Honoring Texas Victims
FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2013
Counties in white on this map experienced one or more instances of intimate partner femicide in 2013, while counties shaded purple saw no fatalities.

Through continued commitment to intervention and prevention of domestic violence, we challenge all of Texas to Go Purple and strive for a state where no woman loses her life as a result of family violence.
Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2013 continues the arduous task of providing a precise account of women killed by their male intimate partners in Texas. Throughout 2013 and 2014, a team of TCFV staff reviewed media reports from across the state to identify our lost grandmothers, mothers, sisters, nieces, cousins, and friends. This media report analysis relies on passionate reporters to tell the realities of these women’s lives and to present the facts of each case. News outlets around the state provided valuable information about these femicides and information from obituaries and other media sources added the depth of knowledge and detail we provide within our narratives. In addition to our internal media research, TCFV worked with others who also collect similar data both at the statewide and national levels.

Moreover, TCFV worked closely with local law enforcement agencies. We requested and analyzed police reports from 33 law enforcement agencies through open records requests. In homicide cases, TCFV contacted 38 district and county attorneys from around the state. Through our open records requests, prosecutors and their victim services coordinators supplemented our efforts with crucial details regarding facts about pending prosecution, verdicts, and much more.

Social media further supplemented important information about the lives of some of these women. Families and friends created Facebook pages, YouTube channels, Instagram feeds, GoFundMe accounts and more to memorialize their lost loved ones, and many of these sites advocate for justice in the trials of the men accused of murder, often providing additional details of the pattern of abuse suffered by these women. This new investigational tool helps provide more details into these crimes and helps us to understand more of the dynamics that lead up to the moments of tragedy.

In addition to all of these approaches, we partnered with over 80 Texas family violence programs, distributing a survey to capture vital information from our local partners. Responding programs helped to identify more victims of femicides that occurred in 2013.

Finally, the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) for 2013 helped verify our list of 2013 femicides. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) collects data from law enforcement agencies across the country to produce the UCR. The UCR validates our research and sometimes leads to the identification of more victims, as occurred this year. After a thorough examination of the data, TCFV then connected with law enforcement agencies about specific cases.

Each year, TCFV pursues factual accounts of the women killed by their male intimate partners identifying new trends, capturing existing ones, and telling each story with utmost care and respect. Our hope: our communities, policy makers, and other key players should find motivation and insight to develop and employ successful strategies to stop these tragic acts from occurring.

In offering these 119 stories and analyses, we continue to hold tight to the belief that family violence deaths are identifiable, knowable, and preventable.

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ANALYSIS

In the United States, more than three women a day are murdered by their male intimate partners, including husbands, boyfriends, ex-partners, and dating partners. According to annual studies produced by the Violence Policy Center, approximately 10% of all the femicides occur in Texas yearly, yet Texas represents only 8% percent of the total United States population. Clearly, at the local, state and national levels, we all have work to do to understand and work to stop these intimate partner murders from continuing.

Age Characteristics

The 2013 fatalities reflect that victim ages ranged from 17-85.

On the younger end of the scale, we know that three women under the age of 20 died. One particularly shocking case this year involved a 17-year-old ex-boyfriend who stabbed and killed his 17-year-old ex-girlfriend as she held her infant daughter at a bus stop. In the larger context we know that adolescent femicide accounts for 7% of the women killed in the United States. Young women, ages 16-24, are particularly vulnerable to intimate partner violence, experiencing abuse at almost three times the national average compared to other age groups. Nearly 1.5 million high school students in the United States have been hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their partners in the past year.

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The narratives also tell the stories of older victims. For instance a man shot his 85-year-old wife (one of the eldest victims in this report) and then shot her 61-year-old son. Nationally, 11% of elderly female victims ages 65 and older were killed by an intimate partner. Overall, the number of elderly femicides in Texas remained consistent from 2012 to 2013. In 2012, there were 13 victims ages 60-90. In 2013, intimate partners killed 13 victims ages 60-90 (aged 60-69 and 4 aged greater than 70). There were 16 offenders ages 60-90 (10 aged 60-69 and 6 aged greater than 70). This stable number of elderly victims warrants consideration as to how family violence services must adapt and expand services to meet the needs of an aging population. Older clients may face unique barriers related to mobility, medication access, and access to services.

Importantly, victims ages 30-39 (n = 35) represent the most prevalent age group, followed by victims age 20-29 (n = 30) and victims age 40-49 (n = 29). These trends have also remained consistent over the past three years.

Victims’ Relationship Status with Perpetrators

“Husband-wife” represents the most common relationship between perpetrator and victim (47%), followed by “boyfriend-girlfriend” relationships (35%). Former boyfriends and girlfriends comprised 15% of the represented relationships and divorced women were 3% of the murdered population. Although a large percentage of victims were still legally married at the time their perpetrator killed them, many of them took action to leave or to obtain protective orders prior to their deaths. And research indicates that many domestic violence homicides display predictable patterns and precursors in precisely this stage of the relationship. “Male control has been identified as a dominant theme in femicides with jealousy, the woman leaving, and the woman having a new relationship identified as important triggers…the number-one risk factor for domestic homicide is a history of domestic violence against the woman.” The cold fact remains that relationship estrangement significantly increases the likelihood of intimate partner femicide.

In 2013, at least 21 women had attempted to leave their abusive partners or had just left the relationship when they were murdered. Fourteen women who were murdered in Texas had obtained a protective order and 50 of the perpetrators had a known history of violence. These stark dynamics

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9 For more guidelines on working with older victims, visit: http://www.ncall.us/content/tips-working-older-victims.
10 For the purposes of this report, ‘n =’ refers to the number of victims that shared the characteristic described.
further illuminate the need for all of us to take seriously how a victim appraises her own safety from her perspective; although the community might prefer she simply leave a violent relationship or environment, this may not represent the safest decision.

**Month of Victimization**

In 2013, the highest number of fatalities occurred in July (16) and 15 fatalities occurred in December. Current national research does not conclusively support a definite correlation between the holidays and an increase in intimate partner homicides. Additionally, for Texas, TCFV has not identified a significant association between the holidays and increased domestic violence fatalities. However, we know that six of the 119 homicides occurred within one day of Christmas and New Year’s. Furthermore, we found that over the last 10 years, the average fatalities in the month of December have been significantly higher than the year’s overall average fatalities.¹³

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¹³ TCFV completed a statistical analysis of data collected for Honoring Texas Victims report from 2004-2013.
Fatalities by County

In 2013, the counties with the largest population and which include Texas’ largest cities ranked as the four counties with the most intimate partner homicides. Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas, had 20 femicides and ranked higher than Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, with 19 femicides. In 2013, Harris County had 11 fewer women die at the hands of their intimate partners, down from 30 in 2012. Inversely, Dallas County had 11 more homicides this year, an increase from 9 in 2012. Next in descending order were Tarrant County (11), which includes Fort Worth and Arlington, with 5 more fatalities than in 2012, and Bexar County (7), which includes the city of San Antonio, with 2 more fatalities than in 2012.

Consider this additional analysis regarding Harris, Dallas and Tarrant. For some time now Harris County has experienced the highest number of fatalities of any county in our state. To some degree, we might expect this simply from a population density standpoint: Harris has over 2,400 people per square mile whereas other population centers like Travis and Bexar have less than 1,800 people per square mile. With 4,336,853 residents, Harris leads the state in a variety of metrics including intimate partner fatalities.

This year Dallas County exceeded the number of fatalities in Harris County. Also for some time now, however, Dallas and Tarrant when combined have experienced fatalities on par with Harris; this year’s totals of 20 for Dallas and 11 for Tarrant sadly represent a high water mark for those communities. And realizing the combined populations of Dallas (total population: 2,480,331) and Tarrant (total population: 1,911,541) total 4,391,872, the loss of 31 women in Dallas-Tarrant requires additional attention and analysis. It is worth noting and celebrating, however, that 19 fatalities in Harris represents a low water mark for Harris as compared to recent years.

Based on population density, consider that of the large urban counties with populations larger than one million residents, Dallas County had the highest per capita rate of intimate partner femicides (1:62,752), followed by Tarrant County (1:88,626). Travis County had the lowest per capita rate of intimate partner femicides (1:138,718), followed by Bexar County (1:131,906) and Harris County (1:114,356).

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15 Id.
In addition to the county location of the murder, we note when looking at the Go Purple map for 2013 the continuing trend of fatalities occurring in parts of Texas with concentrated population centers. According to the US Census, 85% of Texas’ population lives east of I-35, north of I-10 and west of I-45 in the so-called Texas Triangle. This area experienced 90% of the state’s population growth from 2011-2012 and ironically only occupies 40% of Texas’ landmass. Likewise, the Texas Triangle experienced 81 of the 119 fatalities or 68% of all women killed in the state. To a large degree, policy makers must implement strategies to address Texas fatalities cognizant of these demographics.

Significantly, however, several small counties experienced multiple intimate partner femicides in 2013. There were two fatalities in Kerr County (1:12,913) and Maverick County (1:14,123), which both have populations of approximately 50,000 residents. Bowie County (1:23,184) and Tom Green County (1:29,025) each experienced two fatalities and have populations of approximately 100,000 residents. Jefferson County (1:41,134), which includes Beaumont and Port Arthur, experienced three fatalities in 2013. Clearly, intimate partner deaths present both large and more rural communities with significant policy implications for addressing intimate partner murders.

Particularly alarming: in 2013, 7 counties clustered in the northeast region of Texas suffered intimate partner homicides. This area included a total of 7 homicides in Harrison, Hopkins, Marion, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood counties. Combining the female populations of these counties results in a per capita death rate of one in every 33,940 female residents. By way of comparison, the combined population of these counties (total population: 463,437) is closest to the population of Williamson County (Total Population: 471,014), which experienced one fatality in 2013 with a per capita rate of
death of one in every 240,799 female residents.\textsuperscript{16} For discussion on community level responses to these tragedies, see page 15.

\textit{Location of Murder}

The majority of intimate partner homicides in 2013 occurred in the home: 76\%. Many of the reports do not include the specific location within the home in which the murders occurred. The bedroom accounted for the largest proportion of specified locations with seven murders taking place there, followed by the front or back yard with six murders there. In 2013, eight of the women attempted to physically exit their homes when their partners killed them. The next most common place perpetrators murdered their victims was outside of the home and public places, including a workplace, on a public beach and in a courtyard.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{location_of_murder.png}
\caption{Location of murder within the home and other locations.}
\end{figure}

\textit{Means of Death}

Perpetrators overwhelmingly used firearms to kill the majority of female partners in 2013. Sixty-nine women of the 119 killed (58\%) were shot to death with a firearm, a higher percentage than the national average of 52\%.\textsuperscript{17} These numbers bear out the reality that female intimate partners are more likely to be killed with a firearm than all other means combined.\textsuperscript{18} Furthermore, gun availability in the home exponentially increases victims' chances of being murdered by violent perpetrators.\textsuperscript{19} For information on measures Texas communities have taken to address the problem of batterers who possess firearms, see page 16.

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{means_of_death.png}
\caption{Means of death.}
\end{figure}

\textsuperscript{17} When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2012 Homicide Data. Violence Policy Center, Sept. 2014, at 5.
\textsuperscript{18} Id.
Twenty-two percent (a total of 26 perpetrators) murdered their partners by stabbing them, which is consistent with national statistics. Six perpetrators beat their partners to death with their hands. Four perpetrators assaulted their intimate partners with their vehicles and two perpetrators suffocated their intimate partners. Several perpetrators used multiple means of lethal violence to kill their intimate partners.

