



2009 Femicide Report

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*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...*

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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 of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together because it takes the entire community to end violence.

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, family members, and friends who die each year from domestic violence and child abuse, as well as the women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking, who are also 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 19 adults killed in 2009 due to familial and domestic violence, 13 were women killed by a current or former intimate partner.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violence that affects the level of fear and 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 2009 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.

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

Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1989-2009

- 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 woman'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 women 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 20 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 23 women died from domestic violence
At least 7 children died from child abuse
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered
At least 1 man died from domestic violence from his male partner
- 2009 At least 13 women died from domestic violence
At least 10 children died from child abuse
At least 2 family member/friends/intervener were murdered
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

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

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

In Minnesota in 2009

At least 13 women

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

At least 10 children under the age of 18

Were murdered 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.

At least 2 friends, family members or interveners

Were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

At least 1 man

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

At least 8 children

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

At least 3 additional women

Were murdered by a family member or an intimate partner of a family member.

**Femicide Report:
Adult Victims and Relationship to the Alleged Perpetrators**

	2009		
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Current or former boyfriend or Husband	12	67%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
			Brittany Givens-Copeland
			Heather Rose McPherson
			Jody Lee Morrow
			Sharon Kathleen Nyren
			Candice L. Ouellette
			Trudy Kline Propps
			Lori Roberts Pamela A. Taschuk Tina Marie Tracy Jean A. Wassenaar Erica Ann Wilson
Son	1	5%	Marianne Fogolin
Brother	1	5%	Tobista Beyena Mokonnen
Wife	1	5%	Michael Albert
Other	3	17%	Officer Richard Crittenden (killed by criminal suspect) Jennifer Linnear (killed by husband's girlfriend) Seth Savang (killed by mother's boyfriend)
Total:	18		

Key Femicide Statistics (2007-2009)
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

Femicides and Cause of Death

Cause of Death	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Gunshot	8	36%	9	43%	6	50%	Heather Rose McPherson
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Erica Ann Wilson
Stabbing	6	27%	4	19%	1	8%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
Strangulation	2	9%	3	14%	2	17%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Candice L. Ouelette
Beating	1	5%	3	14%	2	17%	Jody Lee Morrow
							Jean A. Wassenaar
Arson	1	5%	-	-	-	-	
Vehicle	2	9%	-	-	1	8%	Tina Marie Tracy
Sexual Assault	-	-	1	5%	-	-	
Unknown	2	9%	1	5%	-	-	
Total:	22		21		12		

Geographic Location of Victim

Location of Victim	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Twin Cities Metro Area*	16	73%	15	71%	6	50%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Jean A. Wassenaar
							Erica Ann Wilson
Greater Minnesota	6	27%	6	29%	6	50%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
Tina Marie Tracy							
Total:	22		21		12		

*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**

	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Separated or attempting to leave	7	32%	13	62%	8	67%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Brittany Givens-Copland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Erica Ann Wilson
Together or Unknown	10	45%	7	33%	4	33%	Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Tina Marie Tracy
							Jean A. Wassenaar
Not applicable	5		1	5%			
Total:	22		21		12		

History of Violence

	2007		2008		2009		
History of Violence		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	Name of Victim
Known to have abused victim or prior victim	7	27%	10	48%	6	50%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk Tina Marie Tracy
Prior Law Enforcement involvement or OFP	7	27%	1	5%	3	25%	Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Pamela A. Taschuk
Unknown	14	63%	10	48%	6	50%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Jean A. Wassenaar Erica Ann Wilson
Total:	28		21		12		

Key Statistics Related to Children

Number of Boys - 7

Number of Girls - 3

	2007		2008		2009		
Cause of Death	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Stabbing	1	10%	1	14%	-	-	
Beating	5	50%	5	71%	7	70%	Baby Hanson
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Nicholas Miller
							Julia Leigh Rivera
							Baby Shaw
							Julian James-Robert Williams
Vehicle	1	10%	-	-	-	-	
Shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poison	1	10%			1	10%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr. (drug overdose)
Drowning	1	10%	1	14%	-	-	
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	1	10%	Willie Ervin Franklin IV
Burns	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	10%	Avory Rafferty
TOTAL					10		

Children Murdered and Alleged Perpetrators

	2007		2008		2009		
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Father	5	50%	1	29%	4	40%	Willie Ervin Franklin IV
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Avory Rafferty
Mother	2	20%	-	-	2	20%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr.
							Julia Leigh Rivera
Mother's current or former boyfriend or husband	1	10%	3	29%	3	30%	Baby Hanson
							Nicholas Miller
							Baby Shaw
Childcare provider/family of childcare provider	1	10%	2	29%	-	-	
Unknown	1	10%	-	-	1	10%	Julian James-Robert Williams
Total:	10		6		10		

Children Murdered and Geographic Location of Victim

	2007		2008		2009		
Location of Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Twin Cities Metro Area*	6	60%	2	29%	7	70%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr.
							Willie Ervin Franklin IV
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Julia Leigh Rivera
							Baby Shaw
							Julian James-Robert Williams
Greater Minnesota	4	40%	5	71%	3	30%	Baby Hanson
							Nicholas Miller
							Avory Rafferty
Total:	10		7		10		

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

Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

	2007		2008		2009		
Children	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Murders of mothers of minor children	16		11	52%	5	42%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouelette
							Pamela A. Taschuk
Number of minor children who lost mother At least:	24		25		8		Brittany Givens-Copeland (1)
							Heather Rose McPherson (1)
							Jody Lee Morrow (2)
							Candice L. Ouellette (3)
							Pamela A. Taschuk (1)
Number of adult children who lost mother (not including adult child identified as the killer)	6		-		9		Sharon Kathleen Nyren (3)
							Lori Roberts (1)
							Erica Ann Wilson (3)
							Pamela A. Taschuk (1)
							Jean A. Wassenaar (1)
Child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body	7		6		2		Candice L. Ouellette

*This represents the percentage of cases in which the woman who was killed was a mother. There were 16 such cases

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 murder of women in the United States and in Minnesota. There were 12 women murdered in Minnesota in 2009 by a current or former intimate partner.

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: separation, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, access to a firearm, threats to use a weapon, stalking, attempted strangulation, forced sex, extreme jealousy and control of daily activities.

For the past few years, MCBW has analyzed the femicides to see whether any of the lethality factors were present. In assessing for lethality factors, MCBW relied almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. In 2006, MCBW began compiling information of the frequency with which lethality factors occurred, 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 2006 - 2008 Femicide Reports indicate that the Minnesota femicides from the past years were consistent with those four factors. Again in 2009, these lethality factors were present in a significant number of cases. 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. Sadly, our examination is retrospective only. What these femicide reports suggest is that we should routinely inquire of battered women when they reach out for help about the presence of any of these risk factors so that future homicides may be avoided.

Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuse: While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered women safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim. In 2009, 67% of the intimate partner femicides occurred after the woman had left the relationship or when she was attempting to leave. In 2008, 62% of the femicides 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 8 of 17 intimate partner femicides (47%) in 2006 and the 42% in 2007 and supports the national studies indicating that the most dangerous time for battered women can be when they leave, or attempt to leave, the batterer.

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 systems. A review of the media reports of the 2009 murders does not reveal information on the threats to kill. What we do know is that 50% of the victims had experienced prior abuse. Of those women, three had active no-contact orders in place at the time of their murders. We can only surmise that threats to kill may have been part of the prior abuse in these cases.

Access to Firearms: In 2009, 6 of 12 (50%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms, in comparison to 11 of 17 (65%) in 2006, 8 of 22 (36%) in 2007 and 9 of 21 (43%) in 2008. While the percentage of femicides using firearms fluctuates year to year, murder with firearms is the most frequent weapon of choice, supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can greatly increase the risk of lethality.

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. At the end of December 2009, the Gender Fairness Implementation Committee of the Minnesota Supreme Court Administration released a Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Bench Guide. This assessment tool was distributed to every state court judge, referee and magistrate. This is a great step forward with regard to assessment. The next step will be for judges and all practitioners who appear before the court, to receive training on the use of this risk assessment tool.

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.

If a risk assessment is appropriately applied to all domestic violence cases, if the criminal justice system has the tools necessary to increase safety and advocacy programs and legal systems are adequately funded, then we should see better responses to high risk offenders and increased safety for battered women.

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

<p>Tina Marie Tracy 18 Virginia January 11</p>	<p>On the night of January 9, Tina was in a car with her boyfriend, Randon Konecny, on Highway 7 near Iron, Minnesota. He was driving about 50 miles per hour while they apparently were arguing. Tracy "fell" from the car, never gained consciousness, and died two days later after having been airlifted to a hospital in Duluth. There was insufficient evidence for the county attorney to press charges against Konecny.</p>
<p>Brittany Givens-Copeland 24 Bloomington January 25</p>	<p>Adam Williams lured Brittany Givens-Copeland to his Burnsville apartment and then ambushed her at the door. He strangled her with neckties. Afterward he committed suicide by setting fire to his apartment. Brittany had dated Williams a short time but had decided to end the relationship. Brittany is survived by her son, Christian, who was four months old at the time of her death.</p>
<p>Sharon Kathleen Nyren 67 Fairhaven Township February 24</p>	<p>Dale M. Nyren shot and killed his wife, Sharon in their home with a .22 caliber revolver. Dale admitted having an argument with Sharon, he first shot her in the knee and then a few minutes later, he shot her in the head. Dale is charged with second degree murder. Dale Nyren pled guilty to second-degree murder charges in August. Sharon is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, a great grandchild, and siblings.</p>
<p>Heather Rose McPherson 24 Plymouth April 19</p>	<p>Heather went to the McDonald's in Maple Grove where she had agreed to meet Sedric Jerome Larkins. Heather was about to end the relationship with Sedric. While still in the parking lot, Sedric shot her. After she fell to the ground, Sedric shot her at least once more. He fled the scene and quickly was seen speeding on the interstate where he was pulled over. When the police officer approached the car, he found Sedric dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Heather is survived by her nine-year old daughter, Alexandra, her parents, siblings, and grandparents.</p>
<p>Jody Lee Morrow 38 Albert Lea June 21</p>	<p>On June 21 at 1:00 a.m. Chad Jamie Gulbertson went to Jody's home in violation of the order for protection that Jody had obtained on June 1st. He killed her by hitting her in the head with a ball peen hammer. Legal documents show that he had physically abused and threatened to kill her in the past. Gulbertson turned himself in to the police later that morning. The police found Jody lying on the floor in front of her wheelchair. The floor and the wheelchair were covered in blood. Gulbertson has been found guilty of first-degree murder while committing domestic abuse, second-degree intentional murder and second-degree murder while violating an order for protection. Chad Gulbertson was sentenced to life in prison. Jody is survived by two sons, ages 10 and 12.</p>

<p>Erica Ann Wilson 38 Circle Pines July 30</p>	<p>Erica had left her partner of 25 years, James H. Schwartzbauer, a week earlier. She had not told him where she was going and left behind her cell phone. He tracked her down less than a week later. Neighbors heard them arguing on the evening of July 29. Early the next morning, Schwartzbauer was waiting to confront her in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Neighbors heard them arguing, one saw him grab her and throw her against a car with a gun to her head. Neighbors started shouting and called 911. He moved Erica into a breezeway. Neighbors heard gunshots. Schwartzbauer murdered Erica and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide. Erica is survived by three adult sons, a sister, and her mother.</p>
<p>Candice L. Ouellette 38 Harris August 5</p>	<p>Douglas Ouellette strangled his wife, Candice, in the kitchen of his home while his frightened twin daughters hid upstairs and called 911. Douglas ran away to a barn on their land and hanged himself. Candice had obtained an OFP and filed for divorce in June. At that time, the sheriff took Douglas's guns from him because he had threatened suicide and because Candice became concerned when she saw that he had loaded his guns with enough ammunition to kill everyone in the family. Candice is survived by her eight year old twin daughters, her ten year old son, her parents, and two siblings.</p>
<p>Pamela A. Taschuk 48 Lino Lakes October 1</p>	<p>In the two months prior to her death, Pamela tried to protect herself from her abusive husband, Allen Taschuk. Over their 23-year marriage he had hit, punched, pushed, and held her captive many, many times and had threatened to kill her at least four times. On August 26, Allen was arrested for domestic assault and false imprisonment. Two days later he was released from jail without conditions after posting \$5,000 bail. Pamela obtained an Order for Protection on September 10 and filed for divorce on September 25. After she returned to her home on October 1st from a support-group meeting at a battered women's shelter, Allen came to her home and shot her, called 911, and then shot himself. She is survived by her sons, Ryan and Josh, her parents, her siblings, and three stepsons, as well as other dear family members and friends.</p>
<p>Lori Roberts 49 Doran October 2</p>	<p>On October 2nd, Lori Roberts was found dead from a gunshot wound. Wilkin County authorities have ruled the death a homicide. The family of Lori Roberts says there is no doubt that Jeffrey Silvernail killed her. They say the Jeffrey Silvernail was there when she was shot and then made the 911 call in the morning. Lori Roberts had recently broken up with the Silvernail. Jeffrey Silvernail has been charged with one count of first-degree murder and one count of second-degree intentional murder.</p>
<p>Jean A. Wassenaar 67 St. Paul November 2</p>	<p>Gerald Wassenaar killed his wife, Jean A. Wassenaar. The police found Jean in her home with multiple traumatic injuries to her head and neck. Ramsey county authorities have charged Gerald with unintentional second-degree murder. Jean had a long history of volunteerism in Minneapolis. She is survived by one son. Gerald Wassenaar was found not guilty in the death of his wife Jean Wassenaar by reason of mental illness. The Ramsey County Attorney's Office said Thursday that it has asked that Wassenaar be</p>

