



# Honoring Texas Victims

*Family Violence Fatalities in 2023*

ANALYSIS REPORT



# Honoring Texas Victims

ANALYSIS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES



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## FORWARD

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**F**or over forty-six years, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) has remained unwavering in its mission to build safer communities where every Texan can feel secure in their own home. As we stand united with advocates across the state, we continue to champion every survivor’s right to safety, justice, and the opportunity for a life free from violence. Our commitment is not only to survivor-centered policies and services but also to prevention—interrupting violence before it begins.

**The Honoring Texas Victims report is more than a memorial for those tragically lost to domestic violence—it is a call to action.**

It is a reminder of the work that remains and the critical need for bold, transformative change. Each name in this report represents a life cut short, a person loved deeply by their family and community. In 2023 alone, 205 Texans were killed by intimate partners, an unacceptable reality that demands our immediate attention. This number marks an insignificant decline from the previous year, clearly it is far from progress. Every loss is a failure of our systems, of our humanity, to protect those most vulnerable.

As we reflect on the stories within this report, allow me to state the obvious: we **must** confront the realities that prevent individuals from seeking and receiving the help they need. More than 50% of requests for emergency shelter go unmet due to capacity issues, leaving countless survivors without the safe haven they deserve. One in three women and one in seven men will experience domestic violence in their lifetime. These numbers are staggering, and they reveal the scale of the work ahead of us.

We cannot ignore the intersection of domestic violence with other critical issues, including women’s reproductive health, immigration, and access to firearms by prohibited possessors. Domestic violence during pregnancy poses an even greater lethality risk, and in Texas, reproductive coercion occurs at nearly three times the national rate.

The dangerous overlap between violence and limited healthcare access only compounds the risk for women, particularly those from marginalized communities.

Equally alarming is the rising number of homicides committed by abusive partners wielding firearms. Despite Texas laws aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of abusers, enforcement remains weak. TCFV is committed to working with policymakers, law enforcement, and judges to ensure these laws are upheld so every survivor has a chance at safety.

For immigrant survivors, the fear of deportation or discrimination too often keeps them in the shadows, unable to seek help. We must break down these barriers and make it clear that every survivor, regardless of status, deserves access to safety and justice. Domestic violence agencies across Texas stand ready to provide confidential support to anyone in need.

The time to act is now. As you read this report, I urge you to channel your outrage into action, your grief into determination. The individuals we honor here are not just victims—they were mothers, fathers, siblings, and children, each with a future that was stolen from them. In their memory, we must act with urgency, with resolve, and with the unshakable belief that together, we can prevent these tragedies.

**Now is the time to build a future where every Texan can live free from violence. We must act, and we must act now.**



With determination and hope,



**Gloria Aguilera Terry**

Chief Executive Officer,  
Texas Council on Family Violence

SECTION I

# Honoring Texas Victims: 2023

# 205

Texans were killed by their intimate partners across 64 counties in 2023.

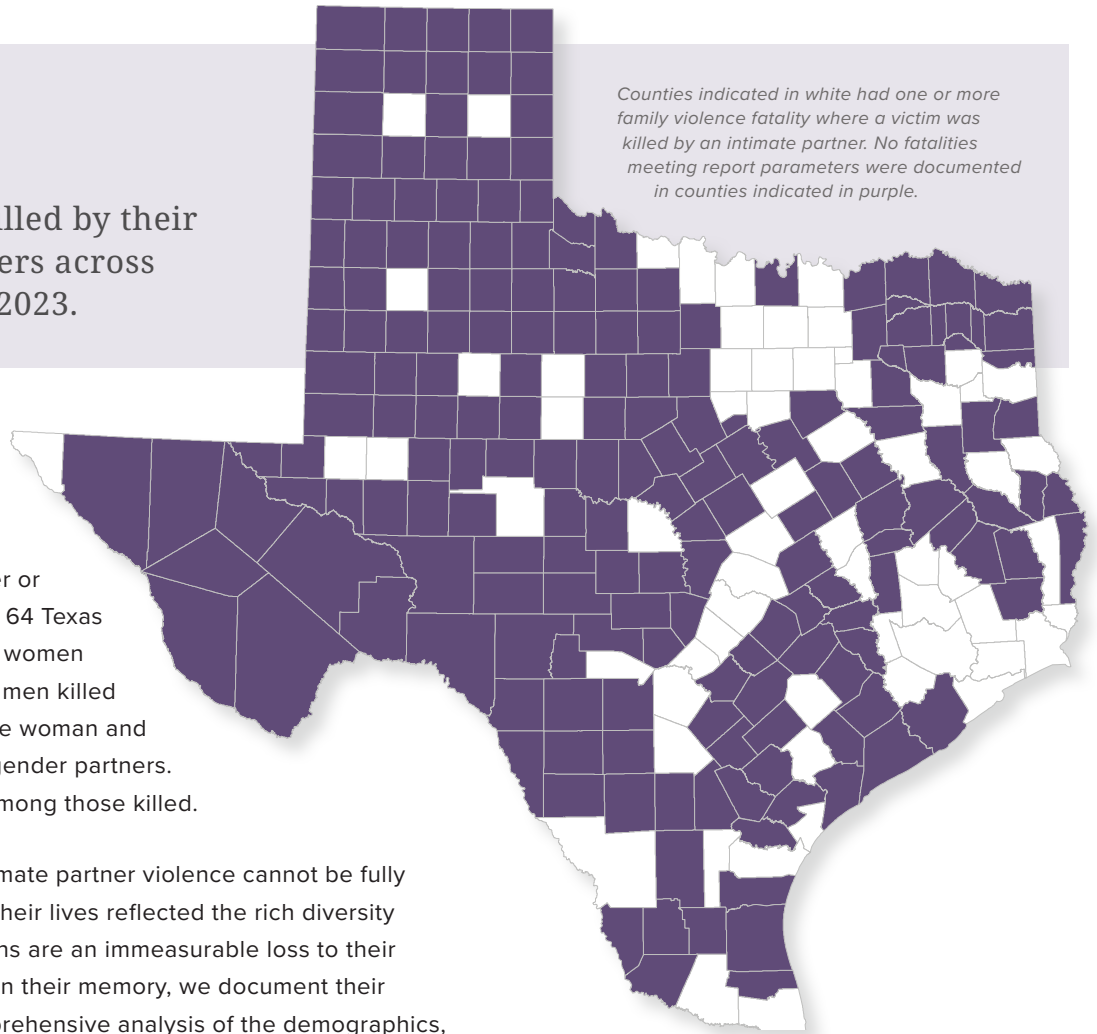
Counties indicated in white had one or more family violence fatality where a victim was killed by an intimate partner. No fatalities meeting report parameters were documented in counties indicated in purple.

**I**n 2023, TCFV recorded the deaths of 179 women and 26 men killed by an intimate partner or stalking perpetrator across 64 Texas counties. This includes 178 women killed by male partners, 24 men killed by female partners, and one woman and three men killed by same-gender partners. Four LGBTQ+ victims are among those killed.

The 205 Texans lost to intimate partner violence cannot be fully reflected in this report, as their lives reflected the rich diversity of our state, and their deaths are an immeasurable loss to their families and communities. In their memory, we document their stories and provide a comprehensive analysis of the demographics, risk factors, and systemic gaps that threaten survivor safety. This report offers critical insights and strategies for predicting lethality and preventing violence, aiming to drive meaningful change in how Texas addresses domestic violence.

**TCFV promotes cultural and systemic changes to prevent and end intimate partner abuse and uplift healthy, safe, respectful relationships.** We stand with our partners in communities across the state who mobilize to improve outcomes for survivors and their families. As you read the following pages and the narratives of victims in 2023, we hope you will amplify our calls to action in your communities.

Connect with TCFV to learn more.



INDIVIDUALLY  
WE POWER CHANGE.  
**TOGETHER**  
WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

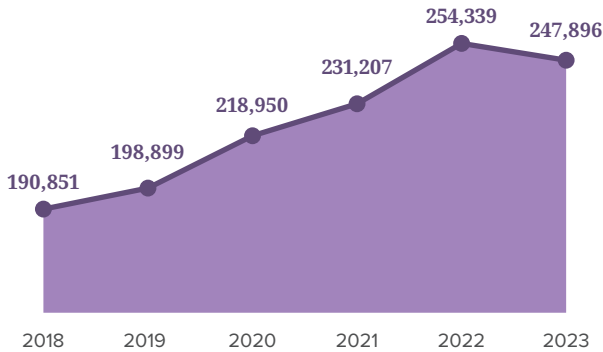


SECTION II

## Family Violence in Texas: 2023 Statistics

In 2023, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reported 247,896 family violence offenses compared to 254,339 in 2022. Though a slight decrease from 2022, this number is still significantly higher than prior years with 231,207 reported in 2021. Since 2018, family violence incidents have increased by 26%. In 2023, current or former intimate partners accounted for 139,046 incidents reported to DPS through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Fourteen percent of family violence assaults involving intimate partners (n=18,832) were classified as aggravated assault, typically involving weapons, strangulation, or other serious and injurious assaults.<sup>1</sup>

**Despite a slight decrease in 2023, the number of family violence offenses in Texas remains significantly higher than prior years.**



Similarly, family violence centers reported increases across many metrics. Increased shelter nights and calls to family violence centers' emergency hotlines are indicative of urgent needs for survivors fleeing family violence. In 2023, Texas crisis lines responded to 293,206 calls for domestic violence, an increase of more than 41,382 calls compared to 2021.<sup>2</sup> In 2023, 65,683 Texans received services at family violence centers. This number represents an increase

of 5% from the prior year, while Texas family violence centers offered 23% more nights of safety in FY 2023 when compared to FY 2021.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) answered 47.3% more contacts from Texas when comparing 2023 to 2021.<sup>4</sup> The increase of services is significant, in and of itself, and alarming when coupled with the fact that Texas family violence centers report that 59% of requests for shelter in FY 2023 were referred elsewhere due to lack of space.

Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs) serve as an alternative to incarceration and an intervention for people who harm their partners to critically examine their belief systems connected to their choices to use violence and promote positive behavioral change. In the FY 2022-2023 biennium, Texas system partners, such as pretrial services, probation, and parole made 9,473 BIPP referral placements of domestic violence offenders.<sup>5</sup> This reflects a 40% increase from the FY 2020-2021 biennium, due in part to an added TDCJ-CJAD funded program, the addition of regulated virtual group sessions, and a probable increase in referral placements due to clearance of court backlogs.

Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (DVHRT) promote coordination between criminal legal advocacy, general advocacy, and community partners to provide enhanced support to survivors at the highest risk for lethal violence. In FY 2023, TCFV awarded small grants to seven communities through funding from the Office of the Attorney General and the Criminal Justice Assistance Division of the Office of the Governor. The seven funded programs identified 587 high-risk cases in 2023, an increase of 23% from the sites that were funded the prior year which vary in population size from the 2023 sites.<sup>6</sup>

1 Texas Department of Public Safety, Crime in Texas Online, Family Violence Summary Reports (2022, 2023), available at: <https://www.dps.texas.gov/section/crime-records/crime-texas>.

2 *Ibid.*

3 "Family Violence Program Statistics – Fiscal Year 2023." Texas Health and Human Services Commission Family Violence Program. Available upon request.

4 "A Year in Impact 2022 and 2023 reports." National Domestic Violence Hotline, <https://www.thehotline.org/stakeholders/impact-and-state-reports/>.

5 Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Battering Intervention and Prevention Program Evaluation Report. September 2024.

6 Domestic Violence High Risk Teams 2023 Statewide Report. Texas Council on Family Violence.

SECTION III

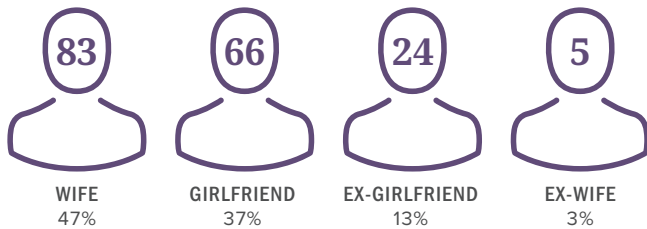
# An Analysis of Intimate Partner and Stalking Homicides in 2023

**In comparison to 2022**, in 2023, the number of women killed by a male intimate partner increased by one percent, while the number of men killed by an intimate partner decreased 33%. The number of LGBTQ+ killed by an intimate partner decreased by 33%.

## WOMEN KILLED

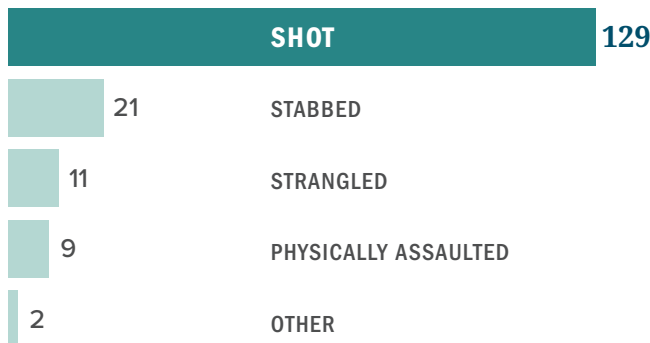
In 2023, 179 women were killed by a current or former intimate partner. The number of women killed by men increased by one percent from 176 women in 2022. Male intimate partners killed 178 women and female intimate partners killed one woman.

The relationship status with the highest number of victims was wife, followed by girlfriend.



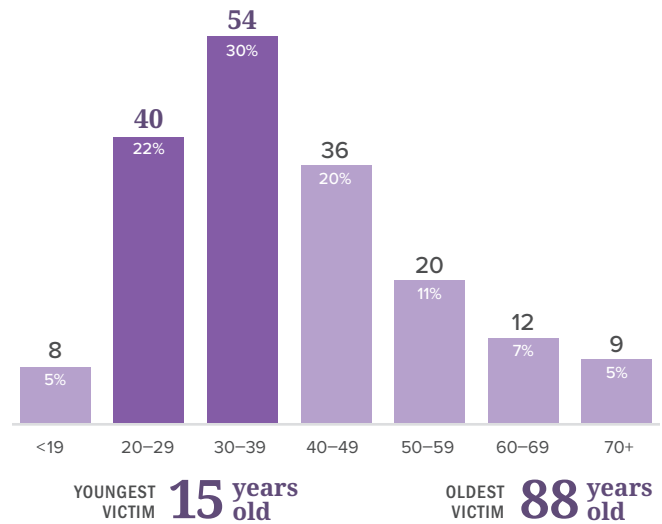
In 2023, 128 men and one woman shot and killed their female intimate partners; 21 men stabbed their victims; 11 men strangled or asphyxiated their victims; nine men physically assaulted and killed victims; and eight men used multiple types of violence to kill their partners. The means of death was not released in eight cases.

Most female-identified victims (72%) were killed by firearm, making it the most common means of death.



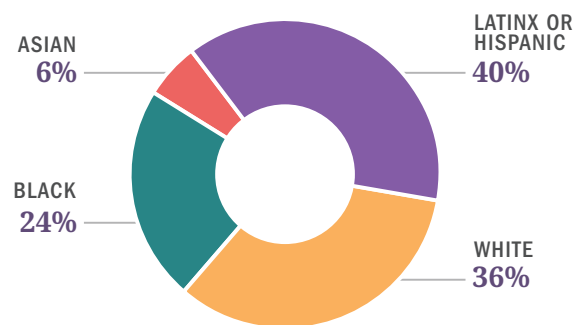
The ages of women and girls killed in 2023 ranged from 15 to 88. The highest age group represented were women between 30–39. Women killed between the ages of 20–29, 30–39, and girls under 19 decreased in comparison to 2022. The women killed between the ages of 50–59 and over 60 increased in comparison to 2022.

The highest age groups represented were female victims between 30–39 and 20–29, respectively.



In Texas in 2023, victims included 73 women who were Latinx or Hispanic, 64 women who were White, 43 women who were Black, and 11 women who were Asian. There were no victims identified as Native American or Alaska Native in 2023.

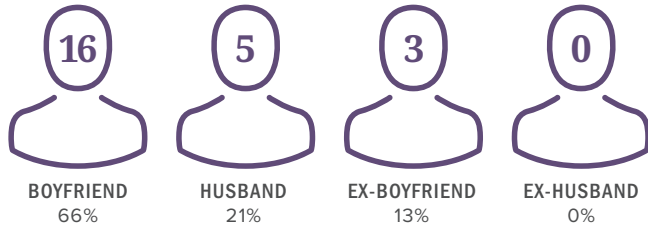
Latinx or Hispanic women comprised 40% of the victims, White women comprised 36%, Black women comprised 24%, and Asian women comprised 6%.



## MEN KILLED

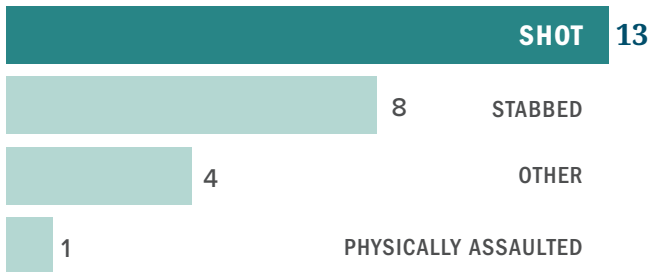
In Texas in 2023, 26 men were killed by an intimate partner: 24 women killed their male partners, and two men killed their same-gender partners. In comparison to 2022 this represents a 33% decrease.

The relationship status with the highest number of victims was boyfriend, followed by husband.



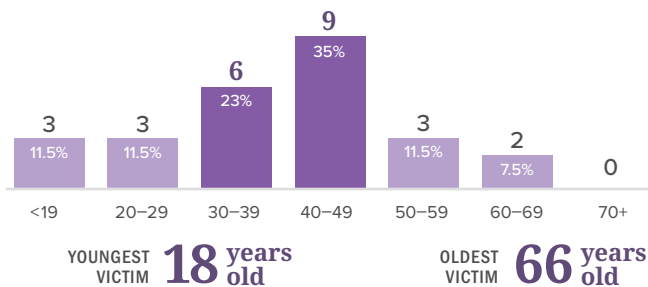
In 2023, 12 women and one man shot and killed their male intimate partners. Seven women and one man stabbed their victims. Five women used other means to kill their partners, including vehicular assault and physical assault.

Fifty percent of male-identified victims in 2023 were killed by firearm.