Seven Texas women were strangled to death in 2013. While strangulation is not a leading cause of death, it is a key predictor of lethality risk. In addition to strangulation, other patterned violent behaviors including stalking, forced sex, abuse during pregnancy, a pattern of escalating severity and frequency of physical violence, perpetrator suicidality, and child abuse represent important predictive behaviors for femicide. In 2013, at least eight cases reported one or more of these highly correlative lethality factors. Clearly, cases involving these lethality predictors merit increased attention and care because they present an escalating severity of partner violence.

**Offender Status**

Sixty-one percent of perpetrators (n = 72) are involved in the criminal justice system. Thirty-five percent of perpetrators (n = 41) committed suicide. Law enforcement killed 3 perpetrators, and 2 perpetrators remain at large.

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Murder-Suicide and Familicide

For this report, we label incidents where the perpetrator kills his intimate partner (and, in some cases, others including children, friends or bystanders) and then commits suicide as “murder-suicides.” Nationally, approximately 12 murder-suicides occur each week.\textsuperscript{22} Of those, a man killing his intimate partner represents the most prevalent occurrence.\textsuperscript{23} In Texas, 41 male perpetrators murdered their partners and then committed suicide in 2013, or approximately 35\% of the total fatalities recorded in this report. Of the perpetrators, 35 shot themselves, 2 hung themselves, 1 jumped to his death, 1 ran his car off a cliff, 1 set himself on fire, and in 1 case TCFV could not determine the means of suicide. Six other perpetrators attempted suicide but survived their injuries.

This year TCFV notes a greater number of murder-suicides amongst elderly victims and offenders as compared to younger offenders and their victims: 83\% of perpetrators over 70 years old killed their partners and then committed suicide as opposed to 0\% of perpetrators under 19-years-old.

Familicide refers to the killing of a current or former intimate partner, and one or more of their children, followed by suicide.\textsuperscript{24} In 2013, two cases of familicide occurred in Texas. In one case, a perpetrator killed his 67-year-old wife and their 45-year-old son before killing himself. In a second case, a perpetrator killed his 85-year-old wife and her 61-year-old son before killing himself.

Related Victims, Witnesses, and Bystanders

Family violence murders directly and indirectly affect a wide variety of people in addition to the woman killed by her male intimate partner. In 2013, in addition to their partners, perpetrators killed an additional 17 friends or family members. This includes 5 minor children who were killed as a result of the attacks. Perpetrators killed 12 adults and severely injured 6 adults and 5 children during the attacks.

One hundred eighty-six adult and minor children in Texas lost a parent as a result of femicides in 2013. Fifty-five children were present when their mothers or loved ones died at the hands of a current or former intimate partner.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Else Was Present?</th>
<th>Present/Witness</th>
<th>Injured</th>
<th>Killed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>69</strong></td>
<td><strong>11</strong></td>
<td><strong>17</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The narratives in the final section of this report contain greater context for each unique incident, but on the next page we acknowledge the names and relationships of the 17 related victims (without naming minor children).

\textsuperscript{23} Id. at 5.
TCFV recognizes the tremendous loss of the following lives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annette Reed, Mother, 39</th>
<th>Homero de los Santos, Friend, 38</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Floyd, Friend, 30</td>
<td>James Doyle, Boyfriend, 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brandon Block, Brother, 31</td>
<td>Jesse Robledo, Boyfriend, 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brother, 10</td>
<td>Neima Williams, Daughter, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughter, 14</td>
<td>Regino Maybit, Jr., Boyfriend, 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daughter, 17</td>
<td>Shaunika Hoyle, Daughter, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emanuel Matase, Son, 26</td>
<td>Son, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friend, 17</td>
<td>Willard Landry, Son, 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Richell, Son, 45</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Deaths Not Included**

Sadly, the stories of lost lives documented in this report do not reflect the full picture of violence women experience in Texas. TCFV closely follows but does not publish the names of women killed in unsolved investigations. Moreover TCFV does not include cases when authorities drop murder charges or reduce them to a crime with a culpable mental state below that of murder. For example, in Nacogdoches County, authorities discovered the body of Carol Snider, 59, and determined that she died of homicidal violence; Carol previously told neighbors she was afraid of her boyfriend, Richard MacDonald, 53. Authorities initially charged her boyfriend with murder and tampering with evidence. Because of the decomposition of evidence at the scene, prosecutors dropped the murder charge when MacDonald agreed to accept a 20-year sentence for tampering with evidence, the maximum allowed under the law. Because prosecutors reduced the charges against MacDonald, TCFV did not include Carol, but clearly the circumstances of Carol’s death cause great concern.

**Understanding Service Provision Across the State**

Indeed, learning from the murders of women killed by their male intimate partners represents a large part of the reason TCFV tabulates and reports them. However, in thinking through the policy implications of the fatalities, we realize that family violence spans a spectrum of behaviors short of deaths, which our state must also address in service provision and otherwise. In an effort to help policy makers and implementers better understand the need for services from a survivor’s perspective, TCFV worked with the University of Texas School of Social Work’s Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission’s Family Violence Program (HHSC and FVP) to create a State Plan for family violence services in Texas.

The State Plan incorporated various statistics and findings including the family violence service numbers collected by HHSC, family violence incidents as reported by the Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas-specific family violence prevalence numbers, and a variety of components from the United States Census. The Plan also identified statistically significant predictors of need related to the following marginalized or underserved populations:

- Survivors with Mental Health and/or Substance Abuse Issues
- Survivors with Limited English Proficiency
- Communities of Color including African-American and Asian communities
In actuality, we have conceived of and created the State Plan as an interactive website that allows the reader/user to toggle the cursor over each of the 254 counties in Texas in order to learn more about the need for services in that county. For instance, take a look at this screen shot of Tarrant County:

- **In reviewing the information above consider that the US Census set this county’s population density at 2,094 people per square mile; population density represents a statistically significant indicator of need for family violence services.**
- **This county best fits Service Category 4: the State Plan TCFV and IDVSA grouped like counties into similar categories so that policy makers could compare apples to apples. Category 4 counties are largely urban or suburban & contain a high presence of physical access to family violence services via outreach and shelter.**
- **The programs serving Tarrant reported serving 3,726 women.**
- **Some 12,772 law enforcement calls occurred in Tarrant in the same period.**
- **According to the recent TCFV family violence prevalence study, some 290,947 have been lifetime victims of family violence.**

This data helps us develop a picture of need for services in Tarrant County. The high degree of program presence appears greatly warranted due to the significant population density. Although programs served a significant number of women, law enforcement calls indicate many more victims did not access services: we see program numbers equaling only 29% of law enforcement calls and a mere 1.2% of the estimated lifetime prevalence. Clearly the programs only serve a tiny portion of the victims experiencing intimate partner violence in Tarrant County, which may give some indication of the rising number of fatalities.

Compare the above discussion with the reality of a smaller more rural area, Gregg County, which encompasses a portion of Longview and in which, as previously noted, there has been a significant increase in fatalities this year.

- Note this county contains only 445 people per square mile; we have grouped Gregg into Category 3, which is characterized by high shelter access (but not urban).
- Note the HHSC funded program served 267 women and law enforcement calls totaled 1,228.
- Finally, consider that prevalence indicates 19,402 women are lifetime victims of family violence.
- From this data, note that program numbers equal only 21% of law enforcement calls and only 13.7% of the estimated lifetime prevalence. This may indicate a need for increased family violence and law enforcement response; certainly this year’s fatality tally also indicates the importance of the efforts the community is taking to significantly bolster their responses. For more on their efforts, see page 15.
PROMISING PRACTICES

The Criminal Justice System Response Training

Time and time again, those most involved in working towards effective solutions for victims facing violence at home have seen and experienced the need for increased coordination between those involved in the civil and criminal justice systems. Too often, the disconnects between law enforcement, probation officers, prosecutors, the judiciary, and family violence centers among others translate for survivors into real fissures in the system, which increase danger and fail to hold offenders accountable. The lack of knowledge about each stakeholder’s part of the system combined with myopic or incorrect practices regarding victims can contribute to a short-circuited system.

As a direct response to these community dynamics, TCFV annually provides its Criminal Justice System Response Training (CJSRT) to four communities in Texas. CJSRTs bring law enforcement, family violence advocates, criminal justice personnel, and all other professionals who work with victims, survivors, children, and offenders together to help enhance a consistent, collaborative community response to family violence.

For over a decade, TCFV provided a one-day training to eight different communities. After evaluating the success of previous years, TCFV expanded the CJSRT beyond one day to provide family violence centers and their community partners with a more in-depth training on establishing or enhancing a Coordinated Community Response. Following the initial training, each center and key community leaders received an additional, personalized follow up meeting with a coordinated community response facilitator. At this meeting they assessed the impact of the CJSRT training topics and established strategic approaches to strengthening coordination. By providing trainings targeting the communities’ identified needs coupled with follow up consultations, TCFV has fostered the development or enhancement of coordinated community responses and has also provided experts who can offer specialized expertise and help facilitate communities in conceptualizing their approaches.

The first four communities to participate in this new model included Longview, San Antonio, Alpine, and Beaumont. TCFV selected these areas due to their diversity of population and their specific needs. In 2014, each community made strong strides in accomplishing their identified goals. For instance, in Longview, the Women’s Center of East Texas identified the need to develop a coordinated community response26 and through the continued training, follow-up, and collaboration provided through the CJSRT, they established their own domestic violence fatality review team (DVFR). DVFRs incorporate the coordinated community response: on a voluntary basis they bring together those working against domestic violence in a community in order to look more closely at the dynamics and reasons for a domestic violence murder and do so in order to ultimately inform recommendations to stakeholders following the review. In Longview, collaboration with the Longview Police Department, the justice of the peace, victim services, and the Longview District Attorney’s Office helped establish the foundation for moving forward with the team. In a few short months, the group developed their mission, protocols, and plans to review their first fatality in January 2015. The success of this group illuminates the value of the CJSRT project.

26 For more on the deaths that have occurred in the Longview area and which spurred this increased prioritization of a coordinated community response, see this report at page 38.
Batterers and Firearms

As noted from the graph on page 10, 2013 saw more women killed by a current or former intimate partner with a gun than by all other means combined. This trend has remained steady for some time in Texas and indeed reflects the national reality. Realizing this, federal and state policy makers acted several years ago to address the highly lethal mix of firearms and family violence. As such, Texas state and federal laws prohibit protective order respondents from possessing firearms and abusers convicted of committing family violence cannot legally possess guns.

Although these possession prohibitions represent important tools in increasing safety for victims of family violence, our state can do more to make sure that respondents and convicted batterers do not possess firearms. Existing laws and available practices make it possible for the coordinated community response to conceive of, utilize, and implement firearms surrender protocols. Prosecutors, for instance, can require that as a condition of the plea of guilty, the offender must demonstrate compliance with the law by providing proof of the surrender of a possessed firearm. Judges can also order this as part of the plea, provide court forms and processes that require the convicted defendant to provide proof of surrender for the court’s file, and then hold status hearings to determine whether compliance has occurred. Probation officers can coordinate with prosecutors and the courts and, with support, act as investigators either by performing home visits or at a minimum asking probationers whether they possess firearms and have surrendered them; probation officers can request prosecutors to file motions to revoke probation for failure to provide proof of surrender.

Importantly, much of the burden for successfully implementing firearms surrender protocols rests with law enforcement. Surrendered firearms must be stored if the reason for the surrender is a protective order, because the protective order most likely will eventually expire and the respondent will have a right to recover it within a reasonable time after the protective order expiration; surrendered firearms as a result of family violence convictions can be destroyed or disposed of in a safe manner. The timing and manner in which offenders surrender the firearms must also result from a careful analysis of the realities in place in the community: does law enforcement prefer the offender surrender at a specific place and at a specific time, for instance?

