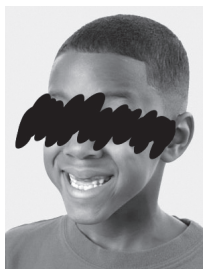


Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report

2005



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I. Executive Summary

Domestic violence has devastating effects on our lives, homes, communities, and society. Homicide is its most catastrophic conclusion. Not only has the victim's and at times the perpetrator's life ended, the lives of those around them – children, friends, family members, co-workers – are sometimes taken as well. The lives of surviving family and friends are forever changed. This report reflects the scope, brutality, and lethality of domestic violence as a serious social problem, a human rights issue, and a crime.

This report details domestic violence related homicides¹ that occurred in Wisconsin during calendar year (CY) 2005. We have told people's stories in brief. With their stories we hope to educate individuals and systems in communities throughout Wisconsin about the deadly consequences of domestic violence and generate change that will prevent such suffering and death. 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 facts available to us to tell these stories as accurately as possible. However, the brief presentations included in the narrative section of this report, can in no way capture the detail and complexity of every victim's life. A more complete understanding can only be gleaned by studying all of the available documentation and talking with those left behind.

The picture that emerges from our research is grim. From January to December 2005, the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) reported 236 deaths by homicide to the Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS).² WCADV determined there were 34 incidents of domestic violence homicide in 2005, which resulted in 46 deaths – 37 people were murdered, three fetuses died as a result of assaults on women, and six perpetrators committed suicide.

- o The average rate of domestic violence homicide in Wisconsin in 2005 was 3.3 murders a month. When suicides are included the rate is 3.8 domestic violence related deaths per month.
- o The 2005 Wisconsin homicide rate (236) increased sharply from 2004 (149). The domestic violence homicide rate mirrored a similar increase, jumping from 28 deaths in 2004 to 40 in 2005, an increase of almost 43%.

1. 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. Homicides of others were also included if the circumstances of murder included intimate partner jealousy or an attempt to protect a domestic violence victim from future harm. This report also details homicides of domestic violence perpetrators that occur as their victims acted in self-defense. Section IV, Methodology, contains additional information on definitions and criteria.

2. The source of data for BHI is death certificates filed with the State Registrar, Vital Records Section, BHI, Division of Health Care Financing, DHFS.

- o Victims reflected the span of life, from six months gestation to 88 years, and were from all regions of the state, in 18 counties. Thirty-one incidents involved intimate partner relationships between the victim and perpetrator or between the perpetrator and the victim's family member or a new partner. Half of the intimate partner related homicides involved a victim who was attempting to leave or had left an abusive partner.
- o Twenty-eight minor children and 18 adult children were left orphaned or without a mother or father. Twenty-two minor children lost their mothers.

In addition to honoring those who were killed through these stories, this report seeks to highlight emerging issues and policy implications. In 2005, as in previous years, these incidents of domestic violence homicide point toward critical issues related to abuser tactics such as use of guns and sexual assault as tools for intimidation. In addition, these stories illustrate the grave danger victims of domestic violence and those around them can be in when they seek to end or succeed in ending their relationship.

Our intent with this report is to remember the victims of domestic violence homicide and help Wisconsin communities understand the dynamics of domestic violence and how it can turn deadly. We want to set a high standard of responsibility for Coordinated Community Response Teams, Elder Abuse Interdisciplinary Teams, and other critical systems where domestic violence victims and perpetrators could seek help, assistance, support, and treatment. We all can create opportunities for intervention and prevention. Lastly, we hope to inspire community members to get involved in the effort to prevent domestic violence.

While intimate partner homicide rates overall have declined nationally for all race and gender groups in the past twenty years, the decline has varied significantly for different populations, from a drop of 83% for black males killed by intimates to a drop of only 6% for white females. In spite of this downward trend, which has been attributed to increased awareness, services, and intervention, the proportion of all female murder victims killed by an intimate has been increasing.³

3. Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Homicide Trends in the U.S., Intimate Partner Homicide*, available at <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/homicide/intimates.htm>. Data compiled from Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplementary Homicide Reports. It does not include the relationship categories of ex-girlfriend and ex-boyfriend.

II. Key Findings

Overview

- 34 incidents of domestic violence homicide (including 6 involving murder-suicide)⁴
- 31 incidents were related in some way to intimate partner violence, either between the victim and perpetrator (23) or between the perpetrator and another person connected to the homicide victim, such as mother, sister, or new partner (8)
- 3 incidents involved an adult child killing a parent
- 26 incidents included a history of prior known domestic abuse
- 4 incidents involved two or more victims
- 40 victims: 23 female and 17 male
- 27 male perpetrators: 32 victims; 5 perpetrator suicides
- 7 female perpetrators: 8 victims; 1 perpetrator suicide
- 46 total deaths (including 6 perpetrators who committed suicide)
- Shooting was the most common method of killing (21), followed by stabbing (7), and beating (6)

Violence across life span and social standing

The 2005 homicides reinforced the importance of understanding domestic violence across aspects of identity and life circumstances, from age to race to sexual orientation to gender to urban and rural communities. Victims ranged in age from six months gestation to 88 years. They lived in 18 counties and across all regions of the state. They were married and unmarried; parents and children. They knew the perpetrator from barely a month to more than 50 years.

Age and gender of victims

	Female	Male	Total by age
0-6 years*	3	3	6
7-17	1	2	3
18-29	7	1	8
30-49	8	6	14
50 and over**	4	5	9
Total	23	17	40

*This includes three fetal deaths in utero at six months or more gestation

**Of the victims over 50, three were over the age of 70

4. Throughout this report, unless otherwise noted, such terms as *incidents*, *cases*, and *homicides* refer to 2005 Wisconsin domestic violence homicides.

Age and gender of perpetrators

	Female	Male	Total by age
15-17	1	1	2
18-29	2	11	13
30-49	3	12	15
50 and over*	1	3	4
Total	7	27	34

* One perpetrator was over the age of 70

Race and ethnicity of victims and perpetrators

	Victims	Perpetrators
Caucasian	26	20
African American	11	13
Native American/Other	1	0
Asian	1	0
Unknown	1	1
Latino	1	1

Methods of killing

- 21 shot
- 7 stabbed
- 6 beaten or otherwise assaulted by being punched or pushed (one victim who was beaten to death with a hammer was also shot and stabbed)
- 3 strangled
- 1 burned
- 1 run over with a car and dragged
- 1 neglected and maltreated

Relationship of victim to perpetrator

Male perpetrator: 27 incidents / 32 victims / 5 perpetrator suicides

When the perpetrator was male, over half of the victims (16 of 27) involved former or current female intimate partners, with a known history of prior domestic abuse in 9 of the 16 cases. Victims included:

- 11 current female partners
- 5 former or estranged female partners
- 1 male partner

- 1 boyfriend of perpetrator's mother
- 1 brother of perpetrator's female partner
- 1 child of perpetrator's female partner
- 5 children: son, stepson, daughter (3 of which also involved murder of the children's mother)
- 1 father
- 1 mother
- 1 father-in-law and 1 mother-in-law (which involved murder of the perpetrator's wife, along with her parents)

Female perpetrator: 7 incidents / 8 victims / 1 perpetrator suicide

When the perpetrator was female, six of the homicides involved former or current male partners. There was a known history of prior domestic violence in six of the cases. Victims included:

- 4 current male partners
- 2 former male partners
- 1 victim involved with and pregnant by perpetrator's male partner (and her child, in utero)

Homicide-suicide

Six cases involved perpetrators who committed suicide. All of the murder-suicides involved firearms as the method of killing. Five perpetrators were male; victims included wives, sons, a stepson, a daughter, a former female partner and the new partner of a former girlfriend. One woman killed her husband before shooting herself.

Prior history of domestic violence

In 23 cases there was known history of prior domestic violence between the victim and perpetrator, or between the perpetrator and someone related to or involved with the domestic violence victim, such as the victim's sister or mother. Evidence of the extent of prior history of domestic violence remains unknown to our researchers, however.

Two homicides involved a perpetrator who was the subject of an active domestic abuse restraining order. One order was obtained by a woman who was in a prior relationship with the perpetrator. The other was a temporary restraining order that was kept in effect beyond the date it would ordinarily expire or a permanent order would be granted. In seven cases there was a history of past temporary restraining orders involving the perpetrator and the victim or another person, although only one action resulted in a permanent order.

Leaving the relationship

In the 31 incidents related in some way to intimate partner violence, 15 involved a partner who had separated or had left the relationship at the time of the homicide. In nine cases there was no apparent attempt to leave and in seven it was unknown.

Impact on children

There were nine homicide victims under the age of eighteen, including three who died in utero at six months or more gestation. Five of the perpetrators were male and were fathers to the children and/or partners to their mothers. Another father killed his wife, stepson, and daughter. One 17-year-old was stabbed to death by her husband (age 24); one 15-year-old was stabbed to death by his female partner (age 15). Two child and two fetal deaths occurred in conjunction with maternal deaths. In a third fetal death the mother was severely injured.

Children sixteen and under were at or near the scene during the homicide in 11 cases. They included children of the victim or perpetrator and children of family friends and relatives, as well as bystanders. Twenty-eight minor children and 18 adult children were left orphaned or without a mother or father. Twenty-two minor children lost their mothers.

Location

The homicides occurred in the victim's or couple's home in 24 cases. In two cases the homicide location was the home of the victim's friend or family member. Five incidents occurred in public spaces, such as a front yard, city street, or park.

2005 Domestic Violence Homicides by Wisconsin County

County	Victims	Perpetrators
Bayfield	George “Pat” Ness, Sr.	Diane Ness
Brown	Jaysen Calkins	Archelaus Luckett
Brown	Giavonni White	Garrett Evans
Clark	Christine Rudy, Christopher Rudy	Shaun Rudy
Dane	Tina Ann Campbell	Walter Fudge
Dane	Joann Gray	Louis Dangelo **
Eau Claire	Shawna Miller	Dion Graham *
Grant	Justine Reynolds-Brownlee	Cliffton Brownlee
Iron	Brenda Laguna	Mark Laguna
Iron	Nicholas “Nick” Kangas	David Brackett, Jr. *
Lafayette	Corina Voegeli-Burton	David Carpenter
Marquette	Haidyn Pasold	Donald Pasold, Jr. *
Milwaukee	Victor Davis	Adrian S. Merritt
Milwaukee	Mickey Billings	Carnell Jackson
Milwaukee	James VanDyke	Mary Nicholson
Milwaukee	Helen Clark-Finch	Tommy L. Wells
Milwaukee	Curtis Dwayne Scott	Marlena Townsend
Milwaukee	Azalea Hang	Steven A. Klebar
Milwaukee	Unnamed daughter of Lajouel Williams	Justin Binion
Milwaukee	Saul Mazoba	†
Milwaukee	Ronald Massey	Betty A. Carter
Milwaukee	Mark Courtney	†
Milwaukee	Antoinette VanLandingham and unnamed daughter	Tamikia L. Beamon
Milwaukee	Gaida Gengler	Omar Eichentals **
Milwaukee	Laura Oleszack	Scott Brandt **
Monroe	John Cummins	David Cummins
Oconto	Amy DeBauche, David Jensen, and Jane Jensen	David DeBauche
Outagamie	Jaime Lowery	Thaddius A. Johnson
Portage	Jerry Anderson	Agnes Anderson *
Racine	Rhonnette Lange	Martin Walker **
Vernon	Mary Ganshert, Mandi Ganshert, and Troy “T.J.” Klein, Jr.	Joseph Ganshert *
Walworth	Peggy Kuehni	Travis Kuehni *
Waukesha	Laverne Wyderka	Jon Wyderka **
Waukesha	Gail Masset	Michael O’Haver

* Committed suicide

† Justifiable homicide

** As of publication of this report, this case remains open or was not charged as criminal homicide

III. Issues and Policy Implications

Gun violence

A gun is the most commonly used weapon in domestic violence homicide in Wisconsin and throughout the United States. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported in a recent study that family and intimate assaults with a firearm were three times more likely to result in death than those involving knives or other sharp instruments and 23 times more likely to result in death than assaults involving other weapons or bodily force.⁵ In Wisconsin between 2000 and 2005, 118 people were murdered with a gun in domestic violence related homicides. This is more than those killed by knives, other weapons, beating, strangulation, and other methods of killing combined (99).

