

2018

HOMICIDE REPORT

RELATIONSHIP ABUSE IN MINNESOTA



VIOLENCE FREE
MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

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FOREWORD

Violence Free Minnesota, its member programs, community advocates, and victim/survivors of domestic violence expend tremendous energy at the local, state, and national level to advance policies that center the experiences of victim/survivors of domestic violence. However, each year, as we work to complete the research and data collection necessary to release this report, we become acutely aware of the enormous amount of work still to be done. The deaths of at least 14 people in 2018 is a clear indication of this need.

The release of the 2018 *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* comes in October, not January, of 2019. This is partially due to the fact that domestic violence homicide cases often progress slowly in both investigations and the courts, delaying our ability to obtain and relay information on the cases quickly. We share these struggles, along with the information on domestic violence homicides in our state, in the hopes that it will inspire further change and action in our communities.

Our decision to release the *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* in October is an effort to highlight the immense impact the loss of life has on our communities and to propel us into action. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. It is a time not only for awareness, but for action. These 14 individuals were each a child, a friend, a neighbor. The opportunity for these individuals to grow their families, follow their dreams, and continue making memories with loved ones was stolen from them.

We must channel the overwhelming sadness and anger we face into action. In order to prevent homicides like the ones in this report and to honor these victims, we must link domestic violence to the larger discussions gaining steam on the national stage about sexual harassment, mass shootings, and power in our society. We urge legislators, family, friends, and the community to join us and co-create a world in which we can all live free, without violence.

We at Violence Free Minnesota refuse to simply refer to the people who lost their lives to domestic violence this year as numbers or statistics; their stories and the memories they created while a part of our communities are the sparks that will ignite change. And change must come.





WE REMEMBER

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES IN MINNESOTA: 1989-2018

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/interveners died

1992

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

1993

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

1996

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

1999

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

2000

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

2001

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

2002

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



WE REMEMBER

Intimate Partner Homicides in Minnesota: 1989-2018

2003

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

2004

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

2007

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

2008

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

2009

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

2012

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

2016

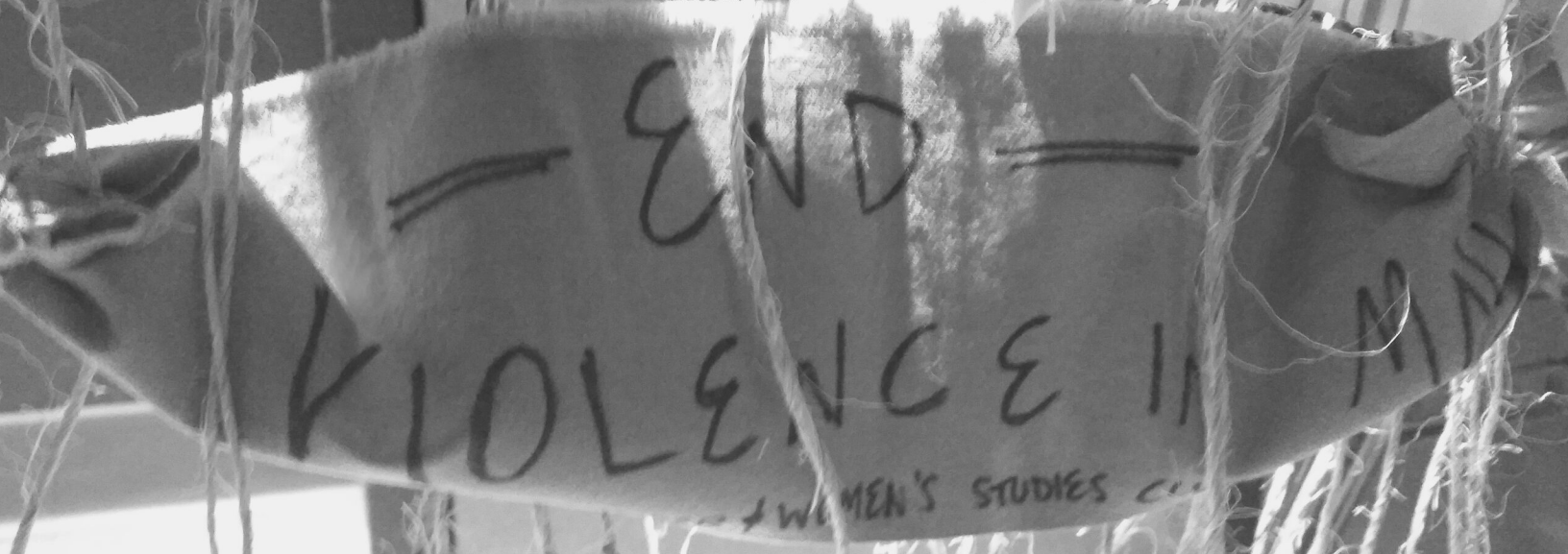
At least 18 women died from intimate partner violence
At least 2 children died due to relationship abuse
At least 1 bystanders/interveners died

2017

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

2018

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



OVERVIEW OF THE 2018 HOMICIDE REPORT

At least 14 Minnesotans were killed due to violence
from a current or former intimate partner

The known number of Minnesotans killed due to domestic violence varies from year to year. We have seen numbers range from a yearly low of 12 deaths to as many as 37. In 2017, at least 27 Minnesotans were murdered due to domestic violence. This year, the number is lower. However, it is important to note that one year's data does not indicate a trend. In 2012, there were 19 known domestic violence homicides included in our report and in 2015, there were 33. The numbers of homicides in Minnesota fluctuate and can vary significantly from year to year.



At least 9 women

Were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner.



At least 1 man

Was murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner.



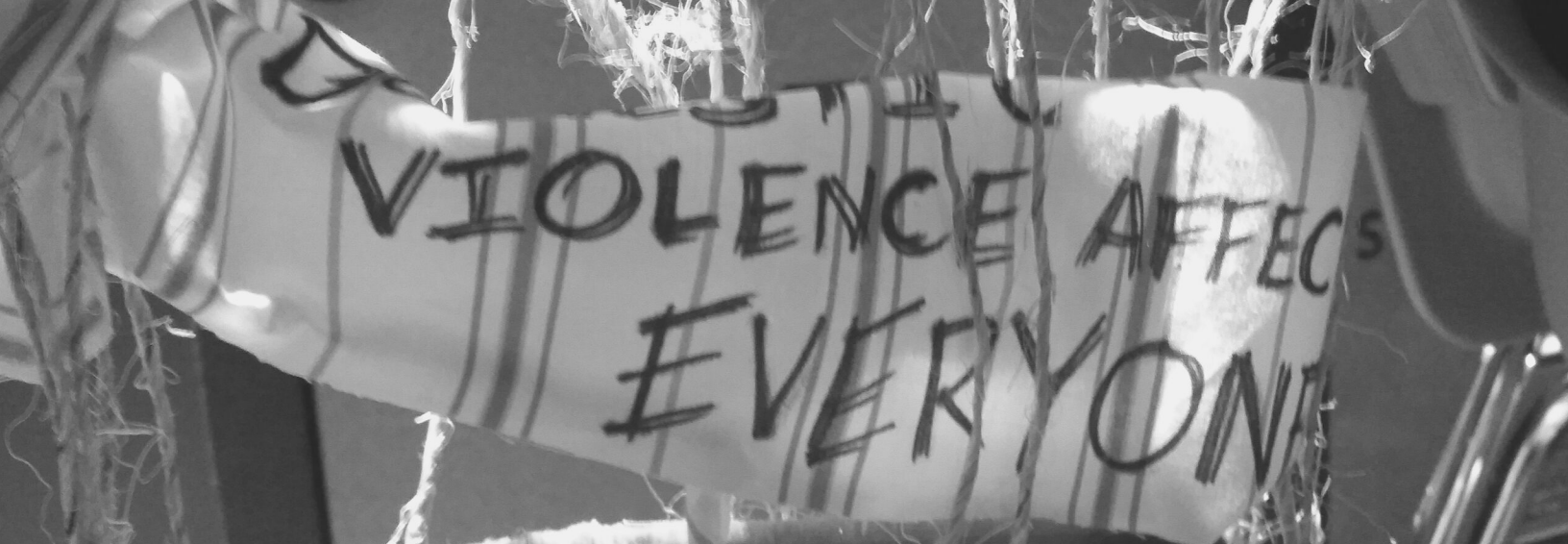
At least 4 friends, family members, or bystanders

Were murdered in domestic violence related situations.



