



Arizona Domestic Violence Fatality Report 2014

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF OF THE ARIZONA COALITION TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEDICATES THIS REPORT TO THE 109 KNOWN INDIVIDUALS KILLED IN ARIZONA IN 2014, AND TO THOSE WHO KEEP THEIR MEMORY ALIVE.

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INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence (ACESDV) presents the *Arizona Domestic Violence Fatality Report*. Annually, ACESDV tracks domestic violence related fatalities of women, men, and children in Arizona and has produced fatality reports since 2005. From 2005-2014, at least 1,139 people in Arizona have lost their lives in domestic violence related incidents. These fatalities represent a small fraction of those individuals in Arizona who use violence in intimate and familial relationships. They also remind us of the potential lethality in domestic violence.

In 2014, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducted its annual survey of domestic violence services. The survey revealed that in one day in Arizona 1,244 survivors accessed services (NNEDV, 2015). Additionally, 171 requests for services went unmet, with 90% of those requests being for emergency shelter or transitional housing (NNEDV, 2015). ACESDV's Legal Advocacy Hotline tracks the number of calls for information and referrals related to family court, protection orders, legal assistance, victims' rights, safety planning, shelters/safe housing, and more. In 2014 the hotline reported 2,431 calls received, with approximately 36% coming from survivors and concerned friends and family members. The numbers in these two reports demonstrate the ongoing need for services for survivors of domestic violence and the communities in which they live.

This report focuses on domestic violence related fatalities in calendar year 2014 and identifies characteristics of these cases. In order to influence community and policy decisions, inform responses to domestic violence, and enhance services to Arizonans, we must closely examine the circumstances leading up to and surrounding these fatalities. Use of the terms *victim* and *survivor* depends on the source; for example, Arizona state law uses *victim*, whereas the National Domestic Violence Hotline uses *survivor*. Individuals who lost their lives will be referred to as *victim* or *decedent*, and for content unattributed to a specific source, the term *survivor* will be used. The purpose of this report is to provide as accurate a description as possible of the main events and circumstances related to each fatality, to help Arizona communities create and increase opportunities for education and intervention, and to encourage community members to support local efforts to prevent and end domestic violence. However, this brief report cannot fully capture the individuality of each victim or the total impact of their loss on the community.

HOW DATA WAS COLLECTED

Five years ago, ACESDV transitioned from using clippings from newspaper and other periodicals to Meltwater News, an online media monitoring service. Meltwater News conducts a topical keyword search utilizing Boolean logic, which allows for the combination of keywords with modifiers such as 'and', 'not' and 'or' to further produce additional germane results. The information for this report was gathered from local and national media sources using specific keywords including, but not limited to: violence, shooting, homicide, murder, assault, killed, stabbed, mother, father, brother, sister, husband, wife, boyfriend, girlfriend, uncle, aunt, cousin, teen, and child.

Arizona Revised Statute (A.R.S.) 13-3601 defines domestic violence by the relationship between the victim and defendant (perpetrator) and the type of crime(s) committed. The following is a list of qualifying relationships included in statute:

- The relationship between the victim and the defendant is one of marriage or former marriage or of persons residing or having resided in the same household.
- The victim and the defendant have a child in common.
- The victim or the defendant is pregnant by the other party.

- The victim is related to the defendant or the defendant’s spouse by blood or court order as a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, brother or sister or by marriage as a parent-in-law, grandparent-in-law, stepchild, step-grandchild, brother-in-law or sister-in-law.
- The victim is a child who resides or has resides in the same household as the defendant and is related by blood to a former spouse of the defendant or to a person who resides or has resides in the same household as the defendant.
- The relationship between the victim and the defendant is currently or was previously a romantic or sexual relationship. The following factors may be considered in determining whether the relationship between the victim and the defendant is currently or was previously a romantic or sexual relationship:
 - (a) The type of relationship.
 - (b) The length of the relationship.
 - (c) The frequency of the interaction between the victim and the defendant.
 - (d) If the relationship has terminated, the length of time since the termination.

In Arizona, domestic violence itself is not a crime, but rather a series of crimes described in A.R.S. § 13-3601, and if the parties involved meet the relationship requirements. For instance, an assault on a stranger will be charged as assault, but an assault by a perpetrator against someone they are in a romantic or sexual relationship with can be charged as assault with a domestic violence tag. The only exception to this is aggravated domestic violence, which can be charged when a perpetrator commits three acts of domestic violence offenses within a period of eighty-four months (A.R.S. § 13-3601.02). There are currently thirty crimes that can be tagged as domestic violence.

News articles were read, considered to be “domestic violence related” and included in the 2014 list if they met the criteria of the relationship test as outlined in A.R.S. § 13-3601, or if the fatality occurred within the context of domestic violence. This included instances when perpetrators, bystanders, co-workers, friends, neighbors, animals/pets, or others were killed during a domestic violence incident.

Although Arizona’s laws set specific parameters as to what constitutes domestic violence, survivors, advocates, and researchers have long recognized a more inclusive definition of domestic violence. Professionals generally recognize that domestic/intimate partner violence is a pattern of behavior that includes the use or threat of violence and intimidation for the purpose of gaining power and control over another person (Stark, 2007).

While this method of data collection creates a fairly comprehensive list of domestic violence related fatalities, the data contained in this report is limited. The information contained in this report, in part, is a reflection of the details and information about each death that was available immediately after the incident and in the days and weeks following it. The yearly fatality lists and corresponding annual reports produced by ACESDV may be subject to revisions if additional information about these fatalities becomes available.

Many incidents of domestic violence are not reported to law enforcement and some fatalities may not receive media coverage. For instance, incidents occurring on Tribal lands or in “Indian country” are not only underreported, but they are not regularly covered by mainstream media sources. Native women residing in Indian Country experience domestic violence and physical assault at rates which far exceed women of other groups and locations. In fact, estimates of these rates are as much as 50% higher than the next most victimized demographic (U.S. Department of Justice, 2004). Domestic violence fatality review in Indian Country is complex, as many of the guidelines and protocols developed by local fatality review teams can vary based on respective federal and tribal environments. At this time, data on violence against women in Indian Country does not exist since no federal agency, Indian agency, or other organization systematically collects this

information. However, findings from recent work done in the area of Native American domestic violence fatality review will be discussed later in this report. ACESDV appreciates the ongoing partnership with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to collect information on domestic violence related fatalities on Tribal lands. However, because so many cases from Tribal communities were not captured in previous years, this report is unable to compare and discuss trends in this area. Gathering data for fatalities in Indian Country continues to present challenges and is a gap in this report.

Two other groups who may be underrepresented in this report are same sex partners and immigrant communities. With regard to same sex partners, if the intimate partner relationship was not properly identified or did not reach media’s attention, it may not have been reported as a domestic violence incident or fatality. For immigrant communities, domestic violence may go unreported due to a fear of law enforcement, among other reasons. Both of these groups face unique challenges and this report cannot fully capture their experiences.

The scope of this report and its analysis is also limited in instances when the decedent’s reported cause of death fails to mention the domestic violence related circumstances that may have led to a fatality. For instance, up to 57% of homeless women report domestic or sexual violence as the immediate cause of their homelessness and some survivors may die from conditions associated with living on the street (NNEDV, 2014). However, connecting an individual’s death back to their experiences of domestic violence may be challenging and not always immediately apparent. Additionally, it is difficult to document the link between domestic violence victimization and suicide. Some victims may take their own lives to escape the abuse, and that information may never be reported or made public.

Since data is collected primarily through electronic news sources, information from other local and state sources is not reflected in this report. Information such as individuals’ race or ethnicity, or whether there was a protective order in place is not always available. Official sources, such as law enforcement or court records, would improve the quality and accuracy of this annual report and provide additional insight to these incidents.

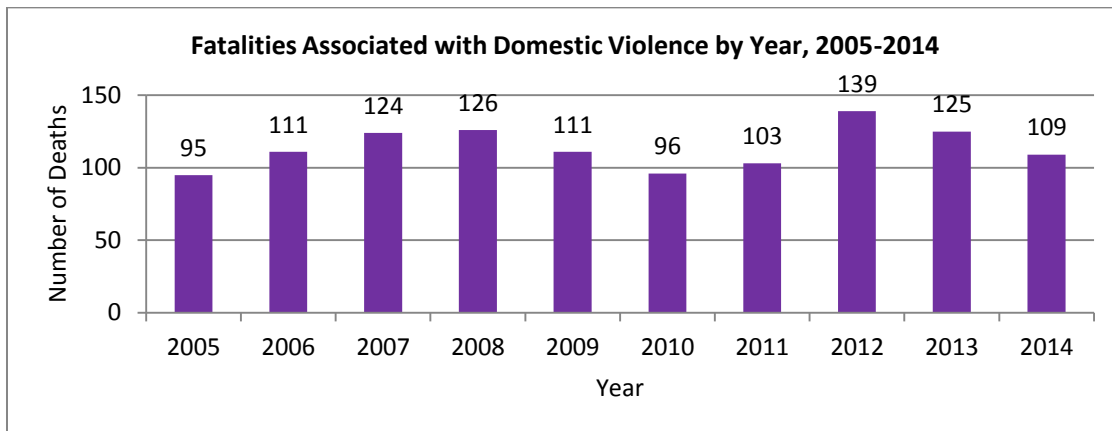
KEY FINDINGS

In 2014, ACESDV tracked 88 domestic violence related incidents, which resulted in 109 known fatalities. Arizona consistently ranks among the states with the highest homicide rates of women murdered by men; in fact, between 2001 and 2013, Arizona was ranked eight times among the top ten states for highest rates of women murdered by men. Most recently, in 2013, Arizona was ranked twelfth in the U.S. for homicide rate among women murdered by men (Violence Policy Institute, 2015). The following tables provide a snapshot of the numbers and characteristics of victims, perpetrators, methods of fatalities, and more. Some data in the tables may still be unknown due to the nature of how data was collected and what may have been reported on the incident.

Arizona Domestic Violence Related Fatalities 2014

Overview	2013
Domestic violence related incidents	88 incidents, which resulted in 109 deaths
Incidents of fatal intimate partner violence (one current or former spouse /dating partner killed the other)	32 incidents, which resulted in 47 deaths
Fatalities with guns or firearms	66

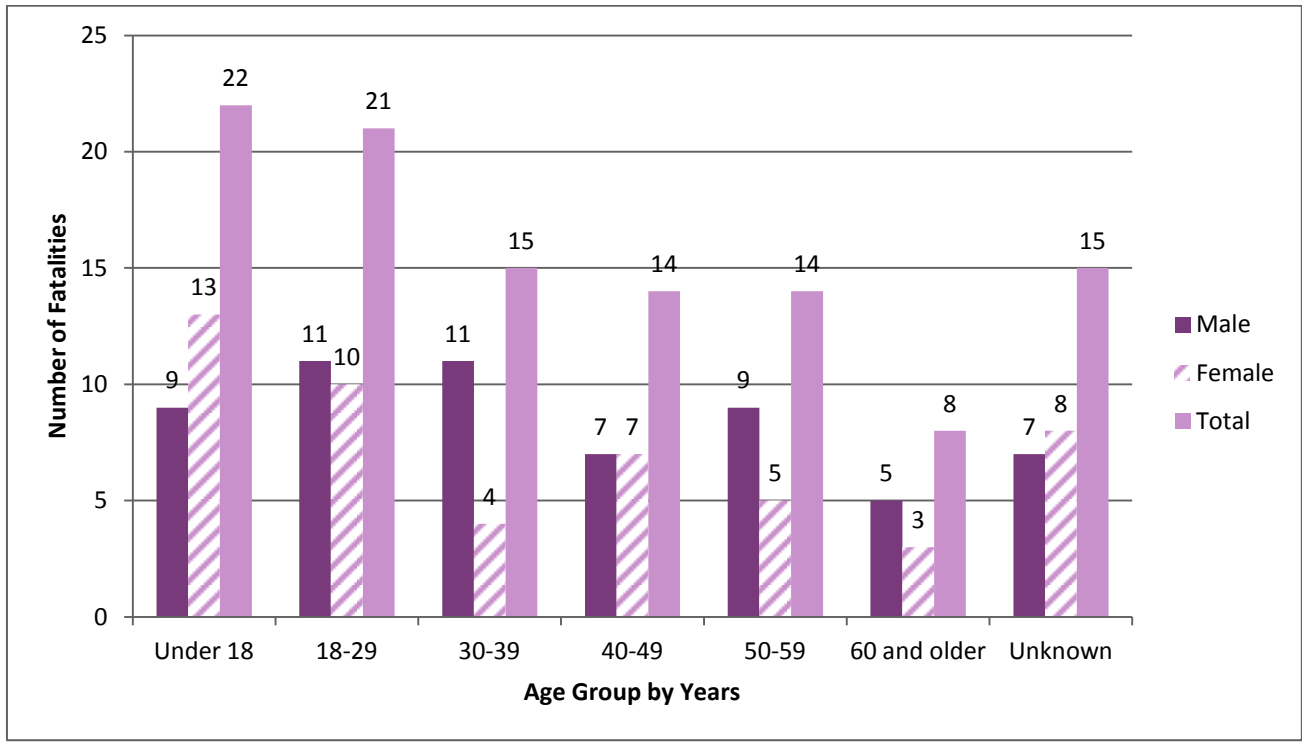
Incidents of:	
Single fatalities	70
2 person fatalities	17
3 person fatalities	2
Suicides (excluding law enforcement intervention)	24
Perpetrator/suspect fatalities by law enforcement intervention	5
Sexual competitors/rivals killed by perpetrators	3
Bystanders killed by perpetrators	3
Pets/animals killed by perpetrators	3
Deceased females	50
Deceased males	59
Deceased minors	22
Female perpetrators	19
Male perpetrators	95



Between January, 1, 2005 and December 31, 2014, there were at least 1,139 domestic violence related fatalities in Arizona.

AGE AND SEX OF DECEASED

The lives of at least 109 people were lost in the context of domestic violence. Of these there were 50 female victims (45.9%) and 59 male victims (54.1%). Minor victims accounted for 22 of the fatalities (20.2%), with 15 of the victims' ages unknown or unreleased (7 male, 8 female). The under-18 age group had the greatest number of fatalities with 22 (20.2%); 18-29 years followed with 21 (19.3%) fatalities. The age group with the fewest fatalities was 60 and older with 8 (7.3%).



