HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS
FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2018

In memory of all Texans that died at the hands of their intimate partners
HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS

FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2018:
ANALYSIS & INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES
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For 39 years, the Texas Council on Family Violence has identified women killed by male intimate partners to both honor their memories and raise awareness about the dangers of domestic violence. Over the last decade alone, TCFV has reported the deaths of 1,334 women at the hands of their intimate partners. In 2018, 174 women were killed by their intimate partners. This represents the highest number of deaths recorded in the last decade.

With the 2018 annual report, TCFV expands the documentation of intimate partner homicides to include men killed by female partners and men and women killed by same-sex partners. In addition to 174 women killed by their male intimate partners, 32 men were killed by their female partners, and one woman and four men were killed by same-sex partners, for a total of 211 Texans killed.

TCFV publishes the narratives of each fatality as well as an analysis of demographic, outcome, and risk factors to facilitate understanding the impact of domestic violence and the need to shape a different future for thousands of Texas women, men, and children. The data points offered in the following pages provide a critical lens which examines domestic violence issues in the state of Texas, as well as tools and strategies for predicting lethality and preventing violence.

In communities across the state, family violence service providers, law enforcement agencies, prosecutors, community resource programs, and healthcare providers, among others, mobilize to improve outcomes for survivors and their families. Their efforts increase victim safety and offender accountability through innovative approaches to prevention and intervention in our response to domestic violence. To join these efforts, connect with us at TCFV.

**211 Texans were killed by their intimate partners in 2018.**

*Individually, we power change. Together, we power a movement.*

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WOMEN KILLED OVER LAST DECADE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Women Killed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>142</td>
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<td>2011</td>
<td>102</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>146</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>174</td>
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</tbody>
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Family Violence in Texas

In 2018, according to the Texas Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR), law enforcement officers in Texas responded to 191,229 incidents of family violence, a 2% decrease from 2017; approximately 34% of these incidents are identified as intimate partner violence. The UCR collects family violence data information based on the following relationship categories: current/former spouses, common-law spouses, and same-sex relationships; however, there is no category for dating violence victims. Dating violence victims may likely be reported as ‘Other Family Members,’ a category which comprises 35% of the family violence victims; 60,864 women and 22,647 men are categorized as family violence victims perpetrated by other family members.

Women and girls comprised 71% of victims of family violence. Victims in same-sex relationships represent 934 victims of family violence incidents; women comprised two-thirds of the family violence victims in same-sex relationships.

Fifteen percent of family violence assaults (n=27,835) were classified as aggravated assault, typically involving the use of weapons, strangulation, or other serious and injurious assaults; 127 assaults against law enforcement officers occurred while responding to family violence calls.¹

The Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) estimates that 71,500 victims received services through HHSC funded family violence agencies in 2018. Family violence agencies received 274,676 emergency hotline calls and provided 1,092,821 service days to family violence victims and their children. Family violence agencies across the state are operating at capacity and, unfortunately, almost half of adult victims (47%) were denied shelter solely due to lack of space.²

Every five years, TCFV leads the development of an update to the Texas State Plan to assess needs and availability of resources by county and systemic issues to guide implementation of strategy and practice for the next five years.³ The State Plan, entitled *Creating a Safer Texas: Access to Safety, Justice & Opportunity*, included these key findings:

- **Only 63% of Texas counties have family violence agencies that offer a broad scope of resources and services.**
- **47% of adult victims were denied shelter due to lack of space.**
- Significant areas of need include legal services and representation, children's services, and services and outreach designed to engage traditionally underserved populations. Housing, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent affordable housing also emerged as a critical need, as the most frequently cited by survivors.

² Data provided by Texas Health and Human Services Commission.
Texas State Plan key findings continued...

- Interviews with both survivors and family violence agency staff revealed recommendations for increased collaboration across systems, improvements to the service environment, increased transportation resources, and extended lengths of stay in family violence shelters and transitional housing.⁴

- Law enforcement (LE) was found to be either the key factor connecting a survivor to services and safety or, when interventions were unhelpful or did not honor the story of the victim, led to disengagement from these services which indicates a need to support training for LE.

Identifying Trends to Inform Domestic Violence Responses: A Review of 2018 Intimate Partner Homicides

174 women were killed by their male intimate partners in 64 Texas counties in 2018.

**WOMEN KILLED BY MEN**

Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatality where a woman was killed by her male intimate partner in 2018. No fatalities occurred in counties indicated in purple.

Women are more likely to be killed by their intimate partners than by other family members, non-intimate acquaintances, or persons they do not know. A recent review of homicides in the U.S. determined that 62% of female homicide victims killed by men were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.⁵

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Factors Contributing to an Increase in Deaths

The number of women killed by their male intimate partners rose 28%, from 136 deaths recorded in 2017 to 174 deaths in 2018. This is the highest number of homicides TCFV has documented in the last decade of developing this report. A variety of complex factors impact the outcomes of domestic violence, but, in 2018, four issues rise to the surface for examination: Hurricane Harvey, an increase in homicide rates, firearms, and population changes.

I. The Aftermath of Hurricane Harvey

Previous research has found that rates of family violence increase following a natural disaster. Specifically, survivors of natural disasters are more than twice as likely to experience physical and emotional interpersonal violence. This finding is particularly relevant to the experience of women and people of color in the face of natural disasters. According to the U.S. Census data, Hurricane Harvey impacted 28 of the 64 counties in Texas where intimate partner homicides occurred in 2018. The number of deaths in counties designated as impacted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the immediate aftermath of the storm increased by 64%; the number of deaths in counties designated as impacted by the U.S. Census after a complete assessment of the storm increased by 37%. This report explores the impact of Hurricane Harvey in more detail on pages 16-17.

II. Homicide Rate Increase

In Texas, spikes in women killed by intimate partners often mirror spikes in homicides in the general population. As noted in prior year reports, when the number of homicides increases in the state overall, lethal violence against women by their intimate partners increases even more significantly. The rate of women killed by intimate partners in Texas rose from 1.4 per 100,000 female residents in 2017 to 1.8 per 100,000 female residents in 2018, while the state homicide rate rose from 6.5 per 100,000 residents to 6.7 per 100,000 residents.

While the state as a whole experienced both an increase in homicides overall and an exponential increase in intimate partner femicides, trends vary in individual communities. The city of Temple has averaged three to five homicides per year for the last decade, and in 2018, paralleled the statewide trend with 15 homicides.

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overall, four of which were women killed by male intimate partners, up from 1 in 2017.\(^9\) The number of homicides remained almost level in the city of Houston,\(^10\) but the number of women killed by their intimate partners increased by 45%. The city of San Antonio reported a 16% decrease in the total number of homicides,\(^11\) but the number of intimate partner homicides remained at a historic high. Hidalgo County reported both an overall decrease in the number of homicides as well as a decrease in the number of intimate partner homicides.\(^12\)

### III. Firearms

The number of women killed with firearms by their intimate partners continues a troubling trend over the last decade, reaching an alarming high of 103 in 2018. In the last ten years of this report, an increased number of deaths caused by firearms significantly contributed to the total number of homicides exceeding 130. In 2010, firearm-related homicides accounted for 77% of the increase in fatalities reported that year. In 2014, firearm-related homicides increased by 28% (n=19), while overall the number of homicides increased only by 16% (n=13). In 2015 and 2018, firearm-related homicides accounted for approximately half of the increase in the number of fatalities. Texas data over the last ten years reflects national trends as well; a recent study determined that firearm-related intimate partner homicides increased 26% since 2010, with most of the increase occurring since 2014.\(^13\) Read more on approaches that mitigate the risk of domestic violence and firearms on pages 07-09.

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IV. Population Growth

Thirty-eight of the counties where homicides occurred in 2018 had population growth rates that exceeded the state average. Eighty percent of homicides (n=139) occurred in those 38 high-growth counties, that on average reflect a 150% population increase. The family violence agencies serving high growth counties experience challenges meeting the expanded demand. Family violence agencies in the most populated counties in the state denied as many as 80% of requests for shelter due to lack of space.

Method of Murder

In 2018, 103 men (59%) used firearms to kill women who were their current or former intimate partners. Thirty-two men (19%) stabbed and killed their victims, 18 men (10%) strangled and killed their victims, 13 men (7%) caused their victims’ deaths by physical assault, and eight men (5%) used other means including vehicular assault, arson, and poisoning.

Local and State Actions Needed to Mitigate the Fatal Combination of Firearms and Domestic Violence

Nationwide, a firearm is the weapon used in 53% of intimate partner femicides; however, in Texas, the proportion was 59% in 2018. As noted above, 103 women were killed by an intimate partner who used a firearm, representing the highest number of gun deaths ever recorded since the first publication of Honoring Texas Victims.

Barriers within the Texas criminal justice system create a dangerous environment.

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15 Id.

for victims. Despite federal and state prohibitions, firearms continue to be used in homicides by abusers who have been deemed too dangerous to own a firearm by a court of law. Laws without enforcement or consequences reinforce offenders’ lack of accountability. Additionally, flooding the system with more orders in an environment that systemically fails to enforce them provides a false sense of security.

On May 18, 2018, Dimitrios Pagourtizis shot and killed Shana Fisher, age 17, and 9 other victims, including her schoolmates and teachers, at Santa Fe High School. He additionally wounded 13 people, including Officer John Barnes. This fateful day transpired after Shana had repeatedly rejected Dimitrios’ unwanted romantic advances. Dimitrios became increasingly aggressive and ultimately committed this horrific crime.

The Santa Fe tragedy adds to the string of mass shootings in Texas that are tied to the dynamics of family or dating violence. Research demonstrates that over half of recent mass shootings involved intimate partners or other family members. In nearly half of those cases, the perpetrator exhibited warning signs before the shooting. In 18% of mass shootings, the perpetrator had been previously charged with domestic violence. The dynamics of power and control over an individual found in an intimate partner relationship are often found in the mass shootings where a shooter uses firearms to exert power and control over a larger segment of society.

Although mass violence garners wide attention and great fear, women are more likely to be shot by their intimate partners than become a victim of a mass shooting. More attention needs to be paid to system gaps which lead to increased lethality risks for survivors whose partners have access to firearms.

A Solution: Surrender Protocols

Developing surrender protocols is a promising practice to hold prohibited possessors accountable. Firearm surrender protocols are designed to ensure relinquishment of weapons once an abuser enters the class of prohibited possessors. TCFV has identified Harris County, Dallas County, and Travis County, among others, as jurisdictions that are exploring methods to ensure safe relinquishment, storage, inventory, and return of firearms once a prohibitive order is vacated.

Surrender protocols informed, developed, and implemented at the local community level to enforce federal statutes can bolster overall community safety. It is extremely important that a surrender protocol assigns a multi-disciplinary task force to pre-plan, develop clear lines of communication, determine delineations of responsibility, and monitor compliance to ensure offenders do not possess firearms, thus eliminating a critical lethality risk.

An Opportunity to Strengthen Safety: Communicating Critical Information about Offenders

TCFV has identified an opportunity to close gaps in the protection of victims past and potential by standardizing the input of prohibited possessor data statewide. A weak link in the chain of protection exists in the inconsistent and inaccurate upload of prohibited possessor data to the Texas Crime Information

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18 Threatening with a firearm is a common tactic of domestic violence against women.
Center (TCIC). The TCIC database is essential to victim, officer, and community safety because it offers law enforcement officers and agencies immediate access to the status of protective orders, conditions of bond, warrants, and final disposition of cases. However, the data entry system spreads across 254 counties and multiple agencies, which results in inconsistent compliance and accuracy.

For many counties, the problem is exacerbated by the lack of standardized forms from the courts to allow administrative clerks to enter critical information into TCIC. A permanent protective order will automatically trigger a restriction on owning or possessing firearms. However, information related to the prohibition of a firearm is not consistently entered into the TCIC database. This poses a problem when uploading Brady indicators (determining federal prohibitions) to the federal National Crime Information Center (NCIC), via TCIC. Not having this information in NCIC further impacts the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) which is integral in conducting background checks by licensed firearm dealers.

Additionally, the TCIC database is not configured to hold all offender information that should be accessible by law enforcement. For example, conditions of bond are often issued to protect survivors from the offender during the pre-trial process and may include prohibitions on firearms. Prosecutors, judges, and survivors have reported that Texas law enforcement has difficulty in verifying this information immediately after a violation is committed by an offender. In many cases, survivors are not even made aware when conditions are placed for their protection. To get bond information to law enforcement, it has been identified that the TCIC database needs additional fields specifically designated for bond conditions.

Both Texas and federal law bar convicted domestic abusers from gun ownership, but without enforcement protocols in place and adequate criminal database information, authorities often have no means of disarming offenders. This leaves many survivors and the community at a higher risk for fatalities.

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** Investing in Forward Thinking Approaches: **

**Medical Forensic Exam in Domestic Violence and Strangulation Cases**

Medical forensic examinations are an important part of any coordinated community response (CCR) to interpersonal violence. Forensic nursing programs have become the standard of care for many jurisdictions around the country. Research demonstrates that medical forensic services are an important link between the victim and other services and entities, including law enforcement. Studies have also demonstrated an

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improved patient experience when specially trained forensic nurses are utilized. Forensic nurses, more commonly known as Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners or SANEs, typically perform sexual assault examinations. However, research shows that forensic nursing can also enhance the prosecution of strangulation cases. Forensic nurses are the missing link in many domestic violence investigations. Since nurses have been named the most trusted professionals for nearly two decades, it stands to reason that a strangulation victim would be more comfortable sharing their criminal assault with a nurse during the course of medical treatment than with a police officer.

The typical first responder, including medical professionals in Emergency Departments, may lack an adequate understanding of the signs and symptoms of strangulation. This lack of understanding “has led to the minimization of strangulation as a serious, life-threatening risk to the short and long term health of the patient who has experienced it.” Forensic nurses address these gaps and provide prosecutors with a consistent team of experts to interpret medical records and answer questions related to strangulation symptoms and DNA collection. Establishing a supportive relationship between family violence agencies, criminal justice systems, and forensic nurses empowers forensic nurses to provide expert witness testimony on strangulation cases at trial, which will improve conviction rates. Even when the victim has not obtained medical treatment, it is important to use forensic nurses or medical experts, like paramedics, to educate the jury and the judge on the seriousness of strangulation. Jurors and judges need to know that strangulation can cause unconsciousness within seconds and death within minutes. They also need to know what symptoms are important strangulation evidence and that victims

Survivors of strangulation are seven times more likely to be murdered by the same partner who hurt them.

In 43% of cases where an intimate partner later kills a woman, the perpetrator assaulted her by strangulation in the previous year.24

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Survivors of strangulation are seven times more likely to be murdered by the same partner who hurt them.29

| 27 | State v. Carter, 451 S.E.2d 157 (1994), [where expert testified manual strangulation would have taken four minutes for death to occur]; State v. Bingham, 719 P.2d 109 (1986) [three to five minutes]; and People v. Rushing, case no. SCD 114890 (1986), [court transcript where Deputy District Attorney Dan Goldstein elicited the following expert testimony from Dr. Christopher Swalwell: “The minimum amount of time to strangle somebody is somewhere around a minute to two for them to die, but obviously it could be longer.”] |
can die from strangulation without a single mark.\textsuperscript{29} The victim’s history, which is taken for the purpose of medical diagnosis and treatment, is admissible and can be utilized by prosecutors, even if the patient decides not to participate in the criminal justice process.\textsuperscript{30} Clearly, the forensic nursing expertise that combines the medical and legal perspectives are beneficial for both the victim and the community at large.\textsuperscript{31}

Medical forensic testimony is one of the most effective tools in a prosecutor’s toolbox.

\textit{Risk and Relationship Decision-Making}

The most common relationship between female victims and male perpetrators was wife and husband (41%), which includes relationships where married victims and perpetrators had separated but not divorced. Girlfriend and boyfriend relationships comprised 39% and former girlfriend-boyfriend relationships comprised 16% of cases. Divorced couples comprised 3%, and stalking cases where the perpetrator pursued an unwanted relationship with the victim comprised 1%.

In 45% of the homicides in 2018, victims had taken steps to either end their relationships or seek some type of intervention to enhance their safety, such as calling law enforcement or seeking protective orders. Slightly higher percentages of women between the ages of 30-39 (52%) and 60-69 (57%) had taken measures to end their relationships or seek criminal justice responses. Seventy-five percent of the young women and girls under the age of 19 had ended or planned to end their relationships or had sought protection from the abusive boyfriends.

\textbf{Leaving ≠ Safety: 1 in 3} victims had made attempts or were planning to end their relationships.

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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|}
\hline
\textbf{RELATIONSHIP STATUS: 2018} & \textbf{Wife} & \textbf{Girlfriend} \\
\hline
\textbf{72} & \textbf{41\%} & \textbf{67} \\
\textbf{28} & \textbf{16\%} & \textbf{5} \\
\textbf{2} & \textbf{1\%} & \textbf{5} \\
\textbf{ex-girlfriend} & \textbf{ex-wife} & \textbf{stalking victims} \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}


\textsuperscript{30} In Texas, expert witness testimony is admissible if A) made for—and is reasonably pertinent to—medical diagnosis or treatment; and (B) describes medical history; past or present symptoms or sensations; their inception; or their general cause. See Texas Rule of Evidence 803 (4).

\textsuperscript{31} TCFV acknowledges with appreciation the contribution to the report by Khara Breeden, DNP, MS, SANE-A, SANE-P, AFN-BC, Carvana Cloud, JD, and Julie Sengstacken, MS, RN, CPHQ, HACP.

Women in abusive relationships are 3.6 times more likely to be killed in the period immediately after separation than any other time in the relationship. The inability to secure, or retain, housing when fleeing can exacerbate risks to safety.

In 2018, perpetrators killed 126 women who were mothers, resulting in 290 adult and minor children losing one or more parents. Of those who lost parents, 60% were minor children and 21% were young adults. Four women were pregnant when they were killed.

