Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) is the only nonprofit in Texas dedicated solely to creating safer communities and freedom from family violence. With the collective strength of more than 1,000 members, TCFV shapes public policy, equips service providers, and initiates strategic prevention efforts with state-wide reach and direct local impact.

Since 1978, TCFV has been regarded as the statewide expert, think tank and training entity for domestic violence programs and intersecting systems, including civil and criminal justice, child support and welfare, economic and workforce organizations, healthcare and the general public. Annually TCFV conducts 10 to 12 statewide, large-scale training events, 20+ regional trainings and over 80 individualized consultations and customized trainings.
Every year more than 100 women are killed by a male intimate partner in Texas. In 2014, perpetrators killed 132 women in 59 counties across the state. **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.

We hold firm to the conviction that each intimate partner homicide is Knowable, Predictable, and Preventable. Be part of the solution and join our movement. Visit [tcfv.org](http://tcfv.org) for membership information.
OUR METHOD

_Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities_ in 2014 continues the arduous task of providing a precise account of intimate partner femicides in Texas. Throughout 2014 and 2015, a team of TCFV staff reviewed media reports from all 254 Texas counties identifying women killed by their intimate partners. News outlets around the state provide valuable information about these femicides, and additionally TCFV gathers robust, accurate information from police reports, family violence programs, prosecutors, victim’s advocates, the Unified Crime Report (UCR), obituaries, and social media. All of this information adds a depth of knowledge and detail that we incorporate into our narratives and analysis.

In 2014, we again partnered with over 80 Texas family violence programs to inform this report. TCFV distributed a survey to capture vital information from our local family violence program partners. Programs assisted us in identifying victims of fatalities not covered in media reports.

In addition to researching media reports and working with local family violence programs, we analyzed police reports through open records requests, themselves important and credible pieces of information. In total, TCFV requested police reports from over 50 law enforcement agencies. Finally, TCFV closely reviewed the Unified Crime Report (UCR) data from the Texas Department of Public Safety. The UCR validated our research and provided leads to identifying additional victims.

TOWARDS A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING

Consider the following difficult realities for 2014:

- A man killed his current or former female intimate partner every 2.7 days in Texas.
- Victims’ ages ranged from 16 to 90.
- 67% of perpetrators used a firearm and 77% of perpetrators killed their partners in a home.
- 51% of the women killed were still married to their murderer; however, 15 of these women had separated from their husbands prior to being killed.
- Fatalities occurred in 59 counties across the state.
- The county with the highest number of deaths was Harris (23), followed by Dallas (10) and Tarrant (10) Counties.

Although we strongly hold to the idea that we should continue to tell the stories of women killed by their male intimate partners, TCFV has over the years seen important lessons learned by performing additional demographic and other analysis of the murders in line with those listed above. By offering these data points, we look for a deeper understanding of the factors that lead to lethal violence against women; TCFV offers this _Honoring Texas Victims Report_ so communities throughout Texas can work together to enhance intimate partner violence prevention and intervention across the state.

More specifically, this report concentrates on the following main areas of analysis: the ages of the victims and offenders, the relationship between the victims and the offenders, the location of the murder, the method used to commit the crime, the frequency of fatalities for each month, counties with fatalities, offenders’ involvement within the criminal justice system, murder-suicide and familicide, children and adult witnesses, and other related homicides.
How Old Was She?

Ages of Victims

Youngest victim 16 ↔ Oldest victim 90

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Victims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 or Under</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 or Over</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As in previous years, women killed come from both ends of the age spectrum. In 2014, the youngest victim was 16, and the oldest victim was 90. The majority of victims in 2014 were younger than 40, while the majority of offenders were over 40. Fifty-six percent of victims (74) were 39 or younger, and 59% (78) of offenders were 40 or older. Victims ages 20-29 (36) represent the most prevalent age group, followed by victims ages 40-49 (35), and victims ages 30-39 (33). This represents a shift from the previous few years (2010-2013) when victims between the ages of 30-39 comprised the majority of victims each of those years. The number of victims between the ages of 20-29 and 40-49 increased significantly in 2014 so that these three age categories are almost even.

Teen dating violence can be lethal. The youngest victims included one victim age 16, two victims age 17, two victims age 19, and 14 victims between the ages of 20-24. Ryan Matthews, 16, killed his pregnant girlfriend Arrijana, also 16, in her home. Luis Torres, 20, killed Joselyn Saucedo, 17, in his vehicle as he picked her up from school on the day she ended their relationship.

Among the oldest victims were three victims between the ages of 70-79, two victims between the ages of 80-84, and one victim age 90. Four of these six deaths were murder-suicides, and the majority of perpetrators over 70 used firearms to kill their partners. One exception is Sam Ball, 83, who beat and killed his wife Betty, 87, in their home. Betty told friends and police she was concerned about his abuse.

Comparing Texas numbers to national statistics, according to the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program and Supplementary Homicide Reports compiled from 1980-2008, most victims were in the 18-34 age group (49%) or 35-49 age group (34%). Similarly, in Texas, most victims were in the 18-34 age group (43.9%) or 35-49 age group (36.36%). The FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program and Supplementary Homicide Reports found that most offenders fell in the same age groups with 47% and 35% respectively. In Texas, offenders between the ages of 18-34 only comprised of 12% of the overall group, while 40.9% of offenders fell between the ages of 35-49 years.

Comparison of Victim's Ages: 2010-2014

What Was Her Relationship to Her Murderer?

“Husband-wife” represents the most common relationship between the perpetrator and victim (51%), followed by “boyfriend-girlfriend” relationships (27%). Former boyfriend-girlfriend comprised 17% of the represented relationships and divorced couples represented five percent.

Although the majority of victims were legally married at the time their perpetrators killed them, many of the women had taken action to end the relationships. In 2014, perpetrators killed their intimate partners as they packed their belongings, when they informed them they wanted to end the relationship, and after they moved out of the home. Eight perpetrators killed their partners as they were actively preparing to leave. Forty-three women had ended their relationships with their abusive partners prior to their murders. At some point in their relationships, eleven women obtained protective orders against the men who killed them. The 2014 narratives also highlight the critical measures victims took to escape their abusive partners and ex-partners. For instance, Tosha Pruitt had obtained multiple protective orders against her ex-husband Rodney Keeton, 45, and she moved out of state to escape his abusive behavior. Nicole Zito, 33, had moved to Texas to escape the abuse from her boyfriend Shanell Williams, 33.

Where Did the Murder Happen?

In Killeen, Thomas Jones, 31, threatened his ex-girlfriend Kirsten Farr, 21, through a restaurant window while she was eating with her friends and her current boyfriend. Jones stabbed Kirsten in the parking lot as she attempted to get away from him. In Amarillo, William Stewart, 35, stabbed and killed his wife Holly Combs, 24, as she sat next to her friends at a nightclub when she told him she wanted to end their marriage. In McKinney, Cedric McFail, 33, shot and killed his wife Melissa Williams, 35, in front of her children’s daycare with her young children in the backseat of her car.

Although these public murders shock us and capture our attention, we know from reviewing these cases year after year that the most common location of intimate partner femicides in Texas is the home, with three out of every four femicides occurring there. In San Antonio, Irma Davila, 41, had separated from her husband, Hector Davila, 44, when he invited Irma and their 13-year-old daughter to his home for dinner. Davila shot and killed Irma and her daughter there. In Mount Vernon, Keith McDowell, 55, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Angie Jo Smith, 31, in a friend’s home. Angie had gone to stay with her friend to escape McDowell’s abuse. In Houston, Andrae Gilbert, 45, shot and killed his wife Ciara Brown, 28, through the window of her apartment while Ciara cared for an infant.

In 2014, 101 of the 132 perpetrators (77%) killed their partners or ex-partners in a home. In most cases, TCFV could not identify specific areas or rooms within the home where fatalities occurred. Of the cases where this
information is available, the most common locations included the front or back yard (9) and the bedroom (8). Eleven fatalities occurred in vehicles, seven in public places, and four in the victim’s workplaces. Other locations included hotels or motels, vacation rentals, and assisted living centers.

![Location of Murder](image)

**How Did She Die?**

In 2014, almost twice as many perpetrators used firearms to kill their partners than all other weapons and means combined. In 67% of the femicides, perpetrators used a firearm. This represents a 9% increase from 2013, and the highest rate of firearm use since 2010, when perpetrators used firearms in 65% of the murders.

Federal and state laws prohibit abusers convicted of family violence and protective order respondents from legally possessing firearms. Still, each year we recount the stories of men who were prohibited from possessing firearms killing their partners and ex-partners with a gun. This past year was no exception. In August 2014, Patricia Askew, 42, received a protective order after her husband David Askew, 51, physically assaulted and strangled her. A month later, Askew shot and killed Patricia in front of her home in Corpus Christi. Benjamin Poehlman, 31, had two prior felony convictions for possession of a firearm when he shot and killed his girlfriend Roxanne Sanchez, 28.

![Means of Death](image)

Comparing means of death data for Texas with national data from the FBI’s Uniform Crime Reporting Program and Supplementary Homicide Reports from 1980-2008, we see firearms as an issue affecting domestic violence homicides in Texas in particular. The FBI report documents 53% of all female intimate homicide victims were killed with guns. 3 Nationally, homicides committed by intimate partners that involved a gun declined from 69% of all

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intimate homicides in 1980 to 51% in 2008, a 26% decline. Texas has not experienced those same trends. In 2014, perpetrators used a firearm in 67% of the femicides, which is a 16% increase over the national average in 2008.4

Eighteen perpetrators (14%) murdered their partners by stabbing them. Ten perpetrators (7%) strangled their partners to death, and eight perpetrators (6%) beat their partners to death with their hands. Four perpetrators used multiple means of lethal violence to kill their intimate partners.

All lethal and non-lethal incidences of domestic violence involve trauma and as such are cruel acts. In the narratives we document, we see how disrespect and entitlement to power and control results in brutal acts of violence. In this year’s report, especially heinous acts mark the brutality Texas victims and their children experienced. For example, in Elkhart, Victor Salcedo, 42, forced his way into his ex-wife, Lorena’s home, tied her to a chair, and strangled her to death. In Houston, Bardo Bustos, 37, stabbed, assaulted, and threw his girlfriend Feilisha from the second-story balcony of their home. He then tried to extract her teeth.

When Did She Die?

In 2014, the highest number of fatalities occurred in December (16), followed by June (15). The lowest numbers of fatalities occurred in January (8), followed by May (9) and September (9). Four months in 2014 had a higher number of fatalities than the five-year average of fatalities in the same months during 2010-2014:

- March (12 in 2014, five-year average: 9.8 deaths per month)
- June (15 in 2014, five-year average: 12.4 deaths per month)
- August (11 in 2014, five-year average: 8.8 per month)
- December (16 in 2014, five-year average: 13.6 deaths per month)

On average, a man killed his female intimate partner every 2.7 days in Texas, in 2014. Six fatalities occurred in the first week of June; this is the highest number of fatalities in any one week in 2014. That week, three women died on one day: June 2, 2014. On that day, in Kountze, a small town near Beaumont, Sandy Irvine shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jasmine Powell, 29, and shot and injured Jasmine’s friend Terrion Moffett, 33, in front of Jasmine’s home. That same day in Houston, authorities discovered Felicia Minor’s remains in her burned vehicle. Derrick Worrell, 41, strangled and killed Felicia, 39, and placed her body in her car and set it on fire. In Abilene that day, Chevayae Johnson, 23, shot and killed his girlfriend Makayla Bunting, 22, in her home. Johnson shot and injured Makayla’s 2-week-old son. In just one day in June, three families began grieving the loss of three young women.

