

# 2000 Wisconsin Domestic Homicide Report

**bash her head in...**

**make sure she was dead...**

**get that gun out of my face...**

**not safe anywhere...**

**if I can't have her, nobody will...**

**Domestic Violence Claimed 41 Lives in Wisconsin**



**Published September 2002**



The **Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence (WCADV)** is a statewide membership organization of domestic abuse programs, formerly battered women, and other individuals who have joined together to speak with one voice against domestic abuse. As a statewide resource center on domestic violence, we offer such services as:

- ⌘ Training and technical assistance to domestic abuse programs;
- ⌘ A quarterly educational journal;
- ⌘ Forums for the involvement of battered women;
- ⌘ Networking and support for programs for battered women and for professionals in related fields;
- ⌘ Training for professionals in legal, medical, social services, child welfare, housing, education, and mental health fields and for employers throughout Wisconsin; and
- ⌘ Technical assistance for attorneys, legal advocates, prosecutors and public defenders and limited funds for victims to acquire direct legal assistance.

## **Acknowledgements**

**Authors:** Laurie Jorgensen, CCR Coordinator; Susan Ramspacher, Health Care Project Coordinator; and Jen Rubin, Director of Programs of WCADV

**Researchers:** Michelle Hebert, Program Assistant and Jaimee Huseman, Intern of WCADV

**Editors:** Mary Lauby, Executive Director and Patti Seger, Policy Development Coordinator of WCADV

We could not have developed this report without the assistance of the Office of Justice Assistance and WI Department of Justice, most specifically we would like to thank Lori Phillips, OJA and Angie Skaggs, DOJ.

We would like to offer special thanks to the families of homicide victims, domestic abuse programs, district attorneys' offices, medical examiners' offices, police departments and state agencies that helped us find information about the domestic homicide victims that are included in this report.

# Executive Summary

This report details domestic violence homicides that occurred in Wisconsin during calendar year (CY) 2000 as reported by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and Wisconsin newspapers. Homicides were considered domestic if those involved were spouses, former spouses, adults with children in common, related by blood or had been in a dating relationship. Every attempt was made to include all domestic violence deaths. We hope this report offers a strong indication of the scope and lethality of domestic violence as a social problem and a crime.

This report seeks to briefly retell people's stories. We have tried to depict how domestic violence can invade a home and family with a fatal end. We have also tried to do this accurately and factually. However, the brief presentation of these stories can in no way capture the detail and complexity of anyone's life.

A complete picture of each case can only be seen through a thorough reading of all available documentation. The following information provides a synopsis of the aggregate data regarding domestic homicides in CY 2000.

From January to December 2000, law enforcement agencies in WI reported 176 homicides. Of these, 31 were determined to have occurred in domestic situations and resulted in 41 deaths. The average rate of domestic homicide in WI in 2000 was 2.6 murders a month.

## ⌘ 41 people were killed in domestic homicides:

33 were murder victims	20 women	9 men	4 children
0 - 6 years			2
6 - 17 years			2
18 - 29 years	5	2	
30 - 49 years	7	4	
Over 50 years	8	3	

**8 perpetrators committed suicide** (26% of the incidents)

## ⌘ In 2000, the victims and perpetrators of domestic homicides were from the following racial/ethnic groups:

	Victims	Perpetrators
Caucasian	20	15
African American	10	13
American Indian	2	2
Unknown	1	1

## ⌘ People were killed in the following ways:

- 18 Shot (10 with a handgun, 5 with a rifle, 3 with a shotgun)
- 1 Shot with a handgun and stabbed
- 7 Stabbed
- 1 Stabbed and bludgeoned with a hammer
- 1 Stabbed and strangled
- 1 Strangled, beaten with fists and kicked
- 1 Beaten with a blunt object
- 1 Died of malnutrition and neglect
- 1 Asphyxiated in the womb
- 1 Victim's body was never found

