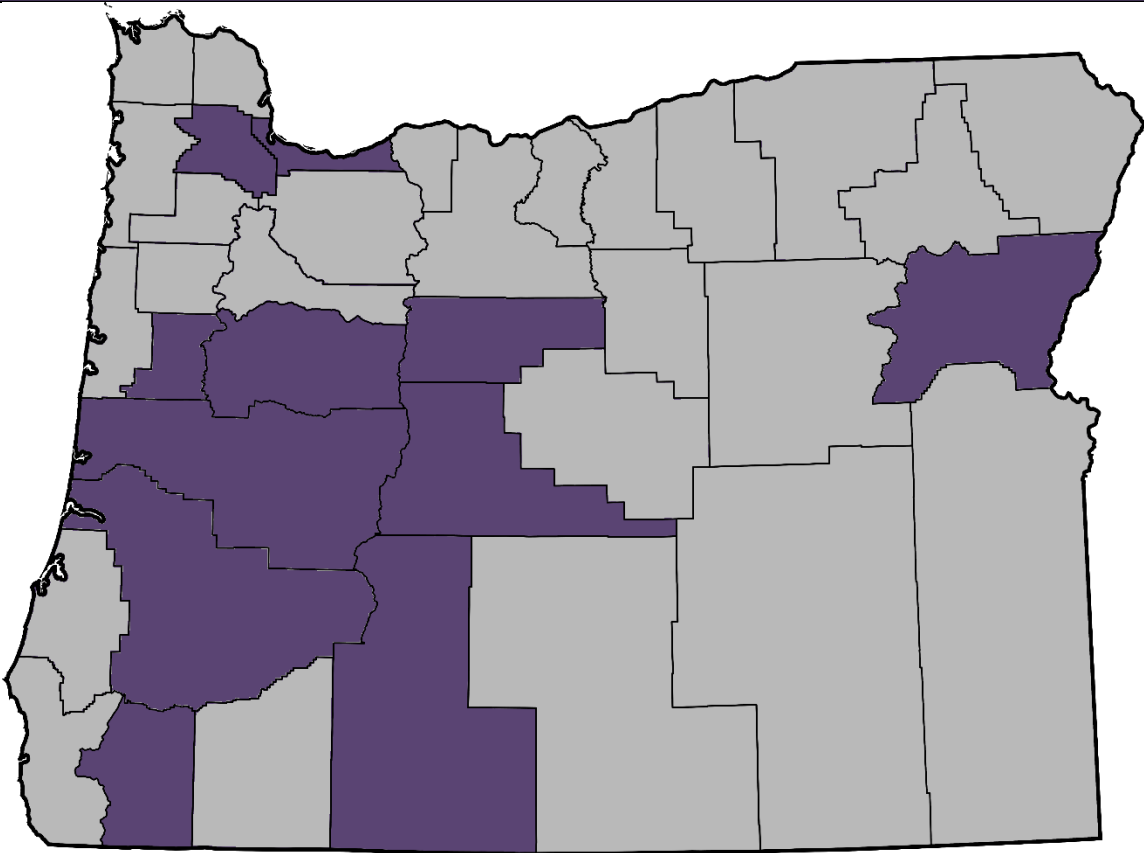


Fatal Domestic Violence in Oregon: Demographics Related to Victims, Perpetrators, and Incidents

2020 Report



Oregon Coalition
Against Domestic & Sexual Violence

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Definitions	2
Overview: Domestic Violence Incidents across Oregon.....	3
A Look at Victims and Perpetrators	
Overview of Victims	4
Age and Gender of Victims	5
Number of Victims Killed by Age and Gender.....	5
Relationship of Victim to Male Perpetrator	6
Relationship of Victim to Female Perpetrator.....	6
Number of Victims by Type of Relationship to Perpetrator	6
Relationship of Victim Killed to Perpetrator	7
Number of Victims Killed by Type of Relationship to Perpetrator	7
Cause of Victim Deaths	8
Overview of Perpetrators	8
Age and Gender of Perpetrators	8
Number of Perpetrators Killed by Age and Gender.....	9
Cause of Perpetrator Deaths	9
A Closer Look at the Incidents	
Location of Incident	9
Narrative Summaries by County	10
Intimate Partner Violence Supplement	12
Cumulative Domestic Violence Fatality Data: 2009 Through 2020.....	17

Introduction

In 2020, Oregon lost 28 people in fatal domestic violence incidents. In this report, the Coalition has utilized a broad definition of domestic violence, including a wide variety of incidents that take place in the context of a family or household. We track incidents involving care providers, people related by blood or marriage including extended family, current and former intimate partners, the extended family of current and former intimate partners, and cases of prostitution (covered under the term intimate partner). The term victim as used in this report refers to any individual who was killed, sustained injury, or was otherwise involved in an episode of fatal domestic violence, including bystanders. You will find tables and graphs with data pertaining to all victims, and tables and graphs specifically providing data pertaining to victims who lost their lives (the header of these tables and graphs will refer to “victims killed”). Perpetrator data are provided in the same manner.

This report includes a section dedicated to intimate partner violence (IPV) fatalities that is identical in form to the larger report, and a new section dedicated to cumulative data. Thanks to data collection begun by the Multnomah County Domestic and Sexual Violence Coordination Office in 2009, and to ongoing efforts by the Coalition, begun in 2012, we now have over ten years of domestic violence fatality data drawn from the extensive review of media reports. The new section on this cumulative data provides an overview of data collected for the years 2009 through 2020. It draws from the most recent research that the Coalition has done. In many cases, adjustments have been made to annual fatality totals and other specifics from previous years. You may notice discrepancies between past annual domestic violence fatality reports and the data presented here. This section presents the most up-to-date information.

Definitions

Domestic violence- a pattern of coercive tactics that can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by one person against a family member, intimate partner, or person in their care, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control.

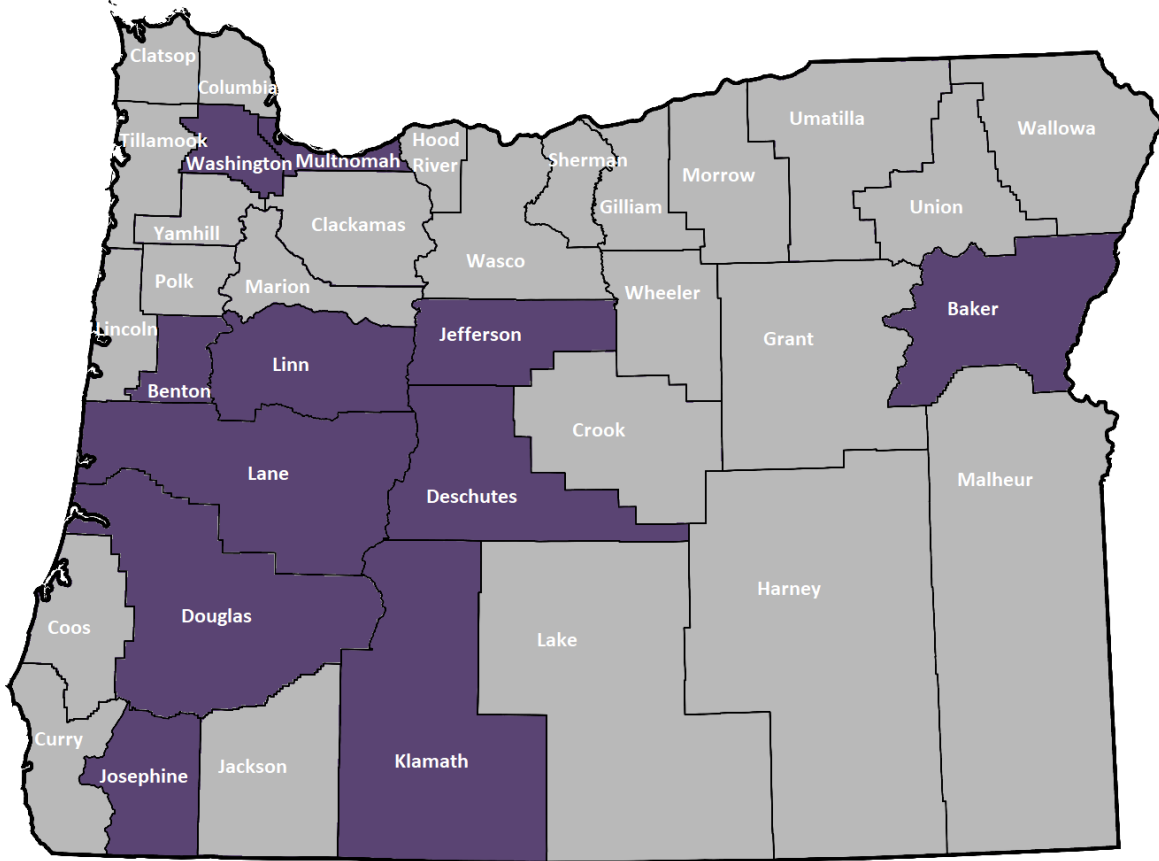
Intimate partner violence- a pattern of coercive tactics that can include physical, psychological, sexual, economic, and/or emotional abuse, perpetrated by one person against a current or former intimate partner, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control. It is a subcategory of domestic violence.