At least 11 minor children

Were left without a parent due to intimate partner homicide.



VICTIMS AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE ALLEGED PERPETRATORS

Key Intimate Partner Homicide Statistics: 2018

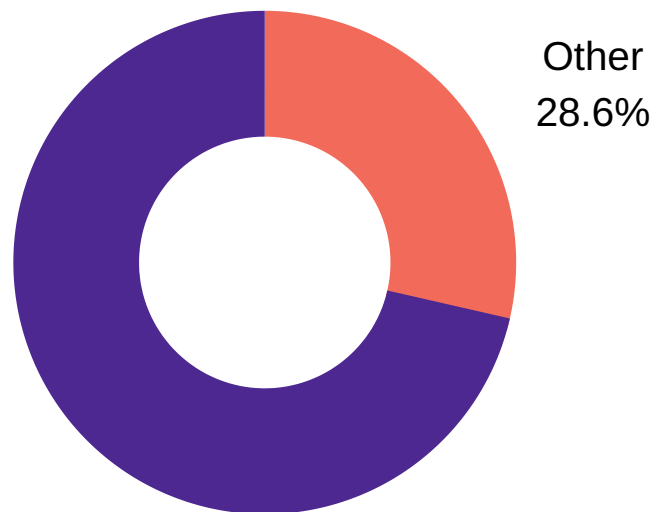
Current/former intimate partner 10 victims

Cristina Prodan
Lori Weiderhoeft Moore
Eileen Viveros-Vargas
Christina Marie Woods
Joyce Engelbrecht
Shana Lynne Hollins
Enedelia Perez Garcia
Dah Dah Ray
Jennifer Lee Moy
David Riess*

Other 4 victims

Rachel Schulz Linder ^
Lashay Wittaker +
Dwayne Hawkins +
Shequill Terall Halbert #

Intimate Partner
71.4%



*Male victim of intimate partner violence *

Family members killed alongside victim of intimate partner violence ^

Family member of intimate partner violence victim killed #

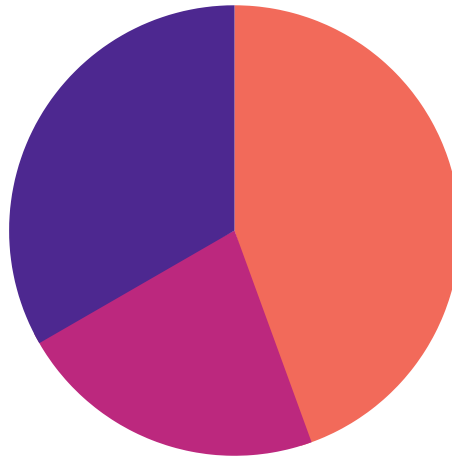
Bystander killed due to intimate partner violence +

CAUSE OF DEATH

Key Homicide Statistics (2016-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2018

Gunshot
33.3%



Strangulation
44.4%

Stabbing
22.2%

2018 VICTIMS : 9

STRANGULATION: 4

Cristina Prodan
Christina Marie Woods
Shana Lynne Hollins
Jennifer Lee Moy

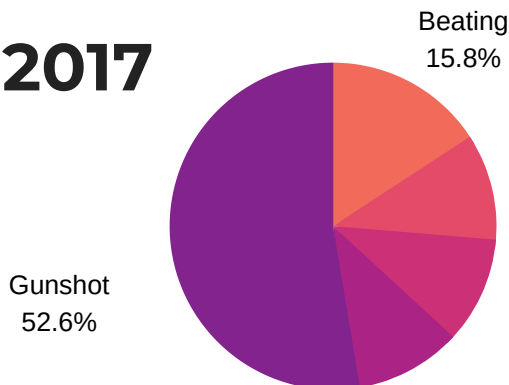
GUNSHOT: 3

Eileen Viveros-Vargas
Lori Weiderhoeft Moore
Joyce Engelbrecht

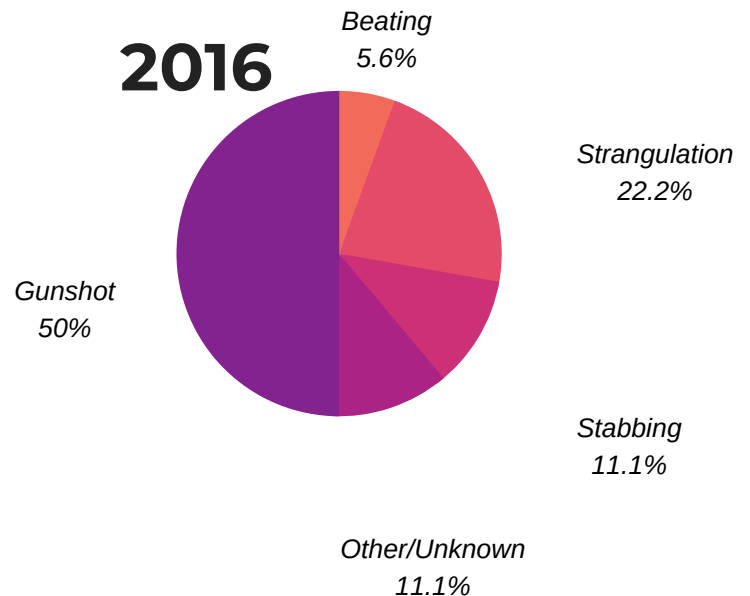
STABBING: 2

Enedelia Perez Garcia
Dah Dah Ray

2017



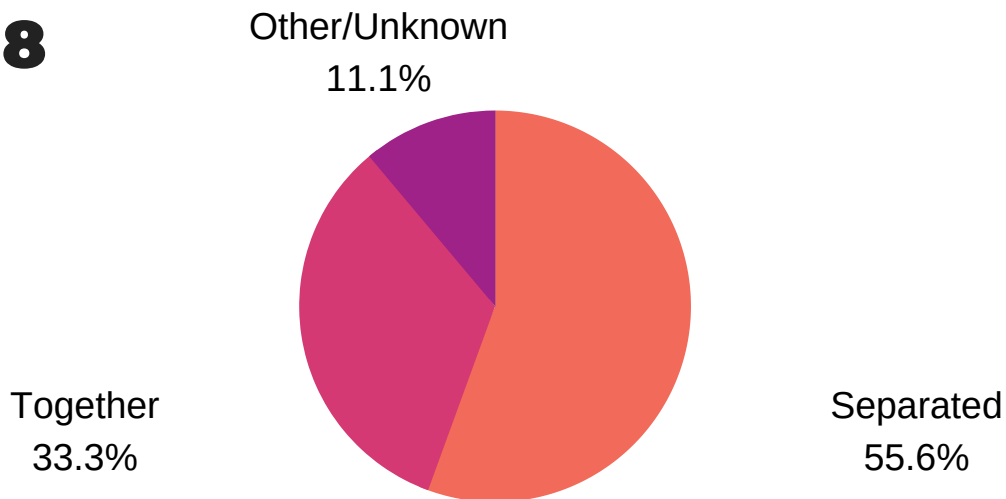
2016



VICTIM WAS SEPARATED FROM ABUSER OR ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE

Key Homicide Statistics (2016-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2018



2018 VICTIMS : 9

**SEPARATED OR
ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE: 5**

Cristina Prodan
Lori Weiderhoeft Moore
Dah Dah Ray
Shana Lynne Hollins
Enedelia Perez Garcia

TOGETHER: 3

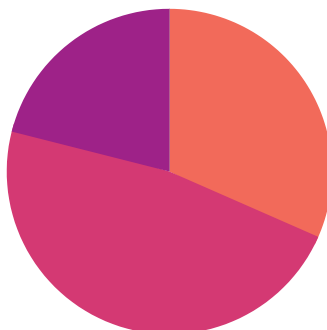
Eileen Viveros-Vargas
Christina Marie Woods
Joyce Engelbrecht