- ✂ 18 children under 18 were left behind by the murders.
- ✂ 11 of the 33 homicide victims had left their abusive partners or had discussed divorce or leaving prior to the murder. Two had active restraining orders against their murderers.
- ✂ Three older victims were killed by their adult children.
- ✂ In two cases, men were killed by the estranged husband or boyfriend of their girlfriends.
- ✂ Two minor children were killed by fathers. Two minor females were killed by their juvenile boy friends.
- ✂ In two cases, the perpetrators killed their children as well as their partners.
- ✂ In three cases, female victims of domestic violence killed their abusers in self-defense.
- ✂ In 17 of the cases, prior history of domestic violence was recorded by police or reported by family or friends.

## **Issues and Policy Implications**

These homicides highlight several issues, some of which may have policy and practice implications for the justice system, health care, welfare, and others.

### **Self Defense**

Many victims who have a history of being battered and threatened with their lives engage in violence to defend themselves. Wisconsin law allows for self-defense claims. Wisconsin law directs that an individual may only use that amount of force that a reasonable person, in the same set of circumstances, would deem necessary to terminate an unlawful interference (such as battery or other violent acts). Many domestic violence victims suffer lengthy violent histories at the hands of their abusers. Therefore, their perceptions of the level of violence necessary to stem a violent attack against themselves may be quite different than that of another person. Three of the people who committed homicides against their abusers had that history of violence against them. Despite their beliefs that they acted in self-defense, two of the three are currently serving prison terms.

### **Gun Violence**

An analysis of female domestic homicides (a woman murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative) showed that prior domestic violence in the household made a woman *14.6 times* more likely, and having one or more guns in the home made a woman *7.2 times* more likely, to be the victim of such a homicide (Violence Policy Center, 2001). Twenty-six of the 41 deaths detailed in this report were committed with firearms. In every murder-suicide (eight cases), the perpetrators used guns to kill their victims and/or other family members and then themselves. Two of the perpetrators were subject to active restraining orders, were ordered to surrender their firearms to law enforcement and were not to possess firearms for the

term of the restraining order. Four of the perpetrators had prior felony convictions that automatically restricted them from possessing firearms. In one case, the victim expressed her fear that her abuser would use his gun to harm her. Days before she was killed, she urged his cousin to take her abuser's handgun from him.

## **Welfare Reform**

In 1996, the federal government ended the entitlement program, Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) and created the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. TANF imposes work requirements, strict time limits and aggressive child support cooperation in order for an individual to receive assistance. In recognition of the potential dangers that the TANF requirements could pose for victims of domestic violence, the federal government allowed states the ability to adopt policies that can build in flexibility for abuse victims so that they might safely leave violent relationships and become self-sufficient. This policy is called the Family Violence Option (FVO). To date, only six states, Wisconsin included, have failed to adopt the FVO. Under Wisconsin Works (W-2, Wisconsin's TANF program), participants are required to establish paternity of their child(ren) or face termination of benefits. While W-2 allows participants to file for a "good cause" exemption if they believe they could be harmed by revealing the paternity of their child, many W-2 recipients are not informed about the availability of such exemptions. Adoption of the FVO would guarantee that all W-2 recipients would receive universal notification of their rights and options while participating in the program. The murder of Jennifer Collins illustrates the most extreme example of the potential danger posed by this failure to provide key supports to victims of domestic violence.

## **Violence Across the Lifespan Regardless of Race, Economic Status, and Sexual Orientation**

Domestic violence experts have long noted that domestic abuse affects persons of all ages, all races, and all economic groups, regardless of sexual orientation. This report merely reminds us that the myth that domestic abuse only effects those who are married, young, non-white, and poor is exactly that...a myth.

