



Honoring Texas Victims

FAMILY VIOLENCE FATALITIES IN 2011

Texas Council On
FAMILY VIOLENCE 
Over Thirty Years of Building a Safer Texas

Dedication

TCFV dedicates this report to the four Gonzalez children: Sean, Daniel, Miguel and infant Cecilia. As you may note, TCFV has not included this murder in the narratives because thankfully Laura Gonzalez survived. Yet this story must be told. Jose Avila shot his wife Laura Gonzalez three times before turning the gun on his four young children and then killing himself. A young girl called 911 for help as she walked home from school that afternoon. This senseless act of violence stole the innocence of four young children and the young people who bore direct witness. It challenges our collective strength, bolstering our determination to create a safer Texas. The small community of Bay City still mourns this tragedy as does Texas for these family violence deaths and the 102 women killed in 2011.



Executive Overview

The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) presents *Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2011*. Since 1990, TCFV has marked the loss of 2,632 Texas women killed as a result of family violence. This report focuses on key distinguishing characteristics of these most serious family violence cases. By examining the circumstances leading up to the deaths and identifying common characteristics, we can influence community and policy decisions, inform response to domestic violence, and strengthen services to Texas families. TCFV releases this information with sincere and heartfelt respect to the families impacted.

Since 1990, TCFV has marked the loss of 2,632 Texas women killed as a result of family violence.

As context for this report, Chapter 71 of the Texas Family Code defines family violence as “1) an act by a member of a family or household against another member of the family or household that is intended to result in physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, or that is a threat that reasonably places the member in fear of imminent physical harm, bodily injury, assault, or sexual assault, but does not include defensive measures to protect oneself, 2) abuse by a member of a family or household toward a child of the family or household; and 3) dating violence...”¹ The criminal justice system including law enforcement, prosecutors and judges use this definition of family violence to prosecute cases.

TCFV identifies the impact of all forms of violence, including psychological and emotional abuse. As such, we define domestic violence as a pattern of coercive behavior in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. The abuser continually works towards domination of the victim, wants all the power in the relationship and uses violence and other tactics in order to establish and maintain authority and power. Although some perpetrators of domestic violence can be labeled as “sick” or “deranged,” most perpetrators have learned the abusive, manipulative techniques and behaviors that facilitated their domination and control of their intimate partner.

In 2011:

102

Texas women were killed by their husband, ex-husband, intimate partner, boyfriend or ex-boyfriend.

26

of the victims’ family, friends and co-workers were killed during the same incidents.

Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2011 pays tribute to these victims.

¹ Tex. Family Code § 71.004.

These figures come with a backdrop of less lethal but still debilitating forms of family violence. Every year, more than two million adults and 15 million children in the United States are exposed to domestic violence.^[2] One in three adult Texans has experienced intimate partner violence in their lifetime.^[3] A 2011 study at the University of Texas estimates 5.9% of all Texans are currently in an abusive relationship.^[4]

In the past year, almost 223,000 Texans called family violence hotlines, and over 79,000 people — primarily women and children — sought services from family violence programs because they did not feel safe in their homes.^[5] Furthermore, the 2011 National Census on Domestic Violence Services found that Texas programs served 5,598 family violence victims in a single day.^[6] These numbers are alarming, but also consider that the Texas Health and Human Services Commission reported 8,028 unmet requests for help in fiscal year 2012. Moreover, 45% of family violence programs in Texas report insufficient funding for needed programs/services.^[7]

TCFV diligently confirms the accuracy of the information in this report. Law enforcement departments track homicides through the Unified Crime Report and send information to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS). DPS provides TCFV with this data, identifying jurisdiction, gender, victim and the perpetrator's relationship to the victim. TCFV simultaneously collects media reports from across the state and cross-checks the information against the raw TDPS data. In addition, TCFV contacts individual law enforcement agencies to collect as much information about the crime as possible. Finally, as an additional measure of fact-checking, TCFV sent the list of women killed to the executive directors of family violence programs for their review and contacted key district attorneys around Texas for additional information. This multi-layered process allows TCFV to obtain a full and accurate picture of these deaths. This report contains the most accurate information available to TCFV staff at the time of compilation.

Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2011 key characteristics and analyses:

- Victim's age
- Relationship to perpetrator
- Fatalities by month
- County analysis
- Causes of death
- Murder-suicides
- Protective orders and offenders' possession of firearms
- Related victims
- Children

In addition, this report draws attention to promising strategies in Texas. Only when we act on what we have learned do we honor the lives that have been lost, work toward justice for survivors of domestic violence and build communities that will support safe, loving and respectful relationships for all.

2 Holder, Eric. (2012, April 18) Speech at the White House Event on the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). Washington, D.C. Retrieved from <http://www.justice.gov/iso/opa/ag/speeches/2012/ag-speech-1204181.html>

3 Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Heffron Cook, L. & Bohman, T. (2011, June). *Statewide Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in Texas*. The University of Texas at Austin: School of Social Work, Center for Social Work Research, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 11.

4 Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Heffron Cook, L. & Bohman, T. (2011, June) *Statewide Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in Texas*. The University of Texas at Austin: School of Social Work, Center for Social Work Research, Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, 11.

5 Texas Health and Human Services Commission, statistics gathered through the Integrated Tracking System for Sexual Assault/ Family Violence Programs in Texas.

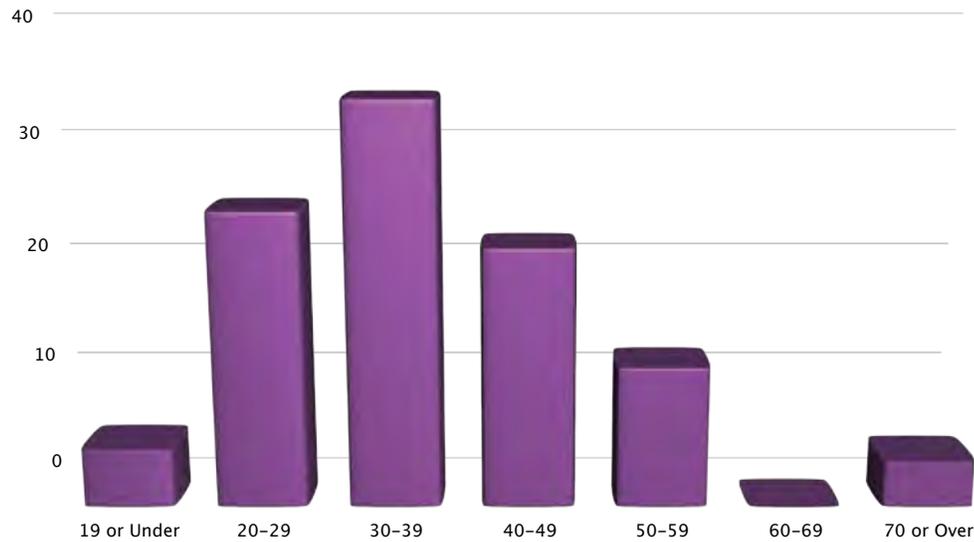
6 National Network to End Domestic Violence. (2011, Feb.) *2011 Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-Hour Census of Domestic Shelters and Services Violence*. Retrieved from http://nnedv.org/docs/Census/DVCounts2011/DVCounts11_StateSummary_AllStates_BW.pdf

7 National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2011.

Characteristics of Victims/Perpetrators

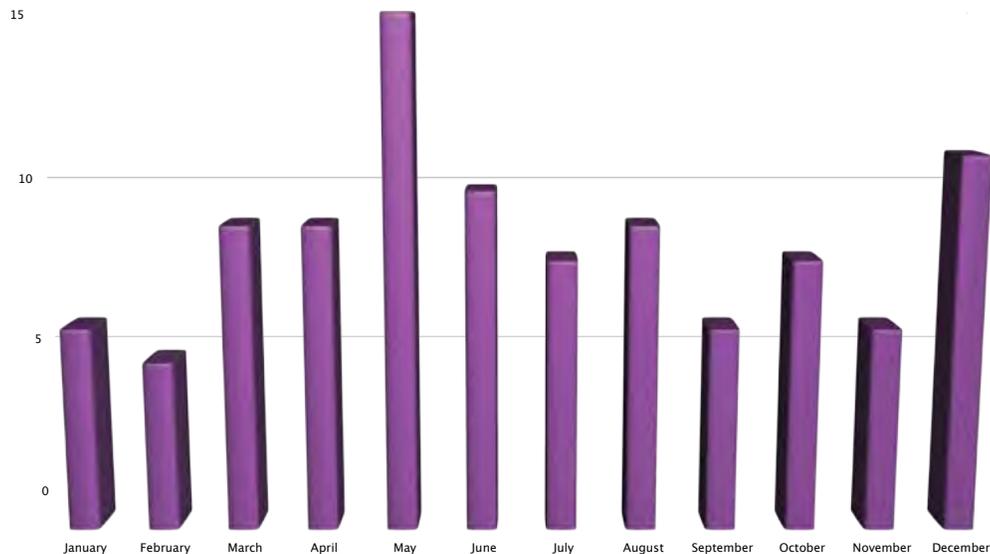
Victim's Age

In analyzing the 2011 fatalities, victims' ages ranged from 16 to 78 years. Five women under the age of 20 were murdered, one a minor. There was one 16-year-old, two 18-year-olds, and two 19-year-olds. All were murdered by a boyfriend. The eldest victim, a 78-year-old woman, was murdered by her husband. The age group most impacted is 30 to 39 years of age, followed by 20 to 29, and then 40 to 49 years of age. In reviewing the data, 63% of women killed were under the age of 40, a shift from 2010, where 49% of women were under the age of 40. Significantly, note that the age group 60 to 69 did not experience a fatality, indicating a 10-year-age span with no deaths. However, there were fatalities to women who were 70, 71, 74 and 78, demonstrating particular vulnerability for these elder victims.



