



Domestic  
Violence &  
Family  
Violence\*  
Claimed **101**  
**Lives** in  
Wisconsin in  
2025

# End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report 2025

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October 2026

# Contents

|                                                      |    |
|------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Foreword.....                                        | 3  |
| Definitions & Methodology.....                       | 4  |
| Executive Summary.....                               | 6  |
| 2025 Key Findings.....                               | 9  |
| Limitations.....                                     | 19 |
| Historical, National, and Global Context.....        | 24 |
| 2025 Domestic Violence Homicide Case Narratives..... | 25 |
| The Overlooked Risk of Abuse in Later Life .....     | 75 |
| Housing is Homicide Prevention: the DVHF Pilot.....  | 78 |
| Take Action. Save Lives.....                         | 84 |
| Topic Index to Previous Homicide Reports.....        | 86 |
| 2000 to 2025 Totals.....                             | 88 |
| References.....                                      | 90 |
| Acknowledgements.....                                | 91 |

# Foreword

The 2025 End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report is our **24th** 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 2025 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 1,534 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.

# Definitions & Methodology

Our definition of homicide is the killing of one human being by another. This encompasses criminal, justifiable, self-defense, and reckless homicides. There does not need to be any established record or knowledge of previous violence in the relationship to meet the criteria for inclusion in this report, recognizing there are myriad reasons interpersonal violence is not reported and the taking of someone's life is an inherently violent act.

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 or intimate 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 intervene or 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 deaths 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. **We define harm-doers as both those who have used harm in their relationships as well as individuals who took the life of someone else. Most harm-doer deaths are suicides.** In each case of homicide-suicide, the heading in the case narrative lists the murdered person as the homicide victim.

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 and dehumanization, particularly against marginalized communities.

In the 2024 report, we began including cases in the total death count and case narrative section of the report where a family member of any type kills another family member. **Family violence homicides** include siblings, nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles, cousins, child deaths at the hands of a family member where domestic violence was not obviously a factor, and parent or grandparent homicide deaths where the harm-doer was a minor.

The case specifics and demographic information of the victims and harm-doers from **the family violence deaths are not included in the tables and charts in the Key Findings section of the report.** This is to ensure there remain consistently defined data points for comparison after including family violence cases.

We seek to be as consistent and accurate as possible year to year in determining which homicides to include in the report. Making these determinations about cases is inherently layered and complex. 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 harm-doers 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 2025, 101 individuals died in Wisconsin due to DV/FV at a rate of approximately one death every 3.6 days.** The basic findings contained in this report are outlined below. An additional 19 cases of fatal family violence are included in a supplemental section where intimate partner violence was not a factor.

## *Homicide Victim and Harm-doer Deaths Related to Domestic Violence (DV) and Family Violence (FV) in 2025*

| TOTALS                                                                                                                                                             | 2025       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| <b>Victims of DV-related Homicide</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>61</b>  |
| <b>Victims of FV Homicide</b>                                                                                                                                      | <b>19</b>  |
| <b>Total Victims - 2025 DV &amp; FV Homicides</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>80</b>  |
| <b>DV Harm-doer Deaths</b> <i>(includes murder-suicides, attempted murder-suicides, homicides by legal intervention, suicides during law enforcement response)</i> | <b>21</b>  |
| <b>Total 2025 Deaths - DV-related &amp; Family Violence</b>                                                                                                        | <b>101</b> |

## Other findings in the 2025 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include: \*not including family violence

- Harm-doers of domestic violence homicide incidents were overwhelmingly male. **In 2025, 86% of harm-doers were male.\***
- The ages of DV homicide victims in this report range from **two months to 85 years old**. Harm-doers' ages ranged from **17 to 86 years old**. The average age of harm-doers was **37** years old, and the average age of victims was **39** years old.
- Homicides occurred in **17 counties in Wisconsin**.
- Firearms remain the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides. In 2025, **firearms were the weapons used in 72% 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 **17 harm-doer suicides** in 2025. There were 13 murder-suicides, and 3 harm-doer suicides with an attempted homicide. 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.
- There were **five deaths** identified as justifiable homicide due to **self defense**.
- **Three** of the domestic violence homicide **incidents** included **two or more deaths**.
- Many of the 2025 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 2025 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include:

- In 2025, **19 of Wisconsin's 61 domestic violence homicide victims—over 31%—were age 50 or older.** Over the past five years, 84 people age 50 and older were killed in domestic violence homicides, accounting for 26% of all victims. Older adults are not a small or isolated part of the domestic violence homicide picture. Year after year, they represent a significant share of lives lost. See page 73 for an essay from [the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life \(NCALL\)](#), an initiative of End Abuse.
- In the context of domestic violence-related deaths, **accidental deaths** are exceedingly rare. However, there is one case from 2025 where a woman died in a circumstance that was ruled to be accidental by investigating law enforcement. In May 2025, a 31-year-old woman in Milwaukee allegedly pulled out a loaded firearm during an argument with her 33-year-old boyfriend and dropped the gun. The gun discharged when it fell, striking and killing the woman. No charges connected to her death have been filed. While this case is not a part of the 2025 domestic violence homicide death count or case narratives included in this report, this case illuminates how introducing **a firearm** into a situation where emotions are heightened increases the risk for anyone within the proximity, including the person handling the firearm.

# 2025 Key Findings

## *DV-Related Homicides & Deaths\**

| KEY FINDINGS                                                                                                                                              | 2025      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents (this figure is not included in total DV deaths; single homicide incidents sometimes include multiple victim deaths) | 57        |
| Victims of DV Homicide                                                                                                                                    | 61        |
| DV Homicides with Harm-doer Suicides**                                                                                                                    | 13        |
| Deaths by Legal Intervention (Responding Law Enforcement kills Harm-doer)                                                                                 | 4         |
| Harm-doer Suicides during Law Enforcement Response                                                                                                        | 2         |
| Attempted DV Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide**                                                                                                  | 3         |
| <b>Total 2025 DV-Related Deaths (Homicide Victims, Harm-doer Suicides &amp; Deaths by Legal Intervention)</b>                                             | <b>82</b> |

\*See methodology on page 4 for definitions and inclusion criteria.

\*\*One DV homicide incident counts in two categories – an attempted homicide with a suicide and a completed homicide with a suicide involving the same harm-doer. This case is only counted once in the total.

# 2025 Key Findings

## Family Violence (FV) Homicides\*

| KEY FINDINGS                                        | 2025      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| FV Homicide Incidents                               | 17        |
| Victims of FV Homicide                              | 19        |
| Male Harm-doers - FV Homicide                       | 14        |
| Female Harm-doers - FV Homicide                     | 3         |
| Female FV Homicide Victims                          | 7         |
| Male FV Homicide Victims                            | 12        |
| Self Defense/Justified FV Homicides                 | 1         |
| FV Homicide Incidents with two or more Victims      | 2         |
| FV Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicides       | 0         |
| <b>Total Family Violence Homicide Deaths - 2025</b> | <b>19</b> |

**NOTE: Family Violence Homicide case demographics are not included in the charts and graphs on the *Key Findings* pages 11-17 to keep these metrics consistent from year to year.**

**Family Violence Homicide Case Narratives can be found on pages 65-74.**

\*See methodology on page 4 for definitions and inclusion criteria.

# 2025 Key Findings

## Completed DV-Related Homicides

### Relationship between Male Harm-doer and Homicide Victim

| When the harm-doer was a male, victim was:          | 2025      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current/Former Intimate Partner                     | 25        |
| Parent                                              | 10        |
| Person attempting to help a DV victim               | 3         |
| Child of Current/Former Partner and Harm-doer       | 3         |
| Child of Current/Former Partner                     | 2         |
| Friend or acquaintance                              | 2         |
| "Romantic Rival"                                    | 3         |
| Bystander                                           | 1         |
| Family member of harm-doer's partner                | 1         |
| Family member of harm-doer                          | 1         |
| Abusive partner of homicide harm-doer's adult child | 1         |
| New partner of harm-doer's ex-partner               | 1         |
| <b>Total</b>                                        | <b>53</b> |

# 2025 Key Findings

## Completed DV-Related Homicides

Relationship between Female Harm-doer and Homicide Victim

| When the harm-doer was a female, victim was: | 2025     |
|----------------------------------------------|----------|
| Current/Former Intimate Partner              | 6        |
| Bystander                                    | 1        |
| "Romantic Rival"                             | 1        |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>8</b> |

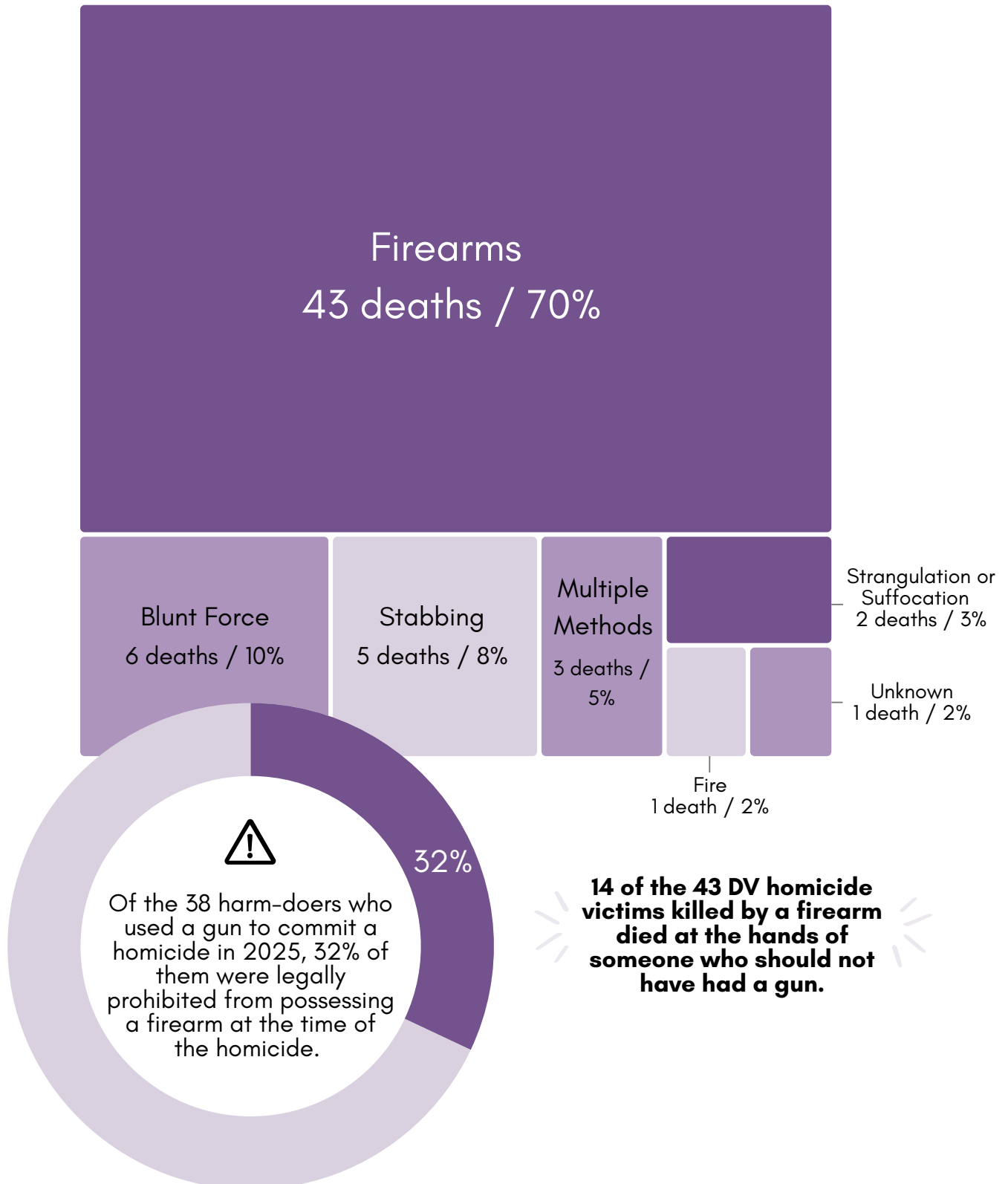
| Harm-doer Suicides                                          | 2025      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide (Murder-suicide)* | 13        |
| Homicide-Suicide Incidents Involving Firearm(s)             | 13        |
| Male Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide                         | 12        |
| Female Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide                       | 1         |
| Harm-doer Suicides During Law Enforcement Response          | 2         |
| Attempted Homicide-Completed Suicide*                       | 3         |
| <b>Total Completed Harm-doer Suicides*</b>                  | <b>17</b> |

\*One DV homicide incident counts in two categories – an attempted homicide with a suicide and a completed homicide with a suicide involving the same harm-doer. This case is only counted once in the total.

# 2025 Key Findings

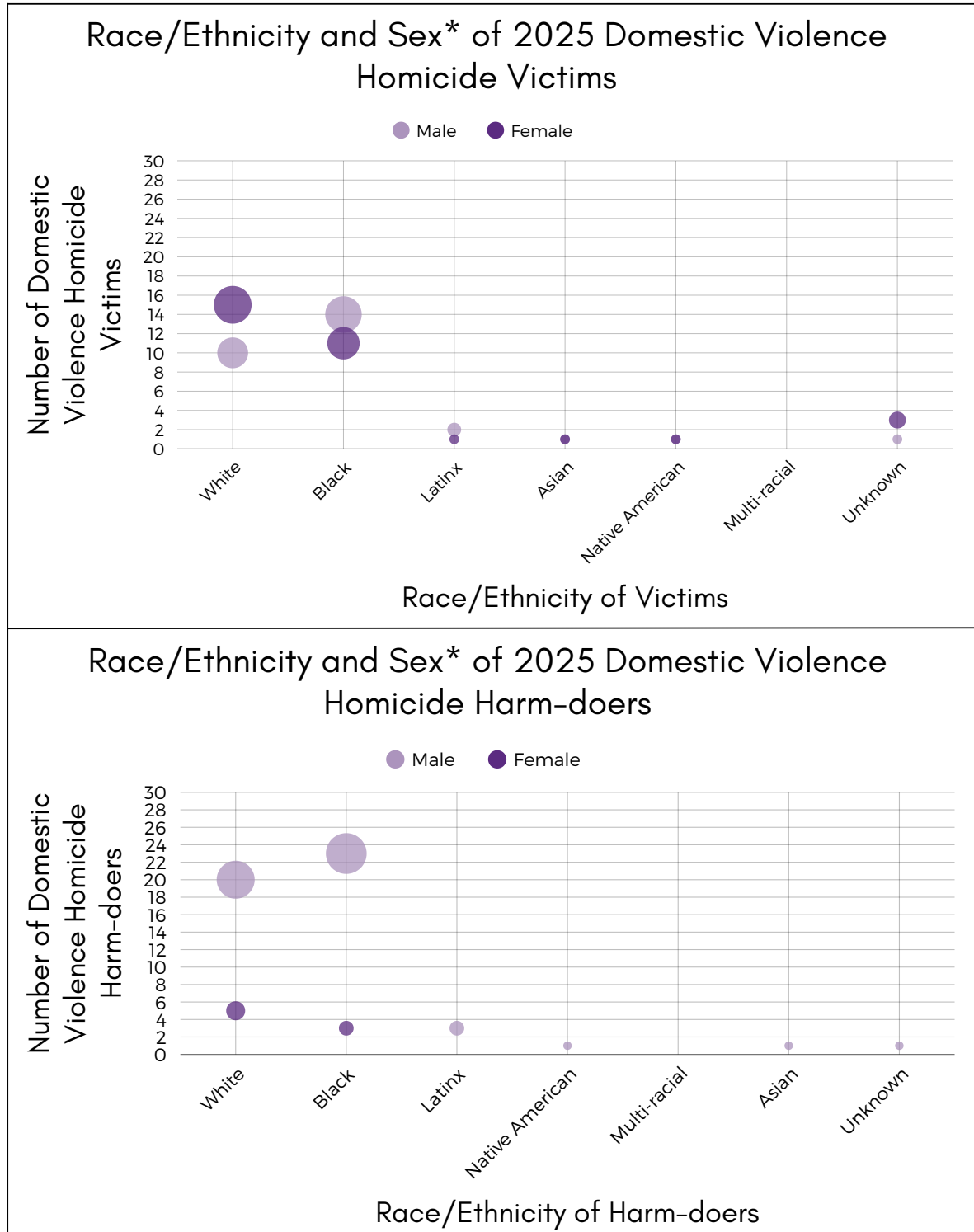
## Completed DV-Related Homicides

Method of 2025 DV-Related Homicide Victim Deaths (61 total)



