Honoring Texas Victims
Family Violence Fatalities 2012
A Few Words of Reflection

Although the Texas Council on Family Violence has for over thirty years collected, commemorated and recounted the stories of women killed by their male intimate partners, over the last few years TCFV has elevated its reporting and retelling of these stories. What used to be a “Grim Tally” in conceptualization and scope – a simple list of names and totaling of those lost – has evolved into a relatively sophisticated and long range analysis of femicides informed by everything we in the domestic violence movement have learned over the years.

We know, for instance, that these stories attack the very underpinnings of our state and society at the most personal and public levels. Realizing this, we continue to weigh the utility of relating these accounts and we make careful, sensitive decisions about how to bring our message forward. As you read through the report, notice that despite the sadness we experience in remembering these fatalities, we offer hope and constructive movement forward: “Go Purple” represents a positive focus of our energy on prevention, safety for victims and accountability for battering. For more on this, see the map and explanation on the next page.

You might also see we have removed the sensationalized aspects of these stories that often come from the media. We cull the stories and analysis to demonstrate the profound respect and ultimate honor we feel for the victims who have passed including family members and bystanders, and for the survivors in families and communities across our state.

Honoring Texas Victims: Family Violence Fatalities in 2012 represents a culmination in several ways. In terms of continuing approaches to accomplish accuracy, we have improved our fact checking, using a variety of sources to inform and verify the victims’ stories. Beginning with media reports collected throughout the year, we combine these with the Texas Department of Safety’s (DPS) annual Unified Crime Report and direct interactions with law enforcement, prosecutors and advocates from the given community in which the murder occurred. Whereas in some years we had to accept a result which left some victims “unknown,” our ever more diligent efforts have resulted in the ability to list the correct names of all victims.

The report also represents a culmination from an analysis point of view. It is one thing to read these harrowing stories. It is another for the reader and Texans in general to begin to make connections that help craft new solutions and support current well-proven efforts to address intimate partner violence. This report tracks and offers analysis related to the following identified trends:

- Age Characteristics
- Victims’ Relationship Status with Perpetrators
- Month of Victimization
- Fatalities by County
- Location of Murder
- Cause of Death
- Murder-Suicide
- Familicide
- Related Victims, Witnesses and Bystanders
- Lethality Risk Factors: Stalking & Separation
- Additional Trends of Note

We highlight key characteristics within these topic areas, which warrant further analysis and conversation. We may not have the answers nor make all of the connections, but we believe these points of distinction and commonality will help make sense of these senseless acts with an eye toward policy-making as we move forward. This approach agrees with the ethic outlined above which calls on all of us to remember and honor the deaths while at the same time identifying pro-active and positive steps to help make Texas Go Purple.

The last section of the report takes this directly to heart by offering examples of innovative or significant approaches Texans have taken to address family violence. In one sense, we stand tall with our colleagues in
advocacy, law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, human services, law, economic justice, prevention, education, business and regular everyday folks in recognition of how far we have progressed in our efforts to end family violence. In another sense we place the stories of the victims at the forefront to inform the need for innovative strategies and the renewed application of approaches we know work.

We issue this report to propel every reader to action at the individual, community and societal levels. The Texas Council on Family Violence holds firmly to the conviction that each intimate partner homicide is knowable, predictable and preventable.

“Go Purple” represents a positive focus of our energy on prevention, safety for victims and accountability for battering.
Texas Femicide Victims of Family Violence in 2012

The Shape of Texas

In one sense, the below map literally shows us the shape of our state, from the Piney Woods to El Paso and the Rio Grande Valley to the Panhandle and all parts in between. The image below also strikingly depicts the shape we are in as a state when it comes to female intimate partner murders. Those counties shaded purple experienced no fatalities in 2012; white counties saw one or more. Through continued commitment to intervention and prevention of domestic violence, we look to a time when we can make the entire map GO PURPLE.

We challenge all of Texas to Go Purple and strive for a state where no woman loses her life as a result of family violence.
Toward Making Sense of the Senseless: Points of Analysis and Explanation

TCFV spent significant time analyzing all critical factors in these cases to determine areas of commonality, areas of continued improvement, and indicators of change – both positive and negative. Using this analysis we can collectively recommend programming and approaches to further eliminate gaps in service and response.

AGE CHARACTERISTICS

Ages of Victims and Offenders

The 2012 fatalities reflect that victims’ ages ranged from 15 to 84. Three women were under the age of 20; a 22-year-old boyfriend killed a 15-year-old minor by strangling her to death in a hotel room. The eldest (84 years old) victim’s husband shot and killed her. Victims age 30-39 represent the most prevalent age group, followed by victims age 20-29, and then by victims age 40-49. These trends have remained consistent for the last two years. Unlike 2011, which saw no fatalities for women age 60-69, four women in this age group were murdered in 2012. Clearly intimate partner violence occurs throughout the life span.

Disparity of age between intimate partners represents one aspect of this analysis. TCFV observed an age disparity of ten years or more in 29% of the homicides; although somewhat arbitrary, we identify ten years as a significant enough difference to note. Also, in eight of these relationships, we observe an age difference of 20 or more years between the victims and perpetrators.

Age disparities in teen and young adult relationships represent a particularly concerning age range because age differences at this stage of development take on even greater significance. Among three teens killed in 2012, one perpetrator was three years older than the victim (22-19), one was five years older (23-17) and another perpetrator was seven years older (22-15). This year, among victims under age 24, perpetrators were an average of 3.5 years older with the greatest age gap being 13 years (37-24).

Although significant age gaps can represent a part of an overall power differential between offenders and their victims, on their own, age disparities between intimate partners do not necessarily indicate an abusive or dangerous relationship. Certainly concern heightens in relationships between minors and adults. In teen relationships, even small age gaps can result in built-in power differentials in dating relationships, given social hierarchies that develop in schools based on, among other things, age and grade level. Older partners may exploit these age-based power differentials in the relationship. Involvement in a dating relationship with a significantly older partner might also
mean that a teen or young adult dating abuse victim faces more vulnerable situations because her older partner may have more access to resources and adult experiences such as alcohol and/or settings without responsible adult supervision. Take for example the youngest victim in 2012, age 15, killed in a hotel room by her 22 year-old perpetrator.

Effectively addressing this vulnerability might not significantly reduce rates of intimate partner homicide for all teen and young adult victims, but it might have a significant impact on the youngest victims. In the past ten years in Texas, a perpetrator who was five or more years older killed five of the seven victims whose ages ranged from 13 to 15. Three victims were five to seven years younger than their perpetrators, one was eight to ten years younger, and one was more than ten years.

Further analysis of information regarding teen and young adult femicides from the last ten years reveals the following:

- A dating partner killed seven victims between the ages of 13-15, six of whom died at the hands of a perpetrator more than four years older.
- Perpetrators four or more years older than their victims killed more than 40% of victims age 16-17 years. Perpetrators eight to ten years older killed 11% of victims in this age range.
- Perpetrators four or more years older killed 39% of victims age 18-19. Perpetrator eight to ten years older killed 18% of these victims and murderers ten or more years older killed almost 5% of the victims in this age range.
- Of victims ages 20-24, perpetrators four or more years older killed 49%, perpetrators eight to ten years older killed 8.5%, and perpetrators more than ten years older killed 13%.

An additional important trend to highlight relates to those victims over the age of 50. An examination of data regarding these women in the last ten years indicates a trend of increasing numbers of victims in these age groups. Compared to 2011, in 2012, intimate partners killed more women between the ages of 50-59 (+4), 60-69 (+4), and over 80 (+2). Fewer women between the ages of 70-79 were killed by their intimate partners in 2012 than in 2011.

**Number of Femicide Victims Over the Age of 50**
Increased numbers of murders of women over age 50 in the last few years warrant consideration as to how family violence services will need to adapt and expand as the Baby Boomer generation, born between 1946 and 1964, ages and becomes elderly. As our organizations prepare for an influx of clients in this aging demographic, it will become more necessary to seek opportunities to build collaborations and partnerships with community organizations within the aging network and Adult Protective Services, in order to:

- Gain understanding about the unique barriers and needs that older clients experience
- Increase outreach to the elder population and awareness of the dynamics of domestic violence and availability of resources among the elder population and the organizations that serve them.

**VICTIMS’ RELATIONSHIP STATUS WITH PERPETRATORS**

In descending order of prevalence, “husband-wife” represents the most common relationship between perpetrator and victim (42%), followed by “boyfriend-girlfriend” (37%), then “former boyfriend” and “former girlfriend” (17%), and finally “former husband” and “former wife” (3%).

We specifically note that although the facts point to married women as the most prevalent group killed by their partners, many victims took action to leave or end their abusive relationship while still legally married to the perpetrator. Law enforcement and media reports do not always indicate the actions victims take to leave the abusive relationship. Many of those listed as married initiated the process of filing for divorce, yet had not formally obtained a divorce; others separated or attempted to end relationships. In 2012 at least 21 women had taken steps to leave or had just left the relationship when they were murdered.

For many victims, separation represents the most dangerous factor in the relationship because victims’ risk of getting killed greatly increases when they begin the process of leaving or have just left.\(^1\) For more discussion regarding separation ranking as an important measure of risk, see the section below entitled *Lethality Risk Factors: Stalking & Separation.*

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MONTH OF VICTIMIZATION

Questions often arise regarding connections between the incidence of domestic violence and the holidays; at this point, we have not developed conclusive analyses that support or refute a correlation. This remains true in the analysis of Texas’ intimate partner homicides in 2012. While national data and statewide trends do not support a clear correlation between domestic violence related fatalities and holidays, we do note trends related to the time of year in which the murder occurred. For instance, in 2012, 14 homicides occurred during December, the most of any month. Six of those murders occurred from December 28th – 31st. Twenty of the 114 homicides occurred on or within two days of national U.S. holidays such as Christmas or New Year’s.