RELATIONSHIP OF PERPETRATOR TO DECEASED

Female Fatalities

In 2014, at least 50 females died in domestic violence related incidents. In contrast to male victims, female victims were most likely to be murdered by a current or former intimate partner. The information obtained showed that:

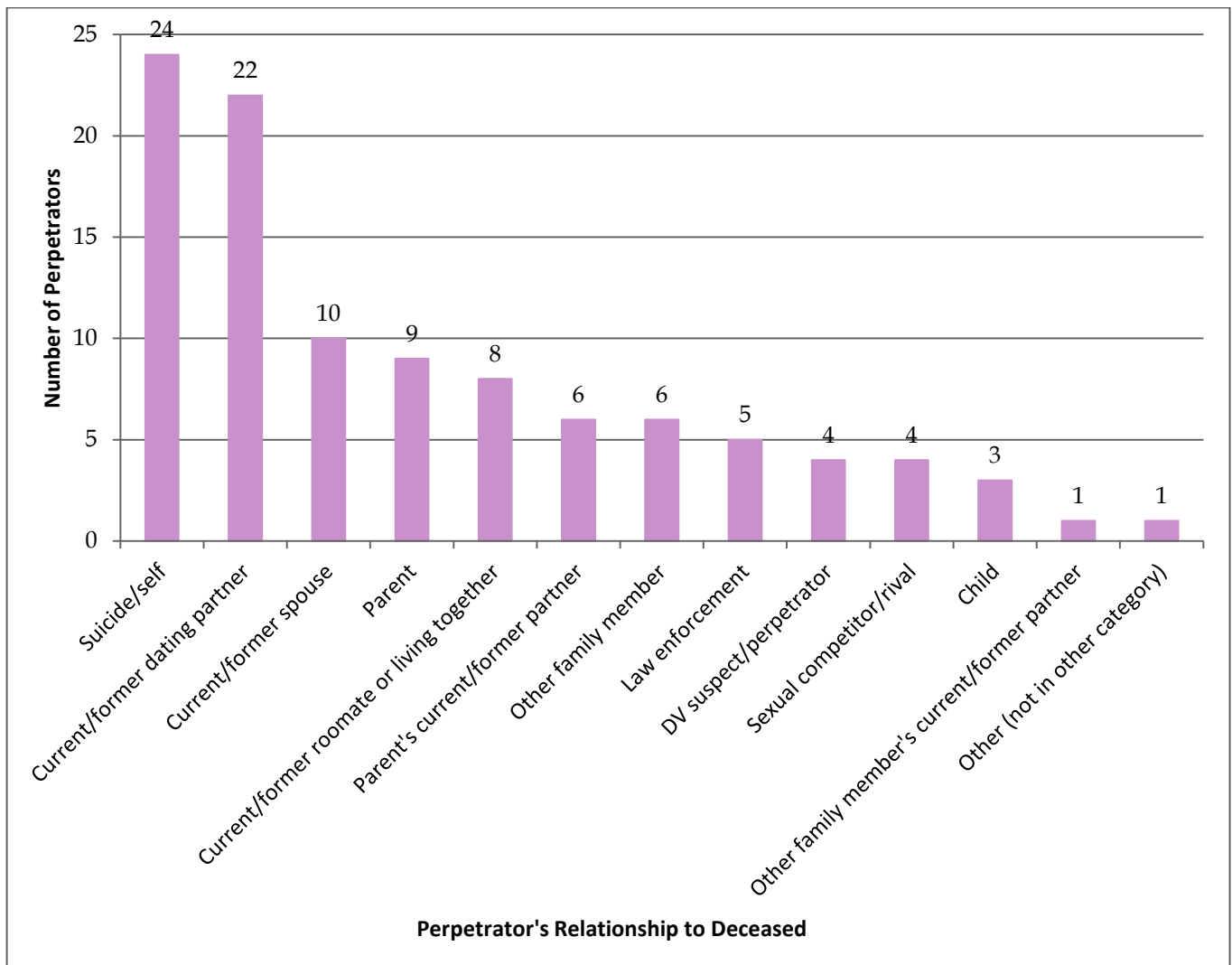
- 29 were killed by a current or former intimate partner
- 9 were killed by a parent, step-parent, or mother's boyfriend
- 1 committed suicide after killing her child
- 1 was killed by another family member
- 5 were killed by roommates
- 5 were killed by other/unknown parties

Male Fatalities

In 2014, at least 59 males died in domestic violence related incidents in Arizona. Men comprised 96% (23/24) of all suicides. Additionally, those killed by law enforcement or a sexual competitor/rival were males. Of those:

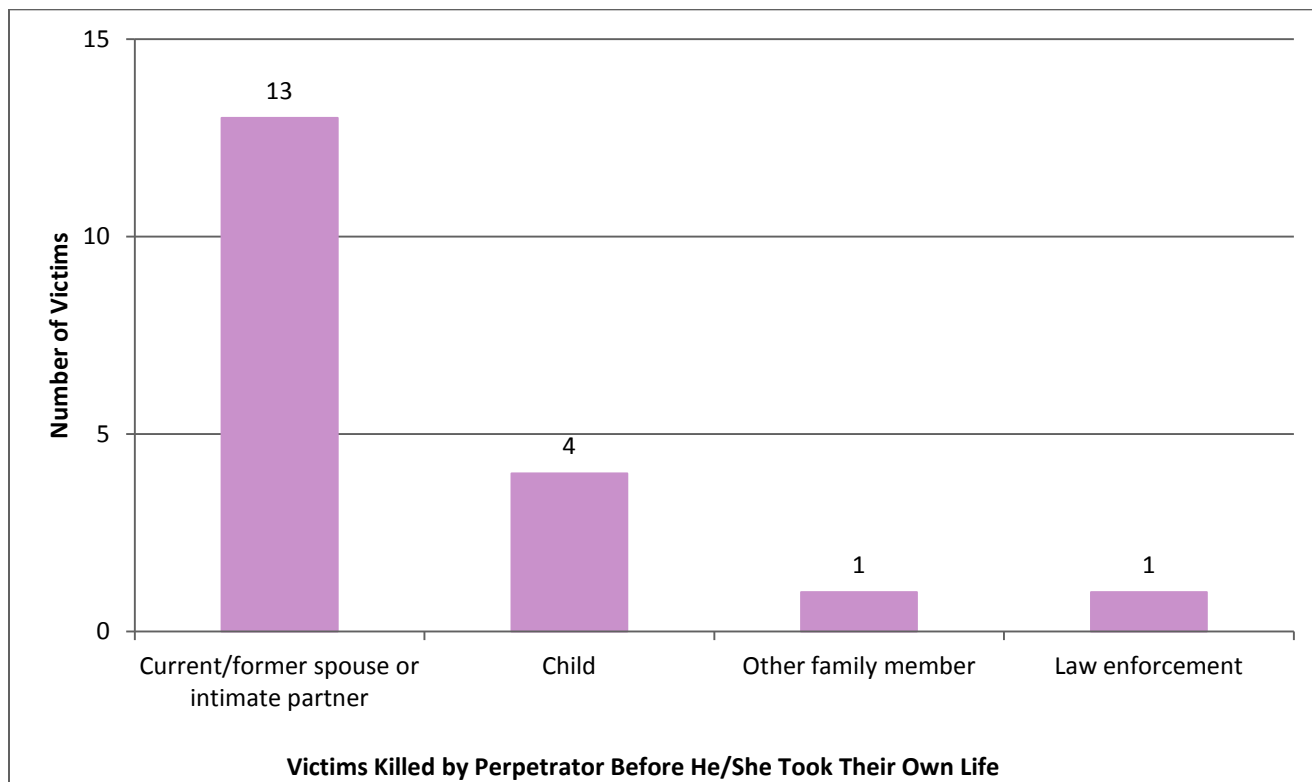
- 23 total took their own lives

- 14 committed suicide after killing their current or former intimate partner and/or children
- 9 committed suicide after other non-fatal incidents involving current or former intimate partners
- 4 were killed by a current or former intimate/dating partner
- 5 were killed by law enforcement
- 5 were killed by a parent, step-parent, or mother's boyfriend
- 9 were killed by other family members
- 3 were killed by a sexual competitor/rival
- 3 were bystanders
- 4 were killed by roommates
- 3 were killed by other/unknown parties



VICTIMS KILLED BY PERPETRATORS WHO COMMITTED SUICIDE

Threatening to or attempting to commit suicide is a risk factor associated with increased risk of homicide in violent relationships (Campbell, 2003). Suicides made up 22% of all the domestic violence related fatalities reported for 2014. Of those who committed suicide, 96% (23) were males and 4% (1) were female. There were thirteen incidents of intimate partner homicide-suicide, all of which included male perpetrators who killed their current or former female partners. The other seven incidents of suicide included men who killed themselves after seriously harming their current or former female partners, killing their children or other family members, or engaging with law enforcement.



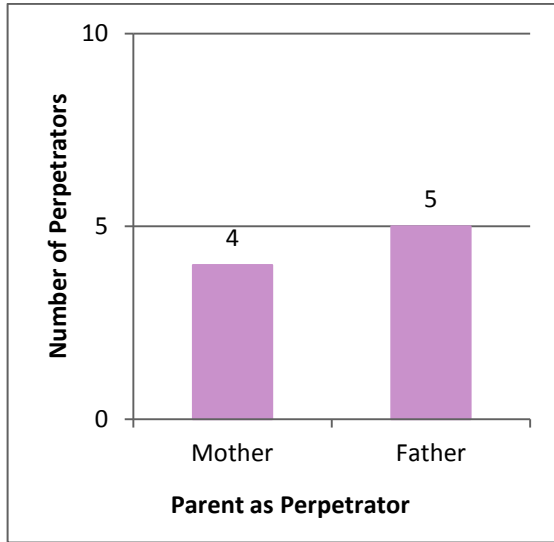
Perpetrators Who Committed Suicide

- 13 men killed their current or former female partner (wife, girlfriend or fiancé) before committing suicide
- 5 men committed suicide without killing anyone else immediately beforehand
- 2 men killed their children before committing suicide
- 1 man killed his father's girlfriend before committing suicide
- 1 man killed a law enforcement officer before committing suicide
- 1 woman killed her child before committing suicide

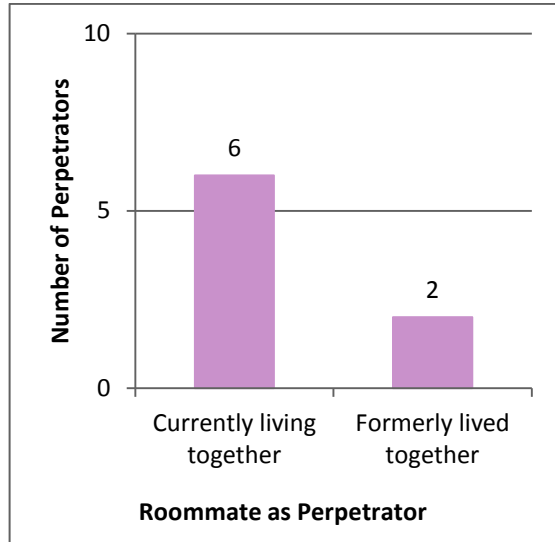
Method of Suicide

- 21 men used a gun to commit suicide
- 2 men drove intentionally into oncoming traffic
- 1 woman committed suicide by an intentional prescription drug overdose

PARENT AS PERPETRATOR

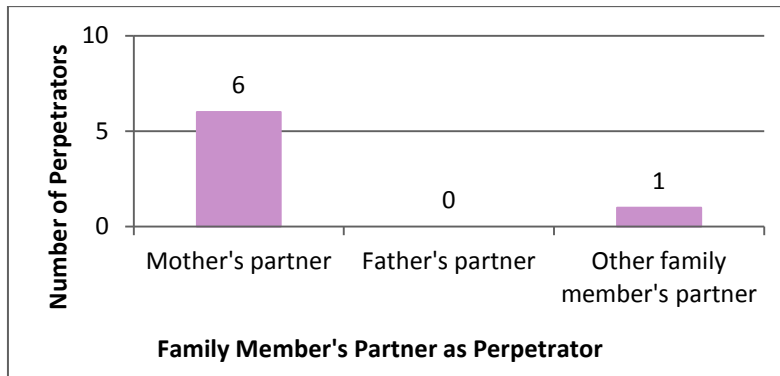


ROOMMATE AS PERPETRATOR

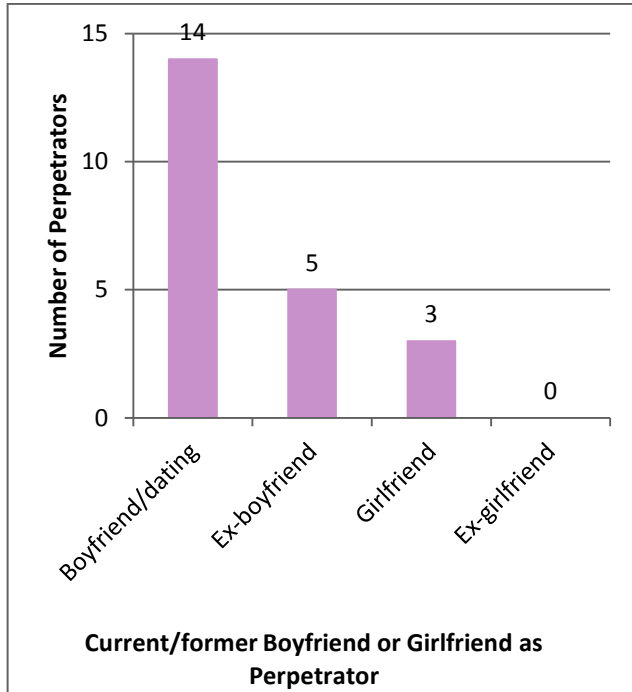


While varying definitions of familicide exist, Dr. Neil Websdale explains it as “the deliberate killing within a relatively short period of time of a current or former spouse or intimate partner and one or more of their children, perhaps followed by the suicide of the perpetrator” (2010). Although there were no known incidents of familicide in Arizona in 2014, compared to Canada, the United States has three times more familicide; compared to Britain, eight times more; and compared to Australia, 15 times more (National Institute of Justice, 2015).

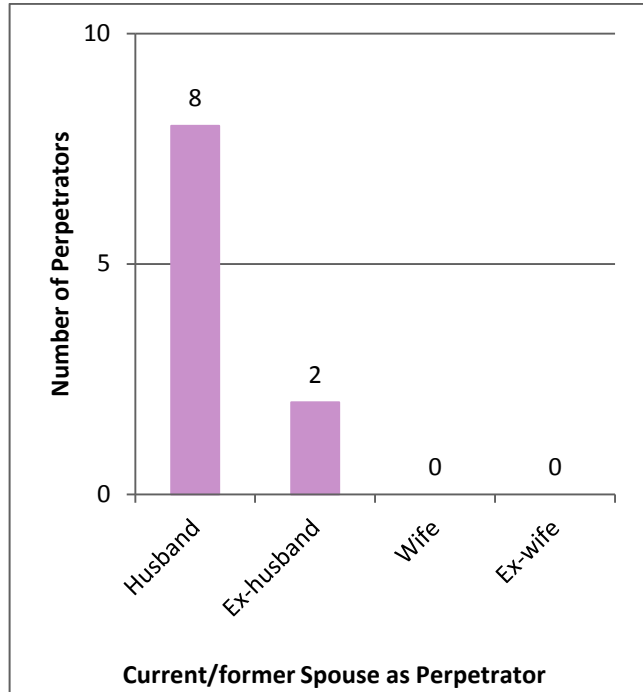
FAMILY MEMBER'S PARTNER AS PERPETRATOR



DATING PARTNER AS PERPETRATOR



SPOUSE AS PERPETRATOR



Among the domestic violence related fatalities in Arizona in 2014, 29% (32) were incidents of fatal intimate partner violence, resulting in 47 deaths. Of these:

