



Domestic
Violence
Claimed **85**
Lives in
Wisconsin in
2023

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report 2023

published
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[a catalyst, a memorial]

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Year after violent year -

We share their deaths. A life taken, and another, and another... Preventable violence stealing lives from victims' families, communities, futures.

We share data, and search for trends. Patterns, too often, that do not change. From one year to the next, sentences repeated. We know there are missing and murdered people who will not be represented in the data. In any given year, we may detect a trend that is like a wave in an ocean of violence. From one year to the next, survivors navigate an ocean of violence.

Firearms are the most common means of perpetrating DV homicides. Most perpetrators are **male**. There is a strong connection between **homicidality and suicidality**. Most victims are the perpetrator's **current or former intimate partner**. There is a significantly disproportionate impact on **Black, Indigenous, and POC communities**. **The victims deserved better.**

We predict that more lives will be lost to domestic violence, every single year. Be it the impact of funding cuts or gun violence, we look to historical patterns and the expert voices of Wisconsin advocates and survivors to understand what the future is likely to hold.

*"The impact of **funding cuts will devastate agencies supporting survivors** statewide as homicides rise, leaving survivors in even more perilous realities" (2022 WI DV Homicide Report).*

*"Wisconsin programs desperately need funding for basic operation. Pending **cuts to VOCA grants**, along with cuts in WI state funding, **have placed many programs on the brink of closing**, at a time when costs and survivors' needs are increasing." - WI advocate, National Network to End Domestic Violence report*

We call for action we know will save lives. **Year after violent year**, we offer data-backed solutions, tell stories encapsulating victims' and advocates' experiences, and make explicit requests from lawmakers. Year after year, we hope the stories of those who died will illuminate these requests. We ask, again: Prioritize lives that will otherwise be lost to preventable violence.

*"...we can prevent violence from occurring by **changing the social conditions** that allow it to thrive. Resourcing social services, schools, housing, healthcare, and local antiviolence groups will foster the growth of safer communities and **prevent future homicides**" (2022 WI DV Homicide Report).*

*“If we fail to [implement policies that alleviate poverty and income inequality by funding housing, healthcare, community violence intervention programs, DV/SA organizations, schools, financial aid, harm-doer treatment, and other prevention initiatives], community violence will increase, and **survivors, absent the support they need to free themselves from violence, will die**” (2021 WI DV Homicide Report).*

Without commitment to prioritize survivors' safety and dignity, the violent trends that years of reporting and data demonstrate will not meaningfully shift. **Lives will be saved through the implementation of the solutions offered here and in past years' reports** by experts in the anti-violence field - many of whom themselves are survivors of violence. The advocates compiling these reports remain incentivized by an enduring and collective value of standing alongside those who are most vulnerable.

We advocate because these are our friends, neighbors, family members. We advocate because **victims' lives matter**. This year, as we have since this coalition's inception in 1978 and as we will until sufficient action is taken, we demand better through advocacy for and alongside those experiencing violence. Individuals' lives are in the hands of those who decide what Wisconsin citizens' tax dollars fund. The resources exist, but must be sufficiently allocated to what allows lasting change.

We hold immense gratitude for the lawmakers who stepped in to offset the catastrophic impact of an October 2024 70% cut to services in Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) funding via 2023 Wisconsin Act 241, which appropriates \$10 million to be used for crime victim grants administered by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The law includes \$6.4 million for sexual assault victim services grants, \$2.4 million for domestic abuse grants and \$1.2 million for child advocacy grants.

Still, these funds are not enough to address the devastating cuts service providers face. Our message in its most direct form is simple: **Resource victim advocates sufficiently, and they will do the work. Fund Wisconsin service providers, and save lives.** Listen to us, and prevent the violence that plagues our state, *year after violent year.*

Every life lost and every survivor still with us today motivates our advocacy, amplifies our movement, and propels us towards action. **These reports are intended to be catalysts, as much as memorials.** Let them be part of changing your understanding, and then your meaningful action.

Survivors deserve better today, while they are still alive.

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Foreword

The 2023 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report is our 22nd publication of this document.

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

According to the data we have gathered since we began tracking this information in 2000, at least **1,353** individuals have been killed in domestic violence homicides in Wisconsin.

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

Methodology

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

- The victims and perpetrators were spouses or partners, former spouses or former partners, adults with children in common, or adults or teens who had been in a dating relationship.
- It was a homicide of a person other than an intimate partner, and it occurred within the context of domestic violence. This encompasses cases where the circumstances of the murder included obsessive control of the perpetrator's current or former partner that extended to their new partner. We also include the homicide of a bystander or someone who attempted to protect a domestic violence victim from future harm.
- The homicide was a child's death that occurred as an extension of or in response to ongoing abuse between adult intimate partners. For example, when a partner or estranged partner killed their children to exact revenge on their partner, it is considered domestic violence related.
- A responding officer was in a position in which they needed to use deadly force against an individual to prevent the homicide or assault of another person. The count of domestic violence homicide victims occasionally includes perpetrators killed by responding law enforcement officers (also referred to as homicide by legal intervention).
- Beginning with the report for 2010, we include cases that involve a parent or grandparent killed by an adult child or grandchild, as well as adult stepchildren or step-grandchildren killing a stepparent or step-grandparent. We do not include these cases, however, if the defendant was found not guilty by reason of mental illness or lacked the capacity to stand trial. See the *Limitations* section on page 14 for an extended explanation of this criteria.

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

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

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

Executive Summary

Since 2000, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin has chronicled deaths due to domestic violence (DV) in our state. **In 2023, 85 individuals died in Wisconsin due to DV at a rate of approximately one death every 4.3 days.** The basic findings contained in this report are outlined below. An additional 20 cases of fatal family violence are included in a supplemental section where intimate partner violence was not a factor.

2023 Compared to 2022	2023	2022
Incidents of DV homicide (Not included in total DV deaths; single incidents often involve multiple deaths.)	66	73
Victims of DV homicide (excluding by legal intervention)	54	68
Perpetrator suicide after committing homicide	12	18
Homicides by legal intervention (responding law enforcement)	7	3
Perpetrator suicide during law enforcement response	5	3
Self-defense	4	3
Partially completed homicide/suicide attempt	3	1
Total DV deaths (victim and perpetrator)	85	96
Other family violence related deaths	24	10
Total family and DV related deaths	109	106

Other findings in the 2023 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include:

- Perpetrators of domestic violence homicide incidents were overwhelmingly male. **In 2023, 77.7% of perpetrators were male.**
- The ages of victims in this report range from **1 year old to 83 years old**. Perpetrators' ages ranged from 16 to 81 years old. The average age for perpetrators was 38 years old, and the **average age for victims was 41 years old**.
- Homicides occurred in **22 counties in Wisconsin**. Approximately **42%** of the homicide incidents occurred in rural areas and **58% in urban** areas, (Dane, Milwaukee, and Racine counties, according to how both are defined in US Census data).
- Firearms remain the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides. In 2023, **firearms were the weapons used in 78% of domestic violence deaths**. Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.
- There were **17 perpetrator suicides** in 2023. There were 12 murder-suicides, and 5 other perpetrator suicides in 2023. Perpetrator suicides in our report are connected to the homicide they committed or attempted to commit just prior to their suicide, or were committed when law enforcement responded to an incident of domestic violence. This reflects **the connection between homicidality and suicidality in domestic violence cases** and should thus be considered when discussing domestic violence and homicide prevention.
- Many of the 2023 homicide cases reflect the **risk factors that research has found to be associated with lethal violence**. These include, among other factors: threats to use or actual use of a weapon, threats to kill, stalking, strangulation, obsessive jealousy, and sexual assault.

Historical, National, and Global Context

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, from 1980 to 2005, intimate partner homicides declined by 44% and homicides among other family members decreased by 26%. Similarly, nonfatal domestic violence decreased by about 63% from 1994 to 2010. Yet, the decline has varied significantly for different populations. The data indicate that between 1976 and 2005, “the number of Black males killed by intimates dropped by 83%, white males by 61%, Black females by 52%, and white females by 6%.” This downward trend has been attributed to increased awareness, services, and intervention[1].

In 2017, the Centers for Disease Control released an analysis on the prevalence and circumstances surrounding female homicide deaths in the United States. Their study analyzed the deaths of 10,018 women from 18 states between the years 2003 and 2014 by looking at data from the National Violent Death Reporting System. In addition to the finding that **over half of female homicides in the US are intimate partner violence (IPV) related and perpetrated with a firearm**, the study found that **non-Hispanic Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women are killed at nearly three times the rate of non-Hispanic white women**[2]. Despite the aforementioned downward trend in the number of homicides, **disparities in the number of victims of certain racial and ethnic groups still persist**.

On a global level, a systematic review published in The Lancet in 2013 reported that **one in seven homicides overall are committed by an intimate partner**[3]. Though domestic violence homicide victims are both males and females, the latter experience higher risk and mortality. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime issued a report in 2019 titled, “Global Study on Homicide: Gender-related killing of women and girls”, which provides insights into the issue of femicide on a worldwide scale. They report that **58% of women who were killed intentionally in 2017 were killed by their intimate partner or a family member**. This equals approximately 50,000 women globally who were victims of domestic violence homicide in 2017, which rose from 48,000 in 2012[4].

2023 Key Findings

Overview

KEY FINDINGS	2023
Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents	66
Victims of Domestic Violence Homicide	54
Male Perpetrators	49
Female Homicide Victims	33
Male Homicide Victims	21
Female Perpetrators	14
Homicide Incidents with Perpetrator Suicides	12
Deaths by Legal Intervention (Responding Law Enforcement)	7
Suicides during Law Enforcement Response	5
Self Defense	4
Homicide Incidents with two or more Victims	3
Attempted Homicide Incidents with Perpetrator Suicide	0
Total Deaths	85

2023 Key Findings

Overview

Perpetrator Suicides	2023
Homicide Incidents with Perpetrator Suicide	12
Homicide-Suicide Incidents Involving Firearm(s)	11
Male Perpetrators of Homicide-Suicide	11
Suicides During Law Enforcement Response	5
Partially Completed Homicide-Suicide	3
Unknown Gender of Perpetrator of Homicide-Suicide	1
Female Perpetrators of Homicide-Suicide	0
Total Completed Perpetrator Suicides	17

Relationship of Victim to Female Perpetrator	2023
Spouse	6
Current/Former Boyfriend	4
Unspecified Relationship	2
Grandparent-in-Law	1
Romantic Rival	1
Total	14

2023 Key Findings

Overview

Relationship of Victim to Male Perpetrator	2023
Current/Former Girlfriend	16
Spouse	8
Romantic Rival	6
Abusive Partner Killed by Bystander	4
Intervening Bystander	3
Intervening Family Member	2
Law Enforcement Officer	2
Parent	2
Child of Romantic Rival	1
Female Friend of Girlfriend	1
Total	45

2023 Key Findings

Method of Homicide	2023
Firearm	55
Stabbing	8
Blunt Force Trauma	3
Asphyxiation	2
Drugs/Narcotics	1
Fire	1
Strangulation	1
Other	1