Victim- any individual who was killed, sustained injury, or was otherwise involved in an episode of fatal domestic violence, including bystanders.

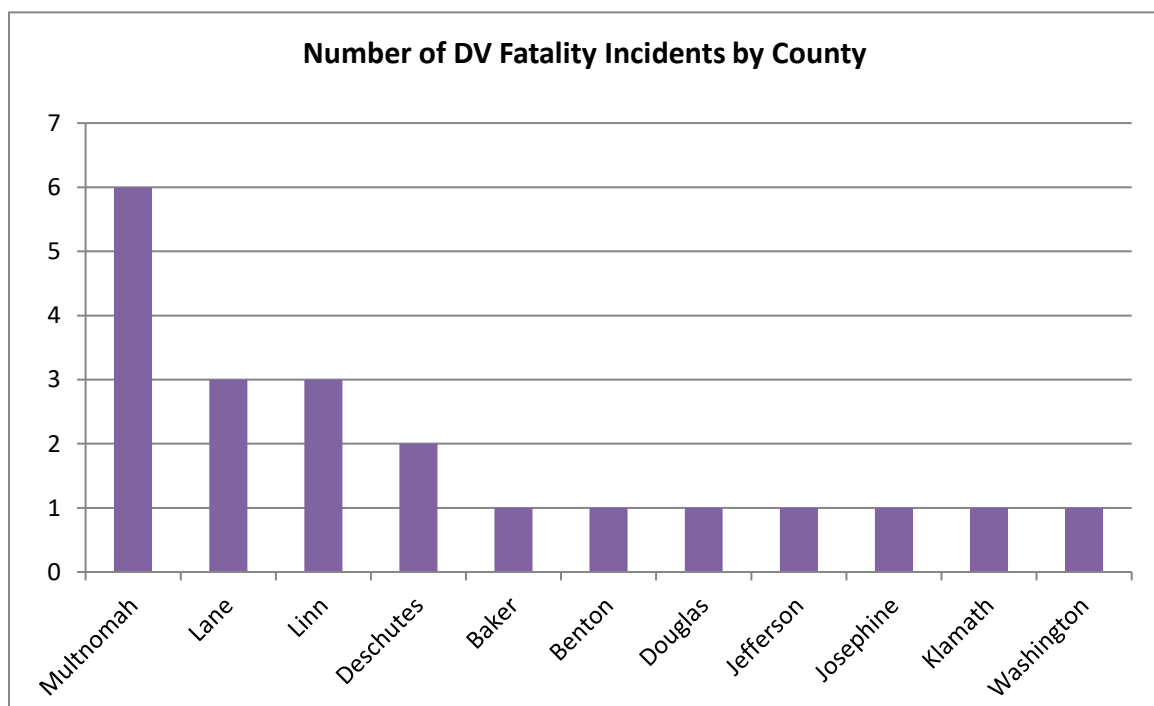
Overview: Domestic Violence Incidents across Oregon

A total of **28** people—victims and perpetrators—lost their lives in 2020.

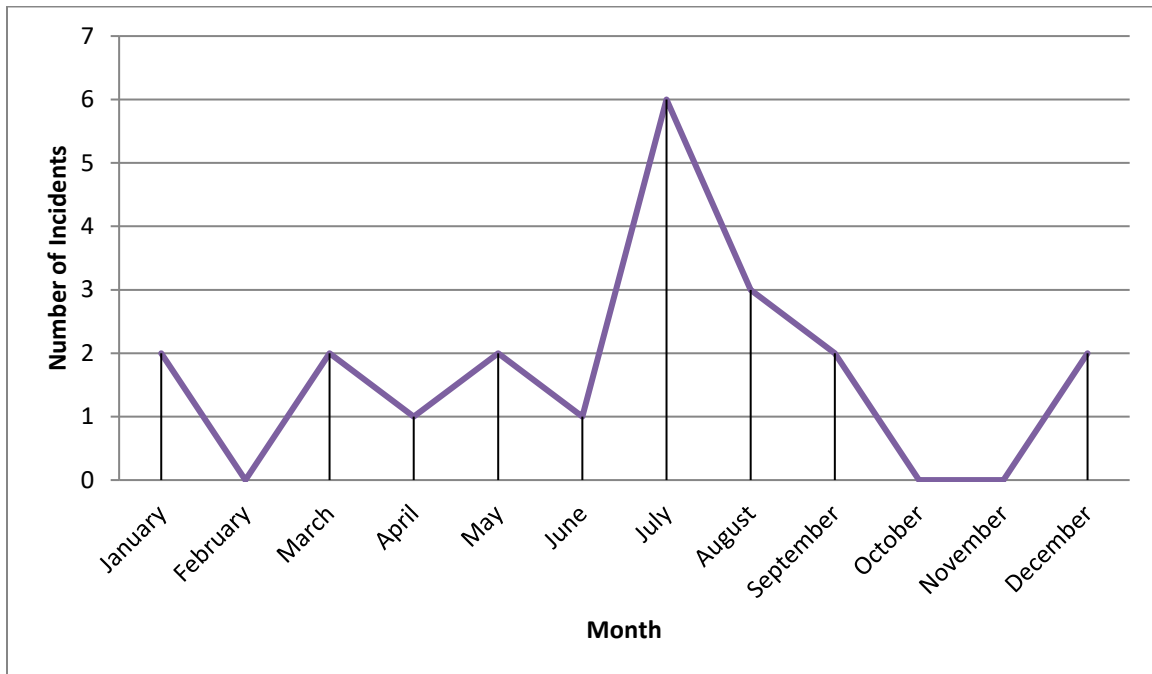
Eleven out of thirty-six Oregon counties had at least one fatal domestic-violence incident.



The state suffered a **total of 21** separate incidents of fatal domestic violence, with the highest number concentrated in Multnomah County.



The highest number of fatal DV incidents in a one-month period occurred in **July**.



Types of Incidents

Murder (including self-defense)	16
Murder-suicide or attempted murder-suicide	4
Police intervention death	1
Total	21

A Look at Victims and Perpetrators

Overview of All Victims

Total number of victims	28
Total number of victims killed	23
Total number of female victims	17
Number of female victims killed	15
Number of female victims physically injured	0
Total number of male victims	9
Number of male victims killed	7
Number of male victims physically injured	1
Total number of victims of unspecified gender	2
Number of victims of unspecified gender killed	1
Number of victims of unspecified gender physically injured	0

Out of a total of twenty-eight victims, **82%** were killed.

Of seventeen female victims, **88%** were killed.

Of nine male victims, **78%** were killed.

Of two victims of unspecified gender, **50%** were killed.

Age and Gender of All Victims				
Age of Victim	Female	Male	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	1	1	0	2
7-17	0	1	0	1
18-30	4	1	0	5
31-40	2	3	0	5
41-50	2	2	0	4
51-60	1	1	0	2
61-70	3	0	0	3
71-80	1	0	0	1
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	2	0	2	4
Total by Gender	17	9	2	28

