

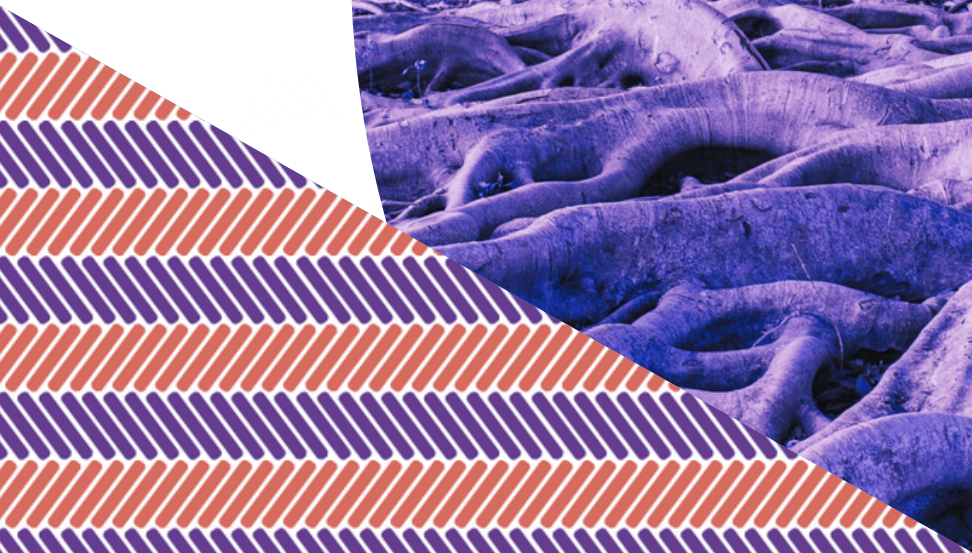
2022

HOMICIDE REPORT

RELATIONSHIP ABUSE IN
MINNESOTA



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA



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FOREWORD

Through another year of grief and sadness, we release our 2022 Homicide Report: Relationship Abuse in Minnesota. At least 24 people were killed due to intimate partner homicide in 2022 - all of them deeply loved and deeply mourned. The theme of this report is the root cause of all relationship abuse: Power and Control. In the following pages, we highlight how power and control was used against each victim by the people who killed them. It's critical that we focus on power and control as the basis of intimate partner violence in order to truly understand how to end it.

We know the 24 deaths in 2022 are not exclusively the result of individual acts of violence, but a culmination of collective and widespread failures across multiple systems. In order to address these systemic failures and create a violence free Minnesota we must look to the roots of our movement: innovation, creativity, and change that allow us to reimagine and rethink pathways to safety. First we must envision a world in which systems are not points of failure, but rather points of possibility. To do this, we know that we must look beyond solely the criminal legal system to affect change. Who can we touch, what other systems can we reach, how can we call one another in? Then we must act on our theories of change by working together as a movement to connect, repair harm, and change abusive behaviors to create a world free from violence.

Each victim last year were profoundly loved and will continue to be loved by their friends and family as their memory lives on. We remember every victim for the joy they spread throughout their lives. As a way to help preserve their memory, we include quotes from loved ones alongside the stories of how the victims died. The words of loved ones offer a glimpse into who each person was in life; while the grisly details of each death are a harrowing reminder of the magnitude of each killing. We want the victims to be remembered by the former, but for the latter to spur change in our communities by illustrating what we need to improve in our society for everyone to feel safe.

As we move forward and the present gives way to the past, we recognize we cannot fill the holes left behind by the individuals in this report. No one can. But we owe it to them, and to every person who loved them, to prevent one another from falling in. Intimate partner violence is consuming. It is all-encompassing. But as we honor and mourn the lives of those lost, we also honor the wisdom of advocates, peacemakers, and survivors and recognize that domestic violence, too, is preventable. So now we look to the years ahead of us, and we keep imagining and keep striving towards a violence free world.



WE REMEMBER

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN MINNESOTA: 1989-2022

1989

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

1990

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

1991

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

1992

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

1993

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

1994

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

1995

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

1996

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

1997

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

1998

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

1999

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

2000

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

2001

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

2002

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

2003

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

2004

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

2005

At least 16 women died from intimate partner violence

2006

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

WE REMEMBER

Intimate Partner Homicides in Minnesota: 1989-2022

2007

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

2008

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

2009

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

2010

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

2011

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

2012

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

2013

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

2014

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

2015

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

2016

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

2017

At least 21 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 1 child died due to relationship abuse
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors died

2018

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

2019

At least 16 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 5 bystanders/intervenors/bystanders died

2020

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

2021

At least 20 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 6 bystanders/intervenors died

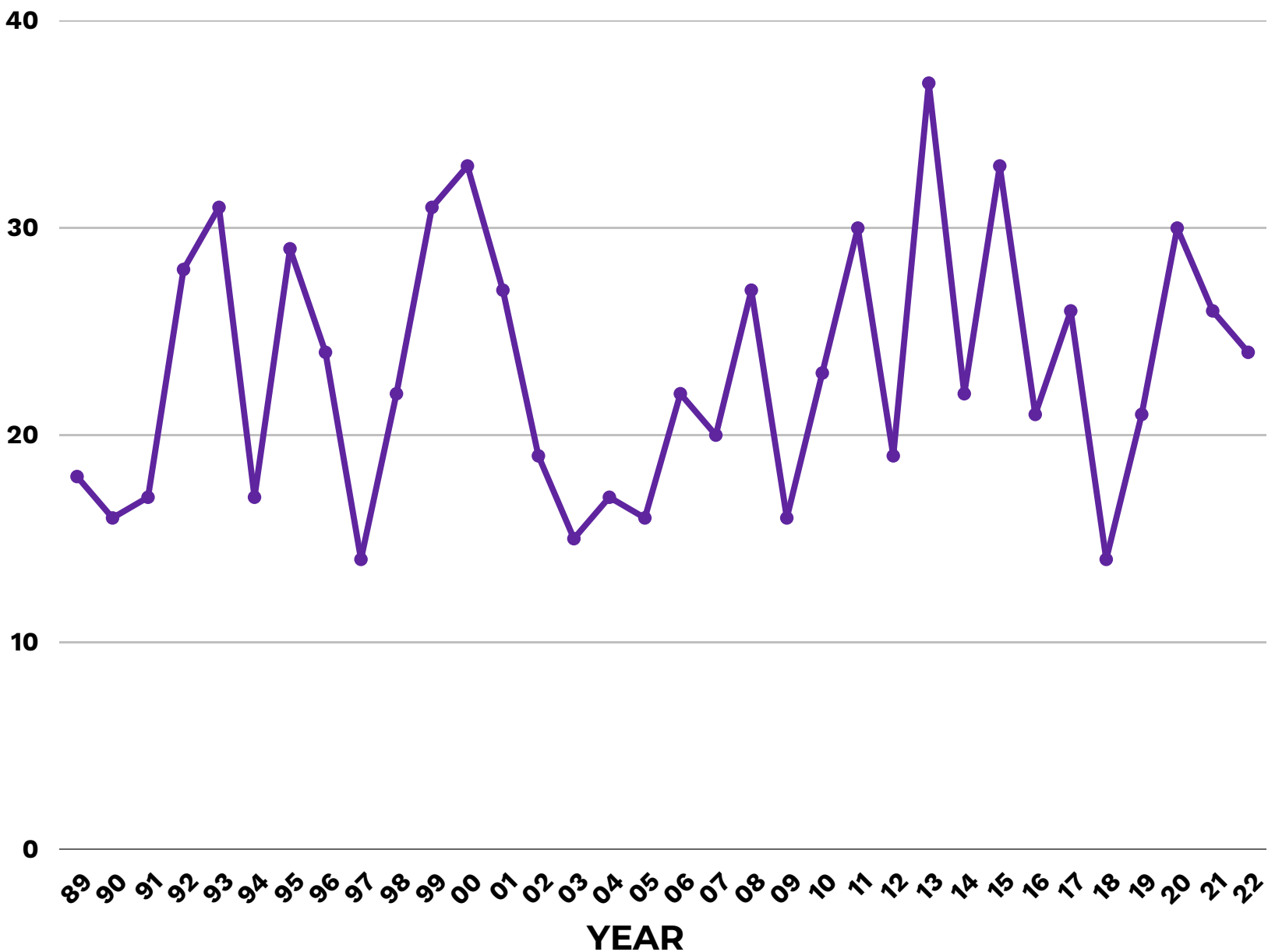
2022

At least **20 women** died from intimate partner violence
At least **1 man** died from intimate partner violence
At least **3 bystanders/intervenors** died

TOTAL INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN MINNESOTA

1989 - 2022

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



VICTIM TOTAL: 785

VICTIMS AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

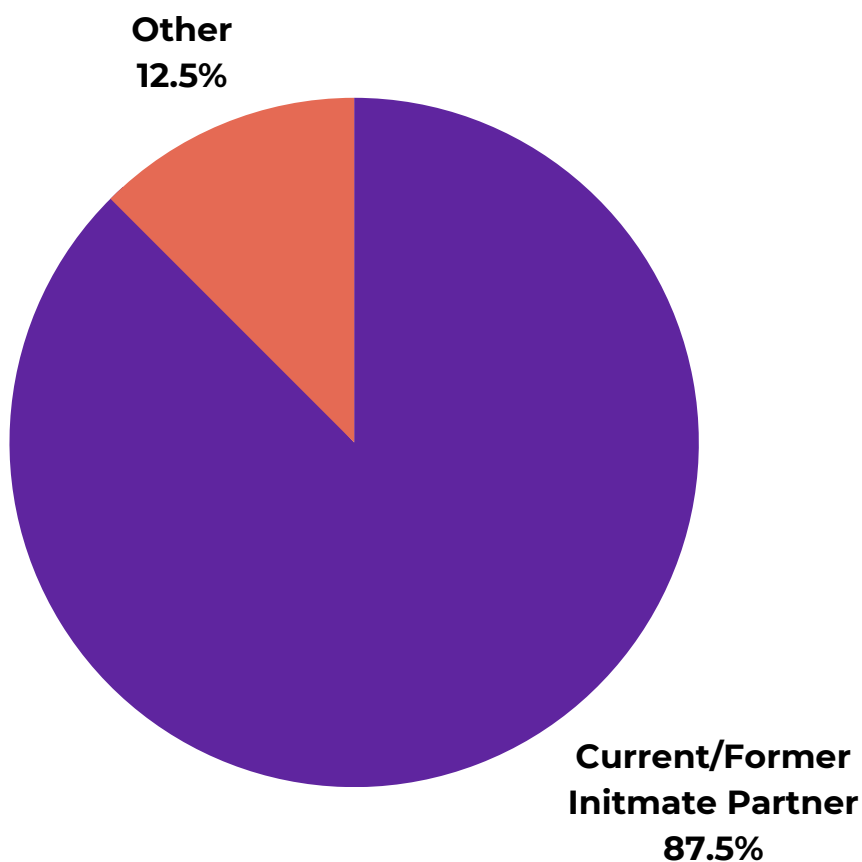
Key Intimate Partner Homicide Statistics: 2022

Current/former intimate partner 21 victims

Latifa Tasha Brown
Linda Marie Johnson
Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)
Christine Kaja Nygard
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Lynnie Ann Loucks
Ariel Christine Sakry
Chandra Lanae Pelch
Kari Jo Petrich
Donald T. Davis
Katie Ann Fredrickson
Ka Lor
Carissa Joy Odegaard
Shanna Renae Daniels
Alberta Sue Nelson
Zaria Rashun McKeever
Alexandra Lee Pennig
Kimberly Ann Robinson
Jasmine Marie Nelson

Other 3 victims

Isaac Jon Hoff*
Nicole Michelle Hammond
Tu Anh Phan



* Family member of intimate partner violence victim killed after intervening to prevent intimate partner violence

CAUSE OF DEATH

Key Homicide Statistics (2020-2022) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2022

2022 VICTIMS : 20

STRANGULATION: 1

Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)

GUNSHOT: 8

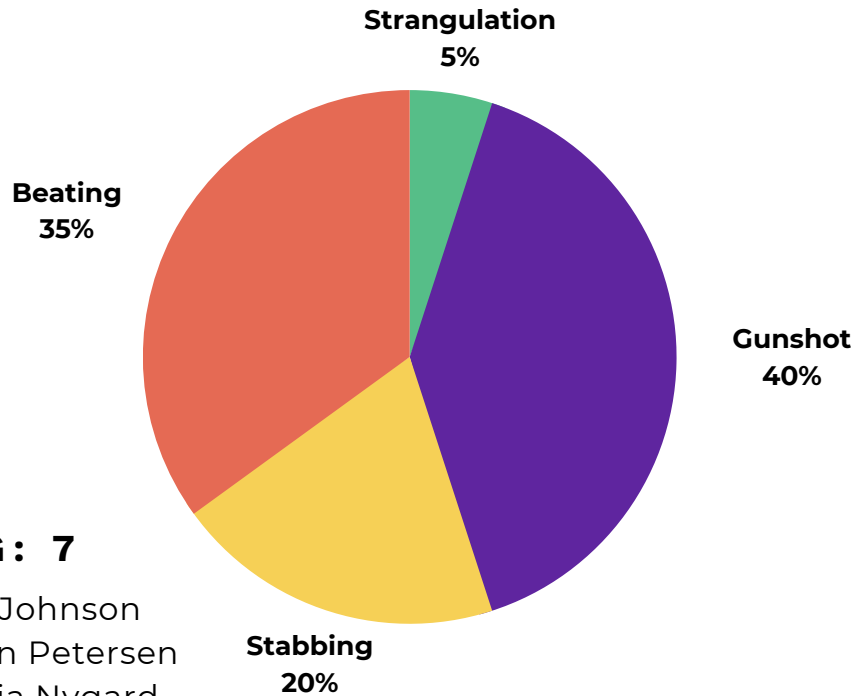
Latifa Tasha Brown
Ariel Christine Sakry
Chandra Lanae Pelch
Katie Ann Fredrickson
Ka Lor
Zaria Rashun McKeever
Alexandra Lee Pennig
Kimberly Ann Robinson

STABBING: 4

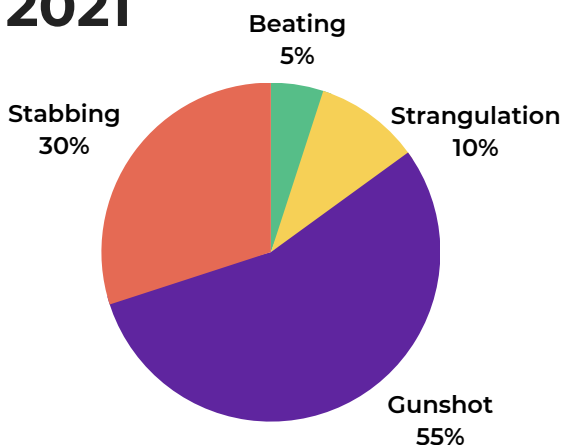
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Shanna Renae Daniels
Alberta Sue Nelson

BEATING: 7

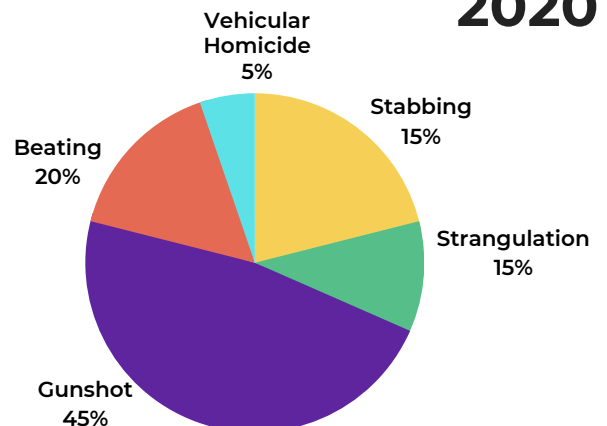
Linda Marie Johnson
Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Christine Kaja Nygard
Lynn timer Ann Loucks
Kari Jo Petrich
Carissa Joy Odegaard
Jasmine Marie Nelson



