



Domestic
Violence &
Family
Violence*
Claimed **110**
Lives in
Wisconsin in
2024

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report 2024

published
October 2025

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Foreword

The 2024 End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report is our **23rd** publication of this document.

We release this to honor the lives lost to domestic violence in our state each year, and to draw attention to the pervasiveness of domestic violence and the loss of loved ones that countless numbers of Wisconsinites have experienced.

*To reflect all lives lost and documented in this report, beginning in the 2024 report, we include the total number of domestic violence *and* family violence related deaths on the cover of the report, rather than only those lives lost to domestic violence related homicides.

For clarity, we offer definitions of domestic and family violence below. For additional context relevant to definitions used, see the Limitations section.

Domestic violence homicide includes both intimate partner violence (including elder abuse between partners) and cases where an adult child, grandchild, stepchild, or step-grandchild kills a parent, stepparent, grandparent, or step-grandparent. Also included are cases where a harm-doer kills a child or others (such as a new partner, a bystander, etc.) as an extension of power and control dynamics of an intimate partner.

Family violence homicide includes homicides occurring within any other familial relationship. For example: a parent who kills a child (but NOT as an extension of power and control dynamics with an adult partner) or the homicide of one sibling by another.

According to the data we have gathered since we began tracking this information in 2000, **at least 1,452 individuals** have been killed in domestic violence homicides in Wisconsin.

We publish, and until our state meaningfully invests in the changes we consistently urge to prevent this pervasive violence, we begin counting again.

Methodology

Our definition of homicide is the killing of one human being by another. This encompasses criminal, justifiable, self-defense, and reckless homicides. We consider a homicide domestic violence-related if:

- The victims and harm-doers were spouses or partners, former spouses or former partners, adults with children in common, or adults or teens who had been in a dating relationship.
- It was a homicide of a person other than an intimate partner, and it occurred within the context of domestic violence. This encompasses cases where the circumstances of the murder included obsessive control of the harm-doer's current or former partner that extended to their new partner. We also include the homicide of a bystander or someone who attempted to protect a domestic violence victim from future harm.
- The homicide was a child's death that occurred as an extension of or in response to ongoing abuse between adult intimate partners. For example, when a partner or estranged partner killed their children to exact revenge on their partner, it is considered domestic violence related.
- A responding officer was in a position in which they needed to use deadly force against an individual to prevent the homicide or assault of another person. The count of domestic violence homicide victims occasionally includes harm-doers killed by responding law enforcement officers (also referred to as homicide by legal intervention).
- Beginning with the report for 2010, we include cases in which an adult child, grandchild, stepchild, or step-grandchild kills a parent, stepparent, or step-grandparent. We do not include these cases, however, if the defendant was found not guilty by reason of mental illness or lacked the capacity to stand trial. See the *Limitations* section for an extended explanation of this criteria.

The report also accounts for overall deaths related to domestic violence homicide, including harm-doer deaths. **Most harm-doer deaths are suicides.** In each case of homicide-suicide, the heading lists the murdered person as the homicide victim.

We seek to be as consistent and accurate as possible year to year in determining which homicides to include in the report. Our summaries of domestic violence homicides are compiled from information that is readily available via public sources and limited follow-up inquiries. The amount of attention such sources pay to one domestic violence-related homicide in comparison to another varies greatly.

We request Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data submitted to the Department of Justice, criminal complaints, and police reports obtained from the jurisdiction in which the homicide occurred. The UCR does not always include all homicides that we include in our report, and therefore we supplement with data from other sources. The sex, race, and ethnicity classifications of victims and perpetrators are obtained from the above listed sources that we use to compile our report.

Executive Summary

Since 2000, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin has chronicled deaths due to domestic violence (DV) in our state. **In 2024, 99 individuals died in Wisconsin due to DV at a rate of approximately one death every 3.7 days.** The basic findings contained in this report are outlined below. An additional 11 cases of fatal family violence are included in a supplemental section where intimate partner violence was not a factor.

2024 Compared to 2023	2024	2023
Incidents of DV homicide (Not included in total DV deaths; single incidents often involve multiple deaths.)	75	66
Victims of DV homicide (excluding by legal intervention)	71	54
Harm-doer suicide after committing homicide	13	12
Homicides by legal intervention (responding law enforcement)	6	7
Homicide of victim by law enforcement	1	-
Harm-doer suicide during law enforcement response	2	5
Self-defense/justified	4	4
Partially completed suicide/homicide attempt	1	3
Total DV deaths (victim and harm-doer)	99	85
Other family violence related deaths	11	24
Total family and DV related deaths	110	109

Other findings in the 2024 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include: *not including family violence

- Harm-doers of domestic violence homicide incidents were overwhelmingly male. **In 2024, 78% of harm-doers were male.***
- The ages of victims in this report range from **an unborn infant to 81 years old**. Harm-doers' ages ranged from **18 to 85 years old**. The average age of harm-doers was **37** years old, and the average age of victims was **36** years old.
- Homicides occurred in **28 counties in Wisconsin**. Of the 84 domestic or family violence homicide incidents, approximately **40% occurred in rural** areas and **60% occurred in urban** areas. (Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties are urban as defined in US Census data).
- Firearms remain the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides. In 2024, **firearms were the weapons used in 71% of domestic violence deaths.*** Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are **12 times more likely to result in death** than those involving other weapons or bodily force.
- There were **14 harm-doer suicides** in 2024. There were 13 murder-suicides, and **1** other harm-doer suicide with an attempted homicide in 2024. Harm-doer suicides in our report are connected to the homicide they completed or attempted to complete just prior to their suicide, or were completed when law enforcement responded to an incident of domestic violence. This reflects **the connection between homicidality and suicidality in domestic violence cases** and should thus be considered when discussing domestic violence and homicide prevention.
- Many of the 2024 homicide cases reflect the **risk factors that research has found to be associated with lethal violence**. These include, among other factors: threats to use or actual use of a weapon, threats to kill, stalking, strangulation, obsessive jealousy, and sexual assault.

Other findings in the 2024 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include:

- Three victims from a 1981 cold case that was originally classified as accidental have been included in this report. Investigators reopened that case in 2024, when they determined that domestic violence was a predicated factor in the deaths of a woman and her two young children. We also include them in the data, in recognition of the [Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives](#) movement, which identifies that lack of data about or recognition of the murder of Indigenous peoples perpetuates violence against them. There are many other unsolved murders of Indigenous women and relatives in Wisconsin, including Rae Elaine Tourtillott and Katelyn Kelley. For more information, see the [Special Report on MMIWR violence in our 2020 Homicide Report](#).
- For the first time, we have identified a case where **the victim** of domestic violence was **killed by police while law enforcement was responding** to a domestic violence incident. This is differentiated from the category of “Homicide of harm-doer by legal intervention” where the person committing domestic violence was killed by law enforcement.
- There is at least one case included in this report wherein the gender identity of the harm-doer cannot be determined because of inconsistencies in reportage and court records. In consideration of potential misgendering by media and legal systems, and because we cannot confirm directly with the person(s) involved, we have included this data point as unknown. In consideration of the risks associated with anti-transgender violence in legal contexts, we will not identify the case(s).
- Three cases of homicide/suicide involving married women and men between the ages of 53 and 69 are included in this report. In each case, it was unclear which partner killed the other. Therefore the gender of victim and harm-doer are recorded as unknown.
- One case of a child homicide is considered domestic violence-related because the child’s mother was a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking. Both the mother and her abusive partner were charged with the homicide.

Historical, National, and Global Context

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 1980 to 2005, intimate partner homicides declined by 44% and homicides among other family members decreased by 26%. From 1994 to 2010, nonfatal domestic violence decreased by about 63%. This downward trend has been attributed to increased awareness, services, and intervention[1], but disparities in the number of victims of some racial and ethnic groups persist.

A 2017 Centers for Disease Control analysis of female homicide deaths from 18 states between the years 2003 and 2014 found that non-Hispanic Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women were killed at nearly three times the rate of non-Hispanic white women[2]. In 2019, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that approximately 50,000 women globally were victims of domestic violence homicide in 2017, an increase from 48,000 in 2012[3].

The Columbia Mailman School of Public Health reported a 2024 Lancet study of female homicide rates in 30 states from 1999–2020, in which Wisconsin was specifically named. Among women aged 25 to 44—the ages at which women are most likely to be murdered—they found:

- Homicide rates among Black women were significantly higher than for white women, with the biggest differences in states with the highest racial inequities.
- The greatest disparity in homicide rates was in Wisconsin in 2019–2020, when Black women were 20 times more likely to be murdered than white women.
- Black women in the U.S. were more likely than white women to be killed by a firearm, particularly those in the Northeast and Midwest.

The study suggests a strong link between higher homicide rates and the effects of deeply entrenched racial inequities, manifested in areas such as educational attainment, unemployment, and wealth distribution. Further, measures to reduce structural racism in the U.S could help prevent elevated rates of homicide among Black women[4].

2024 Key Findings

Overview

KEY FINDINGS	2024
Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents	75
Victims of Domestic Violence Homicide	71
Male Harm-doers	52
Female Harm-doers	11
Unknown Sex or Gender of Harm-doer	4
Female Homicide Victims	43
Male Homicide Victims	24
Unknown Sex or Gender of Victim	4
Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicides	13
Deaths by Legal Intervention (Responding Law Enforcement)	7
Homicide of Victim by Law Enforcement	1
Suicides during Law Enforcement Response	3
Self Defense/justified	5
Homicide Incidents with two or more Victims	6
Attempted Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide	1
Total Deaths (Not Including Family Violence)	99

2024 Key Findings

Relationship of Victim to Male Harm-doer	2024
Current/Former Partner	31
Child(ren) of Current/Former Partner	5
Child(ren) of Harm-doer	4
Parent	4
Unknown	3
Grandparent	2
Romantic Rival	2
Bystander	2
Acquaintance	1
Unborn Child of Current/Former Partner and Harm-doer	1
911 Help-seeker	1
Total	56

Relationship of Victim to Female Harm-doer	2024
Partner/Former Partner	9
Child of harm-doer	3
Total	12

2024 Key Findings

Relationship of Victim to Harm-doer Whose Gender is Unknown	2024
Partner/Former Partner	3
Unknown	1
Total	4

Harm-doer Suicides	2024
Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide (Murder-suicide)	13
Homicide-Suicide Incidents Involving Firearm(s)	11
Male Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide	8
Suicides During Law Enforcement Response	2
Partially Completed Homicide-Suicide	1
Unknown Gender of Harm-doer of Homicide-Suicide	3
Female Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide	2
Total Completed Harm-doer Suicides	14

2024 Key Findings

Method of Homicide	2024
Firearm	70
Stabbing	9
Automobile or Motorcycle	5
Blunt Force Trauma	4
Strangulation or Asphyxiation	2
Drowning	1
Forced Use of Drugs/Narcotics	1
Hanging	1
Neglect/Abuse	1
Unknown	2
Fire	3*
Total DV Deaths (Not Including Family Violence)	99

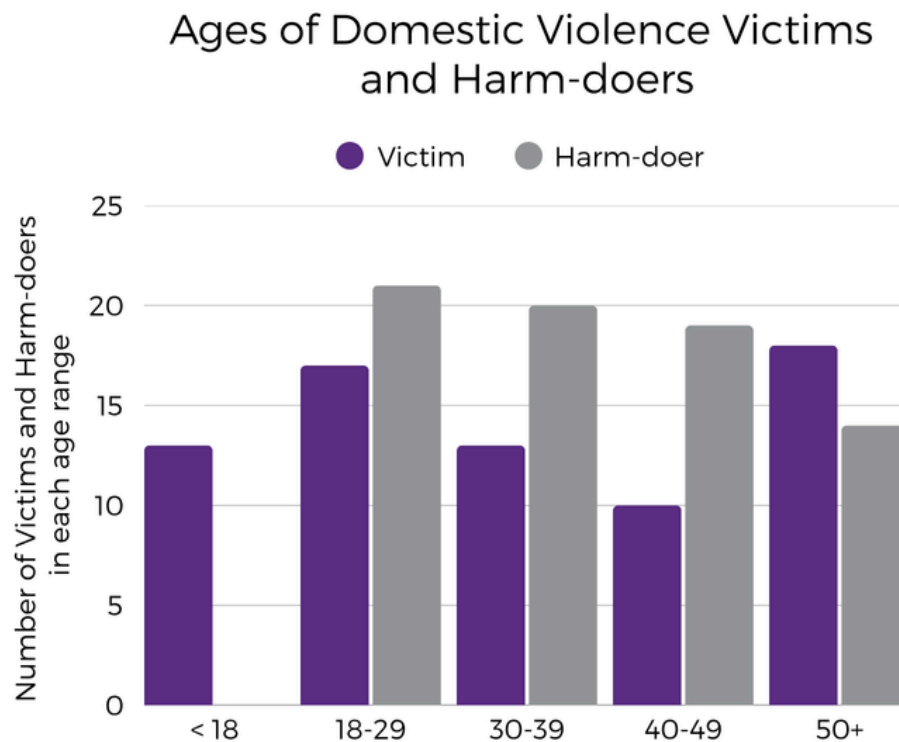
*The 1981 cold case causes of death are unknown. The incident was original classified as an accidental fire. They may have died from the fire itself, from smoke inhalation, or in another manner and the fire was an attempt to conceal evidence.

Race/Ethnicity and Sex*

Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Victims				2024
Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Black	10	11	0	21
White	9	23	2	34
Latinx	1	0	0	1
Unknown	2	7	2	11
Asian	1	0	0	1
Native American	1	2	0	3

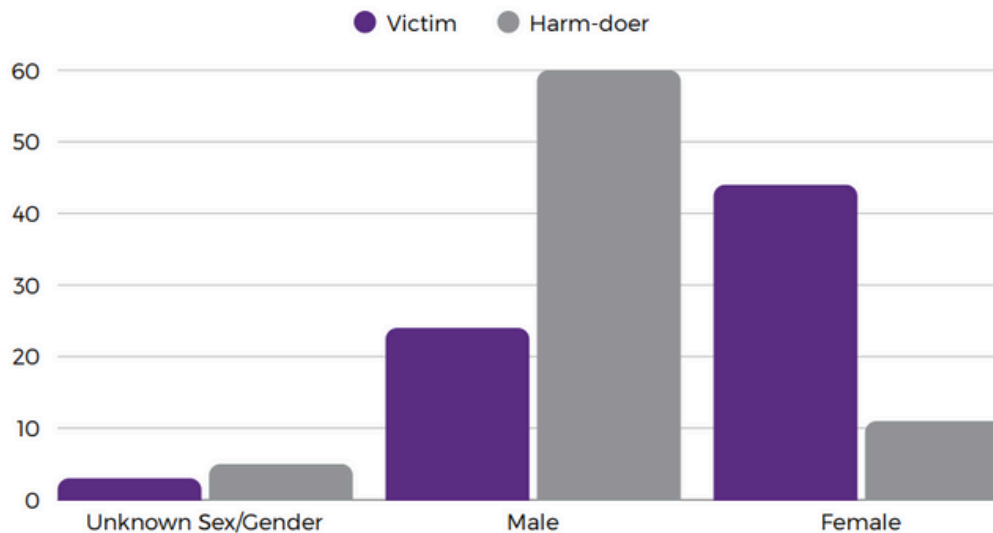
Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Harm-doers				2024
Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Black	18	6	1	25
White	26	5	2	33
Unknown	5	0	1	6
Latinx	0	0	0	0
Native American	1	0	0	1
Asian	2	0	0	2

*Data for race/ethnicity and sex has been identified where available from the Uniform Crime Report and other court-reported sources, but is notably flawed because those sources are restrictive and incomplete in their categorization of singular racial identity and binaried sex. Incomplete data perpetuates violence, particularly against marginalized communities. Excludes harm-doers who died by suicide alone or by Law Enforcement involvement.



Data include all cases where age is known. There was 1 victim and 2 harm-doers where age range was unknown at the time of reporting.