# 2025 Key Findings *Completed DV-Related Homicides*

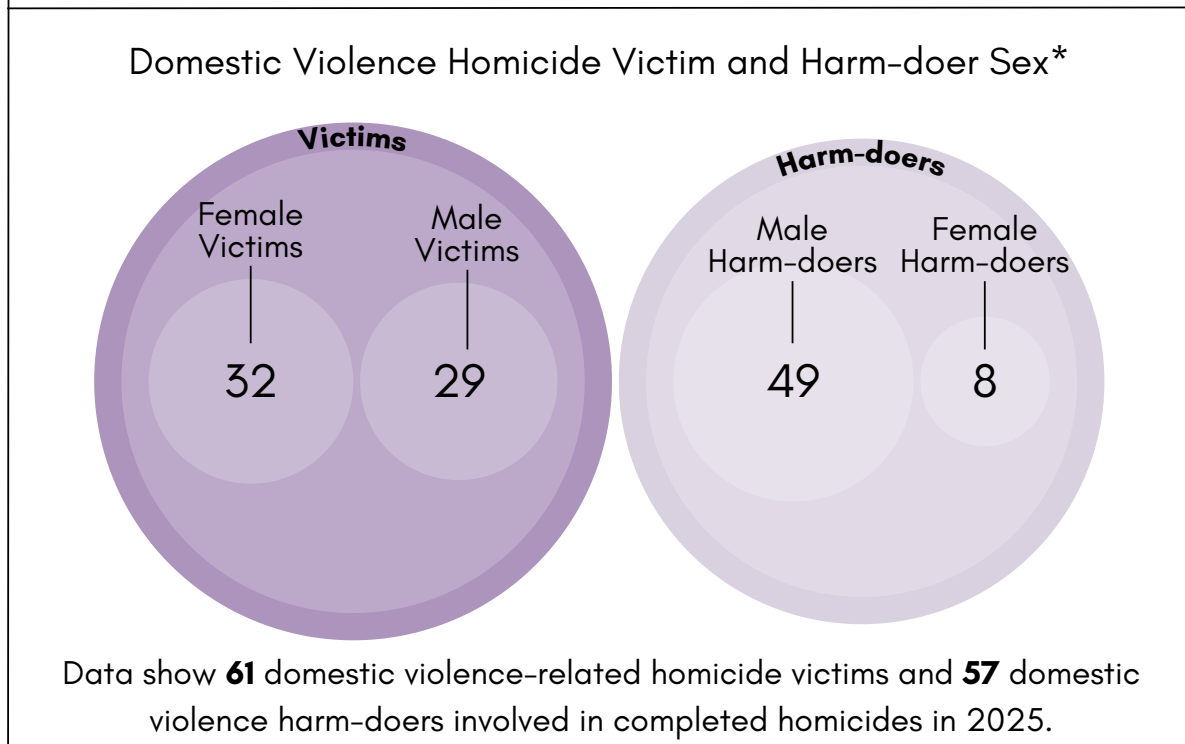
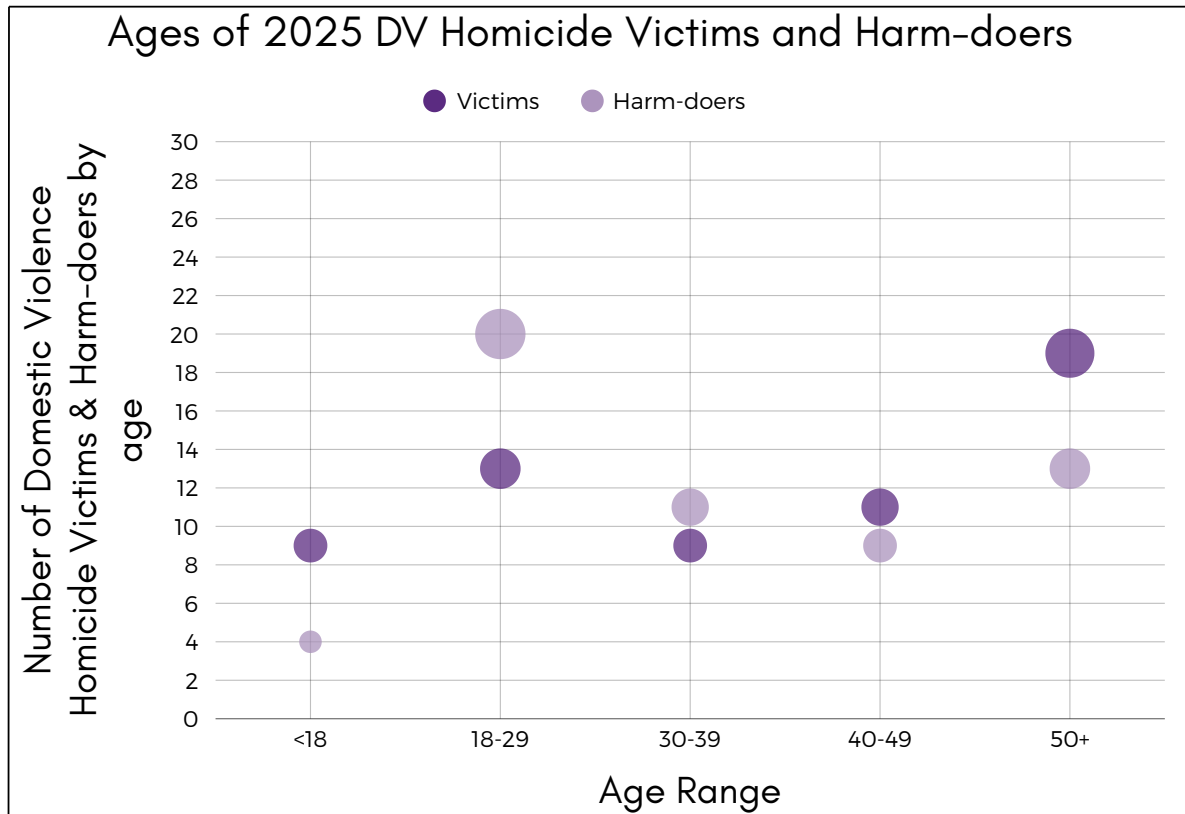
*Data excludes two harm-doers who died by suicide in attempted homicide-suicide incidents; two harm-doers who died by suicide during law enforcement response; and four harm-doers who died by law enforcement intervention. Data also excludes three victims from the attempted homicide-suicide cases.*



\*Data for race/ethnicity and sex has been identified where available from the Uniform Crime Report and other 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 and dehumanization, particularly against marginalized communities.

## 2025 Key Findings *Completed DV-Related Homicides*

Data excludes two harm-doers who died by suicide in attempted homicide-suicide incidents; two harm-doers who died by suicide during law enforcement response; and four harm-doers who died by law enforcement intervention. Data also excludes the three victims from the attempted homicide-suicide cases.

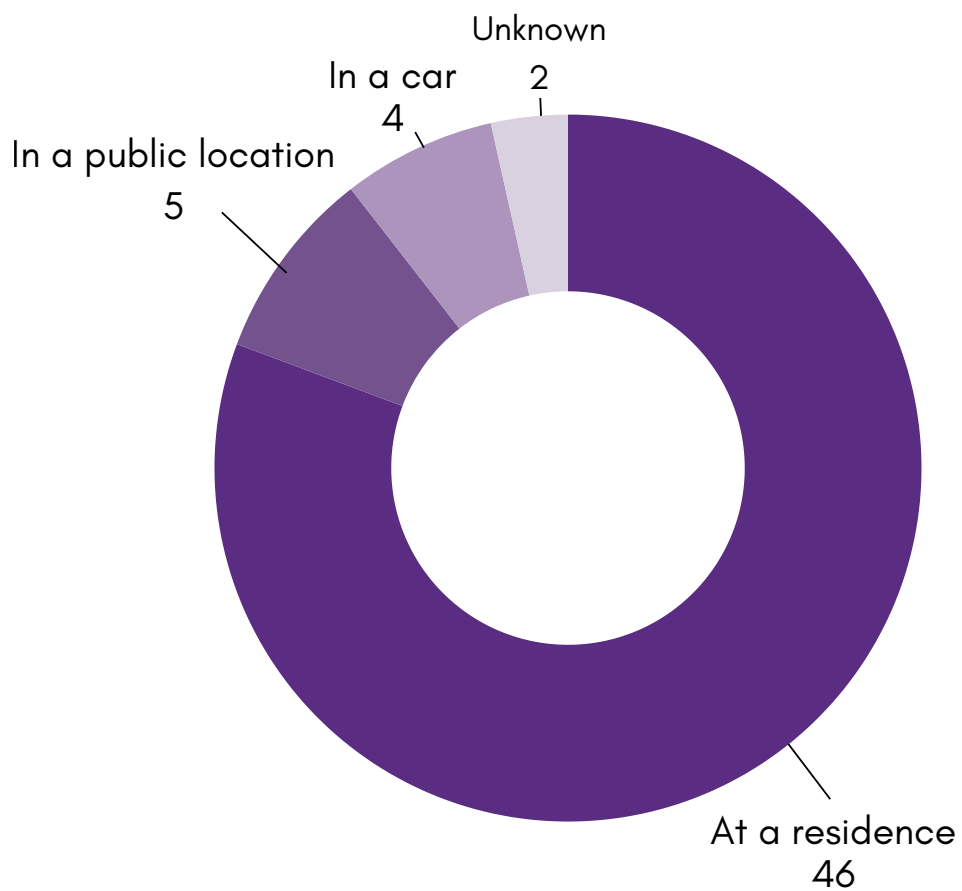


\*See footnote on previous page for a discussion of data limitations related to sex and gender.

# 2025 Key Findings

*Completed DV-Related Homicides*

## Location of 57 Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents in 2025



# 2025 Key Findings

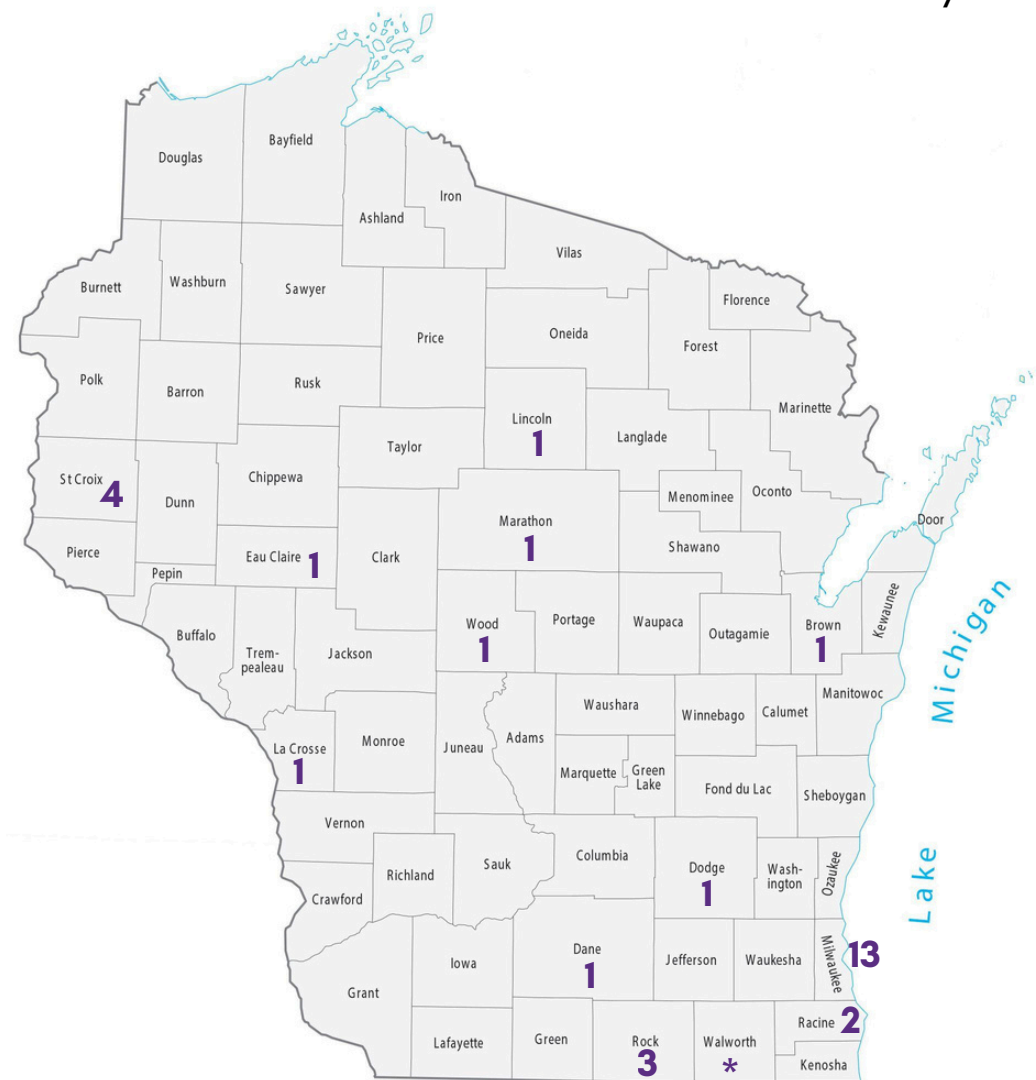
## *Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Homicides*

IPV accounted for approximately 51% of the 61 DV-related homicide deaths included in this report. **At least 31 Wisconsinites were killed by a current or former intimate partner in 2025.**

