

# 2002 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report

Published September 2004



**Domestic violence claimed**

**49 lives**

**in Wisconsin.**

“I wish she would just die...I wish I could kill her and get away with it.”

“Let her burn.”

“I hit the car. I did it on purpose.”

“How long do you think it will be before I snap?”

“When I go out, I’m taking you and whoever is with you with me.”

“...make the score even...”

## The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence

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 their children and for professionals in related fields;
- ⌘ Training for professionals in legal, health care, social services, child welfare, elder abuse, housing, education, 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, Coordinated Community Response Coordinator; Susan Ramspacher, Prevention Project Coordinator; and Jen Rubin, Education Coordinator.

**Researchers:** Anne Leila O'Hara, Education Intern

**Editors:** Colleen Cox, Grant Writer/Training Coordinator; Sue Hemling, Operations Manager; and Mary Lauby, Executive Director.

We could not have developed this report without the help of the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance and Department of Justice.

Carrie Nie, William McGill and Richard Withers from the Firearm Injury Center provided insight regarding the Violent Injury Reporting System data collection methods and organization and assistance with analysis of our data.

We would like to offer special thanks to the families of the homicide victims, and the staff of domestic abuse programs, district attorneys' offices, law enforcement agencies, medical examiners' offices, and state agencies who helped us find information about the domestic violence homicide victims whose stories are included in this report.



307 South Paterson Street, Suite 1  
Madison, WI 53703  
Phone (608) 255-0539  
Fax/TTY (608) 255-3560  
[www.wcadv.org](http://www.wcadv.org)

## In This Report

---

### **Executive Summary**

A brief overview of the 2002 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report and key data elements that emerged from the individual stories featured in the Domestic Violence Homicide Section of this report.

### **Issues and Policy Implications**

When examined more deeply, the experiences and struggles of the victims of domestic violence homicide detailed in this report reveal important policy and practice implications for our communities. This section compares Wisconsin's domestic violence homicides to national trends and highlights issues including: gun violence, leaving the relationship, risk to others, stalking, media and violence across the lifespan.

### **Methodology**

This section describes the research methodology and the definitions and criteria used to determine which 2002 Wisconsin homicides to include in this report.

### **Section I. Domestic Violence Homicides**

This section focuses on homicides resulting from domestic violence in Wisconsin in 2002. It contains descriptive information about the fatalities, such as who was killed and by whom, their ages, the locations and incidents of the murders, what weapons

were used, the nature of the victims' and perpetrators' relationships and any known history of abuse in the relationships.

### **Section II. Children**

It is clear that when abusers commit murder, children, friends and families are at risk. In researching the domestic violence homicides, we also searched for children under 18 who were killed as a result of a domestic violence incident. This year we did not learn of any children who were killed during a 2002 domestic violence incident but did find three cases where domestic violence contributed to the deaths of four children. We created this section to include the stories of these four children in the report and to give a more complete picture of how children are at great risk because of their exposure to a battering parent.

### **Comparison Data**

With this report, WCADV publishes its third Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report. At this point we are unable to draw conclusions about long-term ramifications or concerns. However, as WCADV intends to continue to generate these reports, we have provided analysis of the three years for which we have data, in spite of its limitations.

## Executive Summary

Domestic violence has devastating effects on our lives, homes, communities and society. An intimate relationship that ends in homicide starkly illustrates the most catastrophic possible end. Not only have the victim's and at times the perpetrator's life ended, but the lives of those around them – their children, family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and other loved ones – have been changed forever. This report reflects the scope and lethality of domestic violence as a serious social problem, a human rights issue and a crime.

From 2000 to 2002, 104 people were killed in domestic violence homicides. While men killing their female current or former intimate partner comprises the largest percentage of domestic violence homicides, we cannot understand the full picture of domestic violence homicides unless we also look at the many other homicides which take place as abusers seek to control their intimate partners. As this report shows, the children, friends and current intimate partners of victims of domestic violence are at risk when abusers kill.

This report, the third of its kind in Wisconsin, details domestic violence homicides that occurred in the state during calendar year (CY) 2002. Homicides were considered domestic if the victims and perpetrators were spouses, former spouses, adults with children in common, adults related by blood and adults or teens who had been in a dating relationship. Cases were also included if the circumstances of murder included intimate partner jealousy or an attempt to protect a domestic violence victim from future harm.

We have briefly retold people's stories. With their stories we hope to educate individuals and systems in communities throughout Wisconsin about what happened to these victims of domestic violence who were killed, in the hope that others will not suffer and die as they did. Information was compiled from reports to the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), the Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) and through Wisconsin newspaper articles. Every attempt was made to include all domestic violence deaths. We have tried to show the nature of domestic violence as it invades a home and family, and escalates to a fatal end. We used the available facts to tell these stories as accurately as possible. However, the brief presentation of these stories can in no way capture the detail and complexity of everyone's life. A complete picture of each case can only be gleaned by thoroughly reading all of the available documentation.

In addition to the details and implications of the 2002 domestic violence homicide incidents, this report builds upon the information provided in WCADV's previous reports about 2000 and 2001 domestic violence homicides, and attempts to bring forward additional new areas of concern.

The information on the following pages provides a context for the extent of the problem and presents aggregate data regarding domestic violence homicides in CY 2002.

From January to December 2002, the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) reported 195 deaths by homicide to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS).<sup>1</sup> WCADV determined there were **36 domestic violence homicide incidents** in 2002, which resulted in **49 deaths – 38 people were murdered and 11 perpetrators committed suicide**. The average rate of domestic violence homicide in Wisconsin in 2002 was 1.95 murders per month. When suicides are included the rate is 2.5 domestic violence related deaths per month.

### ⌘ Homicide Victims By Age & Gender

	Female	Male	Total	%
0-6 years	0	0	0	0
6-17 years	2	1	3	8%
18-29 years	6	3	9	24%
30-49 years	13	7	20	52%
Over 50 years	3	3	6	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>100%</b>

### ⌘ Race and Ethnicity of Victims and Perpetrators

	Victims		Perpetrators	
Caucasian	24	63%	18	51%
African American	12	32%	15	43%
Hispanic	0	0	2	6%
Unknown	2	5%	0	0

Please note: In one incident the local SWAT Team fatally shot an offender and is not included in the above perpetrator count.

### ⌘ Victims of the Homicides were Killed in the Following Ways

18 shot (6 shotgun, 2 rifle, and 10 handgun) (47%)  
 9 stabbed (24%)  
 3 strangled and asphyxiated (8%)  
 3 beaten with hands, fists and feet (8%)  
 2 bludgeoned with hatchet, sledgehammer or table leg (5%)  
 2 intentional drug overdoses (5%)  
 1 intentional head-on collision (3%)

### ⌘ Perpetrators who Committed Suicide Used the Following Means

10 shot (4 shotgun, 2 rifle and 4 handgun) (91%)  
 1 asphyxiated (9%)

### ⌘ Leaving the Relationship

In 15 (42%) of the 36 homicide incidents, the homicide victims had left their abusive partners or had discussed divorce or leaving prior to the murder. In three additional homicides, murder victims were related to or involved with a mother or girlfriend who had had left her abusive partner or had discussed divorce or leaving prior to the murder.

<sup>1</sup> The source of data for BHI is death certificates filed with the State Registrar, Vital Records Section, BHI, Division of Health Care Financing and DHFS.

### ⌘ Relationship Status of Perpetrators and Female Victims

Of the 24 women killed, 23 were killed by their male partner (either current or former) and one was killed by her adult son.

	Husband	Boyfriend	Son
Current	5	9	1
Former	4	5	0

### ⌘ Relationship of Male Victims to the Homicide Perpetrators

Of the 14 men killed:

- Four were killed by their female partners (either current or former); two of these four were killed in self-defense.
- Two were killed by male relatives of their former or current female partners, one while protecting the victim of domestic violence.
- Six were killed by men who were jealous of an existing or perceived relationship between the male homicide victim and the perpetrator's current or former partner.
- One was killed by his stepfather – his mother was killed in the same incident.
- One was killed by a SWAT team during a domestic violence hostage situation. The domestic violence hostage survived.

### ⌘ History of Domestic Violence

In 22 of the 38 (58%) incidents, a prior history of domestic violence was recorded by police or reported by family or friends.

### ⌘ Location of Murder

For 26 of the 38 (68%) deaths, the victims were killed in their homes, just outside their homes or the temporary homes in which they were residing.

### ⌘ Gender of Perpetrator in Murder/Suicide

All 11 of the murder/suicides involved male perpetrators killing female and/or male victims and then committing suicide.

### ⌘ Impact on Children

- Twenty-one children under 18 were orphaned, motherless and/or fatherless due to domestic violence homicide.
- Thirteen minor children and one adult child were present at the scene or found the murder victim. (This includes children of the victim or perpetrator and teenagers at a party.)

### Domestic Violence Homicides by County

In 2002, 13 (34%) domestic violence related murders occurred in rural communities and 25 (66%) were committed in urban or suburban settings.

County	Victim's Name	Date of Incident
Barron	Jason Fetting	April 19
Dunn	Mark Bagan	July 19
Dane	Jacqueline Bennet	August 18
	Frederic Titter	October 1
	Lizette Fountain	December 4
Green Lake	Carol L. Petit	August 19
Iron	Andrea Saxton	August 3
Jefferson	Colleen Ann Wilke	June 30
Kenosha	Maureen Jefferson	July 16
Marinette	Jodi Gerondale	September 24
Milwaukee	Michael Ousley	January 10
	Alice Davis	March 2
	Emmet Seymour	March 25
	Jesse Neely	March 26
	Kirby Germany	May 14
	Sandra Thomas	June 7
	Lavelle Johnson & Joel Wright	July 23
	Kim Staffin	August 1
	Marie Booher	August 30
	Justin Simpson	September 5
Roy Johnson	September 5	
Shirley Harris	November 15	
Angelina Gunderson	November 20	
Oconto	Gail Meidam	June 6
	Joseph "Butch" Hrpa	June 6
Racine	Sandra Russell	July 14
Rock	Jennifer Judge	November 22
Taylor	John Maier	May 1
Trempealeau	Melissa Peterson	August 27
Walworth	Roger St. Claire	January 8
Waukesha	Carol Huebner	January 6
	Carrie Bailey	January 8
	Nikita Tang	January 13
	Travis Carr	September 29
	Minnie Griffin	December 24
Winnebago	Molly J. Mullen	June 27
	Debra A. Last	November 22

## ISSUES AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

### Gun Violence

An analysis of domestic violence homicide of females (a woman murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative) showed that 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). In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in a recent study that females are more likely to be murdered with a firearm by their intimate partners than by all other means combined.<sup>1</sup> Noting the heightened risk that guns pose to domestic violence victims, federal law restricts an offender convicted of a domestic violence related misdemeanor crime from possessing a firearm. In Wisconsin, anyone convicted of a felony cannot legally possess a firearm. Similarly, both federal and Wisconsin law prohibit possession of firearms while a person is subject to an active domestic violence restraining order.

