

## 2019 SUMMARY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RELATED FATALITIES IN COLORADO

### COLORADO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD CHAIR: PHIL WEISER, ATTORNEY GENERAL

#### PREPARED BY THE DENVER METRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW

This is a **draft** of the list of domestic violence related fatalities in Colorado in 2019. This information is distributed and available to every person in our state that has an interest in domestic violence prevention. Location information is based on our knowledge of where the fatal incident occurred. We have given due diligence to compiling the most accurate information possible and we welcome feedback from law enforcement, prosecution, victim service and any other agencies, or individuals, statewide to help ensure our research is accurate and complete.

Please forward this document to any and all that may have information or knowledge of a domestic violence related death that we have not listed. As in past years, our numbers may differ from those released by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation due to the fact that we count *all fatalities in the context of domestic violence*, including collateral deaths and suicides. Definitions of the types of fatalities we collect information on are listed below.

As is always the case, we continue to track domestic violence related fatalities that occurred in 2019, and prior years, in Colorado. If you have knowledge of any fatal incidents in your communities that appear to be in the context of domestic violence, please submit the case information at [www.DDVCC.org/fatality-review](http://www.DDVCC.org/fatality-review). Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, suggestions, etc. – 720-337-4470 or via email [denverdvCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:denverdvCouncil@gmail.com). Thank you all for your support, patience and interest, as well as your hard work.

Jenn Doe  
DDVCC Executive Director

Xander Franklin  
DMDVFR Volunteer

DoraLee Larson  
Past DDVCC Executive Director

Katyie Wells  
DMDVFR Research Coordinator

The Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team

**Fatality:** The death of any person resulting from an incident determined to be an act of, or in the context of domestic violence or intimate partner abuse.

**Murder:** The death of one person resulting from the deliberate actions of another person in the context of an intimate partner relationship.

**Murder/Suicide:** An event resulting in the death of a person from the deliberate actions of another person who subsequently takes their own life, in the context of a current or former relationship.

**Suicide:** The death of a person who takes their own life in the context of intimate partner abuse/domestic violence (ex., abusive partner takes their own life in front of non-abusive partner during an argument or with the intention of the non-abusive partner discovering them. This could also include cases where a victim takes their own life to escape abuse).

**Collateral Death:** The death of a person, other than the person with whom the perpetrator was involved in an intimate relationship, which occurred in the context of domestic violence.

**Near Death:** An injury to a person at the hands of an intimate partner whereby that injury could likely result in the death of that person. A near-death case could also include any of the other types of fatalities listed above (ex., attempted murder/suicide or attempted murder/collateral death).

- 1/08/2019 **Dean Heerdt (58, Male)** was shot and killed by his son-in-law **Esmond Trimble (42, Male)**, who was subsequently killed by law enforcement. Trimble's wife, identified as E.T., had called 911 saying Trimble was acting "very oddly, making references to biblical verses and not making any sense,". E.T.'s father, Heerdt, attempted to intervene as his daughter called the police and E.T. was able to flee the home with her children. Officers arrived at the home, heard a gunshot from inside, and decided to enter. They found Trimble and Heerdt were together inside a bedroom, and Heerdt's arms were raised, with nothing in his hands. Trimble, armed and wearing body armor, was told by officers to put down his gun but did not comply. At some point during the incident, Trimble shot and killed Heerdt and was subsequently killed by responding law-enforcement. Aurora, Arapahoe (Collateral M/Killed by LE) 2
- 1/18/2019 **Frank Licata (61, Male)** was stabbed to death by his son, **Nicholas Licata (33, Male)**. Nicholas' wife, **Andrea Licata**, was assaulted and strangled by Nicholas earlier, but was able to escape with their child. Nicholas Licata was arrested and first-degree murder, second-degree assault (strangulation) and child abuse, and was found not guilty by reason of insanity and ordered to be committed to the Colorado Department of Human Resources in July 2020. Evaluations by a forensic psychologist and psychiatrist concluded that Nicholas Licata suffered from psychosis, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder with bouts of paranoia and hallucinations. The doctors said he was having a psychotic episode and was unable to distinguish right from wrong at the time of his crimes, and determined to be legally insane. Broomfield, Broomfield. (Collateral M/Near-death) 1
- 2/6/2019 **Theresa Bagwell (58, Female)** was shot to death by her husband, **Bruce Bagwell (61, Male)**. Bruce Bagwell admitting to killing his wife of 37 years after she received a terminal diagnosis for brain cancer. He was convicted of first-degree murder in October 2019. Lakewood, Jefferson. (M) 1
- 2/18/2019 **Kate McDowell (40, Female)** and **Thad McDowell (45, Male)** were found dead of gunshot wounds after police were called to the 2700 block of Calkins Place for a death investigation. Police confirmed the deaths of two people found inside a Broomfield home on Monday was a murder-suicide and that the case is a "domestic violence situation." Kate McDowell's death has been ruled a homicide and Thad McDowell's a suicide. Broomfield, Broomfield. (M/S) 2
- 3/10/2019 **Gloria Casias (63, Female)** was shot and killed by **Edward Ogden (57, Male)**, who also killed himself. The two were found dead of gunshot wounds after law enforcement responded to a 911 hang up call and heard multiple gun shots from inside the residence. There had been multiple domestic violence calls over the past 5 years and a disturbance call the evening prior, in which Ogden told deputies Casias' son-in-law assaulted him. After an investigation, the Sheriff's Office did not have enough evidence to charge anyone with a crime. Casias was ending the relationship with Ogden and he told deputies he would stay the night in Mancos and left in that direction after speaking with them. Casias worked for Southern Ute Health Services and was the co-founder of teen violence prevention program, See It. Stop It. She also served on the board of directors for Our Sisters Keeper, an organization that supports Native American women who have experienced sexual assault and domestic violence. Ignacio, La Plata. (M/S) 2
- 03/26/2019 The remains of **Frank Taylor (53, Male)** were found in a shallow grave in Grand County, UT in February 2020. Taylor had been listed as a missing/endangered person after