In Texas, 90% of survivors accessing family violence services will experience homelessness as a result of fleeing an abusive relationship at least once. Almost half, 45.4%, will experience homelessness two or more times and 48% will also experience additional incidents of homelessness separate from the family violence. These staggering rates show that, for many survivors, the choices in front of them are stark; stay in an abusive relationship or flee to homelessness. Further, lifetime experiences of homelessness are significantly correlated to increased incidence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), highlighting that the repercussions of homelessness and housing instability affect the overall health and wellness of survivors in Texas.

In 2018, 82 of the women murdered by their intimate partner were in the process of, or had at some point, separated, resulting in an inevitable need for housing. While some survivors had resources to access their own housing, the incidence rates of homelessness and fleeing family violence in Texas indicate most will look to find support in accessing new, safer housing. In doing so, survivors often find the lack of affordable housing a roadblock. Currently, 31% of counties in Texas have a rent burden over the state average (n=29.3%), leaving survivors with an inability to pay rent and other needed expenses for their families. This year, there were murders in 64 Texas counties; over half (n=34) of these counties had rent burdens at, or over, the state average.

When faced with the choice of unaffordable housing, homelessness, or remaining in an abusive relationship, survivors find it often isn’t a choice at all. As one Texas survivor stated: “…most of my income went with my children. So, I couldn’t afford the house I had just moved into. So, I ended up having to move out.”

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35 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development defines rent-burdened families as those “who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing” and “may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care.” Severe rent burden is defined as paying more than 50 percent of one’s income on rent.
In 47% of programs with project-based or scattered-site transitional housing, six or more survivors are wait-listed or turned down for housing every month due to lack of available units and 55% of agencies with rapid re-housing programs wait-list or turn down six or more survivors every month due to capacity.38 When the knowledge that leaving an abusive relationship heightens a survivor's safety risk is coupled with the fact that housing instability and homelessness are prevalent and compound this danger, it becomes imperative for Texas to bolster their housing supports. In support of this need, many family violence agencies and partners have created avenues for affordable housing. In the 86th Legislative Session, TCFV worked with legislative allies to secure $5.5 million dollars over the biennium to support key services, such as access to housing and economic stability measures. TCFV also worked with national partners resulting in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Affairs (HUD), offering an additional $50 million dollars in housing grant funds for survivors of domestic violence nationally. Texas also benefits from $10 million dollars in funds being allocated to transitional housing by the distributor of the Victims of Crime Act Fund.

Safer housing can also be supported by a stronger safety net of laws that promote access to housing stability. In the 86th Legislative Session, TCFV partnered with Senator Nelson (R, Flower Mound) to pass an expansion of Texas's current statutes allowing survivors to terminate their lease without repercussions, such as an eviction.39 TCFV also collaborates with family violence centers across the state to implement housing protections enacted by the Violence Against Women Act, including the ability to ask for an emergency transfer to another safe housing unit in many property types and to move, or port, section 8 vouchers.40 Combined, these housing funds and stability efforts could support thousands of survivors’ safety in future years.

Disparities in Outcomes: Race and Ethnicity of Victims

In a recent study, the Centers for Disease Control analyzed homicide data for women over the age of 18 killed between 2003 and 2014 and found that intimate partner homicides disproportionately affect women from marginalized racial and ethnic communities.41 Outcomes in Texas in 2018 are consistent with this finding; 68% of female homicide victims in 2018 are women of color. Any strategies to prevent intimate partner homicides must address access to services in underserved, marginalized and historically oppressed communities.

Efforts to reduce lethality risks that focus on the provision of culturally and linguistically-relevant, trauma-informed services expand access to community services and criminal justice systems that provide life-saving resources. Key findings from TCFV’s 2019 State Plan highlight that collaborations across systems to promote coordinated access and co-located services minimize barriers to services and mend gaps in policy and systems response, extending the safety net throughout Texas communities. Strengthening relationships and demonstrating a commitment to ongoing relationship-building with culturally-specific community services can help support the needs and concerns of survivors from marginalized communities. Engaging underserved communities in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs is critical to the development of successful, culturally-responsive services.42

**Risk Across Lifespan: Age of Victims**

Women and girls experience risk of intimate partner homicide across their lifespans. The ages of women and girls killed in 2018 range from the youngest teen victims, both 16 to the oldest, age 85. In 2018, the number of women killed under 19 and over 70 increased marginally from 2017, while the number of women between the ages of 40-49 and 50-59 declined slightly and the number of women killed between the ages of 60-69 remained level. The number of women killed between the ages of 20-29 and 30-39 increased by 58% from 2017, an increase of 38 deaths that matches the overall increase in the number of women killed in 2018. Women between the ages of 25-39 are at high risk; women in this age range comprised 20% of the female population in Texas and 49% of women killed by their intimate partners in 2018 (n=84), an increase from 40% of victims reported in 2017 (n=55).

School and Community Partnerships to Prevent Teen Dating Violence

Supporting healthy relationships and dating violence prevention is instrumental to domestic violence, and femicide, prevention. A critical finding in the Centers for Disease Control’s recent review of female homicide victims is that young women between the ages of 18-29, and women from marginalized racial and ethnic communities, are disproportionately affected by intimate partner homicide, highlighting prevention efforts with young people as a key recommendation.43

Since half of students who experience dating violence report that some of the abuse took place on campus,44 any holistic examination of femicide and dating violence prevention must consider school safety measures that rest on effective evidence-informed dating violence response, as well as prevention efforts that promote healthy relationships.

In Texas, there is a strong statutory foundation for the development of such school safety measures. Every school district is required under Section 37.0831 of the Texas Education Code to have dating violence policies. Beginning in 2007, these required policies charge each district with creating a holistic response to dating violence that includes policies that address intervention efforts, such as counseling, safety planning, and enforcement of protective orders, as well as prevention-based responses, including awareness education for teachers, students’ parents, and administrators. These are also often complimented by the implementation of multi-session primary prevention programming.

Collaborations are vital to increasing safety for young people, both on and off school campuses.

Communities can prevent teen dating violence, and tragic outcomes, by creating a culture that does not tolerate violence and by adopting robust strategies to educate teens, school administrators, teachers, parents, and all the systems in which these individuals interact. With coordination and consistent messages, accountability can exist when someone perpetrates an act of violence.

TCFV partners with the School Safety Center, the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, and the Texas Advocacy Project to train all School Resource Officers and teachers and administrators on laws pertaining to teen dating violence and how to create a whole school response to the issue. Family violence agencies can lead local coordination to ensure school communities are ready to address teen dating violence.

In 2018, 75% of female victims under the age of 19 had taken steps to end their relationships or get help for relationship abuse.


Impact on Communities: County Data

Intimate partner femicides occurred in 64 Texas counties in 2018. The highest number of fatalities are reported in the counties with the largest populations in the state. Forty-two fatalities occurred in Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, which represents a 45% increase from 29 homicides in 2017. Seventeen fatalities occurred in Bexar County, which includes the city of San Antonio, which is a modest decrease from the historical high of 18 homicides in 2017. Sixteen fatalities occurred in Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas, which represents a 100% increase from 2017. Seven fatalities occurred in Tarrant County, which includes the city of Fort Worth, a decrease from 12 deaths in 2017. Six fatalities occurred in Travis County, which includes the city of Austin, an increase from three deaths in 2017.

Among the largest urban counties with populations over 500,000, Harris County recorded the highest number of deaths per 100,000 female residents (1.8 deaths), followed by Bexar County (1.7 deaths), and Dallas County (1.2 deaths).

Three fatalities occurred in Fort Bend County (0.7 deaths per 100,000 female residents), and two fatalities occurred in Denton County (0.5 deaths per 100,000 female residents).

One fatality occurred in Hidalgo County (0.2 deaths per 100,000 female residents), which is a decrease from five in 2017. No femicides occurred in Collin County in 2018, after a high number of seven deaths in 2017.

Hurricane Harvey: The Impact on Family Violence Survivors and Organizations in Texas

In 2017, Hurricane Harvey had a devastating impact in the state of Texas that affected outcomes for survivors in 2018 and is likely still having a ripple effect. According to available data, 41 Texas counties were declared to be federal disaster areas. Twenty-eight family violence organizations provide services in these areas and were affected by Hurricane Harvey. Given that there was an increased need for services in these areas, TCFV engaged researchers, Josie Serrata, Ph.D. and M. Gabriela Hurtado Alvarado, Ph.D., to conduct a study in order to understand the effects of Hurricane Harvey in the delivery of domestic violence services, including the impact on the staff and the organizational leadership of these agencies, and identify areas of need, as well as to develop recommendations for future preparation and response.

Findings from the study suggest that most organizations had preparation, emergency, and evacuation plans for the hurricane. However, the duration and severity of the storm contributed to the organizations having

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46 A full listing of homicides by county since 2012 can be found at www.tcfv.org/honoringtexasvictims.
limited resources available. In addition, the storm severely damaged the infrastructure of some of the organizations in a way that prevented the staff from being able to do their jobs, provide safety, and deliver services to survivors.

During the interviews conducted, organizational leaders noted the long-lasting impact of Hurricane Harvey such that they were addressing the financial and structural damage to their organization even a year after the storm. This includes repairing the physical damage to the buildings and restoring their electronic records. Regarding the staff members, they reported high rates of trauma and burnout, as they were also impacted at a personal level by Hurricane Harvey. Organizational leaders noted that this interfered with the ability of some staff to return to work and reintegrate to their regular routine.

Staff members also reported an increased need for services following Hurricane Harvey. They reported that there was an increase in the levels of distress among survivors. They attributed this increase to the survivors’ experiences of displacement and economic stress. It is important to note that as it is mentioned above, the ability of family violence agencies to provide services was impaired, as there was significant damage to their offices, as well as offices of prosecutors and law enforcement, and it prevented survivors from knowing where to seek help and limited seamless access to protective orders and to file reports for domestic violence offenses.

Law enforcement staff members reported that after Hurricane Harvey, they observed a rise in the severity of violence in the reports, and a greater increase of cases at the felony-level of violence, including strangulation. They also reported that there was an increase in the number of murders related to domestic violence when compared to the year before Hurricane Harvey. This information was also supported by state-level data. Harris County, one of the areas most affected by Hurricane Harvey, had a significant increase in the rates of homicides. In 2018, there were 42 female victims compared to 29 in the previous year.

Hurricane Harvey had a momentous impact on survivors and the infrastructure that was developed to protect them (e.g., family violence organizations, law enforcement), and interfered with the ability for community response systems to intervene in family violence and prevent intimate partner homicide. Notably, the most vulnerable survivors in Texas (e.g., homeless individuals, monolingual individuals, and immigrant communities) continue to be displaced and may continue to carry the brunt of Hurricane Harvey for many years to come.49

49 TCFV acknowledges with appreciation the contribution to the report by M. Gabriela Hurtado Alvarado, Ph.D., & Josephine V. Serrata, Ph.D.
A Look at Men who Kill Their Partners

The youngest perpetrator of intimate partner homicide in 2018 was 17, and the oldest was 91. Offenders ages 30-39 (n=52) represent the most prevalent age group, followed by those ages 20-29. The number of offenders in all other categories remained relatively level to 2017 numbers, while the number of offenders ages 30-39 increased 62% and the number of offenders ages 20-29 increased 55% from the prior year.

Sixty-four percent of perpetrators (n=109) had involvement in the criminal justice system since committing homicides. Of those, four remain at large and six have been sentenced. Thirty-six percent of perpetrators (n=62) committed suicide. Law enforcement officers killed three perpetrators when they refused to drop their weapons or fired on them.

System Gaps with High-Risk Offenders

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 10% of victims of intimate partner homicides experienced some form of violence in the month preceding their deaths. In 2018, 23 killings were committed by offenders who had prior interactions with the criminal justice system related to family violence. These fatalities highlight systemic gaps among law enforcement, prosecutors, probation officers, family violence advocates, and judges in identifying high-risk cases and preventing homicides.

Six perpetrators were on bond, parole, or supervision at the time of the murder and an additional four had prior felony convictions. Of note, two cases were linked to victims who had made multiple calls to law enforcement prior to their deaths, but there was limited criminal justice response because law enforcement was unable to collect enough evidence to file charges. Jose Amaya assaulted his wife in October 2017, strangled her in December 2017, and, ultimately, killed her in March of 2018 in Travis County. No charges

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were filed in the prior assaults. Similarly, Kishana Jeffers, 30, was shot in front of her three children inside her Lewisville apartment after calling the police multiple times before her murder.

The correlation of homicides with prior criminal justice interactions highlights a vulnerable criminal justice environment for victims. Unenforced orders, failure to track past offenses, non-uniformity in the utilization of pre-trial risk assessments, and ineffective communication between response systems leave victims unprotected. Moreover, these dynamics diminish a community’s ability to monitor and hold accountable offenders with a history of family violence.

In Charlene Cadwell’s case, an arrest warrant for her abusive boyfriend, Paul Ramirez, who was on parole, was not seen by a dispatcher searching the Texas Criminal Information Database (TCIC), which led to him not being arrested after a bystander called the police to report him for harassing Charlene. She was killed by him later that evening. Charlene’s story profiles the critical need for offender data to be readily accessible to law enforcement.

In the 84th legislature, a task force was formed to promote uniformity in the collection and reporting of information on family violence. The task force identified the inability of law enforcement to access accurate protective orders, conditions of bonds, and warrant data. Without access to offender information, peace officers are unable to make arrests upon violations of orders issued by judges to keep offenders away from their victims.

Additionally, without comprehensive information in TCIC, many dangerous offenders can avoid enhancements. Pursuant to TPC §22.01, misdemeanor family violence convictions can be used to enhance subsequent Class A misdemeanor family violence cases to third degree felonies. However, proof of a finding of family violence pursuant to CCP Art. 42.013 and evidence linking the defendant to the conviction (such as a thumbprint taken at the time of plea or judgment) is required to prove the prior conviction. If this proof is missing from a record, the prior conviction cannot be used to enhance a case. Moreover, with the implementation of HB 1528 in the 86th legislature, Class C misdemeanors are mandated to be entered into TCIC, which also promotes the establishment of continuous family violence. However, the same imperative to ensure timely entry into TCIC is necessary to capture an offender’s full risk profile.

This data becomes more important as magistrates assess lethality risks when determining pre-trial interventions. Unfortunately, many jurisdictions are unable to design safety measures that are case-specific. In many court-rooms, pre-trial risk assessment tools incorporating domestic violence indicators are not employed to assess an offender’s risk of re-offending. Domestic violence cases are problematic in terms of determining conditions of release at an initial hearing or arraignment. Most domestic violence charges are considered misdemeanors which are typically heard by magistrates who may have limited legal education and information about an offender prior to determining whether to detain with bail, the amount of bail, or to release on their own recognizance.51

With the attempt to reform bonds in Texas to reduce jail overcrowding and address long-standing racial inequities that can keep defendants in custody simply because they cannot pay, many counties are releasing offenders on bond without conducting a risk assessment. In 2018, two homicides occurred after the offender was released on bond. Jennifer Sanchez has been missing since she was last seen with her estranged

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husband, Joey Sanchez, 44, who was charged in her death. Sanchez previously pleaded guilty to assault on a family member against Jennifer in 2016, before they were married, and was sentenced to four days in jail. In June 2017, he was arrested and charged with assaulting Jennifer again and authorities issued a protective order. While out on bond in that case, he violated the protective order and assaulted Jennifer in November 2017, and then murdered her while out on bond for that case in September 2018.

Many offenders thus fall through the gaps in the system and quickly re-offend within days or months of the original offense. An offender’s dangerousness and potential for lethality is often highest when the victim has engaged the justice system to stop the abusive behavior. Prior abuse by an intimate partner, regardless of the severity of the incident, further increases the risk of a victim being killed or of killing an abusive partner. The aforementioned cases illustrate the need to develop and implement policies and procedures to improve interagency coordination, thwart homicides tied to cases at high risk of lethality, and promote uniform responses to domestic violence cases.

A Solution: Identifying High Risk Cases through a Multidisciplinary Approach

Expanding the work of Domestic Violence High Risk (DVHRT) teams is a solution in identifying system gaps that leave victims at a higher risk for fatalities. These multi-disciplinary teams focused on the safety of victims reduce the likelihood of a death because gaps in communication between criminal justice entities and victim support services are eliminated.

The DVHRT concept should be considered a structural framework dependent on the policy and resources of a local jurisdiction to respond to the needs of survivors. These collaborative teams typically consist of law enforcement, prosecution, family violence programs, probation, parole, health systems and other criminal justice. The goal of the team is to focus on identifying risk and protective factors through risk assessment and development of a plan to mitigate risks for the ultimate purpose of protecting survivors and holding offenders accountable. DVHRTs reduce silos among the different system entities which survivors commonly interact with.

Currently, Texas has 10 DVHRT sites funded through the Office of Attorney General and the Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s office, to establish the communication, data sharing and safety planning procedures for survivors in extreme risk environments during the prosecution of a case.

Preliminary data collected by TCFV shows these DVHRT sites are proactive in enacting measures to protect survivors such as issuance of life-time protective orders, planning protocols in the relinquishment of firearms, increased offender tracking, and intensive case management and support for the survivor. Additionally, TCFV tracked data related to risk factors such as relationship length, prior strangulation incidents, use of weapons, and many other elements commonly present in a high-risk case. This information will be analyzed and shared within the domestic violence field to help communities identify potential high-risk cases.


**Murder-Suicide**

Sixty-two perpetrators committed suicide after they murdered their current or former intimate partner. Law enforcement officers killed three additional perpetrators who brandished weapons, fired on officers, or failed to comply with orders to surrender. Since these individuals responded to officer intervention in a manner that led to their deaths rather than to their surrender and arrest, their cases are categorized as murder-suicides in this report as well.

Between 2014 and 2018, murder-suicides occurred in 40% of intimate partner deaths recorded in this report.

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### 40% of intimate partner deaths over the last five years involved murder-suicide.

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**MURDER-SUICIDE PREVALENCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Murder-Suicide Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>37%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**SUICIDE PREVALENCE BY AGE: 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Range</th>
<th>Murder-Suicide Prevalence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;19</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<td>30-39</td>
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<td>40-49</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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As noted in previous reports, the incidence of perpetrator suicide increases with age. A lower percentage of perpetrators under the age of 50 commit murder-suicides. In 2018, one perpetrator who was 19 committed suicide. Thirteen perpetrators ages of 20-29 (31%) committed suicide, 19 of those ages of 30-39 (37%) committed suicide, and nine perpetrators ages 40-49 (27%) committed suicide.