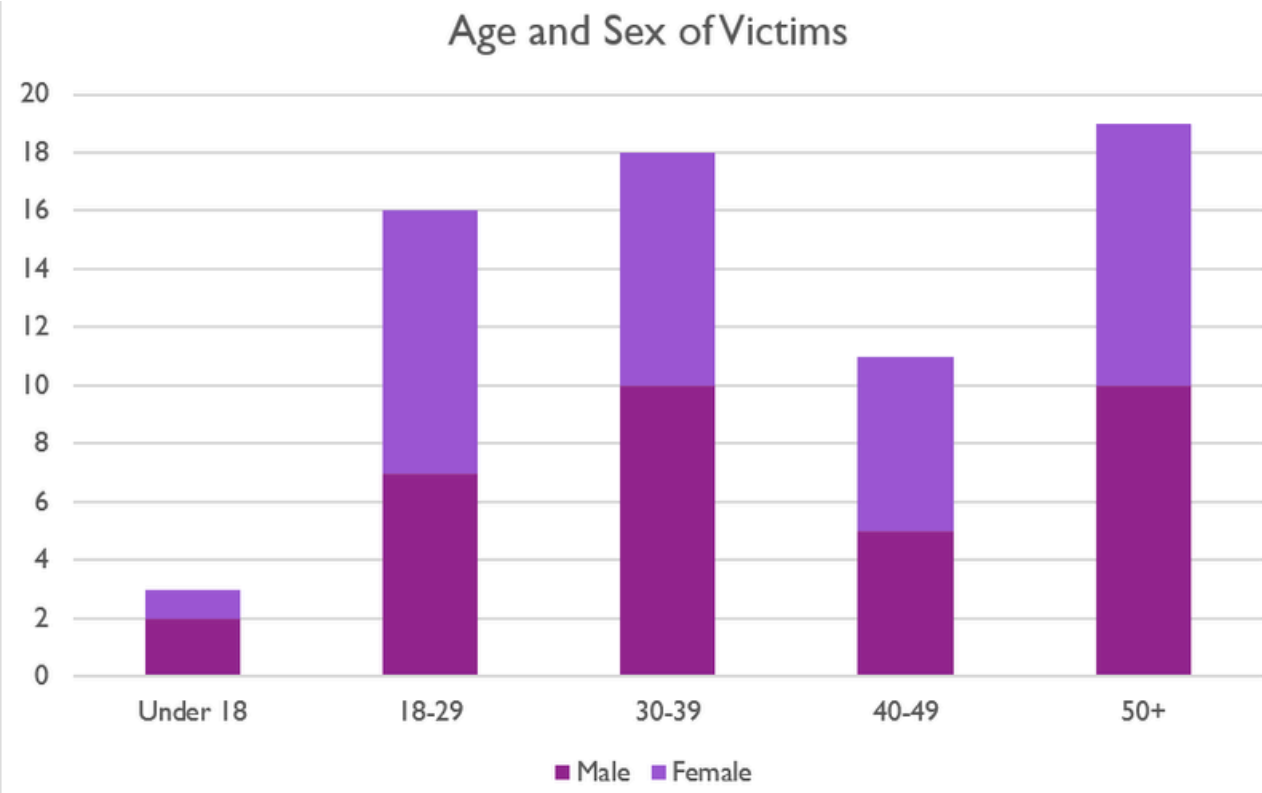
Race/Ethnicity and Sex*

Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Victims			2023
Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	Total
Black	18	10	28
White	8	20	28
Latinx	1	2	3
Unknown	1	0	1
Asian	0	1	1
Native American	0	0	0

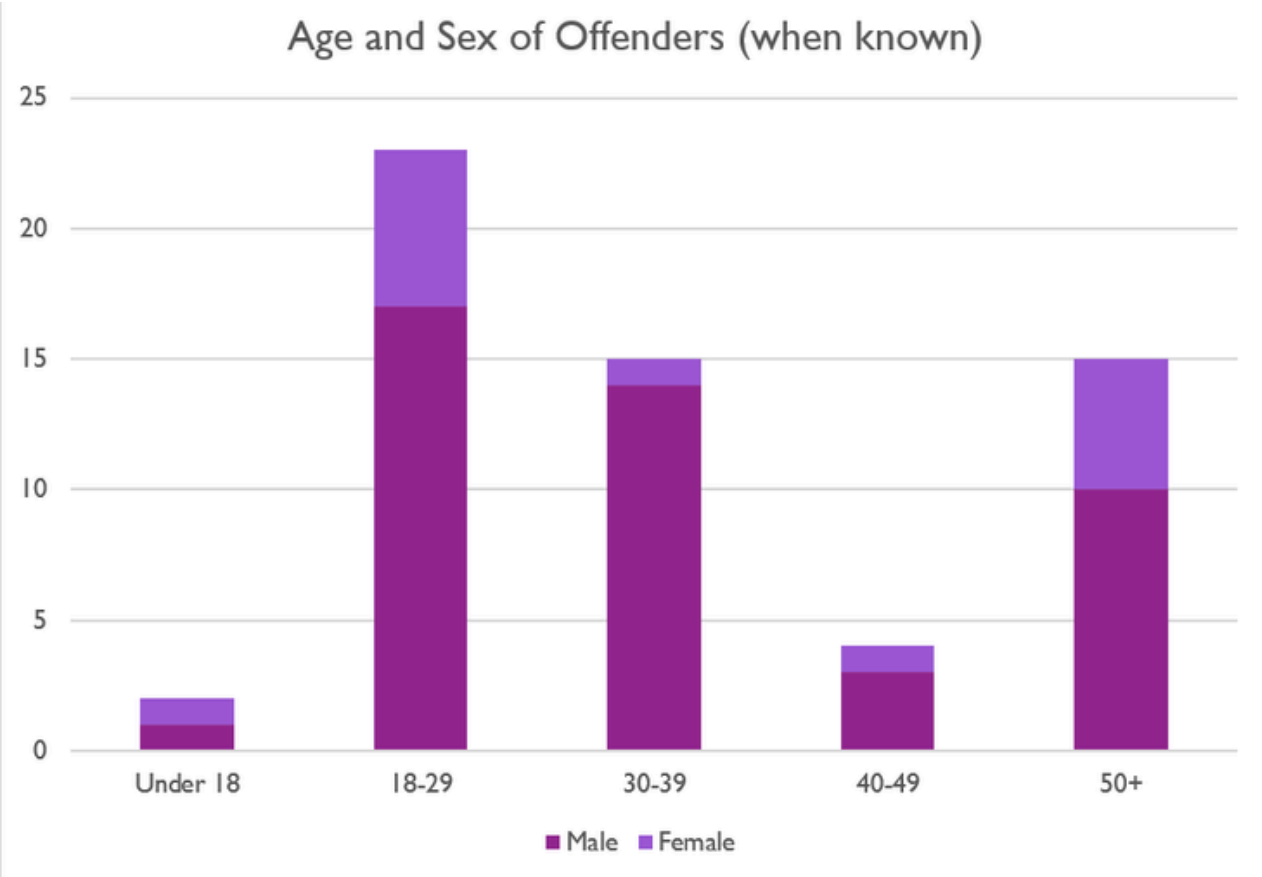
Race/Ethnicity and Sex of Perpetrators			2023
Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female	Total
Black	22	5	27
White	18	6	24
Unknown	1	3	4
Latinx	3	0	3
Native American	1	0	1
Asian	0	0	0