deputies were dispatched to a suspicious incident in March 2019 and found bullet holes and blood in the trailer he slept in, but Frank could not be found. A male, **Matthew Logan (32, Male)**, and female, Sheena Patrick, 33, came out of an RV with guns and were confronted by deputies at gunpoint. They claimed having no knowledge of where Frank was. Sheena Patrick was Frank's girlfriend, but was apparently seen with Matt in the RV by Frank, after which he fired shots into the RV. Later that night, Matt shot numerous times into Frank's sleeping area, killing him, and took his body to the desert in Utah and buried it in a shallow grave. Sheena Patrick has refused any interviews and cannot be found. No charges have been filed as yet for her. Matthew Logan has been arrested and charged with murder. Grand Junction, Mesa (M) 1

- 4/4/2019 Police found the body of **Amy Schrieves (21, Female)** in the car of **Joshua Thomsen (21, Male)**. Thomsen called 911 from a Walmart parking lot in Colorado Springs and told the dispatcher "I just killed someone....ummm...girl asked me if I would kill her." Thomsen alleges that Schrieves drove with him to Eleven Mile Reservoir and asked him to shoot her. Thomsen confirms that he shot her multiple times. Thomsen has plead guilty to second-degree murder. Murder occurred in Park County, arrest in Colorado Springs, El Paso. (M) 1
- 4/14/2019 **Alexandria Morris (21, Female)** was stabbed to death by her boyfriend, **Ryker Scott (24, Male)**. After the incident, Scott went to a friend's house covered in blood and told his friend he had stabbed his girlfriend because they were fighting and "she was going to kill me if I didn't kill her first." According to another person detectives spoke with, Scott and Morris were together for about three to four months and he had seen the two physically fight in the past. Scott pled guilty to second-degree murder in February 2020. Colorado Springs, El Paso. (M) 1
- 4/24/2019 Colorado Springs police shot and killed **Jonathan Patzel (29, Male)** after responding to a domestic disturbance at an apartment building on the Hancock Expressway. Upon arrival, officers observed smoke coming from the suspect's apartment. According to the El Paso County Sheriff's Office, when officers contacted the suspect, he brandished a weapon and began moving towards the officers and shots were fired. The fire in the apartment was human-caused and related to the disturbance call. Patzel died after being transported to the hospital. Colorado Springs, El Paso. (Killed by LE) 1
- 4/25/2019 **Alexus Keith (20, Female)** was shot and killed by her ex-girlfriend, **Paulette Joyce (23, Female)**. Keith called 911 asking police to respond to an apartment in the 2700 block of West 28th Avenue. Keith stated that her ex-girlfriend was armed with a gun and was pointing it at her. A witness told police that just before the shooting the two women were arguing in the bedroom of the apartment. When Keith called police and started giving information about Joyce, the witness told police Joyce pointed a gun at Keith and then heard a gunshot, according to the statement. Joyce was charged with first-degree murder. Denver, Denver. (M) 1
- 04/28/2019 An **unidentified female** was being assaulted by **Blake Flanders (36, Male)**, who she had an intimate relationship with. The victim stabbed and killed Flanders in self-defense. Aurora, Arapahoe. (SD) 1
- 5/14/2019 Charla Coleman was on the phone with her daughter, **Jacquelyn Coleman (19, Female)**, when she heard gunshots and then silence. She called for a welfare check and when officers arrived, they knocked on the door but heard no sounds from inside. Upon

entering the home, officers located the body of Jacquelyn Coleman as well as that of **Robert Gaus (23, Male)**. Charla Coleman has told the media that her daughter had moved in with Gaus after knowing him for a few months and that he wouldn't allow her daughter to have contact with the outside world. Rocky Ford, Otero. (M/S) 2

