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## **2025 the most lethal year for DV homicides in Ohio, according to 10<sup>th</sup> annual fatality count**

**COLUMBUS**, Ohio (Oct. 7, 2025) – Ohio suffered 157 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2025. The total is a dramatic increase over the previous 12-month period and the highest number of lives lost since the [Ohio Domestic Violence Network](http://www.odvn.org) (ODVN) began compiling its annual fatality report.

The number of domestic violence fatalities rose 37% over the previous year in Ohio – from [114 fatalities in 2023-2024](#) to 157 fatalities in 2024-2025.

“This was a tremendously lethal year for domestic violence in Ohio – with both the number of fatalities from intimate partner violence and the number of fatal IPV cases rising dramatically,” said Lisa DeGeeter, Esq., Senior Director of Policy and Prevention at the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

The data shows that the combination of anger and access to guns is proving deadly – guns were used to kill in 144 of the 157 fatalities, or 84%. Other primary victims died from stabbing, beatings and strangulation.

In more than two thirds of the cases (69%), victims had been involved with the criminal or civil justice systems, including divorce or custody proceedings, and 55% of the killers had prior contact with the criminal justice system. Custody disputes were occurring in 38% of the cases that involved minor children. In one case, a victim was killed nearly two weeks to the day after filing for divorce with custody. Her husband then killed himself.

Another trend: 40 of the cases, or over one-third, involved murder-suicides. And there were an additional four incidents of attempted murder-suicides.

Six perpetrators were killed by law enforcement, and one officer– Sheriff Deputy Daniel “Weston” Sherrer, 31 – was shot to death responding to a domestic violence incident in Morrow County in May 2025. The [man charged with Sherrer's murder](#), Brian Michael Wilson, had a criminal history including prior charges for domestic violence, assault and a firearms violation.

Of primary victims killed, 61 were women and 13 men. Of the perpetrators who died – usually by suicide or being killed by law enforcement -- 56 were men and six were women. More than half (56%) of the primary victims were people of color.

ODVN released its [10th Annual Fatality Report](#) on Oct. 7 at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event in the Statehouse Atrium. The count of intimate partner fatalities in Ohio between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 is compiled from media reports, police and court records, and information provided by ODVN's 76 member programs. More than 200 people were registered to attend the Oct. 7 event in person.

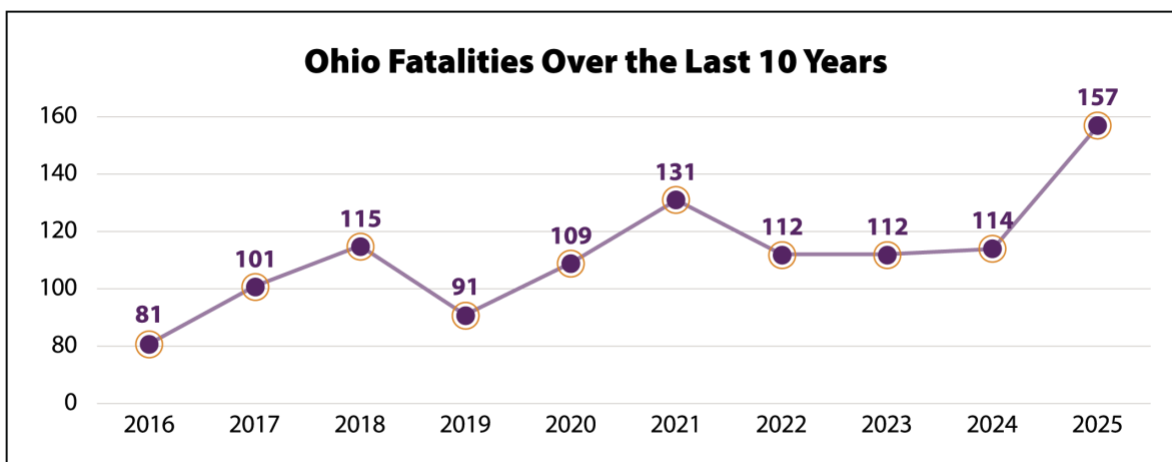
Children both witnessed the violence and suffered from it, as 36 children were present when a killing took place. The deaths left 92 children without one or both parents and 76 children lost a grandparent. Three of the women who died were pregnant.

"The data tells a devastating story," said Maria York, Policy Director with ODVN. "By working with policymakers, community leaders, and survivors themselves, we can work to prevent these tragedies to create systems that prioritize safety and justice."

ODVN honored Ohio Senators Theresa Gavarone and Paula Hicks-Hudson with its Leadership in Policy Awards for their work on behalf of survivors. The most recent example is that both agreed to co-sponsor S.B. 174. This legislation, more than 20 years in the making, takes critical steps to create a more child-centered process for families navigating the family court system.

ODVN also recognized survivor and advocate Kar'mell Triplett with the Croucher Family Award for Outstanding Leadership for her advocacy in the passage of S.B. 100. The new law prohibits the installation of tracking devices without consent and represents a major step forward in protecting victims from tech-facilitated abuse.

**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 more than 127,000 survivors and their children in 2024.



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