Significantly, various stakeholders in the Dallas area have prioritized the creation of firearms surrender protocols and have begun to work through these and additional considerations. Mayor Mike Rawlings27 created a commission to study the justice system’s response to family violence, with an emphasis on changes that prioritize victim safety. They quickly identified a need to address firearms prohibitions as they relate to family violence offenders. Along the way Dallas Representative Rafael Anchia also became interested in the matter and helped bring together relevant community partners including prosecutors, law enforcement, family violence centers, probation personnel, city, county

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27 For a series from the Dallas Morning News centering on the Mayor’s efforts and the city’s overall firearms surrender protocol approach, see the following cites:
http://res.dallasnews.com/interactives/2014_deadlyaffection/part5_related/
and state elected representatives, and TCFV to foster a dialogue on how to accomplish firearms surrender in Dallas. Judge Roberto Cañas agreed to take the lead in forging solutions moving forward by addressing law enforcement’s concern regarding having space to store the surrendered firearms. Judge Cañas worked with a federally approved private storage facility to store the firearms. With the leadership of so many key people of influence, Dallas has moved quickly in this area, beginning the implementation of the protocols within months of having the initial meeting.

In Travis County, which includes Austin, a multi-disciplinary committee also continues to finalize a protocol tailored to their communities’ resources and current protocols. For instance, if the court enters a protective order, the respondent must file an affidavit of firearms possession and the court sets a compliance hearing in 30 days to determine that the offender has surrendered firearms to law enforcement or a third party, who also files an affidavit of compliance. If an officer on the scene of a family violence incident determines the existence of a protective order, the officer must seize firearms under outlined circumstances. If the protective order meets the requirements of a federal order, and they find a firearm, the officer must seize the weapon and send the report to the Travis County Protective Order Unit and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. If an officer responding to a family violence incident has probable cause to believe the offender has been previously convicted of a misdemeanor crime of family violence, the officer follows the same protocol. The committee worked to develop specific forms and protocols regarding surrender and the return of firearms.

Recognizing that the problem of batterers using firearms to intimidate, harm or kill their partners persists in Texas, TCFV has prioritized supporting communities in creating and adopting surrender protocols. In pursuit of this endeavor, we participated directly at several stages of the process in Dallas and Travis Counties, presenting the current state of the law and practice across the state and country and serving on committees aimed at this specific issue. Moreover, TCFV staff travels around the state to provide specific training tailored to each community’s sensibilities related to firearms. In addition, TCFV has helped identify community partners and convened meetings to discuss how to conceptualize and implement surrender protocols. Many communities want to address the problem, but they may not know where to start, so staff includes discussion about who should be at the table and basic issues that need to be addressed. TCFV then commits to follow-up visits and continuing technical assistance to help coordinate these discussions moving forward. Advocates and justice system officials have recognized our expertise and seek our guidance.

Looking forward to the next few years, TCFV will help communities create new standardized forms if needed, conduct listening sessions with stakeholders to hear about challenges and needed tools, and choose two or three communities on which to focus to encourage the promulgation of firearms surrender protocols. TCFV will also continue to elevate the discussion in various settings including at the annual summits it holds for prosecutors and judges and other training events (see next page for more on this).
The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) in Coordinated Community Response

For some time now, the domestic violence movement has identified the criminal and civil justice systems as one of the main conduits for attaining safety for victims of violence and accomplishing accountability for offenders. Case in point: the initial authorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) first focused significant federal funding and attention to violence against women in 1994.28 Recently reauthorized in 2013, the scope and breadth of VAWA has increased over the years accomplishing significant success in combatting the problem: yearly domestic violence rates dropped dramatically by 64% from 1993 to 2010.29 Between 1993 and 2012, the number of individuals killed by an intimate partner declined 26% for women and 48% for men.30 According to the White House, “One study showed that VAWA saved an estimated $12.6 billion in net averted social costs in its first 6 years alone.”31

Nevertheless, the 119 women killed paints a stark picture. The 11,544 adults and 13,753 children who sought shelter from violence in 2013 clearly indicates that Texas families too often experience violence. On one day alone in 2013 (September 17th), according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s One Day Census of domestic violence programs, Texas programs served 5,923 victims and sheltered 2,153 adults and 1,674 children. Over the course of 2013, programs were forced to turn away 10,896 who sought services like shelter and counseling; according to the One Day Census, 1,311 people experienced unmet requests for service, one of the highest rates of anywhere in the country.

We at TCFV believe that we all can do better as a state and country in addressing intimate partner violence through our criminal and civil justice systems response. Two of the most important actors in this equation include the judiciary and prosecutors.

Approaching the Bench: A Judicial Summit on Family Violence

With support from the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals (the highest criminal court in Texas), TCFV embarked on what has become a robust and 5 year-long commitment to fostering a training and peer-led environment for judges to learn more about and think through challenges and solutions to family violence response in courts and beyond. This unique take on judicial “training” relies on judges to come together to dialogue on the manner in which they respond to family violence when it presents in the courts with an eye towards building both consensus and accountability amongst the judiciary. Injecting a domestic violence coalition in this kind of judicial interaction represents an innovative and Texas unique response.

For 5 years now, TCFV has invited judges to participate in its Approaching the Bench judicial summits in the Austin area. Marrying self-care with information and conversation on family violence, the Approaching Summits have focused on a variety of topics, including but not limited to: the overlap of child maltreatment and domestic violence; the military response to domestic violence including

28 For more on VAWA programs and initiatives, head to the website for the Office on Violence Against Women: http://www.justice.gov/ovw. Also take a look at Vice President Joe Biden’s I Am 2 Many: Twenty Years Fighting Violence Against Women and Girls for VAWA history and current trends: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/vawa_20_report_final.pdf.
30 Id.
31 Id.
focuses on enlisted soldiers and veterans and their families; innovative prosecutorial practices; addressing marginalized and underserved populations through cultural competency; working with litigants and parties with limited English proficiency; legislative changes to the family and criminal codes; information and best practice in hearing protective orders; firearms prohibitions for family violence offenders and respondents and the resulting surrender protocols.

Anonymous feedback from attendees has proven overwhelmingly positive: “It was a fantastic conference.” “I truly appreciate how your team took last year’s suggestions and topics and moved to the next level this year. Outstanding job.” “This was the best seminar yet.” “Judges should be attending this Summit.” Indeed Dallas area judges appreciated the Summits so much that they invited TCFV to hold a regional Approaching the Bench in the fall of 2013 at which TCFV led discussions on several locally relevant topics including firearms surrender protocols. For more on how this regional Approaching event helped spur significant momentum, see page 16 of this report. We at TCFV take this feedback as true praise realizing that the days are not too distant when judges and domestic violence advocates publicly and directly disagreed on almost every aspect of family violence response.

Next to the Jury Box: A Summit for Prosecutors

As you may have guessed, we at TCFV like the idea of a “summit”. We think of summits both in the literal sense of the highest point, part, or level and also as a meeting of high-level leaders, usually called to shape a program of action.32 Of course this has informed our efforts with judges, but we also think of prosecutors in a similar manner: one judge acts as the leader of one court, but prosecutors represent entire counties or judicial districts comprised of several counties.

With this understanding of prosecutors as an important fulcrum in the coordinated community response, TCFV has for several years worked towards engaging and understanding family violence prosecution. Beginning with adding key personnel with prosecution experience,33 then adding important prosecutorial leadership to the TCFV Board,34 and also cultivating statewide prosecution partners like the Texas District and County Attorney Association (TDCAA),35 TCFV has made a significant contribution to prosecutorial response on family violence.

With these factors in place, as well as continuing to demonstrate a robust and successful approach to “training” those working outside of but in support of family violence programs, TCFV became poised to take the Approaching the Bench Summit model and apply it in the prosecutorial setting when representatives from the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor (CJD) participated in Approaching in 2012. They quickly identified funds at their disposal to support what we came to call Next to the Jury Box. In the words of Rene Peña, the 2014 Board of Directors President for TDCAA and District Attorney for Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle, and Wilson Counties, we came up with this name for the project as a way of uniquely engaging prosecutors:

32 http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/summit
33 TCFV’s current Policy Director served as the Chief of the Domestic Violence for the El Paso District Attorney’s Office.
34 34th Judicial District Attorney Jaime Esparza joined the TCFV Board in 2013. Prior to that, Mr. Esparza served on the TCFV Public Policy Committee for three sessions and has helped lead prosecutorial efforts at the local and statewide levels for more than a decade. In large part TCFV’s successes in moving family violence to the forefront of prosecutor emphasis stems from Mr. Esparza’s steadfast efforts to galvanize both the domestic violence and his colleagues.
35 Led by Executive Director Rob Kepple, TDCAA acts as the voice at the statewide level for prosecutors in the realms of training, policy, legislative advocacy, and all that prosecutors in Texas need for success. As Texas’ statewide prosecution agency, TDCAA stands as one of the most effective and influential agencies of its kind in the country.
“As a prosecutor, I think about my role in the courtroom and the physical position I have occupied while seeking justice. I have always thought of our table situated next to the jury box as a position of honor, a place close to the deciders of fact, peers from all walks of life who serve on our juries. And so as it happens, this phrase “next to the jury box” has taken on a related significance with my involvement in a TDCAA and Texas Council on Family Violence led initiative called, you guessed it, Next to the Jury Box...

...In March 2013, I participated with many of my colleagues in a summit on family violence that served as the culmination of several months’ coordination and meetings on the topic. The summit brought together elected district and county attorneys and other prosecutors in leadership from across the state to share their experiences, challenges, and innovations in prosecuting family violence. At the summit, we discussed various aspects of family violence including recent legislative changes, Battering Intervention Prevention Programs (BIPP)... prevalence of family violence in Texas, and family violence fatalities. In short, the Next to the Jury Box Summit represented a chance for us to learn new information and sound off on the challenges and opportunities inherent in this area of our responsibility, with an eye toward informing better policymaking at the local and state levels.” 36

Words of Rene Peña,
2014 Board Of Directors President, TDCAA
District Attorney for Atascosa, Frio, Karnes, La Salle, and Wilson Counties

For this project, TCFV looked to really move the bar when it comes to the manner in which prosecutors conceptualize and prioritize their family violence response. Along with conducting a two-day Summit for elected district and county attorneys, we convened a Leadership Core (LC) of prosecutors who have demonstrated a continuing interest and acumen in their response. Chaired by 34th Judicial District Attorney Jaime Esparza (see footnote 7 infra) and strongly facilitated by TDCAA Executive Director Rob Kepple (see footnote 8 infra), the LC meetings offered a space for reflection, planning and innovation for a smaller group of interested thinkers and actors with an eye towards informing the overall statewide effort and the larger Summits themselves. In both 2013 and 2014, TDCAA and TCFV hosted a series of LC meetings at TDCAA’s office in Austin, building acumen and momentum at each convocation of the Core.

New significant partnerships formed as a result of the LC meetings; relationships and changes that frankly none of us predicted. During the February meeting of the LC, the group heard about the use of cameras at the scenes of family violence offense investigations by law enforcement as an effective prosecutorial tool. Knowing that survivors too often experience danger, frustration and embarrassment, LC prosecutors continue to look for ways to move forward without the victim as a necessary party to the prosecution. Strategies like using physical evidence including photos, 911 emergency call recordings, and medical records and other potential pieces along with excited utterance from the victim and third party witness testimony all make prosecution without the victim actually in court a legal possibility. The ability to move forward with a video-taped explanation of the offense...
in the victim’s own words at the scene of the crime increases greatly. Moreover, having a video helps prosecutors make charging decisions and to confirm that the offense occurred in a much more convincing manner than reading a police report. And in plea negotiations, defense attorneys are hard pressed to argue that the offense occurred in a different or less serious manner than the victim now claims because the video represents a real-time cry out.