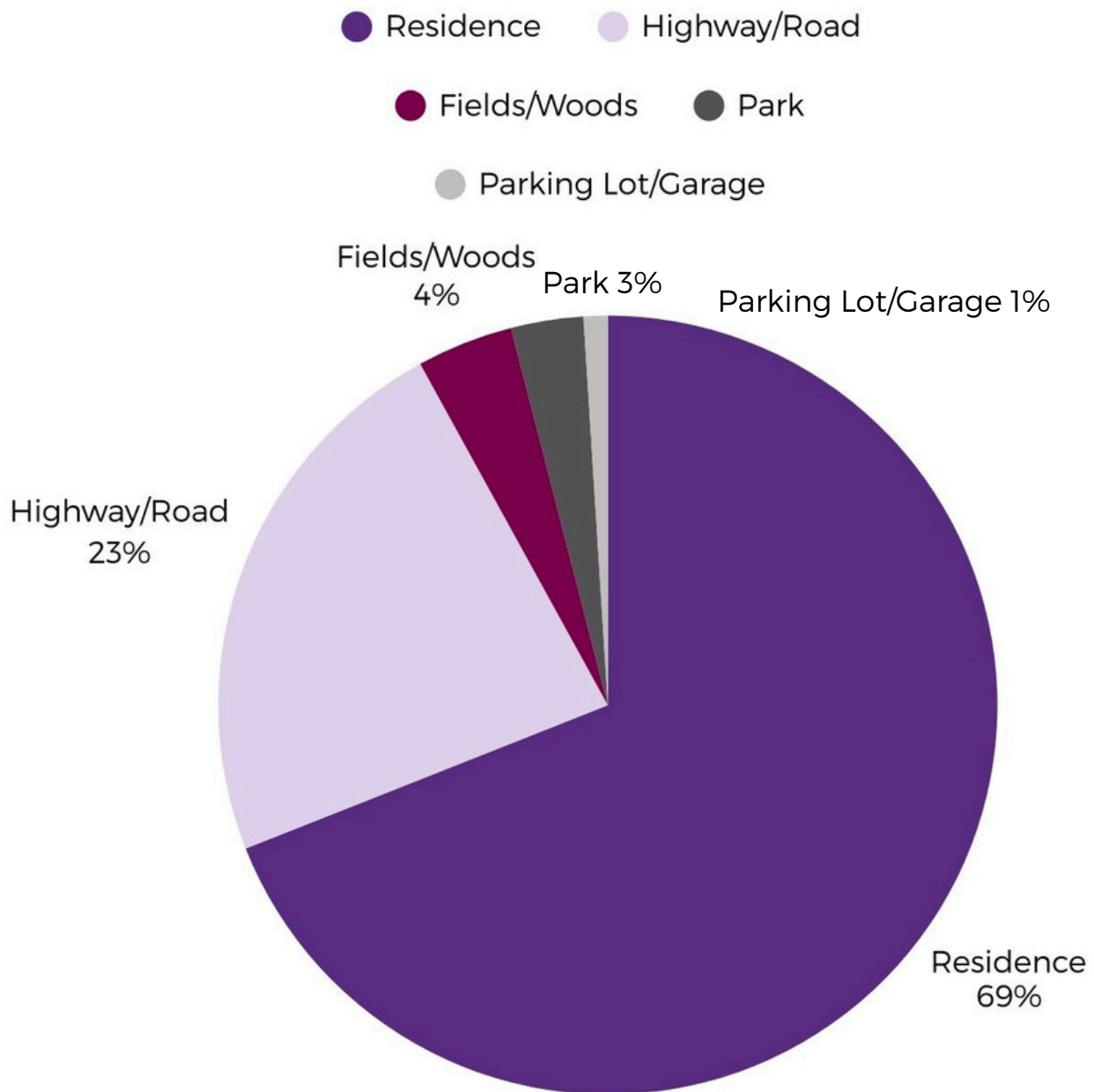
Domestic Violence Victim and Harm-doer Sex/Gender



Data show 71 domestic violence homicide victims and 76 domestic violence harm-doers. Harm-doers include those who are living and deceased, completed and attempted homicides/suicides, deaths of harm-doers by law enforcement intervention, and one case in which 2 people were charged in the homicide of one child.

Location of 2024 Homicides

Location data includes 71 victims of domestic violence; harm-doer deaths are not included.



2024 DV Homicide Map

(2024 Total Domestic and Family Violence Deaths)



Family violence-related deaths occurred in 5 Counties in 2024. The total number of domestic violence- and family violence-related deaths in each of those counties is shown below.

Domestic violence-related deaths

Eau Claire 0
 Marathon 5*
 Milwaukee 32
 Rock 6
 Winnebago 2

Family violence-related deaths

Eau Claire 2
 Marathon 1
 Milwaukee 5
 Rock 1
 Winnebago 2

*1981 cold case accounts for 3 deaths.

Limitations

We summarize the limitations of the data we report annually in the paragraphs below. Consistency in how we define and therefore report data is important so that comparisons can be made from year to year and trends can be examined.

Availability and Accuracy of Data Obtained

We rely on gathering information from publicly available sources and acknowledge we may have missed cases in 2024 that would meet our report's criteria. During our review of the Uniform Crime Report, some cases that we suspect are domestic violence related are not included in the final report. The reasons for this are as myriad and complex as the cases themselves. Below, we offer two examples of circumstances in which domestic violence homicide may go unrecognized.

Due to the potential dangers of coming out to family, friends and other community members, many LGBTQIA+ folks keep their relationships secret. This fear has a chilling effect and prevents those in abusive relationships from seeking supportive and lifesaving services.

Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women in the U.S. Fifty to seventy-five percent (50-75%) of women abused before pregnancy are abused during pregnancy, as well. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of pregnant homicide victims are killed early (during the first trimester) in the pregnancy, a time when many pregnant people do not widely disclose the pregnancy.

”

“To them, she is just another Black statistic. They don’t care... because they haven’t lost a child like this...[she] was so happy when she found that she was pregnant, and this would have been my first grandchild. We had so many plans.”



Wisconsin Residents Killed Outside of Wisconsin

Our homicide report details domestic violence homicides that occur in the state of Wisconsin almost exclusively. Exceptions include deaths of Wisconsin residents that occur within hours or minutes of leaving Wisconsin. Often domestic violence-related deaths of Wisconsin residents who are killed outside of our state escape our radar. There are undoubtedly homicides that fit this definition that our limited research for producing this report would not have captured.

Most states produce similar reports; however, the methodology and criteria for inclusion in such reports vary widely from state to state. Homicide incidents involving Wisconsin residents, but occurring in other states, are relatively rare.

Expanded 2010 Definition

Beginning with the report for 2010, we include cases that involve a parent or grandparent killed by an adult child or grandchild, as well as adult stepchildren or step-grandchildren killing a stepparent or step-grandparent. We began including these cases in 2010 at the advising of advocates for victims of elder abuse at the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, which is an initiative of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. We included these cases in our report because the preceding dynamics of violence in families in which adult parents or grandparents are killed by their adult children or grandchildren often exhibit similar characteristics of power and control. The harm-doer's ongoing abuse frequently relies on tactics of coercion, intimidation, and unique vulnerabilities inherent in a close familial relationship.

Because our original motivation to include these cases stemmed from an acknowledgement that intentional use of power and control tactics is a pattern in family abuse outside of intimate partner relationships, we excluded cases in which there was a clear indicator that mental health issues were a predominant factor in the homicide.

Therefore, we have excluded cases in which the defendant was found not guilty by reason of mental illness or lacked the capacity to stand trial.

In making these distinctions, we are aware that our effort to categorize homicides is imperfect and may exclude cases that could illuminate potentially significant aspects of violence that happens in families. For instance, our definition does not include situations in which an adult parent or stepparent causes the death of an adult child or stepchild, nor cases where the perpetrator was a minor child who killed a parent or stepparent, or grandparent or step-grandparent. These homicides appear to be rare and thus difficult to generalize; however, we would be challenged to give a satisfying reason as to why one type of case is included, and another is not.

This year we included one case of family violence and five cases of domestic violence homicide in which competency was raised during criminal legal proceedings. In these cases the harm-doer was either deemed likely to be restored or was later determined to have been restored to competency. We omitted one case that had been concluded as Guilty but Not Guilty Due to Mental Disease or Defect.

Our exclusion of patricide and matricide cases that seem closely related to mental illness reflects our belief that the analogous cases of intimate partner homicide—that is, intimate partner violence homicides primarily attributed to mental illness—are relatively rare. We know from research and experience that mental illness alone rarely explains why an abusive person kills their partner; yet we acknowledge that these efforts to conceptually cordon off cases that are closely linked to mental illness may prevent us from attending to the complex etiologies of domestic violence homicide.

Child Homicides

We include child killings that occurred as an extension of or in response to ongoing abuse between adult intimate partners against others as domestic violence homicides. For example, when a partner or estranged partner killed their children or their partner's children in order to exact revenge on their partner, it is considered domestic violence-related.

We believe our limited ability to recognize these cases likely results in an undercount of these homicides. Homicide of a child is often viewed as an isolated incident of child abuse. An investigation of a child homicide can often overlook domestic violence, or domestic violence might not be included in the public record. While we believe that a larger number of child deaths are directly related to an ongoing pattern of domestic abuse, our current methods of tracking homicides do not allow us to consistently identify children killed by perpetrators of domestic violence. These cases are not included because we lack the information necessary to link the killings to intimate partner violence (and thus to the report's definition of domestic violence homicide).

Cold Cases

In our years of gathering domestic violence homicide information, we have learned that not every homicide case is initially recognized as such. Some domestic violence homicides are ruled suicides or inconclusive, turning cold and forgotten. The harm-doer faces no consequences and is often treated as a victim who lost a loved one, perhaps receiving a life insurance check for the life they ended. Recently, due to developments in technology and evidence processing, these crimes have renewed hope of being solved. We honor the lives of those included in this report, and the lives of those lost in years in which our data included homicides that we have not yet been able to attribute to domestic violence.

There is one cold case included in the 2024 homicide report narrative and data. Originally classified as an accident in 1981, investigators re-opened the case in 2024.

Please see the 2017 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report, page 41, for additional information on cold cases.

2024 Domestic Violence Homicides

Our brief descriptions in no way reflect the complexity and circumstances of each person's death. They certainly do not capture the complexity and fullness of their lives and the impact that each homicide or suicide has on surviving family members, friends, neighbors, co-workers, communities, and those responding and attempting to help during the immediate event or in the time preceding it.

A compelling aspect of this report is that we include the stories behind the statistics. Many of the cases below were reported in the media, which made public the names of both victim and harm-doer. Beginning with the 2021 Homicide Report, we have chosen to exclude this information, despite it being publicly available, out of respect for the homicide victims, their surviving family members, and others mentioned in the case narratives.

Noted in bold text throughout the case narratives connected to intimate partner violence are the known lethality risk factors[5] present prior to the homicide, and/or any known history of domestic abuse that we discovered while researching the cases. We also know that many victims never share their experiences of these risk factors with anyone else, including advocates, legal systems, or their loved ones.

While the text is not bolded for every domestic violence-related homicide involving a firearm, we note here that **the risk of lethality is inherent in each case involving a firearm**, due to the accessibility and availability of the firearm coupled with violence in the home. We **have bolded** instances wherein it was known by court record that **a harm-doer was prohibited from possessing a firearm**.

NOTE: Case status reflects information available at the time of publication of this report. The status of an open case can be found via Wisconsin Circuit Court Access at: <http://wcca.wicourts.gov>. Individuals' ages are listed as of the date of the homicide.

Barron

December 12 | Chetek
MLT, 51-year-old female victim
MDT, 53-year-old male harm-doer

Barron Co. deputies responded to a home outside of Chetek on December 12th, where they found both 51-year-old MLT and 53-year-old MDT dead of stab wounds, in an apparent murder-suicide. Court records and a criminal complaint indicate **a recent history of escalating domestic violence**. In August, after MDT accused MLT of **trying to leave** him and then **threatened her with a firearm**, MLT escaped to a neighbor's home. A few weeks later in September, MLT again escaped to a neighbor's home, where she called 911 to report MDT was intoxicated, verbally abusive, and that **he had recently lost his job**. At that time, he was charged with Intentionally Pointing a Firearm at a Person and Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse modifiers, and prohibited from abusive conduct toward MLT, possession of a firearm, and consumption of alcohol. MLT **filed for divorce** shortly after the second incident and reported that their adult son had removed or locked the firearms from their home. When law enforcement responded to the home in December, MDT was found dead with a knife beside him outside the home. MLT had died of her injuries inside.

County

Chippewa

December 22 | Lafayette
ML, 49-year-old male harm-doer

After law enforcement were called to a domestic violence incident with an unnamed victim, 49-year-old ML fled the scene in a vehicle and crashed near the town of Lafayette. After he fired at Chippewa County sheriff's vehicles, two local SWAT members, an Eau Claire detective, and a Wisconsin State Trooper fired back, hitting him. Emergency responders attempted life-saving measures, but he died at the scene. Officers involved were placed on administrative leave, and the WI DOJ Department of Criminal Investigation analyzed the case. No charges have been filed against law enforcement.

Clark

July 5 | Abbotsford
6-year-old female child
10-year-old female child

Law enforcement responded to a home in Abbotsford when adult victim MAS ran to her neighbor’s house and asked them to call 911 because she had been stabbed by her partner, 30-year-old VMGA. Emergency responders found the couple’s two young children stabbed to death in their beds. Although she sustained severe injuries to her neck and multiple stab wounds, MAS survived.

VMGA also had stab wounds and initially claimed that “a crazy guy” had attacked him. He has been charged with two counts of First-Degree Intentional Homicide and one count of Attempted First-Degree Intentional Homicide with a Domestic Abuse modifier.

VMGA’s mental health has been a point of conflict in the case. After his initial arrest, he was found incompetent to stand trial and committed to Mendota Mental Health Institute in September 2024, though the court determined he could and would be restored to competency within a statutory 12-month period; he was later determined to have been restored to competency in December 2024. After this finding, VMGA entered a plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect. An order for examination and report have been issued. The State has said they will not be stipulating to an NGI plea settlement. This case is ongoing.

Crawford

July 22 | Wisconsin River bridge
AB, 42-year-old female victim
DF, 43-year-old male harm-doer

According to a press release by the Crawford County Sheriff’s office, 43-year-old DF was driving himself and his 42-year-old girlfriend AB at dangerously high speeds on a motorcycle, across the Wisconsin River bridge outside of Marietta. DF crossed both lanes of traffic and crashed into a rock wall, ejecting both passengers. Though they were wearing helmets, both DF and AB sustained lethal injuries and died at the scene. There is no record of domestic violence between DF and AB on Wisconsin Circuit Court records.

Dane

February 18 | Middleton**MLR, 5 year-old male victim****MLR, 8 year-old female victim****JJ, 34-year-old female harm-doer**

Thirty-four-year-old JJ shot and killed her two young children and then took her own life. During the same incident, she shot the children's 31-year-old father, SLR, who survived.

JJ obtained a gun about two months before the homicides/suicide. Because of a prior felony conviction, **JJ could not legally own a gun**; reportedly a friend illegally bought it for her.

Police records and reportage show a long history of escalating violence by JJ against SLR. **JJ threatened to kill herself and the children numerous times** over several years. In April 2019, JJ repeatedly texted SLR threatening to kill their children and **blaming him for her actions because he was with someone else**. While SLR was staying with his sister, JJ smashed the windows of his vehicle parked outside and tried to crash into it because SLR refused to speak to her. Police performed welfare checks on the children after SLR, his sister, and his mother contacted them about the threats. JJ alleged to police that SLR abused her, later admitting she lied about it to get a response from SLR. JJ's texts to SLR at that time suggested his probation would be revoked because of her allegations, and he was in fact jailed.

In late 2023, police performed two separate welfare checks in response to reports that **JJ again threatened to kill the children and had recently attempted suicide**. JJ told police the children were not at home, acknowledged that she had a drug problem and had survived two recent overdose attempts, but had a safety plan in place. A few months later, JJ and the children were dead.

Dane

April 10 | Dane Co. and the State of Iowa**TP, 32-year-old female victim****AP, 13-year-old female victim****AG, 36-year-old male harm-doer**

Three people died in a series of domestic violence-related events that unfolded in Iowa and Wisconsin on April 10.

Thirty-two-year-old TP, a long-time resident of WI, had relocated with her children to IA to escape AG. Police were called to her Iowa home, where she was found dead, a presumed victim of homicide. TP's 13-year-old daughter, AP, and 5-month-old infant were missing. They were later determined to be with AG, TP's 36-year-old former partner and the father of the baby. AG fled back to WI with AP, **armed with a handgun and a rifle**, and left the baby, apparently unharmed, at the home of a WI acquaintance of AG.

Local law enforcement attempted to stop AG and AP after they left that home, firing at police from his vehicle. Eventually, law enforcement disabled the car with tire spikes and the two fled on foot. AG gained access to a nearby home occupied by a mother and her two children, firing gunshots and barricading himself in the home. Law enforcement safely evacuated the residents and later found AG in the basement, dead of apparent suicide.

AP was later found dead in a nearby wooded area. Autopsy revealed cocaine and meth in her system, which investigators believe AG had given her. AP was also known to be insulin dependent, requiring numerous daily injections.

According to news reports and court records, TP had obtained a **domestic abuse restraining order with firearms surrender** against AG in October 2023. In March 2024, AG was charged with a misdemeanor violation of the restraining order and two felony charges stemming from a January 2024 incident, interfering with child custody, and child abduction. In 2018, AG had been found guilty of **possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony**.

Dane

April 4 | Madison
AW, 31-year-old male

TB, age 27, shot her 31-year-old partner AW during a social gathering outside an apartment building on the evening of April 4.

When officers responded, they found 31-year-old AW with a gunshot wound to the chest. The gun was recovered at the scene and AW was taken to the hospital, where he died from his injuries the following day. TB had left the scene and initially denied any involvement in the shooting.

