

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Sitting/Acting as (if applicable)
Policy Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: 9/29/20 **Approx. Start Time:** 2:00 pm **Approx. Length:** 30 min

Presentation Title: The Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence in Clackamas County

Department: H3S/Children, Family and Community Connections

Presenters: Sarah Van Dyke, Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator

Other Invitees:

WHAT ACTION ARE YOU REQUESTING FROM THE BOARD?

Staff is providing an update on the exciting work of the Coordinated Community Response to domestic violence in Clackamas County. No action is required of the Board at this time.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Domestic violence is a public health, law enforcement, legal system, child abuse and financial crisis. One in four women and one in seven men are victims of physical violence by an intimate partner sometime in their life. Domestic violence affects people of every age, race, socio-economic status and educational backgrounds and accounts for 15% of all violent crime. Children who witness domestic violence are deeply impacted by those experiences and bear the scars into adulthood.

The impact of the current pandemic has been deep and troubling to victims of domestic violence; it truly is a pandemic inside a pandemic. A key tactic used by domestic violence abusers is to isolate the victim from sources of help. The *Stay at Home* order effectively quarantined victims with their abuser. The Clackamas County Sheriff's Office saw a 170% increase in Assault 4 domestic violence arrests in the first three weeks of the order. The District Attorney's Office saw a 67% increase in the number of domestic violence cases between 2019 and 2020 in a six month period during the pandemic. Clackamas Women's Services sheltered 62% more victims in emergency housing in April than they did in the preceding months. Services pivoted quickly to meet the needs of victims but the long-term impact of COVID-19 on survivors of domestic violence is still to be seen.

Clackamas County, through general fund dollars, supports vital domestic violence services in the community that focus on victim safety. In the 2019-2020 fiscal year funded programs reported that 94% of survivors leaving shelter had a safety plan and/or had resources to help them remain safe. The two domestic violence emergency shelters in the county – *Clackamas Women's Services* and *Casa Esperanza* (Northwest Family Services) – provided shelter to 214 victims and their children for a total of 13,276 shelter nights; 961 victims were turned away due to lack of capacity in that same time period.

As a new Managing for Results measurement has been adopted (*by 2024, 80% of victims of domestic violence will not experience further abuse following their initial report*) the system has responded. Led by the District Attorney's Office a multi-disciplinary group (Domestic Violence

Implementation Team) is developing a plan for a comprehensive victim survey that will inform the strategies that will be developed to meet that goal.

During the early years of the domestic violence movement community based programs and system-based agencies (law enforcement, child welfare, courts, etc.) struggled to work together. As the movement matured and worked to shift attitudes, collaboration and cooperation became the rule and not the exception; coordinated community responses are now ubiquitous. In addition, efforts expanded to include working with other response systems of related social problems such as child abuse, elder abuse, the lack of affordable housing, substance abuse, human trafficking, and sexual assault. Victims of domestic violence need all of these systems to work effectively together to increase their options for safety.

A Coordinated Community Response (CCR) ensures a supportive infrastructure for services and response efforts, reduces fragmentation, and ultimately creates a coherent approach to the impact of violence on our community. Clackamas County is fortunate to have a robust response to domestic violence, thanks to many dedicated partners and stakeholders who strive to work cooperatively and collaboratively. Those partners include, but is not limited to the Clackamas County Sheriff’s Office, the District Attorney’s Office, the Children’s Center, Department of Human Services, Clackamas County Circuit Court, local and state law enforcement departments, numerous survivor service providers and offender treatment programs. Efforts such as *A Safe Place Family Justice Center* and the *Strangulation Response Initiative* put Clackamas County on the cutting edge of crucial system change that impacts the lives of survivors as well as the wider community.

Distinctive among other communities, Clackamas County has committed resources to a position to support the coordinated response since 2010. This *Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator* works at a system level to provide organization, consultation, leadership and planning to strengthen and advance the community response. This coordination of efforts is essential to the continual improvement, effectiveness, and assessment of the response to domestic violence in Clackamas County.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (current year and ongoing):

Is this item in your current budget? YES NO

What is the cost? **\$682,000**

What is the funding source? CGF

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

- How does this item align with your Department’s Strategic Business Plan goals?

Under “*Providing Equitable Access to Services*” in the Performance Clackamas Strategic business plan:

By 2020 H3S clients will experience a more coordinated department response to domestic violence; by 2022, H3S will be a participant in a more coordinated response county wide (among government and community partners).

The Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator in the Children, Family and Community Connections Division (CFCC) Division of H3S, collaborates with community and

government based partners in the evaluation, improvement and alignment of the response to domestic violence in our community. Through this position, H3S is present at relevant multi-disciplinary groups and involved in the continuous improvement of the system's response and treatment of survivors of domestic violence. With this position out-stationed at A Safe Place Family Justice Center, the county has an additional presence and role to play in the numerous programs and initiatives that are ongoing and in development.

- How does this item align with the County's Performance Clackamas goals?

Ensure safe, healthy and secure communities

Domestic violence impacts the safety, health and security of not only the immediate victims of those assaults, but the community as a whole. Victims miss work due to injuries and as the result of their abuser's tactics to isolate them, resulting in billions of dollars of lost productivity. Children are traumatized by what they witness and can have trouble in school or forming safe attachments throughout their lives. Domestic violence scenes are highly dangerous situations for our law enforcement. Domestic violence results in health care costs and loss of financial and housing security.

Focusing on the continuous improvement of the systems that respond to domestic violence is a focus that results in safer, healthier and more secure communities.

LEGAL/POLICY REQUIREMENTS: N/A

PUBLIC/GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPATION: N/A

OPTIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION: N/A

ATTACHMENTS:

- Attachment 1: Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence in Clackamas County (PowerPoint)
- Attachment 2: Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence in Clackamas County (PDF version)
- Attachment 3: Coordinated Response Impact Quotes
- Attachment 4: Fatality Review Report – 2013-2018

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval 

Department Director/Head Approval 

County Administrator Approval _____

For information on this issue or copies of attachments, please contact _____ @ 503-_____

Coordinated Community Response

Impact Statements from Partners

September 29, 2020

Rebecca Galyon
Department of Human Services – Child Welfare

The coordinated community response is utilized by Child Welfare in several initiatives, including but not limited to Family Violence Coordinating Council, fatality review, and supervised visitation planning. We work with families at their most vulnerable, and are charged with safeguarding children in our county. A collective community response and communication leads to better outcomes for safety, accountability, and pathways to self-sufficiency.

Michael Copenhaver, Lieutenant
Clackamas County Sheriff's Office
Director, A Safe Place Family Justice Center

Having Sarah housed at the Family Justice Center has been critical in our ability to serve victims of crime at the family justice center. It has been especially impactful to have one source coordinating projects that touch so many aspects of family violence. Sarah's leadership in the Strangulation Response Initiative will allow the Sheriff's Office, in a fiscally responsible way, to train several front line responders in the acute dangers of DV strangulation.

Katie Schafer, BSN, RN, CEN, SANE-OR
Regional SANE Coordinator
Providence Health and Services-Oregon

As a sexual assault nurse examiner, and member of the Clackamas County Strangulation Response Initiative, I have seen first-hand, the impacts these efforts have had on the medical-forensic community, specifically in the area of strangulation. Through education and outreach, medical providers are receiving much needed training and guidance to care for victims of strangulation. The development of the strangulation kit, as a larger coordinated effort with our state level partners, will ensure a comprehensive and coordinated response between systems, leading to dramatic improvements in care for survivors of non-fatal strangulation.

Carrie Walker, Director
District Attorney's Victim Assistance Program

Through the coordinated community response to domestic violence, the DA's Victim Assistance Program has been involved with improving the response to victims of strangulation. The changes that have been implemented and supported by the agencies involved have provided additional emotional support and resources for victims as well as impacting the investigations of law enforcement to hold abusers accountable both initially and throughout the criminal justice process.

Mike Kramer, Sergeant
Oregon City Police Department

The work of Sarah Van Dyke in the position of Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator has led to direct impacts in how first responders handle domestic violence calls for service. A recent example serves to demonstrate. An officer responded to a historical report of domestic violence, including strangulation. He was aware of the potential lethality and the increased criminal

penalties because of training organized and pushed out by the strangulation committee. He sought direction for furthering the investigation from those with more training and experience because he knew who to ask and what questions to ask in order to build a better case and bring about accountability. This was directly because of the work of the strangulation committee which Sarah Van Dyke manages.