	considered mentally ill and dangerous, and be placed under civil commitment to a secure psychiatric facility.
Kathryn Rose Anderson 19 Morris December 3	Katie had moved from Morris to the Twin Cities earlier this year to attend Le Cordon Bleu College where she was studying to be a pastry chef. Everyone knew how much she loved fishing, hunting, and wintry weather. After Ryan Hurd, her estranged boyfriend, had assaulted her on October 29th, Katie obtained a no-contact order in Dakota County. He apparently had assaulted her earlier in October 2009. On December 3rd, a passerby found Katie lying in a ditch on a gravel road outside Owatonna. The autopsy indicates that Hurd had stabbed her 109 times and she had deep abrasions on her body consistent with being thrown onto a gravel surface and sliding along the surface. She died from both the wounds and exposure. Hurd left the state and went back to his family in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was apprehended. He has confessed to stabbing her and leaving her. Ryan Hurd was convicted on all five counts of murder, including premeditated murder in the first degree. Hurd was sentenced to mandatory life in prison without the possibility of parole.
Trudy Kline Propps 62 Stillwater December 11	Trudy was trying to get her husband Gerald Propps to the hospital. She believed he was "out of his mind," according to the 911 call she made, because he was dehydrated and in need of nutrition. While on the 911 call, Gerald shot her in the back. Trudy's daughter Beth dragged her out of the apartment as she continued to talk to the 911 dispatcher. When the police arrived, Gerald shot his gun again and refused to put it down. The police shot him dead. Trudy was pronounced dead at the hospital a few hours after the incident began. Trudy is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Minor children murdered 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.

Baby Shaw 2 months St. Paul March 4	Rebecca Shaw returned home on February 27th from work to find her 2-month old daughter in distress and having difficulty breathing. Louis Darcell Jones had been caring for the baby while Rebecca was at work. Rebecca's daughter was taken off of life support on March 4th. An autopsy showed that she died from internal injuries and trauma to her head. Jones pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter in the death of Baby Shaw.

<p>Julia Leigh Rivera 15 months Richfield March 31</p>	<p>Julia died at Children's Hospital after she was brought there by ambulance on March 26. She suffered from a massive brain swelling, tearing in her retinas, fixed pupils, and a skull fracture caused by a hard object. Julia's pediatrician reports that when he saw her on March 24th that she was alert and had no injuries. On the morning of March 26th, Julia's mother, Rachel Reeves, brought her to her baby sitter. She put her in a crib and gave the sitter directions for her care when Julia woke up. The sitter looked in on her in about 15 minutes and knew something was terribly wrong. The sitter and her son called 911 and performed CPR until the emergency responders arrived. In late September, authorities had sufficient evidence to charge Rachel Reeves with second-degree murder. As of January 4, 2011 the charges against Rachel Reeves have been dropped after the key witness fled the county.</p>
<p>Nicholas Miller 18 months Northfield June 23</p>	<p>Nicholas died from beatings from his stepfather, Tylar James Hokanson. Nicholas had suffered a broken collarbone twice and had been seen bruised and bloodied in the months leading up to his death. When questioned about it Hokanson blamed Nicholas's biological father. He later admitted to having shaken Nicholas for no less than ten or fifteen minutes. The shaking broke his thoracic vertebrae in the middle of his back, which led to lymphatic fluid filling his chest cavity making it difficult for him to breathe. His condition, including bleeding in his brain, continued to deteriorate over a four-day period, but he never received medical attention. Nicholas died in Wisconsin at the home of his stepfather's family. Authorities there contacted the Dakota County Sheriff's office; because they believe the beating took place in Dakota County. Hokanson has been found guilty of two counts of second-degree murder and has been sentenced to life in prison but is eligible for parole in 30 years.</p>
<p>Alexander Heikes 7 weeks Minneapolis July 4</p>	<p>Alexander Heikes killed his infant son and namesake by squeezing his abdomen so hard that the infant's liver and spleen were lacerated and bled into his abdominal cavity. When Heikes woke up several hours later with the baby laying on his chest, the baby was dead. The medical authorities also identified a dozen healing rib fractures from earlier abuse. Heikes pled guilty to first-degree manslaughter and was sentenced to seven and a half years in prison. Baby Alexander is survived by his mother.</p>
<p>Baby Hanson 2 years Cannon Falls July 5</p>	<p>Baby Hanson, she would have been three years old on July 15, 2009 died from a severe abusive traumatic head injury. Emergency personnel took her to the hospital on July 1 from her home in Cannon Falls. She died on July 5th. Justin David Lake, her mother's boyfriend, pled guilty to manslaughter in the death of Baby Hanson and faces up to 10 years in prison.</p>
<p>Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr. 10 South St. Paul</p>	<p>Michael's mother, Patricia Ann Becht, gave him and his 11-year old sister an overdose of the medication that his mother had been taking to treat her bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. His mother also attempted suicide using the same drugs. She and her daughter survived. Becht pled guilty to second-degree murder</p>

July 6	and attempted second-degree murder.
Willie Ervin Franklin IV 4 months Golden Valley August 28	Willie Ervin Franklin III admitted to having thrown a baby bottle at his son when he was crying and hit him in the head. His son started crying uncontrollably. Franklin then suffocated his son by placing him face down on a pillow on the couch covering him head-to-toe with a quilt and leaving him there while he went into the bedroom for about 30 minutes where he smoked marijuana and called a sex-related line. Franklin pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter and was sentenced to 5 years in prison.
Julian James- Robert Williams 2 Saint Paul September 10	2 year old Julian James-Robert Williams died as a result of lacerations to his liver and pancreas, as a result of a beating. Julian was taken into St Paul Children's hospital after a 911 call to his home, where he underwent surgery for the injuries but he did not survive. Julian's mother Jessica Dominique was acquitted in the death of Julian James Robert Williams. Demetruis Charles Willis mother's boyfriend was convicted on one count of manslaughter.
Avory Rafferty 3 months Ortonville October 30	Zachary Rafferty, age 19, the father of Avory was arrested and charged with second degree murder for the death of his son.