According to police, surveillance video showed an argument between TB and AW prior to the shooting and footage of the shooting itself. TB told police that after the argument, she fired a warning shot into the air. AW then punched her face twice, and she shot him. TB had a swollen, black eye and told police she did not want to be beaten up. Police noted a possible domestic incident in Illinois involving TB and AW, who had two children together.

TB was charged with Homicide by Negligent Handling of Dangerous Weapon, with Domestic Abuse Assessments, and Second-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, and was sentenced in June 2025 to two five-year prison sentences.

August 12 | Madison
KP, 28-year-old male victim

28-year-old KP called 911 as the victim of a domestic violence incident with his partner JD, saying that **“someone tried to break [my] neck.”** This incident occurred while JD was under **a no-contact order from a previous domestic violence incident**; KP was also identified as the victim in that case.

According to reportage, KP hung up on dispatch before they were able to gather more information. Law enforcement responded to his location, where officers met JD and brought him outside the home. According to body camera footage, when law enforcement encountered KP, he was hiding in a closet behind piles of laundry and other belongings. According to that footage, law enforcement stood on the other side of the room and asked him to “make himself known.” When he slowly emerged from the closet, law enforcement asked him if he had a knife. He replied, “Yeah,” and they demanded he drop the knife. A few seconds later, Fitchburg Sergeant PJ shot KP.

KP was taken to a local hospital, where he underwent at least two surgeries. After three days, he died. His loved ones had never been informed of his whereabouts, and his brother has reported that the family was unaware of the incident until after KP’s death.

The Dane County District Attorney declined to pursue legal action against Fitchburg Sergeant PJ, citing noncompliance and possession of a weapon as justification for use of deadly force.

KP identified as gay and biracial. Local activists, anti-violence advocates, and racial justice leaders argue that KP’s shooting death – and the violent response to his experience as a victim – reveal systemic biases against QTBIPOC folx. A loved one runs an Instagram account using the handle @justice4kdp.

August 15 | Madison

MR, 25-year-old female victim

42-year-old TD admitted to law enforcement that he shot and killed intimate partner, 25-year-old MR, with an AK-style firearm because **he was angry that she laughed at him** and would not apologize.

According to the criminal complaint, TD also **expressed feeling jealousy**, as MR had been on the phone with another intimate partner in front of him. He was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and **Possession of a Firearm by an Out-of-State Felon**. A jury trial is scheduled for October 2025.

September 30 - October 4 | Madison

BS, 24-year-old female victim

24-year-old BS disappeared on September 30th. According to a criminal complaint, witnesses at a party prior to her disappearance say her boyfriend, 25-year-old JBM, **was upset that others were flirting with her**. After JBM started a heated argument, BS stayed overnight with a friend and told them that JBM had **threatened to kill her**.

BS was last seen on video surveillance with JBM; her father reported her missing on October 1st. Law enforcement discovered her body in a pond on October 3rd, where a preliminary autopsy determined that she had drowned.

When law enforcement questioned JBM, he claimed BS had fallen into the pond herself, and that he had declined to rescue her because "the pond was too dirty." Evidence recovered, including texts and BS's journal, **indicate a pattern of escalating, abusive behavior** in the weeks before her death, and that she was afraid of him. JBM was officially charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Domestic Abuse Assessments in March 2025. A jury trial is scheduled for January 2026.

Dodge

**January 4 | Waupun
PA Sr., 74-year-old male victim**

PA Jr. is facing homicide charges for allegedly killing his 74-year-old father, PA Sr. PA Jr.'s brother found their father's body in the bedroom of his home.

According to the brother, **PA Sr. had recently evicted PA Jr.** as their relationship had become increasingly strained. According to the criminal complaint, PA Jr. had been free on a signature bond in an earlier case in which he was accused of delivering fentanyl. PA Jr. had gone with his brother to a methadone clinic earlier on the same day his father's body was found. Unable to obtain methadone, the brothers drove to a nearby city where PA Jr. is believed to have purchased fentanyl.

The two brothers met up later that day and drove to their father's home. According to PA Jr.'s brother, PA Jr. was acting strangely and tried to stop him from going to their father's room to check on him. When the brother did see his father, PA Jr. reportedly said, "It's not what you think. It's nothing." Reportedly, PA Jr.'s behavior became threatening. The brother became fearful as PA Jr. took his phone and wouldn't let him call for an ambulance, saying, "They are going to blame me for this."

The brother told PA Jr. he wanted to have a cigarette, left the house and tried to get help from a neighboring home, but PA Jr. caught up to him and told the occupants that they were at the wrong house. They walked back to their father's house, but the brother refused to go in. He eventually found his phone in the vehicle they had driven and called 911.

An autopsy showed cuts, abrasions, bruises, rib fractures, and defensive wounds and PA Sr. is believed to have died from asphyxiation or a cardiac event due to a physical struggle. His death was listed as a homicide. PA Jr. is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, False Imprisonment, and Intimidating a Victim/Threatening Force. A jury trial is scheduled for October 2025.

Dodge

February 19 | Columbus**SZ, 81-year-old female victim****DZ, 85-year-old male harm-doer**

On the morning of February 19, 85-year-old DZ shot himself at the entrance of a Columbus hospital emergency room. Police had been called, and although medical staff attempted treatment, DZ was dead when an officer arrived. Police then requested local deputies respond to DZ's residence in Dodge County to check on the status of DZ's wife, SZ. Responding officers arrived at the residence to find 81-year-old SZ, deceased, the victim of a presumed homicide/suicide. A joint law enforcement investigation was initiated and has not yet concluded.

June 10 | Clyman**CR, 37-year-old female victim**

Thirty-seven-year-old CR disappeared on June 11, but wasn't reported missing until June 23. A police investigation led to her estranged husband, 42-year-old ZR, who had used CR's credit cards after her disappearance to purchase items including protective gloves, drain opener, cleaning and air freshening chemicals.

A **contested divorce hearing had been scheduled** for August 8, 2024. Records show a history of abuse: **a restraining order was filed** against ZR in 2023; ZR was charged with Violating a Domestic Abuse Temporary Restraining Order in 2018; and Disorderly Conduct with domestic abuse modifiers in 2015 and 2008.

Cell phone pings from CR's phone last reached a cell phone tower near land owned by ZR's family. Investigators found a vehicle in the area owned by ZR and detected blood matching CR's DNA profile inside the vehicle. In June 2024, ZR was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and Hiding a Corpse. In July 2025, he was found not competent to stand trial but likely to regain competency within the statutory period, and committed to treatment. This case has not concluded.

Douglas**October 7 | Village of Superior
DW, 41-year-old male victim**

According to reportage, 30-year-old AJ went to the Village of Superior home of his ex-girlfriend, where she reported that he confronted her and her new partner, 41-year-old DW, in her garage with a firearm. She said that AJ pointed the firearm at her, and then DW hit AJ on the head with a metal milk can. AJ engaged in a fight, and shot DW at least 13 times. AJ fled to a family cabin outside of Iron River, and reportedly confessed to family members that he had shot DW. AJ has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, Armed Burglary with a Dangerous Weapon, and First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety. A jury trial is scheduled for March 2026.

Juneau

December 30 | New Lisbon
AT, 12-year-old female victim
SS, 13-year-old female victim
EK, 33-year-old female victim

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, the parent of 13-year-old SS reported her missing on December 30th. When social media records indicated she had last been seen in the company of her 12-year-old friend AT, law enforcement reportedly tracked both girls to the New Lisbon home of AT's stepfather, 47-year-old VT, and his elderly mother. Upon arriving, law enforcement found VT's mother and two adults leaving the home, who said they had been searching for the girls. When law enforcement entered the home, they discovered both children and VT's 33-year-old live-in partner, EK, dead in a bed in VT's locked bedroom. All three had been shot in the head.

After a week-long manhunt, VT was discovered sleeping in a vehicle approximately thirteen miles away from the scene of the triple homicide. He was "arrested without incident" and allegedly admitted to killing all three victims. Law enforcement later interviewed VT's mother and sister, who had both been present at the home at some point while it was likely the victims were dead in his bedroom. They claimed it was kept locked, and that he would be "extremely upset" if they had tried to open it.

According to reportage, all three victims had family connections to VT: EK and VT had been in a live-in relationship for approximately three years; VT was AT's stepfather, the daughter of a previous partner; AT's childhood friend SS was also the daughter of VT's first cousin.

VT is being held on a \$5 million cash bail. He has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide with a Domestic Abuse modifier for the death of EK, and two counts of First-Degree Intentional Homicide for the deaths of the two minor children. He has also been charged with three counts of Hiding a Corpse, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Take/Drive a Vehicle Without Consent, and Resisting or Obstructing an Officer. Preliminary hearings have been scheduled; this case has not concluded.

Kenosha

September 6 | Kenosha
AP, 22-year-old female victim
unborn baby H

25-year-old LF Jr. killed his girlfriend, 22-year-old AP, when he shot her in the head in front of her sister, after **a stranger told her she was cute**. AP had been **more than 8 months pregnant with their child**; despite an emergency c-section, baby H did not survive.

At the time of their murders, LF had two pending domestic violence cases wherein AP had been identified as the victim, including charges of Battery, **Strangulation/Suffocation**, and Intimidation of a Victim. LF had a felony record and **was prohibited from possessing a firearm**; an investigation determined that LF paid another woman, KP, to straw purchase the gun. LF fled the area and was arrested in Texas in November 2024.

He has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Domestic Abuse and Repeater modifiers, First Degree Intentional Homicide of an Unborn Child, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, and several counts of Bail Jumping. A jury trial has been scheduled for January 2026. This case has not concluded.



Wisconsin, particularly Milwaukee, is

We already know the data tells us that Wisconsin, particularly Milwaukee, is Ground Zero for the incidence of murder of African American women and girls and **6% for those that are pregnant.**

So we're looking at when you pull out all these sections, what's in the center is Black females. So she is the one with...**higher incidence of infant mortality, pregnancy, death during pregnancy and intimate partner relationships. And we got the data that tells us that she's most likely to be murdered with a gun. And that's troubling.**

—Antonia Drew Norton

La Crosse

June 10 | Town of Shelby
ERWF, female victim

Thirty-nine-year-old ZF faces a charge of first-degree intentional homicide after his wife ERWF was found dead at their Town of Shelby home on June 10, with over 50 stab wounds and bite marks on her face and neck. ZF claimed his wife killed herself and pleaded not guilty. Court records indicate a history of mental illness and previous domestic abuse charges for which ZF was found not guilty due to mental disease/defect. This case is not concluded. A court trial is scheduled February 2026.

Manitowoc**February 19 | Two Rivers
EV, 3-year-old male victim**

On February 20, 39-year-old JV reported to the police that three-year old EV was missing. EV's 31-year-old mother KB had left the toddler in her boyfriend JV's care to "correct his bad behavior" and "teach him to be a man." Reportedly, JV and KB described to a doctor a history of their physical and psychological abuse and neglect of EV that was consistent with torture.

A deeper history indicates that KB experienced sexual assault and trafficking by both JV and by EV's biological father, JNV. Court records show that in November 2015, police responded to a call from staff of a hotel where KB was hiding in a bathroom. KB told police she had been sexually assaulted at the hotel by JV and another man. KB reported to investigators that the men told her she was their property, and she would be taken to a house near Minneapolis to perform sex acts for drugs and compensation. KB described a trafficking structure in which JNV was the "Alpha" and JV was under him. KB later asked police not to investigate the sexual assault, saying she was now with JNV, who would "take care of it." Prosecutors charged JV with Conspiracy to Commit Human Trafficking and Second-Degree Sexual Assault, but the charges were later dismissed because he had been indicted in federal court and detained in Minnesota.

From December 2022 court records, it appears that KB and EV were victims of domestic violence and child abuse: JNV was found guilty of Child Abuse-High Probability/Great Harm (felony); Possession of a Firearm-Convicted of a Felony with a Domestic Abuse Modifier (felony); Battery with a Domestic Abuse Modifier (misdemeanor); and Disorderly Conduct with a Domestic Abuse Modifier (misdemeanor). Bond conditions specified no contact with KB or EV.

After a months-long investigation and a statewide search, EV's remains were found in a field by a hunter in September 2024. The medical examiner ruled EV's death homicide by unspecified means. Felony charges against JV from EV's homicide include Chronic Neglect of a Child with repeat enhancers, repeated acts of Physical Abuse of a Child - Causing Death, and Hiding a Corpse. KB faces two felony charges of Chronic Neglect of a Child - Causing Death.

Marathon

May 28 | Town of Easton**PE, male partner in unknown murder-suicide dynamic****VM, female partner in unknown murder-suicide dynamic**

On May 28, police found PE and VM dead of gunshot wounds in a vehicle parked outside their home in the town of Easton. A neighbor had called the police that morning for a wellness check after noticing the vehicle door was open and a person inside hadn't moved all night. News reports said the incident was believed to be a double shooting as an act of domestic violence; however, it is unclear who fired the shots.

VM had been convicted of domestic violence against PE (battery and disorderly conduct with domestic abuse modifiers) in multiple cases between 2013 and 2020. In 2020, VM was found incompetent to stand trial for domestic violence charges. After a three-month suspension for treatment to restore competency, VM did not contest the charges and was ordered to three years of probation. In April 2024 PE had been charged with disorderly conduct with a domestic abuse modifier; charges were dismissed following his death.

Marathon

November 1981 | Stevens Point

WS, 2-year-old male victim

ES, 3-year-old female victim

ELS, 28-year-old female victim

In 2024, Marathon County investigators re-opened a November 1981 case that had originally been classified as accidental, now thought to be a domestic violence familicide.

Reports indicate that one November evening, 28-year-old ELS and her 34-year-old husband BS were involved in a domestic violence incident outside of a Stevens Point establishment. The couple had not been living together and **had recently initiated divorce proceedings**. Reports also indicate law enforcement knew there was a history of “very heated, physical arguments.”

The night of the November 1981 incident, law enforcement reportedly told the couple to leave the area and go home, where BS went to sleep in his vehicle outside and ELS slept inside with their two children, three-year-old ES and two-year-old WS. In the early morning hours, fire and emergency responders received a call that the home was on fire, and there were people still inside. ELS and her two young children died.

There were no charges filed in 1981. BS died at the age of 76 in October 2024. Though no charges will ever be filed against him, according to investigators, it has been determined that he was responsible.

Note: In recognition of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives movement, these three victims have been included in the data. The MMIWR movement identifies that lack of data about or recognition of the murder of Indigenous peoples perpetuates violence against them. **For more information, see the Special Report on MMIWR violence in our 2020 Homicide Report.**

Marinette

October 6 | Town of Stephenson
EA(N), 47-year-old female victim
TN, male harm-doer

On the evening of October 6th, Marinette Co. Sheriff's deputies responded to reports of a shooting at a Town of Stephenson home outside of Crivitz. TN shot his wife, 47-year-old EA(N). Though she was brought to the hospital by a third party, she later died of her injuries. At the time of law enforcement response, TN was still alive and armed inside their home. Officers, including members of the Marinette County Special Response Team, Crisis Negotiations and Drone Team, attempted to facilitate his surrender, but he later died of a self-inflicted gunshot. There was no history of domestic violence between them in Wisconsin Circuit Court records.

Milwaukee

January 24 | Milwaukee
SK, 42-year-old female victim
JJ, 42-year-old male harm-doer

On the evening of January 24, JJ fatally shot his 42-year-old spouse SK and then shot himself. Milwaukee police found SK's body on the driveway outside the home and arrested 42-year-old JJ, who was in critical condition. Police described the homicide and attempted suicide as domestic violence-related.

According to SK's brother, their 14- and 19-year-old children, apparently physically unharmed, were at home at the time of the shootings. He told reporters SK was afraid for her children and after more than six years she "didn't want to go through that" anymore. He also said, "Deep down, I think everybody kind of felt something was going to happen."

Court records show JJ had recent judgments against him for money indicating economic issues, a potential lethality risk. JJ died a few days after the shootings.

Milwaukee

January 28 | Milwaukee

MM, 65-year-old male harm-doer

Family members tried to intervene when 65-year-old MM beat his wife of 27 years. Reportedly, the granddaughter (MM's step-granddaughter) arrived, followed by her 43-year-old aunt and 22-year-old cousin, BP (MM's stepdaughter and step-grandson). BP shot and killed MM in what was considered justified defense.

March 15 | Milwaukee

KH, 28-year-old female victim

In the early hours of February 10, 28-year-old KH was shot and killed by her 27-year-old boyfriend, SJ. KH's brother, who had seen her just a few hours earlier, noticed a couple of missed calls from KH. Reportedly, when he called her back SJ picked up the phone and said a gun had gone off. **KH was 33 days pregnant.** According to her mother, KH was a victim of domestic violence who lived with her boyfriend, the alleged killer and father of the expected child.

