



NCEDSV

Nevada Coalition to **END** Domestic and Sexual Violence

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES IN NEVADA

2016

**NEVADA COALITION TO END
DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

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THE NEVADA COALITION TO END DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE DEDICATES THIS REPORT TO THE WOMEN, CHILDREN, AND MEN IN NEVADA WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

In 2016, the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV), formerly the Nevada Network to End Domestic Violence, identified 24 domestic violence incidents in Nevada that resulted in the death of one or more individuals.

NCEDSV recorded these incidents based on published news stories and publicly available police reports. Given the nature of the source material, these stories provide differing amounts of detail of the circumstances surrounds each homicide. Though occasionally these sources offered limited specifics of each individual's death, NCEDSV wishes to acknowledge that every life lost is a tragedy, felt not only by the family and friends of the deceased, but by the whole of our community.

NCEDSV's summary based on the available information follows below.

Overview of the Domestic Violence Homicides in Nevada Report

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) indicates that almost half of the women (48.1%) and almost one-third of men (30.9%) of men living in Nevada have experienced rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner.¹ As this report highlights, domestic violence homicide can be the tragic outcome of a violent relationship.

What Domestic Violence Homicides in Nevada Report measures

Nevada has a very broad definition regarding who can be a victim of domestic violence. Nevada Revised Statutes defines domestic violence to include spouses, former spouses, family members, persons who have or had a dating relationship, persons with a child or children in common, the children of two persons, and persons cohabitating together.²

To be included in this report, NCEDSV identified each homicide as an intimate partner violence related incident; the deaths resulted from violence between adults who were either current or past intimate partners.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/summary_reports.html accessed September 9, 2016

² Nevada Revised Statute 33.018



NCEDSV limits this reports to homicides that are intimate partner related (spouse, former spouse, former or current dating relationship, or having children in common.) This report also measures the number of perpetrator deaths, children, family members, current partners, and law enforcement offers killed.

Why does NCEDSV limit the definition regarding domestic violence? The focus of NCEDSV's and our partner agencies' work is ending intimate partner violence and sexual violence. As such, we limited the focus of our report to reflect our focus solely.

Limitations of the *Domestic Violence Homicides in Nevada Report*

NCEDSV relies solely on publicly accessible information to create this report. NCEDSV reviews media clippings and the homicide logs of law enforcement agencies that provide information to the public via their website. If the media does not report that a homicide as an intimate partner homicide or as a murder-suicide, NCEDSV does not include it in this report. As such, NCEDSV does not state this is the definitive number of domestic violence homicides, but it is the number identified.

Additionally, the events listed have not been proven in court and as such the guilt or innocence of anyone listed as a perpetrator is considered alleged.

OVERVIEW OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES IN NEVADA FOR 2016

In 2016, NCEDSV identified at least 24 incidents in which someone lost their lives due to domestic violence. In these incidents:

- 16 women and four men were killed by partners or ex-partners.
- Three men killed by the partners of or former partners of domestic violence victims.
- Three children were killed in a family annihilation.
- Eight alleged male perpetrators' suicide deaths followed domestic violence homicide or attempted homicide.

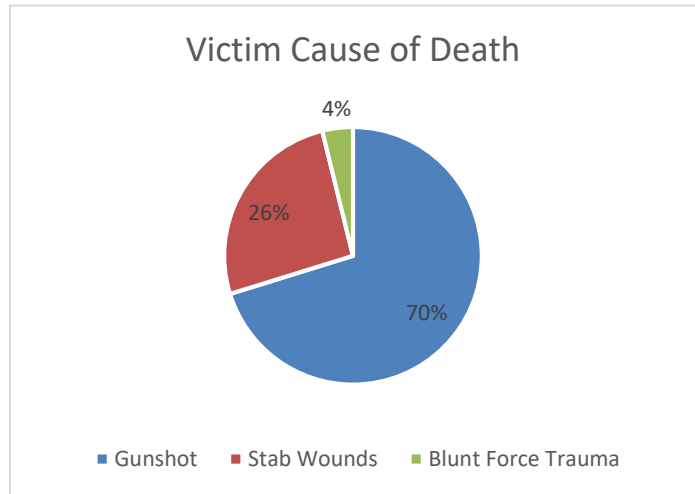


Cause of death

In 2016, 18 of the 26 victims, child, and bystander deaths (70 percent) were due to gunshot wounds.