In response to 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. Similarly, both federal and Wisconsin law prohibits possession of firearms while a person is subject to an active domestic violence restraining order. In 2005, perpetrators in 16 domestic violence homicide incidents used a gun, resulting in 21 deaths. Six perpetrators should not have had access to guns under the following restrictions in state and federal law.

- One with a domestic abuse restraining order
- Two with felony convictions
- Three with domestic violence related misdemeanor convictions

The guns used ranged from a variety of small to large caliber handguns to hunting rifles and shotguns, including a sawed-off shotgun.

Four perpetrators used guns in multiple killings that resulted in ten deaths, including two children, six adults, and two fetuses. Three men killed their current or estranged wives. One also shot his daughter and stepson and another killed his unborn child when he killed his wife. The third also shot his wife's parents. The fourth incident involved a woman who shot to death another woman who was pregnant by the perpetrator's boyfriend, also leading to the death of the victim's fetus.

According to various research studies, when firearms are in homes, an abused woman was six times more likely than other abused women to be killed.⁶ A 2005 study found that guns are kept in homes where there is domestic violence more often than in homes that are not violent. In addition, if a gun was present, its use in domestic violence was relatively common.⁷ Of the 16 incidents that involved gun

5. Leonard J. Paulozzi et al, "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners – United States, 1981 – 1998," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report Surveillance Summaries*, October 12, 2001.

6. Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al, "Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide," *NIJ Journal*, National Institute of Justice, Issue 250, November 2003.

7. S.B. Sorenson and D.J. Wiebe, "Weapons in the Lives of Battered Women," *American Journal of Public Health*, August 2005.

killings, 11 (69%) occurred in the victim's home. Fifteen of the incidents involved an intimate partner relationship, either between the perpetrator and the victim or between the perpetrator and someone related to or otherwise involved with the victim.

Guns and murder-suicide have proven to be intrinsically linked. A recent national study by the Violence Policy Center found that 73.7% of murder-suicide incidents involved intimate partners and nearly all (94.5%) of the murder-suicides involved firearms.⁸ In Wisconsin, firearms were used in 100% of the domestic violence murder-suicides committed in 2005. Between 2000 and 2005, 95% of the domestic violence murder-suicides were committed with guns. In comparison, a study covering part of the same time period found that guns were involved in only 49.6% of all suicides in Wisconsin.⁹

Risk to others

Domestic violence is a broad category that includes a variety of relationships, from dating partners to adult children hurting their parents. While men killing their current or former female intimate partners make up the largest percentage of domestic violence related homicides, their violence often extends to others, including children, friends, family, and bystanders. Unless we examine these wider relationships, we miss the full sweep of domestic violence homicides.

In 2005, 23 of 34 incidents of domestic violence homicide involved a direct intimate partner relationship between the perpetrator and the victim. Men killed their current or former female partners in 16 incidents. One man killed his male partner. Women killed their current or former male partners in six incidents.

Intimate partner related homicide in 2005 took in an even wider circle of victims, however. When victims who were related to or otherwise involved with someone in an intimate partner relationship are included, the number expands to 31 of 34 incidents. The wider reach of intimate partner violence included two children and a fetus killed by their mothers' partners (and their fathers, in two cases). It included men killed by their girlfriend's son, brother, or cousin. It included a woman involved with another woman's boyfriend and the new boyfriend of a perpetrator's former girlfriend.

Of the three homicides that did not involve an intimate partner relationship in any way, two were elderly mothers who died as a result of neglect and injury by their adult sons. The third was a father killed by his 24-year-old son.

Homicide-suicide

Six perpetrators committed suicide by shooting themselves after committing homicides that resulted in the deaths of eight people. One woman shot her husband of fifty years before killing herself. Of the five men who committed suicide, one also killed his wife, 14-year-old stepson, and 5-year-old daughter; and, another, his 16-month-old son. One man killed his wife in the front yard of the couple's home before

8. Violence Policy Center, *American Roulette: The Untold Story of Murder-Suicide in the United States*, 2002.

9. Violent Injury Report System of Wisconsin, *Annual Statistical Report Wisconsin 2002 Violent Fatalities*, Spring 2005.

shooting himself. Another shot his wife in the living room of her friend's home, in front of his two-year-old daughter and another child, before shooting himself. The fifth man shot himself near a hiking trail after shooting, stabbing, and beating his former girlfriend's new partner.

The 2005 Wisconsin incidents reflect the findings of studies that show that homicide-suicides involving intimate partners are overwhelmingly perpetrated by men (85-95%).¹⁰

Children

Various studies estimate that between 3.3 and 10 million children are exposed to domestic violence annually. The U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse suggests that domestic violence may be the single major precursor to child abuse and neglect fatalities.¹¹ While not all of these homicides occur within the context of domestic violence, many do. There is a growing understanding of the ways in which a batterer uses children as a tactic of coercion and control against their mother, including threats to abduct or kill the children, particularly if she tries to leave the relationship.¹²

Living with domestic violence has a profound effect on children, particularly when it leads to homicide: the risk of death, the impact of seeing a parent murdered, perhaps seeing a parent commit suicide, and the aftermath of losing a parent to homicide. Children involved in domestic violence homicides in Wisconsin experienced all of this in 2005.

- There were nine homicide victims under the age of eighteen, including three who died in utero after an assault on their mothers. Two children and two fetuses were killed with their mothers and in a third fetal death the mother was severely injured.
- Five of the perpetrators were fathers to the children and/or partners to their mothers. One father killed his wife, stepson, and daughter.
- One 17-year-old was stabbed to death by her 24-year-old husband.
- One 15-year-old was stabbed to death by his 15-year-old former girlfriend.
- Children sixteen and under were at or near the scene during the homicide in 11 cases. They included children of the victim or perpetrator and children of family friends and relatives, as well as bystanders. Four children witnessed the killings and as many as 12 other children may have heard the attack. Where children were reported as "at home sleeping," they soon faced the aftermath of a homicide scene, interviews with investigators, and the loss of a parent or step-parent.
- One mother was gunned down on a residential street with a sawed-off shotgun, in front of numerous witnesses, including children. Her 12 and 18-year-old daughters were waiting for her at their nearby apartment.

10. As cited in David Adams, *Why Do They Kill? Men Who Murder Their Intimate Partners*, Vanderbilt University Press, 2007, 84.

11. Research cited by Family Violence Prevention Fund, *The Facts on Children and Domestic Violence*, <http://www.endabuse.org/resources/facts/Children.pdf>.

12. Adams, *Why Do They Kill?* Also, Lundy Bancroft and Jay G. Silverman, *The Batterer as Parent: Addressing the Impact of Domestic Violence on Family Dynamics*, Sage Publications, 2002.

- One 7-year-old heard the gun shots from a neighbor's house as her father shot and killed her mother and himself on the front lawn of their home.
- Twenty-eight minor children and 18 adult children were left orphaned or without a mother or father. Twenty-two minor children lost their mothers.

Intervening family and friends

The 2005 homicides include several examples of family members intervening on behalf of someone who was being threatened. A woman and her parents, who had accompanied her because of threats from her estranged husband, were shot to death. This same woman's brother gave her pepper spray because he was concerned about her safety. One man was stabbed to death by his sister's boyfriend as he attempted to protect her when he thought she was being hurt. In one of the incidents ruled a justifiable homicide, a man was shot to death by his girlfriend's cousin as he was beating and threatening her with a knife. A 17-year-old shot and killed his mother's boyfriend after seeing him slap her in the face. He pled guilty to second-degree reckless homicide.

The following examples further illustrate the wide reach of domestic violence homicide and the ways in which family, friends, and neighbors intervene or become involved.

- One woman was shot and killed in the home of a friend who had been babysitting for her. Her estranged boyfriend then killed himself. Her father had moved in with her after she left the relationship, because of the abuse and threats she had experienced.
- After a 7-year-old ran to a neighbor's and asked for help, the girl's mother warned the neighbor away, saying that her husband had a gun. She was shot and killed before she could make it to her neighbor's, where she had sent her daughter. Before killing himself, her husband opened the door to the neighbor's home.

Leaving does not equal safety

Every year thousands of battered women make decisions to leave their abusive partners and make new and better lives for themselves and their children. Some of those women are in this report.

Leaving an abusive relationship is often a very difficult, complex, and dangerous process. 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 cohabitating.¹³ Other research has found that a woman's attempt to leave was the precipitating factor in 45 percent of intimate partner homicides of women.¹⁴ Leaving means weighing and reweighing threats to themselves and their loved ones. The frequency of such threats is related to an increased risk of violence for victims who had

13. Neal Websdale, *Understanding Domestic Homicide*, Northeastern University Press, 1999.

14. Carolyn Rebecca Block, "How Can Practitioners Help an Abused Woman Lower Her Risk of Death?" *NIJ Journal*, National Institute of Justice, Issue 250, November 2003.

left their relationship.¹⁵ The work of Jacquelyn Campbell and others shows that women whose partners threatened them with murder were 15 times more likely than other women to be killed.¹⁶ Nearly half of domestic violence homicides occur a month or more after a couple has separated.¹⁷

In the 31 homicide cases related to intimate partner violence, 15 involved a partner who had separated or had left the relationship at the time of the homicide, including 12 women who were at various points in the process of leaving the male partners who killed them.

Stalking

Stalking has a lengthy legal definition under Wisconsin law.¹⁸ To paraphrase, it is a pattern of unwanted conduct that carries an implied or explicit threat that causes fear in the person who is the target of the behavior. It can include “following me” and “checking up on me,” as battered women often describe such behavior. It can include repeated hang up calls, e-mail, or appearing at someone’s place of work. It can include leaving a bouquet of flowers on a doorstep. Every woman in one study of victims of battering who survived a homicide attempt reported some kind of stalking behavior by the abusive partner, with a significant escalation prior to the final assault. Other research has found that perpetrators of domestic violence homicide are twice as likely to have used stalking behaviors.¹⁹

The 2005 cases include numerous examples of stalking behavior by a perpetrator prior to the homicide.

- Calling up to fifteen times a day, watching the house “to see who comes and goes,” and following her in his car, sometimes bringing their 16-month-old son with him. He shot their child to death and then committed suicide.
- Calling several times a day and appearing at her home and place of work. He shot her to death and then committed suicide, in front of their 2-year-old daughter and another child.
- Waiting outside her place of work, following her in his truck and ramming her car many times, until she was forced into a ditch. He shot her in the back of the head with a sawed-off shotgun after she left the car and tried to run to safety.
- Watching her from outside her apartment and writing down “everything” about her. He shot her to death.
- Tracking down her new phone numbers, driving past her house several times a day and leaving repeated cell phone text messages. He strangled her and dumped her body in an abandoned mine shaft.

15. Ruth E. Fluery et al., “When Ending the Relationship Does Not End the Violence: Women’s Experiences of Violence by Former Partners,” *Violence Against Women*, December 2000.

16. Campbell et al., “Assessing Risk Factors.”

17. Jacquelyn Campbell et al., “Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multi-site Case Control Study,” *American Journal of Public Health*, 2003.

18. §940.32, Wisconsin Statutes.

19. Adams, *Why Do they Kill?*; and, Campbell et al., cited in Adams.

Child custody

Despite the overall trend to recognize the seriousness of domestic violence, particularly within the criminal legal system, abusive men who fight for custody win 70% of contested custody actions, obtaining at least joint physical and legal custody or sole custody.²⁰ Many courts compound difficulties related to adult victim and child safety because of unwillingness in family law cases to recognize domestic abuse, its seriousness, and its profound effects on children. Many batterers pursue custody of the children as a means to continue to exert control or to abuse their estranged partners. The existence of joint custody and visitation orders can provide a batterer with access to information about the child's mother, her location, who she is dating, and her activities. All of this can contribute to stalking and the risk of homicide.²¹ Several of the 2005 cases provide graphic illustration of the way in which the intersection of separation, child custody, and domestic violence can produce lethal results.