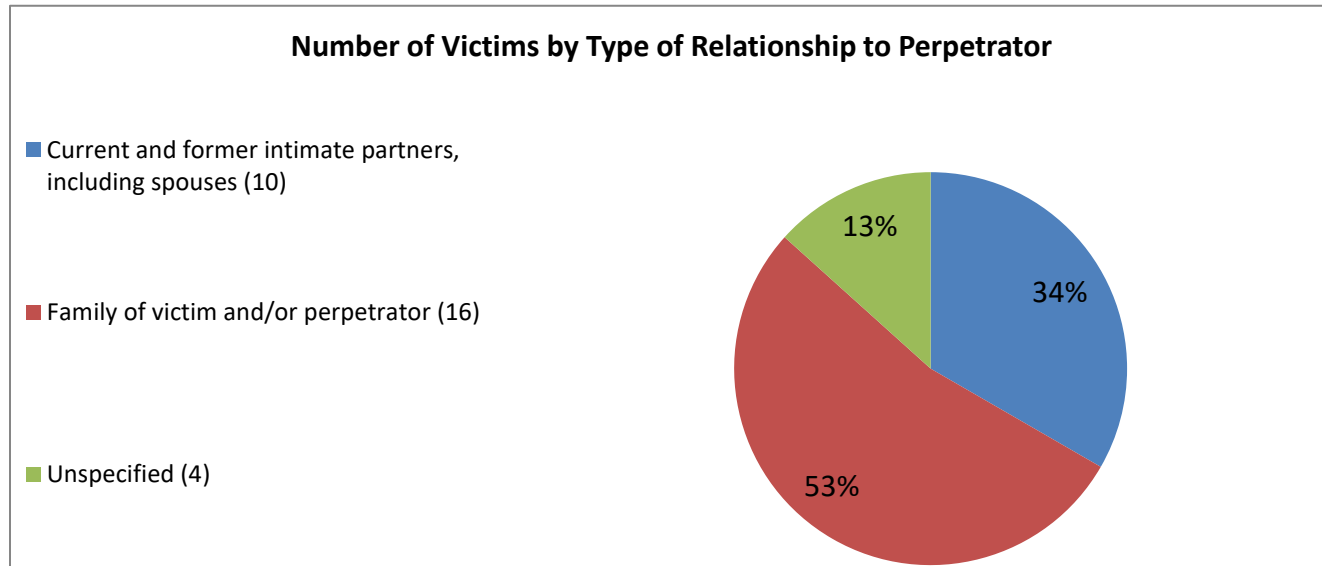
Number of Victims Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of victim	Female	Male	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	1	0	0	1
7-17	0	1	0	1
18-30	4	1	0	5
31-40	2	2	0	4
41-50	2	2	0	4
51-60	1	1	0	2
61-70	3	0	0	3
71-80	1	0	0	1
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	1	1
Total by Gender	15	7	1	23

Relationship of Victim to Male Perpetrator*†			
When perpetrator was male, victim was:			
Brother	1	Brother in law	1
Child	4	Current intimate partner	4
Current intimate partner of mother	1	Fiancée of brother	1
Fiancée of uncle	1	Former intimate partner	3
Mother	2	Mother in law	1
Uncle	1	Wife	2
Unspecified	4		
Total: 26			

Relationship of Victim to Female Perpetrator†			
When perpetrator was female, victim was:			
Former intimate partner	1	Mother	1
Total: 2			

*In one incident, there were two male perpetrators.

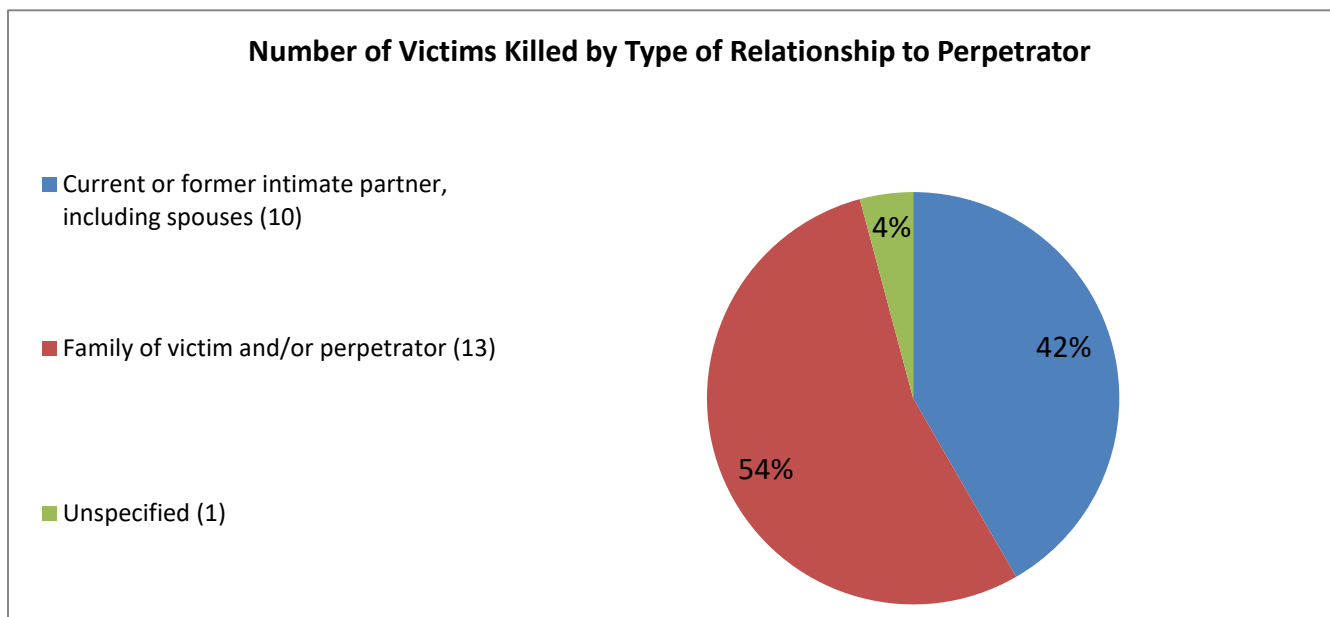
†For one incident involving two victims and one perpetrator, media reports do not identify the perpetrator. The two victims were the mother and grandmother of the perpetrator **or** the son and mother of the perpetrator. This incident has been omitted from the two tables above.



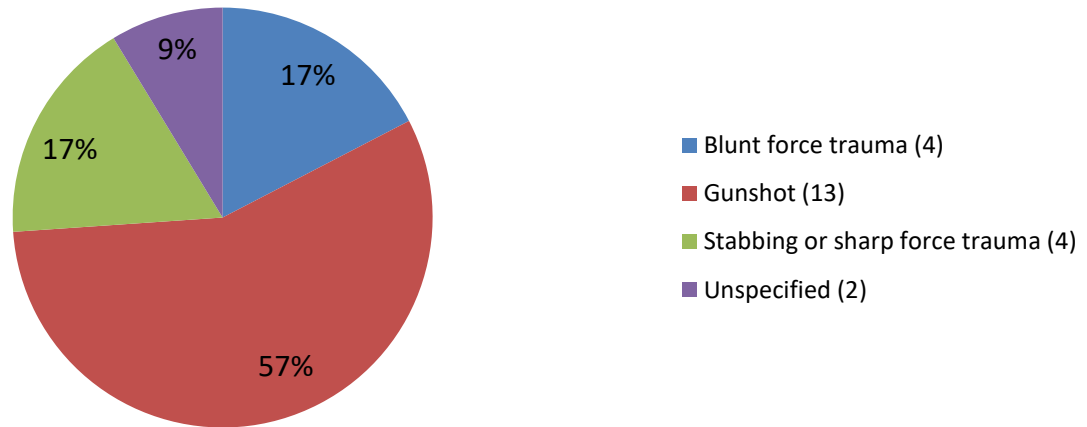
Relationship of Victim Killed to Perpetrator*†			
Brother in law	1	Brother	1
Child	3	Current intimate partner	4
Current intimate partner of mother	1	Fiancée of brother	1
Fiancée of uncle	1	Former intimate partner	4
Mother	3	Mother in law	1
Wife	2	Uncle	1
Unspecified	1		
Total: 24			

*In one incident, there were two perpetrators.

†For one incident involving a murder-suicide, media reports do not identify the perpetrator. The victim was either the mother or son. This incident has been omitted from the table above and the pie chart below titled "Number of Victims Killed by Type of Relationship to Perpetrator."



Cause of Victim Deaths



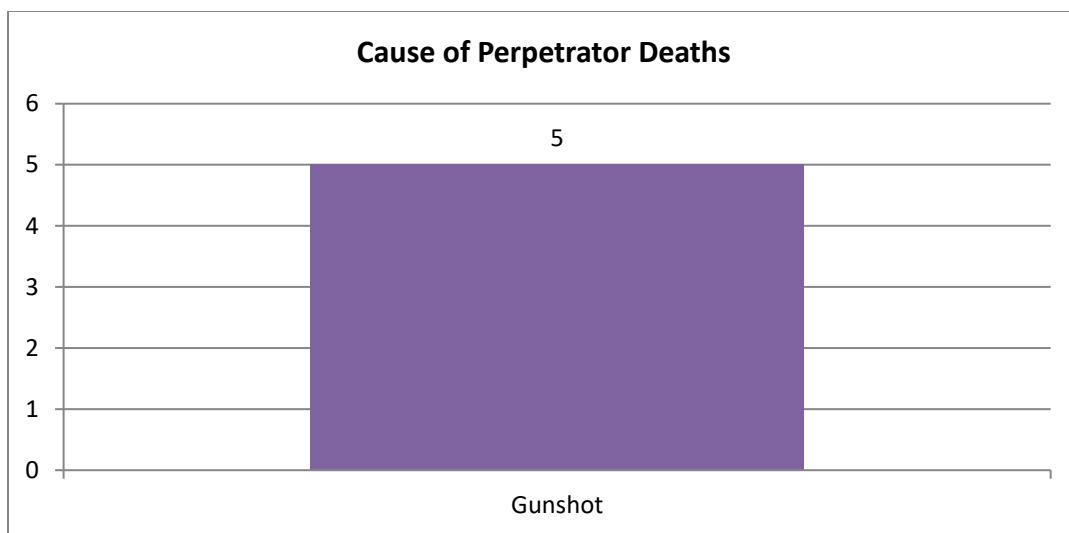
Overview of Perpetrators

Total number of perpetrators	22
Total number of perpetrators killed	5
Total number of male perpetrators	19
Number of male perpetrators killed	4
Number of male perpetrators physically injured	0
Total number of female perpetrators	2
Number of female perpetrators killed	0
Number of female perpetrators physically injured	0
Total number of perpetrators of unspecified gender	1
Number of perpetrators of unspecified gender killed	1
Number of perpetrators of unspecified gender physically injured	0

