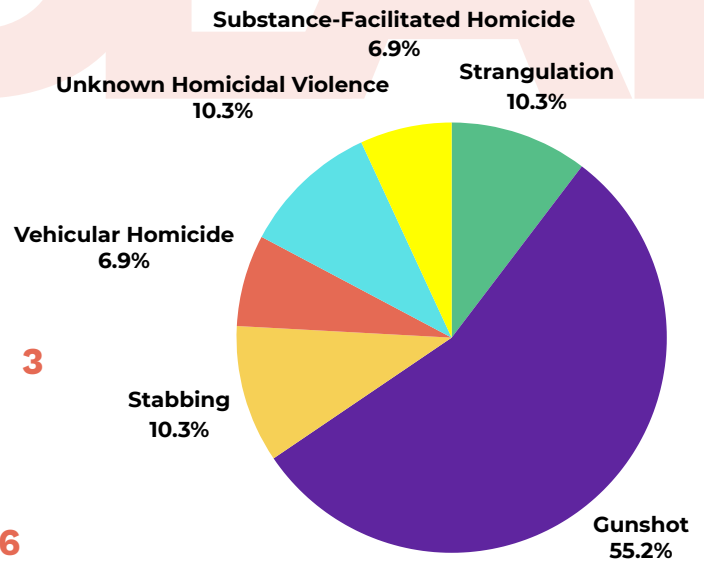
Jianqin Zhang
Kayla Rose Hulsey
Shaqita Monique Thomas

SUBSTANCE-FACILITATED HOMICIDE*: 2

Daniel Joseph Aldridge
Betty Jo Bowman

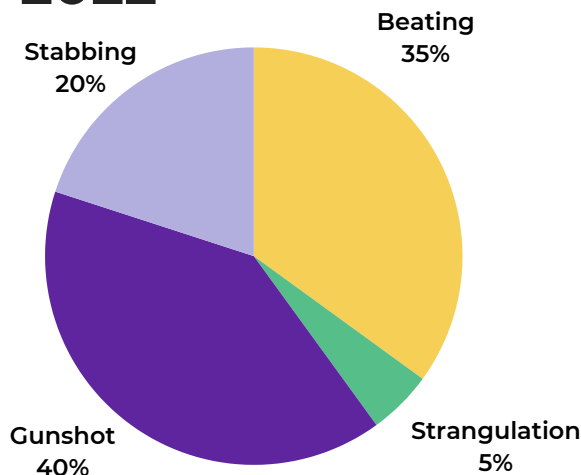
GUNSHOT: 16

Kyla Bianca O'Neal
Manuel Bernal Jurado
Jennifer Yang
Donshay Ina Hardy
Sabrina Lee Schnoor
Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien
Youa Vue Khang
Jean Harriette Mart
Sarah Kathryn Patrick
Mary Agnes Corneliusen
Melanie Michele Jansen
Sarah Jane Carda
Savannah Ryan Williams
Kesha Latrice Moore
Jayden Lee Kline
Kayla Marie Watts

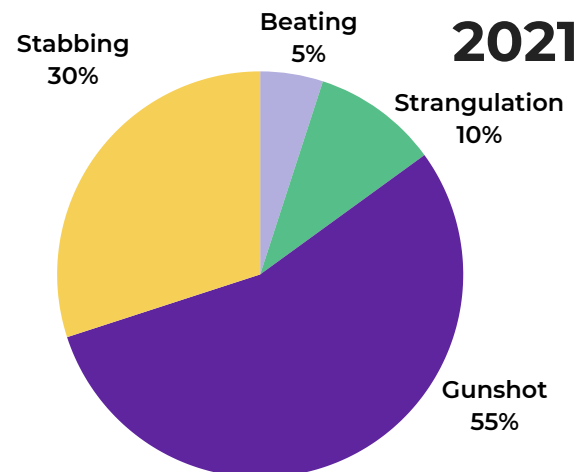


**Daniel Joseph Aldridge died of acute methamphetamine intoxication as the result of his sexual partner repeatedly injecting him with meth even as he appeared to seize and was clearly in need of medical assistance. Betty Jo Bowman died as a result of her husband intentionally putting toxic levels of a non-prescribed medication in her drink. We classify both these cases as "substance-facilitated homicide" rather than "poisoning" or "overdose" to draw attention to the violent nature and context of their deaths.*

2022



2021



VICTIM WAS SEPARATED FROM ABUSER OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE, OR WERE STILL TOGETHER/UNKNOWN

Key Homicide Statistics (2021–2023) for Adult Victims Murdered by Their Current or Former Intimate Partner

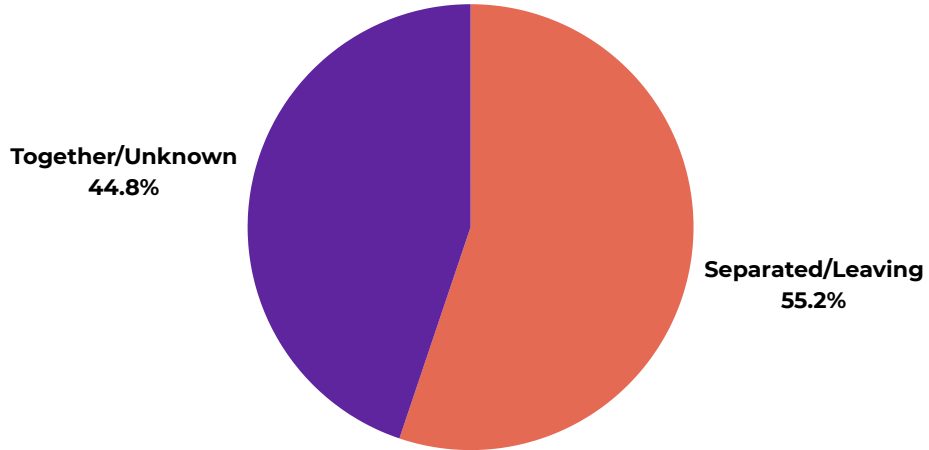
2023

2023 IPV VICTIMS : 29

TOGETHER/UNKNOWN: 13

- Logan Gregory Barham
- Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado
- Daniel Joseph Aldridge
- Angela Marie McClelland
- Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien
- Mary Agnes Corneliusen
- Melanie Michele Jansen
- Sarah Jane Carda
- Jianqin Zhang*
- Kayla Rose Hulsey
- Shaqita Monique Thomas
- Savannah Ryan Williams*
- Meredith Marie Martell

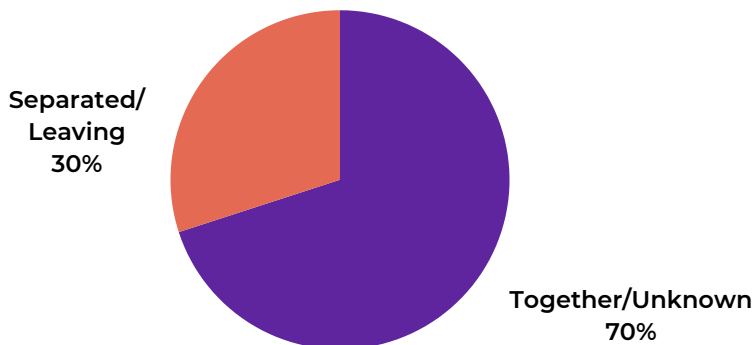
**Jianqin Zhang and Savannah Ryan Williams were both killed by men during brief alleged sexual encounters. We recognize that these interactions do not amount to an ongoing intimate relationship; however, we classify them as "together/unknown" here because the sexual nature of these encounters does fall under the definition of an intimate partner. We also recognize that dynamics of exploitation, coercion, and harm often exist within such sexual encounters, and it is not up to us to define whether such encounters began consensually. Finally, we recognize that the murder of Savannah Ryan Williams occurred within a context of transphobia and must explicitly be acknowledged as an act of hate.*



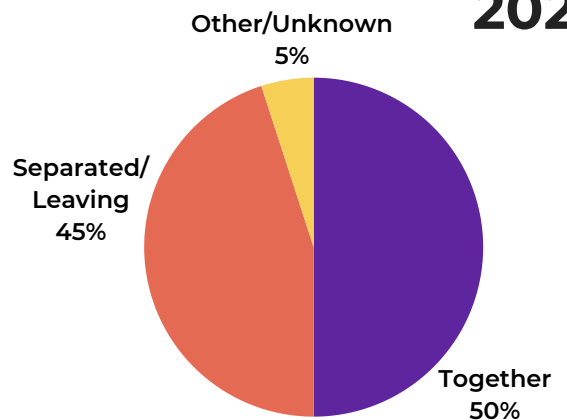
SEPARATED OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE: 16

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Kyla Bianca O'Neal | Jean Harriette Mart |
| Jennifer Yang | Sarah Kathryn Patrick |
| Corrina Dawn Woodhull | Betty Jo Bowman |
| Madeline Jane Kingsbury | Kesha Latrice Moore |
| Donshay Ina Hardy | Jayden Lee Kline |
| Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren | Kayla Marie Watts |
| Sabrina Lee Schnoor | |
| Youa Vue Khang | |
| Danicka Marie Bergeson | |
| Darisha Tela Bailey Vath | |

2022



2021



HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Key Homicide Statistics (2021–2023) for Adult Victims Murdered by Their Current or Former Intimate Partner

2023

2023 IPV VICTIMS : 29

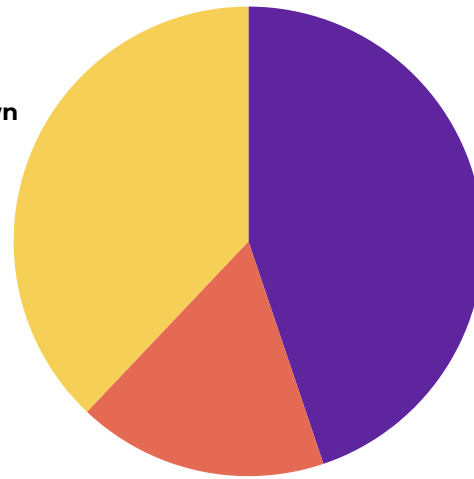
HISTORY WITH DOCUMENTATION: 13

- Kyla Bianca O’Neal
- Jennifer Yang
- Corrina Dawn Woodhull
- Donshay Ina Hardy
- Manijeh “Mani” Nicole Starren
- Sabrina Lee Schnoor
- Danicka Marie Bergeson
- Darisha Tela Bailey Vath
- Melanie Michele Jansen
- Sarah Jane Carda
- Kayla Rose Hulsey
- Kesha Latrice Moore
- Meredith Marie Martell

HISTORY, NO DOCUMENTATION: 5

- Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado
- Madeline Jane Kingsbury
- Youa Vue Khang
- Sarah Kathryn Patrick
- Shaqita Monique Thomas

Unknown
37.9%



History, Documented
44.8%

History, Not Documented
17.2%

UNKNOWN: 11

- Logan Gregory Barham
- Daniel Joseph Aldridge
- Angela Marie McClelland
- Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O’Brien
- Jean Harriette Mart*
- Betty Jo Bowman
- Mary Agnes Corneliusen
- Jianqin Zhang
- Savannah Ryan Williams
- Jayden Lee Kline
- Kayla Marie Watts

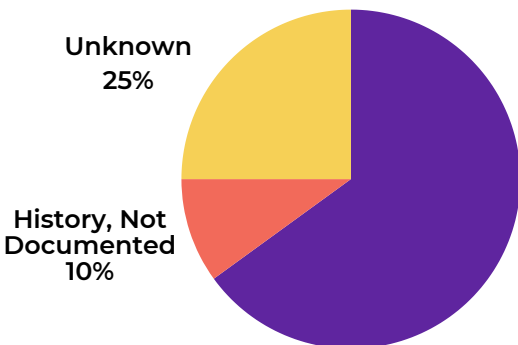
**Note: Jean Harriette Mart’s husband previously threatened to kill her with a gun in 2016, for which he was charged in court. However, we do not have access to information specifically about violence in their relationship, so we categorize her case as “unknown” history.*

2022

2021

Unknown
25%

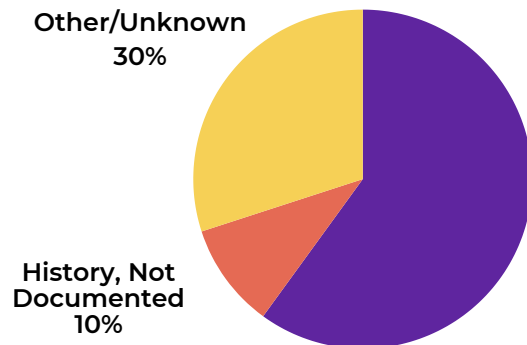
History, Not Documented
10%



History, Documented
65%

Other/Unknown
30%

History, Not Documented
10%



History, Documented
60%

GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF VICTIM

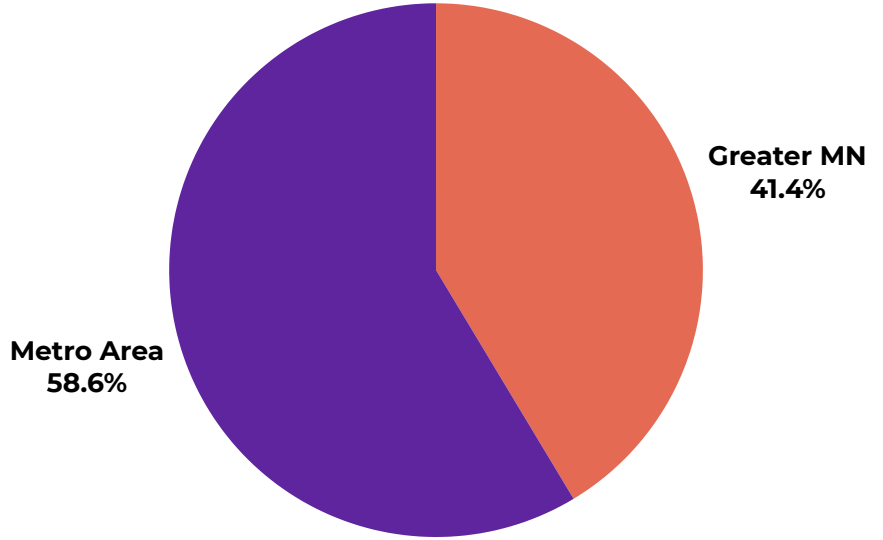
Key Homicide Statistics (2021–2023) for
Adult Victims Murdered by Their Current or Former Intimate Partner

2023

2023 IPV VICTIMS : 29

TWIN CITIES METRO AREA: 17

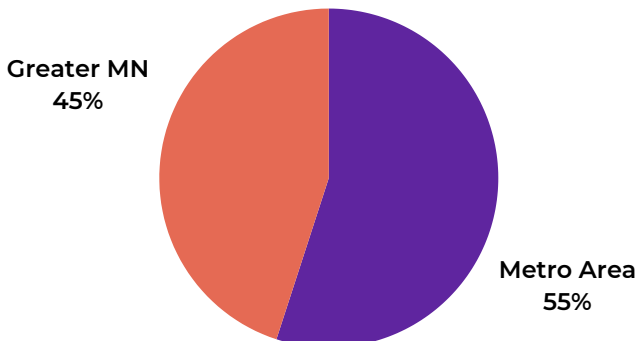
- Logan Gregory Barham
- Kyla Bianca O'Neal
- Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado
- Jennifer Yang
- Corrina Dawn Woodhull
- Donshay Ina Hardy
- Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren
- Daniel Joseph Aldridge
- Youa Vue Khang
- Danicka Marie Bergeson
- Darisha Tela Bailey Vath
- Sarah Kathryn Patrick
- Jianqin Zhang
- Shaqita Monique Thomas
- Savannah Ryan Williams
- Kesha Latrice Moore
- Jayden Lee Kline



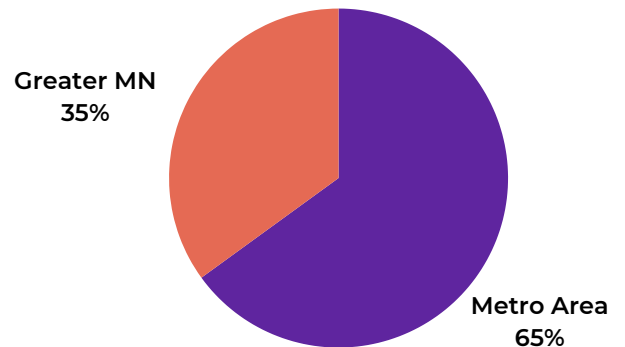
GREATER MINNESOTA: 12

- Madeline Jane Kingsbury
- Sabrina Lee Schnoor
- Angela Marie McClelland
- Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien
- Jean Harriette Mart
- Betty Jo Bowman
- Mary Agnes Corneliusen
- Melanie Michele Jansen
- Sarah Jane Carda
- Kayla Rose Hulsey
- Meredith Marie Martell
- Kayla Marie Watts

2022



2021



RACE AND ETHNICITY DEMOGRAPHICS OF VICTIMS

Key Homicide Statistics (2023) for
Adult Victims Murdered by Their Current or Former Intimate Partner

2023

2023 IPV VICTIMS : 29

BLACK OR AFRICAN- AMERICAN: 4

HISPANIC OR LATINE ORIGIN: 2

API: 3

NATIVE AMERICAN: 1

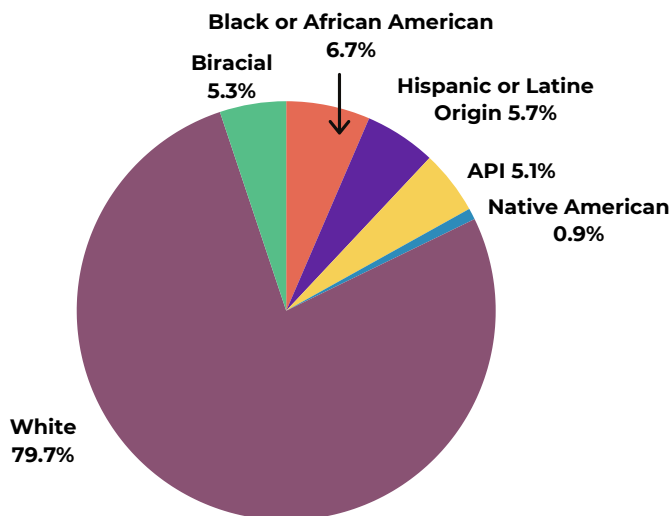
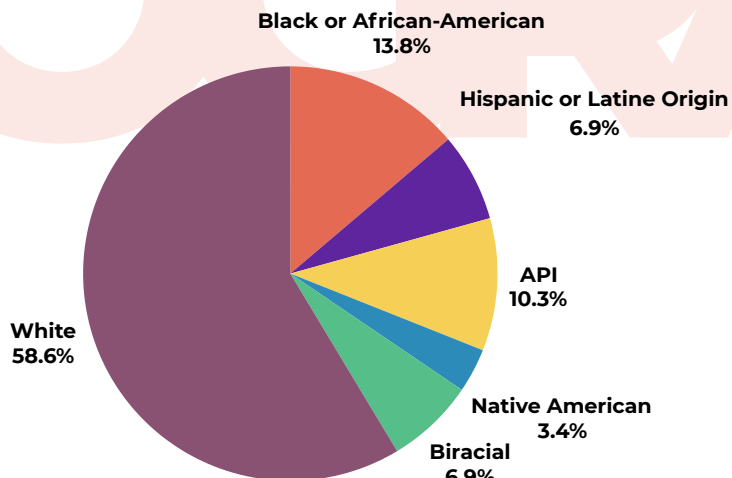
BIRACIAL: 2

WHITE: 17

2022 MINNESOTA CENSUS DEMOGRAPHICS

Note: The 2022 Minnesota Census data also included the category "Some Other Race." We did not include this as it is not a category in our 2023 data.

API = Asian Pacific Islander

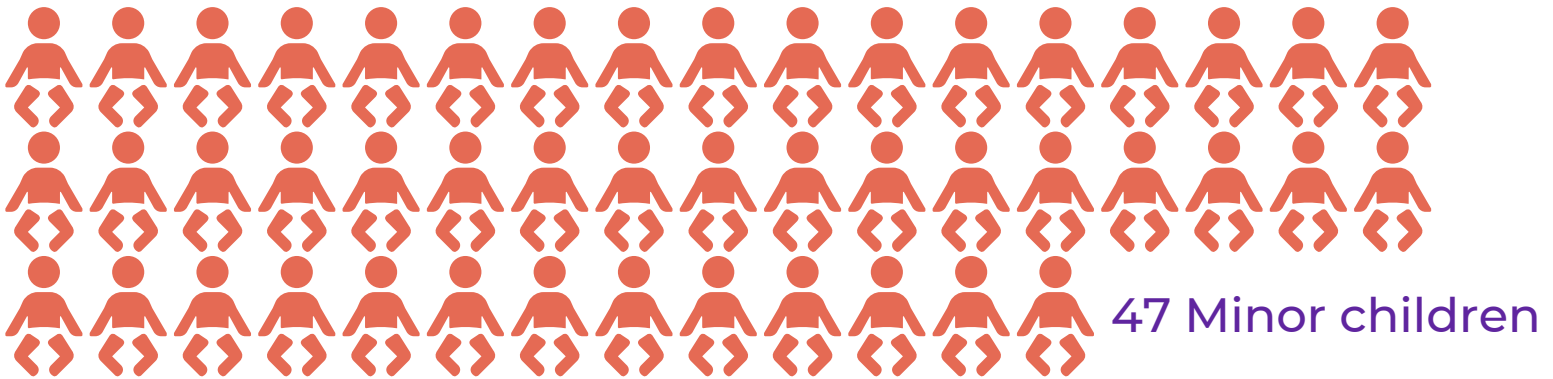


Note: We have made every effort to document victims' racial and ethnic identities by prioritizing victims' self-identification and, when not available, identifications made by family, friends, and peers. In the event that neither of these options were available, we relied on Medical Examiners reports and media reporting, information which should be considered within a context of understanding that medical and media documentation of racial and ethnic identity is often inaccurate due to bias. In order to most succinctly demonstrate disproportionality in our data, we chose to use the same categories used by the U.S. Census.