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

Age and Sex of Victims

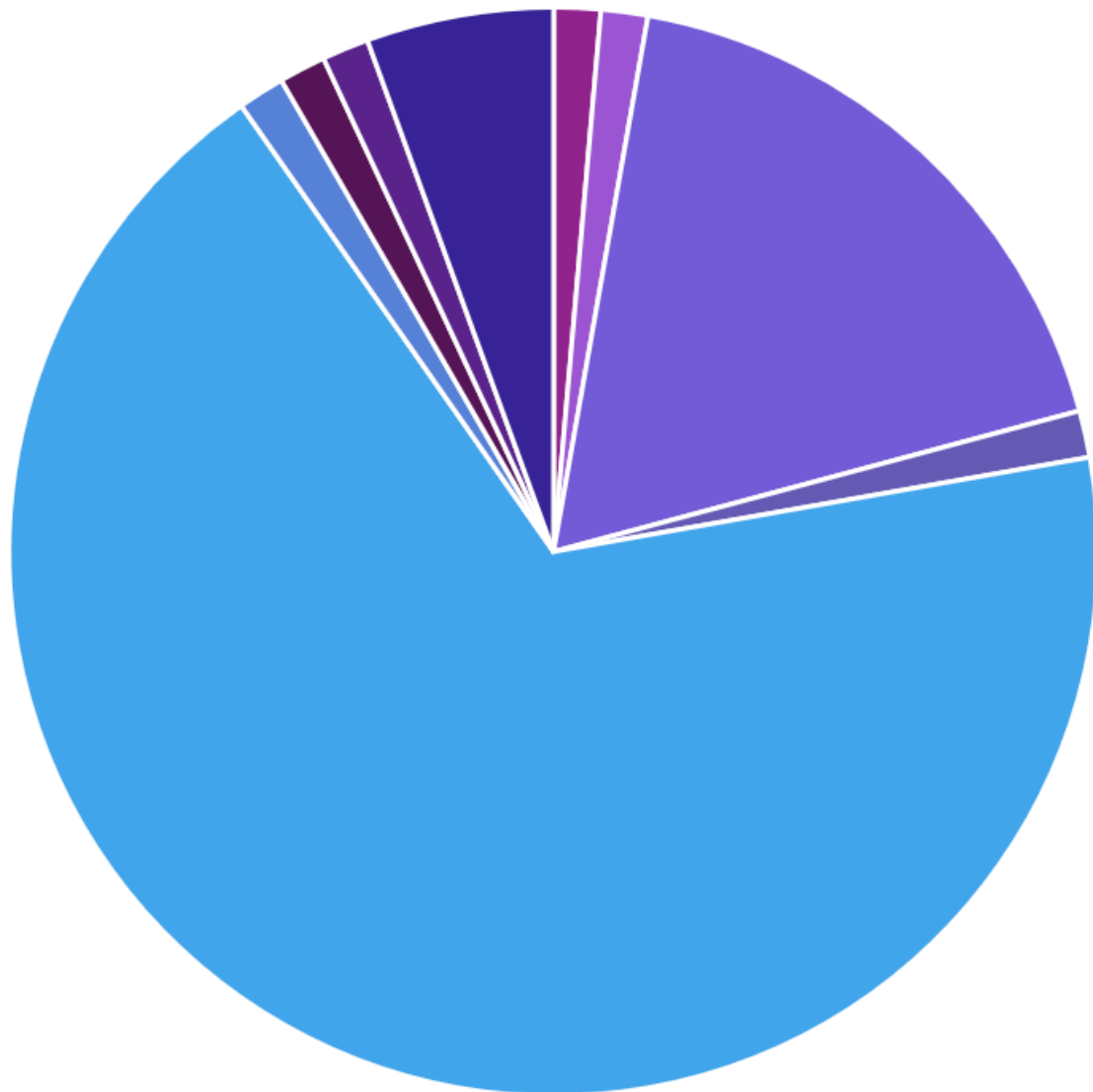


Age and Sex of Perpetrators



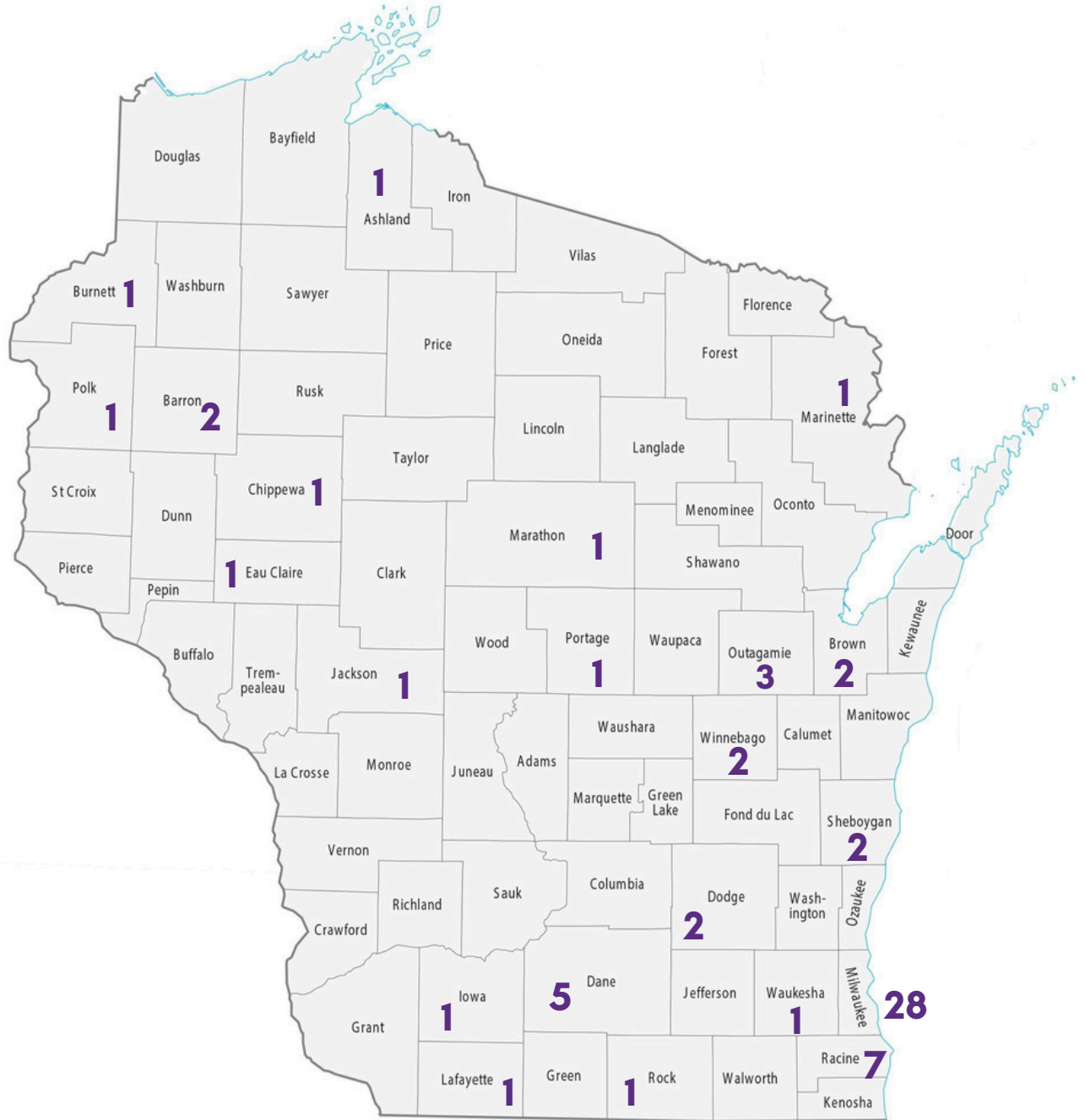
Location of 2023 Homicides

Incident Location



- Field/Woods
- Highway/Road/Alley/Street/Sidewalk
- Other Residence (includes apartment, condominium)
- Parking Lot/Garage
- Unspecified
- Gas Station
- Hotel
- Park
- Specialty Store (includes fur store, jewelry store)

2023 DV Homicide Map



Limitations

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

Availability and Accuracy of Data Obtained

We rely on gathering information from publicly available sources and acknowledge we may have missed cases in 2023 that would meet our report's criteria. During our review of the Uniform Crime Report, we discovered multiple cases that we suspected were domestic violence related that are not included in this report. The reasons for this are as myriad and complex as the cases themselves.

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

Homicide is the leading cause of death among pregnant women in the United States. Fifty to seventy-five percent (50-75%) of women abused before pregnancy are abused during pregnancy. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of pregnant homicide victims are killed early (during the first trimester) in the pregnancy.

An ambiguous case between elderly partners was included in the total figures. The couple were found dead, with preliminary evidence suggesting they died as a result of a planned mutual suicide. Homicide or homicide-suicide in older adults is often attributed to a "mercy killing" in which it is perceived to be a pact between the couple due to the victim's poor health or pain. Research has shown that almost all cases involve men killing women, one-third had a history of domestic violence, and quite often, the woman was unaware of the "pact." Media reports of homicide-suicide in later life often describe the motive as a mercy killing without proper investigation into the specifics of the case, especially regarding victim consent.

Wisconsin Residents Killed Outside of Wisconsin

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

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

Expanded 2010 Definition

As noted on page 6, beginning with the report for 2010, we include cases that involve a parent or grandparent killed by an adult child or grandchild, as well as adult stepchildren or step-grandchildren killing a stepparent or step-grandparent. We began including these cases in 2010 at the advising of advocates for victims of elder abuse at the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life, which is an initiative of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin. We included these cases in our report because the preceding dynamics of violence in families in which adult parents or grandparents are killed by their adult children or grandchildren often exhibit similar characteristics of power and control. The perpetrator's ongoing abuse frequently relies on tactics of coercion, intimidation, and unique vulnerabilities inherent in a close familial relationship.

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

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

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

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

Child Homicides

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

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

Cold Cases

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

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

2023 Domestic Violence Homicides

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

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

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

While **not noted with bold text, risk of lethality is inherent** in each intimate partner homicide case **involving a firearm**, due to the accessibility and availability of the firearm coupled with violence in the home. We **have bolded** instances wherein it was known by court record that **a perpetrator was prohibited from possessing a firearm**.

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

County

Ashland

August 15 | Town of Morse **Unnamed male suspect, unknown age**

A man was fatally shot by a sheriff's deputy who was responding to a domestic dispute in the town of Morse. Deputies were called to a residence where they encountered a man armed with a bladed weapon who was assaulting two women. The two women were not seriously injured and were treated at the scene.

County

Barron

April 8 | Cameron **EB, 32-year-old female officer** **HS, 23-year-old male officer** **GP, 50-year-old male suspect**

GP, 50, shot and killed two officers who had pulled him over on a civil bench warrant related to a family law case. In May 2020, GP had pleaded no contest to **Disorderly Conduct with a Domestic Abuse modifier**, and his spouse **filed for divorce**. Persons close to him cited a decline in his mental health as the divorce proceeded.

When GP failed to appear for a divorce hearing on March 30th, 2023, and was **delinquent in making child support payments**, a civil bench warrant was issued for his arrest. Nine days later, Officer EB, 32, spotted and pulled over the vehicle driven by GP. Officer HS, 23, arrived to provide back-up. GP shot and killed both officers with an AR-15 rifle. GP was struck by one of the rounds in his right leg and later died from that wound.

June 18 | New Auburn **BP, 37-year-old female** **JW, 38-year-old male suspect**

Deputies were called to a home to investigate a report that two people in the residence were possibly dead. Twelve days prior, 38-year-old JW had been charged with **Disorderly Conduct with a Domestic Abuse modifier**, and **prohibited from any contact** with 37-year-old BP.²³

Deputies found BP in her home suffering from a gunshot wound; she was taken to the hospital where she died from her injuries. JW was pronounced dead at the scene from what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. A 15-year-old was also in the home at the time of the shooting but was not physically hurt, according to authorities.

County

Brown

January 29 | Green Bay RC, 58-year-old female PO, 53-year-old female

Fifty-eight-year-old RC and 53-year-old PO were found stabbed to death at a duplex. At the time of the homicides, 48-year-old RS had been dating one of the victims, and had **an open Stalking case** and **an active restraining order against him** from Oconto County. Bond conditions included a requirement to wear an electronic monitoring device that confirmed his location.

After the homicides, RS cut off the device and disposed of it along an interstate exit ramp as he fled the scene. Officers tracked him to Arkansas through the onboard data system on his vehicle. According to news reports, RS told investigators he had recently moved in with his girlfriend at the Green Bay duplex. He **had become jealous of his girlfriend** and her friend and felt “humiliated” by them. RS stated his girlfriend asked him to leave and “he just snapped.”

RS admitted to **a history of violence against women** for which he had gone to prison, including an incident with another woman twenty-one years prior, wherein he had “snapped” in a similar way; that time, he broke her leg, fractured her skull, and knocked out several teeth. In May 2024, RS was convicted of two counts of First-Degree Intentional Homicide for the murders of RC and PO, and sentenced to life without the possibility of parole.

Brown

**March 1 | Ashwaubenon
BP, 23-year-old male**

Twenty-three-year-old BP was shot and killed in an apartment in Ashwaubenon. According to a witness in this case, 21-year-old PW **had been upset about the close relationship between the mother of his child and his best friend, BP**. When police interviewed PW eight days after BP was shot and killed, PW admitted that it was accidental. Text messages between PW and the mother of his child were uncovered later, leading to charges against both; PW is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, and the child’s mother is alleged to have concealed and destroyed evidence in the case. The case is ongoing.

County

Burnett

**September 15 | Siren
BH, 32-year-old female**

According to police, 36-year-old DE called 911 to report he had killed 32-year-old BH, and asked the police to remove children from a home in Siren. When the police arrived, they moved the four children who were inside the home, and found BH dead from numerous sharp force wounds to the head and neck inside a locked bedroom. DE was arrested hours later.

All four children, **one of whom** BH and DE had in common, were in the house when the homicide occurred. Reportedly, one of the children heard their mother scream, “I don’t want to die!” Court records show DE had a **previous criminal history including Battery with a Domestic Abuse modifier, and Criminal Damage to Property**. DE pled guilty-no contest to First-Degree Intentional Homicide and will be sentenced in November 2024.

Dane

February 22 and February 24 | Madison
KS, 41-year-old female
JK, 39-year-old male suspect

KS, 41, was found dead inside a home where neighbors reported hearing a loud argument between two people hours before. According to the Uniform Crime Report, the cause of KS's death was asphyxiation. KS had been in a relationship with 39-year-old JK, and police reported he was wanted in connection with her death.