In Wisconsin in 2002, 18 of the 38 persons murdered were killed with a firearm. Numerous perpetrators who killed using firearms had committed prior crimes:

- One was charged in 1999 with two counts of Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety and Injury by Negligent Use of a Weapon. These charges were dismissed upon his completion of a deferred prosecution program. He was on probation for a 2001 conviction in a domestic violence case which included the charge of Operating a Firearm While Intoxicated. At the time he committed murder, he was facing pending domestic violence related charges including two counts of Battery and two counts of Disorderly Conduct. He committed those crimes just three months before the murder.
- One had an active domestic violence restraining order against him and a pending domestic violence charge of Unlawful Use of the Telephone, which occurred six months before the murder.
- One was convicted in 2001 of a felony for Possession of a Firearm by a Felon which stemmed from a 1991 felony conviction.
- One had a pending domestic violence related charge issued nine months before the murder. At the time of the murder, an arrest warrant was circulating for him regarding this nine month-old case. In 1995, he had been convicted of Carrying a Concealed Weapon.
- One had pending domestic violence related charges that originated in December of 1999.
- Three months prior to committing homicide, one of the perpetrators had ended a one-year probation sentence for domestic violence related crimes against the woman he killed.

Sixteen perpetrators killed using a gun. Of these 16 perpetrators, 15 were adults at the time of the murder.

- Three of these perpetrators were prohibited from possessing firearms.
- Four had pending domestic violence cases against them at the time of the murder.
- Three had been convicted of crimes that involved the use of firearms.
- Eleven (73%) would have qualified for a permit to carry a concealed weapon based on the 2003 proposed Wisconsin legislation to legalize carrying concealed weapons.

---

<sup>1</sup> Leonard J. Paulozzi et al, "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners – United States, 1981 – 1998," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summaries* 50 (October 12, 2001): 1 – 16.



A recent national study by the Violence Policy Center, *American Roulette: The Untold Story of Murder-Suicide in the United States*, found that 73.7% of murder/suicide incidents involved intimate partners. Nearly all (94.5%) of the murder/suicides involved firearms. In Wisconsin, 91% (10) of the domestic violence murder/suicides committed in 2002 involved the use of firearms.<sup>2</sup> This is compared with the total number of suicides in Wisconsin in 2002 where a gun was involved in 49.6% of the incidents.<sup>3</sup>

## Leaving the Relationship

It is often most dangerous for battered women as they attempt to leave and after they have left a violent relationship. In 15 (42%) of the 36 homicide incidents in this report, the victims were killed after they had left their abusive partner or had discussed divorce or leaving prior to the murder. An additional three were killed because their mother or girlfriend had left their abusive partner or had discussed divorce or leaving prior to the murder.

What we experience in Wisconsin parallels the national research. In the 2003 study, *Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multi-site Case Control Study*, the researchers interviewed family members of 220 female victims of intimate partner homicide and a control group of 343 women who reported being the victims of physical abuse in the past two years. The study's findings revealed that separating from an abusive partner after having lived with him, leaving the home she shares with an abusive partner or asking her abusive partner to leave the home they share were all factors that put a woman at higher risk of becoming a victim of homicide.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority found that leaving was an immediate precipitating factor in 45% of the homicides they studied where a man killed a woman.<sup>5</sup>

Leaving can end the violence to the current victim. However, a woman's risk of being killed by her partner only decreases if the partner is willing to give up control and has no more contact with the victim. Many battered women carefully strategize the safest time to try to extricate themselves from the relationship, but even when women take all the measures a community has to offer, she might still be killed by her estranged partner. In addition, an abuser who has used tactics other than physical abuse can quickly escalate to physical violence when the battered woman makes an attempt to leave. An abusive partner may use increased violence to keep her from leaving and that increased violence can result in death. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the rate of domestic violence homicides by husbands was 25 times higher when women were separated from their husbands than when married and cohabiting.<sup>6</sup>

Looking at the percentage of women who were killed in Wisconsin and nationally while leaving

---

<sup>2</sup> Violence Policy Center, *American Roulette: The Untold Story of Murder-Suicide in the United States*, 2002.

<sup>3</sup> Violent Injury Report System of Wisconsin, *Annual Statistical Report Wisconsin 2002 Violent Fatalities*, Spring 2004.

<sup>4</sup> Campbell, Jacquelyn, et al. "Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multisite Case Control Study." *American Journal of Public Health*, 2003.

<sup>5</sup> Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, *Chicago Women's Health Risk Study*, 2002.

<sup>6</sup> Websdale, Neal. *Understanding Domestic Homicide*. Northeastern University Press, Boston, 1999.

their partners underscores the heightened risk women face when leaving an abusive partner. To fully understand domestic violence homicide and develop strategies that can help victims safely leave, it is important to look past the numbers to the individuals who were killed. In one incident, the victim was killed while returning to her home to retrieve possessions. In another, the victim was killed when she returned home to settle up on rent. In several incidents the perpetrator waited for the homicide victim at her home and stabbed, shot or beat her to death.

### **Risk to Others**

While men killing their female current or former intimate partner makes up the largest percentage of domestic violence related homicides, we will miss the full death toll of domestic violence unless we also examine the many other homicides which take place as abusers seek to control their intimate partners. Not every victim of domestic violence homicide was the victim in the abusive relationship. Six of the cases described in this homicide report provide graphic details of men who were killed by men who were jealous of an existing or perceived relationship with the perpetrator's current or former partner. Examples include a man beaten to death by his brother who thought he was flirting with his girlfriend. Another man was shot and killed after allegedly winking at an acquaintance's girlfriend. A man was fatally shot at work by his girlfriend's ex-boyfriend who was upset by their new relationship. A seventh case involved a man who was killed by his stepfather in an incident where his mother was killed as well. These incidents illustrate that society needs to carefully consider jealousy and possessiveness as warning signs. When coupled with an abuser's sense of entitlement, they can lead to murder.

### **Stalking**

Stalking of an intimate or former intimate partner is the most common and prevalent form of stalking. Most women were stalked after the relationship with their partner had ended. In *Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide*, 88% of femicide victims and 68% of attempted femicide victims were stalked by their former partners. This compares with 30% of male victims who were stalked by some type of intimate partner.<sup>7</sup> Although stalking is a crime committed by both men and women, the majority of stalkers are male. Ninety-four percent of stalkers identified by women and 60% of stalkers identified by male victims were male. Seventy-five percent of intimate partner femicides reviewed in a recent study were preceded by one or more incidents of stalking within one year of the crime.<sup>8</sup>

In six of the 36 cases of domestic violence homicide in 2002, the perpetrators stalked their victims for a period of time leading up to the murder. In an additional five incidents of homicide, preliminary evidence uncovered in our research points toward stalking behaviors employed by the perpetrators prior to the murder. In each of these incidents, the domestic violence victim had separated from the perpetrator and was not living with the perpetrator at the time of the murder.

While almost every state has adopted anti-stalking legislation, and more victims are coming

---

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, *Stalking and Domestic Violence: Third Annual Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act*, 1998.

<sup>8</sup> McFarlane, J., Campbell, J., Wilts, S., et. al. 1999. "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide." *Homicide Studies*.

forward to report stalking crimes, nationally, the laws do not appear to have made a significant impact on law enforcement's response to stalking. The number of arrests have remained about the same before and after the enactment of anti-stalking laws. Overall, the percentage of stalking cases prosecuted was quite small. A United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs anecdotal survey of criminal justice practitioners found that stalkers continue to be charged and sentenced under harassment, intimidation and other related laws instead of a state's anti-stalking statute. (*Stalking and Domestic Violence: The Third Annual Report to Congress under the Violence Against Women Act, 1998*). That same survey also found that many criminal justice officials still do not fully understand, and therefore, continue to underestimate, the potential dangerousness of stalkers to their victims.

## Media

Domestic violence is a significant public safety issue. Although it occurs between individuals who have a relationship, it has a direct impact on the quality of life in any given community. The media has a crucial role to play in public education about domestic violence. How domestic violence is reported has an impact on public opinion, which has an impact on public policy and legislation.

Domestic violence is difficult to investigate and complicated to report. Researchers have studied news coverage of domestic violence fatalities in Washington and Rhode Island. For the purposes of this report, we conducted our own study and our results mirror that of Washington and Rhode Island.<sup>9</sup>

In compiling this report, we read 161 newspaper articles. They varied in length from multiple pages to just a few paragraphs. With few exceptions, regardless of the length or the newspaper in which they appeared, they often failed to provide accurate or serious coverage of domestic violence as a deadly public health issue.

### **Issue: Domestic violence homicides were rarely labeled as domestic violence or placed in a broader context**

Of the 161 articles reviewed, only two (1%) included domestic violence or a similar meaning phrase in the title of the article. In addition, only 15 (9%) specifically labeled the incident as domestic violence. By failing to place the murder in the larger context of domestic violence, the reporters and their newspapers missed an opportunity to inform the public of the seriousness of domestic violence in their community. Instead, hidden within the sub-context of the stories were the dynamics of domestic violence, which fueled these heinous crimes.

**Solution:** Inform the public with clear and accurate reporting.

### **Issue: Coverage provided an inaccurate view of domestic violence and reinforced myths**

Instead of naming the violence, murders, suicides and near fatal injuries perpetrated against intimate partners and their loved ones, were commonly described as "love triangle", "affair

---

<sup>9</sup> C.F. Bullock and J. Cubert, "Coverage of Domestic Violence Fatalities by Newspapers in Washington State," *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, May 2002, vol. 17, no. 5, 475-499. "Rhode Island Media Study: 1996-1999" in *Domestic Violence: A Handbook for Journalists*, produced by the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2000.

prompted slayings”, “killer described as jealous, threatening”, “knife death” or “hatchet killing” and “flirting linked to death.” In these instances, the perpetrator of the violence is left out of the equation completely as with “hatchet killing” or the domestic violence homicide is reduced to a natural consequence that would result from jealousy or alleged affairs.

**Solution:** Demystify domestic violence by finding and reporting the evidence or facts of the crimes that illustrate the domestic violence perpetrators’ intent to control their victims.