The percentage of intimate partner homicide perpetrators that commit suicide increases more starkly after the age of 50. Eight perpetrators ages 50-59 (42%) and seven perpetrators ages 60-69 (50%) committed suicide. Eight perpetrators over the age of 70 committed suicide, representing 80% of perpetrators in that age category.

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Framing the Conversation: Unique Safety Risks of Aging Population

Researchers estimate that in the U.S. approximately 20 people over the age of 60 die in murder-suicides each week. Murder-suicides in aging populations are sometimes characterized as mercy killings or mutual decisions. The concept of mercy killings is based on assumptions about end-of-life decision-making regarding health and quality of life. Recent research indicates that murder-suicides among older couples rarely involve pacts or mutual, informed decisions; rather, they are generally unilateral decisions most often made by men. In one analysis, of 225 murder-suicides among elder couples, men perpetrated 96% of the homicides.55

Perpetrators of elder murder-suicides may not share all of the same characteristics as perpetrators of other domestic violence homicides; relationships among these couples may have been, or appeared to be, loving and non-violent for many decades. However, the decision to end their partners’ lives is an act of domestic violence. Most often, elderly perpetrators may have a history of controlling behaviors and experience depression, stress of care-taking roles, and social isolation in later life.56 They have often considered killing their partners and themselves for an extended period of time. Victims are often either sleeping when killed or attempting to defend themselves.57

Typically, warning signs may be overlooked and considered a normal part of aging. Depression is more likely to manifest as irritability rather than sadness and may be exacerbated by diagnosis of chronic illness or death of loved ones.58 Healthcare screenings for both the ailing spouse and care-taking spouse can assist in identifying risks related to untreated depression, caretaker stress, and isolation.59 Given that most cases occur in isolated couples, adult children, family members and community members in contact with elderly couples are instrumental in assessing and mitigating risk by increasing connection and supporting resilience. Expanded resources are needed to promote community awareness about risks of elder abuse and domestic violence.

Broadening the Perspective on Intimate Partner Homicides

MEN AND WOMEN KILLED BY THEIR SAME-SEX PARTNERS

In 2018, one woman and four men were killed by same sex partners in Texas. Two homicides occurred in Harris County, while Taylor County, Hockley County, and Bell County each experienced one same-sex intimate partner homicide. The youngest victim was 27 years old and the oldest victim was 62. Two victims were in their 30s and one victim was 44.

At least two of the five victims had taken steps to end their relationships immediately before they were killed. One homicide occurred the day the victim planned to move out of the home and one homicide occurred months after the victim filed for divorce.

The youngest perpetrator was 19 and the oldest perpetrator was 52. Two perpetrators were in their twenties and two perpetrators were in their thirties.\textsuperscript{60} All six perpetrators used firearms to kill their intimate partners. One perpetrator committed suicide after killing his intimate partner. Four perpetrators were arrested and charged and one was sentenced.

\textbf{LGBTQ VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR AGE RANGE: 2018}

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{l|l|l|l}
\textbf{youngest victim:} & \textbf{oldest victim:} & \textbf{youngest perpetrator:} & \textbf{oldest perpetrator:} \\
27 years old & 62 years old & 19 years old & 52 years old \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

In Texas, 25 LGBTQ victims have been killed by intimate partners since 2012.\textsuperscript{61} This statistic does not offer a complete view of intimate partner homicides of LGBTQ victims. In media and police reports, sexual orientation and gender identity may not be disclosed accurately, or at all, and intimate partner relationships may be labeled as roommates or friends.\textsuperscript{62} The Unified Crimes Report, collected by Texas Department of Public Safety to report to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and utilized to verify data for this report, does not capture extensive data related to sexual orientation and gender identity.\textsuperscript{63}

\begin{center}
\textbf{LGBTQ HOMICIDES PER YEAR}
\end{center}

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicides</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\textsuperscript{60} One victim was involved in a polyamorous relationship and was killed by both of his intimate partners.


\textsuperscript{63} Center for Victim Research. (2019, April). Intimate partner violence involving lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals: A look at national data. Webinar. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDVmTwnT3Lg&list=PL2FKeVCPGOLXC_ccBcQn3QD8PLCPqq0&index=6&t=0s.
Addressing Barriers to Safety and Services

Limited research is available on intimate partner violence focused on LGBTQ relationships; only 3% of articles over a 15-year period focused on lesbian, gay, and bisexual intimate partner violence. Available research indicates that the prevalence of partner violence in the LGBTQ community equals and sometimes exceeds prevalence of violence women experience in heterosexual relationships. Lesbian women and gay men experience partner violence at equal to higher rates than heterosexual individuals. A study conducted by the National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP) found that transgender women, especially women from marginalized racial and ethnic communities, are two times more likely to experience threats, intimidation, and harassment within their relationships.

LGBTQ survivors face challenges in reporting violence and accessing services as well as additional risks from bias, stigma, and lack of understanding around sexual orientation or gender identity, and they tend to access shelter and legal services at very low rates in Texas. Providers can address barriers experienced by LGBTQ survivors by seeking opportunities to build trust and relationships with culturally-specific organizations, offering mobile advocacy and virtual programming to meet survivors where they are, and prioritizing anti-bias training as a regular component of staff development. Community education on intimate partner violence and experiences of LGBTQ survivors should promote LGBTQ acceptance among community partners, in addition to providing information on unique barriers and dynamics in survivors’ experience in abusive relationships.

MEN KILLED BY WOMEN

In Texas in 2018, 32 women killed their male intimate partners in 18 counties. Ten fatalities occurred in Harris County, which includes the city of Houston. Four fatalities occurred in Dallas County, which includes the city of Dallas. Two fatalities occurred in El Paso County, which includes the city of El Paso and two fatalities occurred in Travis County, which includes the city of Austin.

64 Center for Victim Research. (2019, April). Intimate partner violence involving lesbian, gay and bisexual individuals: A look at national data. Webinar. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDVmTwnT3Lg&list=PL2FKeVvCPGOCLXCCcBcQn3QD8PLCPqqQ&index=6&t=0s.
67 Center for Victim Research. (2019, April). Intimate Partner Violence Involving Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Individuals: A Look at National Data. Webinar. Retrieved from https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDVmTwnT3Lg&list=PL2FKeVvCPGOCLXCCcBcQn3QD8PLCPqqQ&index=6&t=0s.
69 Id.
**32 men** were killed by their female intimate partners in 18 Texas counties in 2018.

Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatality where a man was killed by his female intimate partner in 2018. No fatalities occurred in counties indicated in purple.

The ages of men killed in 2018 range from 24 to 74. In 2018, female perpetrators killed six men between the ages of 20-29 and nine men between the ages of 30-39. Seven men between the ages of 40-49 and six men between the ages of 50-59 died in intimate partner homicides. Three men between the ages of 60-69 were killed and one victim was over the age of 70.

**Victim Relationship to Perpetrator**

Boyfriend and girlfriend relationships comprised 44% and husband and wife relationships comprised 41% of cases of men killed by female intimate partners. Three women killed their ex-boyfriends and two women killed their ex-husbands.

Sixteen men who were victims of intimate partner homicides were fathers, resulting in 34 adult and minor children losing one or more parents.
**Method of Murder**

In 2018, 19 women (59%) used firearms to kill men who were their current or former intimate partners. Nine perpetrators (28%) stabbed and killed their victims, one woman caused their victims' deaths by physical assault, and two women (6%) used vehicular assault to kill their partners. The means of death was undetermined in one case.

**Responding to the Needs of Men as Survivors**

Men who are survivors of intimate partner violence may be reluctant to seek help from family violence agencies because services are generally not targeted towards men. Men are more likely to seek help from family, friends, or mental health professionals; a recent study found men's likelihood of seeking services from a family violence agencies increase as they age or if their children witnessed abuse.

In Texas, some family violence agencies offer shelter services to men through their primary shelter locations; many other programs house men and their children in hotels. The Family Place in Dallas opened a men's shelter after the number of men seeking shelter almost doubled, and the length of shelter stays increased significantly as well. In recent years, a number of Texas programs have opted to change their program names to emphasize their services are inclusive and offered to men as well as women.

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71 Id.

A Look at Women who Kill Their Partners

The youngest perpetrator of intimate partner homicide in 2018 was 20 and the oldest was 71. Offenders ages 30-39 (n=10) represent the most prevalent age group, followed by those ages 20-29 (n=9). Seven offenders between the ages of 40-49 and four offenders between the ages of 50-59 killed their male intimate partners. Two offenders between 60-69 and one offender over 70 killed their male partners.

Authorities arrested and charged 91% of female perpetrators (n=29). Of those, three have been sentenced. Three female perpetrators (9%) committed suicide. One perpetrator died of natural causes before the homicide she committed was discovered.

Understanding Women’s Use of Violence in Context

Women's use of violence in intimate partner relationships typically differs from men's use of intimate partner violence and homicide perpetration. Men are more likely to kill over threats of their partners ending the relationships and their use of violence tends to be based on power, control, possessiveness, jealousy, and rejection as motives.73 Though women's use of violence and homicide perpetration is sometimes rooted in possessiveness, jealousy, and rejection, women are 19 times more likely to kill an intimate partner in self-defense than men.74

A major risk factor for lethality for both men and women is a history of intimate partner violence in the relationship; both men who kill their intimate partners and men killed by their intimate partners frequently have violent criminal histories.75

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74 Id.
75 Id.
NARRATIVES OF WOMEN AND MEN KILLED BY THEIR INTIMATE PARTNERS IN TEXAS IN 2018

Each year, domestic violence ends the lives of Texas women, men, and children. These losses, in turn, devastate families and distress communities. The Texas Council on Family Violence documents the narratives of victims of intimate partner violence homicides to both honor those whose lives are lost to domestic violence and to inform our work to close system gaps and change the culture that minimizes intimate partner abuse.

Historically, TCFV’s report has documented women killed by their male intimate partners. For this report, TCFV expands the review to include cases of men killed by female partners, and men and women killed by same-sex partners. With these changes, we hope to further inform community conversations, interventions, and solutions to domestic violence.

Each confirmed fatality represents a woman or man killed by an intimate partner or a stalking perpetrator between January 2018 and December 2018, and includes the date of the death, followed by a short description of the circumstances. TCFV includes additional relevant information when available through media and law enforcement reports. This information highlights lethality risk factors and other information that informs our best practices for enhancing future survivor safety.

On the following pages, the Texas Council on Family Violence lists with respect and care the names of each victim of intimate partner homicide in 2018. TCFV joins their families, friends, and communities in mourning the deaths of these individuals.

“Her strength and courage touched the lives of everyone she knew.”
ANGELINA COUNTY

Ashleigh Elijah, 24
LUFKIN | MAY 19, 2018
Ashleigh Elijah died in a hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Andre Woods, 21, shot her. Ashleigh had returned to the area to visit a friend who lived next door to Woods when he confronted Ashleigh and her boyfriend. After shooting Ashleigh outside her friend's home, Woods fled. Law enforcement located and arrested him shortly after. Authorities charged Woods with murder. Ashleigh is survived by her daughter, age 4.

BAILEY COUNTY

Petra Oralia Granados De Flores, 44
MULESHOE | JANUARY 5, 2018
Petra Oralia Granados De Flores died in her home when her boyfriend, Lucio Camacho, 46, stabbed her multiple times. Camacho placed Petra in the bed of his truck and kidnapped her 3-year-old son and planned to take him to Mexico. In Garza County, Camacho assaulted a corrections officer and attempted to take the officer's weapon; he then fled. Garza County Sheriff Deputies pursued Camacho to Lubbock, where they apprehended and arrested him. Camacho confessed to killing Petra and kidnapping her son. Authorities charged him with capital murder and aggravated kidnapping. Petra is survived by three children, ranging in ages between 3 and 17 years.

BANDERA COUNTY

Tara Flaherty, 46
LAKEHILLS | FEBRUARY 23, 2018
Tara Flaherty died in a vehicle after her boyfriend, Christopher Moore, 38, crashed the vehicle and shot and killed her. Moore then shot and killed himself. Moore had gone to a bar where Tara was with friends and verbally attacked her before they left together. A friend of the family alerted authorities when Moore's son, age 14, became concerned that they had not returned home. Deputies located the vehicle near Moore's home. Tara had planned to end the relationship with Moore. Tara is survived by her two children.

BASTROP COUNTY

Tracie Zuniga, 42
SMITHVILLE | APRIL 29, 2018
Tracie Zuniga died in a hospital after her ex-husband, Matthew Gordin, 38, stabbed her in the driveway of her home. Neighbors heard Tracie calling for help, witnessed the murder, and contacted authorities for help. Emergency responders transported Tracie to the hospital. Gordin contacted law enforcement and admitted he killed Tracie; authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Tracie had divorced Gordin approximately 11 months before the murder. Tracie is survived by her two daughters.
Shelly Splittgerber, 37
BELTON | DECEMBER 20, 2018
Shelly Splittgerber died in front of her home after her husband, Matt Splittgerber, 36, shot and killed her. Splittgerber also shot and injured Shelly's 4-year-old son while they waited for the school bus. Emergency responders arrived to transport Shelly's son to the hospital and heard shots fired inside the home, where Splittgerber shot and killed Shelly's mom and then shot and killed himself. Shelly had separated from Splittgerber two weeks prior. Splittgerber harassed and stalked Shelly, and she sought a temporary protective order to protect herself, her son, and her parents the day before the murders.

Lamar Marcell Roberson, 32
KILLEEN | FEBRUARY 28, 2018
Lamar Roberson died at the hospital after a person he was dating shot him. A neighbor heard gunshots and called 911. When law enforcement arrived, they saw the perpetrator fleeing and initiated a pursuit. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder and evading arrest with a vehicle and with a deadly weapon.

Linda Gillen, 71
KILLEEN | DECEMBER 15, 2018
Linda Gillen died in a hospital after her husband William Gillen, 75, shot her in their home. Gillen shot and killed himself. Authorities responded to their home after a family member requested a welfare check and found Linda in the bedroom injured but breathing. Emergency responders transported Linda to the hospital where she died five days later. Linda is survived by her adult daughter.

Maria Garza, 51
TEMPLE | MARCH 2, 2018
Maria Garza died near an intersection when her boyfriend, Darrel Holloway, 60, struck her multiple times with his vehicle, killing her. Holloway also struck and killed Maria's son, Pedro Garza, 33. Holloway fled the scene and a witness reported the incident to law enforcement. Holloway turned himself in and authorities charged him with murder. Maria is survived by three sons and one daughter, all adults.

Anne Booth, 83
TEMPLE | JUNE 21, 2018
Anne Booth died in the home she shared with her husband, William Booth, 84, when he shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. A family member requested a welfare check. Authorities responded to their home and discovered their bodies.

William Boland, 57
TEMPLE | JULY 1, 2018
William Boland died when his girlfriend, Nancy Moseley, 45, stabbed and killed him. A witness saw William on the ground and called for help. Authorities arrested and charged Moseley with murder.
**Isiah Roper, 24**  
**CONVERSE | SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

Isiah Roper died in the hospital after his ex-girlfriend, Enederia Flowers, 22, lured him outside where her ex-boyfriend, James Johnson, 22, shot him. Isiah had told a family member he was worried about his safety and had ended his relationship with Flowers; he was in the process of moving home with his parents when Flowers appeared at Isiah’s home with a drawn knife. Isiah’s sister disarmed Flowers, then Flowers stole Isiah’s phone and fled down the street. Flowers tossed the phone into Johnson’s car and Johnson shot Isiah when he reached in to retrieve the phone. Authorities arrested and charged both Flowers and Johnson with murder.

**Dorinda Ma, 25**  
**CONVERSE | DECEMBER 16, 2018**

Dorinda Ma died in the hospital after her boyfriend, Ryan Stanush, 28, assaulted and strangled her in her home. Stanush took Dorinda to the hospital where she remained on life support for two days before she died. Authorities arrested and originally charged Stanush with aggravated assault. A grand jury later indicted him for murder.

**Sarah Furey, 32**  
**SAN ANTONIO | JANUARY 21, 2018**

Sarah Furey died in her home after her ex-husband, Richard Concepcion, 37, shot and killed her as she attempted to escape. The morning of the incident, Sarah and Concepcion were scheduled for a custody exchange of their son. Concepcion broke into Sarah’s home and attacked her when she entered. Concepcion then fled the scene with their 18-month-old; he shot and killed himself when approached by law enforcement. Concepcion had a history of violence and had threatened to kill both Sarah and himself. She was afraid for their children and filed for divorce in October 2017. Sarah had a protective order in place and had previously called law enforcement. Sarah is survived by her three sons.

**Monica Martinez, 32**  
**SAN ANTONIO | FEBRUARY 21, 2018**

Monica Martinez died in her home when her husband, Christian Martinez, 33, stabbed and killed her. Monica’s sister went to the home after Monica’s daughter called stating that Monica had not arrived to pick her up from school. Monica’s sister checked the premises, found Monica’s body, and called 911. When emergency responders entered the home, they found Martinez armed with two knives and called police to the home. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with murder; he entered a guilty plea and received a sentence of 37 years in prison. Monica is survived by her daughters, ages 6 and 12, and her son, age 10.

**Tania Rendon-Santiago, 35**  
**SAN ANTONIO | MARCH 12, 2018**

Tania Rendon-Santiago died in her home after her boyfriend, Scott Caruso, 36, shot and killed her. Neighbors witnessed Tania screaming for help from her balcony and called 911. As police arrived, they witnessed Caruso shoot Tania. Caruso shot and killed himself as police forced entry into the apartment.
Andrea Gonzalez, 48  
SAN ANTONIO | MARCH 17, 2018

Andrea Gonzalez died in her home after her boyfriend, Casey Marshall, 50, physically assaulted and killed her. Marshall also killed Andrea's 11-year-old daughter, Azriah. According to family members, Marshall displayed erratic and paranoid behaviors associated with poor mental health conditions months before the murder. Law enforcement responded to Marshall's mother's home two days before the murder, after she applied for a mental health warrant for him. The warrant was denied that day. Authorities arrested and charged Marshall on two counts of capital murder.