Two days later, police confronted JK at a gas station. Both JK and an officer fired weapons, and JK was found dead by a self-inflicted gunshot.

April 3 | Medina
RH, 82-year-old male

The Dane County Sheriff's office investigated an attempted murder-suicide. Deputies responded to a home finding an elderly couple in distress. Both were taken to the hospital, where 82-year-old RH died. According to the Uniform Crime Report, RH's cause of death was a medication overdose. SH was taken into custody for attempted homicide after she was released from the hospital, but no charges have been filed.

April 16 | Madison
FN, 71-year-old female
GN, 68-year-old male suspect

A husband and wife were found dead inside a home. The medical examiner's office identified the pair as FN and GN, ages 71 and 68, respectively. Preliminary autopsy results showed FN's cause of death was homicidal violence, while GN's death was caused by firearm-related trauma. An updated incident report stated GN's death is considered a suicide.

Dane

April 24 | Madison
MJO, 43-year-old female

MJO, 43, was found stabbed to death in a shopping plaza. Her husband JD-Q has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, but officials report **he has fled the country with their six-year-old daughter**. An arrest warrant has been issued and local officials are working with the FBI. This case is ongoing.

August 17 | Fitchburg
JK, 39-year-old female
WS, 38-year-old male suspect

Officers entered a home to do a welfare check and found two bodies. Officers recovered a gun from the home. Autopsies revealed that 39-year-old JK was shot multiple times, and 38-year-old WS died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. JK and WS had a relationship and lived together in the home. Local news reportage indicates previous social service interventions had been unsuccessful.

County

Dodge

February 12 | Beaver Dam
Unnamed male suspect, unknown age

Officers were notified that the subject of a domestic violence incident was driving away in a vehicle. An officer attempted to conduct a traffic stop, which led to a brief vehicle pursuit. The man then pulled over and remained in the vehicle. Law enforcement was aware of a firearm in his possession and stayed at a distance while attempting verbal commands, which he ignored. Upon approach, law enforcement found the man deceased. A firearm was recovered in his vehicle.

Dodge

August 18 | Waupun
Unnamed male suspect, unknown age

Officers investigated after a man involved in a domestic incident shot and killed himself. Police were called to a home for a report of a domestic disturbance. Officers arriving on the scene found the man involved in the incident had completed suicide. No officers were involved with the death and no one else was injured.

County

Eau Claire

July 13 | Town of Washington
DB, 77-year-old female

A man was charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide after investigators say he killed his wife and then tried and failed to complete suicide. Deputies were called to the couple's home and found 77-year-old DB covered in blood on a twin bed. She was pronounced dead at the scene. Eighty-one-year-old JB was found in the same room on another twin bed with a bag over his head, apparently attempting to complete suicide. He was taken to the hospital and treated before investigators were able to interview him several days later.

According to the criminal complaint, JB admitted that he intentionally beat his wife to death with a wine bottle while she was asleep, and had been thinking of doing it for a while. He said **they were planning to get a divorce** and disagreed about how their estate should be divided among their children. JB pled guilty to Second-Degree Intentional Homicide with Domestic Abuse Assessments and was sentenced to eight years initial confinement and eight years extended supervision.

County

Iowa

January 25 | Town of Wyoming NB, 35-year-old female

TS, 34, called 911 and told dispatchers his girlfriend, 35-year-old NB “was shot in the head.” NB died 5 days later. TS later told deputies the gun discharged while he was picking it up and that the shooting was an accident. Deputies had noted a “strong odor of intoxicants” on TS and he was found guilty in a no-contest plea to Homicide by Intoxicated Use of a Firearm. He was sentenced to eight years initial confinement and 10 years of extended supervision.

County

Jackson

February 28 | Black River Falls RB, 50-year-old male

On March 9, 51-year-old SM called to report a missing person. The Sheriff’s office received reliable information indicating the missing person was actually dead as the result of foul play, and human remains later determined to be 50-year-old RB were found on a property near Black River Falls. Two people told investigators **SM shot RB in the head** in a bedroom **after he told her about sleeping with other women**. SM has been charged with seven felonies, including First-Degree Intentional Homicide, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, Domestic Abuse; Hiding a Corpse; and **Possession of a Firearm-Convicted of a Felony**, as well as several drug charges. Four other individuals were also charged with offenses connected to the case. The case is ongoing.

Lafayette**June 14 | La Crosse
LM, 83-year-old female**

Thirty-year-old SB has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide with an Increased Penalty for Elder Person Victim for the death of LM, 83, her grandmother-in-law. SB called 911 saying LM had fallen and wasn't breathing.

According to the criminal complaint, family members found odd notes written in LM's handwriting around the home the day after her death, indicating that SB had been hurting LM and attempting to tamper with LM's safe. An autopsy identified bruising, likely attributed to multiple blunt force injuries to her head, face, arms, hands, and ribs, and smothering as a possible cause of death.

The victim's daughter said that she had last spoken to her mother the morning she was found dead, and she knew LM was planning to see her granddaughter-in-law later that day. When the daughter arrived at the home later, she reportedly found SB on the floor with her three young children curled in a ball, rocking and crying, saying, "I'm so sorry." While detectives interviewed SB's husband, he received calls from his wife which detectives described as manic and implying her guilt. The case is ongoing.

County

Marathon

December 27 | Weston RM, 63-year-old male suspect

Police responded to a domestic incident and found a man with a 'bladed weapon' assaulting a woman. When 63-year-old RM did not comply with officers' commands to drop his weapon, officers broke the glass on the patio door to gain access. One of the officers deployed an electronic control device, which did not stop RM from stabbing the woman. Two officers shot and killed RM. The woman sustained life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital. No officers were injured in the incident, and the District Attorney determined the officers were justified in shooting RM.

County

Marinette

May 29 | Amberg WF, 61-year-old male

LF shot her husband, 61-year-old WF, in their home in self-defense. LF told investigators she and WF were arguing, when he followed her into her bedroom with a rifle she believed to be loaded. She kept a handgun in her bedroom and used it to shoot him. When officers arrived, they found WF dead in the hallway with a loaded, armed rifle partially under his body. LF said she feared for her life. Based on evidence and statements from witnesses, LF's shooting of WF was found justified and she was not charged.

Milwaukee

**January 13 | Milwaukee
CY, 32-year-old male**

CY, 32, was shot and died from his wounds on the scene. Officers took a 24-year-old woman into custody. Two firearms were recovered. Officials concluded the incident was related to domestic violence. This case was determined to be self-defense.

**January 26 | Milwaukee
JJ, 59-year-old female**

Twenty-two-year-old DW shot 59-year-old JJ five to six times when **JJ tried to intervene in a domestic violence incident with her upstairs neighbor**. Her family said she was known for her generosity, and they were not surprised to learn she was trying to help her neighbor during a domestic violence incident. A jury later found DW guilty of First-Degree Intentional Homicide and he was sentenced to life in prison.

**February 26 | Milwaukee
AP, 26-year-old female
EC, 28-year-old male suspect**

Twenty-eight-year-old EC shot and killed his girlfriend, 26-year-old AP. According to police, they pursued EC, wherein they did not fire weapons but EC did. The incident ended when EC died by a self-inflicted gunshot. EC had been previously charged with **Strangulation**, False Imprisonment, and Intimidation of a Victim for violence committed against another woman, wherein **he was eventually convicted of Substantial Battery with a Domestic Abuse modifier**.

March 1 | Milwaukee

JM, 15-year-old male

A 16-year-old girl was arrested in connection to a shooting that left a 15-year-old boy dead. According to the Medical Examiner's office, the 15-year-old, JM, was at his girlfriend's residence when he was killed.

March 15 | Milwaukee

MH, 27-year-old female

Police received a 911 call from a man, later identified as 28-year-old OD, who said "he just woke up and his girl's not breathing." OD said that after he and MH had gone in separate cars to a casino, MH left to go to a bar. OD said he later went to retrieve her and she "was very intoxicated, and he noticed some redness on her face." According to OD, MH started to become aggressive with him, then hit herself in the forehead with a glass bottle. OD said MH then went to sleep. OD denied hitting MH but upon further questioning stated that she had attacked him and that he had to defend himself. OD said he pushed MH, started kicking her in the back, and then "blacked out."

The Medical Examiner's office determined the cause of 27-year-old MH's death to be multiple blunt force injuries. OD pled guilty to Felony Murder-Battery, and was sentenced to eight years initial confinement and six years extended supervision.

March 16 | Milwaukee

KC, 18-year-old female

On March 16th, KC was found dead in an apartment. A judge authorized a search warrant for her unidentified boyfriend's social media records, which include **threatening messages** to KC's mother approximately a week before her death. Obtaining the records would allow investigators to see any posts wherein the boyfriend is shown possessing the firearm recovered from the scene of KC's death, which is reportedly "very unique." According to police, the boyfriend was trying to get his keys back from KC when he made **explicit threats to shoot and kill everyone** in the house. No charges have yet been filed, but police state they are investigating KC's unidentified boyfriend for First-Degree Intentional Homicide.

April 2 | Milwaukee
KA, 40-year-old male

According to police, a 29-year-old woman stabbed and killed KA, a 40-year-old man during a domestic dispute. The woman was arrested but was not charged. Per the Milwaukee Co. District Attorney, the stabbing was determined to be self-defense.

May 18 | West Allis
AR, 35-year-old male

Police were called to a home by a 28-year-old woman who told the dispatcher her boyfriend, 35-year-old AR, had been shot. According to the dispatcher, the woman reported that AR attacked her, and she shot him. When the police arrived, the caller said AR was not breathing. Police found AR inside his home, dead from several gunshot wounds, and arrested the woman. No charges were filed, and it was determined to be self-defense.

June 11 | Milwaukee
SG, 24-year-old female

SG was found shot to death in a car outside her home. Police believe 33-year-old AR, who was SG's live-in boyfriend, to be connected with her death. Court documents state AR was seen with a handgun in the days before SG's murder, and police found ammunition inside his apartment. Prosecutors have charged him with **Firearm Possession by an Out-of-State Felon**, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. The case is ongoing.

July 6 | Shorewood
TS-D, 41-year-old female
RD, 44-year-old male suspect

Forty-one-year-old TS-D was fatally shot inside a home at 4:30am on July 6. TS-D was pronounced dead at the scene, and another woman was taken to a hospital for treatment and was expected to survive her injuries. Around 5:00am the same day, the sheriff's office responded to a call about a man inside a car in a park, dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. Police believe this man, 44-year-old RD, was the suspect in the earlier fatal shooting.

July 7 | Milwaukee
DY, 48-year-old male

48-year-old DY was **helping his niece move into an apartment to escape an abusive relationship** when he was shot and killed by 31-year-old AS with an assault rifle. DY had returned to the apartment to retrieve some tools. DY's niece was on the phone with her ex-boyfriend, telling him not to talk to DY, when a friend of the ex-boyfriend arrived and began shooting. DY was found in the road, his crashed vehicle full of bullet holes.