25 Females Killed by a Current or Former Male Intimate Partner

6 Males Killed by a Current or Former Female Intimate Partner

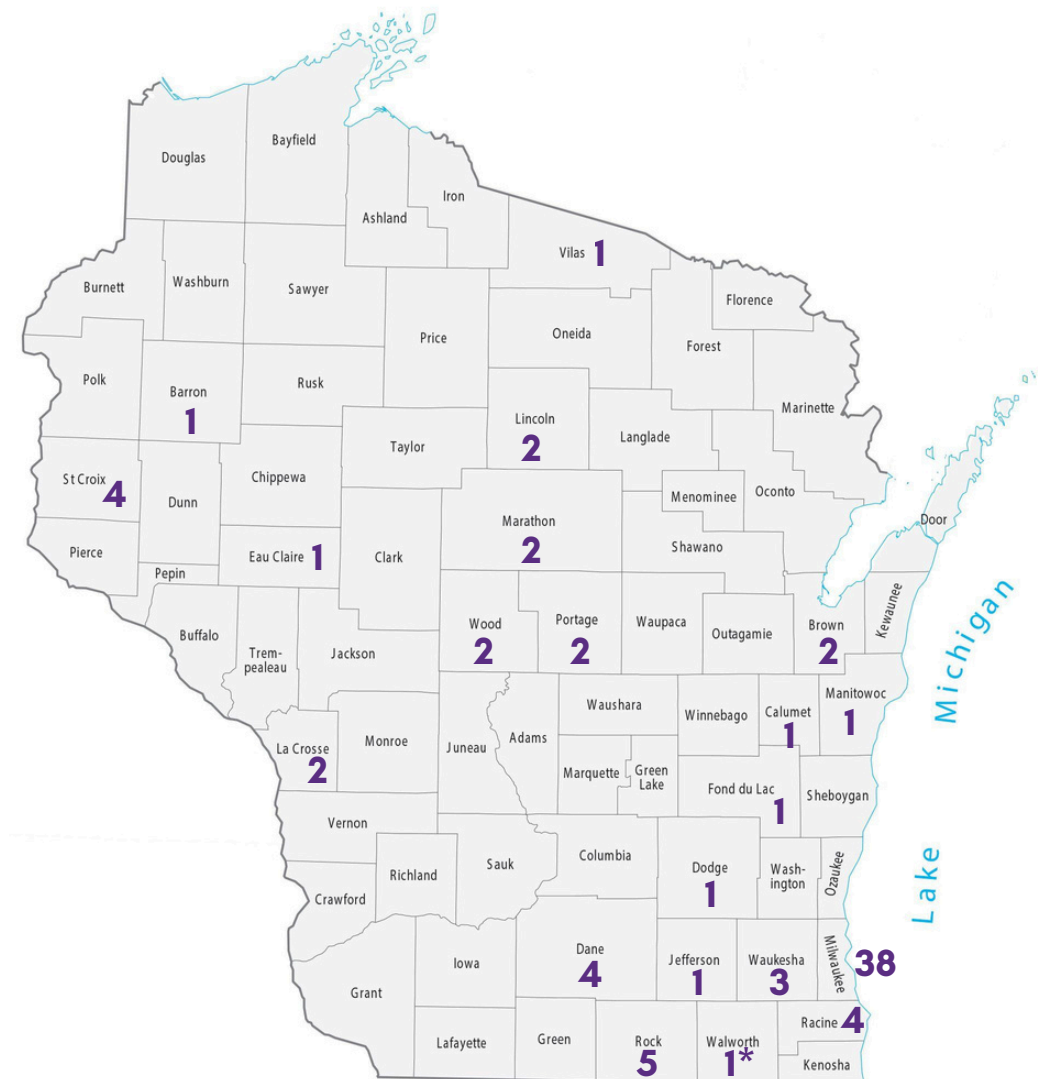
## 2025 Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Deaths by County



\*A couple from Walworth County died in a murder-suicide incident in their car a short distance from their home in Harvard, IL. This incident is counted in the totals but excluded from the homicide maps, as it did not occur in Wisconsin.

# 2025 Homicide Map

*Domestic and Family Violence Homicide Victim Deaths (total of 80\*)*



\*A couple from Walworth County died in a murder-suicide incident in their car a short distance from their home in Harvard, IL. This incident is counted in the totals but excluded from the homicide maps, as it did not occur in Wisconsin.

Family violence-related deaths occurred in 8 Counties in 2025. The total number of domestic violence- and family violence-related deaths in each of those counties is shown below.

## Domestic violence-related deaths

Barron 2  
Dane 3  
Fond du Lac 0  
Jefferson 0  
Milwaukee 29  
Racine 2  
Vilas 0  
Waukesha 0

## Family violence-related deaths

Barron 0  
Dane 1  
Fond du Lac 1  
Jefferson 1  
Milwaukee 9  
Racine 2  
Vilas 1  
Waukesha 3

# 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 2025 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.

## 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.

In the 2025 report, we include one case involving a couple who lived near the Illinois border in Walworth County, Wisconsin. The couple died in a murder-suicide situation in their car in Illinois, approximately 20 minutes from their home.

## 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 on the advice 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 at the time of publication.

We included two family violence cases and one domestic violence case in this report in which the question of competency was raised during criminal legal proceedings. In two of these cases, the defendant was ultimately found competent to stand trial; in the other, the competency question is still awaiting a final determination. We omitted three cases from the 2025 report that involved an adult child killing their parent. One defendant was found Guilty but Not Guilty Due to Mental Disease or Defect, and in two of the cases, the defendants have been found not competent to stand trial at the time of publication.

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.

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.

There was a case from 2025 involving a child death where the child's family members have publicly said that the child's biological father was responsible for the death. There was a record of harassment toward the child's mother and alleged child abuse. However, the investigation into this case is still ongoing, and without any official records to connect the child's father to the death, we decided to exclude the case.

The inclusion of all family violence homicides beginning with the 2024 report captures additional child deaths where familial power and control dynamics and coercive control may have been a factor, when we lack the information necessary to link the killings 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.

There are four cold cases for which more information surfaced in 2025, linking the deaths to what we define in our methodology as domestic violence homicide. Two of the deaths predate the first edition of this report, occurring in 1983 and 1987. The other two are considered uncounted homicides from the years in which they occurred, 2003 and 2009, and thus included and considered a limitation of this report's ability to fully reflect the number of deaths attributable to domestic violence in any given year since we began tracking this data. Our homicide reports contain only the information we know at the time of publication.

The previously unidentified domestic violence-related homicide from 2003 happened in Kenosha County. The case involved a 49-year-old woman, RV-C, and a 48-year-old man, JV, killing RV-C's 52-year-old husband, DV, by shooting him five times in the back of the head. According to media coverage, RV-C and DV married just eight weeks before DV's death, and JV and RV-C were allegedly involved in a romantic affair before and during the marriage and after DV's death. Both RV-C and JV were charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide in 2025. The cases have not concluded.

New information also emerged regarding a 2009 case from Shawano County involving a 30-year-old man, JR, killing his 25-year-old wife, SR. According to a criminal complaint, evidence found during the investigation contradicts the man's initial claims to officers that SR's death was a suicide. In April of 2025, JR was charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide and has pleaded not guilty. The case has not concluded.

We honor the lives of those included in this report, and the lives of those lost in 2025 that we have not yet been able to attribute to domestic violence.

# 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].

# 2025 Domestic Violence Deaths

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 a person using violence (or 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.

## County

### Barron

#### October 1 | Barron

**TS, 20-year-old male family member of harm-doer's partner**

**MH, 17-year-old male using violence**

#### **Murder-suicide**

A brother died trying to protect his sister in the town of Barron. According to news reportage, 17-year-old MH shot and killed his girlfriend's brother, 20-year-old TS. MH then completed suicide.

During this incident, MH also shot his girlfriend, **17-year-old MS, who was seven months pregnant** with his child. She was taken to the hospital, where both she and their newly-delivered baby survived. Though no history of domestic violence is publicly noted, known lethality risks include MS's pregnancy, and that she has **another child to whom MH was not the other parent.**

## County

### Brown

#### April 13 | Green Bay

**AG, 41-year-old boyfriend**

AG died late on April 13 after being stabbed in the chest and neck by his fiancée TP. TP had called 911 from the home they shared. According to the 911 audio transcription, TP said, "I just stabbed my boyfriend, I don't think he's okay. Someone needs to get here now!" TP said they had been fighting, "he came at me and...I often keep a knife nearby to protect myself...I didn't know what else to do; he's a lot bigger than me."

A neighbor reported to responding officers that there had been frequent arguments and police calls in the past. On the night of the homicide, he heard TP and AG arguing for over an hour followed by sounds of a physical disturbance. He heard AG say, "oh my god, oh my god," a period of silence, and then sounds of TP crying and saying something to the effect of "you should be dead" or "I wish you were dead".

According to the investigator who questioned her, TP asked if he [AG] was okay. TP pulled up her sleeves to display bruises on both forearms, and said, "just normal for me." She then said she would not say more before speaking with an attorney. TP has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon, with Domestic Abuse assessments. This case has not concluded.

## Brown

**June 24 | Green Bay**  
**LE, two-year-old son of girlfriend**

On June 22, 2025, JV was caring for his girlfriend's 2-year-old son, LE, when LE suffered injuries that caused his death two days later.

According to the criminal complaint, a no contact order was in place stemming from a 2024 domestic abuse charge, but JV and LE's mother, DS had maintained their relationship since January 2025. DS said things had been good that morning, but that they'd been **arguing a lot recently because JV wasn't working**, and she was the sole provider. She also noted that JV was "very on-edge" and **insecure about her male-dominated workplace** and that she had tried to end the relationship several times because of the frequent conflict.

On the morning of the incident, DS and JV were together in JV's rented garage loft and DS left EL with JV to go to a nail salon. To protect JV from legal trouble, DS and JV's father DV initially told police JV was not there, and that EL fell down the stairs while DV was taking care of him.

DS later reported that JV called her about EL's injuries and she raced back to the loft where EL appeared unresponsive and not breathing, as JV screamed at him to get up. DS drove EL to a nearby hospital, but the injuries were so severe that EL was flown from the local ER to a Milwaukee hospital, where he died on June 24. An autopsy determined that EL's contusions, blunt force injuries, internal bleeding and swelling were inconsistent with a fall down the stairs.

After EL's death, DV and JV fled to a relative's cabin and barricaded themselves inside while DV tried to help JV who was reportedly **suicidal**. JV and DV were eventually taken into police custody and DV was charged with harboring a felon. JV was charged with First-degree Reckless Homicide, Obstructing an Officer, and Bail Jumping.

JV's history of domestic violence includes 2024 misdemeanor charges, involving DS, of disorderly conduct, use of a dangerous weapon, and criminal damage to property. In two separate 2023 incidents, he was charged with domestic abuse offenses of misdemeanor battery and disorderly conduct, and felony **Strangulation** and Suffocation. In 2022 he was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct, domestic abuse.

**Calumet**

**November 21 | Woodville**  
**JG, 56-year-old father**

Police responded to the home of 56-year-old JG in Woodville, WI, and found him dead from gunshot wounds. His son, 22-year-old EG, called the police to report the incident, where he stated he shot his father numerous times. EG had moved back home and was living with his parents and working. He reported tensions with his father and said he expected an argument when he walked in after work that day, so he grabbed a gun. EG has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, and a trial is scheduled for October 2026.

## Dane

**January 12 | Sun Prairie  
IV, 27-year-old female dating partner**

IV, age 27, was last seen on January 11, 2025 and on the following day was reported missing by a sister with whom she lived. IV's body was later found next to a hay bale in a farm field.

GB was the last person seen with IV before she disappeared. IV's sister told investigators she had gone to GB's home to ask about his contact with IV on January 11, and GB said he had seen IV that morning, and that IV had cancelled their plans to meet that evening. IV's sister also confronted GB about **IV being pregnant**, but he denied any knowledge of it.

IV and 24-year-old GB had met in their former workplace and had been seeing each other for about two years. IV's family said she was interested in a more serious relationship than GB wanted. Shortly before she disappeared, IV texted with a friend indicating she was pregnant and concerned that GB would not be supportive.

Evidence suggesting GB's involvement in IV's disappearance includes cell phone searches for information about unwanted pregnancy, pregnancy tests, how to buy firearms, and missing or deceased persons in the area. On the night IV disappeared, GB's vehicle was captured on Flock cameras driving near where IV's body was discovered. In response to a Sun Prairie Police Department Missing Person Facebook post, a friend of GB's reported seeing GB dispose of clothing in his recycling bin on the night IV disappeared. Investigators found isopropyl alcohol and a sanitizing wipe in the bin with the clothing.

An autopsy was inconclusive; the Uniform Crime Report lists blunt force trauma as the cause of death. GB is accused of killing IV and is charged with First-degree Intentional Homicide, Giving False Information on a Kidnapped or Missing Person, and Hiding a Corpse. As of this writing, the trial has not concluded. The jury has reached a guilty verdict on Giving False Information on a Kidnapped or Missing Person, and is hung on the remaining charges.

**Dane****July 8 | Middleton**  
**DP, 64-year-old father**  
**TP, 64-year-old mother**

64-year-old TP and 64-year-old DP are believed to have been shot and killed in their home by their son, 25-year-old JP. Police responded to the home on a welfare check the following day, and found them with fatal gunshot wounds. Police located JP's vehicle and pulled him over. He rolled up his windows and wouldn't get out of the car. As police tactically approached the car an hour later, officers found JP to have died from a self-inflicted gunshot. TP and DP had four other adult children and seven grandchildren and had both spent careers in public service, TP in public education and DP in transportation.

## Dodge

**March 29 | Beaver Dam**  
**AN, 42-year-old wife**

AN was last seen in late March 2025, and her husband of nearly 20 years, AJN, is accused in connection with her death. The criminal complaint suggests a pattern of abuse over the years they were married, and suspicious social media and cell phone activity following AN's disappearance.

In October 2025, AN's mother reported her missing after she had been unable to speak with AN by phone for six months. She had received texts from AN's phone but her text responses to AN were unanswered. AN's mother described AJN's behavior toward AN during their marriage as verbally and physically abusive and controlling. AN sometimes stayed with her mother during rough periods.

AJN's coworkers reported he had told them his wife died from excessive alcohol use. A co-worker said he had posted bail and let AJN stay at his house when AN had filed a restraining order against him. The co-worker recalled seeing blood stains on the passenger side of AJN's car, and AJN saying that on separate occasions he had **picked AN up by the throat** and hit her in the face when she became "belligerent."

AJN created a new Facebook page in April listing his status as widowed. Later that spring he began a relationship, telling his new partner his wife had died of cancer. DNA evidence were found on a gun and knives retrieved from a vehicle AJN previously owned, on a large plastic trash bin AJN purchased around the time of AN's disappearance, and in a storage unit AJN rented. A cadaver dog found the scent of human remains in the apartment where AJN previously lived. However, AN's remains have not been found.

AJN is charged with First-degree Intentional Homicide, Domestic Abuse Assessments, and Hiding a Corpse. Court records also show conviction history of **felony Possession of a Firearm**, Carrying a Concealed Knife; Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse assessments; and a 2016 Domestic Abuse Restraining Order Injunction.

| County     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Eau Claire | <p><b>August 30   Eau Claire</b><br/> <b>ML, 37-year-old male ex-boyfriend/co-parent</b></p> <p>29-year-old DB shot and killed her ex-boyfriend 37-year-old ML in Eau Claire.</p> <p>According to the criminal complaint, DB told investigators she shot him to protect their children, and that “[she] had to kill him before he killed [her].” The criminal complaint states that DB reportedly told law enforcement she had the firearm to intimidate ML, that she was struggling with self-admitted mental health and addiction challenges during the incident, and that <b>she made suicidal threats about herself</b> to ML immediately prior to committing the homicide. She said she was pointing a gun at her own head when he began to move toward her, having said “he was gonna come try to help me do it for myself.” She said she shot him twice to “stop the threat,” but evidence indicates he had turned away from her and she shot him in the back of the head.</p> <p>DB has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with a Domestic Abuse modifier. A jury trial is scheduled for June 2027. This case is still pending.</p> |
| County     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Jefferson  | <p><b>October 26   Fort Atkinson</b><br/> <b>LK, 22-year-old male using violence</b><br/> <b>Law Enforcement Officer involved</b></p> <p>22-year-old LK was shot and killed by Fort Atkinson police, who responded to his mother’s home while he was pointing a rifle at her head. LK was <b>legally prohibited from possessing a firearm</b> by a Domestic Abuse injunction in effect until 2028, and he had a documented history of domestic violence against a partner in family court. Per court records, he had been ordered to surrender any firearms to his grandfather.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

La Crosse

June 9 | Holmen

**JP, 37-year-old current male partner of ex-partner**

Police responded to a report of an unresponsive male in the home JP shared with his girlfriend MG and found 37-year-old JP deceased in his bedroom.