Number of Family Violence Deaths by Month

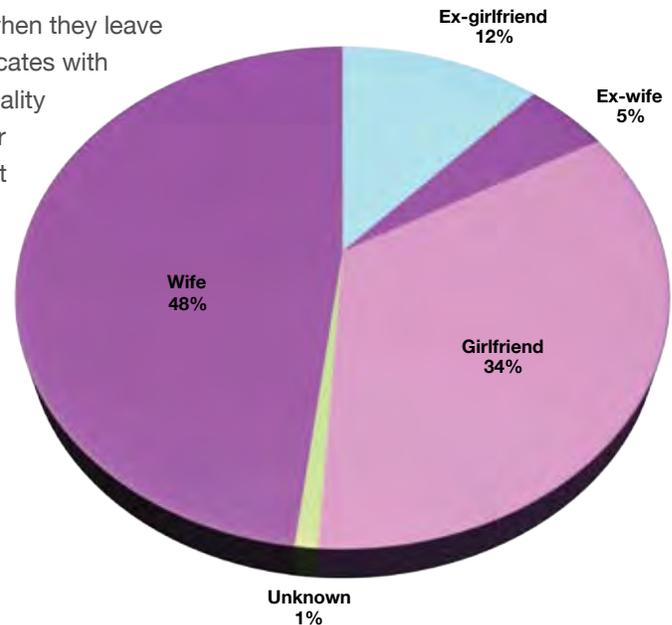
Fatalities occurred throughout the year, but the data demonstrates that in 2011 the highest number of femicides occurred in May (15), followed by December (11) and June (10). TCFV continues to track this information to identify trends and patterns. To date, no such trend or pattern has emerged.



Victim's Relationship to the Perpetrator

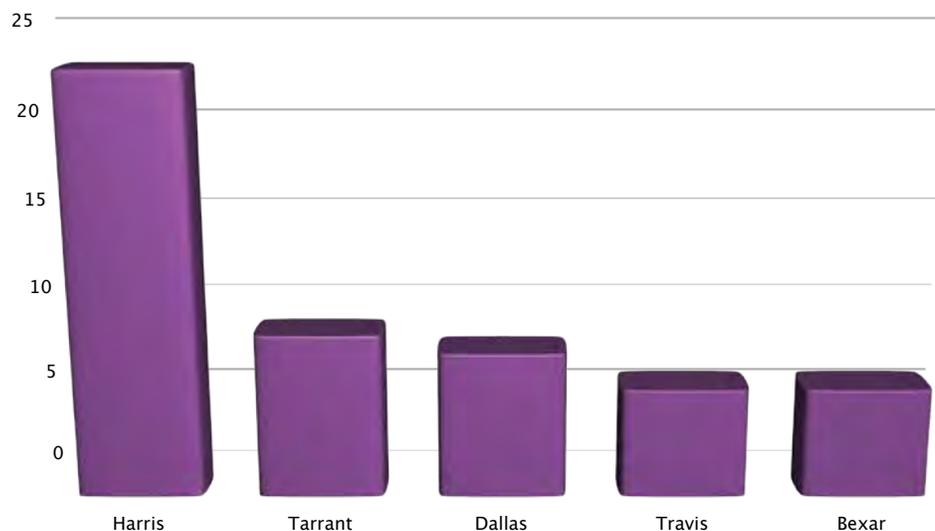
"Wife" represents the most common relationship of the victim to the perpetrator (48%), followed by "girlfriend" (34%), ex-girlfriend (12%) and then ex-wife (5%). At the time of this report, authorities were unable to determine the exact intimate relationship in one percent of the cases. A total of 82% of this year's femicides happened to women in a current relationship or who had not formally ended their relationship with their killer ("girlfriend" category combined with "wife" category).

Overall, women experience an increased risk of lethal violence when they leave intimate relationships with men.^[8] Multiple researchers and advocates with direct services experiences also agree that further increased lethality develops as a woman employs strategies for establishing greater independence and toward leaving her abuser.^[9] Law enforcement and media reports often contain limited information addressing whether the victim was contemporaneously attempting to leave the abuser when he killed her; however, this report affirmatively documents that three of the murdered women (3%) were contemporaneously trying to leave their abusive partner and 17% of the women had already ended the relationship. Importantly, many women in the remaining 82% (girlfriend and wife) likely had taken initial steps to establish independence or had actually left or ended the relationship but had not taken formal steps such as divorce proceedings.



Number of Family Violence Deaths by Counties

In 2011, the data shows five counties with large urban cities had the highest number of women killed by their intimate partner. Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, experienced the highest number of deaths (23), followed by Tarrant County (9), which includes Fort Worth and Arlington, Dallas County (8), which includes the city of Dallas, Travis County (6), which includes Austin and Bexar County (6), which includes San Antonio.



8 McGee, S.G.S. (1995, revised 2009). *20 Reasons Why She Stays: A Guide for Those Who Want to Help Battered Women*. 3-5. Retrieved from <http://www.ncdsv.org/images/20ReasonsWhySheStays.pdf>

9 Campbell, J.C., et al. (2007, July). Intimate Partner Homicide: Review and Implications of Research and Policy. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse* (8), 246-269.

Many counties (25) of varying sizes and populations experienced only one femicide this year. Of these, five counties also had one murder last year. Conversely, 24 counties recorded a murder in 2010 but did not have one in 2011.

Although this section of the report chiefly notes geographic information rather than a per capita analysis, consider these demographics for two distinct counties in which women were killed in 2011:



HARRIS COUNTY

- **4,180,894** residents
- **1,703** square miles^[10]
- **2,455** people per square mile
- **23** women killed in 2011
- For every **181,778** residents, one Harris County woman was killed by her intimate partner.
- **35** fatalities in 2010



PECOS COUNTY

- **15,716** residents
- **4,763** square miles^[11]
- **3** people per square mile
- **1** woman killed in 2011
- For every **15,716** residents, one Pecos County woman was killed by her intimate partner.
- **1** fatality in 2010

In responding to fatalities in various communities in Texas, the death of even one woman at the hand of her intimate partner fractures and traumatizes that community. Those ramifications affect communities of various sizes in differing, yet real ways. Recall that Texas defines 177 counties as “Metropolitan” and 77 as “Non-Metropolitan.”^[12] Service provision and response to violence in some counties involves responding to large numbers of diverse women needing help and yearly coping with the loss of multiple women.

In other less populated communities, the overall number of women needing help and who are killed is lower, yet challenges of distance and lack of specialized response create their own degree of lethality. One person killed in a given year represents to that community a bigger proportion of their population, yet a femicide may not have occurred in that community for years prior. Moreover, in less populated communities, the chances increase that surviving individuals in the community knew the victim, killer and others present or involved in the murder, thereby affecting an even more scarring result on individuals.

¹⁰ U.S. Census Bureau. (2012, Sept. 18). State and County Quick Facts, Harris County. Retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48201.html>

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau. (2012, Sept. 18). State and County Quick Facts, Pecos County. Retrieved from <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/48/48371.html>

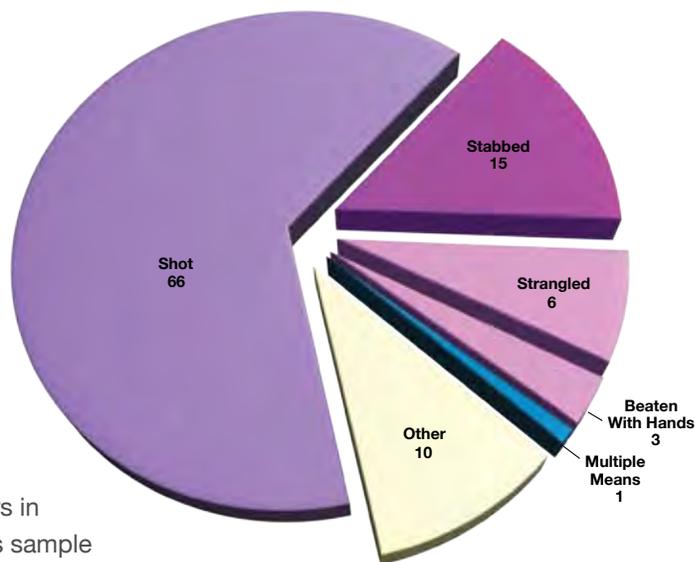
¹² Texas Department of State Health Services. (2011, May 4). *Definitions of County Designations*. Retrieved from <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/CHS/HPRC/counties.shtm>. State agencies use these terms interchangeably with “rural” and “urban”.

Cause of Death/Firearms

The 2011 Texas data indicates that perpetrators used firearms in 66 (64%) of the 102 cases. In comparison to data from 2010, the number of women killed by firearms has remained alarmingly consistent. In 2011, perpetrators stabbed and killed their partners in 15 cases (15%).

This report recounts the cause of death or weapon used in family violence related fatalities. The data shows that unfortunately most domestic violence homicides in Texas involve a gun. The same can be said at the national level.^[13] In fact, one 2010 national study that analyzed all kinds of murders in which women were the victims, found that within their analysis sample more than two-thirds of femicide victims were murdered by male intimate partners *with a firearm*.^[14] In this study, the number of women shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance (574 victims) was nearly six times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined (98 victims) in single victim and single offender incidents in 2010.

In order of prevalence in Texas in 2011, additional causes or methods of death included stabbed (15), beaten (3), and strangled (6). One significant and alarming trend this year involved the incidence of using fire as a part of the murder either using it to kill and/or destroy evidence.