Prosecutors from El Paso relayed their experiences in implementing this approach to the LC. They explained the technical and practical aspects of working with and training law enforcement to correctly use the equipment (in order to best help the prosecution in a safe manner at the scene of a volatile situation), the ramifications they experienced in court and they shared a few of the videos. In viewing the videos, LC members agreed they had a strong effect even to seasoned prosecutors. CID personnel who attended the LC meeting saw the importance of this innovation and following the meeting directly contacted key prosecutors around the state to determine how they could monetarily support the promulgation of using videos in this setting. Ultimately, the district attorneys in Lubbock County, Matt Powell, and Nueces County (Corpus Christi), Mark Skurka, asked for and received VAWA funding to purchase and implement the use of videos; TCFV was also able to support the district attorney for Comal County (New Braunfels), Jennifer Tharpe, in her adoption of videos as well. And County Attorney for Wise County James Stainton resolved to use forfeiture funds for this purpose as well.

In fiscal year 2014, based on the important feedback from the LC and TDCAA, the Next to the Jury Box project took on a slightly adjusted focus. Large district attorney’s offices in counties Harris, Dallas, Bexar, Travis, Tarrant, and El Paso experience important and complicated barriers to effective prosecution of family violence offenders based on volume and the scope of resource allocation in an urban environment. Based on the numbers alone, larger jurisdictions tend to experience greater scrutiny and attention when it comes to supporting prosecutorial efforts on family violence. Smaller offices in very rural areas of the state also face significant challenges, however, including the strong ramifications of relationships, less overall resources for specialization, long travel distances, and to some extent differing understandings of the best approaches to accountability for offenders and safety for victims. Realizing these dynamics affect the manner in which we should work with prosecutors, we separated groups into two Summits, one for large jurisdictions and their realities and one focused on hearing from and working through challenges and solutions for rural prosecutors. And we augmented the LC to include more representation from small jurisdictions. In both settings, we worked through how prosecutors define success when it comes to prosecution; this question spurred significant thought for both groups and will continue to inform the tools and approaches we all employ in family violence prosecution in Texas.
As the CEO of the Texas Council on Family Violence, I carry the continuing privilege of representing Texas leaders in the family violence movement. Despite continuing significant and complex needs of survivors of violence, our coalition of over a hundred family violence centers stands as a national model for cohesion, depth of services and innovative approaches to intervention and prevention. Of all TCFV projects, we in many ways look to our Honoring Texas Victims Report as a main conduit for telling the stories of the most direly and heartbreakingly affected Texans. And we use it to ignite our continued indignation against intimate partner violence and resolution to ending it.

As I look back on previous Executive Summaries from the last few years’ reports, I weigh whether and how to tell the story of our Honoring project without repeating myself but also realize many new readers may pick up this year’s Honoring for the first time with no reference point for previous editions.

For instance, in the 2009 report I first made a point of explaining in more detail our extensive methodology, saying TCFV “conducts a tremendous amount of diligence in confirming the accuracy of this information” we gather. Indeed over the years we have increased our fact checking to include additional layers from constant collection of media reports, outreach with law enforcement, prosecutors and family violence programs, an extensive survey of the Uniform Crime Report and then interaction and feedback with national advocates who keep similar tallies which may include Texas victims.

Also beginning in 2009, we decided to delve further into the information we gathered in order to draw deeply deliberated conclusions and offer suggestions for moving forward past these horrific stories. We even developed the concept of depicting the counties in which women were killed in white, leaving the counties in which no fatalities occurred in purple; we continue this practice in this report as a way of encouraging all of Texas to “Go Purple”, the color we use to signify domestic violence advocacy.

In the 2010 report, we first determined to include a tally of the bystanders killed by their batterers in the course of the murder of their female intimate partner. We kept hearing the reasonable feedback that we simply were not telling the full story by leaving out bystander victims and frankly we wanted to memorialize these murders as well. Over the years, we have expanded our list to include the names of the adult bystander victims, many of whom attempted to intervene or were simply in the wrong place. Out of respect for children, we listed only their relationship to the women killed rather than the child’s name. In fact, for 2011, we took the extraordinary step of dedicating the entire report to the tragic murders of the four Gonzalez children. We do mark that too many children will experience the rest of their lives without their mother as a result of these domestic violence murders.
Over the years, we have also included numbers and statistics related to family violence. In the 2010 report, we noted the recently completed Texas prevalence study’s finding that “38% of Texas women have experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime”; this remains accurate today. For 2011’s report, we tallied all of the fatalities since 1990; the reality is that since then the total has climbed to 2,865 women killed by their male intimate partner. For 2013, our updated figures indicate over 75,150 primarily women and children and some men accessed services.37 We know that 25,392 victims of family violence and their children sought shelter from a Texas family violence program when they could not find safety at home.38 Moreover according to the National Network to End Domestic Violence’s Domestic Violence Counts Census, Texas family violence programs served 5,923 on one day in September alone. On that same day, 1,311 victims experienced unmet requests for services, which included in many instances requests for shelter.39

And for 2012, I described that year’s report as a culmination or pinnacle of many years’ changes and additions to the Report. We began back in 1990 with simply a list of the women killed by their male intimate partners, called the Grim Tally. Looking back on this, this stark tally of those lost left the reader with a heaviness that paralyzed to some extent. Over the years, we added narratives of the women killed by their male intimate partners as a way to memorialize and then we increasingly narrowly and sensitively edited even these over the years to avoid sensationalizing these stark realities. Even this left us with a need to delve deeper, so we began to offer analysis points that we saw as relevant with an eye toward recommendations for intervention and prevention approaches at the local and statewide levels. Eventually we also identified the need to highlight promising practices or solutions that we have gleaned in our efforts during the previous year.

So by communicating a little of this evolution, I have also described this year’s report. We first note the unfortunate quick facts: 119 women lost their lives at the hands of their male intimate partners in 2013; 10% of the overall US female homicides occurred in Texas; 3 young women under 20 died; 6 older women over 70 were killed; 60% of women were killed using a firearm; Dallas, followed by Harris, experienced the highest number of fatalities but the Longview area experienced a significant increase.

We then address some specific trends and realities we identified both as a result of this Report and as a result of supporting efforts. For instance, we discuss the difficult decision not to include one death due to the specific circumstances of that case and posit that additional victims may have experienced similar tragedies yet may not be appropriate for inclusion in this report (for more discussion on this, see page 12). We also go into a level of detail regarding the State Plan which helps us link up various data pieces including fatalities in the area to better understand and address the need for family violence services across communities in Texas.

And finally in the vein of responsibility we carry in not only reporting and analyzing these deaths but in highlighting promising strategies toward better outcomes, we highlight four important and innovative approaches that address both fatalities and the overall problem of family violence in Texas. These include fostering a coordinated community response, firearms surrender protocols, and efforts in collaboration with the judiciary and prosecution.

Shortly before the release of this report, I had the privilege of hearing directly from two amazing women, for you see, the stories of their adult daughters are included in this report. They spoke courageously and lovingly of their daughters, refusing to allow their senseless deaths to tarnish beautiful memories. They came forward for no other reason than to lend their voice and to trust that TCFV would amplify the conjoined messages of safety and prevention.

Join me now in reading these pages. More importantly, join me in confronting and changing the very conditions that permit violence to exist.

38 Id.
NARRATIVES OF WOMEN KILLED BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNER IN TEXAS IN 2013

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) presents with respect the names of each victim of intimate partner femicide in 2013. As data was gathered TCFV took care to confirm the accuracy of information through various means, primarily law enforcement, district attorneys, county attorneys, Department of Public Safety, media, and information shared by family violence programs in Texas. Each confirmed fatality includes the date of the woman’s death and the city in which she was killed, followed by a short description of the circumstances. The narratives list victims in order by county where the femicide occurred.

**ANGELINA COUNTY**

*Teresa Hoyle, 39*

**LUFKIN :: AUGUST 5, 2013**

Kevin McKelvey, 39, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Teresa at the home they once shared. Teresa went to retrieve her belongings from McKelvey’s home believing he was not there. When she arrived, McKelvey first shot and killed Teresa’s daughter Shaunika Hoyle, 22, and then shot and killed Teresa as she attempted to flee with her twin daughters. Shaunika’s friend had driven the family to McKelvey’s house and later drove Teresa and her twins to the hospital. McKelvey, who had previously served a 14-year sentence for attempted murder, received a life sentence in prison without parole for the murders of Teresa and Shaunika. Teresa is survived by her 10-year-old twin daughters.

**ARANSAS COUNTY**

*Skye Harvey, 20*

**ROCKPORT :: SEPTEMBER 2, 2013**

Andrew Harvey, 21, shot and killed his wife Skye in their home. Harvey then took their infant son to a relative’s home in Nacogdoches County. A concerned family member contacted Rockport Police, who discovered Skye’s body during a welfare check. Authorities arrested Harvey and charged him with murder. Skye is survived by her son, age 8 months.

**BASTROP COUNTY**

*Barbara Devers, 35*

**SMITHVILLE :: AUGUST 29, 2013**

Abinadab Rubalcava, 54, beat and killed his girlfriend Barbara in the home they shared. Rubalcava also killed Barbara’s dog. The next day, Rubalcava killed himself at a storage unit in Travis County. Rubalcava’s parents found Barbara’s body when they went to the home after he committed suicide. Barbara is survived by her daughter.
Karen Louise Edwards, 43  
KILLEEN :: DECEMBER 9, 2013

Daniel Wilson, 41, shot and stabbed his ex-girlfriend Karen, killing her in his home. A witness reported that Wilson shot Karen three times and then stabbed her with a sword. Wilson then threatened the witness and held her hostage for two hours. The witness managed to escape and notify authorities. Law enforcement arrested and charged Wilson with murder. Wilson’s criminal history includes three arrests for assault against a family member. Karen is survived by her two sons and a daughter.

Tabitha Sazama, 41  
MORGANS POINT RESORT :: OCTOBER 30, 2013

Brian Cecil, 41, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Tabitha in the bedroom of her home. Cecil called his ex-wife and confessed that he had shot Tabitha. Cecil then started a fire in the home, which ultimately killed three pets. Cecil shot and killed himself. In the weeks prior to the murder, Tabitha ended the relationship and requested a protective order against Cecil. Neighbors reported seeing Cecil around Tabitha’s property numerous times while she was at work. Prior to the murder, authorities had arrested Cecil for a violation of the protective order.

Autumn Reeves, 35  
TEMPLE :: AUGUST 6, 2013

Royce Reeves, 56, stabbed and killed his wife Autumn in their home. Neighbors reported hearing Autumn screaming for help. Authorities arrested and charged Reeves with her murder.

Esther Burke, 40  
LIVE OAK :: APRIL 21, 2013

Colen Burke, 44, shot and killed his wife Esther in their home. Burke then shot and killed himself. Esther is survived by her two daughters.

Deanna Tiller, 50  
SAN ANTONIO :: FEBRUARY 16, 2013

Mark Tingler, 54, shot and killed his girlfriend Deanna in their home. Tingler then shot and killed himself. Several days later, Deanna’s son found their bodies. Deanna is survived by four adult sons.