According to the criminal complaint and news reports, MG said she lit candles and fell asleep on the couch during a power outage the previous night, and in the early morning found JP upstairs.

The subsequent investigation found that the power outage resulted from tampering with the main breaker switch to the residence. MG's ex-boyfriend JK was identified as a suspect. Reportedly, exterior cameras had been installed because of JK's **stalking behavior**. Execution of a search warrant found that JK had searched online for the exact address of JP and MG's home and for information about security cameras, lockpicking tools, ring lights, and breakers. JK had in his possession lockpicking devices and a large sum of cash missing from the home.

When officers located JK at his home, he had black eyes, bruising, and lacerations on his hands. An autopsy of JP's body determined he was killed by strangulation and blunt force trauma. JK is charged with First-degree Intentional Homicide, and a jury trial is scheduled to begin in October 2026.

## La Crosse

**November 13 | La Crosse  
AP, 27-year-old female pregnant ex-partner**

La Crosse fire professionals responded to a burning home, wherein they found the bodies of 27-year-old AP and her dog. According to reportage and a criminal complaint, 38-year-old MS allegedly killed AP and set her house on fire. **She was approximately four months pregnant with their second child.**

MS is married to another woman and had been having an on-off affair with AP, including fathering AP's two-year-old child. Evidence – including text messages between AP and MS – indicates that when AP told MS she was pregnant again, MS threatened to pursue custody of both children if she did not get an abortion of their second. Their messages also illustrate a pattern of MS using power, coercion, and manipulation to control AP. Medical examiners determined that AP had been killed prior to the fire because of an absence of soot in her lungs. They were unable to determine a conclusive cause of death because of fire damage, but stated **strangulation/suffocation** was a possibility.

Surveillance footage of AP's home the night of the murder shows MS arriving around 12:45 am, and then leaving her home around 2:50 am and lingering in his vehicle shortly after the fire appears to have started. The criminal complaint also includes statements from MS's wife, who was aware of her husband's affair and AP's first child with him, but seemed surprised by the news that AP was pregnant again. MS's wife indicated she had believed "he wouldn't do this again." AP and MS's first child was staying with a friend of AP's the night of the murder and thankfully did not witness anything.

There is no documented domestic violence between AP and MS in available court records, but MS did have a previous Domestic Abuse Injunction from a different confidential petitioner. MS has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, First Degree Intentional Homicide of an Unborn Child, Arson of a Building Without the Owner's Consent, and Mistreatment of Animals/Cause Death. A jury trial has been scheduled for December 2026. This case is ongoing.

## County

### Lincoln

#### **January 9 | Tomahawk RS, 50-year-old husband**

RS was stabbed in the chest in his home in Tomahawk, WI, and died from his injuries. His wife is accused of stabbing him and has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, Resisting or Obstructing an Officer, and Bail Jumping. A witness stated she swung a steak knife at RS and eventually stabbed him. She took him to the hospital, where he later died. A jury trial is scheduled for February 2027.

## County

### Manitowoc

#### **September 23 | Manitowoc JO, 25-year-old male "romantic rival"**

20-year-old KD shot and killed 25-year-old JO at KD's Manitowoc home with his current girlfriend BB, a person with whom JO had a previous romantic relationship. KD claims that JO pointed a firearm at him first, and fired three shots in self-defense.

KD has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and Second Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial has been scheduled for November 2026. This case is ongoing.

**Marathon**

**September 14 | Wausau**

**JS, 31-year-old male roommate**

According to reportage and a criminal complaint, 34-year-old DS shot his friend/roommate 31-year-old JS in the head at their Wausau home while they were discussing a woman with whom DS had a history of domestic violence. DS then staged the scene to make it look like JS had attempted to complete suicide. JS was still alive when emergency responders arrived, but later died of his injuries.

DS reportedly cut off his court-ordered GPS monitoring device, and when apprehended by law enforcement, claimed a false name. He was taken to the Marathon County jail, where he then tried to place a call to the woman, whom he was enjoined from contacting via a Domestic Abuse Injunction. He also told an officer at the jail that he was high and had "shot his best friend in the head last night!"

According to DS's statements in the criminal complaint, recalled conversations he had with JS indicate that DS felt possessive and **extremely jealous** about the woman, which is a known lethality risk. Court records show that DS has an extensive domestic violence history, including the Domestic Abuse injunction and several open cases for Battery, Knowingly Violating a Domestic Abuse Order, and Disorderly Conduct.

DS has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide, **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Out-of-State Felon**, Tampering with a Global Positioning System Tracking Device, Knowingly Violating a Domestic Abuse Order, Criminal Damage to Property, Resisting or Obstructing an Officer, and several more counts of Bail Jumping. This case is ongoing.

**November 5 | Wausau**

**85-year-old wife**

**86-year-old husband**

**Murder/suicide**

An 85- and 86-year-old married couple, names unknown, were found dead from gunshot wounds in their wheelchairs in the bathroom of their assisted living apartment. It appeared the husband shot his wife and then shot himself. Paperwork and personal belongings were found on the bed in the bedroom regarding their trust and final wishes, benefits documents, medical test results, and funeral arrangement costs. There is no other information available on the circumstances or individuals impacted.

## Milwaukee

## January 22 | Milwaukee

**ZB, 17-year-old girlfriend and co-parent**

ZB was killed by JC, the father of her child, in what may have been an accidental shooting. Both ZB and JC were 17 years old at the time.

According to local reportage and the criminal complaint, police were called to the home by a witness who heard a gunshot and a scream. Responding officers found ZB in JC's upstairs bedroom where she had been shot. ZB was pronounced dead at the scene.

Detectives interviewed several of the couple's friends and family members and found a gun in a trash can less than a block away. One witness said she was downstairs when she heard a loud bang and saw a group of people, including JC, run out the back door, before going upstairs and seeing ZB. Another witness said JC and ZB had a child together and were in a happy relationship. Reportedly, JC called one of the witnesses and told them, "Listen, we were recording, playing and the gun accidentally went off. I killed [ZB], she's in my room. My life is over with. Listen, it was an accident." Another received a call from someone identifying himself as "ZB's baby daddy" who told them a gun went off and hit ZB.

JC turned himself in to police on February 10. JC told detectives that he and ZB were alone in his room. ZB was lying on the bed facing him as he stood nearby. He attempted to take the gun apart by racking the slide back, but his hand was on the trigger, and the gun went off. He saw that ZB had been shot in the head. He kissed her and said he loved her. Afterwards, he put the gun on a kitchen counter downstairs and went to a friend's house.

In July 2025, JC pleaded guilty to Homicide by Negligent Handling of Dangerous Weapon/Explosive and **Possess Firearm-Convicted of a Felony**. The latter charge stemmed from a conviction of Felony Fleeing in July 2024. There is no criminal history of domestic violence.

**Milwaukee****January 24 | Milwaukee  
ST, 21-year-old girlfriend**

SA, age 22, is charged with one count of First-degree Reckless Homicide in the stabbing death of his girlfriend, 21-year-old ST.

According to a criminal complaint, SA walked into the Milwaukee Police Administration Building on February 27 to report his girlfriend's death. SA is a Turkish national and used a translation app to communicate, telling police he had found ST dead about 20 days earlier when he returned from the store but did not report it at that time because he was unfamiliar with US laws. SA said when he found the body, he passed out in shock; when he woke up, he attempted to take his own life using a nail gun to drive a nail directly into his head. He said he was facing eviction and eventually disclosed ST's death only when he knew the property managers would see the apartment the next day.

Reportedly, SA was found to have a nail in his head that extended into his brain, and he was hospitalized for surgery to remove it. Items found in the apartment included ST's USA Employment Authorization card, and a letter dated January 8 from the property management company warning SA to pay past-due rent or vacate the apartment. Two witnesses told investigators of hearing loud arguments from the apartment, including on the day ST was killed. Investigators found evidence of moving ST's body, attempts to launder clothing, and to clean blood from the premises, although SA denies having done so. SA maintains he did not kill ST. A jury trial is scheduled for February 15, 2027.

**Milwaukee**

**February 21 | Milwaukee  
AD, 23-year-old female dating partner**

Around midnight, DS entered the townhouse AD shared with two housemates, shot AD three times, and left. All three housemates were at home in their bedrooms when the shooting occurred. AD's housemate rushed to her room and tried to help her; they asked who did this, and AD named DS and said to look at her phone. Police and firefighters arrived and attempted life-saving measures, but AD died on the scene.

AD's housemate told investigators that AD was a sex worker and did not hide that she was trans. Police located DS and took him into custody on March 3.

According to the criminal complaint, DS at first denied knowing AD, but then said AD was trying to blackmail him. Investigators uncovered Facebook and cell phone conversations between AD and DS showing that AD threatened to post photographs and say on social media that DS did something to her unless DS paid her. Their conversation also indicates DS held transmisogynist beliefs about AD, which may have contributed to his violence. The last such conversation occurred on February 20 when AD demanded money, and DS told her he was trying to get it. On that same day, DS sent a message to another individual saying he badly needed bullets from him.

DS is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, and the jury trial is scheduled for September 14, 2026.

**Milwaukee****February 25 | Milwaukee****AH, 66-year-old wife****RH, 65-year-old husband****Murder/suicide**

AH was killed in her home with a gun by her husband of 42 years, who then died by suicide. They were parents to two adult children and grandparents to six. First responders arrived at the home and found AH deceased on their kitchen floor and RH deceased in their basement. The medical examiner ruled her death a homicide and RH's death a suicide, both due to gun-related injuries.

**February 26 | Milwaukee****JS, 41-year-old brother**

BS shot and killed his brother, JS, in the Milwaukee home they shared with their mother. Police were called to the home on February 26 and arrived to find 41-year-old JS on the floor in a pool of blood, dead from a gunshot wound. According to the criminal complaint, the mother told a detective at the scene that 50-year-old BS was the one who hurt his brother. She also said that BS believed his ex-wife was in a relationship with JS, but that this wasn't true. She pointed out where she had hidden the gun that killed JS.

In an interview with police, BS reportedly said that he believed JS was monitoring his cellphone and planned to kill BS. He told police he thought someone came home with JS; although he never saw anyone, he believed he heard them discuss waiting for BS to go outside where they would ambush him.

BS was taken into custody, charged, and found guilty by a jury of First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon. BS was sentenced to 22 years in state prison with 20 years of extended supervision.

## Milwaukee

**April 8 | Milwaukee**  
**SN, 71-year-old male bystander**

RC started a fire in her boyfriend's apartment, following an argument after which the boyfriend asked her to move out. The fire spread, Milwaukee firefighters responded, and the building was evacuated. Although firefighters believed it was all clear, 71-year-old SN was later found dead in his apartment in the building.

According to the criminal complaint, RC and her boyfriend MRW had been arguing all day and RC's behavior became abusive, yelling and throwing things around the apartment and at him. MRW called police to report the abuse.

MRW said she had behaved similarly in the past, including a 2024 incident when RC broke windows in the apartment. After MRW told RC to move out, she gathered some of her things and left. Afterwards, he smelled smoke and found a fire burning in a closet. He used a fire extinguisher from the hallway to put it out but later smelled smoke again and, finding the fire beyond control, he fled the building. Police had arrived by this time and interviewed him outside.

In July 2025, RC was convicted of Felony Murder-Arson of Building and Arson of Property Other Than Building and sentenced to 24 years in state prison.

## Milwaukee

**April 18 | Milwaukee  
AG, 34-year-old mother**

Seventeen-year-old JG accidentally shot and killed his mother while trying to protect her from an assault by his stepfather, ZD. JG fired the gun when **ZD threatened to kill him, his mother AG, and his two younger siblings**, who were also in the home at the time, according to a criminal complaint. Earlier that night, AG called 911 and reported that her partner had hit her and was beating and threatening to kill her 17-year-old son. The 911 recording captured a man screaming in the background, then 10 gunshots.

After the shooting, JG and the younger children told authorities that ZD assaulted AG multiple times before. Local news sources say that Milwaukee police had been called to the family's address at least six other times since 2023 for reports of property damage, battery and a person with a gun.

JG told police he arrived home and heard his mother trying to get ZD to leave during an argument. ZD threatened to kill JG and his mother and began attacking his mother as she called 911. At that point JG grabbed a gun – an “assault rifle-style pistol” he purchased on Facebook a few weeks earlier – and fired to protect his family. He did not know until later that his mother had been shot.

AG and ZD were both taken to the hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds from the incident. AG died from her injuries April 22. JG turned himself in to police on April 26.

ZD was later charged with Felony Murder-Battery and found not guilty in January 2026.

JG was convicted in February 2026 of Possession of a Firearm–Adjudicated Delinquent of a Felony and sentenced to serve 4 days in the House of Correction, with credit for 4 days.

## Milwaukee

**April 19 | Milwaukee  
JT, two-month-old daughter**

On April 19, first responders were called to the home of parents JCT and MP, for their unresponsive two-month-old infant JT who later died.

According to the criminal complaint, JT's father, 19-year-old MP, said as the family was busy unloading the car from a shopping trip, JT was crying, so he put a pacifier in her mouth, put her over his shoulder, then laid her on the bed. From another room, JT's mother, 20-year-old JCT, said she heard the baby make hiccupping noises that were concerning, and when she rushed to the bedroom to pick JT up, the baby was limp. MP did not know CPR but started to blow in JT's mouth as JCT called 911. JT was transported to the hospital, where they found severe injuries to her head and neck and likely traumatic brain injury.

On April 25, when multiple brain death examinations showed no measurable brain activity, JT was removed from life support and died. Autopsy concluded that JT was the victim of physical abuse and abusive head trauma, and that MP was the only person who had the opportunity to inflict these injuries.

MP's history includes a July 2024 conviction of felony **Strangulation and Suffocation** and Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse assessments. A Battery charge was dismissed. MP was charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide for JT's death. The case is not concluded.

## Milwaukee

**May 5 | Milwaukee**  
**AF, 30-year-old female “romantic rival”**

In April 2026, 29-year-old JR pled guilty to First-Degree Reckless Homicide in the 2025 shooting death of AF, who was dating her child’s father. AF had 2 children, ages 5 and 6, who were in the home when their mother was killed.

Police responded on May 5 to reports of gunshots fired in the area but were unable to locate any signs of a shooting. They returned on May 6 for a welfare check when neighbors reported that they had heard gunshots the night before, that two small children were naked on the porch, and that a woman who appeared to be dead was lying on the ground behind the front door.