- The mother of a 16-month-old shot and killed by his father (who then committed suicide) was fearful for her own and her child's safety. The child was the focus of a custody action after she filed for divorce, approximately three months prior to her son's death. She told investigators that she had not been able to keep her child away from his father, in spite of her fears.
- A woman was shot and killed by her former partner, who was also her child's father. She had been trying to distance herself from him, but felt obligated to stay involved because of their son.
- A woman whose sons were the focus of an ongoing custody action was shot and killed, along with her parents. Her two sons had been the focus of a custody action since she had filed for divorce seven months earlier.
- Police made several calls for what were described as custody-related issues to the home of a woman who was shot to death by her partner while their three young children were in the home.

Strangulation and sexual assault

Strangulation and sexual assault are two tactics of battering that can signal severe or fatal violence. Some battered women experience both and some domestic violence homicides involve both kinds of assault.

Block and Campbell have found that past attempts to strangle or choke are key indicators of risk.²² Studies using clinical samples of battered women reveal that between one-third and one-half of battered women are raped by their partners at least once and a woman victimized by her intimate partner is more likely to be sexually assaulted multiple times as compared to a survivor of stranger and acquaintance rape.²³ Researchers have found that batterers who also sexually assault their intimate partners are particularly dangerous men and are more likely to severely injure their wives and potentially escalate the

20. R. Bachman and L.E. Saltzman, *National Crime Victimization Survey, Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, U.S. DOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 1995.

21. Bancroft and Silverman, *The Batterer as Parent*.

22. Block, *How Can Practitioners Help?*; Campbell, *Assessing Risk Factors*.

23. D.G. Kilpatrick, C.N. Edmunds, and A. Seymour, *Rape in America: A Report to the Nation*, National Victim Center, 1992.

violence to murder.²⁴ Other researchers have found that women who are separated or divorced from their partners are at a higher risk for sexual assault.²⁵

The three 2005 victims who were strangled to death were all women, two of whom were also sexually assaulted in conjunction with the homicide. The mother of a third victim reported that her daughter often came to her home after attacks that included strangulation and rape. Another woman reported to police that her husband had strangled her to the point of unconsciousness. The mother of a 17-month-old who was beaten to death told investigators that on more than one occasion her boyfriend held her up against the wall so that her feet could not touch the ground and strangled her.

Pregnancy

The link between intimate partner homicide and deaths of women during pregnancy has received increased attention with the publication of reports finding that homicide is a leading cause of traumatic death among new and expectant mothers.²⁶ The 2005 homicides include two women who were pregnant at the time of their deaths, which also resulted in the death of the child each woman was carrying. One woman was shot by her husband and her body dismembered. The other was shot to death by the girlfriend of her baby's father. A third pregnant woman survived the beating that resulted in the death of her unborn child. Two additional homicides involved women who had recently given birth. The mother of a three-week-old infant was stabbed over twenty times by her husband. The mother of a 17-month-old who was beaten to death by her boyfriend also had a one-week-old infant.

Wider brutality

Beyond the overarching brutality of any method of killing someone, several of the 2005 homicides included wider acts of brutality, such as the following actions.

- Ramming her car repeatedly and then shooting her in the back of the head with a sawed-off shotgun as she tried to run to safety
- A shotgun blast to the face, followed by stabbing with a screwdriver and beating with a hammer
- Multiple shots from a .22, followed by shooting them in the head at close range with a shotgun
- Stabbing him 16 times
- Stabbing her 20 times

24. Cited in Raquel Kennedy Bergen, *Marital Rape: New Research and Directions*, VAWnet Applied Research Forum, February 2006, available at http://new.vawnet.org/Assoc_Files_VAWnet/AR_MaritalRapeRevised.pdf.

25. Ibid.

26. In the March 2005 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, the Centers for Disease Control released a study that used data from more than thirty states to analyze maternal deaths. It found that after auto accidents, homicide was the highest cause of death for pregnant women and new mothers. In December 2004 the Washington Post published a series of articles based on a year-long examination of homicide and pregnancy that examined death-record data in states across the country. The investigation documented the killings of 1,367 pregnant women and new mothers since 1990, most killed by husbands, boyfriends, and lovers. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10074-2004Dec18.html>.

- Stabbing her 49 times
- Setting her on fire and burning her to death
- Destroying photographs and special possessions, holding her down on her bed, cutting off some of her hair
- Punching, slapping, and slamming her head against a hard surface
- A beating severe enough to tear the placenta away from the uterine wall and leave knuckle marks on the head of a seven-month-old fetus

There was a contrast between male and female perpetrators in the level of brutality involved in the homicide. All of the above examples describe the actions of male perpetrators. With the exception of a man who stabbed his male partner, they all involve assaults against female victims.²⁷

A single gunshot or single stab wound was the method of killing in all but one of the homicides committed by female perpetrators. The exception was a woman who was intoxicated and ran over her boyfriend, dragging him underneath her car.

Self-defense

Two of the 2005 homicides were officially ruled self-defense. In one, the cousin of a woman shot the man who had been beating her and attempting to stab her. Her cousin lived in the same building and when he came to check on her, her boyfriend turned on him with the knife. In the second incident, a woman who had experienced past violence from her boyfriend stabbed him after he became physically abusive and threatened to kill her.

Later life

Five cases involved victims over the age of 50. Other than a couple who was murdered by their son-in-law at the same time he murdered his wife, these homicides fell into two groups. One consists of adult sons whose neglect and abuse led to the deaths of their elderly mothers, both of whom were in their 80s. The second group consists of three women who murdered their male partners, including two who murdered their husbands. These women comprise three of the seven female perpetrators. One of the women committed suicide after shooting her husband. There was limited information about whether or not the three women had experienced past abuse by their partners. One woman and her partner both had previous convictions for domestic violence related battery. The adult children of another victim described past threats and aggression toward their father when his wife had been drinking.

27. Adams makes this observation: "Our research suggests that killers denigrate and blame their partners even more than abusers who don't kill. Perhaps the most surprising single finding about these men was how much rage they still held toward the women they had killed." *Why Do They Kill?* 30.

Impact on African American communities

While intimate partner homicide rates have declined for all race and gender groups over the past twenty years, African American women experience higher rates than White women and the rate is higher for African American women in the relationship category of girlfriend than for any other group.²⁸ African American women between the ages of 15-45 have the highest intimate partner homicide rate.²⁹ Lifetime rates of intimate partner violence for African American women and men exceed the rates for any group other than Native American, according to Tjaden and Thoennes's analysis of the National Violence Against Women Survey data.³⁰

For African American communities in Wisconsin, domestic violence homicide in 2005 had an impact significantly out of proportion to their representation in the state's population. While 6% of state residents were African American, they comprised 28% of domestic violence homicide victims and 39% of homicide perpetrators.³¹ This heavy toll reinforces a call to examine what has been described as the "double bind" that African American women face when confronting domestic violence, in meeting what they perceive as the greater good of the community before their own well-being; and, the "triple jeopardy" of intersecting factors of poverty, substance abuse, and battering.³² As Bent-Goodley and Williams characterize this complexity of risk and safety, "many African Americans forego reporting abuse in an attempt to protect their intimate partner from abuse by police or loss of income through imprisonment or incarceration. The result is that the woman and her child(ren) are at an increased risk for violence and often do not report violence until the lethality of the abuse cannot be withstood."³³

28. Roberta K. Lee, Vetta L. Sanders Thompson, and Mindy B. Mechanic, "Intimate Partner Violence and Women of Color: A Call for Innovations," *American Journal of Public Health*, April 2002, 530; and BJS, *Homicide Trends*.

29. Meklit Zewatos and Patricia Bunton, *A Comparison of Domestic Violence in African American, Asian, and Hispanic Women*, results of literature review presented to Graduate Research and Scholarly Project Symposium, Wichita State University, April 27, 2007.

30. Patricia Tjaden and Nancy Thoennes, *Extent, Nature, and Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey*, July 2000, 26.

31. Population data from U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey. Victim and perpetrator figures calculated on basis of total where race was known (11 of 39 victims; 13 of 33 perpetrators).

32. Tricia B. Bent-Goodley and Oliver J. Williams, *Community Insights on Domestic Violence among African Americans: Conversations about Domestic Violence and Other Issues Affecting Their Community*, Seattle, WA, 2004. The Institute on Domestic Violence in the African American Community has convened discussion groups in nine U. S. cities to expand knowledge about community perceptions of and responses to domestic violence. This report and others are available at <http://www.dvinstitute.org/>. See also: Doris Williams Campbell, et al., "Intimate Partner Violence in African American Women," *2002 Online Journal of Issues in Nursing*, January 31, 2002. Available at <http://nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ANAMarketplace/ANAPeriodicals/OJIN/TableofContents/Volume72002/Number1January31/AfricanAmericanWomenPartnerViolence.aspx>.

33. Bent-Goodley and Williams, *Community Insights*, 5.

Help-seeking

Most victims of domestic violence seek help from a variety of sources, both informal (e.g., talking with family and friends, finding information online or through a library) to formal (e.g., police, courts, counseling). While this 2005 Wisconsin study did not specifically examine help-seeking strategies used by victims prior to their deaths, it provided numerous examples of their efforts. Help-seeking by the 2005 domestic violence homicide victims reflected the approaches reported in research studies, as well as findings that abused women who were killed were more likely to have sought help and that “by seeking help, an abused woman indicates that her situations could be serious.”³⁴ This picture of help-seeking raises questions about what kinds of new strategies might support those efforts to be safer and more protective. It also reinforces the challenge of recognizing opportunities for intervention.

Informal approaches

Informal approaches included letting friends, family members, and coworkers know what they were experiencing. For example, one woman accepted a coworker’s offer to stay near her when her former boyfriend appeared at her place of work. Her father also moved in with her after she left the relationship. Several women told their mothers, in particular, about the violence and abuse. Women sometimes stayed with a friend or relative when they were afraid. One woman changed the locks on her doors and her phone numbers more than once. As noted in the earlier discussion about intervening friends and family members, this support did not prevent the homicides, and sometimes led to other deaths.

Formal approaches

The formal help-seeking evident in the homicide reviews split between calls to police and turning to the civil legal system for divorce actions or restraining orders. There was history of police response in several cases, although there were few domestic abuse related convictions on record. Four victims had contact with police within the three weeks prior to their deaths. One woman called police approximately three hours before she was shot, after her lover’s girlfriend kicked her door. Police issued a municipal citation for vandalism. Two weeks prior to her death, another woman called police after her partner had slammed her head on a concrete floor and repeatedly punched and kicked her. While jailed on the battery charge and under a no contact order he made multiple calls threatening to kill her and harm her children unless she paid his bail. Such examples, in particular, reinforce Block’s finding that seeking help can be a signal of escalating and severe violence.³⁵

34. Block, *How Can Practitioners Help?* See also, Adams, *Why Do They Kill?* Adams reports a range of help-seeking by women who survived homicide attempts. The top five include: sought help from her family, obtained protective order, sought medical treatment for domestic violence injury, called police, and sought help from friends.

35. Block, *How Can Practitioners Help?*

Only two homicides involved a perpetrator who was the subject of an active domestic abuse restraining order. One order was obtained by a woman who was in a prior relationship with the perpetrator. The other was a temporary restraining order that was kept in effect rather than issuing a permanent order, apparently in conjunction with a divorce action. There were several examples, however, of the victim or victim's mother (in the case of a child death) seeking a domestic abuse or harassment restraining order shortly before the homicide. Temporary orders were issued between ten days and twelve weeks prior to the homicides. Permanent orders in four cases were denied either because the petitioner withdrew the request or the court dismissed the petition. Two cases included some type of restraining order as part of a divorce action. In seven incidents there was a history of past temporary restraining orders involving the perpetrator and the victim or another person, although only one action resulted in a permanent order. All of the temporary and permanent restraining order actions were initiated by women.

Homicide victims seeking the orders apparently hoped for protection, but were ultimately discouraged or frightened away from obtaining a restraining order. One woman whose child was killed by her estranged husband told investigators that she had not been able to keep her son away from the perpetrator and had tried to get a restraining order, but to no avail. A woman who was killed by her lover's girlfriend tried to obtain a harassment injunction, but the permanent order was denied about three weeks prior to her murder. Another woman filled out the petition, but did not file it because she was afraid she would face more harm from her husband. One woman obtained a temporary restraining order, but asked the court to dismiss her petition. She was killed the following day.

