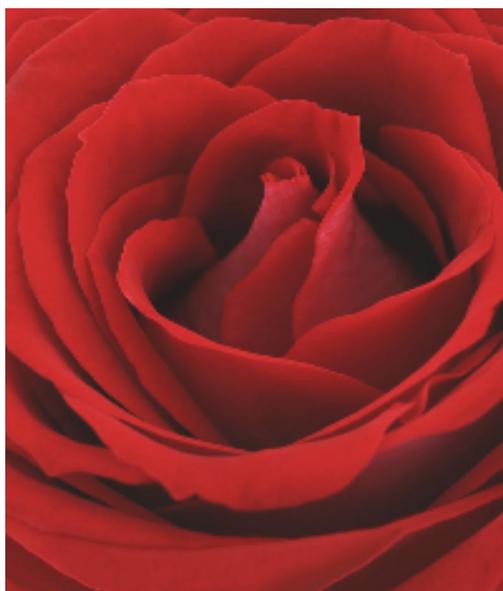


MINNESOTA COALITION FOR BATTERED WOMEN

2008 Femicide Report

60 Plato Blvd., East
Suite 130
St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: (651) 646-6177
or (800) 289-6177
Fax: (651) 646-1527

We remember our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers, our daughters, our sons, our wives, our husbands, our intimate partners, our family members, our friends, our neighbors, our co-workers, our fellow Minnesotans...



Inside This Report

A Challenge to Minnesota Communities	2
Women and Children Murdered in MN: 1989-2008	4
Key Femicide Statistics	6
Key Statistics Related to Children	11
Intimate Partner Femicides	14
Children: A Closer Look	16
Implications for the Community	18
Women Murdered	20
Children Murdered	26
Men and Women in Same-Sex Relationships Murdered	28
Friends or Family Murdered	28
About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women	30
Summary of Those Murdered in 2008	31

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women publishes *The Femicide Report*, a report on women and children murdered in our state, to educate the public about the lethality of domestic violence and child abuse. We report on the murders of women and children at the hands of abusers to direct attention to the challenges faced by all who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together to promote justice, provide safety, and prevent future harm for all women and children.

A Challenge to Minnesota Communities

We challenge communities to respond to battered women and their children by investing in funding for safe shelter and advocacy services, prevention education for all elementary and secondary students, laws to protect women and children, effective enforcement of those laws, and aggressive prosecution of all domestic assault crimes and all prostitution crimes targeting perpetrators, pimps, and "johns."

Domestic violence and domestic homicide have a devastating effect on every person living in Minnesota. Each of the victims whose story is told here was someone's daughter, son, mother, father, sister, brother, family member, intimate partner, friend, neighbor, or co-worker. An abusive relationship that ends in the murder of the victim illustrates the failure of our systems and society to respond to the needs of battered women and abused children.

We pledge to remember the women, children, and family members and/or friends who die each year from domestic violence and child abuse, and also the women and children who are murdered while being used in prostitution and sex trafficking. Women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking are battered women and abused children in need of protection from abuse.

Though MCBW tracks all homicides in which the known or suspected perpetrator was a family member, a household member, or a caregiver, we want to pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as these cases account for the majority of murders of women in the United States and in Minnesota. Of the 21 women murdered in Minnesota in 2008 by domestic partners or family members, 19 were murdered by current or former husbands or boyfriends.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violence that creates fear and affects the quality of life for all women. It encompasses both physical and

sexual violence and includes pervasive emotional abuse and threats; control over finances and access to transportation; manipulation of and often harm to the children; and social norms that persist today that a man has the right to put his partner in her place. While these same dynamics are also present in same sex relationships and on rare occasions women use similar tactics against their male partners, it is the broader social institutions that support this pervasive and historically-sanctioned pattern of behavior that MCBW seeks to change.

In reporting the total number of deaths, it is important to note that *at least* this many women and children have been murdered. We cannot be certain we have not missed some deaths since we must use a method of data collection that primarily relies on news accounts. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on domestic homicides. In addition, the murders of women and children of color, Native American women and children, immigrant and refugee women and children, women and children living in poverty, rural women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people, and women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking may be underreported in our listing as they frequently go unreported in mainstream media.

The 2008 Femicide Report is compiled from news accounts. Please contact MCBW if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide. This report only includes victims in cases where the death of the victim was determined to be a homicide; and/or the alleged perpetrator has been arrested, charged, or convicted in the murder; or the case was determined to be a murder-suicide.

We ask that the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women be credited when information from this report is used.

Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1989-2008

- 1989** At least 18 women died from domestic violence*
- 1990** At least 26 women died from domestic violence
- 1991** At least 12 women died from domestic violence
- 1992** At least 31 women died from domestic violence
At least 8 children died from child abuse**
At least 3 women were murdered while being used in prostitution***
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered by a women's current or former partner****
- 1993** At least 28 women died from domestic violence
At least 13 children died from child abuse
At least 6 women were murdered while being used in prostitution
At least 5 family members/friends were murdered
- 1994** At least 19 women died from domestic violence
At least 7 children died from child abuse
At least 2 women were murdered while being used in prostitution
- 1995** At least 29 women died from domestic violence
At least 11 children died from child abuse
- 1996** At least 22 women died from domestic violence
At least 17 children died from child abuse
At least 6 women were murdered while being used in prostitution
- 1997** At least 17 women died from domestic violence
At least 5 children died from child abuse
- 1998** At least 22 women died from domestic violence
At least 15 children died from child abuse
- 1999** At least 22 women died from domestic abuse
At least 20 children died from child abuse
- 2000** At least 40 women died from domestic violence
At least 6 children died from child abuse
At least 1 family member was murdered
- 2001** At least 33 women died from domestic violence
At least 12 children died from child abuse
At least 6 family members/friends were murdered
- 2002** At least 16 women died from domestic violence
At least 13 children died from child abuse
- 2003** At least 14 women died from domestic violence.
At least 10 children died from child abuse.
- 2004** At least 13 women died from domestic violence.
At least 11 children died from child abuse.
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2005** At least 26 women died from domestic violence
At least 1 woman was murdered while being used in prostitution
At least 4 children died from child abuse
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered
- 2006** At least 20 women died from domestic violence
At least 10 children died from child abuse
At least 1 family member/friend was murdered
- 2007** At least 22 women died from domestic violence
At least 10 children died from child abuse
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2008** At least 21 women died from domestic violence
At least two men were murdered by intimate partners
At least 7 children died from child abuse
At least 5 family members/friends were murdered

*Cases of women murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, household member, or family member.