In July 2023, SJ had been charged with felony Possession of a Firearm; **he was prohibited from owning a gun** following a 2015 felony conviction of First-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety and use of a dangerous weapon. SJ is in custody, and the investigation is open.

And violence happens in other ways and for certain populations more so than others. In terms of the **violence that occurs within the foster care system**, the **violence that occurs to pregnant women**. And we're seeing a lot of those instances. -Antonia Drew Norton

“



And violence happens in other ways and for

February 25, February 28 | Milwaukee
BS, 21-year-old female bystander
SH, 28-year-old male victim
AM, 39-year-old male harm-doer

Three people are dead from gunshots fired during a domestic abuse-related incident on February 25. SH, age 28, and his 21-year-old cousin BS were both killed during the incident by 39-year-old AM. AM was also shot and died in the hospital on February 28. A fourth 23-year-old victim who was hospitalized with serious injuries survived. An uninjured 25-year-old was taken into custody, but no one has been charged.

Family members say SH was likely the intended victim; he and the mother of his children **had recently separated**, and the shooting occurred outside her home when he went to pick up some of his things. BS, a young mother of three children, had been called to help her cousin. Witnesses described a heated hour-long argument that became physical and escalated when at least three people pulled out guns.



...the fact that **we don't have a task force and that this is the second time it's been pushed through** and hopefully makes it this time, right....a whole government doesn't care where our Black women and girls are and **we lose that potential leadership, we lose that healing and community resilience...**

We don't see efforts towards our Black women and girls when they are missing and murdered - and including being in jail...we're losing all of that in our communities and our women, we're losing our community as a whole. -Amanda Dotson

March 3 | Milwaukee
KT, male harm-doer

35-year-old LW shot and killed 43-year-old KT, when LW intervened during an incident of domestic violence against his sister. LW was shot and critically wounded during the incident but drove himself to the hospital and survived. A neighbor who was not involved in the incident was hit by gunfire and survived with minor injuries.

April 1 | Milwaukee
LT, 42-year-old female victim

RF waited outside LT's home where he shot and killed her when she returned from dropping off her children at school. LT, age 42, was the mother of eight children, the three youngest with 53-year-old RF.

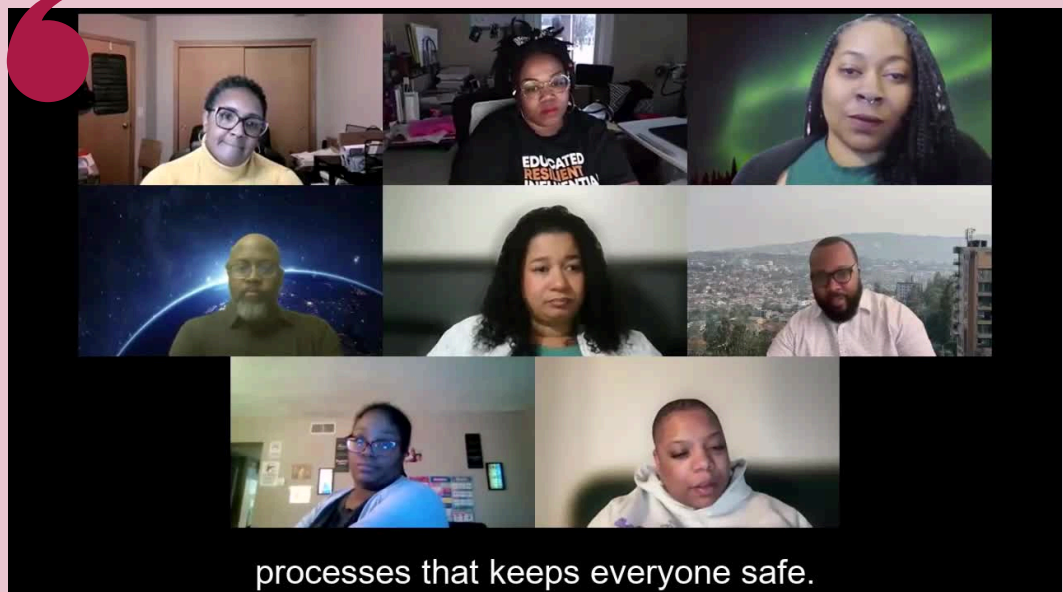
LT and RF engaged in a yearslong custody battle ending when LT gained sole custody and primary placement of their children in February 2024. According to court records, RF was granted placement every other weekend despite the concerns voiced by a court-appointed investigator after speaking with his children. RF was unable to answer basic questions about his children and did not allow an investigator to visit his home.

Court records indicate LT had tried to avoid contact with RF. During custody proceedings in September 2023, she notified the court that she did not want her address shared. In October 2023, she petitioned for a harassment restraining order, which was denied. **LT's family noted that she reported RF's frequent harassment to the police.**

In April 2025, RF pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide with a modifier of use of a dangerous weapon. In August 2025, he was sentenced to 20 years in state prison with five years extended supervision.

It is the responsibility of our social structures to create environments and systems and processes that keep everyone safe. And **if someone's not being kept safe, then systems need to change...** [a] **public health approach** tells us that we should be centering the voice

of people who carry the heaviest burden...**where we've created equity for Black women, everybody else has benefited from it.** –Tristan Gross



April 1 | Milwaukee SR, 19-year-old female victim

On April 1, 19-year-old SR met 33-year-old MA at a restaurant for a first date and was never seen again.

When SR did not show up for work the following day, friends and co-workers reported her missing and provided phone tracking data to police. Phone records and surveillance video footage indicate that after dinner and drinks that night, SR and MA went to another bar, then to MA's home.

Tracking data from SR's phone revealed the last known location to be a park near MA's home. An investigation concluded that MA killed SR in his home and drove to a park where he dismembered her body. Early the following morning, he drove her car to the opposite side of town and started it on fire before returning to his home by bus. In the weeks following the homicide, parts of SR's body were found in several Milwaukee locations.

MA was found guilty of First-Degree Intentional Homicide, Mutilating a Corpse, and Arson, and sentenced in August 2025 to life in prison without parole. MA's history includes a 2015 conviction of Disorderly Conduct with domestic abuse modifier in a different county and unrelated to the 2024 homicide victim.



Black girls deserve to be able to grow up in a world that nurtures them instead of consistently breaking them down even before they're even thought of. *-Robin Scott*

April 4 | Milwaukee**DL, 39-year-old male harm-doer**

A 35-year-old woman survived blunt force injuries when 39-year-old DL attempted to kill her and hang himself. Life-saving measures were performed but DL died on April 20.

April 9 | Milwaukee**RD, 75-year-old male victim**

Early on the morning of April 9 DV broke into his grandfather RD's home, entered the bedroom where RD was sleeping, and fatally stabbed him. DV, age 29, had reportedly been living in the home until he was kicked out five days earlier for using drugs. When police officers arrived around 4am, they found 75-year-old RD on the floor, dead from multiple stab wounds.

DV pled guilty, was convicted and sentenced to prison in June 2025 for Burglary-Armed with Dangerous Weapon and Second-degree Reckless Homicide, with a modifier of Use of a Dangerous Weapon.

April 10 | West Allis**TML, 27-year-old male harm-doer**

On April 10, 27-year-old TML was killed and two people were injured after a domestic violence incident earlier that day. TML's girlfriend reportedly called family members to her home for protection after the incident. TML returned to the home with a firearm and was killed in the gunfire exchange that followed. The wounded 34-year-old and 44-year-old family members were transported to the hospital for treatment and later taken into police custody.

April 10 | Milwaukee

GWH, 56-year-old male victim

NT, age 38, fired two shots at 56-year-old GWH following a loud argument with him outside of a home. Law enforcement arrived around 1am to find GWH dead of the gunshot wounds.

A bystander told police she was in her home and heard gunshots about five minutes after the argument stopped. She went outside to see a child asking NT not to shoot before NT fired again. The seven-year-old child told forensic interviewers that NT and GWH argued and hit each other before NT pulled out a gun. She fired and missed, then fatally shot GWH as he ran away.

NT apparently fled the scene before officers arrived but was later apprehended and charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, with Use of a Dangerous Weapon modifier. A jury trial is scheduled for January 2026.

April 14 | Milwaukee

TS, 41-year-old female victim

On the night of April 14, JS brutally murdered his **estranged wife**, TS, in the front seat of her car. Police found 41-year-old TS's body in the trunk of the car 3 days later. Video surveillance and GPS tracking data enabled detectives to reconstruct the chain of events surrounding TS's death at the hands of the 41-year-old JS.

When JS killed TS, he was wearing a GPS tracking device because of a prior domestic violence conviction in January. In that case, JS had been charged with **Strangulation, Intimidation and False Imprisonment** of TS, and posted the cash bond for his release less than a month later. TS obtained a Domestic Abuse Restraining Order in April. JS's record also included Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse modifiers in 2022 and 2018.

According to family members and co-workers, TS was a hard-working mother of 10 children who had lived with JS's violence for years. They knew that JS **had threatened to kill TS** and that she was ready to leave. JS is charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide and bail jumping. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2025.

April 23 | Milwaukee TS, 29-year-old male victim

AN shot 29-year-old TS at the home of his high-school friend, X, where X's children also lived. That night AN, who had previously been in a relationship with X, kicked in the door and hit X. AN then started searching the house for TS. TS had called 911 and was hiding in the attic, waiting for police to arrive, when AN found and fatally shot TS. AN then abducted X and her children, taking them to AN's mother's house where he reportedly tried to persuade X to make up a story about what happened. AN fled the mother's house. He was charged in May with First-Degree Reckless Homicide, Burglary, Child Abduction and Misdemeanor Battery, and arrested when he was found in December 2024. There is a jury trial scheduled for December 2025.

“Victims [of homicide by firearm] in the transgender community, **63%** of them are Black. **One in five** Black women are likely to be sexually assaulted. **41%** have experienced being coerced into having sex...**92% of youth in Milwaukee that have been trafficked are females.** -
Monique Minkens



April 30 | Milwaukee ZHW, 4-year-old female victim

Four-year-old ZHW was killed and her mother, GH, was injured when they were hit by a car as they crossed the street. The driver of the car was 30-year-old DC, who was living with them and dating GH. He fled the scene in his vehicle, which police found abandoned on nearby railroad tracks. Police later pursued a different vehicle in connection with the crash, which fled at high speed and crashed in a parking lot. Police arrested both DC who fled on foot, and the 21-year-old driver who identified herself to police as DC's girlfriend.

DC was charged with five felony counts: Hit and Run involving Death; Hit and Run involving Great Bodily Harm; Knowingly Operating While Suspended, Causing Death; and Knowingly Operating While Suspended, causing Great Bodily Harm. DC had been convicted in 2018 of Knowingly Operating a Motor Vehicle While Suspended, causing Death, and was released on probation in 2020.

May 5 | Milwaukee

SW, 47-year-old male harm-doer

On May 5, a Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office deputy shot and killed 47-year-old SW on Milwaukee's far northwest side. Slinger Police had issued a bulletin saying he was armed, **had threatened "suicide by cop"**, and was facing criminal charges for domestic violence, exposing himself to a minor, child abuse, and disorderly conduct.

Germantown Police officers spotted SW, prompting a high-speed chase involving multiple law enforcement agencies. SW eventually abandoned his vehicle and fled on foot but was again found. Law enforcement from multiple agencies approached, SW engaged the officers, and the Milwaukee County deputy shot him. SW died at the scene despite attempted lifesaving measures.

Before divorcing in 2022, SW pled guilty to misdemeanor charges of Criminal Damage to Property, Disorderly Conduct, and Battery with Domestic Abuse modifiers in 2021 and Disorderly Conduct with a Domestic Abuse modifier in 2018.

May 25 | Milwaukee

JB, 60-year-old female victim

JB had just gotten a pedicure and massage arranged by her husband TL for her 60th birthday. She was in her car talking on the phone with her daughter when TL shot and killed her. Over the phone, JB's daughter could hear her mother argue with TL and tell him to "put the gun away" before the phone went silent. A witness also saw 59-year-old TL shoot her and drove away in a different car. The witness called 911 and when police arrived, they found JB unconscious with a single gunshot wound to the head. JB was pronounced dead, despite lifesaving measures.

Later that day, police spotted TL driving and pulled him over. He reportedly told police he had a gun and a concealed carry permit. He said he knew the police were looking for him, and that he would go to jail for a long time. TL later admitted he had shot his wife, and no one else was responsible. According to TL, his wife and her daughter were yelling at him, he got tired, took out his gun, and "lost it." TL was charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide, and a jury trial is scheduled in November 2025.

June 26 | Milwaukee

ZW, 47-year-old male harm-doer

Reportedly brothers ZW and AH were dating the same woman. ZW died and AH was critically injured but survived after they exchanged gunfire. AH was not charged.

June 28 | Milwaukee

CG, 35-year-old male victim

An altercation between 30-year-old TW and 35-year-old CG resulted in CG's shooting death. TW later told investigators that she and CG had a years-long romantic relationship and shared a child. TW reported that **after learning CG was seeing someone else**, she drove to his home to talk to him, parked and honked her horn. TW said she was looking at her phone while waiting for CG when she started getting punched in the head. According to TW, at that point she grabbed her gun and started to drive away without knowing who was hitting her. Her gun accidentally discharged, striking CG. TW reported the shooting to police about 30 minutes later.

Police arrived to find CG lying in the street. He was pronounced dead at the scene. In January 2025, TW pled guilty and was sentenced to five years in prison with 5 years extended supervision for Homicide by Negligent Handling of Dangerous Weapon/Explosive.

June 28 | Milwaukee

LF, 51-year-old female victim

A few days after 51-year-old LF broke up with 52-year-old KK, KK **followed LF to a friend's house** and shot her at least 22 times, killing her while she sat in her car. LF's loved ones described KK as jealous and controlling during their eight-year relationship. KK has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide and **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon**.

LF was a beloved mother and Milwaukee Public School teacher. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2025.

July 19 | Milwaukee

AFM, 44-year-old male harm-doer

According to reportage, video footage, and a criminal complaint, 24-year-old DW witnessed a domestic violence incident occurring wherein a woman was screaming and being dragged through an alley by her on-and-off boyfriend, 44-year-old AFM. DW intervened and fatally beat AFM to death with a piece of wood. Video surveillance footage indicates that DW attempted CPR at the scene and then left. DW was charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide and pled guilty to Felony Murder – Battery on June 12, 2025. DW was sentenced to six years initial confinement and three years extended supervision, including a 303-day credit for time served.

August 4 | Milwaukee

QS, 31-year-old male victim (domestic violence)

DH, 39-year-old male victim (family violence)

20-year-old DG shot and killed 31-year-old QS during an altercation between the two men, which started when QS discovered DG was involved with QS's on-and-off girlfriend. According to the criminal complaint, DG drove away from the scene in a stolen minivan with QS's body inside, later setting fire to and abandoning the van. An officer discovered the burnt-out vehicle and QS's body the next day. DG was later arrested at an Airbnb, which the girlfriend admitted to renting so they could hide from law enforcement. DG has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, Arson of Property Other Than a Building, Mutilation of Corpse, and Bail Jumping.

Weeks earlier on July 15th, 20-year-old DG had also been caught on surveillance footage shooting and killing his uncle, DH. He was not charged with this murder until November 2024, after DG's apprehension for QS's murder. For the death of his uncle, DG has also been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and two counts of Felony Bail Jumping.

A jury trial for both murders is scheduled for February 2026.

**August 23 | Milwaukee
DO, 20-year-old male victim**

25-year-old TC shot and killed 20-year-old DO, also shooting and injuring a 35-year-old bystander in an apartment below when bullets passed through the floor of the building. According to the criminal complaint, TC took a firearm to the apartment of his ex-girlfriend, where he discovered her with current partner DO. TC claims he broke into the apartment when he overheard an argument between them, and panicked by DO's movements, shot at him at least 19 times.

In June 2025, TC pled guilty to First Degree Reckless Homicide and Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. For the Reckless Homicide charge, TC was sentenced to sixty years, including forty years initial confinement and twenty years extended supervision. He also received a concurrent ten-year sentence for the Recklessly Endangering Safety charge.

**August 25 | Milwaukee
JP, 37-year-old female victim**

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, witnesses heard yelling in a Milwaukee parking lot, including a person begging for their life. When law enforcement responded, they found 37-year-old JP dead, having been shot in the leg and the head. Her partner, 44-year-old RM, was reportedly rolling around on the ground nearby with a gun to his head. RM has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. RM had also previously been convicted of **possessing a firearm while prohibited as a convicted felon**, in 2017. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2025.

**September 9 | Milwaukee
NRR, 39-year-old female victim**

29-year-old JRM shot and killed his partner, 39-year-old NRR. Responders found her in her bedroom, shot in the head with an empty gun on the bed beside her. JRM reportedly told others in the household at the time that it was an accident, but investigators say his explanation is improbable. He has been charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. This case is ongoing.

