



pcadv.org

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REPORT | 2016



**NO MORE** | TOGETHER WE CAN END  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & SEXUAL ASSAULT

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This report is dedicated  
to all domestic violence  
homicide victims in Pennsylvania,  
and to those working to end  
domestic violence for the  
next generation.

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## ABOUT THE REPORT

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence's (PCADV) annual Fatality Report has been the single most reliable source for information about domestic violence-related deaths in Pennsylvania for more than 18 years.

Pennsylvania does not have reporting requirements for domestic violence homicides. PCADV compiles its annual list based on news accounts, police reports, and information received from our **60 community-based programs serving all 67 counties**.

Our list is based on information available at publication and is subject to change (*for updates, please visit [pcadv.org](http://pcadv.org)*.) Cited are killings based on the definition of domestic violence in the Protection From Abuse (PFA) Act. Therefore, this report includes killings among current, former and new intimate partners – including perpetrators who kill their ex-partner's new partner – and family members.

This report does not include unsolved cases, cases where no arrests were made (even if intimate partners or family members are suspects), and child abuse and child neglect cases, which are reported by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services.

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For more information about this report or for media inquiries, contact:

**PCADV Public Affairs Department, 717.545.6400**

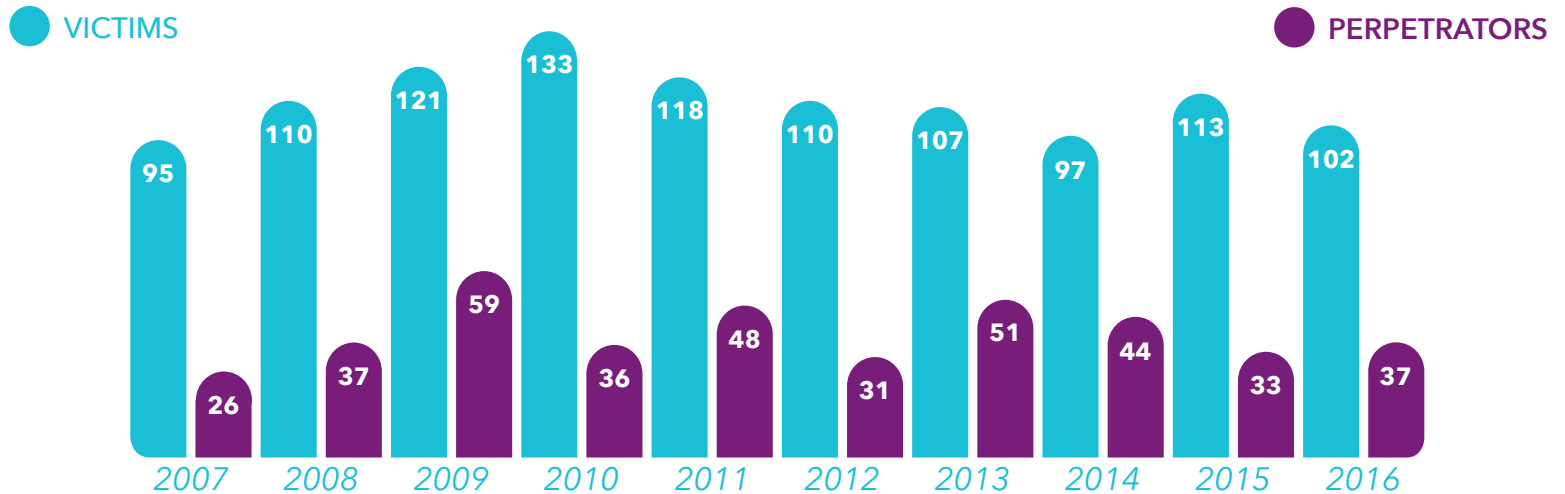
## REPORT OVERVIEW

In the last ten years, more than 1,600 people have died in domestic violence-related incidents in Pennsylvania. Those killed included women, children, and men of all ages, race, and socio-economic groups. In 2016 alone, there were 102 people killed: 56 women and 46 men. There were 37 perpetrator deaths in 2016.