DY, a father and youth basketball coach, is remembered for his generosity and the hundreds of lives he touched. According to a family member, "[DY] always said, 'You have a duty to give back. You have an obligation to give to those who are less fortunate than you are.' He built his life off that." AS pled guilty to First-Degree Reckless Homicide, and was sentenced to 30 years initial confinement and 12 years extended supervision.

July 11 | Milwaukee
AW, 60-year-old male

Sixty-two-year-old MA admitted to starting a house fire that killed her live-in partner, 60-year-old AR, according to the Milwaukee Fire Department. When firefighters arrived, large flames were shooting from the second story of the home; AW was pulled from the burning building and pronounced dead at the scene. MA was taken into custody in connection to the incident, and police began an arson investigation.

MA pled guilty to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide - Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and was sentenced to 11 years initial confinement and 9 years extended supervision. AW, who was legally blind, is remembered as a kind, soft-spoken man.

July 13 | Milwaukee
OR-R, 33-year-old male

According to the criminal complaint, police were dispatched to a residence for a shooting suspected to be in connection to domestic violence, where an officer found 33-year-old OR-R lying face down on the porch steps; he was pronounced dead at the scene. A 27-year-old female victim with a gunshot wound in the arm was taken to the hospital and survived. According to the criminal complaint, suspect 25-year-old CC-G also shot multiple times in the direction of a 2-year-old child. CC-G pled guilty to three felonies, including First-Degree Reckless Homicide; a charge of **Possession of a Firearm by a convicted felon** was dismissed but read-in. He will be sentenced in October 2024.

July 23 | Milwaukee
KS, 37-year-old male

Thirty-seven-year-old KS was shot and killed when he tried to break up a domestic violence incident between his girlfriend's daughter and the daughter's boyfriend, 21-year-old PT. According to the criminal complaint, police found KS's dating partner performing CPR on KS when they arrived at the scene. She stated that she and KS had been parked outside her home that afternoon when she heard arguing coming from inside. She next saw her daughter hitting PT's car with a grill cover, and PT then pushed the woman's daughter against the car.

At that point **KS stepped in to try to break up the fight**. An altercation ensued between PT and KS, and reportedly a third person also got involved. The witness said she saw that PT had a gun, which he fired at KS five times before he drove away. KS later died at the hospital. PT has been charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, but he has not been arraigned. **A warrant has been issued for his arrest**. This case is ongoing.

**September 11 | Milwaukee
DC, 22-year-old female**

Twenty-two-year-old DC was shot and killed by 31-year-old MS. Reportedly, MS found 22-year-old DC having sex with the father of MS's children. The father of MS's children told investigators that MS was in the room for about 10 minutes before the shooting and then MS ran from the room to take the children and leave. MS has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, though the court suspended the case when MS was found lacking capacity to understand court proceedings. She was committed to the Department of Health & Family Services to restore competency, and the case is ongoing.

**September 21 | Milwaukee
JH, 24-year-old male**

Sixteen-year-old DB fatally stabbed his sister's boyfriend, 24-year-old JH, in the back. Prosecutors say JH lived with his girlfriend, her children, and DB. The victim's girlfriend came home and found JH with another woman. JH walked the other woman out of the house, and then he and his girlfriend argued outside. When they came back in, the girlfriend pushed JH and tried to hit him. She said he grabbed her by the shoulders and told her to calm down "because they weren't together anymore." She then heard JH yell, "he stabbed me!" and saw her brother DB running out the door.

Surveillance video showed DB walking with a large kitchen knife. The girlfriend called 911 and tried to stop the bleeding until paramedics arrived. JH later died from his injuries at the hospital. DB pled guilty to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide, and was sentenced as an adult to ten years initial confinement and five years of extended supervision.

**September 28 | West Allis
JG, 36-year-old male suspect**

JG, a 36-year-old man, was shot and killed by police. According to police, officers were called for a domestic issue although they declined to comment whether violence had occurred before they arrived. When they arrived the police encountered JG, who was armed with two knives. One officer used non-lethal force, and four officers fired their service weapons, killing JG on the front porch of the house. No officers or other citizens were injured. The five involved officers in the incident were placed on administrative leave per department protocol.

October 13 | Milwaukee

KA, 28-year-old female

Unnamed 38-year-old male suspect

A 28-year-old woman was shot and taken to a hospital where she later died, while a 38-year-old man turned the gun on himself and died at the scene. Police said they died in a domestic violence related murder-suicide.

November 19 | Milwaukee

TC, 30-year-old female and her unborn child(ren)

37-year-old QR killed his 30-year-old **pregnant girlfriend TC in front of her four children** after an argument in her apartment. According to local reportage, TC's daughter said, "Me, my sister, my other sister and my brother were in the house. They literally seen their mother lying on the floor taking her last breath, hearing her try to say something to us."

QR also shot a stranger at a gas station earlier that day, where video surveillance shows him shoot a man in the leg, then hug him as he got to his feet. Reportedly QR apologized and said he'd "had a bad day with his girlfriend." Police captured QR at a hotel the next day. QR had been released from prison in 2022 after an attempted arson conviction in 2018. He has now been charged with five felonies, including First-Degree Intentional Homicide and **Possession of a Firearm by a convicted felon**. A jury trial is scheduled for November 2024.

November 19 | Milwaukee

EB, 44-year-old female

EB, 60-year-old male suspect

EB, a 44-year-old woman, was shot and killed on November 19 in an apparent murder suicide. When officers arrived, they found the bodies of both the victim and the 60-year-old male suspect, dead from gunshot wounds. Officials say it appeared that the suspect's gunshot wound was self-inflicted and that the incident was domestic violence related.

November 23 | Milwaukee
AW, 17-year-old male

Eighteen-year-old ED shot and killed his ex-girlfriend's new boyfriend, 17-year-old AW, who died from two gunshots to the head. According to the criminal complaint, the girlfriend called 911 to report the shooting, becoming distraught as a male voice was heard in the background saying, "you don't have to tell nobody I did that." During the 911 call, the girlfriend also reported that ED "cocked his gun back and **put the gun to his own head**," asking something to the effect of if she was going to "tell on him." He then ran out of the apartment before the police arrived. Police found ED hiding the next day and he was charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide - Use of a Dangerous Weapon. This case is ongoing.

County

Outagamie

March 14 | Liberty
BM, 71-year-old female
AM, 75-year-old male suspect

BM, age 71, and her husband, AM, age 75, were found dead in a home after what the Sherriff's office confirmed was a domestic violence related murder-suicide. Deputies went to the home after one of the deceased failed to show up for a scheduled appointment. The investigation showed AM killed his wife and then completed suicide.

March 18 | Hortonville
DS, 66-year-old female
SS, 67-year-old male

Officers were dispatched to a house for a report of two unresponsive individuals. Upon arrival, officers located a deceased adult female, DS, 66, and an adult male, SS, 67, with serious injuries. Officers immediately began life saving measures and SS was taken to a local hospital, where he died from a gunshot wound. The family released a joint obituary, and the shooting dynamics have not been publicly clarified.

October 14 | Kaukauna
JV, 45-year-old female
EV, 26-year-old male suspect

Police conducting a welfare check found 45-year-old JV dead in her home, where she was reported to have had substantial traumatic injuries. Police say her husband, EV, was in the room with the body, and described his behavior as erratic and uncooperative. While attempting to detain him, two officers deployed their tasers. EV experienced a medical episode and died at a local hospital. At the time of their deaths, **EV had open charges, including Battery with a Domestic Abuse modifier and a felony count of Intimidating a Victim of Domestic Abuse.**

County

Polk

August 2 | Osceola
Unnamed male suspect, unknown age

Officers arrived at a home to investigate a felony domestic abuse incident. After speaking briefly with a man at the front door of the home, the man fled inside. Officers pursued to arrest the man but when they heard what appeared to be a gunshot from inside, they held their positions until other agencies arrived to help. After several hours of failed negotiations, the man was found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

County

Portage

September 9 | Stevens Point
Unnamed, 49-year-old male suspect

An unnamed 49-year-old man died following an alleged domestic incident. First responders responded to an unconscious man at a hotel. Police said the man attacked his common-law wife and a second man intervened. The 49-year-old husband then attacked the 53-year-old man who had intervened, striking him about 10 times in the face. The second man fought off the husband. When first responders arrived, the husband was still alive, but later died at an area hospital. The man who allegedly intervened was transported by ambulance for injuries sustained in the domestic disturbance. It was reported that no arrests had been made, and it is unknown whether charges were issued in this case.

Racine

**January 18 | Racine
GC, 24-year-old male**

GC, 24, was shot and killed in an apartment during a physical altercation between himself, 28-year-old JM, and two unnamed women who had a (past and/or present) relationship with GC and JM. According to the criminal complaint, one of the women identified herself as GC's fiancée, and told police she and JM had three children in common. She also said at the time of the shooting, she was in a relationship with GC and the other woman, both of whom had been living with her in the apartment in recent weeks.

The fiancée told police that she and GC started arguing after **she had texted him that she was leaving him** earlier that day, and that he slammed her to the floor and **attempted to strangle her**. GC's fiancée said she didn't see JM take out a gun but heard the shot. JM claimed the gun went off accidentally, but has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide, Use of a Dangerous Weapon. A jury trial is scheduled for October 2024.

**April 15 | Racine
AF, 36-year-old female**

Thirty-six-year-old AF, a mother of five, was found dead at a roundabout from a gunshot wound. According to the criminal complaint, a witness alleged that AF and 31-year-old AS had fought prior to the shooting, and **AS had threatened to kill AF's father**. The two left the residence together, when the witness saw AS point a gun at AF, heard a gunshot, and saw AF fall to the ground. AS was a **convicted felon prohibited from possession of a firearm**; had previously been charged with **Stalking**; and convicted of **Unlawful Phone Use - Threatens Harm, Criminal Trespass, and Disorderly Conduct with Domestic Abuse modifiers**. AF has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon. This case is ongoing.

May 22 | Racine

TB, 38-year-old male suspect

TB was shot and killed by police after he fired at them. Police said the situation started when TB shot at his wife and left the scene. When officers later pulled him over, 38-year-old TB ran into the woods near a park. Officer-worn body camera video showed the suspect firing at police. Police returned fire, fatally wounding TB. No criminal charges will be issued for law enforcement involved in the shooting.

June 2 | Racine

SH, 38-year-old male

Sixty-two-year-old TS shot 38-year-old SH, the boyfriend of a woman with whom he had a paternal relationship. SH died of a gunshot wound to the head. According to the criminal complaint, SH's girlfriend told the police, "My dad shot my boyfriend and left" and that there were "issues" with her boyfriend that she would discuss with her mother. The day of the shooting, she and SH had gotten into an argument. TS and the woman's mother showed up at the house that same day, and reportedly TS and SH were in another room when there was a "loud noise." The woman walked into the room and found TS with a gun and her boyfriend on the ground. In the complaint, the woman told police there was "not time for them to have argued" before the shooting and the victim was shot "point blank."

TS was **prohibited from having a firearm because of a prior felony** conviction. He has been charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and Possession of a Firearm by a convicted felon. This case is ongoing.