Leticia Garcia-Castaneda, 44  
SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 1, 2018

Leticia Garcia-Castaneda died outside a home after her boyfriend, Cresencio Rodriguez, 33, shot and killed her. Rodriguez fled the scene into a wooded area near the home following the incident. Law enforcement found Rodriguez on the property during a search and after failing to drop his weapon, police shot Rodriguez. First responders transported him to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. Leticia is survived by her five children.

Melissa Ramos Simpson, 26  
SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 2, 2018

Melissa Ramos Simpson died in a home after her boyfriend, Alfred Alvarez, 30, beat and killed her as she held her infant daughter. Authorities arrested Alvarez in August 2018 and charged him with murder. Melissa is survived by her four young children, two sons and two daughters.

Lupita Jessica Salazar, 41  
SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 18, 2018

Lupita Jessica Salazar died in a shed after her ex-husband, David Ramos, 42, stabbed and killed her. Ramos had a history of domestic violence toward Jessica and had threatened to kill her in the past. Authorities arrested Ramos at the scene and charged him with murder. Jessica is survived by her three children.

Clarissa Riojas, 18  
SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 25, 2018

Clarissa Riojas died in her apartment after her ex-boyfriend, Louis Nickerson, 19, shot and killed her. Clarissa's sister, age 16, called 911 to report the shooting. Nickerson fled to a wooded area nearby and shot and killed himself. Nickerson had a history of abusive behavior towards Clarissa and she had ended the relationship with him in the weeks before the murder. Nickerson harassed and stalked Clarissa. The high school they both attended developed a stay away agreement in response to concerns raised by Clarissa and her parents. Nickerson had told a relative that he wanted to kill Clarissa.
Adrienne Dameron, 37  
SAN ANTONIO | APRIL 26, 2018

Adrienne Dameron died in her apartment after her boyfriend, Cameron Roby, 34, shot and killed her. Adrienne was holding Roby's six-month-old infant at the time. Another person was in the apartment and witnessed the shooting. Roby had a history of abuse against Adrienne, and neighbors overheard Roby yelling the morning of the murder. Roby surrendered to law enforcement, who were at the complex on another matter. Authorities arrested and charged Roby for murder. Adrienne is survived by her three children.

JoAnn Muniz, 38  
SAN ANTONIO | JUNE 10, 2018

JoAnn Muniz died in a hospital after her husband, Carlos Martinez, 41, stabbed and killed her. Two children in the apartment at the time of the incident heard JoAnn scream, then ran downstairs and found JoAnn injured. Emergency responders transported JoAnn to a hospital. Martinez fled the scene; authorities arrested him the next day and charged him with murder. JoAnn is survived by her three children.

Sonia Reyes-Hernandez, 32  
SAN ANTONIO | JULY 21, 2018

Sonia Reyes-Hernandez died at a local hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Jose Gomez-Gonzalez, 33, caused a car crash injuring her. Sonia was a passenger in her friend's car when Gomez-Gonzalez pursued them in his vehicle, purposely struck them from behind multiple times, and pushed them into oncoming traffic. A third vehicle collided with the car Sonia was in. Gomez-Gonzalez had a history of violence against Sonia, and she had recently ended their relationship and asked him to move out following an assault. Authorities arrested Gomez-Gonzalez in Austin and extradited him to San Antonio where he was charged with murder. Sonia is survived by her two daughters and son.

Teresa Gonzalez, 44  
SAN ANTONIO | AUGUST 3, 2018

Teresa Gonzalez died in her apartment after her husband, Fernando Hernandez, 38, shot and killed her. Neighbors reported hearing Hernandez verbally assaulting Teresa prior to hearing shots fired. Law enforcement found Hernandez inside the home alive with a self-inflicted gunshot wound and transported him to a hospital for his injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Hernandez with murder. Teresa is survived by her six children, ranging in ages from 5 to 25.

Barbara Snyder, 76  
SAN ANTONIO | AUGUST 14, 2018

Barbara Robeau died in her home after her husband, Richard Robeau, 68, shot and killed her. Robeau called his brother confessing to killing Barbara before calling emergency responders. Authorities arrested and charged Robeau with murder. Barbara is survived by her two adult sons.
Erin Castro, 19
SAN ANTONIO | SEPTEMBER 2, 2018
Erin Castro died in a remote area when her boyfriend, Joshua Garcia, 20, stabbed, then struck and killed her with his vehicle. Erin called her mother, stating that Garcia stabbed her in the neck and would not allow her to leave the vehicle. Garcia called his brother to the scene, who witnessed Erin falling to the ground, then Garcia striking her with his car and fleeing the scene. Garcia has a history of abusive behavior against Erin, including a conviction in 2016 for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to serve two years on probation. Erin planned to end the relationship with him. The day of the murder, Erin had been celebrating her birthday. Authorities arrested and charged Garcia with murder.

Karla Ornelas, 23
SAN ANTONIO | SEPTEMBER 5, 2018
Karla Ornelas died in a local hospital after her boyfriend, Ulises Rodriguez, 23, stabbed her near his family’s home. Witnesses saw Rodriguez leading Karla away and then heard her scream for help. After searching for Karla, Rodriguez’s stepfather found her in critical condition with stab wounds and his brother called law enforcement. Rodriguez fled and Mexican authorities apprehended him in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and extradited him to the United States where authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Karla is survived by her son.

Patricia Harwood, 60
SAN ANTONIO | SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
Patricia Harwood died in her home when her husband, Gary Harwood, 62, shot and killed her while she was sleeping in the living room. Harwood’s sister was in the home, and after hearing the gunshot, witnessed Harwood shoot and kill himself. Patricia had separated from Harwood and filed for divorce in the weeks prior to the murder. Patricia is survived by her adult son.

BOWIE COUNTY

Kaitlin Lee, 23
TEXARKANA | JANUARY 31, 2018
Kaitlin Lee died in the hospital from the injuries sustained after her husband, Travon Walker, 27, shot her. Walker was involved in a street fight between himself, a friend, and another party. Walker shot toward a group of people and struck Kaitlin. Walker fled the scene, and a bystander called first responders to the alley in which they found Kaitlin. Authorities arrested and charged Walker with murder. A jury found him guilty and sentenced him to 55 years in prison for Kaitlin’s murder.

BRAZORIA COUNTY

Marscelene Treadwell, 82
ALVIN | OCTOBER 12, 2018
Marscelene Treadwell died at a hospital from the injuries sustained when her husband, Ollie Treadwell, 82, shot her at their home. Treadwell then shot and killed himself. Marscelene is survived by her adult children.
Ginger Dodson-Jackson, 38
DANBURY | SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
Ginger Jackson died in the hospital as a result of injuries sustained when her boyfriend, Anthony Kopycinski, 36, shot her at his home. Emergency responders transported Ginger to the hospital in Houston, where she died the following day. Authorities arrested and charged Kopycinski with aggravated assault and he was indicted on murder charges in December 2018. Ginger is survived by her son.

BRAZOS COUNTY

Virginia Benefield, 46
BRYAN | JANUARY 17, 2018
Virginia Benefield died in the home she shared with her husband, Melvin Benefield, 54, after he shot and killed her. Benefield also shot and killed their neighbor, Larry Darnell Davis, 65, and then shot and killed himself. Authorities discovered their bodies after a co-worker requested a welfare check when one of them did not show up to work. Law enforcement had arrested Virginia for family violence in November for biting Benefield, and authorities issued an emergency protective order against her. In December 2017, she was arrested for violating the emergency protective order and spent 14 days in jail. Benefield killed her four days after her release.

BREWSTER COUNTY

Aquiles Armedariz Gonzalez, 37
ALPINE | APRIL 29, 2018
Aquiles Gonzalez died in a hospital as a result of injuries sustained when his ex-girlfriend, Lisette McGuire, 31, struck him with her vehicle. McGuire fled the scene, and authorities later arrested and charged her with murder. Jon Jay Whitley, 48, a passenger in McGuire's car and witness to the homicide, was charged with failure to report a felony charge. Aquiles is survived by his son.

CAMERON COUNTY

Yaredi Reyes Juarez, 27
HARLINGEN | MARCH 18, 2018
Yaredi Reyes Juarez died in her home after her husband, Mario Galarza, 27, shot and killed her. Galarza also shot Yaredi's brother, Osvaldo Reyes, 23. Galarza then barricaded himself in the home for several hours before shooting and killing himself. Law enforcement removed Reyes and two of Yaredi's other siblings from the home during the stand-off. Yaredi is survived by her four children, ages 1, 3, 6, and 7.
CASTRO COUNTY

*Mysti Amber Goddard, 32*

**DIMMIT | APRIL 21, 2018**

Mysti Amber Goddard died outside a vehicle when her ex-boyfriend, Mark Longoria, 36, shot and killed her. Law enforcement found Mysti after receiving calls about a non-responsive woman. Authorities identified Longoria as the main suspect and arrested and charged him with murder. Mysti is survived by her child.

CHAMBERS COUNTY

*Dominique Schliske, 26*

**ANAHUAC | DECEMBER 24, 2018**

Dominique Schliske died in her home after her husband, Matthew Kline, 28, shot and killed her. Kline then shot and killed himself. A relative found Dominique and Kline during a welfare check. Dominique is survived by her two sons and two daughters.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

*Rachel Lynn Jackson, 31*

**BULLARD | JULY 2, 2018**

Rachel Lynn Jackson died after her ex-boyfriend, Charles Lennon III, 29, struck and killed her in his father’s home. After wrapping her body and moving her outside, Lennon’s Father, Charles Lennon, Jr., disposed of her body in a trash can and moved it to the edge of his property. Lennon Jr. called law enforcement to report a body found on his property, and law enforcement arrested both Lennon Jr and Lennon III. Lennon Jr. was charged with capital murder, which was later dropped, as well as tampering with evidence. Lennon III had an active felony warrant and was charged with burglary and capital murder. He pled guilty and received a life sentence in prison. Rachel is survived by her two sons.

COKE COUNTY

*Cisco Moreno, 30*

**ROBERT LEE | JUNE 26, 2018**

Cisco Moreno died in the home he shared with his wife, Jasmine Moreno, 27, after she shot and killed him. Cisco had a history of domestic violence against Moreno; he had strangled her previously, and was released on bond at the time. Moreno had been issued a protective order against Cisco. Authorities arrested and charged Moreno with murder. Cisco is survived by his son and two daughters.
COLLIN COUNTY

Daray Vontrell Sims, 37
Mckinney | April 20, 2018
Daray Sims died in his home when his wife, Morgan Sims, 33, shot and killed him. Sims fled the home and law enforcement apprehended and charged her with murder and two cases of endangering children. Injuries were present on her arms and face when she was taken into custody. Daray is survived by two children, ages 2 and 6.

COMAL COUNTY

Heather Chamberlain, 46
Canyon Lake | August 17, 2018
Heather Chamberlain died in her home after her husband, Andrew Dominik Garcia, 49, shot and killed her. Garcia then shot and killed himself. Chamberlain's son was in the home but was not hurt in the shooting. Chamberlain is survived by her three children.

DALLAS COUNTY

Yaunde Hurd, 40
Balch Springs | September 5, 2018
Yaunde Hurd died after his girlfriend, Don-nika Wilburn, 40, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged Wilburn with murder. Yaunde is survived by his son, age 16, and his adult daughter.

Angelica Rivero Talbot, 29
Carrollton | November 15, 2018
Angelica Rivero Talbot died when her boyfriend, Joshua Potter, 27, shot and killed her in his home. Potter then called 911 to report the shooting, and his uncle spoke with the operator as well. Potter surrendered, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

Jacqueline Hughes, 34
Dallas | January 9, 2018
Jacqueline Hughes died after her boyfriend, Brandon Sampson, 31, shot and killed her in his home. Jacqueline's family became concerned when she did not return from Sampson's home, and reported her missing. Sampson posted messages on his social media page, alluding to Jacqueline's disappearance, prompting Jacqueline's mother to request that law enforcement do a welfare check. Law enforcement found Jacqueline deceased in Sampson's home. Sampson fled the state with another woman, and family members became concerned for her welfare as well. She was found safe when authorities arrested Sampson in California. A jury sentenced him to life in prison for Jacqueline's murder. Sampson had a history of both human trafficking and violence against previous partners. Sampson had held Jacqueline and her children captive in his home the year prior to the murder. Jacqueline is survived by her two daughters, ages 9 and 14.
Donella Heads, 31
DALLAS | JANUARY 17, 2018

Donella Heads died in her home after her husband, Steven Gentry, 50, shot and killed her. Gentry then shot and killed himself. Donella and Gentry had married the month prior. Donella is survived by her two sons.

Chasity Williams, 33
DALLAS | MARCH 23, 2018

Chasity Williams died in her home when her boyfriend, Daimon Howard, 29, shot and killed her. A witness heard Howard yelling at Chasity and then saw Howard leave and return. Upon Howard's return, the witness attempted to intervene. Authorities arrested and charged Howard with murder.

Jessica Quinones, 35
DALLAS | APRIL 9, 2018

Jessica Quinones died at a rest stop in Florida when her ex-boyfriend, Larry Stuart, 46, shot and killed her. Stuart shot and injured Jessica's daughter, age 18. He then shot and killed himself. Jessica had ended her relationship with Stuart and, out of concern for her safety, was going to stay with her sister in Florida. Stuart pursued Jessica and killed her as she relocated. Jessica is survived by her daughter.

Dexter Harrison, 49
DALLAS | JUNE 2, 2018

Dexter Harrison died in the hospital after his wife, Mary Johnson Harrison, 47, shot him in the home. Emergency responders transported Dexter to the hospital where he died. Dexter had a history of domestic violence against Harrison, and had caused extensive injuries to their family pet the day of the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Harrison with murder. Dexter is survived by his four children.

Jacquelyn Davis, 36
DALLAS | JUNE 7, 2018

Jacquelyn Davis died after sustaining injures when her ex-boyfriend, Pettis Gage, 47, shot her. Emergency responders transported Jacquelyn to the hospital in critical condition and she died two days later. Law enforcement arrested Gage and initially charged him with aggravated assault. The charge was upgraded to murder when Jacquelyn died. Jacquelyn is survived by her son.

Jennifer Moore, 28
DALLAS | JULY 11, 2018

Jennifer Moore died when her boyfriend, Randy Chiles, 28, shot and killed her in his home. Chiles told his mother that something was wrong with Jennifer. When his mother discovered Jennifer, Chiles forced his mother into a closet at gunpoint; she was able to flee the apartment two hours later and seek help at a neighbor's home. Authorities arrested and charged Chiles with capital murder. Jennifer was pregnant at the time of the shooting. She is survived by her son.
**Lorena Lopez, 19**  
*DALLAS | AUGUST 1, 2018*

Lorena Lopez died in her home when her husband, Boris Garrido, 25, stabbed and killed her. Garrido then stabbed and killed himself. Lorena is survived by her and Garrido’s two children, ages 1 and 2.

**Martha Alva, 35**  
*DALLAS | SEPTEMBER 15, 2018*

Martha Alva died after her boyfriend, Ernesto Carrillo-Hernandez, 32, assaulted and killed her. Martha had gone out with Carrillo-Hernandez the night of the murder and failed to report to work the next morning. Authorities found Carrillo-Hernandez’s car near the Mexico border and arrested him and charged him with murder. Carillo-Hernandez had a history of violence towards Martha, and stalked her. Martha is survived by her five children.

**Delashon Jefferson, 21**  
*DALLAS | SEPTEMBER 23, 2018*

Delashon Jefferson died at a hospital after her husband, Lagarius Rainey, 25, shot her in her home. Rainey also shot and injured Delashon’s brother-in-law, Daverson Sanders, 25. Family members attempted to intervene, but Rainey began shooting in their direction. Emergency responders transported Delashon and Daverson to the hospital. Delashon was eight months pregnant at the time of the shooting, and medical personnel saved her unborn child. Authorities arrested and charged Rainey with murder. Delashon is survived by her newborn daughter.

**Connally Brian Klein, 52**  
*DALLAS | OCTOBER 16, 2018*

Connally Brian Klein died in a hospital after his girlfriend, Quantara Melton, 29, pushed him into oncoming traffic and killed him. Authorities arrested Melton on unrelated warrants and, after investigating, charged her with murder.

**Robbi Elizabeth Hodge, 51**  
*DALLAS | DECEMBER 20, 2018*

Robbi Hodge died in her home after her boyfriend, Patrick Johnson, 55, shot and killed her. Johnson also shot and killed Robbi’s adult son, Michale Hodge, 28. Witnesses heard shouting followed by gunshots and a vehicle driving away from the home. Robbi's family requested a welfare check after she failed to make it to family gatherings and work. Johnson has a history of controlling behavior towards Robbi, and she was isolated from her family after moving in with him. Authorities arrested Johnson and charged him with murder. Robbi is survived by her adult daughter.

**Latrecia Neshea Nelson, 38**  
*DALLAS | DECEMBER 26, 2018*

Latrecia Nelson died in her home when her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, 34, stabbed and killed her. Law enforcement responded to a domestic disturbance call and found Latrecia deceased. Hours after the incident, Walker surrendered himself and admitted to murdering Latrecia. Authorities charged him with murder. Latrecia is survived by her child.
Jazmaine Smith, 30  
FARMERS BRANCH | JULY 14, 2018

Jazmaine Smith died at a hotel when her boyfriend, Andre Washington, 34, shot and killed her. The desk clerk called law enforcement after hearing Jazmaine scream for help followed by gunshots. Law enforcement forced entry into the room and arrested Washington. Washington has a history of stalking Jazmaine. Washington pled guilty to murder and a jury sentenced him to 45 years in prison. Jazmaine is survived by three sons.

Kimberly Kay Hulsey, 33  
GRAND PRAIRIE | MARCH 5, 2018

Kimberly Kay Hulsey died at home when her husband, Jose Campos Vela Jr., 45, shot and killed her. Vela then shot and killed himself. Hulsey is survived by her two sons and daughter.