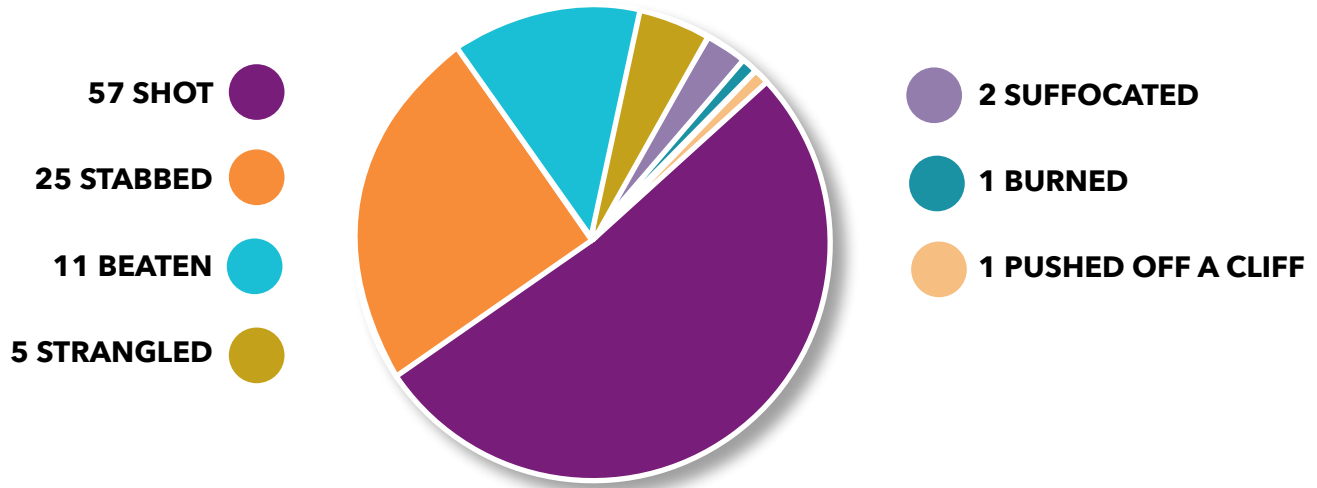
### 2016 VICTIM DEMOGRAPHICS



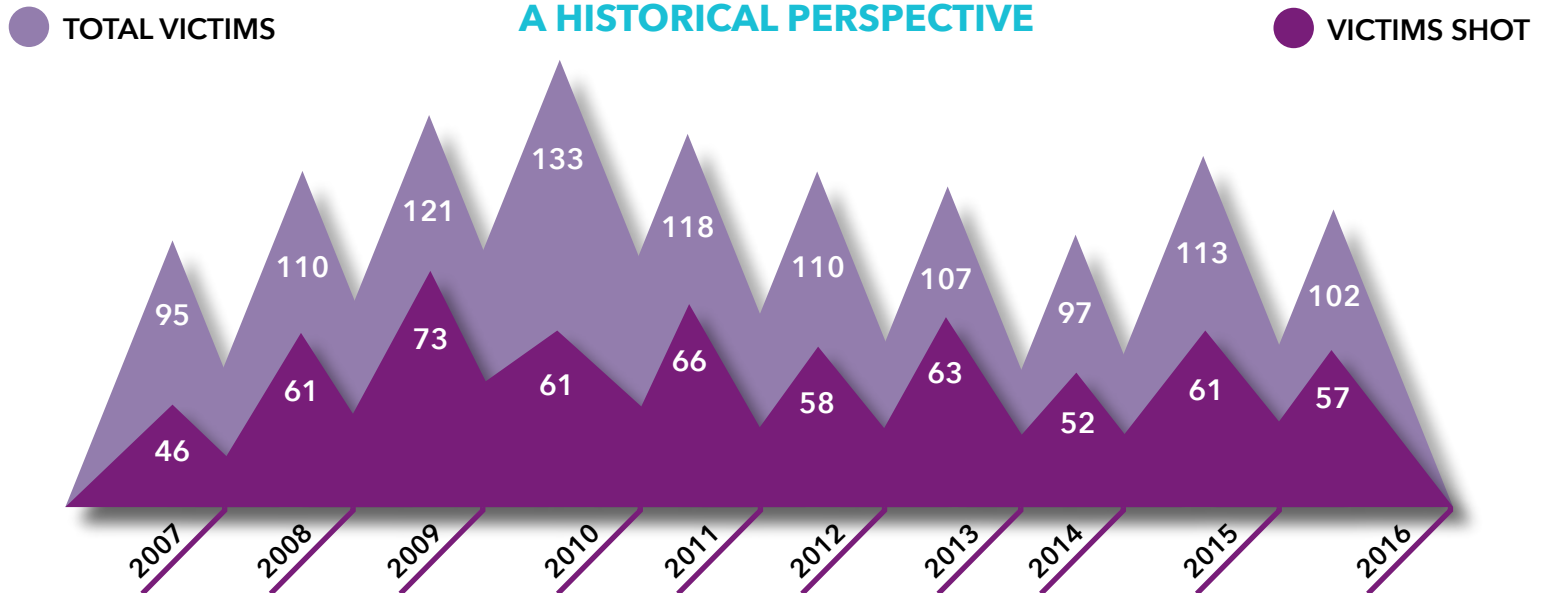
### DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS: 2007-2016