## **Methodology**

To determine what domestic homicides occurred in Wisconsin in 2000, we used the Wisconsin Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) that are collected by OJA. UCRs report anonymous demographic information about WI homicides and are submitted by local law enforcement to OJA. From these reports the following information is available: agency that issued the report, county where the homicide occurred, date, type and location of homicide, age, sex and race of the victim and offender, weapon used, relationship between the parties involved, and circumstances of the homicide. The UCR does not provide the names of the victim or the offender. We conducted an internet search for newspaper accounts of the homicides. Lastly, if there were gaps in what we learned about a homicide from the newspaper or we needed to verify facts, we contacted one or more of the following agencies: domestic violence programs, district attorney's offices, law enforcement and coordinated community response coordinators in the county where the homicide took place.

In cases of murder/suicide, we chose to list the murdered person in our heading as we recognized this person as the homicide victim. In all incidences we sought to uniformly report the facts of the case. However, in certain cases additional information was not available to us and we reported only the simple demographic information available in the UCR.

## January 4

### Maxine A. Stoviak

55 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Maxine Stoviak was shot twice in the head by her former boyfriend, Richard Thone, 60, who then killed himself. Maxine had recently tried to end her relationship with Richard after 25 years. Their bodies were found at Richard's home.

According to her daughter, Richard had spoken to Maxine about suicide, and had told one of her daughters that the family might need to "forgive him" for what he might do about their break-up. In the past, Richard had been charged with a battery against Maxine, and recently neighbors reported arguments that were physical.

## January 12

### Mary Carolyn Graichen

88 years old

Shorewood

Milwaukee County

Mary Graichen died from severe physical and medical neglect and malnutrition while in the care of her son, Edward J. Graichen, 66, who lived in the flat below her. She was found barely conscious and in need of medical attention. Officers observed several open sores to Mary's arms and legs, which were so severe and deep that her bone was exposed. In the hospital Mary could only be comforted until her death two days later.

Edward was charged in her death. According to the medical examiner's report, Mary had not seen a doctor in four or five years. Edward admitted that his mother had been sitting in the same position for up to two weeks before her death. When asked why he had not sought assistance for his mother, he replied, "It takes awhile to get help, and I don't know the ABC's for this type of thing." Yet, the criminal complaint included the information that Edward worked as a nursing home orderly for five years and had taken a nursing aide program at MATC.

Edward Graichen pled guilty to Intentional Maltreatment of a Vulnerable Adult and received seven years probation for the death of his mother.

## January 16

### Roseanna Boswell

64 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Roseanna Boswell was beaten to death by her son, Howard Boswell, 40, who then set fire to her apartment. Autopsy reports showed that Roseanna had been strangled, suffered numerous blows to the head, and had cracked ribs. Howard explained to police that he lost control when his mother confronted him for not having rent money. He said that he didn't mean to kill his mother and that she was the only one who loved him no matter what. Six apartment complex residents became temporarily homeless as a result of the fire Boswell started. Howard was living with his mother at the time of the murder.

Howard was found guilty of First Degree Intentional Homicide and Arson. He was sentenced to life in prison plus five years followed by five years of extended supervision.

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**

## **January 24**

### **Sheneena T. Jones**

21 years old

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

After Jerry Robertson, 22, cut the phone line to Sheneena Jones's home, he broke in and fatally shot her in the head. Jerry then shot himself. When police arrived, Sheneena had already died but Jerry lived until the following day. At the time of the shootings, Sheneena's sister was also in the home but was not physically hurt.

On January 7, 2000, just 17 days before her murder, Sheneena received a temporary restraining order against Jerry. On January 14, 2000, she received a 2 year injunction which prohibited him from possessing firearms.

Sheneena had two children, ages one and two.

---

## **February 5**

### **Dorian S. Love**

15 years old

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

Dorian Love was fatally shot in the chest by her 15-year old boyfriend. Her aunt found her in the apartment as Dorian's boyfriend fled the scene. He was later arrested for the crime. Dorian and her boyfriend had been dating for six weeks and family members didn't think the young couple were having any problems.

---

## **February 25**

### **Ardell Van Langen**

71 years old

Grafton  
Ozaukee County

Ardell was fatally shot by Howard, her husband of 52 years, while in her bedroom. After shooting Ardell, Howard, 74, turned the gun on himself. The couple was found a few days after the shooting by one of their adult sons and his wife. The police report indicates the couple had no known history of violence and family members believe the shootings were caused by Howard's manic depression/bipolar disorder. Howard had been diagnosed with the illness 40 years earlier and was being treated at the time of the murder-suicide.