![2012 Intimate Partner Homicides by Month](image)

Whether or not these observations create a statistical pattern, we certainly know survivors often need additional emotional support and safety planning given the potential increased contact with their batterers or their families who may be connected with their batterers. In their 2011 annual *Technical Assistance Guidance, Domestic Violence and the Holidays*, the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence recommends the following:

- Strategize with survivors on ways to increase their safety such as avoiding areas or activities where they may unexpectedly see their abusive partners, creating new holiday routines, planning family activities at places that the abusive partner does not know.
- Create opportunities for respite and relaxation to counteract the emotionally and physically draining aspects of the holidays. Encourage survivors to participate in restorative activities, such as yoga, walking or meditation.
- Be prepared to provide additional emotional support for survivors who are unable to be with their families.²

An analysis of data from the last four years, 2009 through 2012, reveals some trends regarding rates of domestic violence fatalities by month. During that four-year span, the three months with the highest average rates of fatalities were May (13), December (12), and November (11) and the months with the lowest rates of fatalities were February (6, factoring out 2010), January (7) and August (7). In 2010, there were over 30 more deaths than 2009, 2011 and 2012, and the individual months with the most occurrences within this four-year period occurred in 2010. There were 25 intimate partner homicides February 2010 and 19 in June 2010. Neither February nor June have high rates of fatalities when looking at the four-year average which speaks to the limited way that analysis of homicides by month can contribute to an ability to identify, predict or prevent domestic violence fatalities.

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FATALITIES BY COUNTY

In 2012, the counties with the largest population and which include large urban cities also ranked as the four counties with the most intimate partner violence homicides. In line with the previous years, Harris County, which includes the city of Houston, experienced the highest number of deaths (30). Next in descending order were Dallas County (9), which includes the city of Dallas, Tarrant County (6), which includes Fort Worth and Arlington and Bexar County (5), which includes the city of San Antonio. El Paso County experienced four deaths in 2012, an increase from previous years. Significantly, Hidalgo County experienced four fatalities; Hidalgo County includes the cities of Hidalgo and Alton and this county has a significantly lower population than the top five or indeed other counties with fewer fatalities. In point of fact, Travis County (3), the fifth largest county in the state, which includes Austin, saw a reduction of intimate partner femicides this year and is not included in the chart below.

Number of Family Violence Deaths by County

Harris County saw an increase of seven deaths in 2012 as compared with 2011 and has the highest rate of deaths per capita of all of the densely populated counties (1 death per 71,121 female residents). Bexar County had one less death in 2012 and has the lowest rate of deaths per capita of the most densely populated counties (1 death per 181,540 female residents). As mentioned above, Harris County continues to face the highest number of fatalities in the state, a problem on which advocates and community members continue to focus. For more on an important project that the Harris County coordinated community response members took on this last year, see the section below called Strategies for Building a Safer Texas on this topic and other promising practices.
Although urban intimate partner violence continues as a significant danger, one important trend in 2012 relates to the Panhandle and South Plains, areas with fewer overall residents and population density. Seven counties in this area, which had no reports of intimate partner homicides last year, had at least one homicide reported this year. Potter County, which includes the city of Amarillo, and neighboring Moore County, reported one death each. On the South Plains, five of these counties (Bailey, Lamb, Hale, Lubbock, and Floyd) cover a contiguous area of almost 5,000 square miles with a combined population of approximately 350,000 (175,717 female residents); over 278,000 of these residents live in Lubbock County alone (144,464 being female). In this five county area, six deaths occurred, which results in a per capita death rate of 1 in 29,286 female residents, a much higher rate than in any of the larger urban areas.

These trends at the county level underscore the necessity for our state to continue to forge solutions that take seriously the diverse and complex differences victims and communities face in various parts of the state. Together, TCFV and the Texas Health and Human Services Commission manage the broad scope of planning statewide responses to domestic violence by continuing to refine and update our state’s approach. The Texas State Plan represents one important statutorily required aspect of this careful and continued stewardship of finite funding.

The 2013 update of this important statewide blueprint for domestic violence services provides in-depth insight into the availability of, and need for, family violence services across the state. TCFV collaborated with the University of Texas’ Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault to conduct focus groups, surveys and detailed analysis to provide a better understanding of county-by-county and statewide needs for services.

The resulting updated State Plan, which may be accessed online at www.tcfv.org/resources/texas-state-plan, details the core services (such as emergency shelter and advocacy) and additional support services (such as childcare, legal assistance, and housing) available in each county in Texas. The 2013 State Plan also identifies the nine most underserved populations in Texas, including survivors with limited English proficiency and survivors from rural areas. To help survivors, funders and others to assess the availability of services in their counties, TCFV has created charts detailing this information. These charts are also publicly available at the state plan link on the above TCFV website.

**LOCATION OF MURDER**

The majority of intimate partner femicides in 2012 occurred in the home: 74%. Many of the reports do not include the specific location within the home that the murders occurred, but the bedroom accounted for the largest proportion of specified locations within the home with 20 murders occurring there, followed by the front or backyard with eleven murders occurring there. Outside of the home, the next most common location was a public place, including at a restaurant, on public streets and sidewalks, in a food pantry and a Health and Human Services office.
CAUSE OF DEATH

Murderers used firearms to kill in the majority of Texas femicides in 2012. Data indicates that perpetrators used firearms in 68 of the 114 murders or 60% of the femicides in 2012. This matches national trends. In the prior year, murderers used firearms to kill in 64% of the Texas fatalities. This year represents a 4% decrease from 2011.

In the U.S., firearms stand as the most commonly used weapon in family violence homicides. In fact, men murder their current or former female intimate partners using firearms at a rate more than six times the rate male strangers kill women with guns, knives or other weapons combined.\(^3\) For a more lengthy discussion of the measures TCFV and others continue to take to address this reality, go to: [http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2013/09/18/a-grim-tally-abusers-guns-and-the-women-they-kill](http://rhrealitycheck.org/article/2013/09/18/a-grim-tally-abusers-guns-and-the-women-they-kill).

MURDER-SUICIDE

For the purposes of this report, we label incidents where the perpetrator kills his intimate partner (and others potentially) and then commits suicide as “murder-suicides.” Forty-four family violence murder-suicides occurred in 2012 in Texas, approximately 39% of the total fatalities recorded in this report. Of the perpetrators, 35 shot themselves and four hung themselves. Three other perpetrators attempted suicide, but survived their injuries.

As outlined above, the role of firearms in murders of Texas women by their male intimate partners continues to represent a significant problem; the same can be said regarding murder-suicides and firearms. More incidents of murder-suicide occur with guns than with any other weapon in Texas. Access to a gun represents a major risk factor in familicide because it allows the perpetrator to act on his rage and impulses. Of the 313 murder-suicides that took place at the first half of 2011, 280 were known to involve a firearm.\(^4\)

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FAMILICIDE

Familicide refers to the killing of a current or former intimate partner, and one or more of their children, followed by suicide. Described as an “annihilation” of the nuclear family⁵, our 2011 Honoring Report identified six such incidents. It is important to note that in this report, no familicides were identified. While the analysis revealed five children killed during the murder of their mother, the perpetrator did not commit suicide.

RELATED VICTIMS, WITNESSES AND BYSTANDERS

In 2012 perpetrators killed, in addition to their primary target, another 15 friends and/or family members. This includes five minor children: four children killed alongside their mother and a fifth child that was the minor sister of one of the victims.

Perpetrators also caused injury to another eight individuals: six children and two adults. Based on the information received, 61 individuals witnessed murders, minors being 44 of these witnesses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who Else Was Present?</th>
<th>Present/Witness</th>
<th>Injured</th>
<th>Killed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Members</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighbor/Bystander</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The narratives contain greater context for each unique incident. However in this section, we acknowledge the names and relationship of the 15 related victims. Out of respect for the privacy of children involved, this report excludes the names of minor children killed, injured or present, noting them only by relation to victim.

TCFV recognizes the tremendous loss of these innocent lives.

- Daughter, 11
- Sister, 12
- Daughter, 13
- Daughter, 13
- Son, 15
- Jasmine Rhodes, Niece, 19
- Ivan Hughes, Son, 19
- Devan Haynes, Friend, 28
- Pepe Piña, Brother, 28
- Omar Salazar, Friend, 31
- Doyle Pollard, Friend, 47
- Eric De Santiago, Friend, 42
- Mary Jane Davis, Mother, 67
- Raymond Davis, Father, 69
- Casey Sweetwood, Friend, 48

This examination of intimate partner femicides in Texas in 2012 raises questions about how individual members of our communities should respond when they see or hear acts of domestic violence. While we do not have a complete picture of how bystanders interceded or not, we do know that some bystanders reported seeing and hearing threatening behaviors, others were subject to injury or harm because of their proximity to the homicide scene, and others acted courageously to intervene to their own peril.

Some bystanders reported seeing or hearing acts of violence. In one instance, a hotel guest told police she heard screaming and crying coming from the room where one of the victims was killed. In another, neighbors reported seeing a perpetrator drag a victim into the home. It is unclear if immediate calls for help were made to 911 or if these incidents went unreported until it was too late.

Some bystanders or witnesses also experienced great risk during the murders. For instance, a passer-by was struck by a stray bullet and injured; a murderer threatened one neighbor with a gun when the victim knocked on his door for help. Another neighbor was kidnapped and forced to assist the perpetrator in fleeing, later escaping and leading police to the bodies of the victims.

In the domestic violence field, we have been working for decades to address attitudes that shroud domestic violence in silence and secrecy and minimize the responsibility of bystanders to intervene. The deaths and harm that came to witnesses or bystanders clearly bring to light that the impact of domestic violence expands beyond the primary victim in the relationship: intimate partner violence is a public health matter that affects everyone in our communities.