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4 In the 2013 Honoring, we discussed innovative strategies the Dallas area has taken on related to firearms surrender protocols. To learn more about this initiative, access that report at www.tcfv.org.
In 2014, Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, had 23 femicides, the largest number in any county this year. This represents an increase from 2013, when Harris County had 19 femicides. Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas, and Tarrant County, which includes the cities of Fort Worth and Arlington, each had ten femicides in 2014. Dallas County experienced a decrease from 20 fatalities in 2013, while Tarrant County experienced a decrease from 11 fatalities in 2013. Bexar County, which includes the city of San Antonio, and El Paso County, which includes the city of El Paso, each had five femicides in 2014. Bexar County experienced a decrease from seven fatalities in 2013, while El Paso County experienced an increase from two fatalities in 2013.

**Counties with the Most Fatalities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Number of Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Paso</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bexar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of counties with populations that exceed one million residents, Harris County had the highest per capita rate of intimate partner femicides (1:96,938), followed by Tarrant County (1:99,408). Travis County had the lowest per capita rate of intimate partner femicides (1:285,484), followed by Bexar County (1:188,556), and Dallas County (1:127,694). El Paso County and Hidalgo County each have populations of approximately 830,000 residents, but Hidalgo County, with three femicides in 2014, has a significantly lower per capita rate (1:141,836) than El Paso County (1:85,016).

Consider also that 2014 saw a broadening of the total number of counties in which fatalities occurred. Intimate partner femicides occurred in 59 counties, which represents a higher count than each of the last ten years. On average, fatalities occurred in 48 counties each year between 2005 and 2014. During the same time frame, 141 counties experienced at least one fatality. Nine counties have experienced one or more fatalities each year for the last ten years; largely these represent the more densely populated counties (Bexar, Collin, Dallas, Denton, El Paso, Harris, Nueces, Tarrant, Travis).

Looking regionally, we note an increased number of femicides in a higher number of counties in East Texas compared to the last few years. Of 37 East Texas counties, 15 counties experienced 16 femicides in 2014. In both 2010 and 2013, nine of these counties experienced ten femicides. Comprised mainly of rural counties with small populations, the majority of these have populations less than 50,000 residents and a few more densely populated counties that range in population from 80,000 to 218,000. The combined population of the 37 counties within this region is 1.6 million residents, which results in a per capita rate of intimate partner femicides of one in 51,392 female residents. For comparison

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5 These counties include Harris, Dallas, Tarrant, Bexar and Travis.
purposes, consider that Tarrant County, where ten femicides occurred in 2014, is a densely populated county with a slightly higher population of 1.9 million residents and a per capita intimate partner femicide rate of one in 99,408 female residents. The per capita rate of intimate partner femicides in this East Texas region almost doubles that of Tarrant County.

### Increased Fatalities in East Texas

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Counties in East Texas Region Where Femicides Occurred</th>
<th>Number of Femicides</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certainly we must come to terms with and foster change to address the number of deaths in large communities. That said, fatalities occurring in smaller communities also deserve additional attention. Case in point: several small counties experienced multiple intimate partner femicides in 2014. The two fatalities in Grimes County, with a population of approximately 27,000 residents, resulted in a per capita intimate partner femicide rate of one in every 6,847 female residents. Harrison County, with a population of approximately 67,000 residents, experienced two femicides as well, resulting in a per capita intimate partner femicide rate of one in every 17,204 female residents. Looking at a slightly more populous area with 150,000-250,000 residents, Midland County (population: 155,000), which includes the city of Midland, experienced three femicides, resulting in a per capita femicide rate of one in every 25,868 female residents. Three femicides occurred in both Jefferson County (population: 252,235), which includes the cities of Beaumont and Port Arthur, and McLennan County (population: 243,441), which includes the city of Waco, and resulted in a per capita intimate partner rate of approximately one in every 41,000 female residents in each county.

### How Are We Holding Him Accountable?

Fifty-five percent of perpetrators (73) were or are involved in the criminal justice system. Of those, ten have been sentenced or convicted, and 63 have been charged. Forty-two percent of perpetrators (55) committed suicide. This represents a 7% increase from 2013. Law enforcement killed two perpetrators, and two remain at large. Thirty-nine percent of perpetrators (52) had a known history of violence and 29% (38) had previous domestic violence arrests or other law enforcement involvement.

### Offender Status

2 At Large  
2 Killed by Law Enforcement  
55 Suicide  
73 Involved in Criminal Justice System
As mentioned previously, a significant number of the perpetrators have already progressed through the adjudicative stage of the criminal justice system, having received guilty sentences or pled guilty. Often, those outside (and sometimes within) the system have reasonable questions about the potential and actual punishment decisions for murder and the ultimate result in specific cases. To that end, consider the following information.

Sentencing occurs in a couple of different settings: either as a part of a plea or as a part of trial. Defendants can plead guilty, avoiding a trial and often receiving a lesser sentence as a compromise; they also have an absolute right to a trial by a jury of their peers to determine both guilt and punishment. These stages represent two distinct parts of a trial in which different rules of evidence apply. For instance, in the guilt-innocence phase, extraneous or other kinds of evidence about the character of the defendant most likely do not come before the jury; in the punishment phase, however, the jury gets to know a little more about the defendant as a person to help them determine how best to punish. This significant difference can confuse crime victims and their families who testify when they hear that only certain evidence can come before the jury during one stage of the trial.

Apart from these important distinctions of process, knowing a little more about the ranges of punishment also helps contextualize family violence murderers’ sentences. In Texas, prosecutors can charge “capital murder” in a few different contexts: basically, capital murder describes a murder with an exacerbating circumstance such as multiple deaths or a protected class of people. For instance, prosecutors can charge capital murder when a defendant causes the death of more than one person in the same criminal transaction. The charge also applies when the defendant kills a person under six years old or when they kill a law enforcement officer. The range of punishment for a capital offense can either be the death penalty or life in prison without parole. In order to obtain the death penalty, prosecutors must convince the jury beyond a reasonable doubt that the offender represents a continuing danger (even if incarcerated) and that there are no mitigating circumstances. As you can see, significantly, not every family violence murder qualifies for capital punishment (either the death penalty or life without parole).

Prosecutors can charge murders committed without the exacerbating circumstance (one person killed and not a protected group) as first degree felonies. The range of punishment for a first degree felony in Texas is five years in jail all the way up to 99 years or life with a potential for parole. For better or worse, Texas has long subscribed to this wide range of punishment possibilities as a matter of policy to allow juries the most leeway in determining appropriate punishment. Also, current law allows for the possibility of parole for offenders after 30 years of incarceration, such that when prosecutors negotiate pleas, they may accept a plea of 30 years in lieu of life or a number of years above 30 years. Keep in mind juries typically do not know the parole ramifications in making their determinations; this can often result in a sentence of greater than 30 years by a jury even though practically speaking the defendant would have parole eligibility after 30 years.

### Did the Murderer Kill Himself and Others?

For the purposes of this report, TCFV defines murder-suicides as incidents when perpetrators kill their intimate partners and then kill themselves. In 2014, 42% of perpetrators committed murder-suicides. Eight other perpetrators attempted suicide before authorities responded and survived their injuries.

In this analysis, familicide describes incidents when the perpetrator kills his current or former intimate partner and one or more of the couple’s children, followed by the perpetrator committing suicide. Two familicides and one attempted familicide occurred in 2014. Hector Davila, 44, shot and killed his wife Irma Davila, 41, their 13-year-old daughter and killed himself. Deandre Owens, 25, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Justine Martinez, 19, their

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7 Tex. Penal Code Ann. §12.31 (O’Connor’s Criminal Codes Plus (2015-16)).
9 Tex. Penal Code Ann. §12.43 (O’Connor’s Criminal Codes Plus (2015-16)).
19-month-old child and then himself. Karim Kamdar, 46, shot and killed his wife Nikhat Kamdar, 37, and then shot and wounded their son and daughter, ages 11 and 15, before shooting and killing himself.

Currently, no comprehensive national database or tracking system exists to systematically document the toll in death and injury of murder-suicide in the United States.\(^1\) In order to more fully understand the human costs of murder-suicide, starting in 2002, the Violence Policy Center (VPC) began collecting and analyzing news reports of murder-suicides, resulting in a series of studies titled American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States.\(^2\) Through their research, VPC found that 84% of intimate partner murder-suicide incidents occurred in the home. Though not specified in most studies, available data confirm that the home of the offender and/or victim is the most likely place for murder-suicide.\(^3\) In Texas, we found similar results. The majority of murder-suicides occurred in the home (78%). The second most common location was inside a vehicle, which occurred 10.9% of the time. VCP’s study, also found that 31.6% of murder-suicide victims were 55 years of age or older.\(^4\) In Texas, only 18% of murder-suicide victims were 55 years of age or older.

In 2014, at least 83 children and 37 adults witnessed perpetrators attack and kill their intimate partners in Texas. The number of others present is underreported in that a few cases contained unspecified numbers of witnesses. For example, reports indicated that an unspecified number of witnesses confronted and detained Nohel Francisco-Sanchez, 37, after he shot and killed his wife Brenda Gomez-Llanes, 27, as they left a social gathering.

In addition, perpetrators injured five children and eight adults who were present during the femicides. All five injured children were family members of victims listed in this report. Adults who were injured represented family members, friends, and current partners of the victims.

In 43 cases, children were present, and in some cases witnessed the femicides. Most of the 83 children present were the victim’s children, but in some cases, they were victim’s family members or friends.

In 2014, perpetrators killed 97 women who were mothers, leaving 239 sons and daughters to mourn the loss of their mothers. Children, teens, and young adults under the age of 21 comprised 64% of those who lost mothers.

Intimate partner violence took the lives of 132 women in 2014 and ten additional family members and friends. We list the victims by their name, age and relation to the woman killed by an intimate partner.

With care and respect, TCFV acknowledges the immense loss of each of these lives:

\(~\text{Azareyh Aleyiah Owens}, 19 \text{ months old, Daughter of Justice Martinez}\)

\(~\text{William Pierce}, 4, \text{Son of Diana Ramos}\)

\(~\text{Destiny Davila}, 13, \text{Daughter of Irma Davila}\)

\(~\text{Yasmine Zavala}, 13, \text{Daughter of Xiomara Leon}\)

\(~\text{Linda Gonzalez}, 18, \text{Daughter of Xiomara Leon}\)

\(~\text{Barbara Knight}, 19, \text{Granddaughter of Karon Knight}\)

\(~\text{Genaro Covarrubias}, 33, \text{Fiancé of Darlene Robinson Vasquez}\)

\(~\text{Katy DeLeon}, 35, \text{Aunt of April Serrano}\)

\(~\text{Kim Rayson}, 35, \text{Cousin of Chanda Martin}\)

\(~\text{Cynthia Serrano}, 48, \text{Mother of April Serrano}\)

\(^{1}\) American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States. Violence Policy Center, October 2015.

\(^{2}\) \textit{Id.}

\(^{3}\) \textit{Id.}

\(^{4}\) \textit{Id.}
Who Is Not Included?

