

**A Report on Domestic Violence Homicides
in Massachusetts from 2003 through 2012**

NOT ONE MORE

The Jane Doe Inc. Domestic Violence Homicide Report is an initiative in collaboration with Simmons College School of Social Work Professor Emeritus Mary Gilfus. This report builds upon the expertise of countless advocates and the experiences of survivors. The primary report designer and author was Toni K. Troop, Director of Communications at Jane Doe Inc. Debra J. Robbin, Executive Director, and Maureen Gallagher, Policy Director, provided analytical and editing support.

A special note to the families and friends of homicide victims: It is our hope that this report will shed light on the lives and stories of victims with the goal of inspiring our collective resolve to prevent and end domestic violence and related homicides in Massachusetts.

We also recognize the many people listed here for their contributions in developing, implementing and providing feedback as the project evolved. We are grateful for the many hours, helpful insights, shared expertise, patient guidance and limitless support that made this report possible.

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Governor's Council to Address Sexual and Domestic Violence
Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety And Security's Violence Against Women
STOP Grant Office
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance
Massachusetts Department of Children and Families
Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance
Suffolk District Attorney's Office
Middlesex District Attorney's Office
Massachusetts Office of the Trial Court
Massachusetts Office of the Commissioner of Probation

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Introduction and Methodology

Jane Doe Inc., the Massachusetts Coalition Against Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence (JDI), designed this report in order to continue our efforts to reduce and prevent domestic violence (DV) and all domestic violence related homicides. As with JDI's domestic violence homicide study in 2006, our interest is to present useful information that will expand awareness, knowledge and commitment to prevent deaths and domestic violence in general.

When domestic violence is unaddressed, or when it is inadequately addressed, it can escalate along predictable lines and end, tragically, in homicide. JDI presents this report to honor the lives of people murdered by abusers as well as the surviving children, family, friends, and colleagues of the victims and perpetrators whose lives have been irrevocably changed. With this report and our ongoing tracking of Massachusetts' domestic violence homicides, we hope to raise awareness among individuals, communities, systems and policy makers across the Commonwealth about the often predictable lethal consequences of domestic violence and to improve our ability to respond to domestic violence and prevent future homicides.

JDI takes a victim-centered approach to the definition and study of domestic violence homicide. The scope of this report is to present a descriptive overview of the occurrence and characteristics of the 334 people who lost their lives in 247 incidents of homicides that occurred in the context of an intimate partner relationship in Massachusetts over the 10-year period from 2003 through 2012.

Definitions

This report purposefully defines domestic violence related homicide more broadly than many reports, such as the FBI Supplemental Homicide Reports, in order to capture the broader picture of how many lives are lost as a result of domestic violence. In addition to all homicides that occurred between intimate partners (as defined below), this report also includes domestic violence perpetrator

suicides and loss of life of others who may have been affiliated with or present during a domestic violence incident.

For the purpose of this study, we use the following definitions. We use the terms intimate partner violence (IPV) and domestic violence (DV) interchangeably. Intimate partners (IP) are defined as current or former spouses, live-in partners, dating partners, or adults who have one or more children in common. We also use the term abuser and DV (or IPV) perpetrator to refer to the primary aggressor, historically called the batterer.

Intimate partner violence related homicide is defined as any homicide event in which a death occurred in the context of an intimate partner relationship. A homicide of one intimate partner by a current or former partner is by definition an act of violence, thus counting as IPV and included in this report. In cases where others were killed, the study considered the case an IPV related homicide if there was an intimate relationship among two of the involved parties with a known history of IPV.

Our definition also includes cases in which a perpetrator stalked and killed a victim or killed because of being rejected as an intimate partner. For example, several people were killed by a perpetrator who stalked or demanded an intimate relationship that was unwanted by the victim. Other examples of the expanded definition include an ex-spouse who killed the new partner of a former spouse, a child who was been killed by an abuser, the IPV perpetrator who committed suicide, or an IPV perpetrator who was killed by law enforcement in the course of an IPV incident. Cases where a history of power and control was identified but did not involve an intimate partner were excluded from this analysis (n=13).