**OTHER OR
UNKNOWN: 1**

Jennifer Lee Moy

Other/Unknown
21.1%

2017

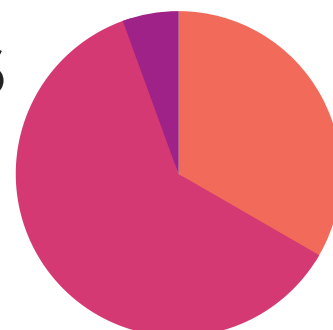


Together
47.4%

Separated
31.6%

Other/Unknown
5.6%

2016



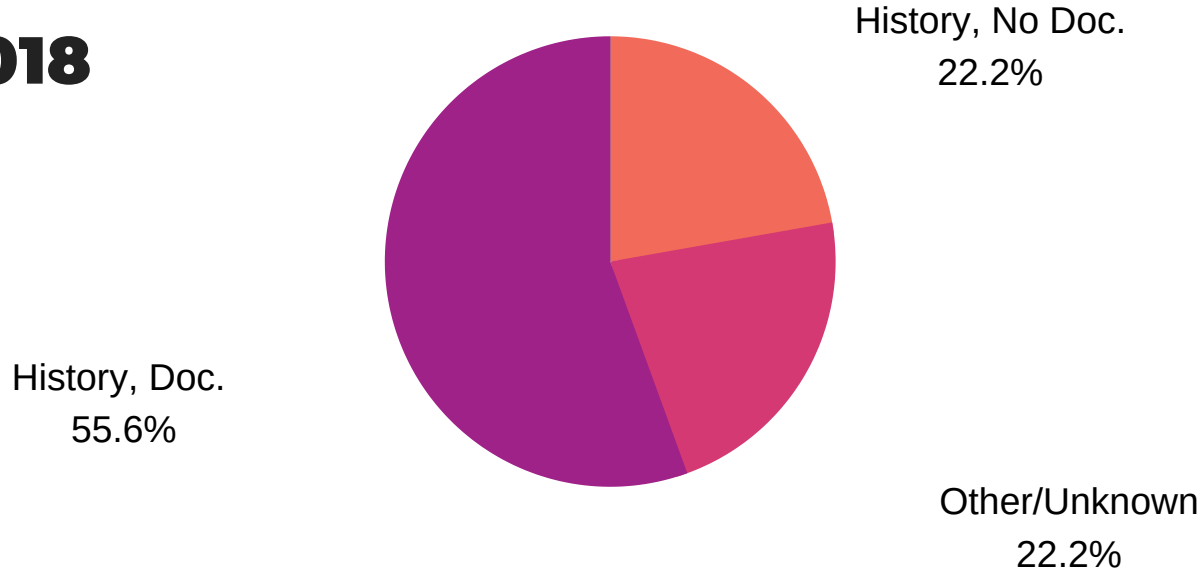
Together
61.1%

Separated
33.3%

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Key Homicide Statistics (2016-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2018



2018 VICTIMS : 9

HISTORY WITH DOCUMENTATION: 5

Cristina Prodan
Christina Marie Woods
Dah Dah Ray
Enedelia Perez Garcia
Lori Weiderhoeft Moore

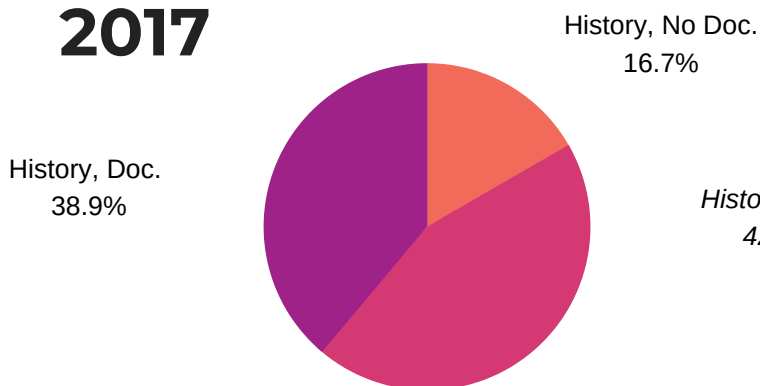
HISTORY, NO DOUMENTATION: 2

Eileen Viveros-Vargas
Shana Lynne Hollins

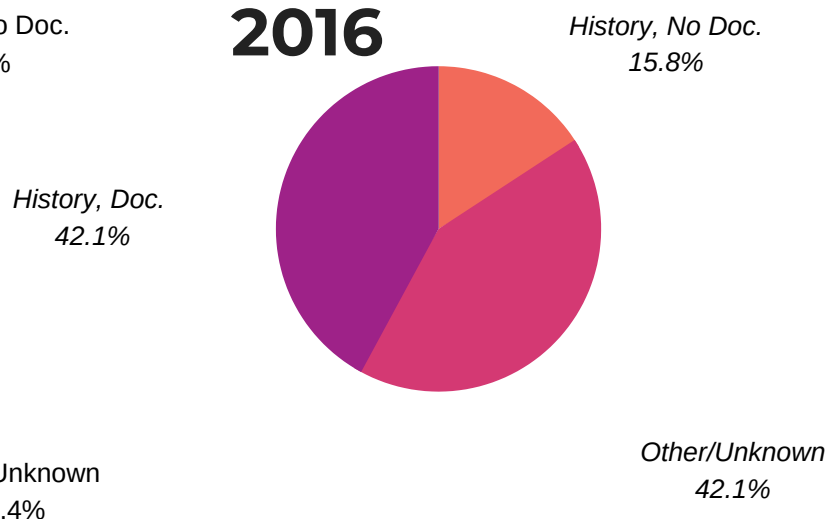
OTHER OR UNKNOWN: 2

Joyce Engelbrecht
Jennifer Lee Moy

2017



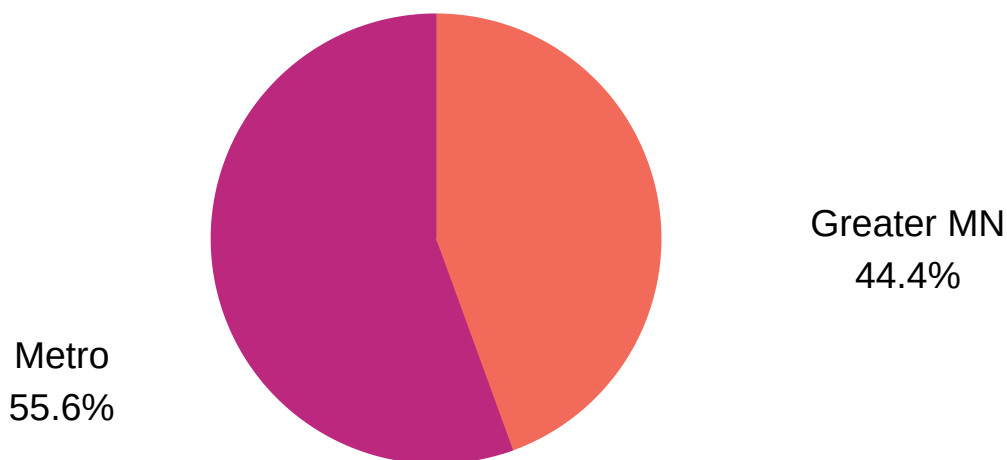
2016



GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION OF VICTIM

Key Homicide Statistics (2016-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

2018



2018 VICTIMS : 9

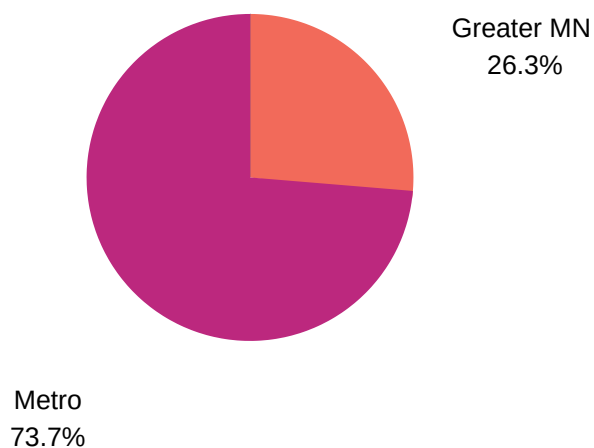
TWIN CITIES METRO AREA: 5

Cristina Prodan
Eileen Viveros-Vargas
Shana Lynne Hollins
Enedelia Perez Garcia
Dah Dah Ray