IV. Methodology

Our definition of homicide is the killing of one human being by another. This encompasses criminal, justifiable, self-defense and reckless homicides. Homicides were considered domestic violence related if:

- The victims and perpetrators were spouses, former spouses, adults with children in common, and adults or teens who had been in a dating relationship. We also include cases that involved adults related by blood if dynamics of power and control were demonstrated.
- It was a homicide of a person other than the intimate partner and it occurred within the context of domestic violence. This includes cases where the circumstances of the murder included jealousy concerning a current or former partner of the perpetrator or of a person who attempted to protect a domestic violence victim from future harm. It also includes the killing of perpetrators who were a threat to law enforcement or the killing of law enforcement in the line of duty.
- The homicide occurred as an extension of or in response to ongoing abuse between intimate partners. For example, when a partner or estranged partner killed their children in order to exact revenge on his partner.

To determine the domestic violence homicides that occurred in Wisconsin in 2005, we examined the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) collected by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance (OJA). UCRs provide anonymous demographic information about Wisconsin homicides and are submitted by local law enforcement to OJA. The following information is available via these reports: reporting agency; county in which the homicide occurred; homicide date, type, and location; victim and offender age, sex, and race; weapon used; relationship between the perpetrator and victim; and, circumstance of the homicide.

The UCR does not provide the name of the victim or the offender. The UCRs were reviewed and domestic violence related homicides were identified.

The next step was an Internet search for media accounts of the selected homicides and homicides that might not have appeared in UCRs. Finally, if there were gaps in what we learned about a homicide from a media source or we needed to verify facts, we contacted one or more of the following: local domestic violence programs, district attorney's offices, adult protective services, law enforcement agencies, and coordinated community response coordinators in the counties where the homicides took place. We also used the Wisconsin Circuit Court Access Program to research the criminal history of the homicide perpetrator and victims.

We sought to uniformly report the facts of the case for each incident. However, if additional information was not available to us, we reported only the simple demographic information available in the UCR. Reporting on domestic violence related homicides is complicated since we cannot know the exact characteristics of a domestic violence relationship that ends in death. Our knowledge is ultimately limited by the information reported to community systems, friends and family, by the involved parties prior to the homicide, and how much of that knowledge finds its way into the official record.³⁶

The scope of our report is limited to those homicides identifiable through public access. Due to confidentiality laws, WCADV could only obtain records of public access and such data as death certificates were not available to us. We know this methodology is imperfect and can result in undercounts in at least two areas:

- Children killed by domestic violence abusers: We include children who were killed as a direct result of a domestic violence incident. We believe this count is low since a homicide of a child is often viewed as an isolated incident of child abuse. An investigation of a child homicide can often overlook past domestic violence or the domestic violence might not be included in the public record. While we believe that a larger number of child deaths are directly related to an ongoing pattern of domestic abuse, our current methods of tracking homicides do not allow us to consistently identify children killed by domestic violence abusers.
- Same-sex relationships: It is likely that we undercount domestic violence homicides that occur in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) relationships. Due to the stigma that is placed on LGBT communities, relationships can be hidden and the nature of a relationship might not be accurately identified in the public record of a homicide. An LGBT relationship might be coded as "friend", "roommate" or "other known to victim".

In compiling our summary data we sought to include the total number of homicides committed in 2005 in Wisconsin. This figure is available from several sources including the Bureau of Health Information (BHI) and Office of Justice Assistance (OJA), although the figures from each source differ.³⁷ Each agency

36. Neil Websdale, *Lethality Assessment Tools: A Critical Analysis*, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, 1999.

37. BHI reports 236 homicide related deaths in *Wisconsin Deaths, 2005*; OJA reports 207 homicides in *Crimes and Arrests in Wisconsin, 2005*.

compiles its data from 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.

In each case of homicide-suicide, we chose to list the murdered person in our heading as we recognized this person as the homicide victim. When we knew the information, we included the number and ages at the time of the homicide of children that survived their parent(s).

V. Narratives

The following 34 narratives illustrate the scope, brutality, and lethality of domestic violence. Each story contains descriptive information about the fatalities, such as who was killed and by whom, their ages, the locations of the homicides, the weapons used, the nature of the victims' and perpetrators' relationships, and any known history of abuse in the relationships.

January 1, 2005

Haidyn Pasold

16 months old

Montello

Marquette County

Haidyn Pasold was killed by his father, Donald Pasold Jr., 34. After shooting his son in the head, Donald committed suicide with the same .22 caliber rifle. Deputies were called to a county park after a passerby noticed Donald slumped in his car with a rifle in his lap. The park was near the home of Haidyn's mother, Donald's estranged wife.

Haidyn had been the focus of a custody action since his mother filed for a divorce from Donald in October of 2004. A temporary order granted his parents alternating placement, under which Haidyn spent every other day with his mother or father. A hearing on the divorce was scheduled for January 20, 2005.

Haidyn's mother filed a petition for a restraining order on November 15, 2004, in which she wrote: "Don has threatened himself and our son...He tells me I do not deserve our son...I am very scared for my 14-month-old son." She also reported that Donald called her up to fifteen times a day, watched her house to "see who comes and goes," and followed her in his car late at night, sometimes bringing Haidyn with him. The petition was dismissed by the court. She told investigators that she had not been able to keep Haidyn away from Donald and had tried to get a restraining order, but to no avail.

In 1999, Donald Pasold was charged with disorderly conduct, with a domestic abuse modifier. He pled no contest under a deferred judgment agreement and six months later was found guilty. It is unknown whether Haidyn's mother was the victim in this 1999 case, which occurred shortly after his divorce from a different woman.

January 11, 2005

James VanDyke

53 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

James VanDyke was killed by his girlfriend of nine years, Mary Nicholson, 47. She ran over him and dragged him under her car, causing multiple fatal injuries.

Mary told police that she decided to leave their home because they had been arguing about her adult son and James was swearing and getting loud. She was

on probation because of a prior incident involving him and did not want to get in further trouble. Mary and James had been drinking throughout the day. As she began to drive away she heard James say from the passenger side, "I'm coming too." She told investigators that she did not look at James because she just wanted to leave and continued pulling out of the parking space. She heard a bumping noise and stopped the car after driving about sixty feet. When she saw James under the car she sought help from her landlord, who called 911.

Mary's son reported that the couple had a history of violence and alcohol and drug abuse. At the time of the homicide Mary was on probation for a 2003 conviction of battery with use of a dangerous weapon. She had stabbed James with a knife after he hit her. Mary and James both had previous convictions for domestic violence related battery.

Mary Nicholson pled no contest to one charge of Homicide by Intoxicated Use of a Vehicle and was sentenced to two years in prison and six years of extended supervision. A second charge of Homicide by Use of a Vehicle with Prohibited Alcohol Concentration (as a condition of probation) was dismissed.

James VanDyke is survived by one adult daughter.

February 2, 2005

Mary Ganshert
36 years old

Joseph Ganshert, 42, shot his wife, Mary; stepson, Troy; and daughter, Mandi in their heads as they slept.

Troy "T.J." Klein, Jr.
14 years old

The morning after murdering his family, Joseph called the children's schools to say that they were sick and would not be in school. He then called and arranged to meet his sister later that day. Joseph drove to her Lafayette County farm, and committed suicide with the same .357-caliber pistol that he used to kill Mary, Troy, and Mandi. When his sister returned home she found a note from Joseph asking her to notify the police. He left notes in both his sister's home and his Hillsboro home that included details for funeral arrangements for the family. In one he wrote, "Today God asked me to bring my family to heaven."

Mandi Ganshert
5 years old

Hillsboro
Vernon County

As Lafayette County deputies notified the Hillsboro police that Joseph's suicide note indicated that Mary might be in danger, the bodies were discovered in their home after family members became concerned when Mary failed to meet her sister as planned. Another relative who was concerned about Mary's whereabouts stopped by the house, discovered one of the notes, and called the police.

In December of 1998 Mary contacted police with concerns about her husband. She reported that Joseph was depressed, had not been working, and was staying in bed. Joseph was voluntarily hospitalized as a result of her call. In 1986

Joseph was arrested under an emergency detention order after he shot himself in the stomach in an attempted suicide while separated from his first wife. He was also detained by police in 1992 for writing a letter to his girlfriend that threatened violence and brandishing a gun to his parents.

February 4, 2005

Mark Courtney

35 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Mark Courtney was shot to death by a 22-year-old cousin of his live-in girlfriend. Just before the homicide, Mark was beating his girlfriend and threatening her with a knife. He had pushed her down on the bed and attempted to stab her. Mark had been violent toward her in the past. Her cousin lived in the same building and when he heard the disturbance he came to check on her. Mark turned on him with the knife and the cousin shot him. The homicide was ruled self-defense and no charges were filed.

February 5, 2005

George “Pat” Ness, Sr.

63 years old
Iron River
Bayfield County

George Ness bled to death after his wife, Diane Ness, 49, shot him once in the leg with a .22 magnum pistol.

Diane told investigators that she and George had been drinking heavily for almost two days and arguing. She decided to move out and began packing. She told investigators that she did not remember getting the gun or pulling the trigger, but after she shot George he said, “you shot me.” Investigators concluded that George was probably asleep or passed out when he was shot because he did not move or make an attempt to stop the bleeding. Police were notified after Diane called her sister, who lived next door, and told her that she had shot George. Investigators determined that enough time passed between the shooting and when Diane called for help for the blood to coagulate and dry, and there were signs that alcohol cans and bottles had been removed. They found Diane outside next to the house, sitting in a fetal position.

One of George’s adult sons told police, “I knew this would happen,” referring to times in the past when Diane had threatened to kill his father, but would then say she was kidding. George’s 15-year-old grandson told investigators that Diane was mean and aggressive toward his grandfather when she was drunk. Diane had called her daughter the afternoon of the homicide to report that there were problems and that she and George were fighting.

Diane Ness pled no contest to a charge of Homicide by Intoxicated Use of a Firearm, amended from First-Degree Intentional Homicide. She was sentenced to fifteen years in prison and ten years of extended supervision. She also pled no contest to a charge of Felony Possession of a Firearm (stemming from a previous conviction for operating a vehicle while intoxicated) and was sentenced to five

years in prison and three years of extended supervision, to run consecutive with the sentence on the homicide charge.

George Ness is survived by three adult children, two sons and one daughter.

February 5, 2005

**Antoinette
VanLandingham**
26 years old

Antoinette VanLandingham was shot to death by Tamikia Beamon, 24. Antoinette was six months pregnant. Tamikia's shot from a .40 caliber handgun entered her chin and cut through her spinal cord.

**Unnamed
daughter**
in utero
(6 months gestation)

Antoinette was involved with and pregnant by Tamikia's longtime boyfriend, who was also the father of Tamikia's 2-year-old daughter. Tamikia told investigators she came to Antoinette's house with her boyfriend's gun, intending to scare him, but with no intention of harming Antoinette. He was outside the residence and drove away after he saw Tamikia and heard shots fired. Tamikia went to the back door of the duplex and shot Antoinette through the window of the door. Tamikia's boyfriend returned about an hour later, found Antoinette dead, and called police.

Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Approximately three hours prior to the homicide, Tamikia had come to the house and kicked the door. Antoinette called police, who responded and issued Tamikia a citation for vandalism. The two women had been friends and had worked together for five years. Beginning in late 2004, Tamikia began to harass and threaten Antoinette after she learned about the relationship between her boyfriend and Antoinette. On January 4, 2005, Antoinette filed a harassment restraining order petition, writing that Tamikia threatened to "beat my baby out of me" and had broken the windows in her car and scratched the paint. Antoinette received the temporary order, but the court commissioner dismissed the petition on January 11, citing a lack of witnesses to corroborate Antoinette's statements in her petition. Two weeks after the injunction hearing, and about two weeks prior to the murder, Tamikia started a physical fight with Antoinette at work, resulting in both of them being fired.

Tamikia Beamon pled no contest to two counts of First-Degree Reckless Homicide. The original sentence of fifteen years in prison and five years of extended supervision on each count was vacated after the prosecution cited confusion at the sentencing hearing about its recommendations. She was re-sentenced to twenty-five years in prison and fifteen years of extended supervision on each count, to run concurrently.