**September 17 | Milwaukee
AE, 21-year-old female victim**

According to the Milwaukee County District Attorney's office, ES ran over his partner AE with his car, but claimed it was an accident. There is no reportage available and no charges have been filed as of this writing.

**October 20 | Milwaukee
TH, 57-year-old male victim**

Twenty-five-year-old TH shot and killed his 57-year-old father TH at his home. His mother later spoke with investigators, and shared that her son's mental health had been worsening recently. During an interview, detectives asked TH why he had shot his father, to which he replied that "they were in a cult and had people following me around." Charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, TH has been found incompetent to stand trial but likely to be restored to competency within the statutory period. He has been committed, and a follow-up doctor's report is expected in October 2025.

**October 28 | Milwaukee
NMLC, 15-year-old male victim**

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, 18-year-old CM confronted his ex-girlfriend and 15-year-old NMLC with a group of other young people. After following them and arguing with his ex-girlfriend, who reportedly rejected him again, CM shot and killed 15-year-old NMLC on the sidewalk at a bus stop. Although he petitioned the court to find him incompetent to stand trial, he was found competent to do so. CM was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2025.

**November 1 | Milwaukee
BH, 32-year-old male victim**

25-year-old AD originally claimed that the shooting death of her on-off partner, 32-year-old BH, was a robbery gone wrong. Investigators later discovered via audio recordings of jailhouse phone calls between AD and another of her romantic partners that she had solicited BH's murder. His family told reporters that **AD was jealous of his relationship with another woman.** AD pled No Contest to Solicitation of First Degree Intentional Murder, and was sentenced to 7.5 years in prison and 5 extended supervision. The shooter has not been identified.

Milwaukee

December 14 | Milwaukee LO, 32-year-old male harm-doer

According to reportage and the Milwaukee Co. District Attorney's office, a 12-year-old minor child shot and killed 32-year-old LO while LO was beating the minor child's mother.

In 2018, LO was charged with felony repeated abuse and **stalking** that included hitting a woman with a hammer, kicking her in the head, **strangling her and pointing a gun at her**. Six weeks prior to his shooting death, **a Domestic Abuse Restraining Order had been filed against LO** in Milwaukee County Family court, but the temporary order was dismissed when service was not properly completed and neither party appeared for the injunction hearing. The minor was taken into custody but the District Attorney declined to prosecute.

County

Oneida

January 20 | Rhinelander SK, 33-year-old harm-doer

On January 20, Oneida County Sheriff's Department deputies and local police officers were performing a welfare check after two 911 hang-up calls were placed. They found two people were inside the home and when they entered, 33-year-old SK began shooting at them. A deputy returned fire, law enforcement retreated, and gunfire exchange continued. A multi-county tactical team arrived. After the second person in the home was able to get out, a tactical unit found SK dead inside the home.

At the time of his death, SK had been wanted for **False Imprisonment** with domestic abuse enhancement, among other charges. The charges stemmed from a July 2023 incident when SK had allegedly tried to prevent a woman with whom he lived from leaving home for work. She got out through a window and called 911 saying SK had taken her car and threatened to crash it. SK's obituary noted that he battled addiction and other mental health conditions.

Outagamie

July 29 | Appleton**JJC, 35-year-old male victim**

40-year-old SK fatally stabbed her boyfriend, 35-year-old JJC, then allegedly told a witness who came to the scene to lie to law enforcement and claim that he had stabbed himself. In interviews with police, SK offered conflicting stories about what had occurred between them. She was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and found guilty by a jury trial. She will be sentenced in November 2025.

November 25 | Appleton**DJ Sr., 74-year-old male victim**

45-year-old GJ shot and killed his 74-year-old father DJ Sr. and then led law enforcement on a high-speed chase. He was apprehended, arrested, and charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, as well as Fleeing/Eluding an Officer and Resisting or Obstructing an Officer. He has entered a plea of Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect. According to court records, this plea is in consideration and review hearing scheduled in October 2025.

Monroe

October 6 | Sparta**TM, 35-year old female victim**

On October 6, police were called to a Sparta home where they found 34-year-old TM with life-threatening injuries. She was flown to an area trauma hospital. 39-year-old AN, who had been dating TM, was arrested at the scene. AN told police that he found TM at the bottom of the staircase, carried her up the stairs, and laid her on the floor. AN said he hadn't called for help earlier because he was afraid and didn't know what to do. Officers found a bloody knife near a sink in the home. TM, who turned 35 while in the hospital, died from her injuries on October 17.

At the time of the attack that caused TM's death, AN was under investigation for battery and strangulation/suffocation of a different person but was out of jail on a signature bond. Following TM's death, he is charged with first-degree intentional homicide, murder, aggravated battery - intended great bodily harm, and bail jumping. Court records say that a jury trial is being scheduled.

Pierce

February 3 | River Falls**MM, 24-year-old female victim****NR, 29-year-old male harm-doer**

A married couple died in an apparent homicide/suicide that followed a history of domestic violence. River Falls Police responded to a home for a welfare check and found 24-year-old MM and 29-year-old NR dead.

According to news reports and a criminal complaint, during the summer of 2023, NR's behavior became increasingly erratic and violent after he started taking prescription Adderall. He took MM's phone from her and smashed other devices he believed had been hacked by her family. He held a knife to MM's throat on multiple occasions, saying he didn't want to "live in a world like this anymore." **He threatened to harm her children** if police intervened.

On August 1, NR **held a knife to MM's throat in front of her children** and **strangled her until she blacked out**. When MM regained consciousness, she managed to message a friend and implement a plan with the police to get NR out of the house, taking him into custody without endangering the children.

NR was charged with felony First-degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, Intimidating Victim/Using or Attempting Force, **Strangulation and Suffocation**, and misdemeanor Battery, Criminal Damage to Property and Disorderly Conduct, all with domestic abuse and use of dangerous weapon modifiers. NR was released from jail on a signature bond and returned to custody about a month later for Bail jumping and **Threatening, Intimidating or Abusive Computerized Communication**.

Just days prior to her murder, court records show that MM petitioned for a bond modification, to which the State objected. She also filed a victim impact statement. All charges were dismissed after the victim and harm-doer died.

Polk

January 22 | Town of Farmington
ML, 34-year-old female victim

In January, 34-year-old **ML and her two young children had been staying for weeks at her father's home.** On January 22, ML went to the Wisconsin home she had shared with her estranged husband JL to retrieve belongings. She had planned to return to her father's home in Iowa that same day, and when she did not, ML's father grew concerned and called for a welfare check.

When deputies arrived and knocked on the door of their home, 41-year-old JL was not there but responded through a doorbell app, saying he did not know ML's whereabouts. During multiple contacts that day by phone and through the doorbell app, JL denied knowing where ML was. According to the criminal complaint, JL told deputies he knew why they were looking for him, that **he believed ML was involved with several men.** JL had contacted a crisis line in Minnesota that same day saying he was driving around with his two children and **having thoughts of suicide.**

Officers entered the home later that evening and found ML's body under a blanket in the basement. A cord was wrapped around her neck, and she had been shot in the back of the head. A rifle lay nearby.

JL eventually agreed to meet the officers at a Minnesota convenience store parking lot. His children were in the backseat of the vehicle when he arrived, a rifle and bloody clothing on the floor. JL was taken into custody and charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide with a domestic abuse modifier. The case has not been concluded.

Price

January 27 | Township of Elk
PC, 61-year-old female victim
RC, 61-year-old harm-doer

The Price County Sheriff's Office received a call from a Price County residence reporting that a man had killed his wife and was possibly suicidal. When deputies responded to the home, they found 61-year-old PC dead of gunshot wounds, and her husband, 61-year-old RC dead of apparent self-inflicted gunshot wounds.

Price

April 13 | Park Falls
DS, 57-year-old female victim

After hearing gunshots, DS’s neighbor went outside and saw 57-year-old DS lying on the ground, apparently injured but still breathing. The neighbor called 911, but before police arrived, he saw CD leave the house, stand over DS, and fire again. When police arrived, they found DS had died of multiple gunshot wounds and CD had fled the scene. Later that day, law enforcement located DC in a nearby town and arrested him.

Those who knew the victim said DS and CD had been in a relationship for six years. They lived together but were not in a relationship when 49-year-old CD killed DS. In July 2023, DS obtained a **Harassment Restraining order** without firearm restriction against CD. Later that same month, the court issued a judgment in DS’s favor for CD’s eviction, return of property, and money.

CD was charged and pled guilty to First-Degree Intentional Homicide in December 2024. He is currently serving a life sentence and will be eligible for parole in 30 years.

Racine

July 8 | Racine
CC, 67-year-old female victim
JP, 37-year-old male harm-doer

37-year-old JP shot his mother, 67-year-old CC, at her home and then set the house on fire. Two days later, he was involved in a standoff with law enforcement, where he admitted to killing his mother. He was shot and killed by law enforcement. After an investigation, it was determined that he had discharged his own firearm, and no charges will be issued for the officers involved.

Racine

September 2 | Racine
KF, 25-year-old male victim

25-year-old KF died at a hospital after his children's mother, 22-year-old SJ, stabbed him in the chest. According to reportage, SJ told responding officers that **she had stabbed him because she discovered he had cheated on her**. She has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial is scheduled for March 2026. This case has not concluded.

Rock

March 1 | Janesville
AZ, male harm-doer

AZ was shot and killed by a Janesville police officer responding to a call from family members. Reportedly, 52-year-old AZ had a gun and was threatening two older adults who were in the home. They told police AZ became upset when no one would give him financial help. He pointed a gun at one of them and became agitated about their call to the police. After attempting to speak with AZ, the officer fired at him when he saw AZ become agitated again and threaten the other two adults in the home. Paramedics on the scene confirmed that AZ was dead. No one else was physically harmed.

April 16 | Janesville
KH, 22-year-old female victim

KH was pregnant with her second child when her boyfriend LB, the father of the child, fatally shot her. Allegedly, 23-year-old LB and 22-year-old KH were on an area hiking trail during a thunderstorm on April 16. They argued about the pregnancy; LB shot KH in the stomach and left her on the trail where two hikers found her dead body on April 17. Following a Child Protective Services request for a welfare check on April 18, police surveilled LB. When investigators caught up with LB, he changed his story several times before eventually admitting he had shot KH. In February 2025, LB pled guilty to First-Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to life in prison.

Rock

May 16 | Beloit**GT, 54-year-old male harm-doer**

Beloit Police Officer CG shot and killed 54-year-old GT after GT stabbed his girlfriend and **threatened to kill others**. When officers arrived at the scene, they found GT standing behind a screen door of the home, holding two large knives and covered in blood. GT's girlfriend escaped through a bedroom window while GT spoke with police. Her injuries included about 40 stab wounds to her torso and arms, internal bleeding, and a collapsed lung.

GT told police his two grandchildren were with him in the house, and moved quickly away from the door, claiming he "had one right here," at which point the officer fired three fatal shots. No children were found at the scene.

May 22 | Town of Fulton**VL, 58-year-old female partner in unknown murder/suicide dynamic****RL, 61-year-old male partner in unknown murder/suicide dynamic**

The bodies of married couple 61-year-old RL and 58-year-old VL were found in their home on May 22 by Rock County law enforcement performing a welfare check. Both had died of gunshot wounds in an apparent murder/suicide. Court records show VL was found guilty and fined in 2022 for a county ordinance violation of Disorderly Conduct - Domestic Violence.

June 4 | Janesville**Unknown harm-doer**

When police responded to a domestic violence incident at a Janesville home, the suspect opened fire on the officers. After several hours of attempted negotiations and other tactical operations, the suspect was found dead in the home. No shots were fired by law enforcement, and no officers were injured during the incident.

County

Sheboygan

January 3 | Beloit

66-year-old male partner in unknown murder/suicide dynamic

69-year-old female partner in unknown murder/suicide dynamic

A 69-year-old woman and her 66-year-old husband were found dead of gunshot wounds inside their home. Police officers responded to the home after a neighbor reported they had not seen the couple for two days and a note was taped to their mailbox. Responding officers found keys to the home with the note. Inside the home were the bodies of the couple, instructions for funeral arrangements and the firearm suspected to be used in the presumed homicide/suicide.

County

Walworth

August 31 | Whitewater

KW, 21-year-old female victim

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, 23-year-old CR killed his partner, 21-year-old KW, when he shot her eight times at an apartment. CR claimed to police that he had shot KW out of fear when she grabbed his handgun during an argument; information in the criminal complaint indicates some of the shots were fired after KW was already lying on the ground. Both KW and CR were student athletes at UW-Whitewater. He has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial has been scheduled for June 2026.

County

Washington

August 1 | Richfield

MB, 42-year-old female victim

According to a criminal complaint, 41-year-old JH II shot and killed MB, his 42-year-old girlfriend, after **threatening her with a firearm** because **he believed she had been cheating on him** repeatedly. In a statement to law enforcement, he claimed he was "just trying to scare her so we could have a good life." In October 2023, a Milwaukee County court **granted a temporary Domestic Abuse Restraining Order** to a confidential petitioner against respondent JH II, but court records indicate that both parties agreed to dismiss the petition without prejudice. JH II has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon and Domestic Abuse modifiers. This case has not been concluded.

Waukesha

February 12 | New Berlin**RP, 77-year-old male harm-doer**

After she was found wandering through town partially clothed, 43-year-old MB gave a report to the county sheriff's office detective stating that 77-year-old RP had sexually assaulted both her and her adult, non-verbal, autistic son. According to the criminal complaint, MB said she physically assaulted RP when she found him engaging in sexual contact with her son in the shower, but did not know the extent of his injuries. MB claimed that when she began to hit RP he had inappropriately touched her and she was acting in self-defense, and that she had later driven with her son to the town where she was found because it was a safe place.

Officers dispatched to RP's home found his dead body in the basement covered by a blanket, surrounded by blood and shards of a broken ceramic object. Autopsy later revealed RP had suffered internal injuries as well as extensive blunt and sharp force trauma to the head and upper body.

MB told police she'd known RP for 14 years and had lived with him for about half that time. MB's relatives said RP was a family friend who helped MB care for her son, and whom MB visited with her son almost daily. In August 2025, a jury found MB guilty of First-Degree Intentional Homicide — domestic abuse, infliction of physical pain or injury. The sentencing hearing is in November 2025

Waukesha**August 25 | Waukesha
NL, 74-year-old female victim**

24-year-old SC shot and killed his grandmother, 74-year-old NL, after she found his firearm in the home they shared. According to reportage, SC shot her six times and dragged her body toward the basement, then called his parents to confess. He was arrested after a three-hour standoff with law enforcement; at the time of his arrest, it was determined his blood alcohol level was 0.45%. SC has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Domestic Abuse and Use of a Dangerous Weapon modifiers, as well as Fail to Comply with Officer and Operating a Firearm While Intoxicated. SC pled Guilty - No Contest to First Degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to Life Imprisonment, with the possibility of extended supervision after twenty-six years of initial confinement.

**November 1 | Mukwonago
VS, 45-year-old male victim
MB, 45-year-old female harm-doer**

45-year-old MB shot and killed her partner, 45-year-old VS, in their Mukwonago home, after which she died via self-inflicted gunshot. VS is remembered by his ex-wife and four children as a passionate, caring person in the community, where he was also a member of the school board. There is no documented history between MB and VS in Wisconsin Circuit Court records.

Winnebago

February 24 | Menasha
TG, 71-year-old male victim

On February 24, police were dispatched to the home of 54-year-old CC and her boyfriend, 71-year-old TG for a reported shooting.

According to local news and a criminal complaint, when police arrived CC was on the couch covered with a blanket. When they asked if she had been shot, CC repeatedly stated that no one had been shot, her boyfriend was in the bedroom, and they'd been arguing. CC started calling out the man's name. Police found TG in the bedroom, dead of a gunshot wound to the chest, and arrested CC.

A renter said he came over when TG called him saying CC was out of control. The renter heard the couple arguing over money and possibly **CC's involvement with another man**. He said TG made degrading comments about CC and threw money at her. The renter left when the situation seemed calmer but heard a gunshot and returned to find CC with a gun in her hand. TG was alive at that point and told him he'd been shot.

CC admitted she and her boyfriend had been arguing and offered numerous conflicting statements about the number of shots fired and where she was when the gun went off, suggesting that TG shot himself. Investigators say CC also told them she was legally blind and couldn't fire a gun, but that she'd recently visited a shooting range with her boyfriend and done well hitting targets.

CC was found guilty at jury trial of First-Degree Intentional Homicide, sentenced to life in prison on December 4, 2024.

Winnebago

December 10 | Oshkosh
DF, 20-year-old male harm-doer

According to two victim-witness statements given to a Winnebago County District Attorney's Office, 20-year-old DF consumed hallucinogenic drugs and then later attacked them with a large knife.

During the incident, they reported that he was yelling at one of the victims, saying "you're supposed to love me." After he stabbed one of the victims in the head and neck, she hid in the bathroom. The other victim was stabbed and escaped outside, where she asked neighbors to call for emergency assistance. The victims reported that DF also said he was going to kill everyone because he loved them and they didn't love him.