TCFV confirmed the deaths of the 132 women killed by their male intimate partners. We did not include a few additional stories of deaths of women in which their male partners had a contributing part but may not have been charged with murder or the case has not progressed to a point at which charges have been filed. Nevertheless, we want to share them here out of respect for the deaths of these women.

For instance, Bianca Jimenez went missing after her ex-boyfriend confronted her and her date at her San Antonio home. The case remains open and authorities have not publicly identified a suspect. In Houston, Eddie Herrera, 18, strangled his girlfriend Jacqueline Gomez, 17. Authorities arrested and charged Herrera, with aggravated assault. In Austin, Odis Kelly, 59, sexually assaulted his ex-girlfriend Patricia Bossick, 61, and suffocated her with his body weight. Authorities arrested and charged Kelly with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Kelly died in jail one month later before the case went before a grand jury. In Burnet, authorities arrested one woman and two men in the death of Rebecca Schaller, 29. Rebecca’s husband Thomas Simon, 31, was among those arrested for torturing and assaulting Rebecca. Authorities did not rule Rebecca’s death a homicide and charged all three perpetrators with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, among other charges. The circumstances of these cases cause great concern and warrant further attention as we work to reduce intimate partner violence across the state.

MAKING SENSE OF THE SENSELESS

As you have seen, in crafting this report we asked ourselves key questions about these murders in order to help inform a deeper understanding of these intimate partner fatalities:

- How Old Was She?
- What Was Her Relationship to Her Murderer?
- Where Did the Murder Happen?
- In What Community Did She Die?
- How Did She Die?
- How Are We Holding Him Accountable?
- Did the Murderer Kill Himself and Others?
- Who Is Not Included?

Although we do not have all of the answers, this writing seeks to get to the bottom of many of these questions for the purposes of respecting those who have passed and for offering points to consider in crafting intervention and prevention strategies at the state and local levels. At the statewide level, much of the information contained in this report and those from preceding years continue to spur policy changes at the practice and legislative levels. For instance, increased use of lethality assessments at the scene of the crime for the purposes of prioritizing increased intervention by law enforcement and programs,\(^\text{15}\) the development of high risk domestic violence teams,\(^\text{16}\) the creation of domestic violence fatality reviews,\(^\text{17}\) and the increased momentum related of firearms surrender protocols\(^\text{18}\) all gain additional significance when we consider Honoring Texas Victims.

TCFV encourages Texas communities to further delve into these cases and ask these important questions from a local vantage point to determine how communities can first know the fatalities, then begin to predict them and to finally prevent them. **Know. Predict. Prevent.**

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15 For more on this, go to http://mnadv.org/lethality/.
16 For more on this, go to http://jeannegeigercrisiscenter.org/domestic-violence-high-risk-team-model/.
17 For more on this, go to http://www.ndvfrl.org/.
For the last several years, TCFV has increased the scope of this report, choosing to incorporate various data points with analysis to offer deeper thoughts and understanding related to the demographics and realities of the women killed and their murderers. At the same time, we have discussed important intervention and prevention strategies that show promise. We consider it our duty to tell and understand the stories of the women killed and to offer solutions. The evolution of this ethic in this year’s report led us to ask key partners from across Texas to take pen to paper to describe their initiatives in their own words. As you will see below, two prosecutors, an educator/researcher, and a battering intervention prevention program facilitator contribute to the conversation on how to turn the lessons learned from these tragedies into solutions.

Don’t Wait to Advocate
By Staley Heatly, 46th Judicial District Attorney // President, Texas District and County Attorney Association

When I first became a prosecutor in 2006, I knew nothing of family violence. What’s worse, I didn’t take the time to learn. There was a backlog of cases when I came into office, including a number of cases where the victims were requesting dismissal. Almost all of those cases involved family violence. After discussing the cases with my staff, we made a decision that too many people still make today. That decision can be summed up in just seven words, “if they don’t care, why should we?” For the next couple of years, my office dismissed most family violence cases when the victim requested dismissal. We dropped those cases under the wrongheaded belief that they were not worth our time.

My perception of family violence cases changed drastically in 2009. In July of that year, a man named Tommy Castro murdered five-year-old Kati Earnest in my jurisdiction. The bizarre twist to the case was that Kati’s mother initially told police that she had been the culprit. She gave a false confession to killing her own child. It took us months to unravel what went on in the apartment where Kati died, but at the end of our investigation there was no doubt that Castro was the killer.

Through our investigation, we discovered that Castro had been brutally beating women for almost two decades across Texas and other states. With his last two girlfriends, he had used the children as proxies to emotionally abuse and control the women. If they were not reacting “appropriately” to his beatings, he would beat their children. Castro had gotten by with abuse for so long because the criminal justice system had dropped the ball time after time by either failing to arrest Castro or by dismissing charges at the victim’s request, something I had done for two years.

Fortunately, Castro did not escape justice on this occasion and he is currently serving a life sentence. This case taught me that each and every family violence case must be treated with care. If we do nothing as a criminal justice system, we give our tacit approval to the abuser. The abuse will continue and invariably it will get worse. Since that case, I have made family violence prosecution a priority. I now train law enforcement professionals across the country on the investigation and prosecution of family violence. During my presentations, I always talk about Kati Earnest. It is my hope that by hearing her story others will take action on family violence without having to experience a tragedy like her case first hand. It is up to each and every one of us to be an advocate and an educator. Together we must work to ensure that our criminal justice system puts victims first and that abusers are held accountable.

DV Advocates Are Child Advocates
By Gloria Aguilera Terry, CEO, Texas Council on Family Violence

Prompted by Senator Nelson’s passage of SB 434 (82nd Texas Regular Legislature) a task force was created to address the relationship between domestic violence and child abuse and neglect. The task force produced a report with guiding principles framing and directing the work to promote child safety within families where a parent is a victim of domestic violence. Recommendations aimed at enhancing safety among survivors of domestic violence.
and their children and operationalize the guiding principles were formed for both the Department of Family and Protective Services (Statewide Intake and CPS), domestic violence programs, as well as cross systems response recommendations. The Task Force created the critical foundational underpinnings to simultaneously advance the safety of Texas children and the parent experiencing violence in the home.

The Governor’s Office lent their voice, influence and an investment to build upon the work of the Task Force. This investment from our state’s highest office, provides the sustainability of two dedicated staff people, one at TCFV and one at CPS, to work in tandem to:

- Develop policy that brings together the important lens and expertise of CPS and the domestic violence community.
- Create consistent and uniform training among CPS and DV professions.
- Support pilot sites and formal evaluation to recognize effective strategies.
- Continue to convene diverse expertise and stakeholders to keep effective dialogue intact.

Importantly, the work of policy promulgation directly affecting families where a parent is a survivor of domestic violence will continue in a collaborative manner, infused with expertise and experience from a variety of vantage points.

**Bottom line:** Increasing the safety of a domestic violence victim exponentially increases the safety of the children.

**Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence in Health Care Settings**

By Jeff R. Temple, PhD  Professor, University of Texas at Galveston

In this edition of Honoring Texas Victims, you will read the heartbreaking stories of two pregnant women who lost their lives, Arrijana Hill and Tracy Anderson. You will also read the stories of the 20 women who left behind children three years old and younger when their mothers’ lives were cut tragically short.

These stories and, in fact, all 132 women murdered by their intimate partners demonstrate the reality that intimate partner violence continues to be a public health epidemic. In fact, in addition to the very real possibility of death, victims face numerous health impacts from domestic violence. Women in violent relationships are overrepresented in health care settings, including the emergency room, obstetrics/gynecology, pediatric clinics, and psychiatric offices. Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable due to an increase in relationship stress and the increased physical, social, emotional, and economic demands of pregnancy. This violence can include high rates of emotional abuse and significant rates of physical and sexual violence.

Although pregnancy represents a particularly dangerous time for women and their young children, health care providers have a unique opportunity to employ strategies aimed at the prevention and intervention of domestic violence. During pregnancy and immediately postpartum, health care providers interact more frequently with women and may be able to more readily identify women who are potential victims of domestic violence.

A recent state task force on domestic violence, convened by the Texas legislature under House Bill 2620, concluded that “the health care community is well positioned to make a significant and positive impact on the long term health trajectories of families. However, it is essential that health practitioners have information, tools, and partnerships necessary to effectively work with pregnant women, new mothers, and babies.”

Grounded by five guiding principles,1 the Task Force documented the availability and gaps in education, services, and research on domestic violence and health and recognized that any policy directed at the health care community needs to be structured with input from medical practitioners. Informed by the American College of Obstetrics and

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1 To access the full report, go to http://www.hhsc.state.tx.us/reports/2015/task-force-on-domestic-violence-report.pdf.
Gynecology (ACOG) and numerous other organizations, the Task Force emphasized the importance of routine screening of domestic violence of every patient and recommended that health care workers provide informational brochures and hotline numbers in all clinics, especially those with a focus on women’s health care. Universal screening and provision of information accomplishes several interrelated goals, including linking violence as a health issue and increasing the likelihood that women in violent relationships will disclose abuse.

Even if a woman in an abusive relationship does not disclose, the health care provider has demonstrated that he or she stands as a trusted resource for the woman should she decide to disclose in the future. Significantly, it may take several visits for women to build a relationship with their health care provider in order to feel safe enough to disclose abuse. Asking about violence multiple times, then, increases the chances of women eventually disclosing their experiences.

Assessing for violence is only half the challenge. Responding to and providing referrals for women in an abusive relationship must also occur and perhaps takes on an even greater importance. Research shows that screening for domestic violence, in and of itself, is only partially effective. Clinicians and clinics must provide more intensive support to victimized women, including proper referral options that include safety plans and counseling. With these provisions in place, research indicates these women have a reduced likelihood of future involvement in violent relationships and suffer less violence-related injury. Notably, interventions targeting abused pregnant or postpartum women appear especially promising.

Although research on managing domestic violence issues in healthcare settings continues, best practices include routine screening of all patients in a safe and private setting; asking direct questions in a nonjudgmental manner; asking about physical violence, emotional and verbal abuse, and sexual assault; connecting with community resources; including resources, hotline numbers, and referral information throughout the clinic including in restrooms and exam rooms; and training all staff in screening for and responding to domestic violence.

Each year this report shines a light on the devastating stories of women like Arrijana and Tracy with the aim of encouraging varied systems change in a variety of sectors. In particular, the HB2620 Task Force Report, just released in September 2015, strongly informs this year’s Honoring Texas Victims Report, teaching us important lessons about the interplay between healthcare and domestic violence. In making this connection, health care practitioners and domestic violence advocates see the part they can play as lifesavers for actual and potential victims at one of the most vulnerable times of their lives.

The Family Place High Risk Family Violence Offender Program
By David Almager, Program Director, Battering Intervention and Prevention Program
Family Place, Dallas

Last year alone, the Family Place served over 11,523 survivors of family violence; unfortunately during that same period, 4,711 victims who sought services were either turned away, referred elsewhere or placed on a wait list due to insufficient space in shelter and insufficient resources. Faced with this reality, the Family Place’s Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) has begun to focus on the worst offenders of family violence. One way Family Place has taken this on regards leading a multidisciplinary approach to the treatment of “high risk family violence offenders” in Dallas County, bringing together the Dallas County Probation, Dallas Police Department, District Attorney’s Office, Sheriff’s Office, Criminal Courts, and victim advocacy organizations.