Rose Fuller, Executive Director
Northwest Family Services

The staff of Northwest Family Services particularly benefited from the support, collaboration, and education offered through the FVCC. Since many people who experience abuse and domestic violence, are not fully aware of the implications, either due to grooming, manipulation, dissociation, or other coping mechanisms, the technical assistance offered regarding strangulation and suicide prevention were especially beneficial for our DV advocates and our community navigation staff. Because the legal implications can be complex and fraught with confused emotions, the remote filing orders (particularly for culturally specific communities) and supervised visitation were especially helpful. In general, with abuse, domestic violence, and suicide escalating with COVID-19 and its many implications, we need the support, guidance, technical assistance, and forward direction offered by Sarah Van Dyke and any additional administrative support. These are essential and life-saving services.

MaryBeth Hernandez
Clackamas County Children's Center

Being involved with FVCC has given me a much greater understanding of the process and systems that victims interact with when they reach out for help. I work specifically with children and research has shown that children who live in violent households are greatly impacted, even if they do not directly experience or witness the violence. Understanding what victims go through helps me to engage with and support caregivers to ensure that the impacts to their children are addressed and minimized.

Comprehensive Review

Domestic Violence Related Fatalities in Clackamas County 2013-2018

**Clackamas County
Fatality Review Team**

Thank you to the following members of the *Clackamas County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team* for their assistance on this report:

Shannon Barkley, Victim Services Coordinator, Clackamas County Parole and Probation

Mike Copenhaver, Lieutenant, Clackamas County Sheriff's Office

Amy Doud, Deputy Director, Clackamas Women's Services

Rebecca Galyon, Social Services Specialist 2, Oregon Department of Human Services

Gretchen Pacheco, Probation Officer, Clackamas County Parole and Probation

Sarah Van Dyke, Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator, Clackamas County

Carrie Walker, Director, Victim Assistance, Clackamas County District Attorney's Office

John Wentworth, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Clackamas County District Attorney's Office

For more information on this report, please contact:

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Resources available upon request.

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INTRODUCTION

It is unusual for a local jurisdiction, such as a county, to provide a comprehensive report on domestic violence fatalities – this is usually the function of a statewide fatality review team. Normally local teams concentrate on reviewing one homicide in a comprehensive manner and reporting recommendations to address any gaps in the response that may have made a difference in the outcome.

After completing a case review in 2014, the Clackamas County Fatality Review Team (FRT) reassembled in early 2018 with the intention of performing at least one review a year. Ensuing discussion led to the decision to provide a broader review of all incidents of domestic violence related fatalities in our county for the previous six-year period.

The information gained from this report will assist the FRT in more effectively choosing a single incident to review as well as inform the work of the team and the overall coordinated community response to domestic violence in Clackamas County.

IMPORTANT DEFINITIONS

The Definition of Domestic Violence:

How domestic violence is defined can often depend on the context in which it is being used. The definition used for this report impacted which cases were included.

The **criminal justice system** definition focuses on the **physical injury** component of the crime because that crime *must be proven*. Proving physical impacts of an assault is possible, while proving the impact on a victim's sense of safety or well-being cannot be done beyond a reasonable doubt, as these impacts are not tangible like bruises or other injuries.

The relationship between the abuser and the victim is also narrower in the law enforcement definition than it is in the wider service community.

The **legal definition** of domestic violence in the state of Oregon is:

Abuse means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between family or household members:

1. Attempting to cause or intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly causing bodily injury.
2. Intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly placing another in fear of imminent bodily injury.
3. Causing another to engage in involuntary sexual relations by force or threat of force.

“Family or household member” means any of the following:

1. Spouses
2. Former spouses
3. Adult persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption
4. Persons who are cohabitating or who have cohabitated with each other

5. Persons who have been involved in a sexually intimate relationship with each other within two years immediately preceding the filing by one of them of a petition under ORS 107.710 (petition to circuit court for relief)
6. Unmarried parents of a child

The definition of domestic violence commonly used by **victim service providers** and the wider community that supports survivors includes physical as well as other types of abuse:

A pattern of coercive tactics that can include physical, psychological, sexual, financial, spiritual, and/or emotional abuse perpetrated by one person against a person related by family, intimate partner, or person in their care, with the goal of establishing and maintaining power and control.

Definition of domestic violence fatality:

This report will utilize a broad definition of what incidents qualify as a “domestic violence fatality” based on the **Oregon Revised Statutes for Fatality Reviews (ORS 418.712)**. Incidents will include intimate partner homicides, those that took place in the context of a family/household, or involved a caregiver, bystander, or law enforcement. This broad definition was chosen to ensure that those fatalities that were the *result* of domestic violence are part of the narrative, including incidents that resulted solely in the death of the perpetrator. Domestic violence has never just been a ‘family matter’ – it impacts the entire community in multiple ways.

Several of the fatalities in this report *would not have been included* using a narrower definition of domestic violence fatalities that only included intimate partners. For example, there were four instances of non-intimate partner fatalities in the time period.

Failing to include homicides that clearly stemmed from the actions of a domestic violence abuser would both serve to inappropriately categorize the homicides and fail to recognize the wide impact of domestic abuse.

Other terms used in this report:

Intimate Partner: A current or former spouse, boyfriend/girlfriend, dating or sexual partner.

Victim: Any individual who was killed, sustained injury, threatened with violence, or was otherwise involved in an episode of fatal domestic violence, including bystanders.

Non-fatal victim: An individual who *was not killed* by the actions of the perpetrator but may have been the intended victim. The individual may have been threatened with a weapon, survived an injury inflicted by the perpetrator, or was not the one ultimately murdered by the perpetrator.

Perpetrator: An individual that perpetrates a homicide, attempted homicide, or intends to harm another person through their actions.

REPORT STRUCTURE

The data used for this report is based on the lives and deaths of real people. Each death impacted, and continues to impact, family members, friends, children, co-workers, schoolmates, and the entire community.

The first part of this report (Overview of Comprehensive Data) evaluates the 19 fatal cases that occurred between 2013 and 2018. Addressing the comprehensive data is important to developing a broad picture of the homicides.

In subsequent sections the incidents are divided into four categories based on *who the victim was in relationship to the perpetrator/abuser/offender* and whether the incident was *fatal or non-fatal*. This will allow for more focused assessment of the incidents.

The categories include:

- Category 1: Fatal Intimate Partner Victims
- Category 2: Fatal Non-Intimate Partner Victims
- Category 3: Fatal Family Member Victims
- Category 4: Non-Fatal Victim (Intimate Partner and Non-Intimate Partner)

OVERVIEW OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA

There were 19 incidents of fatal domestic violence in Clackamas County in the six years between 2013 and 2018. There were **16 fatalities and 7 non-fatal victims** who survived actual physical assault, injury, or the immediate threat of violence. Three of the incidents did not result in a victim fatality: two perpetrators were shot and killed by police and one perpetrator shot his wife (she survived) and then shot and killed himself.

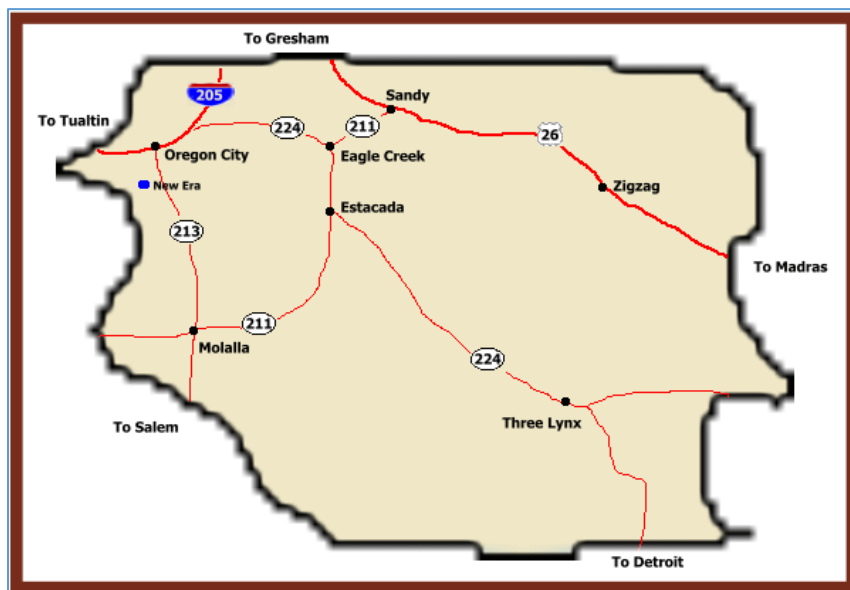
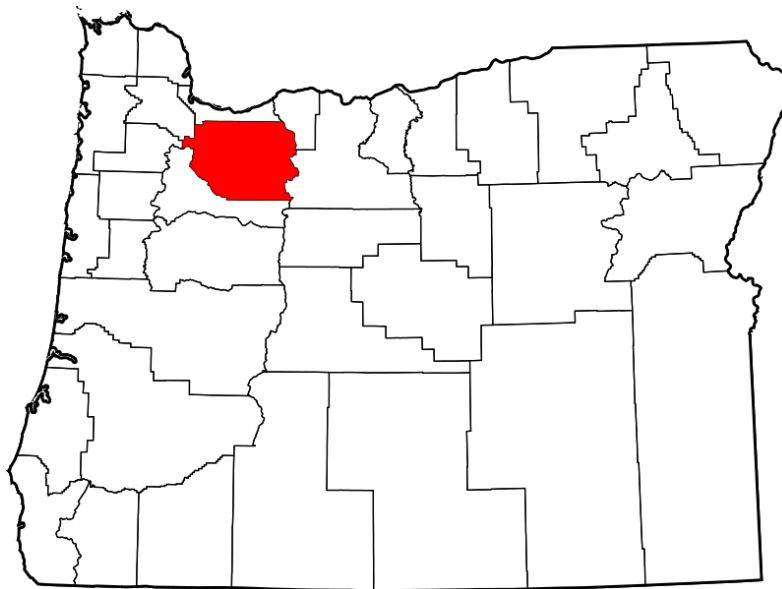
| Year | Incidents | Fatalities | Non-Fatal Victims |
|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------------|
| 2013 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 2014 | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| 2015 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| 2016 | 4 | 4 | 1 |
| 2017 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| 2018 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 19 | 16 | 7 |