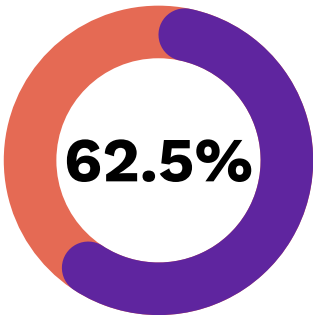
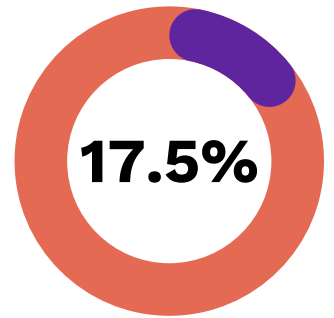
We collect this data to draw attention to racial disparities within intimate partner homicides in Minnesota. According to the U.S. Census (which itself is not immune to bias and inaccuracy), in 2022, 79.7% of Minnesota's population reported identifying as white alone, while 6.7% of the population reported as Black or African-American, 0.9% reported as Native American, 5.1% reported as API, and 5.7% reported as Hispanic or Latine origin. Yet almost all of these groups are over-represented within Minnesota's 2023 intimate partner homicide numbers. White victims are significantly under-represented in relationship to their reported full numbers of Minnesota's population according to the 2022 Census data.

CHILDREN

At least **80 children** lost a parent due to intimate partner violence in 2023*



At least **7 children (17.5%)** witnessed their parent murdered, or found the body*



At least **25 victims (62.5%)** of the total 40 victims in 2023 had children*

*Numbers based on information available to us, and what we have confirmed. It is likely that some may actually be higher than indicated here.

2023 VICTIMS WHO WERE KNOWN PARENTS

VICTIMS: 25

- Kyla Bianca O'Neal
- Jennifer Yang
- Corrina Dawn Woodhull
- Madeline Jane Kingsbury
- Donshay Ina Hardy
- Joshua Anthony Owen
- Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren
- Antonio Levar Moore
- Daniel Joseph Aldridge
- Sabrina Lee Schnoor
- James Craig Koutsky
- Angela Marie McClelland

- Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien
- Youa Vue Khang
- William Lamont Hudson
- Mary Agnes Corneliusen
- Melanie Michele Jansen
- Kayla Rose Hulsey
- Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez
- Justin Capri Boyland
- Shaqita Monique Thomas
- Kesha Latrice Moore
- Meredith Marie Martell
- Franclin Ignacio Orellana
- Kayla Marie Watts

A NOTE ON CHILDREN WHO WITNESS AND/OR LOSE A PARENT TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

As we noted above, 80 children lost parents to intimate partner violence in 2023, and at least 7 children witnessed their parents' deaths. However, we must make something unequivocally clear: **it is the responsibility of perpetrators to stop the abuse, and the responsibility of any involved systems to make every effort to help transform perpetrators' behavior to prevent harm to their partners and children.** Far too often, domestic violence victims, particularly mothers, are criminalized and punished both under so-called "failure to protect" laws and by society for their perceived failure to keep their children safe from harm by their abusive partners. Many of these laws, and the courts that act upon them, do not take into account violence and control perpetrated by the abuser against the victimized parent, and disproportionately punish victims for the actions of their partners.

Legal institutions fail to protect abuse victims and their children when they neglect to identify and appropriately respond to victim/survivors' expertise and concerns. Our systems, institutions, and communities must shift from blaming victim/survivors to understanding how violence and control affect victim/survivors' lives and decisions. Every choice a victim/survivor makes must be considered within the context of the abuse they are experiencing. Sometimes these cannot even truly be called choices at all.

"It becomes insurmountable, the number of things [women] have to do in order to be in compliance with what we think is a good mother." -Colleen McCarty, 2019

RISK FACTORS FOR INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Each year, Violence Free Minnesota analyzes confirmed intimate partner homicides in the state with a particular focus on five key risk factors for homicide that have been identified as reasonably reliable in national data, especially in combination, and that we commonly see in our Homicide Reports.

We have analyzed four risk factors since 2006, but in 2022 we added a fifth: strangulation.

We acknowledge that there are more risk factors which can be identified, but we limit our scope in this report to that information which is commonly available in the sources we use, such as journalistic reporting and court documentation. Other important risk factors, such as forcing sexual activity, should not be ignored, though we are unlikely to find much information regarding them for this report.

RISK FACTORS

- **victim's attempts to leave the abuser;**
- **previous threats to kill the victim;**
- **abuser's access to firearms;**
- **abuser's history of violence; and**
- **strangulation of the victim.**

We are confident that if we had access to confidential court records, medical records, and interviews with victims' loved ones, we would find additional information pertaining to these risk factors and others. While homicide risk factors are often considered in a criminal legal context, we believe that by placing them in a public health framework these factors can illuminate important patterns in cases of intimate partner homicide. These indicators can and should be identified and addressed through multiple victim/survivor "touchpoints" with systems and services, including: public health, social services, community-based services, and housing systems. Within these different systems, services and approaches should always be culturally responsive and relevant to the survivor.

We cannot emphasize enough that the presence of these risk factors, even one alone, indicates a victim/survivor may be at increased risk for homicide. Victim/survivors must ALWAYS be taken seriously by every single system they come into contact with. These homicides are preventable.

Violence Free Minnesota DOES NOT intend for our analysis of these risk factors to be used for the creation of new crimes or the enhancement of criminal penalties.

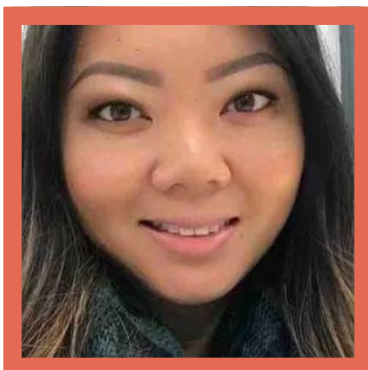
VICTIM'S ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE ABUSER

RISK FACTOR

A complex set of factors prevent victim/survivors from leaving, and leaving is not every victim/survivor's goal. Some of the many barriers to leaving include fear of losing custody, fear of legal system involvement, lack of financial and housing resources, having children with the abuser, pregnancy, isolation, community stigma, and fear of violence from the police.

Leaving an abusive relationship or preparing to leave often carries a heightened risk of homicide, as abusive partners may feel they are losing control over the survivor and may escalate or begin violence in order to try to regain the control.

In our 30-Year Retrospective Report analyzing homicides from 1989–2018, we found that at least 198 of the 523 adult women victims killed during those years were attempting to leave or had recently left the relationship.



CASE HIGHLIGHT JENNIFER YANG

Jennifer Yang, 31, was shot and killed by her husband Fue Her, 40, in their Andover home before Her shot and killed himself. In 2019, Jennifer had filed a petition for an Order of Protection (OFP), detailing Her's abuse against her and their children. In the petition Jennifer also described an incident in 2015 involving Her assaulting his own sister and becoming progressively more upset when his father called the police for help, as well as information indicating that Jennifer had repeatedly tried to remove herself from Her's anger as far back as 2009. An Order for Dismissal regarding Jennifer's 2019 OFP was granted in August 2019 only a month after the initial filing, and a little over a year later, Jennifer and Her had their third child together. **Jennifer's brother told media outlets she had planned to leave Her the Friday morning that he killed her. This case illustrates multiple complex factors that likely prevented Jennifer from being able to leave**, including having children with her abuser, witnessing how Her escalated his abuse when police were called, and "walking on eggshells" to avoid upsetting him. **It is not uncommon for victim/survivors to file for dismissals of OFPs in an effort to assuage their abusers and prevent further escalation. Additionally, while we cannot know for certain the full circumstances of Jennifer's relationship, it is also not uncommon for reproductive coercion in abusive relationships to result in pregnancies that tie survivors to abusers.**

ACCESS TO FIREARMS

RISK FACTOR

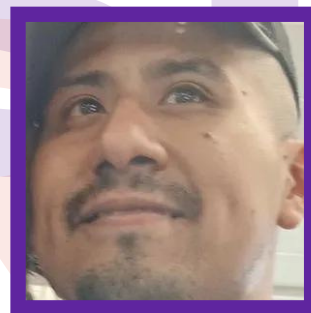
Almost every year in Minnesota, firearms are overwhelmingly the most common means of intimate partner homicide. **In 2023, nearly 60% of the total victims (23 of 40) were killed with a firearm.** Since we began collecting homicide data in 1989, firearms are used to kill in nearly half of all cases. The next most common homicide method is typically stabbing (averaging 20%) - less than half the rate of firearm murders. Nationally, statistics are even more stark. The Violence Policy Center ([2020](#)) has emphasized that female intimate partners are more likely to be killed with a firearm than all other means combined.

Studies show that the mere presence of a firearm in the home increases a victim/survivor's risk of homicide. Everytown for Gun Safety ([2024](#)) states that abusive partners with access to guns are five times more likely to kill their partners, and firearms are often used to threaten violence or death as a means of control. Two-thirds of intimate partner homicides in the United States use a gun, 75% of these victims are women, and this number has accelerated in recent years ([Everytown for Gun Safety, 2024](#)).

Due to statutory restrictions that prevent the Minnesota Department of Health from gathering and analyzing firearms data, we cannot know how perpetrators gain access to firearms—specifically, in cases where perpetrators used a firearm to commit homicide but did not qualify for a firearms license due to a history of domestic violence. These cases illustrate the need for the Minnesota Department of Health to collect firearms data pertaining to domestic violence, as well as the need for safety planning and risk assessments for victims whose abusive partners possess firearms. **Additionally, firearm restrictions need to be enforced for people who use abuse and who are not legally allowed to possess. When these restrictions are not enforced—and there is ample evidence of this across Minnesota—it empowers abusers to continue to harm their partners because they know they will not be held accountable. As [Everytown for Gun Safety \(2024\)](#) stated shortly after the *US v. Rahimi* Supreme Court decision, “these laws do not implement themselves.”**

ACCESS TO FIREARMS

RISK FACTOR



CASE HIGHLIGHT

RICARDO SAMUEL PENA MARTINEZ

Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez, 31, was shot and killed by Orky Xayachack, 37, in a Minneapolis parking lot. Ricardo was married for many years but had periods of separation from his wife throughout that time. During one of these separations, Ricardo's wife began a relationship with Xayachack. However, Ricardo's wife ended the relationship with Xayachack after reconciling with Ricardo. After she broke up with Xayachack, he sent her and Ricardo text messages threatening to kill them both, and eventually acted on the threat. Following Ricardo's death, Xayachack sent Ricardo's wife a text saying he, "f----d up Martinez."

In 2015, Xayachack was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon. He had gone over uninvited to his ex-girlfriend's home, who had just broken up with him, and began arguing about the breakup. When his ex-girlfriend told him to leave, he pulled out a handgun and stated "You dare me to shoot you?" When his ex-girlfriend's sister came to intervene, he pushed her and then fired a shot into the floor before fleeing the scene. When police arrived, they determined he did not have a permit to carry. **As a result of the 2015 incident, Xayachack was convicted of a felony for terroristic threats and was prohibited from possessing a firearm at the time he killed Ricardo.**

When the legal system fails to actually enforce firearm restrictions (including ensuring abusers both turn in firearms already in their possession and are not able to obtain more), **victim/survivors of domestic violence and those around them, including friends, family members, new partners, coworkers, and strangers, face unacceptable risk.**

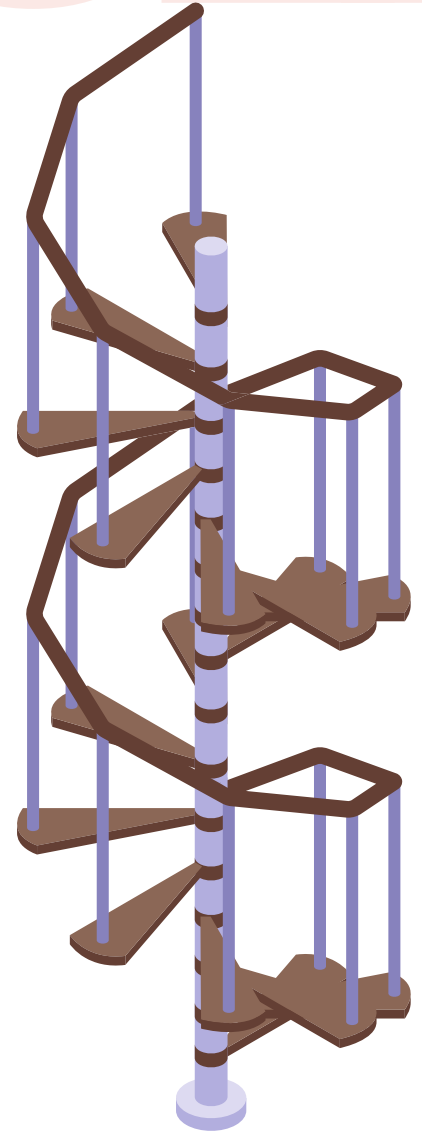
PERPETRATOR'S HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

RISK FACTOR

A previous history of intimate partner violence may seem like the most obvious risk factor for homicide. **Abusive partners do not simply “snap” and kill their partners; instead, they choose to engage in the ultimate act of power and control.** A hallmark of abusive relationships is that the violence and control escalate over time, increasing in frequency and severity, and thus the risk of homicide also increases.

We strive to capture as much information as possible regarding a perpetrator's history of violence. Since our main sources of information regarding such history are public court records and media stories, we are limited in this analysis. We consider a perpetrator to have a documented history of domestic violence if there are police or court records available to us with evidence of such, or if a history of violence is referenced in the media. Occasionally, media stories will quote a perpetrator's undocumented history of abuse in interviews with family members or loved ones of the victim or previous victims of the perpetrator. At times, we will be contacted by family members who share this information with us. We categorize this information as “undocumented but known” domestic violence history of the perpetrator.

Along with a perpetrator's history of violence against the victim they killed, we also look into histories of violence against previous partners. Because we do not know all of the details of abuse in the 2023 victims' relationships, it is important to view a history of abuse against past partners as an indicator of future violence, especially when past incidents involved extreme brutality. **In 2023, we found that at least 44.8% of the 29 adult IPV victim homicides involved a history of documented violence, and at least 17.2% involved an undocumented history of violence, while 37.9% were unknown.**



Again, we must emphasize: violence in abusive relationships, without adequate intervention, often becomes more frequent and more severe.

PERPETRATOR'S HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

RISK FACTOR

CASE HIGHLIGHT KESHA LATRICE MOORE

Kesha Latrice Moore, 43, was shot and killed by her boyfriend Johnny Brown, 50, in Minneapolis after she had recently asked him to move out. **Brown had at least six protective and restraining orders against him between 2001 and 2021 from multiple women. He was also charged with domestic assault on at least 5 separate occasions since 1993, three of which were dismissed.** Brown has an extensive history of making image-based sexual abuse of female partners and using that as blackmail, and in some cases had distributed it to social media platforms. He also has a history of stalking, harassing, and threatening women who attempt to leave him, drugging women, sending false accusations against them to landlords to attempt to get them evicted, and has threatened to call CPS to have their children taken away. Federally, Brown was sentenced in February 2007 for illegal weapons possession and then again in May 2015 for escaping from custody while serving time for the weapons offense. **Brown has been prohibited from possessing guns or ammunition since 2001.**

In one Harassment Restraining Order petition filed against Brown in 2019 by a former dating partner, the victim wrote that Brown had tried to get her fired, posted her personal information on social media, distributed image-based sexual abuse of her online, threatened her, and stalked her. She also wrote, ***“He is an angry drunk, I am scared to walk into my home at night after work, I am scared of losing my job, I am scared of seeing him out in public. All the stories of what he has done to other women, scares me. He just crashed his car into another girls car and she is in the process of pressing charges and getting a OFP, he has hit his wife a few times and she moved and is hiding from him. He texts us all, all the time and makes threats to all of us. He has about 9 other restraining orders from other women, and he says he beats them all (cases) and wins every time.”***



Steps Leading to Homicide

- Domestic assault charges 1993–2018
- OFP issued 1/10/2001
- 2006 charges for prohibited person in possession of firearm, terroristic threats
- 2007 conviction for shooting a firearm in the air during an argument with an ex-girlfriend
- 2015 conviction for escaping from custody while serving time for the weapons offense
- OFP issued 10/4/2018
- Image-based sexual abuse
- Stalking, harassment, threats to job
- HRO issued 8/13/2019
- HRO issued 10/29/2019
- False accusations to landlords
- OFP issued 1/27/2021
- False accusations to CPS
- HRO issued 11/24/2021
- 2023 - Kesha's homicide



THREATS TO KILL THE VICTIM

RISK FACTOR

Threats by the abuser to kill the victim, as well as the victim's belief that the abuser will kill them, are among the most reliable indicators of lethality. The criminal and civil legal systems often overlook these threats despite their severity. When threats to kill are not taken seriously, or even ignored by systems, victim/survivors face significantly increased risk of death.

Without access to and review of police case files, medical records, and all court records, it is difficult to determine whether threats to kill were made against each victim. When threats to kill are made against homicide victims, we often hear about them because the victim told a friend or family member. Because these threats are not always communicated, we believe our numbers for this risk factor are much lower than in actuality. While the absence of threats to kill does not tell us there is no threat, their presence can be a significant indicator of lethality risk.

Threats to kill MUST be viewed and treated as legitimate risk factors for homicide. When a victim says "They have told me they will kill me" or "I know they will kill me," systems MUST take this extremely seriously.

Threats to kill were present in at least 24% of the 2023 cases involving an adult victim killed by their current or former intimate partner.

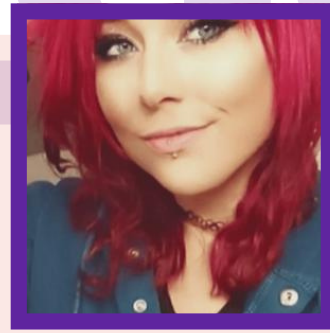
24%

Madeline Jane Kingsbury, 26, was killed on or about March 31 in Winona. Her ex-boyfriend and the father of her two children, Adam Fravel, 29, was charged with two counts of second-degree murder. Madeline had been missing for nearly 70 days when her body was found on June 7 in Fillmore County. Fravel had a long history of abuse against Madeline, including strangulation, physical violence, and coercive control. Prior to her death, Madeline told friends that Fravel had threatened her, saying, *"If you don't listen, you'll end up like Gabby Petito."* Gabby Petito was strangled to death by her fiance in a national forest in Wyoming in a case that generated national media attention. **Across 30+ years of documenting intimate partner homicides in Minnesota, we have seen several cases of abusive partners threatening victim/survivors using references to other high-profile homicides. This intentional tactic is specifically used to cause fear and intimidation to the victim/survivor, control their actions, and "keep them in line" with the threat of severe punishment and even death.**



THREATS TO KILL THE VICTIM

RISK FACTOR



CASE HIGHLIGHT SABRINA LEE SCHNOOR

Sabrina Lee Schnoor, 25, was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend Jason Horner, 38, and also sustained a skull fracture and brain bleed from Horner prior to her murder. Horner had previously threatened Sabrina's life, telling her he would kill her, stab her, and beat her to death. **Another former partner of Horner's had also reported to the courts that he had threatened to kill her.** The former partner wrote that when she tried to leave Horner, he messaged her, ***"Do it and u WILL regret it," "I threaten nothing it's a promise," and "I wanna blow your fucking truck up!"*** When she tried to separate herself, Horner chased after her yelling ***"You're going to die!" and "I'm going to kill you!"*** During that relationship, Horner had strangled his partner until she turned blue and had repeatedly slammed her head into concrete.

Abusers leverage threats to terrorize, control, and punish victims. They may use them in multiple relationships because they know *they work* and the courts often do not take them seriously.

STRANGULATION

RISK FACTOR

Nationally, strangulation is seen as a leading risk factor for intimate partner homicide. We did not include strangulation in our reports until 2022 because, like threats to kill, it is underreported and often not documented. However, in recent years, we have seen an increase in homicides where strangulation was known to have occurred prior to the killing. **At least 31% of the adult IPV victims killed by a partner in Minnesota in 2023 were killed by a current or former partner who used strangulation as the means of death, and/or had previously strangled them prior to killing them by other means, and/or had a history of strangulation against other partners.** This number is only what is known and is undoubtedly lower than the true percentage.