Ricky Charles Bonner, 35  
GRAND PRAIRIE | DECEMBER 29, 2018

Ricky Bonner died when his girlfriend, Porchia Sherman, 25, shot and killed him in her home. Sherman called emergency personnel and then fled the scene. Sherman had filed a pending criminal trespass charge against Ricky and had a protective order filed against him. Authorities arrested and charged Sherman with murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in May 2019.

Gustavo Lira, 60  
IRVING | JUNE 17, 2018

Gustavo Lira died in his home when his wife, Helen Arevalo, 52, stabbed and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged Arevalo with murder.

Deondria Washington, 40  
LANCASTER | MARCH 7, 2018

Deondria Washington died in her home when her boyfriend, Samuel Brown, 45, shot and killed her. Brown then fled the scene. Law enforcement found Deondria's body during the domestic disturbance call. Authorities arrested and charged Brown with murder; he received a 25-year sentence for the murder.

Tammy Cullins, 52  
SEAGOVILLE | MAY 20, 2018

Tammy Cullins died at her home after her boyfriend, Gerald Troup, 54, killed her and burned her body in a remote area of the county. Tammy's family was concerned for her safety because Troup told them she had gone missing. After discovering her body, authorities arrested and charged Troup with murder.
DENTON COUNTY

Michelle Deriggs, 46
CARROLLTON | SEPTEMBER 3, 2018
Michelle Deriggs died in her home when her husband, Nigel Jerome “Damian” Deriggs, 49, shot and killed her. Deriggs engaged in a ten-minute standoff outside the home with police, then reentered the home and killed himself. Michelle and Deriggs had two teenage children who were home at the time of the murder and escaped the house to get help. Family members had been concerned for Michelle’s well-being after observing Derigg’s controlling behavior. Michelle is survived by her teenage son and daughter.

Kishana Jeffers, 30
LEWISVILLE | NOVEMBER 22, 2018
Kishana Jeffers died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, Daryl Stegall, 32, shot and killed her. Stegall appeared at Kishana’s apartment and demanded entrance. When Kishana refused, Stegall kicked down the door. He then went outside and shot himself and later died at the hospital. Their three children were present at the time of the break in and murder. Stegall had a history of domestic violence. Kishana had contacted the local law enforcement multiple times in 2018, but charges were not filed against Stegall. Kishana is survived by her three children, ages 7, 9, and 10.

Christopher Singh, 31
LITTLE ELM | JANUARY 28, 2018
Christopher Singh died at his home when his girlfriend, Shania Craven, 26, stabbed and killed him. Craven had a history of domestic violence and had followed and harassed Christopher prior to the murder. Craven was found guilty of manslaughter and sentenced to ten years in prison. Christopher is survived by two sons, ages 6 months and 3 years old.

DEWITT COUNTY

Saleemah Paulton, 38
YOAKUM | MARCH 13, 2018
Saleemah Paulton died after her husband, Daniel Brazil, 53, shot and killed her. Saleemah had left the couple’s home in her mother’s car and Brazil followed her. Witnesses found Saleemah in a roadway and alerted authorities; Authorities arrested and charged Brazil with murder. Brazil has a history of threatening Saleemah, including threats to kill her. Saleemah is survived by her teenage daughter and son.

ECTOR COUNTY

Rochel Zuniga, 28
ODESSA | APRIL 27, 2018
Rochel died at her home when her husband, Jerome Nelson, 31, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested Nelson and charged him with murder. Rochel is survived by her daughter, age 9.
ECTOR COUNTY continued

Ashley Martin Davis, 34
ODESSA | OCTOBER 27, 2018
Ashley Martin Davis died in Odessa after her boyfriend, Jonathan Boston, 34, strangled and killed her. He then drove her body to Louisiana where he confessed to family members to murdering Ashley in Odessa and hiding her body in Louisiana. Boston killed himself. Laterrian Lewis, Boston’s brother, was arrested and charged with obstruction of justice in the murder investigation.

ELLIS COUNTY

Alexandria Kay Goodloe, 22
WAXAHACHIE | JUNE 24, 2018
Alexandria Goodloe died at her home when her boyfriend, Mauro Hernandez, 22, shot and killed her. Hernandez then shot and killed himself. Police found Alexandria and Hernandez’s bodies when Alexandria’s family asked for a welfare check after being unable to contact her.

EL PASO COUNTY

Sylvia Guerrero, 20
EL PASO | JUNE 3, 2018
Sylvia Guerrero died in her apartment after her ex-boyfriend, Zachary Zamora, 22, broke in, shot, and killed her. Sylvia’s sister and four children, including Sylvia’s daughter, were present in the home. Zamora fled to Mexico and was extradited three weeks later. Authorities charged Zamora with murder and two counts of aggravated assault. Sylvia is survived by her daughter, age 3.

Jennifer Hoekstra, 34
EL PASO | JULY 15, 2018
Jennifer Hoekstra died in the hospital after her husband, Jamarr Birch, 35, shot and killed her in their home. The couple’s four children were in the home at the time. Authorities arrested and charged Birch with murder. Birch has a history of family violence and served a prison sentence for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Jennifer is survived by her four children.

Juan Manuel Garcia, 51
EL PASO | OCTOBER 16, 2018
Juan Manuel Garcia died at the hospital after his wife, Lillian Pinales, 35, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested Pinales and charged her with murder. In 2016, Pinales was convicted of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and imprisoned. Her parole ended in August 2018.
Byuri Park, 25
EL PASO | DECEMBER 22, 2018
Byuri Park died in the hospital after her boyfriend, Torian Davis, 22, stabbed and killed her. Davis attacked their friend, Anthony Velasco, with a knife; Anthony fled the apartment to get help. Davis then attacked Jared Abes outside the apartment. Davis showed signs of aggression when law enforcement arrived, and they used a taser to subdue him. Emergency responders transported Byuri to the hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Davis with murder, assault with a deadly weapon and aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury.

Gloria Cruz-Segura, 65
FABENS | MARCH 28, 2018
Gloria Cruz-Segura died in her home after her husband, Daniel Segura, 55, shot and killed her. Segura then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement found Gloria and Segura during a welfare check. Gloria had filed for divorce after 33 years of marriage. Gloria is survived by her adult children.

William Joseph Glover, 40
HORIZON CITY | FEBRUARY 15, 2018
William Glover died after his girlfriend, Barbara Adams, 36, shot and killed him in their home. Adams then shot and killed herself. Law enforcement found William and Adams during a welfare check. William is survived by his three children.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Sabrina Herrera, 19
MISSOURI CITY | AUGUST 27, 2018
Sabrina Herrera died when her boyfriend, Troy Parker, 20, killed her at his home. Parker then put Sabrina’s body in the trunk of her car and left the car on a street. Sabrina’s family became concerned when she did not return home, used a phone app to locate her, and contacted police who discovered her body in the car. Parker confessed to Sabrina’s murder, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

Amy Vesta Bryant, 27
RICHMOND | JANUARY 20, 2018
Amy Vesta Bryant died in her home when her boyfriend, Bryce Reams, 37, stabbed and killed her. Reams then shot and killed himself. Their infant son was home at the time but was not injured. Reams had a history of abusive behavior towards Amy. There was a pending domestic violence case against Reams at the time of the murder, but a protective order had not been issued. Amy is survived by her son, age 6 months.

Brittney Snow, 30
RICHMOND | DECEMBER 19, 2018
Brittney Snow died in her home when her husband, Benjamin Jones, 29, shot and killed her. Jones then shot himself. Emergency responders transported Jones to a hospital where he died from his injuries. Their infant son was in the home during the murder. Brittney is survived by two sons and a daughter.
GALVESTON COUNTY

Mauricio Cañas, 39
GALVESTON ISLAND | JANUARY 8, 2018

Mauricio Cañas died at a hotel when his wife, Flor De Maria Pineda Cañas, 37, shot and killed him. Cañas fatally shot their two sons, Mauricio Jr., 10, and David, 5 before she shot and killed herself. Law enforcement responded to calls regarding shots fired and found Mauricio and David deceased. Emergency responders transported Cañas and Mauricio Jr. to the hospital where they died.

Brandy Smith-Rhines, 39
LA MARQUE | JANUARY 5, 2018

Brandy Smith-Rhines died at her home when her ex-boyfriend, Byron Coleman, 39, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Coleman with possession of a firearm by a felon and later charged him with murder. Brandy is survived by her five children.

Shana Fisher, 16
SANTA FE | MAY 18, 2018

Shana Fisher died in her local high school after her classmate, Dimitrios Pagourtzis, 17, shot and killed her. Pagourtzis shot and killed nine more victims including teachers Cynthia Tisdale, 63, and Glenda Ann Perkins, 64, and classmates Jared Conrad Black, 17, Christian Riley Garcia, 15, Aaron Kyle McLeod, 15, Angelique Ramirez, 15, Sabika Sheikh, 17, Christopher Stone, 17, and Kimberly Vaughn, 14. Pagourtzis injured 13 additional people, including school police officer, John Barnes, 49. Shana repeatedly rejected Pagourtzis's unwanted romantic advances in the months before the shooting. Pagourtzis had become increasingly aggressive towards Shana. Authorities arrested and charged Pagourtzis with capital murder.

Amy Brown, 37
TEXAS CITY | APRIL 28, 2018

Amy Brown died in her home when her boyfriend, Clint Felder, 46, shot and killed her. Emergency responders transported Felder to a hospital to treat a gunshot wound. After his release, authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Felder has a history of violence against previous partners and has prior charges for assaulting Amy. Felder had previously violated a protective order that Amy was granted. He served a one-year prison term that ended two weeks before Amy’s murder. Amy is survived by her four daughters, ages 1 to 6.

GILLESPIE COUNTY

Paola Guzman Aguilar, 22
FREDERICKSBURG | OCTOBER 15, 2018

Paola Aguilar died in her apartment after her ex-boyfriend, Ramiro Flores, 21, strangled and killed her. Paola's 2-year-old son was in the apartment but was not injured. Paola had recently separated from Flores, but he had stalked Paola. A third party reported to law enforcement that Flores had confessed to strangling Paola. Authorities arrested Flores in Atascosa County and charged him with murder. Flores confessed to murdering Paola during the initial investigation. Paola is survived by her son, age 2, and daughter, age 6.
GRAYSON COUNTY

*Maria Ortiz, 46*
**TIoga | June 27, 2018**

Maria Ortiz died in her home after her husband, Sebastian Roman, 43, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and indicted Roman on murder charges. Maria is survived by her adult son and two daughters, ages 14 and 18.

GREGG COUNTY

*Sarah Maines, 65*
**Gladewater | June 29, 2018**

Sarah Maines died in her home after her husband, William Maines, 66, shot and killed her. Maines then shot and killed himself. Sarah is survived by her adult son and daughter.

*Felisha Pearson, 28*
**Longview | July 24, 2018**

Felisha Pearson died after her boyfriend, Joseph Burnette, 41, strangled and killed her in a motel where they lived together. Burnette then moved Felisha’s body to a wooded area. Felisha’s family reported her missing, and her remains were found several days later. Authorities initially arrested Burnette, a convicted sex offender, for failure to register an address change. Burnette confessed to strangling Felisha. He also confessed to strangling Dana Lynn Dodd to death in October 2006. Burnette served a 10-year sentence that ended in 2017 for failure to register as a sex offender and has a history of violence against Felisha, including previous strangulation. Authorities charged Burnette with two counts of murder and failure to register an address change. Felisha is survived by her daughters.

GUADALUPE COUNTY

*Lisa Meisel, 28*
**Schertz | November 25, 2018**

Lisa Meisel died after her boyfriend, Derek Conley, 28, beat her to death in his home. Conley then transported Lisa’s body to her home in San Antonio. Conley has a history of domestic violence towards Lisa. Authorities arrested and charged Conley with murder.

HARDIN COUNTY

*Stacy Revia Ladd, 42*
**Lumberton | May 27, 2018**

Stacy Ladd died in her home after her boyfriend, James Conterez, 38, shot and killed her. Conterez then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement received a domestic disturbance call after neighbors heard gunfire and responded to the home. Stacy is survived by her two daughters.
Edna McWhorter, 29
CHANNELVIEW | SEPTEMBER 1, 2018
Edna McWhorter died after, Jerry Greer, 38, shot and killed her in the parking lot of a club. Greer had stalked and sexually assaulted Edna, and confronted her about reporting his assault. After shooting Edna, Greer fled the state. Authorities in Lexington, Kentucky located Greer, arrested him and extradited him to Houston where authorities charged him with murder. Greer has a history of domestic violence and sexual assault against other women, including threatening to kill previous partners if they reported assaults to law enforcement. Edna is survived by her three daughters, ages 5, 9 and 10.

Michael Wayne Simmons, 28
HOUSTON | JANUARY 15, 2018
Michael Simmons died in an apartment after his girlfriend, Deaira Pitts, 22, stabbed and killed him. Michael forced his way into the apartment and fought with another man who was visiting Deaira. Authorities arrested and charged Pitts with murder. A jury convicted her and sentenced her to 20 years in prison.

Renan Reyes, 33
HOUSTON | JANUARY 22, 2018
Renan Reyes died in his apartment after his boyfriend, Alberto Sanchez, 22, shot and killed him. Witnesses in the next room heard the gun fire in a bedroom of the home; Sanchez called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Sanchez with murder. In May 2017, authorities arrested Sanchez for aggravated assault against another person and he received a sentence of 180 days in jail.

Claudia Arriaga, 33
HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 9, 2018
Claudia Arriaga died in her home after her husband, Daniel Martinez, 35, shot and killed her. The day before, Martinez shot and killed the family's dog and Claudia confronted him about it. Martinez assaulted Claudia, and the couple's children attempted to intervene. The children asked Martinez to call 911 when they saw Claudia's injuries; instead, Martinez shot Claudia and fled the home. Their son called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with murder. Claudia is survived by her two daughters, ages 12 and 17, and her two sons, ages 4 and 13.

Natalie Rogers, 46
HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 9, 2018
Natalie Rogers died in her apartment when her husband, Timothy Thomas, 42, assaulted, stabbed, and killed her. Thomas called 911 and made inconsistent statements about Natalie's cause of death. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Timothy has a history of violence, including a conviction of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in 2012.

Karen Stewart, 32
HOUSTON | FEBRUARY 12, 2018
Karen Stewart died in her home after her boyfriend, Adrian Lane, 37, stabbed and killed her. Lane fled the scene and later shot and killed himself. Law enforcement found him deceased in Waller County, Texas. Karen's daughter found her mother unresponsive and called 911. Karen is survived by her daughter.
Angela Montante, 22  
HOUSTON | MARCH 2, 2018

Angela Montante died in a hotel when the person she was dating, Jason Farmer, 34, strangled and killed her. Farmer called authorities the following day, reported Angela's death, and led them to her body. Authorities arrested and charged Farmer with manslaughter. Farmer had a history of violence; he served a three-year sentence for an aggravated sexual assault in 2009, and was scheduled to go to trial the week after Angela's death for charges of indecency with a child and continuous sexual abuse of a child.

Lionel Martinez, 26  
HOUSTON | MARCH 5, 2018

Lionel Martinez died in the hospital from injuries sustained when his wife, Maria Martinez, 31, stabbed him in their vehicle. Martinez called first responders, who transported Lionel to the hospital where he later died. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with murder.

Blanca Lopez, 38  
HOUSTON | MARCH 21, 2018

Blanca Lopez died in her vehicle after her husband, Isidro Plata, 44, shot and killed her. Plata then shot and killed himself. Several members of Blanca's family were concerned for Blanca's safety and searched for her. They found Blanca and Plata near their home. Blanca planned to end the relationship, and the night before, removed Plata's belongings from the home. Blanca is survived by her four children, ranging in ages from 8 to 18.

Terry Cooper, 52  
HOUSTON | MARCH 27, 2018

Terry Cooper died in the hospital after his girlfriend, Ericka Naim, 40, stabbed him. Emergency responders transported Terry to the hospital in critical condition, where he died three days later. Authorities arrested and charged Naim with aggravated assault-family violence, then upgraded charges to murder after Terry's death.

Cameron Harris, 46  
HOUSTON | APRIL 12, 2018

Cameron Harris died in a hospital after his girlfriend, Lachanda Smith, 44, shot him in their apartment. Emergency responders found Cameron collapsed outside of the apartment and transported him to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Smith with murder. Cameron had assaulted and threatened to kill Smith in 2013. A court issued Smith a protective order against Cameron for making a terroristic threat, and sentenced him to 100 days in jail. The day of the murder, Smith had attempted to end the relationship and move out of their apartment.

Karkea Crenshaw, 34  
HOUSTON | APRIL 26, 2018

Karkea Crenshaw died in her apartment after her ex-boyfriend, Michael Parker, 28, shot her. The morning of the shooting, Parker assaulted Karkea in her home; afterwards, she called law enforcement and changed her locks. That same day, Parker returned, knocked down the door, and shot and killed her. Parker then shot himself and sustained critical injuries. Authorities charged him with murder. Parker died from his injuries before he could stand trial. Parker had a history of violence against Karkea and previous partners. Karkea is survived by her three children.
Lionel Alexander, 64  
HOUSTON | APRIL 30, 2018  
Lionel Alexander died in his home after his wife, Janet Alexander, 68, stabbed and killed him. Alexander claimed self-defense, and emergency responders transported Alexander to a hospital to treat injuries. A grand jury indicted Alexander on murder charges. When police attempted to serve a murder warrant, Alexander set fire to her home and suffered injuries from the fire. Authorities arrested and charged Alexander with murder. Lionel is survived by his adult children.

Jessica Morales, 31  
HOUSTON | APRIL 30, 2018  
Jessica Morales died in her home when her husband, Wilson Bautista, 28, shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. A stray bullet struck and injured Jessica's 8-year-old daughter. Jessica's daughter went to a neighbor's home for help, and the neighbor found Jessica's other three children and brought them to their home until Child Protective Services arrived. Jessica is survived by her four children, ages 5, 8, 12, and 14.

Debra Denise Flowers, 62  
HOUSTON | MAY 3, 2018  
Debra Flowers died at a bus stop after her boyfriend, Herberot Hill, 57, stabbed and killed her. Neighbors reported hearing a disturbance throughout the night in the apartment Debra shared with Hill. Authorities arrested and charged Hill with murder. Debra is survived by her adult daughter and three adult sons.