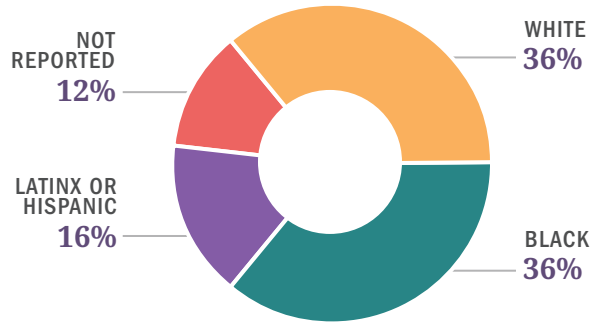
The ages of men killed in 2023 ranged from 18 to 66. The highest age groups represented were men between the ages of 40 to 49 followed by those ages 30 to 39. Men between the ages of 40-49 saw the most significant increase, 33% higher than in 2022.

The highest age groups represented were male victims between 40-49, followed by those between 30-39.



In Texas in 2023, victims included nine men who were White, nine men who were Black, and four men who were Latinx or Hispanic. The race and ethnicity of three men was not available.

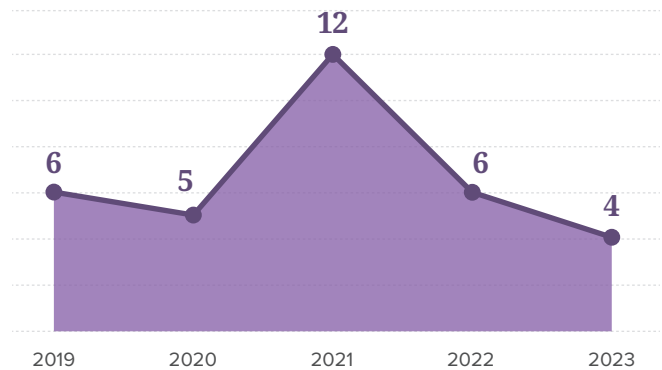
White and black men each comprised 36% of the victims, while Latinx or Hispanic men comprised 16%.



## LGBTQ+ VICTIMS

In 2023, four LGBTQ+ Texans were killed by their current or former intimate partners. This is a decrease from the highest number of 12 LGBTQ+ intimate partner homicides reported in 2021. Between 2019 and 2023, this report has documented 33 LGBTQ+ victims.

Thirty-three LGBTQ+ victims have been documented since 2019, with 2023 seeing a decrease from 2022.



In 2023, one LGBTQ+ victim was under 19 and one was 20 to 29 years. One victim was between 30 and 39 and one victim was between 40 and 49.

In 2023, two men were killed by their boyfriends, one woman was killed by her wife, and one transgender woman was killed by her boyfriend. Three perpetrators used firearms to kill their partners, and one perpetrator stabbed his



partner. Each of these cases is accounted for in the total number of women and men killed in the previous sections.

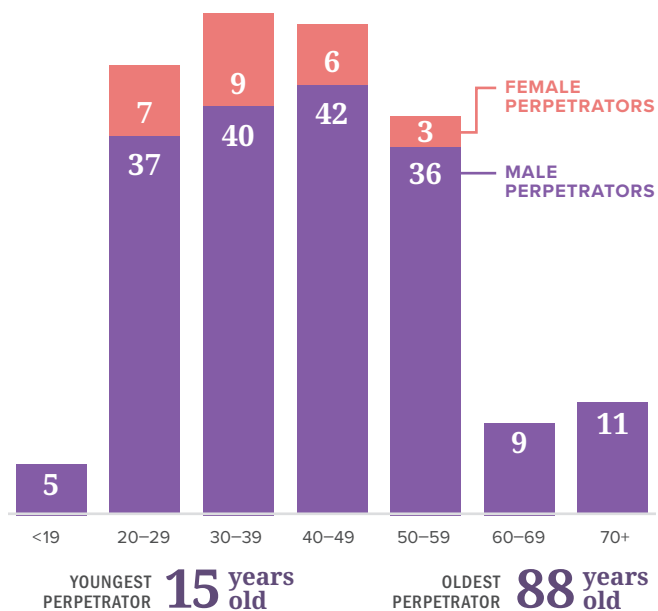
### Encountering bias or lack of understanding regarding gender identity and sexual orientation limits the accessibility of community and systems-based services.

LGBTQ+ survivors face barriers in help-seeking and reporting violence due to systemic intolerance and discrimination. Anti-trans and anti-LGBTQ+ policies and legislation reinforce the isolation and vulnerabilities that LGBTQ+ survivors experience.<sup>7</sup> Tailored prevention strategies and meaningfully equitable and accessible services mitigate the higher risk of victimization and isolation faced by LGBTQ+ survivors.

### HOMICIDE PERPETRATORS

Homicide perpetrators included 180 men and 25 women. The youngest perpetrator of intimate partner homicide was a teen boy, age 15, who stabbed and killed his girlfriend. The oldest was a man, age 88, who shot and killed his wife. The most prevalent age group of perpetrators was between 30 and 39.

The most prevalent age group represented are perpetrators between 30-39.



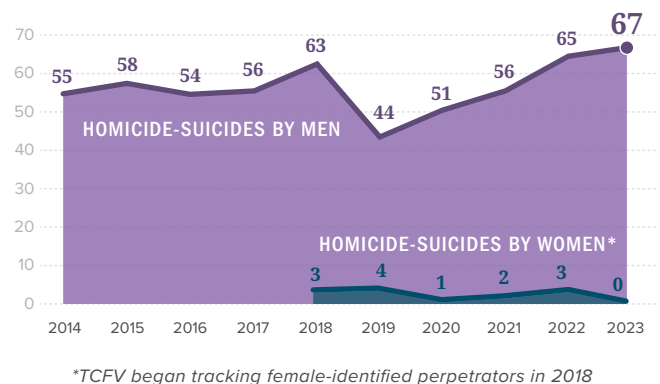
### Nineteen percent of perpetrators had a known history of violence against the homicide victim or a previous partner.

Thirty-three men and six women had an identified history of violence against the homicide victim or a previous partner. Authorities charged 134 perpetrators who killed their partners with capital murder, murder, manslaughter, or aggravated assault. Of those charged, seven men and one woman remained at large and 14 have been convicted and sentenced. Sixty-seven men died by suicide after killing their partners, one man was killed by law enforcement responding to the homicides, and three men died by other means.

### HOMICIDE SUICIDES

Thirty-two percent of perpetrators killed themselves following intimate partner homicides. All homicide-suicides were perpetrated by men, who are much more likely to die by suicide after committing intimate partner homicide. In 2023, no homicide-suicides were perpetrated by women. In Texas, homicide-suicides increased five percent from 2022 to 2023.

The number of men who died by suicide was higher in 2023 than any year in the last decade.



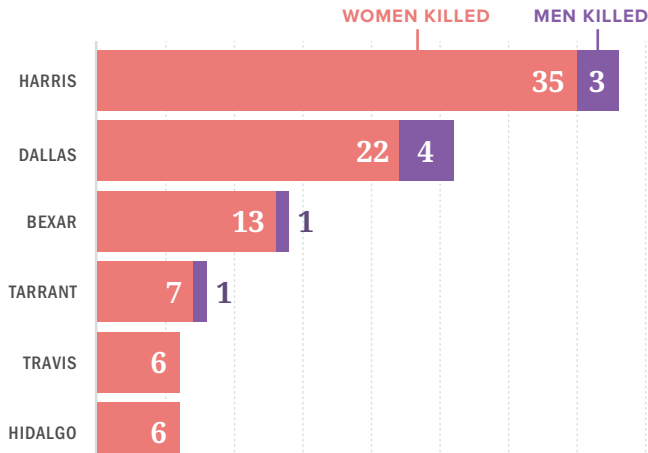
### INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES ACROSS TEXAS COMMUNITIES

The 205 homicides documented in this report occurred in 64 Texas counties in 2023. Fifty-four percent of homicides occurred in the ten most populous counties in the state.

<sup>7</sup> Understanding intimate partner violence in the LGBTQ+ community. (2023). Human Rights Campaign. <https://www.hrc.org/resources/understanding-intimate-partner-violence-in-the-lgbtq-community>.

Thirty-eight fatalities occurred in Harris County, 26 fatalities in Dallas County, 14 fatalities in Bexar County, eight fatalities in Tarrant County, seven fatalities in Collin County, six fatalities in Travis, Hidalgo, and El Paso Counties, three fatalities in Montgomery County, and one fatality occurred in Williamson County. In comparison to 2022, Harris County had a 25% decrease in fatalities, while Dallas County had a 30% increase.

**Texas counties with the largest populations report the highest number of fatalities.**



Forty percent of homicides occurred in mid-size urban counties. Seven percent of homicides in 2023 occurred in 15 rural-designated counties.

| County    | Total Homicides | Women Killed | Men Killed |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| ANDERSON  | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| ARANSAS   | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| ATASCOSA  | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| BANDERA   | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| BELL      | 3               | 2            | 1          |
| BEXAR     | 14              | 13           | 1          |
| BRAZOS    | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| CAMERON   | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| CHAMBERS  | 1               | 0            | 1          |
| CLAY      | 1               | 0            | 1          |
| COLLIN    | 4               | 3            | 1          |
| COMAL     | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| DALLAS    | 26              | 22           | 4          |
| DENTON    | 4               | 4            | 0          |
| ECTOR     | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| EL PASO   | 4               | 2            | 2          |
| FORT BEND | 4               | 4            | 0          |

| County      | Total Homicides | Women Killed | Men Killed |
|-------------|-----------------|--------------|------------|
| GALVESTON   | 4               | 4            | 4          |
| GRAY        | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| GRAYSON     | 2               | 1            | 1          |
| GREGG       | 3               | 2            | 1          |
| HARRIS      | 38              | 35           | 3          |
| HARRISON    | 2               | 1            | 1          |
| HAYS        | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| HIDALGO     | 6               | 6            | 0          |
| HOOD        | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| JASPER      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| JEFFERSON   | 3               | 2            | 1          |
| JIM WELLS   | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| JOHNSON     | 3               | 3            | 0          |
| JONES       | 1               | 0            | 1          |
| KAUFMAN     | 2               | 1            | 1          |
| LAVACA      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| LIBERTY     | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| LUBBOCK     | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| McLENNAN    | 3               | 2            | 1          |
| MIDLAND     | 4               | 4            | 0          |
| MONTAGUE    | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| MONTGOMERY  | 3               | 3            | 0          |
| NACOGDOCHES | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| NAVARRO     | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| NUECES      | 5               | 4            | 1          |
| ORANGE      | 3               | 2            | 1          |
| PARKER      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| POTTER      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| ROBERTSON   | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| ROCKWALL    | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| SAN JACINTO | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| SAN SABA    | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| SCURRY      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| SHELBY      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| SMITH       | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| TARRANT     | 8               | 7            | 1          |
| TAYLOR      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| TOM GREEN   | 2               | 1            | 1          |
| TRAVIS      | 6               | 6            | 0          |
| UPSHUR      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| VICTORIA    | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| WALKER      | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| WALLER      | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| WEBB        | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| WICHITA     | 2               | 2            | 0          |
| WILLIAMSON  | 1               | 1            | 0          |
| WISE        | 2               | 2            | 0          |

## SECTION IV

# Recognizing Lethal Risk Factors During Separation and Help-seeking

**B**reaking away from an abusive relationship can be perilous, even prior to any physical harm. In the early stages of separation or even at the slightest attempts to leave an abusive relationship, survivors face significant threats. Perpetrators of family violence tend to continue the coercive control and tactics post-separation forcing survivors to navigate complex decisions. Child visitations, moving to a new location, collecting belongings, or seeking help can lead to life-threatening situations.

### Abusive partners often escalate violence and threats post-separation.

The case narratives in this report highlight the heightened danger domestic violence offenders pose post-separation. Violence and threats often escalate as abusers attempt to gain control. The homicide victims in 2023 faced stalking, digital abuse, threats, and coercion before and after leaving. In 53 homicide cases, high risk lethality indicators were identified, including violent jealousy, controlling behaviors, threats to kill or use weapons, strangulation, increased severity of physical violence, and stalking.<sup>8</sup> In 16 cases with known high-risk indicators, victims reported abusive behaviors to law enforcement.

Abusive partners who use strangulation as a method to assault their partners are seven times more likely to kill this partner.<sup>9</sup> Strangulation, asphyxiation, and any form of impeding breath is one of the key lethality indicators of escalating dangerousness. In seven homicide cases, victims had reported prior strangulation assaults to law enforcement. In approximately half of the strangulation assault cases, victims were pregnant, and in one case, the victim had an infant. The strangulation assaults were addressed through various mechanisms, including Magistrates Orders of Emergency Protection, no contact orders, firearm prohibitions, and deferred adjudication.

### Over half of the homicide victims had taken steps to address the abuse.

TCFV identified that 52% of victims killed in 2023 by an intimate partner had taken steps to address the abuse. Ninety-two victims had ended or taken steps to end the abusive relationships, including relocating, filing for divorce, seeking a protective order, or telling someone they planned to end their relationship. Fifteen victims were in the process of ending their relationships immediately prior to being killed.

Thirty-three victims discussed relationship abuse with friends or family members. Law enforcement responded in 25 identified cases prior to the murders. Eight victims had received Magistrates Orders of Emergency Protection (MOEPs) or planned to apply for protective orders. Fifteen victims sought protection by other means, including reporting parole or probation violations and seeking mental health services for their abusive partners. Information regarding domestic violence advocacy services is not available due to confidentiality and privacy protections.

To expand engagement on the issue of reducing lethality risk posed by strangulation, stalking and the intersection of firearms and family violence, TCFV has begun the work to create a taskforce to assess data available on these lethality factors and make recommendations for the Legislature.

### While research and analysis of intimate partner homicide is critical, it is imperative we act to create a legal response grounded in prevention and survivor safety.

8 Campbell, Jacquelyn C., et al. "Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study." *American Journal of Public Health*, vol. 93, no. 7, 2003, pp. 1089-97, doi:10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089.

9 Glass, Nancy, et al. "Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women." *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*, vol. 35, no. 3, 2008, pp. 329-35, doi:10.1016/j.jemermed.2007.02.065.

## SECTION V

# Identifying and Mitigating Barriers to Safety & Wellbeing

### CRITICAL CARE: THE DANGERS FACED BY PREGNANT SURVIVORS AND LIMITED ACCESS TO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

**T**he intersections of reproductive and sexual health and the complex dynamics of intimate partner violence (IPV) are many. These intersections underscore the critical need for comprehensive support and services to address the unique challenges faced by survivors. People who use harm in their relationships employ a variety of tactics to exert and maintain power and control over their partners. These tactics often extend into the realm of reproductive and sexual health, impacting survivors' bodily autonomy and well-being.

One of the most common abusive tactics used is reproductive coercion—when a person using harm manipulates or restricts a survivor's reproductive choices. This can involve coerced pregnancy, contraception sabotage, or pressure to have unprotected sex, all of which undermine survivors' agency over their bodies and reproductive futures. In Texas, where rates of reproductive coercion are three times the national average<sup>10</sup> and access to reproductive healthcare can be limited by factors such as geographic distance, financial barriers, and restrictive legislation, survivors often face heightened challenges in seeking support and accessing essential services.

Additionally, sexual violence often co-occurs within abusive relationships, further complicating survivors' reproductive and sexual health. Survivors may experience coerced or non-consensual sexual activity, leading to unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and

psychological trauma. Sexual violence can occur in both casual and committed short-term and long-term relationships and in marriages. In Texas, where comprehensive sexual education may be lacking in schools and where stigma surrounding sexual health persists, survivors may encounter barriers in accessing accurate information, preventative measures, and healthcare services.

The intersection of reproductive and sexual health with intimate partner violence grows more complex when considered through the broader lens of social determinants of health. Marginalized communities, including Black, Indigenous, and Latinx populations, members of the LGBTQ+ community, undocumented individuals, people experiencing homelessness, and low-income individuals face compounded barriers to accessing reproductive and sexual healthcare and IPV support services in Texas due to systemic inequities and discrimination.

For survivors who are pregnant and in the postpartum period, there are serious risks of violence and lethality. Violence can begin or escalate when a survivor becomes pregnant, and pregnant survivors are at a higher risk of increased severity of violence, including incidents of strangulation.<sup>11,12</sup> Homicide is a leading cause of death for pregnant and postpartum women.<sup>13</sup> A recent study found that homicide is the leading cause of maternal mortality during pregnancy and in the immediate postpartum period, and that younger women as well as Black women and girls were most at risk of homicide.<sup>14</sup> Many women killed by their intimate partners were shot, highlighting the lethal role firearm access has in intimate partner violence homicides. One national study found that 68% of homicides of pregnant

- 10 Wood, L., Backes, B.L., McGiffert, M., Wang, A., Thompson, J. & Wasim, A. (2019). Texas state plan 2018: Availability of services at Texas family violence programs and assessment of unmet needs of survivors of family violence. Austin, Texas: The University of Texas at Austin Steve Hicks School of Social Work and Texas Council on Family Violence.
- 11 National Domestic Violence Hotline. (n.d). Pregnancy and Abuse: How to Stay Safe for Your 9 Months. <https://www.thehotline.org/resources/pregnancy-and-abuse-how-to-stay-safe-for-your-9-months/>.
- 12 Mcquown, C., Frey, J., Steer, S., Fletcher, G. E., Kinkopf, B., Fakler, M., & Prulhiere, V. (2016). Prevalence of strangulation in survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. *American Journal of Emergency Medicine*, (7), 1281. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajem.2016.04.029>
- 13 Chang, Jeani; Cynthia Berg; Linda Saltzman; and Joy Herndon. 2005. Homicide: A Leading Cause of Injury Deaths Among Pregnant and Postpartum Women in the United States, 1991-1999. *American Journal of Public Health*. 95(3): 471-477.
- 14 Wallace et al., Homicide During Pregnancy and the Postpartum Period in the United States, 2018–2019 (Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc, 2021) Volume 138, Issue 5, pp 762-769.

women involved firearms.<sup>15</sup> The high potential for harm and lethality pregnant survivors face makes them a particularly vulnerable population.

In 2023, TCFV documented five women who were pregnant when they were murdered by their intimate partners, and two women who were assaulted when they were pregnant prior to being killed. One victim was killed when she refused her partner's demands to become pregnant. Another victim was killed after attempting to access abortion care while trying to escape an abusive relationship.