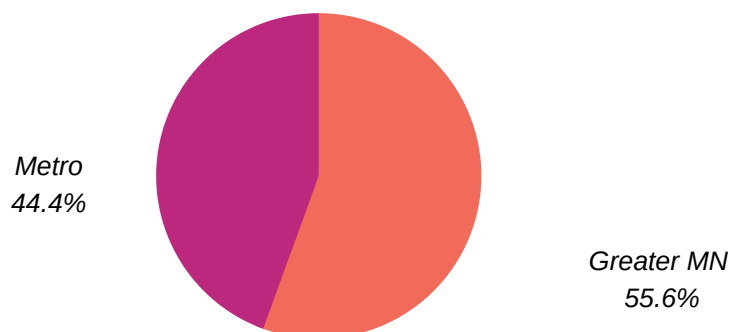
GREATER MINNESOTA: 4

Lori Weiderhoeft Moore
Joyce Engelbrecht
Christina Marie Woods
Jennifer Lee Moy

2017

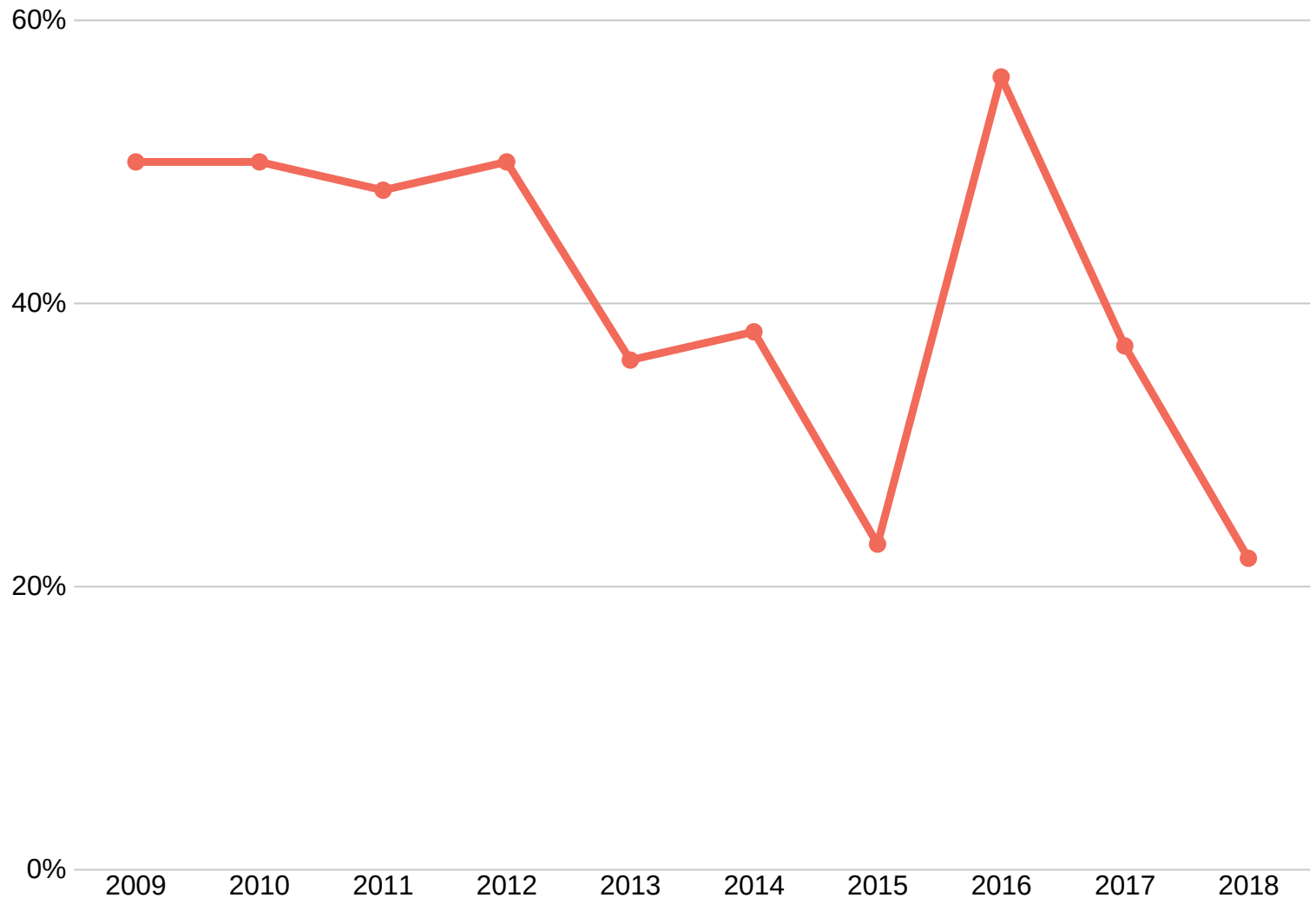


2016



HOMICIDE-SUICIDE

Key Homicide Statistics (2009-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner



**2018
HOMICIDES WHERE
PERPETRATOR
COMMITTED SUICIDE**

VICTIMS: 2

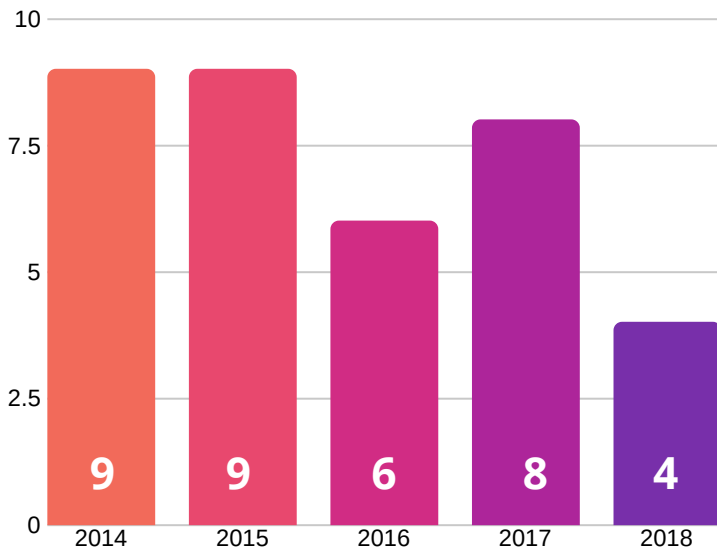
Lori Weiderhoeft Moore
Enedelia Perez Garcia*

Perpetrator attempted suicide

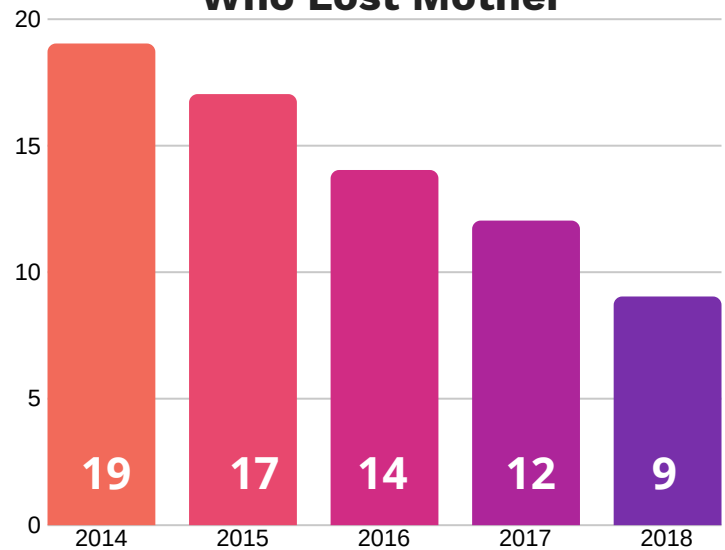
MURDER OF MOTHERS AND EFFECT ON CHILDREN

Key Homicide Statistics (2014-2018) for
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