2021



2020



VICTIM WAS SEPARATED FROM ABUSER OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE

Key Homicide Statistics (2020-2022) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

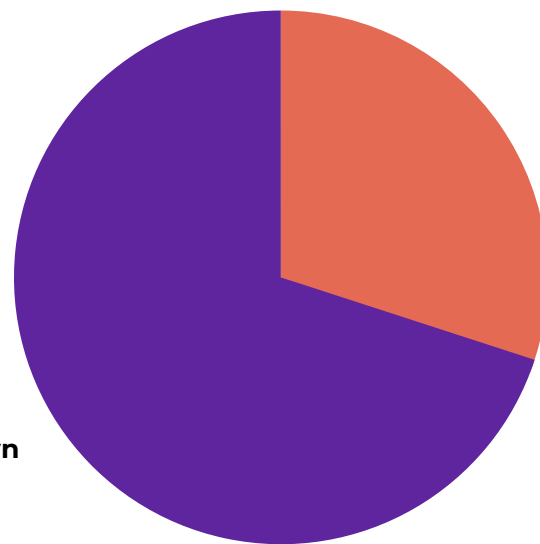
2022

2022 VICTIMS : 20

TOGETHER/UNKNOWN: 14

Latifa Tasha Brown
Linda Marie Johnson
Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Christine Kaja Nygard
Lynnie Ann Loucks
Chandra Lanae Pelch
Kari Jo Petrich
Ka Lor
Shanna Renae Daniels
Alberta Sue Nelson
Alexandra Lee Pennig
Kimberly Ann Robinson
Jasmine Marie Nelson
Katie Ann Fredrickson

**Together/Unknown
70%**



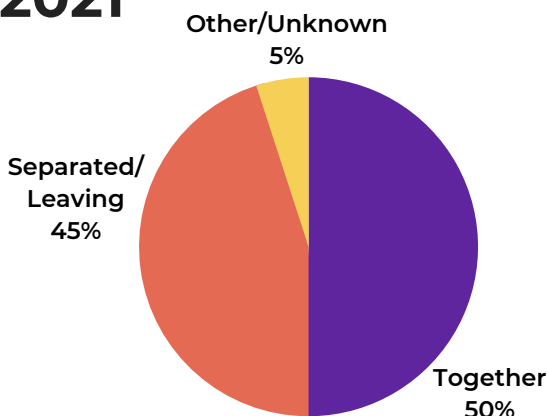
**Separated/Leaving
30%**

**SEPARATED OR
ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE: 6**

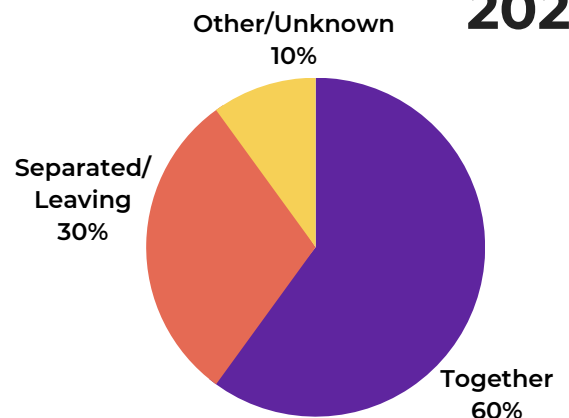
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Carissa Joy Odegard

Zaria Rashun McKeever
Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)
Ariel Christine Sakry

2021



2020



HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

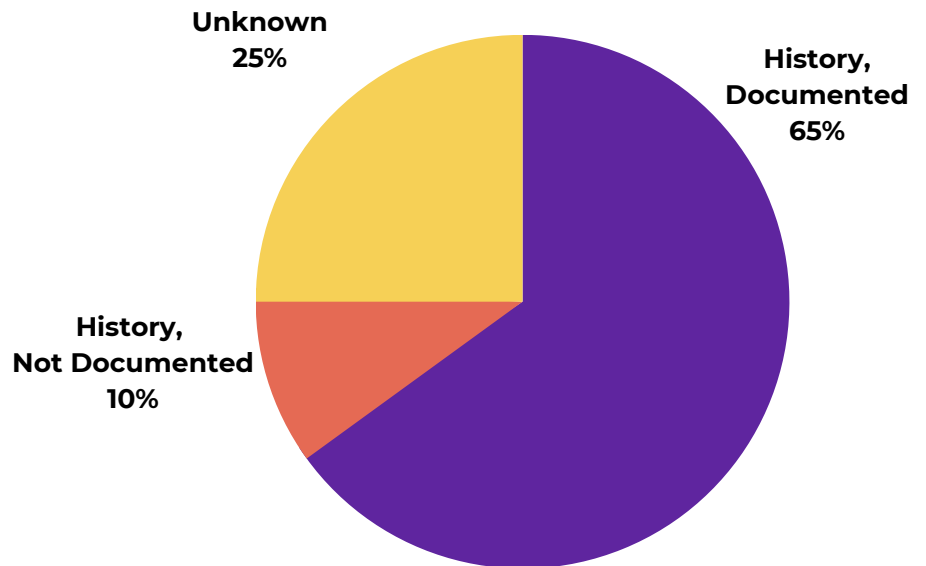
Key Homicide Statistics (2019-2021) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2022

2022 VICTIMS : 20

**HISTORY WITH
DOCUMENTATION: 13**

Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)
Christine Kaja Nygard
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Lynnie Ann Loucks
Ariel Christine Sakry
Kari Jo Petrich
Katie Ann Fredrickson
Shanna Renae Daniels
Zaria Rashun McKeever
Jasmine Marie Nelson
Latifa Tasha Brown



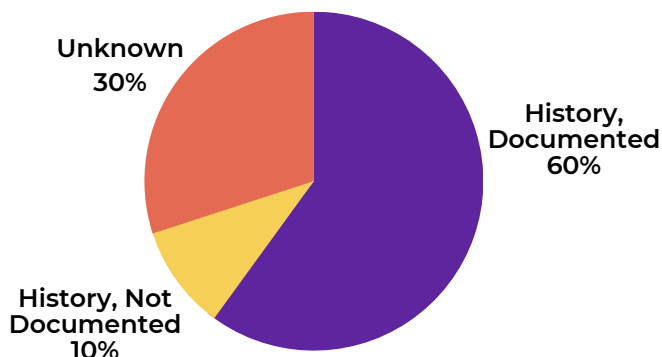
**HISTORY, NO
DOCUMENTATION: 2**

Linda Marie Johnson
Carissa Joy Odegaard

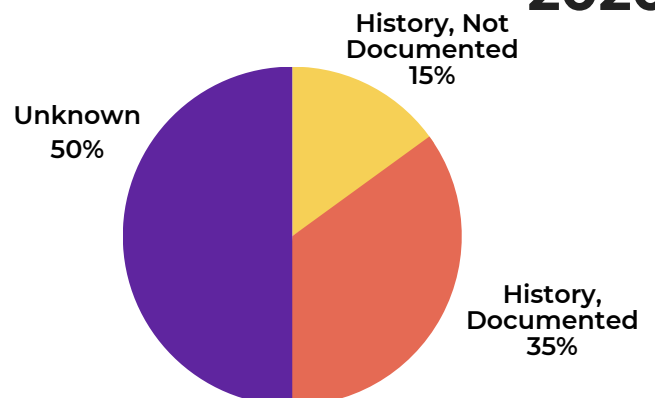
UNKNOWN: 5

Chandra Lanae Pelch
Ka Lor
Alberta Sue Nelson
Alexandra Lee Pennig
Kimberly Ann Robinson

2021



2020



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF VICTIM

Key Homicide Statistics (2020-2022) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2022

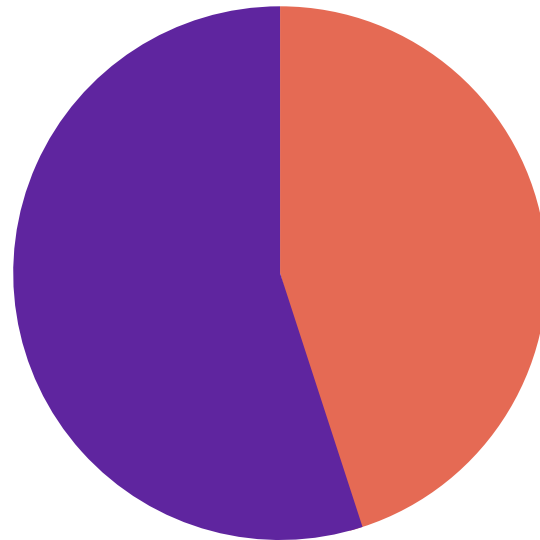
2022 VICTIMS : 20

TWIN CITIES

METRO AREA: 11

Latifa Tasha Brown
Linda Marie Johnson
Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Katie Ann Fredrickson
Ka Lor
Shanna Renae Daniels
Zaria Rashun McKeever
Alexandra Lee Pennig
Jasmine Marie Nelson

Metro Area
55%



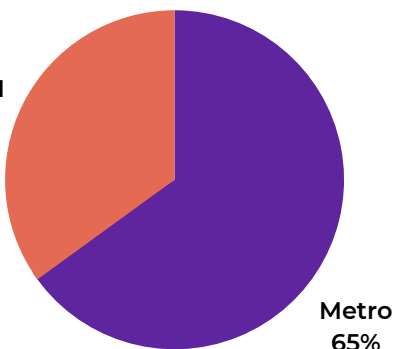
Greater MN
45%

GREATER MINNESOTA: 9

Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)	Chandra Lanae Pelch
Christine Kaja Nygard	Kari Jo Petrich
Lynnie Ann Loucks	Carissa Joy Odegaard
Ariel Christine Sakry	Alberta Sue Nelson
Kimberly Ann Robinson	

2021

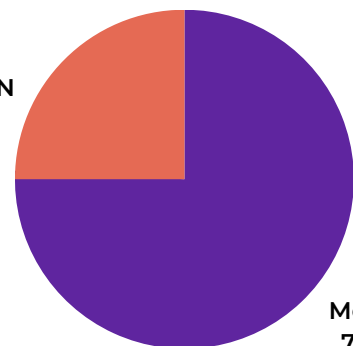
Greater MN
35%



Metro
65%

2020

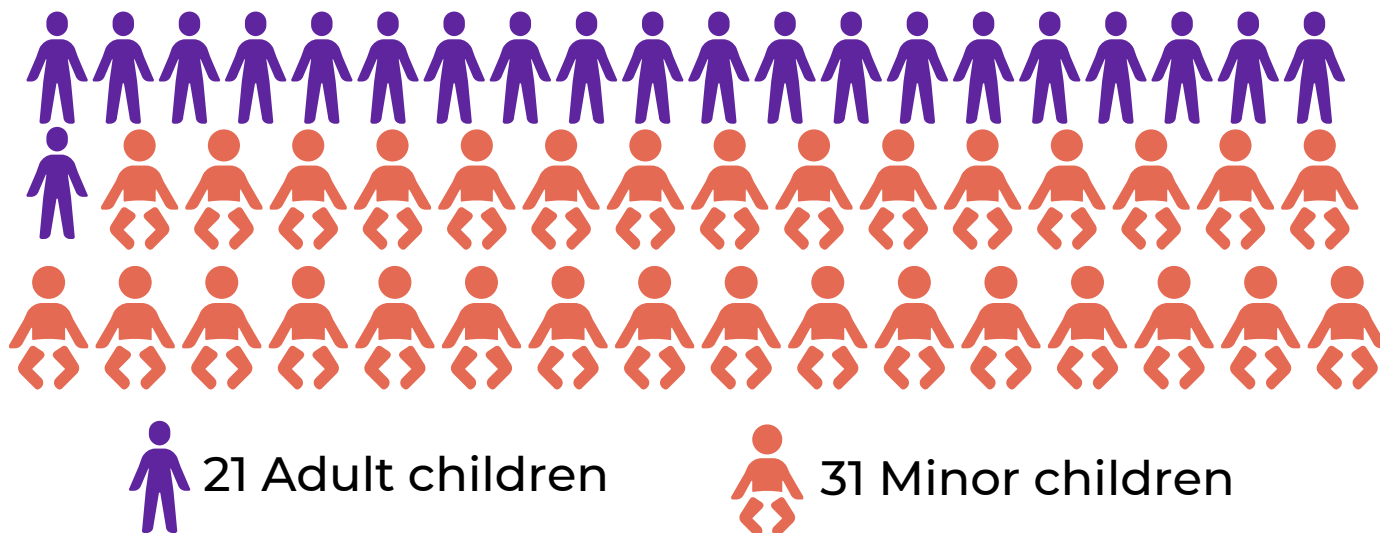
Greater MN
25%



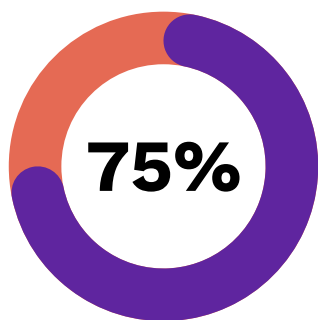
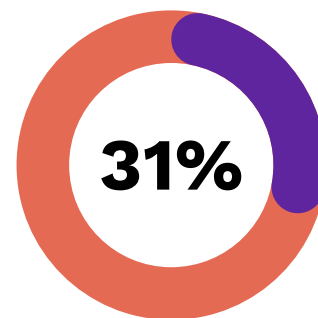
Metro
75%

CHILDREN

At least 52 children lost a parent due to intimate partner violence in 2022*



At least **16 children (31%)** witnessed their parent murdered, or found the body*



At least **18 victims (75%)** in 2022 had children*

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

2022 VICTIMS WHO WERE PARENTS

VICTIMS: 18

Latifa Tasha Brown
Linda Marie Johnson
Lisa Kathleen Petersen
Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)
Christine Kaja Nygard
Kelli Ranning Goodermont
Peachu Elfreda Yates
Lynn Ann Loucks

Ariel Christine Sakry
Chandra Lanae Pelch
Kari Jo Petrich
Katie Ann Fredrickson
Ka Lor
Carissa Joy Odegaard
Alberta Sue Nelson
Zaria Rashun McKeever
Kimberly Ann Robinson
Jasmine Marie Nelson

RISK FACTORS FOR INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

Each year, Violence Free Minnesota examines known intimate partner homicide cases in the state and gathers information regarding key risk factors for intimate partner homicide. We have analyzed four risk factors since 2006, but starting this year, we have added a fifth: strangulation.

RISK FACTORS

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

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

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



VICTIM'S ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE ABUSER

RISK FACTOR

“Why didn’t they just leave?” is still a common question when there is an intimate partner homicide. After writing this homicide report for over three decades, we know the answer is never that simple. A complex set of factors prevent victim/survivors from leaving, and leaving is not every victim/survivor’s goal. Barriers to leaving an abusive relationship include:

- **Fear:** Leaving an abusive relationship greatly increases the risk of further violence and homicide. Abusive partners often view any attempts by the victim to leave the relationship as a loss of the abuser’s power and control; therefore, they may go to great lengths to prevent the victim from leaving. These lengths may include escalating or initiating violence as a means of regaining control.
- **Isolation:** While isolation is a common tactic in domestic violence, abusers may further isolate their partners to prevent them from leaving, limiting their options for safely exiting the relationship.
- **Economic factors:** If an abuser controls finances, the victim/survivor may not have the economic necessities to leave, which can greatly affect their housing options. Conversely, if the victim/survivor is the financial supporter in the relationship, the danger of them leaving is increased due to the abuser no longer having financial backing.
- **Change:** Some victim/survivors may not want to leave the relationship for a variety of reasons; and instead, want the abuse to stop and their partner’s behaviors to change.
- **Lack of resources:** The resources available to victim/survivors, especially those of color and/or those who identify as LGBTQ+, are often located in densely populated metro areas, leaving those in rural areas without necessary resources, or requiring them to travel long distances to access.
- **Racial Inequities:** Victim/survivors of color face a unique set of barriers due to societal and institutional racism and colonialism. Implicit and explicit bias in systems, lack of culturally responsive domestic violence services, and cultural stigma around intimate partner violence all contribute to inequities victim/survivors of color face that create further barriers to achieving safety. Victim/survivors may also experience difficulties tied to immigration status and language access, further limiting their support options.
- **Children:** Victim/survivors are often bound to their abusers if they have children together. Fear of losing custody can play a major role in staying in a relationship, as well as the desire to maintain relationships between the child(ren) and their other parent.