Howard was the subject of a Harassment Restraining Order Injunction with a Firearm Restriction filed in June 1999.

Ardell and Howard had three married adult sons and 6 grandchildren.

---

**dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe**

## February 26

### Jennifer Collins Kaylee Collins

21 years old  
4 months old

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

Jennifer Collins and her four-month old daughter, Kaylee were found dead in their apartment with their throats cut. Jerome Dancer, 24, Jennifer's boyfriend, had murdered them with a butcher knife. An autopsy showed that Jennifer was also approximately twelve weeks pregnant with a second child at the time of the murder.

Jerome, a married man, had been dating Jennifer for more than a year and a half and was the father of Kaylee and her unborn child. On the night of the murder, Jerome was arguing with Jennifer because Wisconsin Works (W2) welfare program was pressuring her to reveal the name of Kaylee's father or she would lose her benefits. During the argument, Jerome left Jennifer's apartment briefly, only to return with a butcher knife he retrieved from his car. Jerome left Jennifer dead in her bedroom after slicing her throat; he hid Kaylee's body in a filled laundry basket.

A jury found Jerome Dancer guilty of two counts of First Degree Intentional Homicide and he was sentenced to two terms of life in prison.

---

## February 26

### Still-Born Baby

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

David A. Enis, 33, beat his girlfriend, who was 8½ months pregnant, so severely that she delivered her still-born son two days later. The unborn child had been asphyxiated during the beatings. David held his girlfriend, who is developmentally disabled, captive for two days tied to her bed, while he beat and raped her repeatedly. David accused her of being unfaithful.

More than a year later, David was convicted of First-Degree Reckless Homicide, Second-Degree Sexual Assault, First-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Battery, Intimidation of a Victim, and False Imprisonment. This was the first conviction for killing an unborn child under Wisconsin's feticide law, which took effect June 1998. David will be in prison for 30 years with another 30 years of extended supervision.

David had a prior charge of domestic violence battery that was dismissed in September 1999.

---

## March 2

### Arlene Waddell Jerry Waddell

72 years old  
45 years old

Fairfield  
Sauk County

Arlene Waddell was shot by her husband Kenneth, 82, who then turned the gun on his son, Jerry, before shooting himself. Police investigation indicated that Kenneth shot Arlene while she was sitting at the kitchen table, just before he shot Jerry, who lay on the living room sofa. Kenneth's body was discovered in the dining room. Both Arlene and Jerry were shot in the head multiple times the morning of the murder-suicide. Jerry was living with his parents at the time of the murders in their farmhouse just north of Baraboo.

---

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**



## March 13

### Mary Jane Marquardt

54 years old

Eagle Point  
Chippewa County

Mary Jane Marquardt's body was found by her husband, Alfred, on the floor of their garage after she died from a gunshot wound and stabbing to the throat. Alfred and Mary Jane lived in the town of Eagle Point, Chippewa County. Police suspected their son, Bill Marquardt, 24, of her murder. After obtaining a search warrant, police found evidence of abuse of animals at Bill's home and were able to issue a warrant for his arrest on this charge.

On March 18, 2000, Bill was arrested on charges of cruelty to animals and at this time they found blood on his shoes and in his car. DNA from the blood matched Mary Jane. In addition, they found a knife in his possession and a gun at his home that matched crime-scene evidence. On May 4, 2000, Bill was formally charged with First Degree Homicide and subsequently entered a plea of not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect.

Bill was found not competent to stand trial on January 22, 2001 by a Chippewa County judge and was committed to Mendota Mental Health Institution for up to one year. He began receiving treatment for paranoid schizophrenia. When this criminal commitment expired, a civil mental commitment case was to proceed, however, Chippewa County missed a filing deadline. He was transferred on February 14, 2002 to the Eau Claire County jail to await prosecution for the animal cruelty charge. On June 13, 2002, Bill was once again found incompetent to stand trial for the murder of his mother but the judge had no authority under law to continue a criminal mental commitment.