### **Issue: Sources shaped the stories and were often limited or poorly chosen**

Our study found that domestic violence experts were rarely quoted in stories covering domestic violence fatalities. When reporters did not cover the homicide as a domestic violence related crime, they missed the opportunity to provide the public with information and resources that would be available through interviews with domestic violence advocates and batterers treatment providers. These expert perspectives were completely left out of the stories. In lieu of this input, reporters have been driven to speak with family, friends and neighbors. In these instances, the readers have often been left with images of the accused murderer as a “loving father” or “good neighbor” without any reflection on the murderous act.

**Solution:** Include interviews with local domestic violence and batterers treatment experts and information from credible domestic violence researchers.

Our review mirrors national studies, which found that news stories regarding domestic violence murders often reinforce myths and inaccuracies about domestic violence. They do this by implying victim-blaming or perpetrator-excusing attitudes, blaming the act on cultural or class differences, and reinforcing the idea that the fatal violence came out of the blue as opposed to being the culmination of a history of violence and controlling behaviors.<sup>10</sup> When reporters and their media outlets are conscientious and informed in their approach to reporting crimes of domestic violence, they contribute to helping our communities understand the dynamics of domestic violence and how it can lead to murder.

## **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, races, and economic groups, regardless of sexual orientation. This report merely reminds us that the myth that domestic abuse only effects those who are married, heterosexual, young, and poor is exactly that...a myth.

## **Methodology**

To determine the domestic violence homicides that occurred in Wisconsin in 2002, we examined the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) collected by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA). UCRs provided anonymous demographic information about homicides and were

---

<sup>10</sup> Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence, *Covering Domestic Violence: A guide for journalists and other media professionals*, 2004.

submitted by local law enforcement to OJA. From these reports the following information was available: agency that issued the report; county in which the homicide occurred; date, type and location of homicide; age, sex and race of the victim and offender; weapon used; relationship between the perpetrator and victim; and circumstances of the homicide. The UCR did not provide the names of the victim or offender. The UCRs were reviewed and domestic violence related homicides were identified.

Following the review of all UCRs, we conducted an Internet search for newspaper accounts of the selected homicides. Finally, 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: local domestic violence programs, district attorneys' offices, adult protective services, law enforcement, medical examiners or coroners, and coordinated community response coordinators in the counties where the homicides took place.

Homicides were considered domestic violence related if the victims and perpetrators were spouses, former spouses, adults with children in common, adults related by blood and adults or teens who had been in a dating relationship. Cases were also included if the circumstances of the murder included jealousy concerning a current or former partner of the perpetrator or an attempt to protect a domestic violence victim.

Due to confidentiality laws, WCADV can only obtain records of public access and such data as death certificates are not available to us. As a result, the scope of our report is limited to those homicides identifiable through public access. We include only simple demographic information available in the UCR if additional information is not available. As WCADV is committed to providing a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence homicide, we are always seeking to improve our report. To this end, we are partnering with the Firearm Injury Center for future reports, to better capture all the relevant homicides and delve more deeply into the data.

In compiling our summary data, we sought to include the total number of homicides committed in 2002 in Wisconsin. This figure is available from several sources including the Bureau of Health Information (BHI), Office of Justice Assistance (OJA) and the Firearm Injury Center Violent Injury Reporting System (FIC-VIRS). However, the figures differ.<sup>11</sup> Each agency compiles their data using various reporting methods including death certificates, police reports, coroner, medical examiner and hospital records. We chose to use the figure reported by the BHI as noted in our Executive Summary, page 3.

In addition to Section I. Domestic Violence Homicides, we have created Section II. Children, at the end of the report. These children were given a separate section because the circumstances of their murder did not fit our definition of domestic violence homicide. We determined the stories should be included in the overall report to give a more complete picture of how children are at risk because of their exposure to a battering parent or a domestic violence perpetrator.

In each case of murder/suicide, we chose to list the murdered person in our heading as we recognized this person as the homicide victim.

---

<sup>11</sup> BHI reports 195 homicide related deaths in "Wisconsin Deaths 2002"; OJA reports 155 homicides in "Wisconsin Crime and Arrests 2002" and FIC-VIRS reports 185 homicides in "Annual Statistical Report Wisconsin 2002 Violence Fatalities".

## Section I. Domestic Violence Homicides

### Carla Huebner

44 years old

January 6

Waukesha  
Waukesha County

Carla Huebner was killed in her home by her estranged husband, Dale, 47. Dale strangled her with the necktie she had given him for Christmas just days before. She had recently decided to file for divorce and had moved in with her parents. On the day she was killed, she had returned home to retrieve her possessions. Her two sons, 16 and 13, were home with her at the time of the homicide, but did not intervene on her behalf, even as she begged them to call for help. After killing Carla, Dale sent the boys to the movies, telling them he was going to kill himself, and then made a suicide attempt.

Carla fought for her life. She struggled with her husband causing them to fall over a chair and hit a stereo amplifier. She ended up on the floor with Dale on top of her. When she gasped out the words, "Call 911", her 16 year old son yelled, "You chose! You chose!", "Dad loves you" and "Please don't press charges if he stops!" The couple's 13 year old son ran and hid in the basement, covering his ears so he couldn't hear the screaming.

Dale was intimidating, controlling and psychologically abusive during their 20-year marriage. Carla told co-workers that her marriage was becoming increasingly physically violent. During their marriage, Dale was often unemployed and Carla financially supported her family. Despite this fact, Carla was often "fined" for behavior that Dale found unacceptable such as leaving a window open while the air conditioning was on, failing to put a file folder on the dining room table as he had instructed, criticizing him or failing to have dinner on time. The newspaper described his behavior toward his family as "dehumanizing" and "bizarre." Dale had numerous VCRs and TVs set up around the house, and taped and watched all television programs before his family was allowed to view them.

Dale Huebner pled no contest to First Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole. The judge originally ordered him to have no contact with his children, but later reversed that part of the sentence at Dale's request.

Carla is survived by her two sons, 16 and 13, who reside with Dale's parents.

**Carrie Bailey****36 years old****January 8****Muskego  
Waukesha County**

Carrie Bailey was shot in her upper body by her ex-husband, Michael Bailey, 38, and died in her bathroom. Michael then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. Their bodies were found by Carrie's parents that evening, who came to check on their daughter after she missed a meeting with her mother.

Carrie and Michael were married for two years and had been divorced for about 14 years, but continued to live in the same home in Muskego. Carrie's brother stated that the relationship between his sister and her former husband was "on the verge of ending." Michael had a history of making threats to Carrie, such as on the day of the homicide, when he called Carrie's mother and said "[Carrie is] going to die at 4 p.m. and I'm going to kill myself." Michael's threats were common. A letter left behind by Michael said the murder-suicide would "make the score even."

**Roger St. Claire****60 years old****January 8****Delavan  
Walworth County**

After a three hour standoff with the Walworth County SWAT team, Roger St. Claire, was fatally shot in the stomach several times by officers. The officers had finally entered the home after repeatedly attempting to speak with Roger. Roger was holding Dusty, a 55 year-old woman whom he wanted to be his girlfriend, hostage in her own home.

A friend of Dusty's called the police the night of January 8 because while on the phone with her, Dusty reported that Roger had appeared with a gun. A neighbor told police after the shooting that she had heard "commotion" earlier in the day and again later including screaming and a possible gun shot. Dusty reported that shortly after Roger arrived at her apartment he started arguing with her about another man and she noticed he had a gun. He then shot her and moved her to the kitchen floor. Police responded to a man with a gun call, not knowing that Dusty had been shot and was being held hostage. As the standoff unfolded, the SWAT team became aware of Dusty's condition when Roger tried to move her body in the apartment. Once the SWAT team realized Roger had an unconscious hostage, they entered the apartment. Roger pointed his gun at the officers, causing them to shoot and kill him. Dusty was rushed to the hospital and remained in serious condition for several days.

Roger's friends and former co-workers described Roger as obsessed and jealous of Dusty and friendships she had with other men. Roger reportedly told others that he would wait outside Dusty's apartment to see if other men entered or exited. He would go to places she frequented looking to see if she was alone or not. Several of their mutual friends indicated that Roger believed they were boyfriend-girlfriend even though Dusty had been clear about only wanting to be friends.

**Michael Ousley** Michael Ousley was stabbed to death by his girlfriend, Lorraine Lee, 34. Lorraine and Michael had known each other nine years and lived together for the previous five months.

**43 years old**

**January 10**

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Lorraine told investigators that she had told Michael to leave after he punched her four times in the chest and slapped her in the face. At one point during the fight, she grabbed a broom and struck Michael across the back with the handle, which broke the handle. She tried to leave, hoping to call the police, but Michael stopped her. She told him to “get out” but he refused.

When Michael would not leave, she got a sharp kitchen knife from the drawer. She held up the knife and approached Michael stating that she was “... tired of going through this every time you get drunk.” Michael stood up and grabbed her wrist to get the knife. As she pulled away from him she stabbed him once in the chest. He went into the bathroom and she sat on the couch with her school-aged daughter, who had witnessed the argument and stabbing. Lorraine did not think Michael was hurt badly and did not go check on him until much later, when she went to the bathroom to brush her teeth. At that point she tried to wake him and found his body cold to the touch.

Lorraine Lee was charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide and sentenced to seven years in prison and eight years extended supervision. Weighing mitigating circumstances and criminal intent led to this lesser charge.

---

**Nikita Tang** Nikita Tang was strangled and smothered until she was dead by her boyfriend, Charles De La Paz, 16. Nikita had been dead for 11 days before a pedestrian saw her body behind the City Hall Annex in Waukesha.

**15 years old**

**January 13**

**Waukesha  
Waukesha County**

Charles and his parents relocated to Oklahoma several weeks after the murder and it was there that Waukesha detectives went to serve him with a subpoena to try to gain information on the homicide. Charles surprised them by confessing to the homicide. He stated that he and Nikita had consensual sex and when she said something that angered him, he put her in a chokehold. When she started screaming, he pushed mud and leaves down her throat and she suffocated and died. He then took her money, threw her jeans on top of her and left her at the bottom of a hill. According to Nikita’s aunt, Charles was her on-again, off-again boyfriend.

Charles De La Paz pled guilty/no contest to First Degree Intentional Homicide and is serving a life sentence. He will be eligible for parole consideration after 35 years and 22 months.



**Alice Davis** Alice Davis was stabbed to death by her live-in boyfriend, Eugene Taylor Jr., 38. A fire started during the altercation that burned the house that they shared. Although her body was badly burned and the bedroom where she was found was heavily damaged by fire, an autopsy showed that Alice bled to death from multiple stab wounds.

**42 years old**

**March 2** On the night/day of the murder and fire, Eugene borrowed money and a car from Alice. Despite telling her he was visiting his brother-in-law, he partied with a female friend. He returned home hours later at 4 a.m., very high, and fought with Alice. During the fight, Alice grabbed a knife she kept under her bed for safety, but Eugene took it from her. He stabbed her several times and left the house. During the fight, a fire started. Eugene learned while watching the news at a restaurant later that morning that the house had burned and Alice was dead.