Here is how the project works: in a collaborative and coordinated fashion, the group applies a set standard of evidenced-based risk factors with the goal of batterer accountability, maximizing safety for victims, and prevention of fatalities. To determine this, all batterers accepted into the program participate in a forensic domestic violence risk evaluation conducted by Dallas County’s community supervision agency, an assessment based on the

2 Assessment, Treatment, and Research (ATR) Services, Dallas County Community Supervision and Corrections Department (2014)
probationer’s record of repeated family violence offenses or high lethality potential or a combination. Important lethality indicators include stalking, strangulation attempts, threats to kill, recent separation, and access to a gun, among others. In conjunction with the newly established Dallas County Felony Domestic Violence Court, the high-risk team then meets weekly to review the progress of over 30 highly dangerous offenders to accomplish compliance with conditions of their probation. Each offender reports before 283rd District Court Judge Rick Magnis to address their weekly program compliance and review participation in the 30-week BIPP treatment along with other service recommendations.

Importantly, victim support plays a critical role in empowering the victim throughout the offender’s participation in the DV court process. Family Place prioritizes advocacy, shelter, counseling, legal support, and children’s counseling during the program. Moreover, all offenders completing the specialized BIPP treatment program must participate in a relapse prevention plan by attending additional groups and must also report to their BIPP counselor every four months for a year after completion of BIPP.

**Seven Sign of Success: Stepping Up Against Domestic Violence in Nueces County**

*By Mark Skurka, Nueces County District Attorney*

The facts are that Nueces County experienced three deaths of women by their male partners in eleven days, saw a general increase in fatalities in the last two years, and identifies that more than half of reported homicides are due to domestic violence. These cases involve families that represent all ethnic, financial, geographic, and cultural lines.

After I became aware of these realities, I felt compelled to do something about increasing awareness and advocacy in the area of family violence. I worked with key staff in planning and hosting a summit on domestic violence for our community. The summit and six additional efforts have helped transform our approach to the issue.

**The Summit.** The three goals designated by our team for the summit are as follows: awareness, education and setting goals for practical solutions to the problem of domestic violence. We chose the summit title “Stop the Silence” as a subtle encouragement to our community to speak up and take action against this plague on our population.

On December 1, 2014, more than 200 people attended. Speakers included the head of the local women’s shelter, a psychologist, representatives from both parole and probation, legal aid attorneys, local law enforcement officials, and representatives from social agencies. In addition to raising awareness and educating participants, the summit became a catalyst for new ideas and goals to continue the education of the public on domestic violence. For instance, in the area of community awareness, the Corpus Christi Caller Times has taken up the challenge of raising awareness by sponsoring a yearlong series “Behind Broken Doors”, which provides an in-depth analysis of domestic violence.

**The Faith Connection.** We approached the Diocese of Corpus Christi. As a result, the bishop agreed to help raise awareness by scheduling a sermon addressing the issues of domestic in every parish on the same Sunday sometime in the fall, forming support groups for victims of domestic violence in local parishes, and placing domestic violence literature and brochures in every church. In addition, the Diocese’s monthly magazine “South Texas Catholic” devoted an entire issue to the subject.

**The Health Connection.** After reaching out to the Nueces County Medical Society, which consists of over 800 physicians, the board of directors agreed to hear our presentation at their monthly meeting. They also agreed to receive training for doctors and their staff on recognizing and assisting possible victims of domestic violence. The next step: distributing domestic violence literature and brochures in doctors’ offices and clinics.

**Cut It Out.** We started this program in Nueces County. Victim assistance coordinators train beauty salon employees to recognize symptoms of abuse and provide brochures with hotline numbers to relevant agencies. To date we have trained over 60 hair stylists and placed posters and literature in a variety of locations.
Tools for Prosecution. My office received a $73,000 grant for the purchase of body cameras for law enforcement’s use in the investigation of domestic violence crimes. These cameras have proven to be a useful tool for law enforcement and prosecutors dealing with domestic violence cases.

Tools for Increased Safety. We also applied for a grant that would fund GPS monitors in domestic violence cases. With the $50,000 grant, a judge can monitor indigent defendants and therefore offer victims more security during pretrial supervision.

In all, we have accomplished an increase in awareness and intervention growing from the summit. Along with education, we have also set new goals for the future in fighting the rise of domestic violence and seeing those goals increase our effectiveness in our efforts against domestic violence. We look forward to our second summit in December to continue the dialogue and education in our community.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE

The culmination of this report would not have been possible without the important contributions of the Department of Public Safety, numerous law enforcement agencies and prosecutor offices and advocates.
NARRATIVES

Women Killed by Their Intimate Partner in Texas in 2014

The Texas Council on Family Violence lists with great respect the names of each victim of intimate partner femicide in 2014. As TCFV gathered data, we took care to confirm the accuracy of information through various means, primarily law enforcement, Department of Public Safety, media, and 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. TCFV includes additional relevant information when available through media and law enforcement report in order to increase awareness of the lethality risk factors. The narratives list victims in order by county where the femicide occurred.

ANDERSON COUNTY

Lorena Salas Salcedo, 42
Elkhart // January 15, 2014

Victor Salcedo, 43, killed his ex-wife Lorena in her home. Salcedo forced his way into Lorena’s home, tied her to a chair, and attempted to suffocate her. Salcedo then strangled Lorena to death. Salcedo called 911 to confess and then shot himself. He pleaded guilty to murder and received a sentence of life without parole. Lorena is survived by her three teen children, two sons and one daughter.

ANGELINA COUNTY

Elisha Henson, 30
Lufkin // April 26, 2014

Justin Welch, 23, strangled and killed Elisha whom he had dated. Welch killed Elisha in the front yard of a friend’s home. Welch later confessed and pleaded guilty to murder. He received a sentence of 50 years in prison. Elisha is survived by her two sons.

BASTROP COUNTY

Patricia Thomas, 42
Red Rock // November 18, 2014

Richard Brown, 50, shot and killed his wife Patricia in her home. When Brown began firing a weapon at Patricia she hid in a locked room and contacted police for help. Brown forced his way into the room and killed Patricia before law enforcement was able to respond. Brown then shot and killed himself. Prior to the murder, Patricia had separated from Brown.
BELL COUNTY

**Kirsten Farr, 21**
Killeen // February 23, 2014

Thomas Jones, 31, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Kirsten in a restaurant parking lot. As Kirsten attempted to flee, Jones grabbed Kirsten and stabbed her multiple times. Jones fled the scene. Authorities later arrested and charged him with murder. Jones had a history of family violence and had attended an anger management course. Kirsten previously obtained a protective order against Jones. Kirsten is survived by her son, age 3 years.

**Shamara Henry, 30**
Temple // August 14, 2014

Quista Henry, 30, shot and killed his wife Shamara in the driveway of her home. He then shot and killed himself. During the attack, Henry also shot and critically injured another man. Shamara’s infant child was present at the time of the shooting. Prior to the murder, Shamara had separated from her husband. Shamara is survived by her five children and two step-daughters.

BEXAR COUNTY

**Irma Davila, 41**
San Antonio // July 3, 2014

Hector Davila, 44, shot and killed his wife Irma in his home. He also shot and killed their 13-year-old daughter. Davila then killed himself. Irma had recently separated from Davila and filed for a divorce. Davila invited Irma and their daughter to come to his home for dinner, where he then killed both of them. Irma is survived by two adult sons.

**Nicole Zito, 33**
San Antonio // July 12, 2014

Shanell Williams, 33, killed his girlfriend Nicole in her home. Williams later contacted police stating he was suicidal. Authorities then arrested and charged Williams with murder. Williams had a history of abusive behavior towards Nicole. Nicole had moved to Texas to escape the abuse.
Darlene Robinson Vasquez, 34
San Antonio // December 7, 2014

Christopher Doss, 41, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Darlene in a vehicle outside of a home. Doss also shot and killed Darlene’s fiancé Genaro Covarrubias, 33, and then shot a family pet. Doss threatened to shoot Darlene’s daughters, ages 8 and 15 years. Authorities identified Doss as the suspect and filed capital murder charges. When law enforcement located Doss in his motel room, Doss reached for his weapon and officers shot and killed him. Prior to her murder, Doss sent threatening text messages to Darlene. Darlene is survived by her daughters and two sons, ages 18 and 20.

Roxanne Sanchez, 28
San Antonio // December 25, 2014

Benjamin Poehlman, 31 shot and killed his girlfriend Roxanne in their home. Roxanne was preparing to leave Poehlman at the time of her murder. Law enforcement arrested Poehlman and charged him with murder. Poehlman had a history of abusive behavior towards Roxanne and had two felony possessions of firearms convictions in 2006 and 2009. Roxanne is survived by her four children, ranging in ages from 2 to 12 years old.

Michelle Hensel, 42
San Antonio // December 28, 2014

John Regalado, 43 shot his girlfriend Michelle in her home. He then shot and killed himself. One of Michelle’s daughters was home and called 911. Emergency responders transported Michelle to the hospital, where she died from the injuries six days after the shooting. Michelle is survived by her three daughters, ages 17 to 20 years.

Lorena Cedillo, 33
Freeport // January 7, 2014

Moises Cedillo, 35, shot and killed his wife Lorena in the living room of their home. Cedillo then shot and killed himself. When Cedillo’s sister heard a gunshot, she called 911. Prior to the murder, Cedillo told friends that Lorena planned to end the relationship. Lorena is survived by three daughters, ages 5, 8, and 10 years.
BRAZORIA COUNTY continued

**Arrijana Hill, 16**
Pearland // March 21, 2014

Ryan Matthews, 16, stabbed, strangled, and killed his girlfriend Arrijana in her home. Arrijana’s father discovered her body. Arrijana was pregnant with twins at the time of her death. Prior to the murder, Matthews pressured Arrijana to terminate the pregnancy. Authorities arrested Matthews two months after the murder and charged him as an adult. A jury found Matthews guilty of capital murder.

**Edna Vez, 30**
Alvin // October 18, 2014

Armando Ramos, 30, strangled his wife Edna in a motel room. Ramos then placed Edna’s body in her car. While he was driving, he called the police to report the crime. After his arrest, officers found Edna’s two children, ages 6 and 7, in the motel room. Authorities charged Ramos with murder. Edna is survived by her two children.

**Vera Osburn, 78**
Pearland // December 19, 2014

Charles Engle, 69, shot and killed his girlfriend Vera in her home. He then shot and killed himself. A neighbor notified Vera’s family when she did not show up for an event. Upon entering the home, family members discovered their remains and notified police. She is survived by her adult son and daughter.

CALLAHAN COUNTY

**Brenda Waggoner Kanady, 51**
Baird // April 20, 2014

Danny Cannon, 54, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Brenda in her home. Before killing Brenda, Cannon sent her many threatening text messages, which Brenda reported to the police. Brenda told police and neighbors she feared for her life. After the murder, Cannon fled the state and authorities apprehended him in Arkansas. Authorities charged Cannon with murder and he received a sentence of 30 years in prison. Brenda is survived by her two adult daughters.

CAMERON COUNTY

**Diana Ramos Pierce, 45**
Brownsville // September 19, 2014

Donald Pierce, 41, shot and killed his wife Diana in her home. The day before shooting Diana, Pierce also shot and killed their 4-year-old son. Pierce moved the bodies of Diana and her son to
the backyard. Authorities discovered their bodies and arrested Pierce, charging him with capital murder, tampering with evidence, and evading arrest. Diana is survived by her two sons and one daughter.