**Cases of children murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child; or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

***MCBW recognizes prostitution as a system of violence against women and children.

****Cases of family or friends murdered in domestic violence-related situations

In Minnesota in 2008

At least 21 women

were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner, or the perpetrator was a family member or household member of the deceased woman.

At least 7 children

were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

At least two men

were murdered by an intimate partner. One was killed by his male partner.

At least 5 friends or family members

were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

At least 25 children

were left motherless due to their mothers' domestic violence murders.

Key Femicide Statistics (2006 -2008)

Femicides and Cause of Death

Cause of Death	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Gunshot	12	60%	8	36%	9	43%	Theresa Bugarin
							Jewell Burnett
							Kelly Dahm
							Jamie Gage
							Deloris Heald
							Anthonia Itheme
							Susan Levoir
							Joquese Loyd
							Susan Schaefer
Stabbing	4	20%	6	27%	4	19%	Sharon Chouinard
							Katrin Czeck
							Sherill Harnden
							Angela Vigen
Strangulation	3	15%	2	9%	3	14%	Sonya Marie Hennagir
							Ruth Anne Lipka (Maddox)
							Pam Sjogren
Beating	1	5%	1	5%	3	14%	Youa Her
							Annshalike Hamilton
							Natasha Waalen
Arson	-	-	1	5%	-	-	
Vehicle	-	-	2	9%	-	-	
Sexual Assault	-	-	-	-	1	5%	Gabriela Romo
Unknown	-	-	2	9%	1	5%	Violet Jackson
Total:	20		22		21		

Femicides and Alleged Perpetrators

Relationship to Victim	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Current or former boyfriend or husband	17	85%	16	73%	19	90%	Theresa Bugarin
							Jewell Burnett
							Sharon Chouinard
							Katrin Czeck
							Kelly Dahm
							Jamie Gage
							Annshalike Hamilton
							Sherill Harnden
							Deloris Heald
							Sonya Hennagir
							Youa Her
							Anthonia Itheme
							Susan Levoir
							Ruth Anne Lipka
							Joquese Lloyd
Son	2	10%	3	13%	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	5%	Violet Jackson
Other	1	5%	3	14%	1	5%	Gabriela Romo
Total:	20		22		21		

Geographic Location of Victim

Location of Victim	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Twin Cities Metro Area *	11	55%	16	73%	15	71%	Jewell Burnett
							Sharon Chouinard
							Kelly Dahm
							Annshalike Hamilton
							Sherill Harnden
							Youa Her
							Anthonia Itheme
							Violet Jackson
							Susan Levoir
							Ruth Anne Lipka
							Joquese Loyd
							Gabriela Romo
							Pam Sjogren
							Angela Vigen
Natasha Waalen							
Greater Minnesota	9	45%	6	27%	6	29%	Theresa Bugarin
							Katrin Czeck
							Jamie Gage
							Deloris Heald
							Sonya Hennagir
							Susan Schaefer
Total:	20		22		21		

* Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties.

According to the 2000 United States census, approximately 60% of Minnesota's population lives in the Twin Cities area and 40% lives in Greater Minnesota.

Victim was Separated from Perpetrator or Attempting to Leave

	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Separated or attempting to leave	8	47%	7	42%	13	62%	Theresa Bugarin
							Jewell Burnett
							Sharon Chouinard
							Katrin Czeck
							Kelly Dahm
							Jamie Gage
							Annshalike Hamilton
							Deloris Heald
							Sony Hennagir
							Anthonia IHEME
							Susan Levoir
							Ruth Anne Lipka
Natasha Waalen							
Together or Unknown	12	53%	10	45%	7	33%	Sherill Harnden
							Youa Her
							Joquese Loyd
							Gabriela Romo
							Susan Schaefer
							Pam Sjogren
							Angela Vigen
Not applicable	-	-	5	-	1	5%	Violet Jackson
Total:	20		22		21		

History of Violence

History of Violence	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Known to have abused victim or prior victim	11	65%	7	27%	10	48%	Jewell Burnett
							Kelly Dahm
							Annshalike Hamilton
							Youa Her
							Susan Levoir
							Ruth Anne Lipka
							Susan Schaefer
							Pam Sjogren
							Angela Vigen
							Natasha Waalen
Prior law enforcement involvement or OFP	-	-	7	27%	1	5%	Anthonia Itheme
Unknown or Not Applicable	9	35%	14	63%	10	48%	Theresa Bugarin
							Sharon Chouinard
							Katrin Czeck
							Jamie Gage
							Sherill Harnden
							Deloris Heald
							Sonya Hennagir
							Violet Jackson
							Joqueses Loyd
							Christine Nguyen
							Gabriela Romo

Key Statistics Related to Children

Children Murdered and Cause of Death

Cause of Death	2006		2007		2008		Name
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Stabbing	-	-	1	10%	1	14%	Ismael Nicholas Bugarin
Beating	8	67%	5	50%	5	71%	Samantha Fraga
							Dylan Martin
							Aiden Parks
							Demond Reed
							Robert Azure, Jr.
Vehicle	-	-	1	10%			
Shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poison	-	-	1	10%	-	-	
Drowning	1	5%	1	10%	1	14%	E.P.
Suffocation	2	17%	-	-	-	-	
Burns	1	5%	-	-	-	-	
Total	12		10		7		

Children Murdered and Alleged Perpetrators

Relationship to Victim	2006		2007		2008		Name
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Father	3	25%	5	50%	1	29%	Ismael Nicholas Bugarin
Mother	1	8%	2	20%	-	-	
Uncle	-	-	-	-	1	14%	Samantha Fraga
Mother's current or former boyfriend or husband	4	33%	1	10%	3	29%	Dylan Martin Jr. Aiden Parks Robert Azure, Jr.
Childcare provider/family of childcare provider	2	16%	1	10%	2	29%	Demond Reed E.P.
Father or Current Wife/Girlfriend	2	16%	-	-	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	1	10%	-	-	
Total	12		10		7		