According to the criminal complaint, JR’s child’s father, AOD, had been in a dating relationship with 30-year-old AF for 2-3 years when AF was killed. AOD told investigators that on May 5, 2025, he intended to spend the night with AF at her house. JR called him saying their baby was ill, that he should go home, and she would pick him up there before taking the baby to the hospital. AOD went home and waited, but when JR finally arrived, the baby appeared fine. JR wanted him to come to her house, but when he refused, she left with the baby, and he went to sleep.

JR initially denied being at the scene of the homicide but eventually admitted her involvement to detectives. JR reported that she had left the baby at the home of Y, who was her accomplice. JR and Y waited outside AF’s home and knocked on the door shortly after AOD left. JR claimed that she only wanted to talk when AF came to the door, but that Y repeatedly shot AF. No additional information is available about Y; however, Flock camera and cell phone evidence point to JR actively participating in the homicide.

**Milwaukee****May 6 | Milwaukee  
JM, 17-year-old girlfriend**

ZW, age 18, fatally shot 17-year-old JM in the back seat of a car during an argument involving accusations of infidelity. According to news reports and a criminal complaint, a friend had driven JM to meet with her boyfriend, ZW. ZW came out of a nearby house to join them, and when the argument began, the friend exited the car. Some time later, JM's friend heard a single gunshot, headed back toward the car, and saw ZW tuck a gun into his waistband and run away. She then called 911.

First responders arrived to find the unconscious JM in the back seat of the car. Despite life saving measures, JM died at the scene shortly afterwards from a gunshot wound to the chest.

ZW was charged with Second-degree Reckless Homicide by Use of a Dangerous Weapon and Possession of a Firearm by an Adjudicated Delinquent. According to the complaint, ZW had been adjudicated in 2023 for possessing a firearm. The case has not concluded.

**May 16 | Milwaukee  
PJ, 28-year-old, ex-boyfriend of current girlfriend**

BB, age 26, shot and killed 28-year-old PJ in what was determined to be self-defense. According to the Milwaukee Police Department, PJ had been sending harassing messages to his ex-girlfriend, 26-year-old JB. On the evening of May 16, BB was present when PJ went to JB's home and kicked the door in, armed with a gun. PJ hit JB in the head with the gun, and as she ran away, she heard BB firing a gun. According to responding police, PJ died on the scene. BB later turned himself in; the homicide was determined to be in self-defense and no charges were brought.

## County

### Milwaukee

#### **May 19 | Milwaukee PM, 38-year-old male, suicide**

PM shot a 36-year-old victim and then took his own life, in what appeared to be a domestic violence-related incident. Responding police officers found both individuals with serious gunshot wounds. The 36-year-old victim was hospitalized and survived. Although police summoned medical assistance who performed life-saving measures, PM was pronounced dead at the scene.

In October 2008, a petitioner was granted a Domestic Abuse Restraining Order to protect herself from PM, and in December 2008 PM was convicted of **Felony Possession of a Short-barreled Shotgun/Rifle**.

## Milwaukee

**May 26 | Milwaukee**  
**DM, 48-year-old male bystander**

On May 26, DB shot and killed 48-year-old DM when DM tried to intervene in a domestic dispute between 30-year-old DB and his 25-year-old girlfriend, KT. DB also shot EB, who lived with DM, but she survived. DB and EB were neighbors of KT, who shares children with DB.

On the day of the shooting, EB and DM heard a loud argument in KT's apartment and knocked on the door to see if KT needed help. When KT answered the door, she said she was OK, but then DB appeared, told EB and DM to mind their own business, and shot them both.

The criminal complaint and court records document a long history of DB's violence toward KT leading up to the shooting. EB told investigators that on May 2, she saw KT bleeding profusely from a chest wound, and KT said DB had just stabbed her. KT told investigators that DB stabbed her after she told him she wanted to end their relationship. KT said she did not report the stabbing to hospital staff or to law enforcement because DB's past violence caused her to fear for the safety of her children and herself. Investigators noted that in March 2024, when KT was pregnant, DB had assaulted KT, striking her repeatedly in the face and stomach. **DB had cocked a handgun, pointed it directly at KT, and stated that he was going to kill her.** KT noted that their 3-year-old and 9-month-old children were present at the time, and she feared DB would shoot and kill her in front of them.

From 2019 to 2023, he was under a Domestic Abuse Injunction with a Firearm Restriction. He was convicted of a Strangulation and Suffocation charge in 2023, and faced several other misdemeanor and felony charges stemming from the May 2, 2025 stabbing incident. These charges were ultimately dismissed in December 2025 because the state could not prove the case beyond a reasonable doubt. Reportedly, although DB killed DM, he was not charged with homicide because of self-defense concerns. Because of the 2023 strangulation conviction, DB was not legally permitted to have a firearm when he killed DM.

## Milwaukee

**May 31 | Milwaukee**  
**AW, 49-year-old husband**

DW shot and killed her husband AW, age 49, during an argument. Reportedly, 61-year-old DW and AW were living separately, and AW had come to the home to retrieve some belongings. A witness, who had driven him there, tried to get between the two as the argument escalated; DW reached over him to shoot AW in the back when he turned away from her. According to the criminal complaint, DW told investigators she did not intend to kill him.

Police were called to the scene where several bystanders identified DW as the shooter as she was walking away. DW dropped her handgun, and police took her into custody. AW died at the scene despite life-saving attempts.

In July 2026, DW pleaded guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to five years in prison with ten years of extended supervision.

**June 18 | Milwaukee**  
**KS, 27-year-old boyfriend**  
**AO, 22-year-old female using violence**  
**Murder-suicide**

AO, age 22, and 27-year-old KS were in a dating relationship. According to news reports and the Milwaukee Police Department, on June 18, AO and KS were arguing when a witness saw them struggling over an object, believed to be a gun. While there were no witnesses to the shooting, AO and KS both died from gunshot wounds. Based on the types of injuries they sustained, it is believed that AO fatally shot KS and then herself.

KS's history includes separate charges of Battery and Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse Assessments in 2024 and 2025, and using Computer Messages to Threaten Injury or Harm in 2024.

**Milwaukee**

**June 26 | Milwaukee**

**KC, 32-year-old male, responding police officer**

TJ shot and killed KC, a 32-year-old police officer who responded to a domestic violence call around 9pm on June 26, involving a fight between two groups of young people. Three others were also shot but survived, including two who were involved in the fight and a second responding police officer.

In the criminal complaint, witnesses described a series of fights between two groups of young women who were arguing about 22-year-old TJ and allegations of cheating.

JJ, who has a child with TJ, told investigators that the fighting began the day before the shooting. The following day, fighting escalated after one group approached JJ's apartment building, and a man, BT, joined JJ's group in the building to "make sure they didn't get jumped again."

Someone from the rival group outside contacted TJ, who then called JJ and said he was on his way over. TJ arrived armed with a gun, fired a shot into the air, and yelled at the group inside to come out of the building. BT was also armed, and the two began to fire at each other.

Police arrived, and TJ reportedly mistook them for BT and fired at them, killing MPD officer KC. TJ was sentenced to life in prison for First-degree Intentional Homicide, Attempted First-degree Intentional Homicide, First-degree Recklessly Endangering Safety, and Possession of a Short-barreled Shotgun/Rifle.

## Milwaukee

### July 2 | Milwaukee

#### **CW Sr., 47-year-old father using violence**

18-year-old CW Jr. shot and killed his father, 47-year-old CW Sr. According to reportage, CW Jr. and his mother went to CW Sr.'s home to pick up the other children in the family. When CW Sr. and his mother started arguing, CW Jr. tried to intervene. CW Sr. had a firearm, and CW Jr. got another firearm and shot him. Originally charged with Second Degree Reckless Homicide, CW Jr. pled guilty to Homicide by Negligent Handling of a Dangerous Weapon. He was sentenced to five years' initial confinement of an eight-year sentence, but the judge stayed the incarceration and placed him on probation.

### July 3 | Shorewood

#### **VT, 34-year-old ex-girlfriend**

#### **MG, 34-year-old male using violence**

#### **Law Enforcement Officer involved**

According to reportage, 34-year-old MG shot and killed his ex-girlfriend 34-year-old VT, who leaves behind a loving family and a teenaged child. MG also shot and injured VT's landlord and a responding Glendale law enforcement officer. After continuing to exchange gunfire with law enforcement, MG was eventually shot and killed.

VT's family says that she had been a victim of domestic violence for years. Reportage indicates he had a history of domestic violence that was not prosecuted. A few months before her murder, VT called for help and told emergency responders that her ex had a firearm and would not leave her home.

### July 7 | Milwaukee

#### **JK, 48-year-old male using violence**

#### **Suicide**

48-year-old JK died by **suicide** after jumping from a hotel balcony as law enforcement was responding to the hotel room where he and his girlfriend were staying. Police had been informed of a domestic violence situation wherein he was **strangling and threatening to kill** his girlfriend.

## Milwaukee

### July 10 | Milwaukee

#### DJ, 38-year-old male using violence

53-year-old TB shot and killed 38-year-old DJ in defense of TB's daughter, the girlfriend of DJ, during a domestic violence incident. TB's grandchild called their grandfather to ask for help, and TB came to her defense. Law enforcement considered it self-defense of another and no charges were issued.

### July 10 | Milwaukee

#### RT III, 4-year-old son

Thirty-four-year-old RT Jr. shot and killed his four-year-old child, RT III, during an argument with CT, the child's mother. Both parents originally claimed that the child had been shot by someone through an open window. **RT Jr. was prohibited from firearm possession.** He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after being found guilty at trial of First Degree Intentional Homicide and Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon. CT, the child's mother, pled guilty to Harboring a Felon and was sentenced to five years' initial confinement, which the court stayed for probation.

### August 13 | Milwaukee

#### DD, 23-year-old female dating partner

According to reportage and the criminal complaint, 30-year-old DH shot and killed 23-year-old DD. Her family indicates they knew their daughter had been dating someone named D but had never met him. Her parents have lost three daughters in recent years, and her mother aims to start a community prevention space where young people can gather to talk about challenges in their lives.

DH has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon and **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.** A trial has been scheduled for October 2026. This case is ongoing.

## Milwaukee

### September 21 | Milwaukee AJ, 15-year-old girlfriend

17-year-old JS shot and killed his girlfriend 15-year-old AJ. Though he initially claimed that someone else had shot her, he later said it was an accident. He pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon and was sentenced to 12 years of initial confinement and six years of extended supervision.

### September 29 | Glendale KM, 45-year-old ex-girlfriend

According to reportage, 42-year-old DH shot and killed his ex-girlfriend 45-year-old KM. A mother of three, KM is described as a vibrant pillar of the community.

Surveillance footage of her home shows that **DH stalked her** before killing her. She is shown arriving in her driveway, whereafter DH emerged from another yard, chased her, pulled her to the ground and “executed her” with a single shot. Investigators learned that his previous violent behavior indicated a lethal risk to KM, including that **he had strangled her, and threatened to kill her** by throwing her body off a cruise ship. KM’s ex-husband had previously filed a restraining order against DH because DH had threatened to “put him in a body bag” but the injunction was denied.

DH fled to Indiana and was arrested after a high-speed chase. He has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon**, but has yet to be extradited to Wisconsin from Indiana. This case is ongoing.

**October 18 | West Allis  
DC, four-year-old son**

Four-year-old DC was beaten to death by his father 21-year-old DSC. According to reportage and the criminal complaint, DSC and DC's mother 31-year-old CK called 911 to render aid to DC at a Dairy Queen. DC was lifeless, soaked in old urine, and covered in severe injuries to his face, neck, torso, and limbs. CK claimed that DC had fallen down the stairs at home and they found him unresponsive in his bed the following morning, so they left DC's twin sister AC with a friend and took DC to a public location easily accessible to emergency responders. When law enforcement investigated, they found DC's older siblings alone at home in the basement. When they found AC at another location, she also had extensive injuries and reported that DSC had hurt her.

Investigators and Child Advocacy Center staff learned from DC's siblings that they had witnessed DSC beating the twins with his hands, a piece of wood, and a chair. They believed DC had died alone in his bed. They also said DSC often threw DC into walls, forced the twins to stand on Legos, and locked them in closets, and that CK did nothing to stop it. According to the criminal complaint, babysitters for the twins told investigators they had witnessed repeated injuries, that the twins often wore soiled clothing and reported DC had hurt them. The babysitters feared they would no longer see the twins if they called CPS, but they had made two anonymous reports. According to the criminal complaint, there was an open CPS investigation at the time of DC's death.

When the twins were born, DSC was age 16-17, and CK was about 10 years older. CK told investigators she was afraid of DSC because he had firearms. Though there is no public record of domestic or sexual violence between DSC and CK, these circumstances, including their significant age difference, suggest that power and control dynamics were present in the relationship.

CK pled guilty to Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death) and Chronic Neglect of a Child, but has not yet been sentenced. DSC has been charged with Physical Abuse of a Child (Repeated Acts Causing Death), First Degree Reckless Homicide, Chronic Neglect of a Child (Consequence is Death), and other child abuse related charges. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2026. This case is ongoing.

## Milwaukee

### **October 20 | Milwaukee**

#### **MC, 16-year-old male bystander**

During an argument with his girlfriend at her home, 37-year-old MH shot at three people, killing 16-year-old MC. It is reported he also attempted to shoot his girlfriend but ran out of ammunition. MH fled to Oklahoma and was arrested three weeks later. At the time of the incident, there was a warrant for his arrest on charges of Third-Degree Sexual Assault Incest with Child. He has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide, **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon**, and two counts of First-Degree Reckless Injury and First Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. This case is ongoing.

### **November 2 | Milwaukee**

#### **SR, 68-year-old mother**

SR, 68, passed away at home in Milwaukee from blunt force. An investigation is ongoing due to discrepancies between her son's explanation of the events and the evidence. Homicide charges were referred to the District Attorney's office, and the case is currently under review. No other details are available.

### **November 7 | Milwaukee**

#### **LW, 50-year-old husband using violence**

According to reportage and the Milwaukee District Attorney's office, KW stabbed and killed her husband LW in self-defense.

### **November 13 | Milwaukee**

#### **MA, 49-year-old male intervening bystander**

According to reportage and the criminal complaint, 28-year-old MO shot and killed his father 49-year-old MA when MA intervened in an argument that MO was having with his ex-girlfriend, a woman who is the stepdaughter of MA. According to the woman's statement, MO pushed her in the face and drew a firearm first. While MO originally claimed that MA had threatened him with a weapon, he later said that he never did so. MO pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide. A sentencing hearing has been scheduled for October 2026.

## Milwaukee

### November 26 | Milwaukee

#### ROR, 43-year-old male “romantic rival”

48-year-old HMP shot and killed 43-year-old ROR, a man he believed was having an affair with his wife. Two months before the murder, HMP’s wife called police when he grabbed her by the arm, **accused her of cheating on him, and threatened to kill her**. He was arrested and charged with misdemeanor Disorderly Conduct. According to reportage and the criminal complaint, the night of ROR’s murder, HMP demanded his wife call ROR to end their affair. When she refused, he left.

Surveillance footage shows his vehicle near ROR’s home, and cell data confirms his presence in the area. HMP was arrested on December 12 and has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial has been scheduled for February 2027. This case is ongoing.

### December 7 | Milwaukee

#### KH, 41-year-old girlfriend

#### CT, 45-year-old male using violence

#### Murder-suicide

45-year-old CT shot and killed his girlfriend 41-year-old KH and then completed suicide with the same firearm. KH’s child witnessed the murder-suicide. The Hmong American Women’s Association released a statement of mourning and advocacy, expressing grief for the loss of beloved community members during the Hmong New Year holiday. For more, read the statement at [this link](#).