CASS COUNTY

Marshanta Frank, 27
Queen City // June 24, 2014

Leon Minniefield, 55, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Marshanta in the driveway of his home. Minniefield also shot Marshanta’s mother, who survived the injuries. Their 6-year-old son heard the shots and ran outside. Minniefield fled the scene and then shot and killed himself. Marshanta had gone to Minniefield’s house for a custody exchange. Marshanta is survived by her daughter and four sons, ranging in ages from 8 months to 6 years.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

Kayla Thompson, 27
Jacksonville // April 20, 2014

Cedric Thompson, 34, stabbed his wife Kayla in their driveway. The couple’s four children were inside the home at the time of the murder. Prior to the murder, Thompson called family members stating he planned to harm himself. When family members could not reach Kayla, Kayla’s mother went to their home and discovered her body. Authorities arrested Thompson and charged him with first-degree murder. Kayla is survived by her three sons, ages 5, 7, 10 years, and a daughter, age 11 years.

COLLIN COUNTY

Melissa Williams, 35
McKinney // January 16, 2014

Cedric McFail, 33, shot and killed his wife Melissa in her car at their children’s daycare. Melissa’s two youngest children, ages 1 and 4, were present. McFail fled the scene and went to a nearby home, where he shot and killed himself. In October 2013, Melissa had filed for divorce. Melissa is survived by her five children, ages 1, 4, 16, 17, and 19 years.

COMAL COUNTY

Lisa Hermes, 32
New Braunfels // October 12, 2014

Jerry Hermes, 35, shot and killed his wife Lisa in her vehicle at her home. Lisa’s three children were in the backseat of the car. Hermes fled the scene. Law enforcement located Hermes the following day. He refused to drop his handgun and threatened the officers, who shot and killed
him. Hermes had a history of violent behavior towards Lisa. Prior to her murder, Hermes threatened Lisa and her father with a firearm, and she sought a divorce and a protective order. Lisa is survived by her two daughters, ages 5 and 9 years, and a son, age 3 years.

**DALLAS COUNTY**

**Vanessa Pitofsky, 42**
Dallas // February 24, 2014

Nick Pitofsky, 47, shot and killed his wife Vanessa in their home. Pitofsky then shot and killed himself. Authorities responded to a welfare check and discovered their bodies. Prior to her murder, Vanessa confided in a friend that she had deleted her social media account to avoid Pitofsky’s jealousy.

**Eva Garcia, 47**
Dallas // February 25, 2014

Juan Hernandez, 59, shot and killed his girlfriend Eva at a nightclub. Hernandez yelled at Eva, left the nightclub, and then returned a short time later with a gun. After shooting Eva, Hernandez shot and killed himself. Eva is survived by her four children.

**Veronica Sauels, 33**
Dallas // June 29, 2014

Ranji Charles, 41, shot and killed his wife Veronica in their home. Charles fled the scene and had a vehicle accident. When emergency responders tried to help him, Charles shot himself and survived his injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Charles with capital murder. Charles had a history of violence against Veronica. The day prior to the murder, Charles had mentioned that he would kill Veronica and also shot and killed his friend Corey Shannon, 33, at a gas station and threatened witnesses at the scene. Veronica had previously obtained a protective order against Charles for threatening behavior, harassment, and physical violence. Veronica is survived by her daughters, ages 5, 11, and 13 years.

**Lahomer Anderson, 43**
Dallas // June 30, 2014

Brandon Hughes, 34, shot and killed his girlfriend Lahomer at her apartment. Lahomer’s adult daughter and 2-year-old granddaughter hid in a closet and called a family member for help. The family member arrived at the home and called the police. Authorities arrested Hughes and charged him with murder. Lahomer is survived by her adult daughter and son.
Josefine Griggs, 33
Dallas // August 19, 2014

Martin Reyes, 36, shot and killed his girlfriend Josefine in a motel. Josefine called 911 and spoke to a dispatcher as Reyes approached her. The 911-call operator heard the gunshots. Reyes fled the scene and remains at large. Authorities charged Reyes with murder.

Marietta Shaw, 24
Dallas // October 24, 2014

Quavize Jones, 28, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Marietta in her home. Marietta’s young daughters and another 3-year-old child were in the home at the time. Jones fled the scene leaving the children. A neighbor discovered Marietta’s body and called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder. Marietta had ended the relationship days before her murder. Jones had a history of family violence towards Marietta and a history of threatening neighbors who contacted the police when they heard him assaulting Marietta. Marietta is survived by her two daughters, ages 4 months and 4 years.

Brenda Gomez-Llanes, 27
Dallas // October 25, 2014

Nohel Francisco-Sanchez, 37, shot and killed his wife Brenda as they left a social gathering. Several witnesses tackled and detained Francisco-Sanchez until authorities arrived. Brenda’s three young children and another child were present during the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged Francisco-Sanchez with murder. Brenda is survived by two daughters and a son.

Tosha Pruitt, 44
Wilmer // November 29, 2014

Rodney Keeton, 45, shot and killed his ex-wife Tosha in a vehicle outside his home. Keeton then called Tosha’s brother and confessed to killing her. Keeton had a history of abusive behavior towards Tosha. Tosha had obtained multiple protective orders during the course of their relationship. Tosha moved out of state to escape Keeton’s abusive behavior. She returned to Dallas to attend her grandson’s birthday party when Keeton killed her. Tosha is survived by her two adult sons.

Sharneen Norman, 49
Dallas // December 1, 2014

Herbert Edmondson, 45, shot and killed his girlfriend Sharneen in her home. Sharneen’s father requested a welfare check after he was unable to reach her. Authorities discovered her body. Edmondson fled to Conway, Arkansas, where he committed suicide in a motel.
DALLAS COUNTY continued

**Celina Orellana De Arias, 24**  
Dallas // December 18, 2014

Jose Peraza, 36, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Celina at an apartment complex. Peraza’s brother and a friend intervened to protect Celina. Peraza stabbed his brother and the friend. Both survived the injuries. Peraza had a history of family violence against another woman. Prior to her murder, Celina had ended her relationship with Peraza.

DENTON COUNTY

**Aide Fink, 50**  
Flower Mound // September 25, 2014

Daniel Fink, 40, shot his estranged wife Aide in her home. Three of Aide’s children, ages 7, 11, and 16, were present at the time of the murder, and her oldest child called 911. Emergency responders transported Aide to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Fink with murder. Aide had filed for divorce and separated from Fink a few weeks prior to her murder. Aide is survived by her daughter and three sons.

**Maria Isabel Medina, 27**  
Denton // December 12, 2014

Ricardo Martinez, 23, beat and killed his ex-girlfriend Maria at her workplace. Maria’s 4-year-old son was at the office with her. Martinez then fled to Mexico with their son and remains at large. When Maria ended the relationship with Martinez, he made repeated threats to leave the country with their son if she did not reunite with him. Maria filed for sole custody, and a date for the final hearing was set less than a week before Martinez killed Maria. Maria is survived by her son.

EASTLAND COUNTY

**Karan Richardson, 49**  
Gorman // April 5, 2014

Lance Richardson, 49, shot and killed his wife Karan in their home. Richardson then shot and killed himself. Authorities discovered their bodies when they responded to a request for a welfare check. Karan is survived by her daughter, a step-daughter, and a step-son.
ECTOR COUNTY

Alexandra Kennedy, 22
Gardendale // July 3, 2014

Danny Munguia, 29, beat and killed his wife Alexandra in their home. Alexandra’s 6 month-old daughter was in the room at the time. Munguia called the police the following morning to report the murder. Authorities arrested Munguia and charged him with murder. At the time, Munguia was awaiting trial regarding a 2013 charge when he assaulted, strangled, and held Alexandra underwater. Munguia’s terms of release required him to have no contact with Alexandra. Alexandra is survived by her daughter and her son, age 5 years.

EL PASO COUNTY

Maria Duarte, 66
El Paso // August 16, 2014

Isaac Duarte, 74, stabbed and killed his wife Maria in their home. Duarte then stabbed himself and survived his injuries. Authorities arrested Duarte and charged him with murder. Duarte had a history of abusive behavior towards Maria. Maria is survived by her adult daughter.

Laura Lara, 51
El Paso // August 24, 2014

Jesus Chavez, 51, assaulted his girlfriend Laura in the bedroom of his home. Chavez attempted suicide before police arrived. Emergency responders transported Laura to the hospital, where she died three days later. Authorities arrested Chavez and charged him with murder.

Maria Elena Sernas, 44
El Paso // November 20, 2014

Jorge Rojero, 64, shot and killed his ex-wife Maria at his home. Rojero then shot and killed himself. The couple had divorced a few months prior to the murder. Maria had gone to the home to retrieve some property. Maria is survived by two children.

Christina Bukovcik, 20
El Paso // December 4, 2014

Geomel Shaffa, 22, killed his wife Christina in their home. Authorities arrested Shaffa in Arizona one day later. At the time of Christina’s murder, Shaffa was awaiting trial for the attempted murder of his previous wife in October of 2013.
EL PASO COUNTY continued

Jacqueline Valenzuela, 26
El Paso // December 18, 2014

Carlos Torres, 27, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jacqueline at her home. Jacqueline’s 8-year-old son was present at the time of the murder. Torres fled the scene in Jacqueline’s vehicle where he shot and killed himself. Jacqueline had ended her relationship with Torres one week prior to her murder. Jacqueline is survived by her son.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Justice Martinez, 19
Ledbetter // October 20, 2014

Deandre Owens, 25, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Justice in her apartment. Owen also shot their 19 month-old-child, who died three days later. Before authorities were able to enter his apartment, Owens shot and killed himself. Owens had a history of abusive behavior towards Justice and had prior arrests for assault, interference of an emergency phone call, and violating an emergency protective order. Justice had obtained an emergency protective order against Owens.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Stephanie Kirkpatrick Politte, 29
Missouri City // March 11, 2014

Daniel Politte, 30, shot and killed his wife Stephanie in the bedroom of their home. Politte called 911 and reported that Stephanie was having a medical emergency. Emergency responders arrived to the home and determined that Politte shot Stephanie. Authorities then arrested and charged Politte with murder.

Nikhat Kamdar, 37
Katy // May 7, 2014

Karim Kamdar, 46, shot and killed his wife Nikhat in their home. Kamdar then shot and wounded their son and daughter, ages 11 and 15, before shooting and killing himself. Nikhat’s daughter called 911, and emergency responders found her in the front yard. Nikhat is survived by her son and daughter.
FRANKLIN COUNTY

**Angie Jo Smith, 31**
Mount Vernon // November 11, 2014

Keith McDowell, 55, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Angie at a friend’s home. McDowell fled the scene and then shot and killed himself. Days before the murder, Angie had ended the relationship when McDowell became possessive and abusive. Angie is survived by two children, ages 2 and 7 years.

GALVESTON COUNTY

**Katrina Gonzales, 33**
League City // March 29, 2014

Felipe Fernandez, 49, beat and killed his wife Katrina in their home. Fernandez approached a neighbor and told him that there was something wrong with Katrina. The neighbor alerted authorities. They responded to the scene and discovered Katrina’s body. Fernandez had a history of abusive behavior towards Katrina. She was moving out of the home at the time of the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Fernandez with murder. Katrina is survived by two daughters, ages 5 and 11 years.

**Brenda Ann Cook, 57**
Santa Fe // April 18, 2014

Arvil Cook, 75, shot and killed his wife Brenda in their home. Cook then shot and killed himself. Brenda is survived by her adult daughter.

