



HONORING

Texas Victims

— 2025 Report —

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A Message from the CEO

Every year, we gather these names.

**Every year, we promise ourselves
that this list will be shorter.**

Yet every year, another family receives a phone call that changes everything. Another child grows up without a parent. Another community is left asking how something so devastating could happen in plain sight.

The truth is that intimate partner homicide rarely begins with homicide. It begins with patterns we too often dismiss — coercive control mistaken for love, isolation mistaken for devotion, threats mistaken for anger, or strangulation minimized as "just another assault." By the time a life is taken, violence has often been escalating for months, sometimes years.

This report exists because these deaths are not beyond our understanding.

The future is not written by the violence we document. It is written by what we choose to do with what we learn.

For more than 25 years, *Honoring Texas Victims* has done more than memorialize those whose lives were stolen. The report has revealed patterns, identified warning signs, and challenged systems to do better. Every page asks the same question: What could have been different?

Today, we know more about domestic violence lethality than ever before. We know the warning signs. We know the risk factors. We know that coordinated community responses, survivor-centered interventions, and evidence-based policies save lives. The question before us is no longer whether we know enough. It is whether we have the collective resolve to act on what we know.

That is why I am encouraged by the direction Texas is taking.

The creation of the Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Task Force through Senate Bill 1946 marks an important evolution in our state's response to domestic violence. It recognizes that preventing homicide requires more than responding after tragedy; it requires learning from every life lost.

By bringing together survivors, advocates, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, healthcare professionals, researchers, and policymakers, Texas is making a commitment to examine not only what happened but also what must change.

This report is part of that commitment. Every case documented here contributes to a deeper understanding of how violence escalates, where systems succeed — and where they fail. Every recommendation represents an opportunity to intervene earlier, strengthen accountability, and prevent another family from experiencing unimaginable loss.

***Hope is choosing to build systems
that make violence less likely to occur.***

Hope is found in communities that refuse to look away. In professionals who recognize danger before it becomes fatal. In leaders willing to invest in prevention instead of simply responding to tragedy. In survivors whose voices continue to shape a safer future for others.

As you read this report, I ask you to do more than remember those whose lives were taken. Let them challenge your assumptions. Let them deepen your resolve. Let them remind us that every statistic was once a person with dreams, relationships, and a future that should have been theirs.

**The measure of this report's success is not
how completely it documents loss. It is how
effectively it helps prevent the next one.**

Together, that is how we honor Texas victims.

With remembrance, resolve, and hope,



Gloria Aguilera Terry

Gloria Aguilera Terry

*Chief Executive Officer
Texas Council on Family Violence*

SECTION I

2025 Honoring Texas Victims Report

Honoring Texas Victims is the Texas Council on Family Violence's annual examination of Texans killed by current or former intimate partners.

For more than 25 years, the report has documented these deaths to honor the people whose lives were taken, examine the circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicide, and identify findings that can strengthen prevention and coordinated community responses across Texas.

In 2025, Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) identified 160 Texans killed by a current or former intimate partner. This was one fewer than the 161 victims documented in 2024, representing a 0.6% decrease.

Although fewer intimate partner homicides were identified in 2025, this one-year change should be interpreted cautiously. A single year of data does not establish a sustained trend or explain why the number changed. Intimate partner homicide data also cannot determine whether the overall prevalence or severity of domestic violence in Texas increased or decreased. The 2025 findings must be considered alongside longer-term homicide trends, statewide family violence data, survivor service needs, system responses, and the circumstances documented in individual cases.

The 160 victims included



136 women

and



24 men.

Of the women, 5 were pregnant when they were killed, and their 5 unborn children also died. Nine victims were identified in the available data as LGBTQIA+ and were killed by same-sex intimate partners. As a result of these 160 homicides, 128 minor children and 95 adult children lost one or both parents.

The 5 pregnant women represented 4.1% of the 122 female victims documented in 2025. Criminal charges varied across these cases. In three cases, the person who caused harm was charged with capital murder of multiple persons in connection with the deaths of the woman and her unborn child. In another case, the person was charged with murder only. In the fifth case, the person was charged with two counts of intoxication of manslaughter.

The presence of pregnant victims is a significant homicide-prevention finding. National research found that the homicide rate among women who were pregnant or within one year after pregnancy was 16% higher than among women who were not pregnant. Another study found that 45.3% of homicides during pregnancy or the first-year postpartum involved intimate partner violence (IPV). These findings reinforce the importance of connecting IPV screening during prenatal and other healthcare visits to confidential safety planning, lethality assessment, advocacy services, and coordinated intervention when elevated risk is identified.¹

The 2025 findings also underscore the continuing significance of murder-suicide within intimate partner homicides.

TCFV identified 54 intimate partner homicide victims killed in murder-suicide incidents, representing 33.8% of the 160 victims documented in this report. These incidents reinforce the importance of recognizing homicide threats, suicide threats, firearm access, separation, stalking, escalating violence, and other indicators associated with an increased risk of lethal harm.

In addition to the 160 Texans killed by current or former intimate partners, 15 children, family members, friends, or bystanders were also killed in connection with these incidents. As noted above, 5 unborn children also died, bringing the total number of lives lost across the incidents examined in this report to 180.

¹ Wallace, M., Gillispie-Bell, V., Cruz, K., Davis, K., & Vilda, D. (2021). Homicide during pregnancy and the postpartum period in the United States, 2018–2019. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 138(5), 762–769. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0000000000004567>; Palladino, C. L., Singh, V., Campbell, J., Flynn, H., & Gold, K. J. (2011). Homicide and suicide during the perinatal period: Findings from the National Violent Death Reporting System. *Obstetrics & Gynecology*, 118(5), 1056–1063. <https://doi.org/10.1097/AOG.0b013e31823294da>; "Violence and Pregnancy." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, December 5, 2024, <https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/violence-and-pregnancy.html>

The 15 additional victims and 5 unborn children are documented separately and are not included in the report's primary count of 160 intimate partner homicide victims. Their deaths are critical to understanding the broader scope of lethal domestic violence, as children or others connected to the victim may be targeted as a means to exert control, punish, retaliate, or inflict lasting harm.

Across the cases reviewed, TCFV identified recurring evidence of known lethality factors and patterns of abusive behavior. These included firearm access and use, separation or attempted separation, stalking, threats to kill the victim, threats of suicide, prior assaults, strangulation, coercive control, escalating violence, and violations of protective orders or other court-imposed restrictions. In some cases, the victim, the person who caused harm, or both had contact with law enforcement, courts, healthcare systems, or other community institutions before the homicide.

The presence and visibility of these factors varied across cases, and the available records did not consistently provide complete histories of the relationships, prior violence, or system involvement. The absence of a documented risk factor should not be interpreted as evidence that the factor was not present. Instead, the recurrence of these patterns in the available information points to critical opportunities for earlier recognition, information-sharing, survivor-centered safety planning, intervention, and accountability.

The findings also reveal the complexity of accurately identifying and analyzing intimate partner homicides. Criminal charges describe the alleged conduct associated with a particular incident, but they do not always reflect the full history or context of violence within a relationship. Several cases required additional review because the available information included competing allegations of violence, prior victimization, possible survivor use of force, claims of self-defense, uncertain relationship classifications, or records that were limited, redacted, or withheld.

These cases reinforce the importance of examining patterns of violence over time rather than relying exclusively on the circumstances recorded at the homicide scene or the initial criminal charge.

They also demonstrate the need for consistent and transparent inclusion standards that recognize the complexity of domestic violence while preserving the accuracy and integrity of the report.



SECTION II

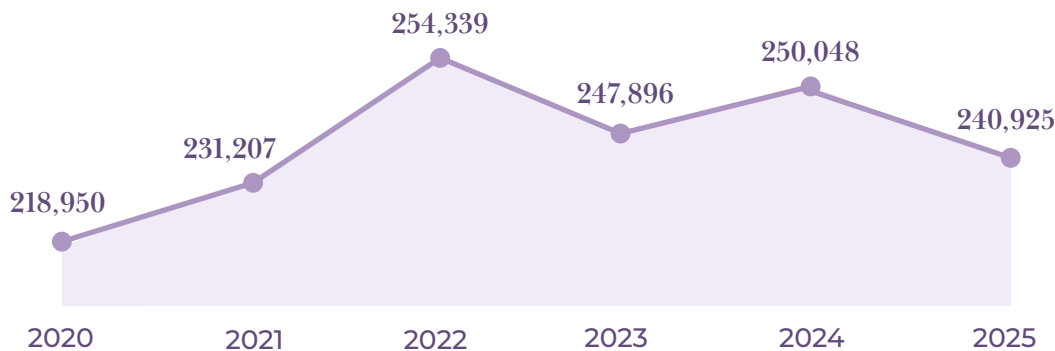
Landscape of Domestic Violence in Texas: Data and Impact

VICTIM SERVICES IN TEXAS – 2025

Each year, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reports on the number of family violence offenses reported to/by law enforcement. In 2025, DPS reported 240,925 family violence offenses, a decrease from 2024 of nearly 4% (3.65%).²

Of the family violence incidents reported in 2025, 113,769 total incidents were committed by current or prior intimate partners.³ Of all the total family violence incidents, 16,951 involved at least one aggravated assault offense, while 93,546 incidents involved at least one simple assault offense.

FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS



The need for victim services in our state is also represented by the hotline calls our local family violence programs receive.



In 2025, Texas crisis lines responded to **260,196 calls**, an increase of 2% from 2024.⁴



In 2025, a total of **65,920 Texans** received services from family violence programs.⁵



Of those served, **22,444 survivors** received shelter, reflecting a decrease of 2.5% compared with 2024.⁶



Despite the range of services available, **50.9% of survivors** were turned away from shelter due to a lack of space.⁷

² Texas Department of Public Safety. Crime in Texas: 2025 Annual Report (2026).
<https://www.dps.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/crimereports/25/2025cit.pdf>

³ Texas Department of Public Safety, Texas Family Violence Report, data for 1/1/2025–12/31/2025, Texas Uniform Crime Reporting System, National Incident-Based Reporting System, accessed August 24, 2026, <https://txucr.nibrs.com/Report/TXFamilyViolenceReport>.

⁴ Unless otherwise noted, the raw data and analysis in this section are derived from the following sources: 1) Texas Health & Human Services Commission, Family Violence Program, unpublished raw data for 9/1/2024–8/31/25; and 2) Texas Council on Family Violence. State of the State: Creating a Safer Texas (2026), <https://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/State-of-the-State-2023-2025-1.pdf>.

⁵⁻⁷ Ibid.

■ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH-RISK TEAMS

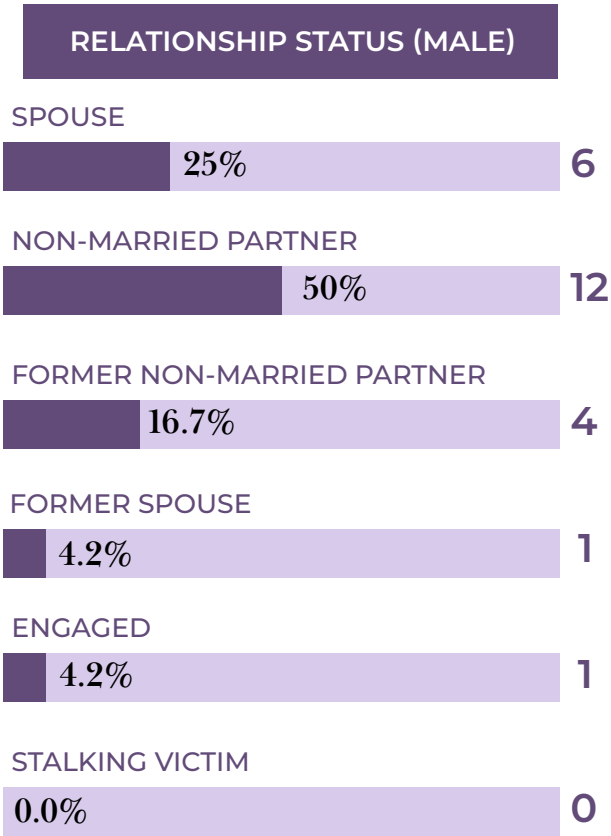
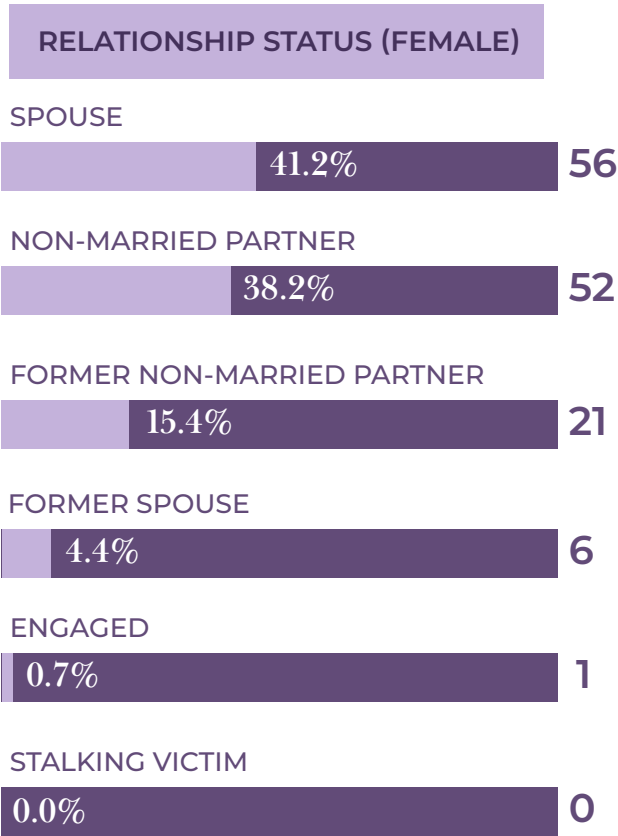
Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (DVHRTs) promote coordination between criminal legal advocacy, general advocacy, and community partners to provide enhanced support to survivors at the highest risk of lethal violence. The nine funded programs identified 519 high-risk cases in 2025, a decrease of 25% from the sites that were funded the prior year, which vary in population size from the 2024 sites. Although this was a 25% decrease year-to-year, the number of cases in FY2025 was close to the overall average between FY2020 to FY2024 (518).



SECTION III

2025 IPV Homicides and Stalking Homicides Data

A total of 160 intimate partner violence victims were killed by their abusive partner. Compared to 2024, this is a decrease of approximately 0.6%.

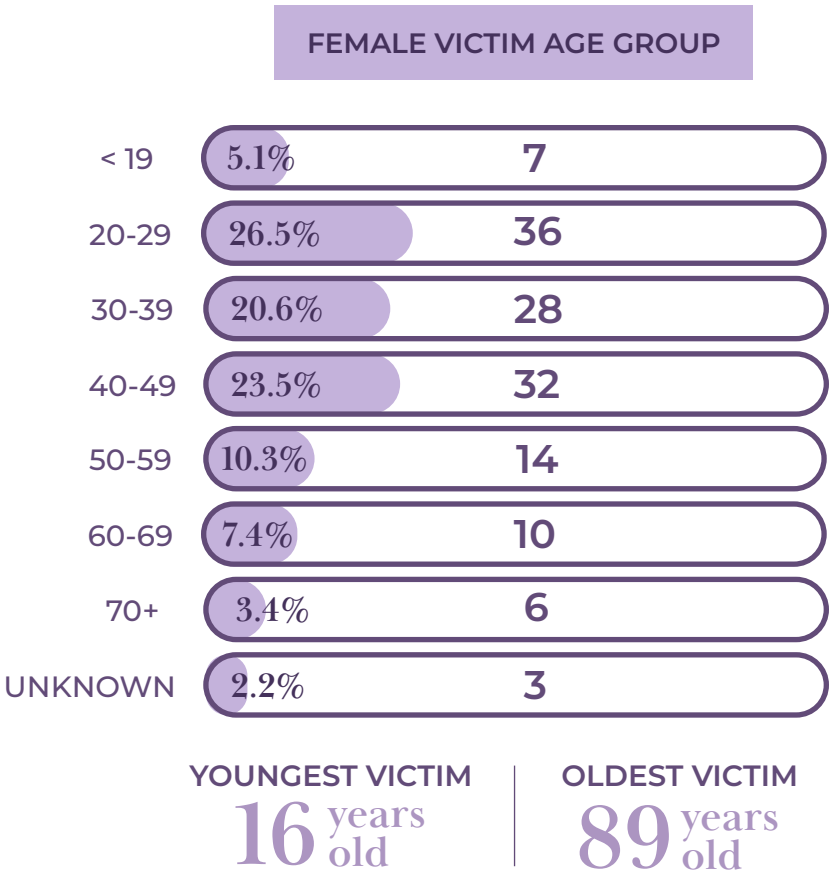


■ WOMEN KILLED

In 2025, 136 women were killed by their current or former intimate partners. Of those, 134 women were killed by a male intimate partner and 2 by their female intimate partner. Women ages 20–29 accounted for the most homicide victims, followed by those ages 40–49.

Notably, 6 cases involved victims in their 80s. Overall, in 2025, there was an increase in victims over 70 years old, accounting for 11 victims in that age range. This is a notable increase in elderly victims compared to that of 2024.