VICTIM'S ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE ABUSER

CASE HIGHLIGHT CARISSA JOY ODEGAARD

Carissa Joy Odegaard, 31, was beaten and killed by her ex-husband, Anders Odegaard, 31, in his Warren home on August 23. Police responded to a 911 call from a man who said he was flagged down by two young children saying they needed help because their mother was badly injured. When officers arrived to the home, they found Carissa badly beaten and unresponsive on the floor of the home. Carissa had arrived at the home to pick up their children to attend church. Anders attacked Carissa at this time while she was holding their three-year old. One of the children told the police their father didn't want their mother to take the kids. Carissa filed for divorce in April 2021, and it was granted six months later. A court hearing regarding the divorce was scheduled for August 30. Their five children under the age of 10 all witnessed Anders beating Carissa. The two children who flagged down the driver who called 911 said they saw Anders on top of Carissa, hitting and strangling her. One of the children also said he had seen his father hit Carissa before. Anders was previously appointed as a state's attorney in North Dakota in 2021, but was fired after three months. Anders Odegaard initially entered an Alford plea for second-degree murder, but the plea was later thrown out because Carissa's family were not informed of it. He is currently awaiting an evaluation for mental competency.

ACCESS TO FIREARMS

RISK FACTOR

Every year in Minnesota, firearms are overwhelmingly the most common method used to kill intimate partners. In 2022, over 40% of victims were killed with a firearm. Since we began collecting homicide data in 1989, firearms are used to kill in nearly half of all cases. The next most common homicide method is stabbing (averaging 20%), less than half of the rate of firearm murders. Nationally, statistics are even more stark. The Violence Policy Center has found that female intimate partners are more likely to be killed with a firearm than all other means combined. Statistics on intimate partner murder-suicides in Minnesota indicate that firearms are used to kill nearly 80% of the time.

Studies show that the mere presence of a firearm in the home increases a victim/survivor's risk of homicide. The Violence Policy Center found that victim/survivors are five times more likely to be murdered when their abuser has access to a gun. Additionally, firearms are often used to threaten violence or death as a means of control. Threats to kill are also a risk factor for intimate partner homicide. Even when a firearm is not used to kill a victim, threats with firearms can be used as a predictor of future violence and homicide. For instance, Kelli Ranning Goodermont was threatened with a gun to her head by her boyfriend who later killed her by stabbing and setting her on fire.

Due to restrictions that prevent the Minnesota Department of Health from gathering and analyzing firearms data, we cannot know how perpetrators gained access to firearms - specifically, in those cases where perpetrators used a firearm to commit homicide but did not qualify for a firearms license due to a history of domestic violence.

These cases illustrate the need for the Minnesota Department of Health to collect firearms data as it relates to domestic violence, as well as the need for safety planning and risk assessments for victims whose abusive partners possess firearms. Additionally, firearm restrictions need to be enforced for all those who use abuse and are not legally allowed to possess. When these restrictions are not enforced - and there is ample evidence of this across Minnesota - it empowers abusers to continue to harm their partners because they know they will not be held accountable.

ACCESS TO FIREARMS

RISK FACTOR

CASE HIGHLIGHT

KATIE ANN FREDRICKSON

Katie Ann Fredrickson, 34, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Michael Klinger, 36, in her Brooklyn Center home on July 30. Witnesses in the home overheard the couple arguing with each other on the afternoon of the 30th, before hearing three gunshots. Katie and Klinger were described as dating off-again-on-again. Klinger fled the scene after killing Katie, but was later **arrested by police and found with a handbag with four guns. Three of the four firearms were stolen. Klinger's past convictions prohibit him from owning a firearm and he was convicted of possession of a firearm in 2006, 2014, and 2015. Katie Ann Fredrickson leaves behind one minor son. Michael Klinger pled guilty to second-degree murder for Katie's death, and an illegal weapons charge for **shooting his ex-girlfriend's dog on July 27, days before he killed Katie.** He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.**

CASE HIGHLIGHT

SHANNA RENAE DANIELS

PERPETRATOR'S HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

RISK FACTOR

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

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

Along with a perpetrator's history of violence against the victim they killed, we also look into histories of violence against previous partners. Because we do not know all of the details of abuse in the 2022 victims' relationships, it is important to see a history of abuse against past partners as an indicator of future violence, especially when past incidents involved extreme brutality.

Shanna Renae Daniels, 43, was stabbed and killed in her North St. Paul apartment on August 25. Her boyfriend, Melvin Bilbro, 41, was charged with second-degree murder. Police officers responded to a fire at the apartment, and after it was extinguished, they found Shanna's body inside. She was found with extensive stab wounds and other injuries. No visible soot was found in her airway and the medical examiner determined she died of homicide. Witnesses reported seeing Bilbro in Shanna's apartment while it was on fire. Several items of Bilbro's clothing covered in blood were found in the apartment, along with a pair of bloody scissors and a folding knife. Bilbro was convicted of attempted second-degree murder and second-degree criminal sexual conduct in 2008 and was sentenced to prison. In that case, he threatened to kill the woman he was dating at the time, strangled and stabbed her, causing her to go blind in one eye, and sexually assaulted her daughter. He was released from prison in 2018, and within five months, was charged with assaulting his girlfriend. He was sentenced to prison for this assault. In 2021, he was sentenced to prison again after failing to register as a predatory offender due to the 2008 conviction.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

PEACHU ELFREDA YATES

THREATS TO KILL THE VICTIM

RISK FACTOR

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

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

It is imperative that threats to kill are viewed as legitimate risk factors for homicide because we know those who harm are too often serious when they make such threats. In at least 25% of the cases involving adult women killed by a current or former intimate partner in 2022 the perpetrators previously threatened to kill their partner.

Peachu Elfreda Yates, 35, was stabbed and killed in Champlin on March 28. Her husband, James Nyonteh, 45, has been indicted for first-degree murder and is also charged with first-degree murder while committing domestic abuse with a past pattern of domestic abuse, second-degree intentional murder, and first-degree criminal sexual conduct. Peachu was found bleeding and not breathing in the front yard of a home in Champlin, and was pronounced dead at the scene. Nyonteh's car was found abandoned in Brooklyn Park shortly afterward, and he was later arrested in Fargo, North Dakota, on March 29. Peachu was on the phone when she arrived to the Champlin home on March 28. The woman she was talking to on the phone said Peachu saw Nyonteh and told her he had a knife. Nyonteh was overheard by the woman on the phone saying he "just wanted to talk," before the call was disconnected. **Peachu had recently moved herself and her daughters out of Nyonteh's home after learning that he was sexually assaulting one of them. She reported the sexual assaults to child protection workers, and when Nyonteh found out about this, he threatened to kill her and her children.** Peachu Elfreda Yates leaves behind three young children.

25%

Threats to kill were present in at least 25% of the 2022 cases involving an adult woman killed by a current or former intimate partner.

STRANGULATION

RISK FACTOR

Nationally, strangulation is seen as a leading risk factor for intimate partner homicide. We did not previously include strangulation in our reports because, like threats to kill, it is underreported and often not documented. However, in recent years, we have seen an increase in homicides where strangulation was known to have occurred prior to the killing.

The CDC found that 43% of intimate partner homicide victims had been strangled by their abuser within a year of being killed. At least 25% of the adult women killed in Minnesota in 2022 by current or former intimate partners had been strangled at some point. As has been mentioned, this number is what is known and is undoubtedly lower than the true percentage because we often only know about strangulation from second-hand accounts. As relationship abuse escalates, strangulation is often one of the last steps towards the ultimate act of power and control: ending a victim's life. Because strangulation deprives the brain of oxygen and can lead to internal injuries, some victims who believe they are uninjured end up experiencing delayed complications in the days after the event. These complications can include respiratory issues, blood clotting, pneumonia, and, in the most severe cases, death. We know that strangulation is both a risk factor for future homicide through other means, and a lethal form of violence on its own. The presence of strangulation in an abusive relationship increases the likelihood of homicide by 70%, and often occurs repeatedly throughout the relationship.

Although strangulation can leave visible red spots on the face or neck area or in the eye, swelling of the throat or neck area, bloodshot eyes, and/or bruising on the throat or any surrounding area, these signs are not always detectable. Sometimes no marks are visible on the victim/survivor. Signs of strangulation are more difficult to detect on victim/survivors of color, and often go unnoticed due to a combination of bias and lack of knowledge by professionals who must take extra time, care, and attention to detect and document. One study revealed that only 15% of strangulation cases show visible marks, bruises, or other signs. This is why it is necessary to have medical professionals make the determination if strangulation occurred and should not be left to police or any other person not in the medical field.

The presence of strangulation in an abusive relationship increases the likelihood of homicide by 70%, and often occurs repeatedly throughout the relationship.



70%

STRANGULATION

RISK FACTOR

CASE HIGHLIGHT ARIEL CHRISTINE SAKRY

Ariel Christine Sakry, 25, was shot and killed by her husband, Isaac Malone, 25, in their Wadena home on April 29. Isaac then shot and killed himself. Ariel was shot by her husband 11 times including her chest and head all from the front. She also suffered trauma. **Isaac had previously been charged with strangling Ariel, who was pregnant* at the time, but the felony charges were eventually dismissed. During the trial for the strangulation and abuse against Ariel, the judge said, "I don't believe you're going to see [Ariel's husband] here again... Every marriage goes through ebbs and flows, peaks and valleys. Some valleys are worse than others... But him [sic] and his wife are working through this."** Ariel Christine Sakry leaves behind two young children.

30%

At least 30% of the 2022 victims were strangled at some point by the partner who killed them.

**Pregnancy is recognized as an intimate partner homicide risk factor by experts. Due to relatively low numbers of pregnant people killed each year due to intimate partner homicide in Minnesota on average -- oftentimes none at all -- we do not include it in our reports. However, it greatly increases the risk of intimate partner homicide. On October 11, 2023, with support from the Minnesota Department of Health [MDH] we will release an Intimate Partner Homicide During Pregnancy Report further detailing the risk of homicide during pregnancy.*

MULTIPLE RISK FACTORS PRESENT

The five risk factors covered are not mutually exclusive. Oftentimes, there is a co-occurrence of risk factors in intimate partner homicide cases. Multiple risk factors may also happen over time as the violence escalates. When there are more than one risk factor present, there is an increased likelihood of further violence and homicide. In 2022, at least 50% of the cases had multiple risk factors present. Each of these cases provides us with insight into what the victims were experiencing, and reveal points of intervention that may have prevented the homicides.

- **Kelli Ranning Goodermont**
 - **4** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, History of Abuse, Threats to Kill, Strangulation
- **Peachu Elfreda Yates**
 - **2** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, History of Abuse
- **Carissa Joy Odegaard**
 - **3** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, History of Abuse, Strangulation
- **Zaria Rashun McKeever**
 - **3** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, Access to Firearms, History of Abuse
- **Latifa Tasha Brown**
 - **2** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Threats to kill
- **Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)**
 - **4** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, History of Abuse, Threats to kill, Strangulation
- **Ariel Christine Sakry**
 - **4** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, History of Abuse, Strangulation, Access to Firearms
- **Lynnie Ann Loucks**
 - **2** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Strangulation
- **Kari Jo Petrich**
 - **2** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Threats to kill
- **Katie Ann Fredrickson**
 - **2** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Access to Firearms
- **Kimberly Ann Robinson**
 - **2** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Access to Firearms
- ***Isaac Jon Hoff**
 - **3** risk factors present: History of Abuse, Threats to Kill, Strangulation
- ***Tu Anh Phan**
 - **2** risk factors present: Attempting to Leave, Access to Firearms

**Isaac Jon Hoff and Tu Anh Phan were an intervenor and bystander, respectively, killed due to intimate partner violence. The risk factors present in their cases apply to the current or former intimate partners of the perpetrators who killed Isaac and Tu.*



POWER & CONTROL

POWER & CONTROL

At its core, relationship abuse is rooted in power, control, and oppression. We use the terms intimate partner violence, domestic violence, and relationship abuse interchangeably; however, they all refer to a pattern of emotionally, sexually, financially, and physically abusive behaviors used by someone to maintain power and control over their current or former intimate partner.

As previously mentioned in this report, intimate partner violence is not about someone losing their temper, or “snapping” and lashing out at their partner(s) physically or verbally; it is about the need to control one’s intimate partner. Those who abuse feel a sense of entitlement over their partner(s) and believe threats and violence are acceptable ways to maintain control in an intimate relationship. Some abusers establish a final act of power and control over their partners by murdering them.

While physical violence is often the most visible form of relationship abuse, those who harm use a variety of tactics to maintain control over their partners - including name calling/belittling, economic abuse, possessiveness, threats, isolation, gaslighting, and sexual violence. It is crucial to note the multitude of methods abusers use beyond physical violence in order to control their partners. We must acknowledge and understand these tactics of non-physical abuse in order to fully grasp the scope of domestic violence and what victim/survivors experience. This type of abuse can be just as extreme as physical violence and should not be taken lightly.

The lack of known physical violence does not make abusive relationships any less dangerous for victim/survivors. These forms of abuse can further trap a victim/survivor in their relationship in the same ways that physical violence does. Additionally, some abusers progressively escalate non-physical forms of abuse before killing their partners, even without a history of physical violence.

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



POWER & CONTROL

Power and control is present in every single intimate partner homicide. We have included examples from all 24 homicides in 2022, in which power and control was used by the (alleged, in some cases) perpetrator and/or by the criminal or civil legal system. While we were not able to confirm abuse in all of these relationships due to limited available information, we included instances of power and control wielded over previous partners to illustrate how the perpetrators had a past history of abuse.

- **Latifa Tasha Brown:** Latifa suffered at least five miscarriages due to abuse from the boyfriend who killed her. Reproductive coercion is a common tactic in abusive relationships. Those who abuse may control and limit their partner's reproductive choices through violent means such as forcibly ending pregnancies.
- **Linda Marie Johnson:** Linda's husband was her caretaker. He beat her to death after discovering she wet the bed. Caretakers have inherent positions of power over those in their care, and may use specific, calculated tactics to exploit and harm women with disabilities.
- **Lisa Kathleen Petersen:** Lisa was killed in a hotel room while her three children were present. After she died, Lisa's boyfriend and his family exerted their power and control over the couple's children by coaching them on what to say about the night their mother was killed. Over time, the family stopped allowing the children to speak to child protection workers and prevented them from seeing therapists.
- **Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh):** Christeen had recently broken up with her boyfriend, which took away the power and control he had over her. Despite this, she was living in a hotel room with him at the time, limiting her ability to truly leave the relationship and causing her ex-boyfriend to still have power and control over her. At his sentencing, a Minnesota Assistant Attorney General said Christeen's ex-boyfriend had a history of manipulating women with drugs into staying with him and abusing them. Christeen lost physical custody of her children in 2016, when a civil court ruled she "failed to protect" them from a boyfriend who was abusing her at that time, using power and control through the legal system to punish her.
- **Christine Kaja Nygard:** Christine was killed by her boyfriend after a discussion of his possible infidelity. When his power and control in his relationship with Christine was questioned, he killed her.
- **Kelli Ranning Goodermont:** Kelli and her boyfriend worked together. She had shown her employer and other coworkers bruises and other injuries her boyfriend caused. He had a long history of abusing Kelli, including threatening to kill her and sexually assaulting her. His power and control extended from the workplace to the home and resulted in his decision to kill her.
- **Isaac Hoff:** Isaac was stabbed and killed when he intervened while his mother's boyfriend was strangling her. The act of strangulation is a physical manifestation of power and control as the person strangling has complete control over the life of the person they are strangling. Additionally, the mother's boyfriend previously threatened to kill her and Isaac with knives.