## Portage

**July 6 | New Hope**  
**PS, 52-year-old mother**  
**DS, 53-year-old father**

PS, 52, and DS, 53, were shot and killed by their 35-year-old son, JS, in their home. Police responded to a welfare check and found PS with multiple gunshot wounds in the garage, and DS with multiple gunshot wounds on the driveway. Two small children were found in the home's basement. According to the criminal complaint, JS stated he shot his mother in the garage and then later in the evening when his stepfather came home, he also shot him. He stated he was mad about his drinking. The children were witnesses to the incidents. When police arrived, they found JS in the backyard with three firearms. He turned around and lifted his arms and the responding officer shot him three times. He recovered and is being held in jail until his trial.

JS was charged with two counts each of: First Degree Intentional Homicide with a Domestic Abuse, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and Repeater modifier, in addition to two counts of Causing Mental Harm to a Child with a Use of a Dangerous Weapon and Repeater modifier, and three counts of **Possession of a Firearm felony with a Repeater modifier**. He has been determined to be competent to stand trial, which is scheduled for March 2027.

## Racine

**May 4 | Racine  
MA, 50-year-old male who used violence  
Law Enforcement Officer Involved**

A Racine police officer shot and killed 50-year-old MA when he emerged from his crashed vehicle holding a gun. Police had gone to the home of a victim to locate MA, the suspect in a domestic battery reported earlier that day. As the officers waited in their vehicle, MA pulled up, went to the residence, paced outside, then returned to his car. When officers approached, he fled in his vehicle, ultimately crashing into a parked car.

Police pursued MA and the officer, BE, approached his disabled vehicle with his firearm drawn. At that point, MA got out, racking the slide of his handgun. According to the District Attorney's report, as MA raised his arm holding the weapon, he first pointed it at BE. BE then began to fire rounds at MA and MA pointed the gun at his own head, taking steps and turning his back to BE. BE continued to fire, first striking MA's legs and then his chest, back, and head, as he took two more steps and then fell face down, dropping the gun, at which point BE stopped firing his weapon. According to the DA's investigation, BE fired 10 shots, stopping when the threat had ended, in accordance with police training.

It was later discovered that MA's weapon was not loaded. Police performed CPR until rescue squads arrived, but MA was pronounced dead at the scene.

**Racine**

**July 22 | Racine**

**CF, 48-year-old female, child-in-common**

**JW, 51-year-old male using violence**

**Murder-suicide**

Mother of six 48-year-old CF was shot and killed by her child's father, 51-year-old JW. After a seven-hour standoff with law enforcement, JW was found dead by self-inflicted gunshot.

**November 10 | Racine**

**JLB, 37-year-old girlfriend**

46-year-old BC killed his girlfriend 37-year-old JLB just a few weeks after they came to Racine from South Dakota. When law enforcement responded to a 911 call, they found JLB unresponsive on the bathroom floor. According to the criminal complaint, she had experienced extensive violence, including severe head injuries, a broken hyoid, a broken rib, and severe contusions all over her body. Her cause of death was determined to be blunt force trauma, but some of her injuries were also consistent with **strangulation**.

BC gave conflicting statements to investigators and claimed that JLB had gotten in a bar fight the night before, but he had bloodied clothes and defensive wounds that indicate JLB had tried to defend herself from him. He was on federal probation and a registered sex offender, and at the time of JLB's murder he was considered "absconded" from South Dakota.

According to news reportage and interviews with her family, JLB was a loving mother and grandmother of five. They believe she was taken to Wisconsin by BC, and they did not know she was here. Intentionally isolating a victim from their community is a common tactic used to maintain power and control. They want her name remembered in Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Relatives advocacy efforts.

BC has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide with Domestic Abuse assessments. A jury trial is scheduled for December 2026. This case is ongoing.

## Rock

**June 17 | Janesville****HL, 21-year-old ex-girlfriend, child-in-common****JC, 25-year-old female friend of ex-girlfriend****SR, 55-year-old male friend of ex-girlfriend****JW, 21-year-old ex-boyfriend using violence****Murder-suicide**

In a triple murder-suicide, JW shot and killed HL, with whom he shared a child, after she came to his apartment to retrieve her belongings. HL was accompanied by two friends: SR, a local egg and honey farmer, and JC, a mother of two and local elder care provider. Police were notified of a "family problem" shortly before reports of a shooting at the apartment complex. When officers arrived, they found an unresponsive adult in the doorway with a visible gunshot wound. Inside the apartment, officers found three additional adults who had been shot.

**December 10 | Beloit****AF, 25-year-old girlfriend****Name unknown, 26-year-old boyfriend using violence****Murder-suicide**

25-year-old AF was shot and killed by her 26-year-old boyfriend in Beloit, who was later found dead at an Illinois rest stop after completing suicide. According to reportage, AF was a CNA and a mother to two young girls.

**December 26 | Town of Magnolia****TB, 53-year-old wife****JB, 54-year-old husband using violence****Murder-suicide**

53-year-old TB was shot and killed by her husband 54-year-old JB, who completed suicide. TB, a longtime nurse, was found dead alongside her husband, JB, in their rural Rock County home. Police indicate a violent act occurred, leading up to the death. According to the Uniform Crime Report, TB died of a homicide and JB died of a suicide, both by firearm. No further details about the incident have been made available.

## St. Croix

**March 2 | New Richmond**  
**ML, 68-year-old wife**

ML, 68-year-old mother of three and grandmother of six, was strangled by her husband, GL, in their New Richmond home. When police arrived for a welfare check, 70-year-old GL was home. He stated that things got “out of control” and ML was dead. GL told police that he panicked and instead of taking her to the hospital, he put her in his car, drove to the neighboring county, dropped her on the side of the road, and covered her body with corn stalks.

In December 2025, GL was sentenced to 14 years in prison and six years of extended supervision after pleading guilty to First-degree Reckless Homicide. GL was also initially charged with Strangulation and Suffocation and Hiding a Corpse, but those charges were dropped with his guilty plea.

**March 5 | Hudson**  
**CH, 54-year-old wife**

Following a welfare check in Hudson, WI, police found the body of 54-year-old CH. During the check, police encountered CH’s husband, 54-year-old CAH, who stated that he had a firearm. A four-hour standoff ensued. Earlier in the day, CAH called police with claims that CH was poisoning him and their cats, and that she was cheating on him. During the standoff, he said he had stabbed her with a sharp knife and that she was deceased. Police found her with face and neck wounds. CAH was charged with First-degree Intentional Homicide, Mayhem, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and Aggravated Battery, Domestic Abuse. The criminal case remains pending at the time of this report.

**March 14 | Hudson**  
**PO, 84-year-old wife**  
**JO, 84-year-old husband using violence**  
**Murder-suicide**

PO, age 84, was found dead of a gunshot wound in her home, where JO, her 84-year-old husband, was also found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple had been married for 64 years. Police records indicate the incident was a murder-suicide. No other details about the incident are available.

## St. Croix

**May 19 | Hersey**  
**MW, 58-year-old wife**  
**PH, 65-year-old husband using violence**  
**Murder-suicide**

MW, 58, was murdered by PH, 65, on her family's property in Hersey, Wisconsin. PH shot MW with a 9 mm handgun and then shot himself, resulting in his death. A nurse from Minnesota, MW left behind five children. PH lived in a trailer on the property as well. Police found both individuals deceased following a welfare check called in by the victim's daughter.

News reports indicate MW and PH had known one another since 2018, and records show PH was previously arrested for **Strangulation** in 2023, after he had dragged MW by her hair, pinned her down, muffled her face and strangled her. In connection with that incident, he was also arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol. PH was sentenced to 90 days in jail and one year of probation, but he was required to serve only the 10 days he had already served, with the remaining 80 days suspended for one year. MW also had a previous restraining order against PH which was vacated in 2024.

| County   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Walworth | <p><b>October 6   Sharon</b><br/> <b>RD, 29-year-old wife</b><br/> <b>BD, 30-year-old husband using violence</b><br/> <b>Murder-suicide</b></p> <p>A few days before their first anniversary, 30-year-old BD shot and killed his wife 29-year-old RD and then completed suicide with the same firearm. The couple were found in a vehicle just over the Illinois border, but lived in Sharon, Wisconsin at the time of their deaths.</p>                                                 |
| County   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Waukesha | <p><b>December 16   Waukesha</b><br/> <b>Unknown name, 73-year-old male who used violence</b><br/> <b>Harm-doer suicide during law enforcement response</b></p> <p>A woman who had run to a neighbor's house for safety called law enforcement to report that "a male beat [her] up and threatened [her] with a gun and pointed it at [her]." Officers responded, broke a window in the home to send in a drone, and found a 73-year-old unnamed man deceased with a gun in his lap.</p> |
| County   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Waushara | <p><b>October 16   Wautoma</b><br/> <b>TL, 51-year-old male using violence</b><br/> <b>Law Enforcement Officer involved</b></p> <p>51-year-old TL was shot and killed by a Waushara Co. Sheriff's Department officer when law enforcement responded to a domestic violence call at his Wautoma home. According to news reportage, TL fired at the officers, and they fired back. The officer was not charged in the incident.</p>                                                        |

## Wood

**May 8 | Marshfield**  
**LW, 61-year-old dating partner**

LW died on May 8 from injuries inflicted by CG weeks earlier. According to news reports and the criminal complaint, 61-year-old LW and 60-year-old CG were neighbors in the same apartment building and had an off and on dating relationship. On April 25, CG came to LW's apartment around 4am looking for a pack of cigarettes he thought he'd left there a few hours earlier.

When LW said she didn't know where they were, CG **threatened to break her neck**, then pushed her to the floor and stomped on her chest. She rolled onto her side, and CG came back with a large knife which he used to saw at her neck, claiming he was going to cut off her head. LW tried to protect herself with her hand, which was also cut by the knife. LW later told investigators that when CG eventually stopped and left her apartment, she went to bed without seeking medical help to prevent CG from getting into trouble. LW's caretaker arrived later that afternoon, noticed blood on LW, and took her to the emergency room.

Investigators spoke with several witnesses, including LW's daughter, who reported that LW had frontal lobe brain tumors in the past that affected her current rational thinking and decision making. LW's caretaker said she was aware that CG had verbally abused LW in the past and had struck her in the head with a cigarette roller. LW died on May 8 following surgery to treat bleeding on her brain; forensic autopsy determined the cause of death was a blunt force traumatic head injury.

Court records indicate CG was under a Chapter 51 mental health commitment while in custody for charges stemming from LW's death. In December 2025, CG pleaded no contest and was convicted of First-degree Reckless Homicide. Additional charges were dismissed, including felony Physical Abuse of Elder Person with Intent to Cause Bodily Harm/Cause Great Bodily Harm, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and misdemeanor Disorderly Conduct, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, Increased Penalty for Elder Person Victim.

**Wood**

**October 31 | Wisconsin Rapids  
RH Sr., 56-year-old father**

Police responded to the home of 56-year-old RH Sr. and found a man with stab wounds on the front lawn and a man with fatal machete and gunshot wounds in the basement. 34-year-old RH Jr., his adult son who was visiting from out of town, was charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide. He testified that he was acting in self-defense after his father attempted to fire a gun at him. A jury found him not guilty.

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

### **Dane County**

**March 29 | Madison**

**NV, 40-year-old father**

Seventeen-year-old AV stabbed and killed his father NV on March 29th. According to news coverage, police responded to the home for a reported weapons violation, and 40-year-old NV was pronounced dead on scene. The Dane County District Attorney later determined that self-defense was a major deciding factor, and charges were not brought against AV.

### **Fond du Lac County**

**December 5 | Fond du Lac**

**JB, 12-year-old male son**

According to reportage referencing a criminal complaint for this case, 12-year-old JB died from starvation ketoacidosis. JB had Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy, and his mother 51-year-old TB claimed his weight loss was a symptom of his chronic disease. Records indicate medical professionals told her he needed to gain weight, and believe he was likely starving over weeks or months given his body condition. JB had been in foster care but was returned to his mother's home in 2024. She has been charged with Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death). This case is ongoing.

### **Jefferson County**

**September 13 | Jefferson**

**SAS, 13-year-old stepson**

An unnamed 38-year-old stepfather shot and killed his stepson 13-year-old SAS on September 13th. This death was confirmed in the Uniform Crime Report but no other information is available at this time.

## **Lincoln County**

**October 22 | Merrill**

**ON, 5-year-old daughter**

According to reportage that cites the criminal complaint, Merrill emergency responders arrived at a local home where 5-year-old ON reportedly drowned in a bathtub. Her mother, 27-year-old KN, told investigators that ON had not been feeling well and had given her a bath, where she left ON alone for approximately five minutes to get fresh clothing. When she returned to the bathroom, she found ON unresponsive.

ON had an epileptic seizure disorder, and had been prescribed anti-seizure medications. Blood panels indicated she did not have one of these medications in her system at the time of her death, and KN admitted that they had been giving her less of the medication than prescribed. Investigators noted that doing so might increase or escalate seizure activity. According to reportage, her mother had been repeatedly advised not to leave her alone in or near water because of the potential risk of drowning.

Reportage also indicates that KN's home was in poor condition, including piles of garbage, dirty laundry, and animal urine and feces on the floors, including in ON's bedroom. Prosecutors also report that ON is the second of KN's children to die in her care. A five-month-old daughter died in 2023.

KN has been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide and Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death). A jury trial has been scheduled for June 2027. This case is ongoing.

## **Milwaukee County**

**January 22 | Milwaukee**

**JJ, 22-year-old sister**

On January 22, 32-year-old GJ fatally shot his sister and wounded his parents during a family argument. GJ lived with his 22-year-old sister and parents, who had just returned from a month-long vacation in Mexico when the argument occurred. Afterwards, GJ went to the police station, confessed that he shot someone and gave a statement.

According to GJ, his family had bullied him for years because he didn't have a job. On the evening of the shooting, he offered to help bring in the luggage, but his family declined and he returned to his bedroom. His father came to his room to complain about dirty dishes in the kitchen, GJ tried to explain that the sink was clogged, but his father said GJ would have to move out. GJ said his father continued to get on his case and his sister JJ joined in. GJ then tried to find his mother to intervene, but she was in the shower.

According to the criminal complaint, GJ had a handgun in his waistband. He considered returning to his room, but "was just fed up with putting up with the bullying." He recalled firing at his father more than once. When JJ armed herself with a knife, GJ shot at her. His mother then entered the room, and GJ fired at her. He said he did not intend to shoot his mother and could not explain why he did.

In May 2025, GJ pled guilty to First-degree Reckless Homicide, Attempted Second-degree Intentional Homicide, and First-degree Reckless Injury.

### **March 4 | Milwaukee**

#### **KW, 35-year-old nephew**

PR stabbed and killed his 35-year-old nephew, KW, after they got into an argument on the porch of the home they shared. According to the criminal complaint, police were called to the residence and found KW, deceased. KW's mother, who owns but does not reside in the home, was standing outside and identified 62-year-old PR, who was then arrested and taken into custody.

Reportedly, PR told the detective who interviewed him that he was sitting on a chair inside the screen porch when his nephew approached him, "talking crazy," and threatened, then slapped him in the face. PR said he "blanked out," picked up a folding knife that was on the table and stabbed his nephew one time. He asked a neighbor to call 911 and to contact his sister, KW's mother.