An incident refers to a single case regardless of how many victims or perpetrators are involved. This report also distinguishes between the domestic violence victim and domestic violence homicide victim as well as the domestic violence perpetrator and domestic violence homicide perpetrator.

Methods

JDI attempted to locate every homicide case connected with an intimate partner relationship between January 2003 and December 2012 using a variety of methods and data sources. All data were gathered from public information sources (involving no violations of privacy and no risk to human subjects) and, for each case, were systematically recorded by two coders using a coding instrument specifically designed for this project, and then reviewed and verified by the project coordinator. The Domestic Violence Homicide Project was reviewed by the Simmons College Institutional Review Board and determined not be research involving risk to human subjects.

Data Sources

JDI depended on public records, primarily media accounts, and confirmed information through other means when possible to ascertain as much information as possible about each homicide case.

- » News Media: Print and online media reports of domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts were located by frequent searches using electronic databases and a variety of key words, then narrowed to only those cases meeting the above definition of IPV related homicides. Data searches were repeated on a regular basis to obtain ongoing news and updated information, such as arrests, court appearances and convictions, in order to reflect the most complete, up to date, and accurate information available.
- » Death Certificates: JDI obtained death certificates from the Massachusetts Registry of Vital Records for each homicide victim identified. These public documents provide cause of death, dates of birth and death, and most often list the place of birth (which provided the study with the information on whether homicide victims were US or foreign-born).
- » JDI Member Programs and Allies: Whenever a homicide occurred, JDI contacted the local domestic violence program as part of our protocol response to determine if the homicide was an IPV related

homicide, and, if possible, to verify any facts reported by the media without compromising client confidentiality.

- » Court Records from January 2003 to December 2006: For these four years, public documents had previously been obtained from court records connected to each IPV related case. These were also coded and used to supplement, confirm or correct any data obtained from other sources.
- » District Attorney Offices: Beginning in 2008, JDI contacted the District Attorney's office for the county in which a possible IPV related homicide had been identified in order to verify available and public facts about the case, including outcomes of any court cases.

Coding

The coding instrument was developed in collaboration with researchers at Simmons College School of Social Work, was pre-tested on a small sample of cases, then revised and used systematically to extract data from all of the above sources. The data were entered into an electronic data set. No names or other identifying information are included in this report. All information is presented in the aggregate.

Limitations

Although every effort has been made to verify the information in this report, the reader should keep in mind that the primary sources of data in this report are news media sources and thus may be inaccurate, biased, or as is more often the case, incomplete. Notable limitations include lack of consistent information about parties' race and ethnicity, same-sex partners, details about prior IPV, prior use of domestic violence services, histories of restraining orders or other criminal justice involvement, and insufficient information regarding motive and relationship of involved parties. In addition, the information regarding race or ethnicity listed on the death certificates was often at odds with public reports and limited by the race categorization established by the U.S. Census.

Overview of Incidents and Deaths

For the period of January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2012, Jane Doe Inc. determined that there were 247 incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) that resulted in a total of 334 homicide deaths committed by 257 IPV homicide perpetrators. Of these 334 homicide deaths, 256 people were homicide victims: 243 were domestic violence victims or people killed in the context of a domestic violence homicide and 13 were IP perpetrators killed in self-defense by the IP victim (8) or by someone other than the police (5). In addition 72 IP perpetrators committed suicide and six were killed by police. Of the 243 deaths, 177 (69.1%) people were domestic violence victims (154 female, 23 male), 25 were the children of a domestic violence victim and 37 people were associated with a domestic violence victim. Another four bystanders were killed.

These 243 homicide deaths represent approximately 14% of all homicide deaths in Massachusetts during this same period: the Massachusetts Department of Public Health reported 1,750 homicide deaths and the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report identified 1,711 homicide deaths.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	#
# incidents	16	32	15	23	37	28	23	32	23	18	247
# IPV Homicide Victims ¹	16	32	14	23	39	24	25	31	25	14	243
# IPV Perpetrator deaths ²	7	12	6	7	16	11	6	14	3	9	91
Total Deaths	23	44	20	30	55	35	31	45	28	23	334

1 Includes the intended targets and other people killed in the commission of the crime. In subsequent tables the data for homicide victims include the IPV perpetrators who were the ones killed.