Bill awaits a September trial in Eau Claire County for animal cruelty charges for which he was found competent to face by an Eau Claire judge. Mary Jane's murder case has still not been closed.

---

## April 5

### Jennifer Loppnow

23 years old

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

Jennifer Loppnow was stabbed and strangled by Reggie Lee Allen, 24. She was found dead in her apartment with a white t-shirt tied around her neck and five stab wounds to her chest. Reggie admitted to police that he had argued with Jennifer before he murdered her. He then stole many valuable items from her apartment. Reggie claimed to be in a dating relationship with Jennifer; however, she repeatedly rebuffed his advances. Jennifer expressed fear of Reggie to family and friends.

Reggie pled guilty to both First Degree Reckless Homicide and Burglary-Armed with a Dangerous Weapon. He was sentenced to 80 years in prison with 20 years of extended supervision.

Jennifer is survived by her two children.

---

**dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe**

## April 6

### Jack A. Holt

45 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Jack Holt was found stabbed to death in his home. Jack's 48 year old girlfriend was arrested for fatally stabbing him. No further information could be obtained through newspaper or police records about this murder.

## April 7

### Maretha C. Hodges

37 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Maretha Hodges was struck once in the head by her 35 year old boyfriend of 14 years while in her home. Maretha's daughter was present. After being struck, Maretha almost immediately collapsed and died.

Maretha's family reported that there was a history of violence and that Maretha had obtained a restraining order at one time. Although the medical examiner classified Maretha's manner of death as "homicide", no one has been charged in her death.

She is survived by her 12 year old daughter.

## May 20

### Brian Berger

59 years old

Lebanon

Dodge County

Brian Berger was sleeping when his wife, Carolyn Berger, 56, discharged four shots at his head. Two of the bullets hit Brian, the fatal shot entering his eye. Carolyn told authorities that she had been planning the murder for three weeks. Carolyn and Brian had been married for of 17 years, and Carolyn told authorities that Brian was verbally abusive and having an affair. She was matter-of-fact with authorities, telling them that there was nothing to investigate, she knew she faced life in prison, and wanted to "get on with it".

At the persuasion of her lawyer, Carolyn pled not guilty and not guilty by reason of mental disease, but after evaluation the plea was withdrawn. Carolyn pled guilty to First Degree Intentional Homicide. She was sentenced to life in prison and will serve at least 30 years before she can petition for extended supervision.

Brian is survived by their two adult children and four grandchildren.

## May 24

### Chanell Jones

29 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Chanell Jones was fatally shot in the head by her live-in boyfriend, Darius Johnson, 29. According to the news reports, Chanell and Darius were arguing for several days prior to the shooting. Chanell had tried to give Darius' cousin who lived in their building his handgun, stating that he had threatened to whip her with it. The following morning Darius shot Chanell. Darius told police Chanell had killed herself but later evidence proved him wrong.

Darius Johnson pled guilty to First Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 20 years in prison with 20 years extended supervision. Darius had several prior violent charges including a 1996 misdemeanor for Disorderly Conduct with the Use of a Dangerous Weapon.

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**

## **June 23**

### **Clarence M. Olson**

50 years old

Menominee Reservation

Clarence Olson bled to death from an artery severed when he was stabbed in the chest. He was found by the Menominee Tribal Police sitting at the kitchen table. His girlfriend, Sharon Wescott, 32, was charged in his death. In 1993, Sharon had obtained a restraining order against Clarence. Law enforcement reported several domestic incidents in the past in which Clarence had been the perpetrator.

Sharon was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide. A month later the charges were dismissed. Because it occurred on the Menominee Reservation the U.S. Attorney for Eastern District of WI is handling the case. The U.S. Attorney's office stated charges may be refiled, but there was a need for further investigation into the case and the past relationship between Clarence and Sharon. To date, there is no record of Sharon being recharged in the murder of her boyfriend.

