

2017 Arizona Domestic Violence Fatalities

In 2017, ACESDV tracked 90 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 related 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 2005 and 2015, there were 1,255 domestic violence related deaths. These tragedies represent a small fraction of those individuals who use violence in intimate and family relationships. They also remind 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 result of domestic violence and it is with great sadness that we honor those who tragically passed away.

90

People Lost Their Lives Due to Domestic Violence

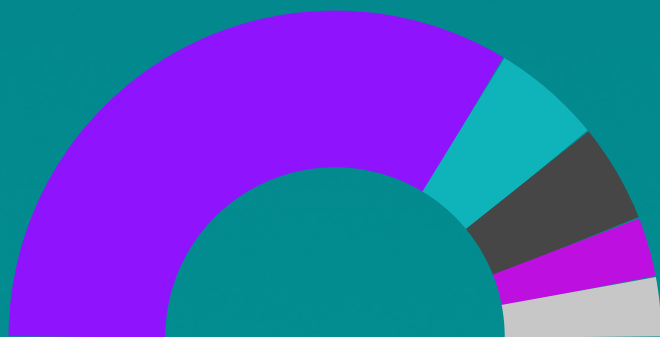
63% of the victims were female

28 people were killed by a current or former intimate partner. 93% of these victims were female

14 children were killed by one or both parents

9 victims were killed by a son or step son

METHOD OF FATALITY



Gunshot (67.33%) Stabbing (10.89%) Blunt Force Trauma (9.90%)
Unknown (5.94%) Other (5.94%)

A firearm was used in 61 of the 90 fatalities

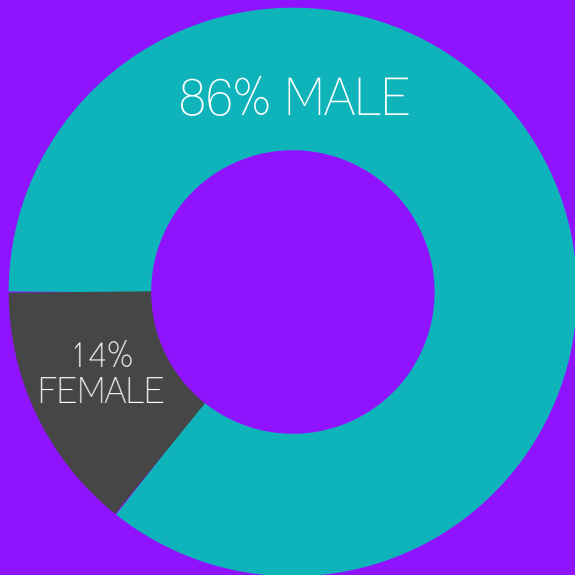
PERPETRATORS

8 Perpetrators were killed by law enforcement who were responding to domestic violence calls

Perpetrators killed 19 family members/friends of their current intimate partner or ex-intimate partner

11 Perpetrators took their own lives after killing the victim (s)

Gender of Perpetrator



Youngest Fatality:

Unborn Child

Oldest Fatality:

81 year old woman

Average Age:

35 years old

Age of Victim Fatalities

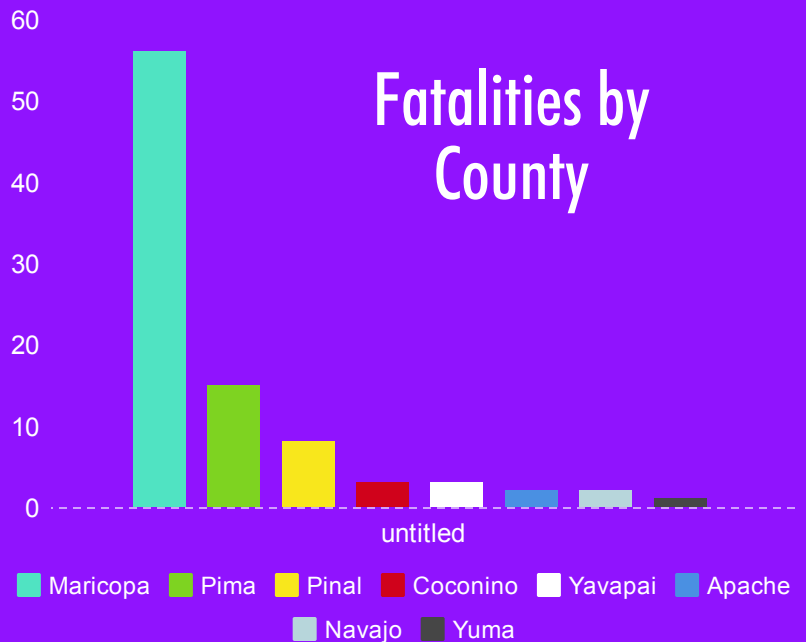
24% of all victims were under the age of eighteen

Months with the Most Fatalities

Feb and Oct
13 deaths

June
10 deaths

Nov and Dec
9 deaths



VICTIM STORY

Viridiana Gonzalez-Saavedra, 28 years old and her Unborn Child

Mesa police received a call on June 30 from a crying 10-year-old that her father and mother were fighting, Phoenix police received another call from a man asking that officers come and arrest him. Gustavo Alejandro Ruiz Lamar, 25, was arrested in the Motel 6 parking lot at 5315 E. Van Buren St. He was crying when the police arrived and asked, "Are my kids OK? Please check on my kids," according to a court document released Monday. The 10-year-old girl called police to say she was hiding in the bathroom during the fight and that her father had pushed her mother down the stairs, the court document said. She saw a knife, blood and her mother on the kitchen floor, the court document said. Lamar's mother and stepfather told detectives that their son called them earlier, upset and crying, the court document said. Lamar told his stepfather that he and his wife had fought, and she had hit him, "causing him to lose it," the court document said. "I think I killed her," he told his stepfather, according to the document. Gonzalez-Saavedra and Lamar had recently told his mother and stepfather that she was pregnant. At the time of the discovery of the woman, three children below the age of 12 were located inside the house. They were not physically injured and were taken into the custody of the Arizona Department of Child Safety. Later in the investigation, detectives learned that Gonzalez-Saavedra had been three months pregnant and then added the second homicide charge.