## HOW THEY WERE KILLED



## FIREARMS USED IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE KILLINGS A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



## 2016 FATALITIES BY COUNTY

COUNTY	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	TOTAL	COUNTY	VICTIMS	PERPETRATORS	TOTAL
Adams	1	1	2	Huntingdon	1	1	2
Allegheny	7	2	9	Lackawanna	2	1	3
Armstrong	1	1	2	Lancaster	1	0	1
Beaver	2	2	4	Lawrence	2	1	3
Berks	5	2	7	Lebanon	1	1	2
Bradford	2	0	2	Lehigh	6	1	7
Bucks	4	1	5	Luzerne	2	1	3
Butler	2	1	3	Mercer	2	2	4
Cambria	2	1	3	Montgomery	6	1	7
Cameron	1	0	1	Northampton	1	0	1
Centre	1	0	3	Philadelphia	17	2	19
Chester	2	0	2	Pike	1	0	1
Clearfield	1	1	2	Schuykill	2	0	2
Columbia	1	1	2	Snyder	1	0	1
Dauphin	2	1	3	Venango	1	1	2
Delaware	3	0	3	Washington	5	3	8
Erie	3	1	4	Wayne	1	0	1
Fayette	1	0	1	Westmoreland	6	3	9
Greene	1	2	3	York	2	2	4

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## REMEMBERING LIVES LOST: VICTIMS' STORIES

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This is just a small collection of police accounts and media stories from the 102 lives lost in 2016. These stories illustrate that domestic violence knows no age, gender or class.

A 48-year-old woman was abducted and killed by her husband in West Finley Twp., Washington County, with a gun he obtained from his mother's house where he was on house arrest. The husband, who killed himself after murdering his wife, was arrested about a month earlier after beating her severely and holding her captive for 12 days. He was released on home confinement with an ankle monitor after posting \$100,000 bail.

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A 28-year-old woman, and her unborn son died after her husband shot her at her home in Canonsburg, Washington County. Two Canonsburg police officers responded. One was shot and killed and the other was wounded. The husband killed himself.

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A 42-year-old woman, was killed by her husband at their Jackson Twp., York County, home. The husband then killed himself. The victim had obtained a Protection from Abuse Order in July after she told police her husband grabbed her head and tried to slam it on a picnic table, grabbed her hair and scratched her during an argument.

A man shot and killed his 33-year-old wife and their children ages 8, 5, and 2, in an apparent murder-suicide at their Sinking Spring home in Berks County. A "murder/suicide" note was found at the scene. The wife had planned to leave her husband. She had asked friends to help her move the day of the killing.

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A 37-year-old mother of four was stabbed and strangled by her 56-year-old estranged boyfriend inside her Swatara Twp., Dauphin County, apartment. The ex-boyfriend was charged with criminal homicide and tampering with evidence.

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A 55-year-old woman was stabbed and strangled by her 17-year-old son inside her Palmyra, Lebanon County, home. Police say after he checked her pulse to make sure she was dead, the son watched TV and took a shower before calling 911 to surrender. The son was charged with criminal homicide.

A 75-year-old woman was beaten to death with a hammer by her 75-year-old husband inside their Selinsgrove, Snyder County, home. The husband was found unconscious near his wife. He survived and was charged with criminal homicide and other offenses.

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A 28-year-old woman in Sharpsville, Mercer County was killed by her ex-boyfriend who then abducted their 8-month old daughter. The victim died of blunt force trauma. The ex-boyfriend was found in Berks County with the baby. He was charged with criminal homicide, kidnapping, and interference with custody of children.

