

2015 Arizona Domestic Violence Fatalities

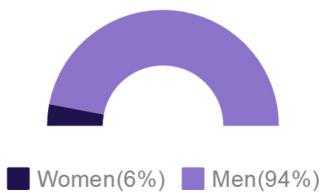
In 2015, ACESDV tracked 75 known domestic violence related incidents across Arizona. By using an online media monitoring service that uses topical keywords to produce articles from around the state we can locate articles that contain words or phrases relating to domestic violence homicides. While this method of data collection creates a fairly comprehensive list of domestic violence related fatalities, the data contained in this report is limited in a variety of ways including a lack of reliable data, access to people, organizations and documents and the use of online publications only.

Arizona consistently ranks among the states with the highest homicide rates of women murdered by men; in fact, between 2001 and 2012, Arizona was ranked eight times among the top ten states for highest rates of women murdered by men. These tragedies represent a small fraction of those individuals who use violence in intimate and family relationships. They also remind of us of the potential for lethality in these relationships and highlight the importance of working with victims to seek safety. This report is dedicated to those who directly lost their lives as a direct result of domestic violence and it is with great sadness we honor those who tragically passed away.

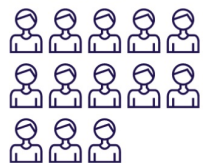
107 people their lives due to domestic violence

26 people were killed by a current or former intimate partner (spouse/ex-spouse, dating/ex-dating partner)

Gender of Perpetrator



22 woman and 4 men were killed by a current or former intimate partner (spouse/ex-spouse or dating/ex-dating partner)



13 male perpetrators were killed by law enforcement during a domestic violence incident



1 female and 17 male perpetrators committed suicide



10 children were killed by a parent



1 law enforcement officer was killed

Victims



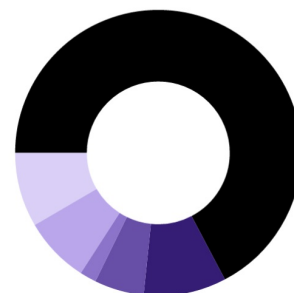
Men(56.07%) Women(32.71%) Children(11.21%)

26% of fatalities were domestic violence murder suicides

Cause of Death

67% of all fatalities were the result of a firearm

firearms continue to be the weapon of choice in domestic violence related fatalities both nationally and in Arizona.