Rene Ruiz, 62  
HOUSTON | MAY 3, 2018  
Rene Ruiz died in his home after his husband, Benjamin Ruiz, 52, shot and killed him. Ruiz then shot and killed himself. Rene had separated from Ruiz and filed for divorce in March 2018; court proceedings occurred in the case the week of the murder.

Josselin Yamileth Herrera-Gamez, 32  
HOUSTON | MAY 23, 2018  
Josselin Herrera-Gamez died in her home after her husband, Xavier Martinez, 25, stabbed and killed her. Martinez then stabbed himself. Josselin's children were present in the home. Martinez's sister found Josselin deceased and Martinez wounded. Emergency responders transported Martinez to a local hospital, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Josselin is survived by her two children.

Heather Edwards, 33  
HOUSTON | MAY 29, 2018  
Heather Edwards died in her apartment when her ex-husband, Dejuana Dixon, 27, shot and killed her. Dixon then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement had responded to the apartment prior to the murder on domestic violence reports; no charges had been filed in previous reports. Heather is survived by her son, age 6 months.
Dixa Rios Serbellon, 38
Houston | June 13, 2018
Dixa Serbellon died after her ex-boyfriend, Rigoberto Escobar, 38, ran over her with his vehicle as she crossed a street. Escobar injured Adan Salgado, 36, Celso Velasquez, 32, and Maneesha Roberts, 46, by hitting them with his vehicle. Authorities arrested Escobar on an unrelated charge and charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, and upgraded the charges to murder two days later. Escobar has a history of domestic violence against Dixa; he had assaulted her a month prior to the murder and she sought a protective order against him. Dixa had ended the relationship and moved out of the home they shared. Dixa is survived by her four children, ages 13, 16, and two young adults.

LaJessica Cerf, 32
Houston | June 25, 2018
LaJessica Cerf died in her apartment after her boyfriend, Jared Rainey, 28, shot and killed her. Rainey then shot and killed himself. Neighbors heard a disturbance followed by multiple gun shots. LaJessica is survived by her daughter.

Karrisa Vallejo, 34
Houston | June 25, 2018
Karissa Vallejo died in her home after her husband, Wilfredo Umanzor, 32, stabbed and killed her. Umanzor then shot himself. Karissa's youngest two children were in the home. Umanzor had a history of controlling behavior and Karissa was concerned for her safety. Karissa had asked a friend to call her every morning as part of a safety plan. When Karissa's friend couldn't reach her, she went to the home, saw Umanzor's vehicle, and requested a welfare check. Law enforcement found Karissa deceased and Umanzor unresponsive. Emergency responders transported him to a hospital where he died from his injuries. Karrisa is survived by her two daughters, ages 2 and 13, and her son, age 4.

Maria Olazaran, 63
Houston | July 4, 2018
Maria Olazaran died at a hospital after her husband, Francisco Olazaran, 67, strangled her in their vehicle. Olazaran entered a nearby store and asked the employees to call 911. He originally claimed that three strangers strangled his wife before admitting to the crime. Authorities arrested and charged Olazaran with assault of a family member, but the charges were later upgraded to murder. Maria is survived by her adult children.

Senta Authorlee, 53
Houston | July 12, 2018
Senta Authorlee died in a hospital after her husband, Anthony Authorlee, 61, shot her outside her workplace. Senta had separated from Authorlee one week prior to the murder. Authorlee waited for his wife to arrive at work and confronted her with a gun. Emergency responders transported Senta to a hospital where she died from her injuries. Authorlee turned himself in at a police station and confessed to killing Senta. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Senta is survived by her adult son.
Rebecca Suhrheinrich, 58
HOUSTON | JULY 26, 2018
Rebecca Suhrheinrich died in her apartment when her boyfriend, Jeffrey McDonald, 46, assaulted and killed her. McDonald moved Rebecca's body to a bayou. When Rebecca failed to appear at work for two days, her employer contacted her son and they requested her apartment building manager do a welfare check. The apartment manager entered the apartment, found evidence of a struggle, and contacted law enforcement. Authorities arrested and charged McDonald with murder. Rebecca is survived by her adult son.

LaTara Sanders, 32
HOUSTON | AUGUST 8, 2018
LaTara Sanders died in her apartment after her boyfriend, Marcus Lockett, 33, stabbed and killed her. LaTara was found unresponsive during a welfare check. Authorities arrested and charged Lockett with murder. LaTara is survived by her three children.

Dania Reyes-Guzman, 29
HOUSTON | AUGUST 11, 2018
Dania Reyes-Guzman died in her home when her husband, Alexander Bonilla, 29, stabbed and killed her. Bonilla messaged a friend on social media and stated that he had done something wrong. The friend went to Bonilla's home to check on him. Bonilla's parents then discovered Dania deceased and called 911. When law enforcement arrived, Bonilla refused to drop a knife he was holding and officers tased him. Emergency responders transported Bonilla to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder.

Sofia Martinez, 34
HOUSTON | AUGUST 11, 2018
Sofia Martinez died in her home after her husband, Felix Ruiz, 37, stabbed and killed her. The couple's children were present in the home. Law enforcement found Ruiz with self-inflicted stab wounds and emergency responders transported him to a hospital in critical condition. Authorities arrested and charged Ruiz with murder. Ruiz had a history of domestic violence against Sophia and previous partners, including two previous convictions for assaulting Sophia in 2010 and 2011, and another prior conviction for strangling a previous partner in 2007. In 2016, authorities arrested Ruiz and charged him with criminal mischief for destroying Sofia's property; the trial had not occurred in that case at the time of the murder. Sofia is survived by her six children, ranging in ages from 6 months to 16 years.

Irene Yemitan, 23
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 5, 2018
Irene Yemitan died when the person she had started dating, Alex Akpan, 24, strangled and killed her. Akpan's mother discovered Irene in his bedroom and attempted CPR and called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Akpan for tampering with evidence, and also later charged him with murder.
Alice Engelbrink, 71  
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 7, 2018  
Alice Engelbrink died in her home after her husband, Richard Engelbrink, 80, assaulted and killed her. Engelbrink left the home and walked to neighbors' homes and a nearby business. Alice ran out of the home for help. Witnesses called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Engelbrink with murder. Psychiatrists evaluated him as mentally incompetent to stand trial, and he was ordered to be committed in a mental health facility. Engelbrink was released on bond and died in June 2019. Alice is survived by her two sons and two stepdaughters.

Jennifer Sanchez, 39  
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 7, 2018  
Jennifer Sanchez was last seen with her husband, Joey Sanchez, 44. Based on security footage, authorities charged him with violating protective order that was in place; then upgraded the charges to capital murder. At this time it is unknown how he killed Jennifer. Sanchez has a history of domestic violence against Jennifer; he was previously convicted for assaulting Jennifer in 2016 before they were married. In June 2017, he was arrested and charged with assaulting Jennifer again, and authorities issued a protective order. While out on bond in that case, he violated the protective order and assaulted Jennifer in November 2017. A no-contact order and another protective order were issued. Sanchez was out on bond from that case when Jennifer disappeared. Jennifer is survived by her six sons.

Brenda Alvarez-Sanchez, 24  
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 11, 2018  
Brenda Alvarez-Sanchez died in a hotel when her boyfriend, Gavino Santibanez, 38, shot and killed her. Santibanez then shot and killed himself. The hotel manager requested a welfare check after he was unable to contact Santibanez. Law enforcement found both Brenda and Santibanez deceased.

Patricia Keene, 70  
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 12, 2018  
Patricia Keene died in her home after her husband, Kendall Keene, 72, shot and killed her. Keene then shot and killed himself. Patricia's son found Keene and Patricia deceased and called 911. Patricia is survived by her son.

Lourdes Sandoval, 16  
HOUSTON | SEPTEMBER 12, 2018  
Lourdes Sandoval died in a hospital when her ex-boyfriend, Irbin Vargas, 22, shot her in front of her home. Earlier that day, Vargas threatened Lourdes with a gun and threatened to kill himself. Lourdes shared screenshots of threatening texts with a friend. Vargas has a history of stalking Lourdes. Emergency responders transported Lourdes to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. Authorities arrested and charged Vargas with murder.
Davin Walton, 36

**HOUSTON | OCTOBER 1, 2018**

Davin Walton died when his girlfriend, Emily Orbe, 32, shot and killed him in the parking lot of a mall. Davin was leaving on his motorcycle when Orbe followed him in her vehicle. She hit him with her car, and when Davin approached her window, she shot him. Two weeks prior to the murder, Davin intimidated Orbe, and when she attempted to call a relative for help, Davin took away her phone and restrained her in a chokehold. Charges were pending in that assault case. Authorities arrested and charged Orbe with murder.

Adriana Perez, 41

**HOUSTON | OCTOBER 2, 2018**

Adriana Perez was found deceased in Louisiana after her husband, Jordy Suljanovic, 41, shot and killed her in their Houston home. Suljanovic also shot and killed Adriana's boyfriend, Omar Santamaria-Ruiz. Their adult daughter heard screaming and gunshots the night Adriana's boyfriend disappeared, and her 17-year-old brother prevented her from entering the master bedroom. Suljanovic drove the family to Louisiana where he left Adriana's body, then fled to Mexico with his two young daughters, his son, and his son's 16-year-old girlfriend; he then flew with all of them to London. Authorities charged him with capital murder; Suljanovic was detained in London. Authorities arrested and charged Suljanovic's son in relation to the crime with tampering with a corpse and kidnapping his girlfriend. Suljanovic has a history of abusive behavior towards Adriana. Adriana is survived by her son and her three daughters.

Brittany Smith, 23

**HOUSTON | OCTOBER 3, 2018**

Brittany Smith died in a hotel when her ex-boyfriend, Massamba Diatta, 29, shot and killed her. Diatta then shot and killed himself. Brittany's son was present and sought help from the hotel's front desk. At the time of the murder, the Marine Corps in California and local law enforcement were searching for Diatta concerning suicidal social media posts. Brittany had recently moved to Houston from California to get away from Diatta. Diatta had followed Brittany to Houston to persuade her to return to California. Brittany is survived by her son, age 4.

Charlene Cadwell, 60

**HOUSTON | OCTOBER 7, 2018**

Charlene Cadwell died in front of her home after her boyfriend, Paul Ramirez, 63, assaulted and killed her. Earlier that day, Charlene had been at a local club with her sister and Ramirez. An employee at the club called law enforcement about Ramirez's behavior. Charlene informed the officers she did not want Ramirez to return to her home and Ramirez stated that he was leaving the club. Ramirez was on parole and was wanted on a warrant for removing his ankle monitor. Yet, officers did not receive notification about a warrant for Ramirez's arrest and they closed the report. Later that evening, Ramirez went to Charlene's home and threatened her. Charlene placed three 911 calls, but officers did not respond to the home. Ramirez then broke into Charlene's house and killed her. Charlene's sister was in the home at the time. Authorities arrested and charged Ramirez with murder. Ramirez pled guilty and a jury sentenced him to 60 years in prison. Charlene is survived by her adult children.
Kaouta Domingue-Wright, 30
HOUSTON | OCTOBER 10, 2018

Kaouta Domingue-Wright died when her husband, Everett Wright, 25, stabbed and killed her in her vehicle as she was driving. Wright's attack caused Kaouta to crash the vehicle. He then stole another vehicle and fled the scene. Authorities apprehended, arrested, and charged Wright with murder.

Samuel Edmon, 27
HOUSTON | OCTOBER 10, 2018

Samuel Edmon died outside his apartment when his ex-girlfriend, Letousha Marshall, 43, shot and killed him. Samuel had ended his relationship with Marshall the day of the murder. Marshall threatened Samuel and returned later in the day with her gun and shot him. Several witnesses were with Samuel at the time, and one of his relatives began firing gunshots at Marshall. Marshall approached police after the murder and admitted her involvement, but claimed she was defending herself. Authorities arrested and charged Marshall with murder.

Tayla Auzenne, 18
HOUSTON | OCTOBER 12, 2018

Tayla Auzenne died in a hospital after her boyfriend, Fredrick Turner, 18, shot her in her home. Tayla's father had asked Turner to leave the home; instead, Turner shot Tayla. Authorities arrested and charged Turner with murder.

Ryonda Glass, 36
HOUSTON | OCTOBER 16, 2018

Ryonda Glass died at her apartment after a person she had dated, Cedrick Jamia Rideau, 35, shot and killed her. Rideau fled the apartment complex. Authorities arrested and charged Rideau with murder. Ryonda is survived by her son, age 8.

Ashley Palacios, 27
HOUSTON | NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Ashley Palacios died after her boyfriend, Aldo Rodriguez, 32, assaulted and killed her. Rodriguez had kidnapped Ashley earlier that day from Pearland, Texas, and, after killing her, left her body in the trunk of his car outside an apartment complex. Rodriguez turned himself into law enforcement the next day and authorities charged him with capital murder. Rodriguez had a history of violence against Ashley and a violent criminal history. Rodriguez had assaulted and strangled Ashley and threatened to kill her two weeks prior to the murder; Ashley had received an emergency protective order against him. After the strangulation assault, Rodriguez's bond was revoked on a separate assault charge, but authorities did not arrest him. Ashley is survived by her three children.
Maria Santiago Marquez, 38
HOUSTON | NOVEMBER 21, 2018
Maria Marquez died in an apartment after the person she was dating, Luis Romero, 36, assaulted and killed her. Maria had gone to the apartment to end their relationship. When she refused to have sex with him and tried to leave, Romero struck her with a hammer. Romero then left Maria's body in her vehicle on the side of a road. Maria's family reported her missing later that day. Authorities arrested and charged Romero with murder and tampering with a corpse. Maria is survived by her three children.

Ninfa Macias-Martinez, 38
HOUSTON | NOVEMBER 26, 2018
Ninfa Macias-Martinez died in her home when her husband, Jose Martinez-Espinosa, 45, shot and killed her. Martinez-Espinosa had threatened to kill Ninfa. Martinez-Espinosa fled the scene and remains at large; authorities charged him with murder. Ninfa is survived by her three daughters.

Charine Marie Young, 29
HOUSTON | DECEMBER 12, 2018
Charine Young died after her husband, Johnny Wilson, 49, shot and killed her in his apartment. Charine's 11-year-old son witnessed Charine enter Wilson's apartment in November, but did not see her leave. Wilson came out and drove the child and two of his friends to a restaurant and abandoned them there. Charine's family reported her missing in November, and officials found Charine's remains near Richland in Navarro County, Texas in December. Authorities charged Wilson with murder and arrested him a month later in Las Vegas, Nevada. Charine is survived by her son.

Rebecca Zeyni, 34
KATY | MAY 14, 2018
Rebecca Zeyni died in her apartment parking lot after her husband, Renny Nuñez, 47, shot and killed her. Rebecca had separated from Nuñez at the time and planned to divorce him. Nuñez approached Rebecca's car as she and her boyfriend returned home, and forced Rebecca's boyfriend to exit the vehicle. Nuñez entered the vehicle and shot Rebecca. After the shooting, Nuñez fled the scene and confessed to his sister that he had killed Rebecca and planned to kill himself. Law enforcement searched Nuñez's apartment and found him in his apartment with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. EMS transported him to the hospital with critical injuries and authorities charged him with murder. Rebecca is survived by her two children.

Shannon Lance Ivey, 48
LA PORTE | JANUARY 10, 2018
Shannon Ivey died after his ex-wife, Toni Stinnett, 52, killed him in 2016. When Stinnett passed away from natural causes in 2018, Shannon's remains were discovered in her storage unit, leading investigators to believe that she killed Shannon and had been posing as him for two years via text messages and emails. Shannon is survived by his adult children.
Candace Manning, 54  
PASADENA | AUGUST 8, 2018  
Candace Manning died in her car when a person she was dating, Terrance Washington, 27, kidnapped, assaulted, strangled, and killed her. Candace's daughter witnessed Washington kidnap her mother by forcing her into her own car, and called law enforcement. Two days later, Washington set the car on fire with Candace's body in it. Law enforcement found Washington near the fire, and arrested him on an unrelated charge. He has history of violence, including several arrests for assault. Authorities charged Washington with capital murder. Candace is survived by her adult daughter.

Ashley Marie George, 25  
SEABROOK | APRIL 24, 2018  
Ashley George died at a park after her boyfriend, Darrel Burnside, 49, stabbed and killed her. Ashley's parents reported being unable to contact Ashley for several hours, leading law enforcement to search the park and find her body. Authorities arrested and charged Burnside with capital murder. Authorities in Mississippi investigated Burnside and Ashley as suspects in the death of Burnside's wife. Burnside retaliated against Ashley for preparing to testify against him in an upcoming trial. Ashley is survived by her infant daughter.

Eric Willis, 51  
SPRING | MARCH 10, 2018  
Eric Willis died in his home after his wife, Cynthia Willis, 48, shot and killed him. Willis then woke up her children and took them to a relative's house. Family members requested a welfare check after they had not heard from Eric in several days. When law enforcement entered the home, they discovered Eric's body and arrested and charged Willis with murder. Willis was previously charged with aggravated assault in 2000, after stabbing Eric during an argument, but the case was dismissed. Eric is survived by his seven children.

Charolette Carter, 54  
SPRING | JULY 16, 2018  
Charolette Carter died when her husband, Mark Carter, 50, shot and killed her in the garage of their home. Carter then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement discovered Charolette and Carter when her adult daughter requested a welfare check. Charolette and Carter were in the process of divorcing, but still living together at the time of the murder. Charolette is survived by her adult daughter.