An important aspect of community education by family violence centers focuses on bystander intervention and encouraging members of our communities to speak up, call for help, and confront attitudes that perpetuate violence against women long before domestic violence escalates to murder. Clearly danger can result from interceding in violence, but knowing and naming domestic violence early on decreases escalation and increases the likelihood that a person using power and control in an intimate partner relationship will become accountable for this behavior. TCFV’s Prevention Team stands ready and able to offer tools and approaches for early prevention and intervention to support communities in developing comprehensive bystander education programs. For more information, contact the TCFV Prevention Team at prevention@tcfv.org.
LETHALITY RISK FACTORS: STALKING & SEPARATION

Researchers and service providers have identified some common characteristics that help predict lethality as a risk factor and a precursor to intimate partner murders. Stalking ranks as a top indicator of risk: nationally, 76% of femicide cases involved at least one episode of stalking within a year prior to their murder. One in six women report having experienced stalking which made them feel “very fearful” or believe that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed. Of the 6.6 million people stalked every year in America, 66% of the perpetrators are current or former intimate partners. The number of calls to the National Domestic Violence Hotline from Texans who disclosed incidents of stalking has increased by 63% in the last five years.

The women profiled in this year’s report experienced a range of stalking behaviors by their ultimately murderous intimate partners. From being stalked for over a year, followed across state lines, and even meeting potential stalkers at church, the women in this year’s report face significant barriers in trying to escape their abusers. Danger also loomed for secondary victims killed during murderous stalking events.

In many instances, stalking results from the victim attempting to leave an abusive relationship and the batterer doing everything he can to exercise power and control over his fleeing intimate partner. Leaving an unsafe relationship can place the victim in further danger and can significantly increase the possibility of a family violence homicide. In point of fact, after owning a firearm, separation represents the leading risk factor in intimate partner homicides. According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, the rates of intimate partner homicide increased 25 times when the female partner ended the relationship. Further studies indicate that a woman’s attempt to leave represented the event that ultimately served as a justifying act by the murderer for killing his intimate partner in 45% of intimate partner femicides.

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Texas women in this year’s report encountered attacks while taking refuge in homes of friends and family members or even during their day-to-day activities in public. We verify separation as a key factor in at least 22% of intimate partner homicides in the 2012 report:

- Two of the four men who killed their ex-wives did so within a few weeks or months of finalization of their divorces.
- Sixteen women of the 47 who were still married (although possibly separated), approximately 34%, had taken steps to end the relationship or filed for divorce in the weeks and months prior to their murders.
- Five men killed their girlfriends around the time they attempted to leave or end the relationship.
- Three men killed their ex-girlfriends within weeks of the relationship ending.
- Six women filed for divorce or custody proceedings within the days or weeks prior to their murders.

In addition, women escaping their partners’ violence took many actions to try to increase their safety, including filing for protective orders, making reports to police, and staying with friends or family. Knowing these stark realities must help inform practitioners and service providers as they interact and encourage victims to leave violent relationships. As mentioned above, many women amongst this year’s 114 victims followed all of the steps we typically ask victims to take: leaving their partners, obtaining a protective order, calling the police.

The bottom line: all of the women on the list deserved better outcomes from our systems response and from their intimate partner.

**REFLECTIONS: ADDITIONAL TRENDS OF NOTE**

Intimate partner violence manifests from dehumanizing attitudes and beliefs and results in cruelty, brutality and degradation of victims’ physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. While each individual account of femicide in 2012 includes horrific acts of violence, we identify the following particularly noteworthy trends.

In several instances, murderers violently attacked young children at the scenes of the crimes. While killing their intimate partners, 11 perpetrators also stabbed, strangled, shot, kidnapped or sexually assaulted children at the scene. In a related trend, murders caused nine small children to be neglected for a period at the scene of the crime; these children’s’ ages ranged from a few months to eight years old.13

While again perpetrators overwhelmingly used firearms to inflict lethal violence in 2012, perpetrators also used brutal force and a range of weapons including vehicles. One perpetrator pursued his girlfriend in his car, forcing her car off the road where she was pinned between his vehicle and a utility pole. Another perpetrator pursued and killed his girlfriend with his car as she walked home after an argument.

Four murderers burned the bodies of their victims after they killed them, in effect attempting to erase evidence of the crime. In two instances, murderers set the vehicles where the homicides occurred on fire; in a third instance, a perpetrator placed the body of the victim in a dumpster and ignited a fire after strangling and killing her. Another perpetrator set fire to the home where he killed his wife.

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Strategies for a Safer Texas
SYNERGIES IN PROSECUTION AND BATTERING INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM INNOVATION

“I decided to quit whining about not having any services in rural Texas and decided to just start the BIPP as soon as possible.”

— Staley Heatley, Wilbarger County District Attorney

In large part because of TCFV’s leadership, Texas has made a strong investment and commitment into Battering Intervention and Prevention Programs (BIPPs), an approach to batterer re-education strongly founded in the domestic violence movement. Operating from the twin tenets of victim safety and offender accountability, BIPPs provide a 26-week (or more) peer-to-peer structure with a facilitator that covers the realities of power and control in intimate partner relationships. The Texas Code of Criminal Procedure mandates that defendants referred by courts in conjunction with a plea to a crime involving family violence must be referred to an accredited Battering Intervention Prevention Program (BIPP). The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Community Justice Assistance Division (TDCJ-CJAD) and TCFV work together to administer and monitor accredited and a handful of state funded BIPPs.

As mentioned above, 24 BIPPs receive state funding for their work. After a significant cut to this funding during the 82nd Legislative Session, TCFV redoubled its advocacy efforts during the recently concluded 83rd Session and accomplished restoration of this key funding back to $2.5 million over the biennium. This funding provides an important stabilizing factor in the operation of BIPPs and helps improve the quality of service provision because these programs meet rigorous standards which TDCJ-CJAD and TCFV monitor.14

As a part of TCFV continuing prioritization of bringing together varied and diverse parts of the coordinated community response, we have worked closely with prosecutors especially during the past few months. The Criminal Justice Division of the Governor’s Office administers the Violence Against Women Act, which in part funds the enhancement and improvement of prosecution of domestic violence crimes. Using this funding stream, TCFV and the Texas District and County Attorney’s Association (TDCAA) held a series of leadership meetings with key prosecutors on specific topics and also held an elected prosecutor summit to further focus on key issues. We called this project Next to the Jury Box, the place of honor in the courtroom where prosecutors sit.

One main focus related to the use of BIPP by prosecutors in their approach to accountability. Many prosecutors present at the Summit and at the Roundtable meetings expressed strong support for BIPP. Others, especially those prosecuting in smaller communities, helped identify real challenges BIPPs face in providing quality services to offenders. Naturally TCFV looked for participation in the Next to the Jury Box project in allies such as TDCAA’s Rob Kepple, TCFV Board member, chair of TCFV’s Public Policy Committee and El Paso District Attorney Jaime Esparza, and Wilbarger County District Attorney and also a member of TCFV’s Public Policy Committee Staley Heatley.

After learning more about BIPP in the Next to the Jury Box Roundtables and at the Summit, Staley went back to his rural county in order to assess how he could get one started. He quickly realized that funding would be an issue and so committed to using “forfeiture funds” to provide seed money for the project; district attorneys have access to money seized from criminals who have profited from their crimes. Realizing the importance of offender accountability, Staley earmarked $10,000 of these funds for this purpose and worked with TCFV and in his community with interested partners to get a BIPP up and running: the Texoma Batterers Intervention and Prevention Program, Inc. Staley paid for training for the new executive director of the BIPP and another staff person; he then successfully approached his own church to ask for space for the meetings. Of course this has also required continuing partnership with the community supervision department and the county attorney that handles misdemeanors in order to move the project forward.

The fact that the elected district attorney prioritized his time and available resources obviously points to the importance of Staley’s leadership. This approach provides a workable model for smaller communities to foster accountability for defendants. For more information on Staley’s efforts, contact (940) 553-3346.

THE SENATE BILL 434 TASK FORCE: SAFER OUTCOMES FOR ADULT SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Several of the narratives recount the incidence of children present during the murder. And in several if not all of the instances, we know of previous episodes of violence between the murderer and the victim. In some cases the batterer committed violent acts against the children including killing them. This stark reality highlights the need for our state to take pro-active steps to address the co-occurrence of child maltreatment and domestic violence.

With precisely this in mind, TCFV has worked for years to forge solutions in concert with allies in child advocacy. The Senate Bill 434 Task Force represents the latest and in some ways one of the most effective examples of TCFV’s effort. Created by legislation in the 82\textsuperscript{nd} Session of Texas Legislature, the Task Force investigated and addressed domestic violence and child abuse as co-occurring issues that can threaten the safety of children and families. Its appointed members included state agency staff (including the Health and Human Services Commission’s Family Violence Program and the Department of Family and Protective Service’s Child Protection Service), representatives from domestic violence, sexual assault and child advocacy programs, and members of the legal, medical and research fields. Through reports from survivors, examination of current nationwide model practice, and dialogue, the group identified policy recommendations and best practices guidelines for addressing this co-occurrence. The Task Force created a report based on these recommendations to guide both child advocacy and domestic violence efforts with policy makers. To access the report, go to www.tcfv.org.

Key findings and recommendations from the report include:

- In domestic violence, the safety of a parent who is a victim of domestic violence is intertwined with the safety and well-being of the child.
- 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 protective efforts that a parent who is a victim of domestic violence is exhibiting to protect the child from direct harm.
- As the recognized community experts on domestic violence, family violence service providers are critical in the prevention of child maltreatment through support and advocacy with adult victims of domestic violence and their children, including those referred voluntarily and involuntarily by the child protection system.
• 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. If it is determined that a child is not safe despite the efforts made by an adult victim of domestic violence, alternative placement should be considered.

• The victim of domestic violence should not be held accountable for abuse and neglect of a child solely based on being a victim of domestic violence. If a child is at risk of harm due solely to the violence committed against the adult victim, the adult victim should only be held accountable for failing to remove the child from that risk of harm if, after considering the totality of circumstances, CPS determines that the adult victim failed to take advantage of services or supports that would have protected the child and that were reasonably available to the adult victim in the past or are made available to the adult victim during the course of the CPS investigation.