June 6 | Racine

Unnamed 27-year-old male

An unnamed victim died of a stab wound. Officers were dispatched to a scene where a man was lying on the sidewalk with 27-year-old AGZ next to him, crying, with blood on her clothes. She allegedly said, "I stabbed him." A witness told police that AGZ and her partner had been involved in a loud domestic dispute prior to the stabbing. AGZ told investigators they had been drinking and **he accused her of cheating**. She pled guilty to Second-Degree Reckless Homicide and was sentenced to 7.5 years initial confinement and 7.5 years extended supervision.

August 11 | Racine

CS, 29 -year-old female

DM, 30-year-old male suspect

Racine police say a woman and man are dead after a murder-suicide inside a home. Police responded to the home after a three-year-old child ran to a neighbor seeking help. According to the Racine Police Department, officers entered the home and found CS and DM dead. Investigators determined that CS was shot and killed by DM, who then completed suicide.

October 14 | Racine

MB Sr., 39-year-old male

MB Sr. was shot and killed on October 14. Officers found MB Sr. dead from multiple gunshot wounds. MB Sr. reportedly had a gun and was involved in an altercation with his girlfriend, then attacked his brother at the residence. The apartment was shared by MB Sr., his girlfriend, and his brother, 35-year-old CB. However, **MB Sr. and his girlfriend reportedly had a rocky relationship, and he was not staying at the residence at the time.**

MB Sr.'s girlfriend told investigators MB Sr. came to the apartment, she let him in, and an altercation ensued during which he pulled a gun on her. When **CB attempted to intervene**, his brother reportedly punched him in the face, causing him to fall down a flight of stairs. MB Sr. walked down the stairs and hit him again, then returned to the apartment and reportedly continued the altercation with his girlfriend, which became physically violent.

CB went back for his shoes and a jacket, where he also had a firearm. As CB attempted to leave, his brother confronted him again, moving towards him quickly. At that point, CB shot his brother. CB pleaded not guilty to First-Degree Intentional Homicide with Use of a Dangerous Weapon and **Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon** in the shooting death of his brother. The case is ongoing.

County

Rock

February 20 | Beloit **SB, 29-year-old female**

SB, a 29-year-old mother of five young children, was shot and killed by her partner and co-parent, 33-year-old TY. According to local reportage, the two began arguing in the presence of one of the children, who heard a “big bang” and then TY called 911 to report the shooting.

According to local reportage and court records, approximately a month prior **SB had requested a harassment restraining order** against the suspect in Dane County, citing his **suicidal threats, access to a firearm, and fear for herself and her children**. When neither party appeared for the injunction hearing, the court dismissed the restraining order. He pled guilty to Second-Degree Intentional Homicide, and in August 2024 he was sentenced to 40 years initial confinement and 20 years extended supervision

County

Sheboygan

February 23 | Rhine **JF, 61-year-old female** **DL, 56-year-old male suspect**

Fifty-six-year-old DL shot and killed his wife, 61-year-old JF, and then completed suicide by self-inflicted gunshot wound. The bodies of the married couple were found at their residence, after an emergency call was placed reporting the death of two individuals at the residence.

May 27 | Plymouth
JK-J, 44-year-old female

JK-J, aged 44, was shot and killed and another victim was injured during an apparent domestic situation. 911 received a call that an individual had been shot. On arrival, officers located two victims suffering from gunshot wounds. One victim was transported to an area hospital for treatment of their injuries and was later released. The second victim was found deceased inside the residence. Both individuals knew each other and law enforcement indicated this appears to be a domestic situation. Obituary information from family indicates JK-J's death is considered an accident. No charges have been filed in this matter.

County

Waukesha

August 30 | Brookfield
SA, 34 -year-old female
BM, 35-year-old male suspect

Officers responding to a home found 34-year-old SA with gunshot wounds. Despite lifesaving efforts, she was pronounced dead at the scene. According to local reportage, her partner and co-parent 35-year-old BM, was immediately identified as a suspect, and later that day law enforcement found him dead by self-inflicted injuries at a nearby school. Neighbors indicated that SA rarely left the home, and **family members had not heard from her in several years.**

Winnebago

March 11 | Omro
JS, 20 -year-old female

Twenty-three-year-old JO strangled and killed his girlfriend, 20-year-old JS. According to the criminal complaint, Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to an apartment after JO called 911 reporting he had done so. He also said he had multiple weapons and **planned to end his life**. Dispatch reportedly heard what sounded like gunshots during the call. Multiple emergency responders arrived and engaged in negotiations with JO for roughly eight hours before he emerged from the apartment and was taken into custody. JS was found dead at the scene.

According to local reportage and court records, JO pled guilty to First-Degree Reckless Homicide, and was sentenced to 30 years initial confinement and 20 years extended supervision.

March 18 | Wolf River
DM, 71-year-old female
JM, 72-year-old male

First responders arrived at a Wolf River home for a welfare check after a 911 call was cut short. Deputies initially went to the couple's family business where a witness, also a family member, then escorted deputies to the home. There they found the couple in their bedroom, covered in blankets and dead from apparent gunshot wounds. The witness said the victims' 25-year-old son EM lived with his parents and should be home, but EM and his car were gone.

Upon searching the parents' home, officers found a loaded AR platform rifle on the kitchen table and a 9mm handgun in the garbage. A journal found in EM's bedroom stated he wanted to make it look as though his parents went missing while out for a walk. Police later found EM and his car at the YMCA. He refused to speak about the incident but was wearing yellow-toned shooting glasses. EM originally pled not guilty by reason of mental disease or defect to two counts of First-Degree Intentional Homicide, but withdrew this defense and agreed to plead guilty - no contest in August 2024. He will be sentenced in October.

Family Violence Cases (not intimate partner related)

Burnett County

September 1 | Siren

AH, 37-year-old male

AH died from a gunshot wound on September 1. According to the criminal complaint, two stepbrothers - both with the initials AH - got into a dispute over a chainsaw. AH told authorities he acted in self-defense when his stepbrother came after him with a baseball bat. AH said he fired a warning shot first, then fatally shot his stepbrother in the chest. Charges filed against the 18-year-old AH accused of the fatal shooting include First Degree Reckless Homicide, a firearm possession charge and three counts of Bail Jumping.

Dane County

July 22 | Madison

ZS, 25-year-old male

Twenty-five-year-old ZS died of a gunshot wound. JS told police he shot and killed his son following an argument. JS told officers his son had been drinking and was pressuring him for money. When his son shoved him, JS picked up a nearby gun and pulled the trigger. JS told investigators there was no "logical thought" when he fired the gun - he just wanted the confrontation to stop. He said he wished he hadn't pulled the trigger. JS, 65, is charged with First-Degree Intentional Homicide in the death of his son.

Grant County

May 18 | Boscobel

RM, 58-year-old male

CM, 32-year-old male suspect

RM and CM died from gunshot wounds on May 18. According to police, RM and CM were seated in an enclosed porch and at some point during the night, CM fired two rounds at his father, striking him twice in the chest. CM then turned the gun on himself, completing suicide. The motive for the apparent murder-suicide is unknown but investigators believe alcohol was a factor.

La Crosse County
February 11 | Town of Medary
AP, 6-year-old male

Six-year-old AP died as a result of blunt force trauma; toxic effects of alprazolam (Xanax) contributed to his death. Deputies responding to a 911 call from a home reportedly found AP on a bed. As they began to administer first aid including CPR and a dose of Narcan, they found that the child's body was stiff as though rigor had set in. He was pronounced dead soon after.

An autopsy found that AP had suffered numerous blunt force injuries to the head and neck, multiple contusions of the chest and back, and a fractured rib. Witness interviews indicated that AP's mother JD would hit or choke him and had "bent his leg forward, toward his head." It was later discovered that AP's leg was broken. JD was charged with three felonies including First Degree Intentional Homicide, Chronic Neglect of a Child-Consequence is Death, and Physical Abuse of a Child-Repeated Acts Causing Bodily Harm in the death of AP.

Court records indicate AP's father had previous domestic violence charges related to his mother, but has not been charged in this matter.

La Crosse County
June 14 | La Crosse
Unnamed 4-year-old female

Sixteen-year-old KR was arrested and charged in adult court with First-Degree Intentional Homicide for his niece's death. According to the criminal complaint, the juvenile victim was found dead at a residence. KR reportedly had been taking care of younger children and said the victim had fallen down. He later told investigators he had hit the girl in the face, and she fell and hit her head on the ground. Hours later, the victim was found unresponsive in her bed. An autopsy determined that the female child had suffered blunt force injuries to the head, neck, and torso.

Lafayette County
December 27 | Belmont
Unnamed 3-month-old male

A three-month-old infant died four days after being taken to a hospital limp and apparently not breathing. The baby's parents, MGAA and AAG, said that the baby showed no signs of distress until AAG picked him up to burp him, when he appeared to have fainted. Doctors who examined the baby reported numerous injuries consistent with physical abuse. The infant had sustained a dozen broken ribs that had occurred at least a week prior to hospitalization and were not caused by CPR, as the fractures were in various stages of healing. Other injuries included a skull fracture, a partially-healed broken foot bone and numerous retinal hemorrhages. MGAA 23, and AAG, 24, were charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Physical Abuse of a Child-Repeated Acts Causing Great Bodily Harm.

Marathon County
April 1 | Colby
DG, 65-year-old male
RG, 62-year-old male

Brothers DG, 65, and RG, 62, died in a murder-suicide on April 1. Reportedly, 911 received a call from a person who found two of his relatives dead. Responding deputies found both men dead from apparent gunshot wounds. A firearm was found at the home where both men resided. Authorities who completed the investigation and autopsies, did not believe there was any foul play or that other factors were involved. The Sheriff's Office did not say who they believe was the shooter in the suspected murder-suicide.

Marathon County
September 23 | Wausau
Unnamed 3-month-old male infant

According to the Wisconsin Uniform Crime Report, a male infant died of asphyxiation at the hands of his 53-year-old grandmother. No further information was available.

Marinette County
June 15 | Marinette
Unnamed, 3-year-old male

First responders were called to a home to check on an unresponsive three-year-old boy. When they arrived the boy's father was performing CPR. The father's fiancée SW allegedly told authorities at the scene that the boy had fallen down the stairs. The boy was taken to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. Examination and autopsy revealed dried blood inside his nose and on his hands and many injuries including extensive bruising, broken ribs, and a punctured lung. The medical examiner determined that the injuries were not consistent with a fall down the stairs, and that the boy was "likely a victim of a non-accidental trauma which led to his death."

A forensic search of SW's phone showed multiple concerning messages sent to the victim's father June 14 and 15, full of anger, exhaustion, and frustration and including threats to hurt the children. SW was taken into custody and charged with one count of First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Neglect of a Child Resulting in Death.

Milwaukee County
January 22 | Milwaukee
GB, 46-year-old male

TB, 27, is accused of shooting and killing his father while his father was driving. Police found GB in a car that had hit a retaining wall. GB later died. Police arrested GB's son, TB at an apartment days later. TB told investigators that he confronted his father, while the pair were in a car together, about being "fake" and "not letting him be himself." He said his 9mm firearm was in the front pocket of the jacket he was wearing. TB stated that he opened the door with his left hand, with his right hand still in the pocket holding the firearm. TB claimed that his father 'made him' squeeze the trigger." Prosecutors charged TB with First-Degree Reckless Homicide and Use of a Dangerous Weapon. The case is still pending.