Age and Gender of Perpetrators

Age of Perpetrator	Male	Female	Unknown	Total by Age
Under 18	0	0	0	0
18-30	4	1	0	5
31-40	4	1	0	5
41-50	3	0	0	3
51-60	3	0	0	3
61-70	2	0	0	2
71-80	1	0	0	1
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	1	0	1	2
Total	19	2	1	22

Number of Perpetrators Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of Perpetrator	Males	Females	Unknown	Total by Age
Under 18	0	0	0	0
18-30	0	0	0	0
31-40	0	0	0	0
41-50	0	0	0	0
51-60	0	0	0	0
61-70	1	0	0	1
71-80	1	0	0	1
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	1	0	1	2
Total	4	0	1	5



A Closer Look at the Incidents

Location

Overview of Incident Locations	
Residence, immediate vicinity of residence, or personal property	17
Campground	1
Office building	1
Street	1
Unspecified	1

Narrative Summaries by County

Baker	Baker City- A man fatally shot his ex-girlfriend and shot but did not kill another man in the vicinity.
Benton	Albany- A man shot and killed his mother's fiancé.
Deschutes	Redmond- A man fatally stabbed his ex-girlfriend in her home. Bend- A man and his nephew bludgeoned his brother and his brother's fiancée to death over an inheritance dispute.
Douglas	Dillard- A man fatally shot his girlfriend before calling police and then fatally shooting himself.
Jefferson	Madras- A woman fatally shot her ex-boyfriend and concealed his body in a refrigerator on his property.
Josephine	Grants Pass- A man shot his girlfriend and then drove her to the hospital, where she died.
Klamath	Klamath Falls- A man broke into his mother-in-law and estranged wife's home, set his wife's bed on fire, and assaulted his mother-in-law, resulting in her death. His estranged wife was not home at the time.
Lane	Eugene- A man was fatally shot while attempting to intervene in a domestic violence incident. Springfield- A man fatally shot his wife in their home. Eugene- A mother and son were both fatally shot during a murder-suicide at their home. No information is currently available about which individual was the perpetrator. The son's grandmother was present but physically unharmed.
Linn	Sweet Home- A man fatally shot his wife, teenage son, and two-year-old daughter before setting their home on fire and fatally shooting himself. Albany- A man killed his ex-girlfriend. There was a no contact order in place following a previous assault against her, including strangulation and menacing. Lebanon- A man fatally stabbed his mother in her home.

Multnomah

Portland- A man fatally shot his adult son before fatally shooting himself.

Portland- A young man drove up and fatally shot his girlfriend while she was walking down the street.

Portland- A man assaulted his mother, resulting in her death in their home.

Portland- A woman fatally stabbed her mother in her mother's home.

Portland- A man killed his girlfriend in front of their two-year-old son.

Portland- A man fatally stabbed his brother-in-law during a dispute.

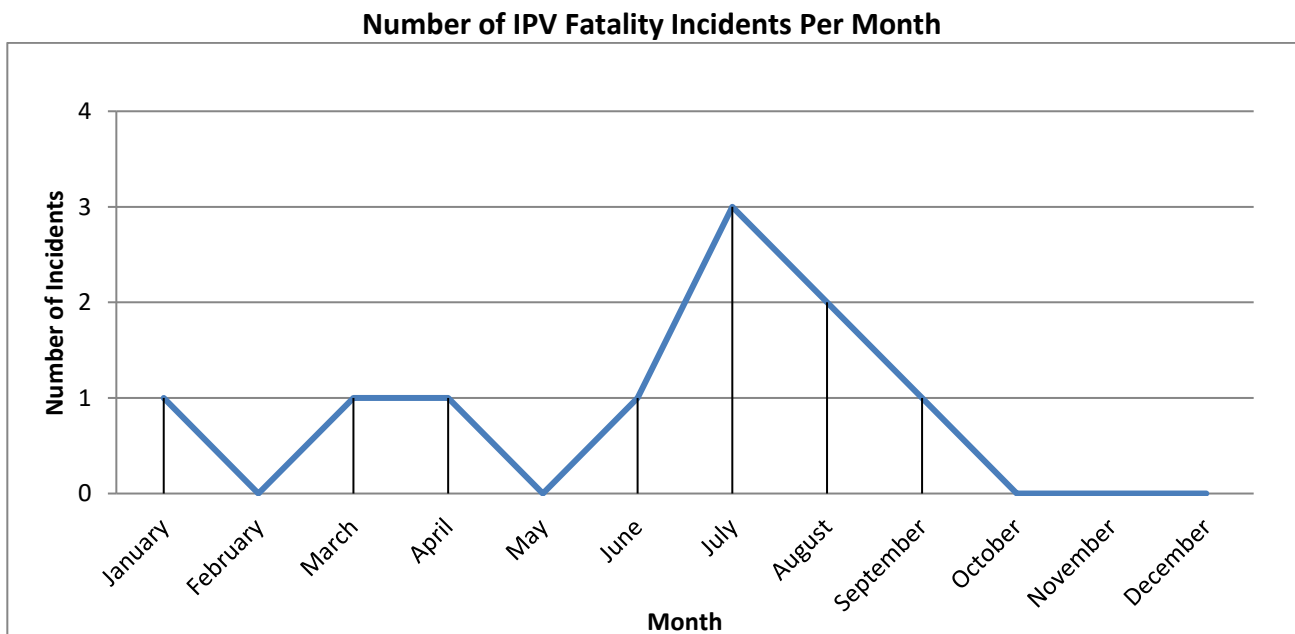
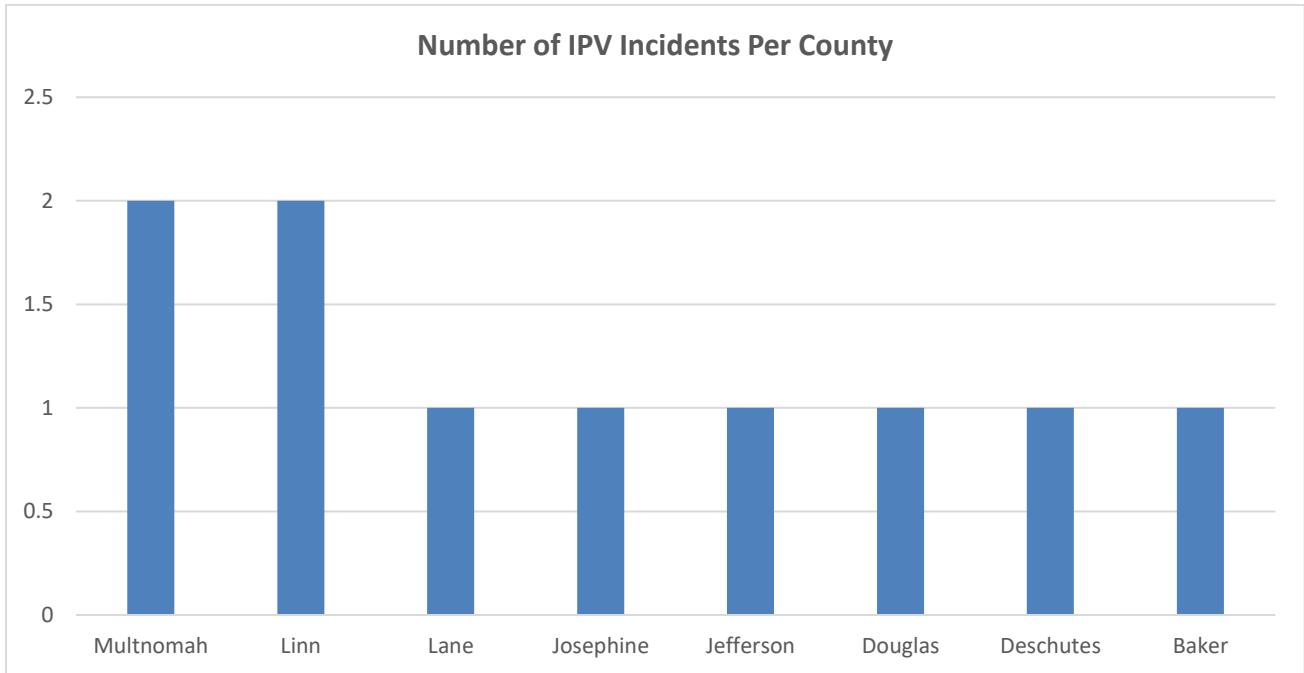
Washington

Portland- Deputies responding to a domestic violence call fatally shot a man brandishing a knife.