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An 82-year-old woman was killed by her husband in their Rostraver Twp., Westmoreland County home. The couple had planned to commit suicide together. When the victim took a kitchen knife in an attempt to slit her throat, the husband took it from her and did it for her. The husband tried to kill himself by slitting his wrist and taking pain pills, but he survived. He was charged with homicide.

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A 21-year-old woman was shot and killed by her 23-year-old ex-boyfriend in her vehicle. The ex-boyfriend then took their 3-year-old son and fatally shot him before killing himself. The ex-boyfriend wrote on Facebook, "I'm dead everyone I'm sorry I couldn't control my demons."

A 27-year-old woman was sexually assaulted and strangled to death by her 25-year-old ex-boyfriend in the couple's home while the woman's children were asleep in another room. After the incident, the ex-boyfriend sent a text message to the victim's mother that read, "I'm sorry I killed your daughter." He then dialed 911 and told dispatchers that he had just choked his girlfriend to death. The ex-boyfriend was later apprehended in a neighboring Philadelphia community. Relatives of the woman indicated the couple had recently parted ways and the boyfriend was trying to make amends.

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In a Bucks County motel, a 46-year-old mother of four and grandmother of seven, was set on fire and burned to death by her 46-year-old boyfriend. Allegedly following an argument, the boyfriend dumped a cup of gasoline on the woman as she smoked a cigarette, igniting a fire that killed her and hospitalized several others for smoke inhalation.

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## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CALLS MOST DANGEROUS FOR POLICE

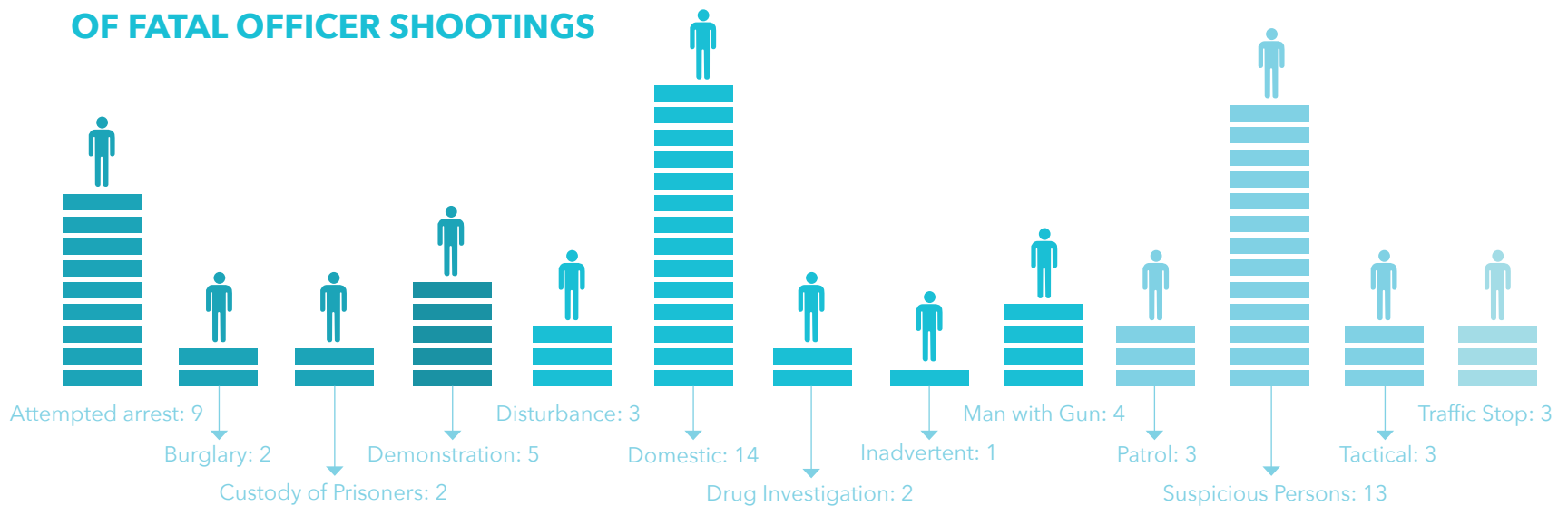
When a police officer gets a call to respond to a domestic violence incident, there are many unknowns. How many people are in the house? What is the criminal history of the perpetrator? Are there weapons?

Domestic violence situations can be some of the most dangerous calls our brave law enforcement officers investigate.