Milwaukee County
March 7 | Milwaukee
DD, 16-year-old male

Police were called to the scene of the stabbing death of a 16-year-old boy, who was found lying on a bedroom floor. Nineteen-year-old SM was present when police arrived and admitted to stabbing the victim, a member of her family. She said they got into an argument because he had visitors in the apartment and was not supposed to do so. When the argument became physical, SM grabbed a knife and stabbed the victim, according to the complaint. SM, who was not injured, told authorities she had anger issues. SM has been charged with one count of Second-Degree Reckless Homicide with a Dangerous Weapon in connection with a fatal stabbing.

Milwaukee County
April 26 | Milwaukee
TG, 35-year-old female

Police found TG, 35, lying dead on the porch where she had been stabbed by her sister KG. The sisters who reportedly had a very close relationship, had lived together for about two months, and had been arguing. A witness saw KG open the door and immediately stab her sister with a kitchen knife. An autopsy revealed she had stab wounds to her left lung and heart. KG was arrested when she came out of the home where police found the bloody knife. KG's public defender noted that 34-year-old KG, who is a mother of two, suffers from post-partum depression and was seeking treatment. KG faces one count of Second-Degree Reckless Homicide, Use of a Dangerous Weapon.

Milwaukee County
September 30 | Milwaukee
GR, 50-year-old male

Officers called to the scene of a shooting found GR, 50, lying dead on the sidewalk. A witness told investigators he was sitting on his porch when GR stopped by, saying he was on his way to meet someone. The witness saw GR cross the street and meet TC, the victim's 17-year-old foster child. According to the witness, TC approach GR, raised a handgun and shot him in the face before running from the scene.

Officers found two casings near the victim's body. Additional casings were found at a second scene, reportedly from shots fired into the air by family members of the victim after the killing. An autopsy revealed GR suffered three gunshot wounds. The medical examiner ruled his death a homicide. Police arrested TC, who was out on bond at the time for a charge of armed robbery. TC faces one count of First-Degree Reckless Homicide (Use of a Dangerous Weapon) and one count of Bail Jumping.

Milwaukee County
October 9 | Milwaukee
WE, 36-year-old male

Police responding to the scene of a shooting found the body of 36-year-old WE amid multiple spent bullet casings. A witness saw the victim's 18-year-old son DE pull out a gun and shoot his father multiple times following a confrontation. After the victim fell to the ground, the complaint said DE walked closer and shot additional times. The victim had 31 gunshot wounds. Investigators collected video surveillance footage which showed portions of the shooting consistent with the witness's account. DE fled the scene. He was charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide.

Milwaukee County
October 10 | Milwaukee
JR, 12-year-old male

The body of 12-year-old JR was found by his older brother on his father's living room floor. The brother hadn't heard from JR in weeks; the body was wrapped up in a blanket in a state of advanced decomposition. JR's siblings told police that their father RM would often punish JR harshly, sometimes for weeks, for misbehaving and stealing food. An autopsy found the boy had fractures in both arms and in his right ribs. Police arrested 45-year-old RM, who had been on the run for several months. RM was found competent to stand trial and is charged with First-Degree Reckless Homicide, three counts of Chronic Neglect of a Child and Failure to Report a Death.

Milwaukee County
December 2 | West Allis
SP, 75-year-old female
EJ, 50-year-old male suspect

Authorities say they found the bodies of 75-year-old SP and her 50-year-old son EJ after they were called to do a welfare check. Neighbors said they had been concerned about EJ's well-being and their own. They said he often fought with them and did things that made them feel uncomfortable. The neighbors reportedly filed several complaints over the years with the city and the police department. Just three weeks before the deaths, the city and District Attorney's office worked cooperatively to obtain an order to commit EJ to a treatment facility. He had been released shortly after he was committed.

Milwaukee County
December 13 | Milwaukee
TJ, 10-year-old female

A 13-year-old boy is now facing homicide charges in the shooting death of his sister. Investigators said the boy shot 10-year-old TJ in their home. She died five days later. The boy was charged with Second-Degree Reckless Homicide, First-Degree Recklessly Endangering Safety While Armed with a Dangerous Weapon and Possession of a Dangerous Weapon by Someone Under 18.

Racine County

October 12 | Racine

Unnamed 45-year-old male

RH, 38, shot and killed his brother-in-law. Police responding to the shooting found a 45-year-old man with a gunshot wound on the kitchen floor of a home. He later died at the hospital. RH said he was in a fight with his brother-in-law, who was strangling him, and that he pulled out his gun and shot him. Neighbors told officers they could hear RH yelling at someone to get out of his house. Reportedly the residence was in probate court with RH, the victim, and third person. A witness said RH had the gun by his side while he was shouting. According to the complaint, RH denied having the gun out prior to being strangled. During the physical fight, the victim was on top of RH. RH said he could not breathe, pushed the gun into the victim saying "he would shoot him if he did not get off" and then did shoot when the victim did not comply. Another witness reportedly heard two gunshots. RH is facing one felony count of First-Degree Intentional Homicide, Use of a Dangerous Weapon, and faces life in prison if convicted.

Richland County

August 13 | Lone Rock

Unnamed 25-year-old female

Unnamed 60-year-old female suspect

Two Madison women were found dead inside a vehicle after what appears to be a murder suicide. The women, a 25-year-old daughter and her 60-year-old mother, were reported missing by a family member after they failed to return home following a hike. A phone ping pointed officers toward the Lone Rock area. Both women had died of gunshot wounds; the mother's wound was self-inflicted. The family member said the daughter was a person with a challenging disorder.

Waupaca County
September 4 | Clintonville
Unnamed, 39-year-old female

An unidentified 39-year-old woman receiving medical aid for a stab wound was flown to a hospital where she was later pronounced dead. According to a probable cause statement filed by a responding officer, the victim said her son JP had stabbed her. Nineteen-year-old JP admitted to stabbing his mother once in the chest and said he had been planning on killing her for about a week. JP was arrested and police have requested a charge of First-Degree Intentional Homicide.

Why Wisconsin

By: Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director
End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

Wisconsin is among the worst states in the country for victims of domestic violence (DV). **One in every six DV homicides in the United States is committed in Wisconsin.** We are often asked, “Why Wisconsin?”

More than twenty years of data collection by End Domestic Abuse WI reveal predictable patterns and precipitating factors that lead to intimate partner homicide. A complex and intersecting landscape of structural racism, access to firearms, housing instability, rural service deserts, an over-reliance on the criminal legal system, funding cuts, and inadequate public awareness all play significant roles. Our analysis points us to the numerous ways in which our state fails victims, and, most importantly, what we can do about it.

Structural Racism

Wisconsin has the highest homicide rates for Black women in the United States. A 2022 investigation by The Guardian [6] revealed that **Black women in Wisconsin are 20 times more likely to be murdered than are white women.** This report also found a 33% national increase in the homicide rate for Black women and girls in 2020, with Wisconsin’s rate doubling that year. Our 2023 homicide report further reveals the disproportionate impact of DV homicide among Black women.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) affects individuals across all demographics, but **Black and Indigenous women, especially those from communities marked by racial discrimination and high poverty rates, face a disproportionate burden.** Nationally, 45% of Black women experience physical violence, sexual violence, or stalking in their lifetimes[7]. IPV is notably more severe and frequent in economically disadvantaged neighborhoods, where women are more than twice as likely to experience intimate violence compared to those in wealthier areas [8].

States with the highest racial inequities in homicide rates often have significant structural disparities in wealth, educational attainment, employment, and poverty. **In 2020, Wisconsin was near the bottom among U.S. states for racial equity**, based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development[9]. Structural racism plays a crucial role in these disparities by perpetuating systems that reinforce discriminatory beliefs and unequal resource distribution[10]. Key factors such as educational attainment, employment, poverty, residential segregation, and home ownership contribute to the elevated homicide rates among Black women.

Addressing DV requires recognizing its economic dimensions and structural roots. To tackle this crisis effectively, the Wisconsin legislature should establish a task force to investigate and address the root causes of violence against Black women and girls. This task force would analyze contributing factors and recommend actions to the legislature to eliminate this violence.

Access to Firearms

One of the most direct contributors to the rise in DV homicides in Wisconsin is the accessibility of firearms. End Abuse WI routinely finds that **perpetrators had access to a gun despite being legally prohibited**, which means that access – not simply ownership – is the issue. In fact, **access to a gun makes it five times more likely that a woman will die at the hands of a domestic abuser.** In 2023 78% of DV homicides in Wisconsin involved the use of a firearm. States with the highest rates of firearm ownership have a 65 percent higher rate of domestic firearm homicide than states with the lowest rates of gun ownership[11].

Risk of firearm injury and death is not shared equally among women. Indigenous, Black, and Latinx women are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than are white women. **Black women are five times more likely to die by firearm during pregnancy and postpartum** – a particularly dangerous time for victims of IPV – than are white women[12].

We have the power to change these statistics by introducing universal background checks for firearm sales and closing dangerous loopholes that allow misdemeanor DV offenders to own guns. A 2021 study found that state laws that prohibit abusers convicted of misdemeanor DV from possessing firearms and required relinquishment of firearms were associated with lower rates of homicides among pregnant and postpartum women[13].

Wisconsin must also reinstate a 48-hour waiting period on all firearm sales: limiting access to firearms for a short period of time can make a critical difference by giving victims time to find safe housing or emergency shelter or take other steps, and providing time for would-be murderers to consider different courses. These are all commonsense and widely supported measures.

Those routinely engaged with cases involving intimate partner violence (court practitioners, healthcare professionals, etc.) must recognize access to firearms as a considerable danger to the life of the individual and those known to the individual, and act accordingly by implementing relevant strategies to prevent harm without doing further harm.

Over-Reliance on the Criminal Legal System

Our state has some of the most racially disparate criminal legal outcomes in the nation. **Wisconsin ranks first in the country for Black incarceration rates**, with 2,742 per 100,000 Black residents in prison. This statistic is remarkable given that Black people comprise only 6% of Wisconsin's general population[14]. **Women are the fastest-growing segment of the prison population** and prisons hold some of the densest per-capita populations of trauma survivors in the world[15]. **Incarceration focuses on punishment and ignores healing, support, accountability, and repair.** What does this have to do with DV homicide?

At the intersection of DV and racial inequities, the criminal legal system often fails victims and survivors of DV. For the past 30 years, increased policing, prosecution, and imprisonment have been the primary policy solutions to end gender-based violence. There exist inseparable ties between patterns of victims being arrested, the over policing of and police violence against BIPOC bodies, economic violence, and the criminal-legal system.

This response has proven inadequate and harmful. Survivors are often arrested when acting in self-defense. BIPOC communities are disproportionately targeted by police, resulting in many survivors choosing not to call for help, for fear that they or their partner will be harmed or killed during police intervention.