POWER & CONTROL



- **Peachu Elfreda Yates:** Peachu was stabbed and killed by her husband after she moved her children out of their home. Peachu recently discovered her husband was sexually assaulting one of her teenage daughters and reported it to child protection workers. When her husband found out about this report, he threatened to kill her and her children. The report of sexual assault was a loss of power and control he had over the child, and when Peachu moved her and the children out of their home, he lost power and control over his wife.
- **Lynn Ann Loucks:** Lynn's boyfriend had an extensive history of intimate partner violence in Minnesota and Washington. He threatened to kill at least one previous girlfriend, and even threatened a police officer when he was arrested for abusing a different woman. Lynn filed for an order for protection against her boyfriend less than a year before he killed her, but the petition was denied. Her boyfriend was never held accountable for the pervasive abuse he inflicted on his intimate partners, elevating the power and control he held over Lynn and other past partners.
- **Chandra Lanae Pelch:** Chandra was shot four times from the back in a murder-suicide by her boyfriend in a final act of power and control.
- **Ka Lor:** Ka was killed in a murder-suicide by her partner while their five children were in the home. Murder-suicide is a final act of power and control.
- **Ariel Christine Sakry:** Ariel was killed in a murder-suicide by her husband. Her husband had previously been arrested for strangling her, but the felony charges were eventually dismissed. Ariel was pregnant at the time of the strangulation. Pregnancy is recognized as an intimate partner homicide risk factor by experts. (On October 11, 2023, with support from the Minnesota Department of Health [MDH] we will release an Intimate Partner Homicide During Pregnancy Report further detailing the risk of homicide during pregnancy.) During the trial for the strangulation and abuse against Ariel, the judge said, "I don't believe you're going to see [Ariel's husband] here again... Every marriage goes through ebbs and flows, peaks and valleys. Some valleys are worse than others... But him [sic] and his wife are working through this." The judge's words minimized the abuse Ariel suffered, victim-blamed her, and lacked any accountability for her husband, empowering him to continue the abuse.
- **Katie Ann Fredrickson:** Katie's boyfriend was prohibited to possess firearms. Yet, he was convicted for possession of a firearm on three different occasions (2006, 2014, 2015). After he shot and killed Katie, he was arrested with three stolen firearms. Because he was never held accountable and was still able to own guns illegally, he was able to exert his power and control over Katie and other partners. Days before he killed Katie, he shot and killed an ex-girlfriend's dog, telling her, "now you're alone forever."

POWER & CONTROL

- **Kari Jo Petrich:** At least three of Kari's partners, including the man who killed her, had a history of controlling and abusing her. On two occasions, police refused to believe Kari's recounting of her abuse. In 2015, she told officers her husband at the time had strangled and beaten her the previous day. Officers stated they did not observe any strangulation marks and she was charged for and convicted of gross misdemeanor domestic assault, despite the fact that her husband told police he was not afraid of her and did not appear emotionally distraught. Days before her death, police were called to her home twice. Both times they spoke with Kari. On the second visit, officers stood outside while hearing Kari's boyfriend berate her and call her useless. When they finally knocked on the door, Kari told them her boyfriend hit her in the head and that she was bleeding. Police once again did not believe Kari and they left the scene. She died within 48 hours, and according to the medical examiner, she would have lived had she received medical care. When victim/survivors are not believed, especially by law enforcement, abusers are emboldened with an inflated sense of power over their partner. This is one of the most egregious examples of complete failure by law enforcement to protect a victim/survivor. The police's inaction led to Kari's death.
- **Carissa Joy Odegaard:** Carissa was killed by her ex-husband one week before they were scheduled for a divorce hearing. She arrived at his home to pick up their five children. One of the children said he was angry at Carissa for taking the children. Carissa's ex-husband beat her to death while she was holding one of her children, and in view of at least two of the others. Carissa having the children can be viewed as a loss of power and control that contributed to her ex-husband's decision to kill her, and exemplifies how abusers often employ dangerous stereotypes around motherhood and custody that cause them to feel entitled to violence.
- **Shanna Renae Daniels:** While we are not currently aware of documented abuse against Shanna from her boyfriend who killed her, he had a lengthy history of severe violence against intimate partners. In 2008, Shanna's boyfriend went to prison for the attempted murder of his girlfriend at the time. When his girlfriend asked to remove his name from their lease, he stabbed her in the forehead, causing her to lose vision in one eye, and then sexually assaulted the woman's 12-year-old daughter. He also threatened to kill a different girlfriend in 2021. Shanna's boyfriend demonstrated a pattern of exerting power and control over his partners through extreme violence.
- **Alberta Sue Nelson:** Alberta was killed in a murder-suicide, a final act of power and control. She was also undergoing cancer treatment. Intimate partner murder-suicides involving a victim with an illness are often framed as "mercy killings" using damaging ableist rhetoric. However, these are actually violent acts in which we are not aware whether the ill person consented to end their life.



POWER & CONTROL

- **Nicole Michelle Hammond:** Nicole was killed by a coworker who made repeated attempts to initiate a relationship with her. After she repeatedly told him she was not interested in a relationship, he killed her in an attempt to regain power and control in an all too common display of men's beliefs of entitlement to and ownership over women at any cost.
- **Zaria Rashun McKeever:** Zaria's ex-boyfriend and father of her child was upset that she was dating someone else. He purchased a gun and convinced two underage friends to break into Zaria's apartment and assault her current boyfriend. Before her death, Zaria told her boyfriend that her ex had been harassing and stalking her recently. Zaria's ex-boyfriend no longer had control over her since she was in a new relationship. He also exerted power and control over his two minor friends by orchestrating Zaria's murder and convincing them to commit it.
- **Tu Anh Phan:** Tu was killed in a crowded restaurant by a man who believed Tu was dating the man's ex-wife. The man no longer had power and control over his ex-wife, so he sought to kill her new partner. He also felt empowered enough to do this in a busy public restaurant, and shot a server there who survived.
- **Alexandra Lee Pennig:** Alexandra's boyfriend is accused of killing her while trying to cover up her murder as a suicide. The boyfriend was a Nurse Practitioner who prescribed Alexandra Adderall and diazepam, both of which are controlled substances. It is not uncommon in abusive relationships for the perpetrator to use access to substances as a means of control, exploitation, and keeping the victim dependent.
- **Kimberly Ann Robinson:** Kimberly's body was found in a ditch along the side of a road in Rochester. Her boyfriend brutally beat her and shot her to death before stripping her naked and leaving her in the snow by the road in an act of power and control that involved extreme dehumanization and disregard for her dignity.
- **Jasmine Marie Nelson:** Jasmine was beaten to death by her boyfriend in front of at least one of her children. When he saw the child witnessing the violence, the boyfriend took the child's phone away and sent her to her room. This act of power and control over Jasmine's child allowed him to continue beating and killing Jasmine, and prevented her child from being able to call for help.

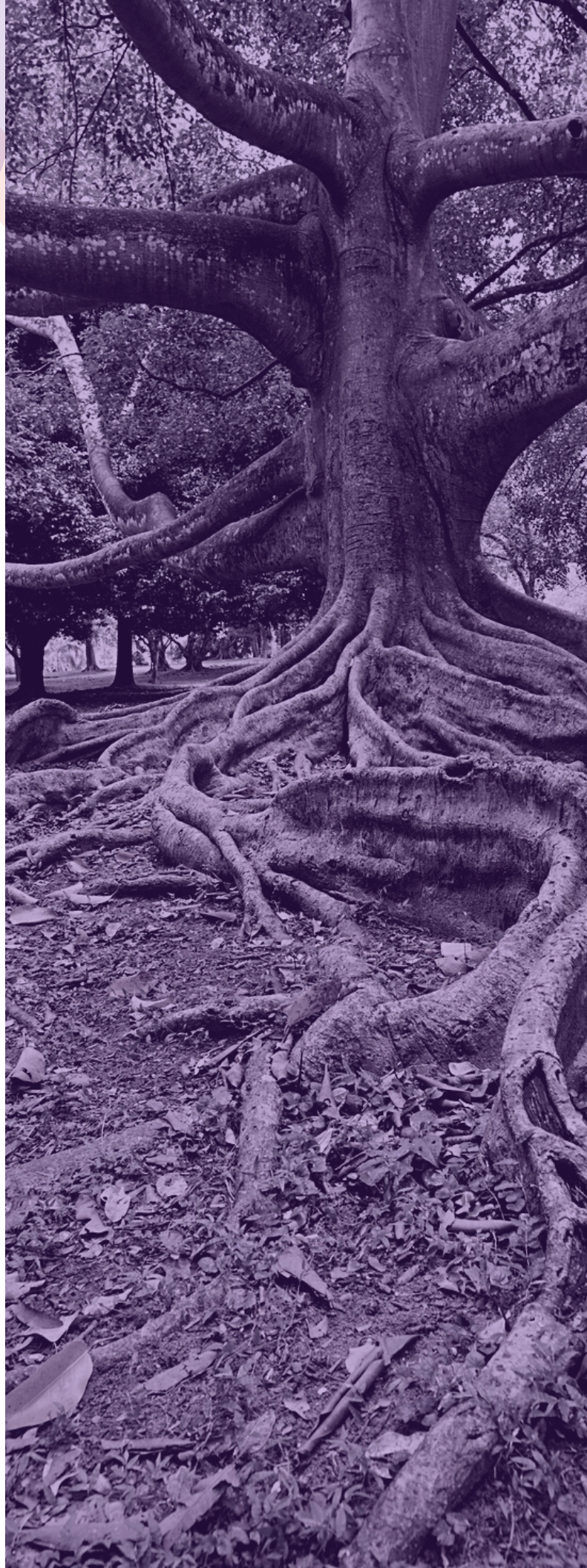


POWER & CONTROL

As the coalition to end relationship abuse, we understand that in order to achieve our mission of a violence free Minnesota, we must change abusive behaviors in those who harm. We do not advocate nor endorse harsher penalties for those convicted of abuse because we know punishments alone do not prevent intimate partner violence in our society. Any new punishments that increase incarceration for abusers would largely negatively impact communities of color. This is not because people of color commit intimate partner violence more than those in white communities, but because of the way our legal system disproportionately targets people of color. More punitive policies towards abusers will not end or prevent relationship abuse. What does prevent this kind of violence is addressing and changing the behaviors that cause it. We believe everyone has the capacity for change if given the right resources and opportunities. Domestic Abuse Transformation Programming (DATP), formerly called Batterer Intervention Programming, teaches about abusive behaviors and tactics and how they affect partners and families. These programs aim for accountability and education for those who use abuse and emphasize victim/survivor safety. Challenging pre-existing beliefs about entitlement, misogyny, and gender roles are also goals of DATP programs. Still, there is a need for more culturally specific DATP services that can adequately address communities of color in ways that mainstream DATP directed toward white abusers cannot.

You can find a directory of DATP programs across the state here.

DATP Directory: <https://www.vfmn.org/find-a-datp-program>



CRIMINALIZATION OF VICTIMS/LEGAL SYSTEM

Victim/survivors are labeled as both victims and offenders within the criminal legal system. According to the ACLU, nearly 60% of people in women's prisons nationwide have a history of physical or sexual abuse victimization prior to incarceration. This rate is even higher for victim/survivors of color. In a series of interviews Violence Free Minnesota conducted at the Shakopee prison with incarcerated Native women, we found that 84% of interviewees had experienced intimate partner violence in the past. For some of them, early victimization was a catalyst for behaviors that got them entangled in the criminal legal system at young ages; for others, the crimes that they were serving time for were directly linked to an abusive relationship, coercion, and threats of violence.

Read VFMN's Native Women & Incarceration in Minnesota Report

Victim/survivors can be caught up in the criminal legal system for a number of reasons with charges of their own for things like resistive violence, for keeping their children from an abuser, or for being coerced into criminal activity. Resistive violence is used by victim/survivors in response to their abusers' use of power and control over them. The term resistive violence should be used in favor of self-defense. Self-defense is a legal category and if used to describe resistive violence can narrow and limit the definition to strict legal terminology that does not fully encompass what victim/survivors face.

VFMN's Native Women & Incarceration in Minnesota Report:
https://www.vfmn.org/_files/ugd/f4bdb8_15e146e352924cb3abdca109e1c46b5b.pdf

The criminal legal system has a “one-size fits all” approach to domestic violence and does not take into account previous abuse or other factors that contribute to criminalization.

In addition to being punished and incarcerated for resistive violence, victim/survivors may turn to drugs or alcohol to cope with the effects of trauma and subsequently commit crimes connected to their substance abuse. Victim/survivors who have suffered abuse often become involved in the criminal legal system in part because of inadequate protection, intervention, and support.

Criminalization can adversely impact victims/survivors in a number of ways. In a 2017 report for the National Clearinghouse for Battered Women, focus groups were conducted in Minneapolis among criminalized victim/survivors. The findings indicated that post-conviction, victim/survivors faced an increase in control from their partners and thus, an overall decrease in safety. Their finances were greatly affected, and many felt they were more financially dependent on their abusers post-conviction, which also made finding and maintaining safe housing very difficult. The victim/survivors found the criminal legal system to be inattentive and uncaring of their needs and of their safety post-conviction. The process of being arrested and incarcerated itself can also compound a victim/survivor's already present trauma. Finally, the system has a “one-size fits all” approach to domestic violence and does not take into account previous abuse or other factors that contribute to criminalization.

CRIMINALIZATION OF VICTIMS/LEGAL SYSTEM

We want to note that men are also victim/survivors of intimate partner violence, but within heterosexual relationships, research demonstrates that women do not commonly and intentionally use violence as a means to control their male partners. Therefore, we cannot assess this kind of relationship abuse in the same way as we do domestic violence against a woman by a male partner, or in LGBTQ+ relationships. There are many factors that cause women to use violence in relationships, but exerting power and control over their partners is very rarely one of them. One explanation for this is that women do not have the same power in society that men do. Men are granted individual and collective power socially and politically that allows them to maintain power over women in their intimate relationships, and the same cannot be said for women over men.

There are many factors that cause women to use violence in relationships, but exerting power and control over their partners is very rarely one of them.

Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh) and Kari Jo Petrich were both killed by their boyfriends in 2022 and were punished by the legal system for the abuse they faced. In 2016, Christeen's ex-husband was granted an order for protection against her on behalf of their two children. In the OFP petition, her ex-husband said Christeen was frequently abused by her boyfriend at the time, causing her children to be afraid and feel unsafe.

The OFP itself stated that, "[Christeen] has failed to adequately protect her children by continuing to reside with her significant other, who has multiple domestic abuse offenses with [Christeen] as the victim, and the minor children have observed as recently as mid-2016 incidents of domestic abuse between [Christeen] and [boyfriend]." Christeen also had a Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) against her ex-husband a year prior to the OFP. Despite all of this, her ex-husband was granted full physical custody of their children on account of the abuse Christeen was experiencing. Furthermore, the following year in 2017, Christeen was charged with domestic abuse in 2017 against the same abusive boyfriend, and a Domestic Abuse No Contact Order (DANCO) was established by the court against her. She was charged with violating this DANCO against her abusive boyfriend later that year. In February 2022, Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh) was killed by a different ex-boyfriend.