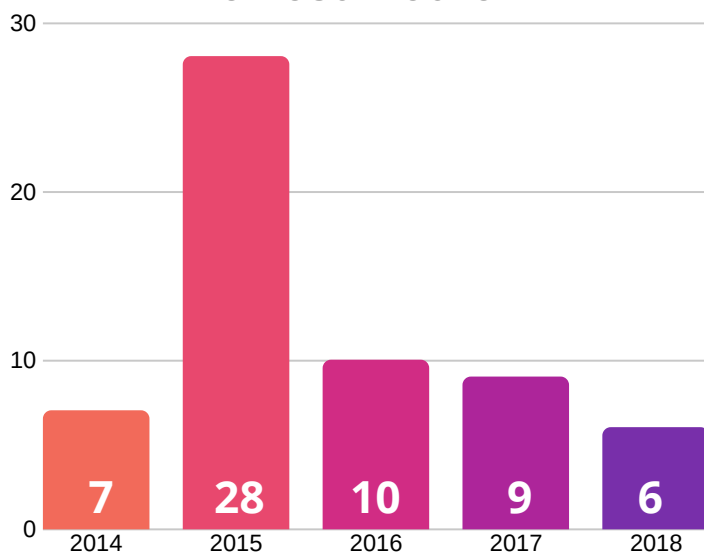
Mothers with Minor Children



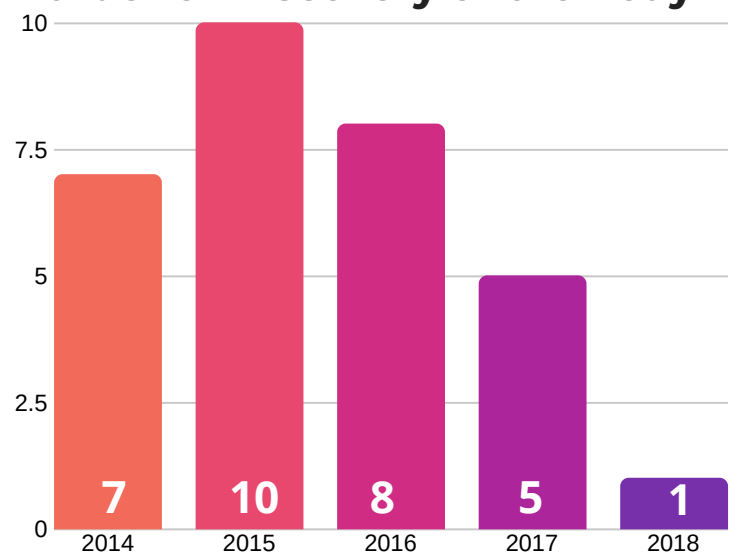
Number of Minor Children Who Lost Mother



Number of Adult Children Who Lost Mother



Child(ren) Present at Time of Murder or Discovery of the Body



**2018
MOTHERS
WITH MINOR
CHILDREN**

VICTIMS: 4

Christina Marie Woods
Shana Lynne Hollins
Enedelia Perez Garcia
Jennifer Lee Moy

RED FLAGS FOR LETHALITY

Each year, Violence Free Minnesota examines known intimate partner homicide cases in Minnesota and gathers information regarding four key lethality factors:

LETHALITY FACTORS

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

Violence Free Minnesota has analyzed these four factors since 2006. For the past 11 years, these lethality factors have been present in a significant number of cases. If we had more access to records and conducted interviews with friends and family members of victims, we are confident that we would find additional information pertaining to lethality factors. We consider these four key lethality factors with the expectation that this information can be used to inform public policy and intervention strategies.

In 2018, 14 people were killed due to domestic violence in Minnesota. These included nine women who were murdered by their current or former intimate partners.

ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE

Cristina Prodan, Dah Dah Ray, Shana Lynne Hollins, Enedelia Perez Garcia were all either in the process of leaving their abusers, or had already separated from them. Enedelia Perez Garcia was returning to her previous home to retrieve her belongings when Fraider Diaz-Cabal stabbed and killed her, and attempted to kill himself.

PREVIOUS THREATS TO KILL

Dah Dah Ray was estranged from her husband Dah Eh Ray after years of abuse. Dah Dah had reported to police that her husband threatened to kill her numerous times. In 2017, she woke up to him holding a knife and yelling, "I can kill you right now."

ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Scott Engelbrecht's access to firearms allowed him to kill his wife, Joyce, and her daughter, Rachel Schulz Linder, before the police arrived.

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

Joseph Porter had a long history of abusing Cristina Prodan before he killed her. A Domestic Abuse No Contact Order was in place against him, and he had also previously beaten her service dog.

All of these cases illustrate the need for more effective intervention and the preventable nature of each homicide.



VICTIM'S ATTEMPTS TO LEAVE THE ABUSER

LETHALITY FACTOR

National statistics, as well as information gathered from our report, show attempts to separate from an abuser can increase the risk of lethality for victims. Most women leaving abusive relationships are not killed, but a large number of those who are killed were attempting to separate from their abuser.

Abusers often see any attempts by the victim to leave the relationship as loss of power and control which can inadvertently result in increased risk for the victim. At least 5 of the 9 women (55%) were attempting to leave or had recently left the relationship at the time they were murdered. This statistic has ranged between 30 – 67 percent over the years in our reports.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

ENEDELIA

PEREZ GARCIA

Enedelia Perez Garcia, 27, was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend, Fraider Diaz-Carbajal, 35, on August 12, in Shakopee. Enedelia had recently broken up with Diaz-Carbajal after a three year relationship due to his ongoing abuse. On the afternoon of August 12, Enedelia returned to the home she once lived in with Diaz-Carbajal to retrieve some of her belongings. Upon hearing Enedelia yelling at Diaz-Carbajal to "drop the knife," another resident of the home went to Enedelia's room and observed Diaz-Carbajal repeatedly stabbing her, followed by him stabbing himself in the abdomen and cutting his own throat. The roommate fled the house. When police and paramedics arrived, they found Enedelia dead at the scene. Diaz-Carbajal survived with multiple stab wounds and a 6-8 inch cut along his throat. In addition to his abusive relationship with Enedelia, he had a previous documented history of domestic violence and was convicted of abuse in 2007. He pled guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of Enedelia and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.



THREATS TO KILL THE VICTIM

LETHALITY FACTOR

Threats by the abuser to kill the victim, as well as the victim's belief that the abuser will kill her, are among the most reliable indicators of lethality. These indicators are often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice systems. A review of court documents and media reports of the 2018 murders does not reveal much information about threats to kill. We know that in at least one case the perpetrator had threatened to kill a victim in the past. In another case, the perpetrator did not make specific threats to kill but explicitly threatened to cause harm to the victim.

Without access to and review of police case files and court records, it is difficult to determine whether threats to kill were made against the victim. At the time the 2018 report was published, we did not have complete information available to show the extent of the perpetrator's abuse. While the absence of threats to kill does not tell us much, their presence can be a significant indicator of an abuser's risk of lethality. Practitioners who work with victims, and those who intervene in domestic violence cases, should pay close attention when a perpetrator threatened to kill a victim or her family and friends.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

DAH DAH RAY

On August 18, Dah Eh Ray, 59, stabbed and killed his wife, Dah Dah Ray, 58, in her St. Paul home. At 10 A.M. that morning, police responded to a call for a possible domestic disturbance. Dah Dah Ray was found stabbed over twelve times, with a note on her body written in Karen. It read, "rest in peace." There were also multiple spots on the carpet where Dah Eh Ray had attempted, but failed, to set the home on fire. Dah Dah Ray had been estranged from her husband after years of domestic violence. She was granted an order for protection against Dah Eh Ray in the summer of 2017, on which her husband had threatened to kill her numerous times in the past and she feared more violence would continue. He was arrested shortly after it was filed for violating the order. There was also a previous incident where he threatened her life with a knife in hand. Dah Eh Ray pled guilty to second-degree intentional murder and was sentenced to 22 years in prison.



ACCESS TO FIREARMS

LETHALITY FACTOR

In 2018, 3 of the 9 (33%) women murdered by their current or former intimate partners were killed with a firearm. While the percentage of domestic violence homicides using firearms fluctuates from year to year, firearms are the most frequent weapon of choice and are commonly used in about half of the documented domestic violence homicides of women (42% in 2013, 56% in 2014, 50% in 2015, 56% in 2016, and 53% in 2017).

Based on available Minnesota court records, at least 20% of perpetrators who killed the victim with a firearm were prohibited from possessing a firearm at the time of the murder. These statistics support studies showing that access to firearms by an abuser can significantly increase the risk of lethality.