2020 IPV Supplement

This supplement examines intimate partner violence (IPV) fatalities, a subcategory of domestic violence fatalities (see definitions on page 2 of this report).

There were a total of 10 IPV and IPV-related fatality incidents in 2020. Note that two incidents that may have been IPV-related are omitted from this section because there is not enough information available publicly to make a determination.



Types of Incidents

Murder (including self-defense)	8
Murder-suicide or attempted murder-suicide	2
Total	10

Overview of Victims

Total number of victims	14
Total number of victims killed	12
Total number of female victims	10
Number of female victims killed	10
Number of female victims physically injured	0
Total number of male victims	4
Number of male victims killed	2
Number of male victims physically injured	1

Age and Gender of Victims

Age of Victim	Female	Male	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	1	1	0	2
7-17	0	1	0	1
18-30	3	0	0	3
31-40	2	2	0	4
41-50	2	0	0	2
51-60	1	0	0	1
61-70	1	0	0	1
71-80	0	0	0	0
81-90	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total by Gender	10	4	0	14

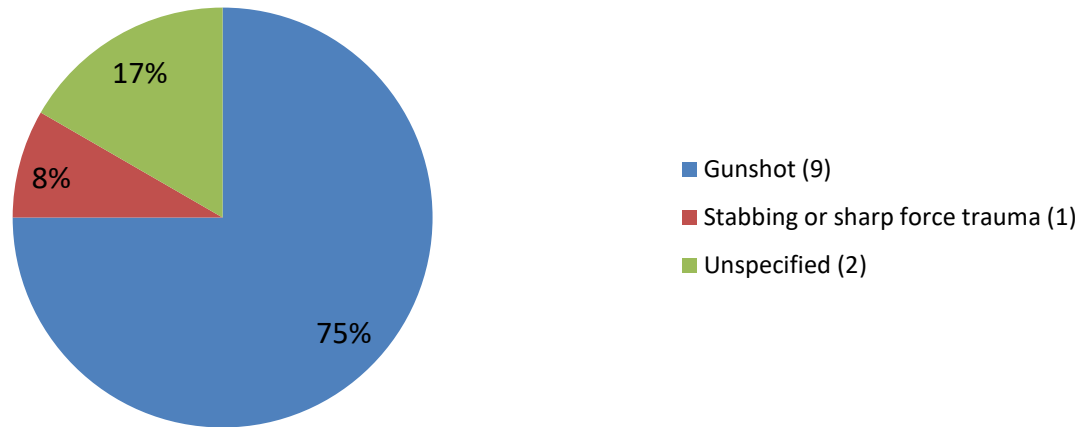
Number of Victims Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of victim	Females Killed	Males Killed	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	1	0	0	1
7-17	0	1	0	1
18-30	3	0	0	3
31-40	2	1	0	3
41-50	2	0	0	2
51-60	1	0	0	1
61-70	1	0	0	1
71-80	0	0	0	0
81-90	0	0	0	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total by Gender	10	2	0	12

Relationship of Victim to Male Perpetrator			
When perpetrator was male, victim was:			
Child	3	Current intimate partner	4
Former intimate partner	3	Wife	2
Unspecified	1		
Total: 13			

Relationship of Victim to Female Perpetrator	
When perpetrator was female, victim was:	
Former intimate partner	1
Total: 1	

Relationship of Victim Killed to Perpetrator			
Child	2	Current intimate partner	4
Former intimate partner	4	Wife	2
Total: 12			

Cause of Victim Deaths



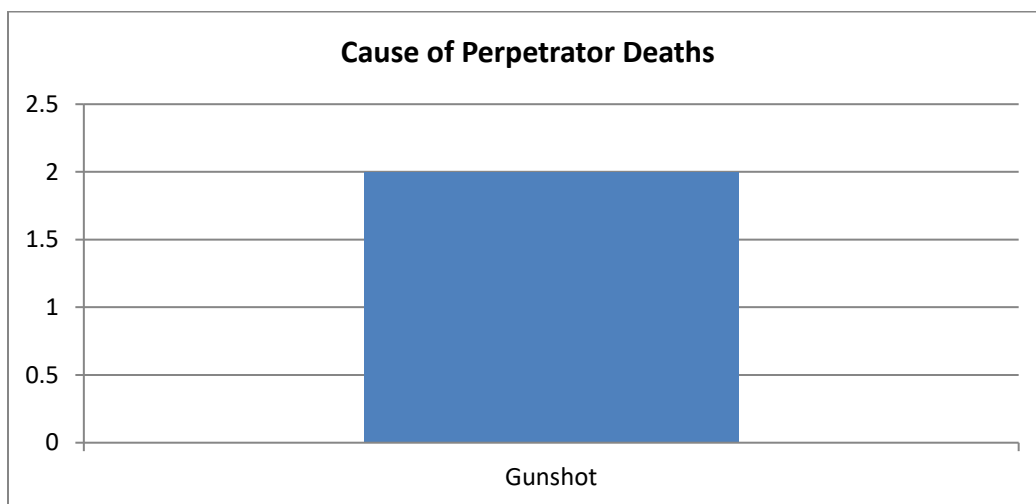
Overview of Perpetrators

Total number of perpetrators	10
Total number of perpetrators killed	2
Total number of male perpetrators	9
Number of male perpetrators killed	2
Number of male perpetrators physically injured	0
Total number of female perpetrators	1
Number of female perpetrators killed	0
Number of female perpetrators physically injured	0

Age and Gender of Perpetrators

Age of Perpetrator	Male	Female	Unknown	Total by Age
Under 18	0	0	0	0
18-30	2	0	0	2
31-40	1	1	0	2
41-50	3	0	0	3
51-60	0	0	0	0
61-70	2	0	0	2
71-80	0	0	0	0
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	9	1	0	10

Number of Perpetrators Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of Perpetrator	Males Killed	Females Killed	Unknown	Total by Age
Under 18	0	0	0	0
18-30	0	0	0	0
31-40	0	0	0	0
41-50	0	0	0	0
51-60	0	0	0	0
61-70	1	0	0	1
71-80	0	0	0	0
81-90	1	0	0	1
Unknown	0	0	0	0
Total	2	0	0	2



A Closer Look at the Incidents

Location

Location of Incident	
Residence or immediate vicinity of residence, or personal property	6
Campground	1
Office building	1
Street	1
Unspecified	1

Cumulative Domestic Violence Fatality Data: 2009 Through 2020

In Oregon from 2009 through 2020, there were a total of 414 fatal domestic violence incidents that resulted in 560 deaths. These incidents involved 621 victims and 436 perpetrators.

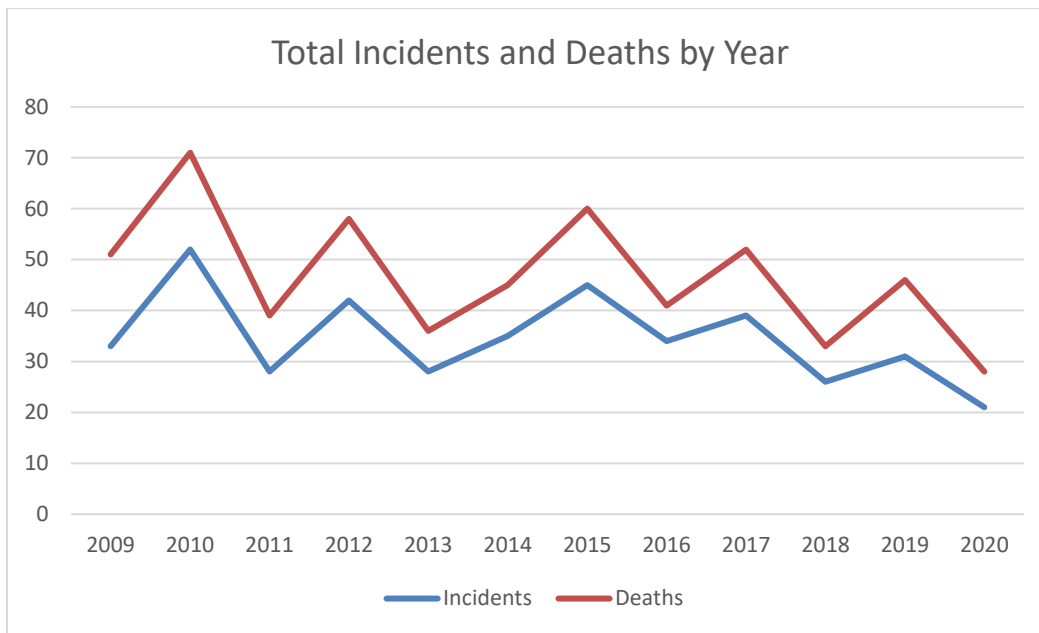
414 Incidents	621 Victims	436 Perpetrators	560 Deaths
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On average, there were 35 fatal domestic violence incidents per year at the rate of three fatal incidents per month, and 47 deaths per year at the rate of four deaths per month.