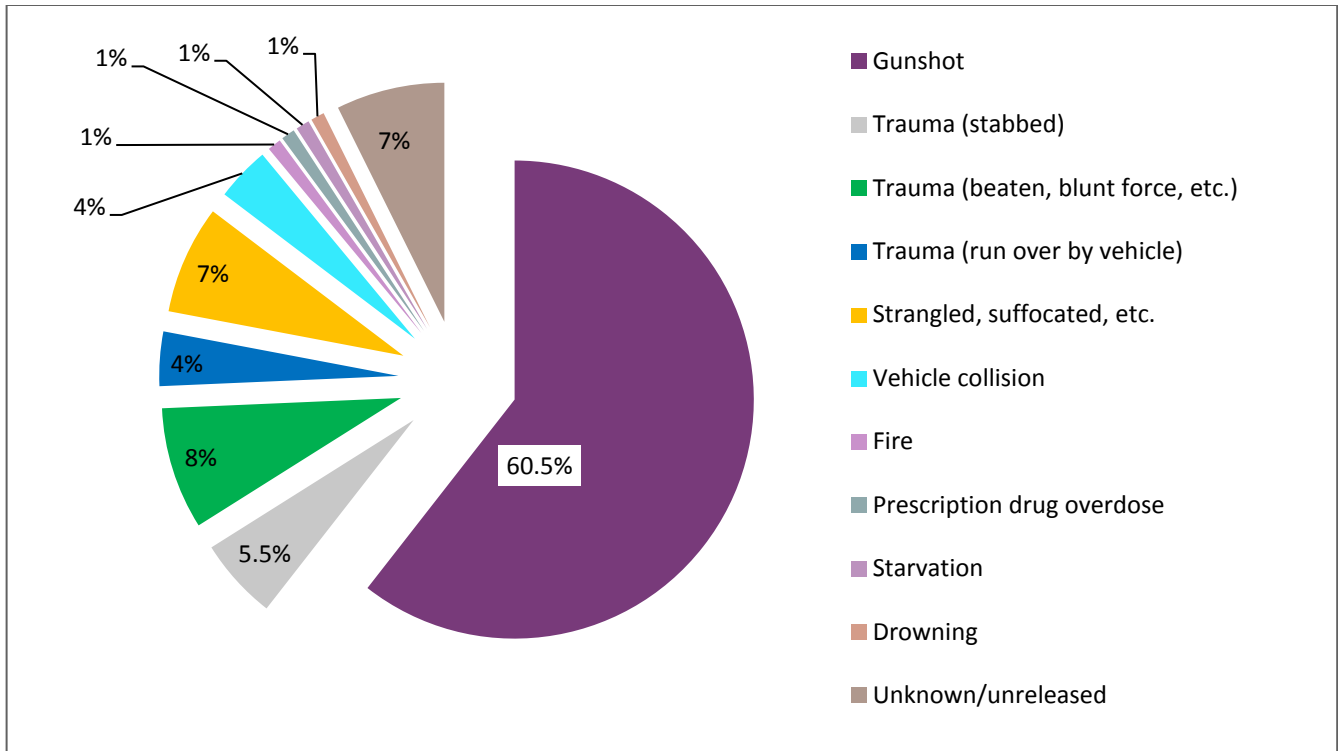
- 19 incidents were perpetrators who killed their partner
- 13 incidents were perpetrators who killed their partners and committed suicide
 - All 13 of these perpetrators were male.
 - In 1 incident the perpetrator also killed people other than their victim/partner before taking their own life
- Female deaths comprised 62% (29) of all intimate partner fatalities; male deaths 38% (18).

FATALITIES BY METHOD

Domestic Violence and Firearms

Every day in the United States women are killed or severely injured due to the lethal combination of domestic violence and firearms. Abusers use firearms as their primary weapon of choice in domestic violence homicides and third weapon of choice in non-fatal domestic violence assault. When abusers have access to firearms, not only victims' safety, but their very lives, are in danger.

While severe physical violence, stabbing, and strangulation account for nearly one-fifth of fatalities, firearms continue to be the most commonly used method or weapon in domestic violence fatalities. 60% of all domestic violence fatalities in Arizona in 2014 were the result of a firearm, which follows trends of previous years. Among these fatalities, five perpetrators were shot and killed by law enforcement officers who were responding to a call and one officer died as a result of being shot by a perpetrator.



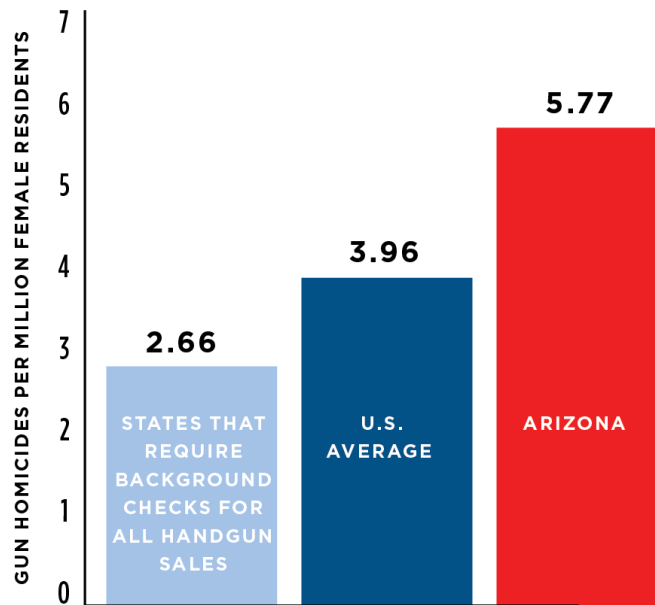
A Census of Domestic Violence Gun Homicides in Arizona

In 2014, ACESDV partnered with Everytown For Gun Safety (Everytown) to release a new report, “A Census of Domestic Violence Gun Homicides in Arizona”. This report revealed that 62% of women killed by intimate partners in Arizona were shot to death, and the rate of intimate partner gun homicides in Arizona is 45% higher than the national average. This was the first report of its kind in the state and suggests that domestic and intimate partner related homicides in Arizona are, to a significant degree, a problem of gun violence.

“Leading up to many of these shootings there were indications that the shooters posed a risk to their partners: one in seven shooters was federally prohibited from buying and possessing firearms, but many likely had guns as a result of loopholes in Arizona law,” said Ted Alcorn, research director for Everytown. “Every instance of domestic gun violence is devastating to the families and communities involved, but these deaths are not inevitable. We know that domestic gun violence can be reduced by supporting stronger gun laws that help keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.”

In total, research identified 105 homicides in Arizona between 2009 and 2013 in which someone was murdered with a firearm by a current or former intimate partner. Because perpetrators often shot additional victims – and more than half killed themselves at the end of the incident – there were a total of 191 shooting deaths.

RATES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN HOMICIDE OF WOMEN



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2008–2012, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

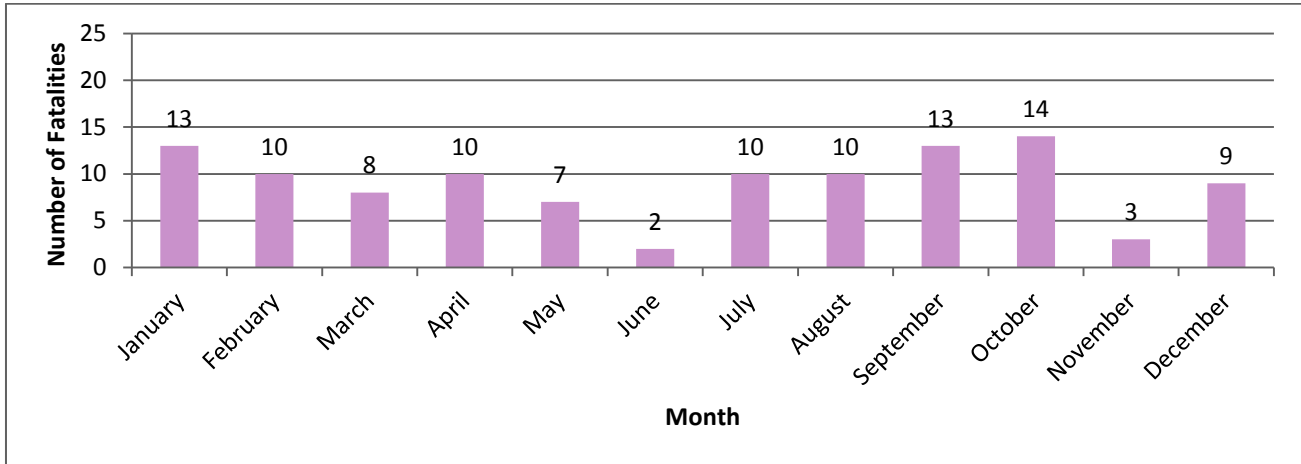
Graphic produced by Everytown For Gun Safety

The following are key findings from the Everytown report:

- Arizona has an elevated rate of domestic gun violence – 45% above the national average. Rates of domestic gun violence in Coconino, Mohave, and Yavapai counties are double the state average.
- A total of 191 people died in the cases examined. In addition to killing their current or former intimate partner, perpetrators also shot 32 other victims – neighbors, friends, and family members – killing 25 of them, including 11 children.
- There were ample indications that the perpetrators posed a risk to their partner. One in seven shooters (13%) was prohibited from possessing firearms due to their criminal history or an active order of protection.
- Offenders under an active order of protection were rarely required to turn in their firearms. Of the perpetrators identified in this census that were under an active order of protection, only one in six of the active orders of protection included a requirement that the shooter turn in his firearms.

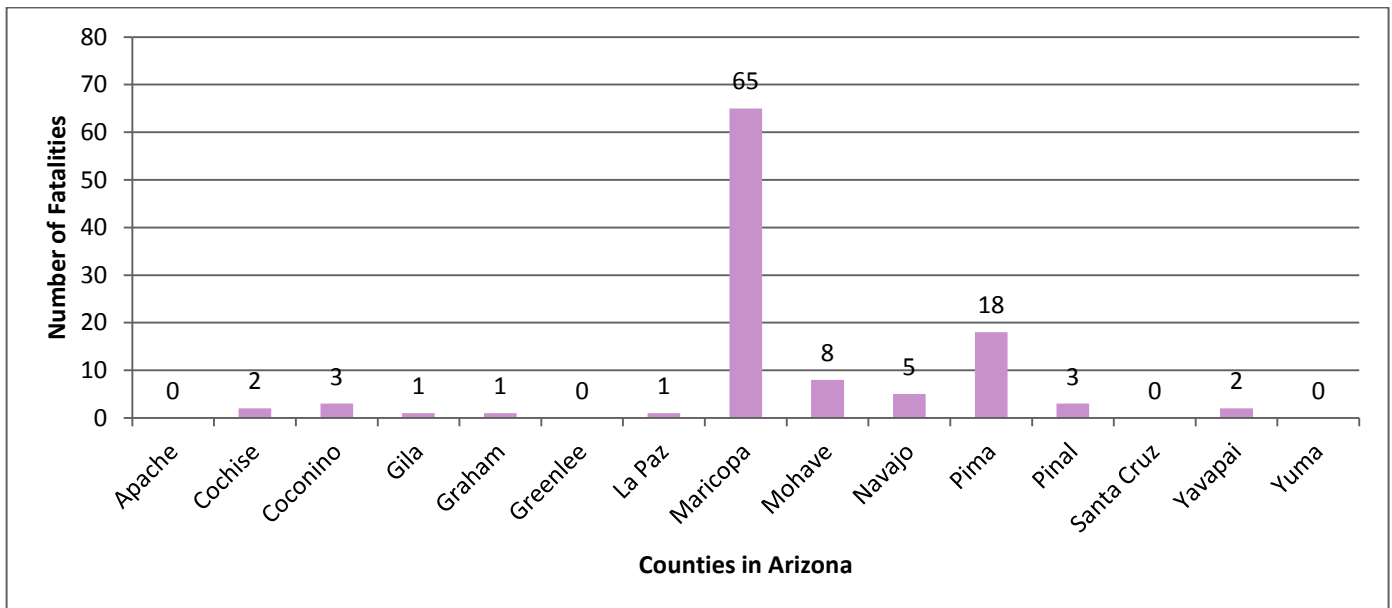
FATALITIES BY MONTH

Fatalities occurred in every month of 2014, but the data demonstrates that the highest number of deaths occurred in October (14), followed by September and January (both with 13). In two months were there less than five fatalities – June (2) and November (3). There was an average of over nine domestic violence related fatalities per month (9.08) in Arizona in 2014. In the previous year, there were over ten domestic violence fatalities per month (10.42).



FATALITIES BY COUNTY

The data shows that two counties, Maricopa County and Pima County, have the highest number of domestic violence related fatalities while four counties had none reported (Apache County, Greenlee County, Santa Cruz County and Yuma County). Maricopa County accounted for approximately 60% of all domestic violence fatalities in Arizona, with more fatalities than the other fourteen counties combined.



Per Capita Analysis of Domestic Violence Related Fatalities by County

County	Population	Number of Domestic Violence Related Fatalities	People Killed in Domestic Violence Related Incidents
Apache County	71,518	0	There were no domestic violence related fatalities in Apache County.
Cochise County	131,346	2	For every 65,673 residents, ONE Cochise County resident was killed.
Coconino County	134,421	3	For every 44,807 residents, ONE Coconino County resident was killed.
Gila County	53,597	1	For every 53,597 residents, ONE Gila County resident was killed.
Graham County	37,220	1	For every 37,220 residents, ONE Graham County resident was killed.
Greenlee County	8,437	0	There were no domestic violence related fatalities in Greenlee County.
La Paz County	20,489	1	There were no domestic violence related fatalities in La Paz County.
Maricopa County	3,817,117	65	For every 58,724 residents, ONE Maricopa County resident was killed.
Mohave County	200,186	8	For every 25,023 residents, ONE Mohave County resident was killed.
Navajo County	107,449	5	For every 21,489 residents, ONE Navajo County resident was killed.
Pima County	980,263	18	For every 54,459 residents, ONE Pima County resident was killed.
Pinal County	375,770	3	For every 125,256 residents, ONE Pinal County resident was killed.
Santa Cruz County	47,420	0	There were no domestic violence related fatalities in Santa Cruz County.
Yavapai County	211,033	2	For every 105,516 residents, ONE Yavapai County resident was killed.
Yuma County	195,751	0	There were no domestic violence related fatalities in Yuma County.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW IN ARIZONA

Domestic violence fatality and near fatality review provides a methodical way of exploring and examining domestic homicides and focuses on holding systems accountable and preventing future fatalities. Fatality Review provides an opportunity for a diverse, multi-disciplinary group of professionals and community members to collect information about a case (the parties involved, the relationship, and systemic involvement), to meet on a regular basis and discuss issues of system response, and to make recommendations to improve systems. They operate on a “no-blame, no-shame” principle, and instead acknowledge that an imperfect system sometimes leaves survivors’ needs unmet.

The National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative outlines the underlying objectives that most review teams share:

- Prevent future domestic violence and domestic homicide.
- Provide safer provisions for battered women and their children.
- Hold accountable both the perpetrators of domestic violence and the multiple agencies and organizations that come into contact with the parties.

A.R.S. § 41-198, enacted in 2005, provides confidentiality for the cases reviewed and the local government resolutions enables entities such as law enforcement, prosecution, advocates, defenders, medical personnel, and other professionals to participate in these reviews. The collective knowledge and experience of each team is of great value to the review process. The professionals mentioned above, alongside shelter advocates, offender treatment providers, and others dedicate a tremendous amount of time to the process of fatality review. Fatality review can also enhance a community's coordinated response and many teams have reported that the relationships developed as a result of fatality review have been invaluable and have enhanced coordination among individuals, agencies, and the community as a whole.

ACESDV applauds Arizona's domestic violence fatality review teams and their ongoing commitment to examining these cases as well as their dedication to improving their communities. By opening various agencies' files and records to investigate what leads up to domestic violence fatalities and near-deaths, we can continue the work of improving system responses to domestic violence in Arizona. Ten of Arizona's DVFRTs completed case reviews in 2014. Key findings, areas of interest, and recommendations from the completed reviews are summarized below.