Children Murdered and Geographic Location of Victim

Location of Victim	2006		2007		2008		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Twin Cities Metro Area *	6	50%	6	60%	2	29%	Demond Reed E.P.
Greater Minnesota	6	50%	4	40%	5	71%	Robert Azure Jr. Ismael Nicholas Bugarin Samantha Fraga Dylan Martin Jr. Aiden Parks
Total:	12		10		7		

* Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties

Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

Children	2007		2008		Name
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Murders of mothers of minor children	16	73%	11	52%	Theresa Bugarin
					Jewell Burnett
					Sharon Chouinard
					Katrin Czeck
					Sonya Hennagir
					Youa Her
					Anthonia Itheme
					Ruth Anne Lipka
					Gabriela Romo
					Susan Schaefer
					Natasha Waalen
Number of minor children who lost mother <i>At least...</i>	24		25		Theresa Bugarin (2)
					Jewell Burnett (3)
					Sharon Chouinard (1)
					Katrin Czeck (3)
					Sonya Hennagir (2)
					Youa Her (7)
					Anthonia Itheme (2)
					Gabriela Romo (4)
					Natasha Waalen (1)
Child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body	7		6 incidents		Theresa Bugarin
					Jewell Burnett
					Sharon Chouinard
					Katrin Czeck
					Sonya Hennagir
					Youa Her

Intimate Partner Femicides

In this report we pay special attention to battered women murdered by intimate partners, as these cases account for the majority of murders of women in the United States and in Minnesota. Of the 21 women murdered in Minnesota in 2008 by family/household members or intimate partners, 19 were murdered by current or former husbands or boyfriends.

Red Flags for Batterer Lethality

It is impossible to predict with certainty which batterers will become lethal to their victims. All batterers should be viewed as potentially deadly, though there are well-documented indicators of lethality of which everyone should be aware. Included in the factors that have been identified as possible lethality indicators are: time of separation, obsession, depression or other mental illness, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, escalation of risk taking, escalation of violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, weapons, stalking, history of rage or antisocial behavior, hostage-taking, drugs and alcohol, violence in his family of origin, cruelty to animals, batterer who is living with children who are not his own, and unemployment.

In assessing these cases for indicators of lethality, MCBW relied almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. The 2006 and 2007 MCBW Femicide Reports described the consistency of the Minnesota femicides with national research findings for batterer lethality, specifically focusing on four of those factors: the victim's attempts to leave the abuser, previous threats to kill the victim, perpetrator access to firearms, and perpetrator history of violence. Results from the 2008 Femicide Report indicate that the Minnesota femicides from the last year were also consistent with those four factors. The 2008 report also brings to light additional factors that were particularly relevant in the past year. We would expect that a more complete analysis of public records and interviews with friends and family of the victims would yield further information on other red flags that were also present at the time of the murder. The most reliable way to assess for potential lethality is to routinely inquire of battered women when they reach out for help about the presence of any of these risk factors. Sadly, our examination is retrospective only.

Domestic Violence Murder/Suicide:

In 6 of the 21 (28%) intimate partner femicides the perpetrator committed suicide after killing the victim. In 4 of the 21 (19%) femicides the perpetrator attempted or threatened to kill himself. Together, that means that in 47% of the intimate partner femicides documented in this report, there was an attempted or actual suicide. Although MCBW has access to limited information on these cases, they correspond to studies that indicate that men who are violent to their partners have a high risk for completed suicide. Research also indicates that men with a history of threatened or attempted suicide were shown to have greater domestic violence severity. One study found that the act of obtaining a firearm was one of the key factors in the homicide-suicide planning process.

Research has also shown that a high percentage of homicide-suicide cases do not have prior involvement with the criminal justice system but do have involvement with the mental health system. These factors indicate a need for education and response to threats of suicide in domestic violence cases not only within the criminal justice system, but also throughout the network of helping systems that may encounter these situations.

Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuser: In 2008, 13 of 21 intimate partner femicides (62%) occurred when the victim was separated or was attempting to separate from the batterer at the time of the murder. This is similar to the 7 of 17 in 2007 (42%) and 8 of 17 intimate partner femicides (47%) in 2006. It also supports the national studies indicating that the most dangerous time for battered women can be when they leave the batterer. While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered woman safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim.

Threats to Kill the Victim: Threats by the abuser to kill the victim are among the most reliable indicators of lethality, and are the most often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice system. A review of the media reports of these murders reveals that in at least 2 of the 21 (10%) intimate partner femicides the victim reported escalating violence on the part of the perpetrator and explicit threats to kill the victim.

Access to Firearms: In 2008, 9 of 21 (43%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms, in comparison to 8 of 22 (36%) in 2007 and 11 of 17 (65%) intimate partner femicides committed with firearms in 2006. Firearms were the weapon of choice in a significant number of the murders in 2008, supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can greatly increase the risk of lethality.

Perpetrator's History of Violence: In at least 8 of the 21 (38%) intimate partner femicides, the perpetrator was known to have abused the murder victim or a prior victim and there had been either prior involvement of law enforcement or applications for an Order for Protection. In addition, a significant number of perpetrators had a history of violent behavior or convictions for crime other than domestic violence.

Children: A Closer Look

Domestic violence has a dramatic impact on individuals, families, and communities across the state of Minnesota. When battering ends in murder, it affects friends, co-workers, colleagues, parents, siblings, and countless others. The effects of this violence ripple through our communities, as we all attempt to come to terms with the brutal actions of a batterer who takes the life of his victim.

When a batterer kills the consequences for children can be devastating. The stories of children in the *2008 Femicide Report* make this all too clear, including the horrific situations in which children were present at the time of the murder or discovered the body of the victim; lost their mother at the batterer's hands; or were themselves murdered by someone who should have been protecting them, not bringing them harm.

Because of these children, and the countless others who are never counted but who suffer every day at the hands of an abuser, this year's Femicide Report is taking a closer look at the effects of batterers' actions on children. The consequences not only for these children, but for our future as a community, as a state, and as a nation, are far too great to be ignored.

In 2008:

7 children were murdered in Minnesota in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, or household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

In 55% of the cases in which the woman murdered was a mother, **a child was either present at the time of the murder or discovered the body of the victim.**

25 children in Minnesota lost their mother as a result of domestic violence femicides.

Abuse does not end with separation.