NCEDSV wishes to note that national studies show that when there is a handgun present in a household where domestic violence is occurring, the chances of someone being killed increases 500 percent.³

Additionally, 85% of the perpetrators who killed themselves, used firearms.



7 victims (26 percent) died as a result of stab wounds; 1 death (4 percent) was due to blunt force trauma.⁴

Person Prohibited from Carrying a Firearm

Based on information presented by the media or in police reports, NCEDSV believes two of the alleged perpetrators who used a firearm were federally prohibited from possessing a firearm.

Average Age

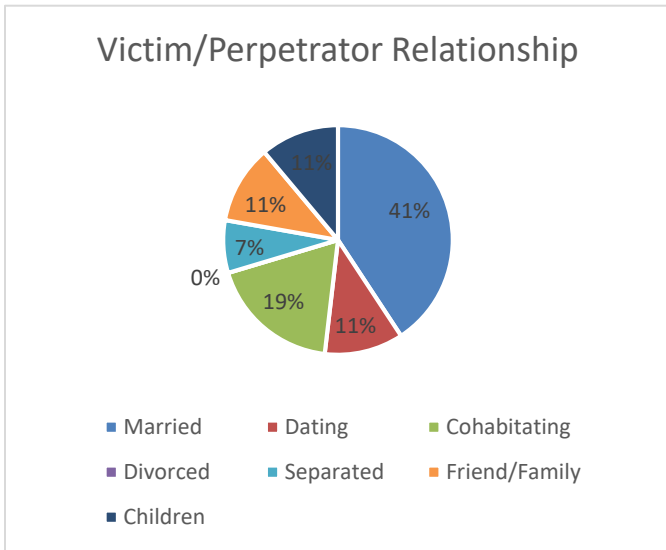
The average age of persons who died was 37.

³ J.C. Campbell and others, "Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study," American Journal of Public Health 93 (7) (2003): 1089–1097.

⁴ Note: In one incident, it was an attempted murder and suicide; however, the perpetrator only succeed in killing himself. Hence why there is 24 incidents and 23 victims, three children, and three bystander deaths



Victim/Perpetrator Relationship



The majority of fatal incidents that occurred were between married individuals (53 percent) or cohabitating individuals (19 percent).

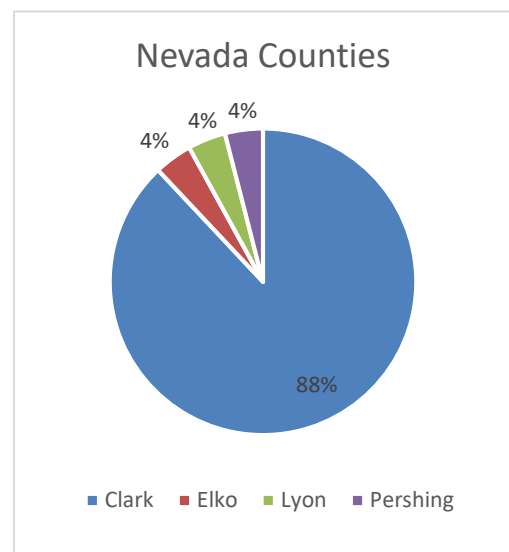
The media indicated that in several of the incidents, the victim was in the process of separating with their abusive partner.

There were six murder-suicides and one family annihilation, in which the perpetrator murdered their spouse and three children. The perpetrator also committed suicide.

Counties where homicides occurred

Due to the Nevada’s population disbursement, it is unsurprising that the majority of domestic violence homicides occurred in the primary urban area of Clark County.

- Clark County had 21 domestic violence homicides or 88 percent.
- Elko and Lyon Counties had one domestic violence homicide or 4 percent each.
- Pershing County had one perpetrator suicide in an attempted murder-suicide.





IN THE DEATH OF ...