Total Domestic Violence Incidents and Deaths by Year

The following table presents the total number of fatal domestic violence incidents and the total number of victims, perpetrators, and deaths involved in those incidents by year. The chart below the table presents the same annual incident and death totals in a linear format, which shows a downward trend over the course of the twelve years that data were collected.

Year	Incidents	Victims	Perpetrators	Deaths
2009	33	52	33	51
2010	52	68	53	71
2011	28	46	32	39
2012	42	65	43	58
2013	28	44	30	36
2014	35	58	35	45
2015	45	57	47	60
2016	34	48	37	41
2017	39	55	41	52
2018	26	40	31	33
2019	31	60	32	46
2020	21	28	22	28



Total Number of Incidents and Deaths by County

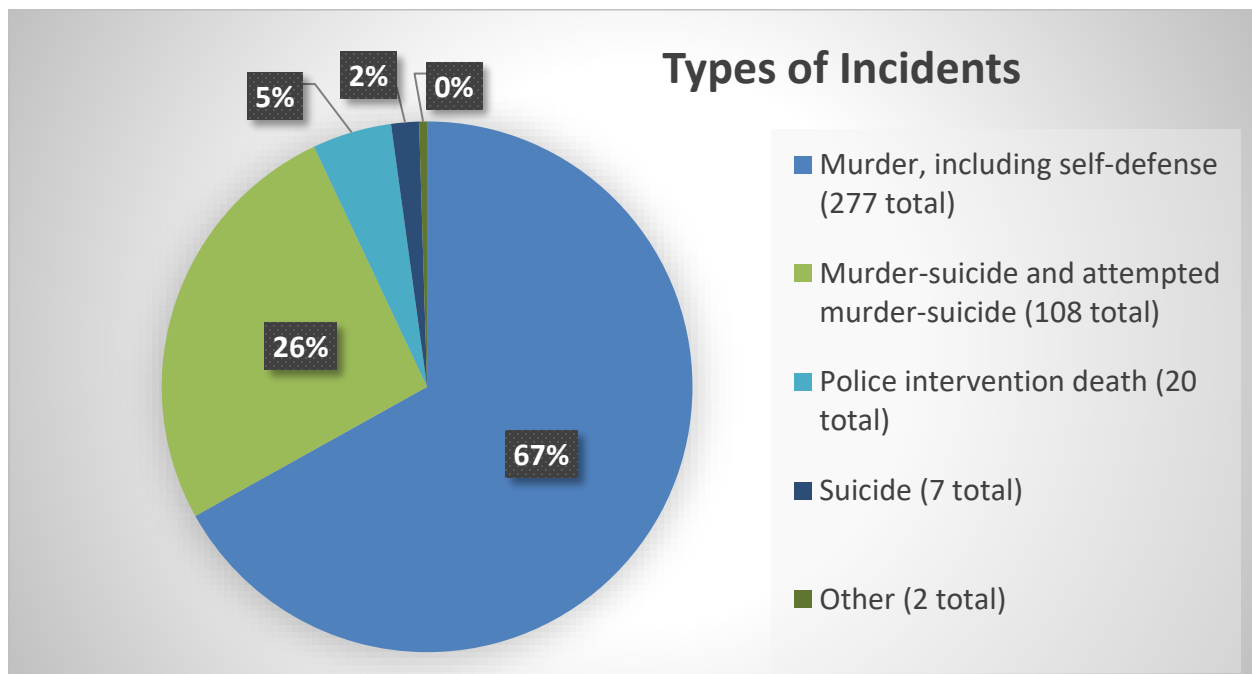
Multnomah County had the highest number of fatal domestic violence incidents and deaths from 2009 through 2020. Nineteen percent of all incidents took place in Multnomah County, and eighteen percent of all fatalities.

Washington County had the second highest number of fatal incidents and deaths, followed closely by Lane County.

County	Incidents	Deaths	County	Incidents	Deaths
Baker	2	2	Lake	2	3
Benton	5	6	Lane	40	59
Clackamas	32	43	Lincoln	3	4
Clatsop	4	6	Linn	18	24
Columbia	3	6	Malheur	6	8
Coos	19	25	Marion	26	38
Crook	3	5	Morrow	2	2
Curry	1	1	Multnomah	80	98
Deschutes	19	28	Polk	3	5
Douglas	12	16	Sherman	0	0
Gilliam	0	0	Tillamook	6	9
Grant	1	2	Umatilla	6	8
Harney	0	0	Union	2	2
Hood River	4	5	Wallowa	1	1
Jackson	28	39	Wasco	6	6
Jefferson	6	7	Washington	42	59
Josephine	13	17	Wheeler	0	0
Klamath	13	16	Yamhill	6	10

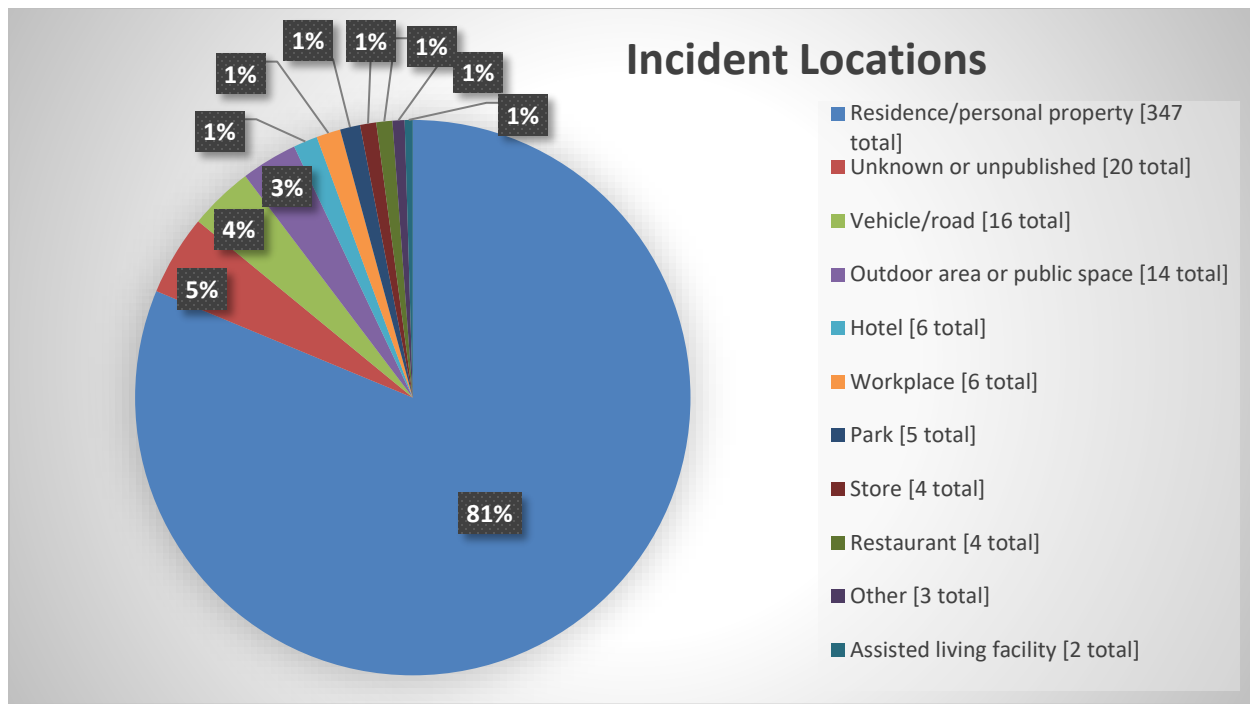
Types of Incidents

The majority of fatal domestic violence incidents were murders, including murders committed in self-defense. This type of incident constituted 67% of all incidents across the twelve years of data we've collected so far. A significant minority of incidents were completed and attempted murder-suicides, comprising 26% of all incidents. There were 20 police intervention deaths comprising 5% of all incidents. These incidents involved a responding police officer killing a domestic violence perpetrator. (This category of incident includes situations in which the *only* fatality resulted from police intervention). There were seven domestic-violence related suicides comprising 2% of all incidents, and two "other" incidents, both of which involved fatal car crashes that, based on available information, appear to have been accidental but took place during or immediately following an altercation.