As relationship abuse escalates, strangulation may be one of the last steps towards the ultimate act of power and control: ending a victim's life. Because strangulation deprives the brain of oxygen and can lead to internal injuries, some victims who believe they are uninjured end up experiencing delayed complications in the days after the event. These complications can include respiratory issues, blood clotting, pneumonia, and, in the most severe cases, death. We know that strangulation is both a risk factor for future homicide through other means, and a lethal form of violence on its own. **Non-fatal strangulation in an abusive relationship may increase the likelihood of homicide by 70%, often occurring repeatedly (Glass et al., 2008).**

Although strangulation can leave visible red spots on the face or neck area or in the eye, swelling of the throat or neck area, bloodshot eyes, and/or bruising on the throat or any surrounding area, these signs are not always detectable. Signs of strangulation may be more difficult to detect on victim/survivors of color, and often go unnoticed due to a combination of racial bias and lack of knowledge by professionals who must take extra time, care, and attention to detect and document. One study (McKay, 2014) revealed that only 15% of strangulation cases show visible marks, bruises, or other signs. This is why it is necessary to have medical professionals make determinations of strangulation; it should not be left to police.

The presence of non-fatal strangulation in an abusive relationship may increase the likelihood of homicide by 70%, and often occurs repeatedly throughout the relationship.



70%

STRANGULATION

RISK FACTOR



CASE HIGHLIGHT MANIJEH "MANI" NICOLE STARREN

Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren, 33, was killed on or around April 21 in St. Paul by her boyfriend Joseph Jorgenson, 40. Neighbors recalled seeing her with red marks around her neck and black eyes on at least one occasion. At some point on April 21st Manijeh had spoken via phone with the father of her child, and told him that Jorgenson had wrapped a rope around her neck, "things got out of hand," and she tried to leave. This strangulation had possibly happened weeks before.

When police arrested Jorgenson for Manijeh's murder, another woman was in his apartment, who also had red marks around her neck and reported to police that he had also strangled and threatened to kill her. **Many abusive partners have a history of strangling multiple partners, and the act exponentially increases victim/survivors' risk of being killed by that partner in the future.** Unfortunately, police are often poorly trained in identification of and response to strangulation, and may even arrest the victim, often women, due to defensive wounds on the perpetrator stemming from the victim's attempts to extricate themselves from being strangled. **Criminalization of victim/survivors after strangulation is a highly gendered phenomenon, as is strangulation itself.**

31%

At least 31% of the 29 adult IPV victims in 2023 were killed by a current or former partner who used strangulation to kill them, and/or had strangled them previously, and/or had a history of strangling previous partners.

MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS PRESENT

The five homicide risk factors we have covered are not mutually exclusive. Oftentimes, there is a co-occurrence of risk factors in intimate partner homicide cases, which increases the likelihood of further violence and homicide.

In 2023, at least 73% of the 40 total adult victim cases (29 victims) involved multiple risk factors, and 10% (4 victims) met all 5 risk factors. Each of these cases

provides us with insight into what the victims were experiencing, and reveal points of intervention that may have prevented the homicides. The following includes cases where: the victim was a bystander or intervenor to domestic violence; or was dating or perceived to be romantically interested in the perpetrator's partner or ex partner; AND the perpetrator's partner or ex-partners met multiple risk factors.

- **Kyla Bianca O'Neal and Messiah O'Neal (4)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado (2)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms
- **Devon Michael Adams (4)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Jennifer Yang (3)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Adrian Montano-Medina (3)**
 - Threats to kill, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Corrina Dawn Woodhull (3)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Madeline Jane Kingsbury (5)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **Donshay Ina Hardy (5)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren (5)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **Antonio Levar Moore (2)**
 - History of violence, attempts to leave
- **Sabrina Lee Schnoor (5)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **James Craig Koutsky (3)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien (2)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, history of violence
- **Youa Vue Khang (3)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, history of violence, attempts to leave
- **William Lamont Hudson (3)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, history of violence, attempts to leave
- **Danicka Marie Bergeson (4)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **Darisha Tela Bailey Vath (2)**
 - History of violence, attempts to leave
- **Jean Harriette Mart (3)**
 - Threats to kill, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Sarah Kathryn Patrick (3)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Sarah Jane Carda (4)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave, strangulation
- **Melanie Michele Jansen & Hannah Nicole Parmenter (2)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms
- **Kayla Rose Hulsey (3)**
 - History of violence, abuser's access to firearms, strangulation
- **Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez (3)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms
- **Justin Capri Boyland (4)**
 - Threats to kill, history of violence, abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Shaqita Monique Thomas (2)**
 - History of violence, strangulation
- **Kesha Latrice Moore (3)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, history of violence, attempts to leave
- **Jayden Lee Kline (2)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave
- **Meredith Marie Martell (2)**
 - History of violence, attempts to leave
- **Kayla Marie Watts (2)**
 - Abuser's access to firearms, attempts to leave



POWER & CONTROL

POWER & CONTROL

At its core, relationship abuse is rooted in power, control, and oppression. Intimate partner violence is not about someone losing their temper, or “snapping” and lashing out at their partner(s) physically or verbally; it is about the desire to control one’s partner(s) and enacting that desire through emotionally, sexually, financially, and/or physically abusive patterns of behavior. Some abusers’ final act of power and control over a partner is homicide.

While physical violence is often the most visible form of relationship abuse, those who abuse use a variety of tactics to maintain control—including name calling/belittling, economic abuse, possessiveness, threats, isolation, gaslighting, and sexual violence. It is crucial to note the multitude of methods abusers use beyond physical violence in order to control their partners. **Non-physical abuse and coercive control can be just as extreme as physical violence, and the lack of known physical violence does not make abusive relationships any less dangerous.** These forms of abuse can further trap a victim/survivor in their relationship in the same ways that physical violence does. **Additionally, some abusers progressively escalate non-physical forms of abuse before killing their partners, even without a history of physical violence.**

We also routinely see that jealousy enacted through violence is a common theme in each year’s homicides. For example, in 2023 we found that 2 victims were killed by their former partner after entering a new relationship, and 3 individuals were killed by their new partner’s former partner.

Power and control can be used by abusive partners from dominant groups—such as white, cisgender, heterosexual men—to benefit from privilege and systems of oppression. In turn, victim/survivors from marginalized groups—Black, Indigenous, and people of color, victims with disabilities, 2SLGBTQIA+ victims, immigrants, and women—may be punished and disempowered by the criminal legal system, the child protective system, and educational institutions that funnel children into the juvenile legal system. These systems, like abusive partners, wield power over victims. Societal and institutional racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and other forms of bigotry are used to control victim/survivors through criminal and civil legal systems. **We cannot address nor prevent domestic violence without also addressing all forms of oppression and the ways in which they are leveraged to further trap, marginalize, and harm victims.**

POWER & CONTROL

Power and control is present in every single intimate partner homicide. We have included examples from all 40 homicides in 2023 in which power and control was used by the perpetrator.

- **Logan Gregory Barham:** During an argument with his wife Alexis Poole, Logan tried to leave their apartment. Instead of letting him leave, Poole stabbed him in the chest. **Physically restraining someone or restraining their movement in other ways, such as blocking doorways, is a common form of domestic violence used to cause fear and intimidation to the victim/survivor.**
- **Kyla Bianca O'Neal and Messiah O'Neal:** Kyla's mother stated that Kyla had ended her relationship with Donte McCray hours before she was killed. The fight started that morning when she said that her baby, Messiah, would have her last name instead of his, and escalated from there as McCray tried to hold onto power through abuse and, later, homicide. While Messiah's life was attempted to be saved in an emergency c-section after Kayla had passed away, he was on life support until he, too, passed away. **Many abusive partners feel they are losing control over the victim/survivor when they attempt to leave, which can result in an escalation of violence to try to regain control. Additionally, the fact that McCray killed Kyla after an argument about Messiah's last name illustrates an excessive level of jealousy and control over her.**
- **Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado:** A friend told police they had spent time with Manuel and his girlfriend Vanessa Sanchez Lopez on at least 9–10 occasions that involved Sanchez Lopez slapping and hitting Manuel during arguments. **Domestic violence against men by female perpetrators can present additional barriers for male victim/survivors, who may feel that they will not be believed if they seek support, and/or may be viewed as “weak,” “submissive,” or needing to “man up” and take the abuse.**
- **Devon Michael Adams:** Devon was shot in the chest and killed by Johnson Kenny Sirleaf in a Cub Foods parking lot after Devon intervened to try to prevent Sirleaf from assaulting his girlfriend. **Sirleaf had kidnapped his girlfriend and driven her to the parking lot when she tried to end their relationship, in a violent act of power and control that resulted in her assault and Devon's murder.**
- **Jennifer Yang:** After Jennifer's death, her family struggled to negotiate on funeral details with her husband's family, including obtaining custody of her body, and later chose to plan her funeral themselves in a break with Hmong tradition. Two months after her murder, her family stated that Her's family still had not returned any of Jennifer's property or belongings. **Jennifer's siblings have been vocal about how certain patriarchal elements of Hmong culture pose challenges to Hmong women experiencing abuse, and may be used to control women's attempts to leave abusive marriages, even to control their families after their deaths, as in Jennifer's case.**
- **Adrian Montano-Medina:** Adrian was killed by Kevin Zelaya Ascencio, who believed he was in a relationship with his wife. All three of them worked together. Zelaya Ascencio shot and killed Adrian while Adrian was eating lunch in a car on break with Zelaya Ascencio's wife. **This homicide emphasizes the danger of restrictive, objectifying gender norms that dictate men are entitled to ownership over women, to use violence to control their female partners, and to view their female partners' friendships with men as a personal threat.**
- **Corrina Dawn Woodhull:** Witnesses state Corrina was sitting on a couch with her ex-husband, Robert Castillo, 40, when he whispered something in her ear. After she shook her head, "no," Castillo pulled out a knife and stabbed her 10–20 times. Witnesses did not hear the contents of the conversation and Castillo has not divulged those details. **In a violence-free world, women would have the right to say “no” to anything without being killed as punishment for doing so.**

POWER & CONTROL



- **Madeline Jane Kingsbury:** Adam Fravel had a long history of violence against Madeline, including strangulation and beating. Friends told investigators that he had become abusive after the birth of their second child. Her new boyfriend told police that Madeline had to turn off tracking on her phone anytime she came to visit him because Fravel would text her “nonstop.” Another friend told investigators that Fravel wouldn't allow Kingsbury to talk to the new boyfriend in his presence. **Pregnancy and the post-partum period often represent a time of increased risk for domestic violence, or an escalation of already-present abuse, often due to the abusive partner's extreme jealousy over the survivor's time, attention, and body. While strangulation and physical violence are both risk factors for domestic violence homicide, coercive control is also exceedingly dangerous and, when combined with pregnancy, may increase the difficulty of a survivor being able to safely leave.**
- **Donshay Ina Hardy:** Two of Donshay and Edward Webb's children told police they had argued the night before he killed her. One child said the argument was about Instagram photos and Donshay told Webb “he was insecure.” Webb then called Donshay a b*tch, at which point she told him to leave, he “got in her face,” and only left when she threatened to call police. **While the full details of these circumstances are unclear, they are reminiscent, again, of gender norms that entitle men to ownership over their female partners, to call them gendered slurs, and to attempt to control their presence on social media by viewing them as objects.**

- **Joshua Anthony Owen:** Joshua was killed while responding to a domestic violence call with Bryan Nygard as the suspect and a woman as the victim. When he and other officers arrived at Nygard's apartment and informed him of his impending arrest, Nygard began shooting and killed Joshua. The woman living with Nygard was able to leave before the shooting started. **This case illustrates the lengths abusive partners may establish to attempt to maintain power and control over victim/survivors and to use violence to respond to any person or situation that threatens that control.**
- **Manijeh “Mani” Nicole Starren:** Manijeh's neighbors reported they had seen her with facial injuries and red marks around her neck on at least one occasion caused by abuse and strangulation from her boyfriend Joseph Jorgenson. When he was arrested for her murder, another woman was present with similar marks, also from strangulation. **Abusive partners who strangle do not “snap” or lose control; they engage in highly targeted, often-lethal violence that frequently leaves victims with chronic health impacts, terror, and the knowledge that the person who is supposed to love them could take their last breath.**
- **Antonio Levar Moore:** Antonio was stabbed and killed by Demetrius Harris after Harris assaulted Antonio's sister, Harris's ex-girlfriend, who called Antonio for help. **Harris was angry because Antonio's sister had “received a phone call from another man.” Antonio was killed simply because a man refused to accept the fact that his ex-partner was no longer in a relationship with him and that he was not entitled to her time, intimacy, or attention.**

POWER & CONTROL

- **Daniel Joseph Aldridge:** Daniel was killed by Delawyne Center, a man he met on a dating app, who injected him with drugs at some point during sexual activity, then left him to die because he was “angry” that Daniel “could not handle [the] drugs.” Instead of helping Daniel, who was clearly in distress, Center injected him with more meth and went to bed. He did this despite knowing Daniel was living in a sober house and that injecting him with drugs, even if it had not resulted in his death, could have impacted his living situation and health.
- **Sabrina Lee Schnoor:** Before shooting her to death, Sabrina’s boyfriend Jason Horner assaulted her so badly she was left with a skull fracture and blood in her brain. After shooting her, he left her to die, before later coming back to allegedly retrieve a packet of cigarettes he left at the scene. Later he would claim to police that Sabrina accidentally shot herself. Horner showed more concern about a pack of cigarettes than his own partner, choosing not only to kill her and leave her beneath an overpass, stripping her of human dignity, but to control the narrative of her homicide.
- **James Craig Koutsky:** James was killed by a man who refused to accept the fact that his ex-girlfriend was no longer in a relationship with him and was free to develop a relationship with other men. Nigel Blackburn killed James because he felt entitled to power and control over his ex-girlfriend and felt threatened by James’s interest in her.
- **Angela Marie McClelland:** Not only was Angela run over by her husband and left for dead, but when confronted by officers Tony McClelland began to rant about how she had been having a “hissy fit...just like every other...day” and accused her of having been “belligerent.” McClelland felt justified in putting forward a highly sexist, gendered narrative of his wife’s attitude before he killed her, describing her in terms that closely mirror tropes of “bossy” and “aggressive.” McClelland was free to live his life without concern or care for his wife for two full weeks before police apprehended him, and yet received widespread empathy even after his actions came to light.
- **Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O’Brien:** While we do not have access to details of any abuse in Vickie’s relationship before her husband Terrence O’Brien shot and killed her in a murder-suicide, we do know that murder-suicides are often a highly gendered issue in which men frequently kill their female partners and then themselves, avoiding accountability for their actions. This often results in problematic media coverage suggesting that their partners somehow consented instead of being killed in an act of control.
- **Youa Vue Khang:** Youa Vue Khang was shot and killed by her husband in a parking lot before killing himself. Not only did her husband end her life, but he also chose to escape accountability for doing so, maintaining power and control over her even in death.
- **William Lamont Hudson:** William was shot and killed by a man who was so upset that his ex-girlfriend, William’s new partner, had moved on that he decided he was entitled to end William’s life. Ryan Taylor later told police he killed William because he believed his ex-girlfriend had “toyed” with him. Here, this woman is portrayed as manipulative and deceptive and her new boyfriend is portrayed as a threat to Taylor’s perceived right to ownership over her.



POWER & CONTROL

- **Danicka Marie Bergeson:** Months before he killed Danicka, her boyfriend Matthew Brenneman was charged with striking, biting, strangling, and threatening to kill her. Threats to kill are a common way that abusive partners choose to control victim/survivors, often using these threats as a way to punish, intimidate, coerce, and keep partners “in line.” Many abusive partners also know that victim/survivors without a record of the threat may have a difficult time being believed, even though victim/survivors’ beliefs that the abuser will kill them are one of the most significant predictors of their risk of being killed by their partner.
- **Darisha Tela Bailey Vath:** Darisha was run over and killed by a friend of her ex-boyfriend’s, whom her family said was also in the vehicle at the time and did nothing to stop the driver from killing Darisha. Her homicide is an example of how abusive partners often engage friends, family members, and others as third parties to expand their control over victim/survivors and increase their ability to cause them harm.
- **Jean Harriette Mart:** Jean was killed by her husband, who had a history of abuse against her. In 2016, police were called to their home because he was threatening to kill her and himself, and had pointed a gun at her head. He was upset she mentioned wanting a divorce after she confronted him about how much he had been drinking. During this incident, he prompted a three hour-long standoff with a response from multiple police agencies, including a SWAT team. Not only did Jean’s husband feel entitled to threaten her with violence, he also maintained control over her by holding her hostage for hours, potentially causing her to fear the repercussions of seeking help for any abuse in the future, such as more threats and possibly their small 3,500 community finding out about the violence.
- **Sarah Kathryn Patrick:** Days before Sarah was killed by Adam Erickson, whom she had been trying to leave, she was settling into a new job and had a promotion. About a month before Erickson killed her, she had moved in with a friend and Erickson came to their home to look for her. Abusive partners often feel they are losing control over victim/survivors when they try to leave the relationship, as well as when survivors try to establish financial and personal independence, and may escalate the violence to try to regain the control through stalking and other means.
- **Betty Jo Bowman:** Betty was poisoned by her husband, a former poison control specialist, who then went to great lengths to obscure the true cause of her homicide, including trying to quickly have her cremated, trying to halt an autopsy, and repeatedly checking her e-health records while she was hospitalized. Connor Bowman also wrote a rare illness as her cause of death in her obituary. From beginning to end, Bowman attempted to control not only his wife’s life, but her access to appropriate medical care, assistance, and even the narrative of her death.
- **Mary Agnes Corneliusen:** Mary’s husband David Corneliusen shot her after “a verbal argument” and left her body on their couch before calling the police. While we do not have access to information about any prior history of abuse in the relationship, we must emphasize that killing a partner during or after an argument is not about “snapping” or “losing control,” but about making an intentional choice to enact violence and power against that person and deprive them of the right to express disagreement without being harmed.

POWER & CONTROL

- **Melanie Michele Jansen and Hannah Nicole Parmenter:** Melanie was shot and killed by her partner Michael Toner in Breezy Point, alongside Hannah Nicole Parmenter, Melanie's daughter, before killing himself. It is not uncommon for abusive partners to kill victim/survivors' loved ones alongside. In doing so, Toner took control not only over Melanie, but her daughter, too, and then chose to ensure that he could not be held accountable. Cases of "familicide" are overwhelmingly committed by men using firearms. Additionally, both Melanie and Hannah were found with multiple gunshot wounds, while Toner was found with only one.
- **Sarah Jane Carda:** Sarah had a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order against her husband stemming from domestic violence against Sarah in July, during which he also prevented Sarah from calling 911. The violation of the no-contact order demonstrates the entitlement abusive partners feel to continue to harm, control, and punish victim/survivors, illustrating that they feel they are "above" the legal system.
- **Jianqin Zhang:** Jianqin was strangled to death by Philip Wong, who allegedly met her at a hotel for a massage after responding to an online advertisement and then allegedly paid her extra money for sex. Her homicide represents not only one of the ultimate acts of power and control—cutting off oxygen to the brain—but also the entitlement that too many abusive men feel to dehumanize, objectify, and enact violence against women who may be involved in sex work.*
 - *Jianqin's friend identified Jianqin to investigators as a sex worker. We do not know how Jianqin self-identified and cannot speak for her.
- **Kayla Rose Hulsey:** Kayla was strangled to death by her partner Casey Narvaez, who insisted that her homicide was the result of a "suicide pact" between the two of them. Kayla's homicide is an example of how abusive partners commonly frame domestic violence as a "mutual" issue that both parties equally contributed to. Additionally, Narvaez was able to establish control over Kayla's death by pushing the narrative that her death was the result of suicidal ideation and mental health struggles rather than unacceptable violence.
- **Justin Capri Boyland:** Justin was shot and killed by Tyler Schlotfeldt-Gidney, the ex-partner of a woman Justin was dating. Schlotfeldt-Gidney asked the woman to meet in a park about their daughter, and Justin accompanied her due to the woman's fears that Schlotfeldt-Gidney would become violent with her again. He then shot Justin immediately after Justin exited the vehicle. Again, this homicide is another example of the belief that abusive partners are justified in maintaining control over their ex-partners. Additionally, Justin and his girlfriend had recently had a baby. Abusive partners often escalate coinciding with major milestones in their life or the victim's life that may cause them to feel they are losing control over them.
- **Shaqita Monique Thomas:** Shortly before Kelvin Perry strangled his girlfriend Shaqita to death, a friend on FaceTime with Shaqita noticed her crying and heard Perry yelling at her in the background. Shaqita told the friend Perry was upset she had spent the night in the emergency room with her husband, whom she was separated from but still married to, because of her son's asthma. She said Perry was accusing her of sleeping with her husband. Perry felt that his extreme jealousy and control over Shaqita was so justified that he had a right to sexualize a hospital visit for her sick son and use it as an opportunity to verbally abuse and punish her.
- **Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez:** Ricardo was shot and killed by Orky Xayachack, who was upset that Ricardo had resumed a relationship with his wife, whom Xayachack had been dating until recently. Ricardo's wife told police Xayachack was angry that she had gone back to Ricardo and had made threats to kill them both. This is another example of an abusive partner's belief that they are entitled to ownership over their partner and to physically harm anyone they view as a "threat" to that control.