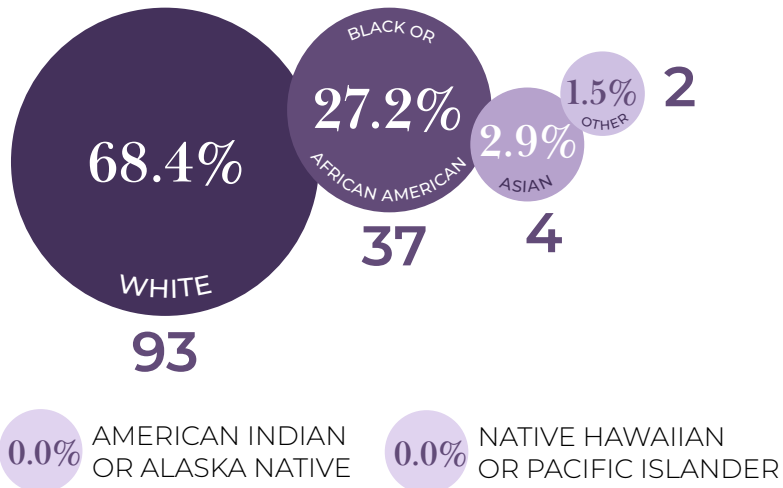
Two cases involved minor victims who were killed by their intimate partners; due to their age, limited demographic information was available. This age range continues to prove the importance of both domestic violence prevention and intervention. Domestic violence has no age limit. TCFV's goal is to provide services and intervention to all Texans.



The female victims in 2025 included 4 Asian, 37 Black or African American, 93 White, 2 Other; 50 were of Hispanic ethnicity. There were no female victims who were Native American or Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, or other race or ethnicities. Seven had unreported ethnicities.

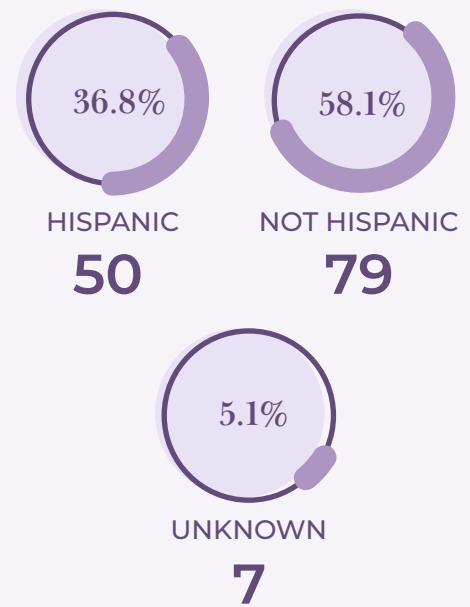
FEMALE VICTIM RACE/ETHNICITY

RACE OF VICTIM (FEMALE)



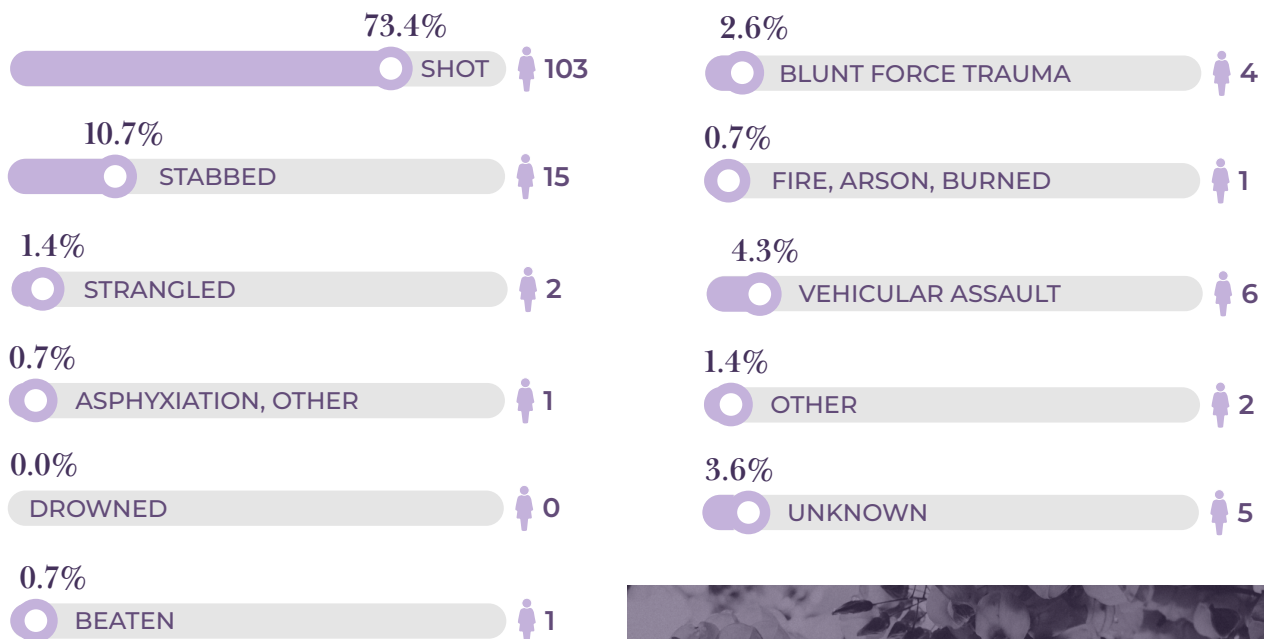
Of the 136 women who lost their lives, 103 were killed by firearm, 15 were fatally stabbed, 1 was killed by physical assault, 2 were strangled to death, 4 were killed by blunt force trauma, 6 were killed by vehicle, 1 was killed by asphyxiation, 2 were killed by other means, 1 was killed by arson, and 5 were killed but the weapon type was unknown.

ETHNICITY OF VICTIM (FEMALE)



METHOD OF MURDER (FEMALE)

140 TOTAL



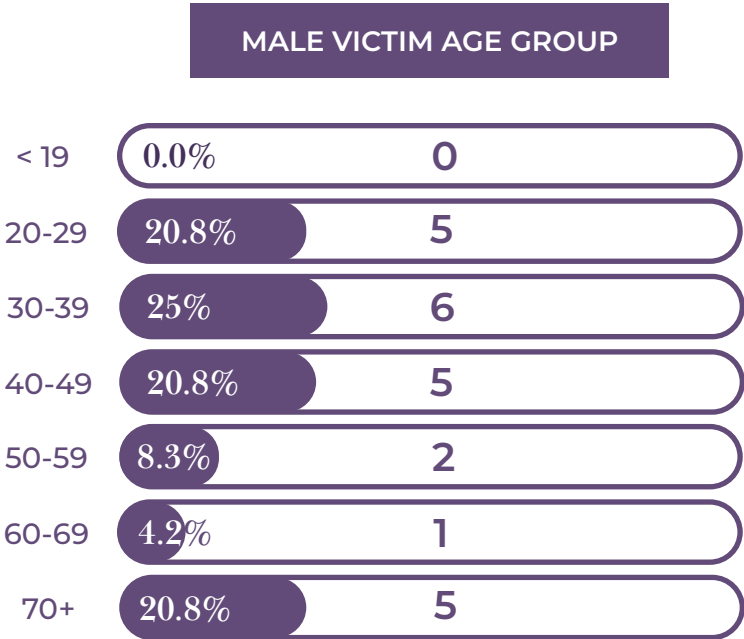
* In some cases, multiple weapons were used; therefore, the count of weapons used may exceed the number of cases.

MEN KILLED

In 2018, TCFV began to include men killed in intimate partner homicides to reflect the violence faced by male victims. In 2025, 17 men were killed by their female partners, and 7 were killed by their same-sex partners.

The age group of 30-39 had the highest count of homicides, with the age ranges 20-29, 40-49, and 70+ all ranking second highest.

In 2025, there was an increase in victims over 70 years old, accounting for 11 victims in that age range. This is a notable increase in elderly victims compared to that of 2024.



YOUNGEST VICTIM 22 years old

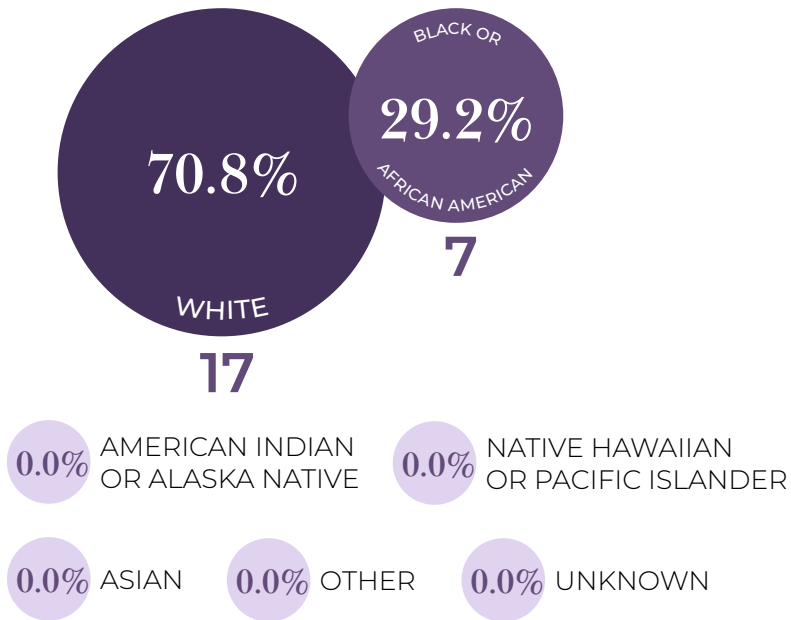
OLDEST VICTIM 82 years old



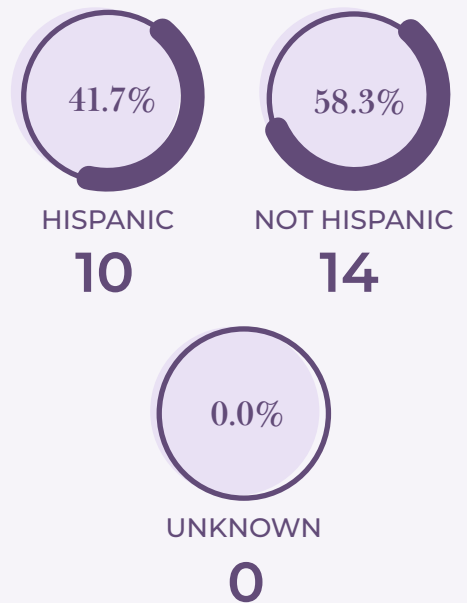
Of the male victims in 2025, 7 were Black or African American and 17 were white; 10 were of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. The report did not identify any male victims of Native American, Alaska Native, Pacific Islander, Asian, or other race or ethnicities.

MALE VICTIM RACE/ETHNICITY

RACE OF VICTIM (MALE)



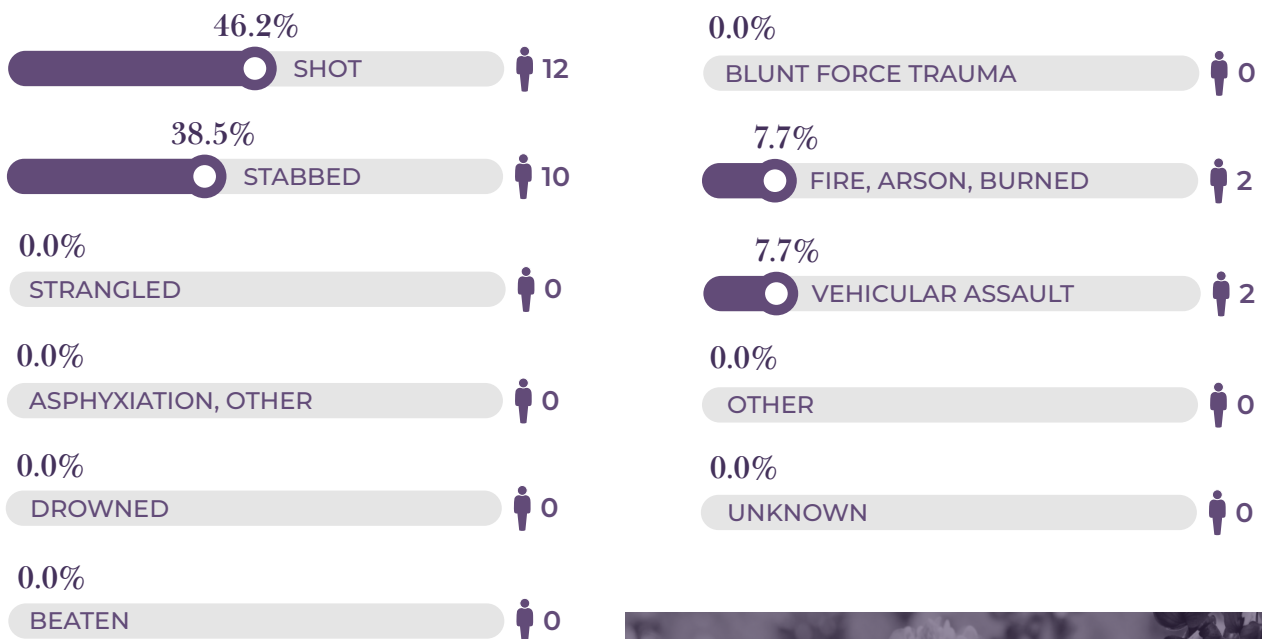
ETHNICITY OF VICTIM (MALE)



An analysis of weapons used in homicides against males showed that in 2025, 12 were killed by firearm, 10 by knife or stabbing, 2 by vehicular assault, and 2 by either arson or vehicular assault.

METHOD OF MURDER (MALE)

26 TOTAL



* In some cases, multiple weapons were used; therefore, the count of weapons used may exceed the number of cases.

■ LGBTQIA+ VICTIMS

In 2025, 9 LGBTQIA+ Texans were killed by an intimate partner, an increase of 125% from 2024 and the largest number of LGBTQ+ cases since 2021, which had 12. Between 2020 and 2025, a total of 40 LGBTQIA+ victims were documented in the *Honoring Texas Victims* Report. In 2025, 7 of these involved male victims and 2 were females. In the male same-sex cases, 5 were stabbed and 2 were shot, whereas in the 2 female same-sex cases, 1 was stabbed and 1 was shot.

This year's data reiterates what was analyzed in previous editions of this report: LGBTQIA+ survivors of intimate partner violence often face greater help-seeking barriers and reduced capacity to report violence due to the potential for discrimination and systemic intolerance. When considering preventative measures that are equitable and accessible to these communities, data researchers and advocates must remain vigilant against bias regarding gender identity and sexual orientation. It is only through this vigilance that we can reduce victimization and the potential for these cases to turn lethal.

■ HOMICIDE PERPETRATORS

While analyzing intimate partner violence, it is critical to understand the different relationships between perpetrators and victims that have led to homicides. Each year, TCFV categorizes the known relationships of each perpetrator to their victim. The 40–49 age range had the highest number of perpetrators, followed by the 20–29 range. While these are the known perpetrator data, we acknowledge that in two cases, records were not released because the victims and perpetrators were minors.

In 2025, homicide perpetrators included
19 women and 141 men.



Of these, the youngest perpetrator was an 18-year-old male, and the oldest was an 88-year-old male.

While criminal history alone does not determine lethality of an intimate partner relationship, it can indicate a record of escalation of violence.

It is also imperative to acknowledge that many cases have no recorded or *known* history of prior violence for the perpetrator, or possibly even for the relationship with the homicide victim.

CRIMINAL HISTORY



In 2025, **32.5%** of homicide perpetrators had a *known* history of violence, a **33.5% decrease** from the year prior.

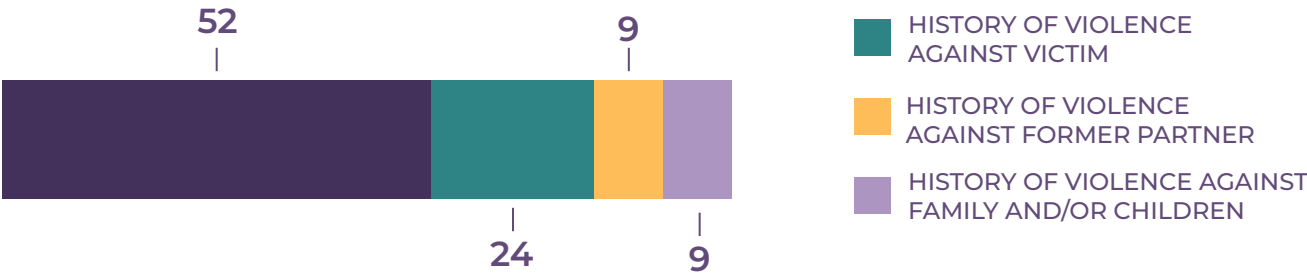
Of the **160** intimate partner violence homicide perpetrators in 2025, **3** had current or prior MOEP (Magistrate Order of Emergency Protection, also known as Emergency Protection Order, or EPO), and **1** had an active Lifetime Protective Order at the time of the homicide.