Promoting contact between children and a violent father may create an opportunity for renewed domestic violence through visitation and exchanges of children. Although our access to information is limited in most of these cases, we know that in at least 3 of the 14 (21%) of the 2008 murders of their mothers, the children were aware of the potential for lethal violence in their parents' relationship because of the separation. In at least 2 of the 14 cases (14%) there were active custody or child support cases pending. In 2007, 3 of the 16 (19%) murders of women with children occurred when a mother was picking up her child, during visitation, or was involved in a known custody dispute.

There is a high overlap between domestic violence and child maltreatment.

It is well documented that the presence of domestic violence is a red flag for the coexistence of child maltreatment. In a review of studies investigating this overlap, results indicated that between 30% and 60% of children whose mothers had experienced abuse were themselves likely to be abused. 60% of the children murdered in 2008 were killed by their father or mother's current or former boyfriend or husband and/or a relative caregiver (uncle).

Perpetrators often use repeated litigation as a form of ongoing control and harassment.

The family court system can become a tool for batterers to continue their abuse. Litigation exacts a high emotional and financial price for abused women already overwhelmed with the aftermath of a violent relationship. This is also the case for surviving family members who take on caring for the minor children when their mother's are murdered.

Parenting assessments in custody cases frequently discount the most evident problem: batterers expose their children to domestic violence.

Parental behaviors that expose children to unsafe conditions, such as chronic substance abuse or production of methamphetamine in the home, are generally important factors to determine the best interests of a child in custody cases. In contrast—hitting, slapping, punching, shoving, strangling, burning, humiliating, insulting and demeaning the children's mother in an ongoing way is quite often separated from the decision.

Implications for the Community

In some intimate partner femicides examined for this report, there were no known red flags for potential lethality. However, in the majority, at least one of the leading lethality indicators was present. As a community, we should not assume that there is nothing we can do to prevent intimate partner homicides. While the ultimate responsibility for these murders rests with the perpetrators alone, opportunities for meaningful intervention in many of these cases were missed. Especially in the cases in which the victim reached out for help, we should examine the reasons why our systems ultimately failed to protect those victims from lethal violence.

Assess Batterer Lethality at Every Opportunity:

In every circumstance in which battered women or abusers encounter the criminal justice system, the civil or family court, or an advocacy program, a concerted effort should be made to assess potential lethality. Many excellent assessment tools already exist, and most rely on a routine, direct inquiry of the victim as to the presence of lethality indicators. In some cases, a review of public records would create sufficient concern to assess a high risk of lethality. Criminal proceedings do not represent the sole opportunity to assess batterer lethality. When battered women seek protection orders, are involved in family court proceedings, or seek services from community advocacy programs, an active, routine inquiry as to the potential lethality of batterers is critical to protecting the lives of battered women.

Narrow Window of Opportunity for Intervention:

This year's report shows an increase in murder suicides and attempted suicides. In many of these family members and friends were aware of threats to kill the victim and then commit suicide. Threats to kill should not be ignored. The time of greatest risk for homicide and suicide is when a violent relationship is ending. Women leaving a violent relationship must work with advocacy agencies to develop safety plans and law enforcement and other emergency personnel must take these threats seriously. These factors also indicate a need for education and response to threats of suicide in the context of domestic violence throughout the network of helping systems that may encounter these situations.

Demand the Resources to Hold Batterers Accountable:

Assessing for lethality will have minimal impact unless we have the resources to effectively apprehend, monitor, and, when necessary, incarcerate dangerous batterers. The role of the battered women's advocate in the criminal justice system is to insist on batterer accountability at every opportunity, and to hold systems accountable when they fail. Law enforcement, the courts, and battered women's advocacy programs all struggle to meet the public safety needs of the community with limited resources. An investment in the whole spectrum of public safety systems is necessary to identify, monitor, and apprehend the most dangerous offenders.

Ensure that the safety net created for battered women and their children remains intact by supporting ongoing funding for battered women’s shelter and advocacy services:

Minnesota battered women’s programs have faced growing hurdles as a result of increased operating costs and a series of budget cuts at the local level. Although programs received a small increase in crime victim service funding in 2007, half of the funds were one-time appropriations and will not support the ongoing services needed by battered women and their children. The State of Minnesota must continue to strengthen its commitment to these critical services.

Support family court reform that is based on the best interests of children:

Safety of children and of their battered mothers must be a priority and must be considered when making any changes to the family court custody and parenting time system. All family court law changes must account for the safety of children and their mothers. The State of Minnesota must ensure that efforts that are not in the best interest of children and that increase litigation and costs to the courts and families do not succeed.

Examine Batterer Access to Firearms:

As reported above, 43% of the intimate partner femicides committed in 2008 were committed with firearms. While it is impossible to know whether limiting the abusers’ access to firearms would have prevented each of these homicides, ready access to a lethal weapon by a dangerous perpetrator certainly increases the risk of homicide. It is unclear from media reports alone how many of the perpetrators who used firearms to kill were legally barred from possession, but an active Order for Protection or prior felony conviction should have triggered a ban. Though these specific legal bars to possession are automatic under state and federal statutes, the criminal courts can, but often do not, explicitly prohibit possession of firearms as a condition of release. Civil, family, and criminal judges can also routinely inquire as to the presence of firearms and the batterer’s access to them. Additionally, there is no uniform process for the collection and storage of firearms seized from prohibited persons, and no agency is specifically charged with coordinating seizures and storage of firearms.

Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner, or the perpetrator was a family member or household member.