The FRT collected the following data on each incident:

- Location of Incident
- Gender
- Age
- Weapon
- Relationship of Victim to Perpetrator
- Race
- Protective Orders
- Children in Common
- Perpetrator Disposition
- Criminal Convictions
- Recent Separation

CLACKAMAS COUNTY, OREGON

Clackamas County is located within the Portland metropolitan area and is mixture of rural and urban areas. It encompasses an area of 1,870 square miles with 408,062 residents.



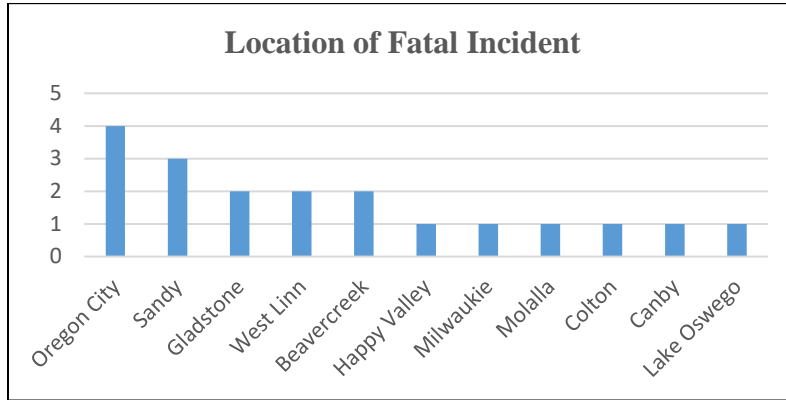
Clackamas County Domestic Violence Related Fatalities 2013-2018

| Case # | Designation | Date | Description |
|--------|---|------------|--|
| 1 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 8/25/2013 | Male perpetrator kills male intimate partner with a knife. |
| 2 | Fatal Non-Intimate Partner AND Non-Fatal Victim | 11/03/2013 | Male perpetrator assaults girlfriend (strangulation), shot and killed an Oregon City police officer, wounded by police. Shot and killed himself. |
| 3 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 11/25/2014 | Male perpetrator shot and killed his wife, shot himself but survived. |
| 4 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 12/08/2014 | Male perpetrator stabbed and shot his wife, then shot and killed himself. |
| 5 | Non-Fatal Victim | 1/26/2015 | Male perpetrator shot his wife then shot himself when police arrived. The victim survived. The perpetrator died in the hospital. |
| 6 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 1/26/2015 | Male perpetrator shot and killed his wife, then killed himself; elderly couple with terminal illnesses/suicide pact. |
| 7 | Fatal Non-Intimate Partner AND Non-Fatal Victim | 7/28/2015 | Male perpetrator followed girlfriend to male victim's house and threatened her with a firearm. The victim shot the perpetrator in the leg but was then shot by the perpetrator and killed. |
| 8 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 2/04/2016 | Female perpetrator shot and killed her husband. |
| 9 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 2/11/2016 | Female perpetrator shot and killed her husband. |
| 10 | Fatal Non-Intimate Partner | 6/26/2016 | Female perpetrator shot from the front door of her boyfriend's apartment during a domestic violence incident, killing a female neighbor. |
| 11 | Fatal Non-Intimate Partner AND Non-Fatal Victim | 11/27/2016 | Male perpetrator shot and killed a female acquaintance and tried to shoot and kill his ex-wife. |
| 12 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 1/02/2017 | Male perpetrator shot and killed his wife. |
| 13 | Non-Fatal Victim | 4/21/2017 | Male perpetrator shot and killed by police after threatening to kill his wife and children. |
| 14 | Fatal Family Member AND Non-Fatal Victim | 5/14/2017 | Male perpetrator killed his mother then proceeded to a grocery store where he stabbed a male store employee. |
| 15 | Fatal Family Member | 9/21/2017 | Male perpetrator shot and killed his mother, then shot and killed himself. |
| 16 | Non-Fatal Victim | 12/26/2017 | Male Perpetrator menaced his ex-wife and upon fleeing the scene, was shot and killed by police. |
| 17 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 3/07/2018 | Male Perpetrator shot and killed his ex-girlfriend, then shot and killed himself. |
| 18 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 3/24/2018 | Female Perpetrator shot and killed the victim (boyfriend). |
| 19 | Fatal Intimate Partner | 10/28/2018 | Male perpetrator killed his wife with a knife. |

COMPREHENSIVE DATA

LOCATION OF INCIDENT

The largest number of domestic violence related incidents occurred in Oregon City (zip code 97045), the most populated area in the county. Fatalities occurred in both rural and more urban areas of the county.



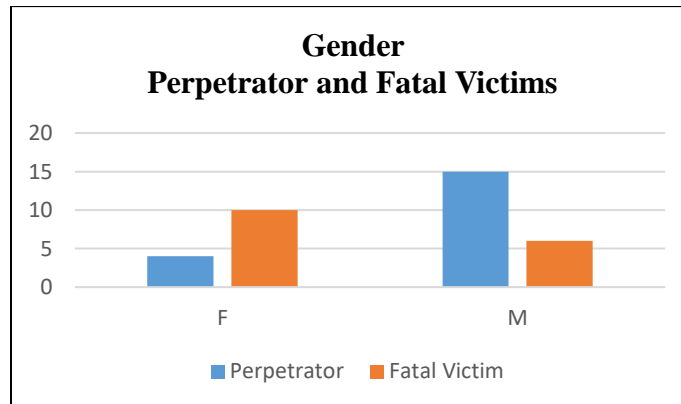
GENDER

In our county data:

- 80% of perpetrators were men.
- 20% of perpetrators were women.

Victims of domestic violence homicides were predominantly women:

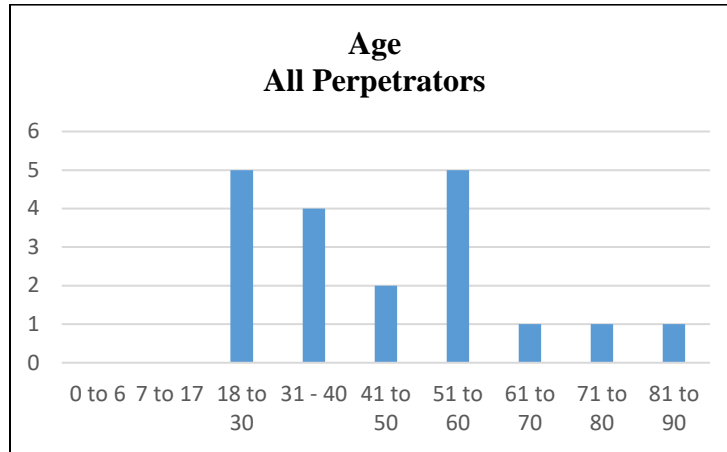
- 65% of victims were female.
- 35% of victims were male.



AGE

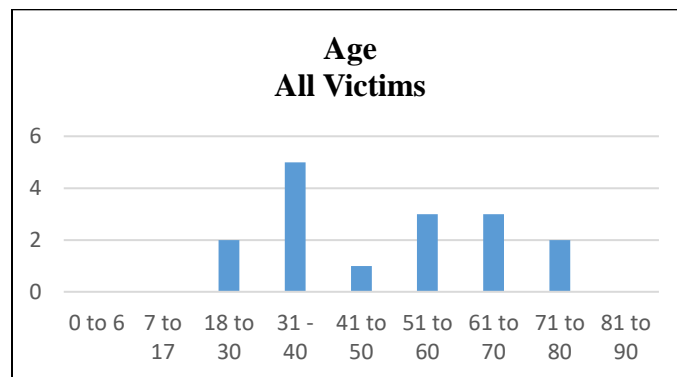
All Perpetrators:

The youngest perpetrator was 21 and the oldest 88 years old.