Oshkosh police responded and demanded DF drop his knife. When this did not occur they shot him and he fell down the stairs. They attempted life saving measures but he later died. No charges were issued for the officer involved in the shooting.

Wood

September 15 | Auburndale
NS, 40-year-old female victim

According to the criminal complaint, a witness reported seeing 22-year-old AB and his 40-year-old girlfriend NS arguing in an Auburndale ditch along a roadway near NS's Chevy Tahoe. AB got into the driver's seat of the vehicle, after which the witness reported that NS stood on the vehicle sideboard and clung to the open driver's side door through the window. AB then accelerated to approximately 40 mph, and NS was thrown from the vehicle. She died at the scene, where autopsy results indicate her cause of death was a skull fracture and blunt force trauma.

AB has been charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide. A jury trial has been scheduled for November 2025.

Wood

November 3 | Marshfield
BJHP, 28-year-old female victim

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, first responders were dispatched to a fire in a ditch in rural Price County on the night of November 3rd, where they discovered the burning remains of a human body, later determined by fingerprints to be 28-year-old BJHP. Four days after her remains were discovered, her 38-year-old partner DCG reported her missing from their shared apartment in Marshfield, Wood County.

When he was interviewed by law enforcement a few days later, DCG claimed he had killed her in the bedroom of their home in self-defense. He admitted to investigators that he had struck BJHP in the neck, and then **held his arm across her neck until she stopped breathing**. After he killed her, he wrapped her body in blankets with zip ties, put her in his car and drove for about an hour, where he dumped her in the ditch, poured gasoline on her, and set her on fire.

DCG was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide in Wood County, and Mutilating a Corpse in Price County. He pled No Contest to Second Degree Intentional Homicide in Wood County. The Price County charge of Mutilating a Corpse was consolidated into the Wood County case, and dismissed but read in by prosecutor's motion. DCG was sentenced to twenty-five years initial confinement and twenty years extended supervision.

Family Violence Cases (not related to intimate partners or involving an adult child killing a parent, stepparent, or step-grandparent)

Eau Claire County

August 29 | Eau Claire

MJ, 56-year-old female victim

SJ, 59-year-old male harm-doer

59-year-old SJ shot and killed his sister, 56-year-old MJ, after a conflict regarding their father's estate. SJ later died by suicide during a traffic stop in Winona, MN.

Marathon County

November 20 | Hatley

HJB, 3-month-old male victim

According to news media and a criminal complaint, EMTs responded to a call that HJB, a three-month-old infant, was not breathing and had no pulse. After the infant was medically evacuated to two different hospitals, he died.

His father, 27-year-old BB, initially told investigators that he had been feeding his son, went into another room, and then returned to find him spitting up. He claimed that he had tried to burp the baby when the infant went limp, and BB attempted CPR before calling 911. In an initial report, a doctor reported blood in HB's eyes, which can be consistent with shaken baby syndrome. A later autopsy also identified bruising on his face, ear, and lower body, which were determined to be consistent with trauma; the autopsy ultimately concluded that HB died by acute blunt force trauma to his head and neck.

BB was originally charged with First Degree Reckless Injury for the death of his three-month-old son. After the new autopsy results, charges were amended to First Degree Intentional Homicide. Pre-trial conferencing has been scheduled. This case has not concluded.

Milwaukee County

May 25 | Milwaukee

SA, 30-year-old male victim

On May 25, SA was fatally shot by his 28-year-old brother EA, according to news and crime reports. EA was charged with first-degree reckless homicide and was found not guilty in a July 2024 jury trial.

July 7 | Milwaukee

UT, 45-year-old male victim

25-year-old AC shot and killed 45-year-old UT, and shot and wounded his unnamed brother at a bachelor party. Investigators at the scene spoke to the man for whom the bachelor party was happening; he identified himself as the father of AC, and identified victim UT as his best man. AC was charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide and First-Degree Reckless Injury, both with Use of a Dangerous Weapon modifiers. He pled guilty to First-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to twenty-five years initial confinement and fifteen years extended supervision.

July 21 | Milwaukee

ZMA, 6-year-old male victim

33-year-old AB has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide and Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death) for killing her six-year-old stepson, ZMA. AB brought injured ZMA to an area hospital complaining of behavioral issues, claiming he had climbed on furniture and hurt himself. According to the criminal complaint, medical staff noted injuries that could not have occurred accidentally, including a broken rib, a ruptured intestine, and extensive bruising on his head and body with a pattern similar to AB's crutches. He died of heart and lung failure.

AB had previously been convicted of Child Abuse-Recklessly Cause Great Harm, after severely scalding another baby in 2013. Six-year-old ZMA had been left in AB's care after his father was incarcerated. In an interview, his grandmother described him as "bright, so lovable...only wanting to love and be loved."

A jury trial is scheduled for October 2025.

August 22 | Milwaukee**KI, 27-year-old male**

25-year-old AI fatally stabbed his 27-year-old brother KI during a fight over damage to a television set. AI was charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide and found not guilty at a trial on May 29, 2025.

Rock County**March 9 | Town of Fulton****8-year-old female victim**

DL, age 20, is accused of killing an 8-year-old family member. DL was detained as Rock County and local law enforcement officers searched a home and its surrounding neighborhood for the missing child, whose body was eventually found in the home. DL is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide and Hiding a Corpse but was found incompetent to stand trial and committed to treatment in July 2025. The case is suspended pending judgment of competency following treatment.

Winnebago County**October 13 | Poygan****AD, 26-year-old male victim****RD, 61-year-old male harm-doer**

61-year-old RD stabbed his 26-year-old son AD to death and then died by self-inflicted gunshot in a murder-suicide in their Poygan home.

Domestic Violence Homicide Rising in Wisconsin as Funding Plummets

On advocates' consistent call for **Saving Lives via Meaningful Investment**

Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director, End Domestic Abuse WI

Domestic violence homicide is not inevitable. It is predictable, and preventable. DV homicides are not simply the result of "bad relationships," but the consequence of systemic failures to ensure survivors and communities have access to safety, stability, and real pathways out of violence.

DV homicide is on the rise in Wisconsin, and we are not seeing meaningful investment from the state or federal government to prevent it. In fact, Wisconsin's victim service programs are under unprecedented strain following deep cuts to federal VOCA funds.

In October 2024, VOCA funding to Wisconsin dropped by 70%—from \$44.5 million to \$13 million. The legislature's response, Wisconsin Act 241, provided \$2.4 million for domestic abuse and \$6.4 million for sexual assault grants. While helpful, this fell far short of filling the gap. End Abuse, the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault (WCASA), Children's Advocacy Centers, and the WI DOJ **requested \$66 million over the biennium to stabilize services; lawmakers provided just \$20 million, leaving programs \$46 million short.**

The result is devastating. **Many programs depend on VOCA for 60–80% of their budgets.** Without it, staffing has been slashed, shelters have closed rooms or hours, and survivors are increasingly turned away. This is particularly devastating in remote, rural areas where without public transportation, isolated survivors depend entirely on their local DV agency for support. Escaping to an unknown part of the state simply isn't an option for most victims. What do they do now?

A February 2025 survey by WCASA and End Abuse documented the consequences:

- **Over 80% of agencies reported staffing changes, resulting in the loss of nearly 59 FTE positions, most of these advocates provided frontline services such as crisis response, safety planning, and court accompaniment.**
- **Nearly 70% of agencies have discontinued services** such as emergency financial assistance, 24/7 hotlines, bilingual advocacy, shelter coverage, prevention education, and community outreach.
- **Survivors now face longer wait times, shorter counseling sessions, fewer housing options, and diminished access to emergency transportation and food assistance.**

One agency explained: "With so few remaining team members, we are no longer staffed sufficiently to house survivors and their children in our shelter facility. We simply don't have enough funding to have staff on premises 24/7."

Another reported: "Our emergency funds have been drastically cut and this has hindered our ability to purchase survivors' emergency transportation options to get to safety...we are missing crucial touch points with survivors."

The impact has been particularly devastating for culturally specific organizations, which already operate with smaller budgets and higher demand. Programs have eliminated bilingual advocacy positions, Spanish-speaking support groups, LGBTQ+ advocacy programs, and culturally specific sexual assault specialists.

One provider reported: "The loss of the Spanish bilingual program resulted in fewer survivors reaching out for support. Survivors no longer have the same access to a trusted advocate who understands their language and culture."

Another shared: “We had to eliminate positions dedicated to housing, legal, youth, and culturally specific advocacy. Survivors from marginalized communities are now the ones most likely to go without help.”

This matters. Wisconsin has the highest homicide rate for Black women in the U.S., with Black women being 20 times more likely to be murdered than white women. Culturally specific programs are often the only trusted entry point for survivors facing systemic barriers. When these supports disappear, survivors from immigrant, Black and Brown, and LGBTQ+ communities—already at higher risk of homicide—are left with no safe options.

As one agency put it: “If survivors cannot afford to fight in court or to live on their own—often with their children—they are left with few options aside from remaining in an abusive and dangerous situation.”

While crisis response services are essential, prevention programs are what will ultimately reduce the number of people who ever experience abuse in the first place. **Prevention interrupts cycles of violence, changes community norms, and identifies risk early.**

At End Abuse we often refer to **Housing as Homicide Prevention** because the simple act of finding **a safe place to sleep can mean the difference between life and death for survivors** of DV. Every day, people face an impossible choice: stay with an abusive partner or risk homelessness.



“[DV Housing First] **increases their chance of safety** and their chance of leaving their abusive relationships.”

We are in the midst of an affordable housing crisis — and survivors are paying the price. **Across Wisconsin, 78% of unmet requests at DV programs are for housing: emergency shelter, hotels, transitional programs, or rental support.** When the system fails to provide safe options, it forces survivors into danger, trapping families in violence.

This is why DV Housing First (DVHF) matters. **DVHF recognizes that safety starts with a roof over your head.** Instead of making survivors “earn” help by meeting strict prerequisites, this model provides immediate, survivor-driven support to remove the barriers between someone and safety. It funds what survivors say they need most — whether that’s rent, a security deposit, transportation to a safer city, lock changes, or childcare. **Survivors know their needs better than anyone; DVHF trusts them to lead.**

Wisconsin’s DVHF pilot, launched in 2022 with Department of Children and Families (DCF) funding, is already changing lives. **More than \$1.3 million in flexible assistance has been distributed so far, with an average of just \$987 per household helping survivors stabilize their housing.** The results are undeniable: survivors report greater housing stability, improved safety, and the chance to rebuild their lives.

One survivor put it simply: “I think a lot of women would leave their abuser if they knew there was help like I received. It’s been amazing what they have done for me and my family.”

Another wrote: “They saved my life — literally — and helped me reunite with my kids.”



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“When survivors are supported, they’re more likely to report crimes, to cooperate in prosecutions and begin to heal. That makes Wisconsin safer. It makes our community stronger, and it’s investment that the Legislature should make in this year’s state budget.”

These are not isolated stories; they are proof that when we remove barriers and invest in survivors, lives are saved. The pilot underscores a hard truth: the need far outpaces the resources. Affordable housing remains scarce. Transportation gaps, especially in rural areas, keep survivors tethered to danger. Without sustained investment, too many families will continue to face an unbearable choice: safety or shelter.

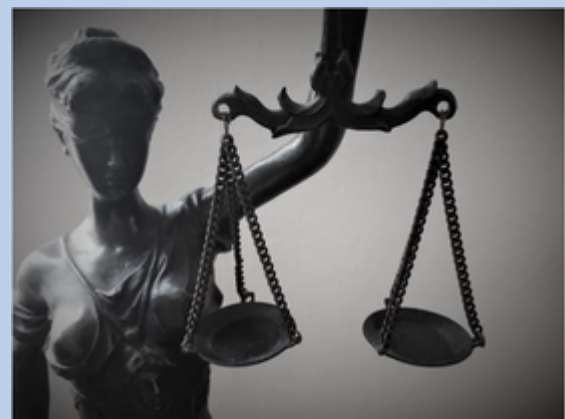
We know what works. We've seen the difference it makes when survivors have both freedom and resources. **Expanding DVHF isn't just good policy — it's a moral imperative.** Because every survivor deserves more than survival. They deserve a future.

Other prevention strategies have demonstrated proven results, such as DV fatality Review Teams (DVHRT). These teams aim to efficiently identify and staff DV cases at the highest risk for lethality to determine individualized recommendations for each case that will maximize safety for survivors and accountability for offenders. One Milwaukee team took on over 1,000 DV cases, and none of those victims identified were killed. However, DVHRT can only help those survivors who know that they exist, and who aren't afraid of becoming entangled with law enforcement.

Furthermore, school-based programs such as dating violence education and bystander intervention have been shown to reduce acceptance of violence and increase willingness to intervene.

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One of the biggest fears about the cuts is that if people lose trust in the criminal justice system because it doesn't support victims of domestic and sexual violence, these already underreported crimes will be less likely to be reported.



Loss of federal victim services funding leaves Wisconsin agencies scrambling • Wisconsin Examiner

Advocates are worried victims of domestic and sexual violence will suffer as cuts hit Wisconsin agencies meant to help them.

Wisconsin Examiner / Oct 2, 2024

Every prevented assault or homicide spares families and communities devastating harm, while also saving the state millions in costs tied to law enforcement, health care, child welfare, and lost productivity. Yet prevention work is often among the first services to be cut and generally the least funded overall. Nearly one-third of agencies have eliminated prevention, education, and outreach staff. As one provider explained, *"It's the survivors who don't even know we exist who are going unserved."* Without prevention, fewer survivors are identified early, and more cases escalate to crisis—or homicide.

The risk factors for DV homicide are clear; we see them time and again in the narratives of the lives lost. Wisconsin's service providers are designed to respond to these risk factors. But without sustained funding, they cannot.

Imagine you've just won sole custody of your children after years of harassment and threats from your former partner. You ask the court not to share your address, you seek a restraining order, you report repeated harassment to police — and still, your requests are denied. One morning, as you return from dropping your children off at school, he's waiting with a gun.

*After hearing this, **would you trust the legal system to understand the gravity of the situation you're in?***

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VOCA-supported programs helped almost 8 million people in fiscal year 2022-2023, funding nearly 3 million shelter beds and 2.3 million crisis-hotline calls, according to the Department of Justice. Those services have become more critical since the pandemic, as rates of intimate partner violence have soared, a housing crisis has made it even harder for survivors to flee, and the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has given abusers another way to threaten pregnant survivors.



But even as the need is growing, VOCA funding has been plummeting—and Congress has failed to act on what many advocates say may be the best hope for a legislative fix.



'People Are Going to Die': Cuts Leave Domestic Violence Support Groups Reeling

Key federal funding has been declining and is likely to drop more in coming years.

T TIME / JUL 28

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The funding reductions have already forced groups to shut down shelters for victims of domestic violence, curtail the hours of hotlines and other emergency help, scrap long-running prevention and community programs, and lay off workers or keep staffing levels low through attrition.

Imagine you've already tried to leave twice. Each time, you ran to a neighbor's home, terrified after being threatened with a gun. You filed for divorce, and your adult son even tried to remove the firearms from the house. But the court lets your abuser come back home under bond conditions, promising he won't hurt you again. Now he's unemployed, drinking, and angrier than ever.

Would you try to leave a third time, knowing there's no shelter space and no guarantee of safety? Would you wait and hope the system protects you this time? Or would you risk your life every day inside your own home?

The survivors in these stories didn't have the chance to consider these questions again. **Leaving is the most dangerous time for a survivor of violence. Every lost advocate, every cut prevention program and housing opportunity represents a lost chance to intervene before violence escalates to homicide.**

We must never lose sight of the fact that we can prevent DV homicide if we invest in the services and prevention strategies proven to stop it.

Addressing the Realities of Missing & Murdered African American Women & Girls in Wisconsin

Antiviolence Experts Call for Taskforce to Address Statewide Crisis

Elise Buchbinder, Communications Director, End Domestic Abuse WI

In February 2025, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Executive Director Monique Minkens convened a panel of survivors, family and community members, anti-violence advocates, and experts in gender-based violence to confront the alarming crisis of missing and murdered African American women and girls in Wisconsin. The discussion laid bare a series of interlocking issues: racial disparities, systemic violence and failures, data gaps, trauma, and the realities of an insufficient and chronically under-resourced approach to addressing this crisis. A throughline in this discussion was the imperative to follow the leadership of those who are most impacted by this crisis. Panelists offered insight into addressing the needs of our communities statewide.

Wisconsin is ranked among the worst in the nation for staggering disparities in homicide rates. According to the 2024 [Lancet report](#), Black women in Wisconsin are about 20 times more likely to die by homicide than white women. Data gaps and lack of visibility contribute to this crisis. Further, official counts of missing or murdered Black women and girls are incomplete; some reporting systems undercount or misclassify cases, and media coverage tends to be less frequent or less prominent for missing Black women and girls compared to white women, contributing to lack of public awareness.