POWER & CONTROL

- **Savannah Ryan Williams:** Savannah was shot and killed by Damarean Bible after an alleged sexual encounter. After the encounter, Bible claimed he was “suspicious” of Savannah and shot her in the head, leaving her for dead. Advocates in Minnesota’s 2SLGBTQIA+ community state her murder was an act of transphobic violence by a man who felt entitled to enact violence and control over a trans woman for no reason other than living her life.
- **Kesha Latrice Moore:** Johnny Brown shot and killed Kesha after she had recently asked him to move out as their relationship was deteriorating. When she accused him of cheating on her, he shot her. Brown has at least six protective and restraining orders against him from between 2001 and 2021 from multiple women, including harassment, threats, sharing image-based sexual abuse, and making false accusations to women’s employers, landlords, and CPS. These false accusations are a means of controlling partners and attempting to take away their children, housing, and financial resources.
- **Meredith Marie Martell:** Meredith was stabbed to death by her partner in her home. Jamel Hill Moore killed her in full view of several of her children and continued to stab her even after police arrived before they shot and killed him. In our 30-Year Retrospective Homicide Report, we found that 22% of intimate partner homicides in Minnesota from 1989–2018 were witnessed by minor children, emphasizing how abusive partners often feel entitled not only to abuse their partners but to frequently do so even in the presence of young children knowing the devastating traumatic impact as a result.
- **Franclin Ignacio Orellana:** Franclin was shot and killed by Juan Josue Canario Robles, who was upset that Orellana’s friend had approached his girlfriend at a bar and restaurant that evening. Robles shot out the window of a car at Franclin after Robles punched Franclin’s friend in the face and pointed a gun at him, making threats. Instead of treating his girlfriend like an independent adult, Robles chose to use violence and intimidation to demonstrate his perceived ownership over her, killing an innocent man in the process.
- **Jayden Lee Kline:** Jayden was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend after an argument, who then dropped her dead body into the street and drove away. He told police he had obtained the gun he used the day before. Abusive partners will often escalate their violence after the victim/survivor leaves to try to maintain control over them instead of accepting that survivors have a right to live without them.
- **Kayla Marie Watts:** Prior to shooting and killing Kayla, her husband Bryan Demarais told the couple’s two young children that he and Kayla were getting a divorce and blamed it on her. Abusive partners will sometimes use children as pawns in an attempt to punish, humiliate, and disparage victim/survivors, knowing that doing so will be painful and traumatic to the survivor and may even influence children’s unwitting statements in family court proceedings in favor of the abuser.



2023 FINDINGS

2SLGBTQIA+ VICTIMS

In 2023, at least two IPV homicide victims were members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. We share a statement and call to action from OutFront Minnesota below that contextualizes this violence.

“Despite significant progress in policy here in our state, Minnesota’s 2SLGBTQIA+ (Two-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, Intersex, Asexual/Agender) communities continue to face elevated rates of violence and discrimination. This is compounded by a lack of culturally competent supportive services and systems in Minnesota—particularly for male and transgender identified members of our community. **A 2017 report by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs found that 43% of 2SLGBTQIA+ survivors of IPV were denied shelter services when seeking help—something that we regularly experience even here in Minnesota;** and the majority of trans and gender expansive individuals surveyed in the 2022 US Trans Survey reported being uncomfortable seeking help from law enforcement even when needed.

It is essential that Minnesota continues to engage in work to support and care for our 2SLGBTQIA+ communities, particularly as **we continue to see a steady flow of 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals moving here in response to harmful legislation in other states around the country.”**

OutFront Minnesota is Minnesota’s largest 2SLGBTQIA+ advocacy organization with a nearly four-decade history. Our mission is to build power within Minnesota’s 2SLGBTQIA+ communities and address inequities through intersectional organizing, advocacy, education, and direct support services. OutFront Minnesota’s Anti-Violence Program provides essential supports and services to 2SLGBTQIA+ victims/survivors, offers trainings to community partners and service providers, and informs policymaking to make lasting change.

**OutFront Anti-Violence
Helpline: Call 800.800.0350
or email AVP@outfront.org**



RACIAL DISPARITIES

In 2023, 12 of the 29 adult IPV homicide victims (41%) were victims of color. Black and African-American victims and Native victims were significantly overrepresented in 2023's homicide numbers. We share statements in the next several pages from the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office and the Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office that contextualize these disparities in domestic violence homicide.

While these numbers fluctuate from year to year, victims of color are frequently overrepresented in each year's intimate partner homicide and domestic violence-related homicide numbers. Additionally, many suspicious deaths cases that Violence Free Minnesota tracks each year involve victims of color, and **for many of these cases, victims' loved ones draw attention to mistreatment and dismissal by law enforcement, lack of follow-up from police and the courts, and significant delays in finding victims and identifying their manner and cause of death.**

Furthermore, families have brought attention to cases in which the cause of death for victims, particularly Black and Native victims, was listed as unknown despite families providing significant evidence of domestic violence in the victims' existing relationships.

Victims of color deserve equitable attention, care, consideration, and full investigation of their homicides. The work and services of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) Office and the Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Office are paramount to addressing these racial disparities.

STATEMENT FROM THE MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS OFFICE

“The Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls (MMBWG) is dedicated to addressing the disproportionately high rates of violence experienced by Black women and girls through acknowledging that systemic racism, sexism, and economic inequality contribute to these elevated risks. The MMBWG office will develop targeted strategies and interventions to support survivors and families. **The establishment of the MMBWG office brings much needed attention to an often-overlooked issue of violence against Black women and girls,** increased visibility can lead to greater public understanding and concern, which is crucial for driving change.

The office is tasked with collecting data, conducting research, and making policy recommendations that lead to meaningful changes in how cases involving Black women and girls are handled. MMBWG will collaborate across the State enterprise, with law enforcement, and community members to develop strategies to improve systems gaps. **This work is vital in bringing justice, support, and change to the communities most affected by this violence.** The 2022 Missing and Murdered African American Women Task Report provides recommendations to help guide the statutory mandates of the office. **The bill creating the nation’s first Office of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls was approved and signed into law by Governor Tim Walz on May 18, 2023.”**

STATEMENT FROM THE MMIR OFFICE



Minnesota
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives
Office

“The Minnesota Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Office provided services in 2023 that addressed the disparity that exists for American Indian people. The office’s four staff—a director, community planner, violence prevention coordinator and an intelligence specialist—began to tackle the 20 mandates outlined in the [2019 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s Task Force Report](#).

MMIR Office accomplishments in 2023 included:

- Providing support and guidance on 23 cases during law enforcement investigations
- Helping develop and distribute missing persons materials
- Developing a communication plan and webpage
- Establishing the MMIR Advisory Council
- Creating the Gaagige-Mikwendagoziwag Reward Account Advisory Board
- Forming a missing persons response with the development of the community-led search framework.

Collaboration and partnership with statewide agencies such as the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Safe Harbor program has been instrumental in addressing risk factors and preventing human trafficking within Indigenous communities. According to information provided by MDH’s Sexual Violence Prevention program: *“Sexual violence victimization is common, not rare. Intimate partner violence victimization is also common. Sexual intimate partner violence can be experienced at any age. For this reason it is important for focus on these forms of violence through early and ongoing prevention efforts. While some communities are more likely to experience victimization than others due to inequities in society, every community and population in Minnesota experiences these forms of violence.”*

STATEMENT FROM THE MMIR OFFICE CONTINUED



Minnesota
Missing and Murdered
Indigenous Relatives
Office

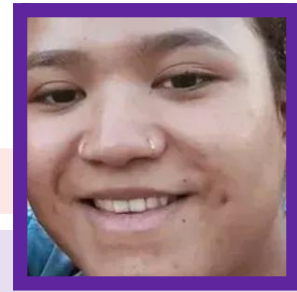
“The MMIR Office released the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Policy, Best and Emerging Practices, and Current Issues in Minnesota report in 2023](#). The report provided a roadmap to put an end to the epidemic of violence. The report stated: “Bolstering protective factors such as cultural and community connections, increasing access to health relationships, education, improving law enforcement and social service system response to domestic violence and trafficking cases and supporting indigenous restorative justice practices can reduce the incidence of MMIR.” Members of the MMIR Advisory Council and Gaagige-Mikwendagoziwag Reward Account Advisory Board provide guidance and consultation on community level engagement.

Each year on May 5 the community rallies together for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relative Awareness Day in Minnesota. This is a national day of awareness and action shared by tribal nations across the country. Awareness generated at this event and others has led to other collaborations.

The MMIR Office in 2023 unveiled [a new specialty state license plate](#) featuring a red handprint to symbolize the historic silencing of the violence that Indigenous people have faced for generations.

Stakeholders such as coalitions, victim advocates and policymakers have been key to continuing to fund projects that help with prevention efforts. Prevention draws on the relationships with community members, service professionals, tribal leaders and other state agencies that work together to reduce disparity within American Indian communities. **Awareness and education sets the stage for future work to educate children, youth and adults about reducing and eliminating MMIR injustice in Minnesota.”**

RACIAL DISPARITIES



CASE HIGHLIGHT DARISHA TELA BAILEY VATH

Darisha Tela Bailey Vath, 17, a young Black and Cambodian woman, was killed in Forest Lake on July 16, 2023. In April 2024 Dylan Simmons, 20, a friend of Darisha's ex-boyfriend Ryan Anderson, 17, both of whom are white, pled not guilty to second-degree murder with intent for running over Darisha with a car. During the early morning hours of July 16, a fight occurred between two groups of teens and young adults at a park in Forest Lake. According to Darisha's family and friends, Simmons was in a vehicle with Anderson. As the fight was deescalating, Simmons intentionally drove his car into a group of people, striking Darisha and running her over. CCTV footage of the homicide shows Simmons intentionally accelerating towards the group of bystanders twice before hitting and running over Darisha on the third attempt.

Friends and family say Darisha's death was premeditated and caused by "her ex-boyfriend and his friend's actions." Darisha's ex-boyfriend Ryan Anderson has not been charged for her death. In 2023, he was charged with criminal sexual conduct for sexual assault and attempted rape of a 16-year-old girl, and Darisha's loved ones state he sexually assaulted her as well. However, the sexual assault and attempted rape charges were eventually dismissed for unknown reasons.

Additionally, on July 15, 2023, the day before Darisha was killed, Anderson was charged with two counts of assault for, along with Simmons, violently assaulting a 21-year-old man so severely that he suffered multiple spine fractures. The man initially told police he did not know Anderson or Simmons but later admitted he did know them and was scared of retaliation. Anderson was convicted for Aiding and Abetting Assault- 3rd Degree Substantial Bodily Harm, and the charge for Aiding and Abetting Attempted Assault- 1st Degree- Great Bodily Harm was dismissed. The victim was a young man of color.

Simmons has an extensive history of violence against at least one previous partner, including while she was pregnant. This partner filed for an Order for Protection against him in April 2023, detailing severe emotional and physical abuse from Simmons that escalated over time and sometimes occurred while she or Simmons was holding their infant. Simmons would also repeatedly block her from leaving the home and would sometimes physically restrain her to prevent her from leaving.

In August 2023, Anderson, who is white, successfully petitioned for a restraining order against Darisha's brother, whose race is listed as Black in court records. Anderson claimed harassment from Darisha's brother. He filed his petition a month after Darisha was killed, which he again has not been charged for.

Darisha's family and friends have called attention on social media to the fact that both of the men involved in Darisha's death are white and have histories of assaulting and harming people of color with little punishment or accountability, stating that the legal system has again failed to protect a young woman of color. Her loved ones have also been vocal about the fact that Anderson was not charged for his role in Darisha's homicide, despite allegedly recording her death while in Simmons's passenger seat.

MALE VICTIMS OF ABUSE BY WOMEN

In 2023, Violence Free Minnesota documented two confirmed intimate partner homicides involving male victims who were killed by their female partners. **Logan Gregory Barham, 22**, was stabbed to death on January 3rd by his wife Alexis Poole, 24, in St. Louis Park while trying to leave their apartment to escape an argument. A month later, **Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado, 17**, was shot and killed by his 19-year-old girlfriend Vanessa Sanchez Lopez in Chanhassen after arguing all night. A friend told police they had spent time with Manuel and Sanchez Lopez on at least 9–10 occasions that involved Sanchez Lopez slapping and hitting Manuel.

Male victim/survivors of abuse by women may face numerous unique barriers to seeking help and receiving support, **including stereotypes and gender norms that portray men as “weak,” “submissive,” or “emasculated” for being abused by women, as well as beliefs that support services and law enforcement may not believe them or will view them as the aggressor.** Male survivors may internalize harmful messages about how to think, feel, act and behave, including messages about physical size, stature, and strength, even messages that insist it is not possible for men to be abused.

While adult women continue to be disproportionately represented among Minnesota’s intimate partner homicide victims every year, it is nonetheless important to recognize the challenges male domestic violence survivors face and emphasize that more men than we are aware of may be abused and/or killed by their female partners from year to year. Many of the same restrictive gender norms that dictate how men should present themselves, and the same harmful socialization processes, contribute to both misogyny and disbelief of male victims.



OLDER ADULTS

Every year, Violence Free Minnesota documents IPV homicides all along the lifespan. Every age demographic is affected by domestic violence, some in unique ways and with unique barriers. **In 2023, we documented 6 homicides involving a victim that was 50 years of age or older (15% of the total 40 homicides).** Three of these were murder-suicides, and one was a murder attempted-suicide:

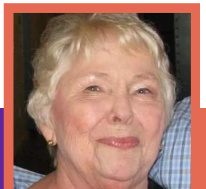
- **Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien, 63**, shot by her husband Terrance O'Brien, 64, who then shot and killed himself
- **Youa Vue Khang, 58**, shot by her husband Tou Pao Khang, 68, who then shot and killed himself
- **Jean Harriette Mart, 77**, shot and assaulted by her husband Paul Mart, 79, before he attempted suicide
- **Mary Agnes Corneliusen, 66**, shot by her husband David Corneliusen, 63
- **Melanie Michele Jansen, 54**, shot alongside her daughter Hannah Nicole Parmenter, 29, by her partner Michael Toner, 59, who then shot and killed himself
- **Jianqin Zhang, 53**, strangled to death by a man she met in a hotel room, Philip Wong, 25

The Minnesota Elder Justice Center shared the following statement on elder abuse and intimate partner violence involving older adults for this report:

“Abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older and vulnerable adults is an exercise in power and control, which is similar to other forms of interpersonal violence. Elder abuse is most often perpetrated by someone in an ongoing relationship with an expectation of trust; typically, that abusive person is a family member such as a spouse or adult child. Tragically, elder abuse is drastically under-reported. For every incident of elder abuse reported, there are an additional 24 cases that go undetected (Pillemer et al., 2016). **When we fail to recognize the prevalence of elder abuse, there is a significant risk of increasing severity of the consequences of the abuse, including homicides. We urge an increased awareness and recognition of elder abuse and its intersection with other forms of maltreatment so that we can both prevent and intervene more appropriately.**”

“The Minnesota Elder Justice Center (MEJC) is a statewide organization whose mission is to prevent and alleviate abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of older and vulnerable adults. MEJC provides support, information and resources to older and vulnerable adults, their loved ones, and professionals around issues of elder abuse. In addition, MEJC provides extensive professional education, public awareness, and advances public policy to support the community we serve.” www.elderjusticemn.org

MINNESOTA
ELDER JUSTICE
CENTER



CASE HIGHLIGHT: JEAN HARRIETTE MART, 77

Jean Harriette Mart, 77, was killed in her Perham home on July 16. Jean's husband, Paul Mart, 79, was charged with second-degree murder. On July 17, police were informed by a third-party that Paul had killed Jean and he said if, "any officers show up, he will shoot at them, and they will have to kill him." Paul also said he considered suicide by cop, and he claimed to have taken a bottle of opiates. After a standoff involving Paul and SWAT teams, he eventually surrendered and was taken into custody. A provisional autopsy report revealed Jean's cause of death was blunt force injuries and a gunshot wound to the head. Paul died by suicide in October 2023. In 2016, Paul was charged with domestic assault, assault in the 2nd degree with a dangerous weapon, terroristic threats, and disorderly conduct for threatening to kill Jean and himself and pointing a gun at her head. In that case, a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order was issued. **Three days later, Jean requested a dismissal of the order, and her reasoning illustrates some of the challenges older IPV survivors may face. Jean stated the order was "causing undo hardship. I am unable to take care of home and my blood pressure is high due to stress of trying to take care of home. Can't do anything that requires physical exertion."**

MURDER-SUICIDE AND MURDER-ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

In 2023, we documented five confirmed intimate partner murder-suicides (one involving two victims) in Minnesota, and three murder attempted-suicides. Together, these comprise 20% of the total 40 homicides in 2023, a full fifth.

2023 murder-suicides:

- **Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien, 63**, was shot and killed by her husband Terrence O'Brien, 64, before O'Brien shot and killed himself
- **Jennifer Yang, 36**, was shot and killed by her husband Fue Her, 40, who then shot and killed himself
- **Youa Vue Khang, 58**, was shot and killed by her husband Tou Pao Khang 68, before he shot and killed himself
- **Sarah Kathryn Patrick, 30**, was shot and killed by her former partner Adam Erickson, 38, who then killed himself
- **Melanie Michele Jansen, 54, and Hannah Nicole Parmenter, 29**, were shot and killed by Melanie's partner Michael Toner, 59, who then shot and killed himself

2023 murder-attempted suicides:

- **Jean Harriette Mart, 77**, was shot and beaten to death by her husband Paul Mart, 79, who claimed to have taken a bottle of opiates in a suicide attempt directly afterwards
- **Shaqita Monique Thomas, 39**, was strangled to death by her boyfriend Kelvin Perry, 54, who stepped in front of a light rail train afterwards (on the same day he killed her) in a suicide attempt
- **Danicka Marie Bergeson, 33**, was killed by her boyfriend Matthew Brenneman, 38, who ingested poisonous chemicals in a suicide attempt the day her body was found

“**Note: Kayla Rose Hulseley, 35, was strangled to death by her boyfriend Casey Narvaez, 39, who later claimed Kayla's death was a result of a mutual suicide pact and that he had passed out during his attempt and survived. We do not document this case as a murder attempted-suicide because Kayla is not alive to speak for herself and may tell a different story than Narvaez regarding the alleged “mutuality” of the “suicide pact.” We will not privilege perpetrators' voices over the voices of victims who are no longer alive.*”

MURDER-SUICIDE AND MURDER-ATTEMPTED SUICIDE

In our *30-Year Retrospective Report*, we found that from 1989–2018 in Minnesota, 258 of the 685 confirmed domestic violence homicides (37%) were murder-suicides or murder-attempted suicides (the latter refers to cases in which the perpetrator murdered the victim and then attempted, but did not complete, suicide). Murder-suicides are a highly gendered crime overwhelmingly perpetrated by men against women. **Only one of the 258 cases of murder-suicide we documented from 1989–2018 in Minnesota involved a woman killing a male current or former partner.**

Intimate partner murder-suicide is a unique crime with distinct characteristics from suicide and homicide alone. They are more likely to occur around the time that a victim is attempting to separate from their abuser. Threats of suicide from the abuser double the risk of murder-suicide. Other precursors to intimate partner murder-suicide include child custody issues, extreme jealousy and control from the abuser, and the issuance of an order for protection. They most often involve the use of a firearm. **From 1989–2018 in Minnesota, firearms were used in 76% of murder-suicide cases.** To place this in a national context, the *Violence Policy Center's 2023 report American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States* found that 90% (232 of 258) of murder-suicide incidents in the United States in the first half of 2021 were known to involve a firearm. One-hundred sixty of the 258 total murder-suicides involved an intimate partner, and of these, 95% percent were women killed by their male intimate partners and 93% percent involved a gun.

All 5 confirmed intimate partner murder-suicides in Minnesota in 2023 involved a firearm. One of the 3 **murder-attempted suicides** involved a firearm, one involved strangulation, and the other does not yet have a determined cause of death. At least 2 of the 5 **murder-suicides** and at least 1 of the 3 **murder-attempted suicides** involved the victims' previous attempts to leave their relationships.

SUSPICIOUS DEATHS

Nearly every year, Violence Free Minnesota tracks suspicious deaths that are reasonably connected to or the result of domestic violence, but for which the circumstances remain unconfirmed. Reasons for these unconfirmed circumstances may include a medical examiner's inability to determine the cause of death, lack of media coverage on the death, substantial lack of progress in a death investigation, the person's body is missing, the person has not been found but has been declared legally dead, etc.

As a result, Violence Free Minnesota has updated our report inclusion criteria to include a new suspicious deaths category, intended to expand public understanding of the impacts of domestic violence in the state and the factors that may contribute to a lack of clarity around certain deaths, including:

- Medical bias and medical racism in determinations of a victim's cause of death
- Racial bias and transphobia in law enforcement investigations, such as dismissal of and neglect to investigate or show due care about cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, Black women, trans women, and other gender non-conforming victims
- Abusers' attempts to conceal homicides
- Lack of legislative investment in funding and resourcing agencies in the state that examine and/or document deaths due to domestic violence

Full details of the suspicious deaths criterion can be found in the Report Methods section (pg. 80).



CASE HIGHLIGHT IRIS JEAN ANDERSON

Iris Jean Anderson, 93, was found dead in her bathtub in northwest Rochester on May 8, 2023. Her husband Scott Loven, 73, is charged with second-degree manslaughter and criminal neglect. Loven told investigators that at one point Iris, who had dementia and was losing her hearing and vision, fell into the bathtub while he tried to help her in the bathroom. Iris asked him to take her to the hospital, but he told her he “did not want to put her in the car and drive her to the hospital to sit in the waiting room.” At this point he “knew she was not in a good way and was dying” so he kept her in the bathtub, and began to drink heavily. Although their home had a working landline, he did not call the police. On May 4 Loven informed Iris's pastor she had died. The pastor, unaware of the circumstances of her death, called Iris's daughter several days later, who was not aware she had died, and asked the pastor to return to check on her. When the pastor returned on May 8, Loven again told him Iris had died. Investigators were then notified. The Medical Examiner's Office listed Iris's manner of death as homicide and the cause of death as a gastrointestinal hemorrhage due to prolonged immobility due to multiple blunt force injuries. She was found with contusions, a scalp laceration, and a shoulder fracture.