There are efforts underway in Texas to address the intersection of reproductive and sexual health with intimate partner violence. Advocacy organizations, community-based initiatives, and healthcare providers work to raise awareness, expand access to resources, and promote survivor-centered approaches to care. Additionally, legislative efforts aimed at improving access to reproductive healthcare and strengthening protections for survivors of intimate partner violence are ongoing, although they may face opposition and obstacles.

The intersection of reproductive and sexual health with intimate partner violence is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a holistic and intersectional approach to address effectively. Efforts to implement prevention education, bolster support services for survivors, and promote reproductive and sexual autonomy must consider the unique social, cultural, and systemic factors at play while working towards a future where all individuals can live free from violence and coercion.

## **FIREARMS & PROTECTIVE ORDERS: FULL ENFORCEMENT OF PROTECTIONS AVAILABLE TO SURVIVORS AT HIGH RISK**

**I**n February 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit struck down a provision of federal law created through the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that prohibits people subject to domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms. Because the Fifth Circuit's jurisdiction includes Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, that decision prevented application of the federal firearm prohibition enforcement in those states. Fortunately for survivors, Texas has a state law that mirrors the federal law

in prohibiting possession of a firearm by respondents in protective order cases while the protective order remains in effect. That law, contained in Section 46.04 (c) of the Texas Penal Code, remained in effect while *United States v. Rahimi*<sup>16</sup> made its way up to the US Supreme Court.

Protective orders are a key remedy available for survivors to bolster their safety planning and are a critical tool as they are one of the only legal remedies that do not require a survivor to interact with the criminal legal system. These orders provide a crucial mechanism for survivors to directly petition for a civil court order to address and protect them from family violence. The Fifth Circuit's decision in *Rahimi* weakened the protection afforded through protective orders to survivors and significantly diminished accountability for respondents by removing the firearm prohibitions.

This decision was sent to the US Supreme Court (SCOTUS) for review, and the Court heard arguments in the *Rahimi* case in November 2023, issuing its opinion on June 21, 2024. In a historic eight to one opinion, the Court overturned the Fifth Circuit's decision and reinstated the federal firearms prohibition for respondents in domestic violence protective order cases, saying:

“When a restraining order contains a finding that an individual poses a credible threat to the physical safety of an intimate partner, that individual may—consistent with the Second Amendment—be banned from possessing firearms while the [protective] order is in effect.”

SCOTUS's overwhelming rejection of the Fifth Circuit's decision, and the reasoning behind that decision, was joined by eight justices in the majority, leaving Justice Clarence Thomas as the sole dissenter. The Court's strong statement in support of survivor safety underscores that this remains a bipartisan issue. While the immediate danger presented by the Fifth Circuit's ruling has been removed, there is still a great deal of work to be done to fulfill the promise of full implementation of laws pertaining to prohibited possessors to enhance safety for survivors from the presence of firearms in family violence situations.

In 2022, prior to the *Rahimi* ruling, TCFV reported over 70% of intimate partner homicides involved a firearm. Further compounding this tragic outcome is a continued upward trend of full Texas domestic violence shelters. In 2011, just

15 Modest AM, Prater LC, Joseph NT. Pregnancy-Associated Homicide and Suicide: An Analysis of the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2008-2019. *Obstet Gynecol.* 2022 Oct 1;140(4):565-573. doi: 10.1097/AOG.0000000000004932. Epub 2022 Sep 7. PMID: 36075083.

16 *United States v. Zackey Rahimi*, 602 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2024). [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/23pdf/22-915\\_8o6b.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/23pdf/22-915_8o6b.pdf)

over 20% of survivors were denied shelter simply because the shelter was full. By 2022, just under 60% of survivors seeking shelter were denied due to capacity. The number can be as high as 75% in some major metro areas. Twenty-nine shelters reaching capacity have dire consequences for survivors. While fleeing abusive relationships, survivors can choose to seek support at community centers or with friends and family. However, thousands of survivors with dire safety concerns, such as having an abusive partner who has a firearm, must seek safety at a shelter each year.

SCOTUS has done the important work of ensuring that federal firearms prohibitions, and the state laws across the country that mirror them, will continue to provide critical protections for family violence survivors. Here in Texas, consistent application of those prohibitions, coupled with creation and implementation of effective firearms transfer protocols, is necessary to ensure that this safety promise is kept.

## HEIGHTENED RISK: THE INTERSECTION OF BARRIERS FACED BY IMMIGRANT SURVIVORS AND INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

**V**iolence is a significant motivator for transnational immigration and similarly, migration acts as a strategy to resist and escape violence.<sup>17</sup> Importantly, women are more vulnerable to violence during times of war or conflict in their home countries, when they are experiencing displacement, and when they are migrating.<sup>18</sup> For women who are immigrating to the United States through Latin America, the process of immigrating, itself, is often plagued by the risk of verbal, physical, and sexual violence as well as the risks of exploitation and human trafficking.<sup>19</sup> In recent decades, Texas and the broader U.S. Southwest have experienced an increase in the number of women escaping violence in their home countries by immigrating to the United

States.<sup>20</sup> Many of these women, who often travel with their children, are survivors of gender-based violence.<sup>21</sup>

Unfortunately, these experiences of gender-based violence do not end once an immigrant survivor has arrived in the United States; which is to say that many immigrant survivors have experienced violence before, during, and after resettling in the United States.<sup>22</sup> In addition to the types of coercion and control faced by survivors who are naturalized United States citizens, immigrant survivors—and particularly those who are undocumented—not only face challenges to legitimize their status within the federal apparatus but experience unique forms of coercion and control. For these survivors, their racial and ethnic identities, their language proficiency in this country, socio-economic status, political affiliations, sexual orientation, isolation from loved ones in their home country, and their religious background may shape the sort of abuse perpetrated against them and inform the resources available to them as they overcome abusive conditions.<sup>23</sup> In many cases, the mere existence of the barriers associated with being an immigrant in the United States amplifies a person using harm’s ability to pressure, control, and coerce their partner.

In 2023, TCFV identified seven victims who immigrated to the United States. This information is generally limited to statements made to the media by the victims’ families or in their published obituaries, so this is likely an underrepresentation of immigrant victims. Among the identified cases, immigrant victims experienced many of these known barriers. At least one victim was held in a detention center after migrating to Texas and before applying for asylum. Another victim reported to her family that her abusive partner was interfering with her efforts to learn English. Another victim was pregnant and cut off from her support network.

In a survey of immigrant survivors conducted by Dr. Laurie Cook Heffron in 2018, survivor respondents stated that

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- 17 Salcido, O. & Adelman, M. (2004). “He Has Me Tied with the Blessed and Damned Papers”: Undocumented-Immigrant Battered Women in Phoenix, Arizona. *Human Organization*, 63(2), 162-172. See also Argüelles, L. and Rivero, A.M. (1993). *Gender/Sexual Orientation Violence and Transnational Migration: Conversations with Some Latinas We Think We Know*. *Urban Anthropology and Studies of Cultural Systems and World Economic Development*, 22, (3/4): 259-275. See Vogt, W. A. (2012). *Ruptured journeys, ruptured lives: Central American migration, transnational violence, and hope in southern Mexico* (doctoral dissertation). University of Arizona.
- 18 Hajdukowski-Ahmed, M., Khanlou, N. & Moussa, H. (Eds) (2008) *Not Born a Refugee Woman: Contesting Identities, Rethinking Practices*. Berghahn, New York.
- 19 See Amnesty International (2010). *Invisible victims: Migrants on the move in Mexico*. London, Amnesty International Publications. See also Infante, C., Idrovo, A. J., Sanchez-Dominguez, M. S., Vinhas, S., & Gonzalez-Vazquez, T. (2012). Violence Committed Against Migrants in Transit: Experiences on the Northern Mexican Border. *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*, 14(3), 449-459.
- 20 Cook Heffron, Laurie. *Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence*, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, p. 4.
- 21 Cook Heffron, Laurie. *Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence*, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, p. 4.
- 22 Cook Heffron, Laurie. *Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence*, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, p. 7.
- 23 Villalon, Roberta. *Violence Against Latina Immigrants: Citizenship, Inequality, and Community*, New York University Press, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utxa/detail.action?docID=866035>, p. 1.

they experienced economic abuse from their partners. The most reported strategies were that their partner would keep them from having their own money and would interfere with their ability to work.<sup>24</sup> Similarly, immigrant survivors may be exploited by employers who may require them to work longer hours, who may withhold benefits, and who may withhold payment.<sup>25</sup> A combination of economic justice issues and incidents of domestic violence often led respondents to experience homelessness; in fact, more than half of the respondents reported experiencing homelessness.<sup>26</sup> As this survey reveals, finding safe and stable living arrangements once in the United States can be an obstacle for immigrant survivors, and in particular, immigrant survivors who are in rural areas without shelters or survivors who do not have their own private transportation. As Dr. Cook Heffron described in this report, many immigrants are released from detention without access to the very paperwork that would allow them to legally rent an apartment in the United States. Respondents to this survey also described experiencing reproductive coercion, where the most common strategies by perpetrators of abuse were pressuring the survivor to have their baby by threatening to father someone else's child and accusing the survivor of cheating when the survivor suggested using contraceptives.<sup>27</sup>

A common experience of abuse faced by immigrant survivors across the United States is attacks on their immigration status. Perpetrators may leverage the fear of deportation to isolate survivors from their networks of informal support

and limit their access to formal support services. This can include withholding immigration or evidentiary documents, sabotaging attempts to obtain legal status, or threatening to report the survivor to immigration authorities. In instances where immigrant survivors are married to U.S. citizen perpetrators, it is common for the U.S. citizen partner to promise to help naturalize their immigrant partner but then fail to present the necessary paperwork to USCIS, to begin the process and then refuse to pay the related fees, to rescind applications submitted on behalf of their partners, or to fail to show up for USCIS interviews—all of which limit the immigrant partner's opportunities to become a legal resident.<sup>28</sup> Further, even when undocumented survivors may have a path toward legitimizing their immigration status, the cost and complexity of this process may dissuade some from pursuing these remedies.<sup>29</sup> This is to say nothing of the documented experiences of immigrant women who report violence and harassment while within detention centers.<sup>30</sup> In other words, some immigrant survivors may perceive that staying in violent relationships is safer than seeking help.<sup>31</sup>

It is important to consider the current landscape in which many immigrant survivors in the United States find themselves, for example: restricted access to pathways toward legitimizing their status like U VISA and asylum;<sup>32</sup> expanded use of immigration detention;<sup>33</sup> family separations;<sup>34</sup> delays in processing immigration petitions; and the strengthening of the public charge rule.<sup>35</sup> During the third and fourth legislative special sessions in 2023, Texas passed two new immigration measures into law, both named SB 4. The first

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- 24 Cook Heffron, Laurie. Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, 15.
- 25 Johnson, K. (2007). *Opening the Floodgates: Why America Needs to Rethink Its Borders and Immigration Laws*. New York: NYU Press, p.120. See also Cook Heffron, Laurie. Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, 21-24.
- 26 Cook Heffron, Laurie. Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, 28.
- 27 Cook Heffron, Laurie. Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, 18.
- 28 Villalon, Roberta. *Violence Against Latina Immigrants : Citizenship, Inequality, and Community*, New York University Press, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utxa/detail.action?docID=866035>, p. 35.
- 29 Johnson, K. (2007). *Opening the Floodgates: Why America Needs to Rethink Its Borders and Immigration Laws*. New York: NYU Press, p.126.
- 30 Cantor, R. (2015). *Hieleras (Iceboxes) in the Rio Grande Valley Sector*. American Immigration Council. Retrieved from: <http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org>. See also Cook Heffron, L. (2018). "Salía de uno y me metí en otro:" Exploring the migration-violence nexus among Central American women. *Violence against Women*. See also Cook Heffron, L., Serrata, J. V., & Hurtado, G. (2018). *Latino Immigrant Women & Children's Well-Being & Access to Services After Detention*. *Latino Public Policy*, 6, <https://scholar.smu.edu/latino-policy/6> See also UT Immigration Law Clinic (2018). *Locking Up Justice: Report to United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants*. See also Women's Refugee Commission (2017). *Prison for survivors: The detention of women seeking asylum in the United States*. Retrieved from [www.womensrefugeecommission.org](http://www.womensrefugeecommission.org).
- 31 Villalon, Roberta. *Violence Against Latina Immigrants : Citizenship, Inequality, and Community*, New York University Press, 2010. ProQuest Ebook Central, <https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/utxa/detail.action?docID=866035>, p. 178.
- 32 Kim, Seung Min, Long, Colleen, and Groves, Stephen. Biden rolls out asylum restrictions, months in the making, to help "gain control" of the border. AP News. June 5, 2024.
- 33 Data Report, Operation Lone Star: Misinformation and Discrimination in Texas Border Enforcement. ACLU of Texas. May 22, 2024.
- 34 Chishti, M. & Bolter, J. (2018). *Family Separation and "Zero-Tolerance" Policies Rolled Out to Stem Unwanted Migrants, But May Face Challenges*. Migration Policy Institute. Retrieved from: [www.migrationpolicy.org](http://www.migrationpolicy.org).
- 35 Cook Heffron, Laurie. Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, 9.

SB 4 increased the mandatory minimum sentence for those convicted of smuggling and went into effect in February 2023. The second SB 4 created a new criminal charge for illegally entering the state of Texas and is tied up in challenges at the circuit court level at the time of this writing. These legislative changes have generated confusion among survivors seeking lifesaving support from domestic violence programs.

Additionally, immigrant survivors who would like to access these formal resources may experience barriers to their help seeking, for example: language barriers, lack of awareness or information, pressure to maintain gender role expectations, and discrimination.<sup>36</sup> While informal supports—like faith communities, friends, coworkers, and family—are important mitigators against violence, immigrant and citizen survivors alike often experience a fear of stigma that might hinder their ability to reach out to these support systems.<sup>37</sup> When seeking formal support, immigrant survivors may struggle to find service providers who speak their language or understand their cultural context, making it difficult to access information about their rights and available resources. Similarly, as newcomers to this country, recent

immigrant survivors may experience a lack of knowledge of the resources available to them (combined with a critical lack of linguistically responsive services) which, in turn, negatively impacts their ability to access housing, health-care, and other supports.<sup>38</sup>

In the context of this report, these barriers must be kept in mind as immigrant survivors at a high risk of lethality clearly face even greater barriers when seeking help. Services and policies meant to support immigrant survivors may inadvertently replicate the already existing discrimination and inequities immigrant survivors experience without these mechanisms. The need for tailored services for immigrant survivors is especially true in our state, which is home to the second largest populations of both documented and undocumented immigrants within the United States.<sup>39</sup> The intersection of immigration and domestic violence is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a holistic and intersectional approach to address effectively. Efforts to implement prevention education, bolster support services for survivors, and promote immigrant rights must consider the unique social, cultural, and systemic factors at play while working towards a future where all individuals can live free from violence and coercion.

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- 36 Acevedo, M. J. (2000). Battered immigrant Mexican women's perspectives regarding abuse and help-seeking. *Journal of Multicultural Social Work*, 8(3-4), 243-282. See also Bauer, H. M., Rodriguez, M. A., Quiroga, S. S., & Flores-Ortiz, Y. G. (2000). Barriers to health care for abused Latina and Asian immigrant women. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 11(1), 33-44. See also Hass, G. A., Dutton, M. A., & Orloff, L. E. (2000). Lifetime prevalence of violence against Latina immigrants: Legal and policy implications. *International Review of Victimology*, 7(1-3), 93-113. See also Reina, A. S., Lohman, B. J., & Maldonado, M. M. (2014). "He said they'd deport me" factors influencing domestic violence help-seeking practices among Latina immigrants. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29(4), 593-615.
- 37 Abraham, Margaret. *Speaking the Unspeakable: Marital Violence Among South Asian Immigrants in the United States*. Rutgers University Press, 2000. EBSCOhost, [search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=44401&site=ehost-live](https://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=44401&site=ehost-live). P. 118.
- 38 Cook Heffron, Laurie. *Access to Services among Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence*, Texas Council on Family Violence. January 2019, p. 7. See also Acevedo, M. J. (2000). Battered immigrant Mexican women's perspectives regarding abuse and help-seeking. *Journal of Multicultural Social Work*, 8(3-4), 243-282. See also Bauer, H. M., Rodriguez, M. A., Quiroga, S. S., & Flores-Ortiz, Y. G. (2000). Barriers to health care for abused Latina and Asian immigrant women. *Journal of health care for the poor and underserved*, 11(1), 33-44. See also Lake, C., Snell, A., Gormley, C., Wiefek, N., & Lethbridge-Cejku, F. (2015). *No Más Study: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault in the Latin@ Community*. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801218807089>.
- 39 U.S. and Texas Immigration Background (Part 1). Texas Legislative Study Group, February 16, 2024. <https://texaslg.org/2024/02/16/u-s-and-texas-immigration-background/#:~:text=In%202023%2C%20the%20U.S.%20foreign,17.2%25%20of%20the%20Texas%20population.>



# Honoring Texas Victims

VICTIM NARRATIVES



## ANDERSON COUNTY

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### *Brittany Johnson, 30*

**MARCH 2, 2023 | PALESTINE**

Brittany Johnson died at a hospital after her ex-boyfriend, Joseph Cole, 50, shot her at her home and fled. Emergency responders transported Brittany to a hospital and authorities issued a warrant for Cole's arrest. Cole has a history of violence against Brittany. In October 2020, he strangled and assaulted Brittany when she was 16-weeks pregnant. Brittany was issued an emergency protective order against Cole, who later pled guilty to assault family violence, impeding breath and assault of a pregnant person. Cole received deferred adjudication. Conditions of his community supervision required he attend a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program (BIPP) and prohibited Cole from possessing a firearm. Brittany is survived by her children.

## ARANSAS COUNTY

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### *Sharon Simmons, 59*

**JULY 13, 2023 | ROCKPORT**

Sharon Simmons died after her boyfriend, Richard Becker, 57, shot and killed her at home. Becker also shot and injured Sharon's friend, who fled the home and called 911. Three children were in the home, including two of Sharon's grandchildren. A SWAT team breached the door and found Becker had shot and killed himself. Sharon is survived by her four sons and one daughter.

“She poured her heart into the well-being and happiness of her children and grandchildren.”