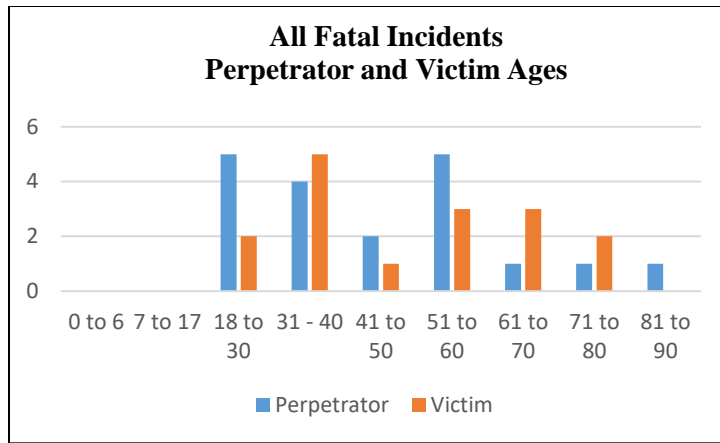
All Victims:

The largest number of victims were in the 31 to 40-year old range, with the youngest 28 and the oldest victim 80 years old.



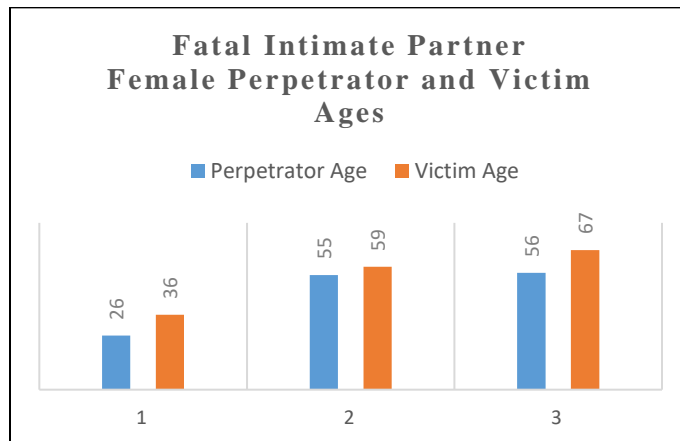
Male Perpetrator Age Compared to Fatal Victim Age:

When focusing on incidents with fatal victims, there was no distinct trend between the age of the male perpetrator and victims ages in Clackamas County data.



Female Perpetrator Age Compared to Victim:

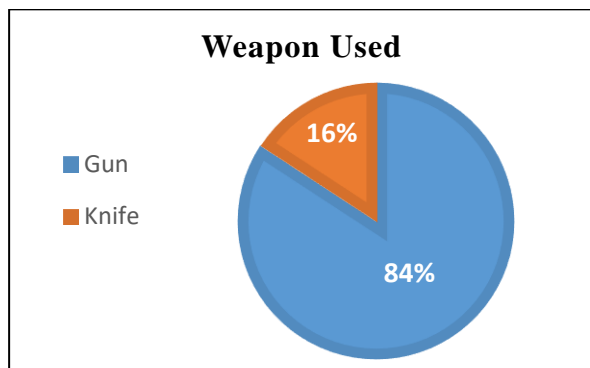
In three of the cases where the perpetrator was female, the victim was an *intimate partner* who was older than the perpetrator. In two of the cases the victim was at least 10 years older than the female perpetrator. The fourth homicide by a woman was not included in this chart because the victim was an unrelated bystander.



WEAPON

Firearms were involved in the majority of domestic violence related homicides:

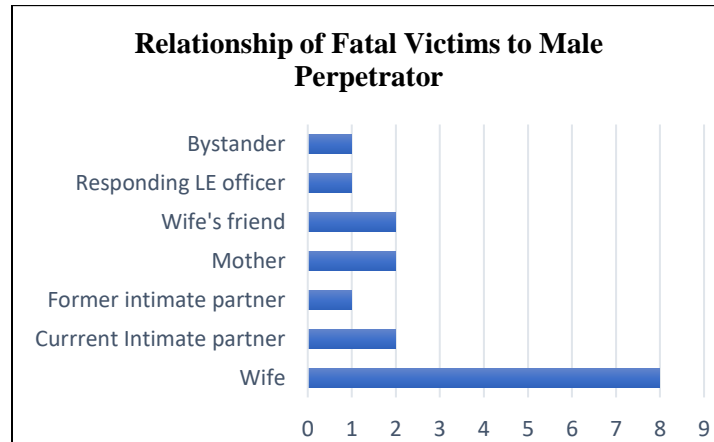
84% = 16
16% = 3



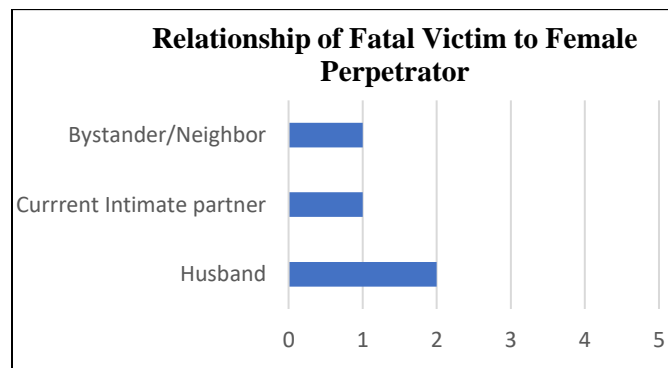
RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO PERPETRATOR

When the perpetrator was male the victim was most often a spouse, ex-spouse, or current/former intimate partner. However, male perpetrators also murdered bystanders, friends of the victim, and law enforcement officers.

Two incidents involved a son killing his mother (matricide).



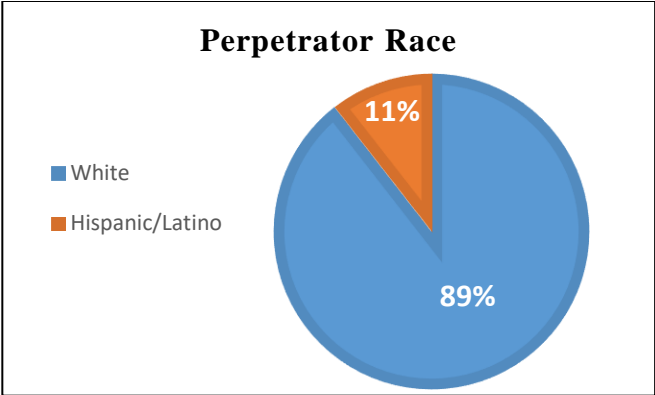
When the perpetrator was female the victim was an intimate partner. The one incident where the victim was not a partner involved a neighbor being hit by a bullet shot out of a doorway which was unintentional.



RACE

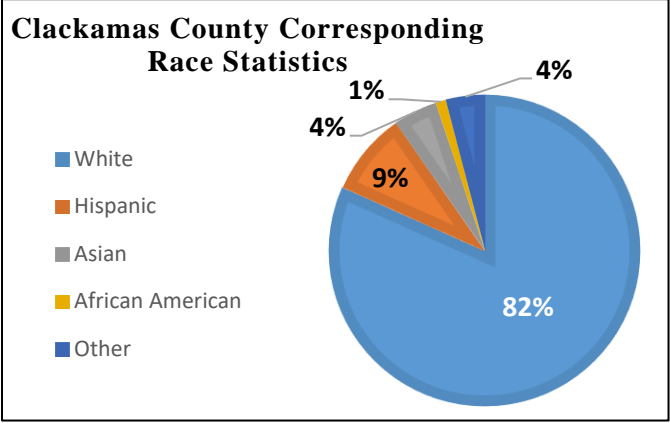
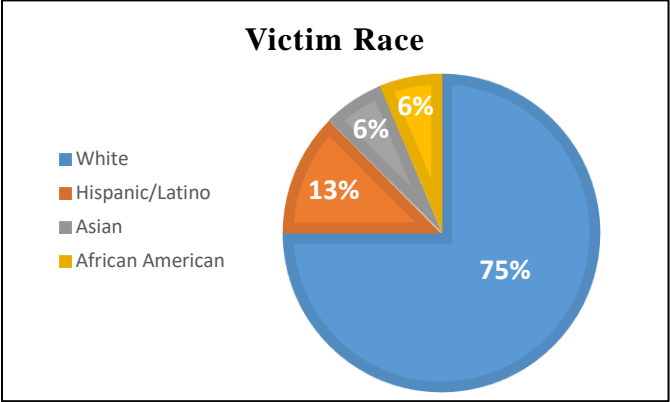
The perpetrators of fatal domestic violence in Clackamas County during this period were predominantly White.