February 11, 2005

Peggy Kuehni

36 years old
Delavan
Walworth County

Peggy Kuehni was shot to death in her front yard by her husband, Travis Kuehni, 32, who then committed suicide. Peggy was planning to leave the marriage when Travis killed her one day before their seventh wedding anniversary.

Immediately before the murder, Peggy and Travis' 7-year-old daughter ran to a neighbor's home and told her that her mother needed help. When there was no answer on the Kuehni's phone, the neighbor walked over to their house, where she met Peggy on the porch. Peggy warned her neighbor, saying, "Travis has got a gun." When the two women ran back toward the neighbor's house, Travis got between them. The neighbor brought her own children and Peggy and Travis' daughter into her home and called 911. Another neighbor reported seeing the couple struggling over the gun until Travis shot Peggy once in the chest. Travis walked to the home where his daughter was hiding, opened the door, and called to her. Then he walked back to where Peggy had fallen, laid next to her, and shot himself in the chest.

Peggy and Travis's daughter told police that her mom and dad had been fighting because her mom did not want to be with her dad anymore. Investigators found indications that Peggy had been packing to leave with her daughter just before she was murdered. There was no reported history of domestic violence.

Peggy Kuehni is survived by her daughter and son, ages 7 and 16 at the time of her death. Both children are being cared for by their grandparents.

February 27, 2005

Laura Oleszack

36 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Laura Oleszack died from traumatic head injuries. Her death was ruled a homicide according to medical standards, based on the autopsy findings and conclusion that she died from being pushed and sustaining a blow to the back of her head. Her body had at least ninety bruises. No one has been charged with criminal homicide in Laura's death.

Laura's boyfriend and the father of her three children, Scott Brandt, 38, told investigators that he pushed Laura when she tried to take a bottle of vodka from him and she hit her head. He cleaned the wound, gave her some vodka, and they went to sleep. The next morning he found Laura dead and left the house without reporting her death. Relatives found her body later that day.

Two weeks prior to Laura's death, Scott was arrested and charged with battery after Laura told police that he had slammed her head on a concrete floor and repeatedly punched and kicked her. While jailed on the battery charge and

under a no contact order, Scott made twelve phone calls to Laura threatening to kill her and harm her children unless she paid his bail. She posted the bail and he was released ten days prior to her death.

On May 27, 2005, as part of a plea agreement, Scott pled guilty to fourteen counts of misdemeanor Bail Jumping; the pending Battery charge was dismissed. He also pled guilty to one count of Disorderly Conduct and one count of Criminal Damage to Property stemming from a January 15, 2005, incident in which he broke windows in a man's home and threatened to kill him after he found Laura there. The habitual criminal modifier was applied to each charge because of his past record, which included multiple domestic violence related convictions for bail jumping and disorderly conduct. Scott Brandt was sentenced to twelve and one-half years in prison and eleven and one-half years of extended supervision. He subsequently appealed the judgment and on February 13, 2007, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals rejected his appeal and upheld the sentence.

Laura Oleszack is survived by three young children.

March 10, 2005

Shawna Miller
26 years old
Washington Township
Eau Claire County

Shawna Miller was shot to death by her estranged boyfriend, Dion Graham, 34, in front of their two-year-old daughter and another child, age five. Dion then committed suicide by shooting himself in the head.

Two weeks prior to the murder, Shawna ended her relationship with Dion. He continued to call her several times a day and appear at her home and place of work. He threatened to kill himself by midnight on March 6, 2005, if she did not agree to take him back, but the date passed without incident. He killed her four days later at the home of Shawna's friend, who had been babysitting for her.

Friends, family members, and coworkers reported that Dion became increasingly possessive and controlling late in Shawna's pregnancy. He threatened to kill himself if she ever left him. He often did not allow her to leave the house, go out with friends, or speak to male friends. He called her many times a day to make sure she was at work. One friend reported that Shawna was scared of Dion, but was trying to get on with her life. They were involved in a court dispute over child support that he owed and a hearing was scheduled to take place in April. Because Dion had been abusive in the past and Shawna was afraid of what he would do to her or their daughter, Shawna's father moved in with her after she left Dion. According to her father, as long as he was there Dion did not bother Shawna at home, although he continued to call her at work.

Shawna Miller is survived by a daughter, age 2 at the time of her death, who is being cared for by family members.

March 16, 2005

Brenda Laguna

42 years old

Hurley

Iron County

Brenda Laguna was shot once in the back of the head with a sawed-off shotgun by her estranged husband, Mark Laguna, 40. He had waited for Brenda to leave work and then followed her in his truck, ramming her car repeatedly. He killed her after she abandoned her car and tried to run to safety. The murder occurred in front of numerous witnesses, including children. Brenda's daughters lived in a nearby apartment with their mother and were waiting for her to arrive home.

Brenda's family and friends reported a long history of abuse by Mark. Her mother said that Brenda often came to her home after incidents that included strangulation and rape. Brenda feared for her and her children's safety and tried to leave Mark several times. She filed for divorce in November of 2004. On January 12, 2005, she filed for a domestic abuse temporary restraining order, but the court did not issue an injunction. According to news accounts, a restraining order stating that Mark was to avoid contact with Brenda was in effect as part of the divorce action.

After killing Brenda, Mark walked unarmed to the city hall. The clerk's office had just closed, but the public library was open. Mark called the sheriff's department from the library phone and turned himself in. He told investigators that he had trashed the family home the night before and they found extensive damage, including broken furniture and plumbing fixtures that appeared to have been smashed with a sledge hammer or other heavy object. Mark affixed the divorce papers to the wall of the home with a knife and wrote on the walls that if he could not have Brenda, no one would.

Mark Laguna was charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide. At the trial, the defense argued that medication and undiagnosed mental illness caused him to murder Brenda. A jury found him guilty of Second-Degree Intentional Homicide and he was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison and ten years of extended supervision. He was ordered not to have contact with his children unless they initiate it. At the sentencing hearing the presiding judge noted that this was clearly a domestic violence homicide and that had it been tried as such the jury would likely have convicted Mark of first-degree intentional homicide.

Brenda Laguna is survived by two daughters, ages 12 and 18 at the time of her death, who live with their maternal grandmother.

May 31, 2005

Helen Clark-Finch

50 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Helen Clark-Finch died thirteen days after she was set on fire by her boyfriend, Tommy L. Wells, 48. She sustained second and third-degree burns over eighty percent of her body when he doused her with charcoal lighter fluid and ignited it. First responders found Helen in the hallway of the apartment building where she and Tommy lived, with the clothing burned off of most of her body.

Tommy fled Wisconsin immediately after the assault and turned himself in to Tucson, Arizona, police about two weeks later. He admitted squirting lighter fluid on Helen and holding a burning napkin close to her, but contended that she caught on fire because she slapped the napkin from his hand. He also stated that he helped extinguish the flames before fleeing the scene. This was contradicted by witnesses who found Helen rolling on the floor as she tried to put out the fire and who tried to help her by spraying a fire extinguisher on her. Another witness told police of hearing Tommy say, "burn b****, burn b****."

Helen and Tommy had been together approximately one year. Helen's family members and neighbors told investigators that Helen was afraid of Tommy and that he was very possessive, controlling, and physically violent, including punching, kicking, and slapping her. The day before the assault, Helen asked a nephew to pick her up because she was frightened of Tommy. Her nephew took her to his home, but could not convince her to stay with him when Tommy appeared a short time later. Residents of their apartment building reported that the day prior to and the day of the assault Tommy threatened to kill her, claiming that she was with another man while she was at her nephew's.

Tommy L. Wells pled no contest to First-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison and ten years of extended supervision.

Helen Clark-Finch is survived by an adult daughter.

May 23, 2005

**Unnamed
daughter of
Lajouel Williams**

In utero

(7 months gestation)

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Lajouel Williams, 17, was seven months pregnant when her daughter was killed by Justin Binion, 19, Lajouel's boyfriend and the baby's father. Justin beat Lajouel, kneeling and punching her in the stomach, and causing the placenta to tear away. Lajouel's daughter was dead when delivered by emergency c-section. Knuckle marks were visible on the side of her head.

During the assault Justin kicked Lajouel in the back, pushed her onto a bed, straddled her with his knees, and held her hands over her head by the wrists saying, "I don't want to be around the baby." He repeatedly kneed her in the stomach, and pushed his fist into the left side of Lajouel's belly for about twenty seconds. He got off of Lajouel only after her sister and mother came in and

threatened to call the police. He fled out the back door when the police arrived, but returned after they left. When Lajouel did not respond to his apology he grabbed her by her ponytail. Shortly after Justin left again, Lajouel began hemorrhaging.

Another woman Justin was involved with described how Justin said about her own baby that he would “kick it out of her” if she told Lajouel she was pregnant. Lajouel described repeated incidents, including in early pregnancy, when Justin would kneel on her chest with his full weight for five or six minutes at a time. In February of 2005, when Lajouel was about three months pregnant, Justin became angry when she held their son while he was crying. He kicked her television off its stand, and kicked Lajouel into a shelf when she tried to pick it up.

Justin Binion pled no contest to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to six years in prison and ten years of extended supervision.

June 4, 2005

Victor Davis
34 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Victor Davis was murdered by Adrian S. Merritt, 23, a man he had been dating. Victor bled to death from over sixteen stab wounds.

Adrian told investigators that he had had one sexual encounter with Victor, whom he had known for several years, but did not continue the sexual relationship, although “they still hung out together.” According to a cousin of Victor’s and another man Adrian had been involved with, however, Victor and Adrian had been in an ongoing dating relationship. Adrian told investigators that he stabbed Victor after an argument. He told them that Victor refused to let him leave the room, picked up the knife, stabbed him, and tried to choke him when they struggled during his attempts to get the knife from Victor. After the murder Adrian told his former girlfriend that he was cut struggling with two men who tried to rob him. He later told the other man he had been involved with that he killed Victor because Victor pulled a gun on him.

Victor’s body was discovered by his mother and stepfather when they went to his residence because they had not heard from him over the weekend. Victor lived with and cared for his 64-year-old father who had advanced Alzheimer’s. His father was in the house during the homicide.

Adrian Merritt was arrested approximately fourteen weeks after the homicide. He was initially charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide While Armed, with the habitual criminality modifier (due to prior escape from juvenile corrections and disorderly conduct convictions). He pled guilty to a charge of Second-Degree Reckless Homicide While Armed and was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison and ten years of extended supervision.

June 9, 2005

Justine Reynolds-Brownlee

17 years old
Woodman
Grant County

Justine Reynolds-Brownlee was stabbed to death by her husband of three months, Clifton Brownlee, 24. Clifton stabbed Justine over twenty times, including thirteen wounds to her back and two to her head. He told investigators that Justine had attacked him with a kitchen knife, cutting his hand, and he reacted in self-defense.

A neighbor saw Clifton sitting on the doorstep, bleeding from cuts to his arms and hands. When the neighbor went inside he saw blood throughout the rooms and Justine's body on the bed, covered with a blanket, except for her head and feet. He drove to a nearby bar and called 911. Justine and Clifton's 3-week-old daughter was in the home during the attack. Officers found her in the bedroom with Justine's body, crying in her crib. She had dried blood on her clothing and skin.

The day before the murder Justine told Clifton that she could take care of herself and their child and that she might live on her own. Justine's mother reported that her daughter felt she had made a mistake by marrying Clifton and that she was looking for an apartment and was ready to leave him.

Clifton Brownlee pled guilty to Second-Degree Intentional Homicide, amended from First-Degree Intentional Homicide. He was sentenced to twenty-five years in prison and twenty years of extended supervision. In addition, he is to have no contact with his daughter and was ordered to pay funeral and medical expenses.

Justine Reynolds-Brownlee is survived by a daughter, three weeks old at the time of her death, who is being cared for by relatives.

June 17, 2005

John Cummins

50 years old
Tomah
Monroe County

John Cummins was shot in the back of the head and killed by his son, David Cummins, 24. John's wife discovered her husband's body on the kitchen floor. David was arrested the next night in Rock County after leading police on a high speed chase.

David told investigators that his father was verbally abusive toward him and he blamed his father for his (David's) failed military career. He told them that tensions had been high between him and his father. David's sister reported that her brother and father did not get along and that David had psychological problems which had required significant medication in the past.