3 MOEP/EPO

1 LIFETIME
PROTECTIVE
ORDER

HISTORY OF VIOLENCE



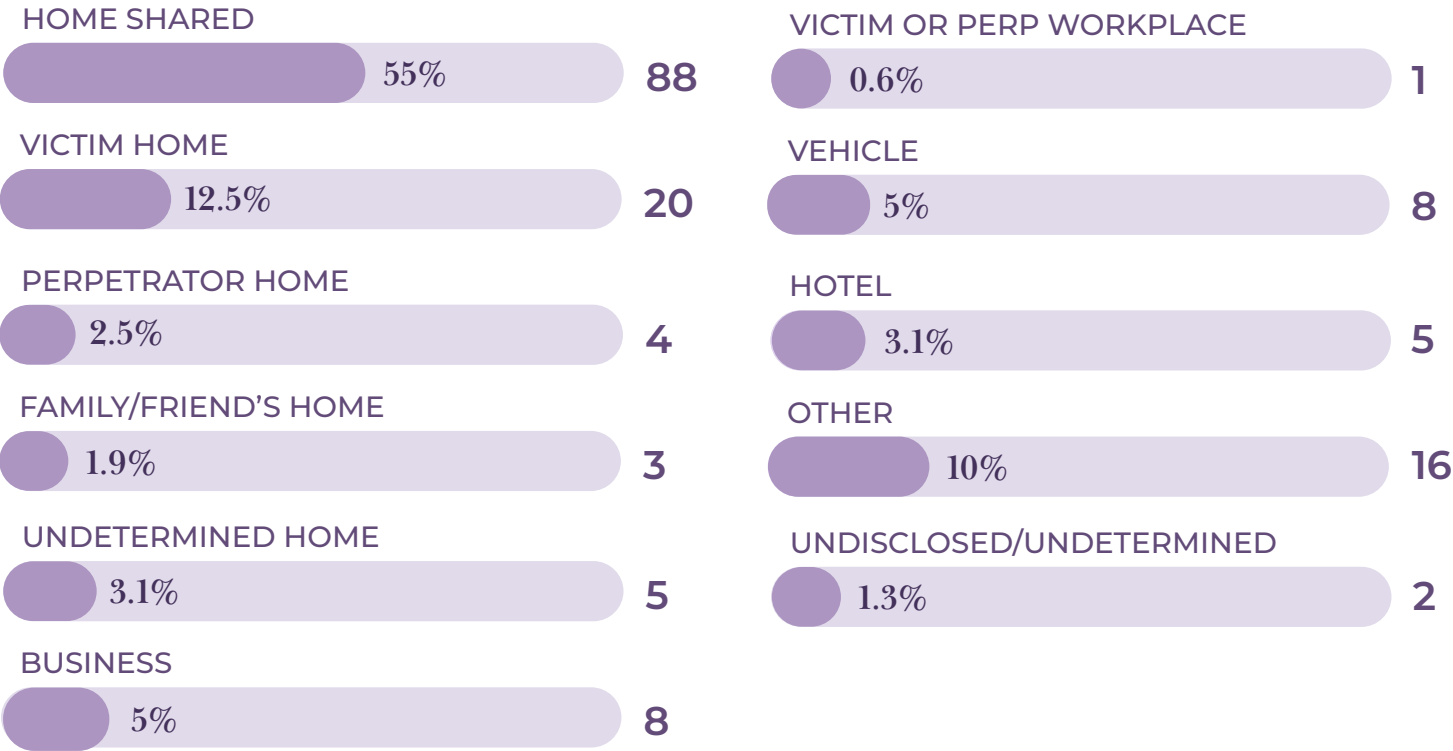
MURDER-SUICIDES

Of the 160 IPV homicide incidents in 2025, 54 were ruled as murder-suicides. This reflects a similar statistic of 34% in 2024, displaying our increasing need to study and intervene on murder-suicides and familicides. Additionally, three offenders were killed at the scene by law enforcement during the homicide incidents.

LOCATION OF HOMICIDES

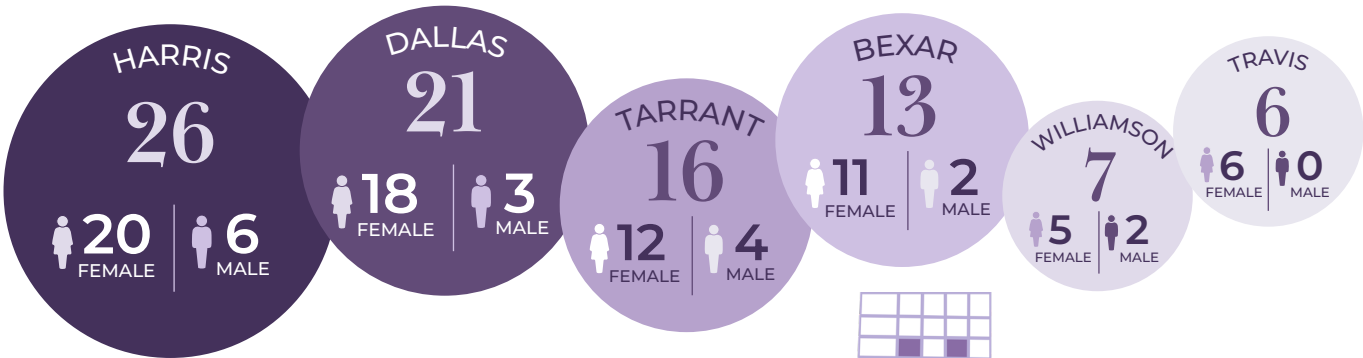
In addition to analyzing the relationship type and weapons used, it is imperative to analyze data on where these homicides have occurred. Identifying these locations assists in acknowledging the safety barriers most victims face while in violent intimate relationships. For 2025, 55% of the cases occurred at a home shared by victim and offender, while 12.5% occurred in the victim's home. These findings highlight the high-risk factor of victims not always being safest at home and the barriers they may encounter to find a safe place to live.

LOCATION TYPES OF 2025 IPV HOMICIDES



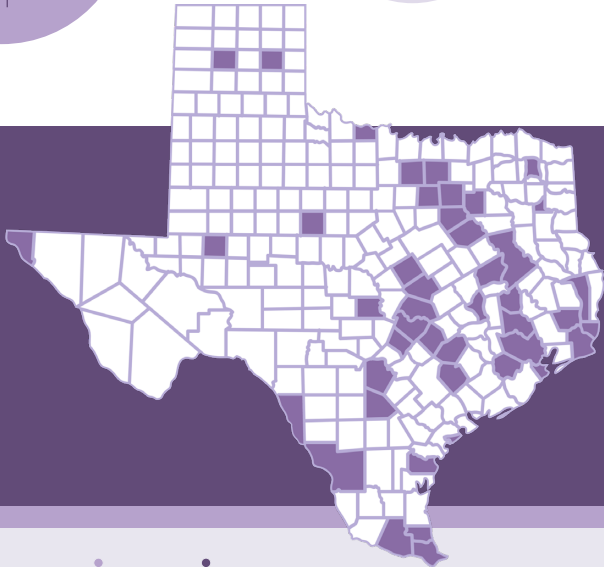
■ INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES ACROSS TEXAS

In 2025, the top six counties that reported intimate partner violence homicides were Harris (26), Dallas (21), Tarrant (16), Bexar (13), Williamson (7), and Travis (6). Within these six counties combined, a total of 89 IPV homicides occurred, reflecting 55.6% of the total 2025 cases.



A total of **45 counties in Texas** experienced at least one homicide due to intimate partner violence.

Below is a full list of intimate partner homicides in each county:



COUNTY	TOTAL #		
HARRIS	26	20	6
DALLAS	21	18	3
TARRANT	16	12	4
BEXAR	13	11	2
WILLIAMSON	7	5	2
TRAVIS	6	6	0
BELL	5	5	0
DENTON	5	5	0
HIDALGO	5	3	2
CAMERON	3	3	0
COLLIN	3	3	0
EL PASO	3	3	0
FORT BEND	3	3	0
GALVESTON	3	2	1
MONTGOMERY	3	2	1

COUNTY	TOTAL #		
BRAZOS	2	2	0
GREGG	2	2	0
KAUFMAN	2	2	0
NAVARRO	2	2	0
TAYLOR	2	2	0
WICHITA	2	2	0
BASTROP	2	1	1
MIDLAND	2	1	1
ANDERSON	1	1	0
ARANSAS	1	1	0
ATASCOSA	1	1	0
CORYELL	1	1	0
ELLIS	1	1	0
FAYETTE	1	1	0
GRAY	1	1	0

COUNTY	TOTAL #		
HARDIN	1	1	0
HAYS	1	1	0
JASPER	1	1	0
JEFFERSON	1	1	0
LAVACA	1	1	0
LEON	1	1	0
LLANO	1	1	0
MAVERICK	1	1	0
NUECES	1	1	0
ORANGE	1	1	0
POTTER	1	1	0
TITUS	1	1	0
WALKER	1	1	0
WEBB	1	1	0
WILLACY	1	0	1

SECTION IV

Understanding Complex and Related Fatalities

Honoring Texas Victims uses clearly defined criteria to identify and document Texans killed by current or former intimate partners. These standards protect the report's consistency and credibility, but they cannot fully convey every circumstance encountered during fatality research. Some deaths fall outside this report's parameters despite occurring within a broader context of family violence. Other cases meet the criteria for inclusion but involve complex histories that blur traditional distinctions between victims and persons who caused harm.

This section examines those complexities. It explains why certain fatalities are excluded, how decisions made throughout the criminal justice process may affect eligibility, and why survivors who use force require analysis that considers the full history of violence, coercion, fear, and survival. It also broadens the lens to examine children killed within family violence contexts whose deaths may not be captured in *Honoring Texas Victims'* intimate partner homicide count.

Acknowledging these cases does not weaken *Honoring Texas Victims'* methodology or erase accountability. It strengthens the report by distinguishing what the data can establish from what remains unknown and by recognizing that every life lost deserves both remembrance and responsible analysis.

■ ANALYSIS OF EXCLUDED FATALITIES WITHIN THE 2025 *HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS* FRAMEWORK

In addition to the 160 intimate partner homicide victims included in this report, TCFV reviewed 18 deaths that did not meet *Honoring Texas Victims'* inclusion criteria based on the information available at the time of publication.

The excluded cases included:



Three cases determined to involve self-defense in which the person who used lethal force was not charged.

Six cases no-billed by a grand jury, meaning the grand jury determined that probable cause had not been established based on the evidence presented.

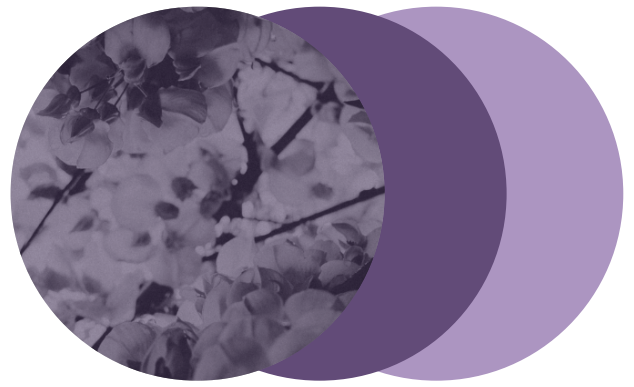
Nine ongoing investigations for which necessary records were withheld or unavailable.

One notable case involved a former boyfriend who pushed a woman into the path of a moving vehicle, causing her death. He was charged with aggravated assault causing serious bodily injury, but the charge was later no-billed. Because criminal charges and case outcomes do not always reflect the full history of violence within a relationship, this and other cases require careful review under *Honoring Texas Victims'* established methodology.

TCFV was unable to obtain complete records or responses to records requests in 18 of the excluded cases. This lack of information does not establish that domestic violence was absent. Instead, it limited TCFV's ability to verify the relationship, examine prior violence, assess self-defense claims, or determine whether the deaths met the report's criteria.

This finding reveals a significant statewide data gap. Differences in how jurisdictions collect, classify, retain, and report fatality information can prevent Texas from consistently identifying intimate partner homicides and related intervention opportunities. Meaningful statewide policy should promote consistent data collection, reporting, and information sharing while protecting survivors, minors, confidential information, and active investigations.

Documenting exclusions preserves methodological integrity, transparency, and analytical accuracy. It allows readers to understand what was excluded and why while recognizing the limitations of available intimate partner homicide data.



■ A BRIEF EXPLANATION OF ELIGIBILITY, EXCLUSIONS, AND THE IMPACT OF DECISIONS MADE IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS

Honoring Texas Victims memorializes Texans killed by intimate partners while using what is known about their deaths to strengthen prevention and systems response. Fatality data should never simply document tragedy; it should inform prevention. Fulfilling that purpose requires more than counting cases. It requires a transparent methodology and careful attention to the complex realities surrounding each death. Criminal charges may change, records may be incomplete, and a person initially identified as responsible for a homicide may also have experienced a sustained pattern of violence, coercion, or fear. The following section examines how decisions are made throughout the criminal justice process and how those decisions may affect a case classification and eligibility for inclusion in *Honoring Texas Victims*.

Understanding why certain cases are included in this report while others are not requires an appreciation of both the report's methodology and the realities of the criminal justice process. Eligibility decisions are based on objective criteria designed to produce reliable, meaningful data, not to evaluate the quality of an investigation, prosecution, or judicial outcome. Likewise, the legal decisions made throughout a criminal case often affect how an offense is ultimately classified, but those decisions are driven by legal and ethical obligations that exist independent of any reporting methodology.

■ DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY FOR INCLUSION

Eligibility for inclusion is determined by applying consistent, objective criteria to every case. While each case presents unique facts, the screening process focuses on whether a case satisfies the report's established definitions and requirements.

Multiple factors may be considered when determining eligibility. These factors are not necessarily weighted equally. Some criteria are essential and dispositive, while others provide context or assist in classification when the circumstances are less straightforward. Applying the same standards to every case promotes consistency and helps ensure that similar cases are treated alike.

Because these determinations are based on predefined criteria rather than subjective judgment, eligibility should not be interpreted as a measure of the seriousness of an offense, the quality of the investigation, or the strength of a prosecution.

■ WHY EXCLUDE CASES?

No research project or statistical report can accurately answer every question. Meaningful analysis depends on clearly defining what is being measured.

■ PRESERVING STATISTICAL VALUE

The purpose of establishing inclusion and exclusion criteria is to improve the usefulness of the data, not to support a particular narrative. Clear definitions allow readers to compare cases consistently across jurisdictions and over time. Expanding eligibility beyond the report's intended scope may increase the number of cases included, but it also decreases the reliability of comparisons and may obscure important trends.



Methodological clarity serves the report's purpose better than attempting to include every potentially relevant case.

■ PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Clear eligibility guidelines also make the screening process more efficient. Investigators, researchers, and reviewers can evaluate cases using objective standards rather than making ad hoc decisions for each individual circumstance. This consistency reduces uncertainty, promotes fairness, and improves reproducibility.

■ MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY AND CREDIBILITY

Most importantly, clearly articulated exclusion criteria strengthen the credibility of the report. Readers should be able to understand why every included case qualifies and why excluded cases do not. Transparent methodology allows others to evaluate the findings on their merits and reinforces confidence that inclusion decisions were made consistently rather than selectively.

■ HOW CRIMINAL JUSTICE DECISIONS AFFECT ELIGIBILITY

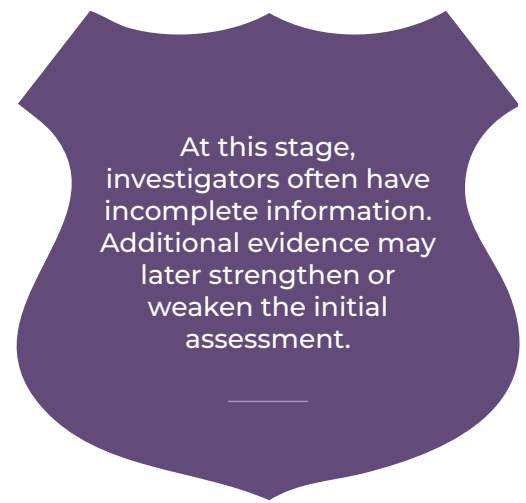
A criminal case evolves through multiple stages, each involving independent decision-makers applying different legal standards.

As a result, the offense ultimately reflected in court records may differ from the initial allegations, even when the underlying facts remain unchanged.

Understanding this process may help explain how and why a case that would otherwise seem like an obvious choice for inclusion in this report might be excluded.

■ THE INITIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT DECISION

The first crucial decision occurs when law enforcement determines whether probable cause exists to make an arrest. Probable cause requires only a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that the suspect committed it. It is intentionally a relatively low legal threshold that allows the criminal justice process to begin.



■ PROSECUTORIAL DISCRETION

Once a case is submitted for prosecution, prosecutors independently evaluate the available evidence and determine what charges, if any, should be filed.

This evaluation differs substantially from probable-cause determination. Prosecutors must consider whether they can prove each element of an offense beyond a reasonable doubt, the highest burden of proof in the legal system. The gap between probable cause and proof beyond a reasonable doubt is significant, and those responsible for charging decisions must account for that difference.

Prosecutors also determine whether additional charges are legally supported and appropriate. These decisions are guided not only by the evidence but also by ethical obligations requiring prosecutors to seek justice rather than simply pursue the most severe possible charges.

Practical considerations frequently influence charging decisions, including

- ◆ the availability and reliability of witnesses;
- ◆ admissibility of evidence;
- ◆ potential legal defenses;
- ◆ mitigating circumstances recognized by law, such as sudden passion; and
- ◆ the likelihood of obtaining and sustaining a conviction.

These considerations are not signs of weakness; they are **essential components of ethical prosecution.**

■ THE GRAND JURY

The grand jury serves as an important safeguard by determining whether sufficient evidence exists to establish probable cause. While its role is not to determine guilt or innocence, a grand jury assessment may also provide an early indication of how members of the community perceive the available evidence.

A *true bill* authorizes prosecution to continue. A *no bill* reflects the grand jury's determination that probable cause has not been established based upon the evidence presented. Once no-billed, the prosecution of a case cannot continue.

■ THE POWER OF PLEA NEGOTIATIONS

The overwhelming majority of criminal cases are resolved through negotiated pleas rather than trials. Plea negotiations exist because criminal litigation involves uncertainty for every participant.

For victims and surviving family members, a negotiated resolution may provide certainty, finality, and accountability while avoiding the emotional burden and unpredictability of trial.