National studies also show that firearms are the most commonly used weapon when there are multiple people killed by an intimate partner. We routinely see this in our report. In 2015, Brian Short used a firearm when he killed his wife Karen and their three children, Cole, Madison, and Brooklyn. In 2016, Luis Renquillo Alvarado used a firearm when he injured his wife and killed their children Nahily & Luis. In 2017 Jeffrey Taylor used a firearm when he killed his ex-girlfriend Maria McIntosh, her sister Olivia, and her father Wade. This year, Scott Engelbrecht used a firearm to kill his wife, Joyce, and her daughter, Rachel Schulz Linder.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

JOYCE ANN

ENGELBRECHT

On June 16, 2018, Scott Engelbrecht, 59, shot and killed his wife, Joyce Engelbrecht, 67, and her daughter, Rachel Linder, 43, in St. James. Police responded to a call from Rachel's son on the evening of June 16th. Once officers arrived, they found Scott in the front yard with a .22 caliber rifle. He quickly surrendered to police and admitted to the shooting. Inside the home, officers found Joyce with a gunshot wound to her head, but still breathing and alert. She was transferred to a local hospital and died the next day. Rachel Linder was found dead from a gunshot wound two houses down from the Engelbrecht's. Linder's son told police he was eating dinner at the Engelbrecht's home when he heard a loud sound and his mother yell that Scott had killed Joyce. Linder's son told her to run before locking himself in the bathroom. It is believed that Scott then followed Linder two houses down, where he shot and killed her. Linder's son said the shooting happened after an argument occurred because Scott had forgotten the couple's wedding anniversary. Scott Engelbrecht has been charged with two counts of first degree murder.



PERPETRATOR'S HISTORY OF VIOLENCE

LETHALITY FACTOR

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 violence is through court records, 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 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 undocumented but known domestic violence history of the perpetrator.

In 2018, we found that in 7 of the 9 cases (77%), the perpetrator had a history of domestic violence.

In 5 of the 9 cases (55%), the perpetrator had a *documented history* of domestic violence. In two additional cases, the perpetrator had an *undocumented history* of domestic violence.

CASE HIGHLIGHT

CRISTINA PRODAN

Cristina Prodan, 27, was killed by her ex-boyfriend, Joseph Porter, 25, on or around January 4, 2018. Although under an active Domestic Abuse No Contact order issued in December 2017, Porter was known to stop by Cristina's apartment. Cristina's mother reported her missing to police early morning January 5. Later, it was determined that on January 4th, he beat Cristina and choked her to death. He then shoved her body into a large suitcase and drove to New Orleans where he put her body in a junkyard shipping container and burned it. Porter has an extensive criminal history with numerous domestic violence charges and No Contact Order violations. Both Cristina and Porter's mothers commented on Porter's history of abuse, stating he had raped and beaten Cristina and had a history of harming animals. His mother had notified police weeks before Cristina's death, saying that Porter was planning to kidnap Cristina, empty her bank accounts, and take her to a place she would never be found. Porter pled guilty and was convicted of second degree unintentional murder.

REPORT METHODS

Violence Free Minnesota tracks homicides in which the known or suspected perpetrator was a *current or former intimate partner* or the homicide is the result of domestic violence between current or former intimate partners. This includes family members, friends, and interveners who are killed as a result of the domestic violence being perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner.

EXPLANATION OF DATA

For 30 years, the statewide coalition to end relationship abuse has produced annual documentation on intimate partner homicides. The information contained within these 30 years of reports is overwhelming in terms of the numbers of individual deaths that are recorded. The reports list the number of people killed, however they 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, bi-sexual, 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, interveners, and bystanders who are killed due to domestic violence between current or former intimate partners.

Since 1993, the report has included those killed as a result of engaging in sex work and being used in prostitution or sex trafficking. These deaths are included because Violence Free Minnesota recognizes people engaging in sex work face violence due to stigma and that being used in prostitution and sex trafficking 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, prostitution, 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.

METHODS

REPORT MEASURES (CONTINUED)

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.

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: adult child to parent, between cousins, roommates who have no intimate relationship, uncles who kill nieces, and parents who kill children. The *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* focuses on one section 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 Illinois or Wisconsin or New Jersey 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 the *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* 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 where the victim's body is found in Minnesota or where we have reason to believe the homicide occurred in Minnesota, even if the body was found in a different state.

LIMITATIONS OF THE REPORT

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.

METHODS

LIMITATIONS (CONTINUED)

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 are exploited in prostitution and sex trafficking may be under-reported in our listing 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.

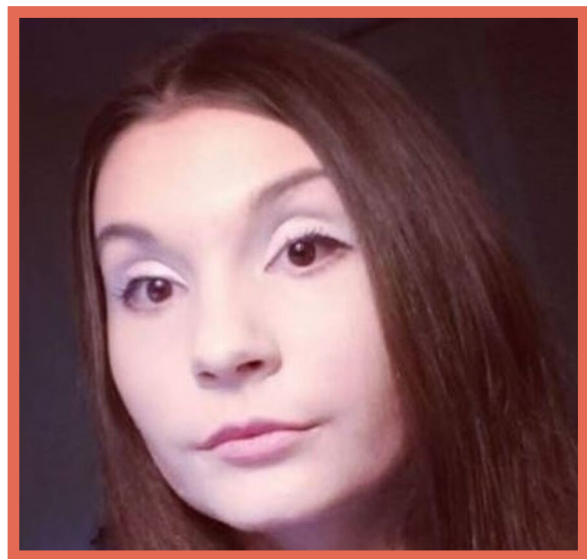
The information in Violence Free Minnesota's *Intimate Partner Homicide Report* is a compilation of data gathered from public sources; it is not research. We gather this information to bear witness to those killed, to raise public awareness of domestic violence, and to help inform our policy and service work. One example of this limitation is in regard to tracking the rates of murder-suicides in domestic violence cases. For a number of years, approximately 50 percent of the domestic violence homicides of adult women also involved the perpetrator subsequently committing suicide. This percentage was significantly higher than the homicide-suicide rate reported nationally at 30 to 35 percent. In a three year period lasting through 2015, this percentage showed a significant decrease, dipping as low as 23 percent. The 2016 domestic violence homicides data showed an uptick in murder-suicides again, with 56 percent of the cases falling in that category; however, in 2017, that figure again goes down to 37 percent. What we don't know, and what this report does not address, is why there was such drastic fluctuation in these percentages and what that means. Violence Free Minnesota is not a research agency. We present this information in the hopes of raising questions, opening the door to deeper conversations, and encouraging research agencies to investigate further.





VICTIM STORIES:

MURDERED IN CASES WHERE THE SUSPECTED, ALLEGED, OR CONVICTED PERPETRATOR WAS A CURRENT OR FORMER INTIMATE PARTNER



CRISTINA PRODAN

January 4, 2018

Age 27

Cristina Prodan, 27, was killed by her ex-boyfriend, Joseph Porter, 25, on or around January 4, 2018. Although under an active Domestic Abuse No Contact order issued in December 2017, Porter was known to stop by Cristina's apartment. Cristina's mother reported her missing to police early morning January 5. This was only 30 minutes after an officer had encountered Cristina and Porter near her apartment, where Porter drove away from the scene. On January 4th, he beat her and then choked her to death. He then shoved her body into a large suitcase and drove to New Orleans where he put her body in a junkyard shipping container and burned it. Porter has an extensive criminal history with numerous domestic violence charges and No Contact Order violations. Both Cristina and Porter's mothers commented on Porter's history of abuse, stating he had raped and beaten Cristina and had a history of harming animals. His mother had notified police weeks before Cristina's death, saying that Porter was planning to kidnap Cristina, empty her bank accounts, and take her to a place she would never be found. Porter pled guilty and was convicted of second degree unintentional murder, but was given a sentence longer than the recommended term due to his hiding Cristina's body.



**LORI
WEIDERHOEFT MOORE**

February 16, 2018

Age 43

Lori Wiederhoeft Moore, 49, was shot and killed by her husband of ten years, Timothy Moore, 57, on February 16, 2018. Lori contacted 911 seeking help with a "domestic altercation." As law enforcement was being dispatched, Timothy picked up and told the 911 operator he had shot Lori and was planning to shoot himself. When authorities arrived to the Beauford area home, they found both dead. Timothy had a documented violation of a protective order from 2015 and Lori's family and friends state they saw signs of his abusive behavior. Lori had hidden two of his three guns and was attempting to leave the relationship; her family had plans to help her move the following day.