BIPOC survivors are most harmed by an over-reliance on the criminal legal system, and since **they are less likely to engage with the system**, a response to DV that relies primarily on criminalization and legal responses is most likely to exclude them. **State intervention can never guarantee safety for survivors so long as fear and active harm result from engagement with it.** Therefore, safety can only exist when all survivors have access to the support that they need without fear of violent, state-sanctioned harm.

Criminalization does not repair the harm done to survivors, nor does it prevent the harm from happening again. A carceral response overlooks the importance of exit options, support, and healing. **Fundamentally, laws criminalizing abuse do not help survivors with nowhere to go.**

We fund the entities we believe hold the solutions; since the 1994 Victims of Crime Act, we have relied upon law enforcement, funding them considerably.

As noted, we must move differently because this is failing survivors. We must shift away from viewing law enforcement as a panacea and toward viewing victim services and community-based programs as holding the primary solutions for addressing and ending violence.

Housing is Homicide Prevention

A lack of affordable housing leaves victims with few options for escaping abusive situations. Without stable housing, survivors face greater barriers to accessing safety and support, increasing their vulnerability to lethal violence. Wisconsin is experiencing what is widely deemed an affordable housing crisis. **In Wisconsin, 73% of unmet requests at DV agencies are for emergency shelter, hotels, motels, transitional housing, and other housing**[16].

Housing instability forces survivors to stay in unsafe environments due to financial constraints. Inadequate eviction laws and financial aid exacerbate this problem, leaving victims with few options for escaping abusive situations.

End Abuse supports Domestic Violence Housing First (DVHF), a model designed to end homelessness by supporting people to obtain or maintain permanent housing without setting up prerequisites to receiving that assistance. One of the keys to the success of this model, specifically when it is applied to survivors of DV, is the flexibility of the funding. **Survivors know their immediate needs best**, and advocates assisting those survivors within a DVHF model need to be able to **address time-sensitive needs articulated by an individual survivor**, be that rent assistance, utility costs, childcare costs, or bus passes. Wisconsin has implemented a nine site pilot project proving that access to this flexible support saves lives, and that its success is also contingent upon the availability of affordable housing[17].

Service Deserts in Rural Areas

Domestic violence homicides occur all over the state; **in 2023, 42% of homicides were committed in rural areas, and 58% in urban areas**. Rural areas face pronounced shortages in transportation, housing, healthcare, and language services. The absence of interpreters means survivors often rely on less effective language line services; housing waits can exceed 18 months, forcing survivors to relocate far from their support networks. Moreover, the vast distances in rural areas make it difficult for advocacy services to reach survivors. Advocates may travel up to two hours to meet with a survivor, and mobile advocacy is crucial for those without transportation. Advocates also report that in some rural areas, denial or minimization of DV persists, making it harder for survivors to seek help and for advocates to secure necessary support.

Urban areas are often criticized for having too much state or federal money funneled their way, yet it remains true that densely populated areas need robust resources to serve all who need them. All survivors, no matter their location, must have access to the lifesaving support of DV organizations.

Lack of Public Awareness and Media Coverage

Domestic violence homicides, particularly those involving BIPOC victims, often receive limited media attention compared to cases involving white victims. Research shows that **the press is four times more likely to report on cases involving white missing persons than on cases involving people of color.** This disparity in coverage limits public awareness and calls for accountability, perpetuating a cycle of neglect and invisibility for marginalized victims.

Binge-drinking

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that roughly 55% of domestic abuse perpetrators were drinking alcohol prior to assault. Wisconsin has the highest rate of self-reported drinking in the United States and ranks high in total alcohol consumption per capita at 8th in the nation, according to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Alcohol does not cause someone to commit DV; however, it is a compounding factor and does exacerbate it. In other words, the severity of DV is more closely linked to alcohol consumption than the mere occurrence of domestic violence[18]. Indeed, one advocate of a Wisconsin based high-risk team[19] reported that *“almost every high-risk team case we staff involves alcohol.”* **Addressing alcoholism and reducing consumption are crucial steps in tackling the underlying issues of power and control that contribute to the cycle of DV and addiction.**

Lack of a WI Fatality Review Initiative

Fatality review initiatives are established processes in which local communities can undertake systematic homicide reviews in the wake of DV related deaths. Such reviews seek to understand rather than blame; to improve systems rather than punish; and to address root causes and transform conditions that allowed the harm to occur in the first place. Wisconsin would benefit greatly from establishing such an initiative.

Funding Cuts and Lack of Meaningful State Investment

Domestic violence services are currently funded at \$12.4 million annually, a funding level that has been relatively static for the past decade despite rising homicide rates. Federal funding, already dwindling for years, will be slashed by 70% in October 2024, leaving Wisconsin’s local DV programs struggling to meet the needs of survivors.

Beyond the moral and ethical imperative to act, there are over \$657 million in annual economic losses associated with domestic violence[20]. We must meaningfully increase funding in our state budget in the long-term to **address this crisis of violence and remove existing funding barriers that prevent flexible service delivery and prevention efforts.**

Data show that funding services for survivors helps by increasing awareness of options to access safety and community resources, with 90% of survivors reporting that, as a result of receiving services, they know more ways to plan for their safety.

The most dangerous time in survivors' lives is when they take steps to leave a violent relationship. In fact, leaving violent relationships account for over 40% of all DV homicides annually. No victim should have to take the courageous step of leaving an abusive relationship without the safety and support offered by DV victim advocates and organizations. Yet, at present, **Wisconsin is leaving survivors with nowhere to go.**

Moving forward

Wisconsin's disturbing status as one of the worst states for DV homicides is a call to action that we cannot ignore. The patterns we've explored reveal that addressing DV in our state requires a multifaceted approach. From tackling structural racism and restricting firearm access to reforming our over-reliance on the criminal legal system and addressing the affordable housing crisis, each issue demands targeted, compassionate solutions.

The disparities and gaps we face are not insurmountable, but require a commitment to change. **By increasing funding for victim services, supporting community-based solutions, and enacting meaningful policy reforms,** Wisconsin can shift from being a place of pervasive violence to **one of safety and liberation.** It is incumbent upon all of us—lawmakers, advocates, and community members—to act decisively and collaboratively to ensure that every survivor receives the support they deserve [21].

Funding Cuts: A Predicted and Devastating Impact on Survivors and Programs

Adapted by Elise Buchbinder, Communications Director, & Tegan Swanson, Systems Change Coordinator, from the 2022 WI DV Homicide Report's *Funding Cuts as Homicides Rise* by Jenna Gormal, Public Policy Director

*"We can barely keep our doors open. I stay up at night wondering how many more victims will die before WI meaningfully funds our services. **This is an absolutely desperate situation.**"* -Wisconsin Program Director

Domestic violence homicide remains a public health crisis in the context of a series of federal funding cuts and state reallocations, leaving Wisconsin's local domestic violence programs struggling to meet the needs of survivors.

Federal cuts

The Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) has steadily declined since 2018. As a result of the last VOCA competitive grant in 2019, the Office of Crime Victim Services (OCVS) awarded approximately \$44.5 million annually, for a 5-year funding cycle. OCVS will award only an approximate \$13.5 million annually in the 2024 competitive grant, for a 3-year funding cycle. This is a devastating 70% cut for the programs across the state who rely upon VOCA to provide core operating funds and fund shelter, advocacy, legal assistance, economic supports, housing, culturally specific services, and prevention.



From guaranteed funding to a competitive process

In addition to federal cuts, programs are grappling with a change to the Basic Services Grant funding administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF). Prior to this change, mainstream domestic violence programs reliably received DCF funding without competing with other programs in a typical grant process. Relatively newer and often culturally specific programs did not receive this funding. Switching to a competitive grant process meant that all programs in Wisconsin were able to apply for the Basic Services Grant for the first time. This rebalance was long due; however, the total funding distribution for programs did not change.

FUND TYPE	PROGRAMS AWARDED	PROGRAMS NOT AWARDED
CORE SERVICES	58	20
SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES	38	18
TOTAL	96	38

These events further highlight what we've known for decades in this movement: there is not enough funding to meet the basic needs of domestic violence and sexual assault survivors in Wisconsin.

Act 241

Governor Evers included historic investments in domestic violence services in his 2023-24 state budget, however, the Joint Finance Committee chose to cut these investments in survivor safety, leaving domestic violence agencies across the state without enough of the critical funds required to keep doors open and lifesaving programs running.

After months of collective advocacy with survivors, advocates, and statewide community partners, in March 2024 the legislature passed and Governor Evers signed Act 241. This temporary stopgap appropriated \$10 million in fiscal year 2023-24 for biennial crime victim grants administered by DOJ; and directed the Department of Justice to allocate the funding into the three existing state grant programs:

- Sexual assault victim services grants would be allocated \$6.4 million;
- Domestic abuse grants would be allocated \$2.4 million; and
- Child advocacy grants would be allocated \$1.2 million.

Still, Act 241 funds were for only one year, and far below the resources needed. When the much smaller 2024 VOCA awards were released on September 3rd, 2024, many DV/SA programs lost drastic amounts of funding, including some who did not receive any funding at all. Now they are forced to consider impossible decisions: who will they have to say no to? What services will they have to cease? How do they downsize skillful, life-saving staff? Will they be able to stay open at all?

Wisconsin has the power to help end this deadly cycle by investing in survivors and service providers now. No survivor in Wisconsin should have to take the courageous step of leaving an abusive relationship without the safety and support offered by domestic violence victim advocates and programs, and without the benefit of a coordinated community response.

Taking Action

The 2025 state budget advocacy is beginning now.

We urge you to talk to your friends and family about this crisis, and advocate for change at the state and federal level. Send your representative this report and share why this moves you to action. Storytelling is powerful and we must elevate this public health crisis to prevent future homicides. People are killed needlessly every year in Wisconsin, with alarming frequency, and we know how to prevent it. We just need the political will from our elected officials to do so.

Our communities deserve better.

The victims in this report deserved better.

Topic Index to Previous Homicide Reports

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

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2000-2023 Totals

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Year	Total Homicide Deaths	Homicides *Pre 2010 Definition	Perpetrator Suicides	TOTAL
2023	54	51	17	85
2022	68	64	22	96
2021	65	53	15	80
2020	60	53	8	68
2019	53	52	19	72
2018	39	37	8	47
2017	48	44	14	62
2016	59	54	14	73
2015	49	43	9	58
2014	37	33	6	43
2013	43	41	12	55
2012	48	47	4	52
2011	34	29	3	37
2010	45	37	7	52

2000–2023 Totals

KEY FINDINGS				
Year	Total Homicide Deaths	Homicides *Pre 2010 Definition	Perpetrator Suicides	TOTAL
2009	52	52	15	67
2008	37	37	10	47
2007	41	41	10	51
2006	28	28	8	36
2005	40	40	6	46
2004	28	28	5	33
2003	45	45	16	61
2002	38	38	11	49
2001	33	33	9	42
2000	33	33	8	41
TOTAL	1,077	1,013	256	1,353

*See Methodology section

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About End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin

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

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