City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

More than nine cases were evaluated before the team chose to focus their review on a near-fatality case of intimate partner violence. This was the first time this team reviewed a near-fatality.

Key Findings

- Consistent with findings from previous reviews, the victim attempted to manage the perpetrator and such efforts became normal in the course of the relationship.
- The National Criminal Information Center (NCIC) system that links registered protection orders to perpetrators' prohibited possessor status is significantly delayed.
- For small to medium size employers/workplaces included as protected locations in protection orders, it is unlikely that they have the policies in place to provide for the safety of the workforce in these situations.
- An absence or lack of past violence is not necessarily a predictor of future lethality. Paying attention to the perpetrator's escalation of behavior is equally important to evaluating dangerousness.
- While protection orders are tools that can be used to enhance perpetrator accountability, there remains inherent risks for victims who choose to obtain one. Connecting victims with victim advocates will provide them with education about protection orders, lethality indicators, and safety planning.

Recommendations

- Increase community awareness activities and efforts. The information provided should include the dynamics of domestic violence, resources available to victims, and lethality indicators, as well as address how victims tend to normalize such relationships.

- Increase community education for businesses (particularly small to medium in size) and provide tools for employers to develop policies and procedures to address domestic violence and workplace safety, especially in instances when a workplace is protected by a protection order.
- Educate victim advocates on lethality assessments and the evaluation of lethality indicators.
- Improve the registration system for protection orders.
- Increase education for victims on protection orders, including information such as the available of orders, how to maintain an order, and safety planning. Also, provide ongoing and appropriate education for judicial officers and court personnel, family attorneys, and victim advocates in the areas listed above.
- Include victim advocates in the early stages of cases to provide victims with information about protection orders and safety planning.

Implementation

- The City of Phoenix submitted a grant application that would provide for electronic transfer for protection order data and would allow for real-time data recording. This would increase perpetrator accountability for violations and improve the system's ability to prohibit the purchase of weapons.

Recommendation Updates from the 2013 Report

Recommendation: Increase community awareness activities regarding the dynamics of domestic violence and the resources available to victims of domestic violence. In addition, the information should address how victims tend to normalize such relationships.

Update: The City of Phoenix's Roadmap to Excellence has increased domestic violence awareness activities in the community significantly. Information on the dynamics of domestic violence and available resources is provided through these efforts. The Roadmap is a five-year plan and such education and awareness activities will continue.

Recommendation: Education for victim advocates on lethality assessments and evaluating lethality indicators such as financial decline and depression. Education should include information for victim advocates on understanding the value of the victim's perception of the danger and potential lethality of the relationship.

Update: The Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence provides education to service providers and victim advocates on lethality indicators and assessments. The City of Phoenix will continue to host this training annually to reach as many individuals as possible.

Recommendation: Increase education for victims on OPs, the criminal justice system, and safety planning.

Update: The Phoenix Family Advocacy Center submitted two grant applications to provide increased education and safety planning for individuals seeking to obtain and serve orders of protection. These grants will increase advocacy services offered at Phoenix Municipal Court and educational videos will be developed for law enforcement, victims seeking orders, and the community at large.

Recommendation: Education for victims on how the criminal justice system works and how to provide for individual and family safety. This education could be provided when Ops are obtained through work with a victim advocate.

Update: If awarded, the grants (mentioned above) will provide opportunities for advocacy services. These services will include education on the criminal justice system and safety planning, and will be provided at Phoenix Municipal Court and when protective orders are served.

Coconino County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team completed one review of a domestic violence fatality. The case involved a perpetrator and victim with long-term mental health and substance abuse problems. The victim and perpetrator had been dating for five weeks and did not have a history of domestic violence. Additionally, the team identified the toll of domestic violence on children.

Key Findings

- The perpetrator never received appropriate treatment for his mental health problems that manifested in early childhood.
- The perpetrator's criminality was never adequately addressed. The victim also did not receive appropriate treatment for her depression and alcoholism.
- The victim's children were not supported by tribal police, school officials, or child welfare agents.
- Motel/hotel owners are not educated about violence in their establishments which can create a dangerous environment for residents, visitors, and guests.

Recommendations

- Create a community education program covering the dynamics of domestic violence and resources within the community for both victims and offenders. This educational program should include programming specifically designed to educate and train faith based leaders.
- Adopt a training program, which includes domestic violence policies and protocols, for the hotel/motel management community on how to respond to domestic violence incidents that occur within their establishments. This would include local recognition for completion of the training program.
- Increased funding and coordination for mental health services. This should include training for law enforcement agencies on identifying and addressing the needs of the mentally ill when responding to calls for service, as well as increased coordination between the criminal justice system and mental health service providers. Particular attention should be paid to those with recurring mental health issues who exhibit violent tendencies and connecting these individuals with appropriate services, in addition to incarceration.
- Create a community education program, tailored to the African American community, to dispel myths regarding mental health concerns and provide awareness of mental health services available in the community.
- Provide education to victims of domestic violence regarding the dynamics of abuse and resources available. Particular attention should be paid to those in the criminal justice system as offenders of any crime, as there are a number of victims that become involved in the criminal justice system. The primary focus for training and resources should be provided by the probation department for those victims sentenced to a term of probation.
- Improve awareness of the impact of domestic violence among educational and child safety workers, including increased awareness of the co-occurrence of child abuse and intimate partner abuse and/or homicide.
- Support all the recommendations of the Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence (<http://www.justice.gov/defendingchildhood/cev-rpt-full.pdf>) which emphasize the importance of providing trauma informed care to all children who witness violence in their homes and communities and training educational personnel to recognize and respond to these children.

Implementation

- In 2014, the Flagstaff Police Department and the Coconino County Sheriff's Office adopt additional reporting forms for domestic violence incidents. Chief Treadway worked with other Arizona police departments, particularly Glendale Police Department, to develop tools reflecting increased knowledge of the dynamics of coercive control as well as the lethal risk represented by strangulation. Officers now conduct a lethality

assessment as well as a strangulation assessment when reporting on domestic violence cases. These improvements, also adopted by the Sheriff's Office and the Page Police Department, provide evidence relevant to processing cases and identifying high risk offenders.

- Flagstaff Medical Center (FMC) now screens all emergency room patients for domestic violence and refers people to Coconino County Victim Witness Services. FMC also has a SANE nurse, who performs forensic strangulation evaluations. The nurse is trained in strangulation examinations and documents evidence as well as providing information and referrals to victims. The Page Hospital is planning to institute strangulation and sexual assault examinations this year.
- The Flagstaff Police Department has also acquired body cameras worn by responding patrol officers, corporals and sergeants. The cameras assist in prosecution by providing visual documentation of the scene, offender conduct and victim injuries and reactions. While it is too early to assess the impact of body cameras on the prosecution of domestic violence, initial evaluations are very positive.
- The team also witnessed increased coordination of mental health and criminal justice services. Police officers receive mental health training on how to protect the public while also assisting people with mental health issues. Law enforcement is also partnering with Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) on several initiatives. The criminal justice system has been educated on the effects of trauma on long-term adjustment and behavior and has responded with specialized treatment efforts. For example, the Coconino County Detention Facility supports the Exodus program, which incorporates trauma informed care. It helps inmates understand their behavior and provides tools for self-regulation. People who graduate from Exodus have a much lower recidivism rate than others. NARBHA also operates a mobile crisis unit and a crisis line to assist people experiencing mental crises. Last year, the Guidance Center opened a crisis unit capable of providing up to four people with 23 hours of care. Previously, such individuals would have typically been on the street.

Cochise County-Sierra Vista Regional Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team reviewed a murder suicide. The case involved a female victim who was murdered by her live-in boyfriend. The victim's boyfriend committed suicide at the same location.

Key Findings

- The perpetrator exhibited signs of paranoia and had a history of drug use and violence.
- Close family of the victim received text messages from the victims that indicated high lethality.
- The victim and perpetrator, whose relationship was less than a year, lived in an isolated, remote location with little law enforcement involvement. The victim either declined advocacy services or was unaware they existed.

Recommendations

- Continue community outreach and awareness efforts that encourage citizens and third parties to report domestic violence on half of victims.
- Continue to offer regional domestic violence training on salient topics in the field.
- Promote domestic violence resources at community events throughout the county.
- Develop consistent domestic violence protocols for "best practices", implemented regionally.

Implementation

- Promote the "Start By Believing" campaign in the county.
- Continue to provide regional domestic violence training. In 2014, the team provided an eight hour "Advanced Domestic Violence" course for the region. The course was well received; the team was invited to deliver the

course in Gila County. Topics for 2015 courses may include verbal tactics and cues, risk assessment, and sexual assault.

- In 2014 and 2015, the team provided resources at two major county events, “National Night Out” and “Take Back the Night”.
- In conjunction with the Cochise Domestic Violence Awareness and Collaboration Team, the team has worked on establishing county wide protocols for best practices in domestic violence. The protocols will be delivered to county stakeholders in 2015.

Team Goals for 2015

- Recruit additional members.
- Review cases from rural areas of the county.

East Valley Police Chiefs Association Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team reviewed a murder-suicide, totaling five deceased. The perpetrator was an adult male and the husband/father of the murdered wife/mother and their three children. The perpetrator murdered his family and then committed suicide. This case did not involve a prior documented history of domestic violence.

Key Findings

- There is no requirement or consistent procedure for medical personnel to notify family members of potentially life altering medical conditions.
- Improvements in the communication between the religious community and law enforcement.
- Significant interaction with family court through their family law attorney’s.
- Red flags of lethality and increased risk were evident, or should have been evident to the victim and others around her. Had these red flags been acted upon it may have assisted her in making decisions for her safety and the safety of the children.

Recommendations

- Support increased awareness of domestic violence through Public Service Announcements (PSA) and Social Media.
 - Gear the messaging to include coercive control and power dynamics.
 - Include control of money, job, education, and family contact (other than violence)
- Consistent training with attorneys (Family Law).
 - Consider publication in the monthly Arizona Attorney magazine.
 - Work with the Arizona State Bar requiring Family Law attorneys maintain a domestic violence certification through increased training.
 - Require domestic violence training or practice for lawyers specializing in family law through certification and/or re-certification.
- Support Domestic Violence/ Teen Dating Violence education in the schools through use of non-profit organizations assistance.
 - Expectation of the LRE requirements through the School Resource Officer program.
 - Develop a presentation that can be approved by AZPOST, and require mandatory training. This will develop a consistent message.
 - Create a portal that parents and children can access information.
 - Utilize media resources and social media sources to market these efforts.

- The team recommends that the Arizona Attorney General be present at the final meeting of each review session to review the team's recommendations.

Mohave County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team reviewed a double homicide-suicide, totaling three deceased.

Key Findings

- Family and friends were aware of the abuse but may not have known or provided knowledge of resources to assist the family.
- There was no record of a previous order of protection.
- The victim and perpetrator had been attending counseling with no mention of or further investigation of what agency or private party they were seeking services from.
- The victim had strong religious beliefs.
- The perpetrator's potential for abuse, violence and/or lethality indicators existed, but may not have been available to due to confidentiality restraints in the medical and counseling field.
- Systems strengths identified by the team included:
 - Employers were quick to respond to seek welfare check due to failure of attendance indicating a level of awareness/education.
 - Law enforcement investigation and written documents were clear and precise with much detail to surroundings and red flags.

Recommendations

- Continue to increase domestic violence awareness and education in the county to include services available in each of the major cities, as well as the outlying areas of the county.
- Continue to have ongoing discussions of how to consolidate and improve efforts to identify red flags and lethality indicators, and to make them available to victims, families, and service providers.
- Plan, develop, and implement a countywide training for faith-based leaders. In the past, the Mohave County Attorney's Victim Witness and Kingman Aid to Abused People Directors joined efforts to host and facilitate training for faith-based leaders.

Navajo County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

Case(s) Reviewed

The case reviewed was a murder-suicide incident that resulted in the death of a victim's four year old child. The perpetrator committed suicide after murdering the child. There was a history of violence by the perpetrator against the victim. The incident took place while the victim and perpetrator were separated. The victim the victim had obtained an order of protection two months prior to the incident and had filed for divorce two days before the incident.

Key Findings

- The victim had almost no peer, family, or religious support. She also was not aware of any of the professional services that are located throughout the community to help victims of domestic violence.
- When the victim made the decision to leave the relationship, she did make some good safety decisions, like obtaining an order of protection. However, the order of protection was only explained to the victim the day she obtained it and was experiencing personal distress during that time. She lacked the knowledge needed to fully utilize this as a tool, and appeared to feel intimidated by the judicial process.

- Training: When the victim did make an attempt to obtain support through her father, she was told to stay in her relationship. It is common for many victims to first reach out to their church and family for support.

Recommendations

- Create a domestic violence brochure with local contact information, risk assessment, and safety planning tips for law enforcement to distribute when responding to an incident:
 - The County Attorney will absorb printing costs and supply the brochures to local law enforcement agencies to hand to domestic violence victims while on scene.
 - White Mountain Safehouse along with Navajo County Victim Services will develop brochure.
- Have an advocate present with victims who are filing for an order of Protection:
 - Develop an order of protection advocate call out card to distribute to all local courts. Winslow Justice Court-Alice's Place, Holbrook Justice Court-North Country Health Care Domestic Violence Advocate.
 - Snowflake, Show Low, and Pinetop Justice Courts- The White Mountain Safehouse
 - Navajo County Attorney's Office Victim Services will be the secondary backup for all the courts and will respond to any Superior Court Orders of Protection.
- Provide more training to the following agencies: law Enforcement, probation, medical staff, behavioral health staff, court staff, counselor, teachers, and faith based communities. Utilize the Navajo County Victim's Rights Symposium as a platform to provide training. Provide a domestic violence training seminar to church clergy. Work with the Arizonan Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence to find trainers who would be free or available to train at a reasonable cost
- Have the symbol (DV) tagged on the end of Navajo County court case numbers to help agencies and victim easily identify when an individual has previous domestic violence charges.

Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team reviewed one homicide. The victim and perpetrator were married and had two children. The perpetrator is currently incarcerated. The team chose this case in order to talk to the perpetrator as part of the review; however, the focus was on the recovery of the minor survivors.

Key Findings

- The victim was a twenty-five year old woman with a history of childhood trauma. As a teenager, the victim recognized that her choice of partners would have a negative impact on her future. While services providers many have recognized her continued need for services, there was no bridge for services between the juvenile and adult systems.
- The victim's two children were sleeping in one of the apartment bedrooms during the murder of their mother. While there were reports that the children slept through the entire event, the son's behavior might indicate otherwise. Though the children were eventually connected to services, it was not immediate and it is unclear if the services were trauma specific.

Recommendations

- The Pima County Juvenile Justice system can develop procedures for and linkages to transitional aged youth continued service provision.

- Designate a transitional caseworker to develop case plans for 18-year-olds and connect them to appropriate adult services.
- Specific procedures are developed for law enforcement and Department of Child Safety (DCS) to connect children who have experienced trauma and loss to evidenced-based services. The protocol should be guided by the principles of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

Implementation

- Juvenile Justice Transitional Aged Youth Service Procedures: Pima County Juvenile Court currently distributes a resource guide for 17-18 year olds involved in the court system. While this is a good start, the team believes that transitioning youth need more intervention than this. One strategy is to use the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program currently active in juvenile court. By training CASAs on transitional programs specific to transitional aged youth, the advocate can take a more active role in ensuring a connection to adult services. The team would also like to explore options with DCS regarding their transitional aged youth programming.
- Protocol for Children Who Experience Traumatic Stress: The team will explore the option of having a CASA volunteer assigned to every child who loses a parent as a result of a domestic violence homicide. (With the understanding that not every domestic violence homicide will result in a court action) Because CASAs are highly trained and have the specific function of addressing the best interest of the child, this individual could be assigned to a child and potentially monitor their needs and progress over time.
- With respect to both recommendations, the team will consult with DCS regarding policy and procedure for transitioning youth as well as children who have experienced a loss of a parent due to domestic violence. The team will work with DCS in a community collaboration to 1) ensure youth transitioning to adulthood are engaged in appropriate social services; and 2) ensure children who have experienced DV homicide trauma receive the appropriate services to cope with and heal from the tragedy.