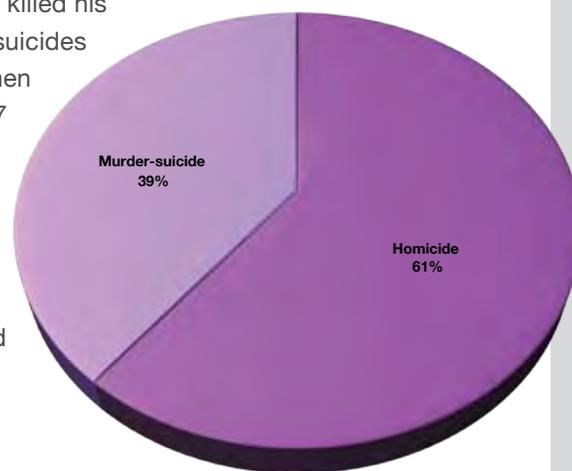
Murder-Suicides

This report identifies murder-suicides as an instance where the perpetrator killed his intimate partner then killed himself. There were 40 family violence murder-suicides in 2011 in Texas, 39% of the total fatalities in this report. Thirty-seven women were shot, two were strangled and one was beaten. Of the perpetrators, 37 shot themselves, two hung themselves and one died in his vehicle fleeing police. Four additional perpetrators attempted suicide but survived.

Research indicates most murder-suicides result from family violence. In a 2011 national study, 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner. Of those intimate partner murder-suicides, 94% were females killed by their intimate partners.^[15] The National Institute of Justice lists common characteristics of offenders in family violence murder-suicide cases:^[16]

- Prior history of family violence
- Access to a gun
- Threats, especially increased threats with increased specificity
- Prior history of poor mental health or substance abuse, especially alcohol

A prior history of family violence represents the greatest risk factor for family violence murder-suicide;^[17] access to a gun increases the likelihood of a murder-suicide. More than one national study has found that killers use a firearm in over 85% of murder-suicides.^[18]



13 U.S. Dept. of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2011, Nov.). *Homicide Trends in the United States, 1980-2008 Annual Rates for 2009 and 2010*. 12, 20. Retrieved from <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/htus8008.pdf>

14 Violence Policy Center. (2012, Sept.). *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data*. 3. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2012.pdf>

15 Violence Policy Center. (2012, May). *American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States, 4th Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2012.pdf>

16 National Institute of Justice. (2011, April 7). *Murder-Suicide in Families*. Retrieved from <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/murder-suicide.htm>

17 National Institute of Justice. (2011, April 7). *Murder-Suicide in Families*. Retrieved from <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/murder-suicide.htm>

18 Violence Policy Center. (2012, May). *American Roulette: Murder-Suicide in the United States, 4th Edition*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2012.pdf>

Perpetrator's History of Family Violence

A history of family violence represents the most common risk factor for family violence homicide.^[19] In Texas, the perpetrator had a history of violence in 16% of the cases of women killed during 2011. It is an unfortunate reality that a woman may attempt to leave her abusive partner several times without success; increased lethality in planning or attempting to leave, dependence on the batterer for money and other support, possible immigration consequences, experiencing the ridicule or negative judgment from families, friends and community members and the sheer complexity and possible negative consequences of navigating the criminal and civil justice systems represent just a few of the reasons a woman may make the difficult but reasonable decision not to leave.

Familicide and Related Victims

Familicide refers to the deliberate killing of a current or former intimate partner and one or more of their children followed by suicide of the perpetrator: an annihilation of the nuclear family. National statistics demonstrate the rare nature of familicide cases.^[20] Notably in 2011, Texas marked six incidents of familicide — a remarkable increase from the prior year total of one. In three cases, police and media reports suggest the children, who were 18 years-of-age or older, may have been the victim's children only. In the remaining three incidents, the children ranged in age from one to 19, and were children of the victim and perpetrator. Recall this report is dedicated to the four deceased Gonzalez children,* from the tragic incident in which their mother, Laura Gonzalez, survived the brutal attack. Incredibly Laura survived, otherwise she would have joined the six other women whose families were killed along with the mother. These cases deeply affected their communities. Simply put, these events insult the sensibility of rational individuals and shock our individual and collective consciousness. In his book on this topic, *Familicidal Hearts: the Emotional Styles of 211 Killers*, Dr. Neil Websdale underscores these points:

Notably in 2011, Texas marked six incidents of familicide — a remarkable increase from the prior year total of one.

- Intimate partner violence precedes most familicides.
- Men are responsible for 95% of all familicidal killings. This glaring under-representation of women as perpetrators mirrors their absence in serial, mass and spree killers.
- Familicides haunt communities because of the intensity of their illogic. Killing a partner is one thing. Murdering children and then taking one's life destroys lineage and eliminates new blood.

Although Dr. Websdale identifies the need for additional research, the fact that familicide appears to have increased over the last four decades, while intimate partner killings as a whole have declined, seems paradoxical. Intuitively, this draws a parallel — this is the same time period over which domestic violence services have significantly evolved. Dr. Richard Gelles, Dean of The School of Social Policy & Practice, University of Pennsylvania adds, "The power and control familicides can be pretty brutal and pretty bloody, essentially sending a message: you failed me, and I'm taking you out."^[21]

Distinct from familicides, perpetrators who kill their intimate partner also too often take the lives of other people as well. In this report, TCFV identified nine incidents of this nature. Nine perpetrators killed their intimate partner and 17 other people. Victims included 12 family members, four friends and one co-worker.

"Secondary" victim is a term frequently used to identify other parties impacted through a primary individual's victimization. TCFV declines to use this term as it may unintentionally denote these deaths as less important. For this report, TCFV refers instead to other parties as "related victims." For this report, related victims describes others that may have been hurt or killed and may have a familial relationship with the woman killed or are now related to the fatality as a result of their own injury or death. The following chart provides a fuller impact of domestic violence fatalities by

*Note: See dedication before page 1.

19 Campbell, J., Webster, D., & Glass, N. (2009). *The Danger Assessment: Validation of a Lethality Risk Assessment Instrument for Intimate Partner Femicide*. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 24(4), 653-74.

20 National Institute of Justice, Criminal Justice Research, Development and Evaluation. (2011, Sept.). *Murder-Suicide in Families*. Retrieved from <http://www.nij.gov/topics/crime/intimate-partner-violence/murder-suicide.html>

21 Gelles, R. (2009, October 29). [Web Based Recording]. *The Horror of Familicide*. Retrieved from <http://bigthink.com/ideas/17230>

identifying who else was present, hurt, killed or a witness to the murder.

Who else was present?	Hurt	Present/Witness	Killed
Children	2	48	7
Family Members	2	1	13
Friends	-	-	5
Co-workers	-	-	1
Acquaintance	1	-	-
Totals	5	49	26

In addition to the previously discussed 102 women killed by their intimate partner, there were 26 related victims killed in 2011. This report names teen victims whose deaths were perpetrated by a current or former boyfriend and also reports the names of minor perpetrators. However, the report does not include the names of minors killed, noting them as “son” or “daughter”.

With care and respect, TCFV acknowledges the loss of these lives.

Melton Lozano, 57, brother
Adrian Jesse, 22, friend
Gerald Malone, 48, stepfather
Desaree Hoskins, 18, daughter
Trevor White, 39, co-worker
Daughter of victim, 17
Kyle Lavergne, 20, son
Marisela Ybarra, 26, friend
Virginia, 21, friend
Christopher Smith, 20, son
Jose Reyes, 37, friend
Tana Todd, 25, sister-in-law
Hien Ta, 21, brother
Thuy Nguyen, 25, sister-in-law
Sister of victim, 16
Michelle Ta, 28, sister
Son of victim, 1
Tina Dreiling, 85, mother
Son of victim, 15
Mohamad Zarei, 59, brother-in-law
Nona Yazdanpanah, 19, daughter
Sara Zarei, 22, niece
Zohreh Rahmaty, 58, sister
Donile Howard, 30, friend
Deena Henderson McLean, 52, mother
Pat Garrett McLean, 54, father

Children Who Lost Their Mothers and Children Present During the Murder

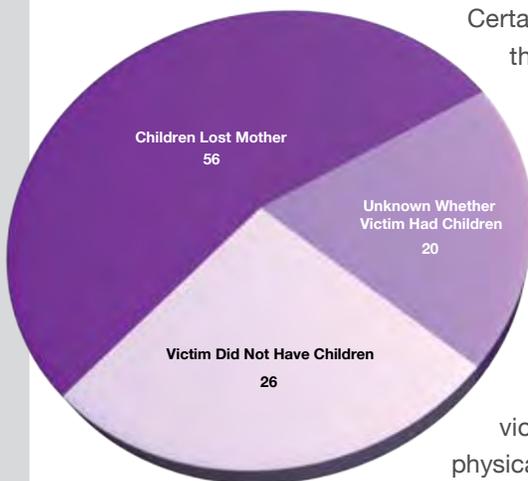
TCFV and its partners at the local, state and national levels have increasingly addressed and worked toward solutions regarding service provision and advocacy for domestic violence survivors and their children who may witness domestic violence. In pursuit of these efforts, TCFV participated strongly in the SB434 *Task Force to Address the Relationship Between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect*, a statutorily mandated collection of staff from child advocacy groups, Child Protective Services, The Health and Human Services Commission, university professionals, law enforcement, family violence programs and survivors.^[22] The effort stemmed from a realization that the system currently in place too often fostered the re-victimization of battered women within the child protective service realm and ultimately did not promote long-term positive and permanent solutions for the child.

The resulting report posits, “The challenge in providing intervention is maintaining child safety and enhancing the protective capacity of the adult victim of domestic violence while at the same time holding the alleged perpetrator accountable, without escalating the perpetrator’s violent behavior.”^[23] In pursuit of its charge, the SB434 Task Force developed the following starting points:^[24]



- Enhancing the safety of the parent who is a victim of domestic violence enhances the child’s safety. It is key that CPS accurately assess the efforts that a parent who is a victim of domestic violence is exhibiting to protect the child from direct harm.
- A child should remain in the care of an adult victim of domestic violence who demonstrates sufficient protective capacities to keep the child safe, consistent with the safety and best interest of the child.
- Domestic violence perpetrators impact the safety and well-being of children and should be held accountable for their actions on the safety and well-being of both the adult victim of domestic violence and child victims.
- In addition to appropriate services provided to the child, appropriate services should be made available to the adult victim of domestic violence to enhance that victim’s safety and parental protective capacities.