Mary Rishell, 67  
SAN ANTONIO :: MARCH 21, 2013

Herbert Rishell, 76, shot and killed his wife Mary in the bedroom of their home. Rishell then shot and killed their son George, 45, before shooting and killing himself. Mary is survived by her adult daughter.
Cecilia Stegall, 50
SAN ANTONIO :: APRIL 12, 2013
Robert Myers, Jr., 40, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Cecilia in the home they shared. Before killing Cecilia, Myers assaulted and injured Cecilia. When Cecilia tried to go to the hospital for her injuries, Myers attacked her with a knife. After killing Cecilia, Myers hid her body under their bed and later moved her to a vacant house next door. An anonymous tip led authorities to Cecilia’s body. After he confessed, authorities arrested Myers and charged him with Cecilia’s murder.

Kaylla Rihn, 22
SAN ANTONIO :: OCTOBER 17, 2013
Cody Hooks, 21, shot and killed his wife Kaylla in their home. Hooks then shot and killed himself. Kaylla’s twin sister became concerned after not hearing from her. Hooks’ co-worker and Kaylla’s sister went to the home and found their bodies. Kaylla was in the process of leaving her husband because of his violent behavior.

Megan Hernandez, 17
SAN ANTONIO :: DECEMBER 3, 2013
Eduardo Reyes, 17, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Megan at a bus stop near their high school. Megan was holding her infant daughter during the attack. Megan’s 15-year-old friend intervened and Reyes attacked and injured him. Reyes had a history of abusing Megan. Authorities charged Reyes with murder, child endangerment, and aggravated assault. Megan is survived by her 11-month-old daughter.

Virginia Campos, 47
SAN ANTONIO :: DECEMBER 24, 2013
Ramiro Campos, 54, shot and killed his wife Virginia in the home they shared. Campos then attempted to commit suicide. Virginia’s daughter and 2-year-old granddaughter were home at the time of the murder. Law enforcement had responded to other family violence calls in the past. Authorities arrested and charged Campos with Virginia’s murder. Virginia is survived by her two adult daughters.

Whitney Nicole Hanes, 21
HOOKS :: SEPTEMBER 1, 2013
Justin Wright, 21, beat and killed his girlfriend Whitney outside a friend’s home. Authorities arrested Wright and charged him with Whitney’s murder. Whitney and Wright had lived together, but Whitney moved out two weeks prior to the murder. Whitney is survived by her three children, a daughter, age 2, and two sons, ages 1 and 3.

Lela Emma Cason, 26
TEXARKANA :: APRIL 14, 2013
Daniel Bourg, 31, shot and killed his wife Lela in their home. After killing Lela, Bourg shot and killed himself. Lela’s 9-year-old son was present at the time of the murder and led his younger siblings to safety at a neighbor’s home. Lela is survived by her four young children, ages 10 months to 9 years.
**BRAZORIA COUNTY**

**Jing Blailock, 37**  
**PEARLAND :: JULY 19, 2013**

Steve Blailock, 69, shot and killed his wife Jing in the front yard of their home. Blailock then shot and killed himself. Three months prior to the murder, Jing left Blailock to stay with friends. Jing disclosed to her friends that Blailock was violent and had held a gun to her head and threatened to kill her if she left.

**CAMERON COUNTY**

**Debbie Beth McClure Cohan, 62**  
**HARLINGEN :: JULY 15, 2013**

Art Cohan, 73, suffocated his wife Debbie in their home. Cohan doused Debbie’s body with a flammable liquid. He then turned on the house’s gas burners and caused the house to explode. Cohan left a note in his vehicle and sent some other communications, including emails and packages, after killing Debbie and before causing the explosion and killing himself.

**Lorena Gonzalez, 42**  
**SAN BENITO :: JUNE 20, 2013**

Mario Gonzalez, 46, stabbed and killed his wife Lorena in her home. Gonzalez also stabbed and killed Lorena’s friend Homero De Los Santos, 38. Lorena had filed for divorce in April 2013. Lorena filed assault, stalking, and violation of protective order reports against Gonzalez. A Cameron County jury indicted Gonzalez with Lorena and Homero’s murders. Gonzalez remains at large. Lorena is survived by her children.

**COLLIN COUNTY**

**Mary Beth Merz, 44**  
**MCKINNEY :: MARCH 6, 2013**

Eric Merz, 42, shot and killed his wife Mary Beth in their home. Mary Beth’s 11-year old daughter discovered her mother when she returned home from school. Merz attempted to overdose and was found unresponsive near Mary Beth. Medical personnel treated Merz at an area hospital. Authorities then arrested and charged Merz with homicide. While released on bail, Merz killed himself. Mary Beth is survived by her daughter and her son, age 8 years.

**Nicole Leger, 34**  
**MELISSA :: SEPTEMBER 1, 2013**

Kevin Adams, 50, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Nicole in her home. Six months prior to the murder, in March 2013, Adams forcibly held Nicole in his home. He drugged and sexually assaulted her. Nicole then obtained an order of protective order that Adams violated. Nicole’s son discovered her body. A Collin County jury indicted Adams on a charge of capital murder. Nicole is survived by her son, age 17 years.
Judith Mudziwa, 34  
PLANO :: JULY 27, 2013

Amon Dzvario, 42, beat and killed his wife Judith in their home. Law enforcement responded to a family violence call and arrived at the home. Judith and Dzvario’s two teenage children were in the home. Medical personnel took Judith to the hospital. Authorities charged Dzvario with aggravated assault. A few days later, Judith died at the hospital; authorities then charged Dzvario with Judith’s murder. Judith is survived by her two teenage children.

Melissa Eason, 27  
NEW BRAUNFELS :: JANUARY 1, 2013

Nathaniel Fox, 27, strangled and killed his girlfriend Melissa in her home. Police discovered Melissa’s body while responding to a request for a welfare check. After an investigation, authorities issued a warrant for Fox, who later surrendered to police. Melissa had a protective order against Fox from another state. In November 2012, Melissa had filed an assault report and told an officer that Fox was purchasing a weapon and she was afraid that he would kill her in the coming months. After he killed Melissa, authorities charged Fox with murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Fox received a sentence of 60 years.

Linda Kaye Jordan, 65  
BALCH SPRINGS :: DECEMBER 15, 2013

Joshua Thurber, 38, beat, stabbed, and tortured his girlfriend Linda, killing her in the bathtub of her home. After the murder, Thurber confessed to killing Linda. Authorities arrested and charged Thurber with Linda’s murder. Thurber had previous family violence charges in another Texas county and in another state from a previous relationship. Linda is survived by her adult daughter.

LaKeitha Wilkerson, 33  
CEDAR HILL :: FEBRUARY 13, 2013

Eric Thompson, 32, strangled and killed his ex-girlfriend LaKeitha in her home. Several hours after killing LaKeitha, Thompson shot and killed himself. Two weeks prior to LaKeitha’s murder, police responded when she called for help; however, Thompson had left, and law enforcement took no further action.

Karen Cox Smith, 40  
DALLAS :: JANUARY 8, 2013

Ferdinand Smith, 41, shot and killed his wife Karen in the parking garage where she worked. Smith abused Karen for many years. In the months leading up to murder, Karen reported Smith’s violent behavior and obtained a protective order. Authorities charged Smith with murder and he pleaded guilty to 50 years in prison. Karen is survived by her five children.
Bre’Auna Hill, 22
DALLAS :: JANUARY 11, 2013
Ismael Vergara, 26, stabbed and killed his wife Bre’Auna in the bedroom of their home. Bre’Auna’s two young children were in the living room at the time of the murder. When law enforcement responded to the family violence call, they discovered Bre’Auna and Vergara with self-inflicted stab wounds. Authorities arrested and charged Vergara with Bre’Auna’s murder. Bre’Auna is survived by her two children.

Samantha Rasmus, 37
DALLAS :: FEBRUARY 7, 2013
Stoney Rawlinson, 39, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Samantha at the home they shared. Samantha’s uncle discovered her body in a plastic container in the home. Rawlinson agreed to turn himself in at a shopping center. However, when officers arrived Rawlinson was sitting in his truck with a gun. Officers then ordered him to put down the gun. When Rawlinson aimed the gun at them, law enforcement shot Rawlinson at the scene. The week before the murder, neighbors observed Rawlinson grab and pull Samantha.

Breshuana Jackson, 28
DALLAS :: APRIL 15, 2013
Tyrone Allen, 26, shot and killed his pregnant girlfriend Breshuana at her mother’s home. A witness in the home heard Breshuana yell and say that Allen shot her. Allen then led authorities on a vehicle chase. During the chase, Allen fired upon officers and shot Officer Daniel Malouf, who survived the injuries. Allen then barricaded himself in a nearby home, and after an hours-long standoff, he surrendered to police. Authorities charged Allen with capital murder. Allen has a history of family violence, and at the time of Breshuana’s murder, Allen had an upcoming court date for assaulting a previous girlfriend. Breshuana obtained a protective order against Allen a few weeks prior to her murder. Breshuana is survived by her five children, ages 2 to 10.

Sherry Whitacre, 60
DALLAS :: APRIL 17, 2013
Sharone Brown, 61, assaulted his girlfriend Sherry in a motel where the couple was staying. Sherry was in a frail condition at the time due to recent medical treatments and died several days after the assault. During this time, authorities arrested and charged Brown for aggravated assault against Sherry. Brown pleaded guilty and served his sentence before prosecutors knew of Sherry’s death. Due to legal protections against double jeopardy, prosecutors did not pursue murder charges.

Demetrious Matthews, 36
DALLAS :: APRIL 30, 2013
Patrick Adger, 39, killed his girlfriend Demetrious by running her over with her vehicle. The next day, Adger reported to Demetrious’ family that she was missing. Later, Demetrious’ body was found in the woods near the Trinity River. Authorities charged Adger with her murder. Demetrious is survived by her daughter.
**Tunisia Lyons, 39**

**DALLAS :: AUGUST 5, 2013**

Floyd Murray, 51, shot and killed his girlfriend Tuniesia. A passer-by found Tuniesia’s body in a vacant field near an interstate. Authorities arrested Murray and charged him with murder. Tuniesia previously told friends that Murray threatened her. Murray served a 15-year sentence for a conviction in a 1987 murder and had convictions for family violence. Tuniesia is survived by her son.

**Toya Smith, 43**

**DALLAS :: AUGUST 7, 2013**

Erbie Bowser, 44, shot and killed his girlfriend Toya in her home. Bowser also shot and killed Toya’s 17-year-old daughter and shot and injured her 14-year-old son and her daughter’s 17-year-old friend. After killing Toya and the other victims, Bowser went to his wife Zina Bowser’s home (also included in this report). Bowser killed his wife and her daughter and injured two more boys at that scene. Bowser was apprehended in DeSoto. Authorities indicted and charged Bowser with multiple counts of capital murder and assault. Toya is survived by her son, age 14.

**Esmerelda Gonzalez, 34**

**DALLAS :: OCTOBER 7, 2013**

Efrain Gonzalez, 39, shot and killed his wife Esmerelda in the front yard of their home. Gonzalez then shot and killed himself. Esmerelda’s children were home at the time of the murder. Esmerelda is survived by her son and daughter, 10 and 15 years of age.

**Dollie Hancock, 61**

**DALLAS :: NOVEMBER 18, 2013**

Gary Hancock, 65, shot and killed his wife Dollie in their home. Hancock then shot and killed himself. That morning, Hancock sent a text message to a family friend apologizing for what he was about to do. After going to the home and discovering the couple and a suicide note, the friend alerted authorities.