In 2015, Kari Jo Petrich was convicted of gross misdemeanor domestic assault against her husband at the time. During police questioning, her ex-husband admitted to abuse, and told officers he did not fear Kari. They also noted that he did not appear emotionally distraught. When Kari was questioned, she told police her ex-husband strangled her the previous day and hit her. Officers noted bruises, but no red marks on her neck, despite the fact that strangulation does not always produce visible marks.

CRIMINALIZATION OF VICTIMS/LEGAL SYSTEM

Police also stated in the criminal complaint that Kari's divulgence of abuse was her "going off on a tangent." This illustrates not only a lack of understanding about intimate partner violence by law enforcement but a gender bias, too. Minimalizing Kari's recounting of abuse as "going off on a tangent," is an antiquated view of domestic violence and what victim/survivors, often women, experience in abusive relationships. As mentioned on page 26, this was not the first time police did not believe Kari when she told them about her abuse. The second instance resulted in Kari's death in 2022, when officers refused to believe her boyfriend hit her. She died from blunt head trauma, and the medical examiner noted she would have survived had she received medical treatment in the days prior to her death. Kari spoke to police twice within 48 hours before she was killed and both times they left the scene without providing her with any form of medical help.



RECOMMENDATION

- Medical assistance should be offered and provided when needed to all intimate partner violence victim/survivors, as strangulation and traumatic brain injury can have long-lasting consequences that are not apparent immediately after violence has occurred..

See Full Recommendations on Page 39

“

Kari Jo Petrich spoke to police twice within 48 hours before she was killed and both times they left the scene without providing her with any form of medical help.

”



RACIAL DISPARITIES

The converging impacts of racism, increased stress, and an escalation of violence during the COVID pandemic have continued to reverberate throughout Minnesota, causing some Asian survivors, who face high rates of misogyny, violence, and intense community stigma, to be fearful of seeking help. Nationally, several states reported a surge of domestic violence help calls from Asian women during 2020, with advocates suggesting that racism and sexism against Asian-American women had intensified since the beginning of the pandemic. For some Asian American survivors, fears and threats of deportation, fear of financial costs for reporting, and concerns of racist discrimination and scapegoating presented barriers to reporting abuse. [Stop AAPI Hate's statistics](#) also suggest that Asian women have been disproportionately impacted by anti-Asian hate incidents since 2020.

“
[Domestic violence in the Hmong community] really comes from a place of patriarchy...a place of privilege that men have in the community.
-Transforming Generations
”

Ka Lor, a Hmong woman, was killed in a murder-suicide in 2022 in St. Paul by her long-term partner, leaving their five children behind. Her death was portrayed by some media outlets as the result of a mental health issue, in a problematic and all too common demonstration of irresponsible journalism. Many murder-suicides we have included across the years in our report have been erroneously framed by media as mental health issues, further stigmatizing suicide and harmfully obscuring domestic violence as an issue rooted in power and control, sometimes exacerbated by cultural norms that support and normalize misogyny.

After Ka Lor was murdered, Transforming Generations, a Hmong violence prevention organization, released a statement about the importance of culturally specific prevention services, and addressed contributing factors to domestic violence in the Hmong community, arguing that “it really comes from a place of patriarchy...a place of privilege that men have in the community.” Transforming Generations highlighted that several murder-suicides have occurred in close succession in the Hmong community in Minnesota since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, adding that some men will threaten their wives by informing them they can kill them “the same way that other man had just killed his wife.”

Hmong community members experiencing violence can contact:

Transforming Generations

(651) 703-4169

transforminggenerations.org/



RECOMMENDATION

- Similar task forces that led to the offices of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and Missing and Murdered African American Women (MMAW) should be created for LGBTQ+, Asian, and Latinx, and those with disabilities to address disparities in their communities.

See Full Recommendations on Page 40

RACIAL DISPARITIES

A point of emphasis when it comes to racial disparities we see year in and year out is the lack of reporting on intimate partner violence in certain marginalized communities. Domestic violence within Black, brown, Native, LGBTQ+ communities and those with disabilities are not reported on with the quality nor the frequency that abuse against white women is reported. All intimate partner violence should be consistently recognized and cataloged in the media regardless of the race of the victim/survivor. We know our confirmed numbers for intimate partner homicide victims of color are lower than they are in reality. We gather all of our information on homicides through public sources, and the media is often our starting point. Without accurate reporting on victims of color, we are immensely hampered by the information we can collect.

Shifting focus from the victims to the perpetrators, we notice a trend every year in the apprehension of alleged intimate partner homicide perpetrators based on their race. White perpetrators of intimate partner homicide are often arrested without incident, despite having just committed murder, carrying weapons, threatening police, and sometimes covered in the victim's blood. We do not condone police brutality against anyone, regardless of what they are accused of, but the high profile killings of Black men by Minnesota law enforcement in recent years makes these arrest incidents particularly glaring. Jamar Clark and Howard Johnson were domestic violence suspects who were killed by police in 2015 and 2023, respectively. Both men were Black and had not been charged with a crime.

After the white boyfriend of Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh) killed her, he engaged in a standoff with police while he hid in a trailer. While hiding, he threatened officers by stating he had a loaded firearm on him. Yet, when he eventually exited the trailer holding a knife, he was arrested unharmed. Similarly, Linnie Ann Loucks's white boyfriend had a long history of abusing multiple women in at least two states, Minnesota and Washington. When Linnie's boyfriend was arrested for abusing his ex-partner in 2015, he threatened one of the police officers. During questioning, the boyfriend told the officer he would look the officer up, and that the officer's goal should be to go home from his shift safely. According to the police affidavit, "[The officer] felt threatened by the defendant's statements and felt the defendant was trying to intimidate him." The boyfriend was charged with stalking for the initial abusive incident, but the charge was later dismissed. He was not held accountable for the abuse against his ex-partner, nor for threatening a police officer. Without any accountability in situations like this, he surely felt more empowered to continue using violence against his intimate partners.

A point of emphasis when it comes to racial disparities we see year in and year out is the lack of reporting on intimate partner violence in certain marginalized communities.

These are just two incidents of racial bias from police when it comes to treatment of white perpetrators of intimate partner violence and homicide, but this is a microcosm of the larger problem in our country: people of color are treated more severely and their civil rights are violated more often than their white counterparts by police.

HEALTHCARE

Domestic violence is a public health issue that holistically impacts survivors, family members, and communities across generations. It is more prevalent among women than breast cancer, cervical cancer, and diabetes. Healthcare professionals are first responders to survivors of relationship abuse at every point along the continuum: from emergency room departments to community health centers, dental visits, substance use treatment, and mental health services. Domestic violence often escalates in severity over time, and with it, the cost to a survivor's health. Every single professional on staff in a healthcare setting has a role to play in preventing domestic violence, from front desk staff to nurses, social workers, medical assistants, doctors, and behavioral health providers. The question is not whether clinic and hospital staff will see a patient experiencing domestic violence, but when.

“**Every single professional on staff in a healthcare setting has a role to play in preventing domestic violence.**”

Futures Without Violence challenges all healthcare professionals to recognize their responsibility “to address domestic violence as we do cardiac pain, respiratory illness, gastrointestinal problems,” arguing that failing to address domestic violence is a failure to address a root cause of patients’ health issues. Without doing so, the root cause “will move on maybe, to a different department. It will move from your OBGYN department to your gastrointestinal department to your neurology department. It will move through your institution but the patient has not been served. Failing to make the diagnosis just wastes money and resources in futile expenditures down hallways that have no end.”

Every year we gather data on intimate partner homicides in our state, we feel confident that at least one victim killed that year had a touchpoint of some sort with a healthcare professional prior to their deaths. Without comprehensive, established partnerships between domestic violence agencies, hospitals, and clinics, victim/survivors will continue to fall through the cracks. Interventions in healthcare settings are low cost. They are effective. They save lives. And they can prevent one of the most common drivers of patient health concerns from continuing to move through every department of an institution without any end in sight.

Latifa Tasha Brown, killed in 2022 in St. Paul by her boyfriend, suffered five miscarriages prior to her death as a result of ongoing domestic violence, and was hospitalized for at least one of them. Kelli Ranning Goodermont was subjected to years of brutal abuse by her boyfriend, involving extensive injuries, and was hospitalized in 2021 as a result of the abuse. While we do not have access to information about the specific healthcare responses to both Latifa and Kelli prior to their deaths, their cases highlight possible intervention points in a system that routinely interacts with patients at elevated risk of lethality. There is a reason why the Danger Assessment, used across the world to estimate a victim’s risk of being killed by their partner, was created by a forensic nurse.



RECOMMENDATION

- All community health centers, clinics, and hospitals should create and institutionalize policies and procedures, including a patient/client workflow, for addressing domestic violence. All professions in the healthcare setting should be included in the workflow with a specific role, including front desk staff, medical staff, and mental and behavioral health staff.

HOUSING/ECONOMIC ABUSE/ FINANCIAL INSTABILITY

Economic abuse is one of the most commonly used tactics to maintain power and control over victims and occurs in 99% of abusive relationships. It destabilizes victims' access to basic human necessities like employment, housing, food, transportation, and child care. Research indicates that financial abuse is one of the most commonly given reasons domestic violence victims stay with or return to an abusive partner. Victim/survivors have to choose between staying in an unsafe home or having no home at all. Domestic violence is also a leading cause of houselessness for women and their children.

While we do not know how many victims in 2022 were facing houselessness, we do know that Lisa Kathleen Petersen and Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh) were both living in hotels with their boyfriends at the time they were killed. We also know that at least 3 victims were evicted or faced eviction at some point. Zaria Rashun McKeever faced eviction just months before she was murdered. Kimberly Ann Robinson and Jasmine Marie Nelson were both evicted in 2019 and 2018, respectively. With limited housing options for Christeen and Lisa, and Zaria, Kimberly, and Jasmine being evicted or threatened with eviction from their homes, they all faced barriers accessing safe housing.

**Over 90% of
houseless
women have
experienced
severe physical
or sexual abuse
at some point in
their lives.**

>90%



RECOMMENDATION

- Hotel staff should receive required training on how to identify signs of domestic violence and be given resources for local programs to provide to victim/survivors.
 - Per Minnesota Statute 157.177, hotels and motels are required to provide training to educate about human trafficking. Similar requirements should be made for hotel and motel staff around intimate partner violence.

See Full Recommendations on Page 42

Economic abuse perpetrated by an abuser against their partner can severely limit the partner's ability to access safety, but financial instability of any kind in a relationship can affect the level of violence. Carissa Joy Odegaard was killed by her ex-husband, who was hundreds of thousands of dollars in debt at the time. When Carissa was killed, she had arrived at her ex-husband's home to pick up their five children. Her ex-husband, who had over \$11,000 of unpaid child support, was upset she was there to take the children. He then beat her death in front of at least 2 of their children. We do not know the role this debt played in his decision to kill Carissa, but we must stress that this kind of financial instability was present along with other homicide risk factors.

PUBLIC/WORKPLACE VIOLENCE

Every year, our homicide reports include at least one person who was killed in a public space. When intimate partner violence occurs in public it shows how empowered the abuser feels to commit harm in full view of witnesses. It is rare for someone's very first act of abuse to be in public. A public homicide is often preceded by a history of prior abuse that can include both private and public violence. While abusers are frequently characterized as charming and charismatic, oftentimes family members and friends of the victim are well aware of violence and control in the relationship. It is not uncommon for abusers to publicly humiliate and criticize victims in front of other people as a tactic of power, with public homicide signaling the ultimate act of control and violence.

In 2022, five victims were either killed or found in a public space. Kimberly Ann Robinson was found in a ditch on the side of a road in Rochester. Peachu Elfreda Yates was murdered by her husband outside her brother's home, where she and her children were staying. Tu Anh Phan was shot and killed in a crowded restaurant while he was eating lunch. Finally, Kelli Ranning Goodermont and Nicole Michelle Hammond were both killed at their workplaces.

All five of these public homicides presented a risk of harm to not only the victims, but the general public. When Tu Anh Phan was shot, the restaurant where he was dining was full of patrons. A server there was even shot twice by the man who killed Tu, although he survived. The restaurant was forced to close down temporarily, "to grieve, recover and rebuild temporarily." The restaurant owners referred to Tu Anh Phan as a "beloved customer."

Kelli Ranning Goodermont was stabbed and set on fire by her ex-boyfriend inside the warehouse where they both worked. Other coworkers witnessed Kelli's horrific death and one grabbed a fire extinguisher to put out the flames. Nicole Michelle Hammond had repeatedly rejected the advances of her coworker, and sent him a text the night before she was killed saying she didn't want to be touched by him. Nicole's coworker shot and killed her in the parking lot before work began that day.

"It is rare for someone's very first act of abuse to be in public. A public homicide is often preceded by a history of prior abuse that can include both private and public violence."

Those who witness killings in public are susceptible to harm in the moment, but they also face trauma long after the murder(s). Very similar to trauma from witnesses of mass shootings, witnesses to public intimate partner homicides can experience ongoing mental health problems, including post-traumatic stress, depression, anxiety and substance abuse.

Futures Without Violence's Workplaces

Respond "provides resources, training, and technical assistance to employers, survivors, co-workers, and advocates to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence, and stalking impacting the workplace." This valuable resource can be used by employers to address domestic violence in their workplaces through training to prevent and respond to abuse, and also provides guidance to victim/survivors, coworkers, and advocates on how to address abuse occurring at work.



RECOMMENDATIONS

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



When reporting on intimate partner violence stories, especially cases of homicide, domestic violence experts should be the primary source of information on preventing and ending relationship abuse.

Eliminate systemic barriers for victim/survivors through early connections with confidential, community-based advocacy programs. Warm referrals, relationship building, opportunities for feedback, and meaningful internal equity work should all be prioritized.



Similar task forces that led to the offices of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and Missing and Murdered African American Women (MMAW) should be created for LGBTQ+, Hmong, Karen, Latinx, and those with disabilities to address disparities in their communities.

Rethink victim/survivor safety and abuser accountability: increase funding for community-based advocacy programs; fund, develop, and implement prevention and intervention strategies for responding to domestic violence outside of the criminal legal system.



All community health centers, clinics, and hospitals should create and institutionalize policies and procedures, including a patient/client workflow, for addressing domestic violence. All professions in the healthcare setting should be included in the workflow with a specific role, including front desk staff, medical staff, and mental and behavioral health staff.

Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) model should be implemented in the state of Minnesota.





RECOMMENDATIONS



MEDIA

RECOMMENDATION: When covering intimate partner violence stories, especially cases of intimate partner homicide, domestic violence experts should be the primary source of information on preventing and ending relationship abuse.

- Police should only be consulted for facts of the case (cause and time of death, victim and suspect identification, etc.).
- Local advocacy resources, including the statewide Day One hotline (Call: 866.223.1111, Text: 612.399.9995), should be provided in ALL news stories about intimate partner violence.
- Similar to how mass shootings are now reported, the victims' photos should be featured, not only photos of the (alleged) perpetrators. Photos included in the story should not feature the victim with the (alleged) perpetrator, either.
- Media agencies need to report on all intimate partner violence cases, especially homicide cases, with the same quality. Victims of color deserve the same amount of coverage as white victims and the media needs to reflect this.

Examples of headlines sensationalizing intimate partner homicides based on law enforcement's lack of understanding of abuse.

Charges: Aaron Le fatally shot man, wounded server at Bloomington restaurant due to jealousy over ex-wife

Charges: Bloomington restaurant shooting possibly motivated by jealousy



RECOMMENDATIONS



LEGAL SYSTEM

RECOMMENDATION: Eliminate systemic barriers for victim/survivors through early connections with confidential, community-based advocacy programs. Warm referrals, relationship building, opportunities for feedback, and meaningful internal equity work should all be prioritized.