## ATASCOSA COUNTY

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### *Mary Heinz, 32*

**JUNE 29, 2023 | LEMING**

Mary Heinz died after a person she briefly dated, Rosendo Montoya, 27, broke into her home, shot, and killed her. Montoya also shot and killed Mary's roommate, Laura West, 43. He attempted to cover up the crime scene by starting a fire near her body. Montoya then absconded with Mary's body. Firefighters who responded to the home found Laura deceased. Law enforcement placed Montoya under surveillance and observed Montoya disposing of bags of evidence. Montoya was detained and questioned when he confessed to killing both Mary and Laura. Later, he led authorities to the location of Mary's remains. Prior to the murder, Mary's family reported that Montoya had been stalking Mary, and that Mary had planned to file a restraining order. Authorities charged Montoya with capital murder and set a bond of \$1 million. Montoya pled guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Mary is survived by her two children, ages 7 and 9.

## BANDERA COUNTY

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### *Amber Ashlaw, 34*

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 | LAKE MEDINA SHORES**

Amber Ashlaw died when her boyfriend, Andrew Lester, 34, shot and killed her. Lester fled and law enforcement pursued him to a store, where they exchanged fire. Emergency responders transported Lester to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Lester with murder. In December 2021, Lester was arrested on domestic violence charges when he strangled and threatened an intimate partner with a firearm in Duval County, Florida. Amber is survived by her three children.

## BELL COUNTY

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### *Chu Cha McGranahan-Valentine, 79*

**MAY 28, 2023 | KILLEEN**

Chu Cha McGranahan-Valentine died after her husband, Terry Lee Valentine, shot and killed her in their home. A grand jury indicted Valentine for negligent manslaughter and he was released on a \$50,000 bond. Chu is survived by her five adult children.

### *Daniel Francisco-Jose Vidal, 19*

**JUNE 9, 2023 | KILLEEN**

Daniel Francisco-Jose Vidal died when his boyfriend, Ryan Conway, 29, shot and killed him in a vehicle. Conway then shot and killed himself.

### *Yessica Diaz-Pineda, 28*

**SEPTEMBER 9, 2023 | TEMPLE**

Yessica Diaz-Pineda died in a hotel room when her boyfriend, Yeison Bejarano Berrio, 29, assaulted and killed her. A friend filed a missing person report after not hearing from Yessica. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and discovered Yessica deceased inside the hotel room. Authorities arrested and charged Bejarano Berrio with murder. He has a history of violence against Yessica including an assault she reported in July 2023, when she ended the relationship.

## BEXAR COUNTY

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### *Alyssa Perez, 26*

**JANUARY 27, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Alyssa Perez died when her ex-boyfriend, Lazerith Carillo, 18, shot and killed her in a vehicle. Carillo also shot and killed Alyssa's friend, Edward Acosta Jimenez, 32. Carillo fled and attempted to carjack an occupied vehicle. Alyssa had ended the relationship with Carillo. One week prior to the murder, he had fired a gun at Alyssa's vehicle. Authorities arrested him and charged him with capital murder and robbery and burglary of vehicles.

## BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

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### *Shannon Martinez, 37*

**MARCH 18, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Shannon Martinez died in her home when her husband, Jeremy Martinez, 43, shot and killed her. Martinez also shot and killed their daughter, Bailey, 7, before shooting and killing himself. Authorities found them deceased after Shannon's family requested a welfare check. Shannon had filed for divorce two months prior to the murder.

### *Zachary Williamson, 41*

**APRIL 6, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Zachary Williamson died when his ex-girlfriend, Israel Reyes, 23, shot and killed him in her apartment. Authorities arrested and charged Reyes with murder. Reyes has a history of violence against Zachary and a previous partner. In 2018, authorities arrested Reyes for setting fire to her previous boyfriend's home and endangering a child. Zachary is survived by his sons.

### *Jade Alvarez, 22*

**APRIL 6, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Jade Alvarez died when her boyfriend, Adam Byrd, 23, shot and killed her. Byrd fled and authorities later questioned him regarding a robbery that happened days earlier. Byrd admitted to killing Jade after trying to force her to get pregnant, but she had refused. Jade is survived by her son, age 3.

### *Briann Hernandez, 30*

**MAY 3, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Briann Hernandez died when her boyfriend, Albert Casanova, Jr., 39, shot and killed her at a hotel. Casanova left the hotel in Briann's vehicle. The next day, hotel staff found Briann and called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Casanova with murder. Casanova is being held in jail on a \$200,000 bond for murder. Casanova had a criminal background resulting in firearm prohibitions. Briann is survived by her son, age 3.

### *Desiree Fisher, 24*

**AUGUST 4, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Desiree Fisher died when her boyfriend, Calaseo Brown, 20, shot and killed her. Zephaniah Cleaver, 17, and Demarcus Whitley, 18, conspired with Brown and shot Desiree. Authorities arrested and charged Brown with murder; his bond was set at \$200,000. Authorities also arrested and charged Cleaver and Whitley with murder.

### *Emily Lopez, 33*

**AUGUST 11, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Emily Lopez died when her boyfriend, Jonathan Vasquez, 41, stabbed and killed her. Vasquez then killed himself. Emily is survived by her son and her three daughters.

## BEXAR COUNTY *continued*

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### *Deanna Mason, 34*

**AUGUST 13, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Deanna Mason died when her boyfriend, Giovanni Paschal, 40, shot and killed her at a gas station. Paschal then fled. Emergency responders transported Deanna to a hospital where she died. Authorities arrested Paschal and charged him with murder; he was held on a \$150,000 bond.

### *Priscilla Silva, 37*

**OCTOBER 16, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Priscilla Silva died after her boyfriend, Melvin McClary, 56, shot and killed her. McClary then shot and killed himself.

### *Allison Cevallos, 36*

**OCTOBER 20, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Allison Cevallos died when her fiancé, Michael Palafos, 37, shot and killed her in a vehicle. Palafos fled. Allison was five months pregnant. Authorities arrested and charged Palafos with capital murder. He pled guilty and was sentenced to 50 years in prison.

### *Tamika George, 24*

**NOVEMBER 3, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Tamika George died after her ex-boyfriend, Antonio Eladjoe, 23, shot and killed her at her home. Eladjoe then shot and killed himself. Eladjoe's mother found both deceased and called 911.

Tamika is survived by her daughter and son.

“It was just something about that day, when I kept calling her and she didn't answer...”

### *Teresa Morena Garcia, 66*

**DECEMBER 5, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Teresa Moreno Garcia died when her ex-husband, Martin Garcia Jr., 54, stabbed and killed her. Garcia then cut his wrists. Emergency responders transported Garcia to a hospital for treatment of injuries. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Teresa had divorced Garcia and was trying to have him evicted from the home.

She had planned to leave the home when she was killed. Teresa is survived by her sons.

### *Shamiah Allen, 21*

**DECEMBER 15, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Shamiah Allen died when her boyfriend, Donevyn Bowie, 22, shot and killed her. Officers found Shamiah deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Bowie with murder. His bond was set at \$100,000.

### *Eriawna Curry, 25*

**DECEMBER 28, 2023 | SAN ANTONIO**

Eriawna Curry died after her ex-husband, Ryan Walser, 27, shot her. Emergency responders transported her to a hospital where she died. Eriawna had separated from Walser and went to his home to collect her belongings. Authorities arrested and charged Walser with murder. Eriawna is survived by her sons, ages 1 month and 2 years.

## BRAZOS COUNTY

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### *Sherry Shugart, 44*

**JUNE 20, 2023 | COLLEGE STATION**

Sherry Shugart died when her husband, Brian Jutson Jr., 45, strangled and then stabbed her. Jutson called a family member and confessed to killing Sherry. Authorities arrested and charged Jutson with murder. He is being held on a \$500,000 bond and has been indicted for murder by a grand jury. Sherry is survived by her daughter and her two sons.

## CAMERON COUNTY

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### *Kassandra Roquemore, 25*

**FEBRUARY 19, 2023 | BROWNSVILLE**

Kassandra Roquemore died when her ex-boyfriend, Francisco Hernandez Jr., 29, shot and killed her. Hernandez, Mary Bodden, 30, and Michael Culvert, 30, moved Kassandra's body to an open field and set fire to her remains. A person extinguishing the grass fire found Kassandra deceased and called 911. In April 2023, authorities charged Hernandez with murder, abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence, and set a bond of \$1,030,000. Authorities charged Bodden with abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence and set a bond of \$30,000. In May 2024, authorities arrested Culvert at a port of entry, charging him with abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence, and set a bond of \$70,000. Hernandez has a history of violence, including a charge for dating violence in January 2023. A grand jury indicted Hernandez and Bodden.

### *Jocelyn Morales, 22*

**AUGUST 16, 2023 | BROWNSVILLE**

Jocelyn Morales died in her home after her husband, Abel Nava, 22, suffocated and killed her. Law enforcement officers found Jocelyn deceased after responding to a welfare check request. Authorities issued a warrant for Nava, arresting him the following day. Nava confessed to killing Jocelyn. Bond was set at \$1 million, and a grand jury indicted Nava for murder. Jocelyn is survived by her son.

## CHAMBERS COUNTY

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### *Joseph Hartsfield, 46*

**JANUARY 7, 2023 | BAYTOWN**

Joseph Hartsfield died in a hospital after his wife, Sarah Hartsfield, 47, injected him with high doses of insulin. When Joseph was unresponsive, Hartsfield contacted emergency responders. Healthcare providers reported concerns to investigators. Joseph died days later. Authorities arrested and charged Hartsfield with murder. Hartsfield has a history of violence and harassment against prior partners and family members. She was also implicated in a former fiancé's death. Joseph is survived by his son and daughter.

“His sudden passing has left a void in the hearts of his loved ones and everyone who knew him.”

## CLAY COUNTY

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### *Kenneth Douglas, 57*

**MARCH 24, 2023 | PETROLIA**

Kenneth Douglas died when his girlfriend, Brittany Rouleau, 37, stabbed and killed him in their home. Emergency responders attempted life-saving measures on Kenneth, then pronounced him deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Rouleau with murder, setting bond at \$600,000. At the time of the murder, Rouleau was on bond with Wichita County for several charges, including aggravated sexual assault of a child; in May 2024, a jury convicted Rouleau and sentenced her to 60 years in prison. The murder charges are still pending in Clay County.

## COLLIN COUNTY

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### *Layla Sherwani, 38*

**AUGUST 28, 2023 | ALLEN**

Layla Sherwani died after her husband, Farman Sherwani, 41, shot and killed her in their home. Sherwani also shot and killed their sons, Shaheen Sherwani, age 12, and Mateen Sherwani, age 2. Family members requested a welfare check after being locked out of the home and unable to contact the family. Responding officers gained access and found Layla, Shaheen, Mateen, and Sherwani deceased.

### *Yul Dominique, 40*

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 | DALLAS**

Yul Dominique died when his girlfriend, Tiffany Colbert, 27, shot him. A grand jury indicted Colbert on murder charges. Colbert pled guilty to manslaughter and received a sentence of 18 years in prison.

### *Kayla Kelley, 33*

**JANUARY 18, 2023 | MCKINNEY**

Kayla Kelley died after her boyfriend, Ocastor Ferguson, 33, kidnapped and asphyxiated her. Ferguson set fire to Kayla's vehicle and buried her in a wooded area near his home in Grand Prairie. Authorities arrested Ferguson for kidnapping and after locating Kayla one week later, charged him with murder. A jury convicted Ferguson of murder and sentenced him to life in prison. Kayla had dated Ferguson for several months when she learned he had given her a false identity and he was married. Kayla confronted Ferguson before he kidnapped and killed her.

### *Nawreen Tuli, 31*

**DECEMBER 25, 2023 | MCKINNEY**

Nawreen Tuli died after her husband, Nasib Ahsan, 33, strangled and killed her at home. Ahsan called a relative and confessed to strangling Nawreen. Authorities responded to the home and found Nawreen deceased. Authorities arrested Ahsan, setting a bond at \$1 million. A grand jury indicted Ahsan for capital murder of multiple persons. A month prior, Ahsan was arrested for assaulting Nawreen and issued an emergency protective order. Nawreen was three months pregnant.

## COMAL COUNTY

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### *Andreanna Maria Flores, 19*

**MAY 19, 2023 | NEW BRAUNFELS**

Andreanna Flores died after her boyfriend, Gilberto Sepulveda, 25, killed her. Family members reported Andreanna missing in May 2023. Law enforcement officers arrested and charged Sepulveda with capital murder, continuous family violence and continuous violation of a protective order in May 2024. Sepulveda had a history of threats against Andreanna. She was trying to end her relationship with him when she disappeared. Andreanna is survived by her two children, ages 2 months and 2 years.

## DALLAS COUNTY

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### *Sheriffa Nelson, 31*

**JANUARY 29, 2023 | ADDISON**

Sheriffa Nelson died when her husband, Keone Israel, 42, stabbed and killed her in their home. Israel then cut and injured himself. Officers responding to a welfare check request found Sheriffa deceased, and Israel injured. Authorities arrested and charged Israel with murder. He pled guilty and received a sentence of 50 years in prison. Sheriffa is survived by her daughter, age 6.

### *Esmeralda De Jesus Marquez Rodriguez, 36*

**APRIL 23, 2023 | ADDISON**

Esmeralda De Jesus Marquez Rodriguez died when her boyfriend, Atilio Rivera, 46, strangled and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Rivera with murder. Esmeralda is survived by her two daughters and her son.

### *Hilda Gurrola, 34*

**NOVEMBER 21, 2023 | BALCH SPRINGS**

Hilda Gurrola died after her husband, Luis Pardo, 38, stabbed and killed her in their home. Their son and nephew were present. A week prior, Hilda had ended the relationship and moved out of the home with their children. Hilda returned with family members to retrieve belongings. Hilda's sister heard Hilda scream inside the home and attempted to stop Pardo from killing Hilda. Pardo then stole Hilda's sister's vehicle and fled. Family members called 911. A grand jury indicted Pardo for murder; he remains at large. Hilda is survived by her two daughters, ages 12 and 10, and son, age 3.

### *Venus Rodriguez, 16*

**JANUARY 16, 2023 | DALLAS**

Venus Rodriguez died after her boyfriend, Arturo Flores, 22, shot and killed her in his home. Flores moved Venus' body to a creek near the home. Venus' family was concerned about her relationship with Flores and reported her missing in September 2022. Neighbors witnessed Flores chasing Venus down the street and reported that Flores had physically assaulted Venus weeks before he murdered her. Authorities arrested and charged Flores with murder.



## DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Juan Diego Cruz, 18*

**MARCH 12, 2023 | DALLAS**

Juan Diego Cruz died when his ex-girlfriend, Azucena Sanchez, 20, shot and killed him. Sanchez broke into the home with Artemio Maldonado, 28, and shot and killed Juan's friend, Fatima Alvarado, 21, and Juan's brother and sister-in-law, Guadalupe Cruz, 25, and Jasmin Borja, 20. Family members went to the home after being unable to reach any of the victims and called 911. Juan and Sanchez had an ongoing child custody case for their infant son. Sanchez had been arrested for family violence assault against Juan and had signed an affidavit acknowledging she was prohibited from possessing firearms. Authorities arrested and charged Sanchez and Maldonado with capital murder. Juan is survived by his son.

### *Ra'Jean Jackson, 28*

**MARCH 16, 2023 | DALLAS**

Ra'Jean Jackson died after her boyfriend, Devante Traylor, 30, shot and killed her in his vehicle. Traylor has a history of family violence assault against a previous partner and was prohibited from possessing a firearm. Authorities arrested Traylor and charged him with murder. Ra'Jean is survived by her two daughters.

### *Marcel Ballard, 23*

**MARCH 25, 2023 | DALLAS**

Marcel Ballard died when his girlfriend, Delila Salinas, 23, hit him with a vehicle. A witness observed Salinas push Marcel and then drag and run over Marcel with the vehicle. Authorities arrested and charged Salinas with manslaughter.

### *Angelica Hinojosa, 28*

**APRIL 12, 2023 | DALLAS**

Angelica Hinojosa died when her ex-boyfriend, Juan Carlos Escamilla, 36, shot and killed her. Escamilla then shot and killed himself. Angelica's son was present. Angelica had tried to end the relationship with Escamilla. Angelica is survived by her son, age 11.

“**Nothing will ever  
be the same for our  
family ever again  
without her.**”

### *Andrea Garcia, 50*

**MAY 4, 2023 | DALLAS**

Andrea Garcia died when her boyfriend, William Jackson, 59, shot and killed her in their home. Andrea's roommate witnessed Jackson holding the firearm and leaving the home after the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged Jackson with murder. A grand jury indicted him. Andrea is survived by her daughter.

***Gabriella Gonzales, 26***

**MAY 10, 2023 | DALLAS**

Gabriella Gonzalez died when her boyfriend, Harold Thompson, 22, shot and killed her in her home. A witness saw and surveillance recorded Thompson put Gabriella in a chokehold before shooting her multiple times. Thompson had a criminal history with prior charges of domestic assault, which resulted in a warrant being issued for his arrest prior to the shooting. In March 2023, Gabriella reported a strangulation assault and abusive behaviors to police. During their relationship, Thompson isolated Gabriella from family, kept her from accessing her phone, and threatened to hurt her family members. Gabriella was pregnant when Thompson strangled her. She was attempting to end her relationship with Thompson. Authorities arrested and charged Thompson with murder; he was held without bond. Gabriella is survived by her two daughters and her son.

***Lusero Guzman, 22***

**JULY 20, 2023 | DALLAS**

Lusero Guzman died after her husband, Eric Thomas, 29, shot her. Thomas then called Lusero's friend and confessed to killing her. Lusero's children were in the home and Thomas exited the home with the children when law enforcement officers responded. Emergency responders transported Lusero to a hospital, where she died. Authorities arrested and charged Thomas with murder. He pled guilty and received a sentence of 40 years in prison. Lusero is survived by her three children.

***Becky Alvarado Tamayo, 39***

**JULY 27, 2023 | DALLAS**

Becky Alvarado Tamayo died when her husband, Cruse Tamayo, 35, shot and killed her. Officers responding to a welfare check request found Becky deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Tamayo with murder. The judge set bond at \$1 million. Becky is survived by her six children.

***Quinton Dean, 41***

**AUGUST 1, 2023 | DALLAS**

Quinton Dean died when his girlfriend, Anthaneta Bush, 35, stabbed him. U.S. Marshalls arrested Bush for a murder warrant and booked her into Bell County Jail in September 2024.