It is with these efforts and points of view in mind that TCFV identifies, strategizes and forges solutions related to children who witness domestic violence.



Certainly the problem persists and children deserve remedies resulting from our best thinking and actions. Consider that in 2011, based on information from police and media reports, 56 of the women killed had children. Of these cases, note that 48 children were present or witnessed the event. Two of the 56 women killed had adult children who witnessed the offense. One killer murdered his partner with her 9-month-old present. The 56 women killed were survived by a total of 131 children and one grandchild.

More broadly, we know that almost one in four children are exposed to family violence between the ages of zero to 12. Ninety percent of children exposed to violence between their mother and an intimate partner saw the violence.^[25] Family violence carries with it immediate and long-term emotional, physical, psychological and social effects on children as well as the non-abusing parent.

22 See Texas S.B. 434, 82nd Leg. R.S. (2011) (codified as an amendment of Tex. Gov’t Code Ann. § 531)

23 S.B. 434 Task Force. (2012, Sept. 1). *Task Force to Address the Relationship between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect Report* (p iv).

24 S.B. 434 Task Force. (2012, Sept. 1). *Task Force to Address the Relationship between Domestic Violence and Child Abuse and Neglect Report* (p iv).

25 Hamby, S., Finkelhor, D., Turner, H., & Ormrod, R. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, (2011, Oct.). *National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence Series: Children’s Exposure to Intimate Partner Family Violence and Other Family Violence, Juvenile Justice Bulletin*. 1, 8.

Children who lose a parent to domestic violence cope with the loss of their parent and with the social and legal consequences of the death. Violence exacerbates the emotions and grief they experience along with the complexity of their resulting life situation. While coping with their mother's death, they move to a new home with family or foster care and may face questions or possibly participate as a witness in the investigation and prosecution of the death. Physical manifestations of the trauma they witness certainly develop in children exposed to domestic violence.^[26]

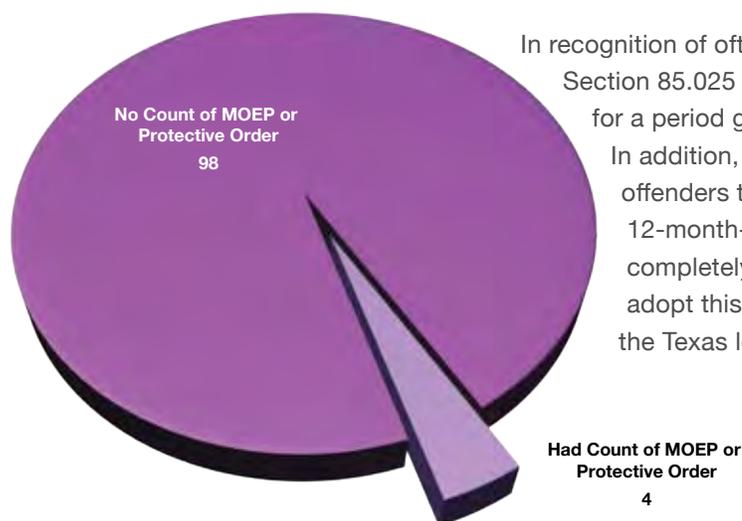
In accord with the SB434 Task Force's assertions above, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges said, "[T]he effects of exposure to domestic violence may be moderated by the presence of a consistent and caring adult, often the non-offending parent, opportunities for healing and success, and the existence of assets in the community, including social and extended family supports and skilled interventionists."^[27]

Protective Orders and Offenders' Possession of Firearms

As mentioned above, TCFV employs a process for determining the details of the women killed in Texas: incorporating DPS UCR data, tracking media reports, speaking with local law enforcement and prosecutors and contacting local domestic violence program executive directors. Despite this great diligence, TCFV does not have a definitive determination regarding the number of women killed while they had active protective orders against their killer.

TCFV *has* identified four instances of this in 2011. More instances may have occurred.

In these four instances, killers used a firearm in two of the killings. The tragedy of these deaths becomes even more stark in contemplation of the federal and state prohibitions regarding possession of firearms while the subject of a protective order. Texas and federal laws make it illegal for offenders who are subject to a family violence protective order or who have been convicted of family violence to possess firearms.^[28]



In recognition of often long-term abuse, Texas recently added Family Code Section 85.025 which allows some survivors to obtain a protective order for a period greater than the two years that were previously possible.

In addition, many have called for a harsher offense that punishes offenders that violate their protective orders twice or more in a 12-month-period and before each individual offense has been completely adjudicated. TCFV is currently evaluating whether to adopt this idea for its legislative agenda for the 83rd Session of the Texas legislature.

26 Cline, N.J. (2011, Jan.). *Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Homicide: Understanding Issues & Enhancing Responses*. Defending Childhood Initiative Grantee Meeting. Retrieved from http://www.safestartcenter.org/defending-childhood/presentations/Day2_Jan.26_Session5_Nancy%20Cline.pdf

27 Taggart, S., National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. (2009). *Child and Family Service Review Outcome: Strategies to Improve Domestic Violence Responses in CFSR Program Improvement Plans*, 9. Retrieved from http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Children_and_Families/CFSR%202009.pdf

28 18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(8)-(9)&(g)(8)-(9) (2009); Tex. Penal Code §46.04(b)-(c). However, law enforcement and military officers may possess firearms while a protective order is in place. (18 U.S.C. § 925(a)(1) (2009); Tex. Penal Code § 46.04(c)). Under Texas law, an offender convicted of a family violence misdemeanor cannot possess a firearm for a period of five years after release from jail or community supervision. (Tex. Penal Code §46.04(b)). Under federal law, an offender convicted of committing a domestic violence misdemeanor may never again possess a firearm or ammunition. This category of firearm prohibition is retroactive and applies to everyone. Thus, if a convicted Texas family violence offender possesses a firearm or ammunition after the five year state law moratorium, it is nevertheless still a federal offense. (18 U.S.C. § 922(d)(8)-(9)&(g)(8)-(9) (2009)).

Reflections on the 2011 Honoring Texas Victims

Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2011 forces us to examine the deaths of the 102 women killed as well as the greater impact these fatalities leave in their wake. This difficult examination builds durable and direct paths forward. More importantly, by closing the gaps where future victims may slip through, we close the same gaps perpetrators look for to continue their violence.

During the analysis of these tragic events, several aspects became particularly poignant:

- Clearly perpetrators look for areas that maximize privacy (and thus isolation of their victims) to commit their violent acts. The majority of these criminal acts occurred in the home. Ten women were shot in their vehicles and another two were dragged or run over with a vehicle. Fewer women were killed in the public sphere: four women were killed at a place of employment; one each in a hospital, skating rink and the middle of the street in separate incidents.
- Fire was a factor in five cases, either in an attempt to hide evidence or to further defile the victim. In one particular case, it caused the death of the one-year-old son of the victim.
- Six perpetrators remained at large when the murder was reported in the press or afterward, further endangering the communities.
- The incidence in familicide increased. Six cases were particularly disturbing in that the term “annihilation of the nuclear family” most adequately describes them.
- In addition to familicide, the batterer killed other non-family members in nine cases. Particular brutality and destruction mark these nine cases.

Importantly, TCFV did not include the deaths of two women ages 42 and 48 in the narrative section of this report. One woman was shot and the other beaten. Authorities reported insufficient evidence to formally charge their husbands, yet investigation continues on both of these cases. TCFV marks their deaths nonetheless.

Strategies for a Safer Texas

TCFV takes seriously the need to not only mark the tragic deaths of 102 women who were killed by their intimate partners, but to also offer a path forward from these needless deaths. In many ways, Texas employs time-tested and effective responses to family violence at all levels. Take for instances some of the statistics mentioned at the beginning of this report. We cannot overstate the fact that over 79,000 victims and their families obtained safety in a patchwork quilt of over 100 family violence shelters and resource centers across Texas. Our partners in law enforcement came to the rescue in over 190,000 family violence calls. Similar numbers exist for prosecutors and the judiciary. Only 35 years ago, none of these options existed.

TCFV celebrates how far we have come while simultaneously maintaining a forward-looking approach to implementing innovative practices. The following three examples represent only a small portion of many creative and strategic practices communities in Texas are employing.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review

Realizing 102 women were killed by their intimate partner in 2011, Texans face the responsibility to take these deaths seriously. Fashioning efficient, effective and proactive responses and approaches represents a hallmark of a Texan ethic that we must continue to apply to family violence. Our state’s system of lifesaving family violence shelter and resource centers combined with robust law enforcement, prosecutor, probation, judiciary, education and health response all demonstrate continuing strong commitment. But the fact remains that too many women died last year at the hands of their intimate partners and too many families must access shelter or resource centers or call the police to get safe. Across Texas, members of the coordinated community response to domestic violence continually look for ways to

prevent and address fatalities. Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) in Texas represents an increasingly implemented and valued way for communities to come together to soberly and non-judgmentally examine the facts and practices related to response to domestic violence prior to a specific fatality.

Simply put, DVFRs are locally-run groups of community partners such as family violence programs, law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, probation staff, educators, CPS staff, community activists and others. They come together on a regular basis to take a close look at the facts and circumstances leading up to and contributing to a specific intimate partner fatality that occurred in that community. By reviewing domestic violence fatalities, participants quickly identify cross-response patterns and realities with an eye towards making necessary policy and procedure changes.

A Few Frequently Asked Questions

What is a domestic violence fatality review?

Domestic violence fatality review is a process for examination of the systemic interventions into known prior incidents of family violence, the consideration of a changed systemic response to stop future domestic violence deaths and for recommendations for coordinated community prevention and intervention initiatives to end domestic violence. This definition is taken from the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Institute website: www.ndvfri.org.