<p>Sharon D. Chouinard</p> <p>35</p> <p>East Bethel</p> <p>January 26</p>	<p>On the morning of January 26, Sharon’s teenage son discovered her body in her East Bethel Home. Sharon had been stabbed twice in the neck and had defensive wounds on her hands. Later that day police arrested Raymond Robideau, Sharon’s boyfriend, after he attempted suicide by slitting his wrists and setting himself and the home he was staying in on fire. Further investigation revealed that Sharon had been growing increasingly frustrated with Robideau and Sharon was planning to break up with him. Robideau had threatened Sharon in the past. Sharon is survived by her son, mother, grandmother, and brother.</p>
<p>Sonya Marie Hennagir</p> <p>40</p> <p>Park Rapids</p> <p>January 29</p>	<p>Sonya had just invited her friend over to her home. When her friend arrived she saw a car with Michigan plates at the house. When she walked in, she found Sonya dead in a chair and began to worry about Sonya’s children. When she went further into the house she saw Richard Derek Wright sexually assaulting Sonya’s six-year-old daughter. Wright began to come after her as she ran from the home calling 911. Police arrived to find Wright choking Sonya’s friend and arrested Wright. Wright, who was in Minnesota working on a pipeline and was dating Sonya, was from Michigan where he was married and had three children. Wright had previous violent felonies. He was indicted on first degree murder, attempted murder of a witness, and sexual assault of Sonya’s daughter. Sonya is survived by her son and daughter, who are living with Sonya’s parents.</p>
<p>Susan Jean Schaefer</p> <p>57</p> <p>Clearwater</p> <p>February 7</p>	<p>The Stearns County Sherriff’s office was dispatched to the Schaefer’s home after an adult son, who had not heard from his parents for a few days, called his friends to check on them. The friends became concerned after getting no answer at the home, so the Schaefer’s adult son called police. When the sherriff’s deputies entered the home they found the bodies of Susan, who had been shot in the head, and her husband Donald Schaefer, who had died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound. Friends and family stated that they were having marital problems and that the children were aware of previous incidents defined as ‘domestic’ in nature. Susan’s friends report several previous incidents of domestic abuse between Susan and her husband, who was also characterized as having a drinking problem. Susan is survived by her son.</p>

<p>Katrin Rose Czeck</p> <p>35 Hutchinson</p> <p>April 13</p>	<p>On April 13, McLeod County deputies responded to a residence and found the bodies of Katrin and her husband. She had died from multiple stab wounds and he died from a self-inflicted gun shot wound. They were in the middle of a divorce. The father had sent the younger children outside to play, when they returned Katrin's daughter found the bodies. Katrin is survived by an adult son, three minor children, one son and two daughters.</p>
<p>Joquese Loyd</p> <p>15 AKA Jacques Brown</p> <p>19 Minneapolis</p> <p>April 26</p>	<p>Joquese was shot by 29-year old, Shawnell Johnson, who is described as her "sexual partner." Witnesses report that Joquese was teasing Johnson by waving a knife in his face. Johnson responded by cocking a gun and pulling the trigger. When nothing happened he pulled the trigger again and Joquese was shot in the chest. Johnson was arrested and charged with second degree murder.</p>
<p>Youa Her</p> <p>41 Brooklyn Center</p> <p>June 10</p>	<p>Police responded to a call regarding a suspicious death. When police arrived two sons led police to their mother's body. Youa had been beaten to death with a hammer. Her husband, Ger Xiong, could not be found. Law enforcement charged him with second degree murder as they continued to search for him. A week after the charges, Xiong's body was found hanging in a tree in Brooklyn Center's Palmer Lake Park. Youa is survived by seven children, whose ages range from 4 to about 24.</p>
<p>Jewell Burnett</p> <p>28 Minneapolis</p> <p>July 11</p>	<p>Jewell's relationship with Christopher Jefferson had been violent in the past. Investigators believe that tensions over child support payments escalated to a murder-suicide. Jewell had ended the relationship with Jefferson. Recently Jewell and Jefferson had been in and out of court regarding unpaid child support payments. Jewell was the mother of two of Jefferson's children and had custody of Jefferson's other child. She recently relocated to a new apartment with her children. It was there that Jefferson confronted Jewell, shot her and then shot their six-year old son, critically wounding him, in front of his other two siblings. Jefferson then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide.</p>

<p>Sherrill R, Harnden</p> <p>59</p> <p>Columbia Heights</p> <p>July 18</p>	<p>Sherrill's husband, Arthur Torgesen, stabbed her to death. Torgesen had a troubled past and suffered from post traumatic stress disorder following the Vietnam War. Torgerson had a previous history of violence and anger and had threatened to kill himself in the past. After killing Sherill, Torgersen doused Sherill's body and himself with a fire accelerant and lit it on fire in an attempt to kill himself. However, the fire proved to be too painful and Torgerson came out of the house just as firefighters and emergency personnel were responding. Torgerson was treated for burns and then charged with second degree murder.</p>
<p>Anthonia E. Itheme</p> <p>28</p> <p>St. Louis Park</p> <p>July 24</p>	<p>Anthonia was shot and killed by her estranged husband, Michael Itheme (age 50), as she left work at a metro assisted living center. Anthonia had an active harassment restraining order against Itheme and there was a previous history of domestic violence and previous threats to kill Anthonia. Itheme had also been stalking Anthonia. After shooting Anthonia, Itheme called 911 and said "I have killed the woman that messed my life up. . . a woman that destroyed me." Anthonia is survived by her son (age 4) and her daughter (age 3). Itheme was convicted of second degree murder.</p>
<p>Deloris (DeDe) Heald</p> <p>56</p> <p>Zimmerman</p> <p>August 19</p>	<p>When Deloris did not show up for her shift as an on-call nurse, her co-workers became concerned and called the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office. When deputies arrived at Deloris' home, nothing seemed out of place. A few hours later police received a call from Deloris' son who had found a note from his father, Gary Heald, that stated he had shot Deloris and another man. When police arrived at the scene, they found Deloris and Gary dead from gunshot wounds. Upon further investigation they found that the other man was Rory Zitur, who allegedly had a relationship with Deloris. When they arrived at Rory's home in St. Michael they found him dead from a gun shot wound as well. She is survived by her three sons, daughter, three grandchildren, mother, brother, and sister.</p>