89% = 17
 11% = 2



The victims of these homicides were more diverse but were also predominantly White.

75% = 12
 13% = 2
 6% = 1

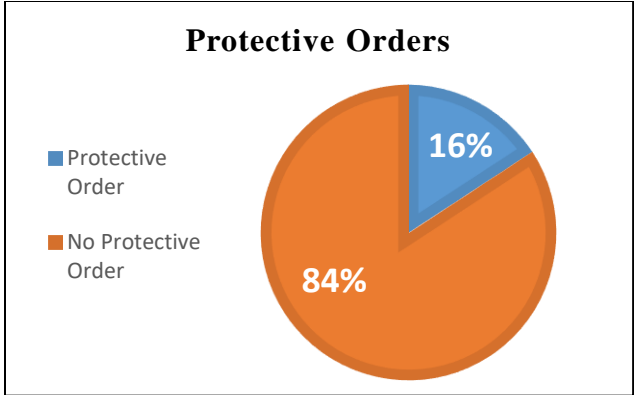


PROTECTIVE ORDERS (Cases 2, 5, and 17)

Restraining orders were granted to one fatal victim (Case 17) and two non-fatal victims (Cases 2 and 5). The restraining order in the fatal case was never served on the perpetrator.

In Case 2, the perpetrator killed a police officer. In Case 5 the perpetrator shot his ex-wife, who had taken out a restraining order one month before the attack; she survived the injury.

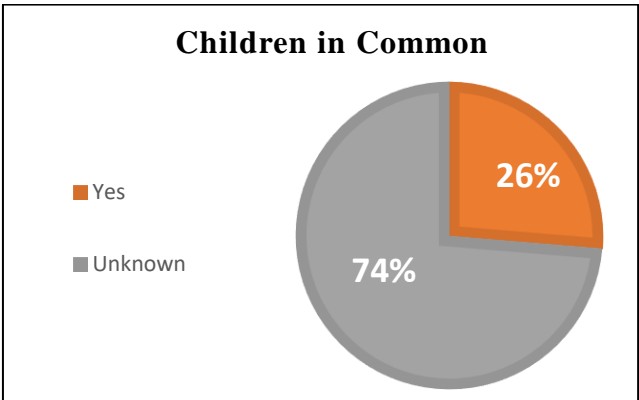
84% = 16
16% = 3



CHILDREN IN COMMON (Cases 3, 12, 15, 18, 19)

Five cases (26%) had confirmed children in common between the perpetrator and the victim. In the balance of the cases either there were no children in common or it was unknown whether there were children in common.

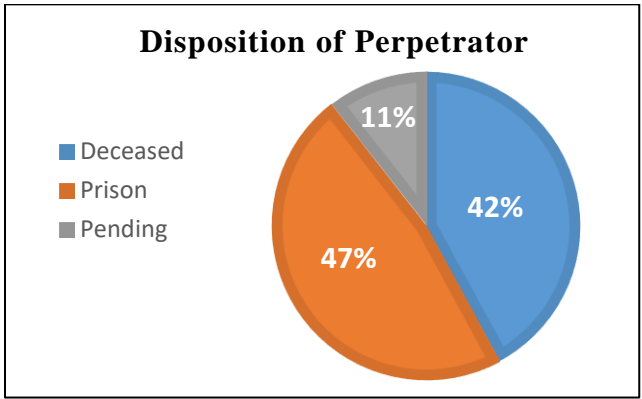
74% = 14
26% = 5



PERPETRATOR DISPOSITION

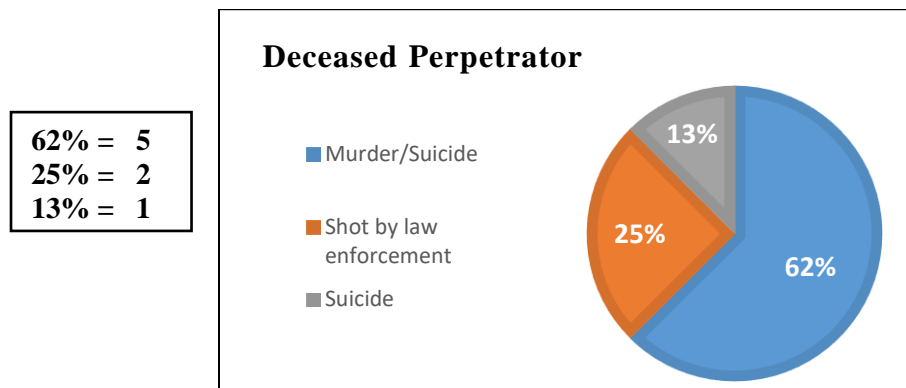
Almost half (9) of the 19 perpetrators were sent to prison with 2 perpetrators awaiting trial at the writing of this report. The remaining 8 died during the incident.

47% = 9
42% = 8
11% = 2



Of the 19 cases, two perpetrators were shot and killed by law enforcement; in both cases the perpetrator threatened or attempted to harm but did not kill the intended victim.

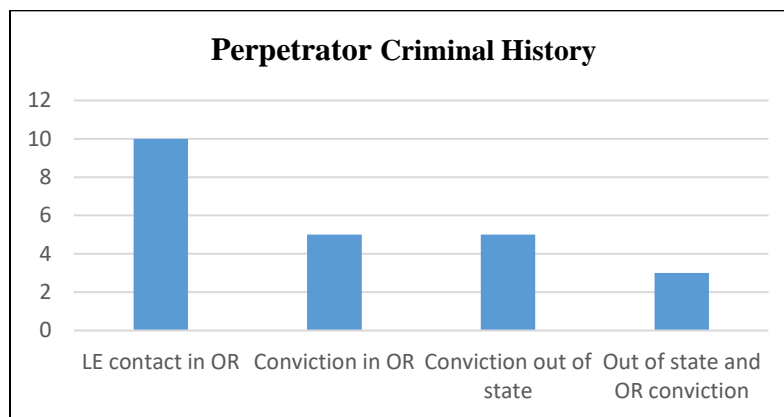
One perpetrator committed suicide after wounding his ex-wife (Case 5). Another engaged in gunfire with police, was shot by police and then killed himself with a gun (Case 2).



CRIMINAL HISTORY OF PERPETRATOR (Cases 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 16, 17, 18)

Past involvement with the law is a high-risk indicator in domestic violence situations.

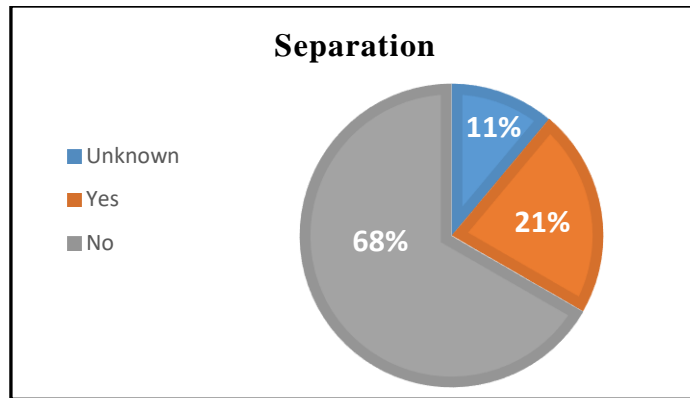
Ten of the 19 (52%) perpetrators had law enforcement contact (restraining orders, DUII, Assault 4, etc.). Three perpetrators with out of state arrests or convictions also had arrests/convictions in Oregon.



SEPARATION (Cases 3, 7, 15, 16)

Separation in a domestic violence relationship is often a precursor of increased violence or threats. In this data 4 (21%) of the incidents involved a separation in the relationship.

68% = 13
21% = 4
11% = 2



SUMMARY OF COMPREHENSIVE DATA

Clackamas County data conforms to national and state fatality data in several distinct areas:

- The majority of victims of intimate partner homicides are women.
- The majority of intimate partner homicides are committed by men.
- Male perpetrators kill intimate partners, bystanders, parents, and law enforcement officers.
- Female homicide perpetrators kill intimate partners.
- Men who murder partners are more prone to commit suicide than female perpetrators.
- Fatal incidents are often preceded by separation or divorce.

Clackamas County data diverges from national/state data:

- Guns were used in the majority (84%) of the domestic violence related murders in the county during the six years covered in this report (higher than wider data between 50% and 54%).
- Male perpetrators in local data span a wide age range.
- Restraining orders were present in a smaller percentage (16%) of local incidents compared to study data (up to 36%).