How does a domestic fatality review really work?

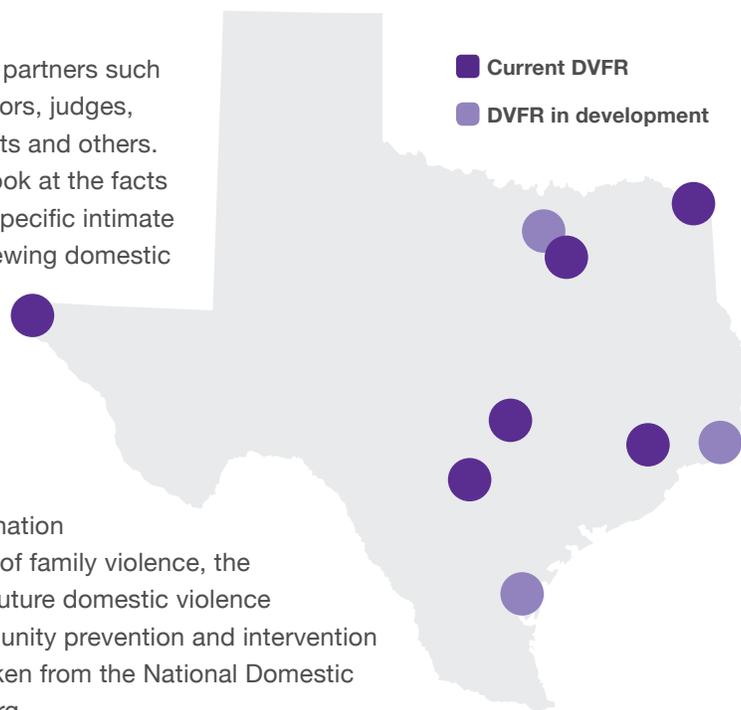
Each domestic violence fatality review team must agree to protocols for administering the review. While teams may agree to meet as often as they want, the statute requires that they meet “on a regular basis.” They can agree to review only some of the domestic violence fatalities that take place in their community. They can agree to review every detail of a few cases, a few details of many cases or a combination of approaches. They can review suicides related to domestic violence. Teams can review fatalities that occurred as a result of the realities of domestic violence such as a victim dying from exposure after she fled from her batterer. Domestic violence fatality review teams have leeway in the cases they review. For more specific information regarding DVFRs, take a look at Texas Health and Safety Code Section 672 which covers the general framework for domestic violence fatality review in Texas.

Why create a domestic violence fatality review?

Domestic violence fatality reviews encourage a coordinated community response. In the administration of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and Victim of Crime Act (VOCA) funding, the Governor’s office strongly advocates that recipients employ a coordinated community response to domestic violence. Avoiding a “siloe” approach is a strong component of Texas’ approach to domestic violence. Practically, this means all parties should talk and work together in a concerted, regular and strategic manner. No victim of family violence can have his or her needs met by any one part of the domestic violence services in a community.

For instance, while shelter services can greatly help to increase safety, temporary shelter can only last so long. Long-term safety and eventual stability rely on the prosecuting attorney holding the offender accountable and helping to secure a protective order for the victim, on law enforcement checking in with the victim and answering emergency calls if necessary and other integral participants in victim services. Information and procedures that work for one agency may make no sense to another agency and may actually hurt the victim. In order to assure the best response to victims of family violence, the various community partners should constantly look inward at themselves and outward to each other.

The following counties (cities) currently operate reviews: Harris (Houston), Bexar (San Antonio), El Paso (El Paso), Travis (Austin), Dallas (Dallas) and Bowie (Texarkana). Jefferson (Beaumont), Nueces (Corpus Christi) and Denton (Denton) represent communities currently working towards creating DVFRs.



Domestic violence fatality review work fosters an environment in which this occurs. Participants begin to connect the dots between those with whom they need to develop, cultivate and continue relationships; cell phone numbers and email addresses are exchanged. Rapport develops amongst the participants. Family violence shelter and resource center programs particularly benefit from getting a seat at a table that may not otherwise be available to them. Lessons learned: the review process encourages an introspection that does not always occur. Domestic violence service providers including law enforcement and prosecution (amongst others) tend to be understaffed and overworked; making sure they meet the safety needs of victims obviously represents a dominating goal. But by stepping back from the actual delivery of the services, law enforcement, prosecutors, family violence programs and all members of the review can begin to see trends and understand them in a manner that may not otherwise happen.

Taking all family violence seriously, participants quickly begin to realize that every case coming through their door, even a class C misdemeanor where the offender threatened to slap the victim or squeezed her arms must be taken seriously.

Who participates in domestic violence fatality reviews in Texas?

The individual community in which the review operates determines the review's membership. Useful participants include but are not limited to: family violence program staff (from shelters, resources centers and Battering Intervention Prevention Programs), police officers, police detectives, sheriffs and their deputies, prosecutors (assistant district attorneys, county attorneys and city attorneys), district court and county court judges (both criminal and civil), educators (primary, secondary, and university level), child protective services personnel, community activists, medical examiners, community supervision (probation) personnel, military victim services personnel, hospital personnel, advocates from the attorney general's office, emergency medical technicians and 911 call operators.

For more FAQ's, visit www.tcfv.org and click on the "Resources" tab. For more information on how to start a DVFR in your community, contact TCFV Policy Director Aaron Setliff at 1-800-525-1976 or by email at asetliff@tcfv.org.

Healthcare Assessment and Response

For many women, pregnancy is one of the few times during their lifetime that they will receive specialized medical attention, and thus health care providers are uniquely positioned to provide women access to support, resources and information – an important step in taking control of their own health and safety. Initiatives that support health care providers to provide universal education to patients on the relationship between health and violence and the resources available is another promising practice to aid in early detection and prevention of domestic violence. Similarly, building the capacity of home visitors, or promotoras, to understand the dynamics of violence can assist in early intervention in young families before violence escalates to fatal ends. It is well documented that pregnancy is a time of increased risk and vulnerability for women in abusive relationships. Taking advantage of these opportunities presented in the health sector can provide women access to key resources to improve their health and well-being during and after pregnancy and can connect them to support systems in their community, a critical protective factor against domestic violence. For more information about health care provider trainings, contact TCFV Prevention Director Surabhi Kukke at 512-794-1133 or skukke@tcfv.org.

The 24 Hour Initiative

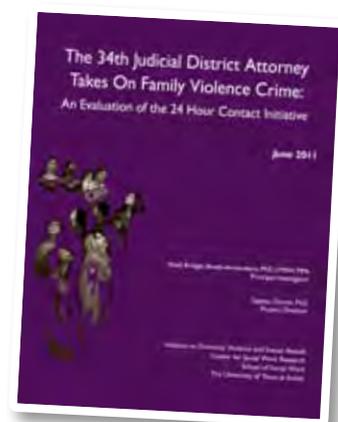
Many parts of the state have instituted innovative practices to address the prevalence of femicides in Texas. One important, nationally-recognized approach is the 24 Hour Initiative, a program pioneered in El Paso by District Attorney Jaime Esparza. This approach has served as a basis for best prosecutorial practices that have informed and guided the efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors in several other parts of the state.

In short, the Initiative applies many of the lessons prosecutors and advocates have learned make a difference when it comes to victim safety and offender accountability in the criminal justice process. Within 24 hours of a family violence offense, staff from the DA's office makes a visit to the home of the victim in order to offer information and resources and reassurance the district attorney takes the case seriously. This is also a message to the offender, who may live at the same residence, so trained law enforcement staff from the DA's office accompanies advocates for these visits. In addition,

Mr. Esparza and a small team of staff review every single family violence case within one to two days (depending on if the offense happened on the weekend) after it happens. At these meetings, the team collects or identifies needed evidence for the prosecution, such as photographs, medical records, other victim statements and on-scene video of the victim's story, with the priority to have everything needed to prosecute the case within days. The chief of the family violence unit then works with assistant district attorneys to support their efforts in court. Overall, this methodology operationalizes the realization that long delays in the prosecution of family violence cases decrease victim safety and offender accountability.

The University of Texas at Austin Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) studied the Initiative, issuing the following summary of the program and its successes:

The 24 Hour Contact Domestic Violence Initiative (24 Hour Contact) is an innovative program that seeks to respond to family violence crimes in ways that hold offenders accountable and restores victims. Its strengths should not be understated. The program provides a new model for the efficacy of handling family violence cases from the prosecution viewpoint, brings increased attention to these crimes within the criminal justice system and the community at large, and shows the benefits of increased community-wide collaboration to address these issues. ...[T]he evidence shows that victim needs are being met in helpful ways, offenders are being held accountable, and a community shift regarding family violence is occurring. What is most remarkable about the program is the dedication and passion that those in the District Attorney's Office, and the district attorney himself, exhibit on a daily basis in addressing family violence in the greater El Paso community.



IDVSA issued the following findings in its report on the Initiative:

1. Implementation of the 24 Hour Contact program has instituted a noteworthy paradigm shift in El Paso, where family violence is viewed as a serious and prosecutable crime that will not be easily dismissed and for which offenders will be held accountable for their crimes of violence. The program also has altered legal practices by criminal justice professionals — including ADAs, law enforcement, and defense attorneys — and increased skill-building, peer support, and mentorship within the District Attorney's Office. Unfortunately, myths about family violence persist, so efforts to address these myths should continue.
2. The 24 Hour Contact program provides significant emotional support to family violence victims and increases their access to important community and financial resources.
3. Collaborations among key players in the criminal justice system and community victim service providers (e.g., law enforcement, local family violence shelter, probation, and the Battering Intervention and Prevention Program) have been considerably strengthened as a result of the program.
4. The prosecution of family violence has been significantly enhanced through the collection of better evidence, an increase in evidence gathering, improved preparation of case files, and an increase in preparedness and effectiveness of ADAs for trial.