Of the 64 officers who were shot in 2016, 21 were killed in ambush-style shootings. And **domestic calls were the leading circumstances of fatal shootings**, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's (NLEOMF) preliminary end-of-the-year report. It is not a new trend.

In a staff study of law enforcement officer deaths from 2010-2014, the NLEOMF found more **officers were killed responding to domestic violence calls than in any other response to dispatched calls for service**, including robbery, burglary, and officers

### LEADING CIRCUMSTANCES OF FATAL OFFICER SHOOTINGS



\*Preliminary data. Source: National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund.

## PCADV HONORS HEROES WHO PAID THE ULTIMATE PRICE

Tragically, we lost two heroes from Pennsylvania in shootings brought on by domestic violence incidents.

Officer Scott Bashioum and Trooper Landon Weaver were among the 135 law enforcement officers (nationwide) who lost their lives in the line of duty last year – the highest number in the past five years, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund (NLEOMF).

### OFFICER SCOTT BASHIOUM

Officer Scott Bashioum, who served for seven years with the Canonsburg Police Department in Washington County, was fatally shot Nov. 10 while responding to a domestic violence call. A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, 52-year-old Officer Bashioum was a devoted husband and father of four. At her husband's memorial service, his wife Ashley said, "Scott always vowed to make his life as a police officer count for something, and I think it's safe to say he succeeded," She added, "I love you Scott, and this is not goodbye. It's only until we meet again."

### TROOPER LANDON WEAVER

Trooper Landon Weaver, a first-year member of the Pennsylvania State Police – Bedford station, was fatally shot Dec. 30 while responding to a PFA order call.

Trooper Weaver aspired to protect and serve as a state police officer since he was a boy. He lived an upstanding life so that he could, one day, achieve that dream.

Just 23 years old, Trooper Weaver married his high school sweetheart, Macy, in June. "I got to marry the love of my life," Macy said during her moving eulogy at the Blair County Convention Center. "That day was a fairy tale I will hold on to for the rest of my life."

"Landon Eugene, I love you with all my heart and promise to never, ever stop," Macy said. "You are, and forever will be, my hero."

## NEW LAW CRIMINALIZES STRANGULATION

Strangulation is one of the most common and deadly forms of domestic violence. For years, prosecutors in Pennsylvania lacked the power to prosecute it under its own statute. That changed in 2016.

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence accomplished one of its top legislative priorities in 2016 when the state legislature approved House Bill 1581 criminalizing non-fatal strangulation by an overwhelming majority. Governor Tom Wolf made it official by signing the measure into law in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The law went into effect Dec. 26, 2016 and is already making an impact leading to multiple charges across the state.

The law, sponsored by state Rep. Becky Corbin - R-Chester, made non-fatal strangulation - applying pressure to the throat or neck, or blocking the nose and mouth of a victim - a felony offense if the defendant is:

- A family or household member;
- Subject to an active Protection from Abuse Order; or
- Has a previous strangulation conviction.

Strangulation is a tactic abusers use to terrorize their victims, often as a control method in an abusive relationship. Strangulation also dramatically increases the likelihood of lethality in domestic violence. One study has shown the odds of becoming a homicide victim increased by 800% for women who had been strangled by their partner. The occurrence of strangulation has been reported in more than half of women who were being assessed for intimate partner violence, and an alarming number of victims have reported being strangled multiple times by their abusive partner.

**In 2016, 5 out of 94 domestic violence homicide victims were strangled to death.**

With the law, Pennsylvania now joins 41 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands with laws that define strangulation. Now only 9 states (Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Utah) do not have a strangulation law.

PCADV thanks the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, law enforcement, the state legislature, Governor Wolf, and everyone who supported this important law.

## KEEPING FIREARMS FROM ABUSERS. MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER.

Fathers Aunts Husbands  
Grandmothers Daughters Nephews  
Uncles Mothers Sons Nieces  
Wives Grandfathers Grandchildren

**Domestic violence knows no gender, no age, no demographic. It affects us all. Of the 102 people who died as a result of domestic violence in 2016, 56% were shot.**

This is not a new trend. In fact, over the past decade, **firearms have accounted for more than half of all domestic violence-related homicides.** The statistics are staggering. But, in 2017, the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence is drafting new legislation with the goal of reducing the number of these tragedies.