Significant policy change occurred as a result of the efforts of the Task Force, including changes to the way that CPS and family violence centers work together and with survivors and their children. In addition, both of the Task Force’s legislative recommendations eventually passed by the 83rd Texas Legislature.15,16 Moreover, although the statutorily created SB434 Task Force ended on September 1, 2013, the Task Force members resolved to continue the implementation of the report’s recommendations, coming together periodically to help monitor progress.

A CALL TO MEN AND PRIORITIZING LETHALITY

As mentioned above in the section of this report related to counties, Dallas continues to experience the second highest number of fatalities in Texas. Family violence centers and other community partners have banded together for years to address family violence, participating on task forces and accomplishing strong and innovative responses. Yet, the nine women killed by their male intimate partners in 2012 prove that Dallas must continue to innovate.

This message resonates for Mayor Mike Rawlings, who spearheaded the Dallas Men Against Abuse event in Dallas in March 2013, working with Paige Flink of Dallas’ Family Place and Jan Langbein of the Genesis Women Shelter. At the gathering of 5,000 people in front of city hall, Mayor Rawlings personally committed to taking on domestic violence and called on men to do the same by joining him. Other locally and nationally prominent men joined the gathering including local television sports anchor Dale Hansen, Dallas Cowboys legends Emmitt Smith and Roger

15 Senate Bill 130 (authored by Senator Jane Nelson and sponsored by Representative Tryon Lewis) clarifies that prosecuting attorneys, while still subject to the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional conduct, may represent someone for a protective order proceeding while representing the Child Protective Services in another action involving the same party either concurrently or after the other action. It amends Family Code Section 81.0075 and became effective on June 14, 2013.

16 Senate Bill 429 (authored by Senator Jane Nelson and sponsored by Representative Richard Raymond) related to the dismissal or nonsuit of a suit to terminate the parent-child relationship filed by a governmental entity. Prior to approving a dismissal or nonsuit filed by CPS, the bill required the court to consider whether the dismissal or nonsuit is in the best interest of each child affected by the suit; and whether any orders for the conservatorship, possession of or access to, or support of each child affected by the suit continue in effect after the dismissal or nonsuit. It also affirmed that at this stage the court may render an order for the conservatorship, possession of or access to, or support of each child affected by the suit that will continue in effect after the dismissal or nonsuit of the suit to terminate the parent-child relationship. Unfortunately, the bill did not ultimately pass into law due to the veto of Governor Perry. The members of the Task Force have resolved to continue working toward greater efficiency of orders be it via future legislation or in administration common court practice.
Staubach and current Cowboys receiver Dez Bryant.\textsuperscript{17} Many communities host events designed to rally support for survivors of domestic violence and call on communities to stand against abuse. The Dallas event differed in size and scope and represents a refocus for the city. Following the Men Against Abuse event, Mayor Rawlings went to the United Nations\textsuperscript{18} to discuss violence against women and convened a work group to help identify and prioritize approaches the city will take.

Dallas Police Chief David Brown also spoke at the event, saying the issue has emerged as his department’s “highest priority.” This significant statement comes on the heels of recent revelations regarding the police department’s handling of files related to family violence, files which generated from arrests but on which no one followed up with the district attorney’s office.\textsuperscript{19} Law enforcement response in Dallas has for some time faced challenges with resources and to Chief Brown’s credit, the department has redoubled its efforts.

One prominent example relates to the department’s employment of a new screening mechanism that officers use at the scene of a family violence crime. Based on a lethality assessment model developed in Maryland, the new procedure includes patrol officers asking 11 yes-and-no questions during domestic violence calls to ascertain the degree of danger the case presents. The protocols then call for the officer to explain to the victim that people in such situations have been seriously hurt or killed and then the officer will call a local domestic violence hotline and urge the victim to immediately speak to a counselor. Significantly, both Family Place and Genesis, Dallas family violence centers, have agreed to prioritize room in shelter for victims who rank high on this lethality assessment. In Maryland, where law enforcement uses a “Lethality Assessment Program” approach, the number of intimate partner homicides dropped by more than 40 percent over the last five years. Community partners in Dallas will continue to evaluate the Dallas pilot program to determine whether to continue and expand it.\textsuperscript{20}

\textbf{ASSESSING THE COMMUNITY’S RESPONSE}

In a few ways, Harris County which includes our nation’s fourth largest city, Houston, drives and leads our state’s efforts and response to family violence. On the one hand, we have noted above that Harris County continues to lead the state in the number of fatalities. On the other hand, some 8 family violence centers provide services to thousands of victims every year. And these programs participate in a robust coordinated community response group called the Harris County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (HCDVCC), which also includes representatives from law enforcement, prosecution, the judiciary, education and others. The HCDVCC has existed for the last 16 years, serving as a venue for dialogue and planning as well as the umbrella structure for the Harris County Adult Fatality Review Team, which reviews domestic violence murders.

Recently the Houston Endowment funded the HCDVCC to perform a “Community Safety Assessment,” a tool intended to serve as and promulgate a national model for best practices service provision. Participants on the HCDVCC envisioned this gut check of family violence response as a way to help determine how each part of the system organizes itself with an eye to how each part of the response either enhances or diminishes services to victims.


\textsuperscript{18} For more information, go to http://cityhallblog.dallasnews.com/2013/03/mayor-mike-rawlings-to-join-voices-against-domestic-violence-at-united-nations-friday.html/. (accessed October 6, 2013).


Although this represents a process that will take several years to complete, the first part of the effort focused on an assessment of law enforcement response. Law enforcement partners helped lead the effort and proceeded through the project in a collaborative manner with HCDVCC partners that held tight to a process that looked to solutions rather than assessing blame. The central question was: How is law enforcement in Harris County responding to domestic violence in ways that enhance or diminish victims’ safety and offenders’ accountability?

A few key findings included:

• Overall, law enforcement should refresh and refocus at the points of response and intervention to give attention to victim’s safety and assess for future risk.
• The system places responsibility on victims to “carry” the case forward.
• Report writing should be standardized to avoid missing information. Training on effective report writing should accompany this.
• Patrol officers experienced challenges in quickly connecting victims with shelters.
• Information sharing amongst law enforcement entities needs to improve.

Such a careful and principled method for taking a fresh and community supported approach will certainly lead to greater clarity regarding service provision. The depth and breadth of this assessment has not been attempted in other parts of Texas and will certainly offer a viable process for others to follow as well as substantively viable ways to improve community systems. For the full report and to learn more on the HCDVCC, go to http://hcdvcc.org/Download2.html.

WOMEN’S HEALTH AND PREVENTION

Take a look at the narratives of Cynthia Jean Goodrum, Sarah Maxwell Montemayor, Ashleigh Lindsey, Crystal Sarai Lugo and Viviana Castañeda. We note these murders of pregnant women. During the 83rd Session of the Legislature, TCFV championed and led a legislative effort aimed at addressing long-term prevention and intervention approaches to this vulnerable group of victims (see below for more on this project). Overall, TCFV has made a commitment to working within the health care system to promote better long-term health trajectories for survivors, children and families. Recently TCFV joined the Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition (TWHC), which focuses on restoring funding for women’s health and family planning and promoting access to these services for low-income women and families. The budget passed by the 83rd Legislature restored funding to provide access to services to the same number of clients served in the 2010-2011 biennium.

Connections made through the Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition and TCFV’s advocacy efforts regarding House Bill 2620, a TCFV Legislative Agenda item which created a health care task force, will further bolster our advocacy in this arena. Authored by Representative Nicole Collier (D-Fort Worth) and sponsored by Senator Robert Deuell (R-Greenville), this bill established a task force with members, including a presiding officer, appointed by the executive commission of the Health and Human Services Commission to examine the impact of domestic violence on the health of pregnant women, new mothers, and very young children. The Task Force will identify and explore opportunities to improve health care services for mothers and babies through the effective addition of domestic violence information into education standards and health care protocols including the development of recommendations related to early screening and detection and public awareness efforts. The Task Force will produce a report by September 1, 2015 with findings as well as research, policy, and legislative recommendations.
An Introduction to Their Stories

With utmost respect, the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) presents the names of each victim of intimate partner femicide in 2012. Each confirmed fatality includes the date of the woman’s death and the city in which she was killed, followed by a short description of the circumstances relevant to the murder. While every life lost is of equal importance, not every story contains an equal amount of details. Each of the accounts include information obtained through various sources, primarily law enforcement agencies, Texas Department of Public Safety, media, and information shared by family violence programs in Texas. TCFV took care to confirm the accuracy of all information presented here.
ANGELINA COUNTY

Lufkin | 7/26/12

Rosa Piña, 27

Terrence Barnes, 31, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Rosa in the front yard of her home. Barnes stabbed Rosa while she was holding her 3-month-old niece and stabbed and killed Rosa’s 28-year-old brother Pepe during the attack. Rosa’s four children, 10-year-old niece, and sister witnessed the murders. After a manhunt, authorities arrested Barnes; he confessed to murdering Rosa and Pepe. Barnes received a life sentence for these murders. Rosa is survived by her four young children, ages 3 to 10 years old.

BAILEY COUNTY

Muleshoe | 6/4/12

Lucila Perez, 38

Daniel Cardon Jr., 49, shot and killed his wife Lucila in her home. Lucila had obtained a protective order against Cardon, who had a history of violence towards her. Authorities arrested Cardon and charged him with Lucila’s murder. Lucila is survived by her five children.

BANDERA COUNTY

Bandera | 12/2/12

Jennifer Storrie, 39

Hamilton Storrie, 49, shot and killed his ex-wife Jennifer in the front yard of their home. Storrie then shot and killed himself, and later, two bystanders discovered their bodies. Storrie had a history of family violence. The couple’s divorce had been finalized three weeks prior to the murder. Jennifer is survived by her 11-year-old son and three daughters.