Friends- Family members- Interveners murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

<p>Savang Sath 27 Big Lake March 28</p>	<p>Savang died from two gunshot wounds to his head after he confronted his mother's boyfriend, Peter Tek, when Tek was physically fighting with her. His mother had suffered head injuries. After Tek shot Savang, he kidnapped Savang's mother and engaged in a police chase down I-94. After Tek was stopped and police engaged in negotiations, he released Savang's mother who was then hospitalized. Tek stayed in the car and committed suicide with the same gun that he had used to kill Savang.</p>
<p>Officer Richard Crittenden 57 North St. Paul September 7</p>	<p>Previous to September 7th, Devon Dockery was arrested for violating the order on May 18th and again on August 26th. On September 6th, Dockery had already fled when the police arrived. Dockery had a long history of abuse against his estranged wife, Stacy Terry. The criminal complaints indicate that he had physically abused and made terroristic threats against her over the past nine years and she had obtained at least four Orders for Protection against him. Officer Richard Crittenden responded to a call at the home of Stacy Terry for a violation of an Order for Protection which was issued in May against Devon Dockery. On the morning of September 7th, Stacey Terry called the police because she feared Dockery was inside her apartment waiting to ambush her and her daughter. When Officer Crittenden, and another officer, along with Stacey and her daughter entered the apartment, Dockery charged at them with an accelerant-soaked flaming rag. Officer Crittenden pushed Stacey and her daughter into a safe place in the kitchen while he and the other officer fought Dockery in the living room. Dockery burned Officer Crittenden on his head. In the melee, Dockery was able to grab the officer's gun and shoot Officer Crittenden in the head at close range. The other officer also suffered a gunshot wound to her arm as she and Dockery exchanged gun shots. Both Officer Crittenden and Dockery were pronounced dead at the scene. Officer Richard Crittenden is survived by a son, stepdaughter, wife and four grandchildren</p>

Women murdered by other family members or intimates of family members:

<p>Jennifer Linnear 26 St. Paul March 5</p>	<p>Whitney Tanee Kizart, who was the girlfriend of Jennifer's husband, Robert Linnear, stabbed Jennifer when Jennifer and Robert went to her apartment. Kizart met them outside her apartment armed with a kitchen knife. During the confrontation, Kizart stabbed Jennifer, penetrating her heart and lungs. When Jennifer arrived at the hospital, she was unconscious, had no pulse, and was pronounced dead. Jennifer is survived by five children between the ages of 2 and 10. Another daughter, age 1 1/2, had died in the summer of 2008 from leukemia. Kizart has been charged with second-degree murder. Whitney T. Kizart plead guilty to second-degree manslaughter in the death of Jennifer Linnear.</p>
<p>Marianne Fogolin 69 Eagan Approximately April 5</p>	<p>On April 22, police were asked to do a welfare check at the apartment of Marianne Fogolin. She lived there with her adult son Robert Ament. The police found Marianne dead from a gunshot wound and Robert dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Authorities believe Marianne had been dead for at least two weeks before her body was found. She is survived by her twin sister and two daughters and by many friends from the Red Hat Society and from her activities at the Eagan Senior Center.</p>
<p>Tobista Beyena Mokonnen 22 Richfield May 2</p>	<p>Tobista's brother, Guuci, confronted her in the parking lot of her apartment complex while she held her eight-month old child. Police reports indicate that he was angry with her because she wouldn't let him move in with her. He stabbed her with a paring knife in the hand, head, back, and neck as she held her baby. Her blood-curdling screams were heard on a 911 call. She was dead when the police arrived. Guuci had fled the scene, but he soon called the police and admitted he had killed his sister. He is charged with first-degree murder and is currently held on \$2 million bail. The father of Tobista's infant is now caring for the child. Guuci Mokonnen pled guilty and was sentenced to 32 years in prison.</p>

Men murdered by Intimate Partners

Matthew David Albert 27 Shooks October 21	On October 20, Betsy Marie Hanks, shot her partner, Matthew David Albert, once in the head while he was in bed. Matthew died on October 21 at a Twin Cities hospital without every regaining consciousness. He is survived by four minor children, ages 6 years, 5 years, 3 years and 18 months. Hanks was convicted of first- and second-degree murder and was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of release.

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 84 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 2009, at least 28 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.

Remember their names...

1. January 11, 2009 Tina Marie Tracy, Virginia – St. Louis County, died after being pushed out of a moving vehicle.
2. January 25, 2009 Brittany Givens – Copeland, Bloomington-Hennepin County, died as a result of strangulation.
3. February 24, 2009 Sharon Kathleen Nyren, Fairhaven Township-Stearns County, died as a result of gunshot.
4. March 4, 2009 Baby Shaw, St. Paul – Ramsey County, died of head trauma and internal injuries.
5. March 5, 2009 Jennifer Linnear, St. Paul – Ramsey County. Died as a result of stabbing.
6. March 28, 2009 Sath, Savang, Big Lake- Sherburne County, died as a result of gunshot.
7. March 31, 2009 Julia Leigh Rivera, Richfield-Hennepin County, died of massive brain swelling.
8. April 5, 2009 Marianne Fogolin, Eagan-Dakota County, died as a result of gunshot
9. April 19, 2009 Heather Rose McPherson, Plymouth-Hennepin County, died as a result of gunshot
10. May 2, 2009 Tobista Beyena Mokonnen, Richfield- Hennepin County, died as a result of stabbing
11. June 21, 2009 Jody Lee Morrow, Albert Lea- Freeborn County, died as a result of a beating.
12. June 23, 2009 Nicholas Miller, Northfield- Rice County, died as a result of brain injuries
13. July 4, 2009 Alexander Heikes, Minneapolis-Hennepin County died from internal injuries as a result of being squeezed
14. July 5, 2009 Baby Hanson, Cannon Falls-Goodhue County, died of severe abusive traumatic head injuries
15. July 6, 2009 Michael Vonheath Brecht Jr. South Saint Paul-Dakota County, died of drug overdose
16. July 30, 2009 Erica Ann Wilson, Circle Pines-Anoka County, died of gunshot
17. August 5, 2009 Candice L. Ouelette, Harris-Chisago County, died of strangulation
18. August 28, 2009 Willie Ervin Franklin, Golden Valley-Hennepin County, died of suffocation
19. September 7, 2009 Officer Richard Crittenden, North St. Paul – Ramsey County, died from a gunshot.
20. September 10, 2009 Julian James-Robert Williams, Saint Paul-Ramsey County, died of beating
21. October 1, 2009 Pamela A. Taschuk, Lino Lakes -Anoka County, died of gunshot

22. October 10, 2009 Lori Roberts, Doran-Wilkin County, died of gunshot
23. October 21, 2009 Matthew David Albert, Shooks - Beltrami County, died of a gunshot.
24. October 30, 2009 Avory Rafferty, Ortonville-Big Stone County, died from unspecified causes.
25. November 2, 2009 Jean A. Wassenaar, Saint Paul- Ramsey County, died of Multiple traumatic injuries
26. December 3, 2009 Kathryn Rose Anderson, Owatonna -Steele County, died from stab wounds and exposure
27. December 11, 2009 Trudy Kline Propps, Stillwater-Washington County, died of gunshot

Minnesota Coalition



FEMICIDE REPORT

2009 Femicide Report

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*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...*

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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 of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together because it takes the entire community to end violence.