The **Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention** measure would require all convicted domestic violence abusers and defendants subject to active final PFAs to promptly and safely surrender their guns – bringing Pennsylvania in line with current federal law.

It would also make it more difficult for abusers to access their guns once they turn them in. Under state law, abusers can turn their weapons over to a third party – usually a friend or family member who does not live with the abuser. This “third-party safekeeping” provision was enacted over a decade ago, and continues to contribute to the prevalence of gun-related domestic violence in our communities. Not only does it lead to homicides, but abusers use this provision

to continue to threaten, abuse, and terrorize their victims during the course of a PFA.

Lastly, the measure would require convicted domestic violence abusers who are subject to a lifetime prohibition on gun possession to relinquish their firearms to law enforcement or a licensed dealer within 24 hours – instead of the 60-day window that’s currently allowed under state law. Think about that. Sixty days. What can happen in 60 days? How many lives will continue to be lost because current state law gives convicted abusers two months to relinquish their guns? 102 lives lost last year.

We work tirelessly for victims and families afflicted with domestic violence, but we can’t do it alone. We need your help. Contact your state legislator to ask for support of this important piece of legislation.

No parent should have to bury a child because we could not come together and agree on common-sense gun legislation that would undoubtedly lead to fewer domestic violence killings and make our communities safer.

We can do this together.

### **PCADV’s DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION MEASURE WOULD:**

- Require convicted abusers/defendants subject to active PFAs to promptly surrender guns.
- Make it more difficult for abusers to access guns once they turn them in.
- Require abusers subject to lifetime gun probation to relinquish firearms within 24 hours.

# HONORING VICTIMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN 2016

## Adams County

Codie Powell

## Allegheny County

Delores Alviani  
Madeline Bernard  
Machi Brown  
Taevon Harris  
Brenda Johnson  
Linda Katilius  
Andre Price III

## Armstrong County

Joseph Gabriella

## Beaver County

Addaleigh Huzyak  
Sonya Myers

## Berks County

Christopher Mazza  
Liana G. Short  
Mark J. Short, Jr.  
Megan L. Short  
Willow R. Short

## Bradford County

Fred Barnes  
Michelle Lynn Inch

## Bucks County

Mellissa Bacon-Smith  
Rebecca Cope  
Edward Dubinsky  
Alisa Wilson

## Butler County

Sarah Crawford  
Lee Ann Shultz Negley

## Cambria County

Eric Klein  
Suzanne Klein

## Cameron County

Deborah Lynn Gerlach

## Centre County

Ronald Bettig

## Chester County

Aileen Watters  
Wesley Webb

## Clearfield County

Tammy Sipe

## Columbia County

Jennifer Kauffman

## Dauphin County

Tomicka Stubbs  
Dominick Thornton

## Delaware County

Fabine Sunny Siryon  
Howard L. West  
Isiah Anthony Wilmer

## Erie County

Linda Gordon  
Stephanie Lassman  
Sandra Orton

## Fayette County

Charles White

## Greene County

Mary Sue Drotos

## Huntingdon County

Landon Weaver

## Lackawanna County

Jill Sanchuk  
Kayla VanWert

## Lancaster County

Michael Oberdorff Sr.

## Lawrence County

Lloyd Johnson

Victor Ward

## Lebanon County

Lorrie Ann Demko

## Lehigh County

Brian Frank  
Roger Herencia  
Angel Nieves-Cirino  
Leacroft Owen Young  
Rose Sieniawski  
Joseph Sommer Jr.

## Luzerne County

Sharae Thompson  
Xander Thompson

## Mercer County

Amanda Jo Downs  
Cheryl Lynne Tremmel

## Montgomery County

Kenneth Bullock  
Ashley Conway  
Chien-Kuo Lin  
Kevin Milton Smith  
Janice Trunk  
Catherine Wanamaker

## Northampton County

Joseph Myirski Jr.