GILLESPIE COUNTY

**Karon Knight, 59**
Harper // May 9, 2014

Joseph Knight, 67, shot and killed his wife Karon in their home. Knight also shot and killed their granddaughter Barbara Knight, 19. Knight then called 911 and turned himself into authorities. Authorities arrested and charged him with capital murder. Karon is survived by two adult daughters.
GRAYSON COUNTY

Yvonne Gauthier, 46
Denison // February 7, 2014

Aaron Smith, 53, shot his ex-girlfriend Yvonne at her home. Emergency responders transported Yvonne to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Smith fled to Oklahoma, where he shot and killed himself. Smith had a history of violence. Yvonne had recently ended the relationship and obtained a protective order against Smith. Yvonne is survived by her adult daughter.

GREGG COUNTY

Chanda Martin, 38
Longview // June 15, 2014

Isaiah Roberts, 29, shot and killed his ex-wife Chanda in her home. Roberts also shot and killed Chanda’s cousin Kim Rayson, 35. Chanda’s boyfriend, James Thomas, also sustained injuries as he tried to escape. After the attack, Roberts fled. Authorities pursued him into Smith County, where they apprehended him. They charged Roberts with capital murder and evading arrest. Chanda had filed for divorce in 2013. Chanda is survived by her two daughters.

GRIMES COUNTY

Autumn Armstrong, 40
Navasota // August 18, 2014

Kelly Armstrong, 43, shot and killed his wife Autumn in the bedroom of their home. Their teen son was home at the time. Armstrong turned himself in and authorities charged him with murder. Armstrong had a history of abusive behaviors towards Autumn. Armstrong had attempted to strangle Autumn six months prior to her death. Autumn had filed for a divorce and had a hearing to finalize the details on the day she was murdered. Autumn is survived by her adult daughter and teen son.

Noemi Chandler, 55
Iola // October 27, 2014

Dan Chandler, 64, shot and killed his wife Noemi in their home. Chandler then shot and killed himself. Neighbors contacted the authorities for a welfare check when they had not seen the couple leave the home for several days. Police discovered their bodies upon entering their home. Noemi is survived by her adult daughter.
HARDIN COUNTY

**Jasmine Powell, 29**
Kountze // June 2, 2014

Sandy Irvine, 43, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jasmine in the front yard of a home. Irvine also shot and injured Jasmine’s friend Terrion Moffett, 33. Prior to the shooting, Irvine stalked, harassed, and threatened Jasmine. Jasmine had previously sought an order of protection against Irvine. Authorities arrested Irvine, and a grand jury indicted him for murder and aggravated assault.

HARRIS COUNTY

**Vy Ngoc Bao-Pham, 17**
Houston // January 20, 2014

Luan Vu, 19, strangled and killed his ex-girlfriend Vy in a public place. Vu began stalking Vy when she ended the relationship. After the murder, Vu sent a text message to her family asking for ransom for her return. Authorities issued an Amber Alert for Vy. Law enforcement arrested Vu. Vu told police he placed Vy’s body in a garment bag and submerged it in the bayou. Authorities charged Vu with capital murder.

**April Cobb, 33**
Channelview // February 5, 2014

Jerry Fain, 35, strangled and killed his girlfriend April in her home. April’s 12-year-old daughter discovered her body. Fain had sent a threatening text message to April the day he killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Fain with murder. April is survived by twin daughters, ages 12 years and a daughter, age 17 years.

**Doris Williams, 49**
Houston // February 8, 2014

George Richardson, 64, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Doris in the kitchen of her home. Richardson confessed to stabbing Doris. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

**Veronica Benavides, 38**
Pasadena // March 12, 2014

Victor Benavides, 39, shot and killed his wife Veronica in their home. Benavides then shot and killed himself. Veronica’s 17-year-old daughter was in the home at the time of the shooting. Veronica had planned to file for divorce on the day of the murder. Veronica is survived by her daughter and an adult son.
Isioma Ebegbodi, 36
Houston // March 22, 2014

Martin Ebegbodi, 63, shot and killed his wife Isioma in their home. Isioma’s three young children were in the home at the time of the shooting. After killing Isioma, Ebegbodi went to a neighbor’s home and asked him to call police. Law enforcement arrived at the home and arrested Ebegbodi. Authorities charged Ebegbodi with murder. Isioma is survived by three children, ages 4, 7, and 8 years.

Felicia Minor, 39
Houston // June 2, 2014

Derrick Worrell, 41, strangled and killed his girlfriend Felicia in her vehicle. Worrell then set fire to the car. He later attacked another woman at a public place and stole her vehicle. Authorities arrested and charged Worrell with robbery. After Felicia’s body was identified, authorities then charged Worrell with murder. Worrell had a history of abusive behavior towards Felicia. Felicia is survived by an adult son.

Skye Schulz, 34
Houston // June 3, 2014

Travis Spears, 41, shot and killed his girlfriend Skye in a motel room. Spears then shot and killed himself. Spears had a history of abusive behavior towards Skye.

Georgina Gonzalez-Fernandez, 47
Katy // June 18, 2014

George Rush, 57, strangled and killed his wife Georgina in his home. Rush then shot and killed himself. Neighbors became concerned and requested a welfare check several days after the murders. Authorities then discovered their remains.

Brandy Renger, 39
Katy // July 2, 2014

Jose Salas-Bustamante, 19, assaulted and killed his girlfriend Brandy in his home. Salas-Bustamante called 911 and said he found Brandy unconscious. Medical responders discovered that Brandy had been assaulted. Authorities arrested and charged Salas-Bustamante with murder. They also arrested and charged Salas-Bustamante’s mother, who shared the apartment with him, with tampering with evidence.
Russell Neal, 40, beat, stabbed, and killed his girlfriend Catherine in the living room of their home. Neal turned himself in and confessed to the murder. Authorities charged Neal with murder. Neal had a history of abusive behavior towards Catherine. Catherine is survived by two sons, ages 3 and 5 years.

Bardo Bustos, 37, stabbed, assaulted, and threw his girlfriend Feilisha from the second-story balcony in their home. Bustos then tried to extract her teeth. A neighbor attempted to intervene but was unable to stop Bustos. Emergency responders transported Feilisha to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Feilisha’s four young children were present during the murder. Authorities arrested Bustos and charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and upgraded the charge to murder after Feilisha’s death. Bustos pleaded guilty and received a sentence of 45 years in prison. Feilisha is survived by her four children, ages 3, 8, 9, and 12 years.

Phillip Deckard, 24, shot and killed his wife Candace in their home. Deckard then shot and killed himself. Candace’s 7-year-old daughter ran to a neighbor’s house for help. The neighbor found Candace’s toddler in the room where Deckard killed Candace. Deckard had a history of abusive behavior towards Candace, and neighbors had previously called police to intervene. Candace is survived by her three children, ages 1, 6, and 7 years.

Jose Noriega, 37, beat and strangled his ex-girlfriend Rocio near her home. Noriega then set her body on fire at a pond near the home. A passerby called police after noticing the fire. Authorities charged Noriega with her murder. Noriega had a history of violence and had threatened Rocio numerous times because he did not want to pay child support. Rocio is survived by her daughter, age 3 years, and her son, age 6 months.
HARRIS COUNTY continued

Lisa Thorn, 47  
Houston // August 27, 2014

Starling Caston, 48, shot and killed his girlfriend Lisa in their home. Family members witnessed the shooting and fled the home. Caston then barricaded himself inside and shot and killed himself. Caston had a history of abusive behavior towards Lisa. Lisa was packing her belongings to move out of the home at the time of the murder.

Maria Rocha, 56  
Houston // September 20, 2014

Melesio Rocha, 60, shot and killed his wife Maria in their home. When the police arrived, Rocha confessed to shooting Maria. Authorities arrested and charged Rocha with murder.

Rita Salton, 43  
Houston // October 6, 2014

Damon James, 41, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Rita outside her home. A neighbor witnessed the murder and notified police. Authorities arrested and charged James with murder. James had a history of violence, and authorities charged him with family violence a week prior to the murder. Rita is survived by her four children, ages 11 to 24 years.

Maribel Cruz, 43  
Houston // October 19, 2014

Raul Cruz, 44, shot and killed his wife Maribel in the bedroom of their home. Cruz then shot and killed himself. The next morning, Maribel’s daughter discovered their bodies. Maribel is survived by her 15 year-old daughter and her adult daughter.

Damaris Gonzalez, 29  
Houston // November 9, 2014

Brian Castello, 29, strangled and killed his wife Damaris in their home. Gonzalez’s family became concerned for her when she did not pick up her children and went to her apartment to check on her. Upon entering, the family members discovered her body wrapped in a comforter in the closet. Authorities charged Castello with murder the following day. Gonzalez is survived by her two daughters and son.
Ciara Brown, 28  
Houston // November 11, 2014

Andrae Gilbert, 45, shot and killed his wife Ciara in her apartment. Gilbert fled the scene and went to a local hospital for treatment for the injuries he sustained. When authorities arrived at the scene, they found Ciara’s body. Next to her body, in a bassinet, they found an infant whom Ciara had cared for. Authorities arrested and charged Gilbert with Ciara’s murder.

Anastacia Oaikhena Lambert, 27  
Houston // December 8, 2014

Patrick Lambert, 38, stabbed and killed his wife Anastacia in their home. A maintenance employee in the apartment complex discovered Anastacia’s body inside a refrigerator. Lambert fled the country with their 11-month-old son. After a nationwide manhunt, authorities located the 11-month-old son in Queretaro, Mexico, where they arrested Lambert. Three months prior to the murder, Anastacia reported to police that her husband threatened her with a knife. Anastacia is survived by her son.

Melodie Esparza Ruiz-Mendez, 40  
Houston // December 23, 2014

Juan Ruiz-Mendez, 39, shot his wife Melodie in a vehicle near his home. Ruiz-Mendez then shot and killed himself. Emergency responders transported Melodie to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Prior to the murder, Melodie had separated from Ruiz-Mendez, and the divorce was scheduled to finalize within a couple of weeks.

Monica Gaytan, 24  
Spring // December 28, 2014

Martin Gaytan, 24, shot and killed his wife Monica in their home. Gaytan called 911 and stated he killed Monica in self-defense. Upon further investigation, authorities arrested and charged Gaytan with her murder. Monica is survived by her son, age 5 years.

Angel Jackson, 26  
Houston // December 29, 2014

Tumetheus Pack, 44, shot and killed his girlfriend Angel in her home. Pack then fled to Arkansas with Angel’s 14-month-old son. Prior to the murder, Angel’s coworker received a text from Angel’s phone saying she was shot; police responded to the address provided on the text, but the address was incorrect. The next day, another co-worker requested a second welfare check for Angel’s home. Authorities discovered Angel’s body and issued an Amber Alert for her son. Arkansas law enforcement discovered that Pack had shot and killed himself in his vehicle. Angel is survived by two sons, ages 14 months and 7 years.
HARRISON COUNTY

Alicia Benefield, 19
Marshall // March 18, 2014

Rodris Webster, 25, strangled, shot, and killed his ex-girlfriend Alicia in her vehicle. Alicia’s family reported her missing, and hundreds of community members assisted in the search. Authorities named Webster as a person of interest, and after interrogation, Webster led authorities to Alicia’s remains. Webster had a history of family violence assaults against Alicia, and she had ended the relationship. Authorities arrested Webster and charged him with murder and with felon in possession of a firearm.