Following Press Conference Calling for State Taskforce on Missing & Murdered Black Women & Girls, End Abuse...

Following the May 16, 2024 press conference in which state lawmakers, advocates, and victims' family members called again for the creation of a task force on missing and murdered African [...]

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin / May 20, 2024

“Nationally, Black women are 6 times more likely to be killed than white women. Let that sink in: six times more likely to be murdered, and our state is particularly violent for Black women and girls. Our lawmakers are responsible for addressing this epidemic of racialized violence against our sisters, neighbors, mothers, and friends. **To ignore this racialized epidemic is to participate in the violence. Don't look away. This task force is a step in the direction of saving lives.**”

Panelists discussed systemic and procedural failures. Families of missing Black women and girls report being dismissed, treated with suspicion, and delayed in receiving critical information and support from law enforcement.

Hyper-sexualization of Black girls rooted in historical harms leads to violence against vulnerable children being dismissed, and young Black girls experience victim-blaming that impacts their access to protection and safety they deserve. In some cases, missing person reports are not taken seriously; in others, victims experience racialized violence when they involve law enforcement. Panelists called attention to the epidemic of lethal violence against Black trans women and underscored the chronic under-resourcing of culturally competent advocacy.

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“I believe that **every person who is missing or murdered deserves equal justice under the law.** I have a difficult time legislating in a way that allows government to prioritize justice based on a victim’s race or gender.”



Why are Black women more likely to be murdered? Wisconsin bill would create task force.

State Rep. Sheila Stubbs announced she's reintroducing a bill to create a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force within Wisconsin's Department of Justice.

WPR / Jul 28

The impact of this violence on families and communities cannot be overstated. Panelists describe deep trauma, compounded by ongoing grief and navigating systems ill-prepared to support them and unwilling to enact the solutions they know to prevent and end this violence. Trauma and justified mistrust of the criminal legal system dissuade victims from reporting.



It's past time to prioritize missing Black women, Madison lawmaker says

Rep. Shelia Stubbs hopes Gov. Tony Evers' budget proposal means her proposed task force on missing and murdered Black women will be formed.

The Cap Times / Apr. 29

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“I'm raising my daughter and my family here, and to know this is a state with some of the worst disparities in the nation, to know that **Wisconsin led with the highest homicide rate in the nation, and to be in a position where we've done absolutely nothing ... it's not OK.**”

Policy and legislative roadblocks persist to what all panelists agree is a critical first step. Representative Shelia Stubbs has twice introduced a bill (first in 2021, then again in 2024) to create a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Taskforce. The bill passed the Wisconsin State Assembly in 2024 but was not scheduled for a floor vote in the Senate, despite being unanimously supported by the Senate committee with a 5-0 vote. Proposed legislation describes a task force that could include law enforcement officials, legal experts, survivors, victims' family members, mental health & trauma experts, media representatives, and community advocates to examine systemic issues, improve data collection, and make recommendations to prevent violence against Black women and girls. Attorney General Josh Kaul has expressed support, but emphasized that implementation depends on legislative approval and dedicated funding.

End Abuse and the panelists call for this Taskforce to be created via Senate action and budgetary commitment as an essential method of addressing insufficient funding for staffing, data systems, and victim support. This is not a partisan issue—it is one of public safety, equity, and community trust. The crisis is ongoing, with more lives lost and more families hurt each day we do not resource meaningful solutions. Delay only deepens harm—families suffer, trust in institutions erodes, and inequity persists.

With adequate resources, the grief, outrage, and expertise of these panelists and the communities they serve can translate into purpose, accountability, and healing for our state. The repeated stories of loss, staggering statistics, and visible gaps in response all point to a Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force as a critical step towards supporting justice, safety, public health, and human dignity. **Wisconsin must act.**

Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls Task Force Panelists

We extend our deepest gratitude to those who voiced their experiences and expertise in our February 2025 Missing and Murdered African American Women and Girls (MMAAWG) Task Force discussion, led by End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Executive Director Monique Minkens. Short video excerpts from the panel included in this report serve to highlight patterns found in 2024 domestic violence homicide cases.

- **Monique Minkens**, Executive Director of Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
- **Faith**, Wisconsin youth
- **Robin Scott**, executive director at We All Rise African American Resource Center
- **Jasmine Bass**, antiviolenace program advocate at Diverse and Resilient Milwaukee office, Multicultural Community Outreach Specialist for the Black and African American communities at the Rape Crisis Center in Dane County
- **Deshawn Ewing**, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager, Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
- **Amanda Dotson**, Co-director of the Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- **Antonia Drew Norton**, Executive Director of Asha Family Services
- **Tristan Gross**, Education Program Coordinator at the Medical College of Wisconsin Comprehensive Injury Center, Division of Community Safety, Policy and Engagement
- **Cynthia Jones**, Executive Director of Devine Women's Foundation, Inc.
- **Paris Smith**, doula working with Black women of all ages

On Violence against Black Women and Girls

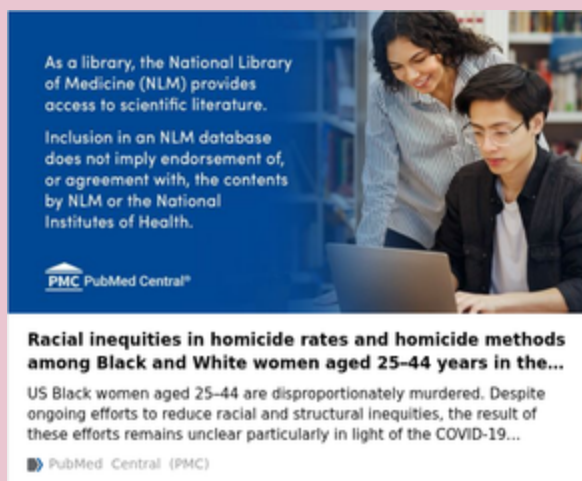
Perspective from decades of advocacy in Milwaukee, WI

Antonia Drew Norton, Executive Director, Asha Family Services

Heightening gun violence at the intersection of deaths among African American females is disheartening. More distressing is the reality that Wisconsin is the state where these two factors most intersect. **An African American woman is 20 times more likely to be killed with a gun in Wisconsin.** (Waller et al., 2024). The Violence Policy Center indicates that **nearly 90% of Black homicide victims in the U.S. are killed with guns.**^[1] And **in 2022, Wisconsin ranked second in the nation for Black homicide victimization**, below Missouri, which was number one.

Asha Family Services, Inc. (Asha) was founded in 1988 by culture conscious victim advocate, Antonia Drew Norton (aka Antonia Vann). From its inception, piloted by the authentic voices of African American women survivors, Asha has been a culturally specific, trauma informed African American domestic and sexual violence victim service provider in the city and county of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Asha – not an acronym but a word meaning “Life and Hope” – was the first of its kind in Wisconsin, and one of the first of its kind in the United States.^[2]

Asha exists to counter racialized discrimination and oppression in services experienced by Black women victims, Black families and the Black community, providing another option to survivors and addressing equity in services and resources within the community. Asha continues 35 plus years of direct victim services in Milwaukee.



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Findings suggest that more progress is needed in reducing racial and structural inequities that underpin the disproportionate homicide rate among Black women.

Asha's culturally responsive project for African American women continues to be critically needed in Milwaukee for a variety of reasons including Milwaukee's long history of hyper-segregation, race and class discrimination, and the static or consistently frequent spikes in violence against African American women and girls. These upticks are in conjunction with the pervasiveness of structural and systemic inequities that increase African American women's exposure to domestic violence (DV), intimate partner violence (IPV), dating violence, sexual assault (SA) and sex trafficking (ST) putting them at significant risk for severe injury including traumatic brain injury (TBI) and death.[3] The real impact of these harms is illustrated movingly by a survivor who spoke with a journalist in January 2024. The survivor experienced domestic and sexual violence, stalking, and protective services removal of her child, before Asha helped her get to safety and the return of her child.[4]

The COVID-19 pandemic illuminated significant racial, health and economic disparities for the African American community that currently linger. As a result, there is a continuing crisis of gender-based violence (GBV) among African American women across the United States and particularly so in Wisconsin.

Continuing data indicate that African American and Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted by GBV compared to any other racially defined group in the United States.[5] However, African American women across the U.S. and locally in Milwaukee, Wisconsin bear a more deadly burden.

For direct victim service providers, the entrance of the COVID-19 pandemic produced what researchers call the perfect storm, heightening hardship and economic loss, violence and mental health challenges: it illuminated under-resourced communities, significant disparity in health and mental health access, and economic inequality. Correspondingly, Toccacino, D., et al (2022) specify the pandemic increased rates and severity of injuries for victims of DV/IPV, asserting the violence surge is "leaving survivors vulnerable to sustaining traumatic brain injury (TBI)".[6]

Violence in the home and between intimates saw record spikes of DV/IPV through the height of COVID-19 and after, including new incidents of abuse where violence was previously not present. Data from the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRC DV) indicate **on average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the United States. Annually, this equates to more than 10 million women and men experiencing this form of violence.**

Significantly, data suggest that **women are at much greater risk of domestic violence when their partners experience job instability or when the couple reports financial strain.**[7] Abuse and violence have also been found to be more common among young, unemployed urban residents—a large percentage of whom are racial minorities.[8]

The rising rates of murder among African American women in the U.S. has long been a major concern particularly for anti-violence victim advocates involved in direct services with gender-based violence (GBV) survivors. These concerns are magnified for African American advocates and activists whose daily work is concentrated on actively traversing safety and other systems alongside African American women survivors of domestic violence (DV) and/or intimate partner violence (IPV) and sexualized violence (SV) including trafficking for sex. Data assert that **the murder rate for Black female victims in the U.S. was more than twice the overall rate for female homicide victims and three times the rate for white female homicide victims.**[9] As African American females represent just 7.7% of the U.S. population, this evidence is alarming.[10]

Domestic violence/intimate partner violence is no respecter of persons. All women and girls regardless of economic status, class, racial or ethnic group or age can experience GBV at some point in their lives; however, some groups disproportionately experience GBV at higher rates. Consistently, **racialized oppression and inequitable policies and practices contribute to the harm and murder of African American women in the U.S. and these imbalances are highest in cities with the greatest racial disparities.**[11] Race matters.



The public health crisis faced by Black Wisconsinites

Editor's note: If you have watched this or any other Wisconsin in Black & White report, please share your feedback in a survey at pbswisconsin.org/wibw-survey. Thank you.

Here & Now / Oct 31, 2023

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Impacts of racism have left Wisconsin's Black residents suffering disproportionate levels of disease and death shaped by social determinants of health, from income to food access to sense of safety.

A 2024 national study (Waller, et al., 2024) asserts, “In 2020, the homicide rate (nationally) among African American women was 11.6 per 100,000, compared with 3 per 100,000 among White women. Authors suggest this inequity has persisted over time and is virtually unchanged since 1999 and indicate homicide inequities vary across U.S. states; however, in 11 states, racial inequities have increased since 1999.” Further, authors suggest, **“Firearm homicide deaths are disproportionately concentrated among Black women in every region in the USA.”**[12] **However, across all states reviewed, racial inequity was found to be greatest in Wisconsin where in 2019–2020, Black women aged 25–44 years were 20 times more likely to die by homicide than White Women.**

Correspondingly, the 2022 End Domestic Abuse WI Annual Homicide Report indicated ninety-six (96) DV/IPV related homicides occurred in 25 counties across the state of Wisconsin. Forty-nine (49) of the victims were African American females and one-third of the (96) deaths occurred in the city of Milwaukee.[13] In 88% of these deadly incidents the Milwaukee Police Department indicated the weapon used was a gun. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicated that 2022 gun death rates were at levels not seen since the mid-1990s and these death rates have not returned to pre-pandemic levels.[14]

Recent data indicate that **African American females aged 15–34 experienced a gun homicide rate nine times that of their white counterparts** (Gillum et al., 2024).[15] Gillum et al., (2024) further indicate that **stereotypes of Black women may reduce inhibitions towards violence against this group** and that despite the sheer magnitude and persistence of these striking disparities, **efforts are limited to raise awareness to this significant public health concern.**

The economic, emotional and psychological effects of COVID-19 in Milwaukee’s African American community are quite real. In addition to seeing devastating economic losses, we are also seeing increased episodes of exploding anger, anxiety, drug and alcohol use, depression, suicide and intensified mental health challenges. Across the board, both victims and harm-doers present with mounting trauma experiences and in the vast majority of cases, these individuals are building upon a history of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) as well as adult trauma experiences.

Milwaukee, Wisconsin is repeatedly cited as being hyper-segregated and as one of the most, if not the most, racially segregated city in the United States.[16] This highly deleterious reality enables exploitative practices among systems, from the housing and real-estate system to first responders and social services – and often disconnects the African American community from many mainstream resources. Furthermore, the history of these racialized exploitative practices has also harmed the credibility of service providers, making many in the African American community highly skeptical of mainstream service providers and systems.

Levine (2019) examines racial disparity and segregation in Milwaukee that impact Blacks across multiple areas, from segregation to economics to housing and incarceration. Levine (2019) argues that unequal systems exist and persist unabated, prefacing a recent report on Milwaukee’s unemployment, housing and economics as, “An analysis of what we call **the enduring ecosystem of disadvantage in Milwaukee** 53206”.^[17]

Correspondingly, the impacts of structural racism in Milwaukee are so pervasive that, **in 2019, Milwaukee’s County Executive and City officials declared racism a public health crisis.[18]** Milwaukee County government is the first jurisdiction in the U.S. to declare Racism a Public Health Crisis.

Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele expressed disparagingly about Wisconsin’s most populous county distinction, “...in an unfortunate way the racial disparities in employment, in education, incarceration, income and even things like...access to capital.” County Supervisor Supreme Moore Omokunde addressed the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors stating, “Babies born to Black mothers often have lower birth weights and are often born under stress because their mothers live with the stress of being Black women in America.”

Experientially, we continue to learn that too many people in the African American community do not know or appreciate the risk factors for lethal violence that Asha advocates assess for: guns in the home, threats to use or actual use of a weapon, threats to kill, stalking, strangulation, obsessive jealousy, sexual assault, and a victim making efforts to leave or actually leaving.

Experientially, we know that family, friends, or neighbors of a victim often say after a violent incident, she broke up with him; she was trying to end the relationship; she was trying to leave him; she filed for a divorce, and the like. However, many of these family and friends also say they didn't know violence or abuse was happening, or they didn't recognize the signs of the victimization.

"No one person, no one organization, no government can take on the task of improving the health of our community alone. It is going to take all of us to create change."

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"We know that the color of our skin affects how we access different resources, partners and health systems. By naming health equity and racism as the overarching theme, that really calls on us to make sure that we're prioritizing that issue within each of the different buckets."



Milwaukee Health Department plan targets racism as public health crisis

Milwaukee plans to address racism and health equity over the next five years by focusing on challenges like housing, maternal and child health and public safety. Those steps and others [...]

WPR / Jan 10, 2024

As practitioners and as a field, it is incumbent upon us to acknowledge that we need to do better. Acknowledge that we are missing the mark and must do something different that adds to traditional safety strategies currently in place to significantly address violence and abuse in the lives of women in our community and state.

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"If your child is missing, the last thing you need is for her to be degraded and ignored. That's one reason why we need this task force — because numbers are missing."



The Epidemic of Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls in Wisconsin

In 2020, Black women in the state were 20 times more likely to be murdered than white women.

Capital B News / Oct 16, 2024

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Perspective from Wisconsin Leader and Advocate:

Cynthia Jones, Executive Director, Devine Women Foundation, Inc.

The alarming rates of missing and murdered Black women and girls remain a critical issue that demands urgent attention. Often overshadowed by broader discussions on racial injustice and gender-based violence, **this crisis highlights the intersecting vulnerabilities faced by Black women and girls** in America. Domestic violence plays a significant role in this ongoing tragedy, exacerbating the risks and often going unnoticed by mainstream media and law enforcement. Devine Women Foundation Inc. will continue stand toe to toe with these women and girls.

Grassroots movements and community organizations have stepped up to fill the gaps left by systemic failures. Initiatives like The Black and Missing Foundation and Devine Women Foundation, Inc. (devinewomen.org) work tirelessly to raise awareness, support families, and advocate for policy changes.

Our foundation focuses on providing resources, education, and support to Black women and girls affected by domestic violence. Through advocacy, outreach programs, and partnerships with local law enforcement, we aim to create a safer environment and ensure that every missing woman and girl receives the attention they deserve.

Black families often face dismissal and bias when reporting missing loved ones. There is a pervasive stereotype that paints Black women as inherently less vulnerable, leading to slower response times and less rigorous investigations. The lack of trust between Black communities and law enforcement further exacerbates this issue, deterring families from seeking assistance.

I offer the tragic stories of two Black women for consideration.