**Catina Murphy, 37**

**DESGOTO :: MARCH 19, 2013**

Andre Murphy, 40, shot and killed his ex-wife Catina in her mother’s home. Murphy then shot and killed himself. While Murphy was forcing his way into the home, Catina called 911 for help. When officers arrived, they discovered Catina and Murphy’s bodies. Catina ended the relationship in September 2012 and had filed for divorce. The divorce was finalized in February, and Catina received sole custody of her daughter. Catina had reported that Murphy stalked her. Catina is survived by her daughter, age 7.
Zina Bowser, 47
DESO TO :: AUGUST 7, 2013
Erbie Bowser, 44, shot and killed his wife Zina in her home. Bowser also shot and killed Zina’s
daughter, Neima Williams, 28, and injured her two sons, ages 11 and 13 years. Zina’s 3-year-old
grandson was at the home but was not physically injured. Bowser attacked Zina and her family
hours after also killing his girlfriend, Toya Smith (also named in this report) and her daughter and
injuring her 14-year-old son and her daughter’s 17-year-old friend. In 2011, Zina had begun divorce
proceedings. During that time and after Bowser threatened her and the children, Zina obtained a
protective order. Authorities charged Bowser with multiple counts of capital murder and assault. A
grand jury indicted him. Zina is survived by four children including her sons, age 11 and 13 years.

Corrine Marsters, 53
GARLAND :: OCTOBER 18, 2013
Brian Marsters, 54, shot and killed his wife Corrine in their home. Marsters then shot and killed
himself. Marsters’ co-workers called to request a welfare check. Authorities discovered Corrine and
Marsters’ bodies.

Latoya McGowan, 24
GRAND PRAIRIE :: JANUARY 29, 2013
Christopher Jefferson, 31, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Latoya in her home. Jefferson also shot
and injured Latoya’s mother, Terrance Dashelle Brown. Latoya’s three small children were present
during the shootings. Authorities apprehended and charged Jefferson with Latoya’s murder. Latoya is
survived by her two daughters and her son, 3 to 6 years of age.

Jennifer Lynn Krieger, 44
GRAND PRAIRIE :: MAY 19, 2013
Kirkland Reed, 45, killed his girlfriend Jennifer in their home. Reed also killed one of Jennifer’s
daughters, age 14 years. Jennifer’s family members became concerned after being unable to reach
Jennifer. Authorities performed a welfare check and discovered their bodies. Reed fled to New
Mexico to a family member’s home. Authorities later extradited Reed from New Mexico and charged
him with capital murder. Jennifer is survived by her daughter.

Donna Sanford, 61
GRAND PRAIRIE :: JULY 1, 2013
Tommy Esquibel, 62, shot and killed his girlfriend Donna in the home they shared. After killing Donna,
Esquibel shot and killed himself. During the attack, Donna called 911. When police arrived they found
Donna and Esquibel’s bodies. Donna is survived by her two adult daughters and her adult son.

Ha Thi Nguyen, 27
IRVING :: FEBRUARY 3, 2013
Luke Sy Dinh, 44, shot and killed his wife Ha in the home they shared. Dinh then shot and killed
himself. According to reports, Dinh walked their daughter to a neighbor’s house before killing Ha and
himself. Ha is survived by her daughter, age 5 years.
Sandra Supina Middlebrook, 42  
MESQUITE :: NOVEMBER 26, 2013

Clinton Scott, 35, shot and killed his girlfriend Sandra in her home. Scott then shot and killed himself. Authorities responded to a welfare check and discovered Sandra and Scott’s bodies.

Anne Huffhines, 55  
DENTON :: AUGUST 30, 2013

Anthony Farish, 46, shot and killed his wife Anne at their home. Farish then shot and killed himself. Authorities found Anne’s body in the bed of a truck outside their residence. Anne’s school-aged son was home at the time of the shooting. Anne is survived by her son and daughter.

Bethany Shaffer, 33  
LITTLE ELM :: JANUARY 10, 2013

Robert Shaffer, 38, shot and killed his wife Bethany in her father’s home. Shaffer then shot and killed himself. Bethany had separated from Shaffer and lived at her father’s home with her son. Bethany’s son, father, other family members, and another child were home at the time of the shooting. Authorities discovered documents indicating Shaffer’s plan to kill Bethany and himself. Bethany is survived by her 5-year-old son.

Amber Christensen-Lowery, 34  
RISING STAR :: JULY 23, 2013

Michael Lowery, 34, killed his wife Amber and left her body on their property. One week later, authorities arrested Lowery and charged him with Amber’s murder. Lowery has a history of family violence. Prior to the murder, Amber had sought a divorce. Amber is survived by her sons, ages 5 months and 5 years.

Lilia Reyes Torres, 45  
EL PASO :: APRIL 27, 2013

Manuel Torres, 49, strangled and killed his wife Lilia in their home. After killing Lilia, Torres called his son and admitted to the murder. Authorities arrested Torres and charged him with murder.
Annette Hernandez, 35
EL PASO :: JULY 29, 2013

Charles Morales, 38, stabbed and killed his wife Annette in her home. Morales also stabbed Adrian Archuleta, 41, who survived the injuries. Morales had an extensive criminal history, including family violence. In the past, Annette filed for two protective orders against Morales. Annette separated from Morales four months prior to the murder. Authorities located Morales at his home, where Morales was armed with a knife. During the confrontation, authorities shot and killed Morales. Annette is survived by her three children, ages 7, 15, and 16.

ELLIS COUNTY

Natalie Carter-Toney, 32
WAXAHACHIE :: JUNE 23, 2013

Pete Ledesma, 27, shot and killed his girlfriend Natalie in the bedroom of a family member’s home. Ledesma then shot and killed himself. Natalie is survived by her daughter.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Elisabeta Filip, 34
KATY :: MARCH 18, 2013

Ionut Filip, 34, stabbed and killed his wife Elisabeta in their home. After killing Elisabeta, Filip confessed to police and then hung and killed himself. The couple’s two young children were home at the time of the murder. Elisabeta is survived by her daughters, 1 and 4 years of age.

Valerie Robinson, 42
KATY :: SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

Gregory Robinson, 54, shot and killed his wife Valerie in the parking lot of a high school. After shooting Valerie, Robinson shot and killed himself. Valerie had left Robinson on several occasions due to the violence in the relationship. Valerie is survived by her adult daughter.

GALVESTON COUNTY

Nadine Hurst, 50
HITCHCOCK :: JUNE 9, 2013

Arles Hurst, 55, shot and killed his wife Nadine in the bedroom of her home. Hurst then shot and killed himself. Their daughter discovered their bodies. Nadine is survived by two adult daughters and an adult son.
GOLIAD COUNTY

**Ida Reitz, 77**

**WEESATCHÉ :: JULY 4, 2013**

Dennis Reitz, 78, shot and killed his wife Ida in their home. Reitz then shot and killed himself. A family member found their bodies and called 911. Authorities discovered a suicide note written by Reitz. Ida is survived by her three adult children.

GRAY COUNTY

**Kristi Slatten, 42**

**LEFORES :: JANUARY 1, 2013**

Joshua Rigo, 28, strangled and killed his girlfriend Kristi in her home. Law enforcement responded to a 911 call and found Kristi’s body. Suspecting foul play and determining Kristi’s vehicle was missing, law enforcement issued a warrant for the vehicle. Law enforcement in the Panhandle stopped Rigo and another passenger. Authorities arrested Rigo. Rigo received a 90-year sentence upon his conviction. Kristi is survived by her son.

GRAYSON COUNTY

**Sarah Linsey Swaim, 22**

**SHERMAN :: FEBRUARY 8, 2013**

Gregory Bailey, 31, strangled and beat his girlfriend Sarah, killing her in their home. Bailey then left her body in a field. Neighbors reported Bailey had a history of family violence. A jury found Bailey guilty of Sarah’s murder, and the Judge sentenced Bailey to life in prison. Sarah is survived by her two-year-old daughter and her one-year-old son.

HARRIS COUNTY

**Wende Marshall, 44**

**CYPRESS :: NOVEMBER 3, 2013**

Colt Morgan, 29, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Wende in her home. Morgan then burned Wende’s body and buried her in the backyard. Morgan fled Harris County. Authorities found him in Anderson County and questioned him, and later arrested him in Leon County. Morgan was charged with murder.

**Emilia Matase, 47**

**CYPRESS :: NOVEMBER 14, 2013**

Camil Matase, 48, shot and killed his wife Emilia in their home. Matase also shot and killed their 26-year-old son Emanuel. Emilia’s 17-year-old son discovered both his mother and brother’s bodies. Authorities pursued an international manhunt and located Matase in Romania. Matase was extradited back to the United States where authorities charged him with capital murder. Emilia is survived by her 17-year-old son.
Jemal Lockridge Chambers, 43  
HOUSTON :: FEBRUARY 3, 2013

Lawrence Chambers, 40, stabbed and killed his wife Jemal in their home. Chambers severely assaulted her 13-year-old son, disfiguring his face. Jemal’s 14-year-old daughter discovered her mom and brother when she returned home. Authorities charged Chambers with Jemal’s murder and aggravated assault of her son. Jemal is survived by her son and daughter.

Melissa Chavez, 28  
HOUSTON :: FEBRUARY 4, 2013

Jessie Blanco, 29, assaulted and strangled his girlfriend Melissa, killing her at a park. After strangling Melissa, Blanco ran over her with his vehicle multiple times. Authorities arrested Blanco and charged him with murder. Melissa is survived by four sons.

Christina Dossey, 43  
HOUSTON :: FEBRUARY 18, 2013

Charles Case, 28, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Christina. Medical personnel transported Christina to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. Authorities charged Case with murder. Christina is survived by her six children.

Helen Thomas, 31  
HOUSTON :: MARCH 9, 2013

Carl Jackson, 37, shot and killed his wife Helen in her workplace parking lot. Helen, a security guard at a grocery store, was patrolling the parking lot of the store, when Jackson pulled into the lot and fired multiple shots at her. Jackson then drove to his home, where he shot and killed himself. Helen is survived by her son.

Lashandra Washington, 34  
HOUSTON :: MARCH 11, 2013

Sharman Ford, 33, shot and killed his wife Lashandra in their home. After killing Lashandra, Ford shot and killed himself. Their children discovered their bodies when they returned home. Ford had a history of family violence. Police previously responded to other family violence calls at their home. Lashandra is survived by her two sons and four daughters, ages 6 to 15 years.

Razida Ali, 25  
HOUSTON :: MARCH 18, 2013

Hung Tran, 25, shot and killed his wife Razida in the home they shared. After Tran called his sister, she called authorities and went to the home to check on the family. Law enforcement officers arrested Tran a month later and charged him with her murder. Tran has a history of family violence. Razida is survived by her three children.
Darlishia Watson, 37  
HOUSTON :: APRIL 3, 2013

Jason Finley, 39, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Darlishia in the home they shared. Darlishia’s daughter returned home from school and found her mother. Authorities arrested and charged Finley with her murder. Darlishia is survived by three teen daughters and one teen son.

Esmeralda Covarrubias, 32  
HOUSTON :: APRIL 3, 2013

Melvin Sandoval, 22, shot and killed his girlfriend Esmeralda in her home. Sandoval fled. Authorities later apprehended Sandoval and charged him with Esmeralda’s murder.

Jeanette Ochoa, 26  
HOUSTON :: MAY 11, 2013

Joshua World, 29, shot his ex-girlfriend Jeanette outside her home. Jeanette died a week later from the injuries. Jeanette’s mother witnessed World shooting Jeanette. World fled when authorities tried to apprehend him, led authorities on a car chase, and fired shots at officers. World managed to escape. Authorities later found World in a vacant home. World shot and killed himself while authorities surrounded the home.