Clackamas County has a few unique data characteristics as it includes four female perpetrators as well as two matricides. In both incidents where the male perpetrator was shot and killed by police, the intimate partner of the perpetrator was not hurt.

CATEGORIES

The following sections split out the comprehensive data set into categories **based on the relationship of the victim to the perpetrator**. This provides the opportunity to evaluate the data through that lense.

The categories are:

- Category 1: Fatal Intimate Partner Victims
- Category 2: Fatal Non-Intimate Partner Victims
- Category 3: Fatal Family Member Victims
- Category 4: Non-Fatal Victims (Intimate Partner and Non-Intimate Partner)

Of particular interest to the Clackamas County Fatality Review Team are the *Fatal Intimate Partner Victims* and *Non-Fatal Victims (Intimate Partner)* categories as they focus specifically on Intimate Partner Violence.

| Category | Fatal Intimate Partner (10) | | Fatal Non-Intimate Partner (4) | Fatal Family Member (2) | Non-Fatal (7) * | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Intimate Partner (6) | Non-Intimate Partner (1) |
| Case Number | 1 | 9 | 2 | 14 | 2 | 14 |
| | 3 | 12 | 7 | 15 | 5 | |
| | 4 | 17 | 10 | | 7 | |
| | 6 | 18 | 11 | | 11 | |
| | 8 | 19 | | | 13 | |
| | | | | | | 16 |

**This category includes duplicate cases because there were incidents with a death and a surviving victim.*

CATEGORY 1: FATAL INTIMATE PARTNER VICTIMS

This category includes **10 cases**:

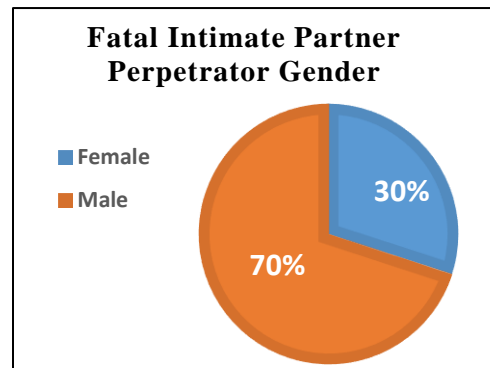
In each incident the perpetrator and victim were current or former spouses, girlfriend/boyfriend, dating partner or sexual partner. Nine (9) of the fatalities were in the context of a heterosexual relationship. Intimate partner fatalities were almost 63% of the total fatalities (10 of 16).

| Case # | Victim | Perpetrator |
|--------|--|---|
| 1 | Man killed by boyfriend with knife | Arrested and convicted |
| 3 | Woman shot in driveway by husband | Shot himself but survived; arrested and convicted |
| 4 | Woman stabbed and shot by husband | Shot and killed himself after killing wife |
| 6 | Woman shot by husband in suicide pact; both had serious medical conditions | Shot and killed himself after shooting wife |
| 8 | Man shot and killed by wife | Arrested and convicted |
| 9 | Man shot and killed by wife | Arrested and convicted |
| 12 | Woman shot and killed by husband | Arrested and convicted |
| 17 | Woman shot and killed by ex-boyfriend | Shot and killed himself |
| 18 | Man shot and killed by girlfriend | Arrested and convicted |
| 19 | Woman stabbed by husband | Arrested and charged |

Gender

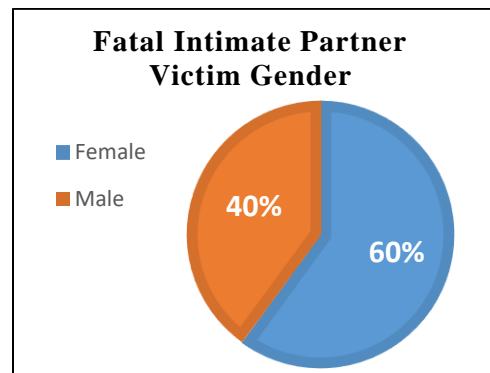
Perpetrator (10):

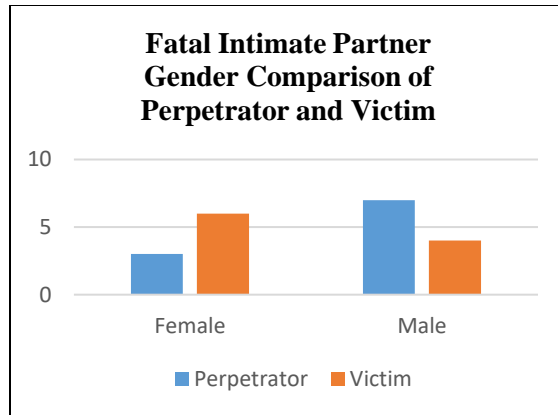
- 70% were male (7)
- 30% were female (3)



Victims (10):

- 40% were male (4)
- 60% were female (6)



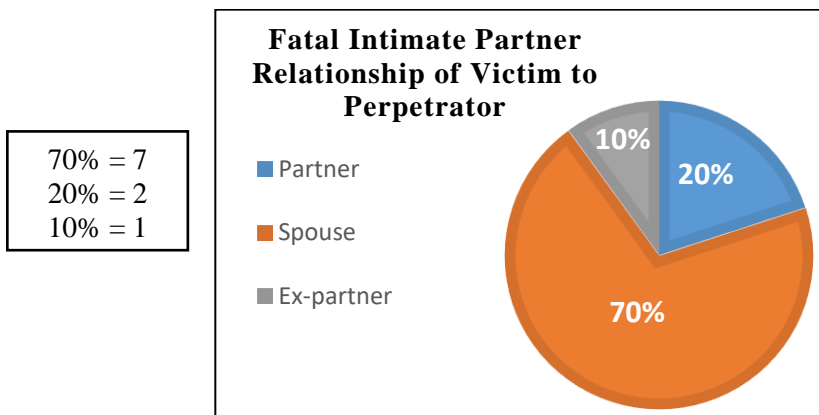


In national studies, perpetrators of intimate partner homicides are disproportionately men while the victims are women.

Local data is not entirely in line with national data as the intimate partner homicides (10 of the total 19 cases) includes three of the four homicides by women assailants. This divergence does not necessarily lead to the conclusion that Clackamas County is more prone to women being the perpetrators of domestic violence homicides.

Relationship

- The majority (90%) of victims were a current intimate partner of the perpetrator at the time of the homicide.
- The remaining 10% were ex-partners.



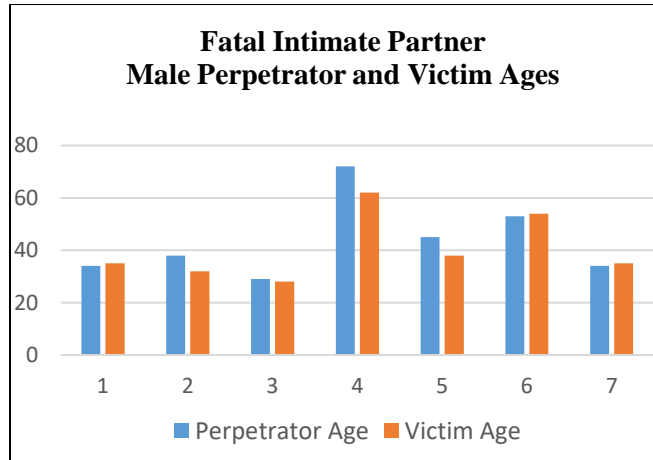
Case 6: An elderly couple entered into a suicide pact due to failing health.

Case 8: There was a history of domestic violence by the male homicide victim toward the female perpetrator.

Perpetrator and Victim Ages

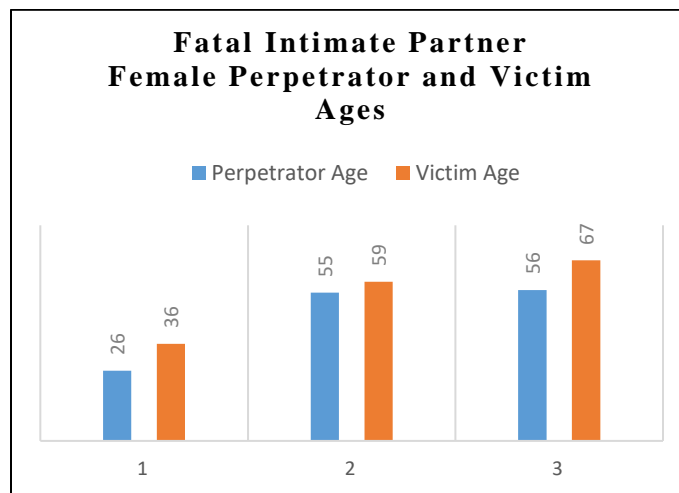
Male Perpetrator:

There were no distinct trends between the age of the 7 male perpetrators and the female victim.