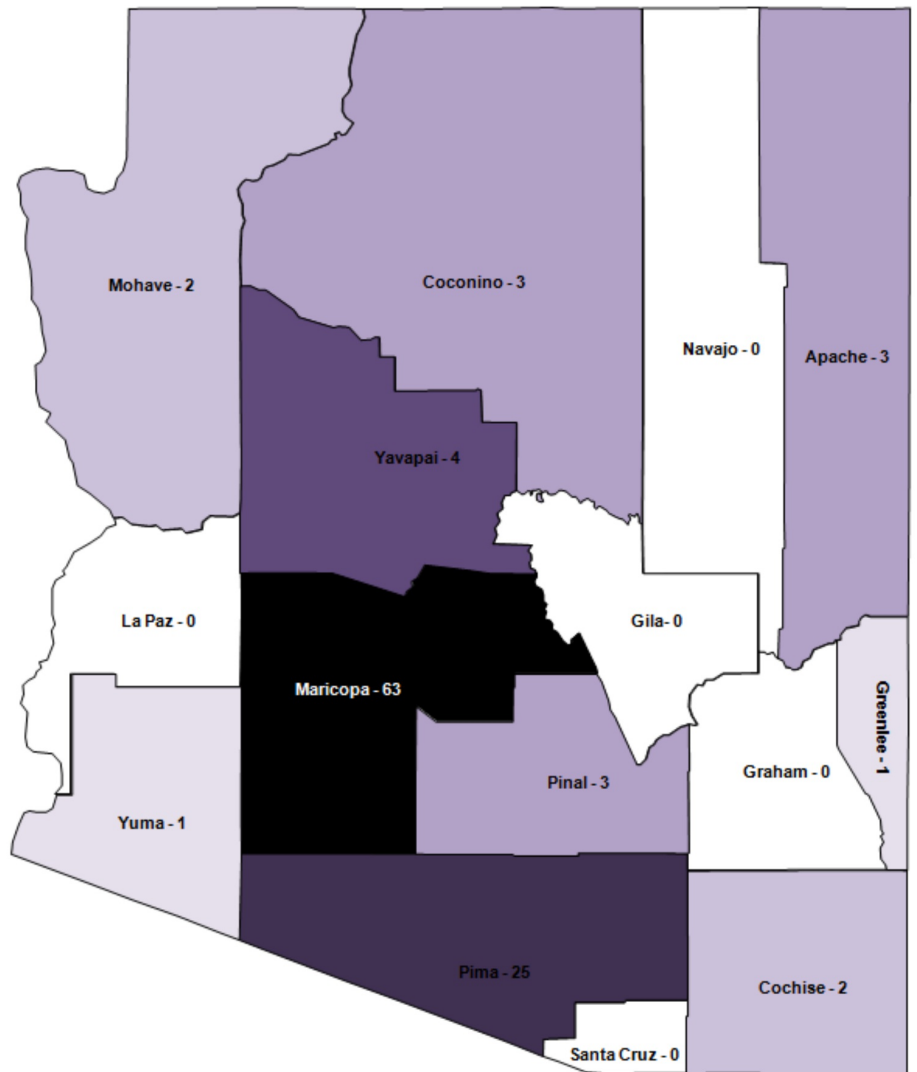


Firearms(67.29%) Trauma(9.35%) Stabbing(5.61%)
Hanging(1.87%) Drowning(7.48%) Other(8.41%)

Fatalities by County

Maricopa County by far had the largest number of domestic violence related fatalities with nearly 59% of all Arizona fatalities occurring within the county. Pima County had the second largest number of fatalities with 25 people losing their lives in 2015. While 5 counties appear to have no domestic violence related fatalities in 2015 we know that given our limitations in research, there may have been fatalities that were never reported by the media.

Additionally, fatalities occurring on Tribal Land is often under reported if reported at all.



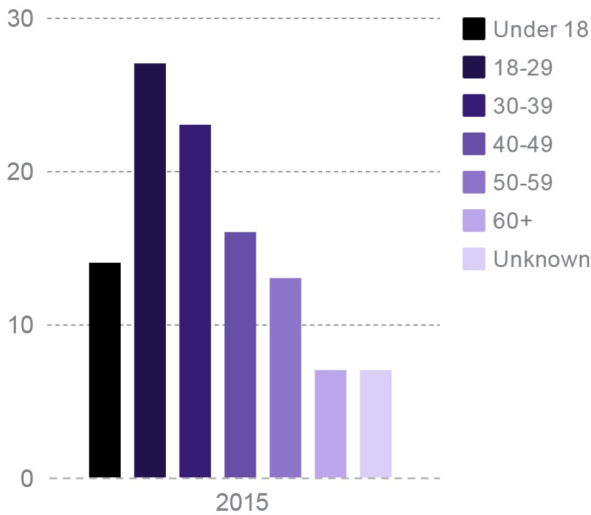
8.9

average number of domestic violence fatalities per month

1,200

over 1,200 individuals have been killed in domestic violence incidents since 2005

Age of Victims



2 pets killed by perpetrator



Victims Stories

Veronica McGarvy, 19

On December 7th, Veronica McGarvy was lured into a bedroom by her ex-boyfriend where he then bashed her skull in with a hammer and stabbed her with a knife. According to police, Shaffery attacked her while their 3-year-old daughter was in another room. After he killed McGarvy, Shaffery then walked their daughter to a neighbor's house, called his mother and confessed before calling 9-1-1. Shaffery's mother told law enforcement that Shaffery had found out that Veronica was dating a former co-worker of his which may have been the cause of the murder. Police say Shaffery admitted to planning the murder, that he'd been wanting to kill McGarvy for some time and that he also admitted he chose a roofing hammer to kill her because "it would be an efficient murder tool with less effort than using a knife."

One in seven perpetrators (13 percent) are prohibited from possessing firearms due to their criminal history or an active order of protection

Shayle Estes, 22

On July 24th, Shayle Estes was shot and killed by her former boyfriend Igor Zubko, a Russian national who Estes had been dating and living with for several months prior. After Estes ended things with Zubko, she started to receive threatening text messages from him which prompted her to take out an order of protection against Zubko. Zubko admitted to buying a gun in a private internet sale the day before and proceeded to wait till Estes was not home to enter her house using a key he had never returned. When she arrived home the two apparently argued and when Estes attempted to flee, Kubko shot her multiple times. She was later found dead in the kitchen by her roommate along with a handgun and shell casings. Zubko was later arrested at Phoenix Sky Harbor after he purchased a one way ticket to San Francisco.