2 Includes IPV perpetrator suicides and those killed in self-defense by the IPV victim, killed by police or killed by someone else.

Single versus Multiple Deaths Per Incident and Murder-suicides

One hundred and forty-one (57.1%) of the incidents had one death of a homicide victim. Sixty (24.3%) of the incidents involved a murder-suicide with either single or multiple homicide victims.

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	#	Percent
# incidents with single death of homicide victim	9	19	8	13	18	16	15	17	17	9	141	57.1%
# incidents with multiple deaths of homicide victims	0	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	3	0	15	6.1%
# incidents with single homicide victim and perpetrator suicide	4	7*	4*	2	10	6	6	8*	1	5*	53	21.5%
# incidents with multiple homicide victims and perpetrator suicide	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	7	2.8%
# incidents only with single death of perpetrator (suicide or other)	2	3	2	4	4	5	0	5	2	4	31	12.6%
Total # incidents	16	32	15	23	37	28	23	32	23	18	247	100.0%

* Includes one incident where homicide victim was not the domestic violence victim

DETAILED OVERVIEW OF INCIDENTS AND DEATHS

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	#	Percent
Total Number of incidents	16	32	15	23	37	28	23	32	23	18	247	
Domestic Violence Homicide Victims												
Female DV Victim	10	22	7	14	26	16	15	20	13	11	154	63.4%
Male DV Victim	2	3	4	0	2	2	2	0	7	1	23	9.5%
Female Associated with DV Victim	2	0	0	0	2	1	1	4	1	0	11	4.5%
Male Associated with DV Victim	1	4	2	6	3	2	4	3	1	0	26	10.7%
Children ¹ of DV Victim	1	3	1	2	6	2	3	3	3	1	25	10.3%
Bystander	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	4	1.6%
Total	16	32	14	23	39	24	25	31	25	14	243	100.0%
Domestic Violence Perpetrator Deaths												
Perpetrator killed by DV Victim in self-defense	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	8	8.8%
Perpetrator suicides	5	9	4	5	14	9	6	12	1	7	72	79.1%
Perpetrator killed by other (e.g., police)	0	3	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	11	12.1%
Total	7	12	6	7	16	11	6	14	3	9	91	100.0%
Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrators												
male	13	31	13	24	35	29	21	28	19	16	229	89.1%
female	3	3	3	2	3	2	2	4	4	2	28	10.9%
Total	16	34	16	26	38	31	23	32	23	18	257	100.0%

¹Includes both minor and adult children

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES BY COUNTY

During this ten year period, someone was murdered in a domestic violence incident in every county in Massachusetts. The table below shows the occurrence of homicide incidents by county. In an attempt to place these incidents in context of population density, the average percentage of the population by county is shown based on the best available data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

By County	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	#	Percent of Homicide Incidents	Average DVH Incidents per Capita per 100,000	Average Percentage of MA Population over 10 Years
Barnstable	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	1	1	0	8	3.2%	0.36	3.3%
Berkshire	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	0	0	0	6	2.4%	0.46	2.0%
Bristol	2	2	0	1	1	1	5	2	1	1	16	6.5%	0.29	8.3%
Dukes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.8%	1.19	0.3%
Essex	1	3	3	5	6	6	3	2	1	2	32	13.0%	0.44	11.3%
Franklin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.4%	0.14	1.1%
Hampden	1	3	2	1	9	2	2	4	1	3	28	11.3%	0.61	7.1%
Hampshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	1.6%	0.25	2.4%
Middlesex	2	3	4	4	3	3	2	9	6	4	40	16.2%	0.27	23.0%
Nantucket	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.4%	1.03	0.2%
Norfolk	2	1	0	1	1	1	2	2	0	0	10	4.0%	0.15	10.2%
Plymouth	2	3	0	0	5	2	1	1	3	0	17	6.9%	0.35	7.5%
Suffolk	3	10	2	4	2	5	4	3	5	1	39	15.8%	0.55	11.1%
Worcester	2	3	3	4	8	7	2	6	4	4	43	17.4%	0.54	12.2%
Note: In two cases, the incidents originated in Massachusetts, however, the homicide took place out of state. In one case, the domestic violence incident started at home and the homicide occurred elsewhere; and in the other case, the domestic violence homicide perpetrator lured the victim out of state for the purpose of committing the homicide.											247	100.0%	Average = 0.47	100.0%

Demographics of Homicide Victims and Perpetrators

Jane Doe Inc. looked at the gender and age of both the DV homicide victims and DV homicide perpetrators.