Prosecutors must balance the known outcome of a negotiated disposition against the possibility that a trial may result in acquittal, reversal, or other unforeseen consequences.

Whether to reduce a charge as part of a plea agreement depends on many factors, including

- ◆ confidence in proving the charged offense beyond a reasonable doubt,
- ◆ witness availability and credibility,
- ◆ evidentiary challenges,
- ◆ applicable legal defenses or mitigating circumstances, and
- ◆ the resulting punishment range and parole eligibility.

A reduced charge should not automatically be viewed as a failure. In many cases, it represents a carefully considered resolution that secures accountability while accounting for the strengths and limitations of the available evidence.

■ A FINAL NOTE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE CONVICTIONS

It is common for a case to be charged or pled as an offense that is different than the charge appearing on the initial warrant for arrest. Prosecutors frequently employ alternative or amended charges based upon evidentiary developments, legal requirements, or negotiated resolutions. Creative charging decisions are a strategic necessity and are routinely utilized to ensure a better or more certain outcome for victims and their families and should not be interpreted as minimizing the seriousness of the underlying conduct.

Similarly, a reduction in charges does not necessarily represent a defeat for prosecution or a failure of the criminal justice system. Rather, it may reflect an ethical assessment of the available evidence and the best means of achieving a just outcome.

Throughout the criminal justice process, best practices require transparent communication with victims' families. Explaining the reasons behind charging decisions, plea negotiations, and case dispositions helps avoid misunderstandings and encourages meaningful collaboration toward a resolution that, while sometimes requiring compromise, still reflects justice from the family's perspective.

The disposition of a criminal case should be driven by the pursuit of justice for the victim, consideration for surviving loved ones, and protection of the community. Those decisions should remain entirely independent of the name of the charge, or whether a case qualifies for inclusion or exclusion under the methodology of this report.



■ CHILDREN LOST TO FAMILY VIOLENCE

Honoring Texas Victims demonstrates that the harm caused by intimate partner violence extends far beyond the person killed, leaving children bereaved, families fractured, and communities forever changed. In some cases, children are directly targeted and killed, harmed during an attack against a parent, or caught within a broader pattern of family violence. Yet these deaths may fall outside *Honoring Texas Victims*' established intimate partner's homicide criteria or be classified differently across child welfare, criminal justice, and homicide reporting systems, making their connection to domestic violence less visible.

Children are often described as hidden victims of domestic violence. While many survive violence in their homes, some do not. Texas has no single system that comprehensively identifies and tracks children killed in connection with domestic and family violence. Understanding these fatalities requires examining multiple sources, recognizing differences in how systems classify deaths, and acknowledging the limitations of available data. This exploratory section broadens the lens without combining these deaths with *Honoring Texas Victims*' primary intimate partner homicide count.

WHEN CHILDREN BECOME DIRECT TARGETS

Four historical Texas cases illustrate why a broader analysis of child fatalities connected to intimate partner violence is necessary. Across these cases mentioned below, 10 children were killed, one child was critically injured, and two children escaped physically unharmed. These cases are illustrative and do not represent a comprehensive count of Texas child fatalities related to domestic violence.

- » **In 2008, Amelia Flores** survived being shot and assaulted by her estranged husband, Roberto Rojas, in Mission. Rojas killed Amelia's mother and her three children: Mauro, Silvestre, and Osiel. He was sentenced to life in prison without parole. Amelia has since shared her experience publicly to raise awareness about domestic violence.
- » **In 2018, Amanda Simpson** survived being shot by her former husband, Justin Painter, in Ponder. Painter killed their three children: Odin, Caydence, and Drake, as well as Amanda's boyfriend, Seth Richardson, before dying by suicide. Before the attack, Amanda had expressed concerns about Painter's instability and potential danger.
- » **In 2019, Kimaria Nelson** survived a severe attack by her boyfriend, Junaid Mehmood, in Texas City. Her three children: Angela, Prince Larry, and infant Ashanti were killed. Mehmood later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.
- » **In 2023, Mariah Gardner** survived being shot five times by her former husband, Stephen Clare, in San Antonio. Clare also attacked their two young daughters, killing 11-month-old Willow Grace and critically injuring her two-year-old sister. Mariah's two sons escaped without physical injury. Clare later pleaded guilty and was sentenced to life in prison without parole.



Because the intimate partners targeted in these attacks survived, the children killed are not counted as intimate partner homicide victims under *Honoring Texas Victims*' established criteria and are not included in the homicide totals in any of the *Honoring Texas Victims* reports. However, these cases demonstrate that children can be direct targets of domestic violence, not incidental casualties. People who cause harm may target children and other family members to extend violence, exert control, punish a survivor, or inflict lasting harm.

Examining these fatalities separately reveals dimensions of domestic violence that traditional intimate partner homicide counts may not capture. It also underscores the need for improved cross-system data collection, multidisciplinary fatality review, and prevention strategies that assess threats to children and other family members alongside threats to the intimate partner.

For this reason, this section expands the lens of *Honoring Texas Victims* beyond its traditional focus on people killed by current or former intimate partners to examine child fatalities occurring within the broader context of domestic and family violence. These deaths are examined separately and should not be added to or directly compared with *Honoring Texas Victims'* intimate partner homicide count unless an individual case independently meets the report's established inclusion criteria.

UNBORN CHILDREN KILLED IN 2025 INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

TCFV separately identified five unborn children who died when their pregnant mothers were killed in 2025 intimate partner homicides.

Because unborn children do not fall within *Honoring Texas Victims'* established definition of an intimate partner homicide victim, they are documented separately and are not included in the report's primary count of 160 victims.

The criminal charges associated with these deaths varied. In three cases, the person who caused harm was charged with capital murder of multiple persons in connection with the deaths of the woman and her unborn child. In another case, the person was charged with two counts of intoxication manslaughter. In the fifth case, the person was charged only with the murder of the pregnant woman, and the death of her unborn child was not reflected in a separate homicide charge.

Differences in charging decisions should not erase the full impact of these homicides. Separately documenting the five unborn children honors the extent of the lives lost and highlights the need for consistent collection of pregnancy status, gestational information when available, fetal outcomes, criminal charges, and case dispositions. This information is essential to understanding the full scope of pregnancy-associated intimate partner homicide and strengthening prevention and intervention for pregnant survivors.

ABOUT THIS SECTION: SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

Honoring Texas Victims has historically documented Texans killed by current or former intimate partners. This section examines a broader but related issue: children whose deaths occurred within the context of family violence.



The information presented in this section is drawn from a review of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) *Fiscal Year 2025 Child Maltreatment Fatalities and Near Fatalities Annual Report*, as well as TCFV's review of publicly reported child homicide cases occurring in Texas during calendar year 2025.

These sources were developed for different purposes and used different definitions, reporting periods, data collection practices, and methods of classification. Accordingly, findings from these sources should not be combined with one another or directly compared with *Honoring Texas Victims'* intimate partner homicide count.

This review is not intended to establish a definitive number of children killed in Texas due to family violence. Instead, it examines what available information reveals about the intersection of child fatalities, intimate partner violence, and family violence and identifies gaps in Texas' current ability to recognize and track these deaths.

Part of the challenge lies in how these deaths are classified and investigated. Child fatality systems typically focus on abuse and neglect. Homicide reporting systems focus on criminal offenses. Domestic violence data systems are generally designed to identify violence between intimate partners. A child's death may appear in one system, multiple systems, or none of them as a domestic violence-related fatality.

It is also important to recognize the distinction between intimate partner violence and family violence. Intimate partner violence refers to violence committed by a current or former spouse, dating partner, or intimate partner. Family violence is broader. Under Texas law, family violence includes violence committed by a family member or household member against another member of the household.

As a result, a child who is intentionally assaulted or killed by a parent, stepparent, sibling, grandparent, or other household member may be a victim of family violence even when there is no known intimate partner violence occurring between adults in the home.

This distinction matters because some child fatalities are readily recognized as domestic violence incidents, while others are not. A child killed during an attack directed at a parent may be identified as a domestic violence victim. In contrast, a child killed by a parent or caregiver may be classified solely as a child abuse homicide, even when the violence occurred within the context of family violence. Similarly, some children die in homes where coercive control, intimidation, substance use, or ongoing violence are present, but the death itself may ultimately be classified as neglect, abuse, homicide, or another cause without domestic violence being formally identified.

Available data suggest that domestic violence is a significant factor in many child fatalities. The DFPS Child Maltreatment Fatalities and Near Fatalities Annual Report identified active domestic violence concerns in 41 families with confirmed child abuse or neglect fatalities during Fiscal Year 2025 and documented a history of domestic violence in 60 families. Children living in homes with both active and historical domestic violence were especially likely to die because of physical abuse.⁸

A review of publicly reported Texas cases from 2025 further illustrates the variety of ways children can become victims of domestic and family violence. News reports described incidents involving murder-suicides in which children were killed alongside a parent, cases in which fathers were accused of killing infants and young children in their care, and incidents in which children were targeted during broader acts of family violence. These cases ranged from infant victims to school-aged children and occurred in communities across the state. While each case is unique, together they demonstrate that children may be harmed as direct targets, as secondary victims during an attack on another family member, or as a result of violence and instability within the home.⁹

⁸ Texas Department of Family and Protective Services, *Fiscal Year 2025 Child Maltreatment Fatalities and Near Fatalities Annual Report* (February 2026).

⁹ Review of publicly reported Texas child homicide and family violence cases occurring during calendar year 2025.

The limitations of available data create an additional challenge for efforts to recognize and remember victims. When domestic violence results in the death of an adult intimate partner, the connection to domestic violence is often easier to identify. When a child is killed instead of, or in addition to, the intended intimate partner victim, that connection may be less visible. The child's death may be recorded as a homicide, child abuse fatality, murder-suicide, or neglect-related death without being identified as a domestic violence-related fatality. As a result, some children whose deaths are directly connected to domestic violence may not be captured in domestic violence by fatality counts or recognized in efforts intended to honor victims of domestic violence.



The true number of children killed because of domestic violence in Texas is unknown. Some cases are never publicly reported as domestic violence.

Others may involve histories of abuse or coercive control that are not known to investigators, service providers, or surviving family members. Children whose deaths are classified as abuse, neglect, homicide, or accident may nevertheless have lived in homes affected by violence. For these reasons, any attempt to quantify child fatalities related to domestic violence should be viewed as an estimate rather than a definitive count.

What remains clear is that domestic violence affects far more than intimate partners alone. Its impact extends throughout the family and can have devastating consequences for children. Efforts to identify domestic violence, support survivors, hold offenders accountable, and address risk factors within families are critical not only to protecting adult victims, but also to protecting children whose safety and well-being are intertwined with the safety of those who care for them.

■ SURVIVOR JUSTICE: VICTIMS WHO USE FORCE

Honoring Texas Victims applies a rigorous and intentionally narrow methodology to accurately document intimate partner homicides, but counting lives lost also requires understanding the histories surrounding those deaths. During its review of 2025 cases, TCFV identified several cases that met *Honoring Texas Victims*' inclusion criteria while challenging rigid distinctions between "victim" and "person who caused harm." In these cases, the person who died may have previously used violence, while the person accused of causing the death may also have experienced sustained abuse, coercion, or fear.

A life lost through intimate partner violence remains a life lost, even when the circumstances are complex. Inclusion in *Honoring Texas Victims* does not determine predominant aggressor, lawful self-defense, survivor status, or criminal responsibility. Instead, these cases call for careful contextual analysis that is capable of recognizing victimization, survival, harm, and accountability while preserving the integrity of the report's methodology.

Domestic violence is often understood as a binary through seemingly distinct categories: the person who causes harm and the person who experiences harm. The realities, however, of intimate partner violence do not always fit neatly within those boundaries. A survivor who has experienced sustained violence, threats, or coercion may also use force against an abusive partner. Survivors are often acutely aware of threats of violence, or impending homicide, which may be clear within the context of their experiences but less apparent to others.

In some cases, that force is lethal. When this happens, the person previously experiencing violence may quickly become misidentified by the criminal justice system as a suspect, defendant, or perpetrator. Survivor justice asks us to hold these realities together. The Survivors Justice Project, a survivor-led collaboration examining the relationship between domestic violence and criminalization, describes this approach as one that seeks “not to relinquish accountability but to appreciate complexity, not to offer justification but to create space for explanation.”¹⁰

Research on women incarcerated for killing abusive partners has long identified a troubling intersection between victimization and criminalization: Survivors may receive inadequate protection from violence and subsequently encounter punishment when they themselves use force.¹¹ Recognizing a person's history of victimization does not require assuming that every use of force is legally justified, nor does it mean disregarding the harm that has occurred. Instead, it means making room for the full context in which that harm took place.

In 2025, TCFV identified six cases through *Honoring Texas Victims* research in which a person who experienced intimate partner violence used lethal force against their abuser.

Taken together, these cases raise an important question:

What happens when a person identified as a victim of domestic violence survives a violent encounter but becomes the person accused of causing harm?



How do we build responses in our criminal justice systems that acknowledge both truths?

The moment at which law enforcement responds to a fatal incident can fundamentally shape how an intimate partner relationship is understood throughout the life of the system response. A long history of violence may be compressed into the events of a single night, or even a single moment. Once a survivor is identified as the person who caused a partner's death, the violence that preceded that death can become less visible.

Research on domestic violence has long cautioned against evaluating violent acts without considering their context. Measures that simply count acts of violence can obscure critical differences in intent, injury, fear, and power, potentially treating a survivor's defensive use of force as equivalent to an abusive partner's pattern of coercive violence.¹² Survivor justice advocates have consequently called for greater attention to the “moment of arrest” and for criminal legal professionals to better understand the relationship between domestic violence and the criminalization of survivors.¹³

¹⁰ Boudin, K., et al. (2022). Movement-Based Participatory Inquiry: The Multi-Voiced Story of the Survivors Justice Project, *Social Sciences* 11(3),129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11030129>.

¹¹ Leonard, E. D. (2002). *Convicted Survivors: The Imprisonment of Battered Women Who Kill*. State University of New York Press.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Boudin, K., et al. (2022). Movement-Based Participatory Inquiry: The Multi-Voiced Story of the Survivors Justice Project. *Social Sciences*, 11(3), 129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11030129>.

Robin Banda Coker's case demonstrates the difficulty of these shifting classifications. According to records reviewed by TCFV, Robin initially reported that Juan Coker pushed her into a refrigerator and injured her during an altercation. She told investigators that she believed she had “no choice” but to defend herself. The initial report identified Juan as the perpetrator of an assault causing injury and still, approximately one month later, Robin was arrested for his murder.

While many go quickly to questioning why the victim did not leave, understanding a survivor's use of force requires recognizing that leaving an abusive relationship is not always a safe or immediately available alternative. Research has documented that violence may continue or escalate during separation, as an abusive partner attempts to prevent a survivor from leaving, force their return, or retaliate for the loss of control.¹⁴

Robin's case illustrates how a person can move rapidly between the categories of victim and defendant. Those categories may describe different aspects of a case, but neither necessarily captures the entirety of a person's experience. The Survivors Justice Project argues that this complexity requires rejecting a rigid binary between “victim” and “perpetrator.” In its work with incarcerated survivors, the project has instead emphasized the possibility that victimization, responsibility, survival, and harm can coexist within the same person's story.¹⁵

The six cases identified through *Honoring Texas Victims* also reveal an important limitation of fatality review: the available record does not always contain the complete history of violence within a relationship. Research with survivors experiencing incarceration has found that domestic violence may be missing from court records for reasons that have little to do with whether the violence occurred. Survivors described fear of retaliation, trauma, shame, reluctance to disclose abuse, and concerns about family consequences. Some reported that defense attorneys advised them not to introduce their experiences of abuse at trial or declined to call witnesses who could speak to that history.¹⁶

For *Honoring Texas Victims*, this means carefully distinguishing between *no documented history of abuse* and *evidence that no abuse occurred*.¹⁷ This distinction is particularly important in cases such as that of Jerrian Jones, who was fatally stabbed by Alexandria Hubbard. TCFV's review did not identify documentation establishing a history of Jerrian abusing Alexandria. That evidentiary gap should not be filled with assumptions in either direction. Instead, it demonstrates one of the challenges of examining survivor use of force through administrative, criminal justice, and media records. Those sources may provide substantial information about the fatal incident while revealing much less about the relationship that preceded it.

¹⁴ Leonard, E. D. (2002). *Convicted Survivors: The Imprisonment of Battered Women Who Kill*. State University of New York Press.

¹⁵ Boudin, K., et al. (2022). Movement-Based Participatory Inquiry: The Multi-Voiced Story of the Survivors Justice Project. *Social Sciences*, 11(3), 129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11030129>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Mazeh, Y., & Widrig, M. (2016). The Rate of False Allegations of Partner Violence. *The Journal of Family Violence*, 31, 1035–1037. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-016-9882-3>.

Across the six cases, the available information differs. Some contain clearer documentation of previous intimate partner violence than others. Some resulted in arrest or prosecution, while others did not. Therefore, TCFV does not presume that every case represents lawful self-defense or that every person who used lethal force should be understood in the same way. Instead, these cases demonstrate why the criminal justice system must remain attentive to histories of victimization, even when the surviving partner has caused harm. Understanding the context surrounding survivors who use force is sometimes mistaken for excusing violence. Survivor justice offers another approach: accountability and context do not have to compete. For survivors who have caused serious harm, acknowledging domestic violence can be part of understanding responsibility rather than an attempt to erase it.¹⁸

Other states have begun experimenting with ways to account for domestic violence within the criminal legal process. New York's Domestic Violence Survivors Justice Act, enacted in 2019 after a decade-long advocacy campaign led in significant part by survivors of domestic violence and incarceration, allows courts in certain circumstances to impose reduced sentences or resentence incarcerated survivors. To qualify, the law requires findings that the person experienced substantial domestic abuse, that the abuse was a "significant contributing factor" to the offense, and that the otherwise applicable sentence would be "unduly harsh."