Female Perpetrator:

In all three of the cases where the perpetrator was female, she was younger than the victim. In two of the cases the victim was at least 10 years older than the perpetrator.



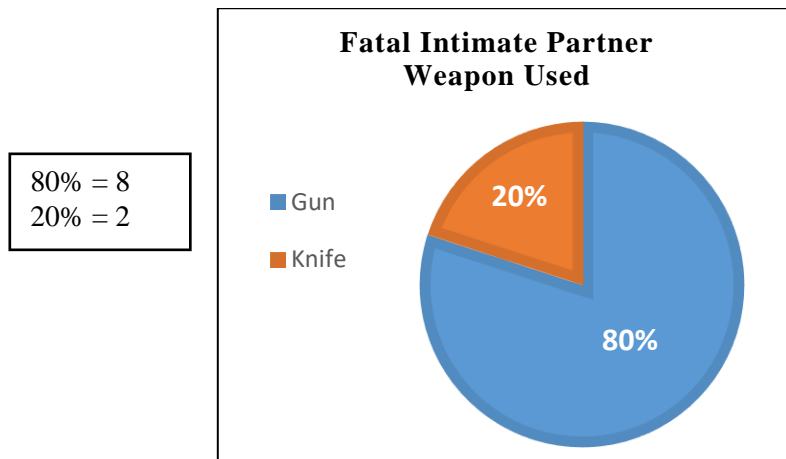
In alignment with national data female perpetrators of intimate partner homicides tend to be younger than their victim.

Protective Orders

Only one of the cases of intimate partner fatalities involved the issuance of a domestic violence protective order to the victim. The restraining order filed by the victim was not served on the man who eventually murdered her.

Weapon

Eight of the ten homicides involved guns with the remaining two involving knives.



Statistically this is higher than the national average where 50% to 54% of domestic violence homicides involved a gun. In the 2016 Oregon Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence (OCADSV) report on statewide domestic violence fatalities 48% of the homicides involved a gun.

Criminal History of Perpetrator

Only two of the ten perpetrators (20%) had past criminal history: one included a juvenile record (Case 1) and a past domestic violence assault in Washington State (Case 8).

Perpetrator Disposition/Death

In these 10 cases of intimate partner fatalities, 3 perpetrators died (33%); all were male and all were murder/suicides.

In the comprehensive data set of 19 cases there were 8 deceased male perpetrators (42%). Perpetrator deaths in this category account for 38% of the total number of domestic violence related homicide perpetrator deaths.

Nationally, between 20% and 59% of intimate partner homicides result in the suicide of the perpetrator either immediately or within 24 hours of the incident.

CATEGORY 2: FATAL FAMILY MEMBER VICTIMS

This category includes 2 cases:

| Case # | Victim | Perpetrator |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 14 | Mother killed by son with knife | Arrested and in state hospital |
| 15 | Mother shot and killed by son | Shot and killed himself |

Both victims were the mother of the male perpetrator (matricide). One case involved the son suffering a psychotic break and brutally murdering his mother. He then stabbed a grocery store employee but did not kill him; that victim is included in the *Non-Fatal Victims* category.

Gender

The perpetrator in both cases was male and the victim was female (the perpetrator's mother).

Weapon

A gun was used in one of the incidents and a knife was used in the second.

Criminal History of Perpetrator

There were no prior criminal charges or convictions of either of the perpetrators.

Perpetrator Disposition/Death

One of the perpetrators was arrested (and is currently in the state hospital) while the other committed suicide after shooting his mother.

Matricide is included in this report due to the *familial relationship* between the perpetrator and the victim. A Canadian study found that 67% of the perpetrators of parental murders had a psychotic disorder and that often the murderer inflicted excessive violence in the attack (Case 14).

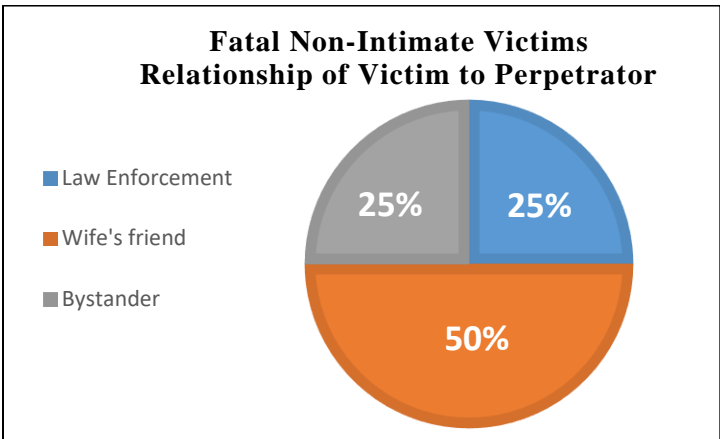
CATEGORY 3: FATAL NON-INTIMATE PARTNER VICTIMS

This category includes **4 cases**:

| Case # | Victim | Perpetrator |
|--------|---|---|
| 2 | Police Officer shot and killed by perpetrator | Shot by police before killing himself |
| 7 | Male friend of perpetrator’s intimate partner shot and killed by perpetrator while attempting to protect victim | Shot in leg by victim; arrested and convicted |
| 10 | Elderly woman who was a neighbor of perpetrator hit by random shot | Arrested and convicted |
| 11 | Female friend of perpetrator’s ex-wife shot and killed by perpetrator | Arrested and convicted |

Relationship of Victim to Perpetrator

The victims in this category were **bystanders**, either a friend of the intimate partner of the perpetrator or an unrelated individual. One of the victims was an Oregon City police officer.



Gender

Three of the perpetrators were male and the third female. Half of the victims were female, half were male.

Weapon

Firearms were used in all four homicides.

Criminal History of Perpetrator

Two of the perpetrators in this category had prior criminal contact with authorities. This accounts for 20% of the total number of perpetrators (10) that had criminal histories.

Protective Orders

The perpetrator in Case 2 had a restraining order granted to his girlfriend against him.

Perpetrator Disposition/Death

One perpetrator is deceased (murder/suicide) while the other three are currently incarcerated.

Domestic violence seeps outside of the relationship. In order to get the complete picture of the impact of this violence, it is important to take bystander, community, and law enforcement deaths into account.

CATEGORY 4: NON-FATAL VICTIMS

This category includes **7 cases** that have been divided into **two subcategories**:

- Non-Fatal Non-Intimate Partner Victims
- Non-Fatal Intimate Partner Victims

The 7 victims in this category *were not killed* by the perpetrator. They either survived the attack or were the intended target of the attack but were not physically injured.

Subcategory: Non-Fatal Non-Intimate Partner Victims:

This subcategory includes **1 case**:

| Case # | Victim | Perpetrator |
|--------|-------------------------------------|---|
| 14 | Store employee stabbed but survived | Arrested; charged and in state hospital |

This case involved a knife attack on a stranger/bystander by a man who had recently killed his mother.

Subcategory: Non-Fatal Intimate Partner Victims

This subcategory includes **6 cases**:

| Case # | Victim | Perpetrator |
|--------|--|--|
| 2 | Woman strangled by boyfriend | Shot at by police before killing himself |
| 5 | Wife shot by husband | Shot and killed himself |
| 7 | Woman threatened with gun by boyfriend; her male friend was shot and killed | Arrested and convicted |
| 11 | Woman threatened with gun by ex-husband before her friend is shot and killed | Arrested and convicted |
| 13 | Wife and children of perpetrator threatened with death | Shot and killed by police |
| 16 | Woman menaced by ex-husband | Exchanged gunfire with police; shot and killed |

Gender

All of the perpetrators (6) were male and all non-fatal victims (6) were female.

Weapon

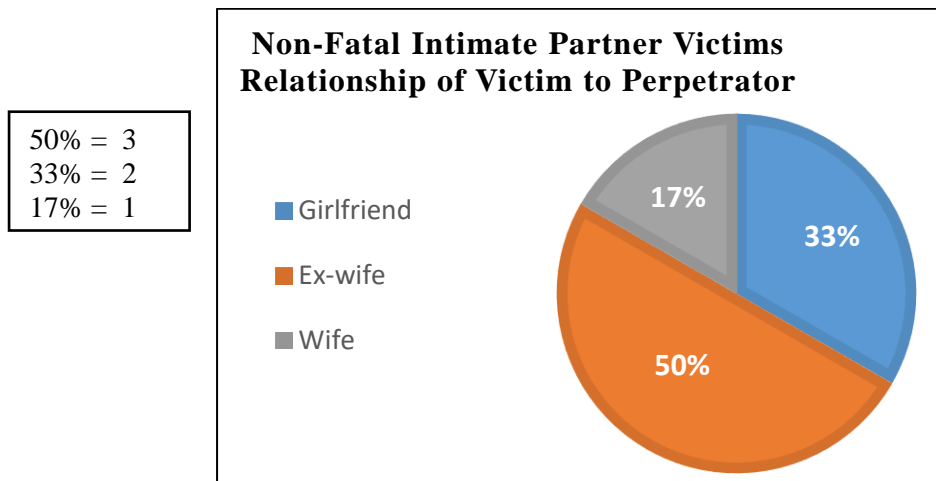
Guns were used in 100% of the incidents.