PR was taken into custody, charged, and found guilty by a jury of First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon. PR was sentenced to 22 years in state prison with 20 years of extended supervision.

### **March 16 | Milwaukee**

#### **HM, Jr., 44-year-old uncle**

Twenty-eight-year-old SD fired multiple fatal gunshots at his uncle, HM. Milwaukee police dispatched to the scene found the wounded HM, age 44, who was taken to the hospital where he died less than an hour later. According to the criminal complaint, SD was walking down the street with HM and his girlfriend, TB, who was about 20 feet away when the shooting occurred.

SD and TB then fled to TB's home in Madison. The next day, SD left the residence and TB contacted Madison police to report the shooting. While police were interviewing her, SD called TB, saying he was going to try to take a bus to Chicago. Madison police apprehended SD on a Greyhound bus before it left the station.

SD was convicted of First-Degree Intentional Homicide in February 2026 and sentenced to life in prison, eligible for extended supervision after serving 30 years.

**June 17 | Milwaukee**  
**AH, 30-year-old sister**

AH was shot and killed by her 15-year-old brother HF during a fight involving 30-year-old AH, HF, and their two sisters. Reportedly, the fight began when AH's siblings confronted her about something she had posted on social media. Her siblings drove to the area of AH's apartment where the fight took place in the car and on the street. As AH's two sisters approached her on the street to fight, AH drew a knife. One of AH's sisters got a baseball bat from the car, and at this point the mother of the three sisters pulled up in her car.

AH managed to get in her sibling's parked car, and her sisters began striking her with the bat. AH then got out of the car and backed away, holding the knife close to her body. At that point, HF got a gun from the mother's car, approached AH, and shot her at close range. AH took a few steps and collapsed. Bystanders captured the fight and AH's shooting death on Facebook Live, and video footage was later used in the investigation. When police arrived, AH had no pulse and was not breathing. Lifesaving measures were attempted, but AH was pronounced dead.

AH's 21-year-old sister is charged with Aggravated Battery. The third sister, who is a minor, was not charged. Their mother was arrested for Obstruction for giving contradictory statements about witnessing the shooting. Prosecutors charged 15-year-old HF as an adult; he pleaded guilty to First-degree Reckless Homicide and awaits sentencing as of this writing.

**August 31 | South Milwaukee**  
**ET, 68-year-old grandmother**

68-year-old ET passed away from an incident with her grandson 15-year-old EB at her home in South Milwaukee, for which the medical examiner found evidence of strangulation. Police responded to EB's 911 call and found ET unresponsive. She regained a pulse, received medical treatment at the hospital, but passed away a few days later. EB and his brother lived in the home with ET and her husband. ET's husband reported that EB had strangled her two months prior, in an incident in which she briefly lost consciousness. EB admitted to police he had strangled ET for 5 minutes from behind, causing her death. EB has been charged with First Degree Intentional Homicide. He was initially found not competent for trial, but the ruling was reversed and the case remains pending.

**September 29 | Milwaukee**  
**JW, 18-year-old male cousin**

19-year-old RH stabbed her cousin 18-year-old JW, who later died of his injuries. According to the criminal complaint and reportage, RH told law enforcement that she and JW had been arguing when he punched her, to which she responded by finding a knife and stabbing him. She told them it was both self-defense and an accident. She pled guilty to Second Degree Reckless Homicide with Domestic Abuse and Use of a Dangerous Weapon modifiers. A sentencing hearing is scheduled for October 2026.

**October 18 | Milwaukee**  
**SM, 33-year-old male cousin**  
**DC, 43-year-old male acquaintance/bystander**

35-year-old DJ shot and killed his cousin, 33-year-old SM and an acquaintance/bystander 43-year-old DC during a poker game. DJ called police to report the shooting, later telling investigators that he had been told by SM and DC that a masked intruder had entered the building where they were playing and he thought they were being robbed. Other witnesses do report another person in a black ski mask on the property with an AK-47. DJ has been charged with two counts of First-Degree Reckless Homicide. A jury trial has been scheduled for November 2026. This case is ongoing.

**November 6 | Milwaukee**  
**DB, 3-year-old son**

On November 6th, first responders found 3-year-old DB unresponsive at his home, where his mother was attempting life-saving measures. He later died at a local hospital, where doctors concluded he had severe hemorrhaging in his abdomen caused by non-accidental trauma to his internal organs.

His mother, 34-year-old ZJM, told investigators that she had taken her older children to school, while DB stayed in the home with her boyfriend, MJ. MJ stated he was asleep at the time and then woke up to find DB unresponsive. When ZJM came back home, she discovered DB foaming at the mouth, began doing CPR on her child, and told MJ to call 911. A neighbor who was interviewed described DB as "always smiling, always dancing. A damn happy kid."

ZJM has been charged with Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death). Almost a year after DB's death, her boyfriend MJ has also recently been charged with First Degree Reckless Homicide and Neglecting a Child (Consequence is Death). There is no publicly available information that indicates domestic violence dynamics between ZJM and MJ. This case is ongoing.

## **Racine County**

**March 4 | Caledonia**

**SG, 63-year-old mother**

SG, a longtime educator and mother of two, was reportedly killed by her teen son RG. He hit her in the head with a dumbbell and stabbed her. He reportedly stated he had been experiencing mental health concerns that day and watched a documentary about the Menendez brothers' murders of their parents. Reports indicate that when his mom went upstairs after dinner, he hid a steak knife and dumbbell in his shirt and asked for his mom's help finding his medicine. He then attacked her, took a photo of her body for Snapchat, and sent it to a friend, who reported the incident to law enforcement. After stabbing his mother to death, he searched the home for a hammer to kill his father when he got home but stated he could not locate one large enough. The police responded to the scene prior to the father's arrival. RG has been charged with First-degree Intentional Homicide, and his trial is set for February, 2027.

**June 18 | Racine**

**BE, 36-year-old male cousin**

TG shot and killed his 36-year-old cousin, BE, when an argument between the two escalated. According to the criminal complaint, the argument between 27-year-old TG and his cousin began on the phone, then continued in person on the street. When BE punched TG in the face, he stumbled a few steps away, then fired at BE once, and BE dropped to the ground. TG's brother and mother witnessed the shooting from a nearby house and called 911. When first responders arrived, BE was transported to a hospital, where he later died from the gunshot wound. TG reported to police the following day. He is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon. The case is not concluded.

## **Vilas County**

**March 21 | St. Germain**

**KJ, 61-year-old sister**

KJ was found dead outside her St. Germain, WI home, covered in blood, with stab wounds on her back and lower side. According to the criminal complaint, her brother JJ stabbed her and wrapped her in a blanket, her feet bound with a yellow extension cord.

JJ moved in with KJ and her sister on the day of the murder. He said she used his car and left it without gas, and took his money from the bank, so he stabbed her while she was sleeping on the couch. He then attempted to drag her body outside to hide it, but was unable to get her in the car, so he left her in the front yard, took her belongings, and threw them in a dumpster.

The autopsy showed approximately 30 stab wounds and lacerations. He is charged with Intentional Homicide and has pleaded Not Guilty by Reason of Mental Disease or Defect. His trial is scheduled for February 2027.

## **Walworth County**

**January 20 | Geneva**

**MM, eight-year-old stepson**

SM killed his 8-year-old stepson, MM, in an apparent accidental shooting. According to the criminal complaint, when police responded to 52-year-old SM's emergency call, they found MM lying on the floor bleeding from a gunshot wound to the neck. SM was frantic and covered in blood. First responders attempted life-saving measures and transported MM to the hospital where he later died.

Investigators learned that on the night of the shooting, MM was spending the evening with SM, who used to be married to MM's mother. SM said he'd had a couple of drinks and was trying to impress MM by first showing him a stun gun, and then a 9mm handgun. SM said he was "popping" the stun gun and MM was squirming away. SM then got the handgun from another room. He believed that because he had taken the magazine out of the gun, it would just click when he pulled the trigger. He pointed the gun at MM and was shocked when he pulled the trigger and it fired.

In August 2025, SM pleaded guilty to charges of First-degree Reckless Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon. In November 2025 he was sentenced to 25 years in prison and 10 years of extended supervision.

## **Waukesha County**

**February 11 | Waukesha**

**DM, 51-year-old stepfather**

**TC, 35-year-old mother**

TC and DM were shot and killed by 17-year-old NC, who is TC's son and DM's stepson. NC also shot and killed the family dog. NC remained in the home with the bodies for an estimated two weeks before fleeing in his stepfather's car with weapons and cash. Police located him in Kansas, where he was arrested and extradited back to Wisconsin.

NC pleaded guilty to two counts of First-degree Intentional Homicide and was sentenced to two consecutive life sentences without parole. Under the plea deal, eight other felony counts were dismissed but read into the record during sentencing – two for Hiding a Corpse, two for Theft of Movable Property, two for Identity Theft, one for Taking a Vehicle Without Consent, and one for Intimidating a Witness with Threat of Force. Investigators found reason to believe NC was financially motivated to fund a terrorist scheme to overthrow the government and assassinate the president, in a plan which also cited violent anti-Semitic rhetoric.

## **Waukesha County**

**February 17 | Waukesha**

**AT, 46-year-old uncle**

AT died weeks after his nephew RF repeatedly punched him in the head during an argument. According to news coverage, AT and RF, then age 17, were fighting on February 1 about RF having overnight guests at the home they shared. AT reportedly experienced severe migraines several days after the blows to his head and went to the hospital, where doctors discovered bleeding in his brain. AT died from the injuries on February 17.

After a jury found RF guilty of Felony Murder – Battery, he was sentenced in April 2026, at the age of 18, to eight years in prison.

# Nearly a Third of Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Victims Were 50 or Older: The Overlooked Risk of Abuse in Later Life

*Kristin Burki, Director, National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL)*

Domestic violence impacts people across the lifespan, including older adults. Yet, older survivors are often overlooked in conversations about domestic violence, and their experiences remain largely invisible. When people do think about domestic violence in later life, they often believe it is less severe or less likely to become lethal. Wisconsin's domestic violence homicide data tell a different story.

In 2025, 19 of Wisconsin's 61 domestic violence homicide victims—over 31%—were age 50 or older. Over the past five years, 84 people age 50 and older were killed in domestic violence homicides, accounting for 26% of all victims. Older adults are not a small or isolated part of the domestic violence homicide picture. Year after year, they represent a significant share of lives lost.

A review of the domestic violence in later life homicides over the past 10 years shows the number of older victims is increasing. From 2021–2025, 84 people age 50 and older were killed in domestic violence homicides, compared with 65 during the previous five-year period—a 29% increase. At the same time, older adults continued to represent approximately the same proportion of all domestic violence homicide victims: 26% in both five-year periods. In other words, older adults are not becoming a larger share of homicide victims; the problem itself is growing, and older adults are experiencing that increase alongside younger victims.

The 2025 data also illustrate how family and intimate partner violence can change across the lifespan. In 2025, 55% of victims 50+ were killed by intimate partners, 35% by their adult children or grandchildren, and 10% were bystander victims of a domestic violence situation. Among victims age 50 and older, 10 were in their 50's, 6 in their 60's, 1 in their 70's and 2 in their 80's. These patterns reinforce that domestic violence in later life cannot be understood solely through the lens of intimate partner violence. Older adults may experience violence from current or former partners as well as adult children, grandchildren, and other people within their family or trusted networks.

# The Overlooked Risk of Abuse in Later Life

The connection between domestic violence and suicide is particularly important in later life. In 2025, 42% of domestic violence homicide victims age 50 and older—8 of 19—were killed in murder-suicide incidents. Half of all domestic violence murder-suicides in Wisconsin last year involved victims 50 and older. Both domestic violence homicides involving victims age 80 and older were murder-suicides. These findings highlight the importance of considering suicidality—including threats or attempts to harm oneself—as a critical risk factor when assessing the lethality risk of domestic violence.

Wisconsin's aging population makes this issue increasingly important. Today, approximately 38% of Wisconsin residents are age 50 or older [6], and more than one in five are age 65 or older [7]. The state's population is projected to continue aging substantially in the coming decades. An aging population means more people will be living in the age groups in which abuse in later life can occur—and our systems must be prepared not only to make existing services available to older survivors, but ensure that those services are responsive to the realities of later life.

Older adults face similar dynamics of power and control and lethality risk factors as younger survivors, but age can create different dynamics and additional barriers to safety. An older adult may depend on a partner or family member for housing, transportation, finances, health care, or assistance with daily activities. At the same time, older adults who experienced domestic violence homicide contradict stereotypes of older adults being frail, isolated, or dependent on others for care. The 2025 homicide cases primarily involved older adult victims who were active and independent in their homes and communities. Some cases involving intimate partners and family members also reflected complex relationship dynamics in the context of mental health concerns or alcohol and other drug use—circumstances that can increase risk and vulnerability but do not cause or excuse violence.

# The Overlooked Risk of Abuse in Later Life

These challenges make intentional inclusion essential. If domestic violence services, prevention efforts, and community responses are designed primarily with younger survivors in mind, older adults can remain invisible—even when they are experiencing some of the most severe forms of violence. Accessibility means more than making a service physically accessible. It means ensuring that older adults can recognize themselves in our outreach, access services in ways that meet their needs, and receive responses that account for the realities of aging, caregiving, family relationships, health and mental health.

Aging does not protect someone from lethal domestic violence. The 2025 homicide data make one thing clear: older adults must be part of our comprehensive approach to prevent and address domestic violence. Making older victims visible in the data is an important first step toward making sure they are visible in our services, policies, and communities—and toward ensuring Wisconsinites can age with the safety and dignity we all deserve.

The National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life (NCALL), an initiative of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin, works at the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault, and elder abuse. Through training, technical assistance, and resources, NCALL helps communities recognize abuse in later life and build responses that promote safety, dignity, autonomy, and justice for older adults. To learn more about abuse in later life, visit our website at [www.ncall.us](http://www.ncall.us)

# Housing as Homicide Prevention

*Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director, End Domestic Abuse WI*

Every year, this report tells the stories of people whose lives were cut short by domestic violence. Every year, the circumstances surrounding those deaths are different, however, many of the conditions that contribute to those deaths remain the same, and some are becoming more severe. Rising costs, housing instability, job loss, and other forms of economic insecurity can narrow survivors' options for safety while intensifying known risk factors for lethal violence. A partner's unemployment, for example, is a recognized lethality risk factor. When economic pressures deepen, they can make it harder for survivors to leave while compounding the circumstances in which violence can escalate.

Housing instability. Financial abuse. Easy access to firearms. Systems that are asked to respond after violence has escalated instead of before it becomes fatal. These themes have appeared in this report for years, along with many of the same recommendations for addressing them. The conditions that contribute to domestic violence homicides have changed far less than we would like to believe.

For years, we've talked about housing as homicide prevention. We have seen survivors stay with or return to partners who use violence because they had nowhere else to go, could not afford rent, had no transportation to get to work, or could not find childcare. Domestic violence and housing insecurity are often inseparable. We have seen survivors make impossible decisions because abuse had already damaged their finances, employment, and support systems.

We also know that what makes it possible for one survivor to leave may look very different from what another survivor needs. A shelter bed may be the answer for one person. For someone else, it may be a security deposit, a car repair, help with childcare, or enough money to keep the lights on. Yet much of the funding available to domestic violence programs has historically required programs to fit survivors' needs into predetermined categories, rather than giving advocates the flexibility to respond to the barrier standing in front of them.