- Minnesota has a long history of systems and advocacy partnerships, but strong collaborations do not exist in every community.
- Training on intimate partner violence should be conducted regularly and, when possible, in conjunction with other legal system partners and local advocates.
- Law enforcement agencies and supervising agents should develop ongoing relationships with all local community-based advocacy services in their area - including culturally-specific domestic violence/sexual assault agencies - and warm referrals to these agencies should be standard practice.
- Law enforcement agencies should proactively create ongoing opportunities for local advocates to speak with officers about victim experiences with law enforcement response in their community.
- Medical assistance should be offered and provided when needed to all intimate partner violence victim/survivors, as strangulation and traumatic brain injury can have long-lasting consequences that are not apparent immediately after violence has occurred..
- Start and/or continue the work of identifying and addressing individual and systemic bias - against women, BIPOC people, LGBTQ+ individuals, neurodiverse individuals, folks living in poverty, and so many others - in systems.



RECOMMENDATIONS



EQUITY & RACIAL JUSTICE

RECOMMENDATION: Similar task forces that led to the offices of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and Missing and Murdered African American Women (MMAW) should be created for LGBTQ+, Hmong, Karen, Latinx, and those with disabilities to address disparities in their communities.

- Create and fund specific community spaces for the Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives (MMIR) and Office of Missing and Murdered African American Women (MMAW) to provide prevention and education to their communities on intimate partner violence.
- Culturally specific Domestic Abuse Transformation Programs (DATP) should be created, implemented, and funded throughout the state based on community needs.

POLICY

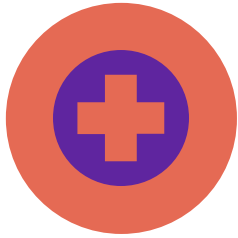


RECOMMENDATION: Rethink victim/survivor safety and abuser accountability: increase funding for community-based advocacy programs; fund, develop, and implement prevention and intervention strategies for responding to domestic violence outside of the criminal legal system.

- Additional or alternative intervention strategies for domestic abuse should be funded and developed in local communities, with local advocates, victim/survivors, and community members participating in the development and implementation processes.
- Funding for these strategies should be at levels comparable to that of criminal legal system responses.
- Further investment in DATP. While the state of Minnesota has made important investments in crisis and advocacy services after violence occurs, it has only made a small, one-time investment in DATP work. We need ongoing robust investment in DATP to end relationship abuse.



RECOMMENDATIONS



HEALTHCARE

RECOMMENDATION: All community health centers, clinics, and hospitals should create and institutionalize policies and procedures, including a patient/client workflow, for addressing domestic violence. All professions in the healthcare setting should be included in the workflow with a specific role, including front desk staff, medical staff, and mental and behavioral health staff.

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

Policies and Procedures: <https://ipvhealthpartners.org/prepare/>

CUES: <https://ipvhealth.org/health-professionals/educate-providers/>

Strangulation and Brain Injuries: <https://www.odvn.org/brain-injury/>

Establishing mutually beneficial relationships: <https://ipvhealthpartners.org/partner/>



RECOMMENDATIONS



HOUSING/ECONOMIC JUSTICE

RECOMMENDATION: Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) model should be implemented in the state of Minnesota.

- DVHF is an approach that promotes housing as a universal right that is a core principle of domestic violence agencies.
 - The 3 key components of the DVFH model are:
 1. Survivor-driven, trauma-informed mobile advocacy
 2. Flexible financial assistance
 3. Community engagement.
- The DVHF model has been proven to promote long-term stability, safety and well-being for survivors and their children.
- Survivors have stated they felt safer, more stable, and self-sufficient within the DVHF model than other housing models.
- Find out more about the DVHF model in the [**Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence's \(WSCDV\) toolkit**](#) and see if your program meets standards in their [**checklist**](#).
- Hotel staff should receive required training on how to identify signs of domestic violence and be given resources for local programs to provide to victim/survivors.
 - Per Minnesota Statute 157.177, hotels and motels are required to provide training to educate about human trafficking. Similar requirements should be made for hotel and motel staff around intimate partner violence.

WSCADV's DVHF Toolkit: <https://wscadv.org/projects/domestic-violence-housing-first/toolkit/>

WSCADV DVHF Checklist: <https://wscadv.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Checklist-FINAL.pdf>

REPORT METHODS

EXPLANATION OF DATA

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

REPORT MEASURES

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

The report also documents the deaths of other family members, friends, neighbors, intervenors, and bystanders who are killed due to domestic violence between current or former intimate partners.

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

CURRENT INCLUSION CRITERIA

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

AND

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

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

REPORT METHODS

WHAT THE REPORT DOES NOT MEASURE

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

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

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

WHAT WON'T APPEAR IN THIS REPORT

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

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

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

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

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

REPORT METHODS

WHAT WON'T APPEAR IN THIS REPORT (CONTINUED)

The development of community-based responses to relationship abuse that can assist victims/survivors without the potential collateral consequences of criminal legal system involvement remain undeveloped and too easily dismissed when our reports show that, on average, approximately 30% of homicide victims in our reports never had any interaction with the criminal legal system for the abuse they experienced.

Lack of affordable housing and economic insecurity – the biggest barriers to safety, according to victims themselves – are rampant for our state's most vulnerable and marginalized victim/survivors.

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

LIMITATIONS

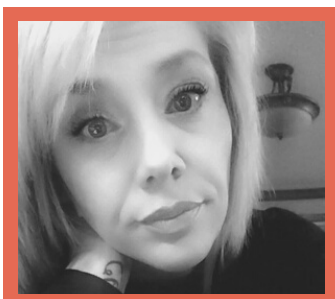
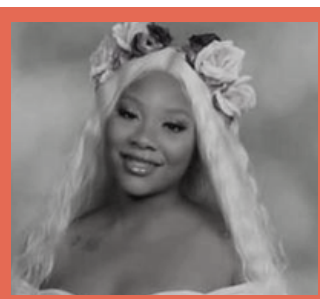
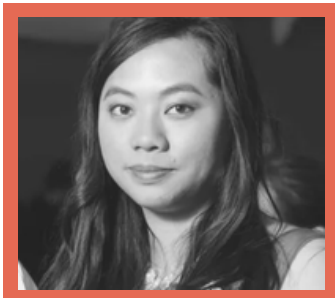
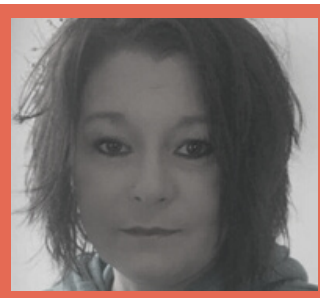
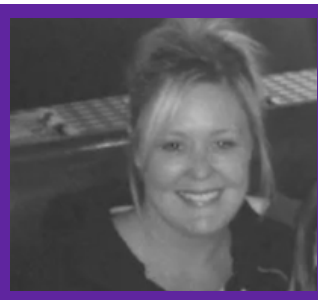
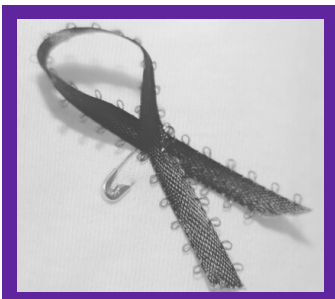
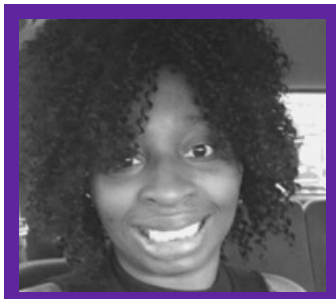
We rely on public information to create this report. In the early days of the report our sole source of information was media reporting. Currently, we identify most cases through media search results that are tracked daily, and then we follow up with local law enforcement agencies or county attorney's offices for more detail. We also look at other sources of information such as public court data, reports issued by medical examiners' offices, and social media.

The way we gather information and the amount of data available to us has changed drastically over the years. However, we still struggle with inconsistent and incomplete information due to the discrepancies in the way information is collected and shared across the state.

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

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

The information in Violence Free Minnesota's Homicide Report is a compilation of data gathered from public sources - it is not research. We gather this information to bear witness to those killed, to raise public awareness of domestic violence, and to help inform our policy and service work. .



VICTIM STORIES

Since its inception, the Intimate Partner Homicide Report has detailed how victims were killed. These descriptions provide insight towards intervention and reflect the horrific nature of relationship abuse. However, we know each victim is so much more than the moment of their death. This year, we were able to gather quotes from friends and family remembering their loved ones. While we were not able to find quotes from loved ones for each of the 24 victims in 2022, they are all remembered and held in our hearts.

LATIFA TASHA BROWN



Age 31
St. Paul
January 22, 2022

Latifa Tasha Brown, 31, was shot and killed by her boyfriend Mark Bell Jr., 35, in their St. Paul duplex on January 22. After the two began arguing at a bar that night, Latifa left, and Bell followed her home. Neighbors saw Latifa run inside and attempt to close the door before Bell forced it open and entered the home. While the argument continued inside, neighbors overheard it and told Bell to leave. Bell then shot Latifa and told police it was self-defense after she pointed a gun at him. However, officers found no other guns at the scene. Mark Bell Jr. pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 20 years. Latifa Tasha Brown leaves behind a one-year-old child.

"She enjoyed cooking, was silly and put out so much love in the air. Tifa was a firecracker. Latifa's life [mattered], she was worthy of greatness"

Linda Marie Johnson, 66, was beaten to death by her husband, Arvid Johnson, 65, in their St. Paul home on January 24. Arvid's daughter called police after he confessed to killing Linda. Arvid told officers he was Linda's caregiver. After an argument between the two, Linda revealed she wet the bed, and according to Arvid, "something went off." He then beat Linda with a baseball bat in her bed, before attempting to commit suicide. Arvid Johnson pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to nearly 11 years. Linda Marie Johnson is survived by her five adult children.

"Linda enjoyed cheering for Twins and Wild and also liked collecting Tinker Bell Memorabilia."

LINDA MARIE JOHNSON



Age 66
St. Paul
January 24, 2022

LISA KATHLEEN PETERSEN



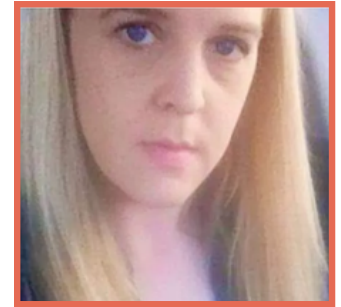
Age 41
Plymouth
February 7, 2022

Lisa Kathleen Petersen, 41, was beaten and killed by her boyfriend, Alex Keaton, 39, in their Plymouth hotel room on February 7. Keaton told police that Lisa slept on the floor that night and he was awoken to a loud thud, believing she had dropped a 10-lb weight on herself. The medical examiner determined that Lisa suffered severe trauma leading up to her death and ruled it a homicide. Lisa was found the night of her death with bruises all over her body, including on her arms, chest, sides, legs, face, and neck. Lisa and Keaton's three minor children were in the room the night she was killed. In the weeks after Lisa's murder, Keaton made online searches of Minnesota sentencing guidelines and murder for hire. Alex Keaton pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 19 years.

"We Remember Lisa Kathleen Petersen."

Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh), 40, was strangled and killed by her ex-boyfriend Jackson Johnson, 31, in their Mora hotel room on February 11. During the early morning hours of the 11th, police responded to a call of a naked man running alongside a highway. They followed bloody footprints, which led to a makeshift shelter in the woods and then to a trailer nearby. Johnson and Christeen were known to stay in the makeshift shelter. Officers attempted to get Johnson out of the trailer, but ended up in a stalemate. He finally exited several hours later, covered in a blanket and holding a knife and was arrested, unharmed. At the time of his arrest, Johnson also had an unrelated pending charge for domestic assault. Christeen was found with a bag over her head in the hotel room, and her death was found to be from asphyxiation "with evidence of manual strangulation and assault." Jackson Johnson was initially indicted for first-degree murder, but pled guilty to second-degree murder and received a sentence of over 36 years. Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh) leaves behind two children.

CHRISTEEN JO MASSEY (FARLEIGH)



Age 40
Mora
February 11, 2022

"We Remember Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh)."

CHRISTINE KAJA NYGARD



Age 66
Motley
March 6, 2022

Christine Kaja Nygard, 66, was beaten and killed by her boyfriend, Harold Wassather, 60, in their Motley home on March 6. A friend of Wassather notified police on March 6, after Wassather told the friend he killed Christine. Wassather claims Christine asked him about seeing other women before he beat her to death. He told police he physically assaulted Christine in the past. Christine moved in with Wassather in December of last year. Harold Wassather pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years. Christine Kaja Nygard is survived by her two adult children.

"Christine loved her grandkids and spending time with her family. She enjoyed spending time outside in the garden. She was free spirited and very loving, and will be deeply missed."

KELLI RANNING GOODERMONT



Age 44
St. Paul
March 15, 2022

Kelli Ranning Goodermont, 44, was killed by her ex-boyfriend, Patrick Simmons, 47, on March 15 in St. Paul. Simmons stabbed Kelli multiple times before setting her on fire in the St. Paul warehouse where they both worked. Police arrested him at his Bloomington home, which was also set on fire. Simmons had a long history of abusing Kelli, including holding a loaded gun to her head in June 2022. Around the same time, Kelli was hospitalized after police responded to a domestic abuse call to Simmons' house. After these incidents, Kelli sought an order for protection for her two daughters against Simmons. Beginning in March 2021, Simmons' mental health deteriorated and he started walking around the house with a loaded gun and accusing Kelli and her roommate of being "witches/devils." He was hospitalized after one of the June incidents, and court documents stated he posed "a substantial likelihood of causing physical harm to others." Simmons was also charged with assaulting Kelli in 2018. In 2013, a different woman sought an order for protection against him for abuse. Patrick Simmons was found incompetent to stand trial due to mental illness in May 2022, and is currently in a treatment facility. Kelli Ranning Goodermont is survived by her three children.

"Kelli was a kind and passionate person. The thing that Kelli was most passionate about in her life were her three daughters. They were her pride and joy."

Isaac Jon Hoff, 13, was stabbed and killed by his mother's boyfriend, Houston Morris, 38, in his Olivia apartment on March 24. In the early morning hours, Morris strangled and assaulted Isaac's mother with several items before she grabbed a knife to defend herself. Isaac was asleep but woke up after hearing the assault. Morris then took the knife from Isaac's mother and intended to stab her, but missed and stabbed Isaac, who was standing behind her. Isaac then called 911 and later died at the hospital. Isaac's mother survived the attack but sustained multiple injuries. Morris had recently moved into the apartment with Isaac and his mother two weeks prior to the stabbing. On March 1, Isaac and his mother were granted an order for protection against Morris due to several instances of verbal and physical abuse toward her, along with threats to kill her and her children. Houston Morris pled guilty to second-degree murder and felony second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon. He was sentenced to 17 years.

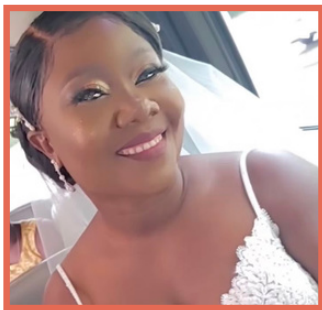
"Isaac was a punky but a very bighearted young man. He loved his mom and baby sister. They meant the world to him."