Men were responsible for 230 of the 256 deaths (89.8%), including:

- » 20 of the 22 (90.9%) minor children.
- » 100% (154) of the female domestic violence victims.

There were 28 female homicide perpetrators:

- » 13 women were charged with killing a male DV victim.
- » 8 were either exonerated or maintained they were the DV victims.

Nearly half (45.4%) of the 67 male homicide victims were either associated with the DV victim (40.9%) or a bystander (4.5%).

Of the 23 male DV victims who were murdered, 9 (39.1%) were killed by a man and 14 (60.9%) were killed by a woman.

Based on media reports, 12 incidents, (4.9%) involved same-sex relationships

Gender of Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrator by Gender of Homicide Victim ¹		
	#	Percent
Male killed female	165	64.5%
Male killed male	45	17.6%
Female killed male	22	8.6%
Female killed female	2	0.8%
Male killed minor child	20	7.8%
Female killed minor child	2	0.8%
Total	256	100.0%

Adult Male Homicide Victims		
	#	Percent
Male domestic violence victim	23	34.3%
Male associated with domestic violence victim (including children)	28	41.8%
Male killed by domestic violence victim in self-defense	8	11.9%
Male bystander	3	4.5%
Other (not by police)	5	7.5%
Total	67	100.0%

¹ The data on Domestic Violence Homicide Victim in this and subsequent tables (n=255) include abusers killed in self-defense (n=8) and abusers killed by someone else other than the police (n=4). Data exclude abusers killed by police (n=6).

Age and Gender of Domestic Violence Homicide Victim (DVHV)				
	Female	Male	#	Percent
17 or younger ¹	16	6	22	8.6%
18-24	24	14	38	14.8%
25-34	43	17	60	23.4%
35-54	73	27	100	39.1%
55 or older	28	8	36	14.1%
Total	184 (71.9%)	72 (28.1%)	256	100.0%

Age and Gender of Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrator (DVHP)				
	Female	Male	#	Percent
17 or younger	1	2	3	1.2%
18-24	4	31	35	13.6%
25-34	6	57	63	24.5%
35-54	14	103	117	45.5%
55 or older	3	34	37	14.4%
Unknown	0	2	2	0.8%
Total	28 (10.9%)	229 (89.1%)	257	100.0%

¹Includes all children of domestic violence victim who were killed

Country of Origin of DV Homicide Victims and Perpetrators

Death certificates provided data on the country of origin of almost all of the domestic violence homicide victims (n=249). The country of origin for the domestic violence homicide perpetrator was gathered from death certificates in incidents where they committed suicide or were killed and from media reports. The homicide victims and perpetrators had the same country of origin in 167 (73.1%) of the cases where information was known (n=195).

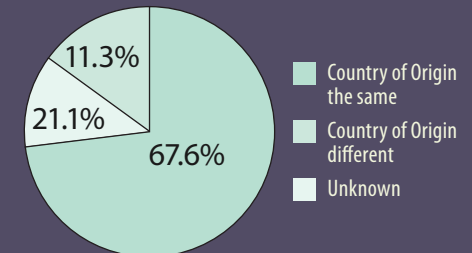
Data on the race and ethnicity of homicide victims are reported here with a few important caveats. First, the information was not consistently available on the death certificates. Second, our analysis showed a 17% disparity comparing the information on the death certificate with information reported in the media. Third, there is no way to know how the victims or perpetrators self-identified.

The distribution of victims by race compared to the overall Massachusetts population showed that during this timeframe in Massachusetts, of the 256 DV homicide victims:

- » African-American/Black victims were over-represented at a rate 2.52 greater than their percentage of the population (16.4% compared to 6.5%).
- » Asian-American/Asian (2.3%) and White (56.3%) victims were under-represented at rates of 0.44 and 0.72 respectively compared to their percentage of the population.