---

## **July 2**

### **Alan Pies**

25 years old

Wisconsin Dells  
Adams County

Alan Pies died of a gunshot wound to the chest at a campground near Wisconsin Dells. Pies had been dating Denise Kowalski, 36, for about 2 weeks before he was murdered by her estranged husband, Thomas Kowalski, 45. Thomas fatally shot Alan in the chest and shot and wounded a female friend of Denise's while they were all with friends at a campground near Wisconsin Dells to celebrate the Fourth of July. His two young children, ages eight and ten, were nearby. Denise had left Thomas seven months earlier after 13 years of marriage and a long history of domestic violence.

Thomas had driven from his home in Washington County to find his estranged wife at the campground. Thomas told police he came with the intent of killing his wife and two of her female friends, but Alan Pies was shot when he intervened to protect Denise. Thomas then dragged her by her hair, drove her to another county and repeatedly raped and beat her. Denise tried to escape several times succeeding at least once. But Thomas caught up with Denise, beat her and forced her back to the van hidden in a wooded area. About 20 hours after the incident began, Denise finally persuaded Thomas to give himself up to the Adams County Sheriff's department.

Denise had an active restraining order against Thomas. He had threatened her in the past, telling her she "was not safe anywhere". Charges were filed in both Adams and Columbia Counties and included First Degree murder, False Imprisonment, Attempted Homicide, and Sexual Assault. He was sentenced to 65 years in prison with 20 years of extended supervision.

---

**dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe**

## July 8

### Jesse Behm

26 years old

Antigo

Langlade County

Jesse Behm was shot to death by William Statezny in the home of Roxanne Schafer, 37, the woman he was dating. William, 39, lived across the street from Roxanne and wanted to continue the brief dating relationship he had had with Roxanne. William entered Roxanne's home in the middle of the night and woke them. Roxanne fled into her bathroom and heard the shots that killed Jesse. William then kidnapped Roxanne and drove around for several hours with her before releasing her. During the kidnapping he talked to Roxanne about suicide.

William was found days later in the woods after taking his life.

## July 22

### Elizabeth Kutz

30 years old

Poynette

Dane County

Elizabeth Kutz disappeared less than a week after she told her husband, Daniel Kutz, 32, that she wanted a divorce. Elizabeth had filed a restraining order and moved out of the home with the children. Elizabeth had told family and friends that her husband had been stalking her and was following her to work. On the day of her disappearance, Daniel admitted that he saw her leaving work and flagged her down. Elizabeth proceeded to call her mother and said that if she did not arrive to pick up the children in 30 minutes to call the police.

Investigators found blood that matched Elizabeth's on Daniel's watch, under his thumbnail, and in the car she was driving the day she disappeared. Daniel Kutz was convicted in a 13-day jury trial of First Degree Intentional Homicide, Hiding a Corpse and Stalking. He was also convicted of Obstructing Police as Elizabeth was never found and is presumed dead. He is currently serving a life sentence with chance of parole after 50 years.

Elizabeth is survived by their two children, ages nine and six.

## July 23

### Michael Lathan

34 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Michael Lathan was shot three times by his girlfriend, Frankie Jones, 49. The couple were arguing before the shooting. A neighbor cited in the criminal complaint said Frankie and Michael were arguing in the front yard when Frankie said, "I'm tired of him hitting me." During the sentencing, Frankie stated that "I truly believed that it would be him or me."

Frankie pled guilty to a charge of First Degree Reckless Homicide and received four years in prison with 11 years of extended supervision. Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Wagner conceded that Frankie didn't initiate a confrontation with Michael and had reason to be afraid but that three shots were not justified and went beyond self-defense.

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**

## July 30

### Terri Ihland

36 years old

Windsor  
Dane County

Terri Ihland died in her home from a fatal gunshot wound inflicted by her husband, Dean Ihland, 36. Dean then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Dean's father found the couple dead in their home. He was concerned when neither of them had picked up their children who were in Terri's parents' care.