The trial was delayed until 2007 because David was initially found not competent to stand trial. The defense argued that John's death was an

assisted suicide and that John had wanted his son to kill him because he had emphysema and because he could not live with seeing David disfigured from a near-fatal gunshot wound to the head in November 2004.

David Cummins pled guilty to Second-Degree Intentional Homicide, amended from First-Degree Intentional Homicide, and was sentenced to ten years in prison and six years of extended supervision, with credit for the more than two years he spent in custody while the case was pending.

John Cummins is survived by his son and an adult daughter.

June 25, 2005

Tina Ann Campbell
27 years old
Madison
Dane County

Tina Ann Campbell was shot to death by her former boyfriend, Walter Fudge, 55. She was shot once in the head and once in the chest with a gun he purchased ten days prior to the homicide.

Tina and Walter had been together on and off since Tina was 14. They had a 3-year-old son together. While there is no previous court history of Walter's violence towards Tina, family members expressed concern for her safety in the months before her murder. Tina's mother told officials that Tina had reported to her that she thought Walter was stalking her. Tina told her that Walter was writing things about her in a notebook and that he had watched her from outside her apartment. According to her sister, Tina had been trying to distance herself from Walter, but felt obligated to stay involved with him because of their son. At the time of the murder, Tina had recently started dating another man.

Walter Fudge pled no contest to First-Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison with eligibility for release after a minimum of twenty years.

Tina Campbell is survived by a son, age 3 at the time of her death, who remains in the care of her family.

June 28, 2005

Gaida Gengler
80 years old
West Allis
Milwaukee County

Gaida Gengler died after being assaulted by her son, Omar Eichentals, 51. Her death was ruled a homicide due to complications of fractures and blunt force trauma.

Hours before his mother's death, Omar destroyed photographs and special possessions belonging to his mother and broke the windows in her bedroom with a garbage can. He started a fire of her undergarments and photos and knocked his mother to the floor while trying to put it out. He held his mother down on

her bed, cut off some of her hair, and may have knelt on her leg. Although Omar stated that he found his mother dead on the bathroom floor when he woke up the next afternoon, the autopsy concluded that Gaida had been moved after she died. The bones in Gaida's left leg were broken above the ankle. She had bruises on her head and face and was bleeding from her nose or mouth. Each of her legs and hands had bruises consistent with ongoing physical abuse.

Past criminal complaints and statements to investigators by Gaida's daughter, friends, and neighbors and by Omar's former wife describe his ongoing violence towards and domination of Gaida. He had pushed, slapped, and hit her with objects, which led to a broken hip in one incident. He refused to feed her, set fire to her property, broke furniture and other possessions, made threats to her life, tried to control who she talked to, and cut her phone line. He once fired a gun inside her home, injuring a neighbor in another apartment. In 2003 Gaida obtained a temporary restraining order, but the injunction was dismissed when she did not return to court.

Between 1996 and 2003, Omar was convicted of criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct, intimidating a witness, negligent use of burning materials, and injury by negligent use of a weapon with charges of bail jumping and domestic violence battery read in. In 1996 his former wife obtained a domestic abuse restraining order against him.

Omar Eichentals pled guilty to Second-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety and Criminal Damage to Property. He was sentenced to four years in prison and five years of extended supervision, with nine months to be served concurrently for the Criminal Damage to Property.

Gaida Gengler is survived by her son and an adult daughter.

June 28, 2005

Rhonnette Lange

31 years old
Racine
Racine County

Rhonnette Lange was stabbed forty-nine times, with wounds to her hands, fingers, chest, arms and face. Her live-in boyfriend, Martin Walker, 33, was charged with her homicide in July 2005. As of publication of this report, the case remains open and a plea hearing is scheduled for October 2007.

Martin told investigators that he stabbed Rhonnette "a couple of times" while trying to take away a butcher knife during an argument. He said she picked up the knife after he had punched her in the eye and then asked her if she was going to call the police. After forcing their way into the house the following morning, Martin's mother and brother found Rhonnette dead and Martin injured from cuts and stab wounds. He told officers that his wounds were self-inflicted and he did not want to live.

Three months prior to the homicide, police were called to their home in response to a disturbance. Rhonnette's father told reporters that he had a feeling something was going to happen to his daughter. Referring to past abusive relationships with other men, he said, "They wanted to own her, and I think that's what happened here...She had her own house, but once she got with Marty, the house went and so did the children."

Martin Walker has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide. He was found competent to stand trial in May 2006.

Rhonnette Lange is survived by two daughters, ages 11 and 12 at the time of her death, who live with their father; and, a son, age 8, who lives with his father.

July 6, 2005

Ronald Massey

45 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Ronald Massey was killed by his former girlfriend, Betty A. Carter, 34. He bled to death from a stab wound to his left chest.

Ronald and Betty had known each other for over twenty years and had lived together in the past. At the time of the homicide they were both living with Betty's mother and sister, although her mother and others told investigators that they were no longer together as a couple. Betty told investigators that Ronald still wanted to be with her so he would pick on her, say things that he knew would anger her, and then call the police when she reacted. They had two young children in common who were no longer in their care. According to Betty's family, both she and Ronald had ongoing problems with drug abuse. Betty was in a new relationship and was six months pregnant at the time of the homicide.

Betty told investigators that Ronald had been high or drunk for three days and had been "picking and picking" at her and calling her derogatory names. After he slapped her she got the knife she always kept under the couch cushion where she slept. She told investigators that when Ronald saw the knife he kicked at her belly and she bent forward in an attempt to protect her baby, then swung her arm up and stabbed him. She told her mother to call 911 and to tell the police that it was an accident and that she was sorry. She then left the house with the knife.

In the two years prior to the homicide, Betty cut Ronald on the arm with a knife on two occasions. Neither incident was prosecuted. After one incident, Betty's mother told police that she told Ronald that Betty was going to kill him one day. In the other she told police that Ronald was calling Betty vulgar names, lunging at her, and trying to hit her and Betty reacted in self-defense.

Betty Carter pled guilty to a charge of Second-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to seven years in prison and seven years of extended supervision. Case records indicate that prosecutors expected the defense to bring forward or make allegations of prior violent conduct by Ronald against Betty and to use that to help establish a self-defense claim.

Ronald Massey is survived by two children, ages 8 and 6 at the time of his death.

July 18, 2005

Nicholas “Nick” Kangas

33 years old
Iron Belt
Iron County

Nicholas “Nick” Kangas was murdered by David Brackett, Jr., 24. Nick’s girlfriend had been in a prior dating relationship with David. On the night of the murder, David had been watching the couple through a window and then entered the cabin and shot Nick in the face. David used a gun he had stolen from Nick’s cabin earlier in the day. After shooting Nick, David came toward the woman, telling her how mad and upset he was and that all he wanted to do was sleep with her. He then attacked Nick with a knife and a hammer, stabbing him in the eyes and chest and hitting him in the head until he was dead.

During the attack, David told Nick’s girlfriend that if she wanted to live she had better watch what he was doing. He told her that she would be all right if she just did what he said, and made her stay near him while he wrote what turned out to be a suicide letter. David forced her to leave with him and dropped her off in a nearby town before he fled the area. She flagged down a police officer and reported what had happened. A hiker found David’s body the next afternoon on the shore of Lake Superior, near the Wisconsin-Michigan border, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

August 2, 2005

Jerry Anderson

74 years old
Almond
Portage County

Jerry Anderson was shot in the head by his wife, Agnes Anderson, 75, who then committed suicide by shooting herself in the head.

When a home health nurse arrived for her appointment with Jerry that morning, she found all of the doors locked and got no response from inside the house or over the phone. Later that day, one of the couple’s sons stopped by to check on his parents and peered through a window and saw Jerry in his chair. He appeared to be sleeping so the son decided to come back later. When he returned a second time he saw his father in the same position and looking closer he saw Agnes lying on the floor nearby. Concerned that his mother had fallen, he forced open a door and saw a large pool of blood around Agnes’ head and a gunshot wound on Jerry’s forehead.

There was no reported history of domestic violence between Agnes and Jerry.

They had been married almost fifty years.

Jerry and Agnes Anderson are survived by six adult children.

August 2, 2005

Laverne Wyderka

88 years old

Brookfield

Waukesha County

Laverne Wyderka died as a result of pneumonia, stroke and neglect while in the care of her son, Jon Wyderka, 54.

Jon held durable power of attorney over his mother's health care and finances. In August 2004 he began serving a jail term for drunken driving offenses and Laverne entered a nursing home. He was released on June 9, 2005, and removed his mother from the nursing home.

On July 23 a neighbor contacted the police with concerns about Laverne's welfare because she had not been seen for a while and her mail was piling up. Jon initially denied officers entrance to the home. Once inside, they found Laverne lying unconscious on her bedroom floor, incoherent and wearing only a feces-filled adult diaper. Her bed was covered in dirty rags and used diapers. Jon told the officers that Laverne had fallen out of bed twenty-four hours earlier, but that he had decided she was too heavy to move, and the last time she had eaten was three days earlier. Laverne was taken to a hospital where an examination revealed that she was suffering from multiple bruises, bedsores, a fractured rib and upper arm, diabetes, dehydration, dementia, and kidney failure. She died ten days later. When questioned about the care he had provided his mother, Jon told authorities that she was "going to die anyway."

Jon Wyderka pled no contest to Negligent Maltreatment of a Vulnerable Adult Likely to Cause Great Bodily Harm. He was sentenced to one year in prison and two years of extended supervision.

Laverne Wyderka is survived by her son.

August 6, 2005

Mickey Billings

36 years old

Milwaukee

Milwaukee County

Mickey Billings died after being shot once in the leg by Carnell Jackson, 17, the son of his longtime girlfriend. Carnell's 5-year-old brother and 4-year-old sister were in the kitchen and standing near him during the shooting.

Carnell was in his bedroom and heard arguing in the kitchen between Mickey and his mother. After seeing that Mickey was still "fired up" he left the house and ran into an acquaintance, telling him that he believed that Mickey was going to kill his mother. The acquaintance gave him the gun and Carnell returned to the residence. He pointed the gun at Mickey, saying "I have been

watching this s*** since I was little, you beating on my mom..." As Mickey began moving toward the back door, Carnell fired one shot into the wall and one into the back door. Carnell told investigators that he missed on purpose, but was afraid that if Mickey left the house he would have brought back "his boys" and killed Carnell. As Mickey was opening the door, Carnell fired one shot towards his legs.

Carnell's mother told investigators that Mickey slapped her in the face at least twice prior to the shooting and Carnell said "I'm tired of you hitting on my mama," just before firing the gun. She described previous police calls because of arguments between Mickey and her son. Carnell told investigators that approximately two months prior to the homicide Mickey hit and kicked him in the face. Police were called and took Carnell to a friend's home, where he stayed for a couple of weeks. Carnell described growing up seeing Mickey physically abuse his mother and call her derogatory names. In a letter to the court at sentencing, a cousin of Carnell's provided a similar account and said that Mickey had been mentally and physically abusive to Carnell, as well as breaking Carnell's grandmother's leg.

Carnell Jackson was initially charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide. He pled no contest to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to five years in prison and eight years of extended supervision.

August 7, 2005

Amy DeBauche

37 years old

Jane Jensen

60 years old

David Jensen

63 years old

Mountain

Oconto County

Amy DeBauche and her parents, Jane and David Jensen, were killed by Amy's estranged husband, David DeBauche, 41. All three were shot numerous times with a .22 caliber gun and once in the head with a shotgun at close range. The killings occurred while Jane was on her cell phone with a 911 dispatcher, calling for help. Before she was shot, Jane asked that police check a Green Bay residence where she thought that Amy and David's children might be home alone. After his arrest, authorities learned that David had left the children with relatives before traveling to the property where Amy was camping with her parents.

In November of 2004 Amy reported to police that David had strangled her to the point of unconsciousness. Several days later she completed a request for a temporary restraining order, but did not file the petition. According to Amy's sister, she was too afraid it would further infuriate David. In January 2005, Amy filed for divorce. One neighbor described seeing police escort Amy to the house several times to collect her belongings. Family members said there was an ongoing custody action over the couple's two sons that continued after their separation. Amy's brother testified at the trial that he bought pepper spray for his sister because he was worried about her safety. At the time of the homicides

David was under court order to stay away from the Oconto County property where the shootings occurred.