Incident Location

The vast majority of fatal domestic violence incidents took place at a personal residence. Several incidents involved multiple locations.



Cause of Death – Victims

There were a total of 413 victim deaths from a wide range of causes. Gunshot was the most common cause of death for victims, at 52%, followed by stabbing, at 17%.

Cause of Death	Number of Victims
Gunshot	215
Stabbing	72
Blunt force trauma	27
Strangulation	20
Multiple causes	13
Beating	9
Car crash or hit by car	6
Effects of arson/smoke inhalation/burns	6
Sharp force trauma	5
Neglect	3
Asphyxiation	2
Pushed from a height	2
Suffocation	2
Decapitation	1
Drowning	1
Undetermined	1
Unpublished or unreleased	28

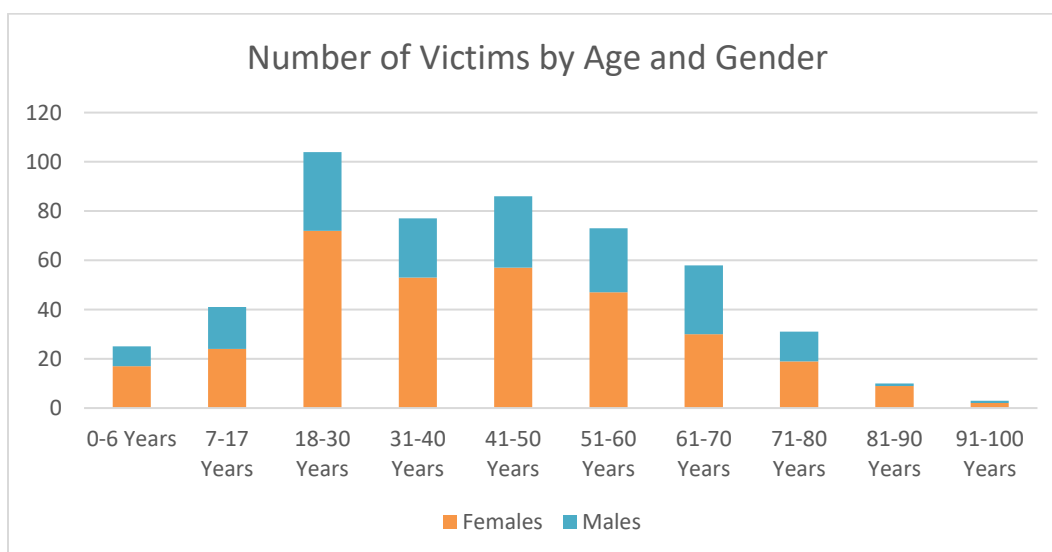
Cause of Death – Perpetrators

There were a total of 147 perpetrator deaths. Gunshot was the cause of the vast majority of perpetrator deaths, at 88%.

Cause of Death	Number of Perpetrators
Gunshot	130
Stabbing	4
Hanging	4
Car crash	2
Jump from building	1
Unpublished or unreleased	6

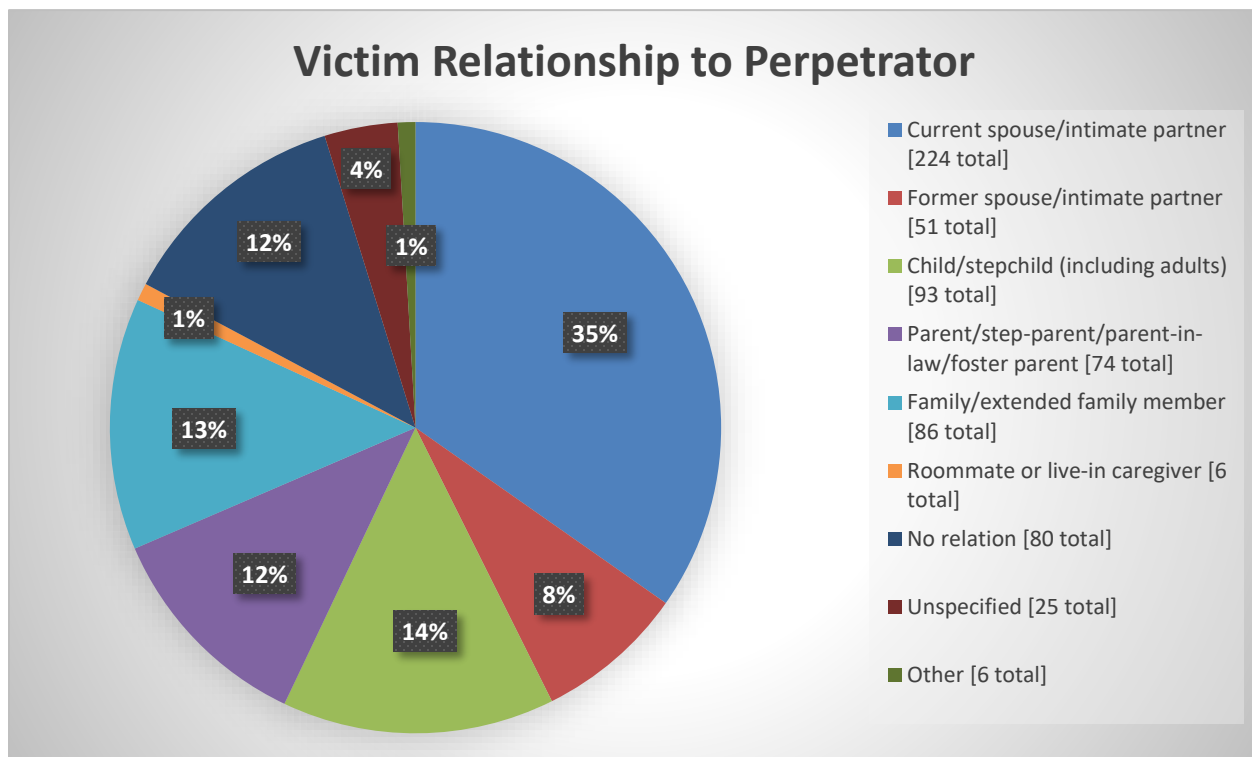
Age and Gender of All Victims

The first chart below displays the number of victims by gender within a series of age ranges. Only victims whose age and gender were known from source material are included in the chart. For a more detailed breakdown that includes victims whose gender and/or age were unspecified in the source material, see the table below the chart.



Number of Victims by Age and Gender				
Age of Victim	Female	Male	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	17	8	3	28
7-17	24	17	7	48
18-30	72	32	2	106
31-40	53	24	0	78
41-50	57	29	0	86
51-60	47	26	0	73
61-70	30	28	0	58
71-80	19	12	0	31
81-90	9	1	0	10
91-100	2	1	0	3
Unknown	53	22	26	101
Total by Gender	383	200	38	621

Relationship of Victim to Perpetrator



The chart above presents a breakdown of the types of relationships that victims had with perpetrators. The categories are broad and cannot reflect the nuances of actual relationships. For instance, the “child/stepchild” category includes children of perpetrators as well as children of victims who may or may not have had a filial relationship with the perpetrator in reality. The “family/extended family” category represents a wide range of relationships, from grandparents and grandchildren to cousins, siblings, in-laws, intimate partners of family members, and everything in between. The “no relation” category likewise contains an extremely diverse range of victims, including bystanders who did not know the perpetrator at all, neighbors, and people whose only connection to the perpetrator was