Mary Johnson (2023): Mary, a 23-year-old Black woman from Georgia, went missing after years of reported domestic abuse by her partner. Despite multiple calls to law enforcement, no action was taken until it was too late. **Her case highlights the systemic failures that contribute to the disappearance of countless Black women.**

Tia Martin: In early 2023, Tia, a 19-year-old from Chicago, was found murdered after repeatedly seeking help for domestic violence. Her story is a chilling reminder of how **the justice system often neglects the pleas of Black women, leaving them vulnerable to fatal outcomes.**

In 2023, 40% of all reported cases of missing persons were Black.

Moreover, studies reveal that Black women in Wisconsin are 20 times more likely to be murdered than their White counterparts.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) further reports that **homicide is one of the leading causes of death for Black women aged 18 to 24, with intimate partners often identified as the harm-doers.**

Advocates held up photos of Black women and girls who have gone missing in recent months and years at a press conference at the State Capitol in May 2024, including **Lasheky Hill**, a 46-year-old who went missing in Racine in March 2023; **Joniah Walker**, a 15-year-old who went missing in Milwaukee in June 2022, and **Sade Carleena Robinson**, a 19-year-old who was murdered and dismembered in Milwaukee in April 2024.

So, Are We Just Not Going to Talk About This?: Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls in Wisconsin

Dr. Sagashus Levingston, founder of Infamous Mothers, LLC

Introduction

In 2017, I brought into the world *Infamous Mothers: Women Who've Gone through the Belly of Hell and Brought Something Good Back*. This was not just a book; it was a labor of love, a collection of stories highlighting the journeys of twenty women who had danced with darkness and come out on the other side, not just alive but thriving. These women weren't just survivors—they were transformers, alchemists turning pain into purpose, fear into fuel. I set out to shine a light on the game changers, the go-getters, and the unsung heroines who are often overlooked because society gets stuck on where they started instead of recognizing the testimonies they are building.

But here's what I didn't see coming: As I sat with these women, listening to their stories, more than half of them shared something I wasn't ready for. They talked about domestic violence—intimate partner abuse. And this wasn't something I had planned to explore. We didn't have a screening question that asked, "Have you ever experienced domestic violence?" It wasn't even on my radar. But there it was, staring me in the face, woven into the fabric of their experiences, unignorable.

And so, as I turn my attention to the crisis of missing and murdered Black women and girls in Wisconsin, I can't help but draw a line between these stories. This article is an exploration of that line—a thread that ties together the systemic neglect, the violence that too often goes unseen, and the urgent need to protect the lives of Black women and girls.

The Overlooked Crisis: Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls

Let's talk numbers. Black women make up less than 15% of the U.S. population, yet we represent over 33% of all missing women. That's not a coincidence; that's a crisis. Here in Wisconsin, the story is no different. Our women and girls are going missing, and the world moves on as if their lives don't matter. Their cases don't make the headlines or spark nationwide searches or trending hashtags. This isn't just about missing persons—it's about how society has deemed Black lives less valuable, less worthy of being found, less worthy of being mourned.

In Wisconsin, Black women and girls are disappearing, and the response is chillingly quiet. Law enforcement, the media, the public—they all seem to move at a slower pace, or sometimes not at all when the victim is Black. This isn't just a lapse in attention; it's a reflection of deep-seated racial biases that have plagued us for generations. It's a continuation of a history that tells us our pain doesn't matter, that our lives are disposable.

Systemic Issues

Historical Context: To understand why Black women and girls are so vulnerable today, we have to look back. We have to see how history has shaped the present. From slavery to segregation, from Jim Crow to mass incarceration, Black women have always been targets of violence. Our bodies were never our own—they were used, abused, and discarded. And the trauma from those times has been passed down, generation after generation, leaving scars that haven't healed.

The violence we face today isn't new. It's old, it's systemic, and it's ingrained in the fabric of this country. When Black women and girls go missing, it's not just a random occurrence—it's part of a long history of neglect and violence that has always tried to silence us, erase us, make us disappear.

Neglect by Law Enforcement: Here's the ugly truth: When a Black woman or girl goes missing, law enforcement often drags its feet. Cases involving Black women don't get the same resources, the same urgency, or the same attention as those involving white women. And this isn't just an oversight; it's a pattern, a practice that leaves our communities unprotected and our loved ones lost.

We've all heard the stories—families reporting their loved ones missing, only to be met with indifference or outright dismissal by the police. "She probably ran away," they say. "She'll come back." But what if she doesn't? What if those precious first hours, those first days, are wasted because no one takes the disappearance of a Black woman seriously? The trust between our communities and law enforcement is shattered, and it's not hard to see why. We've been over-policed and under-protected for far too long.

Media Representation: And then there's the media. If you're white, blonde, and missing, the media will plaster your face across every screen, every newspaper, every social media feed. But if you're Black? Good luck getting your story told. The media's silence is deafening. This phenomenon—this "missing white woman syndrome"—is just another way our lives are devalued, another way we are rendered invisible.

The media has the power to galvanize public attention, pressure law enforcement, and rally communities. But when they fail to cover our stories, they fail us. They leave us to fight this battle alone, with fewer resources, fewer allies, and fewer chances of bringing our loved ones home.

The Dirty Girl Effect: Unpacking Stigma and Its Consequences

As I've explored in my blog series "Sex, Power, and Mental Health: Uncovering the Dirty Girl Effect," there's a pernicious stigma that society often attaches to Black women. This stigma can make us more vulnerable and more easily disregarded. The "Dirty Girl Effect" isn't just about how we're viewed in terms of our sexuality or mental health; it's about how those views are weaponized against us. This stigma suggests that we are somehow deserving of the violence we face and that we are somehow responsible for our victimization.

In the context of missing and murdered Black women and girls, this stigma becomes deadly. When society labels us as "dirty" or "troubled," it makes it easier for law enforcement, the media, and even our own communities to dismiss our disappearances. It's a narrative that strips away our humanity and replaces it with a caricature that's easier to ignore and just as easy to forget.

In my exploration of the “Dirty Girl Effect,” I delved into how societal stigmatization impacts our mental health, our sense of power, and our agency. This stigma, rooted in racial and gendered stereotypes, doesn’t just affect how we see ourselves; it has real-world consequences. It’s part of the reason why when a Black woman goes missing, society is quicker to write her off as a runaway or a troubled individual rather than a victim deserving of urgent attention and care.

Domestic Violence and Intimate Partner Abuse

Let’s circle back to those stories from Infamous Mothers. The stories that kept me up at night, the stories that made me realize just how deep this problem goes. Domestic violence isn’t just something that happens behind closed doors—it’s a precursor to the kind of violence that leads to Black women and girls going missing and being murdered. It’s a warning sign, a red flag that too often goes unheeded.

Black women experience domestic violence at alarmingly high rates. We’re 2.5 times more likely to be killed by men than white women. When we try to leave and get help, we face barrier after barrier. Racism, sexism, and poverty combine to keep us trapped in dangerous situations, situations that can—and often do—turn deadly.

The women I interviewed for Infamous Mothers are living proof of this. They’re survivors, but they’re also reminders of how close we all are to becoming another statistic. They show us that without the right support, without a community that cares, without systems that work for us, any one of us could be next.

The Role of the Community

When the system fails us—and it has, time and time again—our communities have to step up. We must take care of ourselves, because no one else will. Grassroots organizations, community leaders, activists—they’re the ones out here fighting for justice, safety, and visibility. In Wisconsin, groups like the African American Roundtable and Black Leaders Organizing for Communities (BLOC) are leading the charge, doing the work that the institutions should be doing but aren’t.

These organizations are raising awareness, supporting families, and holding law enforcement accountable. They're making sure that our stories are told, that our lives are valued, and that our loved ones aren't forgotten. They're building the networks of care and protection that our communities need to survive, thrive, and be safe.

Moving Forward: Solutions and Call to Action

So where do we go from here? How do we stop this cycle of violence, neglect, and disappearance? It starts with action—real, tangible, systemic change. Here's what we need to do:

1. **Demand Better from Law Enforcement:** Law enforcement needs to prioritize cases involving Black women and girls. This means bias training, independent oversight, and accountability. No more excuses, no more delays, no more dismissals.
2. **Hold the Media Accountable:** We need to push the media to cover our stories, to give Black women and girls the same attention they give to others. And if they won't, we need to support Black media platforms that will.
3. **Support Community Initiatives:** Invest in the organizations already doing the work and supporting our communities. We need more shelters, more resources, and more safe spaces for Black women facing domestic violence.
4. **Advocate for Policy Changes:** We need laws that specifically protect Black women and girls from violence, from domestic abuse, and from being ignored when they go missing. Our lawmakers need to hear our voices and act on them.
5. **Raise Awareness:** Talk about this issue. Share stories, spread the word, and educate others. The more people know, the harder it will be for this crisis to be ignored.

Conclusion

This isn't just an article—it's a call to action, a cry for justice, a demand that we do better for our Black women and girls. The stories from Infamous Mothers show us what's at stake, what we stand to lose if we don't act. These women aren't just survivors but builders and changemakers. And we owe it to them, to ourselves, to make sure that their lives, and the lives of every Black woman and girl, are protected, valued, and honored.

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Removing Stigma and Healing Hurt

*De'Shawn Ewing, Community Outreach and Engagement Manager,
Public Policy Institute, Community Advocates, Inc.*

I began my career in community service in 1997, working for a non-profit organization that focused on youth engagement and community building. A core part of that curriculum focused on teaching reproductive anatomy and healthy relationships, which included content on drug-use education and prevention. One of the greatest lessons I learned from this organization was the value placed on family support systems. From that time on, I have continuously worked with youth and families to help develop a strong next generation. Fast forward to 2021, when I began working for the City of Milwaukee, directly in the family violence field. The concerns of domestic violence became even clearer. I had the chance to work with several amazing organizations, shining light on this severe crisis that we are facing in Wisconsin. Now, I continue to advocate and educate on this issue.

In 2023, Wisconsin continued to deal with the devastation of domestic violence. By November of that year, at least 89 individuals had lost their lives to domestic violence. This crisis is compounded by drastic reductions in federal funding for victim support services. The Wisconsin Department of Justice, which previously distributed around \$44 million annually to support victim services, expects this amount to drop to approximately \$13 million[1]. This 70% cut in funding further threatens the viability of many programs, especially in rural areas and those that are culturally/community-specific and responsive, where such funding constitutes a significant portion of their revenue.

Domestic violence deaths in Wisconsin have surged, with 96 fatalities recorded in 2022, marking a 20% increase from the previous year. This number included 68 homicide victims and 22 perpetrators who died by suicide; a significant percentage of these victims were in Milwaukee (the city in which I live, where the Milwaukee Police Department documented a 91% increase from 2021 - 2022).[2] Notably, the use of firearms in these incidents was predominant, involved in over 88% of domestic violence homicides. Firearms have been a critical factor in the lethality of domestic violence incidents. The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases the likelihood of homicide by 500%.[3]

The racial disparities in homicide rates, especially among Black and Brown women, highlight the need for targeted efforts to address structural racism and cultural stigmas. Nationally, Black women face a disproportionate risk of homicide, being murdered six times more often than White women from 1999 through 2020. In Wisconsin, Black women are 20 times more likely to die by homicide than White women. This disparity is stark, with Black women in the U.S. aged 25–44 being particularly vulnerable.[4] Working to reduce structural racism and promoting racial equity within organizational policies and practices can help mitigate these elevated homicide rates among Black women.

One of my hopes and pursuits in this work is to help destigmatize help-seeking for not only those harmed by the violence, but also those causing the harm. Helping normalize that it is okay to not be okay, but it is not okay to ignore that you aren't. Learning and recognizing when and why people cause harm usually means addressing several underlying factors. This includes acknowledging that the majority of those causing harm are men: which means those of us "doing this work" have to be intentional about reaching out and supporting men and educating them on the need for increased mental health support. Furthermore, the display of stereotypically masculine behavior equating to harmful/abusive behavior must be addressed.

This is why I am currently pushing for those of us in the field to address the powerful underlying factor of embarrassment that permeates our overall American and local community cultures. Embarrassment is deeply embedded in many Black and Brown families and leads us to believe that emotional and mental well-being is a taboo topic; this, in my opinion, often contributes to the verbal, emotional, and physical violence impacting our community.

We have a lot of work ahead of us to disrupt the increase of domestic violence in our communities and protect everyone who is impacted. This will take all of us speaking out about the issue, dealing with the root causes, and truly working in tandem to stop the cycles of harm often endured in silence.

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DARE 2
KNOW



Take Action. Save Lives.

we can all help End Abuse

Each domestic violence homicide is **preventable**. This public health crisis calls for a **community response**. Learn how to prevent DV homicide in your community.

Start where you are, then Scale it Up



Take it Further: Participate in public policy advocacy by contacting your **state and national representatives** and **voting**. Connect with people with different experiences and identities, and understand how your community's issues connect to the bigger picture.

Know Your Own Backyard: Get to know your **local domestic violence agency**, understand what services are available **across the lifespan**, and support their asks in ways you can - be it donating, volunteering, or showing up for events. Get to know your **local elected officials**, and tell them what you want to see in your community.

Break the Silence: Normalize conversations with your friends, family, neighbors, and community members about physical, mental, and emotional health and safety. Ask how you can support each other during family conflict or more difficult times, and **safety plan** together if patterns of abuse emerge.

Start Small: Learn the **signs of abuse** and of **healthy dynamics**. Notice how DV is portrayed in media, and **follow organizations & campaigns supporting survivors**.

We are already positioned to support victims and survivors in the roles we exist within everyday. Even small actions can save lives. Start when you can, where you already are, and see how **individual action** can scale up to create **collective change**.

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
the Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence



endabusewi.org

To take action today:

Learn Signs of a Healthy Relationship

respect • good communication • trust honest • equality



Follow the D2K initiative, which challenges everyone to get real about the impact healthy relationships can have on our lives: www.dare2knowwi.org

Healthy relationships are based on equality & respect.


You make decisions together and can openly discuss whatever you're dealing with, like relationship problems and sexual choices. You enjoy spending time together but can be happy apart. (LovelsRespect.org)

**You are not alone.
Support is available.**

Help is just a
phone call or
text away.
Speak with an
advocate today.



Wisconsin Domestic Violence Get Help Map:
www.endabusewi.org/get-help

Learn more: 
www.thehotline.org

Follow Organizations Supporting Survivors

Find how to stay tuned into End Abuse at www.endabusewi.org/connect, and check out our Get Help page for more ideas of organizations to follow + locate your local agency: www.endabusewi.org/get-help

...and Signs of Abuse

Abuse often begins long before it becomes physical. A few **common signs** that someone may be experiencing domestic violence include:

- **Isolation:** They prevent you from spending time with family or friends.
- **Blame:** They blame you for their behavior and make you feel guilty.
- **Criticism:** They put you down, call you names, or say and do things that erode your self esteem.
- **Control:** They text or call all the time and get angry if you don't answer.

Domestic violence impacts people of all ages. Through advocacy and education, our member project the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life works to end **abuse in later life**. Learn more at ncall.us



Plan Ahead via Safety Planning

A plan of actions to keep you safer from an abuser is usually called "safety planning." Reach out to your local program for help in safety planning, and check out resources from organizations like Women's Law to learn on your own:
www.womenslaw.org/safety-planning

Know & Contact your Representatives. Vote.

Locate your local, state, and national elected representatives at www.usa.gov/elected-officials and find information about voting at www.usa.gov/voting-and-elections

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin
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Topic Index to Previous Homicide Reports

Each year, the homicide report includes a discussion of various topics. Below is an index of the topics that have been addressed. The page number follows the report year in parentheses. Each year's report is available at www.endabusewi.org/homicide-reports.

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2000-2024 DV-Related Deaths Totals

KEY FINDINGS				
Year	Total DV Homicide Victims	Victims *Pre 2010 Definition	Harm-doer Suicides	TOTAL Deaths
2024	71	65	14	99
2023	54	51	17	85
2022	68	64	22	96
2021	65	53	15	80
2020	60	53	8	68
2019	53	52	19	72
2018	39	37	8	47
2017	48	44	14	62
2016	59	54	14	73
2015	49	43	9	58
2014	37	33	6	43
2013	43	41	12	55
2012	48	47	4	52
2011	34	29	3	37

2000–2024 DV-Related Deaths Totals

KEY FINDINGS				
Year	Total DV Homicide Deaths	Homicides *Pre 2010 Definition	Harm-doer Suicides	TOTAL
2010	45	37	7	52
2009	52	52	15	67
2008	37	37	10	47
2007	41	41	10	51
2006	28	28	8	36
2005	40	40	6	46
2004	28	28	5	33
2003	45	45	16	61
2002	38	38	11	49
2001	33	33	9	42
2000	33	33	8	41
TOTAL	1,148	1,078	270	1,452

*See Methodology section

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About End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

For advocates, survivors, and allies, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin is the only statewide coalition led by social policy advocates, attorneys, and experts working to support, connect, equip, empower, and lead organizations for social change to end domestic abuse – because everyone deserves dignity and safety.

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