BELL COUNTY

Killeen | 8/17/12

Danielle Acosta-Guerro, 30

David Vega, 28, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Danielle in her home. Vega also assaulted Danielle’s 6-year-old son during the attack. A jogger and a neighbor heard screams and attempted to help Danielle. Vega fled. Two months later, authorities arrested the Fort Hood soldier in California. Vega received a life sentence for Danielle’s murder. Danielle is survived by her 6-year-old son and by her two daughters, ages 3 and 12.

BEXAR COUNTY

Helotes | 1/11/12

Zeferina Castillo, 54

Manuel Rodriguez, 51, shot and killed his girlfriend Zeferina at a church. Rodriguez shot Zeferina several times in the upper torso and then shot and killed himself. Zeferina is survived by her three adult children.
BEXAR COUNTY
San Antonio | 3/9/12
Katie Marie Fierro, 20
Landon Keller, 20, shot and killed his wife Katie in the front yard of their home. Keller also critically injured Katie’s 1-year-old son while she was holding him. A passer-by was also struck by a bullet and has recovered. Katie was trying to leave Keller when he shot her. Keller then barricaded himself in the home where he shot and killed himself. Katie is survived by her 1-year-old son.

San Antonio | 12/27/12
Cynthia Jean Goodrum, 34
Narada Goodrum, 33, shot and killed his pregnant wife Cynthia in the kitchen of their home. Shortly before her murder, neighbors reported seeing Goodrum grab and drag Cynthia by her hair into their home. Goodrum then fled to Las Vegas, Nevada where authorities located him in a motel. He shot and killed himself during a standoff. Goodrum had a history of family violence and Cynthia had filed for divorce and a protective order the day before her death. Cynthia is survived by her 6-year-old son.

San Antonio | 4/19/12
Rhonda Watson Hammonds, 39
Corey Hiller, 36, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Rhonda in her home. Hiller also stabbed and killed her friend Casey Sweetwood, 48, and stabbed Rhonda’s 11-year-old son. Her son was taken to the hospital and survived the injuries. Hiller fled on foot and while being chased, he was hit by a truck. Hiller survived his injuries and authorities charged him with capital murder. Hiller had a history of violence; Rhonda had ended the relationship two months prior to her murder. Hiller later hung and killed himself in his jail cell. Rhonda is survived by her 11-year-old son and two adult children.

San Antonio | 12/03/12
Tammy Lydia Ramirez, 25
Jonathan Garcia, 21, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Tammy in the front yard of her mother’s home. Tammy’s mother heard Garcia arguing with Tammy in the front yard and saw Garcia pointing a gun at Tammy. Tammy’s three daughters were outside and witnessed the murder. Tammy had recently ended the relationship with Garcia. Garcia had a history of violence. Authorities apprehended Garcia and charged him with Tammy’s murder. Tammy is survived by her three daughters, ages 2, 6, and 7 years old.

BROOKS COUNTY
Falfurrias | 3/28/12
Erika Cantu DeLeon, 34
Eusebio DeLeon, 39, beat his wife Erika in the bedroom of her home. Medical personnel transported Erika to a local hospital where she later died from injuries related to the beating. DeLeon then fled to Michigan where authorities apprehended him and charged him with Erika’s murder. Erika is survived by her 3-year-old son and three daughters, ages 12, 16, and 20-years-old.
BROWN COUNTY
Brownwood | 9/24/12
Michele Reiter, 38
Lanny Bush, 58, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Michele in a field. Authorities arrested and charged Bush with Michele’s murder. Michele is survived by her teenage son and daughter.

BURLESON COUNTY
Caldwell | 6/29/12
Jean Rae Slovacek, 53
Edward Lee, 51, shot and killed his girlfriend Jean in her home. After the murder, Lee kidnapped and assaulted Jean’s 15-year-old granddaughter. Lee pled guilty to murder, aggravated sexual assault, and aggravated kidnapping, and he received a life sentence for these crimes. Jean is survived by her adult daughter.

CAMERON COUNTY
Harlingen | 9/28/12
Sarah Maxwell Montemayor, 29
Omar Montemayor, 34, shot and killed his pregnant wife Sarah after breaking into her home. Montemayor also shot and killed Sarah’s friend Devan Haynes, 28. Montemayor then attempted to kill himself. Montemayor had also attempted suicide at the end of a previous relationship. Montemayor faces three counts of murder. Sarah is survived by her 4-year-old son.

Harlingen | 7/23/12
Herlinda Trujillo, 55
Jose Colmenares, 53, beat and killed his wife Herlinda in their home. Colmenares then hung himself. Herlinda is survived by her adult son.

Rio Hondo | 8/2/12
Marisela Galvez Villarreal, 45
Jose Sanchez, 40, shot and killed his girlfriend Marisela in their home. Sanchez then shot and killed himself. Prior to the murder, Sanchez reported to a relative that he intended to confront and kill Marisela because he was jealous after Marisela came home late. Marisela is survived by her three children.

CASS COUNTY
Atlanta | 11/26/12
Dyrika Jones, 42
John Jones, 47, shot and killed his wife Dyrika at her friend’s home. Jones also shot and killed Dyrika’s friend Doyle Pollard, 47. Prior to the murder, Dyrika had sought a protective order. Authorities arrested and charged Jones with the double murder. Dyrika is survived by her teenage son.
COLLIN COUNTY

Plano | 7/13/12

Ashleigh Lindsey, 20

Joshua Mahaffey, 29, shot his ex-girlfriend Ashleigh in the bathroom of her home in Oklahoma. Ashleigh was transported to a hospital in Texas where she died of the injuries. Mahaffey then shot and killed himself. Prior to the murder, Mahaffey stalked Ashleigh, and she had filed for a Magistrates Order of Emergency Protection when she was three months pregnant. In perpetrating the murder, Mahaffey and Mahaffey’s roommate Joshua Scott, 21, killed Scott’s stepfather, stole his car and then drove the vehicle to Oklahoma where the two men broke into Ashleigh’s home, attacked her and ultimately killed her. Ashleigh was pregnant at the time of her murder.

COMAL COUNTY

New Braunfels | 4/8/12

Elizabeth Trevino, 37

Augustine Garcia, 39, shot and killed his wife Elizabeth in the bedroom of their home. Garcia then shot and killed himself. Their teenage daughters discovered Elizabeth and Garcia’s bodies inside the home. Elizabeth had recently separated from Garcia and was staying with family. Elizabeth is survived by her three daughters, ages 13, 15, and 18.

DALLAS COUNTY

Dallas | 9/6/12

Cicely Bolden, 28

Larry Dunn Jr., 36, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Cicely in the bedroom of her home. Cicely’s two young children returned from school and found her body. Dunn confessed to authorities that he killed Cicely. Authorities arrested Dunn and charged him with the murder. Cicely is survived by her 7-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter.

Dallas | 8/17/12

Chaquentierra Carlisle, 56

Dietrich Shannon, 40, strangled and killed his girlfriend Chaquentierra. Shannon then left Chaquentierra in a dumpster and ignited a fire. Authorities discovered Chaquentierra’s body when they responded to a call about the fire. Authorities arrested Shannon for Chaquentierra’s murder.

Dallas | 8/17/12

Deanna Cook, 32

Delvecchio Patrick, 35, strangled and killed his ex-wife Deanna in the bathroom of her home. While being attacked, Deanna called 911 for help. The police arrived at Deanna’s home an hour after the call and after hearing no response or seeing anything at the house, they left the home. Deanna’s sister and mother found Deanna’s body two days later. Patrick had a history of violence against Deanna. Authorities arrested Patrick and charged him with murder. Deanna is survived by her two teenage daughters.
DALLAS COUNTY
Dallas | 5/24/12  
Becky Anne Gee, 51  
Christopher Worley, 40, strangled his girlfriend Becky to death in her home. Worley confessed, and authorities charged him with her murder. Becky is survived by her four adult children.

Dallas | 12/20/12  
Jerie Ann McCloud, 36  
Mark Guida, 43, strangled his girlfriend Jerie to death in a vehicle. Police found Jerie’s body inside the burning vehicle left in a vacant field. Authorities arrested Guida and charged him with murder. Jerie is survived by her three sons, ages 6, 8, and 12.

Dallas | 1/26/12  
Donya Palmer, 47  
William Palmer, 50, stabbed and killed his wife Donya in the living room of her parents’ home. Palmer chased Donya inside the house and fatally stabbed her. Palmer also stabbed and killed Donya’s parents, Raymond Davis, 69, and Mary Jane Davis, 67. Donya’s sister and niece heard the attacks, hid in a closet, and called authorities. Donya had recently separated from Palmer and moved into her parents’ home. Palmer had a history of violence. Authorities arrested and charged Palmer with the capital murder of Donya and her parents. Donya is survived by her adult son and two adult daughters.

Dallas | 6/26/12  
Evangeline Kay Watkins, 35  
Alan Washington, 48, shot his ex-wife Evangeline in a vehicle parked behind a restaurant. Washington also shot her friend David Stevenson, 53. David survived and Evangeline was transported to the local hospital where she later died. Authorities arrested Washington for Evangeline’s murder.

Duncanville | 10/8/12  
Tonia Lopez Serrato, 25  
Ediberto Gaona, 27, shot and killed his wife Tonia at her relative’s home. A neighbor reported hearing arguing in the street and seeing Gaona point a weapon at Tonia. Gaona threatened witnesses with the gun before shooting and killing himself.

Irving | 12/28/12  
Sharon Gooden, 55  
Roy Gooden, 47, stabbed his wife Sharon to death at a food pantry. Gooden had a history of violence and had served time in jail for assaulting his daughter and another female with a knife. Authorities charged Gooden with Sharon’s murder. Sharon is survived by an adult daughter and two adult sons.
DENTON COUNTY

Lewisville | 8/30/12

Norma Gomez, 39
Nelson Flores-Carrasco, 24, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Norma in her home. Flores-Carrasco also stabbed Norma’s 16-year-old son, who survived. On the day of her death, Norma reported to the police that Flores-Carrasco threatened her. Flores-Carrasco received a life sentence for the murder of Norma, the attempted murder of her son, and the threat Norma reported. Norma is survived by her 16-year-old son.