David DeBauche pled not guilty to three counts of First-Degree Intentional Homicide. He was found guilty of all charges by a jury and was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole.

Amy DeBauche is survived by two sons, ages 9 and 10 at the time of her death, who are being cared for by her relatives.

August 10, 2005

Corina Voegeli-Burton

29 years old

Darlington

Lafayette County

Corina Voegeli-Burton was strangled to death by her former boyfriend, David Carpenter, 29. A search was launched after Corina's children woke to find their mother missing and she failed to call her boyfriend before going to work. Her body was found in an abandoned mine shaft. There was evidence that she had been sexually assaulted prior to her death.

David had been stalking and threatening Corina since she had broken up with him two or three months earlier. In the weeks before the murder he told several acquaintances that he planned to kill Corina and to dump her body in a mine shaft. After leaving David, Corina changed the locks on her doors and her phone numbers more than once. She and her children stayed overnight with friends at least twice because she was afraid of David. She told her current boyfriend that David had threatened to kill her on several occasions. The night of the murder David shot at her boyfriend's truck and made threatening phone calls to him.

On July 23, 2005, David was arrested at Corina's residence in what law enforcement officers described as a domestic dispute. On August 1 Corina filed a petition for a temporary restraining order. A court dismissed the petition on August 9 at her request. She was killed the following day.

David Carpenter pled guilty to First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Third-Degree Sexual Assault, amended from First-Degree Intentional Homicide and First-Degree Sexual Assault, and to a felony charge of Hiding a Corpse. He was sentenced to forty years in prison and twenty years of extended supervision for the homicide; and, to five years in prison and five years of extended supervision for each of the other charges, with all sentences to run concurrently. Two counts of stalking, including one resulting in bodily harm, were dismissed as a part of the plea bargain. He pled guilty to a misdemeanor charge of Criminal Damage to Property for shooting the truck belonging to Corina's boyfriend and was sentenced to 270 days in jail. A charge of Threatening Harm by Unlawful Use of a Phone was dropped.

Corina Voegeli-Burton is survived by three children, ages 12, 9, and 6 at the time of her death, who live with their father.

August 14, 2005

Saul Mazoba

25 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Saul Mazoba was stabbed to death by his 28-year-old live-in girlfriend.

Saul and his girlfriend had been at a dance club with friends when Saul became angry because she had been dancing with someone else. When they returned to their home Saul became physically abusive and when he threatened to kill her his girlfriend stabbed him in the chest. The homicide was ruled self-defense and no charges were filed.

Saul was known to be violent toward his girlfriend and others. There were three police calls between August 2003 and August 2004 that resulted in Saul's arrests for disorderly conduct and damage to property, among other charges. None of the cases were prosecuted. In one incident his girlfriend told police that Saul hit her in the face with a closed fist, pulled her hair, threw a brick at her car, and made repeated threats that made her fear for her and her children's safety.

Saul's girlfriend's three children, ages 3, 11, and 13, were reported to be home and sleeping at the time of the homicide. Saul was the father of one of her children.

October 3, 2005

Giavonni White

17 months old
Green Bay
Brown County

Giavonni White was beaten to death by his mother's boyfriend, Garrett Evans, 25. Giavonni died of severe head injuries, including multiple skull fractures, cuts and bruises to the brain.

The evening of his death, Giavonni's mother told Garrett their relationship was over. At some time in the night she heard Giavonni screaming in his bedroom, but did not check on him because she knew that Garrett was with him and she was tired from nursing her one-week-old baby. The next morning Garrett told Giavonni's mother that they needed to take the child to the hospital. She saw that Giavonni's head was swollen and bruised and called 911, telling the dispatcher that he had fallen out of his crib. When she learned that her son had died "she blurted out [to a detective] that [Garrett] did this to her son and she did not want him to get away with it." She told police that she had initially lied to protect Garrett.

Giavonni's mother told police that Garrett complained about not being her son's biological father. She told them that Garrett had been very violent toward her in the past, including on more than one occasion when he held her up against a wall so that her feet could not touch the ground and strangled her.

Garrett Evans was initially charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide, later amended to First-Degree Intentional Homicide following additional investigation and medical reports. He pled no contest and was sentenced to life in prison. He is eligible for parole after thirty years.

October 5, 2005

Jaime Lowery
29 years old
Little Chute
Outagamie County

Jaime Lowery was shot to death while she slept by her boyfriend, Thaddius A. Johnson, 37. He shot her once in the head at point-blank range with a rifle he had purchased thirty-six hours before the shooting. The couple's three young children were at home and apparently asleep at the time of their mother's murder. Thaddius woke the children, drove them to his sister's home in Milwaukee, and then turned himself in to police.

Neighbors reported seeing police at Jaime and Thaddius's home on a regular basis, including the weekend prior to the homicide. Police said that no arrests had been made and that the calls involved custody-related issues. Neighbors also reported incidents where Thaddius would chase Jaime out of their home and she would run back in and lock the door. Three days before she was killed, Jaime told police that she was afraid to go home and that her life was in danger. In 2003 Thaddius was convicted of misdemeanor battery after punching and grabbing Jaime and ordered to pay a civil forfeiture on another charge of domestic abuse related disorderly conduct. Family and friends described how Thaddius controlled Jaime's movements, including driving her to work and limiting her contact with them. Jaime had told others that she was trying to end her relationship with Thaddius and wanted him out of the home. Thaddius told her that if she left him he would kill her and Jaime feared he would hurt her friends and family.

Thaddius Johnson pled no contest to a charge of First-Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison with eligibility for parole and extended supervision after twenty-six years.

Jaime Lowery is survived by three sons, ages 1, 4, and 6 at the time of her death, who live with their maternal grandmother.

October 8, 2005

Azalea Hang
24 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Azalea Hang was strangled to death in her bed by her boyfriend, Steven A. Klebar, 22. There was also evidence that she had been sexually assaulted. Azalea had been trying to end the relationship with Steven, but he had moved back to her home four days prior to the murder.

After attacking Azalea, Steven left in her car, consumed a mix of sleeping pills, antidepressants, and alcohol, and cut his wrists. He called his mother and told her that he planned to kill himself. His mother contacted Azalea's parents, who went to her home and found her unconscious and barely alive. Paramedics attempted to resuscitate her, but failed.

In the days prior to her murder, Azalea had made plans for family and friends to help her remove Steven's belongings. Azalea's sister told investigators that Steven seemed very possessive of Azalea, and about two weeks prior to the homicide she heard him threaten to kill Azalea. Azalea had confided to her that he had threatened to kill her if they ever broke up. Steven told Azalea's brother-in-law that if he and Azalea were not together he would probably hurt her badly. About ten days before the murder, Steven said to Azalea, in front of her parents and sister, "Your first husband cut your hand, your second husband bruised you, and I'm going to kill you."

Steven Klebar pled no contest to a charge of First-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to fifteen years in prison and twenty years of extended supervision.

Azalea Hang is survived by two sons, ages 1 and 7 at the time of her death, who were staying with relatives at the time of the murder. Azalea's parents are caring for her youngest son; her oldest son is with his father.

October 16, 2005

Jaysen Calkins

35 years old
Green Bay
Brown County

Jaysen Calkins was stabbed to death by his sister's boyfriend, Archelaus Luckett, 26, as he attempted to defend her when he thought Archelaus was hurting her. Archelaus had grabbed his girlfriend by the front of her sweatshirt, causing her to scrape her neck and hurt her knee. Jaysen heard Archelaus yelling at his sister and ran to the kitchen. During the confrontation that followed, Archelaus stabbed Jaysen as many as six times, including three times in the upper back. Jaysen collapsed and died in his sister's arms.

Jaysen's sister told police that Archelaus had assaulted her in the past. About a week prior to the murder she had stayed at her parents' house for a couple of nights because Archelaus had beaten her. When she returned to the home she was sharing with Archelaus, Jaysen came with her to protect his sister if Archelaus became violent. In 2003 another woman obtained a four-year restraining order against Archelaus.

Archelaus Luckett pled no contest to the charge of Second-Degree Intentional Homicide, which had been amended from First-Degree Intentional Homicide. He was sentenced to fourteen years in prison and six years of extended supervision.

Jaysen Calkins is survived by two young children and a teenage son who are in the care of their mothers.

October 18, 2005

Curtis Dwayne Scott

15 years old
Milwaukee
Milwaukee County

Curtis Dwayne Scott was killed by his ex-girlfriend, Marlena Townsend, 15. He died from a stab wound to his heart. The assault occurred on the street in front of Curtis's home and was witnessed by two of his friends.

Marlena and Curtis had been arguing back and forth for approximately ten minutes when she jabbed him in the stomach area with a pocket knife before stabbing him once in the chest. While Marlena was calling for help, Curtis walked to a neighbor and asked for a ride to a hospital. On the way, the driver flagged down a fire truck and Curtis was taken by ambulance to the hospital where he died.

Curtis had been trying to break up with Marlena. His mother told investigators that the two "had a rocky relationship that involved much arguing and some physical violence." She described intervening when Marlena stabbed Curtis in the leg on one occasion. She notified police at the time, but decided not to press charges. In the month before the homicide, Marlena poured bleach on some of Curtis's clothing and cut the sleeves of his coat. She told investigators that she was trying to cut the coat and not stab him. She acknowledged hitting and pushing Curtis in the past. She told investigators that prior to the stabbing she might have said something like "if I can't have you, nobody can," but she did not want Curtis to die; she only wanted to scare him.

Marlena Townsend was initially charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide. She pled no contest to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to eight years in a secure juvenile correctional facility and seven years of extended supervision.

November 12, 2005

Christine Rudy

21 years old

Christopher Rudy

Unborn son, in utero
(six months gestation)

Thorp
Clark County

Christine Rudy was shot to death and dismembered by her husband of three months, Shaun Rudy, 23. Christine was six months pregnant at the time, and her unborn son, whom she had named Christopher, also died. Two days after killing her he reported her missing.

Immediately prior to the homicide, Christine was in a car with Shaun and an 18-year-old woman described as Shaun's girlfriend. According to Shaun and the second woman, all three had been using methamphetamine. Shaun ordered Christine out of the car and drove away, then returned to where she was standing. He said, "Wife... 'til death do us part," and shot Christine in the head, using a 12-gauge shotgun stolen two days earlier when the three of them

burglarized a house in Iowa. Shaun threatened his girlfriend that he would kill her too if she told anyone what he had done. Together they drove to Shaun's mother's home, where Shaun dismembered Christine's body. A day or two later they dropped her remains into the Chippewa River, where they were discovered in March 2006 on the basis of information from Shaun's girlfriend.

Two days before the murder, Shaun left Christine on the side of a road in southern Wisconsin. After walking through the night for seven to twelve miles, Christine reached a church in Fennimore, Wisconsin, where she waited until Shaun picked her up that afternoon. Shaun told a cellmate that he and his girlfriend had thought of many ways to kill Christine so that they could be alone. Before he was sentenced, he told pre-sentence investigators that he would not change anything and that he felt he did the right thing by killing Christine so that she would not give birth to a child that would possibly be disabled because of her methamphetamine use.

As part of a plea bargain and her cooperation with investigators, charges against Shaun's girlfriend of Aiding a Felon and Falsifying Information as a Party to a Crime were deferred. She pled guilty to Resisting or Obstructing an Officer and was sentenced to 271 days in jail.

Shaun Rudy pled no contest to the charges of First-Degree Intentional Homicide, First-Degree Intentional Homicide of an Unborn Child, and Mutilating a Corpse. He was sentenced to two life sentences without parole for the homicide charges and thirteen years and six months in prison and five years of extended supervision for the mutilation charge.

November 21, 2005

Gail Masset

38 years old
Mukwonago
Waukesha County

Gail Masset was murdered by her boyfriend, Michael O'Haver, 40, who beat her during an extended period of time, dumped her body in a ditch in a remote area, and reported her missing a few days later. Gail's body was found seven weeks later by a passerby who was walking his dog. She had lacerations and abrasions to her head, a fractured vertebra in her neck, and bruises to her back, arms, legs, and buttocks. A medical examiner testified that Gail had suffered a long, painful death and was possibly still alive when Michael left her in the ditch.