Other states have enacted self-defense laws that allow domestic violence to be considered when there is use of a deadly weapon.²⁰ In the 89th Legislature, Second Called Session, SB 11 passed — a Texas law designed to keep certain trafficking survivors from being punished from crimes they were essentially forced to commit. This landmark legislation creates a pathway for considering how a similar framework could be modified or applied for survivors of domestic violence.

Texas should consider how its own systems can better recognize survivors whose experiences of domestic violence intersect with their use of force. This includes ensuring that law enforcement, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and other criminal legal professionals are equipped to identify histories of domestic violence and understand how those histories may relate to the circumstances surrounding an offense. The Survivors Justice Project similarly identifies education for judges, capacity-building for attorneys, and engagement with prosecutors around trauma, domestic violence, and survivor criminalization as essential components of survivor justice.²¹

New York's approach is significant because it recognizes domestic violence as potentially relevant to criminalized conduct without requiring courts to treat victimization as an automatic justification for that conduct. It also takes a broader view of domestic violence that includes physical, sexual, and psychological abuse and coercive control.¹⁹

See also: Avieli, H. (2022). False Allegations of Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Analysis of Ex- Partners' Narratives. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37, 1391–1403. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00342-w>.

See also: Flood, M. (2013, August). *False Allegations of Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence*, <https://xonline.net/content/false-allegations-sexual-assault-and-domestic-violence>.

¹⁸ Boudin, K., et al. (2022). Movement-Based Participatory Inquiry: The Multi-Voiced Story of the Survivors Justice Project. *Social Sciences*, 11(3), 129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11030129>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Arizona Legislature, accessed September 17, 2026, <https://www.azleg.gov/viewdocument/?docName=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.azleg.gov%2Fars%2F13%2F00415.htm>.

²¹ Boudin, K., et al. (2022). Movement-Based Participatory Inquiry: The Multi-Voiced Story of the Survivors Justice Project. *Social Sciences*, 11(3), 129. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11030129>.

SECTION V

Promising Practices

Taken together, these findings illustrate both the value and the limitations of fatality data. *Honoring Texas Victims* helps Texas recognize patterns, identify gaps, and better understand the circumstances surrounding intimate partner homicides, but its purpose extends beyond documenting deaths.

The lessons drawn from these cases must inform how communities recognize danger, coordinate interventions, and strengthen survivor safety. The following promising practices demonstrate how *Honoring Texas Victims* findings can be translated into action.

■ DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HIGH-RISK TEAMS: LIVES SAVED

For over two decades, the *Honoring Texas Victims* report has studied the warning signs and lethality factors associated with intimate partner violence homicide (IPV). Over time, in an effort to disrupt IPV homicides, we have become better at recognizing these indicators and taking action accordingly. However, in high-risk domestic violence situations, what matters most is not simply identifying lethality factors, such as strangulation, stalking, or firearms, but how systems use this information and how the identified risk can change the response.

Conducting a risk assessment and initially identifying danger does not aid in a survivor's safety, as this is only the beginning. Coordination is prevention. When systems operate independently from one another, no single organization, department, or agency has the ability to prevent IPV homicide on its own. Each role is critical; however, the greatest impact does not come from what we do individually. The greatest impact comes from working together.

That is the purpose of Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (DVHRTs) — to play a crucial role in identifying, assessing, and intervening in cases of intimate partner violence that pose the greatest risk of lethality.



Its most recent report analyzed data collected from September 1, 2024, to August 31, 2025, and highlights the trends, risk factors, and impact of coordinated, data-driven interventions.



In FY2025, 519 survivors were referred to nine different DVHRT sites that report to the Texas Council on Family Violence. Although this was a 25% year-to-year decrease, the number of cases in FY2025 was close to the FY2020–FY2024 average of 518.



In FY2025, 92.4% of survivors were female and 7.6% were male.



In addition, over six DVHRT grant cycles, approximately 3,109 cases were referred to DVHRT services across Texas.

During this time frame, the Texas Council on Family Violence worked with over 18 sites to collect this data. Through DVHRTs, we believe that one client's referral equals one life saved; this data documents their survival.

From FY2020 through FY2025, TCFV often asked DVHRT sites about the manner of assault — specifically asking what weapon was used, if any. Responses included firearms, strangulation, blunt objects, motorized vehicles, hands/body/feet, knives/sharp objects, and any others not listed. An important factor to note: All cases are unique, meaning that cases in which a weapon was used could have multiple weapons associated, or only one. Looking at FY2025, the top three responses were hands/body/feet (55%), strangulation (24%), and firearms (10%). It is important to note that in FY2025, 33.9% of offenders had access to or owned a firearm, and 33.6% were prohibited from possessing one. Also, 30.9% of offenders had a known history of strangulation in a prior relationship, and 63% of offenders had a history of strangulation with the current survivor.

According to the *Honoring Texas Victims* report, in 2025, 69.3% of all intimate partner homicide (IPH) deaths were caused by a firearm. Following this, 4.8% of IPH deaths were caused by either strangulation, asphyxiation, blunt force trauma, and/or beating. In several cases reported in *Honoring Texas Victims*, multiple weapons were used in a case. These percentages reflect the cases in which a weapon was used against a victim either alone or in combination with another weapon. Comparing the manner of assault in high-risk cases versus in IPH cases suggests a pattern of escalating violence, starting with hands, body, and feet, going into strangulation, and ending with the use of a firearm.

Over the course of the DVHRT program, the top three responses to the weapons used in the assault were

HANDS/BODY/FEET

56%

STRANGULATION

18%

AND FIREARMS

9%

In FY2025, **89.5% of respondents** said that the offender had threaten to harm or kill them, a 4% increase from the previous reporting year.

For those clients responding to questions from the Danger Assessment (DA), **89.4% of them** believed that the offender had the capability of killing them.

Alongside this, **69.4% of the same group** questioned under the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) responded “yes,” that the offender has attempted to kill them in the past, a 15% increase compared to FY2024.

As the Texas Council on Family Violence continues to expand and strengthen Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams across the state, these teams hold considerable potential to enhance survivor safety, reduce the risk of future intimate partner homicides, and advance Texas’ statewide strategy to prevent domestic violence fatalities.

■ SCENES TO SERVE: TURNING WHAT WE KNOW INTO PRACTICE

PROMISING PRACTICE IN COORDINATED HOMICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING

Year after year, TCFV's *Honoring Texas Victims* documents the devastating loss of Texans killed by intimate partners. Across these cases, recurring patterns of escalating violence, strangulation, stalking, firearm access, threats, protective-order violations, and other indicators of increased danger remind us that intimate partner homicide is not always unpredictable. These patterns can create critical opportunities for intervention.

Honoring Texas Victims is not only about understanding the lives lost. It is also about asking what communities can learn from these deaths and how these lessons can strengthen future responses. The Scenes to Serve program that is highlighted below is a promising practice because it helps convert that learning from recognition into action. Through realistic, actor-based scenarios, law enforcement professionals practice responding to complex family violence situations involving many of the same high-risk indicators identified through *Honoring Texas Victims*. Just as importantly, the initiative demonstrates the power of coordinated community response: Partners across law enforcement, prosecution, advocacy, higher education, and statewide family violence work brought their expertise together around a shared goal of strengthening survivor safety and preventing future violence.

■ IN HIS WORDS: HOW SCENES TO SERVE CAME TO EL PASO

Aaron Setliff, Division Chief of the Protective Order Unit at the El Paso County Attorney's Office

If you have read TCFV's *Honoring Texas Victims* over the years, you are well aware of the key recurring takeaway from this life-saving publication: Domestic violence homicides are knowable, identifiable, and preventable. We know this. The continuing challenge lies in *implementing* prevention and intervention strategies based on what we already know. Coordinated community response works. Survivor-centered and trauma-informed practices work to help survivors get safe and hold offenders accountable.

Newly implemented in El Paso, Scenes to Serve combines these lessons learned specifically in law enforcement training. "While law enforcement response is only one component of a comprehensive approach to GBV [gender-based violence], it is a critical piece, particularly in the context of high-risk situations and when survivors seek to engage with the police."²²

Incorporating the growing and groundbreaking Domestic Violence High Risk Team model²³ and our knowledge of the importance of enforcing protective orders, Scenes to Serve provides a new modality for instruction that helps law enforcement first responders learn and implement trauma into their practices in a safe environment. Concisely, Scenes to Serve uses paid actors to act out relevant scenarios with officers as if they are responding to a dispatch call from 9-1-1.

²² Carrie Bettinger-Lopez, Rosie Hidalgo, Olivia Garcia, & Renu Sara Nargund (January 14, 2022). Identifying and Preventing Gender and Intersectional Bias in Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic and Sexual Violence, accessed August 10, 2026. Retrieved from <https://vawnet.org/sc/identifying-and-preventing-gender-and-intersectional-bias-law-enforcement-responses-domestic-and>.

²³ Maxwell, C. (June 22, 2020). New Approaches to Policing High-Risk Intimate Partner Victims and Those Committing the Crimes. *The National Institute of Justice Journal*, accessed August 10, 2026. Retrieved from <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/new-approaches-policing-high-risk-intimate-partner-victims-and-those-committing>.

See also Texas Council on Family Violence. *Honoring Texas Victims 2024*, accessed August 10, 2026. https://tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-HTV-Report_WEB.pdf.

A little background:

Last fall I met a theater professor named Monica Mojica from New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, New Mexico²⁴; she told me about a program she has led in New Mexico since 2011.²⁵ In her work, she has partnered with law enforcement and local actors from the Las Cruces area to train law enforcement in real-world scenarios that help them learn important investigative approaches, including de-escalation and victim- and trauma-informed approaches in a safe, yet realistic learning environment.²⁶

What did the attendees have to say? “The scenarios were very realistic; this is something a lot of officers can benefit from.” “Refreshing way to review such complex scenarios.” “This was a great training.” “Awesome class. Learned different ways to handle family violence calls.” “The acting was at the next level. Made it fun! Great acting.”

We were so appreciative to have TCFV’s own CEO Gloria Terry and CRSS Director Rosie Martinez attend the training.

“

In Gloria’s words,

“When we talk about what are some steps in which we can prevent domestic violence from impacting our Texas families, it’s trainings like what’s happening today.”



El Paso held our first Scenes to Serve trainings on June 23 and 24, 2026. We trained 124 detectives and supervisory police officers in a train-the-trainer-approach, with scenarios centered on enforcement of protective orders and identifying high-risk cases. Examples included

- ◆ a mother with a protective order and a bipolar son who refuses to move out;
- ◆ a case at our international bridge with Mexico, in which a victim with a protective order comes back from Mexico with her partner after visiting;
- ◆ an LGBTQIA+ victim trying to hide the relationship and significant injury;
- ◆ a woman seeking help at Circle K after being strangled immediately prior; and
- ◆ an offender possessing a firearm despite the protective order.



Scenes to Serve demonstrates what coordinated community responses can look like when partners contribute different expertise toward a shared goal: El Paso County Attorney’s Office brought leadership and expertise in protective orders, legal intervention, family violence response, and offender accountability.

²⁴ Las Cruces is about 40 miles away from El Paso, and along with Ciudad Juarez, the three communities make up our Borderland region of over 2 million people. Although important differences and realities exist in our communities, we share a commonality that binds us in a variety of ways.

²⁵ Her efforts started in 2011 with the passage of New Mexico House Bill 93, which ushered in additional requirements for law enforcement training related specifically to mental health response. The training expanded over time. For more on the bill, see <https://legiscan.com/NM/bill/HB93/2011>. The original bill: <https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/11%20Regular/final/HB0093.pdf>, both accessed August 10, 2026.

²⁶ For more on her efforts in Las Cruces, see <https://kvia.com/news/2019/06/21/las-cruces-law-enforcement-training-offers-officers-life-like-training/> and <https://cbs4local.com/news/local/las-cruces-police-cadets-prepare-for-intense-domestic-violence-situations>.

- ◆ El Paso Police Department brought frontline and supervisory law enforcement experience and provided officers with the opportunity to practice responding to complex family violence situations in real time.
- ◆ Rio Grande Council of Governments (RIOCOG) contributed to the collaborative effort supporting implementation of the initiative in the El Paso community.
- ◆ Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) helped connect the initiative to broader statewide work around coordinated community response, Domestic Violence High Risk Teams, lethality-informed intervention, survivor safety, and intimate partner homicide prevention.
- ◆ Center Against Sexual and Family Violence (CASFV) brought survivor-centered family violence expertise, including advocacy, safety planning, trauma-informed response, and community-based services.
- ◆ New Mexico State University brought years of experience using theater, actors, and realistic scenarios to strengthen law enforcement communication, de-escalation, investigation, and trauma-informed response.
- ◆ Actors and training partners brought the scenarios to life, creating a realistic environment where officers could practice communication, assessment, decision-making, and response.

Communities interested in learning more about Scenes to Serve or exploring how a similar coordinated training approach could be developed locally can contact TCFV.

SECTION VI

Methodology

■ DATA COLLECTION

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 the Texas Department of Public Safety's NIBRS (Texas DPS Crime in Texas portal of data reported by Texas law enforcement jurisdictions utilizing the National Incident-Based Reporting System).²⁷
- » Reviewing domestic violence and murder-suicide cases collected in Gun Violence Archives.²⁸
- » Requesting identified family violence homicide case records from law enforcement, court, and district attorney jurisdictions, and family violence service providers.

²⁷ Texas Department of Public Safety Uniform Crime Reporting System, <https://txucr.nibrs.com/ReportsIndex/List>.

²⁸ Gun Violence Archive, <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/query>.

- » 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.
- » Partnering with an attorney with family violence expertise to conduct a legal review of the case narratives.

■ REPORT TERMINOLOGY

Honoring Texas Victims focuses specifically on intimate partner violence, analyzing case data in Texas in which there was a current or previous intimate relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. We use the terms "family violence" and "domestic violence" as broader terms, often interchangeably in our daily lives. However, based on the legal definition in the Texas Family Code, "family violence" in statutory language describes the violence that occurs not only between dating or intimate partners but also between members of the same household or family.^{29 30}

■ REPORT METRICS

This *Honoring Texas Victims* 2025 report includes intimate partner and stalking homicides and murder-suicides that occurred in Texas from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025, in which the perpetrators were charged with murder, capital murder, manslaughter, homicide, intoxicated manslaughter, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, or aggravated assault of a family member causing serious bodily injury with weapon, or when the case was ruled a murder-suicide.

Some active criminal cases are ongoing and may not be reflected as of the date of publication for this report. For this report, cases are included if: 1) the homicide victim and perpetrator were previously or currently in an intimate relationship of any length, or the victim was killed by a person who stalked or actively pursued a relationship, even if the victim did not engage in a relationship; 2) the intimate partner violence victim was killed; and 3) criminal charges listed above are brought against the perpetrator.

We acknowledge there are cases where the intimate partner violence victim survived, but other family members, bystanders, law enforcement officers, or others were killed. To stay within the criteria of this report, these cases are not included.

To obtain the most factual details for each case, we sought records from local law enforcement and district attorneys' offices. Some agencies did not respond to TCFV's requests for confirmation and identification of possible cases. The ages of the adults and children are reflective of the information provided to TCFV at the time of death.

²⁹ Texas Family Code Title 4, Protective Orders and Family Violence. Chapter 71 Definitions: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/fa/htm/fa.71.htm>

³⁰ Texas Penal Code Title 6, Offenses Against the Family Chapter 25: <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/docs/pe/htm/pe.25.htm>

■ DATA LIMITATIONS

Honoring Texas Victims is TCFV's statewide accounting of intimate partner homicides in Texas; however, the report is subject to limitations inherent in the available data. TCFV draws from NIBRS data, official records, publicly available information, and local partners, but no single source comprehensively identifies every intimate partner's homicide. Case information may be unavailable or incomplete because of ongoing investigations, unidentified or unconfirmed suspects, delayed reporting, jurisdictional differences, or restrictions on the release of records.

Charging decisions and case classifications may also change as investigations and prosecutions develop. Charges may be amended or reduced, cases may be dismissed or no-billed, and claims involving self-defense or survivor use of force may require information not available when the report is published. Records may also be withheld when a case remains under investigation or involves minors.

Consequently, *Honoring Texas Victims* reflects the most reliable information available to TCFV at the time of publication. The absence of documentation should not be interpreted as evidence that intimate partner violence did not occur, and exclusion from the report does not diminish the seriousness of a death. Rather, exclusions reflect the consistent application of *Honoring Texas Victims*' established methodology and the limitations of the information available for review.



2025 VICTIM NARRATIVES

*In memory of the Texas women, men,
and minors killed by intimate partner
homicides in 2025*



SECTION VII

Victim Narratives

ANDERSON COUNTY

Kia-Patrick Roushelle Waker, 20

AUGUST 7, 2025 | TENNESSEE COLONY

Kia-Patrick Roushelle Waker died after her ex-boyfriend, Cyrus Johnson, 23, shot her during an argument in a church parking lot. After the shooting, Johnson told his grandmother what had occurred. Johnson was taken into custody. Kia was remembered as a great soul who made others feel welcome.