Lewisville | 3/25/12

Bernice Stolz, 49
Michael Stolz, 76, shot and killed his wife Bernice in the kitchen of their home. Stolz confessed that he had first shot and killed their two dogs. Bernice became upset and ran into the kitchen where he then shot her. Authorities charged Stolz with Bernice’s murder.

Providence Village | 11/5/12

Cristina Maria Allen, 27
Nelson Rodriguez-Doran, 29, shot and killed his girlfriend Cristina in her bedroom. Rodriguez-Doran then shot and killed himself. Cristina had gone to stay with friends and two days prior to her murder she had called police because Rodriguez prevented her from retrieving her belongings. Cristina is survived by her 10-year-old son.

DUVAL COUNTY

Freer | 7/12/12

Lois Pressell, 34
Juan Aguillon, 37, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Lois in her home. Law enforcement received the initial call from a bystander reporting that he heard an argument and a woman screaming for help. Lois called 911 and identified Aguillon as the attacker. Aguillon received 45 years in prison for Lois’ murder. Lois is survived by her daughter.

EL PASO COUNTY

El Paso | 3/28/12

Yanira Caballero, 32
Antonio Brown, 31, strangled and killed his wife Yanira in the bedroom of her home. Yanira had recently ended the relationship. Brown had a history of violence. Authorities arrested and charged Brown with Yanira’s murder. Yanira is survived by her 16-year-old daughter.

El Paso | 5/14/12

Lisa Yvette Nichols, 41
Estevan Morales, 30, shot and killed his girlfriend Lisa in their home. Morales then shot and killed himself. Lisa is survived by her teenage son and daughter.
EL PASO COUNTY
El Paso | 5/31/12
Marysol Saldivar, 34
Javier Solis-Gonzalez, 35, beat and killed his wife Marysol in her home. Solis-Gonzalez also strangled and killed Marysol’s 13-year-old daughter and stabbed and killed Marysol’s friend Eric De Santiago, 42. Marysol’s 4-year-old son witnessed the murders. Solis-Gonzalez fled to Mexico and turned himself into authorities one month later. Authorities charged Solis-Gonzalez with capital murder for the triple homicide. Marysol is survived by her 4-year-old son.

Socorro | 11/24/12
Crystal Sarai Lugo, 20
Johnnyray Nevarez, 27, suffocated and killed his wife Crystal at their home. Nevarez then transported her body to a landfill in Juarez, Mexico, and he shot and killed himself near Hueco Tanks. Nevarez recounted his actions to a friend and also in a note with details of where he left Crystal’s body just outside of El Paso. Crystal was approximately two months pregnant with twins at the time of her murder.

FLOYD COUNTY
Lockney | 10/13/12
Kechi Marie Diaz, 25
Edward Hernandez, 50, beat and killed his girlfriend Kechi in the kitchen of their home. After killing Kechi, Hernandez called authorities. Hernandez received a 50-year sentence for Kechi’s murder. Kechi is survived by her son and three daughters ranging in age from 5 to 9-years-old.

GALVESTON COUNTY
Galveston | 10/28/12
Jackie Dean Bergara, 53
Richard Beverly, 44, killed his girlfriend Jackie in their home by stabbing her. Beverly then attempted suicide, medical personnel transported Beverly to a local hospital, and he survived. Authorities charged Beverly with Jackie’s murder. Jackie is survived by her five adult children.

Santa Fe | 9/15/12
Angela Renee Lopez, 42
William Ray Parker, 44, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Angela in the front yard of her home. Angela’s daughter witnessed the shooting. Neighbors witnessed Parker holding Angela at gunpoint and shooting her. Neighbors then detained Parker. Authorities charged Parker with murder. Angela is survived by her 12-year-old daughter and adult son.

GRAYSON COUNTY
Sherman | 11/26/12
Maria Luisa Sanchez, 59
Candelario Luna, 69, shot and killed his wife Maria in their home. Luna was arrested for Maria’s murder. Maria is survived by her eight adult children.
GREGG COUNTY

Longview | 10/10/12
La Toya Nicole Reese, 28
Joushal Reese, 31, shot and killed his ex-wife La Toya in her home. Reese also shot and killed LaToya’s 11-year-old daughter. La Toya obtained a divorce two months prior to her death. Authorities arrested Reese and charged him with the capital murder of both La Toya and her daughter.

HALE COUNTY

Plainview | 11/5/12
Viviana Castañeda, 24
Juan Castañeda, 25, struck a vehicle driven by his pregnant wife Viviana with his car on a public street. Viviana’s car was forced off the road and hit a utility pole. She was transported to a local hospital where she died from her injuries. Castañeda also seriously injured Viviana’s 5-year-old son and her sister, who were also in her car. Authorities charged Castañeda with Viviana’s murder. Viviana is survived by her 5-year-old son.

HARRIS COUNTY

Cypress | 6/25/12
Thelma Ashley, 60
Myles Ashley, 60, shot his wife Thelma in the bedroom of their home. Ashley then shot and killed himself. Emergency personnel transported Thelma to the local hospital where she died from the injuries. Thelma is survived by her two adult children.

Houston | 5/1/12
Linda Alton, 32
Dominic Brown, 39, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Linda outside her home. Linda was walking down the sidewalk with her daughter in her arms when Brown confronted Linda and began to argue with her. He then took the child out of Linda’s hands, sat her on the ground, shot Linda and then shot and killed himself. Linda is survived by her 2-year-old daughter.

Houston | 3/30/12
Isabel Alvarado, 39
Carlos Alvarado, 45, strangled his wife Isabel to death after she left her work place. Alvarado then burned Isabel’s body in Fresno, in neighboring Fort Bend County. Before confessing to Isabel’s murder, Alvarado took part in Isabel’s search and addressed the media multiple times pleading for her safe return. Subsequently, authorities arrested and charged Alvarado with Isabel’s murder. Isabel is survived by her four children.

Houston | 12/29/12
Dalena Melika Anderson, 29
Steven Hancock, 50, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Dalena in her home. Hancock then shot and killed himself at a nearby bus stop. Dalena’s two children and her younger brother were home at the time and witnessed the murder. Dalena is survived by her 7-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter.
HARRIS COUNTY

Houston | 7/29/12
April Dawn Boggs, 42
Edgar Zavala, 45, beat, sexually assaulted, and killed his ex-girlfriend April in the kitchen of her home. Authorities found and impounded the vehicle Zavala drove; they discovered sufficient evidence to charge him with April’s murder. Authorities have pursued a nationwide manhunt for Zavala but he remains at large.

Houston | 12/23/12
Connie Leatrice Bowie, 39
Herbert Gardner, 43, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Connie in the bedroom of her home. As he fled, Gardner shot at responding officers. Authorities apprehended and charged Gardner with Connie’s murder and aggravated assault of a public servant. Connie is survived by two children.

Houston | 4/8/12
Katherine Brownlow-Stewart, 41
Romelle Hawkins, 32, shot and killed his girlfriend Katherine on a public street in Houston. Hawkins also shot and injured Katherine’s friend Jerold Griffin. Another friend at the scene witnessed the murder and gave a statement to authorities. Authorities captured and charged Hawkins with Katherine’s murder.

Houston | 3/23/12
Alma Canales, 39
Mauricio Izaguirre, 23, shot his girlfriend Alma in her home. Alma was transported to the hospital where she later died from the injuries. Alma’s children were in the home during the shooting. Authorities charged Izaguirre with Alma’s murder, but Izaguirre remains at large. Alma is survived by her five children: an 18-year-old son, 16-year-old son, 9-year-old daughter, 6-year-old daughter, and a 2-year-old.

Houston | 10/3/12
Gertrude Sam Companion, 76
Michael Companion, 77, shot and killed his wife Gertrude in the bedroom of their home. He then shot and killed himself. Gertrude is survived by three adult children.

Houston | 4/30/12
Shanelle Verona Cormier, 31
James Robinson, 59, shot and killed his girlfriend Shanelle in his home. After being shot and wounded, Shanelle tried to get help from a neighbor, but Robinson pointed a gun at the neighbor and forced Shanelle back into his home where he fatally shot her. Robinson confessed to Shanelle’s murder. Authorities arrested and charged Robinson with aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and murder.
HARRIS COUNTY

Houston | 9/17/12
Hilda Garza, 41
Joe Bowden, 61, shot and killed his girlfriend Hilda in their home. Authorities charged Bowden with murder.

Houston | 11/2/12
Diamond Sade Harper, 15
Darrell Smith, 22, strangled and killed his girlfriend Diamond at a hotel. Hotel staff discovered Diamond after Smith checked out of the room. Authorities arrested and charged Smith with murder.

Houston | 12/24/12
LaTasha Jones, 35
Curtis Adams, 44, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend LaTasha in her bedroom of her home. Adams also killed LaTasha’s 13-year-old daughter. LaTasha’s son was present during the murders. Adams had recently been indicted for sexually assaulting LaTasha’s 13-year-old daughter. Authorities have charged Adams with capital murder. LaTasha is survived by her 7-year-old son and 18-year-old daughter.

Houston | 8/29/12
Mary Karnik, 61
Dilip Karnik, 69, shot and killed his wife Mary in the bedroom of their home. Karnik then shot and killed himself. Their adult son found their bodies after he went to their home to check on them. Mary is survived by her adult son and daughter.

Houston | 5/19/12
Jennifer Lynette McKinley, 28
Erick Erminger, 44, beat and killed his girlfriend Jennifer in their home. Jennifer’s son was present. Authorities arrested and charged Erminger with murder. Jennifer is survived by her 8-year-old son.

Houston | 6/4/12
Lashonda Deasha Moye, 35
Nathan Mitchell, 39, strangled his ex-girlfriend Lashonda to death in the bathroom of her home. Law enforcement officers responded to a home invasion call and found Lashonda and Mitchell, who had attempted suicide. Medical personnel transported Mitchell to a hospital; after he was released he killed himself. Lashonda is survived by her 7-year-old son and one other son.