ISAAC JON HOFF



Age 13
Olivia
March 24, 2022

PEACHU ELFREDA YATES



**Age 35
Champlin
March 28, 2022**

Peachu Elfreda Yates, 35, was stabbed and killed in Champlin on March 28. Her husband, James Nyonteh, 45, has been indicted for first-degree murder and is also charged with first-degree murder while committing domestic abuse with a past pattern of domestic abuse, second-degree intentional murder, and first-degree criminal sexual conduct. Peachu was found bleeding and not breathing in the front yard of a home in Champlin, and was pronounced dead at the scene. Nyonteh's car was found abandoned in Brooklyn Park shortly afterward, and he was later arrested in Fargo, North Dakota, on March 29. Peachu was on the phone when she arrived to the Champlin home on March 28. The woman she was talking to on the phone said Peachu saw Nyonteh and told her he had a knife. Nyonteh was overheard by the woman on the phone saying he "just wanted to talk," before the call was disconnected. Peachu had recently moved herself and her daughters out of Nyonteh's home after learning that he was sexually assaulting one of them. Peachu Elfreda Yates leaves behind three young children.

"[Peachu's] a hero, and look at it in that way. She did her part, she did everything she could to protect her kids."

Lynn Ann Loucks, 43, was strangled, beaten, and killed by her boyfriend, Michael Munger, 53, in her Crow Wing County home on April 28. Lynn's ex-husband called police to do a welfare check after he received a message from Munger saying Lynn was "gone." When officers arrived at the home, they found Munger standing in the driveway with blood on his clothing. He told police, "you're too late, she's gone." Lynn was found in a pool of blood with a belt around her neck in the basement. Munger later confessed that he and Lynn argued that day about infidelity before he strangled her and hit her with a baseball bat. Munger has an extensive history of intimate partner violence in Minnesota and Washington, where he previously lived. In 2015, a Minnesota woman was granted a restraining order against Munger. Despite this, he threatened to kill the woman, and was later seen outside her residence with a gas can. That same year, he violated a separate order for protection against him, and during police questioning, threatened one of the officers. He also violated orders for protection in multiple instances in 2016. Michael Munger was found guilty of first-degree murder, and two counts of second-degree murder. He was sentenced to life in prison.

LYNNIE ANN LOUCKS



**Age 43
Crow Wing County
April 28, 2022**

"Lynn had a zest for life that is rare. She had an infectious smile, a laugh that could be recognized anywhere, and a joy that never stopped."

ARIEL CHRISTINE SAKRY

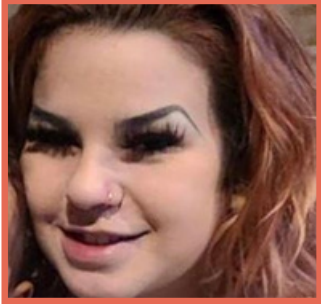


**Age 25
Wadena
April 29, 2022**

Ariel Christine Sakry, 25, was shot and killed by her husband, Isaac Malone, 25, in their Wadena home on April 29. Isaac then shot and killed himself. Ariel was shot by her husband 11 times including her chest and head all from the front. She also suffered trauma. Isaac had previously been charged with strangling Ariel, who was pregnant at the time, but the felony charges were eventually dismissed. During the trial for the strangulation and abuse against Ariel, the judge said, "I don't believe you're going to see [Ariel's husband] here again... Every marriage goes through ebbs and flows, peaks and valleys. Some valleys are worse than others... But him [sic] and his wife are working through this." . Ariel Christine Sakry leaves behind two young children.

"Ariel had a smile that would light up a room. She was funny, kind and a bit sassy. She had an infectious laugh. She would always tell you the truth, whether you wanted to hear it or not. Ariel had a gift to gab. She could sit and talk to anyone. Ariel loved being at the lake with her family and friends. Ariel was devoted to her family and adored her children."

CHANDRA LANAE PELCH



**Age 18
Medford
June 3, 2022**

Chandra Lanae Pelch, 18, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Jerome Caldwell, 19, in her Medford home on June 3. Jerome shot Chandra four times from the back, and twice from the front before killing himself. Chandra Lanae Pelch leaves behind her infant son.

“Chandra cherished her memories that she made with her son, her sisters, mother, stepfather, the rest of her family and friends.”

Kari Jo Petrich, 43, was beaten and killed by her boyfriend, Eric Jarvis, 46, on June 28 in her Hibbing apartment. Police were called to the apartment twice on June 26. During their first visit, officers observed the couple intoxicated and fighting. Jarvis asked officers to send Kari to detox, but they stated they did not observe any criminal activity, so they cleared the scene and left. Hours later, they were called again to the apartment. At that time, Kari told police Jarvis had struck her in the head and she was bleeding. Officers said she had no observable injuries during this visit and again cleared the scene and left without any intervention. During the early morning hours of June 28, Jarvis called police to say that Kari was unconscious. This time when officers arrived, they found Kari's body on the living room floor with severe bruising on the left side of her face and "a significant blood stain" on the carpet next to her head. Jarvis claimed she had facial injuries since June 25, and he didn't know how she got them. Evidence at the scene suggested Jarvis killed Kari, and attempted to clean up the apartment over the 24 hours in between police visits. A medical examiner determined Kari was killed due to blunt force trauma from being struck with a fist or object. It was also determined that had Kari received medical care in those 24 hours Jarvis spent cleaning up the scene, she likely would have survived. In January, Jarvis was convicted of disorderly conduct for throwing a phone at Kari. The original charge of domestic assault was lessened after he pleaded guilty. Kari's family members noted previous instances of Kari having facial bruising from Jarvis's abuse. Kari had also previously texted her ex-husband on two occasions that she feared Jarvis would kill her. Eric Jarvis pled guilty to first degree manslaughter, and is expected to receive an 8 year sentence. Kari Jo Petrich leaves behind four children.

KARI JO PETRICH



**Age 43
Hibbing
June 28, 2022**

“Kari was thoughtful, outgoing, and determined. She was the happiest when surrounded by her family. Her smile was infectious and could light up an entire room. We will always remember how strong and brave she was. We love and miss you.”

DONALD T. DAVIS



Age 39
Minneapolis
July 9, 2022

Donald T. Davis, 39, was killed by his ex-girlfriend, Deandra Sharber, 34, on July 9 in Minneapolis. Sharber told police she had recently lent him a vehicle and she and Donald had a disagreement over when he would return it. On July 9, Sharber saw Donald walking on a sidewalk, followed and pursued him down a one-way street, and then struck him with her car, killing him. Deandra Sharber pled guilty to second-degree murder and received a sentence of over 10 years.

"We Remember Donald T. Davis."

Katie Ann Fredrickson, 34, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Michael Klinger, 36, in her Brooklyn Center home on July 30. Witnesses in the home overheard the couple arguing with each other on the afternoon of the 30th, before hearing three gunshots. Katie and Klinger were described as dating off-again-on-again. Klinger fled the scene after killing Katie, but was later arrested by police and found with a handbag with four guns. Three of the four firearms were stolen. Klinger's past convictions prohibit him from owning a firearm and he was convicted of possession of a firearm in 2006, 2014, and 2015. Katie Ann Fredrickson leaves behind one minor son. Michael Klinger pled guilty to second-degree murder for Katie's death, and an illegal weapons charge for shooting his ex-girlfriend's dog on July 27. He was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

"Katie was 100% unapologetically Katie, and people loved her for it."

KATIE ANN FREDRICKSON



Age 34
Brooklyn Center
July 30, 2022

KA LOR



Age 30
St. Paul
August 17, 2022

Ka Lor, 30, was shot and killed by her partner, Yia Xiong, 33, in their St. Paul home on August 17. Xiong then shot and killed himself. The couple's five minor children were home at the time of the killings. Their oldest child, a 9-year-old, witnessed the shootings and called 911 afterward.

"You were the best mom to your children and the best sister and daughter anyone could ask for. You did everything for your children and stood your ground. We all miss you and wish this wasn't real."

CARISSA JOY ODEGAARD



**Age 31
Warren
August 23, 2022**

Carissa Joy Odegaard, 31, was beaten and killed by her ex-husband, Anders Odegaard, 31, in his Warren home on August 23. Police responded to a 911 call from a man who said he was flagged down by two young children saying they needed help because their mother was badly injured. When officers arrived to the home, they found Carissa badly beaten and unresponsive on the floor of the home. Carissa had arrived at the home to pick up their children to attend church. Anders attacked Carissa at this time while she was holding their three-year old. One of the children told the police their father didn't want their mother to take the kids. Carissa filed for divorce in April 2021, and it was granted six months later. A court hearing regarding the divorce was scheduled for August 30. Their five children under the age of 10 all witnessed Anders beating Carissa. The two children who flagged down the driver who called 911 said they saw Anders on top of Carissa, hitting and strangling her. One of the children also said he had seen his father hit Carissa before. Anders was previously appointed as a state's attorney in North Dakota in 2021, but was fired after three months. Anders Odegaard initially entered an Alford plea for second-degree murder, but the plea was later thrown out because Carissa's family were not informed of it. He is currently awaiting an evaluation for mental competency.

"Carissa was a remarkable person, a kind person who genuinely cared about everyone around her. Her infectious smile would make anyone smile. Carissa was a loving Mother, a doting sister, and a cherished daughter. Carissa's perseverance in the face of darkness was uplifting to anyone who knew her and Carissa's story. I want people to remember Carissa as the vibrant, caring, and resilient person she was, and that her memory is a reminder that we must be vigilant against domestic abuse, ensuring no one suffers as she did."

Shanna Renae Daniels, 43, was stabbed and killed in her North St. Paul apartment on August 25. Her boyfriend, Melvin Bilbro, 41, was charged with second-degree murder. Police officers responded to a fire at the apartment, and after it was extinguished, they found Shanna's body inside. She was found with extensive stab wounds and other injuries. No visible soot was found in her airway and the medical examiner determined she died of homicide. Witnesses reported seeing Bilbro in Shanna's apartment while it was on fire. Several items of Bilbro's clothing covered in blood were found in the apartment, along with a pair of bloody scissors and a folding knife. Bilbro was convicted of attempted second-degree murder and second-degree criminal sexual conduct in 2008 and was sentenced to prison. In that case, he threatened to kill the woman he was dating at the time, strangled and stabbed her, causing her to go blind in one eye, and sexually assaulted her daughter. He was released from prison in 2018, and within five months, was charged with assaulting his girlfriend. He was sentenced to prison for this assault. In 2021, he was sentenced to prison again after failing to register as a predatory offender due to the 2008 conviction.

"Shanna was dedicated to her family and loved her fur babies. Her overall personality was fun-loving and super funny. She could make anyone laugh on a good or bad day"

SHANNA RENAE DANIELS



**Age 43
North St. Paul
August 25, 2022**

ALBERTA SUE NELSON



Alberta "Bert" Sue Nelson, 65, was stabbed and killed by her husband, Dale Nelson, 67, who then killed himself, in Rochester on September 5. Police responded to a welfare check at the home that Alberta and Dale were temporarily living in Rochester and found their bodies. They were both originally from Iowa. Alberta Sue Nelson leaves behind 5 adult children.

"We Remember Alberta Sue Nelson."

**Age 65
Rochester
September 5, 2022**

Nicole Michelle Hammond, 28, was shot and killed at her workplace in St. Cloud on October 24. One of her coworkers, Michael Carpenter, 36, is charged with second-degree murder. Other coworkers recall Carpenter attempting to begin an intimate relationship with Nicole for at least a month before she was killed. A search of Nicole's phone found several text messages where she told Carpenter she was not interested in a relationship. In one of those texts, Nicole said she "did not want to be touched by [Carpenter], nor did she want to be manipulated by him." She also told him "to not make things uncomfortable at work." Carpenter shot and killed Nicole outside of her car in the parking lot of their work.

"[Nicole] had a smile on her face, and her smile will continue on in our hearts forever and ever."

NICOLE MICHELLE HAMMOND



**Age 28
St. Cloud
October 24, 2022**

ZARIA RASHUN MCKEEVER



**Age 30
Brooklyn Park
August 17, 2022**

Zaria Rashun McKeever, 23, was shot and killed in her Brooklyn Park apartment on November 8. Zaria's ex-boyfriend, Erick Haynes, 22, has been indicted on two counts of first-degree murder, and charged with one count of second-degree murder. Erick admitted to purchasing a firearm and ordering two of his friends, aged 15 and 17, to break into Zaria's apartment and assault her new boyfriend. Haynes drove the teens to the apartment complex and waited in the car as they entered. Zaria's current boyfriend was in the bathroom when the teens entered the apartment, and was able to escape and call 911. Several bullet holes were found throughout the apartment, and Zaria was found dead at the scene from gunshot wounds. The day before she was killed, Zaria told her boyfriend that Haynes had been stalking, harassing, and threatening her for weeks. She had also recently seen some of Haynes' friends around her apartment complex. Video footage from the complex showed a car associated with Haynes outside numerous times in the days leading up to the killing. Haynes told police that he was angry over his relationship with Zaria ending and that she had a new boyfriend. Haynes is the father of Zaria's infant daughter. He has two previous convictions for violating orders for protection in 2019. Erick Haynes is charged with two counts of second-degree murder, with and without intent. Juvenile petitions for murder were submitted for the two teenagers, with prosecutors intending to file a motion to have their cases certified as adults. Zaria Rashun McKeever leaves behind a one-year-old daughter.

"Everyone that knew Zaria knew she had a heart of gold. She was intelligent, beautiful, kind-hearted, and always had a smile lighting up every room she stepped in."

TU ANH PHAN



**Age 49
Bloomington
November 23, 2022**

Tu Anh Phan, 49, was shot and killed by Aaron Le (formerly known as Khai Le), 47, while dining at a Bloomington restaurant with Le's ex-wife on November 23. Tu, Le, and Le's ex-wife all went to college together. Le incorrectly believed his ex-wife and Tu were in a relationship, and targeted Tu knowing he would be at the restaurant that day. Le entered the establishment on the afternoon of November 23, wearing a Halloween mask, and pointed a gun at Tu. Other customers were able to initially chase Le out of the restaurant, but he returned moments later and shot and killed Tu. A 25-year-old server was also shot by Le but is expected to survive. Along with wearing a Halloween mask to conceal his identity, Le wore rubber gloves and wrapped the firearm in a plastic bag to reduce DNA evidence. During the investigation, authorities confirmed that Le made an unsubstantiated claim to the FBI in August that his ex-wife and Tu had hired someone to kill him. No evidence was found to verify this claim. Le's ex-wife told authorities he had assaulted her as far back as 2018. Aaron Le was arrested on November 24, in Oklahoma. He was extradited to Minnesota and charged with second-degree murder and second-degree attempted murder.

"We Remember Tu Anh Phan."

Alexandra Lee Pennig, 32, was shot and killed in her St. Paul apartment on the early morning of December 16. Alexandra's boyfriend, Matthew Ecker, 44, is charged with second-degree murder in her killing. The couple were in an open relationship and had been at a bar on the night of December 15, when they encountered Alexandra's other boyfriend. Earlier that day, Alexandra told Ecker that her other boyfriend was physically abusing her. While at the bar, Ecker and the other boyfriend got into an argument and the boyfriend punched Ecker in the face before being escorted out by security. A couple of hours later, Ecker called police to say that Alexandra shot and killed herself at her apartment. Upon arrival, officers found no evidence that Alexandra died by suicide, while Ecker changed his story of what happened several times. Additionally, Alexandra was found on the bathroom floor with a firearm in her left hand, which was suspicious due to the fact that she was right-handed. Ecker, who worked as a nurse practitioner, had been prescribing Alexandra Adderall and diazepam (Valium).

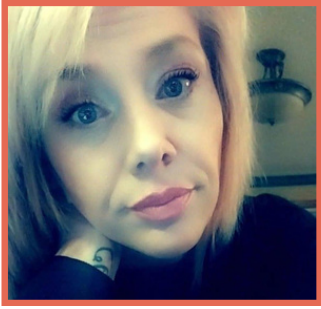
"She was smart, vibrant, and empathetic, and had a huge place in her heart for the underdogs in our society. She followed her passion to help others by pursuing a career in healthcare."