- 5/18/2019 Colorado Springs Police shot and killed **Sean Michael Collins (29, Male)** after responding to a domestic disturbance. Police received a call from a woman who said Collins hit her with a shotgun, tried to take her infant daughter and threatened to kill her. The Tactical Enforcement Unit was activated and responded to the scene. Collins barricaded himself inside an apartment and shot at officers. They forced him out of the apartment with chemicals, then shot and killed him. The District Attorney's Office ruled that the officer acted reasonably and was justified to use deadly force. Collins died at the scene and no officers were injured. Colorado Springs, El Paso. (Killed by LE) 1
- 5/30/2019 **Charlotte Stieb (66, Female)** was strangled to death by her husband, **Richard Stieb (66, Male)**. He then overdosed on pain meds in an apparent suicide attempt but survived. The two were involved in a prior DV incident in 2013. He has confessed to the murder but is currently incompetent to proceed with prosecution. Sterling, Logan. (M) 1
- 5/31/2019 **Sirena Duran-Maw (44, Female)** was strangled to death by her husband, **Erik Maw (49, Male)**. During the night of the homicide, the suspect and victim got into an argument and the suspect assaulted the victim with hands and feet. Maw told officers that after the couple's fight he went to sleep and woke up to "find her deceased." He also said that "he must have caused her injuries" because no one else was in the apartment, according to the probable cause statement. Police had been called to the apartment one other time for a domestic violence incident when neighbors heard the couple yelling and fighting, but neither person was arrested, the document says. Maw was charged with first-degree murder. Denver, Denver. (M) 1
- 6/3/2019 **Mary Schaefer (42, Female)** was found shot to death at a home in the 600 block of Navajo Avenue in Flagler. **Michael Crowe (63, Male)** was later arrested in connection to her death. The defendant confessed and was convicted of second-degree murder in Feb. 2020. Sentencing is set for late June. Flagler, Kit Carson. (M) 1
- 7/2/2019 **Amber Zotto (35, Female)** was shot and killed by her husband **Keith Zotto (44, Male)**. Amber's mother had contacted her daughter's husband, who said he and his wife were arguing over the weekend and that she had left their home, left a suicide note and he hadn't seen her since June 30. The Aurora Police Department began investigating and eventually located a body in a trash can in the garage of their home and arrested Keith Zotto. He was charged with first-degree murder charge and possession of a weapon by a previous offender. Keith Zotto stated that he may have killed Amber her when he blacked out during an argument under the influence of alcohol. Aurora, Adams. (M) 1
- 7/4/2019 **David Mooney (60, Male)** was found dead in a camper with multiple gunshot wounds, contusions, and a broken neck after his wife, **Debra Riddle (56, Female)** called 911 to report that he was unconscious and not breathing. Riddle, who smelled of alcohol and was showing no emotion when answering questions, stated she went to the grocery store and when she returned Mooney was "face planted" on the steps inside the camper. She stated he was snoring at that time, but she later found him in the same position and called for help because he was not breathing. After an extensive criminal

investigation Riddle was arrested on 07/16/2020 for Mooney's death and she pleaded not guilty in January 2020. Mancos, Montezuma (M) 1

7/5/2019 Police responded to a welfare check request and found **Emily Butler (36, Female)** dead of a gunshot wound, with husband **Kevin Butler (50, Male)** missing. He was later found in a crashed vehicle in Nederland, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Investigators found Kevin Butler had been "experiencing financial and relationship stressors," and had a history of depression, post-traumatic stress and sleep disorders. They both worked as Boulder Community Health nurses. Murder occurred in Frederick, Weld. Suicide occurred in Nederland, Boulder. (M/S) 2

7/17/2019 **Andrea King (31, Female)** was shot and killed by her boyfriend, **Theron A. Leppke (33, Male)**. King was found in the driveway of the residence after law enforcement responded to a reported shooting. Leppke was still inside the home and called 911 shortly after they arrived. Undersheriff Horton was able to negotiate with Leppke and convinced him to surrender and come outside. He was taken into custody without further incident and confessed. He was charged with first-degree murder, violation of bond conditions, first-degree assault, and possession of a weapon by a previous offender. He had been to prison previously for almost killing a prior wife and had other instances of DV with this victim. Substance abuse was a factor in this case and Leppke is currently undergoing a sanity evaluation. South of Brush, Morgan. (M) 1

7/18/2019 Police responded to a domestic violence call at the 1700 block of E. 5th Street confronted **Patrick Martinez (53, Male)**. Martinez lunged at responding officers with a knife, and they shot and killed him. He had been arrested on Feb. 3 and charged with second-degree kidnapping, felony menacing with a real or simulated weapon, and third-degree assault knowingly or recklessly causing injury, according to court records. Martinez pleaded not guilty to those charges in June and had been scheduled to appear in court for a pretrial readiness hearing on Oct. 16. Pueblo, Pueblo. (Killed by LE) 1