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, family members, and friends who die each year from domestic violence and child abuse, as well as the women and children used in prostitution and sex trafficking, who are also 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 18 adults killed in 2009 due to familial and domestic violence, 12 were women killed by a current or former intimate partner.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violence that affects the level of fear and 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 2009 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.

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

Women and Children Murdered in Minnesota: 1989-2009

- 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 woman'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 women 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 20 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 23 women died from domestic violence
At least 7 children died from child abuse
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered
At least 1 man died from domestic violence from his male partner
- 2009 At least 12 women died from domestic violence
At least 10 children died from child abuse
At least 2 family member/friends/intervener were murdered
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

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

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

In Minnesota in 2009

At least 13 women

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

At least 10 children under the age of 18

Were murdered 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.

At least 2 friends, family members or interveners

Were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

At least 1 man

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

At least 8 children

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

At least 3 additional women

Were murdered by a family member or an intimate partner of a family member.

**Femicide Report:
Adult Victims and Relationship to the Alleged Perpetrators**

		2009	
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Current or former boyfriend or Husband	12	67%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
			Brittany Givens-Copeland
			Heather Rose McPherson
			Jody Lee Morrow
			Sharon Kathleen Nyren
			Candice L. Ouellette
			Trudy Kline Propps
			Lori Roberts
			Pamela A. Taschuk
Tina Marie Tracy			
Jean A. Wassenaar			
Erica Ann Wilson			
Son	1	5%	Marianne Fogolin
Brother	1	5%	Tobista Beyena Mokonnen
Wife	1	5%	Michael Albert
Other	3	17%	Officer Richard Crittenden (killed by criminal suspect) Jennifer Linnear (killed by husband's girlfriend) Seth Savang (killed by mother's boyfriend)
Total:	18		

Key Femicide Statistics (2007-2009)
Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

Femicides and Cause of Death

Cause of Death	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Gunshot	8	36%	9	43%	6	50%	Heather Rose McPherson
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Erica Ann Wilson
Stabbing	6	27%	4	19%	1	8%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
Strangulation	2	9%	3	14%	2	17%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Candice L. Ouelette
Beating	1	5%	3	14%	2	17%	Jody Lee Morrow
							Jean A. Wassenaar
Arson	1	5%	-	-	-	-	
Vehicle	2	9%	-	-	1	8%	Tina Marie Tracy
Sexual Assault	-	-	1	5%	-	-	
Unknown	2	9%	1	5%	-	-	
Total:	22		21		12		

Geographic Location of Victim

Location of Victim	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Twin Cities Metro Area*	16	73%	15	71%	6	50%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Jean A. Wassenaar
							Erica Ann Wilson
Greater Minnesota	6	27%	6	29%	6	50%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
Tina Marie Tracy							
Total:	22		21		12		

*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**

	2007		2008		2009		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Separated or attempting to leave	7	42%	13	62%	8	67%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Brittany Givens-Copland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk
							Erica Ann Wilson
Together or Unknown	10	45%	7	33%	4	33%	Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Tina Marie Tracy
							Jean A. Wassenaar
Not applicable	5		1	5%			
Total:	22		21		12		

History of Violence

	2007		2008		2009		
History of Violence		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	Name of Victim
Known to have abused victim or prior victim	7	27%	10	48%	6	50%	Kathryn Rose Anderson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Lori Roberts
							Pamela A. Taschuk Tina Marie Tracy
Prior Law Enforcement involvement or OFP	7	27%	1	5%	3	25%	Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouellette
							Pamela A. Taschuk
Unknown	14	63%	10	48%	6	50%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Sharon Kathleen Nyren
							Trudy Kline Propps
							Jean A. Wassenaar Erica Ann Wilson
Total:	28		21		12		

Key Statistics Related to Children

Number of Boys - 7

Number of Girls - 3

Cause of Death	2007	% of Total	2008	% of Total	2009	% of Total	Name of Victim
	#		#		#		
Stabbing	1	10%	1	14%	-	-	
Beating	5	50%	5	71%	7	70%	Baby Hanson
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Nicholas Miller
							Julia Leigh Rivera
							Baby Shaw
Julian James-Robert Williams							
Vehicle	1	10%	-	-	-	-	
Shot	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Poison	1	10%			1	10%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr. (drug overdose)
Drowning	1	10%	1	14%	-	-	
Suffocation	-	-	-	-	1	10%	Willie Ervin Franklin IV
Burns	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Unknown	-	-	-	-	1	10%	Avory Rafferty
TOTAL					10		

Children Murdered and Alleged Perpetrators

	2007		2008		2009		
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Father	5	50%	1	29%	4	40%	Willie Ervin Franklin IV
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Avory Rafferty
Mother	2	20%	-	-	2	20%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr.
							Julia Leigh Rivera
Mother's current or former boyfriend or husband	1	10%	3	29%	3	30%	Baby Hanson
							Nicholas Miller
							Baby Shaw
Childcare provider/family of childcare provider	1	10%	2	29%	-	-	
Unknown	1	10%	-	-	1	10%	Julian James-Robert Williams
Total:	10		6		10		

Children Murdered and Geographic Location of Victim

	2007		2008		2009		
Location of Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Twin Cities Metro Area*	6	60%	2	29%	7	70%	Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr.
							Willie Ervin Franklin IV
							Alexander Heikes
							JZHS
							Julia Leigh Rivera
							Baby Shaw
							Julian James-Robert Williams
Greater Minnesota	4	40%	5	71%	3	30%	Baby Hanson
							Nicholas Miller
							Avory Rafferty
Total:	10		7		10		

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

Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

	2007		2008		2009		
Children	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Murders of mothers of minor children	16		11	52%	5	42%	Brittany Givens-Copeland
							Heather Rose McPherson
							Jody Lee Morrow
							Candice L. Ouelette
							Pamela A. Taschuk
Number of minor children who lost mother At least:	24		25		8		Brittany Givens-Copeland (1)
							Heather Rose McPherson (1)
							Jody Lee Morrow (2)
							Candice L. Ouellette (3)
							Pamela A. Taschuk (1)
Number of adult children who lost mother (not including adult child identified as the killer)	6		-		9		Sharon Kathleen Nyren (3)
							Lori Roberts (1)
							Erica Ann Wilson (3)
							Pamela A. Taschuk (1)
							Jean A. Wassenaar (1)
Child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body	7		6		2		Candice L. Ouellette

*This represents the percentage of cases in which the woman who was killed was a mother. There were 16 such cases

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 murder of women in the United States and in Minnesota. There were 12 women murdered in Minnesota in 2009 by a current or former intimate partner.

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: separation, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, access to a firearm, threats to use a weapon, stalking, attempted strangulation, forced sex, extreme jealousy and control of daily activities.