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County** Several weeks before the homicide, Alice told her brother-in-law that she feared Eugene. On that day, Alice had called her sister to say that Eugene was picking her up at work since she was sick, that she feared something might happen and wanted her to know she was with Eugene. When her brother-in-law later checked in with Alice, Alice reported that she and Eugene argued over e-mails she received from another man and during that argument Eugene pushed Alice out the front door and locked her outside.

Eugene Taylor Jr. was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison.

---

**Jason Fetting** Jason Fetting was stabbed to death at his girlfriend Cindy's home by Jason Geiger, 18. Jason Geiger was at Cindy's with his friend Josh Estes, 18. Josh wanted to confront Jason Fetting about his dating Cindy, who was Josh's former girlfriend. Jason Fetting did not know Jason Geiger when Jason Geiger stabbed him.

**23 years old**

**April 19** On the night of the murder, Josh, Jason Geiger and another woman were visiting Cindy at her home. When Cindy heard her boyfriend, Jason Fetting, returning home, she made them leave before Josh and Jason Fetting saw each other in order to avoid a fight between the two men. Jason Fetting came in and fell asleep on the couch. Despite her request that he not return, Josh later returned with Jason Geiger and a knife. After pushing their way in, they woke Jason Fetting by slapping, hitting and kicking him, and challenged him to fight.

**Rice Lake  
Barron County** When Jason Fetting woke up, he and Josh began shouting at each other. Cindy tried to intervene when Jason Geiger ran around her and stabbed Jason Fetting in the neck and shoulder with a knife from Cindy's kitchen. As Jason Fetting fell to the floor, he yelled, "Honey, call 911!"

Jason Geiger was charged with Criminal Trespass to a Dwelling and First Degree Reckless Homicide. He was found guilty and sentenced to 20 years in prison, and ten years of extended supervision. Josh Estes was charged with Criminal Trespass to Dwelling and Disorderly Conduct. He was found guilty of Criminal Trespass to Dwelling and sentenced to nine months in jail.

**John Maier****34 years old****May 1****Medford  
Taylor County**

On May 6, 2002, John Maier was reported missing by his live-in girlfriend, Tammy Armstrong, 23. Tammy claimed she had not seen John since May 1 when he left their home with a rifle in his truck. After several weeks of investigating his disappearance, police arrested Tammy on May 24 for his murder.

John's shot and mutilated body was found in a swampy area near a campground in the Chequamegon National Forest. Tammy had shot John twice in the head from behind with a .22 caliber rifle in front of her three year-old son. She then cut up his body, tried to burn it and hid it miles away from their home. When police interviewed her she admitted to the crime but gave them false information about where to find his body. Tammy had been cashing forged checks from John's business account and had forged changes in his life insurance policy that were to her financial benefit. John had discovered her check forging and told friends and family that he had confronted her and told her to move out. Tammy claimed that John had threatened her on the day of his murder but strong evidence contradicted this claim.

Tammy Armstrong was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, Mutilating a Corpse, Hiding a Corpse, giving False Information on Kidnapped/Missing Persons, Forgery, Forgery-Uttering and Resisting or Obstructing an Officer. Five days before her trial, Tammy pled guilty to amended charges of Second Degree Intentional Homicide, Mutilating a Corpse as a Party to the Crime, Hiding a Corpse as a Party to the Crime, and Forgery. During her sentencing hearing, the district attorney indicated that Tammy had been arrested for domestic violence in her previous relationship. The district attorney had requested 35 years in prison and 35 years extended supervision. The judge sentenced Tammy to 30 years in prison and 60 additional years of extended supervision.

## **Kirby Germany**

**30 years old**

**May 14**

**Milwaukee**

**Milwaukee County**

Kirby Germany was fatally stabbed with a kitchen knife by his girlfriend, Jane Triplet, 35, in the home they shared. Earlier that day, Kirby was very angry at Jane for being out with a friend, accused her of being with another man and slapped her. Jane left to find one of her children since she believed Kirby would be less likely to hurt her if her child was present. She returned to her home with her son, Michael and his friend.

Michael yelled at Kirby to leave his mother alone and to stop selling drugs out of the house. Kirby attacked Michael, knocked him to the floor and choked him. Jane and the friend had to pull Kirby off of Michael. Kirby then began to attack Jane with his fists and a metal skillet. Michael attempted to stop the beating but could not. Jane picked up a kitchen knife and yelled at Kirby to leave her alone. Kirby charged Jane and was stabbed. Jane then ran out of the house, Kirby chased her and collapsed on the steps outside the house.

Kirby had a long history of arrests for domestic violence: sixteen domestic violence related arrests starting with a violation of a restraining order in 1993. He had five previous arrests for domestic violence related offenses against Jane, starting in April 1997 and concluding with a July 4, 2001 arrest. Friends and family all describe Kirby as violent toward Jane, she often was injured from his abuse and her children were sometimes beaten when they tried to intervene.

Kirby had recently been arrested for a domestic violence related offense against Jane and was out on bail awaiting a jury trial at the time of the homicide. As part of his bail condition set on March 18, Kirby was to have no contact with Jane.

Jane Triplet was arrested by the Milwaukee police for the assault but was not charged by the Milwaukee District Attorney's office.

**Emmett Seymour****49 years old****May 25****Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Emmett Seymour was beaten to death with a wooden table leg by Timothy Harmon, 25. Timothy was the son of Emmett's girlfriend, Ruby Harmon.

On the day of the murder, Ruby had a gathering at her house where she lived with her son and Emmett. She thought the house was getting too crowded and told Timothy to leave. He left, went to a rummage sale, bought a table, and broke a leg off the table. Hours later, after the party had broken up, Timothy returned home and hit Emmett on the head with the table leg three times, killing him. He fled the scene and the following month was found in Mississippi.

Friends of Timothy said he blamed Emmett for the troubles he was having with his mom. While Timothy had no recorded history of violence toward his mother or Emmett, he had a history of violence against women and other criminal misconduct.

Timothy Harmon was charged with and pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide. He was sentenced to ten years in prison with five years of extended supervision.

---

**Jesse Neely****36 years old****May 26****Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Jesse Neely was fatally shot several times by Charles Montgomery, 27, Jesse's estranged wife Sheila Neely's brother. Jesse was shot outside Sheila's house and started running toward the alley where his body was found.

At the time of the homicide, Sheila had a restraining order against Jesse. Jesse showed up at Sheila's house and was trying to get inside. One of Sheila's friends noticed Jesse and informed Charles. Charles went for a gun and Sheila and her friend begged him not to go outside with the gun, but Charles stated, "he was sick of all this" referring to the troubles they were having with Jesse and went outside anyway. Jesse and Charles had a confrontation and Charles shot Jesse.

Jesse had a history of violence against Sheila. The restraining order that Sheila had against Jesse stipulated that he only have third party contact with their children.

Charles Montgomery was charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide and sentenced to 13 years in prison and five years extended supervision.

Jesse is survived by three children.

## **Gail Meidam**

**39 years old**

**June 6**

**Town of Doty  
Oconto County**

On June 6, three people were murdered by Michael Wilcox, 49. Gail Meidam was shot at least three times and killed in her home by Michael, whom she had dated until a month before the murder. He had been living with Gail while they were in a relationship, but was residing elsewhere at the time of the homicide.

## **Joseph “Butch” Hrpa**

**51 years old**

**June 6**

**Town of Mountain  
Oconto County**

Michael stabbed Joseph “Butch” Hrpa to death that afternoon in Butch’s home in Mountain. In the past, Butch had dated a former girlfriend of Michael. Earlier that same day, Robert Bowman, 53, was the first to be killed by Michael. They had worked together at the tavern Michael owned.

Michael Wilcox had been known around the area as a “guy with a temper.” He had been quoted as saying “If I knew I was going to die, I would go after the people I hate the most.” Over the years, he had harassed and threatened a number of people with whom he had been intimately or financially involved. In 2000, his former wife obtained a domestic violence restraining order with a firearm restriction against him. A note left at one of the murder sites led authorities to believe that two other people had been in danger because their names had been listed along with the names of the three victims.

After he killed Gail, Butch and Robert, Michael fled to stay with a friend on the Menominee Indian Reservation, where authorities found him the evening of June 7. He was seen holding a handgun inside of a doorway. When officers ordered him to drop the gun, he stepped behind the door and shot himself, dying instantly.

**Sandra Thomas**

Sandra Thomas was beaten to death in her home by her son, Joseph Thomas, 30. Her brother found her alive and unconscious. She was rushed to the hospital and died early the next day.

**52 years old**

**June 7**

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

During a verbal argument with his mother, Joseph became physically violent. He punched his mother to the floor and then clubbed her in the head with a 12 to 15 pound vase because she was “getting on my nerves.” Joseph also said her kicked his mother twice in the stomach. When his uncle arrived he told him, “you’d better go in and see about your sister. She’s laying in there dead. You’d better get in there.” Joseph pointed a pistol first at his uncle’s chest and then into the air before firing a single shot.

Joseph struggled with Schizophrenia. On the night of the murder he argued with his mother about taking his medication. Sandra and other family members, worried that with a lack of community services Joseph would end up homeless or in prison, worked hard to connect him with resources. As his disease worsened, Sandra arranged for him to move to Milwaukee from Denver. According to family members, Joseph was stable while on medication. However, when not on medication he become unstable and heard voices that told him to harm people.

On March 26, 2001, a woman obtained a temporary restraining order against Joseph. The following day, Joseph was charged with substantial battery against her. In July, he was sentenced to two years of probation and batterers’ intervention counseling. He was enrolled in batterers’ intervention and was described as demonstrating “good participation.”

Joseph Thomas was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and one count of Endangering Safety by Use of a Weapon. He was sentenced to 17 years in prison with eight years extended supervision.

**Molly J. Mullen**

Molly J. Mullen was strangled to death by her ex-boyfriend, Thomas W. Culver, 26. Thomas strangled Molly in the dining room of his apartment which they used to share. Thomas then went to the basement laundry room of the apartment building and hung himself.

**21 years old**

**June 27**

**Oshkosh  
Winnebago County**

Molly had moved out of the apartment she had shared with Thomas about one week before her murder. Family of both Molly and Thomas reported that Thomas had been violent in the past. After Molly broke up with him, Thomas often showed up where she was staying to wait and try to talk with her. On the night of her murder, Molly had returned to the apartment to settle up with Thomas about the rent. When police searched Thomas’s apartment they found two knives and nylon rope hidden under the living room couch cushions.