Melissa Annette Delisle, 55  
TOMBALL | JUNE 20, 2018  
Melissa Delisle died in her home after her boyfriend, Richard Dubreuil, 60, strangled and killed her. The day of the murder, someone called 911 after hearing Melissa scream. Law enforcement responded to the home and Dubreuil answered the door, stated that he had not called 911, and closed the door. Dubreuil then returned to his home in Longview, Texas, and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to a request for a welfare check, and discovered Melissa deceased. Authorities obtained a murder warrant for Dubreuil, entered his residence, and found his body. Melissa had planned to end her relationship with Dubreuil at the time of her murder. Melissa is survived by her two adult daughters.
Michelle Bullock, 29
TOMBALL | NOVEMBER 4, 2018
Michelle Bullock died in her home after her husband, Brian Bullock, 34, stabbed and killed her. Bullock also stabbed and killed Mark Keil, 56, a contractor who was renovating Michelle's home. Bullock fled the scene, but later turned himself into law enforcement; authorities charged him with capital murder. Michelle had separated from Bullock. He has a history of domestic violence against Michelle. In June 2018, authorities charged Bullock for assaulting Michelle and issued a protective order against him. Bullock threatened Michelle the week of the murder and she sent her children to stay with her mom because she was concerned for their safety. Michelle is survived by her three sons, a 2-year-old, and twins, ages 6.

Melinda Ann Garza, 41
SAN JUAN | AUGUST 16, 2018
Melinda Garza died in her home after her boyfriend, Mateo Garza, 41, strangled, assaulted, and killed her. Melinda's daughter requested a welfare check when she did not hear from her. Law enforcement found Melinda's body and Garza at her home and arrested Garza on site. Garza confessed, and authorities charged him with murder. Garza has a history of violence against Melinda and previous partners. At the time, Garza was serving a ten-year probation sentence for two previous domestic violence charges against two different girlfriends. Melinda is survived by her adult son and daughter.

Matthew Sanchez, 27
LEVELAND | APRIL 9, 2018
Matthew Sanchez died at the hospital after his intimate partners, Matthew Paul Cruz, 20, and Canyon Brent Faull, 19, each shot him in the home they shared. Law enforcement arrived at the home and found Matthew in the street; emergency responders transported him to the hospital where he died the following day. Law enforcement had responded to numerous domestic violence calls to the residence before the homicide. Authorities arrested Cruz and Faull, and initially charged them with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, then upgraded the charges to murder when Matthew died. Faull pled guilty to manslaughter and a jury sentenced him to 15 years in prison.

Jessica Lynn Winters, 30
GRANBURY | JULY 27, 2018
Jessica Winters died in her home when her boyfriend, Dylan Rochlin, 37, shot and killed her. Rochlin then shot and killed himself.
HOPKINS COUNTY

**Kenneth Minick, 39**  
**SALTILLO | FEBRUARY 28, 2018**

Kenneth Minick died at his home after his wife, Cassandra Minick, 30, shot and killed him. Minick contacted law enforcement and reported that she found Kenneth after hearing a gunshot. During the investigation, authorities arrested Minick and charged her with murder. Minick pled guilty and received a sentence of 30 years in prison. Kenneth is survived by his daughter and two sons.

Laura Davis, 39

**SULPHUR SPRINGS | OCTOBER 14, 2018**

Laura Davis died in her home after her husband, Stephen Wyatt, 60, shot and killed her. After killing Laura, Wyatt then shot himself and died two days later. Law enforcement found Laura and Wyatt after neighbors reported hearing gunshots. Wyatt has a history of domestic violence against Laura. One month before Wyatt murdered Laura, authorities charged him with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon for striking Laura with a gun repeatedly and threatening to kill her. He told authorities he was suicidal and they took him into custody and treated him at a hospital. Wyatt was then released on bond. Laura is survived by her two daughters and one son.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

**Kiana Joubert, 23**  
**BEAUMONT | SEPTEMBER 30, 2018**

Kiana Joubert died when her boyfriend, Davis Walters, 36, stabbed and killed her in an apartment complex parking lot. Walters then attempted to flee the scene, but authorities arrested and later charged him with murder. Walters has a history of violence against previous partners. Kiana is survived by her son and two daughters.

JEFF DAVIS COUNTY

**Sophia Eleanor Sullivan, 31**  
**FORT DAVIS | MARCH 16, 2018**

Sophia Sullivan died in her home after her husband, Daniel Sullivan, 30, stabbed and killed her. Sullivan took their 7-year-old son to a neighbor's home to call law enforcement. During the investigation, the son identified Sullivan as the murderer. Authorities arrested and charged Sullivan with murder. Sophia is survived by her son.

JIM WELLS COUNTY

**Melissa Arredondo, 28**  
**ORANGE GROVE | DECEMBER 14, 2018**

Melissa Arredondo died after her ex-boyfriend, Sosten Contreras, 33, shot and killed her in his vehicle. Contreras moved Melissa's body and her vehicle to the side of the road in a remote area. Authorities obtained an arrest warrant for capital murder; Contreras shot and killed himself at his home before they served the warrant. Contreras had a history of violence against Melissa. Melissa is survived by her son and daughter.
JOHNSON COUNTY

Debra Evans, 64
CLEBURNE | JANUARY 6, 2018
Debra Evans died in her home when her husband, James Evans, 65, shot and killed her. Evans then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement found their bodies during a welfare check. Debra is survived by her adult daughter.

Ruth Majano-Parades, 27
GRANDVIEW | AUGUST 11, 2018
Ruth Majano-Parades died when her ex-boyfriend, Roberto Nuñez, 33, shot her and killed her on the side of the road in a remote area. Nuñez stalked Ruth after she ended the relationship with him. Authorities arrested Nuñez, and after he confessed, charged him with murder.

KAUFMAN COUNTY

Hubert Whittington, 67
KEMP | AUGUST 16, 2018
Hubert Whittington died in his home when his wife, Merlin Kay Long Whittington, 66, shot and killed him. Whittington called authorities, reporting that the gun accidentally fired. Authorities arrested and charged Whittington with murder. Whittington pled guilty to manslaughter. Hubert is survived by his two sons and two daughters.

KERR COUNTY

Xiomara Saenz, 38
KERRVILLE | SEPTEMBER 29, 2018
Xiomara Saenz died in a medical center after her husband, Robert Bilunas, 48, strangled and killed her. Law enforcement responded to assist with an EMS call and arrested and charged Bilunas with violation of a protective order and terroristic threat against a peace officer. Authorities later charged Bilunas with murder. Bilunas had a history of violence, including two arrests for family violence assault and violation of a protective order the week before the murder.

LAVACA COUNTY

Gloria Haas, 74
HALLETTSVILLE | JULY 30, 2018
Gloria Haas died in her home after her husband, Robert Eugene Haas, 73, shot and killed her. Haas then shot and killed himself. Gloria's caretaker found the bodies and contacted Gloria and Haas' son who called law enforcement. Gloria is survived by her adult son and daughter.
LEON COUNTY

**Stephanie Hope Redmond, 48**
_NORMANGEE | JANUARY 23, 2018_
Stephanie Redmond died in her home when her husband, Michael Redmond, 63, shot and killed her. Redmond then shot and killed himself. A concerned family member asked a neighbor to check on them. The neighbor discovered their bodies and alerted police.

LUBBOCK COUNTY

**Billy Bailey, 74**
_LUBBOCK | JULY 31, 2018_
Billy Bailey died in his home when his wife, Jean Martin Bailey, 71, shot and killed him. Bailey then shot and killed herself. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and found them in their home after family had not heard from them for several days. Billy is survived by his son and two daughters.

**Shranda Carson, 35**
_LUBBOCK | AUGUST 6, 2018_
Shranda Carson died at a hospital after her boyfriend, Justin Jackson, 29, stabbed her in her home. Jackson fled and confessed to his mother. Shranda's relative had heard Jackson threaten Shranda, found her wounded in the kitchen, and called 911. Emergency responders transported Shranda to the hospital where she died. Authorities arrested Jackson at his mother's home and charged him with murder. Shranda had attempted to end the relationship.

**Annette Scarborough, 59**
_LUBBOCK | DECEMBER 29, 2018_
Annette Scarborough died in her home after her husband, Tim Scarborough, 60, shot and killed her. Scarborough then shot and killed himself. Annette is survived by her adult daughter.

MATAGORDA COUNTY

**Sandra Hogg, 42**
_BAY CITY | JANUARY 5, 2018_
Sandra Hogg died in her home after her husband, Bryan Hogg, 44, shot and killed her. Hogg then shot and killed himself. Friends became concerned when they could not reach them and went to their home. Sandra's son was sleeping in the home and found his parents' bodies when the friends woke him. Sandra is survived by her teenage son.

**Tanzie Haynes Scott, 73**
_RUGELEY | DECEMBER 20, 2018_
Tanzie Haynes Scott died in her home when her husband, Benjamin Scott, 74, stabbed and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Scott with murder. Scott was released on bond and died in January 2019. Tanzie is survived by her three adult sons.
McLennan County

**Barbara Hahn, 73**
**HeWitt | March 24, 2018**

Barbara Hahn died when her husband, Robert Hahn, 76, shot and killed her in their home. Hahn then shot and killed himself. A family member went to check on the couple and discovered a note posted outside that said to call 911. When law enforcement arrived they discovered notes Hahn had written, including a will. Barbara is survived by her adopted great-grandson, age 7, and her two daughters, and her son.

Medina County

**Toni Lea DeBuse, 46**
**Devine | June 5, 2018**

Toni DeBuse died in a home after her boyfriend, James Williamson, 62, shot and killed her. Williamson called a family member to report the murder, who called law enforcement. Authorities arrested and charged Williamson with murder.

Midland County

**Shakira Vega, 21**
**Midland | January 22, 2018**

Shakira Vega died in her apartment after her boyfriend, Steven Kuzminski, 29 shot and killed her. Kuzminski then shot and killed himself. Kuzminski had a history of violence and controlling behavior towards Shakira. Shakira is survived by her son.

**Dolores Marquez Alvarez, 46**
**Midland | March 11, 2018**

Dolores Alvarez died in her home after her husband, Juan Alvarez, 57 stabbed and killed her. Alvarez fled the scene and Dolores’ son performed CPR until EMS arrived. Law enforcement approached Alvarez when he returned to the home later that night and he fired his gun at them. Officers returned fire, shooting and killing him. Dolores is survived by her two sons and daughter.

**Francisca Sanchez, 41**
**Midland | April 14, 2018**

Francisca Sanchez died after her boyfriend, Don Herrera, 42, stabbed and killed her at a friend's home. Herrera pulled a knife to threaten suicide, but then stabbed Francisca. When law enforcement arrived, they found Herrera stabbing himself as he stood over Francisca's body, and they ordered him to drop the knife; instead of complying, Herrera continued to stab himself. Emergency responders transported Herrera to a hospital, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Francisca is survived by her two sons and daughter.
**MIDLAND COUNTY continued**

*Katrina Marie Avitia, 36*

**MIDLAND | AUGUST 16, 2018**

Katrina Avitia died in the hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Oscar Gurrola, 41, shot her in her home. Gurrola fled the scene. When law enforcement arrived to arrest him, he brandished a firearm; officers shot and killed him. Katrina is survived by her two sons.

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

*Ivonne Janczak, 57*

**CONROE | OCTOBER 6, 2018**

Ivonne Janczak died in her home after her husband, Anthony Janczak, 47, shot and killed her. Janczak then shot and killed himself. A family member found Ivonne and Janczak deceased and contacted law enforcement.

*Jessica Torres Leos, 28*

**SPRING | FEBRUARY 16, 2018**

Jessica Leos died at her home when her husband, Rafael Leos-Trejo, 33, shot and killed her. Leos-Trejo stopped Jessica’s daughter from calling 911. He then called 911 and claimed the shooting was accidental. He refused to perform CPR or attempt any life-saving efforts recommended by the 911 operator. Authorities arrested Leos-Trejo and charged him with murder and witness tampering for his attempts to bribe Jessica’s family into changing their testimony. A jury found Leos-Trejo guilty and sentenced him to life in prison. Leos-Trejo has a history of domestic violence against Jessica and she had discussed ending the relationship with family members. Jessica is survived by her daughter, age 12.

*Jacey Crawford, 22*

**SPRING | NOVEMBER 16, 2018**

Jacey Crawford died when her boyfriend, Donald Evans, 27, shot and killed her outside an apartment complex. Evans then shot and killed himself.

**NACOGDOCHES COUNTY**

*Donte Deandre Broussard, 25*

**NACOGDOCHES | OCTOBER 18, 2018**

Donte Broussard died in the hospital after his girlfriend, Milanikii Ybarra, 28, stabbed him. A witness heard the attack and found Ybarra holding a knife and Donte injured and exiting the home. Emergency responders transported Donte to the hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Ybarra with aggravated assault; the charge was later updated to murder. Donte is survived by his son.
NAVARRO COUNTY

Cedrick Lawrence, 49
CORSICANA | OCTOBER 1, 2018
Cedrick Lawrence died in a hospital after his girlfriend, Priscilla Roberson, 57, stabbed him. Emergency responders transported Cedrick to a hospital, where he died the following morning. Roberson was arrested in 2015 for aggravated assault family violence, but not indicted. Authorities arrested and charged Roberson with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and later upgraded the charge to murder.

Vanessa Mendoza, 27
CORSICANA | DECEMBER 21, 2018
Vanessa Mendoza died in her home after her husband, Rosalio Mendoza, 36, shot and killed her. Mendoza had a history of violent behavior in the past, and Vanessa had separated from him. Mendoza broke into Vanessa's home while she, her sister, and children attempted to find safety. Vanessa's sister, Nancy Castillo, 28, contacted police for help, and during the call, Nancy was able to remove the children from the home. Mendoza shot and killed Nancy as she was fleeing. Mendoza then shot and killed himself. Vanessa is survived by her three daughters ages 1, 3, and 7.

NEWTON COUNTY

Dora Lynn Johnson, 60
NEWTON | JULY 26, 2018
Dora Johnson died after her boyfriend, Darrell Huffman, 57, set fire to her home and killed her. Neighbors called 911 to report the fire, and when law enforcement arrived, Huffman said Dora was inside. Firefighters found her near the front door having died from smoke inhalation. Dora's pet also died in the fire. Authorities arrested Huffman and charged him with capital murder. Dora is survived by her two adult sons and daughter.

NUECES COUNTY

Leeann Torres, 24
CORPUS CHRISTI | FEBRUARY 1, 2018
Leann Torres died in her home after her boyfriend, Steven Urias, 26, strangled and killed her. Urias has a history of violence against Leeann, and she had moved back to Corpus Christi from Dallas while he was incarcerated; Urias followed her after his release. Two days before the murder, Urias assaulted Leeann and her mom took her to the hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the assault. Urias brought Leann home from the hospital and strangled and assaulted Leeann again. Urias strangled and killed Leann, and then texted a photo of Leeann to her mother. Urias fled the scene and emergency responders found Leeann deceased. Authorities arrested Urias in San Patricio County, Texas, and charged him with murder. Leeann was pregnant at the time of her death. She is survived by her son and daughter.
Yvonne Villanueva, 28
CORPUS CHRISTI | JUNE 6, 2018

Yvonne Villanueva died after her husband, Trinidad Perez, 50, strangled and killed her in a home. Perez then hid Yvonne’s body in a couch and contacted his son to help him move the couch. Yvonne’s family reported her missing a few days later. Perez confessed to his son, who contacted law enforcement about Yvonne’s murder and granted permission to search the premises. Authorities found both the couch and Yvonne’s body moved to a rural road. Authorities arrested Perez in July 2018 in Travis County, Texas, and charged Perez with murder. Perez had a history of violence against Yvonne and assaulted and strangled her in May 2018. Yvonne is survived by her three children.

Veronica Smithwick Clark, 48
CORPUS CHRISTI | JUNE 27, 2018

Veronica Clark died in an apartment after her ex-boyfriend, John Smith, 53, strangled her with a ligature and killed her. He then wrapped her in a blanket and disposed of her body near the apartment and fled the scene. Authorities arrested Smith the next day and charged him with murder. Smith has a history of domestic violence against Veronica, and she had met Smith to remove herself from the apartment lease when he killed her. Veronica is survived by her two sons.

PANOLA COUNTY

Elania Johnson, 44
HOLLAND’S QUARTERS | FEBRUARY 23, 2018

Elania Johnson died in a car when her boyfriend, Jeffrey Mickens, 47 shot and killed her. Mickens also shot and injured Elania’s daughter, Raven Dotrey, 21. Elania attempted to drive away, but struck the corner of a nearby house. Mickens pulled her from the car, then fled in the car with Elania’s 2-year-old granddaughter in the back seat. He then abandoned the car and broke into a neighbor’s home. When law enforcement arrived, Mickens barricaded himself in the house; he fired on law enforcement multiple times and during the hours-long stand-off, told officers he wanted them to kill him. Authorities arrested and charged Mickens with murder, attempted capital murder of a peace officer, two counts of aggravated kidnapping, and one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Mickens pled guilty to all counts and received a sentence of 80 years in prison. Elania is survived by her children.

PARKER COUNTY

Shannon Guthrie, 29
WEATHERFORD | AUGUST 5, 2018

Shannon Guthrie died at a Fort Worth hospital after her boyfriend, Christopher Wilkerson, 30, shot her at their home. Authorities arrested Wilkerson for violation of his supervised release on a sentence for felon in possession of a firearm. A grand jury indicted him on two counts of murder in March 2019. Shannon was pregnant. She is survived by two sons, ages 5 and 10.
RANDALL COUNTY

Julianne Marie Samora, 22
AMARILLO | SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

Julianne Samora died in her apartment after her husband, Jude Samora, 24, stabbed and killed her. Samora also stabbed Julianne’s boyfriend, before fleeing the scene. Emergency responders transported Julianne’s boyfriend to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. Law enforcement in New Mexico arrested Samora and authorities charged him with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Authorities also arrested Jonathan Klause, 24, in connection with the murders and charged him with capital murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Julianne and Samora had separated.

REAGAN COUNTY

Stephen Zuberbueler, 56
BIG LAKE | MAY 19, 2018

Stephen Zuberbueler died at a hospital in San Angelo three weeks after his wife, Freida Zuberbueler, 51, assaulted him in their home. Authorities arrested and charged Zuberbueler with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, then upgraded the charge to murder when Stephen died.

ROCKWALL COUNTY

Yoon Duk Kim, 39
ROCKWALL | MAY 7, 2018

Yoon Duk Kim died at her home when her husband, Hyun Lee, 42, shot and killed her. Lee removed their 5-year-old daughter from the home, and placed her in a car in the driveway. He then set the house on fire and shot and killed himself inside. Yoon Duk is survived by her daughter.