<p>Jamie M. Gage</p> <p>32</p> <p>Big Sandy Lake</p> <p>September 13</p>	<p>Jamie was ending her relationship with John Brightman. He suspected Jamie was seeing someone else. Brightman was renting a home from Mark Root. Brightman had witnessed an argument between Brightman and Root over Jamie earlier on the night of the killings. Later, John Brightman shot Jamie and Mark with a .357 revolver, called 911 to report the killings, and then he shot himself.</p>
<p>Natasha Waalen</p> <p>28</p> <p>Andover</p> <p>September 18</p>	<p>Natasha's body was found next to a crashed motorcycle. Ryan Boland, Natasha's boyfriend, and his brother, Timothy, were charged with her murder and with staging her death as a motorcycle accident. Natasha had been seeking a protective order against Boland at the time of her death and had been previously abused by Boland. Boland was arrested on one occasion. After that arrest, Timothy also harassed and assaulted Natasha. Natasha died of blunt force trauma as a result of multiple blows to the head. Boland and Natasha had one child together, who is now living with Natasha's family.</p>
<p>Kelly Dahm</p> <p>19</p> <p>St. Croix County</p> <p>September 20</p>	<p>Kelly was found shot dead in her ex-boyfriend's car in the parking lot outside the St. Croix County Government Center in Hudson, Wisconsin. Just a few days prior to the shooting, Kelly ended her relationship with Christopher Soriano Ledesma and moved out of the apartment she shared with him. Ledesma has admitted to the murder. Ledesma had been abusive to Dahm and had served a six-year term for two counts of first degree reckless injury in 1996 after stabbing three people at the Apple River Hideaway campground. First degree intentional homicide charges have been filed against Ledesma. Kelly is survived by her parents, siblings, grandparents, and great-grandparents.</p>
<p>Gabriela Romo</p> <p>31</p> <p>St. Paul</p> <p>September 30</p>	<p>St. Paul Police were called to a home on the West Side of St. Paul and found Gabriela Romo dead from a sexual assault. Michael Sontoya was charged with second degree murder in her death. The two had been drinking at a St. Paul bar and then went to Sontoya's home. Hours later, Gabriele was dead. Gabriela bled to death from internal injuries from a sexual assault. Sontoya and Gabriela grew up together and graduated from the same high school. She is survived by four children.</p>

<p>Pam Sjogren</p> <p>51</p> <p>Minneapolis</p> <p>October</p>	<p>Pam Sjogren’s death was ruled a suicide by the Hennepin County medical examiner when she was found by her adult son hanging from a rope in her garage on October 25th. Police believe that she had been dead for several days. The last time relatives had contact with her was October 21. On January 24, 2009, Pam’s boyfriend, John M. King (age 50), called from Texas to confess to having killed Pam. He said that they had a fight.” He believes he broke her neck when he put her in a “full nelson” and held her for 40 seconds and she passed out. He claimed that she had poked him in the eye, which made him angry. He then proceeded to stage her killing as a suicide, according to the police report, by leaving her body hanging from a rope in her garage with a stepladder near her feet. Family members indicated that the couple had argued regularly. King has been charged with second degree murder and is awaiting extradition to Minnesota from Texas. She is survived by a son, two daughters, and two granddaughters.</p>
<p>Angela Vigen</p> <p>40</p> <p>Mounds View</p> <p>October 27</p>	<p>After not hearing from them for days, family members asked police to check on the Vigen family. What they found was a violent scene. Angela was dead as was her mother and sister. Angela had died from multiple stab wounds and blunt force trauma. Johnny Lee Ellis, Angela’s boyfriend, was later charged in their homicides. Ellis, who occasionally lived with the Vigen family, was arrested at a friend’s home. Ellis has a previous history of domestic violence. He stated that he and Angela got in a fight and he killed them so that there would be no witnesses. Ellis tried to stab himself and was treated for self inflicted wounds. He has been charged with 3 counts of second degree murder.</p>
<p>Teresa Bugarin</p> <p>27</p> <p>Dodge Center</p> <p>November 8</p>	<p>Teresa had decided to move out of the house with her children and divorce her husband. Tensions were high when the family returned from an outing. Ismael Bugarin became violent and pinned his wife on the floor. He stabbed her with a knife before shooting her and severing her spinal cord. During the attack, Teresa screamed for help and her children ran into the room. When the children tried to flee, their father followed them. He slashed one of his daughters, stabbed the other one, and cut his son’s neck. Bugarin’s son, Nick, grabbed the knife and stabbed his father in the back before he and his sisters ran to a neighbors. Nick bled to death. Bugarin took the knife and slit his wrists. The girls are recovering and Bugarin has been charged with murder.</p>

<p>Ruth Anne Lipka</p> <p>45</p> <p>Prior Lake</p> <p>November 12</p>	<p>Ruth Anne was a hard working and talented reporter for the Shakopee Valley News. On the day her divorce was to become final, Ruth Anne was strangled to death by her estranged husband, Charles Maddox Jr. Ruth Anne had married Maddox five years ago and soon after the marriage he began abusing Ruth Anne. Friends and family were concerned for Ruth Anne. Ruth Anne had remained in the home because she did not want to leave her animals and didn't want to be forced out of her home. An autopsy revealed that Maddox strangled Ruth Anne and that she also suffered blunt force trauma to the head. Maddox has been charged with second degree murder.</p>
<p>Violet Jackson</p> <p>25</p> <p>Minneapolis</p> <p>December 3</p>	<p>Violet was trying to leave prostitution and the streets. She was found dead in a northeast Minneapolis ally after years of struggle to move past a life of prostitution and drugs. Although her autopsy was inconclusive as to her manner of death, investigators do believe she may have died elsewhere and her body was left in the alley. "Violet was trying to get out of that life, and the reason she was killed is that she had no place to go," says Suzanne Koepplinger from the MN Indian Women's Resource Center. "This is a young woman full of life, and now she is dead because we live in a society where some people feel that other people don't deserve our compassion, and that has got to stop."</p>
<p>Annshalike Shanta Hamilton</p> <p>15 years old</p> <p>Unborn Baby Girl</p> <p>Minneapolis</p> <p>December 15</p>	<p>Annshalike's close friends didn't want to leave her out of their sight; Annshalike revealed to them that there were problems with her and her unborn child's father and had indicated that she may die. Annshalike was seven months pregnant by a man in his thirties who didn't want her to have the child. Annshalike had broken off the relationship with her unborn child's father, but was still concerned for her safety, as were her friends. Annskalike's frozen body was found in a garage. She was apparently beaten to death. Her fetus, an unborn girl, also died.</p>
<p>Susan Levoir</p> <p>44</p> <p>St. Louis Park</p> <p>December 21</p>	<p>Susan was found shot to death in her home in St. Louis Park. Susan had just ended her relationship with Clarence Henry. After killing Susan, Henry planned to flee to Illinois. Prior to fleeing Henry went to the home of his ex-wife, Terri. Terri saw on her caller-id that Henry was trying to contact her and she instantly became fearful. She remembered her years of abuse at the hands of Henry. Henry showed up at Terri's house in the hopes to see his child, but she would not let him in. She found out later that he was accused of killing his ex-girlfriend. Henry fled to Illinois where, after a short police chase, he shot himself.</p>

Children who were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, household/family member of the child, or the perpetrator was the parent’s spouse or intimate partner.