For the past few years, MCBW has analyzed the femicides to see whether any of the lethality factors were present. In assessing for lethality factors, MCBW relied almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. In 2006, MCBW began compiling information of the frequency with which lethality factors occurred, 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 2006 - 2008 Femicide Reports indicate that the Minnesota femicides from the past years were consistent with those four factors. Again in 2009, these lethality factors were present in a significant number of cases. 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. Sadly, our examination is retrospective only. What these femicide reports suggest is that we should routinely inquire of battered women when they reach out for help about the presence of any of these risk factors so that future homicides may be avoided.

Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuse: While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered women safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim. In 2009, 67% of the intimate partner femicides occurred after the woman had left the relationship or when she was attempting to leave. In 2008, 62% of the femicides 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 8 of 17 intimate partner femicides (47%) in 2006 and the 42% in 2007 and supports the national studies indicating that the most dangerous time for battered women can be when they leave, or attempt to leave, the batterer.

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 systems. A review of the media reports of the 2009 murders does not reveal information on the threats to kill. What we do know is that 50% of the victims had experienced prior abuse. Of those women, three had active no-contact orders in place at the time of their murders. We can only surmise that threats to kill may have been part of the prior abuse in these cases.

Access to Firearms: In 2009, 6 of 12 (50%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms, in comparison to 11 of 17 (65%) in 2006, 8 of 22 (36%) in 2007 and 9 of 21 (43%) in 2008. While the percentage of femicides using firearms fluctuates year to year, murder with firearms is the most frequent weapon of choice, supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can greatly increase the risk of lethality.

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. At the end of December 2009, the Gender Fairness Implementation Committee of the Minnesota Supreme Court Administration released a Domestic Violence Risk Assessment Bench Guide. This assessment tool was distributed to every state court judge, referee and magistrate. This is a great step forward with regard to assessment. The next step will be for judges and all practitioners who appear before the court, to receive training on the use of this risk assessment tool.

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.

If a risk assessment is appropriately applied to all domestic violence cases, if the criminal justice system has the tools necessary to increase safety and advocacy programs and legal systems are adequately funded, then we should see better responses to high risk offenders and increased safety for battered women.

Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner. Note: April Lee Pease was retroactively included in 2024. She is reflected in the total victim count but not in the rest of this report.

<p>Tina Marie Tracy 18 Virginia January 11</p>	<p>On the night of January 9, Tina was in a car with her boyfriend, Randon Konecny, on Highway 7 near Iron, Minnesota. He was driving about 50 miles per hour while they apparently were arguing. Tracy "fell" from the car, never gained consciousness, and died two days later after having been airlifted to a hospital in Duluth. There was insufficient evidence for the county attorney to press charges against Konecny.</p>
<p>Brittany Givens-Copeland 24 Bloomington January 25</p>	<p>Adam Williams lured Brittany Givens-Copeland to his Burnsville apartment and then ambushed her at the door. He strangled her with neckties. Afterward he committed suicide by setting fire to his apartment. Brittany had dated Williams a short time but had decided to end the relationship. Brittany is survived by her son, Christian, who was four months old at the time of her death.</p>
<p>Sharon Kathleen Nyren 67 Fairhaven Township February 24</p>	<p>Dale M. Nyren shot and killed his wife, Sharon in their home with a .22 caliber revolver. Dale admitted having an argument with Sharon, he first shot her in the knee and then a few minutes later, he shot her in the head. Dale is charged with second degree murder. Dale Nyren pled guilty to second-degree murder charges in August. Sharon is survived by three sons, five grandchildren, a great grandchild, and siblings.</p>
<p>Heather Rose McPherson 24 Plymouth April 19</p>	<p>Heather went to the McDonald's in Maple Grove where she had agreed to meet Sedric Jerome Larkins. Heather was about to end the relationship with Sedric. While still in the parking lot, Sedric shot her. After she fell to the ground, Sedric shot her at least once more. He fled the scene and quickly was seen speeding on the interstate where he was pulled over. When the police officer approached the car, he found Sedric dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Heather is survived by her nine-year old daughter, Alexandra, her parents, siblings, and grandparents.</p>
<p>Jody Lee Morrow 38 Albert Lea June 21</p>	<p>On June 21 at 1:00 a.m. Chad Jamie Gulbertson went to Jody's home in violation of the order for protection that Jody had obtained on June 1st. He killed her by hitting her in the head with a ball peen hammer. Legal documents show that he had physically abused and threatened to kill her in the past. Gulbertson turned himself in to the police later that morning. The police found Jody lying on the floor in front of her wheelchair. The floor and the wheelchair were covered in blood. Gulbertson has been charged with one count of second-degree murder while under a restraining order for protection and one count of third-degree murder. Jody is survived by two sons, ages 10 and 12.</p>

<p>Erica Ann Wilson 38 Circle Pines July 30</p>	<p>Erica had left her partner of 25 years, James H. Schwartzbauer, a week earlier. She had not told him where she was going and left behind her cell phone. He tracked her down less than a week later. Neighbors heard them arguing on the evening of July 29. Early the next morning, Schwartzbauer was waiting to confront her in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Neighbors heard them arguing, one saw him grab her and throw her against a car with a gun to her head. Neighbors started shouting and called 911. He moved Erica into a breezeway. Neighbors heard gunshots. Schwartzbauer murdered Erica and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide. Erica is survived by three adult sons, a sister, and her mother.</p>
<p>Candice L. Ouellette 38 Harris August 5</p>	<p>Douglas Ouellette strangled his wife, Candice, in the kitchen of his home while his frightened twin daughters hid upstairs and called 911. Douglas ran away to a barn on their land and hanged himself. Candice had obtained an OFP and filed for divorce in June. At that time, the sheriff took Douglas's guns from him because he had threatened suicide and because Candice became concerned when she saw that he had loaded his guns with enough ammunition to kill everyone in the family. Candice is survived by her eight year old twin daughters, her ten year old son, her parents, and two siblings.</p>
<p>Pamela A. Taschuk 48 Lino Lakes October 1</p>	<p>In the two months prior to her death, Pamela tried to protect herself from her abusive husband, Allen Taschuk. Over their 23-year marriage he had hit, punched, pushed, and held her captive many, many times and had threatened to kill her at least four times. On August 26, Allen was arrested for domestic assault and false imprisonment. Two days later he was released from jail without conditions after posting \$5,000 bail. Pamela obtained an Order for Protection on September 10 and filed for divorce on September 25. After she returned to her home on October 1st from a support-group meeting at a battered women's shelter, Allen came to her home and shot her, called 911, and then shot himself. She is survived by her sons, Ryan and Josh, her parents, her siblings, and three stepsons, as well as other dear family members and friends.</p>
<p>Lori Roberts 49 Doran October 2</p>	<p>On October 2nd, Lori Roberts was found dead from a gunshot wound. Wilkin County authorities have ruled the death a homicide but have not yet arrested anyone for the murder. The family of Lori Roberts says there is no doubt who killed her. Roberts' family claims her ex-boyfriend killed her. They say the ex-boyfriend was there when she was shot and then made the 911 call in the morning. Lori Roberts had recently broken up with the boyfriend.</p>
<p>Jean A. Wassenaar 67 St. Paul November 2</p>	<p>Gerald Wassenaar killed his wife, Jean A. Wassenaar. The police found Jean in her home with multiple traumatic injuries to her head and neck. Ramsey county authorities have charged Gerald with unintentional second-degree murder. Jean had a long history of volunteerism in Minneapolis. She is survived by one son.</p>