Criminal History of Perpetrator

One perpetrator had a previous protective order violation and a second was convicted of Assault 4 and harassment in Clark County, Washington four months prior to menacing his ex-wife and being shot by police. The remaining four perpetrators had no Oregon convictions.

Relationship

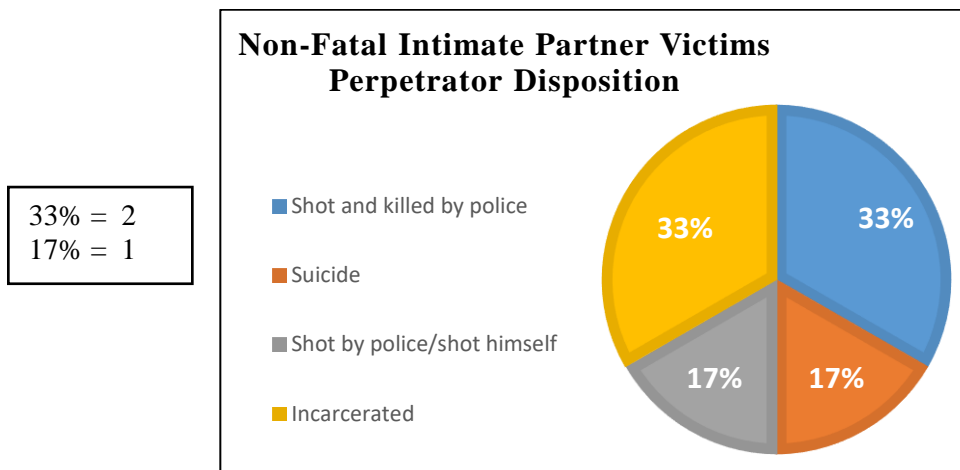
All victims were past or current intimate partners of the perpetrator. Half had ended the relationship through divorce.



Perpetrator Disposition/Death

This subcategory has the highest percentage of perpetrator deaths (83%) as a result of the incident – five of the six perpetrators. Only one of the perpetrators is alive and incarcerated.

This subcategory includes a high level of engagement by the perpetrator with law enforcement. Three of the five (60%) perpetrators engaged in gunfire with, or shot at, law enforcement officers.



All of the perpetrators in this category were men and all the victims were women.

All of the incidents that involved gunfire with police are in this category.

In the three incidents where gunfire with police was involved, the *victim was not killed*. In Case 5 the perpetrator shot his wife (who survived the assault) and killed himself once the police arrived.

CONCLUSION

Guns:

Guns and domestic violence are a fatal combination. When guns are accessible to a perpetrator the chance of that gun being used to injure or kill the victim increases by over 800%. That number increases to 2000% when previous domestic violence existed in the relationship. Family and intimate partner assaults with a gun are 12 times more likely to result in death.

Guns were the predominant weapon used in domestic violence homicides in Clackamas County during the six years covered by this report. This should inform the work of the coordinated community response to the dispossession of firearms from offenders who are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms. Educating the community about the lethality of guns in the context of domestic violence should also be a focus.

Domestic violence perpetrators are a specific danger to law enforcement officers. In our small sample of incidents three perpetrators engaged in gunfire with law enforcement and one shot and killed a police officer.

Scope:

The impact of lethal domestic violence extends far beyond the intimate relationship and affects the community at large. Victims' families, friends, school, church and broader communities are all impacted by their loss. Additionally, men's violence *more often* expands beyond the intimate relationship and impacts bystanders as well as law enforcement; when women kill, they kill an *intimate partner* – husband, boyfriend, or ex-partner. This holds true in this Clackamas County data even when taking into account the incident where a woman killed an un-related bystander.

Clackamas County
Board of County Commissioners
Policy Session
September 29, 2020

The Coordinated Response to Domestic Violence
in Clackamas County

PRESENTERS:

Dr. Adam Freer - Children, Family and Community Connections Division Director, H3S

Sarah Van Dyke – Children, Family and Community Connections Division Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator, H3S

Goals of Presentation

- Share news about the work of the coordinated response to domestic violence in Clackamas County
- Update on general fund expenditures that support important services in the community
- Impact of COVID-19 on services, victims, and response
- Successes, challenges and plans for the future



Coordinated Community Response

- Multi-disciplinary
- Collaborative and cooperative
- Continuous improvement of the system(s)
- Services that are victim-centered and trauma-informed

Domestic Violence Systems Coordinator

- Support, foster and coordinate systems that respond to domestic violence
- Administer county, state and federal funds

Investments and Outcomes

Clackamas Women's Services

- Emergency shelter and crisis services for survivors of domestic violence and their children

Casa Esperanza (NWFS)

- Culturally-specific emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence and their children (a program of Northwest Family Services)

Victim Assistance (District Attorney's Office)

- Provides support to victims of crime (victims of domestic violence specific for this funding)

214 survivors housed in emergency shelters

961 turned away from shelter;

13,276 shelter nights

3,922 24-hour crisis line calls answered

281 victims received help from Victim Assistance Advocate, including **33** survivors of strangulation

Family Violence Coordinating Council

- Multi-disciplinary group since 1992
- Structure for coordination of efforts
- Aids in communication among partners
- Meets monthly – weekly during COVID
- Trainings and events



Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

- Tracks homicides related to domestic violence
- Performs reviews of select cases to form recommendations to improve systems response
- Effort to prevent future homicides
- 6-Year (2013-2018) report
- State Fatality Team



Strangulation Response Initiative



Clackamas County is leading the way

Overlooked due to lack of visible injuries (50%) and lack of understanding

- Felony law in Oregon January 2019
- Strangulation Response Initiative (SRI) Strangulation Forensic Exam Kit
- Cooperative response between law enforcement and EMS
- Successful interventions and prosecutions
- 2021 Advanced Strangulation Prevention training

Leveraging Federal Dollars

Office on Violence Against Women – Department of Justice

Clackamas Safe Connection

- \$534,000 for 3 years
- Supervised Visitation and Exchange Program

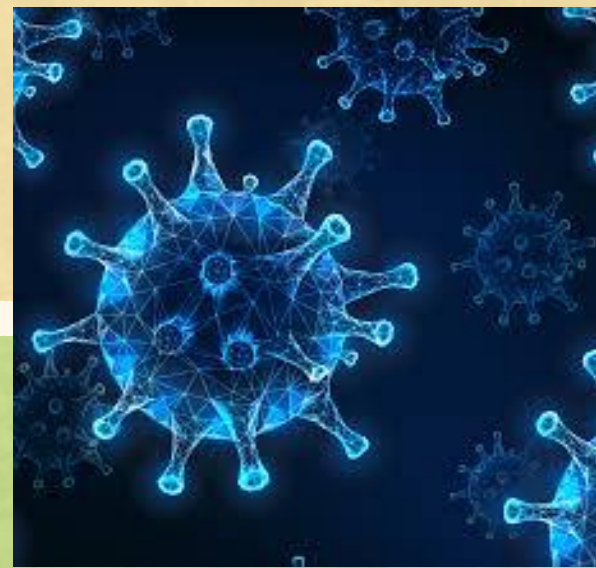


THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT *of* JUSTICE

Improving Criminal Justice Response

- \$750,000 for 3 years
- Supports efforts in the continuous improvement of criminal justice responses to domestic violence

COVID-19 Impacts



Negative Impacts

- Stay at Home orders when home *is not safe*
- Services became less immediately available initially
- Increase in severity and level of violence
- Increase in arrests/charges
- Emergency domestic violence shelters forced to close/change entry

Positive Impacts

- Virtual service increased accessibility for some
- Created innovation
- Oregon Judicial Department changes – remote filing and hearings for protective orders

Future Projects and Plans

- Embed suicide prevention into the system
- FVCC domestic violence strategic plan
- Data collection and tracking system
- Evolve discussion on offender interventions
- Assess equity and diversity approaches and best practices
- Long-term success of Clackamas Safe Connections





Devoting funds to domestic
violence services and system

coordination is a vital investment
in the health and safety of
Clackamas County residents