For the full report, go to <http://www.utexas.edu/ssw/dl/files/cswr/institutes/idvsa/publications/El-Paso.pdf>

Acknowledgements

This report would not be possible without the contributions of many law enforcement and domestic violence agencies and other personnel who supported efforts to collect the most accurate data possible. TCFV wants to extend special thanks to Lolli Hodge in the Portland Police Department Records Division and Sergeant Melissa L. Holbrook of the Special Crimes Division Family Violence Unit at the Harris County Police Department.

An Introduction to Their Stories

The Texas Council on Family Violence humbly offers the stories of the women killed by intimate partners in 2011. Since 1990, TCFV has collected these stories so that Texans can properly observe the passing of these women and forge a way forward, realizing and knowing where we have been. In each note, find the county, date, woman's name and a short summary of the killing; the order is alphabetical and by county name.





ANDERSON

12/3/11 | Palestine

Beverly Barrett, 53

Noble Barrett Jr., 53, beat and killed his wife Beverly. Beverly was taken to the hospital and died shortly after her arrival. Reports indicate Barrett had a history of domestic violence. Authorities arrested and charged Barrett with Beverly's death.



AUSTIN

10/17/11 | Bellville

Dorothy Ann Palmer, 57

Howard Palmer, 64, strangled and killed his wife Dorothy outside their home. Palmer then hung himself. Dorothy was preceded in death by one son and is survived by her six children.



BEXAR

5/12/11 | San Antonio

Aileen Harbridge, 27

Jose Martinez, 38, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Aileen at her workplace. Authorities arrested and charged Martinez with Aileen's death. Aileen is survived by her son and daughter.

11/24/11 | Shavano Park

Antoinette Haynes, 70

Rodney Haynes, 72, shot and killed his wife Antoinette in their home on Thanksgiving day. Haynes shot and killed himself at the scene.

3/2/11 | San Antonio

Esmeralda Herrera, 30

Jose Flores, 30, beat and killed his girlfriend Esmeralda in her home. Esmeralda died from blunt force trauma and strangulation. Flores attempted to set the apartment on fire. Authorities arrested and charged Flores with Esmeralda's death.

12/28/11 | San Antonio

Lillian Lozano, 40

William McKendrick, 47, shot and killed his ex-wife Lillian and her brother at her home. Later, McKendrick shot and killed himself at his home. Reports indicate McKendrick had a history of domestic violence. Lillian is survived by her 7-year-old son.

2/21/11 | San Antonio

Kristine Meza, 25

Nicholas Maldonado, 29, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Kristine in her car. Maldonado shot and killed himself at the scene. Reports indicate Maldonado had a history of domestic violence. Kristine filed for a protective order two weeks prior to her death.

6/26/11 | San Antonio

Fabiana Ortiz Rincon, 37

Hernanegildo Tornez, 28, stabbed and killed his wife Fabiana at her home. Tornez fled and remains at large. Fabiana is survived by her three children 5, 13, and 18-years-old.



BRAZORIA

3/11/11 | Alvin

Christina Garza, 35

Mateo Ramirez, 34, shot and killed his ex-wife Christina in her home. Christina's children, ages 15 and 17, were asleep in the home. Christina divorced Ramirez six months prior to her death and told family members she feared for her life. Ramirez remains at large. Christina is survived by her four children.



BRAZOS

9/24/11 | Bryan

Ashley Lenz, 20

Chance Schneider, 22, shot and killed his girlfriend Ashley in his home. Schneider shot and killed himself at the scene. Family members reported Schneider was possessive, controlling and jealous.



CALDWELL

5/23/11 | Lockhart

Angie Mendez, 37

Michael Perez, 41, physically assaulted and killed his girlfriend Angie. They were walking home when Perez assaulted Angie. Angie died in the hospital from trauma to her brain and abdomen. Authorities arrested and charged Perez with Angie's death. Angie is survived by her three children.



CAMERON

3/31/11 | Brownsville

Sonia Perez, 39

Julio Perez, 40, shot and killed his wife Sonia in her car. Authorities arrested Perez for capital murder along with two other men he hired to kill Sonia. Sonia is survived by her 13 and 18-year-old daughters.

11/7/11 | San Benito

Leticia Jimenez Trejo, 43

Martin Calderon, 43, shot and killed his girlfriend Leticia in her car. When Leticia could not be found, her 21-year-old son called police. Shortly after, Calderon shot and killed himself in his mother's backyard. Leticia is survived by her two children.



CASS

6/20/11 | Hughes Springs

Kandi Nolan, 53

Stan Nolan, 53, shot and killed his wife Kandi in her home. Nolan killed Kandi while she was calling 911. Nolan then shot and killed himself. Kandi filed for divorce and separated from her husband approximately three months prior to her death.



COLLIN

5/19/11 | Weston

Adana Barrienne Craft, 48

Theron Johnson, 47, dragged his girlfriend Adana with his car and killed her. Adana was found in a field near the highway. Adana and Johnson had dated for six months. Authorities arrested and charged Johnson with first-degree murder.

4/20/11 | Plano

Susan Loper, 40

Terrance Deering Black, 48, kidnapped his ex-girlfriend Susan from her place of employment and killed her. Authorities found Susan's body in a wooded area. Black was arrested in Flagstaff, AZ after fleeing and attempting suicide. Authorities charged Black with capital murder. Susan is survived by her 8-year-old son.



COLORADO

5/26/11 | Columbus

Cotoya Annette Williams, 28

Kyle Johnson, 41, shot his ex-girlfriend Cotoya outside her home. Cotoya died at the hospital shortly after being shot. Authorities charged Johnson with first-degree murder, he was sentenced to 45 years. She is survived by her 4-year-old son.



COMAL

10/15/11 | New Braunfels

Diana Mata, 46

Paul Mata, 53, killed his wife Diana at their home. Diana died from severe head injuries. Mata was charged with first-degree murder. A jury later found him guilty of the crime and sentenced him to life in prison.

4/8/11 | New Braunfels

Lisa Smith, 43

Shannon Smith, 43, stabbed and killed his wife Lisa in their home. Lisa was rushed to a nearby hospital where she was later pronounced dead. Smith also attacked their two children critically injuring their son. Smith remains at large and is wanted for murder. Lisa is survived by her 12-year-old daughter and 14-year-old son.



CORYELL

3/23/11 | Copperas Cove

Rosanna Marie Andrade, 23

David Pelebo, 26, shot and killed his girlfriend Rosanna in their home. After an investigation authorities arrested Pelebo.



DALLAS

11/25/11 | DeSoto

Autumn Carey, 25

Almonzo Henderson, 28, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Autumn at her home. Henderson also shot and killed Autumn's stepfather and her sister's boyfriend. Autumn's two children were present during the shooting. Afterward, Henderson shot and killed himself. Henderson had previously been charged with domestic assault and strangulation, but the case was later dismissed. Autumn is survived by her son and daughter.

DALLAS

3/27/11 | Irving

Mischell Fuller, 37

Tyrone Cade, 38, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Mischell. Cade also killed Mischell's 18-year-old daughter. Records indicate Mischell asked Cade to move out of her apartment. Authorities arrested and charged Cade with capital murder.

6/10/11 | Dallas

Martha Elena Garcia, 29

Jalmar Garcia, 31, shot and killed his wife Martha in the middle of the street. Martha had recently separated from him. Garcia hijacked a car and subsequently shot and killed himself.

7/7/11 | Garland

Decia Latrese Hartfield, 19

Ronnie Bass, 19, shot and killed his girlfriend Decia in her car. Decia was a graduate of the South Garland High School, class of 2010. She was pregnant at the time of her death. Authorities arrested and charged Bass with Decia's death.

10/22/11 | Dallas

Jacqueline Lewis, 43

Michael Newby, 40, shot and killed his girlfriend in their home. Subsequently, Newby shot and killed himself. Jacqueline is survived by her two sons.

6/28/11 | Garland

Zulema McColgan, 45

Sisro Johnson, 39, beat and killed his girlfriend Zulema in her apartment. Zulema died of blunt force trauma. Texas authorities issued a homicide warrant. Nebraska authorities executed the warrant and arrested Johnson.

4/24/11 | Irving

Maritza Panameno, 34

Roger Reyes, 39, killed his ex-wife Maritza. Authorities recovered Maritza's body from a local river. Reports indicate Reyes previously threatened Maritza and was violent. Authorities issued a murder warrant but Reyes remains at large. Maritza is survived by her three children.

9/13/11 | Coppell

Sara Carter Schuster, 57

William Schuster Sr., 58, shot and killed his wife Sara in their home. Schuster then shot and killed himself. Sara is survived by her teenage son.

DENTON

12/8/11 | Denton

Mimoza Diko, 44

Petrit Diko, 45, killed his wife Mimoza in their home. Mimoza had multiple wounds and died shortly after arriving at the hospital. Records indicate Mimoza was seeking a divorce. Authorities arrested and charged Diko with murder.





DENTON

9/25/11 | Lewisville

Charlice Manning, 40

Tony Burrell, 38, stabbed and killed his wife Charlice in her parents' home. Burrell broke into Charlice's parents' home and stabbed Charlice and her daughter. Records indicate Burrell had a history of family violence. Burrell had an outstanding warrant for violating probation on a family violence charge in Dallas. Authorities arrested and charged Burrell with capital murder and aggravated assault. Charlice is survived by her five daughters and one granddaughter.



EL PASO

6/16/11 | El Paso

Deidre Engleton, 43

Brian Engleton, 42, stabbed and killed his wife Deidre outside her beauty salon. Engleton had a history of family violence. Records indicate Deidre filed and received a protective order and recently filed for divorce. Reports also indicate Engleton had previously been arrested on suspicion of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Authorities arrested Engleton for Deidre's death. Deidre is survived by her two children.