Because we do not know if Iris's injuries were sustained from a fall as Loven claimed, or from physical violence, and because Loven claimed to have been drinking heavily and to not remember much of the details of Iris's death, our analysis of and information about Iris's death are limited. Additionally, while we know that he deprived her of medical care that *may* have saved her life, we do not currently know whether he initially intended to kill her or assaulted her rather than her falling. For these reasons, we have chosen to include her death under the suspicious deaths criteria in this 2023 report but not in the total victim count until or if we learn further information. Loven is not scheduled to go to trial until 2025.

BYSTANDER AND INTERVENOR DEATHS: CONNECTION TO FIREARMS

For many years in our *Intimate Partner Homicide Reports*, Violence Free Minnesota has gathered cumulative data regarding the causes of death for adult women. This year we also bring forward cumulative data regarding the causes of death for bystanders and intervenors, who are included in our report when they are killed while witnessing or intervening in domestic violence. **From 2013 to 2023 in Minnesota, we found that an astonishing 44 of 56 (78.57%) bystander and intervenor deaths were due to firearms.**

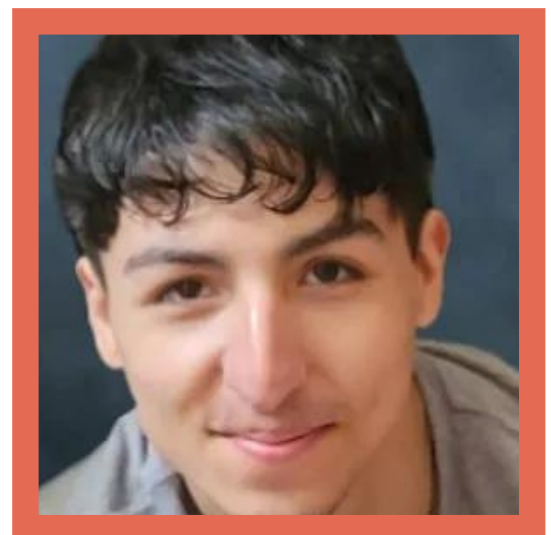
We capture this data not only to provide a window into the scope of intimate partner homicide in Minnesota, emphasizing that it is a public health issue rather than a private individual matter, but to underscore the sheer danger of firearms and domestic violence in combination. When abusive partners have access to firearms, not only are victim/survivors in danger, but their family members, friends, coworkers, acquaintances, and even total strangers. Bystanders and intervenors across the years in Minnesota have been shot while dining at restaurants, going to work, and in their backyards. They have been shot and killed in places and situations that the general public may never think to connect to domestic violence. **One such example is Adrian Montano-Medina, 20, who was shot and killed in Howard Lake on March 20 by his female coworker's jealous husband while eating lunch in a vehicle in his workplace parking lot.**

Everytown for Gun Safety has made the link clear: in approximately 70% of intimate partner homicide-related deaths across the United States involving family members, first responders, strangers, and friends, the perpetrator uses a firearm (2023). **Abusers' access to firearms poses an unacceptable risk to our communities.**

“

From 2013 to 2023 in Minnesota, we found that an astonishing 44 of 56 (78.57%) bystander and intervenor deaths were due to firearms.

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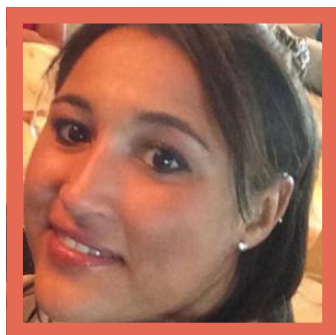
VICTIM-BLAMING

Victim-blaming is not a theme unique to 2023, nor any other year. However, we include it here rather than interwoven with case highlights to make explicitly clear the role that peer, community, and system victim-blaming play in the perpetuation of domestic violence, how they serve as barriers to victim safety and support, and how they shape individual, community, and societal messages and perceptions about relationship abuse. Though we do not have access to detailed information about possible victim-blaming involved in each of the 40 confirmed homicides in 2023, it is more likely than not that elements of blame and shame were involved in each case to various degrees. **Below, we describe three homicides in 2023 that involved overt elements of victim-blaming on three different levels: individual, community, and systems. These levels frequently intersect with and reinforce one another, and are often underpinned by sexism, racism, and multiple other forms of oppression. These are yet more steps of the staircase.**

Relationship-Level Blame

Danicka Marie Bergeson, 33, was found dead in her apartment in Hopkins. Her boyfriend, Matthew Brenneman, 38, was charged with second-degree murder. Several months before he killed her, he was charged twice for assaulting her, including strangling, biting, hitting, and threatening to kill her. One of these assaults resulted in her needing 17 stitches in her arm and sutures in the back of her head. Brenneman told a friend “she deserved” the abuse and implied physical violence was “necessary” because “it was impossible to emotionally or verbally hurt her.” Brenneman attempted suicide after killing Danicka. In partial drafts of his suicide note found in their shared residence, he wrote, *“[Victim] and I were so sensitive, we both somehow eventually became aggressive and somewhat violent ourselves, despite both previously never acting like that to our past partners.”*

Yet the truth contradicts Brenneman’s version of events: another woman came forward after Danicka’s murder and stated that Brenneman had been violent against her as well. Additionally, a previous partner of Brenneman’s had at one point filed an Order for Protection against him. Brenneman’s narrative is common for abusive partners: deny, minimize, blame, and deflect. **In his narratives, Danicka is portrayed as a co-abuser, complicit in Brenneman’s violence against her. The direction of the violence in their relationship is intentionally obscured and minimized. Victims frequently face blame from their abusive partners, sometimes internalizing this blame and believing they are responsible for the abuse they are enduring. Even after Danicka’s death, her abusive partner found a way to shift the narrative and disparage her.** It is likely that these are also messages Brenneman used against Danicka while she was still alive to intimidate, coerce, punish, and control her.



“Victim-blaming is not a theme unique to 2023, nor any other year.”

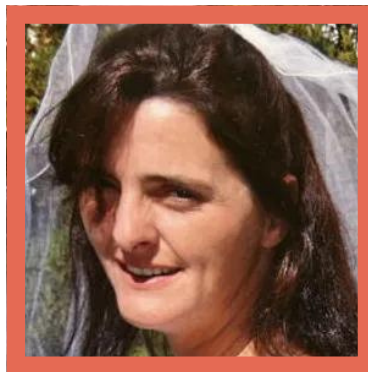
VICTIM-BLAMING

Community-Level Blame

Meredith Marie Martell, 35, was stabbed and killed by her partner Jamel Hill Moore, 41, as several of her children watched. Several of the children then witnessed police officers kill Hill Moore. After we released a We Remember recognition of Meredith on our social media, we had to delete multiple comments from strangers blaming Meredith for her own murder. Most of these comments involved multiple layers of sexism and racism, blaming Meredith, who was white, for having chosen a relationship with Hill Moore, who was Black. These comments also stereotyped Black men as inherently aggressive and violent, a dangerous, entirely false narrative that we unequivocally and firmly condemn. **These racist narratives do nothing to end domestic violence in Minnesota and are patently untrue.**

Systems-Level Blame

Angela Marie McClelland, 49, was run over by her husband Tony McClelland, 47, and then abandoned dead on the side of a road. McClelland did not admit to killing Angela until police identified him two weeks after her death. When police spoke with him, he began to rant about how she had been having a *“hissy fit...just like every other fucking day”* and accused her of being “belligerent.” His defense, when confronted by accusations that McClelland lacked remorse, argued that *“Mr. McClelland is the son of a father who worked in the mines for over 30 years. Mr. McClelland worked in plumbing for 28 years before this offense. He fits the mold of the stereotype of Minnesota man who is stoic in the face of life’s difficulties. Not expressing emotions does not mean that a person does not have them...Searching for tears on his face will yield no more results than searching the famous Minnesota Vikings’ coach Bud Grant who was known for his even keeled stoicism on the sidelines.”* Furthermore, the defense brought up accusations of Angela’s perceived aggressive demeanor, portraying her as the “instigator” of arguments, stating *“It’s only in eulogies where the sins of the deceased do not exist.”* **Not only was Angela blamed by her husband for his own decision to kill her, she was blamed by her peers and by a legal system that purports to strive for justice. McClelland’s defense team invoked countless misogynistic stereotypes during his trial, depicting Angela as the stereotypical aggressive, hysterical woman and McClelland as the calm, composed man stretched to an imagined breaking point by his nagging wife.**

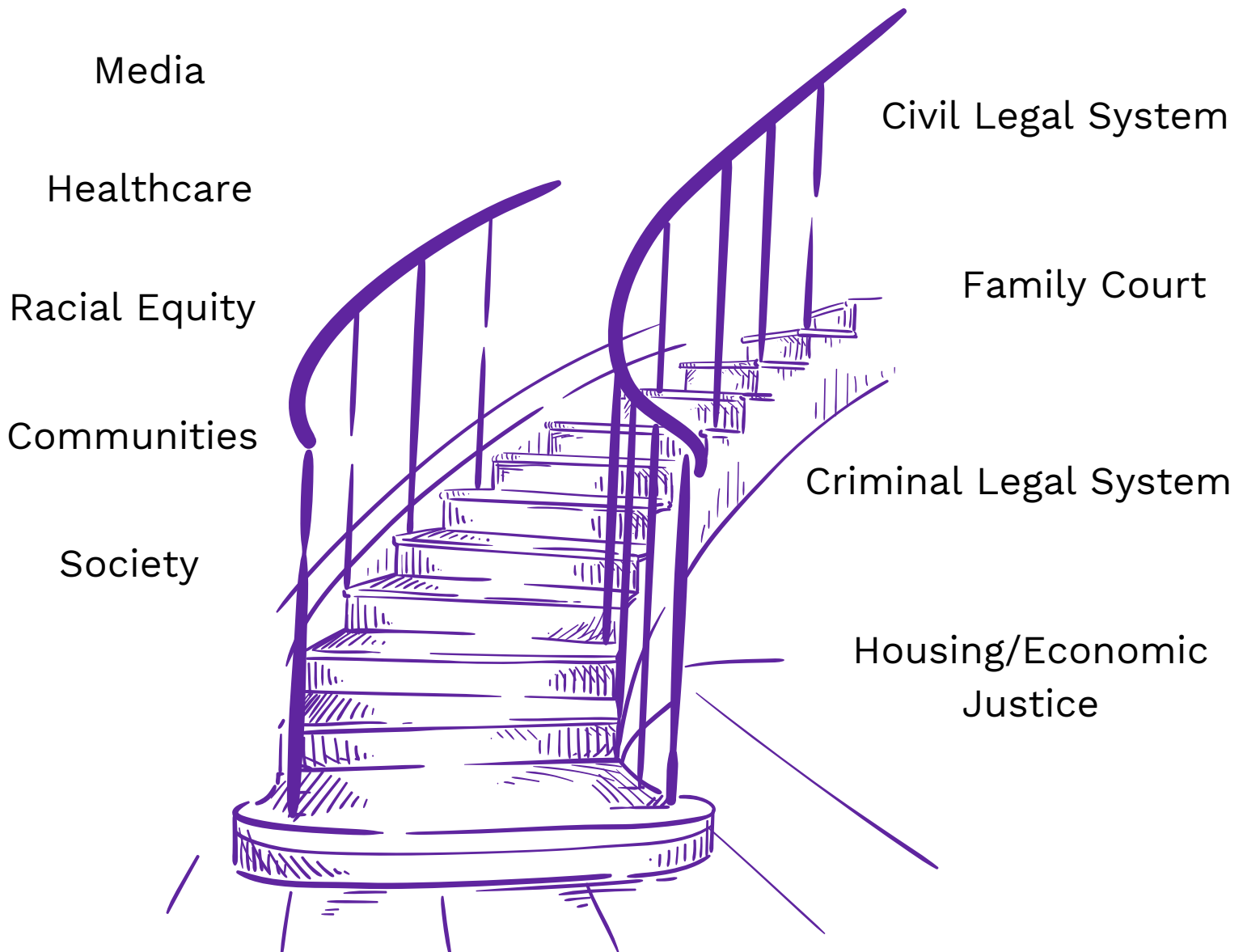


Meredith Marie Martell (left) and Angela Marie McClelland (right)



RECOMMENDATIONS

Intimate partner violence is a public health crisis and a social issue. **It is often predictable and always preventable.** Like any public health crisis and social issue, implementing policy changes to our systems and institutions can lead to positive outcomes, including fewer instances of intimate partner violence and safer communities. Survivors, community-based advocacy programs, and programs led by and for culturally specific communities should be at the center of all policy recommendations, from inception to implementation. **Together, we can dismantle the staircase.**





RECOMMENDATIONS



MEDIA

RECOMMENDATION: Media agencies should seek ongoing training and professional development opportunities from domestic violence agency partners to ensure ethical reporting on domestic violence/homicide cases.

- **Journalists should *only* consult police for specific facts of cases** (cause and time of death, victim and suspect identification, etc.). Whenever possible, journalists should consult/interview domestic violence experts instead;
- **Journalists should provide local advocacy resources**, including the statewide Day One Hotline (Call: 866.223.1111, Text: 612.399.9995), in ALL domestic violence stories;
- **Journalists should ensure that all articles on domestic violence focus on the perpetrator’s actions**, refrain from victim-blaming, and in cases of intimate partner homicide, memorialize the victim and place the homicide within a context of abuse;
- **Media agencies should seek ongoing consultation from domestic violence agencies on ethical coverage of domestic violence cases involving 2SLGBTQIA+ victims, victims with disabilities, immigrant victims, male victims, and women.**



In June 2024, Violence Free Minnesota and the Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault presented to the Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) newsroom on survivor-centered storytelling.

A Minneapolis love story

Above is an example of a problematic media headline. This headline was used to describe Daniel Joseph Aldridge’s death, whose partner tied him up and injected him with meth. Domestic violence is not love. Headlines like this should focus on power and control, not sensationalize and romanticize abuse.

What it should say: A Minneapolis Homicide



RECOMMENDATIONS

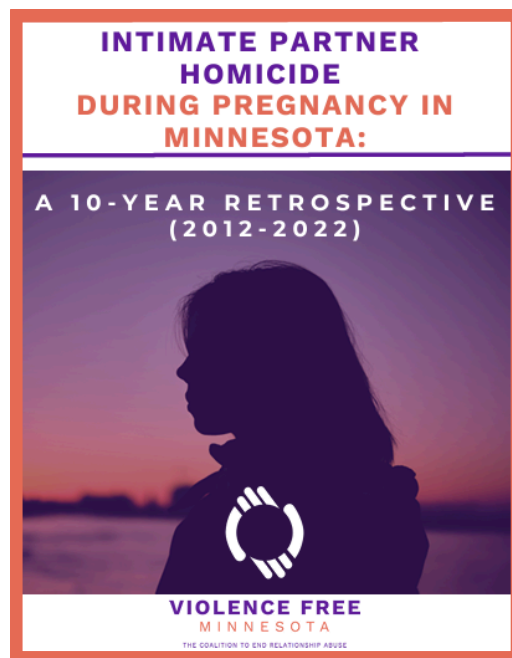


HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS

RECOMMENDATION: All health centers, clinics, and hospitals should create and institutionalize policies and procedures for addressing domestic violence. All professions in the healthcare setting should be included with specific roles.

- All healthcare settings should consider transitioning from checklist screenings for domestic violence to a universal education method such as CUES (Confidentiality, Universal Education, Empowerment, Support) that reduces power imbalances and does not rely on patient disclosure to receive resources;
- Healthcare settings should ensure that their domestic violence training is **comprehensive, mandatory, and ongoing for all staff**, including specific training on strangulation and brain injuries, as well as robust education on ways to assess and identify strangulation injuries on survivors of color;
- All healthcare settings should incorporate **intimate partner homicide risk assessments into their workflows** to assess patients' likelihood of being killed, and be prepared to engage in immediate safety planning and referrals to an advocate;
- All hospitals, health centers, and clinics should establish mutually beneficial relationships with local domestic violence agencies, be knowledgeable of the services offered and the cultures served, and engage in referrals and cross-training.

In October 2023, Violence Free Minnesota released an Intimate Partner Homicide During Pregnancy Report that examined IPV homicides during pregnancy in Minnesota from 2012 to 2022 as part of a Partnership Programs to Reduce Maternal Deaths Due to Violence five-year funding award from the Office on Women's Health (OWH). This report called attention to racial disparities in IPV homicides of pregnant adults in Minnesota.





RECOMMENDATIONS



LEGAL SYSTEMS

RECOMMENDATION: Violence Free Minnesota does not call for any new or enhanced criminal penalties, but instead for the more equitable and just application of current law and the creation of additional avenues to safety.

- **All criminal legal system entities should incorporate victim-centered, trauma-informed approaches in their work and receive training on domestic violence;**
- **Minnesota legislators should pass the Survivor's Justice Act** to allow for sentencing flexibility when survivors are convicted of crimes. Prosecutors should use the tools available to them right now, such as prosecutor-initiated sentence adjustment, to proactively address the overincarceration of abuse survivors;
- **Local governments should research and implement alternative crisis responses modeled for domestic violence,** in consultation with community-based victim services and communities disproportionately impacted by domestic violence.

RECOMMENDATION: Minnesota supervision agencies should improve uniformity and consistency in how individuals with histories of perpetrating abuse and who are on probation or supervised release are assessed and supervised. Minnesota has three supervision systems providing court ordered probation and supervision upon release; Violence Free Minnesota has been engaged in an ongoing project with the MN Department of Corrections, Community Corrections Act counties, and county probation officers to develop and implement best practice guidance.

- **Minnesota's three supervision systems should continue to partner with VFMN on the Domestic Violence Steering Committee**—a multi-disciplinary group of representatives from Minnesota's three delivery systems and community-based advocacy providers—to increase uniformity and effectiveness;
- **Minnesota supervision agencies should implement victim-centered approaches in their work,** including by adapting the Intimate Partner Violence Reunification Guiding Principles to fit their agency and community.

RECOMMENDATION: Legislators and the legal system should work to prevent domestic violence homicide and control/intimidation by firearm.

- **Legislators should address gun violence on the supply side** by preventing the distribution of firearms in the community, both by targeting illegal dealers and limiting what guns can be sold legally;
- **Judges, city and county attorneys, and law enforcement should all ensure the full implementation of Extreme Risk Protection Orders** to disarm people using abuse.



RECOMMENDATIONS

HOUSING/ECONOMIC JUSTICE



RECOMMENDATION: All levels of government should recognize that domestic violence is a leading cause of homelessness and economic insecurity, that all people experiencing housing and economic instability deserve support and care, and that this large-scale crisis in our nation will require a large-scale solution.

- **The state should expand financial and childcare assistance resources for surviving family members of homicide victims;**
- **The Office of Justice Programs should remove application barriers to financial assistance** from the Minnesota Crime Victims Reimbursement Fund;
- **Housing funders should continue to fund and support apartment-style shelter** to increase inclusivity for male victims and 2SLGBTQIA+ victims;
- **Child support programs should implement comprehensive domestic violence policies and procedures** to increase safe access to economic security for victims;
- **Employers should familiarize themselves with Minnesota's earned sick and safe time law and its application to domestic violence victims**, and be prepared to connect employees with local community based domestic violence resources;
- **Continuums of Care (CoCs) should partner with their local domestic violence organization(s)** to create or strengthen an access point for domestic violence victims/survivors to safety planning and services.

COMMUNITY RESPONSE

RECOMMENDATION: Social institutions and communities play a critical role in victim/survivor safety, support, and accountability and intervention for people using harm. Institutions and communities should take proactive, collaborative measures to prevent and intervene in domestic violence, including:

- **All K-12 schools should implement some form of standardized, ongoing, age-appropriate curricula** that addresses consent and healthy relationships, and should form relationships with their local domestic violence agencies;
- **Faith communities should partner with local domestic violence organizations to offer resources, support groups, and educational programs to their leadership and members**, including support for children; and within faith-based settings should promote messages of safety, respect, and equality in relationships;
- **Daycare centers and supervised visit/safe exchange facilities should develop policies for responding to domestic violence** experienced by clients;
- **Anti-violence agencies should consider working with consultants to audit their policies for trauma-informed principles** and implement these where needed.



RECOMMENDATIONS

EQUITY & RACIAL JUSTICE



RECOMMENDATION: The state should prioritize funding for culturally specific domestic violence services, which are developed by and for underserved communities, and may be best situated to meet the needs of some survivors.

- **Government and private grant funders should simplify the grant application process and ensure that all applications are available in all necessary languages to ensure access to potential grantees.** Culturally specific programs tend to be smaller and newer than long-established mainstream programs and may not have dedicated staff for grant writing.

RECOMMENDATION: Actors within the victims' rights movement must start and/or continue the process of self-auditing for harms they have contributed to against marginalized communities in efforts to support some survivors.

- **Victim services programs should internally evaluate the ways that victims' rights have been historically used to justify racialized harms, and should work to address those harms.** Victims are often leveraged and exploited as the stated justification for "tough on crime" approaches to justice which have led to mass incarceration and disparate impacts on communities of color. Victim services providers should seek to understand where they fit in that narrative and how they can break that narrative.

RECOMMENDATION: All levels of, and actors involved in, the policy making process should incorporate principles of equity and inclusion to ensure no groups of survivors are excluded, and that previous exclusions are redressed. Every step of the policy making process should include a robust analysis of intended, unintended, and unannounced consequences of policy changes.