Terri and Dean had been married for 15 years. Friends and family reported to the police that Terri had spoken of divorce with her husband and in the past Dean had strangled Terri during arguments. Two weeks prior to her murder, Terri had taken the children to her sister-in-law's house after an argument with Dean.

Terri and Dean are survived by their two children who were 6 and 11 at the time of the murder.

## July 31

### Rita Helgeson

74 years old

Independence  
Trempealeau County

After an argument with her husband of 57 years, Rita was shot to death in her home. Robert Helgeson, 77, took a rifle from the bedroom, loaded it, and shot Rita from the kitchen as she was walking into the room. Her husband then proceeded to shoot Rita a second time as she lay on the floor to "make sure she was dead." There was a history of domestic violence within their marriage and Rita feared that if she ever left him, he would find her and kill her. Robert Helgeson was charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide and pled guilty to Second-Degree Intentional Homicide. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison, and fifteen years of extended supervision.

Rita is survived by their eight children, fifteen grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

## September 5

### Gina Franco-Marrero

14 years old

Oak Creek  
Milwaukee County

Gina Franco-Marrero was killed by her close friend/neighbor Matthew Gentil, 18. Matthew and Gina had dated in the past, but no one knew of any violence or threats in their relationship. Gina was struck three times in the head and left in her full bathtub with a cord around her neck. Gina's mother came home to find the house locked and received no response when she knocked on the door. She climbed in through a window and found her daughter. She saw Matthew running from their residence holding a gun and wearing a ski mask. He shouted "I killed Gina".

Police were called and were attempting to negotiate with Matthew when he took his life standing on his front porch.

**dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe**

## September 18

### Ronald Carter

57 years old

Brookfield  
Waukesha County

Ronald Carter was stabbed to death in his home by his ex-boyfriend, Ronald Wolfe, 33. In addition to the multiple knife wounds to his neck, Carter had cuts and bruises on his legs, arms, elbow and genitals that indicate a beating. The assault was so violent that the blade of the knife broke off the handle. Wolfe had a lengthy criminal history and though Carter had bailed him out of jail a few weeks before the homicide, he later contacted the judge and asked to have the bail revoked, saying he feared for his safety.

Wolfe was charged and convicted by a jury of First Degree Intentional Homicide with a knife and Robbery for first murdering Carter and then robbing him. He was sentenced to life in prison without chance of parole.

Ronald Carter is survived by three adult children and two grandchildren.

---

## October 18

### Kristina Gilliam

38 years old

Green Bay  
Brown County

Kristina Gilliam was stabbed nine times in the chest and back by her husband, James Gilliam, 44, outside her home. Her 14 year old son witnessed the attack and ran for help. Kristina was separated from James at the time of the murder and had picked up divorce papers that day. Family members said James intimidated his wife through violence and threats and that Kristina often wore sunglasses to hide bruises on her face. James had a history of attacking people with knives, including previous partners who were threatened when they ended relationships with him.

James Gilliam pled guilty to First Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Kristina is survived by their son who lives with her sister.

---

## October 18

### Ruth Carstensen

54 years old

Rhineland  
Oneida County

Ruth was found face down on her neighbor's front lawn after being shot three times in the back and chest at close range by her husband, Robert Carstensen, 59, who then killed himself. Ruth had filed for divorce just eight days before the homicide occurred. Although she told friends that Robert was controlling and she wanted to end the marriage, no one knew of a history of violence. Injuries on both bodies indicate that there may have been a violent struggle prior to their deaths and that Ruth was likely running for her life when she was gunned down, clutching her glasses in her hand.