The night of the homicide, Gail called her daughter several times, making a connection on the fourth try. She was crying hysterically and asked her daughter to drive from Milwaukee to pick her up. Gail's daughter advised her mother to drive to her parents' home instead, to which Gail responded, "Mike won't let me." The call was disconnected when Michael took the phone away from Gail.

A month before Gail's murder, Michael was convicted of domestic abuse related disorderly conduct stemming from three incidents in the spring of 2005 involving a former girlfriend. He threw the woman to the floor, threatened to throw a folding table at her, head-butted and slapped her, and put a chicken carcass in her purse. During the sentencing hearing the prosecutor detailed a decade of violent behavior by Michael towards women, including black eyes, bruises, cuts, and swelling caused by being punched, slapped, pushed down stairs, struck by objects, and thrown to the ground.

Michael O'Haver pled not guilty to a charge of First-Degree Intentional Homicide and was found guilty by a jury. He was sentenced to mandatory life in prison without the possibility of parole and ordered to pay restitution to Gail's daughter.

Gail Masset is survived by a daughter and son, ages 20 and 16 at the time of her death. Her son lives with his maternal grandparents.

December 26, 2005

Joann Gray

46 years old
Madison, Beaver Dam,
Vero Beach (FL)
Dane County, Dodge
County, Indian River
County (FL)

Joann Gray died after being strangled. Her body was found in the trunk of a car in a Madison storage facility. Her boyfriend, Louis Dangelo, 42, has been charged with her murder. As of publication of this report, the case remains open.

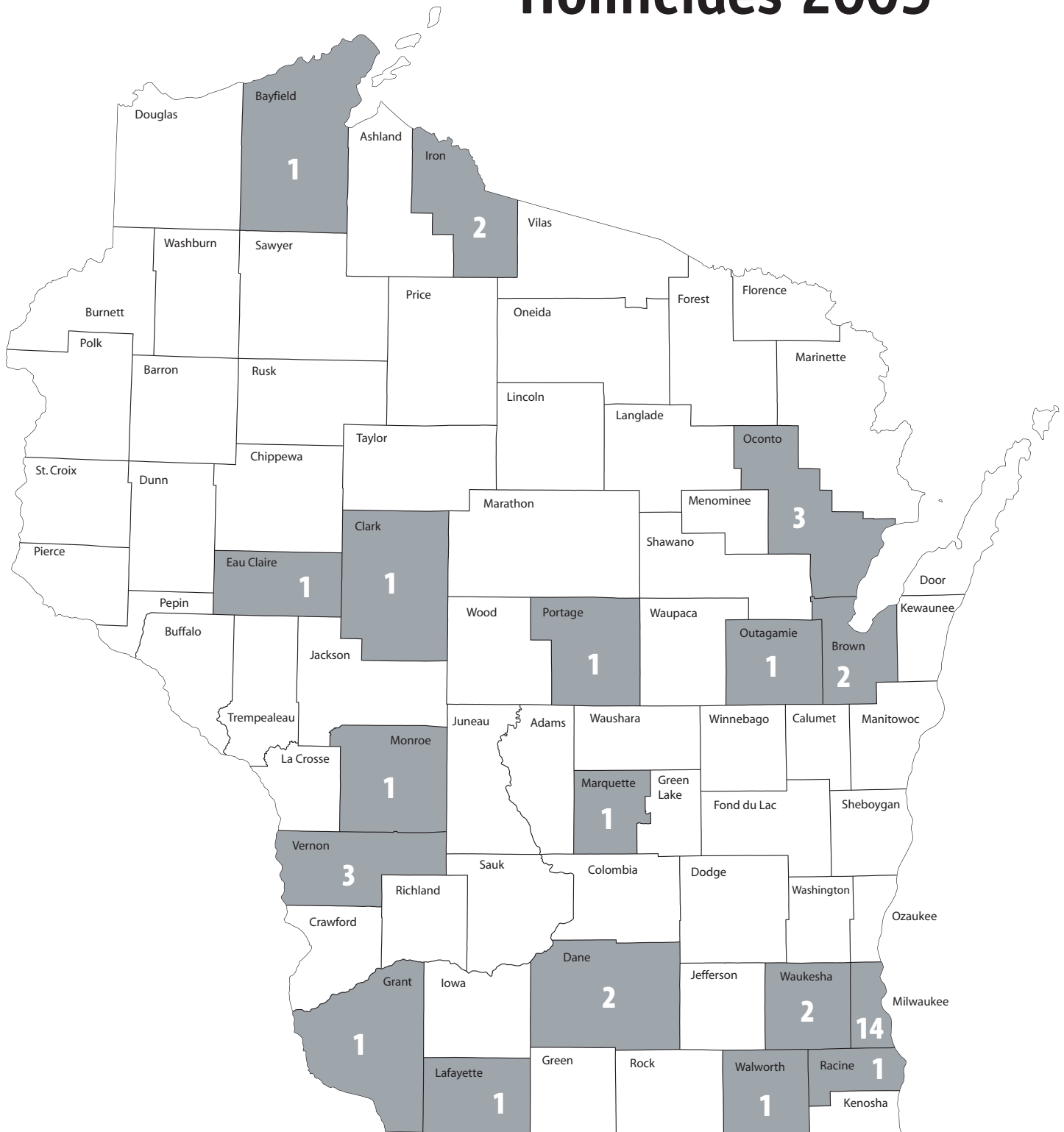
Louis told investigators that he and Joann had met in early December and were living in Joann's home in Vero Beach, Florida. According to Louis, Joann blamed him for problems she was having with her children and during an argument she began to hit him when he grabbed her around the throat and strangled her until she fell to the floor. The next morning he covered her body with a blanket and hid it in the trunk of a car that she was in the process of buying. He drove to Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where he had once lived. He stored the car, with Joann's body still in the trunk, in the garage of a friend's apartment building, then moved the car to a storage unit in Madison. On February 3 he led authorities to the storage unit, where a team of Wisconsin, Florida, and federal investigators discovered Joann's body.

Between December 27, 2005, and January 11, 2006, Louis stole almost twenty thousand dollars from Joann's bank account. After her death, friends of Joann recalled cautioning her about the relationship.

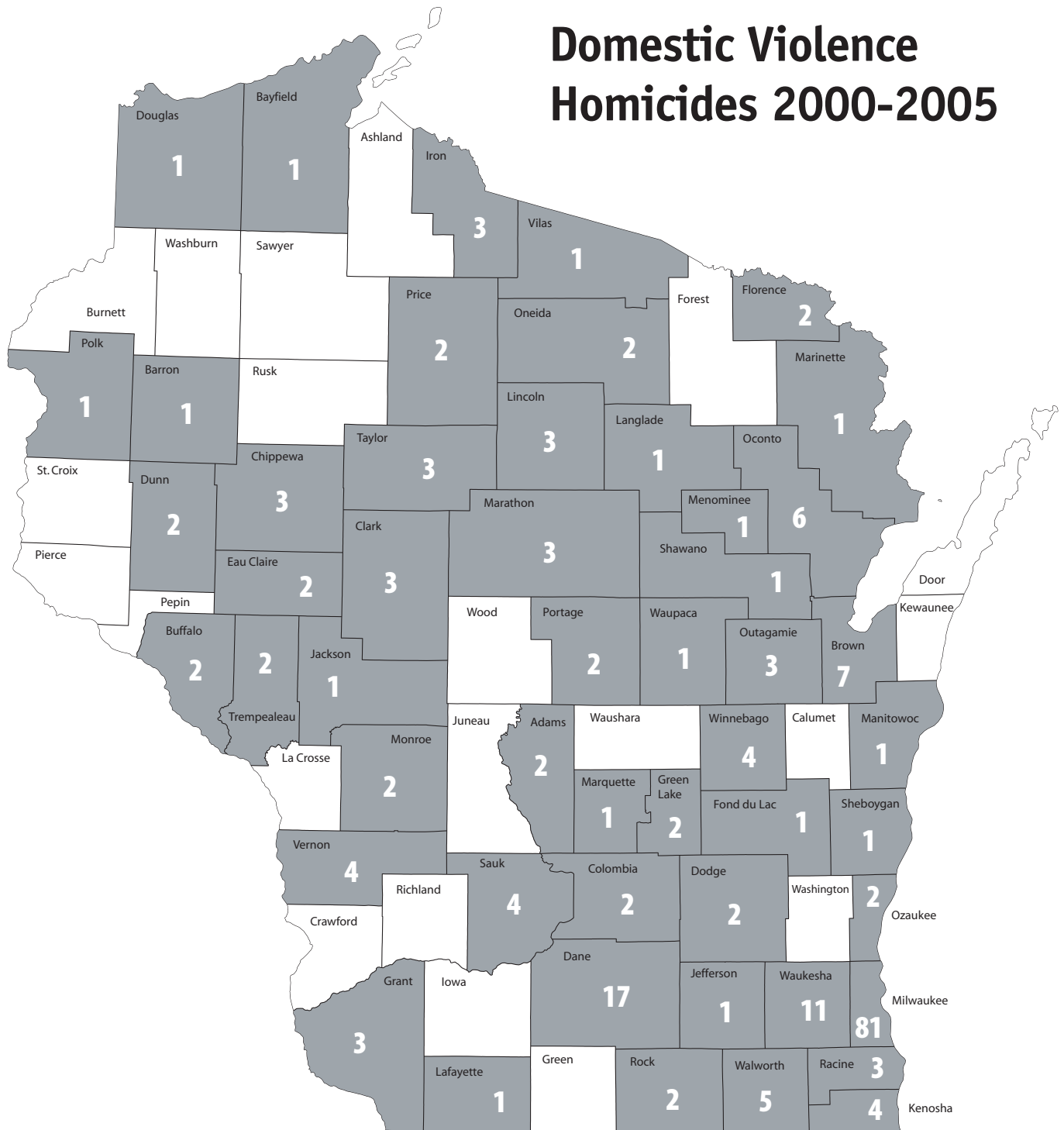
Louis Dangelo was charged in Wisconsin with Mutilating or Hiding a Corpse. These charges were dismissed when Louis was extradited to Florida. He has been charged in Florida with Second-Degree Murder and five other charges, including Burglary, Theft, and Unlawful Transportation of a Body.

Joann Gray is survived by a 19-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter.

Domestic Violence Homicides 2005



Domestic Violence Homicides 2000-2005



Year	Homicide deaths	Suicides	Total
2005	40	6	46
2004	28	5	33
2003	45	16	61
2002	38	11	49
2001	33	9	42
2000	33	8	41

Postscript: Reading domestic violence homicide cases

You get to know their names – Christine, Corina, Brenda, Victor, Laura, David, Azalea...Giavonni. You learn too much about the details of their deaths. You learn too little about their full lives, their hopes, desires, and loves; their work and homes and favorite times, favorite toys. You learn too much about their fears. You wonder whether you even have a right to put their stories on the page, however well-intentioned the cause. They have no say in how the story is told, after all, whether by police or prosecutor or reporter or you.

You wonder about the cases that look and sound like wife killing, but that receive an official stamp of suicide. You wonder at how to interpret a relationship between two men, and who has the right to out someone after death. You wonder about definitions and categories and official accounts.

You are always surprised by the brutality. You wonder at the depth of woman hating: to stab 20 or 49 times; to strangle, beat, and shoot again and again; to chase down on a public street.

You wonder at the deaths that seem more inadvertent or accidental or unintentional, because of where the knife or the shot landed, or when and how medical help arrived.

You remember a woman reminding the readers and watchers, "My sister was more than a victim."

Above all, you hope that by telling their stories and linking them together in this way that it will make a difference.

About WCADV

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, and mental health fields and for employers throughout Wisconsin; and
- Technical assistance for attorneys, legal advocates, prosecutors and public defenders and limited funds for victims to acquire direct legal assistance.

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Special thanks go to the families of homicide victims and the staff of domestic abuse programs, district attorneys' offices, law enforcement agencies, and victim witness offices who helped us find information about the domestic homicide victims whose stories are included in this report.

Domestic violence claimed

46 lives

in Wisconsin in 2005.



Social Change Through Action and Advocacy

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