EILEEN VIVEROS-VARGAS

**March 9, 2018
Age 18**

Eileen Viveros-Vargas, 18, was murdered by her boyfriend, Luis Isaac Chacon-Villeda, 19, on March 9. Eileen was pregnant at the time of the murder. Police were called to Chacon-Villeda's parent's St. Paul home, where they found Eileen shot in the head and Chacon-Villeda administering CPR. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Chacon-Villeda initially told first-responders on the call that he had shot Eileen, but when interviewed later said she shot herself while he was across the room. Finally he admitted to shooting her but claimed it was an accident. Despite preliminary autopsy results indicating Eileen's cause of death was homicide and investigators claiming they learned the couple of two years had a "volatile relationship" with possible prior domestic violence incidents, Chacon-Villeda was only charged for possession due to drugs found in the room. He was not charged for Eileen Viveros-Vargas' murder.



DAVID LEONARD RIESS

**March 28, 2018
Age 58**

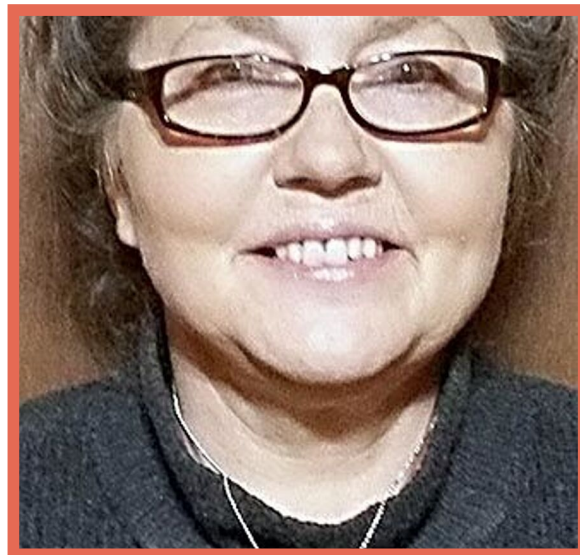
David Leonard Riess, 58, was found dead from multiple gunshot wounds on March 23, in his Blooming Prairie home. Police began to suspect David's wife, Lois Ann Riess, 56, after she forged over \$10,000 in checks in her husband's name the following day. Unable to locate Lois in the state of Minnesota, authorities searched around the country and received a report from acquaintances in Florida that she was in the state on April 5. While in Florida, on April 9, she killed and robbed a 59-year old woman to steal her identity. Ten days later, on April 19, Lois Riess was apprehended by officers on South Padre Island, Texas, after a restaurant host recognized her from media coverage. She was then extradited to Florida, and has been charged with first-degree murder with a firearm, grand theft of a motor vehicle, and grand theft and criminal use of personal identification information of a deceased individual. Lois Riess has been charged with first and second-degree murder charges in the killing of David.



CHRISTINA MARIE WOODS

**June 13, 2018
Age 28**

Christina Marie Woods, 28, was killed by her boyfriend, Daniel Lynn, 40, on or around June 13, 2018, in Northern St. Louis County. Several weeks earlier, Christina had gone missing from the couple's home in Indiana. Her cellphone records led investigators to the Iron Range. There, on property belonging to Lynn's family, her body was discovered wrapped and bound in a shallow grave. Investigators also found burnt clothes and jewelry in a burn pit on the property. The medical examiner ruled Christina's cause of death to be homicidal violence, but Lynn later stated he had strangled her. Lynn is married to another woman, who confirmed that she had witnessed him kill Christina. According to media reports, Lynn had a history of abusing Christina, including beating her so severely she ended up in the hospital in May of 2018, just a month before her death. Daniel Lynn pled guilty to second-degree murder and was sentenced to 16 and a half years.



JOYCE ANN ENGELBRECHT

**June 16, 2018
Age 67**

On June 16, 2018, Scott Engelbrecht, 59, shot and killed his wife, Joyce Engelbrecht, 67, and her daughter, Rachel Linder, 43, in St. James. Police responded to a call from Rachel's son on the evening of June 16th, who reported that his grandfather had shot his grandmother at their home. Once officers arrived, they found Scott in the front yard with a .22 caliber rifle. He quickly surrendered to police and admitted to the shooting. Inside the home, officers found Joyce with a gunshot wound to her head, but still breathing and alert. She was transferred to a local hospital and died the next day. Rachel Linder was found dead from a gunshot wound two houses down from the Engelbrecht's. Linder's son told police he was eating dinner at the Engelbrecht's home when he heard a loud sound and his mother yell that Scott had killed Joyce. Linder's son told her to run before locking himself in the bathroom. It is believed that Scott then followed Linder two houses down, where he shot and killed her. Scott has noted he has a history of "temper problems" and doesn't remember shooting them. Linder's son said the shooting happened after an argument occurred because Scott had forgotten the couple's wedding anniversary. Scott Engelbrecht has been charged with two counts of first degree murder.



SHANA LYNNE HOLLINS

July 23, 2018

Age 39

Shana Lynne Hollins, 39, was killed in her St. Paul home on or around July 23, 2018, by her ex-boyfriend, Ivan Walker, 33. Walker, a resident of Illinois, had been dating Shana since November of 2017 and stayed at her home in St. Paul several nights each week. A few weeks prior to Shana's death, Walker had been kicked out of her house for publicly assaulting her and her sister and was supposed to stop by to pick up the rest of his things. On July 23, Walker violently raped Shana's minor cousin at the St. Paul residence and threatened to kill her. He then admitted he had already killed Shana. After Walker sexually assaulted the girl a second time, she found Shana's unresponsive body on a bed. Walker had strangled Shana and then put cocaine and a straw into Shana's nose to make her death look like an overdose. After assaulting Shana's cousin one more time, the girl was able to leave and the police were called. Walker was arrested soon after the call was placed. He has a long and violent criminal history with numerous charges in Missouri and Illinois, including an arrest for domestic battery and an Order for Protection against his ex-wife, and failure to report to his parole officer. Ivan Walker was convicted of second-degree murder for killing Shana Lynne Hollins and first-degree criminal sexual conduct for assaulting her cousin. He was sentenced to 30 years for Shana's killing and 19 and a half years for sexual assault, to be served at the same time.



ENEDELIA PEREZ GARCIA

August 12, 2018

Age 27

Enedelia Perez Garcia, 27, was stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend, Fraider Diaz-Carbajal, 35, on August 12, in Shakopee. Enedelia had recently broken up with Diaz-Carbajal after a three year relationship due to his ongoing abuse against her. On the afternoon of August 12, Enedelia returned to the home she once lived in with Diaz-Carbajal to retrieve some of her belongings. Upon hearing Enedelia yelling at Diaz-Carbajal to "drop the knife", another resident of the home went to Enedelia's room and observed Diaz-Carbajal repeatedly stabbing her, followed by him stabbing himself in the abdomen and cutting his own throat. The roommate fled the house. When police and paramedics arrived, they found Enedelia dead at the scene. Diaz-Carbajal survived with multiple stab wounds and a 6-8 inch cut along his throat. In addition to his abusive relationship with Enedelia, he had a previous history and was convicted of abuse in 2007. Fraider Diaz-carbajal pled guilty to second-degree murder in the killing of Enedelia Perez Garcia and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