***Nancy Gonzalez, 29***

**AUGUST 26, 2023 | DALLAS**

Nancy Gonzalez died when her husband, Christian Lopez Ibarra, 33, shot and killed her. Ibarra then shot and killed himself. Nancy had separated from Ibarra. Nancy is survived by her three sons, ages 4 to 11.

## DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Gyjah Powers-Green, 21*

**AUGUST 26, 2023 | DALLAS**

Gyjah Powers-Green died when her boyfriend, Roberto Galloway, 44, shot and killed her in their home. Galloway then shot and killed himself. Officers responding to a request for a welfare check found them both deceased. Two weeks prior to shooting Gyjah, Galloway was arrested for assaulting her and prohibited from possessing a firearm under conditions of bond.

### *Jenean Chapman, 46*

**SEPTEMBER 25, 2023 | DALLAS**

Jenean Chapman died when her husband, James Patrick, 49, strangled and assaulted her in her home. Officers responded to a request for a welfare check and found Jenean deceased. Patrick has a history of violence against Jenean; she had informed family members Patrick strangled her to the point of losing consciousness in a recent assault. Jenean was separating from Patrick; he was moving out when he killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Patrick with murder; he was held on a \$1 million bond.

### *Dishaye Stevenson, 35*

**OCTOBER 24, 2023 | DALLAS**

Dishaye Stevenson died after her husband, Michael Smith, 39, shot and killed her in his vehicle. Family members reported they were unable to reach Dishaye. Authorities located Dishaye deceased on the side of the road the next day. Authorities arrested and charged Smith with murder, setting a bond of \$1 million. A grand jury indicted Smith for murder and the case is currently set for a jury trial. Dishaye was planning to divorce Smith. Dishaye is survived by her daughter.

### *Jeanifer Harris, 37*

**NOVEMBER 28, 2023 | DALLAS**

Jeanifer Harris died after her boyfriend, Roderick Terry Jr., 35, shot her. Terry then shot himself. Officers responded to the home, and emergency responders transported Jeanifer and Terry to a hospital, where they both died two days later. Jeanifer is survived by her daughter.

### *Brenda Cruz Gutierrez, 29*

**DECEMBER 30, 2023 | DALLAS**

Brenda Cruz Gutierrez died after her boyfriend, Juan Jesus Magana, 28, shot and killed her in his home. Magana then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to a welfare check and found Brenda and Magana deceased. Brenda is survived by her child.

## DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Catalina Andrade Valdez, 47*

**NOVEMBER 24, 2023 | FARMERS BRANCH**

Catalina Andrade Valdez died in her home after her husband, Jose Santiago Chairez, 49, shot and killed her. Chairez also shot and injured his daughter, age 18, and shot and killed Catalina's sister, Merced Bailon, 43. Authorities arrested Chairez, and a grand jury indicted him on charges of capital murder of multiple persons and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon family violence. Chairez is on an immigration hold with bond set at \$2.1 million.

### *Phi Kim Nguyen, 66*

**NOVEMBER 29, 2023 | GARLAND**

Phi Kim Nguyen died after her husband, Luat Nguyen, 65, shot and killed her in their home. Nguyen called 911 and reported that he killed Phi Kim and planned to kill himself. Nguyen then shot himself. Emergency responders arrived and found Phi Kim and Nguyen deceased. Phi Kim is survived by her four children.

“Losing her will be felt for many years to come.”

### *Yolanda Kelly, 41*

**JANUARY 28, 2023 | GRAND PRAIRIE**

Yolanda Kelly died when her boyfriend, Eric Riddley, 25, strangled, assaulted, and killed her in a home. Yolanda's daughter was in the home. Riddley called his mother, who came to the home and called 911, then Riddley fled. Law enforcement officers responded to a call for a medical emergency and found Yolanda deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Riddley with murder. Riddley has a history of violence towards Yolanda. Yolanda is survived by her two daughters, ages 10 and 15.

### *Gregory Carter, 37*

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2023 | MESQUITE**

Gregory Carter died when his girlfriend, LaTronda Champion, 39, stabbed him in their home. Champion called 911. Emergency responders transported Gregory to a hospital where he died. Authorities arrested and charged Champion with murder. A grand jury indicted her on murder charges.

### *Aurelia Zelaya, 41*

**DECEMBER 24, 2023 | RICHARDSON**

Aurelia Zelaya died after her boyfriend, Fredis Martinez Maldonado, 49, assaulted her. Emergency responders transported Aurelia to a hospital, where she died days later. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez Maldonado with aggravated sexual assault and aggravated assault, serious bodily injury. The charges were updated to capital murder after Aurelia's death. Aurelia is survived by her daughter.

## DALLAS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Sharon Radebaugh, 78*

**JUNE 3, 2023 | ROWLETT**

Sharon Radebaugh died in her home after her ex-boyfriend, Wilson Elliott, 83, shot and killed her. Officers responded and found Sharon deceased. Authorities arrested Elliott and he confessed to killing Sharon. Elliott had asked relatives about Sharon's activities and if she had been dating anyone. Elliott confessed to law enforcement about asking Sharon the day he killed her if she was in a relationship. He then shot her twice. A grand jury indicted Elliot on a murder charge and bond was set at \$1 million. An expert determined Elliott was not competent to stand trial; he remains in custody. Sharon is survived by her three adult daughters.

### *Zuleika Lucia Lopez, 48*

**NOVEMBER 14, 2023 | WILMER**

Zuleika Lucia Lopez died when her husband, Juan Aguilar-Cano, 38, assaulted and killed her at her home. Aguilar-Cano then abducted Zuleika's son, age 10. After not hearing from Zuleika, her daughter went to her home and found Zuleika deceased. Authorities found Zuleika's son in Laredo and reunited him with family. Authorities issued a murder warrant for Aguilar-Cano, who remains at large. Zuleika is survived by her son and her daughter.

## DENTON COUNTY

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### *Pamela Bush, 59*

**MARCH 24, 2023 | DALLAS**

Pamela Bush died when her ex-husband, Richard Davis, 62, shot and killed her. Davis fled and authorities later arrested and charged him with murder. Pamela had divorced Davis in 2017.

### *Stephanie Ingram, 30*

**AUGUST 24, 2023 | ELM RIDGE**

Stephanie Ingram died when her boyfriend, Anthony Thornton, 32, shot and killed her. Stephanie's infant was home. Thornton then shot and killed himself. Stephanie is survived by her four children.

### *Kelly Kruger, 44*

**OCTOBER 21, 2023 | LEWISVILLE**

Kelly Kruger died when her boyfriend, Samuel Parrish, 43, stabbed and killed her in his home. Parrish confessed to a family member, who requested a welfare check before going to the home and finding Parrish deceased. Kelly is survived by her children.

## DENTON COUNTY *continued*

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### *Sarah Dudley, 32*

**JUNE 24, 2023 | THE COLONY**

Sarah Dudley died after her husband, Karlton Dudley, 37, asphyxiated and killed her. Dudley then placed Sarah's body in a nearby lake and reported her missing. Authorities discovered Sarah in the lake, and then arrested Dudley and charged him with abuse of a corpse without legal authority, updating the charges to murder after completing their investigation. Authorities set bail at \$1 million for these charges, as well as several unrelated sexual crimes against children. Dudley has a history of controlling behavior towards Sarah.

## ECTOR COUNTY

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### *Lisa Clark Miller, 58*

**AUGUST 12, 2023 | ODESSA**

Lisa Clark Miller died after her husband, Michael Miller, 56, assaulted and killed her in the home they shared. Miller texted his brother confessing to killing Lisa and planning to kill himself. Miller then overdosed on prescription medication. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and found Lisa deceased and Miller unconscious. Emergency responders transported Miller to a hospital, and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Lisa is survived by her son and daughter.

### *Kristina Alvarado, 36*

**SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 | ODESSA**

Kristina Alvarado died when her husband, William Silva, 43, shot and killed her. Silva then killed himself. Kristina is survived by her three daughters.

**“It is because of  
her that we are  
who we are today.”**

## EL PASO COUNTY

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### *Michelle Morales-Nakaza, 32*

**APRIL 10, 2023 | EL PASO**

Michelle Morales-Nakaza died after her boyfriend, Christopher Maya, 34, shot and killed her. Michelle's mother reported her missing. Maya confessed to two acquaintances that he shot Michelle. Authorities arrested and charged Maya with murder and held him on a \$1 million bond. Maya has a history of abusive behavior. He had told a friend that he planned to kill Michelle multiple times. Michelle is survived by her son and her two daughters.

### *Deborah Sheeran, 56*

**JUNE 11, 2023 | EL PASO**

Deborah Sheeran died when her husband, Eric Sheeran, 58, shot and killed her. Sheeran then shot and killed himself. A family member requested a welfare check and responding officers found them both deceased.

## EL PASO COUNTY *continued*

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### *Juan Antonio Gonzalez-Garcia, 46*

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | EL PASO**

Juan Antonio Gonzalez-Garcia died after his boyfriend, David Luna Mijares, 43, stabbed him in a home. Emergency responders transported Juan to a hospital where he died. Authorities arrested and charged Mijares with murder.

### *Jose Luis Avalos Reyes, 47*

**DECEMBER 27, 2023 | EL PASO**

Jose Luis Avalos Reyes died when his wife, Luz Elena Martinez, 54, shot and killed him in their home. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with murder.

## FORT BEND COUNTY

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### *Jameka Williams, 38*

**NOVEMBER 10, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Jameka Williams died after her ex-boyfriend, Christopher Levels, 40, shot and killed her. Three of her children were present. Levels fled, and later turned himself in. Authorities charged him with murder. Jameka is survived by her four children.

### *Yaima Verjes, 22*

**MAY 10, 2023 | RICHMOND**

Yaima Verjes died when her boyfriend, Abel Sosa, 20, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Sosa with murder, and he is being held on a \$500,000 bond. Sosa was on probation and prohibited from possessing a firearm. Yaima is survived by her infant daughter.

### *Wendy Duan, 29*

**JANUARY 7, 2023 | SUGARLAND**

Wendy Duan died after a person she dated, Charvas Thompson, 26, shot and killed her in her home. Authorities arrested Thompson in Louisiana and charged him with murder. Thompson died by suicide in jail.

### *Lantonia Faulk, 43*

**APRIL 16, 2023 | SUGARLAND**

Lantonia Faulk died at a hospital after her boyfriend, Alton Sandles, 38, shot her. Lantonia's son was at home. Law enforcement officers responded to a 911 call from Lantonia, stating Sandles was assaulting her. Responding officers saw Sandles shoot Lantonia and then he shot at officers, who then shot him. Sandles set the house on fire. Emergency responders found Sandles deceased inside the home. Lantonia is survived by her son, age 15, and her adult daughter.

“She was the type of person that made most folks feel like they were her best friend. And they were... We lost her too soon, but her impact was massive.”

## GALVESTON COUNTY

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### *Tina Kelley, 45*

**MAY 26, 2023 | GILCHRIST**

Tina Kelley died when a person she dated, Raymond Borden Jr., 45, shot and killed her at her home. Borden then fled in Tina's vehicle. When law enforcement conducted a welfare check, they found Tina deceased. Borden was already in custody for other crimes when authorities charged Borden with murder and set a \$250,000 bond. A grand jury indicted him for murder. Tina is survived by her three adult children.

### *Sally Staehli, 57*

**MARCH 20, 2023 | LEAGUE CITY**

Sally Staehli died after her husband, Lance Staehli, 54, shot her in their home. Staehli then shot and killed himself. Staehli's employers requested a welfare check when Staehli did not show up to work. Law enforcement found Sally and Staehli deceased.

### *Gaylynn Varley, 63*

**AUGUST 19, 2023 | LEAGUE CITY**

Gaylynn Varley died after her husband, David Varley, 83, shot and killed her in their home. Varley then called 911. When law enforcement officers responded they found Gaylynn deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Varley with murder and set the bond at \$250,000. Varley had a history of threatening to shoot people. Varley died of natural causes while awaiting his trial. Gaylynn is survived by a daughter and son.

### *Sok Choi, 65*

**FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | SAN LEON**

Sok Choi died when her husband, James Reece, 62, shot and killed her. Reece killed their dog, then shot and killed himself. A neighbor called 911. When deputies arrived, they found all three deceased.

## GRAY COUNTY

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### *Eleanor Thatcher, 80*

**APRIL 29, 2023 | PAMPA**

Eleanor Thatcher died after her husband, Donald Thatcher, 73, assaulted and killed her at their home. Thatcher had a history of abusive behavior towards Eleanor. Authorities arrested Thatcher. The grand jury indicted him for manslaughter and injury to elderly charges. A \$1 million bond was set for each charge. Eleanor is survived by her son and her daughter.



## GRAYSON COUNTY

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### *Crystal Jones, 43*

**OCTOBER 25, 2023 | SHERMAN**

Crystal Jones died when her ex-husband, Anthony Jones Sr., 47, shot and killed her in their home. Jones has a history of violence. Law enforcement had responded to the home before, including a few days before the murder. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder and aggravated assault. His bond was set at \$1.4 million. Crystal had divorced Jones and reconciled with him in the year prior to her death. Crystal is survived by her four children.

### *Brian Olivo, 26*

**APRIL 9, 2023 | DENISON**

Brian Olivo died after his girlfriend, Claudia Ramirez, 47, struck him with her vehicle, killing him and leaving him in the roadway. Ramirez attempted to stage Brian's death as a hit and run, but authorities arrested and charged her with manslaughter days later. Ramirez has a history of violence against Brian and was arrested in Guadalupe County in 2022. Brian is survived by his three children.

## GREGG COUNTY

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### *Ashley Wall, 33*

**APRIL 22, 2023 | LONGVIEW**

Ashley Wall died when her husband, Michael Headrick, 41, shot and killed her at their home. Headrick then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement officers responded to a call regarding a shooting and found both Ashley and Headrick deceased. Ashley is survived by her son and her daughter.

### *Michael Bauchum, 30*

**MARCH 5, 2023 | LONGVIEW**

Michael Bauchum died when his ex-girlfriend, Rashandra Godfrey, 37, shot him at a local restaurant. Emergency responders transported Michael to a hospital, where he later died. Authorities arrested and charged Godfrey with murder and also charged her with other crimes related to an October 2017 offense. Michael is survived by his daughter and his son.

### *Kimberly Alexander, 61*

**JULY 10, 2023 | WHITE OAK**

Kimberly Alexander died after her husband, James Alexander, 63, shot and killed her at her home. Alexander fled and a few days later was involved in a vehicle accident, where authorities discovered firearms in his vehicle. Kimberly's son found her deceased two days after she was killed and called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Alexander with murder. He pled guilty and received a sentence of 30 years in prison. Alexander has a history of violence. Kimberly is survived by her three sons and her daughter.

## HARRIS COUNTY

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### *Rutilia Rosales Esteban, 25*

**JANUARY 4, 2023 | CHANNELVIEW**

Rutilia Rosales Esteban died in her home when her husband, Edgar Flores Meza, 29, shot and killed her. Meza then shot and killed himself. Meza's teen brother was in the home and called 911 for help. Meza had a history of violence towards Rutilia.

**“I knew she wasn't OK,  
but we couldn't get help;  
we didn't know how.”**

### *Alexis Falcon, 23*

**JANUARY 14, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Alexis Falcon died after her boyfriend, Keita Albert, 21, shot and killed her in her home. Law enforcement responded to a report of a shooting and discovered Alexis deceased in the home. At the time of the murder, Albert had a firearm prohibition as a condition of bond, which occurred after threatening another woman with a firearm seven months earlier. Authorities arrested and charged Albert with murder. He is being held without bond.

### *Maria Jose Rivera Rivera, 22*

**JANUARY 21, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Maria Jose Rivera Rivera died when a person she was dating, Chase Akpulonu, 25, shot and killed her at her home. Akpulonu then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to a welfare check request and found Maria Jose and Akpulonu deceased.

### *Tamarah Derry-Tijani, 41*

**JANUARY 24, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Tamarah Derry-Tijani died after her boyfriend Christopher Edwards, 52, shot and killed her at a hotel. Edwards shot and injured Tamarah's daughter, 21. Edwards then fled. Emergency responders transported Tamarah's daughter to a hospital. Edwards has a history of violence and had been convicted of murder in 1991. Authorities arrested and charged Edwards with murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and unlawful carrying of a weapon. He was sentenced to 45 years in prison for killing Tamarah and shooting her adult daughter.

### *Candace Rechtmann, 29*

**JANUARY 25, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Candace Rechtmann died when her boyfriend, Tyler Greenwood, 31, shot and killed her. Greenwood then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement responded to a welfare check call that evening and found Candace and Greenwood. Paramedics pronounced them each deceased.

### *Hilda Vargas, 62*

**FEBRUARY 22, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Hilda Vargas died when her husband, Francisco Vargas, 66, shot and killed her. Vargas then shot and killed himself.

## HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Laura Sherrard, 55*

**MARCH 3, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Laura Sherrard died when her husband, Paul Rubin, 64, shot and killed her. Laura dialed 911 and the dispatcher heard gunshots. Rubin shot and killed Laura's son, Alexander Sherrard, 16. He then shot and killed himself. When law enforcement arrived, they found the door locked, forced entry, and found Laura, Alexander, and Rubin deceased.

### *Rebecca Castillo, 61*

**MARCH 6, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Rebecca Castillo died from injuries sustained in 2015, when her husband, Jose Castillo, 58, assaulted her with a weapon. Rebecca's daughter found her injured and called 911 in February 2015. Emergency responders transported her to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Castillo with aggravated assault, serious bodily injury. In April 2022, a jury found Castillo guilty of aggravated assault and sentenced him to 15 years in prison. Rebecca died one year later. A medical examiner ruled her death a murder, resulting from injuries sustained in the 2015 assault. Rebecca is survived by her daughters.

### *Delmy Morales, 18*

**MARCH 15, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Delmy Morales died when her ex-boyfriend, Walter Ramirez, 18, stabbed and killed her. Three days prior to the murder, Delmy had reported to law enforcement Ramirez's threats and abuse. Authorities charged Ramirez with murder and arrested him in Virginia. Ramirez is in custody with \$500,000 bond. Delmy is survived by her infant daughter.