## Philadelphia County

Khalilah Adams  
Stanley Barlow  
Terrell Bruce  
Janie Dawson  
Izeshia Gateward  
Huber Herrera  
Adrienne Lindsay  
Jorge Lopez  
Timothy McGregor

Virginia McLaughlin

Pamela Nightlinger  
Jamil Nafis Odom  
Joyce Quaweay  
Veronica Rodriguez  
Linda Rokaski  
James Stevens  
Troy Williams

## Pike County

Keith Hughes

## Schuylkill County

David Gombert  
Kenneth Schreiner

## Snyder County

Ann Wochley

## Venango County

Barbara Heckathorne

## Washington County

Scott Bashioum  
Tierne Ewing  
Robert Kramer Jr.  
Dalia Elhefny Sabae  
Brian Wilbert

## Wayne County

Joseph Cilino

## Westmoreland County

Kelly Detar  
Wilma Friday  
Patricia Monk  
Khalil Parker  
Caleb Remaley  
Dana Remaley

## York County

Susan Hoke  
John Shermeyer

## PCADV PROGRAMS

To learn more about these programs and the services they provide, visit [PCADV.org](http://PCADV.org) or dial **1.800.932.4632**.

A Safe Place, Inc.  
Forest and Warren Counties

A Way Out  
Potter County

A Woman's Place  
Bucks County

Abuse & Rape Crisis Center  
Bradford County

Alice Paul House  
Indiana County

Alle-Kiski Area HOPE Center, Inc  
Allegheny County

AWARE, Inc.  
Mercer County

Blackburn Center  
Westmoreland County

C.A.P.S.E.A., Inc.  
Elk and Cameron Counties

Center for Victims  
Allegheny County

Centre County Women's  
Resource Center  
Centre County

Clinton County Women's Center  
Clinton County

Community Action, Inc./  
Crossroads Project  
Jefferson and Clearfield Counties

Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Inc  
Philadelphia County

Crisis Center North, Inc.  
Allegheny County

Crisis Shelter of Lawrence County  
Lawrence County

Domestic Abuse Project  
of Blair County  
Blair County

Domestic Abuse Project of  
Delaware County, Inc.  
Delaware County

Domestic Violence Center  
of Chester County  
Chester County

Domestic Violence Intervention of  
Lebanon County, Inc.  
Lebanon County

Domestic Violence Service  
Center, Inc.  
Luzerne and Carbon Counties

Domestic Violence Services of  
Cumberland & Perry Counties  
Cumberland and Perry Counties

Domestic Violence Services of  
Lancaster County  
Lancaster County

Domestic Violence Services of  
Southwestern PA  
Washington, Fayette, and  
Greene Counties

HAVEN of Tioga County, Inc.  
Tioga County

HAVIN, Inc.  
Armstrong County

Huntingdon House  
Huntingdon County

Laurel House  
Montgomery County

Lutheran Settlement House  
Philadelphia County

PPC Violence Free Network  
Venango County

SAFE (Stop Abuse for Everyone), Inc  
Clarion County

SAFE Berks  
Berks County

Safe Haven of Pike County, Inc.  
Pike County

Safe Journey  
Erie County

SafeNet Domestic Violence  
Safety Network  
Erie County

Schuylkill Women in Crisis  
Schuylkill County

Sullivan County Victim Services  
Sullivan County

Survivors, Inc.  
Adams County

The Abuse Network  
Mifflin and Juniata Counties

Transitions of PA  
Union, Snyder, and  
Northumberland Counties

Turning Point of Lehigh Valley, Inc.  
Lehigh and Northampton Counties

Victim Outreach Intervention Center  
Butler County

Victims Resource Center  
Wyoming County

Victims' Intervention Program  
Wayne County

Women Against Abuse, Inc.  
Philadelphia County

Women In Need, Inc.  
Franklin and Fulton Counties

Women in Transition  
Philadelphia County

Women's Center & Shelter  
of Greater Pittsburgh  
Allegheny County

Women's Center of Beaver County  
Beaver County

Women's Center, Inc. of  
Columbia/Montour  
Columbia and Montour County

The Women's Center of  
Montgomery County  
Montgomery County

Women's Help Center, Inc.  
Cambria and Somerset Counties

Women's Resource Center, Inc  
Lackawanna and  
Susquehanna Counties

Women's Resources of Monroe  
County, Inc.  
Monroe County

Women's Services, Inc.  
Crawford County

Your Safe Haven, Inc.  
Bedford County

YWCA Bradford - McKean County  
Victims' Resource Center  
McKean County

YWCA NorthCentral PA  
Wise Options  
Lycoming County

YWCA of Greater Harrisburg/  
Violence Intervention &  
Prevention Services  
Dauphin County

YWCA York/ACCESS  
York County



**National Domestic Violence Hotline:** 1.800.779.7233

**National Teen Dating Violence Hotline:** 1.866.331.9474