---

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**

## October 31

### Kari Hodges

22 years old

Madison

Dane County

Kari Hodges was fatally shot by her live-in boyfriend, Christopher Nelson, 29. Less than an hour before her death, Kari had been talking with her sister, Jessi Hodges, on the phone. Jessi had heard arguing going on in the background. "Chris, get that gun out of my face," is what she heard before the line went dead and her sister was murdered. Their two-year old son was found in the home when police arrived. Police saw Christopher flee the scene upon arrival and he eluded arrest until January 19, 2001, when he was found in Sauk County. Kari's family members attested to Chris's prior abusive behavior toward Kari and court records show that Chris was arrested and convicted of a domestic related incident against another girlfriend in September 2000.

Christopher Nelson was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and pled guilty/no contest to First Degree Reckless Homicide. He was sentenced to 25 years in prison with 10 years extended supervision.

Christopher had several prior arrests including a 1996 felony conviction.

Kari is survived by their son who is currently living with his maternal grandmother.

## November 12

### Rachel Shreve

38 years old

Elkhorn

Walworth County

Rachel Shreve was killed while she was hiding from her ex-husband at a friend's house in Pell Lake. She was shot by her ex-husband, Eddie Hiland, 41, who readily told police that he intended to kill her and that he watched through a window to make sure it was Rachel before he fired. He shot her first through a window and then entered the house, discharging a total of 20 shots. Nine of them hit Rachel. Three children witnessed the attack, but none of them were physically injured.

Eddie had already served nine years in prison for a 1986 assault on Rachel. During that assault he had broken into her home, held a gun to her mouth and threatened to kill her. Rachel had been in hiding since mid-September 2000 after Eddie had forcibly taken her to a cemetery, threatened to "bash her head in" with a metal pipe, and then raped her. Rachel reported the assault to police. Several days before her death, Rachel told police that if Eddie found her he would kill her and she felt he was close.

Eddie was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, Possession of a Firearm after a Felony Conviction and Sexual Assault. He is serving a life sentence plus five years.

Rachel is survived by her four children.

---

**dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe**

## November 22

### Judith Ann Hawkins

46 years old

Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County

Judith Ann Hawkins was fatally shot by her husband, Craig Hawkins, 45. He shot her six times while she was in her car in the garage. Just two weeks before, Judith had announced divorce plans. On the morning of Judith's death, her daughter received a message that her mother had not arrived at work. The daughter went to the home to check on her mother only to find her dying and her father driving out of the neighborhood.

Craig Hawkins pled guilty to First Degree Intentional Homicide and is serving life in prison.

## November 24

### Kristie Rice

30 years old

Madison  
Dane County

Kristie Rice was stabbed and bludgeoned to death with a hammer in her sleep by her husband, Michael Rice, 34. Kristie had been stabbed and struck in the head at least five times each. Kristie's son and Michael's daughter were sleeping in the next bedroom. The couple had separated but were making a final attempt to reconcile their relationship. According to Michael, he knew that when his wife awoke that she would be leaving him for good. He told police, "If I can't have her, nobody will." Police indicated that they had been called to the home for prior domestic violence.

Michael Rice pled guilty to First Degree Reckless Homicide and received a life sentence with parole eligibility after 25 years.

Kristie is survived by her 9 year old son.

## November 30

### William Deverney

42 years old

Tiplar  
Florence County

William Deverney died of a knife wound at his home in Tiplar in Florence County. His girlfriend, Effie Soman, 29, was arrested and charged with his death. Effie had endured years of abuse that had been documented in hospital and police records.

On the night of November 30, 2000, an argument began and escalated to a point where Effie told her children to gather their things to leave. The children reported that William began to hit Effie in the head, chest and stomach and that he was wielding a knife. As they fought, she was pushed up against the door, they struggled for the knife and William was stabbed. Effie, who was pregnant, was hospitalized with injuries. One of the children reported that when Effie got the knife, William stopped hitting her.

Effie was charged with Homicide by Dangerous Weapon and later pled no contest to First Degree Reckless Homicide. She was given a four year prison sentence with six years extended supervision on her release.

Effie's three children are living with her family members.

**bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was dead...get that gun out of my face...not safe anywhere...if I can't have her, nobody will...bash her head in...make sure she was**