ARANSAS COUNTY

Yanira Magdalena Sanchez, 50

DECEMBER 25, 2025 | ROCKPORT

Yanira Magdalena Sanchez died after her husband, Alberto Jesus Sanchez, 65, shot her before shooting himself in the neck. Alberto Sanchez survived his injuries and was taken into custody on murder charges. Following a competency hearing in July 2026, he was ordered to psychiatric treatment while awaiting placement at a state hospital. Yanira did not have any children.

ATASCOSA COUNTY

Maria Esther Neri, 49

JANUARY 2025 | LYTLE

Maria Esther Neri died after her boyfriend, Carlos Alonzo Monsivais, 42, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Their bodies were discovered by a neighbor. Two days prior to the homicide, Maria had reported to the Sheriff's Office that Monsivais had strangled her.

BASTROP COUNTY

Charles Cunningham, 82

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 | ELGIN

Charles Cunningham died after his ex-wife, Sirley Cunningham, 73, shot him while he was sleeping before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Although legally divorced, the couple continued to live together. Investigators found letters regarding their estate and Sirley's wishes for her cats, as well as messages she sent to others stating she intended to end her life. Charles is survived by two adult children.

BELL COUNTY

Jazmien Hernandez, 28

JANUARY 2, 2025 | KILLEEN

Jazmien Hernandez died after Lemont McKinney, 35, the father of one of her children and a former intimate partner, shot her during an exchange of gunfire with her recently separated boyfriend. Jazmien had stepped between the two men to deescalate the confrontation and was struck by McKinney's gunfire. McKinney, who had a history of family violence arrests, was charged with murder. Jazmien is survived by her two daughters.

Kastady Ann Smith, 37

JANUARY 24, 2025 | TEMPLE

Kastady Ann Smith died on January 24, 2025, after her husband, Joseph Smith, 37, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound inside their residence. Officers responded to a shooting incident and discovered both individuals deceased. Investigators ruled the case a murder-suicide. Kastady is survived by her two sons. A true lover of life, she was remembered for an infectious enthusiasm that lit up her surroundings.

BELL COUNTY *continued*

Esther Gitau, 37

FEBRUARY 21, 2025 | KILLEEN

Esther Gitau died after her husband, John Mwangi, 42, shot her multiple times inside their home while their two children were upstairs. Mwangi fled and was apprehended the next day while attempting to enter Fort Hood. He was sentenced to 26 years in a military proceeding and awaits civilian sentencing. Esther is survived by her son and daughter; she was laid to rest in Kenya.

Nathaly Bravo, 26

AUGUST 10, 2025 | KILLEEN

Nathaly Bravo died after her boyfriend, William Rosario, 23, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Nathaly was found deceased outside the home. She is survived by her six-year-old daughter and three-year-old son. She worked as a caregiver and was remembered for her kindness and patience.

Kisha Gates, 44

OCTOBER 25, 2025 | KILLEEN

Kisha Gates was shot and killed by her husband, John T. Gaither III, 43, who then died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Kisha had recently moved out due to Gaither's drug use but had returned to check on his mental health. Gaither had a prior history of family violence. Kisha was a three-time cancer survivor and mother of two who was dedicated to supporting cancer research.

BEXAR COUNTY

Shye Brown, 20

JANUARY 10, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Shye Brown died from injuries sustained in a vehicle crash while her boyfriend, Lucian David-Cole Kramer-Morris, 20, was driving recklessly. Witnesses reported Kramer-Morris was swerving and attempting to pass vehicles at high speeds on an expressway ramp before the collision.

Donald Atha Wenandt, 81

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Donald Atha Wenandt died after his husband, Alberto Rafael Ferrer Cabrera, 26, cut his throat. Cabrera called 911 to report the killing and was subsequently arrested. He was sentenced to 40 years in state prison.

Ghabriella Barrera, 24

FEBRUARY 15, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Ghabriella Barrera died on February 15, 2025, after her former boyfriend, Damen Carrillo, 26, followed her from work and shot her multiple times. Police found her critically injured inside her vehicle after it crashed. Investigators alleged that Carrillo had previously threatened to kill Barrera if she did not drop family violence charges against him stemming from an assault in November 2024. At the time of the homicide, Carrillo was subject to a magistrate's order of emergency protection and a no-contact order. Authorities arrested Carrillo and charged him with murder and violation of a protective order; he remains in the Bexar County Jail on a \$300,000 bond.

*Unidentified Victim**

MARCH 4, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

An unidentified female victim was killed by an intimate partner. Limited information was available regarding the circumstances of the homicide.

Angela Lynette Springs, 45

MAY 18, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Angela Lynette Springs died after being stabbed multiple times by Yvette Davidson Coshlyn, 52, following an argument at a motel. Angela died while being transported to the hospital. Coshlyn was arrested and charged with murder and tampering with evidence. Angela is survived by her four children.

Gina Yvonne Byrd, 62

JULY 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Gina Yvonne Byrd died after her husband, Robert Charles Byrd, 64, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Responding officers found both deceased. Gina is survived by her three children.

Angela Byrd, 44

JULY 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Angela Byrd died after her husband, Charles Vandoil Byrd, 49, strangled her during an argument. Her body was found inside the home wrapped in plastic. Byrd admitted to law enforcement that he strangled and bit her. He was charged with murder and tampering with a human corpse.

Jennifer M. McClendon, 44

JULY 6, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Jennifer M. McClendon died after her ex-boyfriend, Scott Torres, 48, shot her while she was attending a family gathering. Torres surrendered to authorities and was released on bond with GPS monitoring and house arrest conditions. Jennifer is survived by her daughter.

Beatriz Murillo-Guzman, 41

JULY 13, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Beatriz Murillo-Guzman died after her boyfriend, Lorenzo Aleman, 48, shot her in a business parking lot. Aleman also killed another man at the scene. Aleman was arrested and charged but died on July 23, leading to the dismissal of the case.

Unidentified Victim*

AUGUST 10, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

An unidentified female victim was killed by an intimate partner. Additional details regarding the victim's identity or the specific circumstances of the homicide could not be confirmed.

Valeen Joy Tellez, 42

NOVEMBER 3, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Valeen Joy Tellez, died on November 3, 2025, after being stabbed by her boyfriend, Jose Garcia Meza, 50, in a hotel room. Meza called his wife and expressed suicidal thoughts, prompting her to alert authorities; responding officers found Tellez deceased at the scene and Meza suffering from self-inflicted wounds. Meza survived and was charged with murder; he remains in the Bexar County Jail on a \$250,000 bond. Tellez, who had been in a relationship with Meza for approximately two years, was remembered for her big heart and fearless spirit and is survived by three children.

Julie Katherine Harrell, 60

DECEMBER 11, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Julie Katherine Harrell died on December 11, 2025, after her boyfriend, Vernon Andrew Bonillas, 59, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. A neighbor alerted authorities after hearing an argument in Julie's apartment and witnessing Bonillas shoot himself. Responding officers discovered Julie deceased inside the residence. Investigators ruled the incident a murder-suicide. Records indicate Bonillas had a prior criminal history, including a 1990 charge for injury to a child in Bexar County.

Evaristo Reyes Gomez Jr., 42

DECEMBER 24, 2025 | SAN ANTONIO

Evaristo Reyes Gomez Jr. died on December 24, 2025, after his girlfriend, Courtney Renee Hooper, 36, shot him during an argument regarding a car and a cellphone. Children were present in the home at the time of the homicide. Hooper was arrested and charged with murder; she was later released on a \$150,000 bond with conditions requiring GPS tracking and weekly check-ins. Authorities noted an extensive history of domestic disturbance calls to the residence prior to the shooting.

BRAZOS COUNTY

Alexis Walls, 23

FEBRUARY 7, 2025 | BRYAN

Alexis Walls died after her common-law husband, Brandon Dickerson, 29, shot her multiple times inside the bedroom of their 18-month-old son. During the incident, Dickerson broke Alexis' phone and kicked down the bedroom door to reach her. Dickerson called 911 and admitted to the killing; he was sentenced to 50 years in prison. She is survived by her son.

Katiusca Guedez De Cotiz, 40

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 | COLLEGE STATION

Katiusca Guedez De Cotiz was shot and killed by her estranged husband, Wirmer Jose Cotiz Escobar, 43, at a car wash. Katiusca attempted to defend herself with a water hose before Escobar shot her and then died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Katiusca is survived by her 15-year-old daughter.

CALDWELL COUNTY

Maria Del Carmen Ramirez Cartagena, Age Unknown

JUNE 8, 2025 | DALE

Maria Del Carmen Ramirez Cartagena died after her boyfriend, Jose Pinto Madrid (also known as Alejandro Pinto), 43, stabbed her multiple times. Madrid was arrested and charged with murder. He remains in custody with an immigration detainer.

CAMERON COUNTY

Nora Zuñiga, 23

JULY 28, 2025 | BROWNSVILLE

Nora Zuñiga died after her ex-spouse, Bernardo Pedraza, 35, shot her during an argument. Responding officers encountered Pedraza at the scene, and an exchange of gunfire occurred between Pedraza and law enforcement. Pedraza died during the encounter.

Camila Salas, 18

AUGUST 9, 2025 | HARLINGEN

Camila Salas died from injuries sustained in a vehicle crash while her boyfriend, Jose Luis Hinojosa, 23, was driving. Hinojosa was suspected of being intoxicated at the time of the crash. A warrant was issued in connection with the case, and he was sentenced to 15 years in TDCJ for two counts of intoxicated manslaughter with a vehicle and one count of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Camila was remembered for her warm smile and soft, kind, and respectful personality.

Norma Alicia Espinoza Garza

DECEMBER 12, 2025 | BROWNSVILLE

Norma Alicia Espinoza Garza died after her husband, Joel Uriegas Izaguirre, 48, killed her and her aunt, Idalia Carrizales, with a blunt object. Authorities arrested Izaguirre and charged him with capital murder of multiple persons. His bond was set at \$750,000. Izaguirre later died by suicide while in jail. Norma was the mother of one child. Those who knew her in her neighborhood described her as well-liked and someone who would not hurt anyone.

COLLIN COUNTY

Hannah Faith Blanchard, 23

MARCH 17, 2025 | BLUE RIDGE

Hannah Faith Blanchard died after her boyfriend, Carl Stanley Chrisenberry, 35, shot her in the chest. Hannah was two-and-a-half months pregnant, and her four-year-old daughter witnessed the shooting. Chrisenberry claimed the shooting was accidental but was charged with capital murder. Hannah was remembered for her humor and light.

Naixin Yang, 36
MAY 2025 | ALLEN

Naixin Yang died from an overdose. Her husband, Xi Yang, 41, was charged with murder and tampering with physical evidence. Xi had previously filed for divorce in 2024, but the case had been dismissed just days before Naixin's death. Naixin is survived by her two young daughters.

Hammta Shafiye-Mogadam, 24
JULY 9, 2025 | PLANO

Hammta Shafiye-Mogadam died after her boyfriend, Ladavian Kaliq Pearson, 26, killed her inside an apartment. Pearson fled the scene and was later located in Euless. Pearson fired at law enforcement officers first before he was killed in the subsequent exchange of gunfire. Hammta was remembered by loved ones as a daughter and friend who brought light to others.

Kübra Zafer, 40
JULY 25, 2025 | MCKINNEY

Kübra Zafer died after her husband, Eslam Said Mohamed Mohamed, 42, stabbed her in the neck. Her body was found in a master bedroom closet. Shortly before her death, Kübra's children had been taken into protective custody following statements they made about their father. Mohamed was arrested and charged with murder.

CORYELL COUNTY

Shasmine Clack, 31
FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | COPPERAS COVE

Shasmine Clack was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, Alonzo E. Hunter, 27. At least one of her children witnessed the incident. Hunter, who had a history of strangulation charges against Shasmine, was sentenced to life in prison for capital murder. Shasmine is survived by her five children.

Destenie Alexandria Mendez, 28
JANUARY 1, 2025 | DALLAS

Destenie Alexandria Mendez died after her common-law husband, Kevin Violante-Varela, 30, shot her in the head. Destenie was attempting to stop Violante-Varela from shooting at a group of people in an apartment complex parking lot. Her children, ages four and eight, were in a nearby vehicle. A warrant remains outstanding for Violante-Varela's arrest.

Zanthia Damonica Harris, 45
MARCH 5, 2025 | DALLAS

Zanthia Damonica Harris died after her husband, John Christopher Harris, 50, shot her inside a friend's apartment. John Harris had a history of violence and was sentenced to 28 years in prison. Notably, the perpetrator had previously made false accusations against Zanthia, resulting in her wrongful arrest for aggravated assault of a family member, a charge that was later dismissed.

Hayley Deanne Raley, 42
APRIL 15, 2025 | DALLAS

Hayley Deanne Raley died after her husband, Toby Keith Raley, 46, shot her inside their home before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple was known for their love of travel and their work rescuing feral cats.

Tyli'Auna Turner, 23
MAY 9, 2025 | DALLAS

Tyli'Auna Turner died after her ex-boyfriend, Kyshawn Taelin Younger, 24, shot her twice in the head during an argument. Younger then died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. She is survived by her child.

Sharon Kaye Faulkner, 81

MAY 19, 2025 | DALLAS

Sharon Kaye Faulkner died after her husband, John Allison Faulkner, 82, shot her inside their home before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Sharon was a successful business owner in the dry-cleaning industry and was remembered for her adventurous spirit.

Jose Melecio Martinez, 36

MAY 24, 2025 | DALLAS

Jose Melecio Martinez died after his girlfriend, Angie Lopez, 23, shot him multiple times in a parking lot. Lopez was arrested and charged with murder. Jose is survived by his three children.

Sue Ann Tarleton, 73

JUNE 13, 2025 | DALLAS

Sue Ann Tarleton died after her partner, Owen Floyd Smith, 74, shot her during an argument. Smith reported the shooting to 911. Sue Ann was a retired registered nurse who specialized in newborn care. She is survived by her two children and a grandson.

Dora Benitez, 39

JUNE 21, 2025 | MESQUITE

Dora Benitez was shot and killed by her boyfriend, William Gomez Diaz, 36, who then died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Their bodies were discovered after coworkers and family requested a welfare check.

Ranjana Shrestha, 37

AUGUST 9, 2025 | DALLAS

Ranjana Shrestha died after her husband, Lalit Pradhan, 53, shot her and their three-year-old son, Pranish Pradhan, inside their home. Both Ranjana and Pranish died at the scene. Responding officers found Pradhan suffering from an apparent gunshot wound and several lacerations. He was transported to a hospital, where he died. Pradhan had been experiencing a severe mental health crisis before the homicide and had been taking medication for depression. The day before the homicide, he posted publicly about prolonged stress, being unable to work, and the family's financial difficulties.

Laura Jean Wright DeMuth, 63

AUGUST 16, 2025 | DALLAS

Laura Jean Wright DeMuth died after her husband, William Christopher Price, 77, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Laura is survived by her two children and was remembered for her warmth and kindness.

Amber Nichole McCleveland, 38

AUGUST 20, 2025 | ROWLETT

Amber Nichole McCleveland died after her husband, Donald Elliott McCleveland Jr., 39, shot her inside their home. Donald McCleveland was arrested the following day and charged with murder.

Thomas Anthony Sebastinelli, 48

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025 | DALLAS

Thomas Anthony Sebastinelli was shot and killed by his boyfriend, Earnest Polk III, 32. Polk was arrested and charged with murder. Thomas is survived by his two children and was remembered for his wit and generosity.

Destinee Danielle Police, 26

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025 | DALLAS

Destinee Danielle Police died after her ex-boyfriend, Jalance Marquis Deion Lane, 23, shot her on her front porch. The shooting followed a dispute regarding the birth certificate of Destinee's son. Lane was charged with murder. Destinee is survived by her four-year-old son.

Delia Elena Duron, 57

SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 | DALLAS

Delia Elena Duron died from injuries on October 11 after being stabbed by her boyfriend, Damion Solomon, 48, on September 29. Solomon, who had a history of domestic violence, was charged with murder.

Keisha Hilliard, 42

OCTOBER 12, 2025 | MESQUITE

Keisha Hilliard died after her boyfriend, Christopher Whitt, 42, shot her inside their home while two small children were present. Whitt was apprehended two weeks later and charged with murder. Keisha is survived by her five children.

Oudom Noymany, 63

NOVEMBER 9, 2025 | GRAND PRAIRIE

Oudom Noymany died after her husband, Chanhdy Nophaenkham, 68, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Oudom had been trying to leave the relationship, and arguments had escalated the week prior. She is survived by her daughters and grandchildren.

Danielle Echo Hollowell, 39

NOVEMBER 10, 2025 | DALLAS

Danielle Echo Hollowell died after her boyfriend, Joshua Ray Schaeffer, 30, stabbed her in the neck inside their tent at a homeless encampment. Schaeffer was arrested three days later and charged with murder.

Jerrian Strong Jones, 32

DECEMBER 2, 2025 | DALLAS

Jerrian Strong Jones died after Alexandria Simone Hubbard, 32, stabbed him in the chest. Hubbard was seen on surveillance chasing Jerrian with a knife. She was charged with aggravated assault of a family member. Jerrian is survived by his two children.

Arlina Sander, 24

DECEMBER 11, 2025 | DALLAS

Arlina Sander was shot and killed by her ex-husband, Johnathan Lekill Montoya Jones, 44, at her residence. Jones also killed another man before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Arlina is survived by her three children.