Country of Origin	Domestic Violence Homicide Victim (DVHV)	Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrator (DVHP)
U.S. Born	201	164
Foreign Born	48	47
Unknown	7	46
Total	256	257

Country of Origin the same	167
Country of Origin different	28
Unknown	52
Total	247



Race ¹ of Domestic Violence Homicide Victim (DVHV)	#	Percent	Average % of MA Population
White alone, Not Hispanic or Latino	152	59.3%	81.8%
African-American/Black	42	16.4%	6.5%
Hispanic/Latino ²	30	11.8%	N/A
Other (Cape Verdean, Haitian, Two or more races, Other Race)	7	2.7%	6.3%
Asian	6	2.3%	5.2%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0.2%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0.0%	0.0%
Unknown	19	7.5%	N/A
Total	256	100.0%	100.00%

¹Terms used as appear on death certificates.

²The term Hispanic/Latino was identified on death certificates but is not used in census data; therefore no comparisons of the rate of homicides to the population of the Hispanic/Latino community can be derived.

Relationship of Homicide Victims to the Domestic Violence Victims

Victims of domestic violence (the intimate partner violence victim) accounted for the majority (69.1%) of all the homicide victims. An additional 66 people were killed because of their relationship to the intimate partner violence victim. During this period, 22 (8.6%) of those killed were the minor children of the intimate partner violence victim, three (1.2%) were adult children of the intimate partner violence victim, and 13 (5.1%) were the new spouse or partner of the intimate partner violence victim.

This report only contains those deaths identified by law enforcement as homicides, and therefore does not include other deaths that could be the direct result of domestic violence such as suicides, drug overdoses, poisonings, physical and mental health related illnesses and chronic conditions, and those classified as unintentional deaths due to injuries of undetermined intent.

Persons Killed	#	Percent
Domestic Violence Victim	177	69.1%
Minor Child	22	8.6%
Other Adult ¹	17	6.6%
New Partner	14	5.5%
Abuser ²	12	4.7%
Related by blood or marriage	10	3.9%
Adult Children	3	1.2%
Law Enforcement	1	0.4%
Total	256	100.0%

¹Other Adult includes co-workers, friends, neighbors and bystanders

²Includes abusers killed in self-defense, suicide by cop, and other domestic violence perpetrator deaths, however, excludes suicide by abuser. Suicide by cop refers to an incident where the person acted in a consciously life-threatening manner to the degree that it compelled a police officer to respond with deadly force. (<http://www.suicidebycop.com>)

Relationship of Homicide Perpetrator by Gender to the Domestic Violence Victim

Killed By Whom	Gender of Homicide Perpetrator = Male		Gender of Homicide Perpetrator = Female		Total	
	#	Percent	#	Percent	#	Percent
Current spouse	63	24.6%	8	3.1%	71	27.7%
Current partner	51	19.9%	11	4.3%	62	24.2%
Former spouse	12	4.7%	1	0.4%	13	5.1%
Former partner	34	13.3%	2	0.8%	36	14.1%
Female DV Victim's Current Spouse/Partner	30	11.7%	3	1.2%	33	12.9%
Female DV Victim's Former Spouse/Partner	30	11.7%	0	0.0%	30	11.7%
Female DV Victim's Family member	3	1.2%	0	0.0%	3	1.2%
Male DV Victim's Current Spouse/Partner	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
Male DV victim's Former Spouse/Partner	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%
Acquaintance/Roommate	4	1.6%	2	0.8%	6	2.3%
Total	227	88.7%	29	11.3%	256	100.0%

By taking a victim centered approach to understanding who was killed (n=256) and by whom, this chart illustrates the relationship between the homicide perpetrator (by gender) and the domestic violence victim.

- » Of the 227 people killed by men, 160 (70.5%) were their current or former partner or spouse.
- » Female homicide perpetrators primarily killed their current spouse (8) or partner (11), representing 19 of their 29 (65.5%) homicide victims. Seven of these deaths involved a female domestic violence victim killing the abuser.
- » Male homicide perpetrators killed people associated with a domestic violence victim (63) at a rate of 12.6 times more than those (5) killed by female homicide perpetrators.

