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112 people died from domestic violence in Ohio, including 22 young victims, according to annual fatality count

***Survivor who lost 2 children in homicide/suicide
describes her ordeal and pleads for improved system response***

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Oct. 12, 2022) – Ohio suffered 112 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2022, including 22 youth, according to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network’s (ODVN’s) seventh annual [count](#) of DV fatalities. This is the highest number of youth fatalities since the coalition began the count.

Four of the fatalities were teenagers who were the primary victims in the abusive relationship. Sixteen of the youth killed were under 10 years of age, including six infants. Seventeen children were killed by their fathers.

In one particularly tragic case, a 31-year-old pregnant woman was fatally shot in Cincinnati. Medical staff delivered the baby in critical condition before the mother died, but the infant died the following day. The shooting was witnessed by the victim's 4-year-old sister.

Forty-two percent of the cases included multiple fatalities, and 20 cases had third-party victims. Children were at the scene in 26 cases. The overall number of Ohio fatalities is down from last year when 131 fatalities were recorded, but the latest count is still greater than pre-pandemic numbers.

“Every domestic violence fatality is a tragedy, but this year’s youth fatality numbers are truly shocking,” said ODVN’s Director of Systems Advocacy and Policy Council Lisa DeGeeter.

ODVN released the [fatality count](#) at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event. More than 250 people were registered to attend this year’s event online and in the Atrium of the Capitol.

Guest speaker and survivor Kellie Elliot, of Preble County, whose abuser killed Kellie's two children and then himself in January, spoke about her struggles to keep her children safe amid multiple system failures.

This year’s event honored both Bridget Mahoney, Immediate Past Board Chair of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network, former television anchor, and domestic violence survivor, and Kimberly Stanley,

Victim Witness Director at the Stark County Prosecutor's Office, with ODVN's annual Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership.

The DV fatalities, occurring between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022, were compiled from media reports and information provided by ODVN's 76 member programs. At least 91% of the fatalities were caused by guns, a 5% increase from last year, and 42% of the cases involved a perpetrator suicide. More than 25% of perpetrators had a known history of domestic violence.

For the second year in a row, no law enforcement officers were killed, but law enforcement killed three perpetrators. In each case where a perpetrator was killed by law enforcement, the domestic violence victim survived.

"Once again, we see that guns are taking the lives of domestic violence victims at devastating rates," DeGeeter said. "And as tragic as the deaths of perpetrators are, we were pleased that, in those cases, law enforcement saved the lives of victims."

About the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN): ODVN provides a strong statewide voice for Ohio's domestic violence programs that serve all 88 counties, and advocates on domestic violence-related issues at the state and federal level. The network's 76 member programs served close to 81,000 survivors and their children in 2021. ODVN runs a training institute for advocates and allies that trained 12,012 individuals last year, a legal assistance program, and a statewide prevention program.

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