Yengleidys Perez-Soto, 25

DECEMBER 12, 2025 | DALLAS

Yengleidys Perez-Soto died after her boyfriend, William Yair Ramirez Garcia, 30, shot her at a hotel before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Soukdavanh Thidavanh, 44

DECEMBER 28, 2025 | GRAND PRAIRIE

Soukdavanh Thidavanh was shot and killed by her husband, Somsac D. Thidavanh, 62, inside their home. Somsac also shot their 21-year-old son, who survived, and fired at police before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Soukdavanh is survived by her son.

DENTON COUNTY

Katie Beth Taylor, 44

APRIL 28, 2025 | AUBREY

Katie Beth Taylor died after her husband, Jesse Cole Taylor, 46, shot her in the back outside their home before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Their daughter found Katie in the driveway and called law enforcement. Katie and Jesse were preparing to divorce and had been living in separate areas of the property while preparing to sell their home. Earlier that month, Katie wrote that the marriage was “toxic and emotionally abusive” and referenced Jesse’s threats of self-harm and an incident in which he frightened her enough that she stayed at a hotel. Their daughter also reported that Jesse had previously told Katie, “You ought to be shot for that.” Investigators found a suicide note believed to have been written by Jesse. Katie is survived by her two adult children.

LaVera Wardell, 39

MAY 6, 2025 | DENTON

LaVera Wardell died after her boyfriend, William Joseph Oddo III, 52, shot her with a shotgun. Oddo remained with her body for several days before it was discovered during a welfare check. Oddo was charged with murder and tampering with evidence. LaVera was a phlebotomist who loved animals and rock climbing.

Briana Castro, 24

OCTOBER 2025 | CARROLLTON

Briana Castro died after her boyfriend, JoMarr Lee Davis, 28, shot her. When tracked by law enforcement, Davis shot himself during a standoff and later died at the hospital.

Endia Denise (Guidry) Middleton, 40

OCTOBER 2, 2025 | LEWISVILLE

Endia Denise (Guidry) Middleton died after her boyfriend, Ilan Javun Carroll, 32, shot her inside a motel room. Carroll engaged in a standoff with police before surrendering. He was charged with murder and other offenses. Endia is survived by her four children and seven grandchildren.

Molly Richards, 31

NOVEMBER 25, 2025 | LITTLE ELM

Molly Richards died after her boyfriend, Christopher Charles Sanders, 53, killed her. Although her body has not been recovered, Sanders was charged with murder in March 2026. Molly had previously messaged her father about Sanders’ abusive and controlling behavior.

EL PASO COUNTY

Coral Liamas Sifuentes, 45

MARCH 2025 | EL PASO

Coral Liamas Sifuentes died after her husband, Jorge Mares Raygoza, 47, sexually assaulted and strangled her. Raygoza transported her body across the border and left it in the desert near Ciudad Juárez. He was charged with murder. Coral is survived by her three children.

Lourdes Urrieta, 58

AUGUST 26, 2025 | EL PASO

Lourdes Urrieta died after her husband, Jose Urrieta, 58, shot her inside their home before shooting himself. Authorities ruled the deaths a murder-suicide.

Mia Angelica Molina, 21

SEPTEMBER 24, 2025 | EL PASO

Mia Angelica Molina died on September 24, 2025, after her boyfriend, Uriel Ontiveros, 28, shot her at a residence. During the incident, Ontiveros also shot and killed 27-year-old Victoria Whitman and injured a 59-year-old man. Mia was a graduate of New Mexico State University and a professional model remembered by the local fashion community for her talent and the light she brought to those around her.

ELLIS COUNTY

Bayleigh Williams, 23

APRIL 29, 2025 | WAXAHACHIE

Bayleigh Williams died after her ex-husband, Kenny Harvey, 23, struck and ran over her with a vehicle. Bayleigh was dragged by the vehicle while Harvey fled from police with their young child unrestrained in the back seat. Harvey was charged with manslaughter and other offenses. She is survived by her child.

FAYETTE COUNTY

Viviana Ortiz Zuñiga, 39

APRIL 2025 | FAYETTE COUNTY

Viviana Ortiz Zuñiga was killed by her estranged husband, Carlos Vera-Flores, 45. Her body was found on April 15. Vera-Flores had a history of stalking and threatening Viviana. He was charged with capital murder. Viviana is survived by her four children.

FORT BEND COUNTY

Iona Pollard, 52

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | RICHMOND

Iona Pollard was shot and killed by her husband, David Wayne Pollard, 47, inside their home. David Pollard died from a medical condition before he could stand trial. Iona is survived by her two daughters.

Deborah Marlowe, 70

MAY 17, 2025 | STAFFORD

Deborah Marlowe died after her husband, Troy Stier, 63, shot her before dying by suicide. The couple had a history of divorcing and reconciling. Their bodies were discovered during a welfare check on May 21.

Shelly Perrault, 47

OCTOBER 8, 2025 | SUGARLAND

Shelly Perrault died after her ex-boyfriend, William DeLawrence Lewis, 42, followed her and shot her inside her vehicle. Lewis killed two other people before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Shelly was remembered for her faith.

GALVESTON COUNTY

John Weasly Boson, 41

JANUARY 18, 2025 | LA MARQUE

John Weasly Boson died after his wife, Requida Nashawn Harper, 39, shot him. Despite sleeping in separate areas of the home, the couple continued to live together and argue frequently. Harper was sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Dianna Gregory Liening, 67

FEBRUARY 3, 2025 | TEXAS CITY

Dianna Gregory Liening died after her husband, David Paul Liening, 64, shot her during an argument and then killed himself. Dianna worked for her local school district's transportation department and is survived by her four daughters.

Athziri Cervantes Buentello, 24

MARCH 31, 2025 | FRIENDSWOOD

Athziri Cervantes Buentello was shot and killed at a movie theater by her ex-boyfriend, Vincent Michael Fuillerat, 32, who then killed himself. Fuillerat had a history of stalking and had threatened suicide just days before the murder. Athziri was a karate instructor remembered for her kindness.

GALVESTON COUNTY *continued*

Anita Leal, 89

NOVEMBER 17, 2025 | GALVESTON

Anita Leal was shot by her husband, Ernest Leal, 88. Anita was terminally ill at the time. Ernest admitted to the shooting and was charged with murder. Anita is survived by her three children and several grandchildren.

GRAY COUNTY

Brandy Joann White, 47

FEBRUARY 4, 2025 | PAMPA

Brandy Joann White was found deceased in her home following a welfare check. Erik Alexander Keller, 42, was identified as the suspect and indicted on murder charges after being located on February 6. Brandy is survived by her three children.

GREGG COUNTY

Hailey Blake, 16

SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 | LIBERTY CITY

Hailey Blake died on September 1, 2025, after her boyfriend, Christopher Wayne Hicks Jr., 18, shot her and her father, Shawn Glen Blake, 49, at a local park. Hicks fled the scene and was later located with self-inflicted injuries but survived. He was indicted for capital murder of multiple persons on November 20, 2025, and remains in jail awaiting a trial currently set for December 2026. Hailey was remembered for her love of fishing, camping, and riding motorcycles with her father.

Kathleen J. Bullock, 62

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 | LONGVIEW

Kathleen J. Bullock was shot and killed by her husband, Lavan Alex Bullock, 66, inside their home. An officer performing a welfare check found Kathleen deceased and Lavan in a lethargic state. Lavan was charged with murder. Kathleen is survived by her adult child.

HARDIN COUNTY

Sofia Porzadek Torres, 50

SEPTEMBER 29, 2025 | SILSBEE

Sofia Porzadek Torres was shot and killed by her husband, Alfredo Magdaleno Torres, 53, who then died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Sofia is survived by her five children.

HARRIS COUNTY

Brenda Ivey, Age Unknown

JANUARY 10, 2025 | CYPRESS

Brenda Ivey died after her intoxicated husband, Kevin Paul Ivey, 63, struck her with a vehicle while backing out of their driveway. Kevin was sentenced to 10 years deferred adjudication. Brenda is survived by her 29-year-old son.

Luis David Banos, 27

JANUARY 14, 2025 | BAYTOWN

Luis David Banos, died on January 14, 2025, after his fiancé, Ty Vaughn, 31, shot him inside their home. Vaughn initially reported to 9-1-1 that he had found Banos deceased, but investigators found his statements inconsistent and discovered he had performed online searches regarding the legality of a citizen killing an undocumented immigrant. Vaughn was arrested two months later and charged with murder; he remains in jail on a \$500,000 bond.

Charity Freeman, 26

JANUARY 20, 2025 | HUMBLE

Charity Freeman was shot and killed in her home by her ex-boyfriend, Yamil Javier Rivera-Perez, 34. Rivera-Perez also killed another man at the residence. Charity had previously ended the relationship, which her family described as abusive. She is survived by her two young sons.

Geovanni Gevonte Odel Montague, 28

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 | HOUSTON

Geovanni Gevonte Odel Montague died after his girlfriend, Tatyana Lashea Evans, 23, shot him multiple times. Evans, who had a prior history of family violence, was sentenced to 25 years in prison. Geovanni is survived by his young son.

Sammy Marks, 70

MARCH 8, 2025 | HOUSTON

Sammy Marks died after his ex-girlfriend, Sandra Marie Rios, 52, stabbed him. Rios had been under a protective order for a previous assault against Sammy but had not received a required GPS monitor. She was charged with murder.

Kristen Chavez, 32

MARCH 12, 2025 | HOUSTON

Kristen Chavez died after her husband, Chance Zane Chavez, 34, beat her with a clothing iron. Kristen was a paralegal who loved animals. Her husband was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

Cameron Janet King, 21

APRIL 3, 2025 | HOUSTON

Cameron Janet King died after her boyfriend, Austin Collette, 26, shot her before dying by suicide. Collette was on house arrest at the time for a previous 2019 murder.

Carly Leiter, 18

APRIL 7, 2025 | HOUSTON

Carly Leiter was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, Jesus Fernandez, 27, in a parking area while she was retrieving belongings from storage. Fernandez also shot Carly's current boyfriend before killing himself.

Debra Carrington, 58

APRIL 12, 2025 | HOUSTON

Debra Carrington died on April 12, 2025, after her ex-boyfriend, Gregory Brown, 54, shot her multiple times as she drove her vehicle. The shooting caused her to crash her vehicle into a tree, and Brown fled the scene. When law enforcement later attempted to serve a warrant at a different location, Brown barricaded himself for several hours before being found deceased from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Investigators determined the deaths were a murder-suicide. Carrington was an active member of her church and was remembered for her warm smile and wide circle of friends.

Colencia S Davidson, 39

MAY 5, 2025 | HUMBLE

Colencia S Davidson was shot and killed outside her home by her common-law husband, Thomas Sonnier, 44. Security footage captured the incident. Sonnier was charged with murder. Colencia is survived by her three children.

Javion Dionyso Williams, 22

MAY 25, 2025 | HOUSTON

Javion Dionyso Williams was shot and killed by his girlfriend, Derricka Ross, 24, while he was collecting his belongings from a residence. Ross was charged with murder.

Stephanie A. McGuire, 43

JUNE 7, 2025 | KATY

Stephanie A. McGuire was shot and killed by her husband, Cameron McGuire, 42, who also killed their seven-year-old son before killing himself. Stephanie is survived by her adult daughter.

Argelia Diaz Maya, 50

JUNE 14, 2025 | HOUSTON

Argelia Diaz Maya was stabbed to death by her boyfriend, Santos Hernandez Cornejo, 53, at her workplace. Cornejo had been tracking Argelia with electronic devices and was sentenced to 43 years in prison. Argelia is survived by her adult daughter.

Lazette King, 46

JUNE 16, 2025 | HOUSTON

Lazette King was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend, Michael Ellis, 48, who then sent photos of her body to family members. Ellis had an extensive criminal history. Lazette is survived by her children.

Yoandra Gonzalez, 40

JUNE 29, 2025 | HOUSTON

Yoandra Gonzalez was stabbed to death by her boyfriend, Jose Ignacio Diaz Piña, 31, inside her home. Her 13-year-old son discovered her body. Diaz Piña surrendered to police and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.

Areli Rosas, 32

AUGUST 6, 2025 | HOUSTON

Areli Rosas was shot multiple times by her husband, Ismael Holguin, 35. Holguin was apprehended after attempting to evade police and was charged with murder. Areli is survived by her two sons.

Shawnquilla Smith, 30

AUGUST 14, 2025 | HOUSTON

Shawnquilla Smith died on August 14, 2025, after her dating partner, Oscar Dixon, 48, shot her multiple times before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Smith called 9-1-1 while attempting to leave the home, but she later passed away at a hospital. Smith is survived by her children.

Jada Jones Hines, 26

AUGUST 18, 2025 | HOUSTON

Jada Jones Hines died after her boyfriend, Troy Gooden, 26, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Their three small children were in the home at the time.

Kristy Saucedo, 47

AUGUST 31, 2025 | HOUSTON

Kristy Saucedo was shot and killed by her husband, Gabriel Saucedo, 48, during an argument. Gabriel then killed himself. Kristy is survived by her four daughters.

Yaquelin Arias Rivas, 30

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 | HOUSTON

Yaquelin Arias Rivas died on September 22, 2025, after her estranged ex-boyfriend, Sebastian Rodriguez, 40, shot her and her sister, Saidia Machado, 19, before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. A colleague went to check on Rivas after she failed to arrive at work and discovered the three deceased individuals inside her apartment. Rivas's two children were at school at the time of the shooting.

Chad Edward Pullman, 50

SEPTEMBER 30, 2025 | SPRING

Chad Edward Pullman was shot and killed by his wife, Brittany Pullman, 34, who was subsequently charged with murder. The couple had a documented history of domestic violence. Chad is survived by one biological child and two stepchildren.

HARRIS COUNTY *continued*

Karla Alatorre, 35

OCTOBER 7, 2025 | HOUSTON

Karla Alatorre, died on October 7, 2025, after her husband of five years, Victor Francisco Banegas-Solorzano, 31, stabbed her and her brother, Nelson Alatorre, 28. An ISD officer discovered the scene while conducting a welfare check after the school was unable to reach Karla regarding her daughter. Banegas-Solorzano was arrested and charged with capital murder; he remains in custody on a \$1 million bond. Alatorre had previously disclosed physical abuse by her husband to a friend.

Leonardo Mendoza, 42

OCTOBER 19, 2025 | PASADENA

Leonardo Mendoza died after his wife, Alina Gonzalez-Morelos, 37, struck him with a vehicle following an argument. Gonzalez-Morelos was charged with murder.

Suzanna Marie Mirelez, 39

NOVEMBER 13, 2025 | CYPRESS

Suzanna Marie Mirelez died on November 13, 2025, after her husband, Larry Lee, 54, shot her before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound inside their home. Suzanna's father, who lived next door, discovered both deceased after noticing the residence was unusually quiet; the couple's three children, ages 8, 11, and 16, were found unharmed and asleep in their rooms. Investigators determined the deaths were a murder-suicide and noted that law enforcement had responded to two prior calls at the residence. Suzanna was remembered for her passion, kindness, and an incredible sense of humor that left a lasting impact on those she encountered.

Christelrose Angel Ramirez, 41

DECEMBER 1, 2025 | HOUSTON

Christelrose Angel Ramirez was shot while sleeping by her boyfriend, Jesus Varela, 48. Varela discarded her remains in barrels in a wooded area. He was charged with murder and tampering with evidence.

HAYS COUNTY

Victoria Valentina Valadez, 43

FEBRUARY 7, 2025 | SAN MARCOS

Victoria Valentina Valadez died after Juan Yanez Sanchez, 49, shot her inside a residence. Sanchez was arrested and sentenced to life in prison.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Ana Maria Davila, 44

APRIL 5, 2025 | ALAMO

Ana Maria Davila was shot and killed outside a bar by her ex-boyfriend, Jorge Enrique Saldana-Gonzalez, 45, who was upset at seeing her with another man. Saldana-Gonzalez was charged with murder. Ana is survived by her three children.

Damian Bazan, 20

MAY 18, 2025 | DONNA

Damian Bazan died on May 18, 2025, after his girlfriend, Miriam Valdez, 21, shot him inside their residence. Valdez claimed to investigators that she fired the weapon believing it was unloaded. She was arrested and charged with manslaughter and murder, with her total bond set at \$500,000.

HIDALGO COUNTY *continued*

Armando Giovannotto, 49

JUNE 29, 2025 | MISSION

Armando Giovannotto died after his boyfriend, Kevin Lee Gutierrez, 34, stabbed him during an argument. Gutierrez was seen standing over the victim before fleeing. He was charged with murder.

Jessica Mendez, 38

JULY 17, 2025 | WESLACO

Jessica Mendez died after her common-law husband, Rigoberto Garza, 40, shot her five times inside her home. Her seven-year-old son was present. Garza had a history of family violence and was charged with murder. Jessica is survived by her three children.

Nubia Jaqueline Sanchez Bravo, 27

OCTOBER 15, 2025 | DONNA

Nubia Jaqueline Sanchez Bravo was shot at her workplace by her ex-husband, Saul Castillo Esquivel, 41, who then killed himself. Six children were present but unharmed. Nubia is survived by her two children.

JASPER COUNTY

Keniyah Brenae Williams, 19

MAY 27, 2025 | JASPER

Keniyah Brenae Williams died after her boyfriend, Kristopher Tayshaun Drayton, 24, shot her in the head inside a vehicle. Her two young children were present. Drayton was sentenced to 50 years in prison. She is survived by her children.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Browin Falonda Williams, 46

JUNE 20, 2025 | BEAUMONT

Browin Falonda Williams died after her boyfriend, Ronald Speights, 47, struck her with a vehicle. Speights took her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. He was charged with manslaughter. She is survived by her three daughters.