Pinal County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

No cases were reviewed in 2014.

Santa Cruz County Fatality/Near Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

No cases were reviewed in 2014.

West Valley Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

Case 1: A woman was murdered by her on-and-off again boyfriend and his live in girlfriend.

Key Findings

- The perpetrator had numerous prior domestic violence and other violence offenses and had pending charged for aggravated assault on the victim. The victim was due to testify in a few weeks.
- This case uncovered numerous domestic violence victims at the hands of the perpetrator.

Recommendations

- Enhanced communication between courts in regard to batterer intervention programs. Specifically, when an offender commits a new domestic violence crime in a different jurisdiction there needs to be effective communication so that sanctions can be more strictly enforced for the new crime.

- More aggressive enforcement of sanctions for non-compliance with batterer intervention programs when reported to the court, not simply re-enrollment in treatment or an extension of the time required in treatment.
- Bench Book updating for set standards regarding minimum compliance with offender treatment programs. This should include standardized sanction increases when there is either subsequent reoffending or offenses resulting in injury to the victim. Also, mandate that meeting minimum compliance standards does not qualify for diversion programs and enforce it.
- Mandatory Waiver of Client Information forms for offenders convicted of domestic violence crime to allow access to Arizona fatality review teams operating under A.R.S. so that they may have access to the client records including: behavioral health professional assessments, past and current treatment orders, past or current protection orders, and other contacts with law enforcement related to domestic violence.

Case 2: A woman was shot and killed by her ex-boyfriend and father of her daughter.

Key Findings

- The victim and perpetrator had been separated for 3-4 months.
- The perpetrator was believed to be exhibiting stalking behavior and jealousy over the victim's possible new relationship.
- The perpetrator shot his victim five times at close range, including a shot to the back of the head. Their four year old daughter witnessed the incident and was slightly injured.
- Four months prior to the murder, the victim had obtained an order of protection. The order was later quashed and the judge encouraged the couple to work on things for the sake of the wellbeing of their child.

Recommendations

- Regarding requests for hearings after protective orders have been granted, establish a workgroup to incorporate domestic violence screenings and lethality assessments in the process.
- Bench Book updating for set standards regarding issuing and quashing protective orders.
- Identify opportunities for legislative changes regarding protective order process.
- Enhance education efforts including judicial training and community awareness. Key partners include the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) Domestic Violence Council and Arizona Committee on the Impact of Domestic Violence and the Courts (CIDVIC).

Yavapai County Domestic Violence Fatality/Near Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

The team reviewed one homicide case involving a perpetrator who had multiple criminal justice contacts, none of which were domestic violence related. The perpetrator also had a significant number of contacts with mental health organizations in Arizona and California.

Key Findings

- The victim and perpetrator had co-dependency issues involving illegal drug use and both avoided available services.
- The perpetrator did not believe he had a mental health illness and did not take the prescribed medication.
- Despite having gone through a substance abuse treatment programs twice, the perpetrator to use illicit drugs.

Recommendations

- A mental health discussion/summit is held with the goal of bringing community stakeholders together to meet, discuss, and find solutions to bridge some of the gaps that can occur in cases involving domestic violence and persons with mental health challenges.

Implementation

- Mental health awareness and educational events were held in the spring of 2015, allowing for greater communication and understanding between community stakeholders such as law enforcement, the behavioral health community, court systems, the veteran's administration, and higher educational organizations.
- Another goal and success of the mental health awareness and educational events was it provided an increase in awareness and knowledge for community members.

Yuma County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

Case(s) Reviewed

No cases were reviewed in 2014. Alternatively, the team looked at prior year recommendations to determine if it could contribute to any suggested implementations. In 2013, the team had a key finding that in Yuma County, there was a high percentage of domestic violence calls among law enforcement families. Specifically, it was recommended that law enforcement officers who have been accused of domestic violence should have mandatory psychological evaluations and training from their employer. The Yuma County Sheriff's Office collaborated with Amberly's Place to include a video of an actual law enforcement officer who was arrested to illustrate that domestic violence will not receive any courtesy from law enforcement peers or supervisors. The short video was incorporated into a new training to illustrate the impact that domestic violence has on a law enforcement agency. It emphasized the high standards the community and agencies expect from its officers. The training looked at the impact on peers when law enforcement partners missed work for domestic violence reasons, or were at work but had to deal with their children who may miss school, have trouble in school, or other manifestations in children who witness domestic violence. Also, the costs of physical and mental health care associated with domestic violence to an agency were discussed.

Key Findings

- Watching an actual police interview of a law enforcement officer seemed to underscore the point that law enforcement peers will hold their own accountable for domestic violence allegations.
- Law enforcement officers were more receptive to the bigger picture of how domestic violence affects their agencies due to missed days of work, health care related costs to agencies, and the negative impact on the high standards required of law enforcement officers.

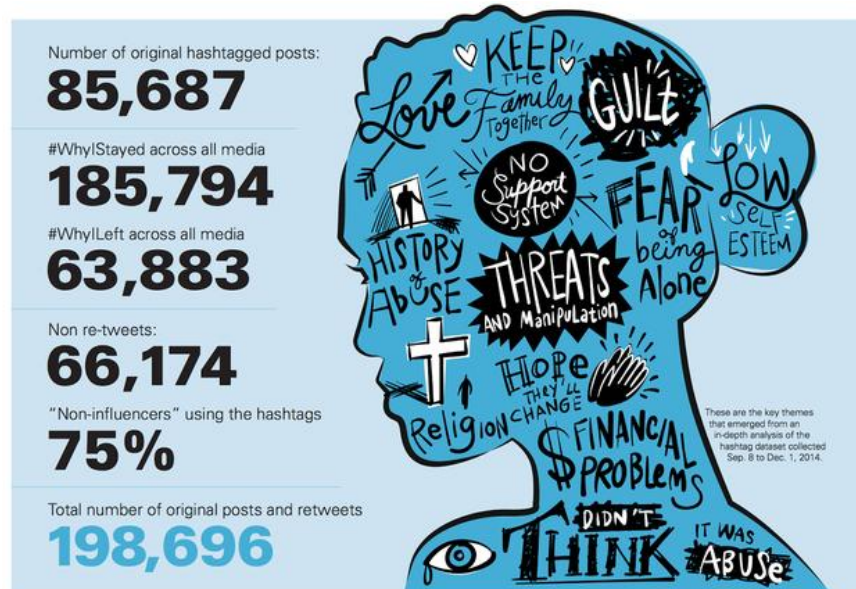
Recommendations/Implementation

- The team recommends that trainings consider actual footage of law enforcement holding their own accountable and information on domestic violence's secondary impact on the law enforcement agency.

AREAS OF INTEREST AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Awareness

Nationally, 2014 was a landmark year for domestic violence awareness. On September 8, 2014, a video of Ray Rice, professional football player for the Baltimore Ravens, was released. This video showed Rice knocking out his fiancée in a casino elevator and then dragging her unconscious body out of it. While the public was appalled to see such violence perpetrated by a public sports figure, they also responded by blaming Rice's fiancée for choosing to remain in a relationship with him. Centering responses on a survivor's choices rather than a perpetrator's actions, or victim blaming, is commonplace. The social media storm that followed the release of the video was started by writer and survivor, Beverly Gooden. In crafting her own Twitter response to the victim blaming she was witnessing, Gooden used the hashtag #WhyIStayed and explained why she had stayed with an abusive ex-husband. Both #WhyIStayed, and another hashtag, #WhyILeft, were trending in the U.S. in a matter of days and have continued to receive steady usage. Although Ray Rice is only one of 33 National Football League (NFL) players who were arrested on charges involving domestic violence between January 1, 2012 and September 17, 2014 (SI Wire, 2014), his name and the accompanying video are synonymous with domestic violence. The social media and viral movement have given survivors and their allies a platform to share their voice and it has changed how the public, and the media, talk about domestic violence.



Graphic produced by produced by Big Mountain Data, Salesforce, and Tremendousness

Increasing community awareness of domestic and intimate partner violence continues to be a recurring theme among the DVFRTs' recommendations, now and in previous years' reports. Several teams recommended awareness building and outreach activities to address the dynamics of domestic violence, as well as local services and resources for survivors and those concerned about them. Teams also identified public service announcements (PSAs) and social media as ways to inform and engage communities in learning about domestic violence, coercive control, lethality indicators, and how to get help. Fatality review teams, which operate independently and with the cooperation of a variety of professionals, have limited time and resources to conduct outreach events. Leveraging the expertise and existing resources of team members and community partners, in addition to partnering with ACESDV, may go a long way toward crafting effective public awareness campaigns, increasing community awareness, and reshaping how the public talks about domestic violence.

Mental Health

A common assumption, and myth, is that abuse is caused by a partner's mental health condition. Abuse and mental illness can coincide; however, it is not what causes the abuse. In fact, there are cases of individuals who have a mental illness and are healthy and supportive partners. Abuse can have serious immediate and long term impact on survivors, including how one sees, understands, and interacts with the world around them. Experts agree that long-lasting exposure to domestic violence can cause physical injury, emotional harm, and mental or psychological trauma. In addition to common physical effects of chronic fatigue, muscle tension, and changes in eating or sleeping patterns, stress resulting from chronic abuse may lead to conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, dissociation, and increased anxiety to name a few.

Several teams dedicated time during their reviews to discuss the intersection of mental health and domestic violence. Teams called for increased funding for coordination of mental health services, large-scale community gatherings for stakeholders, increased training for law enforcement, and culturally specific education programs to dispel the myths associated with and stigma surrounding mental health concerns. Again, the teams' recommendations highlight the need for those interacting with survivors to understand the link between mental health and domestic violence, and how communities can benefit from a trauma informed approach to services. Two teams also emphasized the need for increased coordination between mental health service providers and the criminal justice system, as well as between the courts and offender treatment programs. Like the review teams, working to ensure that those who come into contact with survivors are knowledgeable about mental health and domestic violence, and are also equipped to serve them will remain a priority for ACESDV.

Training and Education

Training on best practices is essential for the effectiveness of professionals and safety of survivors. Nearly every team recommended increased and ongoing training and education – for advocates, law enforcement, business owners, and faith communities, among other groups. Many of the teams included specific examples of who needed to be trained and what type of training they needed. This included, but was not limited to, training for judicial officers and court personnel, family law attorneys, and child welfare workers. Of particular note were specific recommendations that (1) hospitality staff (hotels/motels) receiving training for responding to domestic violence within their establishments, (2) faith-based leaders receiving training for responding to survivors' disclosures of abuse, and (3) law enforcement officers receive training for responding to domestic violence perpetrated by their colleagues. Additionally, there were recommendations to increase education for survivors on protective orders, the criminal justice system, and support services. ACESDV offers a variety of trainings throughout the year and around the state. In-person trainings and webinars are available to member programs and advocates, as well as to those working in criminal justice, health care, education, child welfare, hospitality, and more.

Protection Orders and Advocates

A protection order is one of many tools and resources that survivors can use when seeking safety. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to protection orders. Rather, they operate much like lethality assessment, safety planning, and any other work done with survivors in that how we incorporate them in our work with survivors must be individualized to meet their specific safety needs. In the course of their reviews, several teams identified recommendations for improving the protection order process. They included: having advocates available to work with survivors throughout the process and identifying legislative changes which can improve the registration system for orders.

Domestic violence and victim advocates are professionals trained to support survivors of intimate partner and other forms of family violence. In addition to being skilled and effective in assisting survivors navigate or leave abusive

relationships, they also offer information, emotional support, and help securing resources. Advocates are often times in contact with many community organizations, such as criminal justice or social service agencies, and they work to maintain relationship with them in order to get help or information for survivors. Indeed, advocates play a valuable role insofar that they can identify and understand the needs, resources, perspectives, and culture of each survivor. Several of the DVRFs identified in their 2014 reports the importance of having advocates in the community and accessible to survivors and professionals alike. More specifically, teams recommended (1) additional training for advocates in the areas of lethality assessment and lethality indicator evaluation, protection orders, and safety planning, and (2) early and ongoing involvement of an advocate for survivors who are seeking protection orders. ACESDV offers training in the areas of safety planning and legal advocacy, and will continue to work with the Order of Protection Task Force to address barriers to obtaining and gaps in the protection order process.

Gun Violence

In an 8-week focus survey on the use of guns in domestic violence situations, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (NDVH) found the “presence of a firearm in an abusive relationship intensifies the fear of abuse victims and escalates the violence directed towards them, regardless of whether or not the survivor is married, dating or being stalked by the abuser” (2014). They also found that 67% of those who completed the survey believed their partner was capable of killing them. Nationally, firearms are the primary weapon utilized by perpetrators in domestic violence homicides (Violence Policy Institute, 2013). Statistics and anecdotal evidence show that domestic violence is more likely to be lethal when an abusive partner has access to guns, and is further enhanced when survivors are attempting to leave (Campbell, J.C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., et al., 2013).

According to research published in the American Journal of Public Health, the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500% (NDVH, 2015). Experts agree that the data is clear: access to firearms is a significant risk factor in domestic and intimate partner homicide, and familicide, because it allows the perpetrator to take action that elevates a dangerous situation to lethal one.

Research shows that keeping firearms out of the hands of perpetrators reduces the risk of homicide (Campbell, J.C., et al., 2003a, 2003b). While state and federal law requires that those convicted of felony domestic violence, qualifying misdemeanor domestic violence, or who are the defendant on an order of protection, be listed as prohibited possessors, perpetrators are often able to still obtain firearms. Furthermore, according to the National Institute of Justice, “states with less restrictive gun control laws have as much as eight times the rate of murder-suicides as those with the most restrictive gun control laws” (2015). Considering that 60% of Arizona’s domestic violence related fatalities involved a firearm, not to mention the countless threats and near-deaths that go unreported, such findings have real-life implications for survivors in the state. While Arizona’s DVRFs focused their 2014 reports and recommendations on training and education, mental health, and offender treatment, addressing the use of guns in domestic violence remains central to their work.

The findings of the Everytown report suggest Arizona should enact the following laws:

- Require background checks on all gun sales;
- Prohibit all people convicted of domestic violence or currently subject to a final order of protection from possessing guns; and
- Ensure that all domestic abusers who become prohibited from possessing guns turn in the guns they already own.



Graphic produced by Everytown For Gun Safety

Fatality Review in Arizona

Several types of fatality review exist in Arizona: domestic violence fatality review, child fatality review, and maternal mortality review. These teams may focus on kinds of deaths, but what they do and their purpose is universal – identify and examine deaths, explore changes in prevention and intervention systems, and develop recommendations for coordinated community response and public policy initiatives, with the goal to ultimately prevent such deaths in the first place. Historically, the state’s fatality review teams have operated independently and only in the past two years has ACESDV explored an informal working relationship with the Arizona Department of Health Services Maternal Mortality Review Subcommittee.