Characteristics of Homicide Incident

The most common (81.8%) location in which an IPV homicide took place was in the home.

Location of Homicide ¹		
	#	Percent
Home	189	81.8%
Outside	18	7.8%
Other (public space, secluded area, home of dv perp, etc.)	12	5.2%
Workplace	7	3.0%
Vehicle	5	2.2%
Total	231	100.0%

¹The total number of locations listed will not equal the number of IPV homicide victims or incidents. The location is counted once if there were multiple victims in the same location or is counted more than once if multiple victims in a single case were killed in different locations. This chart does not include incidents when there was a perpetrator suicide but no other death (n=16).

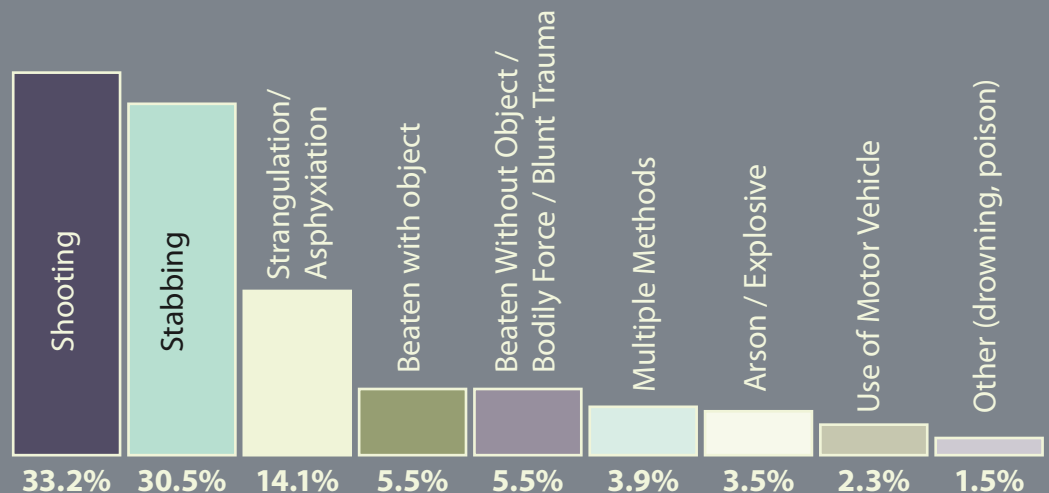
Method of Attack		
The most common weapons used to commit an IPV homicide were guns (85, 33.2%) and knives (78, 30.5%). In ten cases (3.9%), the perpetrator used multiple methods such as stabbing and strangulation or stabbing and beating to commit the homicide.		
	#	Percent
Shooting	85	33.2%
Stabbing	78	30.5%
Strangulation/Asphyxiation	36	14.1%
Beaten with object	14	5.5%
Beaten without object/Bodily Force/Blunt Trauma	14	5.5%
Multiple Methods	10	3.9%
Arson/Explosive	9	3.5%
Use of Motor Vehicle	6	2.3%
Other (drowning, poison, other)	4	1.5%
Total	256	100.0%

Children as victims, witnesses and survivors

Children are impacted by IPV violence as witnesses and victims of death and injury. Of the 255 homicide victims, 22 (8.6%) were minor children.

In the cases in which other information regarding children was available:

- » 65 minors were present at the scene of the homicide.
- » 118 minor children lost one parent and at least 15 minor children lost both parents.



Domestic Violence Homicide Perpetrator Deaths and History of Violence

Of the 334 deaths, 72 were suicides and an additional 19 perpetrators were killed either by the domestic violence victim in self-defense (8), the police (6) or someone else (5).

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	#
Suicides	5	9	4	5	14	9	6	12	1	7	72
Killed by domestic violence victim in self-defense	2	0	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	8
Killed by police (including suicide by cop)	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	6
Killed by other (someone related to IPV Victim)	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	5
Total	7	12	6	7	16	11	6	14	3	9	91

History of Violence

Information regarding prior arrests for domestic violence, abuse protection orders and other crimes was not consistently available through the media. An Abuse Prevention Order is commonly known as a domestic violence restraining or protection order or a 209A order in reference to the Massachusetts General Laws.