## Housing as Homicide Prevention

If we are serious about housing as homicide prevention, it is not enough to recognize that housing instability puts survivors at risk. We also have to build systems that can respond to the actual circumstances making safety possible for each survivor.

This year, Wisconsin has stronger evidence for what advocates have long known.

The [University of Wisconsin's evaluation of the Domestic Violence Housing First initiative](#)<sup>[8]</sup> found that survivors who received flexible financial assistance reported less exposure to violence, greater housing stability, lower post-traumatic stress, fewer emergency department visits, and improved school attendance among their children. In fact there was a *“significant and robust association for those who received more funding to report improved child school attendance over time, which suggests that increased support for housing has positive impacts on child outcomes”*. Survivors also reported being less likely to return to shelter because of renewed violence.

The evaluation reinforces what domestic violence programs have understood for years: survivors' pathways to safety are rarely linear or predictable. Leaving an abusive relationship does not erase the financial, housing, childcare, transportation, and employment barriers abuse created. A survivor may leave a partner who used violence and still face damaged credit, utility debt, the loss of employment, or the inability to afford a security deposit. Any one of those barriers can make returning to the person causing harm feel like the only available option. Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF) recognizes that reality. Rather than limiting assistance to a narrow list of approved expenses, the model allows programs to respond to survivor-defined needs. The barrier is not always housing itself. One person may need rental assistance. Another may need help paying utility arrears or replacing identification documents. Someone else may simply need reliable transportation to get to work, childcare, or court.

## Housing as Homicide Prevention

One Wisconsin program described working with a survivor who arrived at shelter without employment, transportation, or childcare. She needed childcare to work, work to secure housing, and transportation to reach both. Flexible financial assistance paid for repairs to a vehicle, allowing her to keep a job, care for her children, and eventually move into safe housing. A car repair does not immediately sound like a domestic violence intervention, but for that survivor, it removed one of the biggest barriers to leaving abuse safely.

Rigid funding structures are often poorly aligned with the realities of domestic violence. Survivors rarely need the exact same thing at the exact same moment. Programs need the flexibility to respond to the circumstances each survivor is actually facing, rather than trying to fit those circumstances into predetermined funding categories. Without DVHF, programs often know exactly what relatively small intervention could stabilize a survivor's safety and housing, but can't pay for it because it doesn't fit within the allowable uses of a particular grant. DVHF allows us to ask, "What does this survivor need to be safe and stable?" rather than, "Which of this grant's allowable expenses can we offer them?" That flexibility also changed the way programs were able to work with their communities. Domestic violence agencies and housing providers may be the first to respond when a survivor needs somewhere safe to go, but they cannot meet every need alone. Through DVHF, advocates were able to strengthen relationships with landlords, housing developers, culturally specific programs, and other community organizations. Flexible financial assistance became one piece of a broader response rather than the response itself.

Those relationships are important because when advocates are in the room with landlords, housing providers, and other community partners, they can help challenge assumptions about survivors and build a better understanding of power and control. They can also solve problems before they become crises. The pilot reinforced something advocates already knew: safety cannot be built by one program working in isolation.

## Housing as Homicide Prevention

The same is true of the advocates doing this work. Flexible, survivor-centered services require staff who have the time and capacity to provide them. Domestic violence advocates routinely move between roles; helping someone find housing, navigate a court process, replace documents, access benefits, communicate with a landlord, or simply figure out what comes next. Yet many are doing that work for wages that do not reflect its complexity, while also navigating funding requirements that can dictate what help they are allowed to offer and how they spend their time.

DVHF gave programs more flexibility here, too. Participating programs could support staff salaries and respond to survivor needs without repeatedly seeking grant modifications. Programs reported improvements in staff morale and retention. This is a key aspect of survivor safety: when an advocate leaves, survivors may have to tell their story again; services can be interrupted, and relationships with landlords and other community partners can disappear with the person who built them. Sometimes what flexible funding gives a program is simply more time: time for an advocate to stay with a survivor through a complicated housing search, work through a problem with a landlord, or find a solution that does not fit neatly into a grant category. That time is part of the intervention.

For years, advocates have been asked to demonstrate that housing is central to survivor safety, and the UW evaluation provides strong evidence that the DVHF approach improves safety and stability here in Wisconsin. The conversation now must move from whether this approach works to how we ensure it is available to every survivor who needs it.

Domestic violence programs rely on a combination of federal, state, local, and private funding. Federal investment remains essential, but recent delays in federal grant awards and growing uncertainty around funding have exposed how vulnerable survivor services become when states depend too heavily on funding they cannot control.

## Housing as Homicide Prevention

Programs hire staff, maintain shelter capacity, develop housing partnerships, and build long-term relationships with survivors and communities based on the expectation that funding will be available. When funding becomes delayed or unpredictable, that instability affects every part of the domestic violence response. Wisconsin should continue advocating for strong federal investment through programs like the Office on Violence Against Women and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act. At the same time, these delays make clear that federal grants cannot be Wisconsin's only strategy for supporting survivors.

The Domestic Violence Housing First pilot gives Wisconsin an opportunity to build on something that has already been shown to work. That means sustained state investment not only in flexible financial assistance, but also in the network of advocates, housing partnerships, emergency shelters, legal services, culturally specific organizations, and community relationships that make that assistance effective.

Financial assistance alone does not create safety. Survivors need experienced advocates who can respond as circumstances change, navigate complex systems, and help address the many forms of abuse that continue long after someone leaves an abusive relationship.

Survivors are often asked why they didn't leave sooner. We ask far less often whether our systems made leaving possible.

The people remembered in this report deserved more than our documentation of what happened to them. They deserved systems capable of reducing the risk that violence would become fatal. Wisconsin now has strong evidence that survivor-centered housing interventions improve safety. The question is no longer whether this approach deserves investment. It is whether Wisconsin is willing to build on what we have learned, or whether we will continue treating a proven intervention as just another successful pilot.

## Housing as Homicide Prevention

DVHF has shown us what becomes possible when programs have the flexibility to respond to what survivors actually need. Wisconsin should not walk away from that lesson now.

We call on lawmakers and state administrators to ensure that DVHF lives beyond the pilot phase and becomes a lasting part of our state's response to domestic violence.

**For a comprehensive overview of Wisconsin's Domestic Violence Housing First pilot, [follow this link](#).**



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH / WISCONSIN

2026 HOMICIDE REPORT / COMMUNITY ACTION

## TAKE ACTION. SAVE LIVES.

**We can all help end abuse.**

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

### START

WHERE YOU ARE

### SCALE UP

Individual action can grow into collective change.

01

#### PERSONAL: START SMALL

Learn the signs of abuse and healthy dynamics. Notice how domestic violence is portrayed in media. Follow organizations and campaigns supporting survivors.

02

#### FAMILY, FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS: BREAK THE SILENCE

Normalize conversations with friends, family, neighbors, and community members about physical, mental, and emotional health and safety. Ask how you can support one another during family conflict or difficult times. Safety plan together if patterns of abuse emerge.

03

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY: KNOW YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Get to know your local domestic violence agency and the services available across the lifespan. Support their requests by donating, volunteering, or showing up for events. Meet your local elected officials and tell them what you want to see in your community.

04

#### STATE, NATIONAL + GLOBAL: TAKE IT FURTHER.

Participate in public policy advocacy by contacting state and national representatives and voting. Connect with people whose experiences and identities differ from your own. Understand how local issues connect to the bigger picture.

**WE ARE ALREADY POSITIONED TO HELP.**  
**Small actions can save lives.**

We support victims and survivors through the roles we hold every day. Start where you already are, and see how individual action can scale up to create collective change.

[END DOMESTIC ABUSE WISCONSIN / endabusewi.org](https://endabusewi.org)  
Community action and survivor support resources.

2026 HOMICIDE REPORT / ACTION 01



## TAKE ACTION. SAVE LIVES.

Know the signs. Know where to turn.



[dare2knowwi.org](http://dare2knowwi.org)

Follow the D2K initiative, which promotes healthy relationships based on **equality** and **respect**.

### SIGNS OF ABUSE

#### Abuse is not only physical

Common signs of 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 erode your self esteem.



##### CONTROL

They text or call constantly and get angry if you do not answer.



You are not alone. Help is a phone call or text away.

#### Get Help

**WI Map - List of DV Service Providers by Region**  
**National DV Hotline**

1

### SAFETY PLAN

If you feel unsafe, your local program can help you develop a plan to stay safer from abuse.

2

### STAY CONNECTED

Use End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin's **Get Help page** to locate your local agency.

3

### USE YOUR VOICE

Know your elected representatives. Find trusted information about voting and elections.



ncall

Through advocacy and education, the National Clearinghouse on Abuse In Later Life (NCALL) works to end abuse in later life.

[ncall.us](http://ncall.us)

END DOMESTIC ABUSE WISCONSIN / [endabusewi.org](http://endabusewi.org)

Community action and survivor support resources.

**2026 HOMICIDE REPORT / ACTION 02**

## 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](http://www.endabusewi.org/homicide-reports).

African American communities, impact on, 2005 (16), 2008 (23), 2009 (34), 2010(37), 2011/12 (42), 2013 (46), 2022 (49), 2024 (75)

Bystander risk, 2002 (8), 2003 (10), 2004 (6), 2005 (11)

Child custody, connection to, 2001 (7), 2006/7 (23), 2009 (25), 2017 (37)

Children, impact on, 2003 (10), 2005 (10), 2006/7 (22), 2008 (18), 2009 (22), 2010 (27), 2011/12 (39), 2014 (28), 2016 (36), 2019 (50)

Cold cases, 2017 (41)

Coordinated community response, 2010 (7), 2013 (30)

Dane County, a closer look, 2009 (21)

Domestic abuse programs, impact on, 2009 (39), 2010 (30), 2013 (48)

Family members, surviving, 2013 (32, 34), 2017 (28), 2021 (64)(66)

Fatality review, 2016 (39), 2018 (33), 2021 (50)

Gender [sex] differences, 2008 (21), 2006/7 (28), 2009 (30), 2011/12 (45), 2015 (30)

Gun violence, 2000 (2), 2001 (5), 2002 (6), 2003 (7), 2004 (5), 2005 (8), 2006/7 (32), 2008 (25), 2009 (37), 2010 (33), 2010 (34), 2011/12 (34), 2014 (30)

Health-care response, 2013 (45)

Help-seeking, 2005 (17), 2006/7 (33), 2009 (38), 2010 (37)

Hmong and Lao communities, impact on, 2006/7 (30), 2009 (33), 2011/12 (43), 2013 (39)

Homicide prevention, 2011/2012 (33), 2013 (26), 2017 (35), 2019 (36), 2020 (38)

Human trafficking, 2018 (38)

Immigrant survivors, 2016 (34)

Interventions, missed opportunities, 2004 (9), 2011/12 (46), 2021 (62)

Later life homicides, 2005 (15), 2008 (23), 2009 (35), 2010 (27), 2011/12 (38), 2013 (44)

Latinx communities, impact on, 2009 (34), 2011/12 (42), 2013 (29)

Law enforcement, homicides by, 2010 (35)  
 Legislative process, connection to, 2017 (39)  
 Lethality Assessment Program, 2014 (37), 2015 (29), 2016 (29), 2018 (31)  
 Lethality risk factors, 2014 (27)  
 LGBTQ communities, impact on, 2010 (30), 2011/12 (44), 2013 (43), 2015 (32)  
 Location of homicide, 2006/7 (21), 2011/12 (37)  
 Media coverage, 2001 (8), 2002 (9), 2003 (10), 2004 (10)  
 Milwaukee spotlight: We Are Here MKE, 2020 (39)  
 Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples, 2020 (40)  
 Multiple homicides or Mass Violence, 2006/7 (20), 2008 (16), 2009 (29), 2010 (32), 2011/12 (45), 2021 (55)  
 Murder-suicide, 2022 (43)  
 Near homicides, 2006/7 (21), 2008 (16), 2009 (37), 2010 (36), 2016 (38)  
 Northcentral Wisconsin, a closer look, 2006/7 (17)  
 Pets Abuse, 2021 (60)  
 Pregnancy, elevated risk, 2005(14), 2011/12 (35)  
 Prevention, 2010 (7), 2018 (34)  
 Rural communities, impact on, 2009 (32)  
 Self-defense, 2001 (5), 2000 (2), 2003(8), 2005 (15), 2008 (22)  
 Separation, increased risk, 2001 (7), 2002 (7), 2003 (8), 2004 (7), 2006/7 (26), 2008 (20), 2009(26), 2010 (32), 2014 (34)  
 Sexual assault, 2004 (8), 2005 (13)  
 Suicide, 2003 (9), 2005 (9), 2014 (35), 2016 (33)  
 Stalking, 2001 (6), 2002 (8), 2003 (8), 2005 (13), 2006/7 (27), 2008 (21), 2009 (27), 2010 (33), 2011/12 (34), 2014 (36)  
 Strangulation, 2005 (13), 2006/7 (29), 2008 (22), 2009 (29), 2010 (34), 2014 (32)  
 Teen dating violence, 2013 (40)  
 Ten-year retrospective, 2009 (41)  
 Tribes, impact on, 2009 (32), 2011/12 (43), 2013 (41)  
 Veterans, 2010 (35), 2011/12 (36)  
 Welfare reform, 2000 (3)  
 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicides: A Review of 20 Years of Data, 2019 (39)  
 Workplace violence, 2011/12 (37), 2013 (42)

## 2000-2025 DV-Related Deaths Totals

| KEY FINDINGS |                           |                              |                    |                     |
|--------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Year         | Total DV Homicide Victims | Victims *Pre 2010 Definition | Harm-doer Suicides | <b>TOTAL Deaths</b> |
| 2025         | 61                        | 52                           | 21                 | <b>82</b>           |
| 2024         | 71                        | 65                           | 14                 | <b>99</b>           |
| 2023         | 54                        | 51                           | 17                 | <b>85</b>           |
| 2022         | 68                        | 64                           | 22                 | <b>96</b>           |
| 2021         | 65                        | 53                           | 15                 | <b>80</b>           |
| 2020         | 60                        | 53                           | 8                  | <b>68</b>           |
| 2019         | 53                        | 52                           | 19                 | <b>72</b>           |
| 2018         | 39                        | 37                           | 8                  | <b>47</b>           |
| 2017         | 48                        | 44                           | 14                 | <b>62</b>           |
| 2016         | 59                        | 54                           | 14                 | <b>73</b>           |
| 2015         | 49                        | 43                           | 9                  | <b>58</b>           |
| 2014         | 37                        | 33                           | 6                  | <b>43</b>           |
| 2013         | 43                        | 41                           | 12                 | <b>55</b>           |
| 2012         | 48                        | 47                           | 4                  | <b>52</b>           |
| 2011         | 34                        | 29                           | 3                  | <b>37</b>           |

## 2000-2025 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           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>1,209</b>             | <b>1,130</b>                   | <b>287</b>         | <b>1,534</b> |

\*See Methodology section

## References

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- [3] UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2019 (Vienna, 2019).
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- [5] From the lethality screen utilized in the Lethality Assessment Program, which is implemented in 38 Wisconsin counties. Due to our limited ability to gather information, this is not a comprehensive illustration of all lethality risks present in the 2023 WI domestic violence homicide cases. For an extensive discussion about lethality risk factors, see the 2014 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report, starting on page 27.
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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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### Authors and Editors:

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