Domestic Violence Fatality Review

Arizona is home to the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative (NDVFRI), a unique resource center dedicated to domestic violence fatality review. Funded by the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), NDFVRI provides training and technical assistance to OVW grantees about domestic violence fatality review, and also functions as a clearinghouse for information about developments in the field (www.ndvfri.org).

In 2014, the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission created their second team, the nation’s first Native American Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (NADVFRT). After ten years of working in Indian Country, the need for such a team became clear. Guided by a “no blame, no shame” philosophy, the new team conducted two reviews in their first year and included their findings in the Commission’s biennial report to the Montana State Legislature. The Native American reviews included a homicide-suicide and a homicide in which the perpetrator was female. The NADVFRT identified a need for its team members to learn about historical trauma as well as factors that make domestic violence in Indian Country different than in other areas.

Trends identified by the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission:

- After several years in which there were no Native American intimate partner homicide (IPH) deaths, 2014 brought two. Native Americans remain victims of intimate partner homicide at a disproportionate rate in our state. While constituting approximately 7% of the state’s population, they make up 13% of IPH events and 11% of

intimate partner victims. As in past Indian Country deaths, both the victim and perpetrator were Native American.

- In non-Native IPH, females are the perpetrator in 22% of the killings. In Native American IPH, females are the killers 58% of the time.
- In non-Native, female perpetrated IPH a knife is used 37% of the time. In Native American IPH a knife is used 86% of the time.
- Firearms are used in 75% of non-Native killings. In reservation communities firearms are used only 25% of the time.
- All Native American IPH have involved both Native victims and perpetrators.
- There have been no Native American familicides.
- Statewide, firearms continue to be the most frequently used weapons.
- Substance abuse, including prescription drugs, was a significant factor in several of the killings.
- Most of IPH deaths this biennium occurred West of Billings. Twenty-seven percent of the deaths took place in the Flathead.
- In the majority of incidents, family, friends and/or coworkers were aware of violence within the home but did not intervene.
- Three of the perpetrators had significant criminal histories.
- These killings resulted in significant trauma to minor children who witnessed the killing or dealt with its immediate aftermath. Resources provided to the children varied tremendously.
- Use of social media/digital technology is becoming much more common in perpetrating coercive control (e.g. cyber stalking). Additionally, it is being used more and more to solve DV crimes and in the creation of safety plans

Recommendations from the Montana Domestic Violence Fatality Review Commission:

- Provide regular training to public assistance case managers on the good cause exemption for domestic violence victims, particularly related to child support enforcement.
- Continue the collaboration and joint trainings between Montana's Department of Justice, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Attorney's Office and the MT—WY Tribal Judges Association.
- Expand the state's Crime Victim Compensation Program to increase the reimbursement rate for funeral expenses. The \$3,500 figure has not been raised since 1995 and its limitation can place a financial burden on families of those killed in intimate partner homicides.
- Increase the use of trauma-based services among those working with domestic violence victims, perpetrators and children who grow up in violent homes.
- Pass legislation focused on strangulation, either creating a new stand-alone statute or enhancing existing domestic violence statutes.
- Institute a statewide child death review team modeled on the adult death review teams.
- Expand the use of danger/lethality assessments by law enforcement, victim advocates, medical personnel and criminal justice staff.
- Conduct trainings for tribal and non-tribal judges, law enforcement, and health professionals on lethality assessments and domestic violence screenings so those interacting with victims can better assess the risks associated with intimate partner violence. Take steps to educate all Montanans on factors unique to Indian Country in order to better understand how domestic violence is different in Indian Country. Examples include historical trauma, sexual abuse, and concentrated poverty.

- Strengthen Indian Country multi-disciplinary team efforts in staffing and intervening in family violence. Develop culturally appropriate family violence intervention protocols that can be utilized by tribal programs.

Child Fatality Review (from www.dhs.gov)

Arizona's Child Fatality Review was created in 1993 (A.R.S. § 36-342, 36-3501-4) and data collection began in 1994. Reviews of child deaths are completed by 12 local child fatality teams located throughout Arizona. The state team provides oversight to the local teams, produces an annual report summarizing review findings, and makes recommendations regarding the prevention of child deaths. These recommendations have been used to educate communities, initiate legislative action, and develop prevention programs. The Arizona Department of Health Services provides professional and administrative support to the state and local teams and analyzes review data. The goal of the Child Fatality Review is to reduce preventable child fatalities through systematic, multidisciplinary, multi-agency, and multi-modality reviews of child fatalities in Arizona. This is accomplished through interdisciplinary training and community-based prevention education and through data-driven recommendations for legislation and public policy.

Maternal Mortality Review (from www.dhs.gov)

In April of 2011, the Arizona Legislature changed the child fatality statute to charge this State with the responsibility to "evaluate the incidence and causes of maternal fatalities in this State." Maternal fatalities associated with pregnancy include the death of a woman while she is pregnant or within a year of her pregnancy. This led to the establishment of Arizona's first Maternal Mortality Review Subcommittee. This Subcommittee operates under the already established State Team whose responsibility it is to oversee the Child Fatality Review Program. Once this change went into effect on July 1, 2011, the Maternal Mortality Review Subcommittee began reviewing cases, determining preventability and making recommendations for action. The Maternal Mortality Review Subcommittee is made up of members from professionals in the field including OB/GYNs, perinatologists, directors of nursing, maternal-fetal medicine specialists, public health professionals, domestic violence specialists, behavioral health specialists, and representatives from Arizona's tribal nations.

THEIR STORIES

1/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown female, 6

Unknown female, 8

Alejandro Gallego, 45

Police say that both girls were shot and that Alejandro Gallego, their father, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The family was found by a relative and screams were heard coming from the home that morning. Gallego was reported to be going through divorce proceedings.

1/1/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Cindy Burnett, 47

Patrick Balbastro, 32

Patrick Balbastro, 32, stopped to help Cindy Burnett, 46, who was being assaulted by Michael Leday in the early hours of 1/1/14. Police say that Burnett and Leday were dropped off in the area by a taxi and neighborhood residents reported seeing the two walking down the street. Some reports mention that Burnett was drunk; others state that she was seen naked in the street. When Balbastro and his girlfriend stopped to assist Burnett, Leday turned on Balbastro and jumped into his car, deliberately running over him and Burnett. Burnett died at the scene, Balbastro died later at the hospital and Balbastro's girlfriend was left in critical condition.

1/2/14 – Navajo County, Shonto

Alfred Nelson, age unknown

The information for this death in Indian Country was provided by Federal Bureau of Investigation and was identified/classified as domestic violence. No other information is available is available for this report.

1/12/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Kelvin Mitchell, 47

Roosevelt Mitchell Jr. is being held on suspicion of second-degree murder. He was accused of stabbing Kelvin Mitchell, 47, his younger brother, in a backyard fight. Kelvin was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The knife believed to have been used in the incident was recovered and the investigation was ongoing at the time this incident was added to the list.

1/18/14 – Maricopa County, Glendale

Jason Ash, 43

Jason Ash, 43, was found dead in an apartment with a cord around his neck and several cuts on his body. The suspect's mother told police that she had left the apartment while her 16-year-old daughter, her daughter's friend, and Ash were inside. She said she later got a call from her daughter saying that she and Ash were involved in a consensual sex act involving strangulation and Ash had died. The mother returned to the apartment and attempted to render life-saving measures to Ash. The teen fled the scene but returned to a neighboring apartment where detectives took her into custody. The teen confessed to strangling Ash and then later cutting him. She was booked on a charge of second-degree homicide.

1/20/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown female, 18 months

Larry Works III was arrested on suspicion of child abuse and murder. He and the child's mother transported the child to the hospital where she was pronounced dead during treatment. Law enforcement examined the infant's body and observed what appeared to be two burn marks on her left leg, a bite mark on her abdomen, and bruising on her chest and abdomen. The injuries were caused by blunt force.

1/21/14 – Mohave County, Golden Valley

Jeffrey Todd Allen, 44

Louie Manuel Torres, 61, was taken into custody when police responded to a residence for a weapons offense call. While speaking with the neighbor, police noticed Torres walking in the street with a firearm on his waist. They conducted a high-risk stop, removed the weapon — a .44-magnum revolver — and took him into custody immediately. Further investigation and questioning of Torres revealed that he and his roommate, Jeffrey Todd Allen, got into an argument which at one point escalated into a physical altercation between the two. Torres said he fired three warning shots to scare Allen but one of the shots struck Allen in the neck.

1/22/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Justin Patrick, 47

Sheriff's deputies were called to a home in reference to a domestic violence incident. They say 47-year-old Justin Patrick was found lying on the ground in front of the home and was not breathing after his son had used a martial arts chokehold on him. He was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. His son, Jared Patrick was arrested as he was walking away from the home.

1/25/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Jacob Rice, 20

Police said Jacob Rice, 20, was hit by a car and thrown into an electrical box while walking on the sidewalk near his home in the early morning hours of 1/25/14. According to Rice's friends, he was visiting his girlfriend, Brittney Nicole Nolan, at a nearby apartment complex when they got into an argument. Nolan told investigators she argued with Rice on the way home and he walked away from the vehicle. While she was out looking for him, Nolan said she was using her cell phone at one point and lost control of her car, causing her to go onto the shoulder area, police said.

1/26/14 – Mohave County, White Hills

Sheila Linke, 53

According to his arrest report, Edward Kopp told police he got into a confrontation with Sheila Linke, 53, because she was attempting to evict him and his girlfriend, Kathy Atteberry. Kopp told detectives Linke screamed at him to get out of the house while holding a knife. Kopp said he kicked Linke in the chest and suffocated her with his hands and a nylon cord. Kopp said he and Atteberry loaded Linke's body and camping gear into his pickup truck, drove to a bar for drinks, and then drove to a desert area near White Hills to bury her.

February 2014 – Mohave County, Kingman

Mi Soon Kim, 60

David Yong Kwang Kim, 64

The bodies of David Yong Kwang Kim, 64, and his wife, Mi Soon Kim, 60, were found early one Monday afternoon in the bed of the motel room they rented. Police said the Kims died of gunshot wounds and that a handgun was found at the scene. Police believe that the Kims were having domestic difficulties and that Kim shot his wife before he turned the gun on himself.

2/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Fernando Ruelas, 26

Ashley Elizabeth Eide originally pleaded not guilty in the 2/1/14 shooting death of 26-year-old Fernando Ruelas. Authorities said the man was shot on a landing of the apartment complex where the couple lived. Police said Eide told investigators that she and Ruelas argued and he hit her several times. Eide also told police that she feared for her life, but did not mean to shoot him. Police say Eide had injuries to her face when officers arrived at the apartment complex.

2/3/14 – Maricopa County, El Mirage

Patricia Cota, 24

Police arrested Jesus Octoviano Tober in the killing of 24-year-old Patricia Cota. Her body was found in an alley. A police statement says a witness interviewed by police saw Tober assault Cota early Friday morning before the couple went into a home across the street.

Found 2/4/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Kevin Worzalla, 54

54-year-old Kevin Worzalla was found dead inside of his apartment. He had been stabbed to death and beaten with a crescent wrench. The two allegedly knew each other and lived together off and on, but the exact nature of their relationship was unclear. Detectives say

Walters was staying with Worzalla in his apartment when she attacked him. Walters plotted to kill Worzalla and tried to get a family member to help, but was refused. Worzalla's body was not found for a week after he was killed. Police say Walters drove Worzalla's truck around before she was arrested.

2/8/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Donna Rounds, 47

Police said that they received a call from 911 from a man about in the early hours of 2/8/14. The caller said he had been in a collision, but when officers responded they found no one. 47-year-old Donna Rounds was found around the corner. Police said that Todd Rounds allegedly had run over his wife Donna with his pickup truck and returned home to call 911. Police said that Rounds was walking back to the scene when they found him. Mr. Rounds was under the influence of alcohol at the time of the incident.

2/18/14 – Maricopa County, Apache Junction

Laurel "Laurie" Armstrong, 47

Brett Armstrong, 51

Police conducted a welfare check and found Laurie and Brett Armstrong dead, an apparent murder-suicide. They had been married for 23 years and had three children. Laurie had filed for divorce in November 2013.

2/21/14 – Coconino County, Flagstaff

Becky Pickering, 52

Officers responded one night to a report of a woman who was not breathing at a home. Police say 52-year-old Becky L. Pickering was transported to the hospital where she died. The cause and manner of death were still under investigation, but it appeared Pickering suffered fatal injuries from a strangulation-type assault. Police say her son, 18-year-old Zachariah E. Pine, is being held on suspicion of second-degree murder.

2/24/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown male, 15 months

Jessica Ann Griffin, 23, and Jerry Laverne Horne, 25, both transients, were allegedly seeking revenge on a man and woman they believe killed Griffin's young nephew, according to court documents. The 15-month-old boy was pronounced dead at a hospital after he stopped breathing at a hotel. Witnesses told police that the child was put down for a nap on the bed and later found unresponsive. However, police say the child had visible signs of trauma. Griffin is the baby's maternal aunt and main caregiver, and Horne is her boyfriend, according to court documents. The baby was reportedly in Horne's care when he died. The two people Griffin and Horne allegedly conspired to kill were also in the hotel room that day and were contacted by police as part of the death investigation, according to court documents. Police said Griffin and Horne were considered leads in the investigation.

Found 3/4/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Roman Barreras, 3

The boy's remains were found 3/4/14 by a landlord who was cleaning a home, as the family was in the process of moving out. The couple, Raquel Barreras, 39, and Martin Barreras, 45, have four other children ranging from 4 to 19 years in age. The youngest were turned over to CPS/DCS. Court documents say the couple's other kids had told investigators that the parents had starved the boy to death. The parents are charged with murder, child abuse, and concealment of a body in the boy's death.

3/7/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Anastasia "Ana" Greer, 16

Matthew Bolton, 15

Anastasia "Ana" Greer and Matthew Bolton were found dead by police, who were responding to reports of gunshots. A witness reported that he heard Ana scream and then saw her running from a young man chasing her. Initially, he thought it was a joke or kids playing until he saw the gun in Bolton's hands and heard the gunshots. Bolton shot Greer in the chest four times before turning the gun on himself. Both teens were sophomores and members of their school's ROTC program. The police acknowledged there were reports of a gun on campus Friday morning, prior to the school's early release at 11 a.m., that Bolton's name was mentioned and that he did not attend any of his classes that morning. Bolton had stolen the gun from his 28-year-old brother, who owned it legally. Bolton may have

had a history of dating violence and police were investigating a claim that he had previously choked another ex-girlfriend in a classroom.

3/10/14 – Navajo County, Grambow

Mae Bedonie, age unknown

The information for this death in Indian Country was provided by Federal Bureau of Investigation and was identified/classified as domestic violence. No other information is available for this report.

3/12/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Austin Tapia, 12

Andrew Ward, 27, called 911 from a nearby convenience store and reported he had stabbed someone. Officers found Austin Tapia with multiple and fatal stab wounds when they arrived at the home. Police say the attack occurred after the two were left home alone while their mother and two young sisters went to dinner. Family members said Ward had a history of violence and substance abuse, and police said he told them nothing happened between the two that led to the stabbing. When asked why he killed Tapia, Ward told investigators that he "just felt like killing," the child.