### *Nathan Freeman, 32*

**MARCH 20, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Nathan Freeman died when his girlfriend, Liliana Cervantes, 25, stabbed and killed him at their home. Nathan's daughters were in the home. When law enforcement arrived, they found Cervantes attempting to stitch up Nathan's wounds. Paramedics pronounced Nathan dead. Authorities arrested and charged Cervantes with murder, and a grand jury indicted her. Nathan is survived by his three children.

### *Besy Ayala-Barrientos, 39*

**APRIL 9, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Besy Ayala-Barrientos died after her former dating partner, Edwin Galdamez-Alas, 29, shot and killed her at her home. Besy's brother and family went to her home after not hearing from her and found her deceased. Authorities arrested Galdamez-Alas and charged him with murder and tampering or fabricating physical evidence. Besy is survived by four children.

***Crystal Soto, 19***

**APRIL 13, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Crystal Soto died when her ex-boyfriend, Jusiayn Bennett, 19, shot and killed her in her vehicle. Bennett arranged for Crystal to pick him up and had two friends join him. When Crystal parked her vehicle at her apartment, Bennett walked to the driver's side and shot her before fleeing with his friends. Weeks later, Bennett shot and killed another man while stealing his vehicle. Authorities arrested and charged him with capital murder and while he was detained, detectives completed their investigation of Crystal's death. Authorities then charged him with Crystal's murder.

***Crystal Lynch, 34***

**MAY 7, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Crystal Lynch died when her husband, Marquise Rochard Glasper, 37, killed her. Glasper attempted to make it appear as though Crystal had disappeared; however, after an investigation, law enforcement determined that Glasper had killed Crystal. Authorities arrested Glasper and charged him with her murder, among other charges related to her death, including unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and tampering with evidence. Crystal is survived by her young daughters.

***Julia Picazo Carranza, 40***

**MAY 10, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Julia Picazo Carranza died after her husband, Ausencio Garcia, 44, stabbed and killed her. Garcia then fled; at a convenience store in Beeville, he tried to kidnap another woman unrelated or known to Garcia. Garcia led the police on a chase. Authorities arrested and charged Garcia with murder and additional charges.

***Jasmine McHenry, 29***

**JUNE 11, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Jasmine McHenry died when her husband, Thomas Alexander, 32, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Alexander with murder; he was held on a \$1 million bond. Jasmine is survived by two children.

**“She was a source of love, support and security for her children, and her loss has left them heartbroken.”**

***Cindy Camarillo, 38***

**JULY 20, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Cindy Camarillo died when her boyfriend, Santiago Vallejo, 39, shot and killed her outside of their shared home. Cindy's son was in the home. When law enforcement arrived, Vallejo confessed to killing Cindy. Authorities arrested and charged Vallejo with murder; he was held on a \$250,000 bond. Cindy is survived by her son, age 14.

***Ana Belén Aroca Aguilera, 25***

**JULY 23, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Ana Belén Aroca Aguilera died when her ex-husband, Francisco López Pineda, 23, shot and killed her while refusing to give Ana access to her son during a custody exchange at his home. López Pineda fled, then shot and killed himself. Officers found him deceased one block from the home. Ana is survived by her son, age 2.

***Melissa Fowler, 43***

**JULY 29, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Melissa Fowler died when her boyfriend, Marques Potts, 58, stabbed and killed her in her home. Potts broke into Melissa's home, stabbed and killed her dog, and waited for her to return before attacking her. Witnesses saw Potts leaving the apartment. Potts has a history of violence against Melissa and a prior partner. Potts was arrested and charged with aggravated assault in March of 2021 when he stabbed and injured his partner at the time. He pled guilty and received deferred adjudication in November 2022. He was ordered to start a Battering Intervention and Prevention Program in January 2023. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder; the charges were updated to capital murder. Melissa is survived by two daughters.

***Veronica Elizalde, 50***

**AUGUST 7, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Veronica Elizalde died when her husband, Juan Jose Trillo-Calvo, 51, stabbed her multiple times and killed her in their home. He then fled. Law enforcement and emergency responders found Veronica deceased. Authorities charged Trillo-Calvo with murder; he remains at large. Veronica had filed for divorce in February 2023. She is survived by her daughter.

***Monica Thomas, 35***

**AUGUST 14, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Monica Thomas died when her boyfriend, Latrenton Washington, 36, shot and killed her in a vehicle. Washington then fled in another car with another individual. Washington confessed to killing Monica to his family and his federal probation officer. Washington was on probation and prohibited from possessing a firearm. Authorities arrested and charged Washington with murder. Thomas is survived by her two children, ages 14 and 16.

***Mark Constantine, 49***

**AUGUST 31, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Mark Constantine died after his girlfriend, Trazana Mitchell, 41, stabbed and killed him in their home. Mitchell fled and asked a family member to check on Mark. The family member contacted law enforcement. Authorities arrested and charged Mitchell with murder. A grand jury indicted her. Mitchell was previously convicted of manslaughter in another state for the stabbing death of a former intimate partner. Mark is survived by his children.

***Keyanna Mercer, 23***

**SEPTEMBER 2, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Keyanna Mercer died when her boyfriend, Joshua Zimmerman, 30, shot and killed her in a hotel. Hotel staff contacted law enforcement who found Keyanna deceased. Authorities in Mississippi arrested Zimmerman on separate felony charges; while he was awaiting extradition to Harris County, Zimmerman escaped. He was captured in Chicago in August 2024 after a SWAT standoff. Keyanna is survived by her child.

***Victoria Anderson, 34***

**SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Victoria Anderson died in her home when her husband, James Paul Anderson, 37, shot and killed her. Victoria had called 911 to report that Anderson was threatening to shoot her and emergency responders heard gunfire. When police arrived, Anderson agreed to let their son leave the home before barricading himself inside for several hours. Authorities arrested and charged Anderson with murder. He is in custody on a \$300,000 bond. Victoria had filed for divorce one month prior to the murder. Anderson had previously called 911 to report Victoria had removed his guns from the home and secured them in her father's safe. Victoria is survived by her son, age 3.

***Courtney Grantom, 28***

**OCTOBER 1, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Courtney Grantom died in her home when her husband, Devin Grantom, 28, shot and killed her. Recently, Courtney had relocated and was attempting to end their relationship. On the day of the incident, she went to their shared home and contacted her father for help, who arrived with a friend. Inside the home, other relatives, including Courtney's two-year-old son, were present. Grantom's mother, Deborah, was shot and killed and Courtney's father and his friend were shot and injured. Authorities arrested Grantom and charged him with Courtney's murder. Courtney is survived by her son, age 2.

***Karly Navarrete, 48***

**OCTOBER 1, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Karly Navarrete died in her home when her husband, Ever Navarrete, 55, shot and killed her. Family members reported Navarrete had a history of abuse towards Karly. She had separated from him and was obtaining a divorce. Karly had recently secured a safe home when Navarrete used a car tracking device to locate her. He shot Karly when she opened her garage door and also shot and injured Karly's nephew. Navarrete called his son and confessed to the killing. He fled to El Salvador. He was later located and extradited back to Houston. Authorities charged him with murder. Karly is survived by her two adult daughters and adult son.

***Charity Stewart, 38***

**OCTOBER 3, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Charity Stewart died in a hotel when her boyfriend, Keyth Scott, 31, assaulted and killed her. Scott has a history of violence against intimate partners. In January 2023, he was arrested and charged for assaulting and strangling a previous partner. In July 2023, he was arrested and charged for assaulting, strangling, and threatening to kill a second previous partner. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder in Charity's death.

***Miriam Martinez Pol, 56***

**OCTOBER 8, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Miriam Martinez Pol died when her ex-boyfriend, Roger Betancourt-Castillo, 40, shot and killed her in her apartment. He then fled. Law enforcement responding to gunshots discovered Miriam. Emergency responders transported her to a hospital where she died. Authorities charged Betancourt-Castillo with murder; he remains at large.

***Robin Simpson, 49***

**NOVEMBER 1, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Robin Simpson died when her husband, Michael Simpson Jr., 58, stabbed, mutilated, and killed her. Robin had called 911 to report her husband was threatening to kill himself. When officers arrived, they found Robin deceased. Robin's child was in the home. Emergency responders took Simpson to a hospital for self-inflicted wounds. Authorities arrested and charged Simpson with murder and aggravated assault, holding him on a \$340,000 bond. Robin had filed for divorce in May 2022. Robin is survived by her daughter.

***Xinying Di, 34***

**NOVEMBER 14, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Xinying Di died in her home when her husband, Chao Liang, 54, strangled and assaulted her. Liang then hung and killed himself. An officer from Houston Independent School District requested a welfare check after visiting the home when Xinying's son was not picked up from school. Responding officers found Xinying and Liang deceased in the home. Xinying is survived by her son.

**“I always looked forward to speaking with her. She was lively, funny, and dynamic. My heart hurts from her loss.”**

***Idania Campos, 21***

**NOVEMBER 28, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Idania Campos died when her ex-boyfriend, Ariel Cruz, 19, shot and killed her. Cruz moved Idania to the trunk of her vehicle. Idania's family reported her missing and then tracked her phone to her vehicle. They called law enforcement and then a locksmith, before breaking the window of the vehicle and finding Idania in the trunk. Cruz had joined the family to search for Idania and was interviewed by detectives. Cruz confessed to killing Idania. Authorities arrested and charged Cruz with murder. Idania had ended her relationship with Cruz.

***Ashton Russell, 30***

**DECEMBER 7, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Ashton Russell died after his ex-girlfriend, Sharonda Campbell, shot and killed him. Campbell has a history of harassment and violence against Ashton. In October 2022, she threatened him at his home and damaged his mother's vehicle. Campbell was charged with assault family violence for that incident in June 2024. Authorities arrested and charged Campbell with murder. Ashton is survived by his two children.

***Ashley Davis, 33***

**DECEMBER 14, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Ashley Davis died when her boyfriend, Richard Mitchell, 51, shot and killed her in their home. Mitchell left the home with their child, then returned the child to the home and fled. Neighbors heard gunshots and called 911. Law enforcement found Ashley deceased. Officers found Mitchell deceased after he shot and killed himself in another location. Ashley was survived by her child.

## HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Christina Abner, 33*

**DECEMBER 15, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Christina Abner died when her boyfriend, Keith Lee, 34, shot and killed her in her home. Lee also assaulted and injured Christina's three children. Her two older children fled for help at a neighbor's house. Emergency responders transported Lee and the three children to the hospital. Authorities charged Lee with murder and three counts of injury to a child. Lee has a history of abuse. Authorities charged Lee with harassment in November 2023 after Christina had reported him three times for harassment in the six months prior to her murder. Christina is survived by her three children, ages 2, 4 and 10.

### *Antrell Phillips, 38*

**DECEMBER 21, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Antrell Phillips died when her wife, Portia Phillips, 37, shot and killed her. Phillips called 911 to report shooting Antrell. Authorities arrested and charged Phillips with murder.

### *Fannie Uresti, 34*

**DECEMBER 25, 2023 | HOUSTON**

Fannie Uresti died after her husband, Roberto Hernandez, 43, shot and killed her. Hernandez then shot and killed himself. The couple's three children were in the home. Hernandez had a history of controlling and threatening behavior. When Fannie planned to seek a divorce and end their relationship, Hernandez pulled out a firearm and threatened to kill himself. He had stalked Fannie and tracked her locations. Eleven days before the homicide, Fannie reported to law enforcement that her husband was controlling and tracking her movements. Fannie had also informed her family about Hernandez's controlling behavior and interference with her efforts to learn English. Fannie is survived by her three children.

### *Nityadevi Ramroop, 35*

**OCTOBER 31, 2023 | KATY**

Nityadevi Ramroop died when her husband, Beesham Ramroop, 42, shot and killed her. Nityadevi was days away from finalizing her divorce when Ramroop ambushed her in her driveway with a gun. She had an active protective order, which prohibited Ramroop from possessing a firearm, and expressed to law enforcement fear for her safety. He also attacked Nityadevi's sister, who survived. Ramroop later killed himself. Nityadevi is survived by her three minor children.

### *Lesley Reyes, 19*

**MAY 26, 2023 | PASADENA**

Lesley Reyes died when her ex-boyfriend, Juan Carlos Mata, 20, shot and killed her at her apartment complex. Lesley had ended the relationship a month prior; Mata continued texting and showing up at her complex. Mata stalked Lesley, waited for her to get home from work and killed her. Lesley's parents lived in the same complex, heard the gunshots and called Lesley to warn her of possible danger. Mata later returned to a memorial site at the complex and witnesses reported to police his strange behavior. When officers engaged with him, he shot and killed himself.



## HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

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### *Minh Nguyen, 60*

**MAY 24, 2023 | TOMBALL**

Minh Nguyen died when her husband, Khan Nguyen, 70, shot and killed her. Nguyen then shot and killed himself. Minh's family members found the couple deceased. Minh is survived by her children.

## HARRISON COUNTY

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### *Ricky Ellis, 56*

**APRIL 7, 2023 | HALLSVILLE**

Ricky Ellis died when his wife, Cassandra Harris, 54, shot and killed him in their home. When law enforcement arrived, Harris told them she shot Ricky. Authorities arrested Harris and charged her with murder. A grand jury indicted her in May 2023.

### *Camri Johnson, 26*

**OCTOBER 16, 2023 | MARSHALL**

Camri Johnson died when her boyfriend, Windell Moris Jr., 23, stabbed and killed her in her home. Moris left the home and when he returned, he was questioned by law enforcement. Authorities arrested and charged Moris with murder and abandoning or endangering a child. A grand jury indicted him in February 2024. Camri is survived by her two children.

**“She will be remembered for her accomplishments, love, and happiness she brought into the lives of those around her.”**

## HAYS COUNTY

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### *Misty Nuncio, 39*

**OCTOBER 30, 2023 | SAN MARCOS**

Misty Nuncio died when Andre Symon, 32, killed her in a highway intersection. First responders provided CPR, but Misty was pronounced deceased. Symon has a history of violence, including a January 2021 assault on a family member in Bexar County. He was also charged for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon in a case from August 2021. As part of a plea deal, he pleaded guilty to the charge and was given 10 years deferred adjudication. In February 2022, he was arrested for assault on a family member. Misty is survived by three sons and one daughter.

## HIDALGO COUNTY

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### *Brittany Ireland, 38*

**OCTOBER 30, 2023 | ALAMO**

Brittany Ireland died in her home when her boyfriend, Christopher Lee Soto, 41, stabbed and killed her. Law enforcement found Brittany deceased and Soto injured. Brittany's mother told law enforcement she spoke with Brittany two days prior to the murder, and she indicated she was afraid of Soto. Law enforcement transported Soto to the hospital for treatment and he was later arrested and charged with murder. Brittany is survived by her seven children.

### *Maria De La Carmen De Anda, 49*

**DECEMBER 27, 2023 | DONNA**

Maria De La Carmen De Anda died after her husband, Ismael Terrazas Diaz, 49, suffocated and assaulted her in their home. Officers found Maria deceased. Diaz took Maria's car to a port of entry and then crossed into Mexico. Authorities issued a warrant for Diaz for murder; he remains at large. Maria is survived by her five children.

### *Editza Gomez, 40*

**AUGUST 19, 2023 | MISSION**

Editza Gomez died after her boyfriend, Reynaldo Mercado III, 33, asphyxiated and shot her in his home. Police received a missing person's report and located Editza deceased. Kristian Valenzuela Jr., 24, Mercado's roommate, turned himself in, telling authorities he assisted Mercado with concealing Editza's body. Valenzuela said that Mercado threatened him with a firearm. Authorities arrested Valenzuela and Mercado, charging them with murder and tampering with physical evidence with the intent to impair a human corpse. Both defendants' bonds were set at \$3.5 million. Editza is survived by her five children.

### *Johanna Gould, 88*

**JULY 13, 2023 | MISSION**

Johanna Gould died when her husband, William Gould, 88, shot and killed her in their home. Gould called 911 and reported that he killed Johanna. Gould then shot himself. Emergency responders found Johanna deceased and transported Gould to a hospital, where he died. Johanna is survived by her two sons.

### *Claudia Gonzalez, 49*

**APRIL 10, 2023 | PALMVIEW**

Claudia Gonzalez died after her husband, Ramon Coronel Jr., 52, shot and killed her at a business. Coronel then shot and killed himself. Witnesses called 911 reporting a man holding a firearm. Claudia had separated from Coronel and filed for divorce in March 2023. The petition for divorce reports a history of abusive and controlling behavior toward Claudia, including physical violence. Claudia is survived by her three children.

### *Leeann Ramirez, 33*

**JULY 9, 2023 | SAN JUAN**

Leeann Ramirez died after her husband, Felipe Ramirez Jr., 38, shot and killed her in front of their home. Ramirez then shot and killed himself. Leeann's five children were in the home. Law enforcement responded to a 911 call and found Leeann and Ramirez deceased. Leeann is survived by her five children, ages 7 to 15.

## HOOD COUNTY

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### *Venisa McLaughlin, 58*

**JANUARY 1, 2023 | GRANBURY**

Venisa McLaughlin died after her husband, Jeffrey McLaughlin, 58, assaulted her in their home. Emergency responders transported Venisa and McLaughlin to a hospital, where Venisa died. Authorities arrested and charged McLaughlin with murder and bond was set at \$250,000. While awaiting trial, McLaughlin was taken from the County jail to a medical center, where he died. Venisa is survived by her two daughters.

### *Hannah Cole, 20*

**NOVEMBER 15, 2023 | INDIAN HARBOR**

Hannah Cole died when her ex-boyfriend, Richard Flatt, age 21, shot her at her home. Flatt then shot and killed himself. Hannah's family members and neighbors were present. One of Flatt's friends was concerned about statements Flatt had made and requested a welfare check that was received after the shooting. Emergency responders transported Hannah to a hospital where she died. Hannah is survived by her infant daughter.

**“She was a beautiful girl, full of life and potential. She loved her family and had the kindest heart.”**

## JASPER COUNTY

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### *Rosalin Lewis, 24*

**NOVEMBER 18, 2023 | JASPER**

Rosalin Lewis died after her boyfriend, William Christian, 23, assaulted and killed her. Law enforcement officers found Rosalin deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Christian with murder. His bond was set at \$1 million, and a grand jury indicted him in December 2023. Rosalin is survived by her three children.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY

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### *Delbert Lewis, 66*

**OCTOBER 3, 2023 | BEAUMONT**

Delbert Lewis died at a hospital after his girlfriend, Tracy Samuel, 40, shot him at his home. Law enforcement officers responded to a 911 call from Samuel. Authorities charged Samuel with murder and set bond at \$800,000.