- **Policymakers, legislators, lobbyists, advocacy organizations, human resources professionals, and others who help draft law and policy should always apply an equity lens to domestic violence policy proposals to identify culturally specific communities who may not receive the full benefit of the policy based on historical evidence.** These communities include, but are not limited to: racial/ethnic, disabled, 2SLGBTQIA+, and gender expansive communities.

VICTIM STORIES

Since its inception, the *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* has detailed how victims were killed. These descriptions provide insight for prevention and intervention efforts, as well as reflect the horrific nature of relationship abuse. However, we know each victim is so much more than the moment of their deaths, which is why we include community members' and loved ones' memory keeping efforts at the beginning of our report.

LOGAN GREGORY BARHAM



Age 22
St. Louis Park
January 3, 2023

Logan Gregory Barham, 22, was stabbed and killed on January 3, in his St. Louis Park apartment. His wife Alexis Poole, 24, was convicted of second-degree murder and in May 2024 was sentenced to 12.5 years in prison. Logan and Poole were arguing in their apartment when he tried to pick her up and move her so he could leave the apartment. Poole then stabbed Logan in the chest, and admitted that he had not threatened her in any way prior to the stabbing. In 2020, police were called to the apartment because Poole was holding a knife and threatening to hurt herself and others. The couple were in the process of being evicted and were set to be removed from their home on January 4, the day after the stabbing.

Kyla Bianca O'Neal, 31, was shot and killed in her car outside an Amazon Fulfillment Center in Lakeville, where she worked, on January 8. Her ex-fiancé, Donte McCray, 32, who was in the vehicle with her and also worked at the Amazon facility, was convicted of second-degree murder in October 2023 and was sentenced to 47 years in prison. Kyla was nine months pregnant with Donte's child at the time of her death, and her son, Messiah O'Neal, died in the hospital on January 17. Kyla's mother stated that Kyla had ended her relationship with Donte hours before she was killed. Donte had previously threatened to kill Kyla if she had another man around his children. He threatened her and her family, telling her, "You all ain't bulletproof." Due to a previous felony conviction, McCray was prohibited to possess a firearm. Kyla O'Neal leaves behind three young children and her 9-day-old son Messiah.

Messiah O'Neal died on January 17, after he was taken off a ventilator at Hennepin County Medical Center. On January 8, Messiah's mother, Kyla O'Neal, 31, was shot and killed in a car outside her work. Kyla's ex-fiancé, and Messiah's father, Donte McCray, 32, was convicted of second-degree murder in October 2023 and was sentenced to 47 years in prison. Kyla was nine months pregnant with Messiah at the time she was killed and doctors were able to deliver him on January 8. Messiah remained in critical condition with no brain activity and the inability to breathe on his own until January 17.

KYLA BIANCA O'NEAL



Age 31
Lakeville
January 8, 2023

MESSIAH O'NEAL



Age 9 days
Lakeville
January 17, 2023

**MANUEL ERNESTO
BERNAL JURADO**



**Age 17
Chanhasen
February 2, 2023**

Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado, 17, was shot and killed in Chanhasen in the early morning hours of February 2. Manuel's girlfriend, Vanessa Sanchez Lopez, 19, was convicted of second-degree murder in March 2024 and was sentenced to 20 years in prison. On the night of February 1, Manuel was with Sanchez Lopez and two other friends on their way to another friend's house. Manuel and Sanchez Lopez had been arguing in her car on the way, and Sanchez Lopez was in possession of Manuel's firearm. One of the two friends in the vehicle said Manuel warned Sanchez Lopez that the gun was loaded before she pointed it at him and shot and killed him. Sanchez Lopez told police she was unaware the firearm was loaded.

**DEVON MICHAEL
ADAMS**



**Age 27
Fridley
March 9, 2023**

Devon Michael Adams, 27, was shot and killed in a Cub Foods parking lot in Fridley on March 9, 2023 at approximately 11:30 am. Johnson Kenny Sirleaf, 34, was found guilty of first-degree murder in June 2024 for shooting and killing Devon, and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. On the morning of March 9, 2023, Sirleaf forced his ex-girlfriend into her own vehicle at gunpoint. She was forced to lay down in the back seat where she was physically assaulted and was bleeding from the head. The perpetrator eventually drove into the Cub Foods parking lot, where Devon was sitting in his vehicle. Devon rushed over immediately, leaving his car door ajar after hearing a woman screaming. Witnesses then heard two men yelling at each other and then a gunshot. Devon died 30 minutes later just after arriving at the hospital. Devon will be remembered as a Hero for his actions to intervene.

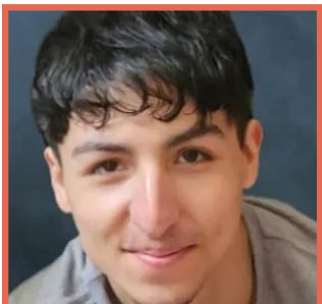
JENNIFER YANG



**Age 36
Andover
March 9, 2023**

Jennifer Yang, 36, was shot and killed by her partner, Fue Her, 40, in their Andover home on March 9. Her then killed himself afterward. Jennifer Yang leaves behind three young children under the age of 14.

**ADRIAN
MONTANO-
MEDINA**



**Age 20
Howard Lake
March 20, 2023**

Adrian Montano-Medina, 20, was shot and killed in the parking lot outside of his workplace in Howard Lake on March 20. Kevin Zelaya Asencio, 21, believed Adrian was in a relationship with Zelaya Asencio's wife. All three of them worked together. On the morning of March 20, Zelaya Asencio's wife told him she wanted to end their marriage before their workday began. Zelaya Asencio then drove home and returned to the workplace parking lot with an AR-15 and ammunition. At around noon, Zelaya Asencio's wife and Adrian got in a vehicle together for lunch in the parking lot. Zelaya Asencio got in the backseat of the vehicle behind Adrian and told him to "either leave the vehicle or drive away." When Adrian did not do this, Zelaya Asencio shot him three times in the head. Kevin Zelaya Asencio is charged with second-degree murder.

CORRINA DAWN WOODHULL



Age 41
St. Paul
March 21, 2023

Corrina Dawn Woodhull, 41, was stabbed and killed in St. Paul on March 21. Witnesses state Corrina was sitting on a couch with her ex-husband, Robert Castillo, 41, when he whispered something in her ear. After she shook her head, "no," Castillo pulled out a knife and stabbed her 10–20 times. Woodhull's family members, who were present, did not hear what Castillo whispered to Corrina, but they stopped the stabbing and subdued and held down Castillo until police arrived. While waiting for police, Corrina told one of the witnesses, "don't let me die." Paramedics provided aid to Corrina at her home, but she later died at Regions Hospital. Corrina and Castillo were still married, but no longer together, according to a family member. Castillo was on intensive supervised release for a 2014 conviction in which he assaulted his ex-girlfriend with a hammer. He also had two active warrants from the Department of Corrections: one for violating the conditions of his supervised release and one for failing to appear in court for a charge that he assaulted a corrections employee in 2020. Robert Castillo pled guilty to second-degree intentional murder in March 2024 after pleading not guilty in 2023. Corrina Dawn Hoodhull leaves behind 5 children.

MADELINE JANE KINGSBURY



Age 26
Winona
March 31, 2023

Madeline Jane Kingsbury, 26, was killed on or about March 31 in Winona. Her ex-boyfriend and the father of her two children, Adam Fravel, 29, is charged with two counts of second-degree murder. Madeline had been missing for nearly 70 days when her body was found on June 7, in Fillmore County. The couple had recently separated and were moving out of the home they lived in together. Two weeks prior to Madeline's disappearance, she told Fravel she had begun a new relationship with someone else. Fravel had a long history of abusing Madeline. Friends recall seeing Madeline with bruises on her face on numerous occasions. During a video call with a friend in 2020 or 2021, Madeline was holding one of her children and cooking dinner when Fravel was seen striking her in the face. Also in 2021, it was discovered that Fravel had strangled Madeline while their two children were present. Additionally, law enforcement received a tip that Fravel told Madeline that if she did not listen to him, "she would end up like Gabby Petito." During questioning, Fravel admitted to officers that he was "infatuated" with the case in which Gabby Petito was killed by her fiancé. A police investigation tracked Fravel's movements throughout the day of March 31, when Madeline went missing, and ultimately arrested and charged him after her remains were located. A knotted towel was wrapped around her head and neck when she was found, and a preliminary autopsy determined her death was a homicide due to homicidal violence. Madeline Jane Kingsbury leaves behind two young children.

Donshay Ina Hardy, 38, was shot and killed in her apartment in St. Paul on April 8. A warrant was out for the arrest of Donshay's husband, Eddie Webb, 43, for her murder. Police responded to a call after three young children ran screaming from the apartment to a neighbor to call 911. Two of the children were Donshay and Webb's, while the other was a relative. According to the children, Webb and Donshay argued on April 7, before Donshay told Webb she was going to call police unless he left. On the morning of April 8, Webb returned to Donshay's apartment where she was in the bathroom doing one of their children's hair. Webb told the child to leave, but the child saw a firearm in his pocket and told him, "No, I am not getting out because you are going to try and fight her." Webb then removed the child from the bathroom and locked the door with himself and Donshay inside. Donshay yelled, "Stop — don't do that," before the three children heard gunshots. When police arrived, Donshay was pronounced dead at the scene. On August 16, Eddie Webb was found dead from suicide. Due to previous felony convictions, Eddie Webb was prohibited to possess a firearm. Donshay Ina Hardy is survived by her two minor children.

DONSHAY INA HARDY



Age 38
St. Paul
April 8, 2023

JOSHUA ANTHONY OWEN



Age 44
Cyrus
April 15, 2023

Joshua Owen, 44, was shot and killed on April 15 in Cyrus. Josh, a Pope County Sheriff Deputy, responded to a domestic violence call at a Cyrus apartment with one other deputy and a Starbuck police officer. The officers were inside the apartment and informed the domestic violence suspect, Bryan Nygard, 34, that he was going to be arrested. Nygard then drew a firearm and began immediately shooting. The officers returned gunfire and killed Nygard. All three law enforcement officers were shot, and Josh died of his injuries at a nearby hospital. The other two officers received non-life threatening wounds. Joshua Owen is survived by his wife and minor son.

**MANIJEH "MANI"
NICOLE STARREN**



**Age 33
St. Paul
April 21, 2023**

Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren, 33, was killed on or around April 21 in St. Paul. Her boyfriend, Joseph Jorgenson, 40, was charged with second-degree murder on June 30. Family members reported Manijeh missing on May 1, and had last seen her on April 18. Manijeh's father told police that she was afraid of her boyfriend, who was later identified as Jorgenson. On the night of April 21, surveillance footage shows Manijeh running from her apartment before Jorgenson is seen catching up with her, turning her around, and shoving her back inside. She was not seen leaving the apartment again. A week later, Jorgenson was viewed entering and leaving the apartment 28 times, carrying duffel bags and suitcases. In May, Jorgenson's Maplewood apartment building received several complaints about a smell coming from the unit. That same month, police searched Manijeh's apartment and found broken items, a large hole removed from the bedroom mattress, and what appeared to be blood stains on the bed, and in the living room and kitchen. The blood was later identified as Manijeh's. On June 26, police obtained a warrant to arrest Jorgenson. When officers arrived, Jorgenson barricaded himself in his room and started a fire there. Jorgenson fought with officers as they tried to arrest him and he attempted to disarm and take one of the officer's firearms. He was arrested unharmed. During his arrest, there was a woman in Jorgenson's apartment with bruises on her face and red marks on her neck. She told law enforcement that Jorgenson had strangled and threatened to kill her. Manijeh's neighbors recalled seeing her with a black eye and red marks on her neck on at least one occasion. On June 28, a search of a storage unit rented out on May 5 to Jorgenson's roommate revealed Manijeh's remains in two coolers and a bag. It is believed that Jorgenson killed Manijeh in her apartment, dismembered her, moved her body to his apartment, and then to the storage unit. Jorgenson is also suspected in the 2021 disappearance of Fanta Xayavong, 33. One of Fanta's friends told police they believed Fanta was a victim of sex trafficking by Jorgenson. Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren is survived by her three young children.

Antonio Levar Moore, 37, was stabbed and killed in his sister's Brooklyn Center apartment on May 2. In October 2023 Demetrius Harris, 28, pled guilty to manslaughter for Antonio's death in a plea deal that led to the dropping of his second-degree murder charge. He was sentenced to 4 years in prison. Antonio's sister had previously been in a relationship with Harris, and the two had an infant child together. While at the apartment, Harris became angry with Antonio's sister because she received a call from another man. Harris then punched her twice in the face. Antonio's sister was able to lock Harris out of her apartment, but when he refused to leave she called Antonio to help. When Antonio arrived, he and Harris got into a fight after Antonio confronted Harris for hitting his sister. During this altercation, Harris stabbed Antonio. Antonio was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Antonio Levar Moore is survived by his two minor children.

**ANTONIO LEVAR
MOORE**



**Age 37
Brooklyn Center
May 2, 2023**

**DANIEL JOSEPH
ALDRIDGE**



**Age 47
Minneapolis
May 12, 2023**

Daniel Joseph Aldridge, 47, died due to acute methamphetamine intoxication in Minneapolis on May 12. Delwayne Center, 40, was charged with third-degree murder. In August 2024 he was sentenced to 364 days in the Hennepin County Jail. Daniel and Center initially met on a dating app and then agreed to meet at Center's Minneapolis apartment. At some point Daniel informed Center that he "lived in a sober house." The two engaged in activities that included bondage at Center's apartment. While Daniel was tied up, Center injected him with methamphetamine. Daniel attempted to free himself after this first injection, but Center kept him tied up. After a short period of time, Center injected Daniel with methamphetamine once more. Center told police Daniel had a "concerning reaction" to the second injection, and Center got angry with him because "he could not handle his drugs." Center then noticed Daniel pass out after making "gurgling" noises and vomiting. Center went to sleep after this and awoke the next morning to realize Daniel appeared dead. Delwayne Center was finally charged in connection with Daniel's death on December 28, 2023.

SABRINA LEE SCHNOOR



**Age 25
Owatonna
May 29, 2023**

Sabrina Lee Schnoor, 25, was shot and killed on May 29, under an I-35 overpass in Owatonna. Sabrina's ex-boyfriend, Jason Horner, 38, has been charged with second-degree murder and illegal possession of a firearm. Horner had physically abused Sabrina for years during their relationship and had threatened to kill her on at least one occasion. Sabrina had recently told a friend that she wanted to purchase a gun because, "Horner had a gun and she would feel safer with one." On the night of May 29, she met with Horner, despite her friends advising her not to go. One friend convinced her to install a GPS location tracking app so they would know where she was. When Sabrina's friends had not heard from her the following morning, they checked the app and followed it to the location where they found Sabrina's body under the overpass. Video surveillance showed Horner shoving Sabrina in the head and out of view under the overpass. Shortly afterward, he is the only one seen leaving the scene. The medical examiner revealed that prior to the shooting, Sabrina had suffered a skull fracture and a brain bleed. Horner has a history of intimate partner violence and was convicted of domestic assault of a different partner in 2017, and violating a harassment restraining order in 2018 that Sabrina had against him, for which he was incarcerated for a year. He also has at least five other domestic assault related charges. Sabrina Lee Schnoor leaves behind her young son.

James Craig Koutsky, 47, was shot and killed in Deer River in the early morning hours of June 9. In June 2024 Nigel Blackburn, 34, was convicted of second-degree murder and sentenced to 26 years in prison for killing James. On June 9, 2023 James was with Blackburn, and a woman who identified herself as previously being in a relationship with Blackburn. The woman also stated that James and Blackburn both had romantic interests in her. The three had dinner on the night of June 8, before James and the woman fell asleep on the couch in her living room. James was awoken by an angry Blackburn who told James to move from the couch. The two men began to argue, and Blackburn eventually pulled out a firearm and shot James. James tried to walk upstairs after the first shot while Blackburn continued to fire. The preliminary medical examination results revealed James was shot five to six times. The woman revealed to police that Blackburn purchased the firearm the same week he killed James, but authorities were unable to locate the firearm. Later on the night of June 9, police were called to Blackburn's Wright County home on a report that he was having a mental health episode. While officers initially cleared the scene, they were called hours later, on the morning of June 10, on reports that Blackburn was holding a kitchen knife and making suicidal statements. He was later transported to a mental health facility. James Craig Koutsky leaves behind one son.

JAMES CRAIG KOUTSKY



**Age 47
Deer River
June 9, 2023**

Angela Marie McClelland, 49, was killed on June 25 in Fort Ripley Township. In February 2024 Tony McClelland, 47, Angela's husband, pled guilty to one count of criminal vehicular homicide in exchange for one count of second-degree murder, one count of first-degree manslaughter and a second count of criminal vehicular homicide to be dismissed. As part of a plea deal he received 4 years for killing Angela. Police were called on the morning of June 25, about a woman lying unresponsive on the side of a road in Crow Wing County. She was identified as Angela Marie McClelland, who had been reported missing by her daughter. Angela was found with significant trauma to her skull and abrasions on her body that were consistent with being struck by a vehicle. Angela and Tony had attended a birthday the day before, and had gotten into an argument afterward while driving home. While Tony claimed he was too drunk to remember what happened, DNA revealed blood on the front of his vehicle belonged to Angela, as well as forensic evidence that showed he was driving on the road where she was found. Angela Marie McClelland is survived by her six children.

ANGELA MARIE MCCLELLAND



**Age 49
Fort Ripley
Township
June 25, 2023**

**VICKIE MARIE
(SOLMONSON)
O'BRIEN**



Age 63

**Sylvan Township
June 29, 2023**

Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien, 63, was shot and killed by her husband, Terrance O'Brien, 64, on June 26 in their home in Sylvan Township. Police were called to their home to conduct a welfare check after family had not heard from either of them. On arrival, officers found Terrance dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound and Vickie dead from a gunshot wound that was ruled homicide. Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien is survived by her two daughters and grandchild.

YOUA VUE KHANG



Age 58

**Brooklyn Center
July 3, 2023**

Youa Vue Khang, 58, was shot and killed by her husband, Tou Pao Khang, 68, on July 3. Youa and Tou had been arguing inside a store in a shopping center in Brooklyn Center, witnesses told police. While in the parking lot, Tou opened the door to let Youa in their vehicle before shooting and killing her. He then killed himself. Youa Vue Khang leaves behind several children.

**WILLIAM LAMONT
HUDSON**



Age 40

**Minneapolis
July 5, 2023**

William Lamont Hudson, 40, was shot and killed in Minneapolis on July 5. Ryan Taylor, 41, is charged with two counts of second-degree murder. Taylor had previously been in a relationship with a woman that William was now dating. After Taylor and the woman attended a July 4 barbeque, she then met up with William. At around midnight, William and his girlfriend were walking near her apartment building when Taylor confronted them. The woman told Taylor she was going to call the police before he pulled out a firearm and shot William in the stomach. Taylor told police that he killed William because he believed his ex-girlfriend had "toyed with him." William Lamont Hudson leaves behind one son.

**DANICKA MARIE
BERGESON**



Age 33

**Hopkins
July 8, 2023**

Danicka Marie Bergeson, 33, was found dead in her Hopkins apartment on July 8. Her boyfriend, Matthew Brenneman, 40, pled guilty to second-degree murder in July 2024 for killing her, in exchange for a prison sentence of 23.75 years, handed down in August 2024. Brenneman was charged with assaulting Danicka in April and May of 2023. In April, he struck and bit her, according to court documents, and in May, he struck, bit, strangled, and threatened to kill her. As a result of one of these assaults, Danicka's father said she received 17 stitches in her arm as well as sutures in the back of her head. In late June 2023, as a part of a plea deal for the April and May 2023 charges, Brenneman was released from jail until his August 2023 sentencing. Just 11 days later, Danicka Marie Bergeson was found dead in her apartment. When police found Danicka's body, Brenneman was also in her apartment and had ingested a poisonous chemical in a suicide attempt. He was briefly taken to a hospital before being transported to the Hennepin County jail. Additionally, in 2021, a different woman sought an OFP against Brenneman for abuse.

DARISHA TELA BAILEY VATH



**Age 17
Forest Lake
July 16, 2023**

Darisha Tela Bailey Vath, 17, was killed in Forest Lake on July 16. In April 2024 Dylan Simmons, 20, pled not guilty to second-degree murder with intent for running over Darisha with a car. During the early morning hours of July 16, a fight occurred between two groups of teens and young adults at a park in Forest Lake. According to Darisha's family and friends, Simmons was in a vehicle with Darisha's ex-boyfriend. As the fight was deescalating, Simmons intentionally drove his car into a group of people, striking Darisha and running her over. Friends and family say Darisha's death was premeditated and caused by "her ex-boyfriend and his friend's actions." Darisha's ex-boyfriend Ryan Anderson, 17, has not been charged for her death. In 2023, he was charged with criminal sexual conduct for sexual assault and attempted rape of a 16-year-old girl, and Darisha's loved ones state he sexually assaulted her as well. Simmons has an extensive history of violence against at least one previous partner, including while she was pregnant.

JEAN HARRIETTE MART



**Age 77
Perham
July 16, 2023**

Jean Harriette Mart, 77, was killed in her Perham home on July 16. Jean's husband, Paul Mart, 79, was charged with second-degree murder. On July 17, police were informed by a third-party that Paul had killed Jean and he said if, "any officers show up, he will shoot at them, and they will have to kill him," Paul also said he considered suicide by cop, and he claimed to have taken a bottle of opiates. After a standoff involving Paul and SWAT teams, he eventually surrendered and was taken into custody. A provisional autopsy report revealed Jean Harriette Mart's cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and a gunshot wound to the head. Paul died by suicide in October 2023 and the murder charge against him was dismissed.