Pamela Taylor, 47
Scottsville // March 19, 2014

Dudley Taylor II, 50, shot and killed his wife Pamela in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Taylor’s father found their bodies when he went to meet with his son. Pamela is survived by her adult son.

HAYS COUNTY

Denise Manning, 45
Wimberley // March 26, 2014

Shaun Mireles, 22, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Denise in a vacation cabin where they were staying. Mireles then attempted to stab himself and survived his injuries. Another guest at the vacation cabins found Denise’s body lying in the street. Mireles confessed to stabbing Denise, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

HENDERSON COUNTY

Deborah Allen, 47
Payne Springs // August 2, 2014

Clyde Tennison, 50, beat, stabbed, and killed his girlfriend Deborah in their shared home. Tennison contacted law enforcement and reported that Deborah committed suicide. Upon further investigation, authorities arrested and charged Tennison for Deborah’s murder. Deborah is survived by her two adult sons and adult daughter.
**HIDALGO COUNTY**

**Elvita Balli, 56**  
Pharr // March 3, 2014

Ricardo Soto, 53, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Elvita in her vehicle at her place of employment. Soto then shot and killed himself in the passenger seat of Elvita’s vehicle. Co-workers discovered their bodies and alerted authorities. Elvita is survived by her adult son.

**Daniela Ramos Donan, 27**  
Mission // June 5, 2014

Abel Sanchez, 33, shot and killed his wife Daniela in their backyard. Witnesses called 911. Sanchez attempted to flee, but authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Daniela is survived by her three children.

**Maria Cruz Coronado, 43**  
McAllen // June 22, 2014

Simon Hernandez, 42, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Maria in her apartment. Four days prior to the murder, police responded to the home when Hernandez assaulted Maria and her 12-year-old son, who had tried to protect Maria. Police issued a criminal trespass warning against Hernandez. Hernandez did not comply with the order and continued to stalk Maria. Authorities arrested and charged Hernandez with murder. Maria is survived by her two sons and one daughter.

**JEFFERSON COUNTY**

**Kathy Pellegrin, 55**  
Beaumont // January 20, 2014

Mark Pellegrin, 57, shot and killed his wife Kathy in their home. Pellegrin then shot and killed himself. Pellegrin’s employer became concerned when no one answered the door and contacted Pellegrin’s daughter. Pellegrin’s daughter discovered their bodies. Kathy is survived her adult son and daughter.

**Angelique Jenkinson, 44**  
Port Arthur // February 1, 2014

Jimmie Jenkinson, 46, shot and killed his wife Angelique in their home. Jenkinson then shot and killed himself. Friends became concerned when Jenkinson and Angelique did not attend a family event and alerted authorities. Law enforcement discovered their bodies. Prior to the murder, Angelique’s son called the police to intervene when Jenkinson was attacking Angelique. Angelique is survived by her two teen sons.
JEFFERSON COUNTY continued

**Milka Talavera, 27**
Port Arthur // May 16, 2014

Wallis Gervacio, 47, shot and killed his wife Milka in their home. Gervacio reported that Milka committed suicide. After examining the physical evidence at the crime scene, authorities determined that Milka’s death was a homicide and Gervacio was the prime suspect. Milka’s three children were home during the murder. Two months later, Gervacio committed suicide. Milka is survived by two sons, ages 5 and 8 years, and a daughter, age 4 years.

JIM WELLS COUNTY

**Erica Gonzalez, 33**
Alice // April 10, 2014

Humberto Ynfante, 24, shot his girlfriend Erica in her home. Emergency responders transported Erica to the hospital where she later died. Authorities arrested and charged Ynfante with murder. Erica is survived by her three sons and one daughter, ranging in ages from 7 to 13 years.

JOHNSON COUNTY

**Betty Ball, 87**
Cleburne // May 4, 2014

Sam Ball, 83, beat and killed his wife Betty in the home they shared. Betty had recently reached out to friends at her church about her growing fear of her husband. Approximately a month before the murder, Betty called law enforcement to intervene when Ball became violent. Authorities arrested and charged Ball for the murder of Betty. She is survived by her three adult children.

KAUFMAN COUNTY

**Roxie Quilter, 62**
Kemp // May 11, 2014

William Simons, 68, shot and killed his girlfriend Roxie in their home. After killing her, Simons called 911 to confess to the murder. A jury found Simons guilty of Roxie’s murder and sentenced him to life in prison. Simons had a previous conviction for assaulting Roxie. Roxie is survived by her adult daughter.
LAMAR COUNTY

Emily Bush, 21
Paris // January 18, 2014

Terrell Bush, 24, shot and killed his wife Emily in their home. Bush then shot and killed himself. Emily’s father discovered their bodies inside the home and called 911. Emily is survived by her young son.

LUBBOCK COUNTY

Shelley Jordan, 62
Lubbock // May 29, 2014

Danny Jordan, 65, beat and killed his wife Shelley in their home. Jordan then moved Shelley’s body to a field and told family members that she left town. Shelley’s family reported her missing a few days later. Authorities discovered her body, arrested Jordan, and charged him with murder. Prosecutors requested that Jordan be found incompetent to stand trial and be placed in a mental health facility. Jordan’s charges are still pending. Shelley is survived by her two adult daughters.

Rachel Guzman, 41
Lubbock // May 30, 2014

Epifanio Guzman, 43, strangled and killed his wife Rachel in the bedroom of their home and then moved Rachel’s body to a remote area near the town of Big Spring. Family members called police to report that Rachel was missing when her employer stated that she did not report to work. Authorities arrested Guzman, and he pleaded guilty to Rachel’s murder and received a sentence of 45 years in prison. Guzman had a history of domestic violence charges. Rachel is survived by her adult son.

Monica McCoy, 36
Lubbock // August 14, 2014

Scottie McCoy, 45, shot and killed his wife Monica at her home. Before killing Monica, McCoy threatened their 13-year-old daughter with a gun and told her to leave the house. McCoy shot himself and died after being transported to the hospital. McCoy had a history of domestic violence and previously received an order to attend an 8-hour domestic violence class and parenting and anger management classes. Monica is survived by her four daughters and one son.
MADISON COUNTY

Angelina Martinez, 44
Madisonville // June 18, 2014

Jose Martinez, 47, shot and killed his ex-wife Angelina in the driveway of her neighbors’ home. Neighbors saw Angelina running up the driveway and falling to the ground, as Martinez chased and then shot her. Martinez fled the scene, crashed his vehicle, and sustained non-life-threatening injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with first-degree murder. A grand jury indicted Martinez on a charge of murder. Angelina is survived by her two adult daughters and two adult sons.

MCLENNAN COUNTY

Caitlyn Reed-Goates, 21
West // April 5, 2014

David Zahirniak, 43, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Caitlyn in her home. Zahirniak contacted authorities and stated Caitlyn committed suicide, however, forensic lab tests showed evidence that led to his arrest. Zahirniak had a history of violent behavior towards Caitlyn and threatened her with retaliation for a previous arrest. Authorities indicted Zahirniak for Caitlyn’s murder. Zahirniak had been arrested for aggravated assault charges two weeks prior to her death. While Caitlyn was transported to the hospital for that assault, Zahirniak attempted to strike the ambulance with his vehicle, and authorities charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. When he was released from jail, Zahirniak threatened to “rape and kill” Caitlyn in retaliation for his arrest. Caitlyn obtained her father’s firearm in an attempt to protect herself. Caitlyn is survived by her two sons, ages 2 and 3 years.

Bonnie Green, 53
West // September 4, 2014

Billy Green, 70, shot and killed his wife Bonnie in their home. The couple’s son discovered their bodies after receiving a phone call from his father that prompted him to check on their welfare. Bonnie planned to separate from Green the following month and began the process of filing for divorce. Bonnie is survived by her son and daughter, both adults.

Jean Carol Adams, 77
Waco // November 3, 2014

Alvin Adams, 76, shot and killed his wife Jean in their home. A family member witnessed Adams standing over Jean’s body and notified police. At the time of the murder, Jean had been placed under hospice care for a terminal disease. Authorities indicated a warrant for murder was issued for Adams, but they did not serve it due to his own medical issues. Adams died the following month from natural causes. Jean is survived by her adult daughter.
MIDLAND COUNTY

Latonya Anders, 41
Midland // June 28, 2014

Carl Wiley, 48, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Latonya at her home. Wiley also shot and injured Latonya’s friend Curtis Stennett, 52. Latonya’s mother witnessed the shootings. Wiley fled the scene and led authorities on a vehicle pursuit before fleeing on foot. Two days later, authorities arrested Wiley and charged him with murder and attempted murder.

Stephanie Turner, 30
Midland // September 30, 2014

Leeroy Laney, 38, beat and killed his girlfriend Stephanie in their home. Stephanie’s two children were present in the home during the murder. Laney fled the scene and left Stephanie’s children in the home. When a friend came to the home, the children told the friend that their mother had died. The friend called 911. Authorities apprehended him hours later in Fort Worth and charged him with murder. Stephanie is survived by her young son and daughter.

Sandra Simpson, 33
Midland // December 18, 2014

Chad Simpson, 34, shot his wife Sandra in their home. He then shot and killed himself. Emergency responders transported Sandra to the hospital where she later died from the injuries. The couple’s two children were present in the home during the shootings. Sandra is survived by her twin son and daughter.

MILAM COUNTY

Deidreer Coleman-Fowler, 47
Rockdale // September 2, 2014

John Andrus, 52, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Deidreer in the bedroom of her home. Andrus also assaulted and injured Deidreer’s daughter Ravanique Newsome, 27. Andrus then shot and killed himself. Emergency responders took Ravanique to the hospital where she had surgery and was placed in intensive care. Deidreer had ended the relationship a few days before the murder and had asked Andrus to move out. Deidreer is survived by her four daughters and three sons.
MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Lucille Jacobson, 65
Willis // April 16, 2014

Donald Jacobson, 69, shot and killed his wife Lucille in their home. Jacobson then contacted his son-in-law and stated that he killed Lucille and planned to commit suicide. Before authorities could respond to the scene, Jacobson shot and killed himself. Lucille is survived by two adult daughters.

Leticia Jacobo, 24
Conroe // October 1, 2014

Rogelio Rodriguez, 24, shot and killed his wife Leticia in their home. Rogelio called 911 to report himself as suicidal, then shot and killed himself. Prior to her murder, Leticia had told Rogelio that she was planning on ending the marriage and moving out of the home. Leticia is survived by her son, age 5 years.

NUECES COUNTY

Krystal Flores Perales, 28
Corpus Christi // February 23, 2014

Jesse Lee Perales, 29, shot and killed his wife Krystal outside of her home. The day of the murder, Perales broke into Krystal’s home, threatened her sister, and followed Krystal as she tried to escape. Krystal’s children were present during the murder. Perales fled, but authorities located and apprehended him the next day. Authorities charged Perales with murder and sexually assaulting Krystal. Krystal filed for divorce in August 2013, obtained protective orders against Perales, and made a police report shortly before the murder. Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty in his case. Krystal is survived by her one daughter and three sons.