<p>Kathryn Rose Anderson 19 Morris December 3</p>	<p>Katie had moved from Morris to the Twin Cities earlier this year to attend Le Cordon Bleu College where she was studying to be a pastry chef. Everyone knew how much she loved fishing, hunting, and wintry weather. After Ryan Hurd, her estranged boyfriend, had assaulted her on October 29th, Katie obtained a no-contact order in Dakota County. He apparently had assaulted her earlier in October 2009. On December 3rd, a passerby found Katie lying in a ditch on a gravel road outside Owatonna. The autopsy indicates that Hurd had stabbed her 109 times and she had deep abrasions on her body consistent with being thrown onto a gravel surface and sliding along the surface. She died from both the wounds and exposure. Hurd left the state and went back to his family in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was apprehended. He has confessed to stabbing her and leaving her. He faces second-degree murder charges.</p>
<p>Trudy Kline Propps 62 Stillwater December 11</p>	<p>Trudy was trying to get her husband Gerald Propps to the hospital. She believed he was "out of his mind," according to the 911 call she made, because he was dehydrated and in need of nutrition. While on the 911 call, Gerald shot her in the back. Trudy's daughter Beth dragged her out of the apartment as she continued to talk to the 911 dispatcher. When the police arrived, Gerald shot his gun again and refused to put it down. The police shot him dead. Trudy was pronounced dead at the hospital a few hours after the incident began. Trudy is survived by three children and six grandchildren.</p>

Minor children murdered 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.

<p>Baby Shaw 2 months St. Paul March 4</p>	<p>Rebecca Shaw returned home on February 27th from work to find her 2-month old daughter in distress and having difficulty breathing. Louis Darcell Jones had been caring for the baby while Rebecca was at work. Rebecca's daughter was taken off of life support on March 4th. An autopsy showed that she died from internal injuries and trauma to her head. Jones has been charged with second-degree unintentional murder.</p>
<p>Julia Leigh Rivera 15 months Richfield March 31</p>	<p>Julia died at Children's Hospital after she was brought there by ambulance on March 26. She suffered from a massive brain swelling, tearing in her retinas, fixed pupils, and a skull fracture caused by a hard object. Julia's pediatrician reports that when he saw her on March 24th that she was alert and had no injuries. On the morning of March 26th, Julia's mother, Rachel Reeves, brought her to her baby sitter. She put her in a crib and gave the sitter directions for her care when Julia woke up. The sitter looked in on her in about 15 minutes and knew something was terribly wrong. The sitter and her son called 911 and performed CPR until the</p>

	emergency responders arrived. In late September, authorities had sufficient evidence to charge Rachel Reeves with second-degree murder.
Nicholas Miller 18 months Northfield June 23	Nicholas died from beatings from his stepfather, Tylar James Hokanson. Nicholas had suffered a broken collarbone twice and had been seen bruised and bloodied in the months leading up to his death. When questioned about it Hokanson blamed Nicholas's biological father. He later admitted to having shaken Nicholas for no less than ten or fifteen minutes. The shaking broke his thoracic vertebrae in the middle of his back, which led to lymphatic fluid filling his chest cavity making it difficult for him to breathe. His condition, including bleeding in his brain, continued to deteriorate over a four-day period, but he never received medical attention. Nicholas died in Wisconsin at the home of his stepfather's family. Authorities there contacted the Dakota County Sheriff's office; because they believe the beating took place in Dakota County. Hokanson has been indicted on first-degree murder charges.
Alexander Heikes 7 weeks Minneapolis July 4	Alexander Heikes killed his infant son and namesake by squeezing his abdomen so hard that the infant's liver and spleen were lacerated and bled into his abdominal cavity. When Heikes woke up several hours later with the baby laying on his chest, the baby was dead. The medical authorities also identified a dozen healing rib fractures from earlier abuse. Heikes has been charged with unintentional second-degree homicide. Baby Alexander is survived by his mother.
Baby Hanson 2 years Cannon Falls July 5	Baby Hanson, she would have been three years old on July 15, 2009 died from a severe abusive traumatic head injury. Emergency personnel took her to the hospital on July 1 from her home in Cannon Falls. She died on July 5th. Justin David Lake, her mother's boyfriend, has been charged with first degree assault and malicious punishment of a child.
Michael Vonheath Becht, Jr. 10 South St. Paul July 6	Michael's mother, Patricia Ann Becht, gave him and his 11-year old sister an overdose of the medication that his mother had been taking to treat her bipolar disorder and schizophrenia. His mother also attempted suicide using the same drugs. She and her daughter survived. Becht pled guilty to second-degree murder and attempted second-degree murder.
Willie Ervin Franklin IV 4 months Golden Valley August 28	Willie Ervin Franklin III admitted to having thrown a baby bottle at his son when he was crying and hit him in the head. His son started crying uncontrollably. Franklin then suffocated his son by placing him face down on a pillow on the couch covering him head-to-toe with a quilt and leaving him there while he went into the bedroom for about 30 minutes where he smoked marijuana and called a sex-related line. Franklin pled guilty to second-degree manslaughter and is awaiting sentencing.