Houston | 2/10/12
Martha Nava De Martinez, 40
Diego Martinez, 42, shot and killed his wife Martha and Martha’s friend Omar Salazar, 31, in the front yard of the Martinez home. Martha’s children witnessed the murders. After leading authorities on a chase through town, Martinez barricaded himself in an acquaintance’s home and shot and killed himself. Martinez had a prior conviction for family violence and served time for that offense. Previously, he had also been indicted for assaulting Martha’s 13-year-old daughter. A protective order expired two weeks prior to the murder. Martha is survived by her three children ages 13, 19, and 20.
HARRIS COUNTY

Houston | 3/25/12
Emelia Oregon-Cruz, 27
Tomas Rodriguez, 41, shot and killed his wife Emelia in a vehicle. Rodriguez forced Emelia into his vehicle where he shot her. Rodriguez then fled the scene in Emelia’s car. Rodriguez turned himself in and authorities arrested and charged Rodriguez with Emelia’s murder.

Houston | 2/13/12
Rachel Prado, 29
Ricardo Prado, 30, shot and killed his wife Rachel in the garage of her mother’s home. Prado also shot and killed Rachel’s 19-year-old niece, Jasmine Rhodes. Rachel and Jasmine had just parked at Rachel’s mother’s home when Prado shot them and Rachel’s children were also at home at the time of the murder. Prado had a history of family violence and Rachel sought a divorce. Prado fled the scene and later authorities arrested and charged him with capital murder. Rachel is survived by her 8-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter.

Houston | 12/11/12
Trang Quach, 44
Kenny Pham, 45, shot and killed his wife Trang in their home. Pham then shot and killed himself. When Trang’s 15-year-old son returned home from school he discovered their bodies. Trang is survived by her 15-year-old son, 20-year-old daughter, and one other child.

Houston | 10/8/12
Melissa Rodriguez, 31
Chayanne Castillo, 20, shot and killed his girlfriend Melissa in their home. Authorities arrested Castillo and charged him with the murder of Melissa.

Houston | 7/29/12
Cecelia Sanders, 27
Ronald Green, 27, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Cecelia in her apartment. Green fled the scene and left Cecelia’s two daughters alone in the home. Cecelia’s mother went to her home after not hearing from her and discovered Cecelia’s body and her two unattended children. Authorities arrested and charged Green with capital murder and two counts of abandoning and endangering a child. Cecelia is survived by her 8-month-old and 3-year-old daughters.

Houston | 6/8/12
Sheila Scott, 53
Eugene Scott, 54, shot and killed his wife Sheila in their home. Scott then shot and killed himself. Sheila is survived by her two adult daughters.

Houston | 4/21/12
Jahzeel Rubi Smurthwaite, 24
Jared Smurthwaite, 25, shot and killed his wife Jahzeel in their home. Smurthwaite then hung himself. Reports indicate that Jahzeel had filed for divorce. Jahzeel is survived by her 6-year-old son.
HARRIS COUNTY

Houston | 4/1/12
LaVandra Clashette Stevens, 24
Alan Erskine, 37, beat and killed his girlfriend LaVandra in their home. Erskine called police to report that he killed LaVandra and then he fled. Authorities located Erskine but before they could apprehend him, Erskine shot and killed himself.

Houston | 4/16/12
Roberta Florinda Tzunun-Say, 35
Manuel Chojolan, 33, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Roberta in the front yard of their home. Roberta’s two brothers were present at the home at the time of the murder. Authorities charged Chojolan with murder.

Houston | 7/13/12
Victoria Ramirez Vasquez, 33
Romnel Reyes-Garcia, 24, shot and killed his girlfriend Victoria at a public storage unit. He then shot and killed himself.

Houston | 7/23/12
Erica Venegas, 36
Edwin Salinas, 23, shot and killed his girlfriend Erica in their apartment. Salinas called a friend, confessed to killing Erica, and then fled. Authorities charged Salinas with Erica’s murder. Salinas remains at large.

Houston | 9/22/12
Michelle Leigh Warner, 31
Mark Castellano, 37, strangled and killed his ex-girlfriend Michelle in her home. Castellano then hid her body in an oil field in Ector County. Two days prior to confessing to Michelle’s murder, Castellano taped an interview with the television personality Dr. Phil denying any involvement in her disappearance. Authorities charged Castellano with murder. Michelle is survived by her 3-year-old son and 11-year-old daughter.

Katy | 2/11/12
Martha Gomez, 28
Henry Rubio, 29, shot and killed his girlfriend Martha Gomez in a hotel. Rubio then shot and killed himself.

HIDALGO COUNTY

Alton | 5/23/12
Nora Lee Garcia, 37
Miguel Angel Garcia, 37, shot and killed his wife Nora in the front yard of her home. Nora’s daughter and another 11-year-old neighbor were present. Garcia then fled to Mexico. Garcia had a history of family violence and, at the time of the murder, Nora was attempting to leave. Authorities arrested Garcia when he attempted to re-enter the United States. Nora is survived by her 11-year-old daughter.
HIDALGO COUNTY

Alton | 12/30/12
Mildred Martínez, 22
Celso Méndez, 25, shot and killed his girlfriend Mildred in their home. Méndez then shot and killed himself.

Edinburg | 5/6/12
Veronica Serrano Rivera, 28
Raul Garza, 24, strangled his wife Veronica to death in a bedroom of their home. Garza also assaulted, strangled, and killed Veronica’s 12-year-old sister. Garza then kidnapped a neighbor that later managed to escape. The neighbor led the police to the bodies. Up to that point, Veronica’s three children hid in the home for two days until authorities found them walking on the road unattended. Garza received a life sentence for the sexual assault and murders. Veronica is survived by her 6-month-old, 5-year-old, and 6-year-old daughters.

Hidalgo | 1/22/12
Jillilah Marie Rivas, 17
Sergio Garcia, 23, struck and killed his girlfriend Jillilah with his vehicle at a public intersection as she walked home. Jillilah and Garcia were at a party when Garcia began arguing with Jillilah because she wanted to go home. Authorities charged Garcia with Jillilah’s murder.

HILL COUNTY

Blum | 7/6/12
Judy Cryer Thomas, 57
Larry Thomas, 62, shot and killed his wife Judy in the bedroom of their home. Thomas then shot and killed himself. Their son discovered their bodies when he arrived for a visit. Judy is survived by her adult son.

JEFFERSON COUNTY

Beaumont | 2/27/12
Reina Janeth Cornejo-Trigueros, 37
Jesus Castrejon, 51, killed his girlfriend Reina and then put her body in the San Jacinto River. Prior to the murder, Reina refused Castrejon’s marriage proposal. Authorities discovered Reina’s body and her burned car and issued a warrant for Castrejon for murder. Castrejon remains at large. Reina is survived by her two sons, ages 7 and 16-years-old.

Nederland | 5/25/12
Hollie Ann Crenshaw, 36
Travis Smith, 38, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Hollie at her workplace. According to authorities, Hollie had recently moved out of their home and had filed for custody of their 4-year-old son two days before the shooting. Smith received 40 years in prison for Hollie’s murder. Hollie is survived by her 4-year-old son and another child.
JIM WELLS COUNTY
Alice | 1/10/12
Kimberly Lee Gonzalez, 26
Vidal Garcia III, 25, shot and killed his wife Kimberly in the bathroom at the Texas Department of Health and Human Services office. Witnesses report seeing Garcia arguing with Kimberly shortly before he shot her. Kimberly had attempted to end the relationship in November 2011 and filed for a protective order. Garcia was indicted for Kimberly’s murder. Kimberly is survived by two sons and a daughter ranging in age from 3 to 9-years-old.

Alice | 3/16/12
Michelle Hughes, 41
Felix Chapa, 24, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Michelle in her home. Chapa also stabbed and killed Michelle’s 15-year-old son and 19-year-old son Ivan Hughes. Chapa had a history of family violence towards Michelle and she attempted to end the relationship days prior to her murder. Authorities arrested Chapa and charged him with three counts of capital murder. Michelle is survived by her adult daughter.

KAUFMAN COUNTY
Terrell | 5/25/12
Renata Cathcart, 31
Keithian Daniels, 37, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Renata in the bedroom of her home. While SWAT police surrounded Renata’s home, Daniels shot and killed himself. Renata’s three children were home at the time of the murder. After killing Renata, Daniels forced the three children out of the home at gunpoint. Renata had ended the relationship and had refused Daniels’ recent attempts to get back together. Renata is survived by her two sons and a daughter, ages 6, 15, and 16-years-old.

LAMAR COUNTY
Paris | 4/28/12
Donna Kaye Miles-Barrett, 43
Byron Barrett, 42, stabbed and killed his wife Donna in their home. Barrett had been arrested the previous month for assaulting Donna. Barrett received a life sentence for Donna’s murder. Donna is survived by her son and her daughter.

LAMB COUNTY
Littlefield | 7/7/12
Ashley Perea, 24
Eddie Ortega, 20, shot and killed his girlfriend Ashley in the apartment they shared. Authorities charged Ortega with Ashley’s murder.
LUBBOCK COUNTY

Lubbock | 12/18/12
Denise Marie Alonzo, 34
Abel Alonzo, 35, stabbed and killed his wife Denise in their home. Alonzo also strangled and beat Denise before he ultimately stabbed her to death. After killing Denise, Alonzo set fire to their home. Authorities charged Alonzo with Denise’s murder. Denise is survived by her 8 and 14-year-old daughters and 11-year-old son.

Lubbock | 4/12/12
Maria Priscella Perez, 32
Steve Ballestros, 41, strangled and killed his girlfriend Maria in the bedroom of her home. Maria’s four children were home at the time of the murder. Ballestros fled in a vehicle. Authorities captured and charged Ballestros with Maria’s murder. Maria is survived by her 5 and 8-year-old sons and 7-month-old twin daughters.