Patricia Askew, 42
Corpus Christi // September 25, 2014

David Askew, 51, shot and killed his wife Patricia in the street outside of her home. Askew then shot himself. Askew had a history of family violence towards Patricia, and she filed for divorce in December 2013. In August 2014, Askew physically assaulted and strangled Patricia, and authorities arrested Askew on charges of family violence and stalking. Patricia received a protective order. Patricia is survived by her adult daughter.
NUECES COUNTY continued

**Jennifer Herrera, 38**
Corpus Christi // September 27, 2014

Ronald Jackson, 44, beat and killed his girlfriend Jennifer in his home. Jackson showed Jennifer’s body to friends, and they told him to take her to the hospital but did not alert authorities. Medical responders and law enforcement were called the next day. Authorities arrested Jackson and charged him with murder. Jackson had a history of family violence towards Jennifer. Jennifer had told friends and family that she was afraid of Jackson, and she wanted to end the relationship. Jennifer is survived by her two sons and two daughters.

**Ramona Ramirez, 84**
Corpus Christi // November 5, 2014

Patricio Ramirez, 62, stabbed his wife Ramona in the living room of their home. Ramirez then stabbed and killed himself. Ramona’s daughter found her mother and called authorities. Emergency responders transported Ramona to the hospital, where she later died from the injuries. Ramona is survived by her nine adult children.

POLK COUNTY

**Irene Jackson, 78**
Livingston // June 26, 2014

Horris Jackson, 87, shot and killed his wife Irene in the nursing home where she was residing. Jackson then shot and killed himself. Irene is survived by her adult son and two adult daughters.

POTTER COUNTY

**Holly Combs, 24**
Amarillo // October 11, 2014

William Stewart, 35, stabbed and killed his wife Holly at a bar. Stewart fled the scene. Witnesses attempted to render aid to Holly. Emergency responders transported Holly to a hospital, where she died the next day. Stewart had a history of family violence, and Holly planned to end the relationship. Stewart turned himself into authorities, pleaded guilty to murdering Holly, and received a sentence of 50 years in prison.
REEVES COUNTY

**Kristina Lopez, 28**
Pecos // January 11, 2014

Michael Pena, 30, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Kristina in the bathroom of her apartment. Kristina’s 5-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son were present in the home. When police officers arrived at the apartment, Pena told officers that Kristina committed suicide. While authorities investigated Kristina’s murder, they arrested and held Pena on previous charges. They later added the murder charge. Pena also faces charges for tampering with evidence, altering the body, and cleaning up evidence. Kristina is survived by two daughters and one son.

RUSK COUNTY

**Aimee Griffith, 39**
Tatum // August 23, 2014

Zach Hargett, 40, shot and killed his girlfriend Aimee in their home. Hargett then shot and killed himself. Aimee’s son, age 7, and his friend, age 9, were present during the murder and ran to a neighbor’s home for help. Aimee is survived by her son and two daughters.

SMITH COUNTY

**Jennifer Mata, 30**
Tyler // February 25, 2014

Adrian Mata, 29, shot his wife Jennifer in their home. Mata then fled the scene. Emergency responders transported Jennifer to a hospital, where she died from the injuries. Authorities arrested Mata, Mata pleaded guilty to murder. Authorities sentenced Mata to 50 years in prison. Jennifer is survived by her son and two daughters.

TARRANT COUNTY

**Larissa Easley-Kelly, 45**
Fort Worth // January 31, 2014

Jerry Moore, 47, shot and killed his wife Larissa in their home. Moore called 911 to report Larissa had shot herself. A month into the investigation, police arrested Moore and charged him with Larissa’s murder. At trial, Moore changed his plea from not guilty to guilty and received a sentence of 40 years in prison.
Joselyn Saucedo, 17
Fort Worth // March 7, 2014

Luis Torres, 20, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Joselyn in his vehicle. Torres purchased a hunting knife the day of the murder and killed Joselyn after picking her up from school. He then called police to confess to stabbing Joselyn. Authorities arrested Torres, who received a sentence of 45 years in prison. Joselyn had ended the relationship the morning of the murder.

Tracy Anderson, 27
Bedford // March 21, 2014

Robert Atlas, 26, stabbed and killed his pregnant girlfriend Tracy in their apartment. Atlas fled to Louisiana. Authorities there arrested Atlas. Atlas confessed to killing Tracy, and authorities charged him with capital murder. Atlas had a history of abusive behavior towards Tracy and a previous family violence charge in 2011 for strangling a former girlfriend.

Latoya Alexander, 35
Arlington // April 6, 2014

Devanne Jones, 36, shot and killed his wife Latoya in her car in front of her home. Latoya’s children were in the home at the time of the shooting. Jones fled to Kansas where he called 911 to confess. Authorities charged Jones with Latoya’s murder. At trial, Jones pleaded guilty and a jury sentenced him to life in prison. Latoya had separated from Jones prior to her murder. Latoya is survived by her three children ages 13, 16, and 19 years.

Sandra Whitehall, 62
Fort Worth // May 20, 2014

Aldin Falatovic, 49, shot and killed his girlfriend Sandra in her home. Falatovic then shot and killed himself. Falatovic had a history of violent behavior. He received a sentence of 30 days in jail in 2013 for strangling and threatening a woman who was his roommate at the time.

April Serrano, 21
Fort Worth // June 3, 2014

Cedric McGinnis, 22, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend April in her home. After killing April, McGinnis shot and killed April’s aunt Kathy DeLeon, 35. He then shot, stabbed, and killed April’s mother Cynthia Serrano, 48. Authorities arrested and charged McGinnis with capital murder.
Maria Ojeda, 46
Arlington // July 27, 2014

Hector Acosta, 50, shot and killed his wife Maria outside the salon where she worked. Witnesses observed that Acosta arrived and began yelling at Maria before he chased her outside and shot her. After killing Maria, Acosta shot himself. He died from his injuries at the hospital. Maria had separated from Acosta prior to her murder. Maria is survived by three sons and one daughter.

Breidy Luna, 25
Fort Worth // August 27, 2014

Jeremy Luna, 44, shot and killed his wife Breidy in the bedroom of their home. Luna then shot and killed himself. The couple’s housemates discovered their bodies and notified authorities.

Georgianne Woolum, 90
Keller // December 3, 2014

Joe Woolum, 90, shot and killed his wife Georgianne in the assisted living center where they resided. Woolum then shot and killed himself. Georgianne is survived by a son and two daughters.

Xiomara Leon, 34
Crowley // December 29, 2014

Samuel Morales, 36, shot and killed his girlfriend Xiomara in their home. Morales also shot Xiomara’s daughter Linda Gonzalez, 18, and strangled her 13-year-old daughter, killing them both. After killing Xiomara and her two daughters, Morales shot and killed himself. Xiomara’s son, age 9, discovered their bodies and called a relative for help. Xiomara is survived by her son.

Makayla Bunting, 22
Abilene // June 4, 2014

Chevayae Johnson, 23, shot and killed his girlfriend Makayla in her home. Johnson also shot and injured Makayla’s 2-week-old son. Makayla’s 4-year-old daughter was also present in the apartment. Johnson then shot himself. When police responded, they believed that Johnson died of his injuries. While police removed the children, Johnson regained consciousness and attacked officers, who then subdued and arrested him. Authorities charged Johnson with murder and injury to a child. Makayla is survived by her son and daughter.
**TOM GREEN COUNTY**

**Tyree Timm, 54**  
Veribest // March 30, 2014

John McDonald, 58, shot his ex-wife Tyree outside of her home. McDonald then shot and killed himself. Tyree had ended the relationship six months prior to being murdered. The day of the murder, police escorted Tyree to the property to retrieve her belongings. Police left after speaking to McDonald and did not observe any threatening behavior towards Tyree. A neighbor helping Tyree pack her belongings witnessed the shootings. McDonald had a history of family violence. The neighbor disclosed that Tyree was afraid of McDonald’s violent behavior.

**TRAVIS COUNTY**

**Meaghan Bernier, 29**  
Austin // July 13, 2014

Jason Lamb, 41, shot and killed his girlfriend Meaghan in her apartment. Lamb broke into Meaghan’s apartment, where he assaulted her before killing her. Lamb then shot and killed himself. Neighbors called 911 after hearing gunshots. Lamb had a history of abusive behavior towards Meaghan, and law enforcement had responded to prior domestic violence calls at Meaghan’s home.

**Kelly Turner, 43**  
Austin // November 1, 2014

Joseph Karr, 53, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Kelly in the kitchen of her friends’ home. Karr and Kelly were visiting from out of town. Kelly’s friends were awakened by her screams and found her unresponsive on the kitchen floor. Karr fled the scene and was later located with self-inflicted injuries, which he survived. Authorities arrested Karr and charged him with murder.

**TYLER COUNTY**

**Tammy Weatherspoon, 44**  
Woodville // April 30, 2014

David Weatherspoon, 54, shot and killed his wife Tammy in her vehicle at his father’s home. Weatherspoon’s father and a child were present at the home at the time of the murder. Weatherspoon called 911 and informed them he had shot his wife. Authorities arrested and charged Weatherspoon with murder.
VICTORIA COUNTY

Lori Godsey, 49
Victoria // September 4, 2014

John Godsey, 51, shot and killed his wife Lori in their home. Godsey then shot and killed himself. When their employers requested welfare checks, authorities discovered their bodies. Lori is survived by her two adult daughters.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Rachelle Nowak, 36
Brenham // February 3, 2014

Anthony Burns, 43, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Rachelle while she was at work. Burns fled the scene. Authorities arrested him shortly after and charged him with capital murder, burglary of a habitation, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. Burns received a sentence of life in prison without parole. Rachelle is survived by her two children.

WEBB COUNTY

Laura Tello, 28
Laredo // May 6, 2014

Luis Bravo, 32, strangled and killed his wife Laura in the living room of their home. Laura’s 3-year-old son was present at the time of the murder. Bravo drove to the police station and turned himself in to the authorities. The police arrested and charged him with murder. Laura is survived by her two sons, ages 3 and 11 years.

Yolanda Martinez Perez, 23
Laredo // July 22, 2014

Alberto Espinoza, 27, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Yolanda at their home. Espinoza attempted to commit suicide after killing Yolanda. Emergency responders transported him to the hospital, where he survived his injuries. Authorities then arrested and charged him with murder. The couple’s two children were present in the home at the time of the murder. Yolanda is survived by her two children.
WHARTON COUNTY

**Fabiola Reyes, 35**
Louise // August 10, 2014

Salvador Reyes, 42, shot and killed his wife Fabiola inside a restaurant where she worked. Reyes then shot and killed himself. Fabiola’s colleagues witnessed the murder and contacted the authorities. Fabiola had recently separated from Reyes. Fabiola is survived by her five children, ages 6, 7, 11, 16, and 17 years.

WICHITA COUNTY

**Amanda Pardo, 30**
Wichita Falls // February 27, 2014

Marcos Pardo, 44, shot and killed his wife Amanda in the front yard of his home. He then shot and killed himself. Two months before the murder, Amanda ended the relationship and planned to file for divorce. Authorities previously arrested Pardo for aggravated assault against Amanda, and she obtained at least one protective order against him in the course of their relationship. Amanda is survived by her three sons and two daughters.

WOOD COUNTY

**Sharon McNabb, 67**
Hawkins // November 19, 2014

Daniel Faulk, 60, shot and killed his wife Sharon in their home. Faulk then shot and killed himself. Faulk also killed three family dogs. A home health worker entered their home and discovered their bodies. Sharon is survived by her adult daughter.

Go Purple
Know. Predict. Prevent.
TCFV Mission

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.

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