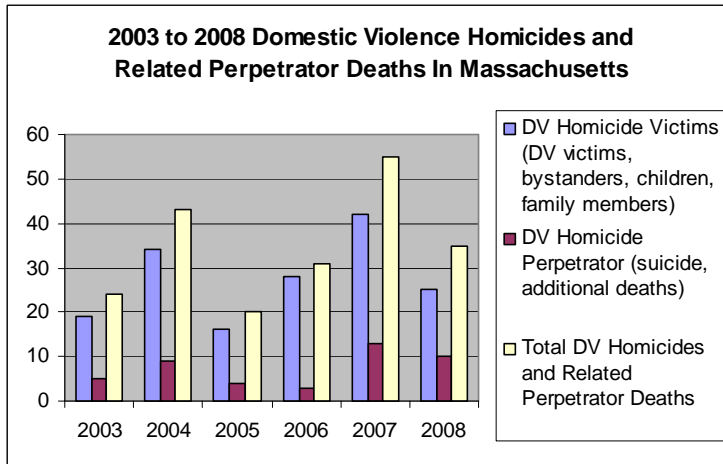


DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES IN MASSACHUSETTS TRACKING ANALYSIS 2003-2008



While additional data is needed to more deeply understand the nuances of what is occurring here in Massachusetts, these cases follow national trends: the vast majority of victims are women, and nearly all the killers were men.

Most male domestic violence homicide victims were killed by men. They were friends, family members or new partners of the domestic violence victims. In the majority of cases where the homicide perpetrator is a woman, there is evidence to suggest that she was the victim of domestic violence who acted in a self-defense. In approximately 9% of the cases from 2003 to 2008, the male homicide victim was the intimate partner of the male domestic violence homicide perpetrator.

Our analysis of the homicides over the past 5 years shows that despite histories of domestic violence, very few victims of domestic violence homicide had received services from a local domestic violence programs and that few if any of the murderers, ever participated in batterer's intervention programs.

BREAKDOWN OF DV HOMICIDE DEATHS	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Totals	Percentage
DV Homicide Victims	19	34	16	28	42	27	165	
Female DV Victims	11	21	7	15	28	17	98	59%
Male DV Victims	2	4	4	0	1	2	13	8%
Female - Assoc w/DV Victim	1	0	0	1	0	1	3	2%
Male - Assoc w/DV Victim	1	7	2	7	3	3	23	14%
Children - Assoc w/DV Victim	1	2	1	2	5	2	13	8%
Family Member (non-IPV)	1	0	1	2	2	2	8	5%
Perpetrators (likely) killed by DV victim in self defense	2	0	1	1	3	0	7	4%
DV Perpetrator Deaths	5	9	4	3	13	10	44	
DV Homicide Perpetrator Suicides (w/murder or attempted murder of victim)	5	9	4	3	12	8	41	93%
DV Perpetrator Suicides (w/out murder or attempted murder of victim)	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	5%
Additional DV Perpetrator Deaths	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2%
Total Number of incidents	17	31	15	24	37	30	152	
DVH perpetrators							157	
female	3	2	4	1	3	2	15	9.5%
male	14	29	12	25	35	31	143	90.5%



The Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence

JDI's Definition of Domestic Violence Homicide and Death:

Beginning in 2005 Jane Doe Inc. reconsidered its definition of domestic violence homicide and used the new definition in identifying all incidents that occurred in 2003 and subsequent years. The definition was modified in order to capture the full picture and context of domestic violence homicides. Homicides were considered domestic violence related *if*

- the homicide victim and perpetrator were current or former spouses or intimate partners, adults or teens with a child in common, or adults or teens in a current or former dating relationship
- the homicide victim was a bystander or intervened in an attempted domestic violence homicide and was killed (including friends, family members, new intimate partners, law enforcement officers or other professionals attempting to assist the victim of domestic violence, roommates and co-workers)
- the motive for the murder was reported to have included jealousy, in the context of an intimate partner or dating relationship, or
- a relationship existed between the homicide perpetrator and adult or teen victim that could be defined as exhibiting a pattern of power and control (including family or household members and caregivers).

Furthermore, in order to meet our goal of capturing the full picture of deaths due to domestic violence, we have also included the suicides of perpetrators.

Chart Key:

Domestic Violence Homicide Deaths include the total number of homicide victims, suicides and additional perpetrator deaths.

DV Victims include the homicide victim who was also the domestic violence victim.

Associated with DV Victim the homicide victim who was not the domestic violence victim; typically includes children, bystanders and others who were targeted or murdered because of their association with the domestic violence victim.

Perpetrator deaths are divided into three categories:

- those that attempted and/or committed murder of the domestic violence victim
- those that did not attempt or commit murder of the domestic violence victim
- those that were killed by police intervention, someone besides the domestic violence victim or other circumstance

Incidents are defined as any occurrence of domestic violence related homicide and/or suicide.

NOTE: Cases with multiple victims and/or multiple perpetrators explain why the number of incidents, perpetrators and murders are not equal in all circumstances.