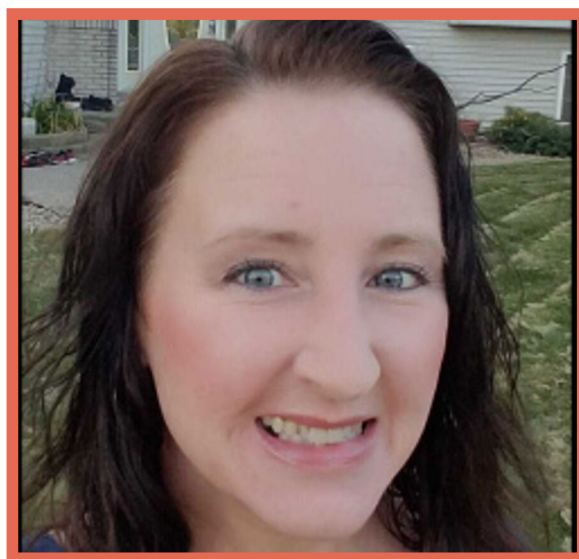


DAH DAH RAY

August 18, 2018

Age 58

On August 18, Dah Eh Ray, 59, stabbed and killed his wife, Dah Dah Ray, 58, in her St. Paul home. At 10am that morning, police responded to a call for a possible domestic disturbance. Upon pulling up to the scene, officers saw Dah Eh Ray walk out of the house covered in blood and under the influence of alcohol. In an upstairs bedroom, police found Dah Dah Ray, stabbed over twelve times, with a note on her body written in Karen, which read, "rest in peace." There were also multiple spots on the carpet where Dah Eh Ray had attempted, but failed, to set the home on fire. Dah Dah Ray had been estranged from her husband after years of domestic violence. She was granted an order for protection against Dah Eh Ray in the summer of 2017, on which her husband had threatened to kill her numerous times in the past and she feared more violence would continue. Shortly after the order for protection was filed, he was arrested for violating it. A previous incident occurred in 2017, when Dah Dah woke up to her husband with a knife, threatening to kill her. Dah Eh Ray pled guilty to second-degree intentional murder of his wife and was sentenced to 22 years in prison.



JENNIFER LEE MOY

September 29, 2018

Age 45

Jennifer Lee Moy, 45, was strangled and killed by Daniel Kenning, 38, in his St. Cloud home on September 29. Jennifer, who lives in Blaine, recently met Kenning at a wedding and connected through Facebook. On September 28, Kenning drove to Blaine, picked up Jennifer, and drove her to his home in St. Cloud. In the early morning of September 29, Kenning took Jennifer down to his basement, tied her legs, and handcuffed her hands to a table. He then proceed to strangle Jennifer to death. Later that morning, Kenning went to the St. Cloud Police Department and informed them he had killed someone. Upon a search of his home Jennifer's body was found. Kenning told police that he was "supposed to kill" Jennifer the previous weekend they were together, but he could not do so at the time. Daniel Kenning is currently set to undergo a second mental health evaluation to determine if he is competent to stand trial. Jennifer Lee Moy leaves behind two children.

VICTIM STORIES:

FRIENDS, FAMILY MEMBERS, AND BYSTANDERS MURDERED
IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED SITUATIONS



**LASHAY M.
WHITTAKER**

**April 21, 2018
Age 41**

Lashay Whittaker, 41, died in the early morning hours of April 21, in St. Paul, after his vehicle was hit by Shawn Konder, 26. At the time, Konder was fleeing police after they responded to a domestic situation. Konder had been watching over his son and his girlfriend's son that night while she was at work. When the girlfriend returned home, she found a drunk Konder and her son in a physical altercation. Konder eventually left the home, but returned with an 18-inch machete. Police were then called and told by a witness that Konder threatened to kill his girlfriend and her son. As officers arrived at the scene, Konder escaped in his van and led them on a chase. The chase ended when Konder's van smashed into Lashay Whittaker's car and a garage unit. The garage collapsed and fell on top of Lashay and his vehicle. Lashay was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. Shawn Konder was sentenced to 15 years in prison. Lashay Whittaker leaves behind two minor children.



DWAYNE HAWKINS JR.

**April 26, 2018
Age 29**

Dwayne Hawkins, 29, was shot and killed by Willie B. Brown, Jr., 35, on April 26, 2018, in Minneapolis. Dwayne's body was found by police officers who were responding to gunshots. He was later pronounced dead at the hospital. Two days prior, on April 24, Brown had propositioned a woman at a home close to where Dwayne's body was found and an argument ensued between the woman's relatives and Brown before he left the scene. On the night of April 25 or early morning April 26, Brown returned to the home to confront the woman's relatives. Dwayne arrived and attempted to diffuse the situation, leaving in the same vehicle, but with Brown accompanying him. The vehicle was later found abandoned and with blood in the interior. While officers were investigating the shooting where Dwayne's body was found, they were dispatched to a shooting at the woman's residence where the argument occurred. The woman, who was propositioned by Brown days earlier, told police she saw him driving the since abandoned vehicle and firing multiple shots at her home. Not long after Brown was located and arrested in the same area where two guns were found matching the ammunition from the crime scenes. Surveillance was later found showing Brown dumping bloody clothes in a carwash in the time between the shootings. Brown was found guilty of second-degree murder.



RACHEL ELAINE SCHULZ LINDER

**June 16, 2018
Age 43**

On June 16, 2018, Scott Engelbrecht, 59, shot and killed his wife, Joyce Ann Engelbrecht, 67, and her daughter, Rachel Elaine Schulz Linder, 43, in St. James. Police responded to a call from Rachel's son on the evening of June 16th, who reported that his grandfather had shot his grandmother at their home. Once officers arrived, they found Scott in the front yard with a .22 caliber rifle. He quickly surrendered to police and admitted to the shooting. Inside the home, officers found Joyce with a gunshot wound to her head, but still breathing and alert. She was transferred to a local hospital and died the next day. Rachel Linder was found dead from a gunshot wound two houses down from the Engelbrecht's. Linder's son told police he was eating dinner at the Engelbrecht's home when he heard a loud sound and his mother yell that Scott had killed Joyce. Linder's son told her to run before locking himself in the bathroom. It is believed that Scott then followed Linder two houses down, where he shot and killed her. Scott has noted he has a history of "temper problems" and doesn't remember shooting them. Linder's son said the shooting happened after an argument occurred because Scott had forgotten the couple's wedding anniversary. Scott Engelbrecht has been charged with two counts of first degree murder. Rachel Elaine Schulz Linder leaves behind two adult children.



SHEQUILL TERALL HALBERT

**July 19, 2018
Age 24**

Shequill Terall Halbert, 24, died on July 19, in Minneapolis as a result of stab wounds inflicted by Bruce Fry, 47. Fry had been romantically involved with Shequill's sister and had been sharing private images of hers without her consent. Shequill and his brother went to Fry's apartment building on July 13 to confront him about these actions, but he did not answer the door. Shequill returned later that night, and this time Fry met him at the entrance. Surveillance video showed the two exchanging words, after which Fry stabbed and slashed at Shequill before fleeing the scene. Police were called shortly after this and arrived to find Shequill bleeding heavily and unresponsive. He was taken to the hospital and rushed into surgery, but his injuries were too severe. He was put on life support and died on July 19. While in police custody, Fry told officers he was recently released from prison for a murder in another state. He has been charged with second-degree murder for the killing of Shequill Terall Halbert.

WE REMEMBER

January 4th, 2018: Cristina Prodan, 27, died as a result of strangulation in Edina

February 16th, 2018: Lori Wiederhoeft Moore, 43, died as a result of gunshot wounds in Beauford

March 9th, 2018: Eileen Viveros-Vargas, 18, died as a result of a gunshot wound in St. Paul

March 23rd, 2018: David Riess, 58, died as a result of gunshot wounds in Blooming Prairie

April 21st, 2018: Lashay Whittaker, 41, died from injuries resulting from a vehicular crash in St. Paul

April 26th, 2018: Dwayne Hawkins, 29, died as a result of gunshot wounds in Minneapolis

June 13th, 2018: Christina Marie Woods, 28, died as a result of strangulation in Beatty Township

June 16th, 2018: Joyce Engelbrecht, 67, died as a result of gunshot wounds in St. James

June 16th, 2018: Rachel Linder, 43, died as a result of gunshot wounds in St. James

July 19th, 2018: Shequill Terall Halbert, 24, died as a result of stab wounds in Minneapolis

July 23, 2018: Shana Lynne Hollins, 39, died as a result of strangulation in St. Paul

August 12, 2018: Enedelia Perez Garcia, 27, died as a result of stab wounds in Shakopee

August 18, 2018: Dah Dah Ray, 58, died as a result of stabbing wounds in St. Paul

September 29, 2018: Jennifer Lee Moy, 45, died as a result of strangulation in St. Cloud



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. After 40 years, the coalition formerly known as the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW), updated our name to reflect the future we work towards every day. 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.

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.

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



VIOLENCE FREE MINNESOTA

THE COALITION TO END RELATIONSHIP ABUSE

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

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A MEMBER OF



MINNESOTA