<p>Aiden Richard Parks</p> <p>1 Hibbing</p> <p>January 29</p>	<p>Emergency workers responded to a call from a Greenhaven mom who found her son unresponsive. An autopsy conducted by the St. Louis County medical examiner concluded that the child died as a result of blunt force trauma to the abdomen which led to extensive internal bleeding. Joseph Thomas Ricketts III, Aiden’s stepfather, was charged with second degree murder. Newspaper accounts indicate that there had previous incidents at the residence, and Mr. Ricketts moved to Minnesota from Michigan where he had two previous felony assaults.</p>
<p>Demond Reed</p> <p>4 Minneapolis</p> <p>February 3</p>	<p>Demond Reed was in the care of a family member, Carla Poole. Poole called Demond’s family stating that a woman named “Shawna” had taken Demond. Upon further investigation Poole’s children told police that there was no one named Shawna and that Demond had died almost a week prior. Poole’s children told officials that Demond had been beaten by Poole and that they were made to assist her in punishing him. Demond’s condition deteriorated over the next few hours and although the children stated they had discussed calling 911, that did not happen. Demond stopped breathing and Poole covered him in a grey blanket, placed Demond in a plastic bag and put him in a closet which is where law enforcement found his body. An autopsy showed massive injuries, multiple bruises over Demond’s body, puncture wounds, bite marks on his stomach, and broken ribs. Poole’s children were placed in protective custody. Poole was convicted of second degree unintentional murder and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.</p>
<p>Dylan Martin Jr.</p> <p>2 Randall</p> <p>March 12</p>	<p>Dylan was taken to the hospital in Staples, Minnesota after the mother’s boyfriend, Robert O’Jala, admitted to throwing the child to the floor, and then noticed that the child was having difficulty breathing. Dylan was airlifted to Children’s Hospital in Minneapolis where he later died. An autopsy determined that Dylan died of blunt force trauma to the head. O’Jala has been charged with second degree murder and first degree manslaughter.</p>

<p>Samantha Fraga</p> <p>2 Worthington</p> <p>March 20</p>	<p>Samantha was living with her uncle and his wife after her mother died and her father was unable to care for her. Josue Fraga and his wife brought Samantha to Worthington Regional Hospital where she was admitted with a high fever and was unresponsive. Samantha later died. Fraga told officials that his other children had been wrestling with Samantha, but an autopsy showed multiple injuries, including head trauma, contusions and rupture to the stomach. They also found trauma associated with a sexual assault. Fraga was charged with first degree murder and sexual assault.</p>
<p>E.P.</p> <p>13 months Brooklyn Center</p> <p>April 25</p>	<p>E.P. was being cared for by Jessica Anita Khemeraj-Perkins when she placed him in a tub and left the water running without a plug. She made a phone call and when she couldn't hear the water running any longer she went into the bathroom where she found E.P. floating in the tub where he had drowned. A toy had plugged the drain. Perkins was charged with neglect.</p>
<p>Robert James Azure Jr.</p> <p>13 months White Earth</p> <p>October 1</p>	<p>Robert "Gidagaa Biwesh" (Spotted Eagle) James Azure Jr., 13 months, of Redwood Falls, MN entered into the Spirit World on October 1 at Minnesota Children's Hospital in Minneapolis. Robert Jr. was affectionately known as "Fat Man" and was born on August 24, 2007. He enjoyed spending his days with his sisters Chyla and Makayla and his big brother Devon. He also enjoyed rubbing food in his hair and playing in the tub. His Mother's boyfriend Donald Hayes has been charged.</p>
<p>Ismael Nicholas Bugarin</p> <p>12 years old Dodge City</p> <p>November 8</p>	<p>Ismael, known as Nick, bravely fought to save his sisters after his father attacked his mother. Ismael Bugarin, Nick's father, became violent and pinned his wife on the floor and stabbed her with a knife before shooting her and severing her spinal cord. During the attack, Nick's mother screamed for help and her children ran into the room. When the children tried to flee, their father followed them. He slashed one of his daughters, stabbed the other one and cut his son's neck. Nick grabbed the knife and stabbed his father in the back before he and his sisters ran to a neighbor's. Nick bled to death. Bugarin took the knife and slit his wrists. The girls are recovering and Bugarin has been charged with murder.</p>

Men and women in same-sex relationships murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

Michael Reich 38 Minneapolis	Officers responded to a 911 call in the early morning hours of June 9th. When officers arrived, they found Michael dead of stab wounds and arrested his partner, Harold Meeks who was also the person who made the emergency call. Michael's death is the first same sex domestic violence homicide in the city of Minneapolis in over two years.
---	---

Men killed by a female partner:

Carl Jackson 33 St. Paul January 13	Carl Jackson was shot by Michelle Wilson in Michelle's home. Reports indicate that their relationship had ended approximately one month before the killing. She called her nephew, a St. Paul police officer, and said, "I did it, call me." Michelle had bruises and swelling on her body and told police that Jackson had caused them. Jackson's new girlfriend told police that Wilson had repeatedly called Jackson's cell phone, left numerous harassing messages, and harassed him at work.
---	---

Friends or family members murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

Christine Rose Nguyen 48 New Brighton July 17	Christine was fatally shot outside of her New Brighton townhouse by Corey Lee Gaustad (age 21), who had been stalking her 17-year old daughter. Gaustad had made advances to Christine's daughter, who was not interested. Angered, Gaustad developed an elaborate plan for violent revenge. Gaustad planned a shooting spree targeting Christine's daughter's friends and relatives. The day before the shooting, the family had reported Gaustad's threats to the police and they were encouraged to get a restraining order. Gaustad waited for Christine and her daughter to come home. When they did, he confronted them with a gun and shot Christine in the stomach, because he had heard "it is a more painful way to die." Gaustad shot at her daughter as she ran away. Gaustad fled to Rochester where he was arrested. Gaustad was charged with second degree murder. Christine is survived by her husband and daughter.
---	--