SARAH KATHRYN PATRICK



**Age 30
Minneapolis
August 3, 2023**

Sarah Kathryn Patrick, 30, was shot and killed on August 3 in Minneapolis by Adam Erickson, 38, who also killed himself. Prior to her death, Sarah Patrick had reported to her close friends that she wanted to focus on her recovery and disentangle herself from the unhealthy relationship with Adam, but that she was scared Adam didn't want the same thing. Adam was acting erratically in the month leading up to the homicide, using excessive amounts of cocaine and alcohol, recklessly carrying his gun, and exhibiting behaviors that were emotionally, psychologically, and financially abusive. Sarah's friends report that Adam had a history of physical abuse, both towards Sarah and another recent partner. The night before she was murdered, a friend called Sarah. Adam answered her phone, agitated and paranoid that it was another man. When Sarah retrieved the phone, she sounded otherwise normal and confirmed that she was going to come over the next evening after work to watch a movie and house sit over the weekend. Early the next morning, Adam killed Sarah and himself. Sarah is loved and grieved by both of her parents, her younger sister, and a community of friends.

BETTY JO BOWMAN



**Age 32
Rochester
August 20, 2023**

Betty Jo Bowman, 32, died on August 20 in Rochester. Betty was admitted to the hospital on August 16, for diarrhea and dehydration. Her condition worsened until she died four days later. While it was initially believed Betty died from a sudden onset autoimmune and infectious illness, a medical examiner concluded she was possibly poisoned and notified police. After a months-long investigation, Betty's husband, Connor Bowman, 31, was arrested for her death. It is alleged that Connor gave his wife medication for ailments she did not have, causing her death by poisoning. Connor is a doctor and previously worked for the Kansas Poison Control Center. As of May 2024, Connor Bowman was facing charges of first- and second-degree murder.

MARY AGNES CORNELIUSEN



**Age 66
Warroad
August 28, 2023**

Mary Agnes Corneliusen, 66, was shot and killed in her Warroad home on August 28. In July 2024 her husband David Corneliusen, 64, pled not guilty to second-degree intentional murder in her death. After killing Mary, David called the police and admitted to shooting and killing her following a verbal argument. Mary Agnes Corneliusen leaves behind several children.

MELANIE MICHELE JANSEN & HANNAH NICOLE PARMENTER



**Ages 54 & 29
Breezy Point
September 5, 2023**

Melanie Michele Jansen, 54, and her daughter, Hannah Nicole Parmenter, 29, were shot and killed by Melanie's partner, Michael Toner, 59, at a resort timeshare in Breezy Point on September 5. Melanie's son, and Hannah's brother, arrived to the resort with his wife to meet his mother and sister. When no one answered the door to the resort timeshare, Melanie's son looked through the window and saw blood and two bodies. Police confirmed Toner shot Melanie and Hannah multiple times before killing himself. Melanie leaves behind one son, Hannah's brother.

SARAH JANE CARDA



**Age 35
Fish Lake Township
October 6, 2023**

Sarah Jane Carda, 35, was shot and killed on October 6, in her Fish Lake Township home. Her husband, Mike Carda, 39, is charged with second-degree murder; attempted second-degree murder; and second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon. Sarah's mother called 911 when she heard Sarah and Mike arguing inside their home. When police arrived, they were informed the home was flagged for "having a large number of weapons." The responding officer knocked on the door and heard a woman say, "he has a gun," before hearing multiple gun shots. Police drone footage revealed Sarah's dead body inside the home, while Mike refused to leave. After a standoff with police, Mike was eventually removed from the home unharmed. Mike had a pending domestic assault charge against Sarah and a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) was in place against him.

JIANQIN ZHANG



**Age 53
Eagan
October 12, 2023**

Jianqin Zhang, 53, was strangled and killed in Eagan on October 12. Philip Wong, 25, is charged with second-degree murder and first-degree manslaughter. Wong allegedly met Jianqin at an Eagan hotel to purchase sex. When the "organization" Jianqin worked for was unable to contact her they reached out to one of her friends. The friend contacted the hotel and a staff member found Jianqin dead in her room. Police learned from the friend that Wong was Jianqin's last client. Wong told police he met Jianqin at the hotel, paid for sex, and claimed afterward he showered and left. He said he received a call from the "organization" later that night saying Jianqin was dead, but he believed they were trying to scam him. However, one of Wong's roommates relayed to police that Wong told her he "choked out" Jianqin and he claimed Jianqin tried to blackmail him. He also alleged Jianqin was still breathing when he left the hotel room. When questioned by police, he denied this version of events. The medical examiner found hemorrhaging on Jianqin Zhang's neck and other marks consistent with strangulation.

KAYLA ROSE HULSEY



Age 35
Ridgely Township
October 26, 2023

Kayla Rose Hulsey, 35, was strangled and killed on October 26, in Ridgely Township. Kayla's boyfriend, Casey Narvaez, 39, pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter in an April 2024 plea agreement that resulted in a 6.5 year term for strangling Kayla. Police were called to a boat landing in Nicollet County and found Narvaez standing outside a car with a cable ties around his neck. Kayla was found dead in the vehicle, also with cable ties around her neck. A dryer vent tube was found attached to the car's exhaust pipe. During questioning, Narvaez initially said he fell asleep in his apartment with Kayla on October 25, and the next thing he remembered was waking up at the boat landing, unable to breathe and with something around his neck. When law enforcement challenged his story, Narvaez alleged that he and Kayla made a "suicide agreement." He claimed they first tried carbon monoxide poisoning, but it did not work, so they then made ligatures out of cable ties. Narvaez admitted to putting one of the ligatures around Kayla's neck and tightening it because he "wanted to help her die." Narvaez has a previous felony conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm in 2015, and another in 2014 for failure to register as a predatory offender. Kayla Rose Hulsey is survived by her five children.

JUSTIN CAPRI BOYLAND



Age 28
Prior Lake
October 28, 2023

Justin Capri Boyland, 28, was shot on October 26 in Prior Lake and died two days later. Tyler Schlotfeldt-Gidney, 28, is charged with second-degree murder. Justin was dating Schlotfeldt-Gidney's ex-girlfriend. Schlotfeldt-Gidney asked his ex to meet at a park about their three-year-old daughter. His ex/Justin's girlfriend asked Justin to accompany her because Schlotfeldt-Gidney was physically abusive. Schlotfeldt-Gidney shot Justin immediately after Justin exited his vehicle. A security guard witnessed Schlotfeldt-Gidney tuck a firearm into his waistband and flee the incident in his vehicle before he was arrested the following day. Due to a previous felony conviction, Tyler Schlotfeldt-Gidney was prohibited to possess a firearm. Justin Capri Boyland leaves behind a 3-month-old daughter with his girlfriend.

SHAQITA MONIQUE THOMAS



Age 39
St. Paul
November 17, 2023

Shaqita Monique Thomas, 39, was strangled and killed on November 17, in her St. Paul apartment. Her boyfriend, Kelvin M. Perry, 54, is charged with second-degree murder for her killing. Shaqita's body was found in her apartment under an air mattress. There were visible signs of trauma to her head and a broken wine bottle and glass shards were located near her body. Perry was allegedly angry with Shaqita because she had recently spent the night at the emergency room for her son's asthma with her estranged husband. The husband "feared for her well-being because he has heard her boyfriend yelling at her on multiple occasions." When he had not heard from her in a few days, he requested a welfare check, where she was found dead. One of Perry's ex-girlfriends said he "is a very violent, jealous person." In the days following Shaqita's death, Perry admitted to family and friends that he strangled her. On the same day he killed Shaqita, Perry stepped in front of and was struck by a light rail train in St. Paul in an attempted suicide. He was hospitalized and there have been no updates about his condition as of September 2024. Perry is originally from Chicago, and has a "significant arrest history" there. Shaqita Monique Thomas leaves behind at least one son.

RICARDO SAMUEL PENA MARTINEZ



**Age 31
Minneapolis
November 20, 2023**

Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez, 31, was shot and killed in a Minneapolis parking lot on November 20. Orky Xayachack, 37, is charged with second-degree murder. Ricardo was married for many years but had periods of separation from his wife throughout that time. During one of these separations, Ricardo's wife began a relationship with Xayachack. However, Ricardo's wife ended the relationship with Xayachack after reconciling with Ricardo. After she broke up with Xayachack, he sent her and Ricardo text messages threatening to kill them both. Following Ricardo's death, Xayachack sent Ricardo's wife a text saying he "f---d up Martinez." Xayachack is prohibited to possess a firearm due to a previous felony conviction for terroristic threats. Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez leaves behind four young children.

Savannah Ryan Williams, 38, was shot and killed on November 29 in Minneapolis. Damarean Bible, 25, was convicted of second-degree murder in August 2024 and was sentenced to more than 30 years in prison. Bible encountered Savannah at a bus shelter on Lake Street, and the two allegedly went to a nearby courtyard to have sex. Bible told police he became "suspicious" of Savannah during the alleged sex act and afterward shot her and left her body on the sidewalk. During a recorded phone call to his parents, Bible said he "had to do it." The firearm Bible used to kill Savannah was found in his apartment with no serial number.

SAVANNAH RYAN WILLIAMS



**Age 38
Minneapolis
November 29, 2023**

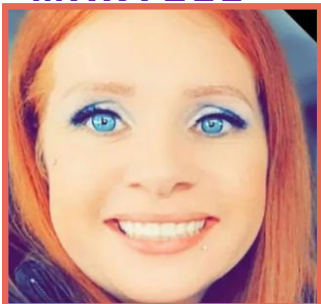
KESHA LATRICE MOORE



**Age 43
Minneapolis
December 17, 2023**

Kesha Latrice Moore, 43, was shot and killed in her Minneapolis apartment on December 17. Johnny Leroy Brown, 50, Kesha's boyfriend, is charged with three counts of murder and a third count for possessing a firearm as an ineligible person. Law enforcement were called to Kesha's apartment on a report of a shooting. After officers did not receive a response, they forced their way inside and found Kesha dead from a gunshot wound. Federally, Brown was sentenced in February 2007 for illegal weapons possession and then again in May 2015 for escaping from custody while serving time for the weapons offense. Brown has been prohibited from possessing guns or ammunition since 2001 when he was convicted of second-degree assault. Six orders for protection and restraining orders have been issued against Brown between 2001 and 2021 from multiple women, and he has a history of multiple domestic assault charges. Kesha had asked him to move out of their shared apartment shortly before he killed her.

MEREDITH MARIE MARTELL



**Age 35
Marshall
December 17, 2023**

Meredith Marie Martell, 35, was stabbed and killed at her home in Marshall on December 17. Police were called to the residence on a report of a domestic disturbance. Upon arrival, officers witnessed Jamel Hill Moore, 41, Meredith's partner, stabbing her. Police first tased Moore, then shot and killed him. Meredith was airlifted to a hospital where she later passed away. In January 2023 Hill Moore was charged with felony domestic assault in Lyon County, and in February he was charged with felony counts of domestic assault and violation of a no-contact order in Hennepin County. In both cases, Meredith was the victim. Hill Moore has an extensive history of documented physical and sexual violence against past partners as well. Meredith Marie Martell leaves behind by six children; five minors, and one adult. Several of her children witnessed her murder and the police killing of Hill Moore.

FRANCLIN IGNACIO ORELLANA



Age 44
Minneapolis
December 18, 2023

Franclin Ignacio Orellana, 44, was shot on December 16, and later died on December 18, in Minneapolis. On the night of the 16th, Franclin was at a bar with friends. One of Franclin's friends was dancing with a woman who Juan Josue Canario Robles, 21, identified as his girlfriend. The girlfriend told Robles that Franclin's friend was making her uncomfortable on the dancefloor. The friend said Robles then punched him in the face and followed him and Franclin outside. The friend claims Robles pointed a gun at him while making threats. The two then began to fight before Robles got in his vehicle with his girlfriend. Once inside the vehicle, Robles and his girlfriend say they heard banging on the car. The woman says she pulled her firearm out of the car's glove box before Robles took the gun and fired outside, striking and killing Franclin. Franclin Ignacio Orellana leaves behind four children.

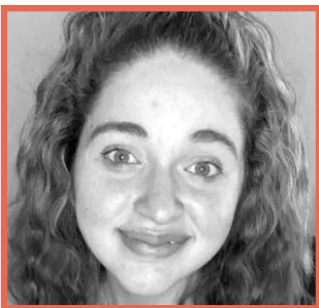
JAYDEN LEE KLINE



Age 18
Fridley
December 21, 2023

Jayden Lee Kline, 18, was shot and killed outside her Fridley home on December 21. Later that month Jayden's ex-boyfriend, Fenan Abdurezak Uso, now 18 but then 17, was charged with second-degree murder as a juvenile. His charge has since been updated to first-degree murder as of July 2024. Jayden and Uso had returned from the mall when neighbors heard a gunshot. Jayden's body was then seen rolling out of the passenger side door before Uso's van drove away. Uso was arrested later that day and admitted to shooting Jayden and drove away quickly because "he realized he did something dumb." He also told police he purchased the firearm on December 20, the day before he killed Jayden. Authorities found the serial number matched a stolen firearm from Marshalltown, Iowa.

KAYLA MARIE WATTS



Age 29
Dassel
December 28, 2023

Kayla Marie Watts, 29, was shot and killed in her Dassel home on December 28. Kayla's husband, Bryan Demarais, 35, is charged with one count of second-degree murder and two counts of child endangerment. Bryan called 911 to report a murder and later admitted to law enforcement that he shot Kayla multiple times in the head. He and Kayla had gotten into an argument about finances and perceived infidelity on the morning of December 28. Prior to shooting Kayla, Bryan told the couple's two young children that he and Kayla were getting a divorce and blamed it on her. He then went into work and was sent home by his employer. Upon returning home, the children were playing video games in a bedroom when they heard multiple gunshots. One of the children told police she heard Kayla yell, "Call 9-1-1!" before Bryan said, "Close the door....Don't call 9-1-1. I will call 9-1-1." The other child witnessed Kayla falling to the floor after hearing a gunshot. A bullet hole was found in one of the children's bedroom walls. Kayla is survived by her children, ages 8 and 11.

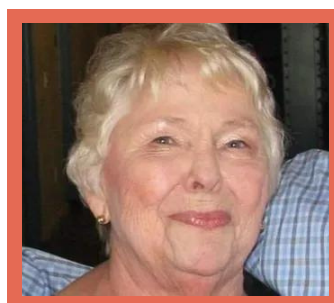
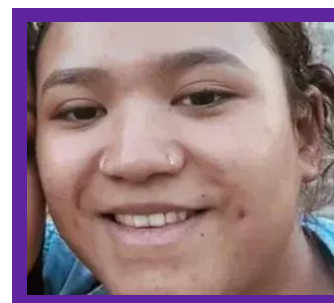
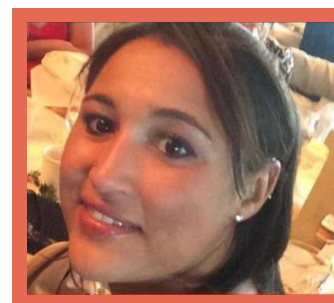
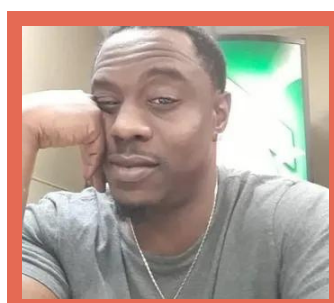
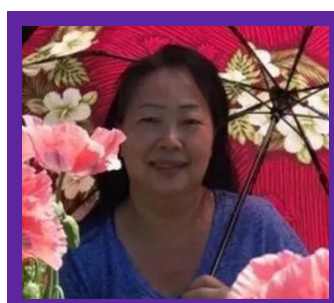
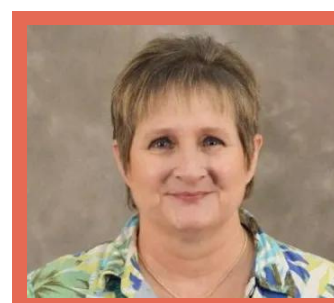
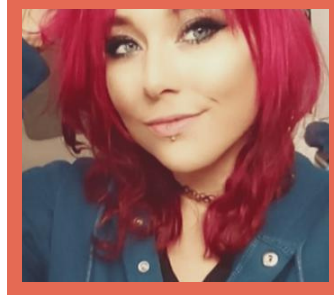
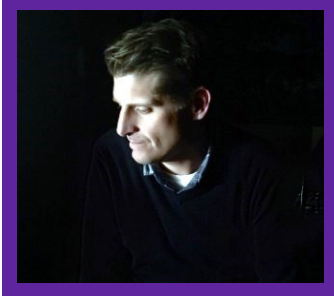
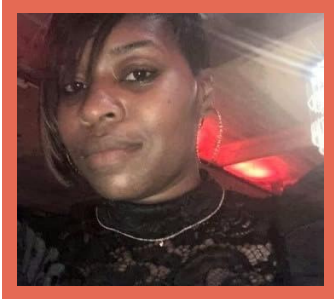
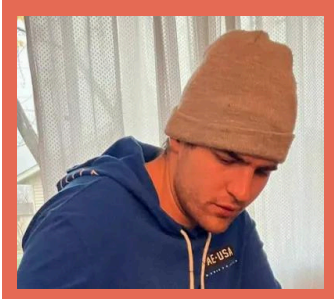
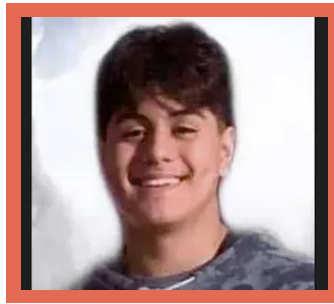
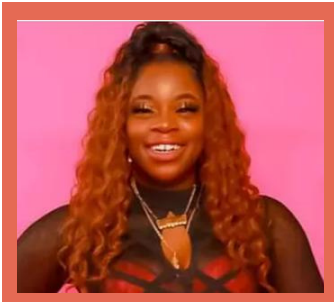
WE REMEMBER

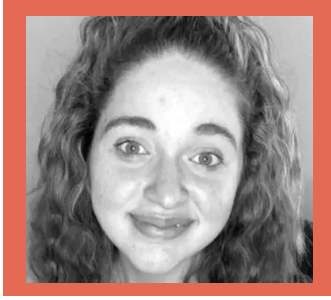
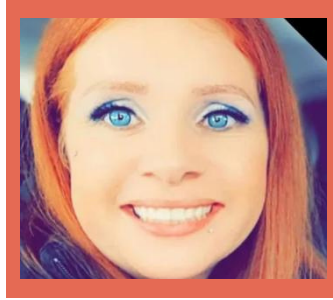
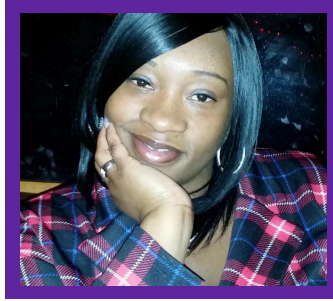
- January 3, 2023: Logan Gregory Barham, 22, died as a result of stabbing in St. Louis Park
- January 8, 2023: Kyla Bianca O'Neal, 31, died as a result of gunshot in Lakeville
- January 17, 2023: Messiah O'Neal, 9 days, died as a result of complications of firearm-related maternal death in Lakeville
- February 2, 2023: Manuel Ernesto Bernal Jurado, 17, died as a result of gunshot in Chanhassen
- March 9, 2023: Devon Michael Adams, 27, died as a result of gunshot in Fridley
- March 9, 2023: Jennifer Yang, 36, died as a result of gunshot in Andover
- March 20, 2023: Adrian Montano-Medina, 20, died as a result of gunshot in Howard Lake
- March 21, 2023: Corrina Dawn Woodhull, 41, died as a result of stabbing in St. Paul
- March 31, 2023: Madeline Jane Kingsbury, 26, died as a result of an unknown form of homicidal violence in Winona
- April 8, 2023: Donshay Ina Hardy, 38, died as a result of gunshot in St. Paul
- April 15, 2023: Joshua Anthony Owen, 44, died as a result of gunshot in Cyrus
- April 21, 2023: Manijeh "Mani" Nicole Starren, 33, died as a result of an unknown form of homicidal violence in St. Paul
- May 2, 2023: Antonio Levar Moore, 37, died as a result of stabbing in Brooklyn Center
- May 12, 2023: Daniel Joseph Aldridge, 47, died as a result of forced acute methamphetamine intoxication in Minneapolis
- May 29, 2023: Sabrina Lee Schnoor, 25, died as a result of gunshot in Owatonna
- June 9, 2023: James Craig Koutsky, 47, died as a result of gunshot in Deer River
- June 25, 2023: Angela Marie McClelland, 49, died as a result of vehicular homicide in Fort Ripley Township
- June 29, 2023: Vickie Marie (Solmonson) O'Brien, 63, died as a result of gunshot in Sylvan Township
- July 3, 2023: Youa Vue Khang, 58, died as a result of gunshot in Brooklyn Center
- July 5, 2023: William Lamont Hudson, 40, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- July 8, 2023: Danicka Marie Bergeson, 33, died as a result of an unknown form of homicidal violence in Hopkins
- July 16, 2023: Darisha Tela Bailey Vath, 17, died as a result of vehicular homicide in Forest Lake
- July 16, 2023: Jean Harriette Mart, 77, died as a result of blunt force trauma and gunshot in Perham

WE REMEMBER

- August 3, 2023: Sarah Kathryn Patrick, 30, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- August 20, 2023: Betty Jo Bowman, 32, died as a result of poisoning in Rochester
- August 28, 2023: Mary Agnes Corneliusen, 66, died as a result of gunshot in Warroad
- September 5, 2023: Melanie Michele Jansen, 54, died as a result of gunshot in Breezy Point
- September 5, 2023: Hannah Nicole Parmenter, 29, died as a result of gunshot in Breezy Point
- October 6, 2023: Sarah Jane Carda, 35, died as a result of gunshot in Fish Lake Township
- October 12, 2023: Jianqin Zhang, 53, died as a result of strangulation in Eagan
- October 26, 2023: Kayla Rose Hulseley, 35, died as a result of strangulation in Ridgely Township
- October 28, 2023: Justin Capri Boyland, 28, died as a result of gunshot in Prior Lake
- November 17, 2023: Shaqita Monique Thomas, 39, died as a result of strangulation in St. Paul
- November 20, 2023: Ricardo Samuel Pena Martinez, 31, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- November 29, 2023: Savannah Ryan Williams, 38, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- December 17, 2023: Kesha Latrice Moore, 43, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- December 17, 2023: Meredith Marie Martell, 35, died as a result of stabbing in Marshall
- December 18, 2023: Franclin Ignacio Orellana, 44, died as a result of gunshot in Minneapolis
- December 21, 2023: Jayden Lee Kline, 18, died as a result of gunshot in Fridley
- December 28, 2023: Kayla Marie Watts, 29, died as a result of gunshot in Dassel

To all 40 confirmed victims of intimate partner and domestic violence-related homicide in Minnesota in 2023: you are deeply missed, incredibly loved, and fondly remembered.