3/13/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown male, age unknown

Police say the shooting arose out of a domestic disturbance call involving a father and son. Police say the man and an officer engaged in a physical altercation and the officer fatally shot him. The officer was taken to a hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

3/18/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Dorease L. Clarke, age unknown

An autopsy report shows that Dorease Clarke was found dead in a home was shot multiple times. Clarke was the live-in girlfriend of Myron Elliot Fletcher, 56. The last time she was seen in public was late on the afternoon of 3/4/14, when surveillance video showed her walking into a CVS drug store with Fletcher. Animal care responded to a call and noticed a stench coming from the home. On 3/8/14 Fletcher checked himself into an in-patient mental health center. Investigators tracked him to the hospital 3/18/14, and court records state he "told deputies that he did not want anyone in his house." It took a week to identify Clarke because of the condition of the body. Fletcher was booked on suspicion of first-degree murder.

3/21/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Rosa Belen Zapien, 14

Police say Rosa Belen Zapien, 14, was killed in a fire. The girl's mother and three siblings — ranging from ages 3 months to 10 years — remain hospitalized in critical condition. Police are still investigating whether the fire was intentionally set and possibly related to a case of domestic violence. A person of interest was detained in the case. Police said they couldn't immediately develop probable cause to arrest the unidentified man. He was released, but remained a person of interest.

4/1/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Amelisa Telles-Lopez, 3

Alberto Robles, the live-in boyfriend of the victim's mother, was watching over Amelise Telles-Lopez at her home. He called 911 when he found her in the bathtub, and first responders rushed her to the hospital. He initially told firefighters that he put Amelise in the bathtub and stepped away for five minutes. When he returned "she was sitting up in the bathtub vomiting," according to the report. The girl had clean clothes and damp hair when firefighters found her lying on a bed. Robles contacted his girlfriend, Veronica Telles, 47 minutes before calling 911. She told police Robles called her earlier in the day to say Amelise was sick with stomach issues, but Veronica said her daughter seemed fine when she left for work. At the hospital, staff told investigators that girl had injuries consistent with a lack of oxygen to the brain, but no water in her lungs. She also had suspicious injuries including a mark on her forehead and redness on her foot that appeared to be from burning or scolding. Both Robles and Telles were charged with child abuse. Roble was charged with first-degree murder.

4/13/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Angelina Collier, 33

Robert Collier, 32

According to police, authorities received a 911 call late at night from the suspect who reported that he shot and killed his wife at their apartment. Authorities arrived on scene and found a 33-year-old woman suffering from a gunshot wound. Fire crews pronounced the woman deceased. Robert Collier, the husband of the victim, was located in his vehicle and died of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. The three children were taken into care by child welfare.

4/13/14 – Maricopa County, Mesa

Victoria Gameros, 22

Jonathan Vargas, 25

Neighborhood residents called police to report a vehicle in a school parking lot with someone who appeared to be injured. Responding officers found the body of a man and a wounded woman who later died at a hospital. Police say that Gameros and Vargas lived together and were in a relationship for over two years. Police do not know what led up to the incident but that Vargas was responsible for the shootings. Gameros and Vargas had no connection to the school other than it being the location of the shooting.

4/13/14, Yavapai County, Cornville

Joshua Myers, 33

Deputies were called to the home on a report of domestic violence. 33-year-old Joshua Myers was found with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head in the backyard of the home. They say Myers' live-in girlfriend and her daughter had been held hostage at gunpoint for two hours following an argument. Authorities say Myers eventually released them, threatened suicide, and indicated he would have a shootout with law enforcement if they were called to the home. An AR-15 type rifle, associated ammunition, a police scanner, and gas masks were also found at the scene.

4/15/14 – Maricopa County, Sun City

Howard Rudolph, 79

Police were trying to determine how Howard Rudolph, 79, under house arrest for the fatal shooting of his wife eight months ago, was able to get free from an electronic, court-ordered monitoring ankle bracelet prior to killing himself. Rudolph was found dead in his vehicle with a gun next to him. Rudolph was supposed to appear at court for a hearing in his wife's murder when his body was found. Rudolph was arrested 8/7/13, in the fatal shooting of Earlene Rudolph, 73, in what authorities were investigating as a "mercy killing".

4/16/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Joshua Calkins, 35

Brenna Maas, 45, the ex-girlfriend of an accused ax murderer, ordered her former lover, Christopher Mason, to kill Joshua Calkins. Maas was once in a relationship with Calkins, but the romance "ended badly," prosecutors said, prompting her to demand his death. Maas was further motivated to see Calkins killed because he once robbed one of her friends. Police said Mason carried through Maas' demands last April. He bound and gagged Calkins in an apartment complex before he attacked the victim with an ax, police said. Calkins' still-bound body was later dumped in an alleyway, covered up with a rug and plastic.

4/21/14 – Maricopa County, Mesa

Caitlin Wentzel, 12

Marcia Wentzel, 45

Officers responding to a 911 call went to a home where a man said he had returned from work Monday and found his wife and daughter dead. Police said the mother and daughter had been suffering from "debilitating, long-term medical conditions". Two suicide notes were found in the home: one from Marcia Wentzel and one from her daughter, Caitlin Wentzel.

5/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

"Wiggles" (dog)

When the couple separated in 2012, Wiggles stayed with Moreno. Shortly after the breakup, Moreno began calling and texting his ex-girlfriend to try to win her back. When that did not work he used Wiggles as bait. According to the Sheriff's office he told her the dog

was dead, but then said the dog was fine when she called back. He later told her the dog was sick but could not afford treatment. She offered to help but said the dog was fine after she denied his request for a date. His last effort to get her back was to send her a picture of a starved Wiggles. After that, Moreno gave Wiggles to Animal Care and Control, claiming the dog was a stray. Wiggles was severely emaciated and received treatment, but was ultimately euthanized.

5/20/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe/Pinal County, between Casa Grande and Eloy

Charla Faust, age unknown

John Brazel, 33

Charla Faust was shot and killed by a former boyfriend, John Brazel, outside her apartment. Brazel was found dead later from an apparent suicide. Brazel shot Faust after she refused to get into his car. Faust had previously broken things off with him and thought he was out of her life. Her sister said when Faust was romantically involved with her killer; she always feared that he would hurt her or her children. Faust had a protective order against Brazel. Police confirmed a history of domestic violence calls and reports.

5/23/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe

Mark Samuel Taro, 21

Mark Samuel Taro was visiting his mother at an RV resort. Officers were called about 10 a.m. when the mother was seen exiting her home with visible wounds. She was taken to a hospital with gunshot and stab wounds as police sought to find Taro. After receiving no response to commands and tear gas, police went inside to find the son dead in an apparent suicide.

Weekend of 5/24/14 – Maricopa County, Chandler

Irma Alonso, 56

Victor Rodarte, 57

Initial evidence led investigators to believe that Victor Rodarte, 57, stabbed and killed his wife, Irma Alonso, 56, and then shot himself.

5/27/14 – Gila County, Payson

Unknown male, 18 months

A 3-year-old boy shot and killed his 1½ -year-old brother after the boys found a handgun in a neighbor's apartment and took it to another room. The brothers found the semi-automatic pistol somewhere in the living area where it was not in plain sight. Neither of the adults knew the boys had the weapon. The weapon discharged and the toddler was shot in the head. The mother was just entering the bedroom when the shooting occurred and there was nothing she could do to stop it. The younger boy was rushed to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. At the time, the boys and their mother were visiting the 78-year-old neighbor in their apartment complex.

5/28/14 – Maricopa County, Mesa

Kenneth Jerger, 53

The driver, Kenneth Jerger, entered into on-coming traffic and traveled a short distance before running into a moving truck. Authorities said one passenger was in the SUV and three teenagers were in the rental truck (oncoming vehicle). Police had been called to Jerger's home for a domestic violence related situation.

6/25/14 – Maricopa County, Peoria

Matt Wasar, 45

Christopher Wasar, 39, shot his 45-year-old brother, Matt Wasar, in the chest after learning he was giving his ex-wife drugs in exchange for sexual favors. Christopher and Jessica Wasar, 39, have at least two young children together, with one born as recently as 2009, according to social media posts.

6/26/14 – Navajo County, White River

Sabrina Vega, 19

Deputies arrested a 21-year-old man in the fatal shooting of his 19-year-old girlfriend in the desert. Sheriff's investigators say Matthew Borja was confronting his girlfriend, Sabrina Vega, about an affiliation and shot at her multiple times when he was not satisfied with her answer.

7/4/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe

Martin Woods, 33

According to police, 37-year-old Thomas Woods shot his step-brother, 33-year-old Martin Woods, as a result of an escalating fight between the two at a park. The altercation took place at the end of a family get-together, around 11:15 p.m. Court documents indicate Woods had an "extensive criminal history" including aggravated assault, assault on a police officer, assault on a minor, and domestic violence assault.

7/7/14 – Maricopa County, Mesa

Unknown male, age unknown

A woman's husband attempted to strangle her in their home. She called for assistance while going back to the home to pick up some belongings. According to the law enforcement, the husband pointed a gun at the deputies. One of the deputies fired a shot toward the man and that is when the man shot himself.

7/10/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Guadalupe Alvarado, 50

Elmer Frisby, 51

Police identified the individuals as 50-year-old Guadalupe Alvarado and 51-year-old Elmer Frisby. Homicide detectives said it appears Frisby shot his wife multiple times before allegedly shooting himself.

7/11/14 – Maricopa County, Glendale

Deanna Aguilar, 22

Alex Luke Felter, 24, was arrested in the shooting of his girlfriend, 22-year-old Deanna Aguilar. Police responded to a call about a shooting and upon arrival, they discovered Aguilar inside the home with a gunshot wound. She was pronounced dead on the scene.

7/12/14 – Pima County, Green Valley

Alice Phillips, 76

George Phillips, 77

Investigators say George Phillips may have had a terminal illness. They say the couple died from gunshot wounds, but no other details were released. Investigators say preliminary evidence indicates the husband killed his wife, Alice Phillips, 76, before committing suicide.

Found 7/12/14 – Graham County, Thatcher

Makayla Marie Sanchez, 3

The body of a 3-year-old girl was found buried in the backyard of Joshua Matthew Cisneros, 23, and Anna Marie Sanchez, 28. She had been missing since March 2012. A CPS/DCS caseworker had learned of Makayla during an interview with her brothers, after they were discovered alone in a motel room. The child suffered several blunt force injuries, including broken ribs and a fractured skull, which was identified as the cause of death. Cisneros beat the child after a bathroom accident while at Walmart, saying that he kicked her and "Scratch that, I didn't kick her; I stomped on her back." The next morning Makayla was dead. (Note: Although this fatality occurred in March 2012, since victim was not included in the list for that year and was found in 2014, she was added to the 2014 list.)

7/18/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe

Jonathan Williams, 25

Police were called to a disturbance at a motel. Jonathan Williams allegedly assaulted his 24-year-old girlfriend at the same motel on Thursday and had returned. Authorities say Williams fled from police in the lobby and pointed a handgun at them. They say Williams fired his weapon and was then hit by an officer returning fire.

Before 7/25/14 – Pima County, Tucson

David Martinez, 66

Coworkers went to victim's home to check on him and noticed signs of foul play and called the police. The officers entered to do a welfare check and located an adult male who had obvious signs of trauma indicative of a homicide. 16-year-old Luis Carlos Bernal was arrested on a charge of killing David Martinez, the same man who police say had a child with Bernal's mother. Police say they have an

idea of what drove the killing but they are not saying just yet. Police found no evidence of conflict with Martinez in Bernal's lengthy juvenile record.

8/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown female, 35-45

It appears to be a homicide-attempted suicide, and occurred at an apartment complex, according to authorities. The mother of the wounded man called police after finding her son and his girlfriend with gunshot wounds. Authorities said the woman was declared dead at the scene. The man was been taken to a hospital with non-life threatening injuries. The names of the man and woman are not immediately available, but authorities said they are in their late 30s to early 40s.

8/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown female, approximately late 30s/early 40s

Authorities said a woman is dead and her boyfriend was wounded after a shooting at an apartment complex. It appears to have been a murder-attempted suicide.

8/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown male, 53

Police arrived to find a 27-year-old man lying in the driveway with a gunshot wound to the abdomen and another man who had been stabbed in the abdomen. Investigators determined that a woman who used to live at the house, which is inhabited by the 53-year-old and a roommate, showed up there with the 27-year-old man.

8/1/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Elizabeth Smith, 29

44-year-old Darren Helton was booked into jail this week after being treated for injuries he sustained in the incident. Helton faces one count each of second-degree murder and being a prohibited possessor. Authorities say Helton shot 29-year-old Elizabeth Smith on Friday at their apartment and then attempted suicide. The couple was living together.

8/2/14 – Navajo County, Pinetop

Unknown male, age unknown

The deadly incident began in the resort casino's parking lot with an argument between the husband and wife. As it escalated, the husband went to his car and grabbed a rifle. His wife and child ran inside the casino complex to avoid harm. A security guard went outside to assess the situation and was shot twice by the husband. Another casino patron was also injured from bullet or glass fragments. The husband remained outside the casino, brandishing his rifle. When tribal police arrive he ignored their commands to put down the rifle and pointed it at several officers. He was shot and killed by an officer.

8/16/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe

Quennel Banks, 30

Police say that their suspect is 28-year-old Richard Tyrone Johnson. Johnson is said to have shot and killed a 30-year-old man who had been calling Johnson all day, asking where his girlfriend was. Reporting witnesses who heard the gunshots and saw the victim on the ground said they feared retaliation. Johnson turned himself into the police.

8/16/14 – Mohave County, Kingman

Blake Allen Barbour, 43

The county attorney's office cleared Deputy Jace Reif in the 8/16/14 shooting of Blake Allen Barbour. Reif shot Barbour after the deputy responded to a domestic violence call. Barbour refused the deputy's commands, shook off hits from a stun gun, threw a chair at Reif and took the deputy's baton away from him. Barbour's mother had reported that her son was acting "crazy" and had prevented her from calling 911 earlier by holding her by the neck.

8/18/14 – Navajo County, Snowflake/Taylor

Unknown female, age unknown

Reports state that a man accidentally shot his wife while handling a shotgun.

8/24/14 – La Paz County, Quartzsite

Unknown male, age unknown

A man wanted by police on domestic violence charges died when he traveled the wrong way on Interstate 10 and slammed head-on into a semitrailer. The man's name was not released. No information was available on the condition of the truck driver.

8/30/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Shannon Leshin, 48

Gary Michaels, 55, was arrested on suspicion of murder in the death of 48-year-old Shannon Leshin, according to a police report. Police officers were called to a home with a report of an injured person. Police and fire personnel responded to the call and found Leshin, who had been stabbed. According to a witness, Leshin had recently broken off her relationship with Michaels, but the two were seen talking the night before the incident. The witness thought the two were trying to reconcile and went to bed. The witness awoke the next morning to find Michaels gone and Leshin in her bedroom, according to police.

9/2/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Heather Marcucci, 34

Jase David DeBaker, infant

Jeremy DeBaker 21

Two unnamed dogs

A 34-year-old woman, her 21-year-old boyfriend, and their infant son are dead in an apparent murder-suicide, according to the police. Police discovered the bodies of Heather Marcucci, Jeremy DeBaker, and 7-week-old Jase David DeBaker at their home in the early hours of 9/2/14. Police said all three were found with obvious signs of gunshot trauma. Jeremy DeBaker's wound appeared to be self-inflicted, according to police. Officers also found two dogs shot to death on the property.

9/2/14 – Mohave County, Bullhead

Isabella "Bella" Grogan-Canella, 8

After being reported missing on 9/2/14, the body of Bella Grogan-Canella was found in a shallow grave near her home. Police arrested Tania Ann Grogan, 29, and her husband, Ralph Pat Leroy Folster III, 28, on felony drug charges. Justin Rector, a family friend who had been living with the family for several days, is charged with first-degree murder. Rector is also charged with kidnapping, child abuse, and abandonment of a dead body.