ALEXANDRA LEE PENNIG



**Age 32
St. Paul
December 16, 2022**

KIMBERLY ANN ROBINSON



**Age 41
Rochester
December 26, 2022**

Kimberly Ann Robinson, 41, was shot and killed in Rochester on or about December 26. Her boyfriend Mustafa Bush, 39, is charged with two counts of second-degree murder. Kimberly's body was found on the shoulder of a road in Rochester with a gunshot wound and blunt force injuries. It appeared she had been moved there after her death. Family members told police that Kimberly spent Christmas Eve with her sons at her mother's house before meeting with Bush at his sister's home. Bush's sister told police she believed he killed Kimberly. In the following days, Bush was seen burning several items in a pit in his and Kimberly's backyard. Additionally, police found social media posts from a man who met Bush in prison, that said Bush came to the man's house on December 26 to wash clothes and clean out his car. One of Bush's family members convinced him to turn himself in on December 29, and he was charged with second-degree murder. Mustafa Bush was previously convicted of second-degree murder in 2006, and was released under supervision in March 2020. Kimberly Ann Robinson is survived by her three children, two adults and one minor.

"We Remember Kimberly Ann Robinson."

Jasmine Marie Nelson, 27, was beaten and killed by her boyfriend Jeremiah Turner, 25, in her Medina home on December 29. Police were called to the home and found Jasmine unconscious with "numerous bruises on her body." Turner said she was injured in a car accident, but officers found no evidence of this. Jasmine's two young children were home at the time, and the older of the two said she witnessed her mother being beaten by Turner with a toilet paper rack while her mother was crying and asking for him to stop. Police found a bloody toilet paper rack and blood spatter in Jasmine's bedroom. Jeremiah Turner is charged with second-degree murder. He was previously convicted of domestic assault in 2019 and criminal sexual conduct of a minor in 2015.

JASMINE MARIE NELSON



**Age 27
Medina
December 29, 2022**

"Jasmine was crafty and spent time crocheting, drawing, painting, and resin art. Jasmine loved to spend time playing with her children."



WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memory keeping is an essential practice for addressing and responding to intimate partner homicide and domestic violence, and part of taking back power that is so often stripped away by the intentionally dehumanizing nature of abuse. Through grief that often feels insurmountable and overwhelming, we share memorials to the victims in our report to uplift their lives and stories rather than only the moments of their deaths. They were nurses, caregivers, grandparents, students, teachers, and cousins, who brought joy, wisdom, and laughter to their loved ones. Their lives were cut far too short, but they touched so many other lives and, in some cases, saved them. As we share these victims' stories and the statements and memory keeping rituals of their loved ones, we must not forget our communities' capacities for healing and resilience. Healing is a process rather than a singular event, and it is not always linear. But it is possible, and we bear witness to so many thoughtful, beautiful peacekeeping efforts made by those who have confronted grief and loss, as we look forward to a violence free Minnesota.

Memorials



Latifa Tasha Brown:

At Violence Free Minnesota's annual Intimate Partner Homicide Memorial in January 2023, Latifa Tasha Brown's sister Buffye spoke in her honor, bringing Latifa's 2-year-old son, who she called her sister's "heavenly light." In her speech, Buffye spread awareness of domestic violence and available community resources, addressing the ripple effect of abuse.



Lakes Crisis and Resource Center hosted a Break the Silence Memorial:

From October 1-7 in Detroit Lakes City Park to honor Minnesota's victims of intimate partner homicide from August 2022-August 2023. The display was a visual representation with silhouettes to honor each victim's life.

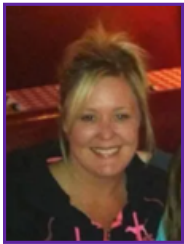
WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Ariel Christine Sakry:

On June 10, 2023, Ariel's family hosted a memorial beanbag tournament at Clarkfield North Park in her honor, raising \$9000 for Women's Rural Advocacy Programs (WRAP), a local domestic violence agency. The family also held a beanbag tournament in 2022 and donated the proceeds to Someplace Safe in Ottertail County, where Ariel was murdered.



Kelli Ranning Goodermont:

Kelli's friends from high school raised funds for her funeral and burial costs, with all remaining proceeds going towards a trust for her daughters. Her family and friends also held a memorial ceremony on the one year anniversary of her death at Willy McCoys, a restaurant and sports bar in Bloomington, in March 2023.



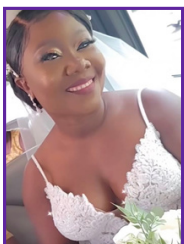
Isaac Jon Hoff:

In March 2022, community members held a vigil at Grace Community Church in Olivia, where Isaac participated in the church youth group, and shared fond memories of him. Outside the church, Isaac's friends left loving messages in honor of his life. Grace Community's pastor made crisis counseling available for any teenagers in need.



Lynnie Ann Loucks:

Lynnie's family created the website "Lynnie's Legacy" to memorialize her and share photos and stories from loved ones.



Peachu Elfreda Yates:

In 2022, Blessings Box of Champlin, which provides community and financial support to women and families in need, raised funds for Peachu's children. Irondale High School Dance team, where one of her children was a squad member, also began planning a memorial event for her.

WE REMEMBER: MEMORY KEEPING

Memorials



Kari Jo Petrich:

On August 5, 2023, Advocates for Family Peace hosted a memorial for Kari Jo as part of Kristen Bicking Memorial Vigil to End Domestic Violence. The memorial event took place at Angel of Hope Children's Memorial Park in Virginia. A week later on August 12, Kari Jo's family organized the Kari Petrich Memorial Walk, with supporters wearing purple and walking from Hibbing Courthouse to Sportsmen's Restaurant and back.

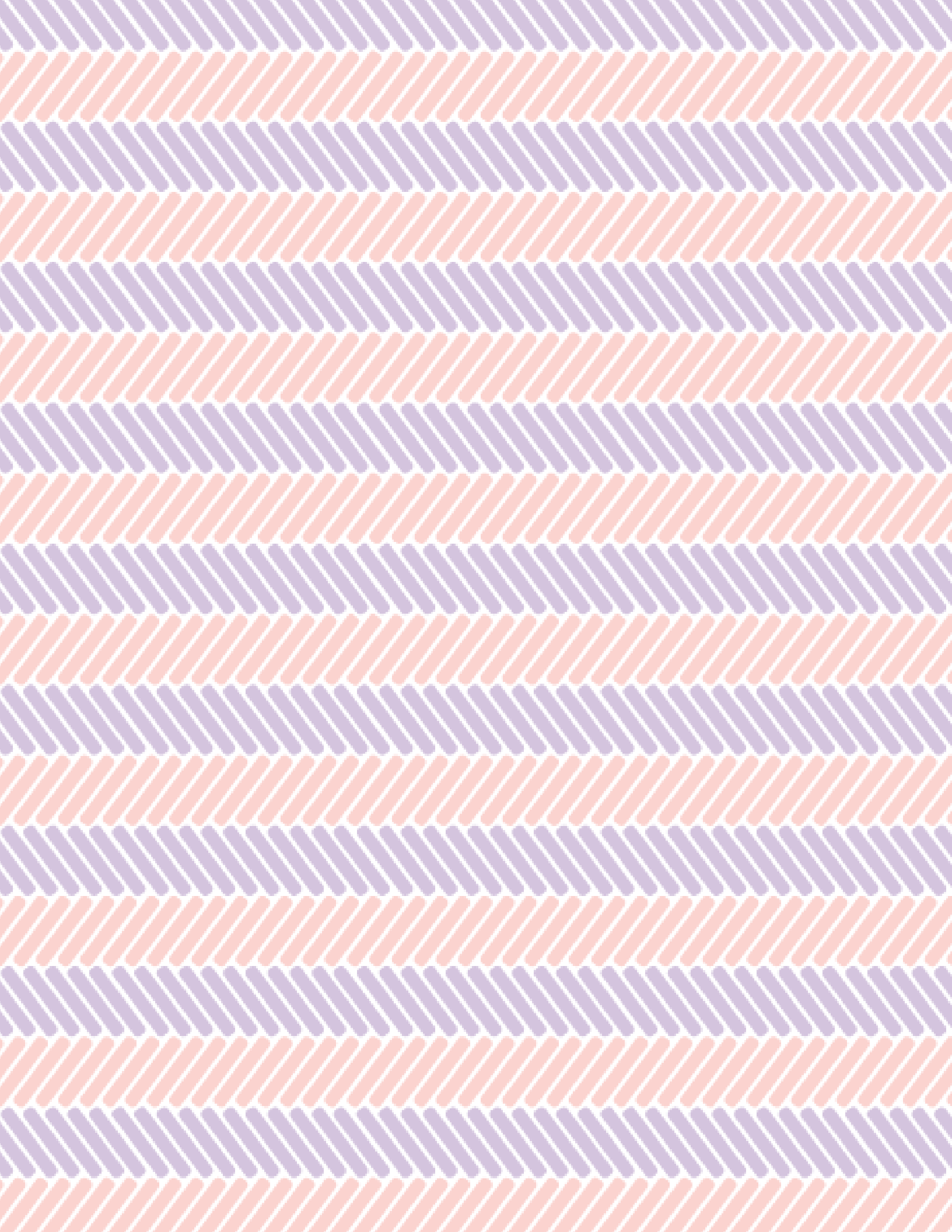


Nicole Michelle Hammond:

Nicole's employer, Dubow Textile, organized a "No Means No" memorial walk 3 weeks after her death around Lake George in St. Cloud, with all proceeds benefiting Anna Marie's Alliance, a local domestic violence agency. Dubow Textile matched the money raised up to \$10,000, and said they held the walk both to honor Nicole and to increase public awareness about workplace harassment. Nicole's family attended the event, with her brother speaking.

WE REMEMBER

January 22, 2022: Latifa Tasha Brown, 31, died as a result of gunshot in St. Paul
January 24, 2022: Linda Marie Johnson, 66, died as a result of beating in St. Paul
February 7, 2022: Lisa Kathleen Petersen, 41, died as a result of beating in Plymouth
February 11, 2022: Christeen Jo Massey (Farleigh), 40, died as a result of strangulation in Mora
March 6, 2022: Christine Kaja Nygard, 66, died as a result of beating in Motley
March 15, 2022: Kelli Ranning Goodermont, 44, died as a result of stabbing in St. Paul
March 24, 2022: Isaac Jon Hoff, 13, died as a result of stabbing in Olivia
March 28, 2022: Peachu Elfreda Yates, 35, died as a result of gunshot in Champlin
April 28, 2022: Linnie Ann Loucks, 43, died as a result of beating in Crow Wing County
April 29, 2022: Ariel Christine Sakry, 25, died as a result of gunshot in Wadena
June 3, 2022: Chandra Lanae Pelch, 18, died as a result of gunshot in Medford
June 28, 2022: Kari Jo Petrich, 43, died as a result of beating in Hibbing
July 9, 2022: Donald T. Davis, 39, died as a result of vehicular homicide in Minneapolis
July 30, 2022: Katie Ann Fredrickson, 31, died as a result of beating in Brooklyn Center
August 17, 2022: Ka Lor, 30, died as a result of gunshot in St. Paul
August 23, 2022: Carissa Joy Odegaard, 34, died as a result of stabbing in Warren
August 25, 2022: Shanna Renae Daniels, 43, died as a result of stabbing in North St. Paul
September 5, 2022: Alberta Sue Nelson, 65, died as a result of stabbing in Rochester
October 24, 2022: Nicole Michelle Hammond, 28, died as a result of gunshot in St. Cloud
November 8, 2022: Zaria Rashun McKeever, 23, died as a result of gunshot in Brooklyn Park
November 23, 2022: Tu Anh Phan, 49, died as a result of gunshot in Bloomington
December 16, 2022: Alexandra Lee Pennig, 32, died as a result of gunshot in St. Paul
December 26, 2022: Kimberly Ann Robinson, 41, died as a result of gunshot in Rochester
December 29, 2022: Jasmine Marie Nelson, 27, died as a result of beating in Medina





VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

ABOUT

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

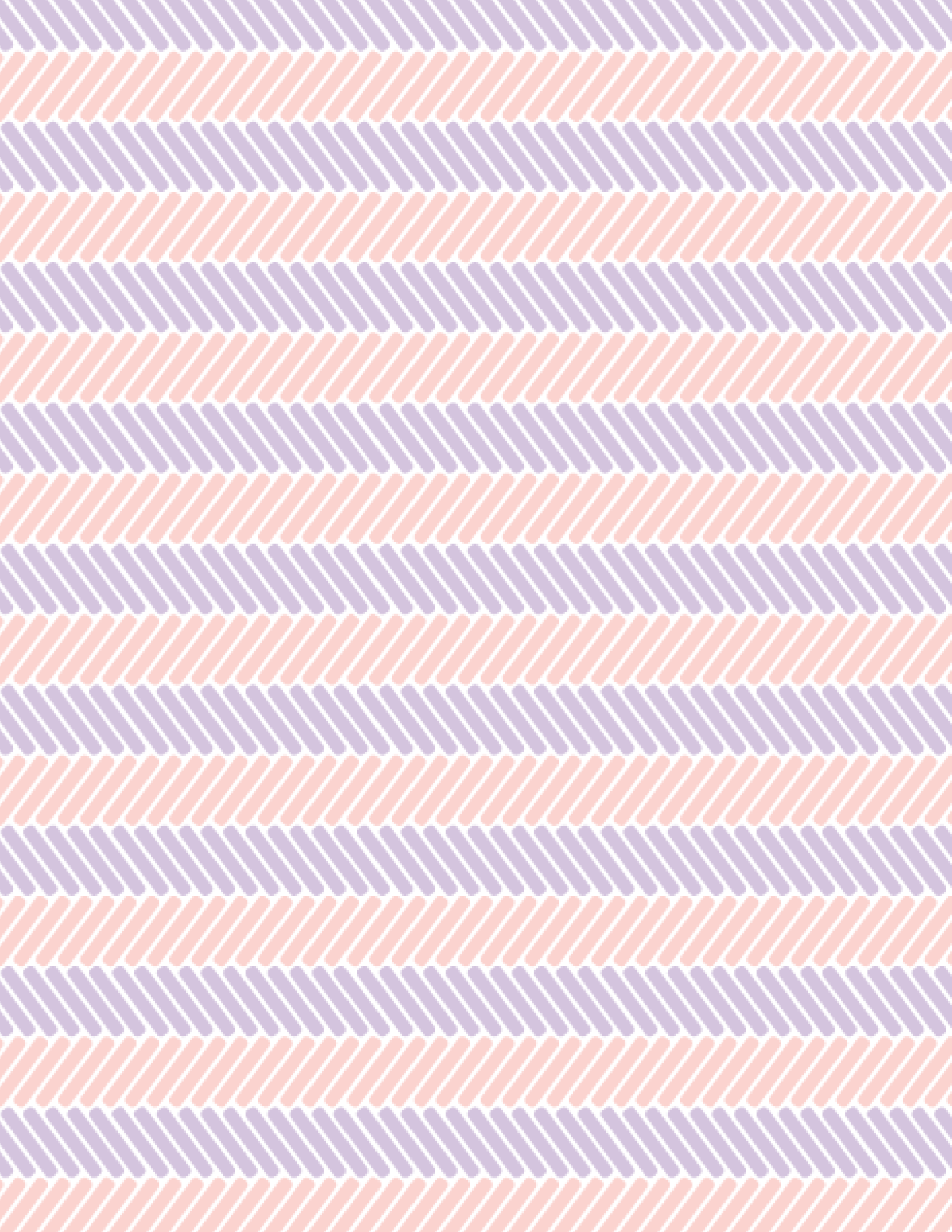
We ask Violence Free Minnesota be credited when information from this report is used.

OUR MISSION

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

OUR VISION

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





VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

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

Violence Free Minnesota
60 East Plato Boulevard, Suite 230
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55107
Ph. 651.646.6177
www.violencefreeminnesota.org