1/2/11 | El Paso

Maria De La Paz Perales, 52

Juan Hernandez, 64, shot and killed Maria outside her home. Maria had recently moved into the home and had dated Hernandez. Afterward, Hernandez shot and killed himself. Maria's 20-year-old daughter was inside her home at the time. Maria is survived by her three adult children.



ELLIS

5/27/11 | Waxahachie

Catherine Vasquez Walker, 24

Nicholas Winkles, 26, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Catherine in her home and injured another adult. Winkles then shot and killed himself at the scene. Catherine's 2-year-old son was present during the attack. Catherine is survived by her son.



ERATH

6/4/11 | Stephenville

Jennifer Marie Rice, 36

Kai Hilbert, 41, shot and killed his ex-wife Jennifer at a family gathering. Afterward, Hilbert shot and killed himself. Jennifer's children and family were present during the shooting. Jennifer is survived by her five children.



FALLS

9/2/11 | Marlin

Jamie Osborne, 32

James Fulton, 45, shot and killed his girlfriend Jamie in their home. Jamie had recently ended their relationship and was preparing to move. Fulton attempted suicide. Authorities arrested and charged Fulton with murder.



FANNIN

4/5/11 | Ector

Holly Shrum, 36

David Shrum, 38, shot and killed his wife Holly in their home. Holly was in the process of a divorce. David Shrum then shot and killed himself. Holly is survived by her 3-year-old son.



FORT BEND

11/12/11 | Needville

Saffaria Kay Jones, 30

Sherman Jones, 50, stabbed and killed his wife Saffaria in front of their home. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with murder. Saffaria's four children were present during the stabbing. Saffaria is survived by her four children ranging from 6 to 11-years-old.

4/1/11 | Rosenberg

Destiny Ann Pickett, 39

Clifford Pickett, 50, shot and killed his wife Destiny at a motel. Pickett also shot and killed Destiny's co-worker. Subsequently, Pickett shot and killed himself. Destiny is survived by her two children.

12/29/11 | Sugar Land

Paula Simpson, 47

Jim Phillips, 46, shot and killed his girlfriend Paula in her home. Phillips shot and killed himself at the scene.



GALVESTON

1/12/11 | La Marque

Kathleen King Parker, 57

Gary Parker, 63, shot and killed his wife Kathleen in their home. Parker then shot and killed himself. Kathleen is survived by her two adult daughters.

5/27/11 | League City

Arjomarie Giovanna Ruiz, 33

Waldemar Ruiz, 35, shot and killed his wife Arjomarie in their home. Arjomarie's two children were present during the shooting. Afterward, Ruiz shot and killed himself. Arjomarie is survived by her four children.



GUADALUPE

9/19/11 | Seguin

Rosalinda Matthews, 51

Willie Matthews, 51, shot and killed his wife Rosalinda in her car. Authorities convicted Matthews of murder and sentenced him to 30 years in state prison. Rosalinda is survived by her three adult children.



HARRIS

8/21/11 | Houston

Ines Aguilar, 31

Salome Juarez, 39, assaulted and killed his wife Ines in their home. Authorities arrested and charged Juarez with Ines's death. Ines is survived by her three children.

6/17/11 | Houston

Sherell Baldwin, 24

Alex Jackson, 24, beat and strangled his girlfriend Sherell. Jackson then set Sherell on fire hoping to destroy evidence. Sherell was pregnant at the time. Authorities arrested and charged Jackson with murder.

8/25/11 | Houston

Jewel Bass, 74

Johnny Bass, 81, shot and killed his wife Jewel in their home. Authorities charged Bass with Jewel's death.

5/23/11 | Houston

Lisa Campos, 45

Ricky Campos, 45, shot and killed his wife Lisa in her vehicle. Lisa was in the process of ending their relationship. Subsequently, Campos shot and killed himself.

10/27/11 | Houston

Yodani Cruz-Rojas, 29

Noel Sosa-Ruiz, 41, shot and killed his girlfriend Yodani at her workplace. Later, Sosa-Ruiz shot and killed himself on a stolen boat headed to Cuba. Yodani is survived by her three children.

5/28/11 | Houston

Lorena Diaz, 33

Rony Galo, 29, beat and killed his girlfriend Lorena at their home. Galo then hung himself.

7/31/11 | Humble

Amber Chantel Elkins, 20

James Clarke, 31, shot and killed his girlfriend Amber. Authorities arrested and charged Clarke with Amber's death. Amber is survived by her 9-month-old daughter.

4/17/11 | Houston

Estrella Hernandez Flores, 36

Mario Garcia-Trejo, 29, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Estrella at her home. Estrella was taken to the hospital where she died. Garcia remains at large.

5/26/11 | Houston

Alicia Saldana Gonzalez, 36

Jesus Gonzalez, 40, stabbed and killed his wife Alicia in their home. Their three children were present during the stabbing. Authorities charged Gonzalez with Alicia's death. Alicia is survived by her three children.

HARRIS

2/19/11 | Houston

Yonnie Griffin, 16

Donald James, 16, shot and killed his girlfriend Yonnie outside his home. James was handling a gun. The weapon discharged killing Yonnie. Authorities arrested James.

5/3/11 | Houston

Kami Marlow Hernandez, 26

Eric Collier, 39, shot and killed his wife Kami in their home. Collier shot and killed himself at the scene. Kami is survived by her 8-year-old son.

7/13/11 | Houston

Robyn Hightower, 22

Ervin Jones, 38, shot and killed his girlfriend Robyn in her home. Authorities charged Jones with Robyn's death. Records indicate Jones had a history of violence. In 2007 he pled guilty to two counts of assault of a family member. Jones also plead guilty to murder in 2003. Robyn is survived by her three children, ages three, five and six.

1/9/11 | Tomball

Shirley Ann Hockenberry, 34

Darren Hockenberry, 42, shot and killed his wife Shirley in their home. Hockenberry set their house on fire, then shot and killed himself.

8/5/11 | Houston

Miktosha Latoya James-Peters, 27

Jerome Peters, 37, shot and killed his girlfriend Miktosha. Peters then shot and killed himself. Miktosha is survived by her 4-year-old son.

12/31/11 | Houston

Altovise Mahone, 27

Stephan Dawkins, 22, beat and killed his wife Altovise at their home. Records indicate Altovise had received a protective order two weeks prior to her death. Authorities arrested and charged Dawkins with murder.

1/3/11 | Pasadena

Alicia Mata-Macias, 34

Antonio Castelan, 53, shot and killed his girlfriend Alicia in his truck. Afterward, Castelan attempted to kill himself. Authorities arrested and charged Castelan with Alicia's death.

8/14/11 | Houston

Yurelvis Nunez-Sontomayo, 31

Alexander Cutino-Cabrera, 42, stabbed and killed his wife Yurelvis. Yurelvis had recently separated from Cutino-Cabrera. Authorities arrested and charged Cutino-Cabrera with murder.



HARRIS

1/20/11 | Pasadena

Claudia Pompa-Garza, 41

Eduardo Rodriguez, 49, shot and killed his girlfriend Claudia at her home. Rodriguez also shot and killed Claudia's 17-year-old daughter. Rodriguez then shot and killed himself. Claudia is survived by her 8-year-old daughter.

1/15/11 | Houston

Rhonda Scott, 49

Joe Shaw, 53, shot and killed his girlfriend Rhonda in her home. Records indicate Shaw had a history of violence and was out on parole after serving 25 years for attempted capital murder. Authorities arrested Shaw for capital murder.

2/28/11 | Houston

Bonnie Sturdavant, 58

Robert Sturdavant, 60, shot and killed his wife in their car. Subsequently, Sturdavant shot and killed himself.

9/20/11 | Houston

Jessica Leigh Thrash, 18

Gabriel Barrionuevo, 19, beat and killed his girlfriend Jessica in their home. Barrionuevo pushed Jessica down the stairs and caused multiple injuries. Authorities arrested and charged Barrionuevo with murder.

11/17/11 | Houston

Jeanne Dolores Walls, 39

Matthew Layton, 26, shot and killed his girlfriend Jeanne at their home. Layton fled the scene and later admitted to family members that he shot Jeanne. Authorities arrested and charged Layton with murder.

5/20/11 | Houston

Sherry White, 51

Jeffery Prevost, 51, shot and killed his girlfriend Sherry in her home. Prevost also shot and killed Sherry's adult son. Authorities charged Prevost with capital murder.



HENDERSON

3/9/11 | Leagueville

Cheryl Timmerman, 42

Robbie Timmerman, 47, shot and killed his wife Cheryl in their home. Timmerman set their house on fire. Afterward, Timmerman shot and killed himself. Cheryl is survived by her two children.



HUNT

7/20/11 | Greenville

Stella Michelle Ray, 35

Micah Brown, 32, shot and killed his ex-wife Stella in her car. Stella called police for assistance. Stella's two children were in the car with her at the time. Stella died at the hospital. She is survived by her two children.



JEFFERSON

4/2/11 | Beaumont

Loretta Lynn Harris, 43

Roy Samuel, 55, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Loretta in her home. The grand jury indicted Samuel with murder.

10/11/11 | Beaumont

Lamaper Toran, 19

Ryan Walker, 20, shot and killed his girlfriend Lamaper at their home. Authorities arrested and charged Walker with murder.

4/4/11 | Port Arthur

Anna Tran, 33

Vinh Le, 52, shot and killed his girlfriend Anna in her home. Le then shot and killed himself. Anna is survived by her three children.



JIM WELLS

12/12/11 | Alice

Leslie Morin, 31

Jose Gonzalez, 44, shot and killed his wife Leslie in her parents' home. Leslie had moved into her parents' house two weeks before her death. Leslie's mother was in the home and escaped unharmed. Gonzalez left the home with Leslie's 8-year-old son but later surrendered to authorities. Authorities arrested and charged Gonzalez with murder. Leslie is survived by her son and 14-year-old daughter.