MCLENNAN COUNTY

Bruceville | 7/30/12
Carol Jean Wagner, 60
Jerry Borchardt, 61, suffocated and killed his ex-girlfriend Carol in the bedroom of her home. Carol’s son found her several days later. Authorities charged Borchardt with Carol’s murder after he confessed. Carol is survived by her son.

Waco | 9/23/12
Kimberly Farr Petetan, 41
Carnell Petetan Jr., 36, shot and killed his wife Kimberly in her home. On the night of the murder, neighbors heard fighting and then gunshots, some of which entered neighboring homes. After killing Kimberly, Petetan kidnapped her 9-year-old daughter. Law enforcement arrested Petetan during a traffic stop where they found Kimberly’s daughter physically unharmed. Neighbors report Petetan had a history of family violence. The murder occurred five months after Petetan completed a prison sentence for attempted murder. Prosecutors indicted Petetan for the murder of Kimberly. Kimberly is survived by her 9-year-old daughter, two adult sons, and an adult daughter.

MIDLAND COUNTY

Midland | 4/2/12
Elizabeth Rangel Torres, 44
Arturo Alvarado, 50, shot and killed his girlfriend Elizabeth on a country road. Alvarado then shot and killed himself. Alvarado and Elizabeth were also business partners. Elizabeth is survived by her son and daughter.
MILAM COUNTY

Milano | 4/25/12
Lindsay Ferrill, 28
Justin Patronella, 25, shot and killed his girlfriend Lindsay in their home. Patronella then attempted to kill himself and was taken to the hospital where he later died. Their 3-year-old daughter was home at the time. Lindsay is survived by her 3-year-old daughter.

Rockdale | 5/6/12
Shelia Marie Owens, 49
Stephen Daniell, 47, shot and killed his girlfriend Shelia in the front yard of their home as Shelia tried to leave. Daniell pled guilty to first-degree felony murder and he received 60 years in prison. Shelia is survived by her four sons.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Conroe | 12/30/12
Donna Quinlan, 56
Thomas Quinlan, 58, shot and killed his wife Donna at their home. Authorities arrested Quinlan and charged him with Donna’s murder. One month later, Quinlan posted bond and committed suicide in the same home he had killed Donna. Donna is survived by her 16, 18, and 22-year-old daughters.

The Woodlands | 5/28/12
Karen Hamilton Gunn, 44
Graham Gunn, 56, shot and killed his wife Karen in the backyard of their home. Gunn then shot and killed himself. Karen’s two children were at the home during the murder. In December 2011 Gunn went to Karen’s business and held a gun to Karen’s head. From that incident, Karen requested and received a protective order. Their divorce would have been finalized two weeks after her murder. Karen is survived by her 10-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son.

MOORE COUNTY

Dumas | 1/14/12
Aimee Kuykendall, 32
Alan Kuykendall, 47, shot and killed his wife Aimee in their home. Kuykendall received 45 years in prison for Aimee’s murder. Aimee is survived by two sons and a daughter.

NUECES COUNTY

Corpus Christi | 1/3/12
Pamela Frances Stanley, 71
Richard Stanley, 71, shot and killed his wife Pamela in her home. Stanley then shot and killed himself. Pamela had recently separated from Stanley and was seeking a divorce. Pamela is survived by five adult children.
POTTER COUNTY
Amarillo | 3/15/12
Amanda Lynn Butler, 33
Jamario Oliver, 32, stabbed and killed his wife Amanda in the bedroom of her home. Oliver recently served a two-year prison sentence for multiple violations of protective orders after assaulting other women. Oliver received a 40-year sentence for Amanda’s murder. Amanda is survived by her two sons and a daughter.

Amarillo | 2/21/12
Carolyn Ann Norrid, 53
Henry Norrid, 71, shot and killed his wife Carolyn in the bedroom of their home. Norrid then killed himself. Friends of the couple became concerned after not hearing from them for several days. Authorities performed a welfare check and discovered their bodies. Carolyn is survived by an adult son.

SAN AUGUSTINE COUNTY
San Augustine | 6/30/12
Sharonda Crockett, 30
C’Amato Edwards, 21, shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Sharonda in the bedroom of her home. Edwards then shot and killed himself.

SMITH COUNTY
Tyler | 10/26/12
Karen Elizabeth Malone, 52
James Malone, 53, shot and killed his wife Karen in their home. Malone then killed himself. They were going through divorce proceedings when Karen returned to their home to retrieve belongings. Malone had a history of violence. Karen is survived by two adult children.

Tyler | 6/29/12
Rosalind Nichols, 71
Bobby Nichols, 75, shot and killed his wife Rosalind in the living room of their home. Nichols called 911 and confessed to Rosalind’s murder. Nichols received a 20-year sentence for Rosalind’s murder.

TARRANT COUNTY
Arlington | 11/20/12
Sara Abigail Carbajal, 19
Oscar Robira, 22, shot and killed his wife Sara in their home. Robira then shot and killed himself. Reports indicate relatives called authorities to request a welfare check because Sara did not pick up her small child the night before. Sara is survived by her young child.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Victim</th>
<th>Attacker</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tarrant County</td>
<td>2/16/12</td>
<td>Linda Villanueva-Rodriguez, 22</td>
<td>Roshan Sah, 25</td>
<td>shot and killed Linda in the front yard of her apartment. Linda and Sah met at church. Sah stalked Linda for over a year after she rejected Sah’s attempts to further the relationship. Sah received a life sentence for Linda’s murder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>11/10/12</td>
<td>Sharon Lee Watson, 56</td>
<td>Jack Watson, 60</td>
<td>shot and killed his wife Sharon in their home. Watson called his mother and confessed to Sharon’s murder. Authorities arrested Watson when he surrendered and charged him with murder.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
<td>12/31/12</td>
<td>Greta Ann Grayson, 62</td>
<td>Albert Beasley, 61</td>
<td>beat and killed his girlfriend Greta in their home. Authorities arrested and charged Beasley in Greta’s murder.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
<td>4/4/12</td>
<td>Essie Howary, 58</td>
<td>Chester Wallace, 90</td>
<td>shot and killed his wife Essie in their home. Wallace shot and killed himself. Wallace and Essie’s adult children from their previous marriages discovered their bodies. Essie is survived by her adult daughter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Worth</td>
<td>8/19/12</td>
<td>Vanessa Ann Murrell, 21</td>
<td>Johnny Scott, 20</td>
<td>stabbed and killed his pregnant girlfriend Vanessa in a vacant field. Scott also cut Vanessa’s throat during the attack. According to reports, Scott had a history of drug and other violent offenses including assault towards a family member. Authorities arrested and charged Scott with the murder of Vanessa.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Green County</td>
<td>11/27/12</td>
<td>Peggy June Bone, 84</td>
<td>Clyde Bone, 84</td>
<td>shot and killed his wife Peggy in their home. Bone shot and killed himself. Peggy is survived by her adult daughter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis County</td>
<td>11/15/12</td>
<td>Kirstin Louise Anderson, 41</td>
<td>Christopher Roberts, 23</td>
<td>strangled his girlfriend Kirstin to death in her home. Authorities arrested and charged Roberts with Kirstin’s murder.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRAVIS COUNTY

Austin | 12/30/12
Cassandra Clark, 26
Ryan Clarke, 27, beat and killed his girlfriend Cassandra in a bedroom of their apartment. Clarke had a history of violence and Cassandra had attempted to end the relationship. Authorities found Clarke in a county park where he had attempted suicide and charged him with Cassandra’s murder.

Austin | 11/18/12
Adriana Rugina, 29
Terrelle Owens, 38, shot and killed his girlfriend Adriana in her home. Owens then shot himself. Adriana’s 7-year-old daughter was home and witnessed the event. Authorities located the daughter running from the house yelling for the police. Adriana is survived by her daughter.

UVALDE COUNTY

Uvalde | 1/2/12
Rose Mary Barrera, 44
Elias Varela, 80, shot and killed his girlfriend Rose Mary in their home. Varela called authorities after killing Rose Mary and reported that a murder-suicide was about to happen. Varela then shot and killed himself. When police arrived four minutes later, they found the bodies. Rosemary is survived by her three sons.

VICTORIA COUNTY

Victoria | 10/27/12
Sandra Ann Rivera, 44
Bennie Dupnik Jr., 51, stabbed and killed his girlfriend Sandra in their home. Dupnik then killed himself using a knife. Previously, Dupnik served 32 years in prison for the murder of Gladys Fowler in 1978. Dupnik was on parole and under maximum supervision at the time he killed Sandra. Sandra is survived by her three sons.

WALKER COUNTY

Huntsville | 1/21/12
Haroldine Murray, 81
Frank Murray, 82, shot and killed his wife Haroldine in the nursing home where she was a resident. Frank then shot and killed himself in the same room. Staff at the nursing home discovered the couple. Haroldine is survived by her two adult daughters.

WICHITA COUNTY

Wichita Falls | 2/14/12
Monica Partida, 32
Jerry Joe Garza, 40, stabbed and killed his ex-girlfriend Monica in her bedroom. According to authorities, Garza attempted to stage a burglary; however, DNA evidence linked him to the murder. Garza had a history of violence towards Monica. Authorities charged Garza with Monica’s murder. Monica is survived by two sons and a daughter.
WISE COUNTY
Decatur | 11/18/12
Samantha Jo McNorton, 28
David Malone, 29, strangled and killed his girlfriend Samantha in their home. Authorities had Malone in custody for sexual assault of an ex-girlfriend when he confessed to killing Samantha and burying her body. Shortly before his trial, Malone committed suicide while in his jail cell.
Samantha is survived by her son and two daughters, ages 2, 4, and 6-years-old.
Acknowledgements

The information collected for this report would not be possible without the strong support of the Department of Public Safety, law enforcement, prosecutors and domestic violence advocates. We offer this special acknowledgement and sincere appreciation to the many individuals who contributed to the analysis and development of this report.
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.