Abigail Christine Owens, 22  
HOUSTON :: NOVEMBER 15, 2013

Alan Fernandez, 24, stabbed and killed his wife Abigail inside a vehicle and left her body there. Several days later, a passer-by discovered Abigail’s body. Fernandez’s family reported to authorities that he called them, admitted to killing Abigail and stated that he was at the Mexican border. Fernandez is charged with murder and remains at large. Abigail is survived by her son.

Kimberly Kay Johnson, 43  
HOUSTON :: NOVEMBER 24, 2013

Herman Johnson, 52, stabbed and killed his wife Kimberly in the home they shared. A neighbor heard screaming and called 911. Law enforcement responded to the call and forced entry into the home, finding Kimberly’s body. Johnson turned himself into authorities and confessed to killing Kimberly. Authorities charged him with murder.

Marian Anderson-Hilton, 48  
HOUSTON :: DECEMBER 6, 2013

Lance Hilton, 45, shot and killed his wife Marian at their home. Marian’s 11-year-old and 13-year-old daughters were home. Authorities arrested Hilton and charged him with Marian’s murder. Marian is survived by her two young daughters and her adult daughter.
Deborah Lazarine, 63  
HOUSTON :: DECEMBER 18, 2013  
Raymond Lazarine, 62, shot and killed his wife Deborah in the home they shared. After killing Deborah, Lazarine called his son and confessed to the killing. Authorities arrested and charged Lazarine with murder. Deborah is survived by her adult son and two adult daughters.

Agnes Whitaker-Vasquez, 31  
HOUSTON :: DECEMBER 20, 2013  
Gustavo Vasquez, 34, shot and killed his wife Agnes in their home. When police responded, Vasquez was inside the home. Vasquez later surrendered. Authorities charged Vasquez with Agnes’ murder.

Melissa Sowders, 26  
HOUSTON :: DECEMBER 26, 2013  
Matthew Sowders, 28, strangled and killed his wife Melissa when they arranged to meet at a public place so that she could visit one of her children. After a week-long search, authorities found Melissa’s body. Sowders confessed to two people that he had killed Melissa, who was pregnant at the time of the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Sowders with capital murder. Melissa had filed for divorce in the months prior to her murder. Melissa is survived by her four young children.

Priscilla Linsey, 44  
HUMBLE :: JUNE 10, 2013  
Onturia White, 35, shot and killed his girlfriend Priscilla in their home. Priscilla told friends and family that she was concerned about what White might do to her and her children. Law enforcement apprehended White after a vehicle chase and standoff. White was on parole at the time of the murder for other offenses. Authorities charged White with murder. Priscilla is survived by her four children.

BriAnna Hope Wasinger, 26  
PASADENA :: JULY 5, 2013  
Ivan Franco, 26, stabbed and killed his girlfriend BriAnna in her home. Two days later, Franco’s attorney contacted police informing them of BriAnna’s death. Authorities located BriAnna’s body tied up in her apartment and charged Franco with her murder. BriAnna is survived by her 6-year-old daughter.
HARRISON COUNTY

**Kari Dunn, 31**

**MARSHALL :: DECEMBER 1, 2013**

Brad Dunn, 35, stabbed and killed his wife Kari in the bathroom of a hotel. Kari’s three children witnessed the murder. Kari’s oldest daughter attempted to call 911 but was unable to access an outside line. Dunn left the scene with Kari’s 4-year-old daughter before police responded. Authorities apprehended Dunn in nearby Cass County, where he was charged with evading arrest, and then later, charged for murder in Harrison County. Dunn has a history of family violence arrests. Kari had recently ended the relationship and was pursuing a divorce. Kari is survived by her two daughters, ages 4 and 9, and her 3-year-old son.

HAYS COUNTY

**Hailey Nicholls, 22**

**SAN MARCOS :: OCTOBER 17, 2013**

Daniel Stilwell, 23, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Hailey in her home. Before killing Hailey, Stilwell shot and killed Hailey’s boyfriend Jesse Robledo, 27. Stilwell called his roommate and confessed to the murders and stated he planned to kill himself. Twelve hours later, authorities found Stilwell’s body in his wrecked vehicle.

HIDALGO COUNTY

**Sandra Andrade, 23**

**PALMVIEW :: MAY 24, 2013**

Anthony Stewart, 28, shot and killed his girlfriend Sandra in the kitchen of the bar where she worked. Stewart then asked a friend, Eric Robles, to bury the weapon. Authorities charged Stewart with murder, tampering with evidence, and possession of a controlled substance. Authorities also charged Robles with tampering with evidence.

HOPKINS COUNTY

**Jessica Tyler Crayton, 27**

**SULPHUR SPRINGS :: OCTOBER 22, 2013**

Tony Crayton, 31, killed his wife Jessica in her home. After killing Jessica, Crayton jumped from an interstate overpass and tried to kill himself. Medical personnel took Crayton to a hospital for treatment. Authorities charged him with Jessica’s murder. Jessica is survived by her young son.
Abigail Valencia, 17
BIG SPRING :: SEPTEMBER 21, 2013
Dakota Anguiano, 19, shot his girlfriend Abigail in their home. Anguiano took Abigail to the hospital and claimed she was shot in a drive-by shooting. After determining that Anguiano shot Abigail inside their home, authorities charged him with murder. Authorities also charged another person, David Westbrook, 19, with tampering with evidence in connection to the murder. Abigail is survived by her 2-year-old daughter.

Natasha Duggins, 25
BEAUMONT :: AUGUST 31, 2013
Ray Anthony Grant, 35, shot and killed his wife Natasha in her home. Natasha was hosting a birthday party when Grant arrived and asked to speak to Natasha. After shooting Natasha, Grant fled. Law enforcement located, arrested, and charged Grant with Natasha’s murder. Natasha is survived by her two young sons and two young daughters.

Tina Aubey, 42
HAMSHIRE :: MAY 23, 2013
James Chaney, 44, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Tina in his home. Chaney asked Tina to come to his home, and he shot her while she was holding her son. Tina’s son was not physically injured; her twin daughter was in the car. Chaney informed a neighbor that he had killed Tina. Chaney then took his son and his daughter and left the scene. A police officer followed him from the home and apprehended him when he stopped at a convenient store. Tina had ended the relationship a couple of months prior to the murder. Tina is survived by her twin son and daughter, 3 years of age.

Lauren Michelle Brack, 31
PORT ARTHUR :: JUNE 30, 2013
Eric Barragan, 32, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Lauren at a public beach. Barragan also shot and killed Lauren’s boyfriend, Regino Maybit, 34. After killing Lauren and Regino, Barragan shot and killed himself. Lauren’s two young daughters and Regino’s son, age 10, and other bystanders witnessed the murders. Lauren is survived by her two daughters.

Vivian Niemeyer, 75
KERRVILLE :: DECEMBER 24, 2013
Ervin Lucky, 65, beat his wife Vivian to death with his hands in their home. Police found Vivian in the front yard. Authorities arrested and charged Lucky with Vivian’s murder. Lucky has a history of family violence.
Valerie Jimenez, 37  
KERRVILLE :: DECEMBER 30, 2013

Shawn Forster, 33, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Valerie in her vehicle. Afterwards, Forster drove to his supervisor’s home, demanded a gun to kill himself, and confessed that he had just murdered Valerie. Forster later hung himself at a business.

Crystal Rene Noey, 35  
CENTERVILLE :: JANUARY 21, 2013

Christopher Byrd, 30, struck and ran over his wife Crystal with his truck. Authorities charged Byrd with manslaughter. Crystal is survived by her two young daughters.

Christina Flores, 40  
MEXIA :: JANUARY 1, 2013

Manuel Gonzalez, 28, stabbed his girlfriend Christina after attending a party with her. Police and paramedics found Christina a block away and transported her to a hospital in Dallas, where she later died. After stabbing Christina, Gonzalez entered a nearby house when police responded to the scene. Authorities charged Gonzales, he pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 41 years in prison. Christina is survived by her three daughters.

Kayla Lewis, 19  
LUBBOCK :: JUNE 23, 2013

Marc Reyes, 20, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Kayla in her home. Reyes also shot and killed Kayla’s 17-year-old friend. Reyes then shot and killed himself at his mother’s home. A few weeks prior to the murder, Kayla sought an order of protection from Reyes, stating she was in fear for her own and her daughter’s lives. Kayla is survived by her daughter, age 5 months.

Vivian Greer, 85  
MIMS :: JULY 8, 2013

Paul Dome, 73, shot and killed his wife Vivian in their home. Dome also shot and killed Vivian’s son, Willard Landry, 61. Dome then set fire to the home and shot and killed himself in his vehicle.
MAVERICK COUNTY

Blanca Herrera, 49
EAGLE PASS :: OCTOBER 9, 2013
Homero Herrera, 63, stabbed and killed his wife Blanca at their home. Herrera then attempted to kill himself and survived his injuries. Their daughter was home at the time and discovered Blanca’s body and the injured Herrera in their bed. At the time of the murder, Blanca had filed for divorce. Herrera has a history of family violence and previously threatened to kill Blanca. Authorities charged Herrera with murder. Blanca is survived by her daughter, age 15 years.

Jessica Colecio, 37
EAGLE PASS :: DECEMBER 6, 2013
Jaime Jimenez, 37, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Jessica in his home. Law enforcement responded to a 911 call and found Jessica unresponsive. At the time of the murder, Jimenez had pending cases for assaults against Jessica and his mother. Authorities arrested Jimenez and charged him with murder. Jessica is survived by her four children.

MCLENNAN COUNTY

Deborah Sheppard, 59
WACO :: JULY 24, 2013
Michael Sheppard, 60, shot and killed his wife Deborah in their home. Sheppard then shot and killed himself. A family member was concerned after not hearing from them and found their bodies. Deborah is survived by her adult son.

MIDLAND COUNTY

Kyara West, 21
MIDLAND :: JULY 11, 2013
Arron Castillo, 21, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Kyara at an apartment complex. The day before the murder a court had ordered Castillo to begin paying child support to Kyara. Kyara went to meet Castillo when he told her that he had a child support payment for her. He then killed her. Carlos Martinez III, 21, and Deseare Carroll, 21, assisted Castillo in covering up the crime. Authorities arrested Martinez and Carroll, charging them with tampering with evidence, and charged Castillo with murder. Kyara is survived by her two sons, ages 15 months and 3 years.

NUECES COUNTY

Cheryl Ann Delong, 49
CORPUS CHRISTI :: MARCH 7, 2013
Charles Delong, 81, shot and killed his wife Cheryl in the home they shared. Delong then set their home on fire and killed himself.
NUECES COUNTY

Terry Ramos, 51
CORPUS CHRISTI :: JULY 4, 2013
Johnny Flores, 35, killed his girlfriend Terry in their home. Neighbors reported Flores has a history of family violence and heard Flores being abusive the day of Terry’s murder. Authorities charged Flores with Terry’s murder. Terry is survived by her five daughters.

POTTER COUNTY

Miranda Zimmerman, 20
AMARILLO :: MARCH 4, 2013
Matthew Zimmerman, 31, beat and killed his wife Miranda with an unknown object in a motel where they were staying. Authorities charged Zimmerman with Miranda’s murder.