### *Shekira Simpson, 31*

**JUNE 19, 2023 | PORT ARTHUR**

Shekira Simpson died after being shot by a dating partner, Eric Martin, 38, at Martin's mother's house. Martin's mother called 911 after she heard the gunshots, saw blood in her driveway and witnessed Martin place Shekira's body in his car. After shooting Shekira, Martin shot and injured another man. Law enforcement officers in Lafayette, Louisiana arrested Martin on an outstanding warrant and discovered Shekira's body in his car. Authorities planned to extradite him to Texas and charge him with murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Shekira is survived by her six children.

## JEFFERSON COUNTY *continued*

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### *Sheryl Ann McMinn, 47*

**JUNE 3, 2023 | PORT ARTHUR**

Sheryl Ann McMinn died after her husband, Harold McMinn, 57, shot her inside her car at a bank. McMinn then drove to another location and shot himself. He later died at a nearby hospital. Sheryl is survived by her four children.

## JIM WELLS COUNTY

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### *Rebecca Letson, 44*

**FEBRUARY 9, 2023 | ALICE**

Rebecca Letson died in her home after her husband, Paul Vasquez, 42, shot and killed her. Vasquez then fled. Rebecca's 10-year-old daughter was in the home and called 911. Law enforcement stopped Vasquez for reckless driving and arrested him for driving while intoxicated. Authorities served Vasquez with a warrant for murder while he was in jail and set bond at \$503,000. Rebecca is survived by her two daughters and one son.

### *Grace Petersen, 37*

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 | ALICE**

Grace Petersen died at home after her husband, Jeremy Jones, 46, shot and killed her. Jones then shot and killed himself. Grace's children ran to a neighbor's residence after hearing gunshots. Law enforcement responded to a 911 call and found Grace and Jones deceased. Family members reported Grace was proceeding with a divorce. Grace is survived by her four children.

## JOHNSON COUNTY

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### *Nora Stewart, 53*

**SEPTEMBER 3, 2023 | ALVARADO**

Nora Stewart died when her husband, Joe Stewart, 57, shot and killed her at their home. Stewart then shot and killed himself. A neighbor called 911 to report gunshots. Responding law enforcement found Nora and Stewart deceased.

### *Flora Walker, 82*

**MAY 27, 2023 | CLEBURNE**

Flora Walker died when her husband, James Walker, 56, shot and killed her at their home. Walker called the police and stated he shot his wife. Walker then shot and injured himself. Emergency responders transported him to the hospital where he died.

### *Leigh Underwood, 66*

**AUGUST 27, 2023 | GODLEY**

Leigh Underwood died when her husband, Gary Underwood, 73, shot and killed her. Underwood then shot and injured himself. Emergency responders transported him to a hospital where he died. Leigh is survived by her two daughters.

## JONES COUNTY

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### *James Bradley, 63*

**JANUARY 26, 2023 | STAMFORD**

James Bradley died when his girlfriend, Bobbi Allen, 41, shot and killed him. Authorities arrested and charged Allen with murder.

## KAUFMAN COUNTY

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### *Brandon Clark, 39*

**JUNE 7, 2023 | COMBINE**

Brandon Clark died after his girlfriend, Kiali Herrington, 39, shot him in her home. Emergency responders transported Brandon to a fire station and then flew him by helicopter to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Herrington with manslaughter. A grand jury indicted her for murder.

### *Angela Mennel, 47*

**JUNE 25, 2023 | KAUFMAN**

Angela Mennel died after her husband, Robert Mennel Sr., 49, shot her. Mennel then shot and killed himself. Emergency responders transported Angela to a hospital where she died. Angela is survived by her three daughters and one son.

## LAVACA COUNTY

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### *Anna Hailey, 45*

**JULY 11, 2023 | SHINER**

Anna Hailey died after her husband, Roderick Hailey, 52, shot and killed her in their home. Hailey then shot and killed himself. The couple's youngest child was in the home at the time. Authorities responded to reports of gunfire and found Anna and Hailey deceased. Anna is survived by her two daughters and one son.

## LIBERTY COUNTY

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### *Brandy Thomas, 46*

**JANUARY 27, 2023 | DAYTON**

Brandy Thomas died when her husband, Darwin Thomas, 52, shot and killed her. Law enforcement conducted a welfare check and found Brandy deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Thomas with murder.

## LUBBOCK COUNTY

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### *La’Karia Moore, 18*

**MAY 21, 2023 | LUBBOCK**

La’Karia Moore died when her boyfriend, Christopher Carter, 40, shot and killed her. La’Karia was reported missing after leaving a party with Carter and was found deceased in Carter’s abandoned vehicle. Carter shot and killed himself. Law enforcement found him deceased at a hotel.

“**She had a lot of life to live.**”

## MCLENNAN COUNTY

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### *David Ralph Peeler, 44*

**APRIL 24, 2023 | LACY LAKEVIEW**

David Ralph Peeler died when his ex-girlfriend, Leah Breuer, 36, stabbed him multiple times and killed him in his apartment. Breuer then fled with her sister, Joann Arey Cometsevah, 34. David’s brother-in-law discovered David deceased. Breuer has a history of violence towards David and previously assaulted David in October 2022. Authorities charged Breuer with murder and issued a \$500,000 bond. Authorities charged Cometsevah with murder and tampering with evidence and she remains in custody on a \$1 million bond. David is survived by his daughter, age 9.

### *Maria Fernanda Guerro, 21*

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2023 | WACO**

Maria Fernanda Guerro died when her ex-boyfriend, Gustavo Rojas, 26, shot and killed her inside a vehicle. Rojas also shot and injured Isai Rajardo, 21. At the time of the murder, Rojas had been awaiting trial for allegedly assaulting Maria by strangling and hitting her in October 2020. Rojas was released on a \$5,000 bond, the conditions of which prohibited him from contacting Maria. However, the conditions of his bond did not prohibit him from purchasing or possessing a firearm. He pleaded guilty and is serving a 45-year sentence for Maria’s murder along with a concurrent 20-year sentence for Isai’s aggravated assault. Maria is survived by her son.

### *Queen Tanishia Louise Brooks, 25*

**DECEMBER 29, 2023 | WACO**

Queen Tanishia Louise Brooks died when her partner, Kevin Eugene Reese, 28, assaulted and strangled her at her home. Queen’s son was at home. A family member went to the apartment for a welfare check and found Queen unresponsive. Emergency responders transported Queen to the hospital where she died three days later. Authorities arrested and charged Reese with felony aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury. He is being held on a \$1 million bond. Queen is survived by her daughter and her son.

## MIDLAND COUNTY

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### *Madeline Pantoja, 20*

**MAY 10, 2023 | MIDLAND**

Madeline Pantoja died after her ex-boyfriend, Mario Chacon Jr., 24, assaulted and killed her. Chacon moved Madeline's body from her home to a remote area. Law enforcement spent nine days searching before finding her deceased. Madeline had ended her relationship with Chacon the day before he killed her. Authorities charged Chacon with murder.

### *Latunya Foster, 51*

**OCTOBER 2, 2023, MIDLAND**

Latunya Foster died when her husband, Ricky Garrett, 57, shot and killed her. Garrett then shot and killed himself. Latunya is survived by her son and her daughter.

### *Tameeka Jackson, 39*

**FEBRUARY 13, 2023 | ODESSA**

Tameeka Jackson died after by her boyfriend, Israel Yanez II, 24, shot her at her workplace. Tameeka was pregnant, and Yanez sent several threatening text messages to her about her pregnancy. Yanez confirmed Tameeka would be at her workplace before showing up in a mask and camouflage hoodie, shooting her several times. Tameeka later died at the hospital. Mariah Gonzalez Bordayo, 24, helped plan Tameeka's murder. Authorities arrested Bordayo and Yanez and held them in custody with a \$1 million bond. Tameeka is survived by her five children.

### *Crystal Williams, 36*

**APRIL 28, 2023 | ODESSA**

Crystal Williams died when her ex-boyfriend, Larry Johnson, 31, shot and killed her in her home. Johnson fled. A friend requested a welfare check when Crystal did not report for work. Officers found her deceased. Authorities arrested Johnson and charged him with murder and tampering with evidence. Johnson has a history of violence. A previous partner reported him for domestic violence.

“She was kind, generous, hardworking and a shining example of unconditional love in my life. I feel her loss every single day.”

## MONTAGUE COUNTY

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### *Pamela Tingwald, 59*

**APRIL 20, 2023 | SUNSET**

Pamela Tingwald died when her husband, James Tingwald, 58, shot and killed her at their home. Tingwald then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement officers conducted a welfare check when Pamela and Tingwald did not report to work and found them deceased in the home. Pamela had planned to end her relationship with Tingwald and move out of the home.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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### *Arazeli Ruiz, 24*

**DECEMBER 11, 2023 | CONROE**

Arazeli Ruiz died after her ex-boyfriend, Fernando Fernandez, 31, shot and killed her. Fernandez then shot and killed himself. Arazeli's two sons were in the home. Officers responding to a welfare check found both Arazeli and Fernandez deceased. Arazeli is survived by her two sons, age 2 and 5.

### *Maria Paragios, 76*

**JULY 4, 2023 | CONROE**

Maria Paragios died when her husband, Ilias Karamanolis, 74, shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. Law enforcement officers responded to a welfare check and found both Maria and Karamanolis deceased.

### *Maria Jessica Olvera, 27*

**APRIL 6, 2023 | SPRING**

Maria Jessica Olvera died when her boyfriend, Paul Bailiff, 55, shot and killed her. Bailiff then killed himself. Officers responded to a request for a welfare check and found them both deceased.

## NACOGDOCHES COUNTY

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### *Laquice Sanford, 48*

**OCTOBER 28, 2023 | NACOGDOCHES**

Laquice Sanford died when her boyfriend, Ronnie Jernigan Jr., 41, shot and killed her in her home. Jernigan also shot and killed Laquice's mother, Laura Sanford, 73. Laquice was planning to end the relationship with Jernigan. Authorities arrested and charged Jernigan with capital murder. A grand jury indicted him. Laquice is survived by her three children.

## NAVARRO COUNTY

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### *Amy Clemons, 46*

**JANUARY 28, 2023 | BARRY**

Amy Clemons died in her home after her husband, Jerod Clemons, 46, shot and killed her. Law enforcement and medical personnel responded to a report of an unconscious shooting victim. When they arrived, they found Amy deceased. Amy had separated from Clemons prior to the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged Clemons with murder. Amy is survived by her two daughters.



## NUECES COUNTY

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### *George Waggoner, 53*

**JANUARY 10, 2023 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

George Waggoner died after his girlfriend, Norfilia Morales Aguirre, 54, hit him with her vehicle. Aguirre then fled and witnesses called 911. When law enforcement arrived, they found George seriously injured. Emergency responders transported George to the hospital where he died. Authorities arrested Aguirre and charged her with murder.

### *Michelle Mungia, 33*

**APRIL 14, 2023 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

Michelle Mungia died after her boyfriend, Jose Gonzalez, 44, shot and killed her in front of a home. Gonzalez then shot and killed himself. Witnesses heard gunshots and called 911. Michelle is survived by her three children—two daughters and a son.

### *Ashton Dudley, 23*

**APRIL 17, 2023 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

Ashton Dudley died at a hospital after her husband, Bryce Dudley, 26, shot her in their home. Dudley then shot and injured himself. Ashton's children were in the home. Law enforcement responded to reports of gunfire and emergency responders transported both to a hospital, where Ashton was pronounced deceased and Dudley died ten days later. Ashton is survived by her two children, ages 2 and 3.

### *Eriya Ruiz, 15*

**JUNE 2, 2023 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

Eriya Ruiz died after her boyfriend, age 15, stabbed her in front of her home. Eriya's family found her and contacted law enforcement. Emergency responders transported Eriya to a hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. Authorities charged the suspect with murder and transported him to a juvenile justice center, where he remains in custody. A court will determine whether to charge him as an adult or juvenile. Eriya had ended the relationship with the suspect.

### *Felicia Franco, 35*

**AUGUST 31, 2023 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

Felicia Franco died in a home when her boyfriend, Edward Garcia, 51, stabbed and killed her. Garcia fled. Law enforcement officers responded to a welfare check and found Felicia deceased. A month later, Garcia led law enforcement officers on a high-speed chase and fired at officers in Atascosa County, who shot and killed him. Family members reported Garcia had a history of abusive behavior towards Felicia, and she had planned to end the relationship.

## ORANGE COUNTY

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### *Dalvin Levi, 25*

APRIL 1, 2023 | ORANGE

Dalvin Levi died when his girlfriend, Shontasia Garrett, 28, shot him. Officers responded to a call regarding shots fired and found Dalvin suffering from a gunshot wound in the street. Emergency responders transported Dalvin to a hospital where he died. Authorities arrested Garrett and charged her with murder. Her bond is set at \$1 million.

### *Casie Graves, 38*

SEPTEMBER 16, 2023 | ORANGE

Casie Graves died when her boyfriend, Derek Bradley, 45, strangled and killed her. Authorities arrested Bradley and charged him with murder. Casie is survived by her four children.

### *Jenny Baxter, 45*

MARCH 14, 2023 | VIDOR

Jenny Baxter died when a person who was living with her, Russell Kinney, 38, assaulted and killed her. Kinney hid Jenny's remains and used her phone to communicate with family and friends for weeks posing as Jenny. Neighbors requested a welfare check after not seeing her for an extended time. Officers found Jenny and her pets deceased. Authorities issued a murder warrant and arrested Kinney in Liberty County. He accepted a plea deal and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

“She was an adventurer at heart who enjoyed outdoor activities, traveling, watching movies with family, and was a true animal lover.”

## PARKER COUNTY

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### *Kerri Wade, 74*

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 | HUDSON OAK

Kerri Wade died when her husband, Earl Wade, 79, shot and killed her. He then shot and killed himself. Kerri is survived by her three daughters and two sons.

## POTTER COUNTY

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### *Kendra Vela, 31*

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 | AMARILLO

Kendra Vela died when her boyfriend, Trey Greenleaf, 30, shot and killed her in a hotel room. Kendra was pregnant. Authorities arrested and charged Greenleaf with capital murder. She is survived by her three children.

## ROBERTSON COUNTY

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### *Cody Albers, 39*

**APRIL 18, 2023 | FRANKLIN**

Cody Albers died when his wife, Brittany Albers, 36, shot and killed him in their home. Albers was charged with murder and released on a \$500,000 bond. Cody is survived by his four sons.

## ROCKWALL COUNTY

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### *Chelsie Griffin, 37*

**FEBRUARY 16, 2023 | ROYSE CITY**

Chelsie Griffin died when her husband, Corey Griffin, 38, assaulted, shot, and killed her in her home. Authorities arrested and charged Griffin with murder. A jury found him guilty and sentenced him to life in jail. Griffin has a history of violence. Chelsie had filed for divorce just a few weeks prior to the murder. Griffin had been charged with harassment and Chelsie received a protective order. Chelsie is survived by her two children.

## SAN JACINTO COUNTY

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### *Jesslyn Draper, 18*

**AUGUST 19, 2023 | CLEVELAND**

Jesslyn Draper died after her boyfriend, Dylan Morse, 25, shot and killed her in her home's yard. Morse then shot and injured himself. Law enforcement officers responded to a call and found Jesslyn deceased. Jesslyn had planned to end the relationship with Morse and move out of the house while he was working out of state. He returned home early without her knowledge and murdered her when she arrived to pick up her belongings. Authorities arrested and charged Morse with murder. His bond was set at \$1 million and then reduced to \$150,000.

## SAN SABA COUNTY

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### *Jo Lei Henniger, 40*

**APRIL 19, 2023 | SAN SABA**

Jo Lei Henniger died when her husband, Ben Henniger, 45, shot and killed her in a parking lot. Henniger then shot and killed himself. Jo Lei's son was present. Jo Lei had separated from Henniger. The day before killing her, Henniger had received divorce papers. Jo Lei is survived by her son and her daughter.

## SCURRY COUNTY

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### *Ashley Terrazas, 34*

**SEPTEMBER 7, 2023 | SNYDER**

Ashley Terrazas died after her ex-boyfriend, Anthonne Cobb, 41, shot and killed her. Authorities arrested and charged Cobb with murder. Cobb has a history of threatening to kill Ashley by shooting her and was prohibited from possessing a firearm due to criminal convictions. Ashley is survived by her three sons.

## SHELBY COUNTY

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### *Yuri Diana Barahona, 32*

**FEBRUARY 8, 2023 | JOAQUIN**

Yuri Diana Barahona died when her husband, Carlos Manuels, 32, shot and killed her in her home. Manuels fled. A neighbor called 911. Authorities arrested and charged Manuels with murder after he was released from the hospital. Manuels pled guilty to first degree murder and was sentenced to forty years. Yuri is survived by her four children, ages 6, 7, 9 and 10.

## SMITH COUNTY

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### *Paula Belonga, 51*

**APRIL 7, 2023 | TYLER**

Paula Belonga died when a person she began dating, Jesse Williams, 40, killed her. Paula was reported missing by a family member and friend. Using phone data and GPS, law enforcement officers were able to track Williams' location. They found Williams with Paula's vehicle and evidence that connected him to her disappearance. Authorities arrested and charged Williams with Paula's murder. His bond was set at \$750,000. Paula is survived by her son.

## TARRANT COUNTY

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### *Ryan Shinabery, 45*

**MAY 23, 2023 | ARLINGTON**

Ryan Shinabery died when his wife, My Tran, 42, assaulted and killed him with a blunt object in his home. Ryan had separated from Tran. When he asked her to meet to receive divorce paperwork, she attacked him. Authorities arrested and charged Tran with murder.

### *Maysaa Zaaroor, 37*

**MAY 31, 2023 | ARLINGTON**

Maysaa Zaaroor died when her boyfriend, Ayad Abu-Abound, 46, shot her. Maysaa's children were in the home. Emergency responders transported Maysaa to a hospital where she died. Authorities arrested and charged Abu-Abound with murder. Maysaa is survived by her four children.

TARRANT COUNTY *continued*

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*Yolanda Gibbs, 56*

**OCTOBER 11, 2023 | FOREST HILL**

Yolanda Gibbs died when her boyfriend, Anthony Harris, 58, shot her outside of the school where she worked. Harris then fled. Emergency responders transported Yolanda to a hospital where she died. Harris was on parole and prohibited from possessing a firearm. Authorities issued an arrest warrant for Harris and later found him deceased from a fentanyl overdose. Yolanda is survived by her two daughters.