Thomas had been convicted of violence in the past including child abuse, battery and criminal trespassing.

## **Colleen Ann Wilke**

**39 years old**

**June 30**

**Palmyra  
Jefferson County**

Colleen Wilke was bludgeoned to death in her home by her recently estranged boyfriend, David Throm, 40. David beat Colleen causing extensive damage to her heart and liver, breaking nine ribs, and severely wounding her neck and voice box. Colleen died from a crushed skull. After beating her to death, David hid Colleen's body in a marshy area in Jefferson County. Authorities were alerted to Colleen's absence by her ex-husband, who became alarmed when she didn't meet him to take custody of their two children. David had fled the area and traveled to Minnesota. The next day, he attempted to hang himself at a highway rest area but called for medical help instead. When the authorities found him they discovered a suicide note that detailed where he had hidden Colleen's body.

Colleen and David lived together in her home in the past. At the time of the murder, their relationship was over. Family members of Colleen disclosed during the investigation that David kept her isolated and blamed him for Colleen's lack of contact with her family during their relationship. David had made threats to Colleen prior to the homicide, telling her that she "should fear him." In the two weeks before the homicide, the sheriff's department was called to Colleen's home but no arrest was made.

David Throm was found guilty by a jury of First Degree Intentional Homicide and Hiding a Corpse. David was sentenced to life in prison, with eligibility for extended supervision after 29 years.

Colleen is survived by her two children, a 13 year-old daughter and a seven year-old son.

**Sandra Russell****39 years old****July 14****Racine  
Racine County**

Sandra Russell was killed by her husband, Gary Russell, 45, when he gave her an overdose of methadone, a drug that Gary was taking to overcome a heroin addiction. Sandra was drinking alcohol at the time. Tests revealed that Sandra's blood contained 57 milligrams of the drug when she died. Gary told investigators that 40 milligrams of methadone could be fatal to a person of Sandra's build if taken with alcohol. According to a friend's testimony, Gary wrapped Sandra's fingers around the bottle of drugs to put her fingerprints on it when she became unconscious. Gary went to sleep after delivering the methadone to Sandra and found her dead in her bed when he awoke. Before contacting police, he slept for another few hours and took their children to his father's home.

Gary had reportedly been unhappy in his marriage with Sandra for several years before he killed her, and was involved in a relationship with another woman. According to a criminal complaint, he told a friend that he wanted to divorce his wife, but didn't pursue the process because of the cost of legal fees and the fear that he may lose custody of their children. Gary told his friend, "I wish she would just die. I wish I could kill her and get away with it."

After a year-long investigation, in July of 2003, Gary Russell was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and pled no contest to a reduced Second Degree Reckless Homicide charge in March of 2004. He was sentenced to ten years in prison and five years of extended supervision.

Sandra is survived by three children.



**Maureen Jefferson****51 years old****July 16****Somers  
Kenosha County**

Maureen Jefferson was shot at close range by her ex-husband, Kenneth Jefferson, 51, who then shot himself. Kenneth had broken into her home while she worked. When she arrived home from work she found Kenneth waiting inside. After Kenneth grabbed her and caused contusions to her upper arm, she ran from him out the front door and he shot her once in the back and again in the head with his semi automatic rifle. She died on her front lawn.

At the time of the murder/suicide, Maureen had a restraining order against Kenneth and he had a pending charge of Unlawful Use of the Phone. This charge stemmed from threatening contact Kenneth had with Maureen in December 2001, six months before her murder. During that phone call, Kenneth was reported to have said "How long do you think it will be before I snap?" and "When I go out, I'm taking you and whoever is with you with me." On July 12, four days before the murder, Kenneth had appeared for a pre-trial hearing for the December incident.

Just days before Maureen's murder, Kenneth had violated the restraining order by contacting Maureen to argue about a VCR. The day before Maureen's murder, she had contacted the DA's office to report that Kenneth had been contacting her in violation of the restraining order and to ask about the pending case against him. That same day, Kenneth had called a friend, angry that Maureen had reported the restraining order violation. Kenneth exclaimed that he would kill himself, Maureen, and anyone else that was there, before he would go to jail. This friend had attempted to contact Maureen to warn her.

Maureen had filed for divorce in 1993 and again in 2000 and it was subsequently granted. In addition to the December 2001 charge, Kenneth had been arrested in three separate incidents of domestic violence in 2000. He served one year of probation for charges stemming from those incidents. Throughout Maureen and Kenneth's marriage, Kenneth had been physically and emotionally abusive toward Maureen. Because he had an active restraining order at the time of the murder, he should not have had possession of the murder weapon or the other two guns found in his home.

Maureen is survived by her two sons, ages 18 and 21.

**Mark Bagan****33 years old****July 19****Menominee  
Dunn County**

Mark Bagan was beaten to death by his brother, Brian Bagan, 41, in the home they shared. Brian struck his brother in the face two or three times and flipped over the couch where Mark was lying, causing the couch to land on him. Brian attacked his brother after an argument in which Brian became angry because he thought Mark was flirting with his girlfriend. During the fight Brian also pushed his girlfriend, hit her in the throat and threatened to strangle her with a telephone cord as she called her mother to pick her up.

The next day Mark was shaking and hallucinating, but according to Brian, did not want medical attention. Later, Brian found Mark lying on his back and not breathing. Despite realizing that his brother Mark was dead, he did not call the police right away because he had been drinking and was out of jail on a bond at the time.

There had been substantial violence between the two brothers in the past, including an arrest and charge for substantial battery to Mark by Brian. Brian had also previously been charged with domestic violence related crimes against intimate partners.

Brian Bagan pled no contest to Second Degree Reckless Homicide, Felony Bail Jumping, Substantial Battery, and a Fourth Offense Drunken Driving. He was sentenced to ten years in prison and five years extended supervision.

**Lavelle Johnson****49 years old****Joel Wright****23 years old****July 23****Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Lavelle Johnson and Joel Wright were shot and killed by Larry Johnson, 47, Lavelle's husband and Joel's stepfather. About 3 a.m., Larry entered the home, shot Lavelle once in the neck and shot Joel several times. He then called 911 and told the dispatcher, "Send the ambulance. I've shot my family...there's a young boy here and I don't want him to die." After hanging up the telephone, Larry shot himself.

Lavelle had filed for divorce in May 2002 to end their five and a half year marriage. Larry moved out of the house in early July. According to friends, family and co-workers, Joel moved back into his mother's home on July 15 to save money for nursing school and to watch over his mother due to his concerns about Larry.

On July 16, Joel had called the police to report that Larry had threatened him with a gun. Neighbors say they saw two officers approach the Johnson home cautiously the evening of July 16. No arrest was made.

A hearing for the divorce had been scheduled for September 30, 2002.

**Andrea Saxton****22 years old****August 3****Hurley  
Iron County**

Andrea Saxton died from a cocaine overdose; the drugs were supplied by her boyfriend, Joshua Jacobson, 21. She was with Joshua at his friend's house in Hurley, taking a trip from where they lived in Eau Claire. According to the criminal complaint, Joshua had bought the cocaine, and claimed Andrea had taken four or five lines over the course of the trip. Through the evening of her death, Andrea and Joshua met up with different friends and drove around to at least two houses. At one point, Andrea left the gathering at the home in Hurley stating that she wanted to go home. Outside, Joshua talked with her briefly and afterwards told friends that Andrea was "tripping out and thought he was trying to murder her." A short time later, Joshua and his friends couldn't find Andrea and called the police. Her body was later found by a stranger in the grass along the side of a road in Hurley.

During their relationship, Joshua was repeatedly violent to Andrea. The police had been called to their shared home in Eau Claire many times, although he was never arrested for domestic violence. Andrea would often stay with her parents, sometimes alone and sometimes Joshua would move in as well. Andrea would often say that "they were breaking up" and that she was going to leave. According to Joshua's statements, Andrea was packed and ready to move out at the time of the homicide.

Joshua Jacobson was charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, and pled no contest to Second Degree Reckless Homicide. He was sentenced to seven and a half years of prison and seven and a half years of extended supervision.

Andrea is survived by a four year-old daughter.

**Kim Staffin****39 years old****August 16****Greendale  
Milwaukee County**

Kim Staffin was fatally shot by her boyfriend of five years, Dennis George, 44. Dennis then killed himself. Kim died at the scene on the Root River Parkway from seven gunshot wounds to her thigh, torso and back from a 9 mm handgun. Dennis died from a single gunshot wound to the head.

Throughout their relationship, Dennis was violent toward Kim. According to law enforcement, Kim reported to family and friends that Dennis had threatened her in the past with a gun. Dennis was convicted of domestic violence incidents involving battery against Kim in August 1999 and April 2000. In 1999, Kim sought a restraining order against Dennis that was dismissed since neither Kim nor Dennis appeared in court. In 2000, Dennis sought a restraining order against Kim which was granted since Kim did not appear in court. In 2000, Kim again sought a restraining order against Dennis which was dismissed since she did not appear in court.

On the night of the homicide, Kim and Dennis got together for drinks at a bar and her house. About 3 a.m. they went to pick up his car and never returned home. Police received a report of gunshots near the Root River Parkway and found Kim and Dennis lying outside his car. Her car was parked in front of his.

Kim is survived by a 19 year-old, 13 year-old and 11 month-old daughters.

---

**Jacqueline Bennett****26 years old****August 18****Madison  
Dane County**

Jacqueline Bennett was shot at close range in the chest and killed by her husband, Christopher, 24, in their home in Madison. He fatally shot himself about twenty minutes later.

They had been married since 2000, and were employed together. Neighbors reported hearing loud fighting on the day before the murder and shots that evening. The shots were not reported because they sounded far away to the neighbor who heard them.

Jacqueline's seven year-old son found them when he wondered why they had not gotten up by 11 a.m. After Jacqueline's young son found the body, he put shoes on his two year-old sister before taking her to the neighbor's house to ask for help.

There was no known history of domestic violence. Prior to the homicide, family members knew nothing about problems between the couple. The gun used in the homicide was owned by Christopher and used for hunting. Prior to their marriage she had filed for financial support from Christopher for their daughter's care.

Jacqueline is survived by her son and their daughter, ages seven and two.

**Carol L. Petit****50 years old****August 19****Princeton  
Green Lake County**

Carol L. Petit was fatally shot by her husband Roger, 56, who then shot himself. With a handgun, Roger shot Carol and himself in their living room where they struggled before the murder/suicide. When Carol's body was found, her face was bruised. Carol's aunt found them and called the police on August 22, 2002, approximately two days after the killing occurred.

Roger had an extensive and long history of being abusive toward Carol as reported by family members. Their adult children witnessed incidents of emotional, psychological and physical abuse of Carol by Roger. Carol made many attempts and plans to end the relationship but was unable to put the plans into place.