2023

REPORT METHODS

EXPLANATION OF DATA

For over 30 years, Violence Free Minnesota has produced annual documentation on intimate partner homicides. The information contained within 30+ years of reports can be overwhelming in terms of the sheer number of individual deaths that are recorded. However, the reports do not reveal the enormous number of people impacted by those deaths, nor do the reports reflect the hundreds of thousands of individuals who, across these years, have experienced domestic violence and survived.

REPORT MEASURES

In 1989, Violence Free Minnesota—then known as the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women—began collecting the names of women killed by domestic violence. The report has always recorded the deaths of women killed by current or former boyfriends and husbands. Over time, the report has expanded to include anyone killed due to domestic violence between current or former intimate partners. This includes homicides between lesbian, gay, bisexual, and/or transgender current and former intimate partners, as well as cases of men killed by their current and former intimate partners. The report also documents the deaths of other family members, friends, neighbors, interveners, and bystanders who are killed due to domestic violence between current or former intimate partners.

Since 1993, the report has included individuals killed while engaging in sex work or being sexually exploited. These deaths are included because Violence Free Minnesota recognizes people engaging in sex work face violence due to stigma and that sexual exploitation is a system of violence against women and children. These numbers were tracked separately for a number of years but are now included in the general count.

CURRENT INCLUSION CRITERIA

- The homicide victim and perpetrator were current or former intimate partners, including dating partners; or
- The homicide victim was someone present during, or who intervened in, an intimate partner violence incident, including friends, family members, new intimate partners, law enforcement officers or other professionals attempting to assist a victim of intimate partner violence; or
- Children who are killed by a parent's current or former intimate partner where there is sufficient public information that the perpetrator killed the child as an act of abuse against the parent; or
- The perpetrator killed the homicide victim due to perceived or actual rejection of romantic interest; or
- Homicides of sex workers; or
- Homicides of victims of sex trafficking and sexual exploitation

AND

- **If the homicide happened in Minnesota, if the body of the victim was found in Minnesota, or if the body was found in a nearby state but the circumstances surrounding the homicide began in Minnesota.**

We do not include cases where victims of domestic violence have killed an abusive partner in retaliation or self-defense. To make this determination, we examine each case individually, and consider the history of abuse, circumstances of the homicide, and information from family members and friends.

REPORT METHODS

NEW INCLUSION CRITERION: SUSPICIOUS DEATHS

This is a new criterion added ahead of the release of this *2023 Intimate Partner Homicide Report*. The inclusion of this new criterion stems from the 2024 homicide of a Native woman in Minnesota that was believed to have been connected to domestic violence, but which has not been confirmed by law enforcement or the medical examiner. Additionally, in May 2024, the California State Senate unanimously passed the first suspicious deaths statute in the country with the intention of more accurately addressing the suspicious deaths of victims who have a history of experiencing domestic violence. The goal of this statute is to advocate for complete, thorough investigations so those who have lost a loved one with a history of domestic violence can find justice and reduce “hidden homicide” cases both in California and across the country. Similarly, Violence Free Minnesota aims to incorporate the following criterion into our practice to become better advocates for victims of intimate partner violence.

The suspicious deaths criterion includes deaths which are likely strongly connected to domestic violence as the sole or primary contributing factor, but for which the circumstances are unconfirmed.

- Reasons for these unconfirmed circumstances may include a medical examiner’s inability to determine the cause of death, lack of media coverage on the death, substantial lack of progress in a death investigation, the person’s body is missing, the abuser has staged the death to appear as a suicide or accident, etc.

The following are factors we will consider in our examination and inclusion of suspicious death cases. Any one factor on its own will not automatically result in the inclusion of a death under this criterion; rather, careful attention to multiple factors in combination will be considered.

- The decedent’s partner had a documented history of domestic violence against them
- The decedent’s partner claims the death was suicide or an accident and this claim does not match the crime scene or investigators’ knowledge
- The decedent experienced an untimely or premature death
- The decedent had previously reported that their partner had threatened to kill them
- The decedent’s partner had previously made comments to the friends, family, or loved ones of the decedent suggesting they had planned some sort of violence against the decedent
- The decedent had previously told friends or family they wanted to leave or were planning to leave their relationship with their partner
- The decedent was found in their partner’s residence that was not their shared residence
- The decedent’s cause of death was determined to be strangulation or suffocation

The suspicious deaths criterion is intended to expand public understanding of the impacts of domestic violence in the state and factors that may contribute to a lack of clarity or care around certain deaths, such as:

- Racism and bias in medical determinations of a victim’s cause of death
- Racism and bias in law enforcement investigations, such as dismissal, ignorance of, and neglect to investigate or show similar levels of care about cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women, Black women, transgender and gender non-conforming individuals, etc.
- Abusers’ attempts to conceal homicides
- Lack of legislative investment in funding and resourcing agencies in the state that examine and/or document deaths due to domestic violence

These deaths will be recognized in the *Homicide Report* but not in the total victim count until or if sufficient information arises that confirms the deaths were a direct result of domestic violence. If a suspicious death is confirmed to be a result of domestic violence after that year’s report is released, the victim will be retroactively included in the total victim count. **We will carefully examine potential suspicious deaths on a case-by-case basis and will make every effort to sensitively and appropriately share information about these deaths while still maintaining the privacy of the alleged perpetrator to the best of our ability. Additionally, this criterion will likely continue to evolve over time and be continually refined. Violence Free Minnesota also recognizes that we will not be able to capture every possible suspicious death that is the likely result of domestic violence.**

REPORT METHODS

WHAT THE REPORT DOES NOT MEASURE

The definition of domestic abuse in Minnesota law is broader than the definition that we use for this report. The legal definition of domestic abuse is physical violence or threats of physical violence between a family or household member. This includes violence between any family members or household members, for example: adult child to parent, between cousins, roommates who have no intimate relationship, uncles who kill nieces, and parents who kill children. The Homicide Report focuses on one subsection of that broader definition of domestic abuse: Violence Free Minnesota specifically looks at those killed by current or former intimate partners or as a result of domestic violence between current or former intimate partners.

Why do we limit our definition? While all of these homicides are tragic and there are many similarities, Violence Free Minnesota has expertise in intimate partner abuse. We hope that by limiting this report to the intimate partner definition and looking at those deaths in light of the research that has been done about lethality and risk factors for that specific population, we may find information to help improve our work to end domestic violence.

Violence Free Minnesota also only measures those killed in Minnesota. Sometimes a person from Minnesota is temporarily residing in another state and is killed while living there. That person would not be included in our count. Conversely, someone from Illinois or Wisconsin or New Jersey may be visiting Minnesota and be killed by their intimate partner while in Minnesota. We do include that homicide in our count. The reason we make this distinction is twofold. First, we do not have the capacity to monitor the homicides that occur in other states. Second, we gather the Intimate Partner Homicide Report information in part to illuminate systemic gaps experienced by victims in Minnesota and create potential policy and/or service solutions. In recent years, we have also included cases where the victim's body is found in Minnesota or when we have reason to believe the homicide occurred in Minnesota, even if the body was found in a different state.

WHAT WON'T APPEAR IN THIS REPORT

What you will NOT see recommended in this report is a demand for harsher criminal penalties for domestic abuse crimes.

Violence Free Minnesota does not believe the answer to ending intimate partner homicide lies in the creation of new crimes or the enhancement of criminal penalties. Our decades-long investment in the criminal legal system, often perceived as the primary and best response to domestic violence, has not resulted in the clear diminishment of intimate partner homicides over time or a straightforward reduction in domestic violence in our communities.

Relationship abuse is alive and well in Minnesota. Violence Free Minnesota's 90+ member programs across the state reported higher rates and more severe forms of violence since the beginning of the pandemic.

There is still much work to do across the state in improving our criminal legal system's response to domestic violence—from improving how victim/survivors are treated at every point in our systems to ensuring consistency and equitable application of our laws across the state and across populations. We are committed to improving these systems for victims/survivors who find themselves navigating those systems and you will find some concrete recommendations for how to do so in this report.

However, there is so much more to be done to end relationship abuse and intimate partner homicides outside of the criminal legal system, as relationship abuse is a social issue and a public health issue. Critical work to change the landscape in Minnesota through prevention efforts and transforming the behavior of those who abuse remain massively un- and under-funded.

REPORT METHODS

WHAT WON'T APPEAR IN THIS REPORT (CONTINUED)

The development of community-based responses to relationship abuse that can assist victim/survivors without the potential collateral consequences of criminal legal system involvement remain undeveloped and too easily dismissed when our reports show that, on average, approximately 30% of homicide victims in our reports never had any interaction with the criminal legal system for the abuse they experienced. Lack of affordable housing and economic insecurity—the biggest barriers to safety, according to victims themselves—are rampant for our state's most vulnerable and marginalized victim/survivors.

Harsher penalties for convicted domestic abusers have and will not solve these issues for victims/survivors in Minnesota. We must invest in prevention efforts. We must support the development of community-based alternatives for victims/survivors who want them. We must increase access to financial stability and safe, affordable housing. In doing these things, we increase safety for victims/survivors of relationship abuse, and we work to prevent domestic violence homicides from happening.

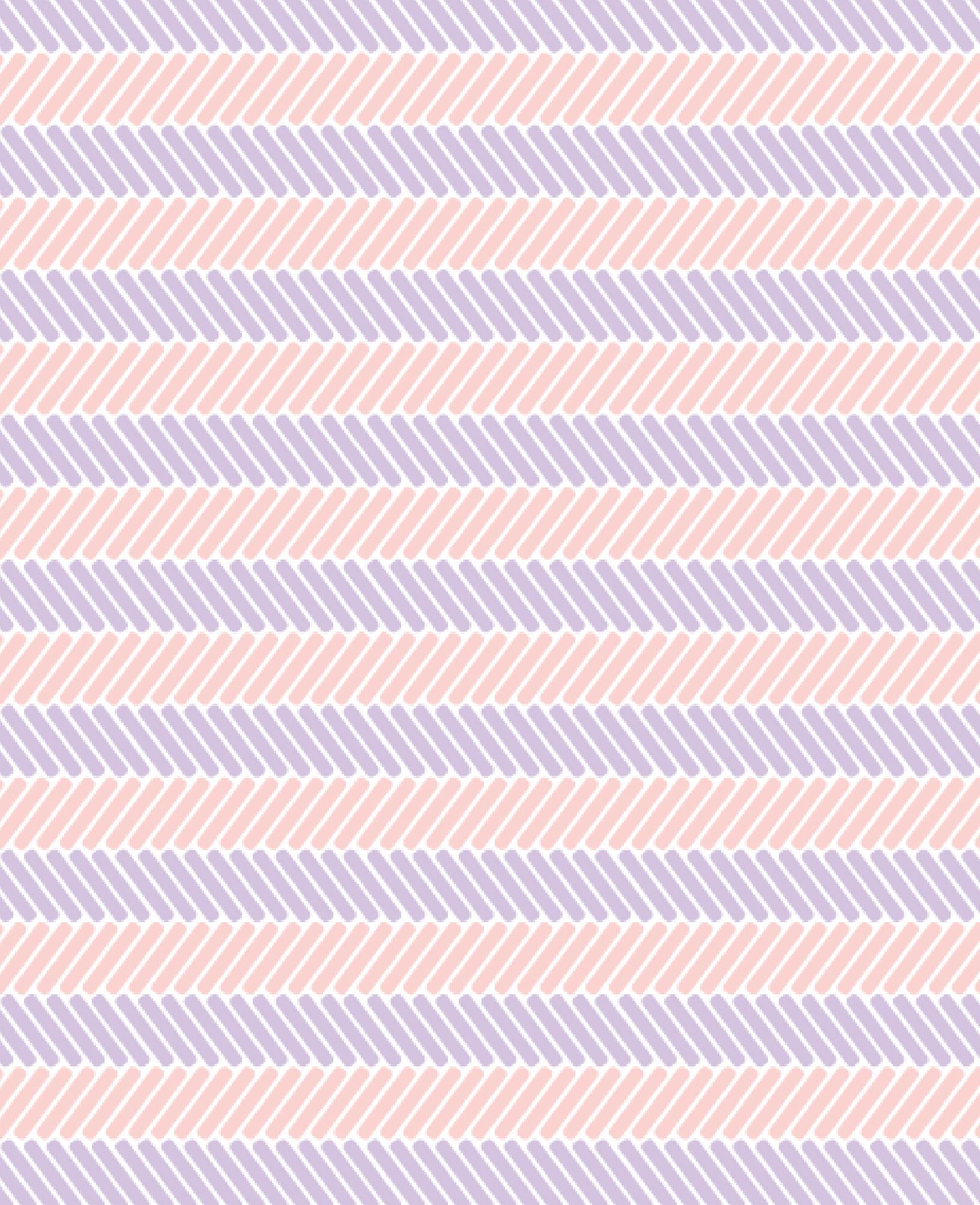
LIMITATIONS

We rely on public information to create this report. In the early days of the report our sole source of information was media reporting. Currently, we identify most cases through media search results that are tracked daily, and then we follow up with local law enforcement agencies or county attorney's offices for more detail. We also look at other sources of information such as public court data, reports issued by medical examiners' offices, and social media. The way we gather information and the amount of data available to us has changed drastically over the years. However, we still struggle with inconsistent and incomplete information due to the discrepancies in the way information is collected and shared across the state.

We use the phrase "at least" when describing the number of people killed each year because we cannot be certain we have recorded all domestic violence homicides since we rely on public records—primarily news accounts. In addition, almost every year there are deaths of women that are considered suspicious but the cases are not resolved. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on domestic violence homicides. In addition, the murders of women and children of color, Native American people, people who are immigrants and refugees, those living in poverty, people with disabilities, rural women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people, and those who engage in sex work or who are sexually exploited may be under-reported here as they frequently go unreported in mainstream media.

While we record all homicides that are a result of domestic violence between current or former intimate partners, we have for many years provided yearly comparison information on a series of factors exclusively concerning murdered women. We have long limited this analysis to women killed by intimate partners because we are looking at the research that has been done on risk and lethality factors for women in abusive relationships. It may be that men face the same risk and lethality factors in abusive relationships, but to our knowledge, that research has not been done.

The information in Violence Free Minnesota's Homicide Report is a compilation of data gathered from public sources—it is not research. We gather this information to bear witness to those killed, to raise public awareness of domestic violence, and to help inform our policy and service work. One example of this limitation is in regard to tracking the rates of murder-suicides in domestic violence cases. For a number of years, approximately 50 percent of the domestic violence homicides of adult women also involved the perpetrator subsequently completing suicide. This percentage was significantly higher than the homicide-suicide rate reported nationally at 30 to 35 percent. In a three year period lasting through 2015, this percentage showed a significant decrease, dipping as low as 23 percent. The 2016 domestic violence homicides data showed an uptick in murder-suicides again, with 56 percent of the cases falling in that category; however, in 2017, that figure again goes down to 37 percent. What we don't know, and what this report does not address, is why there was such drastic fluctuation in these percentages and what that means. Violence Free Minnesota is not a research agency. We present this information in the hopes of raising questions, opening the door to deeper conversations, and encouraging research agencies to investigate further.





VIOLENCE FREE **MINNESOTA**

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

ABOUT

Founded in 1978, Violence Free Minnesota is a statewide coalition of over 90 member programs working to end relationship abuse. Violence Free Minnesota strives to end relationship abuse by taking strategic action in partnership with the power of survivors and member programs across the state. As Minnesota's state domestic violence coalition, we shape public policy, raise public awareness, and build the capacity of community-based programs to address the needs of survivors of relationship violence and advocate on their behalf.

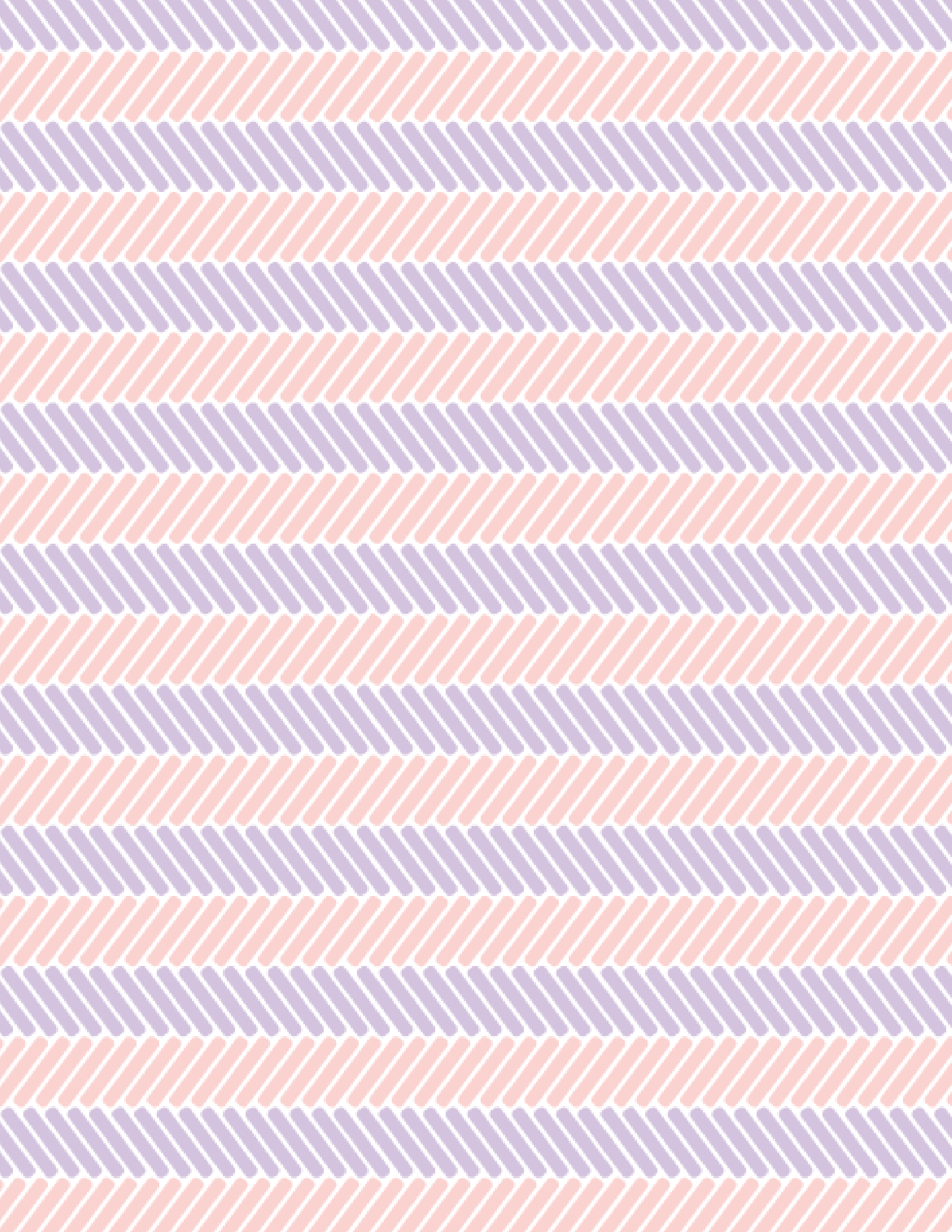
We ask that Violence Free Minnesota be credited when information from this report is used.

OUR MISSION

- Represent relationship abuse victim/survivors and member programs;
- Challenge systems and institutions;
- Promote social change;
- And support, educate, and connect member programs.

OUR VISION

To end relationship abuse, create safety, and achieve social justice for all.





VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

**If you are experiencing abuse,
contact Day One at **866.223.1111** to connect with services.**

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