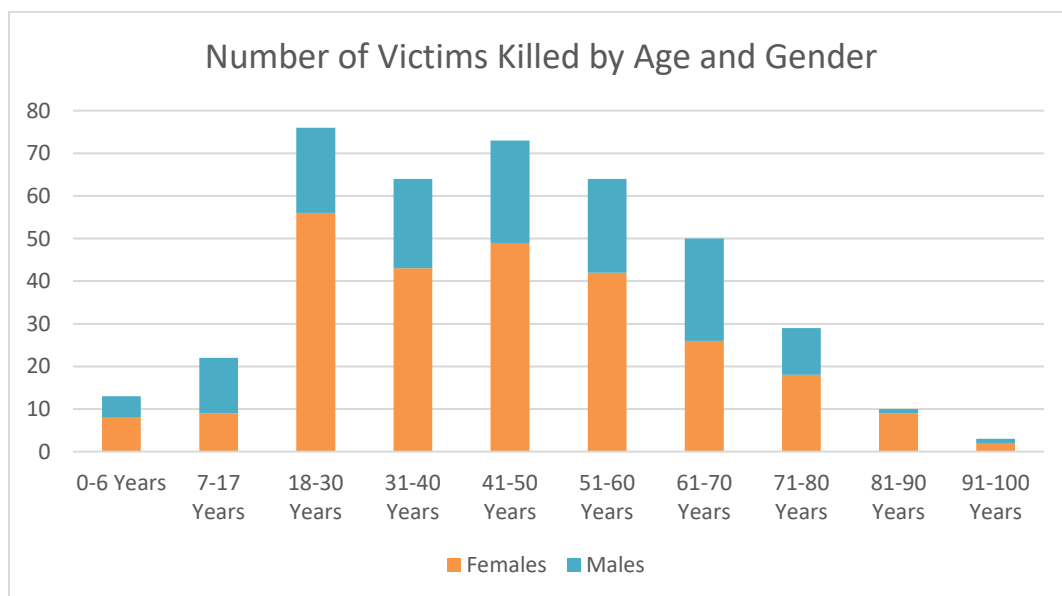
through their current intimate partner (for instance, a victim who was dating the perpetrator's ex-girlfriend). The "unspecified" category contains victim/perpetrator relationships that were not described in the sources, so it was impossible to place them in any other category. Finally, the "other" category includes coworkers, friends, and dating partners who it did not make sense to include in the "current spouse/intimate partner" category based on available information (e.g., in one case the perpetrator killed the victim after going on a hike on their first date).

The sum of the totals listed for each relationship category in the legend (645) is greater than the total number of victims (621) because there were several incidents in which there were more than one perpetrator. In these cases, the relationship that the victim(s) had with each perpetrator is counted separately in the chart.

Age and Gender of Victims Killed

The first chart below displays the number of victims killed by gender within a series of age ranges. Only victims whose age and gender were known from source material are included in the chart. For a more detailed breakdown that includes victims whose gender and/or age were unspecified in the source material, see the table below the chart.

Among victims under 18 years old who were killed during domestic violence incidents, the gender divide is roughly equal. However, in the 18 to 30 age group, the data show a significant leap in the number of fatalities and a stark gender divide. More than twice as many female victims as males were killed in this age range. There were roughly twice as many female fatalities as male fatalities in the age ranges 31-40, 41-50, and 51-60, and a consistently high number of total fatalities. This trend ends and the gender divide becomes roughly equal again beginning with the age group 61-70 (becoming disparate again in the 81-90 age group), along with a significant decline in total number of fatalities.

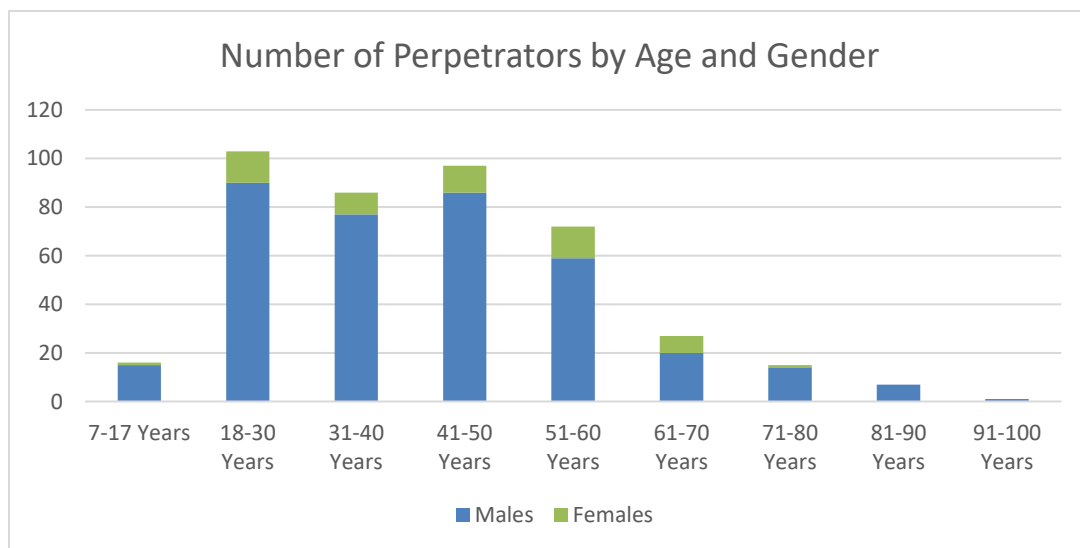


Number of Victims Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of Victim	Female	Male	Unknown	Total by Age
0-6	8	5	0	13
7-17	9	13	0	22
18-30	56	20	0	76
31-40	43	21	0	64
41-50	49	24	0	73
51-60	42	22	0	64
61-70	26	24	0	50
71-80	18	11	0	29
81-90	9	1	0	10
91-100	2	1	0	3
Unknown	3	2	4	9
Total by Gender	265	144	4	413

Age and Gender of All Perpetrators

The first chart below displays the number of perpetrators by gender within a series of age ranges. Only perpetrators whose age and gender were known from source material are included in the chart. For a more detailed breakdown that includes perpetrators whose gender and/or age were unspecified in the source material, see the table below the chart.

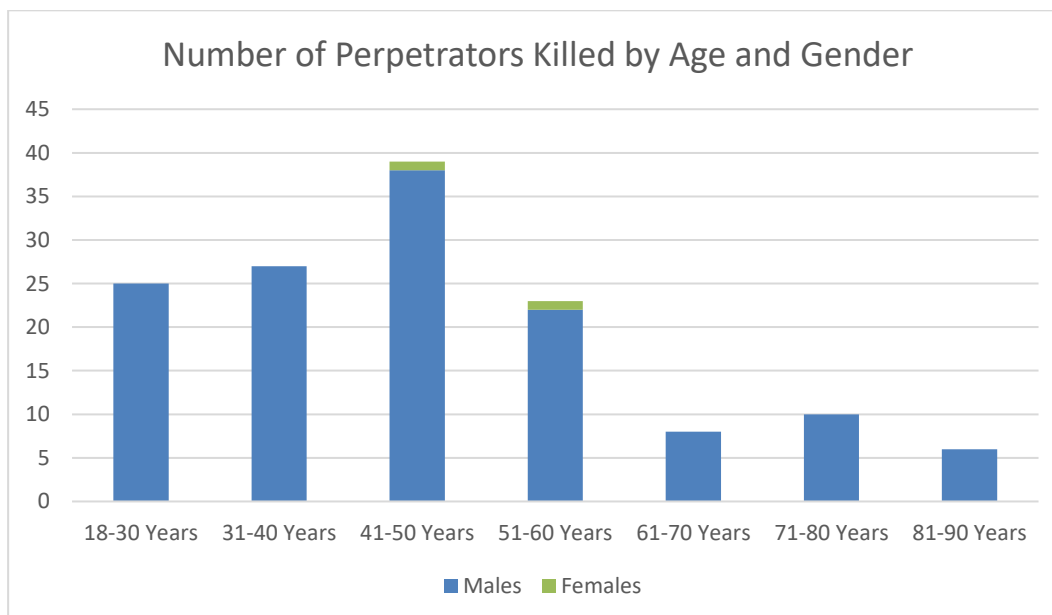
Approximately 86% of perpetrators were male, 13% were female, and 1% unspecified in the source material.



Number of Perpetrators by Age and Gender				
Age of Perpetrator	Male	Female	Unknown	Total by Age
7-17	15	1	0	16
18-30	90	13	0	103
31-40	77	9	0	86
41-50	86	11	0	97
51-60	59	13	0	72
61-70	20	7	0	27
71-80	14	1	0	15
81-90	7	0	0	7
91-100	1	0	0	1
Unknown	8	0	4	10
Total by Gender	377	55	4	436

Age and Gender of Perpetrators Killed

The first chart below displays the number of perpetrators killed by gender within a series of age ranges. Only perpetrators whose age and gender were known from source material are included in the chart. For a more detailed breakdown that includes perpetrators whose gender and/or age were unspecified in the source material, see the table below the chart.



Number of Perpetrators Killed by Age and Gender				
Age of Perpetrator	Male	Female	Unknown	Total by Age
7-17	0	0	0	0
18-30	25	0	0	25
31-40	27	0	0	27
41-50	38	1	0	39
51-60	22	1	0	23
61-70	8	0	0	8
71-80	10	0	0	10
81-90	6	0	0	6
91-100	0	0	0	0
Unknown	5	0	4	9
Total by Gender	141	2	4	147