As noted above, each homicide received a varying degree of attention from reporters, ranging from multi-story investigative reporting to simple one-paragraph crime reports. As such, the descriptions below should not be considered a full report of the complexity of the events surrounding each individual's death. More importantly, NCEDSV regrets that these brief accounts of their violent deaths are unable to capture the significance each life held to their loved ones.

NCEDSV continues to work with service providers, community partners, law enforcement, law and policy makers, survivors, and the community at large to fulfill our vision of a Nevada in which domestic and sexual violence are eradicated and healthy relationships thrive.

We offer these stories in memories of the lives lost to violence.

Aaron Matthews, 32 (male victim, gunshot wound)

February 10, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Aaron Matthews was shot and killed by Catherine Brewington while she was leaving their home. According to Brewington, she and Matthews were arguing. He attempted to strangle her and pulled her hair. While she was getting into the car, she stated she shot him in the chest.

Starsha Williams, 28 (female victim, gunshot wound); Michael Bettington, 29 (male perpetrator, suicide)

March 17, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Starsha Williams was shot and killed by Michael Bettington during an argument in their home. According to LVMPD, Williams called 911, and the phone was disconnected. When police arrived, both were dead inside the house.

Earlier that day, Williams received a temporary protection order against Bettington. Bettington was not served the order at the time of the homicide.



Antonio Leon-Mendoza (male victim, stab wounds)

March 19, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Antonio Leon-Mendoza was stabbed by Julio Aguero-Alvarez during an argument about a woman. Leon-Mendoza died of his wounds at the hospital.

Johnie Shadden, (female victim, gunshot wound)

March 22, 2016, Yerington, Lyon County

Johnie Shadden was shot and killed by her husband, Dustin Cooper. The sheriff's office arrested Cooper following an investigation involving the Lyon County District Attorney's Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Firearms, and Tobacco.

Chelsey Lagle, 19 (female victim, stab wounds)

March 29, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Chelsey Lagle was stabbed to death by her live-in boyfriend, Skyler Fowler. Fowler admitted to the murder. Fowler was a convicted felon on probation for possession and distribution of child pornography.

Ethan Walker, 17 (male victim, gunshot wound)

April 7, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Jessie Sheppard broke into his ex-girlfriend's, Curlie Davenport, apartment and beat her. According to the media report, Ethan Walker and other family members forced their way in to confront Sheppard. During that altercation, Ethan Walker was shot and killed by Sheppard. According to Davenport, there was a protection order against Sheppard.

Geri Hanson, 50 (female victim, gunshot wound); Ted Hanson, 58 (male perpetrator, suicide)

April 12, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to police reports, Geri Hanson was shot and killed while calling the police for help by her husband, Ted Hanson. When police arrived, Geri Hanson was dead of multiple gunshot wounds. Ted Hanson killed himself.



Christina Franklin, 27 (female victim, gunshot wound); Travis Spitler, 40 (male perpetrator, suicide)

May 6, 2016, North Las Vegas, Clark County

While dropping off her children at daycare, Christina Franklin and her two children were shot by her estranged husband, Travis Spitler. Spitler committed suicide. Franklin died on the scene. Her children survived. Before this incident, Spitler was arrested and released from jail on a domestic violence charge against Franklin. Franklin's application for a protection order had been denied.

Linda Wise, 53 (female victim, stab wounds)

May 13, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Linda Wise was stabbed to death allegedly by her boyfriend, Michael Garcia.

Natalia Cruz-Tiatenchi, 45 (female victim, stab wounds); Trinidad Gonzalez-Flores (male perpetrator, suicide)

May 16, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to police reports, Natalia Cruz-Tiatenchi was stabbed and killed by Trinidad Gonzalez-Flores. Gonzalez-Flores then killed himself. According to the media report, the couple had a history of unreported domestic violence.

Kristen Fleming, 35 (female victim, gunshot wound)

June 3, 2016, Spring Creek, Elko County

Elko County Sheriff Deputies responded to a 911 call concerning a shooting. When the deputies arrived, they found Donald Fleming administering CPR on Kristen Fleming who had a gunshot wound to her face. She was declared dead at the scene. Donald Fleming had one arrest for domestic violence charge in 2014.