ROCKWALL COUNTY

Jessica Aguilar, 33
ROCKWALL :: FEBRUARY 16, 2013
Anthony Lewis, 47, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jessica outside a movie theater. Lewis confronted and assaulted Jessica as she and her friend Francisco Delacruz, 40, walked towards a theater. Lewis then returned to his car, retrieved a firearm and shot Jessica and Francisco. Francisco survived the attack. Two witnesses observed Lewis shoot Jessica and Francisco. Lewis led authorities on a vehicle chase through three counties. Lewis aimed a gun at officers and officers wounded Lewis before he was apprehended. Days before the murder, Lewis had strangled Jessica and she ended the relationship. Lewis pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 75 years in prison for murder and aggravated assault. Jessica is survived by her daughters, ages 9 and 17 years, and her 18-year-old son.

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

Jerry Wolfshohl, 63
INGLESIDE :: JUNE 14, 2013
James Wolfshohl, 63, shot his wife Jerry in the living room of their home. Jerry later died in the hospital. Immediately prior to the shooting, Jerry called 911 and reported that her husband threatened to kill her. During the 911 call, dispatchers heard a gunshot. While police officers were in route, Wolfshohl’s son reported that Wolfshohl had admitted to killing Jerry and planned to kill himself. When authorities arrived at the scene, Wolfshohl answered the door with a gun in hand then moved out of sight and killed himself. Jerry is survived by her adult son.
SMITH COUNTY

Michelle Ingram, 28
TYLER :: JUNE 21, 2013
Rickey Cox, 22, assaulted his girlfriend Michelle while they were walking near railroad tracks, causing her to fall and strike her head on the railroad tracks. She died from the injuries two days later. Authorities charged Cox with manslaughter. Cox has a history of family violence towards Michelle.

TARRANT COUNTY

Luz Alvarez, 40
ARLINGTON :: SEPTEMBER 2, 2013
Rafael Barrera, 32, shot and killed his girlfriend Luz in their home. After killing Luz, Barrera shot and killed himself. Luz’ children were in the home at the time of the murder. Luz is survived by her son, age 15, and her adult daughter.

Susan Brown, 59
ARLINGTON :: SEPTEMBER 20, 2013
Ricky Brown, 51, shot and killed his wife Susan in a motel room. Brown was emotionally and physically abusive to Susan. Susan had separated from Brown and was staying in a motel when she was killed. Brown pleaded guilty to manslaughter and received a sentence of seven years.

Roxann Sanchez, 30
BEDFORD :: MAY 1, 2013
Cedric Ricks, 38, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Roxann in her home. Ricks also stabbed and killed Roxann’s 8-year-old son and injured her 12-year-old son. Law enforcement responded to a 911 call and arrived to the scene. Police also found Roxann’s 8-month-old son in the home. Ricks confessed to a family member that he killed Roxann before fleeing to Oklahoma where authorities apprehended him. When Ricks killed Roxann, he had a pending charge of strangulation of Roxann against him. When that case occurred, Roxann had obtained temporary order of protection that expired in January 2013. Authorities charged Ricks with murder and attempted murder. Roxann is survived by her sons, ages 8 months and 12 years.

Natasha McDade, 23
FORT WORTH :: MARCH 20, 2013
Raheem Smith, 36, shot and killed Natasha in the courtyard of the apartment she shared with her sisters. Natasha’s family members witnessed the murder. After shooting Natasha, Smith attempted to kill himself. Prosecutors tried Smith for murder, and the jury sentenced him to life in prison. Natasha is survived by her three children.
Chanice Reed, 22
FORT WORTH :: JULY 1, 2013
Amos Wells, 22, shot and killed his pregnant girlfriend Chanice in her mother’s home. After killing Chanice, Wells shot and killed Chanice’s 10-year-old brother and her mother, Annette Reed, 39. After the murders, Wells turned himself into authorities. Authorities charged Wells with capital murder. Wells has a history of family violence.

Suzanne Parsons, 49
FORT WORTH :: DECEMBER 30, 2013
John St. Angelo, 49, stabbed and killed his ex-wife Suzanne at her workplace. Later, as police officers tried to arrest him, St. Angelo fired several shots at the officers. St. Angelo also shot himself but survived his injuries. Authorities charged St. Angelo with murder. Suzanne had previously obtained a protective order against St. Angelo in May 2013 and filed for divorce. Authorities arrested St. Angelo in June for assaulting Suzanne’s brother and sentenced St. Angelo to two days in jail in October. Two weeks prior to Suzanne’s murder the couple’s divorce was finalized. Suzanne is survived by her two adult sons and her adult daughter.

Angela Bynum, 32
GRAND PRAIRIE :: JANUARY 13, 2013
Larry Fikes, 38, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Angela in her home. Fikes had brought Angela’s son to her home for their custody exchange. After killing Angela, Fikes went home and invited friends over to watch a football game. Angela’s friend went to check on her after Angela did not show up for work and discovered her body. Fikes pleaded guilty to murdering Angela and was sentenced to 40 years in prison. Angela is survived by her son, age 13 months.

Jenea James, 37
GRAND PRAIRIE :: JUNE 30, 2013
Dashun Atkins, 39, shot and killed his ex-wife Jenea in her neighbor’s yard. Atkins also shot and killed Jenea’s boyfriend James Doyle, 41. Jenea’s two children were home at the time of the murders. Atkins later shot and killed himself at his home. The day of the murders, Jenea called law enforcement twice to report that Atkins was stalking her. Police increased patrol of Jenea’s home and interviewed Atkins and determined that he was not a threat to himself or others. Jenea planned to apply for a protective order the following Monday. Jenea is survived by her son and daughter, 3 and 5 years of age.

Kristi Suckla, 44
GRAPEVINE :: JANUARY 19, 2013
Kelly Suckla, 43, shot and killed his wife Kristi in her parents’ home. Suckla arrived at Kristi’s parents’ home while their 16-year-old daughter was celebrating her birthday. After killing Kristi, Suckla shot and killed himself. Kristi was staying with her parents after separating from Suckla. Kristi is survived by her daughter and adult son.
Susan Campbell, 66  
**KELLER :: JANUARY 27, 2013**

Ronald Campbell, 65, shot and killed his wife Susan in their home. Campbell also shot and killed two pets before killing himself. Police responded to a welfare check call and discovered Susan and Campbell’s bodies.

Devon De La Rosa, 23  
**MANSFIELD :: JULY 21, 2013**

Anthony Ford, 27, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Devon in her home. Devon’s grandfather became concerned for her safety and asked law enforcement to perform a welfare check. Law enforcement discovered Devon’s body in her living room and then located her infant son at Ford’s mother’s home. Three days later Ford led police in a vehicle chase in Kansas. During the chase, Ford crashed. Law enforcement apprehended him and medical personnel transported him to hospital. Authorities charged Ford with murder and he pled to 30 years in jail. Devon is survived by her 4-month-old son.

Heather Felts Salazar, 30  
**GRAPE CREEK :: AUGUST 31, 2013**

Matthew Salazar, 30, shot and killed his wife Heather at a friend’s home. Salazar also shot and wounded her friend Bradley Floyd, 30. Following the shootings, Salazar called 911 and confessed. Prosecutors tried Salazar for murder and the jury sentenced him to 99 years in prison. Heather is survived by her two young sons.

Keri Berry, 36  
**WALL :: JULY 28, 2013**

Brian Berry, 40, shot and killed his wife Keri in her home. After killing Keri, Berry shot and killed Keri’s brother Brandon Block, 31, and shot and injured her sister-in-law, Susan Block, 26. After the murders, Berry took his children and fled. Authorities apprehended Berry a short time later and recovered the children unharmed. Authorities charged Berry with capital murder. Keri had filed for divorce in June 2013. Keri is survived by her 7-year-old daughter and 9-year-old son.

Shameka McGriff, 27  
**AUSTIN :: APRIL 25, 2013**

Kenneth Clark Jr., 28, shot and killed his girlfriend Shameka and then put her body in Lake Travis. Clark had reported Shameka missing more than two weeks before her body was found. Clark shot and killed himself before authorities could arrest him. Clark left a note confessing that he killed Shameka.
Ernestine Meighan-Crayton, 51
AUSTIN :: JULY 11, 2013
John Williams, 44, suffocated and killed his ex-wife Ernestine in her home. Ernestine’s husband returned to their home in the afternoon and discovered her body. Ernestine had an active protective order against Williams, and the two were scheduled for a review hearing the day of Ernestine’s murder. Williams was twice convicted of family violence assaults. Authorities arrested Williams at his mother’s apartment and charged him with murder. Ernestine is survived by her 11-year-old son and 16-year-old daughter.

Francisca Guerra-Garcia, 40
AUSTIN :: OCTOBER 30, 2013
Lee Green, 50, stabbed and beat his wife Francisca, killing her in their home. Authorities discovered her body while performing a welfare check. Green has a history of family violence towards Francisca. She obtained a protective order against Green that expired in June 2013. Green previously served 120 days in jail for another family violence offense against a previous partner. Authorities arrested and charged Green with murder.

Elizabeth Garcia Tamez, 47
AUSTIN :: DECEMBER 14, 2013
Jesus Tamez, 40, stabbed and inflicted blunt force trauma killing his wife Elizabeth in their home. Tamez then called 911 to report that his wife was dying. When police arrived, Tamez collapsed and was taken to the hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Tamez with murder. Prior to the murder, police responded multiple times to family violence calls at the home. Elizabeth obtained an emergency protective order in 2012. Elizabeth is survived by her 10-year-old son.

Cheyenne Green, 29
GILMER :: SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
Jonathan Shepherd, 32, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Cheyenne in a high-school parking lot during a football game. Cheyenne was meeting Shepherd for a custody exchange of their 3-year-old son when Shepherd killed Cheyenne. Cheyenne’s son was present during the shooting. Witnesses reported that prior to the murder, Shepherd argued with Cheyenne regarding child custody. Authorities arrested and charged Shepherd with Cheyenne’s murder. Shepherd has a history of family violence. Cheyenne had filed for a protective order against Shepherd in November 2012. Cheyenne is survived by her son, who is 3 years of age.
**VAN ZANDT COUNTY**

*Heather Simpson Maples, 34*

**CANTON :: MARCH 24, 2013**

Larry Maples, 44, shot and killed his wife Heather in her friend’s home. Before killing Heather, Maples shot her friend, Moses Clemente, 47. Clemente survived the injuries. Heather had expressed concerns over her safety and informed Maples that she wanted a divorce a month prior to her murder. Authorities arrested Maples and charged him with Heather’s murder. Heather is survived by her two sons and two daughters.

**WHARTON COUNTY**

*Abigail Zapata, 26*

**EL CAMPO :: DECEMBER 11, 2013**

Robert Vasquez, 27, struck his girlfriend Abigail with a vehicle and killed her. Vasquez called authorities to report Abigail’s death. Authorities determined that Vasquez hit Abigail with the car he was driving and charged him with Abigail’s murder. Abigail is survived by her two sons, 10 months and 4 years of age.

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY**

*Sarai Valdez, 23*

**ROUND ROCK :: JUNE 16, 2013**

Jonathan Demarco, 20, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Sarai at the home where she was staying. Witnesses reported Demarco shooting Sarai. When police arrived, Demarco refused to drop his weapon and pointed the gun at police officers. Police officers shot and killed Demarco. Sarai had recently ended their relationship and was staying with a friend. In the past, Demarco had assaulted Sarai numerous times.

**WOOD COUNTY**

*Mary Williams, 85*

**QUITMAN :: APRIL 2, 2013**

Thomas Williams, 85, shot and killed his wife Mary in their home. Williams then shot and killed himself. Mary is survived by her adult son and daughter.
The Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.