SAN PATRICIO COUNTY

Cindy Spears, 54
ARANSAS PASS | MAY 6, 2018

Cindy Spears died in a hospital in Austin after her husband, Bruce Spears, 62, poisoned her. Emergency personnel transported Cindy from a hospital in Corpus Christi to Austin three days before her death. Authorities determined Spears caused Cindy’s death and arrested and charged him with murder. Cindy is survived by seven adult children.
TARRANT COUNTY

**O’Tishae Womack, 30**
FORT WORTH | APRIL 6, 2018

O’Tishae Womack died in her home when her ex-boyfriend, Paige Lawyer, 37, strangled and killed her. Lawyer also strangled and killed O’Tishae’s 10-year-old daughter, KaMyria. He then fled to Tennessee, where law enforcement apprehended him. Lawyer has a history of domestic violence, including two strangulation charges and a vehicular assault against O’Tishae; he was sentenced to 18-month probation after the first strangulation assault in 2017. Lawyer was due in court for the last two assault charges the week of the murders. O’Tishae ended the relationship with Lawyer a year prior to the murder. O’Tishae is survived by twin sons, age 4.

**Day’zhia McKinley, 27**
FORT WORTH | APRIL 21, 2018

Day’zhia McKinley died in front of her home when her ex-boyfriend, Christopher Manning, 28, shot and killed her. Day’zhia’s three young sons were in the home at the time. Manning fled the scene and remains at large. Day’zhia is survived her three sons.

**Kelly Lawson, 36**
FORT WORTH | JUNE 19, 2018

Kelly Lawson died after her ex-boyfriend, Jamie Brown, 38, kidnapped, shot and killed her. Brown fled to Longview, where one of his relatives reported his suspicious behavior. Authorities arrested Brown and charged him with murder. Brown’s abusive behavior, threats, and stalking escalated after Kelly ended the relationship two months before the murder. Kelly planned to seek a protective order after Brown slashed her tires and threatened to kill her. Kelly is survived by her two daughter, ages 13 and 14.

**Rochelle Mims, 34**
FORT WORTH | SEPTEMBER 2, 2018

Rochelle Mims died in a home after her boyfriend, Lucious Newhouse III, 54, shot and killed. Newhouse moved Rochelle’s body to a field near Sulphur Springs in Hopkins County, Texas. While law enforcement responding to a single car accident, they found Newhouse and found Rochelle’s body nearby. Authorities arrested and charged Newhouse with murder. Newhouse has a history of domestic violence against Rochelle.

**Darcy Martin, 59**
FORT WORTH | NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Darcy Martin died in her apartment after her boyfriend, Ricky Thompson, 41, strangled and killed her. Neighbors called law enforcement to report witnessing Thompson screaming at and dragging Darcy back to their apartment. When law enforcement entered the apartment, Thompson claimed Darcy was asleep; upon examining her, officers noticed that she showed signs of strangulation. Authorities arrested and charged Thompson with murder.
Chi Pham, 38  
GRAND PRAIRIE | MARCH 9, 2018
Chi Pham died in her home after her ex-boyfriend, Hung Son Nguyen, 47, stabbed and killed her. Nguyen then set fire to Chi’s home and drove to the salon where he and Chi worked. Nguyen set fire to his vehicle in the parking lot and assaulted and threatened a female co-worker with a gun before attempting to set fire to the salon. An armed civilian in a nearby business overheard and intervened. Chi is survived by her two children and her three nieces and nephews that she raised after her sister passed away a year earlier.

Donna Alexander, 36  
GRAND PRAIRIE | SEPTEMBER 24, 2018
Donna Alexander died in the hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Nathaniel Mitchell, 34, assaulted her in her home. Mitchell broke into her home and assaulted Donna while her two children were in the home. He then took her to the hospital, claiming she fell in the shower. Hospital authorities alerted the police, and they arrested Mitchell at the hospital. Authorities initially charged Mitchell with burglary with intent to commit aggravated assault, and upgraded the charges to murder after Donna died three days after the attack. Donna had ended her relationship with Mitchell and asked him to move out. Donna is survived by her two children, a 14-year-old son and a 12-year-old daughter.

Taylor County

Shaniqua Shavell Wallace, 44  
ABILENE | NOVEMBER 1, 2018
Shaniqua Wallace died in her apartment after her girlfriend, Lonisha McBride, 31, shot and killed her. Shaniqua ended the relationship and McBride planned to move out of the apartment. McBride purchased a firearm the day before killing Shaniqua. After shooting Shaniqua, she drove to the police department and confessed. Authorities arrested and charged McBride with murder.

Terry County

Lisa Blankenship, 58  
MEADOW | JULY 15, 2018
Lisa Blankenship died after her husband, Kurt Blankenship, 56, shot and killed her in a vehicle outside their home. Lisa called her son and 911 for help. When law enforcement arrived, Lisa was deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Blankenship with murder. Lisa is survived by her two adult daughters and her adult son.
TITUS COUNTY

Maria de Jesus Castro De Leon, 32
WINFIELD | NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Maria De Leon died after Edgar Sierra, 27, physically assaulted her in a home she was visiting. Sierra also assaulted and injured Maria's boyfriend, David Diaz, 24. Sierra left the home and then hung and killed himself. The next day, a friend discovered Maria and David unresponsive and called 911. Emergency responders transported David to a hospital in Tyler, where he was listed in critical condition. Sierra had pursued an unwanted relationship with Maria.

TOM GREEN COUNTY

Camille Garcia, 24
SAN ANGELO | MARCH 20, 2018

Camille Garcia died in a home after her boyfriend, Andres Ramirez, 30, shot and killed her. After discovering Camille's body, authorities arrested Ramirez for driving without a valid license. During the initial investigation, he confessed to Camille's murder and authorities updated the charges to murder. Ramirez has a history of domestic violence including an assault arrest in 2010 and an arrest in 2013 for a family violence assault and strangulation; he served a prison sentence for convictions in both cases. Camille is survived by her two daughters and son.

TRAVIS COUNTY

Ronda Beans, 50
AUSTIN | JANUARY 21, 2018

Ronda Beans died in the hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Waymon Eason Sr., 49, shot her outside her home. A neighbor and a young relative were present. Authorities arrested Eason and charged him with murder. Ronda contacted law enforcement three times regarding Eason's threats and harassment after they separated. Eason has a history of domestic violence and had served a five-year sentence for violating a protective order that ended in 2016. Beans is survived by her two adult daughters.

Emily Martinez Villareal, 36
AUSTIN | FEBRUARY 3, 2018

Emily Villarreal died in her home after her boyfriend, Roberto Degollado, 51, stabbed and killed her. Emily's two sons went to a neighbor's home for help. Law enforcement performed CPR on Emily; however, she died on the scene. Authorities arrested Degollado and charged him with murder. Degollado received a sentence of life in prison for Emily's murder. Degollado has a history of abusive behavior towards Emily, and she had planned to end her relationship with him. Emily is survived by her four children.
Patricia Campos, 54  
AUSTIN | MARCH 1, 2018

Patricia Campos died at a home after her husband, Jose Amaya, 39, strangled and killed her. Amaya confessed to killing Patricia to a friend who contacted law enforcement. Patricia's employer confirmed she had missed her last two shifts. Amaya has a history of domestic violence against Patricia, including an assault in October 2017 and strangulation in December 2017. Authorities arrested Amaya and charged him with murder.

Nancy Garcia, 23  
AUSTIN | AUGUST 24, 2018

Nancy Garcia died in front of her home when her boyfriend, Omar Garcia, 26, shot and killed her in her vehicle. Garcia exited the vehicle and shot and killed himself. Garcia had a history of abusive behavior towards Nancy and had recently been arrested for an assault family violence charge. Nancy is survived by her two daughters.

Kathryn Locker, 76  
AUSTIN | SEPTEMBER 25, 2018

Kathryn Locker died in her home after her husband, Ernest Locker Jr., 76, shot and killed her. Locker then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement found Kathryn and Locker in their bedroom after their daughter requested a welfare check. Kathryn is survived by her two adult daughters.

Eric Charles Allen, 26  
AUSTIN | DECEMBER 23, 2018

Eric Allen died in his home after his girlfriend, Autumn King, 20, shot and killed him. Eric's two children, ages 9 months and 2 years, were in the home at the time. King called 911 and claimed that she accidentally fired a gun at Eric; however, authorities recovered a 16-minute video showing King and Eric involved in a dispute prior to the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged King with manslaughter. Eric is survived by his four children.

Rosa Hernandez, 36  
DEL VALLE | MAY 26, 2018

Rosa Hernandez died in her home after her boyfriend, Edmundo Cisneroz, 25, assaulted, strangled, and killed her. Rosa's daughter found her body and called law enforcement. Cisneroz fled the scene and authorities arrested him the following day and charged him with murder. Cisneroz had a history of violence and had sexually assaulted and strangled Rosa in December 2017; charges were not filed. Rosa is survived by her four children.

Johnny Cardenas, 31  
DEL VALLE | JULY 11, 2018

Johnny Cardenas died in his home when his girlfriend, Stephanie Ray, 34, shot and killed him. Ray then moved Johnny's body and cleaned the crime scene. Law enforcement found Johnny's body in a remote area near their home. Authorities arrested Ray in February 2019 and charged her with tampering with or fabricating physical evidence and then charged her with murder in July 2019. Ray confessed to killing Johnny and sending out text messages in efforts to make it appear like he was still alive. Johnny survived by his three children.
UPSHUR COUNTY

Lisa Anne Moore, 49
UNION GROVE | MARCH 6, 2018

Lisa Moore died in her home after her ex-boyfriend, Joseph Adkins, 53, shot and killed her. During the incident, Adkins shot and killed Lisa’s son, Dylan Moore, 19, and injured her son, Kyle Moore. Adkins fled the scene and law enforcement arrested and charged him with two counts of capital murder and aggravated assault. Adkins pled guilty and received two life sentences for capital murder and 20 years for aggravated assault. Lisa had ended the relationship with Adkins three weeks prior to the murders. Lisa is survived by her two sons.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Bobby Jean Brown, 85
INEZ | JANUARY 9, 2018

Bobby Brown died in her home after her husband, Wallace Brown, 91, shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. Bobby is survived by her two adult daughters.

Maria Barrios Bazan, 46
VICTORIA | JANUARY 20, 2018

Maria Bazan died after her boyfriend, Pete Ramos III, 56, shot and killed her. Ramos then fled the scene. The next day Ramos confessed to law enforcement and then shot and killed himself in his vehicle; his family was following in a car behind him. Ramos had a history of violence against Maria. Maria is survived by her seven daughters.

WARD COUNTY

LaTashia Thompson McPeake, 37
MONAHANS | NOVEMBER 9, 2018

LaTashia McPeake died in her car after her ex-husband, Jeremy McPeake, 37, stabbed her. McPeake fled and LaTashia attempted to drive to the hospital but died on the way. Law enforcement found LaTashia’s body, located McPeake later that day, and arrested and charged him with murder. LaTashia is survived by her adult son and daughter.

WEBB COUNTY

Guillermina Vazquez, 49
EL CENIZO | NOVEMBER 7, 2018

Guillermina Vazquez died in her home after her husband, Florentino Garcia, 56, shot and killed her. Garcia then shot and killed himself. One of Guillermina’s children found Guillermina and Garcia and called 911. Guillermina had separated from Garcia approximately 18 months prior to the murder. Guillermina is survived by her two adult sons and two adult daughters.
WEBB COUNTY  

Grizelda Hernandez, 27  
LAREDO  |  APRIL 9, 2018

Grizelda Hernandez died after her boyfriend, Ronald Burgos-Aviles, 28, stabbed and killed her in a local park. Then Burgos-Aviles stabbed and killed their 1-year-old son, Dominick. Burgos-Aviles, a border patrol agent, then requested assistance, reporting that he found a body. After learning of his relationship with Grizelda, authorities arrested and charged Burgos-Aviles with two counts of capital murder. Burgos-Aviles had received notices that Grizelda had filed for child support prior to the murders. Grizelda is survived by her son, age 7.

WICHITA COUNTY  

Yajaira Garcia, 17  
WICHITA FALLS  |  NOVEMBER 3, 2018

Yajaira Garcia died after her ex-boyfriend, Joshua Cook, 19, shot and killed her. Cook confessed to shooting Yajaira in a 911 call and to law enforcement when they arrived on the scene. Authorities arrested and charged Cook with murder and for burglary for stealing the firearm he used to shoot Yajaira. Yajaira had recently ended her relationship with Cook.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY  

Dora Quiroz-Gonzalez, 41  
ROUND ROCK  |  JUNE 4, 2018

Dora Quiroz-Gonzalez died in a local business after her husband, Jose Diaz, 44, stabbed and killed her in a storage unit. Dora had separated from Diaz, and he had driven Dora to their shared storage unit and attacked her when she refused to reconcile with him. Diaz confessed the murder to a friend, who called law enforcement. Diaz took officers to a storage facility where he had placed Dora's body. Authorities arrested and charged Diaz with murder.

Ellen DeHart, 42  
THRALL  |  JANUARY 3, 2018

Ellen DeHart died in her home after her husband, Richard DeHart, 48, shot and killed her. DeHart then shot and killed himself. Family members including their children were in the home at the time of the murder; however, none witnessed the murder. Ellen is survived by her two children.
WILSON COUNTY

Justine Hosseini, 21
POTH | JUNE 10, 2018

Justine Hosseini died in her home after her husband, John Waclawczyk, 21, shot and killed her. He then shot their friend, Andrew Toscano, 24. Emergency responders transported Andrew to a nearby hospital where he later died. Waclawczyk has a history of abusive behavior towards Justine. Authorities arrested and charged Waclawczyk with capital murder; he pled guilty and received a life sentence without parole.

WISE COUNTY

Jonathan Kimani Tumbo, 40
RHOME | SEPTEMBER 14, 2018

Jonathan Tumbo died in his home when his ex-wife, Marie Kimani, 35, shot and killed him. Kimani called law enforcement concerning an altercation with her ex-husband. When they arrived, she showed them his body in a closet. A jury found Kimani guilty and sentenced her to 40 years in prison. The couple’s divorce had been finalized the month before the shooting. Jonathan is survived by his son.
In addition to the 211 Texans killed, domestic violence homicide perpetrators also killed 24 family members and friends and injured 29 family members, friends, classmates, co-workers, and bystanders and two law enforcement officers.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jared Conrad Black, 17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Student at Santa Fe High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Cañas, 5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Son of Mauricio Cañas</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mauricio Cañas, Jr., 10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Son of Mauricio Cañas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nancy Castillo, 28</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Sister of Vanessa Mendoza</td>
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<td>Larry Darnell Davis, 65</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>Neighbor of Virginia Benefield</td>
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<td>Christian Riley Garcia, 15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Student at Santa Fe High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pedro Garza, 33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>Son of Maria Garza</td>
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<tr>
<td>Azriah Gonzalez, 11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Daughter of Andrea Gonzalez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherry Gray, 64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>Mother of Shellie Splittgerber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haley Guthrie, Newborn</td>
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<td>Daughter of Shannon Guthrie</td>
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<td>Dominick Hernandez, 1</td>
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<td>Michale Hodge, 28</td>
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<td>Son of Robbi Hodge</td>
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<td>Mark Keil, 56</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>Contractor at Michelle Bullock's Home</td>
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<td>Aaron Kyle McLeod, 15</td>
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<td>Dylan Moore, 19</td>
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<td>Glenda Ann Perkins, 64</td>
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<td>Angelique Ramirez, 15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Omar Santamaria-Ruiz</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sabika Sheikh, 17</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Student at Santa Fe High School</td>
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<td>Christopher Stone, 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cynthia Tisdale, 63</td>
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<td>Teacher at Santa Fe High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrew Toscano, 24</td>
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<td>Friend of Justine Hosseini</td>
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<td>Kimberly Vaughn, 14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Student at Santa Fe High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>KaMyra Womack, 10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Daughter of O’Tishae Womack</td>
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Honoring Texas Victims Report Methodology

For the last ten years, TCFV has published *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities* focused on the stories of women killed by their male intimate partners in Texas and offering data analysis on the nature of the femicides as they occurred in the previous year. For the 2018 Report, TCFV expanded the scope to include family violence cases where men were killed by female intimate partners and men and women were killed by same-sex intimate partners during the time frame of January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018. The perpetrators have either been charged with murder or manslaughter or committed murder-suicide.

In order to identify all victims of intimate violence homicides in 2018, TCFV monitored media in all 254 Texas counties and reviewed law enforcement and County and District Attorneys’ communication releases. In addition, TCFV researched homicide cases with local and state partners. TCFV took care to confirm the accuracy of information through various means, primarily law enforcement, Department of Public Safety, media, victim advocates, and family violence agencies. TCFV acknowledges with appreciation the support from professionals from around the state who responded to our requests for information and thereby ensured the accuracy of this report.

TCFV acknowledges the limitations of this report. Several homicides related to family violence go unmentioned in this report. Sadly, each year, family members, particularly children, become homicide victims when perpetrators target their current or former intimate partner, and kill bystanders. When the intimate partner violence victim survives the attack, this report does not include the bystander and related homicide victims in the data. Additionally, TCFV tracked several cases where charges were not brought against the perpetrator or were dismissed before publication; these cases are excluded as well.

Researchers, advocates, and the general public use the terms “family violence,” “domestic violence,” and “intimate partner violence” somewhat interchangeably. This report focuses on using “domestic violence” and “family violence,” as the scope of our study centers on those iterations of intimate partner violence. The State of Texas uses the term “family violence” in criminal justice settings as well as in other statutory frameworks, which is why this report often uses that term to describe the violence that occurs not only between dating or intimate partners but also members of the same household.
About TCFV

Texas Council on Family Violence is the only statewide nonprofit in Texas dedicated solely to creating safer communities and freedom from family violence. With the collective strength of more than 1,300 members, TCFV shapes public policy, equips service providers, and initiates strategic prevention efforts with statewide 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.

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Supported by:

Sunwest Communications proudly supports the Texas Council on Family Violence and its life-saving work through domestic violence prevention, policy, and programs.
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.