Phoukeo Dej-Oudom, 35 (female victim, gunshot wound); Anhurah Dej-Oudom, 9 (child victim, gunshot wound); Xonajuk Dej-Oudom, 14 (child victim, gunshot wound); Dalavanh Dej-Oudom, 15 (child victim, gunshot wound); and Jason Dej-Oudom, 34 (male perpetrator, suicide)

June 29, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to police and media reports, Jason Dej-Oudom, while in his vehicle, chased, shot and killed Phoukeo Dej-Oudom as she was running for help. Jason Dej-Oudom returned home, shot and killed the couple's three children before killing himself.

The couple had a documented history of domestic violence in Ohio and Las Vegas. Phoekeo Dej-Oudom was denied a protection before this incident.

Samuel Lorenzo Villanueva, 29 (male victim, stab wounds)

July 7, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to media reports, Samuel Lorenzo Villanueva died from multiple stab wounds. The police issued a warrant for the arrest of Nadia Bremer-Leroy, Villanueva's wife of three months.

Donna Kim, 83 (female victim, gunshot wound); John Kim, 79 (male perpetrator, suicide)

July 20, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to media and police reports, John Kim shot and killed his wife, Donna Kim, then himself at the nursing home where Donna Kim was residing.

Paulette King, 61 (female victim, gunshot wound)

July 25, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Henderson police responded to a 911 call by Dennis Kopp. In the call, Kopp stated he shot and killed his wife, Paulette King.



Erlinda Penaflor, 78 (female victim, blunt force trauma)

Arthur Lopez admitted to police that he killed his wife, Erlinda Penaflor. Penaflor and Lopez were living separately when he arrived unannounced and stayed the night. Penaflor's roommate found Penaflor dead the next morning.

Edward Bauman, 50 (male perpetrator, suicide)

August 31, 2016, Lovelock, Pershing County

Officers responded to a 911 call regarding gunshots and found Dora Bauman with a non-fatal gunshot wound to her head. Edward Bauman, her husband, had committed suicide.

Darlene Yonke, 41 (female victim, gunshot wound); Michael Yonke, 38 (male perpetrator, suicide)

September 5, 2016, Henderson, Clark County

Henderson police responded to a welfare check and found the bodies of Darlene and Michael Yonke. According to police, Darlene Yonke was moving out. Michael Yonke shot and killed her, then himself.

There was a documented history of domestic violence between the couple.

Darryl White, 34 (male victim, stab wounds)

September 22, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Lah'tijera Howard stabbed and killed Darryl White. Before this incident, Howard was arrested twice before on domestic violence charges. In a previous incident, Howard stabbed White in the leg. She was currently attending batterer's intervention classes.

Amanda Kaplan, 30 (female victim, stab wounds)

September 24, 2016, Henderson, Clark County

Police reports state that Michael Kaplan contacted police regarding an injured woman, his wife. When police arrived, they found Amanda Kaplan dead as a result of stab wounds. Police arrested Kaplan at the scene.



Kaji Goode, 22 (female victim, gunshot wounds)

October 15, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Kaji Goode was shot and killed by her live-in boyfriend, Ivan Cotton. According to the media report, Cotton called 911. He reported that Goode was shot. He then changed the story stating that she shot herself. When police arrived, she was found to have multiple gunshot wounds. She was pronounced dead at the hospital.

Rayvon Soloman, 28 (male victim, gunshot wound)

October 22, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Steven Lewis confronted Soloman and a woman he was dating while the couple was inside a restaurant. Apparently, the woman was dating both Soloman and Lewis. Lewis later came to residence where Soloman was staying. A physical altercation occurred between the two men. Lewis allegedly shot Soloman.

Moinee Wade, 28 (female victim, gunshot wound)

October 26, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

Police arrested Jevon Hudson for the murder of his girlfriend, Moinee Wade. According to LVMPD, Wade was shot once in the head.

Matthew Bernadi, 32 (male victim, gunshot wound)

November 20, 2016, Las Vegas, Clark County

According to the arrest report, Cheryl Rheamount told police that Bernadi was violent with her in the past. Bernadi had threaten to kill Rheamount during a violent incident that day. She stated that she was in fear for her life when she shot and killed him.