**Melissa Peterson****21 years old****August 27****Whitehall  
Trempealeau County**

Melissa Peterson burned to death in the passenger seat of her boyfriend, Trevor Frei's truck, her legs pinned inside the vehicle. Jeffrey Johnson, 30, Melissa's former boyfriend, rammed into the truck and slammed the pick-up into a cluster of pine trees at an estimated speed of 90 mph. Trevor also suffered minor injuries from the collision, but was able to free himself from the wreckage in which Melissa was trapped. As rescue workers tried to free Melissa, Jeffrey yelled "Let her burn" and "I hit the car. I did it on purpose." As he yelled, Jeffrey brandished a machete trying to harm Trevor and himself.

According to the criminal complaint, the night of August 26 and into the morning of August 27, Jeffrey was drinking at a bar in Whitehall and talking to the bartender about his anger at Melissa for leaving him and at Trevor for "taking her away." He also repeated that he loved Melissa and wanted to try to get back together with her. Prior to the assault, Jeffrey followed Melissa to a local gas station and store, where he accosted her and Trevor in the parking lot, threatening to kill them both and claiming that she had "wrecked his life." A friend noticed Melissa was crying and asked her if she was alright, to which she responded, "No, but I'll be fine." She and Trevor drove away in his pick-up, followed by Jeffrey in his SUV.

Melissa's family told investigators that Jeffrey was abusive toward Melissa during their relationship. Although they had broken up at least two and a half months prior to the murder, Jeffrey had repeatedly pursued a relationship with Melissa.

Jeffrey Johnson was charged with Second Degree Intentional Homicide, but pled no contest to First Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 40 years in prison and 15 years of extended supervision.

**Marie Booher**

Marie Booher was fatally stabbed by her boyfriend Carlos Gonzalez, 15. He stabbed her once in her chest puncturing her heart.

**15 years old**

According to the police, Marie was visiting Carlos, along with several other teenagers at his home. The two argued about a picture Carlos was drawing of Marie. She grabbed the picture away from Carlos and he stated that he got mad and grabbed a knife from the table and charged at her to scare her. Instead he stabbed her in the heart and slashed her chin. The medical examiner concluded that Carlos would have needed to use substantial force to kill Marie with an ordinary knife. The medical examiner believed it couldn't have been accidental.

**August 30**

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

There is no known history of domestic violence and Carlos had no record of trouble with the law.

Carlos Gonzalez was charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 14 years in prison with five years extended supervision.

---

**Justin Simpson**

Justin Simpson was fatally shot by Andrew Morton, 16, an acquaintance, immediately after winking at Andrew's girlfriend. He was shot in the head, chest and left shoulder.

**16 years old**

**September 5**

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Justin, Andrew, Andrew's girlfriend and many other friends were at a drug house where they were smoking marijuana, when the murder occurred. Andrew was jealous of Justin and his girlfriend and asked her if she was having sex with Justin. She tried to assure him that she was not. Andrew told his girlfriend, "If I find out you're (expletive) Justin, I'll (expletive) him up and you too." Andrew's girlfriend was two months pregnant with his child.

Andrew's girlfriend told police that the shooting occurred shortly after she tried to clear the house by telling everyone that they should leave because they had school in the morning. As she was talking, Justin winked at her and blew her a kiss. Seconds later Andrew fired three shots with a revolver at Justin.

All the people involved with the homicide were minors. State law requires that Andrew be charged as an adult because of his age and the offense. Andrew Morton was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide which was amended to Second Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon and Party to a Crime. He was sentenced to ten years in state prison and eight years extended supervision.

**Jodi Gerondale****34 years old****September 24****Marinette  
Marinette County**

Jodi Gerondale was fatally stabbed by her former boyfriend, Jamie Atwood, 32, in her home. Jamie cut her throat and stabbed her two additional times. Jamie then cut his own neck, inflicting a wound that doctors said would have eventually become life threatening, but he survived.

The neighbor heard Jodi telling Jamie to “get out” of her apartment numerous times, and heard her telling him “it’s over.” The neighbor also heard Jodi cry out, “Stop, you’re hurting me!” and heard Jodi’s little girl scream. The neighbor called the police. When police arrived their two year-old daughter was watching TV with bloodstains on her pajamas and their five year-old son was asleep. Police found Jodi motionless on the floor but Jamie still alive.

Jodi’s family reported a history of domestic violence and stalking behavior from Jamie that increased as she tried to end their on-and-off relationship. In a previous incident on July 2, 2002, Jamie showed up at Jodi’s house while the children were in the care of a babysitter. He cut both phone lines with a knife, threw items around the apartment and then left with the two small children. Jamie was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal damage to property. A trial date had been set for December 2002 for that incident.

Jodi had begun to date again and her new boyfriend had also been threatened by Jamie. Jamie told Jodi’s new boyfriend around the time of the murder that he would “break his arms and legs” and “put him in the hospital.” Both Jodi and her new boyfriend had expressed fear of Jamie.

Jamie Atwood was originally charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide. He pled guilty to Second Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to 40 years in prison and 20 years extended supervision.

Jodi is survived by her two year-old daughter and five year-old son.

**Travis Carr****19 years old****September 29****Waukesha  
Waukesha County**

Travis Carr was stabbed to death by his friend Daniel Farmer, 19. The homicide occurred after a violent fight that began when Travis thought he saw Daniel kissing his girlfriend, Kim, with whom Travis had a two week-old son.

Travis and Daniel were good friends, and Daniel was the godfather of Travis' baby son.

They were all attending a party on the night of the homicide. Travis had been asked to leave the party after pushing Kim. He left for a while and then came back and thought he saw the kiss occur. He picked up a bottle and hit Daniel over the head with it. Others at the party, including Kim, tried to intervene. When she told Travis that nothing had happened, he pushed her with enough force to cause her to lose consciousness. Friends again told Travis to leave. But this time he didn't.

Outside the building Travis began hitting Daniel and smashing his head into the building. A bystander pulled Travis off of Daniel and Daniel jumped up and ran into the apartment building. He came back with a butcher knife. Travis backed up and put up his hands. Daniel made a swing and stabbed Travis once in the chest.

A friend of the couple reported that Travis had recently been arrested for domestic violence, but he had no history of convictions.

Daniel Farmer was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety which was later amended to Second Degree Intentional Homicide Use of a Dangerous Weapon and First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety Use of a Dangerous Weapon. Daniel pled to the charges and was sentenced to ten years in prison for the homicide and three years for the second charge. The sentences will run concurrently and he will have 10 years extended supervision upon his release.

Travis is survived by his newborn son.



**Frederic Titter**

Frederic Titter died of three shotgun wounds to the head and chest at his workplace.

**37 years old**

He was killed by Raymond Pyle, 25, who then shot and killed himself. Raymond was the former boyfriend of Heidi Drescher, who worked with Frederic at an assisted living facility.

**October 1****Madison  
Dane County**

Raymond was upset because his relationship with Heidi was over and she was dating Frederic. Heidi was working when Raymond showed up unexpectedly with their 13 month-old daughter and wanted to drop her off. Heidi said she couldn't take her at work and asked him to take her to the babysitter. Raymond carried the child back to his car and started to drive away. He returned with the child, entered the screened porch where Heidi and Frederic were, handed the baby to Heidi and shot Frederic without saying a word.

He and Heidi argued and then he followed her into the building where she fled with the baby. As he entered, a nurse at the facility stepped between Raymond and Heidi. Raymond told the nurse, "You don't know what this woman has put me through," to which she responded, "You don't know what you are putting the baby through." He then ran past her back into the sunporch. As the nurse attended to Frederic, Raymond knelt on the floor and shot himself.

Raymond Pyle had a history of suicide threats and domestic violence contacts with police. He had been arrested in 1999 for an assault on a previous girlfriend and was on probation for a December 2001 incident, when he was arrested after an argument with Heidi in which he fired two shots into the floor. He had been ordered into domestic violence counseling. In July of 2001, police were again called to Heidi's residence where Raymond had hit and pushed her and was threatening suicide. He was awaiting trial on those charges at the time of the homicide.

**Roy Johnson**

Roy Johnson was fatally stabbed by Paulette Marie Woods, 36, at the home they shared.

**54 years old****November 2****Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

On the day of the murder, Paulette returned to her home and found Roy, her sister and two of her sons in the apartment. She argued with her sister and asked her to leave and started arguing with Roy for letting people into the apartment. Roy did not want to argue with Paulette since she was drunk and repeatedly told her to get some sleep to sleep it off. Paulette ordered Roy to leave the apartment and they got into a pushing fight. Paulette ran and got a knife. Her teenage son attempted to intervene by stepping between Paulette and Roy. Paulette managed to push past her son and swing the knife at Roy, they were struggling for the knife and then the teenage son saw the knife drop to the floor. Roy died on the floor of their apartment.

Paulette was charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide and sentenced to seven years in prison with four years of extended supervision.

---

**Shirley Harris**

Shirley Harris was fatally shot in her home by her live-in boyfriend of nine years, Joseph Gray, 51. He shot her three times in the back.

**43 years old****November 15****Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

On the evening of November 15, Shirley told Joseph that she was finally ending the relationship and was getting back together with a man she had been seeing. As they argued in the bedroom, Joseph picked up a 9 mm semi-automatic handgun and shot Shirley three times in rapid succession while she walked from the bedroom and through the kitchen. She walked out the rear kitchen door and collapsed on the steps. Joseph said that he panicked, got the gun, drove to a park and tossed the gun into the river. He then drove straight home, tried to rouse her and when he could not, he dialed 911.

Prior to the murder, Joe had threatened the man Shirley had been seeing and twice Shirley found the tires of her car slashed. Several people reported to police that Joseph had threatened to “blow up the house with Shirley in it” just days before the murder. Family members of Shirley’s indicated that she had been trying to end the relationship for several months and had told them she felt threatened by Joseph.

Joseph Gray was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, found guilty by a jury and sentenced to life in prison.

Shirley is survived by her 19 year-old son.

## **Angelina Gunderson**

**25 years old**

**November 20**

**Milwaukee  
Milwaukee County**

Angelina Gunderson was shot to death by her boyfriend, Albert Satcher, 27. According to the newspaper reports, Angelina and Albert were arguing in his home and she left the house to sit in her car in order to get away from the argument. Albert followed her to the car, beat her several times on the head with a handgun and then shot her. Police found her slumped over dead in her car with gunshot wounds to her temple and left hand, her school books and backpack nearby.

Angelina and Albert had dated “on and off” for five years, and lived together from December 2000 to November of 2001 when Angelina moved out. At the time of the murder, they were dating again. Albert had a prior arrest and conviction for domestic violence for an incident in March of 2002.