Based on data available, intimate partner victims sought restraining orders in 40 (16.3%) of the 246 incidents. Of these, 27 (67.5%) were active. In one case a request for a restraining order was denied.

Method of Perpetrator Suicide	
Shooting	49
Stabbing	4
Strangulation/Asphyxiation (includes hanging)	7
Other	7
Unknown	5
Total Method of Suicides	72

Abuse Prevention Orders		
Status	#	Percent
# None	146	59.1%
# Active	27	10.9%
# Expired	11	4.5%
# Requested and Denied	1	0.4%
# Dropped	1	0.4%
# Unknown	61	24.7%
Total Incidents	247	100.0%

Criminal Justice Outcomes

First-degree murder charges were brought in 144 (58.3%) of the 247 homicide cases, of which 14 (9.9%) were reduced to second-degree murder in the final prosecution. In ten cases, charges were reduced to manslaughter, voluntary manslaughter or involuntary manslaughter.

In at least 22 cases more than one charge was brought against the homicide perpetrator. In addition to murder charges, these other charges included assault and battery, assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (on a person over 60), breaking and entering, various firearm infractions and operating under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

Of the 246 cases, 144 (58.5 %) went to trial, 78 resulted in a conviction and 46 in a plea admission of guilt as of this report publication. The most common reason for not having a trial is that the homicide perpetrator was no longer alive in 78 (31.7 %) of the cases.

Offense ¹	Initial Charge	Final Charge	% (final charge)
First-degree Murder	141	95	38.6%
Second-degree Murder	14	31	12.6%
Manslaughter	4	19	7.3%
Involuntary Manslaughter	0	4	1.6%
Voluntary Manslaughter	0	8	3.3%
Vehicular Homicide	2	5	2.0%
Non-murder Charges (RO Violation, Attempted Murder, Firearms)	2	1	0.4%
Unknown	6	6	2.5%
No charges brought	78	78	31.7%
Total	247	247	100.0%

¹ In 168 of the incidents, a homicide perpetrator survived to face charges. No charges brought in 78 cases where the domestic violence homicide perpetrator was deceased.

Disposition of Cases

	#	Percent
Convicted	89	36.0%
Plea admission of guilt	46	18.6%
Nolle Pros (prosecution not continued)	2	0.8%
Dismissal (with/without prejudice)	2	0.8%
Not guilty	5	2.0%
Not guilty reason of insanity	2	0.8%
No Charge/Other	3	1.2%
Not yet gone to trial	10	4.0%
Unknown/missing	10	4.0%
No case since DV Homicide Perpetrator not alive	78	31.7%
Total # of Cases	247	100.0%

In the 129 cases in which the sentences were known, 79 (61.2%) resulted in a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

For those with Sentences

Life without possibility of parole	79
Life with possibility of parole	15
More than 10 years	18
Between 5 - 10 years	7
Under 5 years	8
Other	2
Total With Sentence	129

About Jane Doe Inc.

Jane Doe Inc. is the statewide membership and advocacy coalition dedicated to preventing and ending sexual assault and domestic violence in Massachusetts. From this unique position, Jane Doe Inc. strives to sustain and mobilize the movement, to advocate for responsive systems, policies and best practices, and to foster social change in order to support victims and survivors, hold offenders accountable and ultimately prevent violence and abuse.

Jane Doe Inc.'s membership of nearly 60 community, education and health-care based organizations offer services and resources to survivors, implement prevention and training programs in schools and communities, and advocate with systems to improve responses and expand options for survivors. They are the local hubs of expertise in their communities. Jane Doe Inc.'s primary role is to support the capacity of its member programs to provide high quality, evidence-based and trauma-informed crisis intervention, services and prevention, as well as to ensure that under-represented and marginalized communities have access to culturally and linguistically appropriate services and resources.

Effective coalition building strengthens the network of services and prevention efforts throughout the Commonwealth. Jane Doe Inc. along with its members collaborate with government, law enforcement and criminal justice systems, health care providers, and allied organizations to deepen the public's understanding of these issues, to promote innovative, promising and evidence-based practices, to improve coordination across systems and with stakeholders, and to promote justice for everyone.

Jane Doe Inc.



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank

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