KAUFMAN COUNTY

Clairessa Ann Craig, 41

JUNE 12, 2025 | FORNEY

Clairessa Ann Craig was shot and killed by her husband, Chad Christopher Craig, 43, who then killed himself. Clairessa had been planning to file for divorce that day. Her 10-year-old son was in the home and called 911. She is survived by her son.

Amy Michelle Ballard, 32

AUGUST 3, 2025 | MABANK

Amy Michelle Ballard died of a drug overdose. Her boyfriend, Ronny Lee Andrews, 52, provided the drugs and failed to call for medical help. Andrews was charged with manslaughter. Amy is survived by her five children.

LAVACA COUNTY

Mary Gayle Debord, 64

MARCH 8, 2025 | YOAKUM

Mary Gayle Debord died after her husband, Kenneth James Debord, 69, shot her and then himself. Their grandson discovered the bodies. The couple reportedly argued frequently over finances and health. She is survived by her three children.

LEON COUNTY

Virginia McCarty Taylor, 84

FEBRUARY 8, 2025 | MARQUEZ

Virginia McCarty Taylor was shot and killed by her husband, Gerald Max Taylor, 86, who then killed himself. Gerald had a history of depression and suicidal ideation. Virginia is survived by her three adult sons.

LLANO COUNTY

Mary Jane Price, 86

MARCH 2025 | TOW

Mary Jane Price died after her husband, Warren Malone Price, 83, shot her and then himself. A suicide note indicated the act was a response to Mary Jane's advanced Alzheimer's and Warren's heart condition. She is survived by her adult daughter.

MAVERICK COUNTY

Kaylin Nicole Ibarra, 27

MARCH 16, 2025 | EAGLE PASS

Kaylin Nicole Ibarra died after her ex-partner, Alex Lopez, 26, stabbed her in the neck with a box cutter. Lopez was charged with murder and tampering with evidence. Kaylin is survived by her child.

MIDLAND COUNTY

Hilda Belloc Aranda, 44

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | MIDLAND

Hilda Belloc Aranda was shot multiple times by her common-law husband, Aldo Isaac Aranda-Cortez, 47, after he had been beating her. Aranda-Cortez was arrested and charged with murder. Hilda is survived by her four children.

Humberto Aldana Fonseca, 63

JULY 3, 2025 | MIDLAND

Humberto Aldana Fonseca died after Maria Mercedes Lago-Benet, 72, stabbed him in the chest with a kitchen knife during an argument. Humberto's stepson intervened and disarmed Lago-Benet. She was charged with murder.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Lonnie Moore, 33

JUNE 15, 2025 | NEW CANEY

Lonnie Moore died on June 15, 2025, after his estranged wife, Breyanai Moore, 31, shot him inside a vehicle. Deputies discovered Lonnie's body inside a white vehicle parked on the side of a roadway with the engine running and a gunshot wound to the head. While the case was initially labeled a suicide, a nine-month investigation led to the arrest of Moore for murder. Investigators determined that Moore used a phone to lure Lonnie into picking her up and then shot him from the back seat of the vehicle. The couple had been separated for approximately two years and shared a 5-year-old daughter.

Maria Ramirez, 39

OCTOBER 23, 2025 | CONROE

Maria Ramirez died on October 23, 2025, after her husband, Salvador Ramirez, 52, shot her and their 3-year-old son, Lionel Rivera, before dying from a self-inflicted injury. Family members who had been unable to reach the couple discovered the three deceased individuals on the front porch of their residence. Authorities ruled the deaths a murder-suicide. Maria is survived by two daughters, and her remains were returned to her home country of El Salvador for burial.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY *continued****Victoria Yates, 28*****NOVEMBER 12, 2025 | PORTER**

Victoria Yates was shot by her boyfriend, Kevin Doak, 41, who then killed himself. The two were seen arguing in a parking lot before their bodies were discovered in a vehicle. Victoria is survived by her three children.

NAVARRO COUNTY***Stephanie Danielle Hensley, 39*****JANUARY 10, 2025 | SILVER CITY**

Stephanie Danielle Hensley was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Rusty Lee Cofer, 39, who then killed himself after transferring custody of his daughter to his brother. Stephanie is survived by her daughter and son.

Sharetta Hervey, 35**OCTOBER 12, 2025 | CORSICANA**

Sharetta Hervey died from head injuries sustained on October 4 after her boyfriend, Lamireon Robinson, 41, braked sharply while she was on the hood of his car, throwing her onto the roadway. Robinson waited 10 hours to take her to the hospital. He was charged with manslaughter. She is survived by her three daughters.

NUECES COUNTY***Karen Kay Alexander, 62*****FEBRUARY 2025 | CORPUS CHRISTI**

Karen Kay Alexander died after her husband, David Michael Alexander, 60, shot her and then himself. Records indicate the couple was struggling with financial problems related to Karen's cancer. She is survived by her adult child.

ORANGE COUNTY***Tanya Lynn Howerton, 55*****JULY 31, 2025 | VIDOR**

Tanya Lynn Howerton was shot and killed by her husband, Robert Charles Howerton, 64, inside their home. Robert admitted to the shooting when police arrived. Tanya was a geriatric nurse and is survived by her two children.

POTTER COUNTY***Ariana Nicole Estrada, 20*****MAY 4, 2025 | AMARILLO**

Ariana Nicole Estrada was shot approximately 20 times with an AR-style rifle by her ex-boyfriend, David Allen Crowder, 21. Crowder chased the vehicle Ariana was in before firing into it. He was charged with murder and aggravated assault. Ariana is survived by her four-year-old son.

TARRANT COUNTY***Carrol Denell Bogan, 65*****JANUARY 13, 2025 | CROWLEY**

Carrol Denell Bogan was shot multiple times by her husband, Michael Bogan, 68, who later killed himself during a police pursuit. Carrol's daughter had requested a welfare check after being unable to reach her mother for weeks. Carrol is survived by her two children.

Miguel Moreno, 34**FEBRUARY 15, 2025 | FORT WORTH**

Miguel Moreno died after his ex-girlfriend, Emily Garcia, 29, repeatedly rammed the vehicle he was in with her own car, causing a fatal crash. Garcia was charged with murder and aggravated assault.

Ariel B. Levy, 28

MARCH 10, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Ariel B. Levy was shot and killed in her home by her boyfriend, Dylan Jones, 30. Jones led police on a pursuit before being apprehended. Ariel is survived by her two children.

Juan M. Banda, 55

MARCH 13, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Juan M. Banda died after his wife, Robin Banda Coker, 40, stabbed him. Coker claimed self-defense but was later charged with murder. Juan had a prior history of assaulting Coker.

Ireanna Powe, 21

JUNE 24, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Ireanna Powe was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Tyrece M. Fields, 30, following an argument. Fields was charged with murder. He had a prior history of aggravated assault.

Shinita Slaughter, 41

JULY 6, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Shinita Slaughter was shot and killed by her husband, Akeem R. Griffin, 35, during an argument. Their son called 911 to report the incident. Griffin was charged with murder. Shinita is survived by her three children.

Dana Lynne (Shafer) Ross, 54

JULY 10, 2025 | NORTH RICHLAND HILLS

Dana Lynne (Shafer) Ross was shot and killed by her husband, Carl Arthur Ross, 55, who then killed himself. Dana had planned to leave him and had arranged an apartment. The murder was captured on a bedroom security camera. Dana is survived by her three children.

William Todd Austin Jr., 37

JULY 11, 2025 | ARLINGTON

William Todd Austin Jr. died on July 11, 2025, after his ex-girlfriend, T'Mone Michelle Williams, 37, shot him inside a barbershop. Williams entered the business and ordered everyone out before locating and killing Austin; she died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound as police arrived at the scene. Austin, who is survived by six children, was remembered for his playful energy and the light he brought to every room.

Glenda Aguilera Rubio, 21

AUGUST 30, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Glenda Aguilera Rubio was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Josue B. Rodas, 29. Glenda's young daughters were present and asked a resident to check on their mother. Rodas was apprehended and charged with murder. Glenda is survived by her two daughters.

Gabriel Melendez, 25

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Gabriel Melendez was stabbed in the chest by his girlfriend, Keller Campbell, 27, during an argument. Campbell was arrested and charged with murder. Gabriel was remembered for his passion for life.

Mary Jane Spears, 53

SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 | ARLINGTON

Mary Jane Spears was stabbed multiple times by her husband, Frederick Spears, 56. A protective order had been issued days prior, but Spears violated it and killed her in the backyard. He was charged with capital murder. She is survived by her three children.

Tonishea Harris, 36

OCTOBER 10, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Tonishea Harris, who was four months pregnant, was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Joseph Weathered, 21. Weathered had an extensive history of violence. Tonishea is survived by her two children.

Emilia Casandra Majano, 23

OCTOBER 21, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Emilia Casandra Majano was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Nelson Garcia, 28, during an argument. Garcia later confessed to the killing and was charged with murder. Emilia is survived by her two children.

Bre'Asia Simone Johnson, 29

NOVEMBER 22, 2025 | ARLINGTON

Bre'Asia Simone Johnson was killed on November 22, 2025, after her ex-boyfriend, Malik Miner, 29, shot her multiple times as she traveled along a highway. Johnson, who was five months pregnant, was in a vehicle with her current boyfriend—who survived the shooting—and three minor children. Miner and the alleged driver of the vehicle, Corey Daniels, were arrested and charged with capital murder. Johnson is survived by three children.

Tiffney Wilson, 46

DECEMBER 8, 2025 | FORT WORTH

Tiffney Wilson was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Johnny Perrin, 48, who then killed himself. Their bodies were discovered during a welfare check after Tiffney failed to report to work. She is survived by her four children.

Aleisha Cabrera, 24

JUNE 28, 2025 | ABILENE

Aleisha Cabrera was shot and killed by her common-law husband, Steven Peña, 23, while their one-year-old daughter was in the home. Peña was arrested and charged with felony murder. Aleisha was remembered as caring and energetic.

Desree Dominique Sanchez, 32

DECEMBER 6, 2025 | ABILENE

Desree Dominique Sanchez was stabbed to death at her home by her ex-husband, Anthony Emilio Sanchez, 35. Desree had a lifetime protective order against Anthony, who had a long history of family violence. Desree is survived by her five children.

Amy Janette Allen, 54

JUNE 1, 2025 | COOKVILLE

Amy Janette Allen died after her husband, Michael Paul Allen, 52, shot her at their home. Michael Allen was charged with murder. Amy is survived by her three children.

Micaela "Kayla" Sanchez, 33

FEBRUARY 12, 2025 | AUSTIN

Micaela "Kayla" Sanchez was shot and killed by her husband, Daniel Sanchez, 35, who then set fire to their home and a garage before killing himself. There had been a previous police response to the home for a domestic disturbance in 2024.

TRAVIS COUNTY *continued*

Jade Herb, 25

APRIL 11, 2025 | AUSTIN

Jade Herb died after her boyfriend, Christopher Rasco, 23, shot her and then killed himself. Their bodies were found during a welfare check. Jade is survived by her two minor daughters.

Regina Jones, 57

APRIL 24, 2025 | AUSTIN

Regina Jones died from blunt-force trauma after her boyfriend, Reginald Crosby, 43, slapped her and threw her down during an argument. Crosby was charged with second-degree manslaughter.

Elizabeth Martinets, 18

JUNE 9, 2025 | AUSTIN

Elizabeth Martinets died after her boyfriend, Enrique Zamora-Rosario, 18, shot her and then himself. Their bodies were discovered by a relative.

Kay Smith, 31

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025 | AUSTIN

Kay Smith was shot in the head by her boyfriend, Brandon Thompson, 30, while police were investigating a stolen vehicle. Thompson also shot an officer. Kay died after being removed from life support. She is survived by her three children.

Nitza DeBiase, 28

OCTOBER 5, 2025 | AUSTIN

Nitza DeBiase was physically assaulted and strangled by her ex-boyfriend, Paul Allen, 26, inside her home. Allen had a history of stalking Nitza. He was charged with first-degree murder. Nitza was an educator remembered for her compassion.

WALKER COUNTY

Keaonna Major, 18

AUGUST 13, 2025 | HUNTSVILLE

Keaonna Major was shot and killed by her boyfriend, Marquel Demond Wiley, 19, while she was holding their four-month-old daughter. The child sustained serious injuries. Wiley was charged with capital murder. She is survived by her daughter.

WEBB COUNTY

Frida Castillo, 20

MARCH 15, 2025 | LAREDO

Frida Castillo died after her boyfriend, Fernando Machado, 27, shot her. Machado also injured Frida's mother and brother. Machado had a prior record of attempting to strangle Frida. He was charged with capital murder.

WICHITA COUNTY

Keren Martinez Ballesteros, 28

JUNE 14, 2025 | CASHION COMMUNITY

Keren Martinez Ballesteros was shot with a shotgun by her ex-boyfriend, Matison Johnathan Preville Jr., 20. Keren's body was found in a field. Preville was charged with capital murder.

Mechel Christine Maddox, 58

AUGUST 10, 2025 | WICHITA FALLS

Mechel Christine Maddox died after her partner, Jeffery Kent Price, 55, shot her and then killed himself. Price had multiple prior arrests for assaulting Mechel. Mechel was a former nurse who had been considering separation.

WILLACY COUNTY

Emmanuel Alexander Lagpacan, 70

JANUARY 27, 2025 | RAYMONDVILLE

Emmanuel Alexander Lagpacan died after his partner, Bernabe Vanegas Jr., 42, stabbed him. Vanegas was arrested and charged with murder.

WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Defenia Lynch, 57

FEBRUARY 27, 2025 | HUTTO

Defenia Lynch was shot and killed by her partner, Kerry Carter, 60. Carter also killed Defenia's daughter before committing suicide. Defenia had been doused in lighter fluid but not burned. She is survived by her three adult children.

Maryam Jesmani, 33

MARCH 27, 2025 | ROUND ROCK

Maryam Jesmani died on March 27, 2025, after her boyfriend, Amirhossein Jafari, 37, stabbed her inside their home. Jesmani's child discovered the scene and alerted authorities that her mother's boyfriend had killed her; officers found both Jesmani and Jafari deceased from stab wounds. Investigators determined that Jafari died from self-inflicted wounds in an apparent murder-suicide. Jesmani is survived by her son.

Azucena Porcayo, 46

MAY 26, 2025 | GEORGETOWN

Azucena Porcayo died after her ex-boyfriend, Alejandro Arzate Valdez, 54, shot her and then himself. Azucena had recently ended the relationship. She is survived by her four children.

Ashley E. McMicken, 22

OCTOBER 7, 2025 | TAYLOR

Ashley E. McMicken was stabbed to death by Thomas Michael Flinders, 22, who wore a Halloween mask during the attack. Ashley had recently ended a short-term relationship with him. Flinders was charged with murder.

Tariro Ikpe, 43

OCTOBER 12, 2025 | HUTTO

Tariro Ikpe died after her husband, Ekong Ikpe, 65, shot her in their home. Tariro is survived by her three daughters. Her husband was charged with murder.

James Yost, 76

DECEMBER 5, 2025 | GEORGETOWN

James Yost was stabbed to death by Justice M. Washington, 28, who had recently been included in a relationship with James and Kenneth Clanton. Washington also set the home on fire. He was charged with capital murder.

Kenneth Clanton, 33

DECEMBER 5, 2025 | GEORGETOWN

Kenneth Clanton was stabbed to death by Justice M. Washington, 28, inside the home he shared with James Yost. Kenneth was described by family as a loving and protective artist. Washington was charged with capital murder.

* Information about this victim was limited in the records available to TCFV at the time of review. The victim's name and additional details about their life were not publicly available or could not be confirmed. While we are unable to share a fuller narrative, we include this victim in *Honoring Texas Victims* to recognize their life and ensure their death is not excluded because information about their story was unavailable.

■ FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, AND BYSTANDERS KILLED OR INJURED

In addition to the 160 Texans killed by current or former intimate partners, 15 other persons were killed during these homicides. This includes children, family members, friends, or bystanders who were killed during these incidents, and 17 additional people were injured but survived, including two minors. Five unborn children also died when their mothers were killed by their intimate partner.

The fifteen additional victims and five unborn children are documented separately and are not included in the report's primary count of 160 intimate partner homicide victims. Together, these incidents resulted in 155 lives lost. These deaths and injuries demonstrate how intimate partner violence may extend beyond the intimate partner, harming children and others connected to the victim.

Below, TCFV honors and remembers the 15 additional people killed and the five unborn children who died.

Sheryln Galvin, 18

Iosha Shaw, 40

Darvilease Washington, 27

Idalia Carrizales, 58

Alejandro Suarez, 30

Saidia Machado, 19

Child Victim, 3

Nelson Alatorre, 28

Jeronimo Aleman Ramirez, 24

Victoria Whitman, 27

Child Victim, 7

Shawn Glen Blake, 49

Hector Vasquez, 35

Child Victim, 3

Unidentified Adult Male

5 Unborn Children Who Died

■ *HONORING TEXAS VICTIMS NARRATIVE DISCLAIMER*

These narratives are based on official records and other publicly available information and reflect what was known to TCFV at the time of publication. Because investigations and legal proceedings may continue, additional information or corrections may emerge.

Requests for corrections may be submitted to CRSS Director Rosie Martinez via email at rmartinez@tcfv.org. TCFV will review requests and support documentation and make revisions when credible information establishes a material factual error.

To preserve the integrity and consistency of the report, TCFV does not remove or redact a narrative solely at the request of a family member, friend, or other party. TCFV may revise a narrative when necessary to correct an error or address a substantiated legal, privacy, or safety concern.

PREFERRED CITATION:

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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.



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