At the trial, Angelina’s relatives told the judge they believe she was caught in an abusive relationship she was concealing from her family. Family members learned after her death that she had been writing dark poetry and found her Bible marked at Psalm 38, a lamentation for healing.

Albert Satcher pled guilty to First Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 28 years in prison and 12 years extended supervision.

**Jennifer Judge****39 years old****November 22****Janesville  
Rock County**

Jennifer Judge was beaten to death by her estranged husband, William Mereness, 49. William waited in her home and surprised her in the entry way with a hatchet and small sledgehammer. Evidence points to Jennifer trying to escape the house while William beat her to death. Her body was found several hours later by her new boyfriend with the murder weapons neatly placed by her head.

Jennifer was married to William for three years. A month before killing her, he had vindictively filed for divorce, actually serving her with papers as they began proceedings to close on a new house. Jennifer purchased the house alone and it was in this house that William killed her. Co-workers indicated that William harassed and threatened Jennifer at work. Jennifer reported to police that she received a threatening “love letter” from William and that she thought he was trying to poison her by clogging the furnace vent pipe of her new home. During the murder trial, police testified that they suspected William for this act.

A week after Jennifer’s murder, William was found with his wrists slashed after he drove his rental car into a brick wall. This suicide attempt was preceded by a murder confession to his parents in their home where he was staying after the murder. During his six-day trial, his father, brother and son all testified, giving evidence that helped convict him. William was charge with Bail Jumping for trying to contact his father, a declared trial witness, two days before the trial began.

William’s violence extended beyond his threats to Jennifer. His former wife filed three separate restraining orders against him. She initiated divorce proceedings two times before the divorce was finally granted the third time after many years of struggle in the courts. Following his sentencing, his children of his first marriage both stated that they were glad that their father was “finally getting what he deserves for everything he’s done to everybody.”

William Mereness was charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide. After four hours of deliberation, a jury found him guilty and the judge sentenced him to the maximum sentence, life without eligibility for parole.

Jennifer’s parents and siblings filed a Wrongful Death suit against William. It has been vacated until after William has exhausted his appeal options. In order to pay for William’s defense attorney, the county foreclosed on the home that William and Jennifer owned together.

**Debra A. Last****49 years old****November 22****Winneconne  
Winnebago County**

Debra Last was shot by her husband of 24 years, John, 54. Debra was lying in her bed when he shot her four times at close range with a rifle. Police speculate that Debra was shot on the night of November 22. Early the next morning, after calling his brother for help, John shot himself. His brother arrived at the home just in time to hear the gun shot, found the couple dead in the home and called the police. Police discovered their 20 year-old son asleep in the home. The son was not home when Debra was killed and the shot that killed his father woke him.

Family and friends indicated that John and Debra's marriage was unstable. John accused Debra of having an affair and Debra had moved out of the house and lived with a friend for the summer. Prior to the murder/suicide, John had made statements to different people that he might be kicked out of his house or that he was separating from his wife.

Debra is survived by three adult sons ages 20, 22, 24.

---

**Lizzette Fountain****19 years old****December 4****Fitchburg  
Dane County**

Lizzette Fountain died after being shot in the mouth allegedly by her boyfriend, Thomas McCants, 23. Thomas called 911 and when they arrived to their shared home, his hands were dripping with blood. Police initially would not release details of how she died because the presence of large amounts of drugs in the apartment made it a multi-faceted investigation.

A month after Lizzette's murder, Thomas McCants was charged in Federal Court with drug crimes. He pled guilty to the charges in April and in June 2003 was sentenced to 11 years in prison. The week he was sentenced, he was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide for Lizzette's murder. A gunshot residue expert testified during the Federal Court case that powder was found on Thomas' hands, shirt and pants, possibly showing he fired a weapon that day. The homicide trial is set for January 2005.

**Minnie P. Griffin****42 years old****December 24****Menomonee Falls  
Waukesha County**

Minnie P. Griffin was shot in the head by her former boyfriend, William O. Sangster, 56, in a hotel room where he had asked her to meet him on Christmas Eve. William put her body into the backseat of his car and proceeded to shoot himself while driving, crossing two lanes of traffic and crashing into a wall. Minnie's body was found to have bruises and scratches that indicate that William had beaten her before shooting her.

Minnie and William dated for several years, but were no longer in an intimate relationship. During and after their relationship, William was physically and emotionally abusive toward Minnie. Minnie's family reported that William was very jealous and possessive of Minnie and that William would "stalk and pursue" her.

William Sangster was a convicted felon, serving probation for possession of a firearm at the time of the murder. He also had a prior felony battery to police that occurred during a domestic violence incident.

## Section II. Children

It is clear that when abusers commit murder, children, friends and families are at risk. In researching domestic violence homicides, we also searched for children under 18 who were killed as a result of a domestic violence incident. We did not learn of any children who were killed during a 2002 domestic violence incident but did find three cases where domestic violence contributed to the deaths of four children. We created this section to include the stories of those four children in the overall report and give a more complete picture of how children are at risk because of domestic violence in their homes.

As you review this section and learn more about these children's lives, keep in mind the 21 children under 18 who were orphaned or lost a mother or father because of the domestic violence homicides detailed in this report's first section. For all of these children, the homicide did not start the violence in their homes. They each lived with ongoing terror.

In addition, 13 children under 18 witnessed or were at the scene when the murder occurred. In many of these instances their young lives were clearly affected by prior domestic violence in their families. This is shown in the words of a child who shouts "you chose" as his mother is dying and asking for help or the actions of a seven year-old, who finds his dead parents and dresses his younger sister before taking her to the neighbors for help.

**Alexis Sprenger** Alexis Sprenger died on March 31 from a skull fracture. On March 26, her father, Chad, 24, grew angry when she would not stop crying, and threw her onto the hardwood floor. The next morning, her mother found her unresponsive in her crib and brought her to a hospital where she died a few days later of a skull fracture and other injuries.

**9 months old**

**March 31**

**Clintonville  
Waupaca County**

Alexis had suffered previously from other injuries from Chad's abusive behavior. In August of 2001, Alexis was taken to the doctor and found to have numerous fractures. After these injuries came under investigation, Alexis was temporarily removed from her home

During the investigation of Alexis' death, it became clear that Chad was domestically violent toward his wife and Alexis's mother, Angie Sprenger. According to the victim witness coordinator, he exhibited controlling behavior, insisting that Angie "look good" and have her nails done regularly and keeping track of where she was and with whom.

According to court personnel, Chad's family blamed Angie for Chad's violent behavior. They behaved vindictively toward Angie by having the power at her house turned off the night of Alexis's funeral.

Chad Sprenger was charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, two counts of Physical Abuse of a Child and two counts of Substantial Battery. He pled no contest to the charges of First Degree Reckless Homicide and Substantial Battery, while the other charges were dismissed. He was sentenced to a total of 32 years in prison with 23 years of extended supervision whereby contact with children is forbidden.

**Brittany Westmoreland**

5 years old

**Marissa Weymouth**

12 years old

June 17

Peshtigo  
Marinette County

Brittany Westmoreland and her step-sister, Marissa Weymouth died at home after being shot multiple times by Charles Westmoreland, 30, who then took his own life. It is believed the girls were sleeping when they were shot. Their ten year-old brother found their bodies.

The weekend prior to the murders/suicide, Charles, the girls, and his 11 year-old son had been at a cabin in Forest County for Father's Day. When he dropped off his son at his mother's house, Charles reported that they had a great time. Law Enforcement believes that upon returning home with the girls, he found evidence that his wife was having an affair. Instead of returning from the music festival she had attended over the weekend, his wife of five years, Darci Westmoreland, 28, had gone to meet a man in Indiana, with whom she had been having an internet relationship. Darci's ten year-old son was not at home at the time of the homicides/suicide because he had spent the weekend with his biological father.

Charles, who had no documented history of domestic violence, had long battled depression and suicidal feelings according to his mother. Yet, his mother talked to him the night before the homicides/suicide and said he sounded like he was in good spirits.

Brittany and Marissa are survived by their mother and ten year-old brother.



**Cristian Cisneros****2 years old****November 30****Grand Chute  
Outagamie County**

Cristian Cisneros was beaten to death inside his home by his stepfather, Israel Robles-Figueroa, 27. Israel was watching Cristian while his mother, Kimberly Robles, was at work. According to the medical examiner's office, Cristian died from blows to the stomach and head, including one to his abdomen that severed his spine.

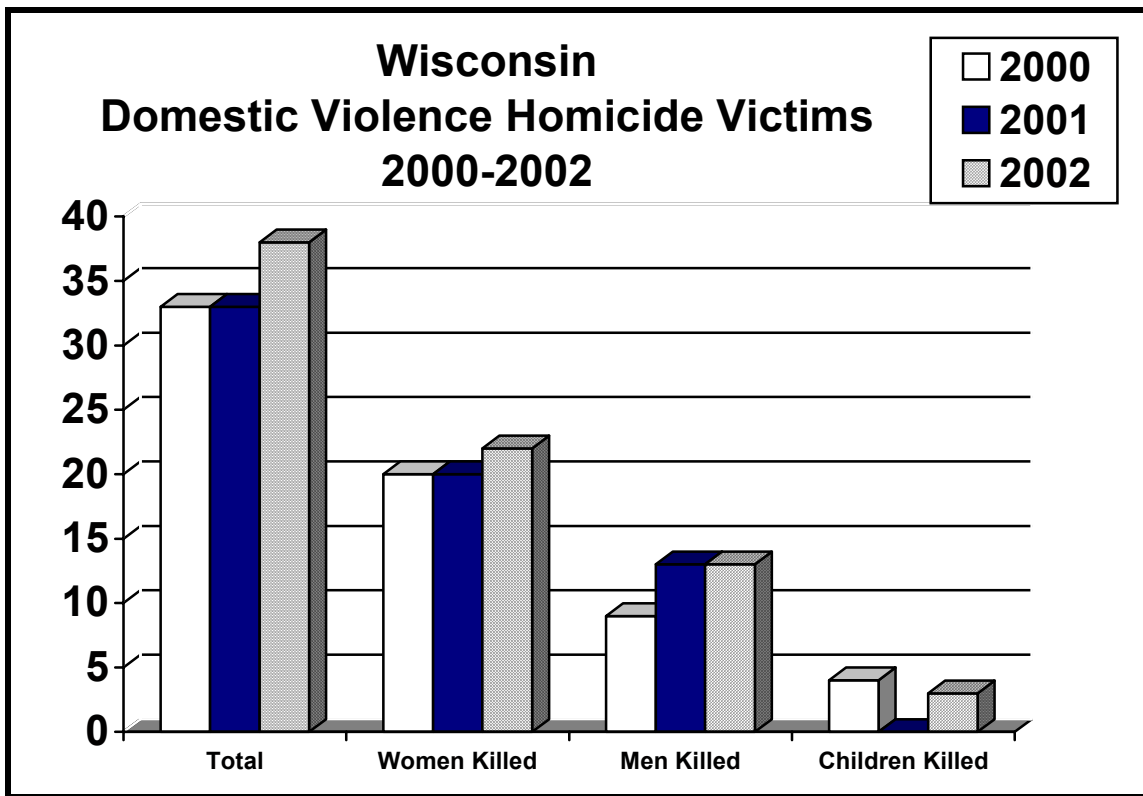
Cristian had been subjected to a massive amount of violence in his home with his mother, stepfather and younger sister, and also suffered injuries while staying with his natural father. There were seven reports of alleged child maltreatment in a one-year period of time including bite marks, rug burns, missing patches of hair, broken shoulders, broken collarbones, broken hands, elbow injuries, bruises, scratches, scrapes, blood inside of his eyes, cracked lips, marks, and handprints. Cristian and his family had contact with three social service agencies, at least three doctors, three social workers, a home consultant, a public health nurse, police, a family counselor and a number of day care providers. The family moved between Brown and Outagamie Counties and Child Protective Services (CPS) in both counties intervened on Cristian's behalf. Cristian and his sister were placed in foster care on February 11, 2002 after a substantiated finding of child abuse determined that they were not safe in their home. The Brown County Human Services Department (BCHSD) entered into a consent decree with the family and both children were returned to the home of their mother and Israel on March 29, 2002.