<p>Julian James-Robert Williams 2 Saint Paul September 10</p>	<p>2 year old Julian James-Robert Williams died as a result of lacerations to his liver and pancreas, as a result of a beating. Julian was taken into St Paul Children's hospital after a 911 call to his home, where he underwent surgery for the injuries but he did not survive. Julian's mother Jessica Dominique Caldwell, and boyfriend Demetrius Charles Willis were arrested, but were later released and have not been formally charged in this case.</p>
<p>Avory Rafferty 3 months Ortonville October 30</p>	<p>Zachary Rafferty, age 19, the father of Avory was arrested and charged with second degree murder for the death of his son.</p>

Friends- Family members- Interveners murdered in domestic violence-related situations:

<p>Savang Sath 27 Big Lake March 28</p>	<p>Savang died from two gunshot wounds to his head after he confronted his mother's boyfriend, Peter Tek, when Tek was physically fighting with her. His mother had suffered head injuries. After Tek shot Savang, he kidnapped Savang's mother and engaged in a police chase down I-94. After Tek was stopped and police engaged in negotiations, he released Savang's mother who was then hospitalized. Tek stayed in the car and committed suicide with the same gun that he had used to kill Savang.</p>
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<p>Officer Richard Crittenden 57 North St. Paul September 7</p>	<p>Previous to September 7th, Devon Dockery was arrested for violating the order on May 18th and again on August 26th. On September 6th, Dockery had already fled when the police arrived. Dockery had a long history of abuse against his estranged wife, Stacy Terry. The criminal complaints indicate that he had physically abused and made terroristic threats against her over the past nine years and she had obtained at least four Orders for Protection against him. Officer Richard Crittenden responded to a call at the home of Stacy Terry for a violation of an Order for Protection which was issued in May against Devon Dockery. On the morning of September 7th, Stacey Terry called the police because she feared Dockery was inside her apartment waiting to ambush her and her daughter. When Officer Crittenden, and another officer, along with Stacey and her daughter entered the apartment, Dockery charged at them with an accelerant-soaked flaming rag. Officer Crittenden pushed Stacey and her daughter into a safe place in the kitchen while he and the other officer fought Dockery in the living room. Dockery burned Officer Crittenden on his head. In the melee, Dockery was able to grab the officer's gun and shoot Officer Crittenden in the head at close range. The other officer also suffered a gunshot wound to her arm as she and Dockery exchanged gun shots. Both Officer Crittenden and Dockery were pronounced dead at the scene. Officer Richard Crittenden is survived by a son, stepdaughter, wife and four grandchildren.</p>
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Women murdered by other family members or intimates of family members:

<p>Jennifer Linnear 26 St. Paul March 5</p>	<p>Whitney Tanee Kizart, who was the girlfriend of Jennifer's husband, Robert Linnear, stabbed Jennifer when Jennifer and Robert went to her apartment. Kizart met them outside her apartment armed with a kitchen knife. During the confrontation, Kizart stabbed Jennifer, penetrating her heart and lungs. When Jennifer arrived at the hospital, she was unconscious, had no pulse, and was pronounced dead. Jennifer is survived by five children between the ages of 2 and 10. Another daughter, age 1 1/2, had died in the summer of 2008 from leukemia. Kizart has been charged with second-degree murder.</p>
<p>Marianne Fogolin 69 Eagan Approximately April 5</p>	<p>On April 22, police were asked to do a welfare check at the apartment of Marianne Fogolin. She lived there with her adult son Robert Ament. The police found Marianne dead from a gunshot wound and Robert dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Authorities believe Marianne had been dead for at least two weeks before her body was found. She is survived by her twin sister and two daughters and by many friends from the Red Hat Society and from her activities at the Eagan Senior Center.</p>
<p>Tobista Beyena Mokonnen 22 Richfield May 2</p>	<p>Tobista's brother, Guuci, confronted her in the parking lot of her apartment complex while she held her eight-month old child. Police reports indicate that he was angry with her because she wouldn't let him move in with her. He stabbed her with a paring knife in the hand, head, back, and neck as she held her baby. Her blood-curdling screams were heard on a 911 call. She was dead when the police arrived. Guuci had fled the scene, but he soon called the police and admitted he had killed his sister. He is charged with first-degree murder and is currently held on \$2 million bail. The father of Tobista's infant is now caring for the child.</p>

Men murdered by Intimate Partners

Matthew David Albert 27 Shooks October 21	On October 20, Betsy Marie Hanks, shot her partner, Matthew David Albert, once in the head while he was in bed. Matthew died on October 21 at a Twin Cities hospital without every regaining consciousness. He is survived by four minor children, ages 6 years, 5 years, 3 years and 18 months. Hanks is charged with second degree intentional murder.
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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 84 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 2009, at least 28 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.

Remember their names...

28. January 11, 2009 Tina Marie Tracy, Virginia – St. Louis County, died after being pushed out of a moving vehicle.
29. January 25, 2009 Brittany Givens – Copeland, Bloomington-Hennepin County, died as a result of strangulation.
30. February 24, 2009 Sharon Kathleen Nyren, Fairhaven Township-Stearns County, died as a result of gunshot.
31. March 4, 2009 Baby Shaw, St. Paul – Ramsey County, died of head trauma and internal injuries.
32. March 5, 2009 Jennifer Linnear, St. Paul – Ramsey County. Died as a result of stabbing.
33. March 28, 2009 Sath, Savang, Big Lake- Sherburne County, died as a result of gunshot.
34. March 31, 2009 Julia Leigh Rivera, Richfield-Hennepin County, died of massive brain swelling.
35. April 5, 2009 Marianne Fogolin, Eagan-Dakota County, died as a result of gunshot
36. April 19, 2009 Heather Rose McPherson, Plymouth-Hennepin County, died as a result of gunshot
37. May 2, 2009 Tobista Beyena Mokonnen, Richfield- Hennepin County, died as a result of stabbing
38. June 21, 2009 Jody Lee Morrow, Albert Lea- Freeborn County, died as a result of a beating.
39. June 23, 2009 Nicholas Miller, Northfield- Rice County, died as a result of brain injuries
40. July 4, 2009 Alexander Heikes, Minneapolis-Hennepin County died from internal injuries as a result of being squeezed
41. July 5, 2009 Baby Hanson, Cannon Falls-Goodhue County, died of severe abusive traumatic head injuries
42. July 6, 2009 Michael Vonheath Brecht Jr. South Saint Paul-Dakota County, died of drug overdose
43. July 30, 2009 Erica Ann Wilson, Circle Pines-Anoka County, died of gunshot
44. August 5, 2009 Candice L. Ouelette, Harris-Chisago County, died of strangulation
45. August 28, 2009 Willie Ervin Franklin, Golden Valley-Hennepin County, died of suffocation
46. September 7, 2009 Officer Richard Crittenden, North St. Paul – Ramsey County, died from a gunshot.
47. September 10, 2009 Julian James-Robert Williams, Saint Paul-Ramsey County, died of beating
48. October 1, 2009 Pamela A. Taschuk, Lino Lakes -Anoka County, died of gunshot
49. October 10, 2009 Lori Roberts, Doran-Wilkin County, died of gunshot

50. October 21, 2009 Matthew David Albert, Shooks - Beltrami County, died of a gunshot.
51. October 30, 2009 Avory Rafferty, Ortonville-Big Stone County, died from unspecified causes.
52. November 2, 2009 Jean A. Wassenaar, Saint Paul- Ramsey County, died of Multiple traumatic injuries
53. December 3, 2009 Kathryn Rose Anderson, Owatonna -Steele County, died from stab wounds and exposure
54. December 11, 2009 Trudy Kline Propps, Stillwater-Washington County, died of gunshot