<p>Rory S. Zitur</p> <p>47 Zimmerman August 19</p>	<p>Rory was discovered dead from a gun shot wound in his St. Michael home after officials became concerned when responding to the earlier murder suicide of Deloris Heald and her husband Gary. Friends and family became suspicious when Deloris did not show up for her shift as an on-call nurse at the same time Deloris Heald's son found a note from his father, Gary Heald, that he shot Deloris and another man. When police arrived at the scene they found Deloris and Gary dead from gunshot wounds. Upon further investigation they found that the other man was Rory Zitur, who allegedly met Deloris online.</p>
<p>Mark Root</p> <p>51 McGregor September 12</p>	<p>Mark was shot after offering to rent a cabin to Jamie Gage, who was ending a relationship with John Brightman. Brightman suspected Jamie was seeing someone else and became despondent when she wanted to break up with him. Brightman was renting a cabin from Mark. Mark also offered a separate cabin, away from Brightman, to Jamie. On the evening of September 13th John Brightman shot Jamie and Mark with a .357 revolver and then he shot himself.</p>
<p>Jolyn Vigen</p> <p>75 Mounds View October 27</p>	<p>After not hearing from them for days, family members asked police to check on the Vigen family. What they found was a violent scene. Jolyn was dead from multiple stab wounds and was found along with her two daughters Angela and Jennifer. Johnny Lee Ellis, Angela's boyfriend was later charged in their homicides. Ellis who occasionally lived with the Vigen's was arrested at a friend's home. Ellis has a previous history of domestic violence. Jolyn had moved her family to Mounds View from Thief River Falls after she retired. She has four other children and several grand and great-grandchildren.</p>
<p>Jennifer Vigen</p> <p>35 Mounds View October 27</p>	<p>After not hearing from them for days, family members asked police to check on the Vigen family. When police entered the home, they found Jennifer, dead from multiple stab wounds. She was found along with her mother Jolyn and sister Angela. Johnny Lee Ellis, Angela's boyfriend was later charged in their homicides. Ellis who occasionally lived with the Vigen's was arrested at a friend's home. Ellis has a previous history of domestic violence.</p>

About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women was founded in 1978 to serve as a unifying voice for battered women and to link battered women's programs in the state with the common purpose of ending domestic violence.

MCBW is a statewide, member-based organization serving more than 90 local, regional, and statewide member organizations, and their additional 42 satellite offices, that advocate for an end to battering. The types of programs operated by MCBW members include battered women's shelters and safe homes, community advocacy programs, criminal justice intervention projects, state and national training and technical assistance organizations, human rights organizations, and homeless shelters and transitional housing programs. Members include 16 culturally specific and population specific programs serving differing communities.

MCBW promotes individual, institutional, and cultural social change and works to end oppression based on gender, race, age, sexual orientation, class, and disability. The key program areas of MCBW include: public policy advocacy; information and resources; public awareness; training and technical assistance; and networking.

MCBW's activities include resources and referrals for individuals, legislative and public policy advocacy on a statewide and federal level, sponsoring training events for programs that serve battered women, coordinating statewide task force meetings, serving as an information clearinghouse, publishing a quarterly newsletter and web site, and public awareness and prevention initiatives.

Mission Statement:

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to provide a voice for battered women and member programs; challenge systems and institutions so they respond more effectively to the needs of battered women and their children; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

Vision Statement:

The vision of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to end violence against women and their children and to achieve social justice for all.

In 2008, at least 35 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

Remember their names...

January 13	Carl Jackson, killed by his ex-girlfriend.
January 26	Sharon Chouinard, East Bethel, stabbed by her boyfriend.
January 27	Aiden Richards Parks, Hibbing, beaten by stepfather.
January 29	Sonya Marie Hennagir, Park Rapids, strangled by intimate acquaintance.
February 3	Demond Reed, Minneapolis, beaten, stabbed, bitten.
February 7	Susan Schaefer, Clearwater, shot by her husband who committed suicide.
March 12	Dylan Martin Jr., Randall, blunt force trauma to head.
March 20	Samantha Fraga, Worthington, beaten and sexually assaulted.
April 13	Katrin Rose Czeck, Hutchinson, stabbed by her husband who then committed suicide.
April 25	E.P., Brooklyn Center, drowned.
April 26	Joquese Loyd, Minneapolis, shot by boyfriend.
June 9	Michael Reich, Minneapolis, stabbed by boyfriend.
June 10	Youa Her, Brooklyn Center, beaten by husband who later committed suicide.
July 11	Jewell Burnett, Minneapolis, shot by ex-boyfriend who shot her son and then killed himself.
July 17	Christine Rose Nguyen, New Brighton, shot by young man who stalked her daughter.
July 18	Sherrill Harnden, Columbia Heights, stabbed by her husband who then attempted suicide.
July 24	Anthonia Iheme, St. Louis Park, shot by her husband.
August 19	Delores "DeDe" Heald, Zimmerman, shot by husband.
August 19	Rory Zitur, St. Michael, shot by husband of acquaintance.
September 12	Jamie Gage, Big Sandy Lake, shot by ex-boyfriend.
September 12	Mark Root, Big Sandy Lake, shot by acquaintance.

In 2008, at least 35 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence and child abuse.

September 19	Natasha Waalen, Andover, beaten by boyfriend.
September 20	Kelly Dahm, Hudson, shot by ex-boyfriend.
September 30	Gabriela Romo, St. Paul, sexually assaulted by friend.
October 1	Robert James Azure Jr., White Earth, undetermined cause of death, Mother's boyfriend arrested and charged.
October 27	Jolyn Vigen, Mounds View, stabbed by daughter's boyfriend.
October 27	Angela Vigen, Mounds View, stabbed by boyfriend.
October 27	Jennifer Vigen, Mounds View, stabbed by sister's boyfriend.
October	Pam Sjogren, Minneapolis, strangled by boyfriend.
November 8	Teresa Bugarin, Dodge City, stabbed and shot by husband.
November 8	Ismael Nicholas Bugarin, Dodge City, stabbed by father.
November 12	Ruth Anne Lipka, Prior Lake, strangled by ex-husband.
December 3	Violet Jackson, Minneapolis, undetermined cause of death.
December 15	Annshalike Hamilton, Minneapolis, beaten.
December 16	Susan Levoir, St. Louis Park, shot by boyfriend.