There had been a history of domestic violence in the household. In the same one-year period, there were two reported incidents of domestic violence involving Israel and Kimberly. In July of 2002, Kimberly was arrested for violence toward Israel in defense of Cristian. However, when she was taken into custody by law enforcement, Cristian was left in the care of his stepfather. There was no record of her being formally charged in that incident. In August, the police were called to arrest Israel for beating his wife, who was treated for a concussion the next day. In September CPS extended the consent decree for another six months but added conditions related to domestic violence concerns such as a requirement to attend anger management and domestic abuse counseling. Cristian was killed just two months later.

Israel Robles-Figueroa maintained his innocence after being charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, claiming alternately that Cristian had slipped in the bathtub and that he had been "roughhousing" and accidentally caused his stepson's death. A jury found him guilty and sentenced him to 25 years in prison with 20 years of extended supervision.

Cristian is survived by his mother, sister, and other family members.

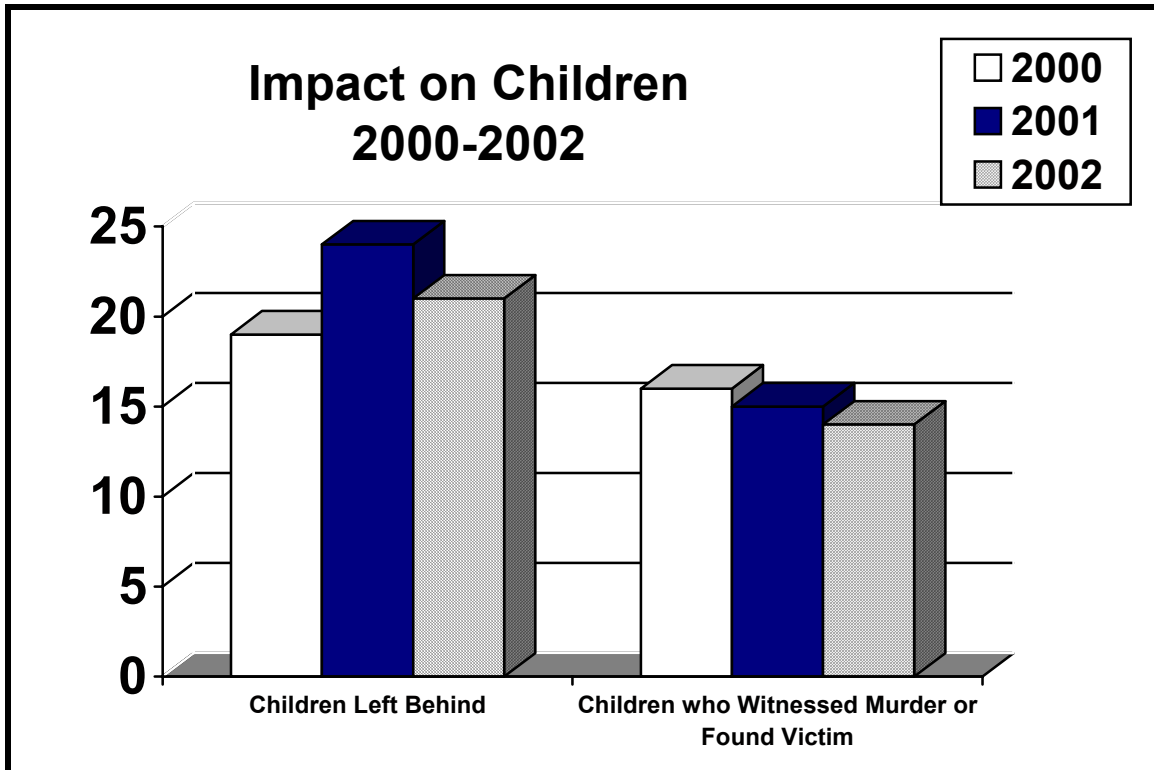
## Comparison Data for Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Reports Three Year Comparison (2000 – 2002)



Between 2000 and 2002, 104 people were killed in domestic violence related incidents: 62 were adult women, 35 were adult men and 7 were children under the age of 18. Children were either killed with their parent in domestic violence incidents or were killed in dating violence homicides.



Overall, we have identified 104 people who were murdered in domestic violence related homicides between 2000 – 2002. Seventy-eight of them were currently or previously in an intimate relationship with the person who murdered them. For the graphic above, we chose to compare the number of intimate partner homicide victims (78) with the number of victims who had separated from their abusive partners or were in the process of leaving their abusive partners (40).

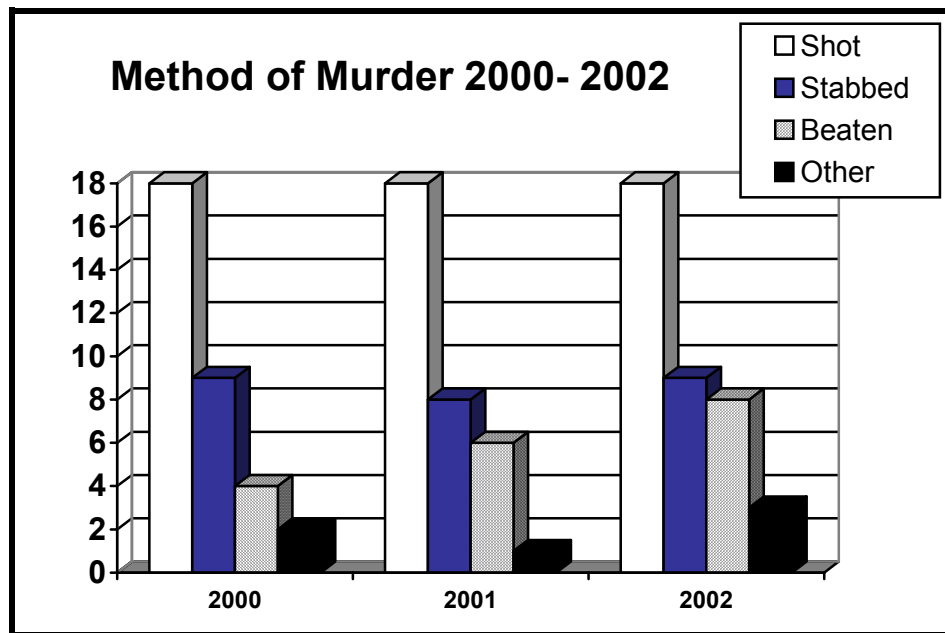


With additional information regarding the incidents that occurred in 2000 and 2001, we were able to reclassify and recalculate the figures above. *Children Left Behind* is limited to children of homicide victims, under the age of 18. *Children who Witnessed Murder or Found Victim* includes any children under 18 who were at the scene of the homicide and all children (including adult) of the homicide victims who found their dead parent(s).

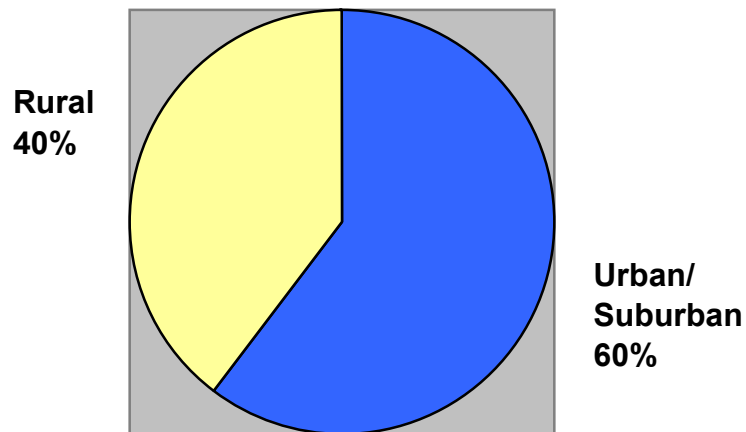
## Race/Ethnicity of Homicide Victims and Perpetrators

	2000		2001		2002		Total Victims	Total Perps
	Victims	Perps	Victims	Perps	Victims	Perps		
<b>Caucasian</b>	20	15	22	20	24	18	66 (63%)	53 (55%)
<b>African American</b>	10	13	11	7	12	15	33 (32%)	35 (36%)
<b>American Indian</b>	2	2	0	0	0	0	2 (2%)	2 (2%)
<b>Asian</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Latino</b>	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	6 (6%)
<b>Unknown</b>	1	1	0	0	2	0	3 (3%)	1 (1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>97</b>

During 2000 - 2002 there were 104 murder victims and 98 perpetrators of the homicides. Six of the domestic violence homicide incidents resulted in multiple victims; two people were killed in each. In one 2002 incident, the local SWAT team fatally shot an offender and is not included in the total perpetrator count reflected in the chart.



### Location of Homicides 2000 - 2002 (98 homicide incidents)



Between 2000 - 2002, 61 people were killed in urban/suburban areas and 43 people were killed in rural areas. During this three year period, domestic violence homicides involving firearms were 3.5 times more likely to occur in rural than urban/suburban areas.

### Locations of Domestic Violence Homicides 2000 - 2002