9/4/14 – Maricopa County, Goodyear

Unknown female, 20 months

Phoeteama Neal, 28, called 911 and through sobs, she told a dispatcher that she drowned her 20-month-old daughter, that she was dead, and Neal was holding her daughter in her arms. The child was taken to the hospital where she was placed on life support and medical personnel estimated that she had a 1% survival rate. Detectives said Neal learned earlier Monday morning that her child was to be relinquished to the father at the end of the month, as a judge had ruled that Neal could not take the girl to Turkey on deployment. The child's father was given custody. Neal is an active duty member of the Air Force. The infant was taken off of life support and died on 9/4/14.

9/4/14 – Cochise County, Florence

Sean M. Lafitte, 61

A corrections officer, Alexander A. Santiago turned himself in to Florence police, saying he shot someone. He faces charges of first-degree murder and aggravated assault with special circumstances. Officers responded to the home Santiago shared with his mother Sean M. Lafitte, where they found Lafitte dead with a single gunshot wound to the head. A motive for the homicide had not been determined.

9/6/14 – Maricopa County, Glendale

Shantel McCormick, 28

James Tucker, 29

An off-duty firefighter witnessed a vehicle veer off the freeway and crash into the desert. According to police, James Tucker shot and killed his girlfriend Shantel McCormick before turning the gun on himself. The two victims were found deceased in the vehicle when officers arrived on the scene. According to friends and family of McCormick, there was a history of domestic violence in the relationship and McCormick was attempting to leave her relationship with Tucker. Before the murder-suicide, Tucker had reportedly reached out to McCormick, saying he would come to her to pick up their two daughters. Less than an hour later, Tucker shot McCormick and then himself.

Found 9/13/14 – Pinal County, Apache Junction

Unknown female, age unknown

Neighbors called police after noticing an odor coming from the mobile home. Police have called it a suspicious death. The woman who lived in the mobile home had been missing since 9/4/14 and left her purse and dogs, something her neighbors say she would never do. The body is believed to be that of the missing woman, but the remains have not been positively identified. Police have arrested her 45-year-old ex-boyfriend, Daniel Scott Flomer, in connection with the suspicious death. Flomer had a criminal background of several drug charges, assault, and domestic violence charges.

9/15/14 – Cochise County, Sunsites

Gary Tucker, 31

31-year-old Gary Tucker was found dead at the home of his estranged wife and children. They say a man called to report someone had just broken into the house before he shot him. Investigators were initially told that Tucker allegedly broke into the rear door of the home. They later concluded that Tucker's estranged wife and her boyfriend allegedly conspired to kill him.

9/18/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Sylvester Romero, 31

Sylvester Romero, 31, was returning home from work when he was killed in the head-on collision that began after Valerie Cervantez, 26, and an unidentified man left without paying a tab at a restaurant. Cervantez and the unidentified man left the restaurant after providing the employees with an invalid credit card and rushing out of the parking lot at a dangerous speed. Store employees called to report the black car driving dangerously. About the same time, police received a report of domestic violence taking place in a black Camaro that was spotted in a nearby area. Once the car entered an intersection, Cervantez lost control and drove into oncoming traffic, where the car collided head on with Romero's. Cervantez died Sunday afternoon from injuries she received in the head-on wreck.

9/21/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Valerie Cervantez, 26

See description from 9/18/14 above.

9/26/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Angel Manuel Rodriguez, 19 months

Angel Manuel Rodriguez was beaten to death 3 months after CPS/DCS sent him to live with his mother and her boyfriend. The child had previously been placed with a foster family who accepted medically fragile children as he had undergone two open heart surgeries. After 14 months in foster care, the child's mother complied with CPS/DCS requirements to regain custody, and he was sent to live with his mother and her boyfriend, 18-year-old George Ramon Hernandez Jr. One month before he was returned to his mother, Hernandez was arrested for aggravated assault after he strangled his step-mother, and bonded out of jail two days before the child was placed in the home. Court records indicate there was previously unreported domestic violence. On 9/5/14, two days after pleading guilty to aggravated assault, Hernandez severely beat the child while the mother was at work. When the mother returned, Angel was in severe condition and died the following day.

10/7/14 – Maricopa County, Peoria

Jennifer Palmer, 52

Blaine Palmer, 52

A man in his 50s was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound with a handgun next to him. A 14-year-old girl came home to make the discovery at and called police. She found her step-father in a bedroom and her mother in the garage, sitting in the driver's seat of a car that had multiple bullet holes in it. Neighbors reported hearing gunshots that morning. The couple had recently divorced and the step-father was supposed to be out of the house within the next few days.

10/8/14 – Maricopa County, Mesa**Michelle Bakley, 40****Patrick Crosman, 33**

After arriving at the apartment complex, officers found 33-year-old Patrick Crosman walking in a courtyard before injuring himself, Berry said. Neighbors say he had a stab wound and died at a hospital. Police found Michelle Bakley, 40, dead inside an apartment. Neighbors said the two were engaged several years ago but apparently broke off the engagement and that "she never had any bruise marks or signs of abuse at all," and that "she never had anything bad to say about him, but she was always saying she needed to get out of there." Bakley had received word that she would get her first disability benefit check in December 2014, and she was planning to use that money to move into her own apartment.

10/8/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix**Natalyah Bennett, 1 month**

Authorities received a 911 call the previous day that 1-month-old Natalyah Bennett was not breathing. Police say paramedics noticed bruising on the baby and hospital personnel also found a skull fracture, broken ribs, bite marks and injuries consistent with a sexual assault. They say the mother was not home and the father was alone with seven children ranging in age from 1-month-old to 14-years-old. None of the other children showed signs of being abused.

10/17/14 – Pima County, Tucson**Amanda Vinson, 29**

Amanda Vinson was found dead inside her home. By night's end the Vinson's roommate, 26-year-old Graham Karber, was behind bars. By the look of his shaved hair and face, Karber changed his appearance quite drastically since his roommate's homicide. The case remained open and under investigation.

10/18/14 – Pima County, Tucson**Christina Logan, age unknown**

Detectives say Shawn Abbas stabbed his roommate, Christina Logan, during a violent confrontation inside their apartment.

10/19/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix**Unknown female, 37****Unknown male, 39**

A 39-year-old son was in a dispute with his father's 37-year-old girlfriend when he shot her and later turned the gun on himself. The 68-year-old father owned the home where he lived with his girlfriend and two adult sons. The father tried to intervene and asked for his other son's help, but they could not stop the older son from shooting the girlfriend and himself. The father and girlfriend had been together for years and she only moved into the house three months prior. Police have previously gone to the home in response to a dispute between the girlfriend and the son suspected of having shot her.

10/22/14 – Maricopa County, Laveen**Unknown female, 21**

Officers entered the home to find the body of a 21-year-old woman with an apparent gunshot wound. An 18-month-old child was also present inside the home and has been placed with state authorities. Investigators say there were signs of forced entry inside the home and police are exploring any relationship between the suspect and victim. Investigators spent the day dusting the front door for prints and collecting evidence inside the home. Police say what happened may have been the result of a domestic violence dispute.

10/23/14 – Mohave County, Fort Mohave

Kade Kryska, 12-15 months

The hospital staff reported to detectives about suspected child abuse after the infant's mother rushed her baby to the hospital when she realized he was having difficulty breathing after she returned home from working all day. The infant had been in the care of the mother's boyfriend the entire day, according to the Sheriff's department.

10/23/14 – Mohave County, Bullhead City

Drayson Tese, 15 months

David Jonathan Ramos, 23, was booked into jail on suspicion of second-degree murder and child abuse. Ramos told police that he was playing with Drayson Tese, his girlfriend's child, when he accidentally dropped him after throwing him up in the air. He and the mother brought the boy to the emergency room with a reported head injury. The medical examiner's autopsy ruled the death a homicide.

10/25/14 – Maricopa County, Peoria

Amanda Johnston, 30

Mark Barquera shot 30-year-old Amanda Johnston in the head following an argument between the two parties and another woman. Both Barquera and Johnston had been staying at the residence belonging to Rose Perry, who told police she often allowed homeless people to take shelter at her home, records show. Barquera displayed irrational behavior, telling detectives demonic forces were present in Perry's home and that the living room was a portal to another dimension. Johnston had been staying at the home for about a week while she was separated from her husband and two children, according to the report.

10/27/14 – Maricopa County, Tempe

Steven Marshall Melcher, age unknown

Steven Melcher was standing on his porch as Brett Benavides was smashing his girlfriend's car's windshield in a parking lot nearby. The hammer somehow flew from Benavides' hand and hit Melcher in the forehead, causing him to develop a brain bleed. He fell into a coma and never woke up. He and his wife were married for 25 years.

11/15/14 – Yavapai County, Seligman

Carol Shaunsy, 62

Richard Hollman called 911 around one morning, claiming he had shot 62-year-old Carol Shaunsy in the home they shared. Shaunsy was dead by the time law enforcement arrived. They detained the suspect, who was still at home. A search conducted by Sheriff's detectives located a firearm believed to be the murder weapon and more than 20 pounds of high-grade marijuana inside the residence. During interviews with detectives, the suspect indicated he had killed Shaunsy. The question sheriff's investigators have not yet been able to answer is why Shaunsy was killed. The couple, who had been together for more than 30 years, did not appear to have a history of domestic violence. Hollman was arrested and charged with first-degree murder.

11/23/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

David Pacheco-Chavez, 52

Manuel Pacheco, 19, rode his bicycle to the car wash where his uncle worked on Sunday and watched him work for a while, police said in their probable cause statement. He then walked up to his uncle, 54-year-old David Pacheco-Chavez, and shot him with a gun he said he obtained the day before, according to the statement. Pacheco told witnesses to call police and that he would be waiting for them down the street. Police found Pacheco a short distance away, sitting under a tree with a handgun, police said.

11/24/14 – Maricopa County, Glendale

Dawn McCauley, 45

Dawn McCauley, 45, was shot multiple times, according to police. She was taken to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. Dawn McCauley never filed for divorce, her family said, because she was afraid of her husband who, it turned out, had been planning her death for more than a month. Edward McCauley told police he suspected his wife was involved with another man and waited outside her house for both of them to come out. Seeing only a man leave the house, Edward McCauley followed him until a stop light hindered his pursuit, according to an investigating officer's probable cause statement. Police said he returned to the house and confronted Dawn McCauley as she got into her pickup truck to leave for work late Sunday night. Edward McCauley said he first struck her with the

handgun and then shot her, emptying the gun's magazine. Police said they found eight .45-caliber shell casings outside the pickup truck in which Dawn McCauley's lifeless body was slumped.

Around 12/08/14 – Pima County, Tucson

Darl Gene Draper, 56

Police discovered the body of Darl Gene Draper in his apartment after a concerned neighbor asked police to do a welfare check after Draper had not been seen for a couple of days. Draper's body showed signs of blunt force trauma and police believe he had been deceased for a couple of days. Draper's roommate, 21-year-old Matthew Mooney was named a person of interest and was located at the jail where he was being held on an unrelated arrest. Mooney was charged with one count of first-degree murder.

12/11/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Khalli Lawrence, 19

Khalli Lawrence, 19, and her 2-month-old daughter were found on a footpath along a wash. Lawrence had been shot in the back of the head and later pronounced dead, and the infant was shot in the leg but is expected to survive. An area resident heard crying and saw Lawrence and the child, both injured, and called the police. Phoenix police say 30-year-old Allyn Smith surrendered to officers. Police believe Smith and Lawrence were in a dispute over paternity of the child before the shooting.

12/16/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Unknown male, age unknown

Officers responded to a call and found a woman in the front yard of her home with a gunshot wound to her head. The woman was conscious and able to communicate with officers. She indicated that her husband had shot her and that he was still inside the house. A police task-force unit sent a robot inside the home to locate the shooter where he was found with a fatal self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. The woman was hospitalized in serious condition.

12/16/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

William R. Osterlind, 18

William R. Osterlind, 18, had recently completed basic training and was home on leave. Police responded to a call after a 14-year-old girl reported an unwanted man in the area. The girl told police that Osterlind had left gifts on her doorstep and had been sending her texts, telling her that he had been drinking and was contemplating suicide. While officers were interviewing the girl, police received calls from other residents in the area saying a man was walking through the neighborhood wearing Army fatigues and was armed with a handgun. The description callers provided matched the description of the 18-year-old man who had left the gifts, and officers found Osterlind in a nearby wash. Police told him to put down the weapon, but Osterlind refused to comply and instead put the gun to his head. Osterlind began to walk back through the neighborhood, returning to the home where police originally responded. Osterlind made a move toward the house and was shot. Osterlind was struck and appeared to have simultaneously fired a shot that went through the closed front door of the home where a 12-year-old girl, the sister of the original caller, was standing. Both were taken to a hospital where Osterlind later died and the 12-year-old girl was in stable condition, Crump said. There were allegations of past "inappropriate sexual contact" between Osterlind and the 14-year-old girl sometime in mid-2014, but the allegations were not reported to police at the time.

12/24/14 – Maricopa County, Phoenix

Delmarc Forrester, 26

Delmarc Forrester was fatally shot 12/24/14 in a dispute over holiday child visitation rights. Louis Davis, 33, is accused of shooting Forrester during a dispute over holiday visitation with the child's mother. Police say Forrester and his girlfriend had gone to pick up her 6-year-old daughter from Louis Davis, the child's father. Davis then asked to meet with them regarding the dispute, but they declined. Davis reportedly said that he was going to go over to the house to "shoot it up," according to police. When Davis came to Forrester's home later that evening, Forrester was waiting outside with a large knife. Davis shot Forrester with a handgun, and Davis and the child's mother wrestled over the gun before he took it and fled the scene. Police continued to search for Davis.

12/25/14 – Pinal County, Casa Grande

Ania Rael Macias, 13

Connie Villa, 34, is accused of suffocating her 13-year-old daughter Ania Rael to death. Villa is also accused of attempting, but failing, to poison her three other children aged 3, 5, and 8, by forcing them to take narcotic drugs. Two children told officers Ania Rael refused to take drugs when pressured. Her husband, Adam Villa, called police to report that his wife had attempted to stab him before turning the knife on herself. Police found suicide note which said Villa "wanted to die and take her children with her".

Found 12/29/14 – Maricopa County, Tonopah

Leah Costa, 17

After being reported as missing on 12/24/14, Sheriffs found the body of Leah Costa on 12/29/14 in the desert with a gunshot wound to the head. Police arrested Costa's 17-year-old boyfriend, Robert Edward Duffell on suspicion of first-degree murder, aggravated assault with a deadly weapon and burglary. Duffell and Costa both ran away together on 12/24/14. A motive for the killing is still under investigation. Duffell has admitted to killing Costa and will be tried as an adult.

12/27/14 – Coconino County, Flagstaff

Tyler Stuart, 24

Robert W. Smith, 28

Officer Tyler Stuart, 24, encountered Robert W. Smith, 28, while responding to a domestic violence call. Smith shot at Officer Stuart several times, eventually shooting him in the face. Smith then turned the gun on himself. The officer was taken to the hospital where he was later pronounced dead. The only contact the police have had with Smith in the past was in 2009 involving an arrest involving domestic violence.

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Coconino County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
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East Valley Police Chiefs Association Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
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Navajo County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
Pima County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
Pinal County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
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