*Angela LaCroix, 58*

**AUGUST 8, 2023 | FORT WORTH**

Angela LaCroix died in her home when her husband, Blayne LaCroix, 62, shot and killed her. LaCroix then shot and killed himself. Officers responded to a welfare check request and found them both deceased. Angela is survived by her daughters.

*Laura Carter, 41*

**MAY 31, 2023 | HALTOM CITY**

Laura Carter died when her boyfriend, Shallum Bluford, 41, shot and killed her. Bluford then shot and killed himself. Laura is survived by her two children.

**“I want her remembered as a hard worker, a very caring person, a very loving person.”**

*Maria del Carmen Hernandez, 52*

**NOVEMBER 5, 2023 | HALTOM CITY**

Maria del Carmen Hernandez died when her husband, Luciano Mendez, 53, shot and killed her. Mendez then shot and injured himself. Emergency responders transported him to a hospital. Authorities arrested and charged Mendez with murder. Maria is survived by her five children.

*Joyce Hartzell Simpson, 80*

**APRIL 30, 2023 | NORTH RICHLAND HILLS**

Joyce Hartzell Simpson died when her husband, Joseph Simpson, 79, shot and killed her in the driveway of their home. Simpson reported shooting Joyce to 911 dispatchers before shooting and killing himself.

*Kimberly Knapp, 46*

**JULY 24, 2023 | SAGINAW**

Kimberly Knapp died in her home after a person she had dated, Rance Magby, 32, shot her. Emergency responders transported Kimberly to a hospital where she died. Kimberly's death was reported to 911 as a self-inflicted shooting; however, investigators determined that Magby was responsible. Authorities arrested and charged Magby with murder; he was held on a \$500,000 bond.

## TAYLOR COUNTY

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### *Ashley Rapp, 35*

**JANUARY 1, 2023 | ABILENE**

Ashley Rapp died when her boyfriend, Robert McClure, 45, struck her with his vehicle outside their home. McClure then fled. Emergency responders transported Ashley to a hospital where she died. McClure has a history of violence against Ashley. Authorities arrested and charged McClure with murder. Ashley is survived by her two sons.

## TOM GREEN COUNTY

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### *Michelle Galindo Gonzales, 52*

**DECEMBER 22, 2023 | CARLSBAD**

Michelle Galindo Gonzales died after her husband, Randy Gonzales, 58, shot and killed her at their home. Gonzales also attempted to shoot a witness, who was able to escape. Gonzalez then shot himself. Law enforcement officers discovered Michelle deceased and Gonzales injured. Emergency responders transported Gonzales to a hospital where he died from his injuries.

### *Jermaine Johnson, 39*

**DECEMBER 26, 2023 | SAN ANGELO**

Jermaine Johnson died when his girlfriend, Ebony Gasca, 26, stabbed him outside a home. Another woman, Shevetra Mathis, 25, was present and also stabbed Jermaine. Then Mathis and Gasca fled together. Authorities arrested and charged Gasca and Mathis with murder. Mathis is held on a \$500,000 bond and Gasca is held on a \$500,000 bond.

## TRAVIS COUNTY

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### *Jade Guajardo, 31*

**FEBRUARY 9, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Jade Guajardo died when her ex-boyfriend, Davonte Fox, 31, shot and killed her in his home. Jade had called law enforcement earlier in the day to report that Fox slashed her tire after she gave him a ride to his home. Hours later, Fox returned to shoot Jade. He then shot and killed himself during a SWAT response. Fox had a history of violence against Jade and was prohibited from possessing a firearm. In 2021, he was sentenced to jail time for violating a magistrate's order of emergency protection. The day before the homicide, authorities issued arrest warrants for retaliation and impeding breath assaults that occurred one week earlier. Jade is survived by her two sons.

TRAVIS COUNTY *continued*

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***Minerva Molina Jiménez, 30***

**MARCH 14, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Minerva Molina Jiménez died in her home when her husband, Jorge Alvarado Blanco, 38, stabbed and killed her. Law enforcement officers responded to the home and found Minerva injured. Officers also responded to a call that Alvarado Blanco was threatening to jump from a bridge onto an interstate highway. Alvarado Blanco confessed to killing Minerva. Authorities arrested and charged him with murder. He pled guilty and was sentenced in January 2024. Minerva had been concerned for her safety and asked Alvarado Blanco to leave the home days before he killed her. Minerva is survived by her two sons, ages 2 and 6.

***Shanre-Ka Yvette Mays, 27***

**MARCH 22, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Shanre-Ka Yvette Mays died when her boyfriend Timothy Pace, 33, shot and killed her at her home. Pace then fled. Shanre-Ka was able to call 911 and report she had been shot. First responders arrived; Shanre-Ka died shortly afterwards. Shanre-Ka had ended the relationship and asked Pace to move out of the house per a pending CPS case. Authorities charged Pace with murder. Shanre-Ka is survived by her two children, a daughter and son.

“**She was a precious friend and an incredible mom. There is no one like her, and she will be truly missed by so many people.**”

***Shannon Norton, 47***

**APRIL 23, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Shannon Norton died when her boyfriend, James Flom, 52, shot and killed her in their home. Flom then shot and killed himself. A family member called 911 and requested a welfare check as they had not heard from Shannon. Responding officers found Shannon and Flom deceased.

***Eva Dotson Penton, 73***

**JULY 16, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Eva Dotson Penton died when her husband, Timothy McDonald, 65, shot and killed her at their home. McDonald then shot and killed himself. Police conducted a welfare check and found them both deceased. Eva is survived by her adult son.

***Demetria Jackson, 47***

**AUGUST 20, 2023 | MANOR**

Demetria Jackson died when her husband shot and killed her. Witnesses called 911 when they heard shots fired. When law enforcement arrived, they found Demetria outside the home deceased and her husband deceased with a self-inflicted gunshot. Demetria is survived by her three children.

## UPSHUR COUNTY

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### *Shakerrie Waters, 37*

**NOVEMBER 4, 2023 | GILMER**

Shakerrie Waters died when her ex-boyfriend, Alvin McKnight, 41, shot and killed her. McKnight also killed Shakerrie's sister, Mandy Ray, 35. McKnight then fled out of state. Shakerrie had ended her relationship with McKnight. Authorities charged McKnight with capital murder and arrested him in California. He was held on a \$5 million bond. Authorities arrested McKnight's sister, Laquesha McKnight, for helping him escape. She was booked into the Upshur County Jail on \$500,000 bond. Shakerrie is survived by her son and her daughters.

## VICTORIA COUNTY

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### *Brandy Schrade, 44*

**JULY 22, 2023 | VICTORIA**

Brandy Schrade died when her husband, Willard Baugh Jr., 50, assaulted and strangled her in their home. Baugh called 911 and emergency responders found Brandy deceased. Police arrested Baugh who had an active warrant at the time for violations of a probated sentence from a prior June 2020 domestic violence incident. Following an investigation, authorities charged Baugh with murder and tampering with evidence and held him without bond. Baugh was convicted and received a sentence of 99 years in prison. Brandy is survived by her three children.

### *Amanda Stevenson, 20*

**NOVEMBER 19, 2023 | VICTORIA**

Amanda Stevenson was killed by a person she dated, Kevin Bennetsen, 45. Amanda's family reported her missing after not hearing from her for several days. Amanda was later found deceased in a creek. Bennetsen was interviewed by police investigating Amanda's disappearance and was released. When officers attempted to conduct a traffic stop and interview Bennetsen again, he shot and killed himself in his vehicle. Authorities found Amanda's remains in a creek a week later.

## WALKER COUNTY

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### *Melinda Cobb, 60*

**MARCH 3, 2023 | HUNTSVILLE**

Melinda Cobb died in her home when her husband, Larry Cobb, 59, stabbed and killed her. Law enforcement officers responded and found Melinda deceased. Authorities arrested and charged Cobb with murder. Melinda is survived by her three sons and her daughter.

“She was there for us,  
she fought for us.  
She was always there in  
the corner of our ring.”



## WALKER COUNTY *continued*

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### *Tianne Jones, 43*

**MARCH 8, 2023 | HUNTSVILLE**

Tianne Jones died when her husband, Roy Wasbotten, 44, shot and killed her. Wasbotten then shot and killed himself. Tianne had separated months prior, and officers had responded to a previous incident in which Wasbotten broke a window to enter their home after he moved out. Tianne was attempting to give him divorce papers on the night he killed her. Tianne asked Wasbotten to meet her in a public place, but he refused. When she went to his home, he shot her in her vehicle. Tianne is survived by her son.

## WALLER COUNTY

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### *Anggy Diaz, 21*

**JANUARY 11, 2023 | MAGNOLIA**

Anggy Diaz died after her husband, Jared Dicus, 21, stabbed and decapitated her in their home. Dicus' parents found Anggy deceased and called law enforcement. Dicus confessed to killing Anggy and authorities arrested and charged him with murder. Dicus has a history of violence towards Anggy. Law enforcement had responded to several family violence calls. Dicus is being held on a \$500,000 bond.

## WEBB COUNTY

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### *Krystal Claudina Limon, 22*

**JANUARY 6, 2023 | LAREDO**

Krystal Claudina Limon died in a hospital after her husband, Francisco Javier Garcia, 27, shot her at their home. Several witnesses, including Krystal's children, were present. Emergency responders transported Krystal to a hospital where she died three days after the shooting. Authorities arrested and charged Garcia with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was held in Webb County jail on a \$170,000 bond. Krystal is survived by her three daughters.

### *Sylvia Ramos, 40*

**MARCH 6, 2023 | LAREDO**

Sylvia Ramos died in her home after her boyfriend, Rene Mendez, 39, stabbed and killed her. He also killed Sylvia's daughter, Brianna Ramos, 19, and then fled. Relatives went to their home to check on them and found Sylvia and Brianna deceased. Law enforcement officers found Mendez unconscious from an overdose and transported him to a hospital. Authorities charged him with two counts of murder and arrested him when he was released from the hospital, with bond set at \$1 million. A grand jury indicted Mendez.

## WICHITA COUNTY

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### *Joan Frank, 62*

**JULY 4, 2023 | WICHITA FALLS**

Joan Frank died when her husband, Cedric Sartin, 65, shot and killed her in her home. Sartin then shot and injured himself. Joan's adult daughter was present and called 911. Upon arrival, the police found Joan deceased and Sartin injured. Authorities arrested and charged Sartin with murder. He was held on a \$750,000 bond. Sartin later died in custody awaiting trial. Joan is survived by her daughter.

### *Melanie Berry, 52*

**NOVEMBER 21, 2023 | WICHITA FALLS**

Melanie Berry died when her husband, Brian Barnwell, 53, shot and killed her at her home. He then fled, returned to the home, and shot and killed himself. Neighbors requested a welfare check and responding officers found Melanie and Barnwell deceased. Melanie had filed for divorce the previous year.

## WILLIAMSON COUNTY

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### *Joyce Pingul Clarke, 55*

**MAY 1, 2023 | AUSTIN**

Joyce Pingul Clarke died when her husband, Gary Clarke, 56, shot and killed her in their apartment. Clarke then shot and killed himself. A neighbor called 911 and reported hearing gunshots. Law enforcement responded and found Joyce and Clarke deceased.

## WISE COUNTY

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### *Debra Woods, 65*

**JUNE 9, 2023 | COTTONDALE**

Debra Woods died when her husband, Ernest Woods, 81, shot and killed her in her home. Woods also shot and killed Debra's son, Joseph Woods, 32. Deputies responding to a welfare check request found Debra and Joseph deceased. When deputies stopped Woods in his vehicle, he shot and killed himself.

### *Kimberly Kellam, 42*

**JUNE 12, 2023 | DECATUR**

Kimberly Kellam died when her husband, Robert Morairity, 45, stabbed and killed her. Morairity also suffocated and killed Kimberly's daughter, age 11. Months later, Morairity led investigators to their location. Authorities arrested and charged Morairity with capital murder and tampering with evidence. Morairity has a history of abuse towards Kimberly. Kimberly is survived by her son.

## Family, Friends, and Bystanders Killed & Injured

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Domestic violence and stalking homicide perpetrators also killed 16 and injured 12 family members, friends, and bystanders. With care and respect, TCFV acknowledges the immense loss of each of these lives:

*Laura West, 43*  
ROOMMATE OF MARY HEINZ

*Edward Acosta Jimenez, 32*  
FRIEND OF ALYSSA PEREZ

*Bailey Martinez, 7*  
DAUGHTER OF SHANNON MARTINEZ

*Shaheen Sherwani, 12*  
SON OF LAYLA SHERWANI

*Mateen Sherwani, 2*  
SON OF LAYLA SHERWANI

*Fatima Alvarado, 21*  
FRIEND OF JUAN DIEGO CRUZ

*Guadalupe Cruz, 25*  
BROTHER OF JUAN DIEGO CRUZ

*Jasmin Borja, 20*  
SISTER-IN-LAW OF JUAN DIEGO CRUZ

*Merced Ballon, 43*  
SISTER OF CATALINA ANDRADE VALDEZ

*Alexander Sherrard, 16*  
SON OF LAURA SHERRARD

*Deborah Grantom, 65*  
MOTHER-IN-LAW OF COURTNEY GRANTOM

*Laura Sanford, 73*  
MOTHER OF LAQUICE SANFORD

*Mandy Ray, 35*  
SISTER OF SHAKERRIE WATERS

*Brianna Ramos, 19*  
DAUGHTER OF SYLVIA RAMOS

*Joseph Woods, 32*  
SON OF DEBRA WOODS

*Name not released, 11*  
DAUGHTER OF KIMBERLY KELLAM

# Methodology

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## HISTORY

TCFV has recorded, honored, and published the names of women killed by their intimate partners each year for 46 years. For the last sixteen years, TCFV has published *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities* annually to share the stories of Texans killed by their intimate partners. Initially, the report focused on women, including transgender women, killed by their male partners. In 2018, TCFV expanded the scope to include family violence homicides of men killed by their female partners and men and women killed by their same-sex intimate partners.

## RESEARCH PROCESS

TCFV conducts key steps to collect homicide data and case information. TCFV identifies cases that meet the report parameters by:

- » Identifying homicide cases through an ad hoc query in Texas Department of Public Safety's (TDPS Crime in Texas portal of data reported by Texas law enforcement jurisdictions utilizing the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).<sup>40</sup>
- » Reviewing domestic violence and murder-suicide cases collected in Gun Violence Archives.<sup>41</sup>
- » Requesting identified family violence homicide cases from the largest law enforcement jurisdictions.
- » Monitoring press media and social media in all 254 Texas counties.
- » Reviewing law enforcement, county and district attorney offices' communication releases.
- » Researching homicide cases with local and state partners.
- » Confirming the accuracy of information through law enforcement, county and district attorney offices, TDPS, victim advocates, and family violence services.
- » Partnering with an attorney with family violence expertise to conduct a legal review of the case narratives.

## REPORT TERMINOLOGY

The terms "family violence," "domestic violence," and "intimate partner violence" are used in the public vernacular interchangeably. This report focuses on intimate partner homicides and intimate partner homicide-suicides and uses the terminology

"domestic violence," "intimate partner violence," "family violence," and "partner abuse" because they are used more broadly in criminal legal and advocacy frameworks. The State of Texas uses the term "family violence" in criminal legal settings and in other statutory languages to describe the violence that occurs not only between dating or intimate partners but also members of the same household or family. When referring to people accused of homicides, TCFV uses the terms "perpetrator," "offender," or "suspect," and when referring to people who harm their partners, TCFV uses the term "abusive partners" most frequently. When incorporating contributions from external authors, TCFV may allow for additional terminology outside these terms.

## REPORT PARAMETERS

The 2023 report includes intimate partner and stalking homicides from January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023, for cases where the perpetrators have been charged with murder or manslaughter or ruled homicide-suicide. For the 2023 report, two cases include aggravated assault charges. Due to the report's publication date, TCFV includes cases with closed investigations by August 31, 2024. Cases are included if: 1) the homicide victim and perpetrator were previously or currently in an intimate relationship of any length; 2) the victim was killed by a person who stalked or actively pursued a relationship, even if the victim did not engage in a relationship; 3) the intimate partner violence victim was killed; and 4) criminal charges are brought against the perpetrator.

TCFV acknowledges that not all intimate partner violence-related fatalities and homicides are included within the report parameters. In situations where the intimate partner violence victim is not killed, but family members, bystanders, law enforcement responding, or others are killed, those cases are not documented in this report. Additionally, cases are excluded if criminal charges are not brought against the perpetrator or if they are dismissed before the publication date.

TCFV diligently reviewed 47 cases that fell outside the report parameters. Those include 17 cases that were accidental or not criminally charged because they were deemed justifiable or self-defense. Cases that remained open and unsolved are excluded as well as domestic violence related cases where the intimate partner is not killed. Additionally, several cases were reported to TDPS, but law enforcement agencies confirmed that they were not homicide cases, and some agencies did not respond to TCFV requests for confirmation and identification. The ages of the adults and children are reflective of the information provided to TCFV at the time of death.

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40 Available at: <https://txucr.nibrs.com/ReportsIndex/List>

41 Available at: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/query>

# Report Contributors

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*With immense gratitude, we recognize Mikisha Hooper for her many years of steadfast leadership as the driving force behind the Honoring Texas Victims report. Her passion, vision, and deep commitment to honoring the lives lost to domestic violence have not only transformed this report but have also left an indelible mark on our movement for change. As she steps away from this role, her lasting legacy of compassion, advocacy, and impact will continue to inspire and guide us in the years to come.*

THIS REPORT WAS WRITTEN BY THE TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE.

TCFV appreciates the support from professionals around the state who responded to our requests for information and thereby ensured this report's accuracy.

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This project was funded by Grants awarded by the Administration for Children and Families U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Grant No. 24 03TXSDVC; by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission Grant No. HHS000448300001; Grant No. 3073108 awarded by the Governor's Criminal Justice Division, and TCFV Statewide and Technical Assistance and TCFV Community Education Grants awarded by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Community Justice Assistance Division.

The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the above agencies.



*In memory of the Texas women and men killed  
by their intimate partners in 2023*



"TEXAN RED LADIES" BY HILDA MARTINEZ

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.