McLENNAN

6/14/11 | China Spring

Barbara Richardson, 71

William Richardson, 73, shot and killed his wife Barbara in their home. Richardson then shot and killed himself.

8/5/11 | Lacy Lakeview

Arlicia Williams, 26

Joseph Jones, 32, killed his ex-girlfriend Arlicia by running her over with his car. Authorities charged Jones with murder.



MILAM

12/14/01 | Rockdale

Margaret Barfield, 78

J.C. Barfield, 77, shot and killed his wife Margaret at the hospital. Barfield then shot and killed himself at the scene.



MONTGOMERY

2/21/11 | Magnolia

Christie Sumstad, 34

Ryan Sumstad, 34, strangled and killed his wife Christie in their home. Authorities charged Sumstad with murder. Christie is survived by her three children.



NUECES

5/4/11 | Corpus Christi

Viviana Amaya, 18

Jacob Gonzalez, 21, shot and killed his girlfriend Viviana in her car. Gonzalez also shot and killed two of her friends. Reports indicate Gonzalez had a history of domestic violence. Authorities charged Gonzalez with capital murder.



PECOS

7/9/11 | Fort Stockton

Mayra Fernandez Orona, 25

Luis Orona, 40, stabbed and killed his wife Mayra at her workplace. Authorities charged Orona with first-degree murder.



SAN PATRICIO

12/2/11 | Sinton

Amy Kate McGowan, 32

Reynaldo Castillo, 49, shot and killed his girlfriend Amy in her apartment. Authorities found Amy in Castillo's trunk. Amy died on the way to the hospital. Authorities arrested Castillo on suspicion of tampering with evidence and murder. Amy is survived by her two children.



SHELBY

10/19/11 | Shelbyville

Vicky Lynn Dean, 37

Richard Dean, 39, shot and killed his wife Vicky in a car outside their home. Evidence indicates Vicky was trying to leave the property. Dean also shot and killed Vicky's 20-year-old son, Christopher Regan Smith, Jr. Dean left at a high speed with their 8-year-old son. Dean had previous convictions for aggravated assault and burglary. Authorities charged Dean with capital murder. Vicky is survived by her 8-year-old son.



STARR

4/17/11 | Roma

Azalia Barrera, 43

Ovaldo Barrera, 59, shot and killed his wife Azalia in their home. Barrera then shot and killed himself. Their children, a 23-year-old son and 20-year-old daughter, were inside the home at the time Barrera shot Azalia. Reports indicate Azalia was in the process of separating from Barrera. Azalia is survived by her two adult children.



TARRANT

6/18/11 | Arlington

Sheryl Bennett, 32

Dalton Bennett Jr., 45, shot and killed his wife Sheryl at her apartment. Bennett also shot Sheryl's friend, brother and sister-in-law. Authorities arrested and charged Bennett with three counts of capital murder and one count of attempted murder. Sheryl's brother survived. Sheryl's sister-in-law is survived by her three children all 6 years old and younger. Sheryl is survived by her five children, ranging in age from 1 to 12-years-old.

5/29/11 | Fort Worth

Stephanie Erin Caddy-Aqqad, 34

Samuel Ferralez, 35, shot and killed his girlfriend Stephanie at their home. Authorities charged Ferralez with murder and a jury found him guilty, sentencing him to 99 years in prison. Stephanie is survived by her three children.

7/11/11 | Crowley

Ashley DeWater, 22

Corey DeWater, 24, shot and killed his wife Ashley at their home. Authorities found DeWater unconscious after he had fled with Ashley's 2-year-old son who was found unharmed. DeWater later died from an overdose at the hospital. Ashley is survived by her 2-year-old son.

7/23/11 | Grand Prairie

Trini Do, 29

Tan Do, 35, shot and killed his wife Trini at a family gathering. Trini was in the process of ending the relationship and had filed for a protective order. Do also killed two of Trini's sisters, her brother and sister-in-law. Do then shot and killed himself. Trini is survived by her two children.

3/21/11 | Arlington

Mechelle Gandy, 26

Thomas Olivas, 29, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Mechelle in her home. Olivas then set Mechelle's home on fire, killing her 1-year-old son. Authorities arrested and charged Olivas with capital murder.



TARRANT

12/5/11 | Fort Worth

Jennifer Johnson, 33

Eugene Esters 46, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Jennifer outside her home. Esters also shot Jennifer's mother in her car. Reports indicate Jennifer had asked Esters to move out of the apartment. Authorities arrested and charged Esters with murder and attempted murder. Jennifer is survived by her two children, a 2-year-old and 13-year-old daughter.

12/5/11 | Fort Worth

Patricia Jean Nichols, 56

Michael Nichols, 58, shot and killed his wife Patricia in their home. Nichols also shot and killed Patricia's mother. Nichols then shot and killed himself.

12/25/11 | Grapevine

Fatemeh Rahmati, 55

Aziz Yazdanpanah, 56, shot and killed his wife Fatemeh in her home. Yazdanpanah also shot and killed Fatemeh's 19-year-old daughter, 15-year-old son, 58-year-old sister, 59 year old brother-in-law and 22-year-old niece. Afterward, Yazdanpanah shot and killed himself. Fatemeh had separated from Yazdanpanah.

6/20/11 | Fort Worth

Natasha Robertson, 29

Darren Clemmons, 47, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Natasha outside her home. Clemmons also shot Natasha's friend. Clemmons shot both women as they were leaving Natasha's home to take their children on an outing. Natasha died at the hospital and Natasha's friend died at the scene. Clemmons then shot and killed himself. The four children were present during the shootings. Reports indicate Clemmons had a history of domestic violence. Police responded to two domestic disturbance calls in the previous month in which Clemmons was cited with a misdemeanor for assault against Natasha. Natasha is survived by her two children.



TRAVIS

8/1/11 | Austin

Cynthia Valenzuela Hegemier-Boggs, 49

James Boggs, 45, stabbed and killed his wife Cynthia in her home. Cynthia's son, unable to reach his mother, went to her house. Cynthia's son witnessed Boggs with a knife and called police. Reports indicate Boggs threatened to kill Cynthia the previous summer. Boggs pleaded guilty to first-degree murder. The District Court sentenced Boggs to 35 years in prison. Cynthia is survived by her son.

8/25/11 | Austin

Quin'Qualita Renee Jackson, 23

Gerald Dee Bell, 37, strangled and killed his ex-girlfriend Quin'Qualita in her home. Authorities reported that Bell forced his way into Quin'Qualita's apartment. Three days prior to her death, police responded to a domestic disturbance involving Bell at Quin'Qualita's home. Authorities charged Bell with capital murder.

TRAVIS

11/13/11 | Austin

Lara Joseph, 40

Leonard Joseph, 47, shot and killed his wife Lara in their home. Subsequently, Joseph shot and killed himself. Lara is survived by her two children.

7/6/11 | Lakeway

Veronica Navarro, 22

Joe Carr, 27, killed his girlfriend Veronica. Authorities found Veronica's body in Lake Travis. Authorities arrested and indicted Carr for Veronica's death.

8/31/11 | Austin

Sylvia Richardson, 37

Kevin Williams, 45, shot and killed his girlfriend Sylvia in her home. Williams then shot and killed himself. Sylvia's four children were present during the shooting. Her oldest daughter called the police. Sylvia is survived by her four children ranging from ages 5 to 21.

10/14/11 | Austin

Jessica Arellano Salazar, 35

Efren Tapia Salazar, 35, strangled and killed his wife Jessica at her home. Family members went to her home when Jessica did not report to work. Jessica's family called law enforcement when they discovered her body. Salazar committed suicide. Law enforcement found Salazar's body at his parents' property where he was living at the time. Jessica is survived by her three children, 2, 12 and 15-years-old.

**WALLER**

3/18/11 | Brookshire

Donna Jackson, 52

Charles Barley, 59, strangled and killed his wife Donna in her home. Authorities charged Barley with Donna's death.

**WEBB**

3/14/11 | Laredo

Alma De Hoyos, 23

Francisco De Hoyos-Moncada, 52, killed his wife Alma in her home. Neighbors saw Francisco De Hoyos flee with their two daughters, leaving their son behind. Neighbors took Alma's son into their apartment for his safety. Records indicate Francisco De Hoyos had a history of family violence and was arrested two years prior for a misdemeanor assault to Alma. The grand jury indicted Francisco De Hoyos with first-degree murder of Alma. De Hoyos remains at large. Alma is survived by her three children, 7 and 8-year-old daughters and a 4-year-old son.

10/23/11 | Laredo

Marisela Flores-Tello, 39

Gilberto Tello, 48, shot and killed his wife Marisela in her home. The police responded to shots being fired. Marisela died at the hospital. Marisela's children were present during the shooting. The grand jury indicted Tello for Marisela's death. Marisela is survived by her three children.



WILLIAMSON

2/23/11 | Round Rock

Yolanda Amr, 49

Michael Amr, 49, shot and killed his wife Yolanda in their home. Amr then shot and killed himself.

5/8/11 | Round Rock

Shauna Lopez, 27

Jose Lopez, 29, shot and killed his wife Shauna at her parents' home. Lopez also shot and killed her parents while their 1-year-old son was present. Lopez crashed into a parked police car while fleeing from police. Shauna is survived by her 1-year-old son.

5/8/11 | Georgetown

Terry Lynn Pittman, 38

Anthony Blackmon, 52, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Terry in her home. As Blackmon was fleeing, he rammed into a police car and died on impact. Three of Terry's children were home at the time of the murder. Terry is survived by her four children.



WISE

8/20/11 | Paradise

Susan L. Whisenant, 47

Mark Schomburg, 50, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Susan. Authorities responded to an anonymous welfare check when they discovered Susan. Authorities arrested and charged Schomburg with murder.



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The Texas Council on Family Violence promotes safe and healthy relationships by supporting service providers, facilitating strategic prevention efforts, and creating opportunities for freedom from domestic violence.