In an attempt to better understand the prevalence and circumstances of domestic violence fatalities in Ohio, the Ohio Domestic Violence Network reviewed media reports identified by staff members or local member programs. Fatalities included targeted victims, perpetrators, and others at incidents involving intimate partner relationships.

81 FATALITIES IN 60 CASES
53 deceased victims (41 female victims; 12 male victims); 28 deceased perpetrators

32% OF CASES INVOLVED A SUICIDE

14 COMPLETED HOMICIDE/SUICIDES (12 perpetrated by males against females, and 2 perpetrated by females against males)

IN AT LEAST 35% OF FATALITY CASES, THE VICTIM OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE HAD ENDED THE RELATIONSHIP OR WAS IN THE PROCESS OF ENDING THE RELATIONSHIP

5 CASES INVOLVED CUSTODY DISPUTES OR OCCURRED DURING A SCHEDULED VISITATION/EXCHANGE

IN 73% OF FATALITIES, THE DECEASED WERE KILLED BY GUNS

IN AT LEAST 32% OF CASES, THE PERPETRATOR HAD PREVIOUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGES OR CONVICTIONS

25% OF CASES INVOLVED CHILDREN AT THE SCENE

67 PEOPLE WERE KILLED OR INJURED BY GUNS

IN 83% OF CASES WHERE WOMEN KILLED MEN, THERE WAS A HISTORY OF THE WOMAN HAVING BEEN ABUSED BY THE MAN

IN 51 CASES, THE PERPETRATOR WAS MALE; IN 9 CASES, THE PERPETRATOR WAS FEMALE

IN AT LEAST 8/ONE.PNUM/TWO.PNUM% OF CASES, THE PERPETRATOR HAD PREVIOUS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CHARGES OR CONVICTIONS

IN 5/ONE.PNUM/FOUR.PNUM-SEVEN.PNUM% OF FATALITIES, THE DECEASED WERE KILLED BY GUNS

IN 3/ONE.PNUM/FIVE.PNUM% OF CASES INVOLVED CHILDREN AT THE SCENE

3 CASES HAD RESULTING AMBER ALERTS DURING OR PRIOR TO THE FATAL INCIDENT

IN 3/ONE.PNUM/FIVE.PNUM-SEVEN.PNUM% OF FATALITIES, THE DECEASED WERE KILLED BY GUNS

IN 6/ONE.PNUM/FOUR.PNUM-SEVEN.PNUM% OF CASES WHERE WOMEN KILLED MEN, THERE WAS A HISTORY OF THE WOMAN HAVING BEEN ABUSED BY THE MAN

IN 2/ONE.PNUM/FIVE.PNUM% OF CASES INVOLVED CHILDREN AT THE SCENE

IN 15% OF CASES INVOLVED SWAT RESPONSE; NO LAW ENFORCEMENT WERE KILLED IN FATAL DV INCIDENTS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN FOUR YEARS
FAMILY SPEAKS

“She just wanted to be free of him, but she didn’t know how.”
— Sister-in-law of victim. Victim and victim’s daughter were shot and killed by victim’s ex-boyfriend.

“For anybody— if they see red flags... try to get out and tell somebody. Don’t wait until it’s too late.”
— Father of fatality victim

CHILDREN AND TEENS

• A perpetrator shot and killed his ex-girlfriend while her two-year-old child was in bed with her.

• A perpetrator shot and killed two of his girlfriend’s children because he was angry that she had received texts from an old boyfriend.

• An uncle of a victim, stabbed to death by her ex-husband, recounted “...As she was taking the children out of the car, he attacked, traumatizing [the children] for the rest of their lives.”

• The youngest dating partner killed was 12 years old; the youngest perpetrator, who killed the 12-year-old, was 18 years old.

CUSTOM/VISITATION

In at least 5 cases involving custody disputes or occurring during a scheduled visitation/exchange, the father had a history of past incidents of domestic violence and/or child physical or sexual abuse.

These cases demonstrate that, even after survivors leave their abuser, they, and their children, are often still in danger due to exposure from custody/visitation arrangements.

60 CASES REVIEWED

MULTIPLE FATALITIES

18 CASES
1 incident involved 4 fatalities

SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIP

1 CASE
1 case involved a same-sex relationship

3RD PARTY FATALITIES

9 CASES
9 people died who were 3rd parties to the incident

KILLED BY 3RD PARTY

5 CASES
5 attackers were killed by an intervening 3rd party, 4 of those attackers were killed by law enforcement

SAME/SEX RELATIONSHIP

FATALITIES

KILLED BY PARTY

PARTIES

CASES

In one domestic violence call by a victim, who was eventually stabbed to death by her ex-boyfriend, an officer counted 40 calls from him, just while the officer was present.

Remember these losses, strive to understand the issue, and support advances toward long-term solutions.

ODV/N will be working with legislators, domestic violence programs, public officials and others to design more effective responses that can prevent these tragedies.