7/19/2019 **Tia White Bivins (42, Female)** was shot and killed by her husband, **Phillip Bivins (45, Male)**. Police responded to a house on the 3200 block of Dexter Street after Phillip Bivins turned himself into at the police station and admitted to shooting Tia. He was arrested and charged with first degree murder. Denver, Denver. (M) 1

7/24/2019 **Veronica Sarinana (38, Female)** was strangled to death by her boyfriend, **Christopher Moffat (36, Male)**. Moffat staged the victim's body in his brother's car and used the victim's cell phone to send suggestive texts to his brother in an attempt to implicate him in the crime. She was covered with trash bags and a rolled-up carpet and people living at that residence told police they had packed the long broken-down Escort with trash in anticipation of its towing. They found her purse on their front porch that morning but were unaware Sarinana's body was inside the car. Evidence shows Moffat was the last person with Sarinana, and he allegedly killed her while accusing her of cheating on him with his brother. According to the arrest affidavit, Sarinana previously told investigators that Moffat "had been physical over 100 times" during their relationship. "Veronica stated Christopher's most common assaultive technique was to force her down on her back and cover her mouth and nose with his hand, preventing her from breathing," the affidavit reads. Moffat had been arrested in January and April for assaults against Sarinana. The April assault was committed the day after charges were dismissed from the January arrest. Moffat pleaded guilty to felony assault in the April case and received

a sentence of three years probation. Moffat has been charged with first-degree murder. Arvada, Jefferson. (M) 1

- 7/26/2019 **Patrick Begley (41, Male)** was shot to death by his wife, **Shannan Begley (39, Female)**. According to an arrest affidavit, they had gotten into an argument and struggled over a gun before he was shot. Shannan Begley was charged with first-degree murder and tampering with evidence in the death of her husband. (M) 1
- 7/26/2019 **Elizabeth Collier (56, Female)** was shot and killed by **Ronald Stevens (68, Male)**, who then shot and killed himself. Denver, Denver. (M/S) 2
- 8/6/2019 **Millie Mestas (47, Female)** was stabbed to death by **Christopher Maez (52, Male)**. Maez was charged with harassment in June 2019, 2 months prior to the murder. He also had outstanding warrants for failing to appear in Archuleta County and Montezuma County and an outstanding warrant for violation of bail bond conditions in Archuleta County. Maez has been arrested and charged with first-degree murder. This case is still under investigation, therefore no further details are available. Pagosa Springs, Archuleta. (M) 1
- 8/12/2019 **Shaina Castillo (22, Female)** was found deceased from a stab wound to her neck and a gunshot to the chest. A neighbor identified the killer as her boyfriend, **Sean Landrock (25, Male)**. Castillo's sons were in the residence and witnessed the shooting. They were found hiding behind the apartment manager's door after the incident. The oldest boy (5) led his younger brothers (3 and 1 ½) out of the apartment and hid them after Landrock left the residence. Landrock has been charged with first degree murder and three counts of child abuse. Denver, Denver. (M) 1
- 8/12/2019 **Jeanette Darlene Ellingson (29, Female)** was strangled and savagely beaten to death by her fiancé, **Donnell Bradley (31, Male)**, after she took her six-year-old child to school. Bradley spent approximately two hours cleaning up the scene before his aunt called 911. Their 3-year-old son was in the home at the time. The autopsy showed Ellingson died from blunt-force trauma, had a fractured skull, ribs and arms, and was covered in bruises. Bradley was charged with first-degree murder and arraignment is set for 5/19/20, with a tentative trial date of 8/10/20. Fountain, El Paso. (M) 1
- 8/19/2019 **Juanita Castorena (23, Female)** was shot and killed by **Daisy Munoz-Rocha (18, Female)**. The two women had been in an intimate relationship and Castorena had reported physical abuse to friends and planned on ending the relationship. While the two were alone in the bedroom, Munoz-Rocha shot and killed Castorena and then killed herself. Munoz-Rocha's younger 15 year-old brother was at the home at the time. He was playing video games and thought he heard fireworks, but did not check to see what was occurring. Much later in the evening family members went up to the suspect's bedroom to check on the two and found their bodies. Commerce City, Adams. (M/S) 2
- 8/29/2019 **David Cochran (32, Male)** was killed by a stab wound to the chest. **Erica Kentrell Lamar Daniel (28, Female)** was arrested and charged with first degree murder. Denver, Adams. (M) 1
- 8/31/2019 **Semdiu Isimang (26, Male)** was struck and killed by **Melissa Laramee-Parfrey's (25, Female)** vehicle after he jumped on top of it. She stated that he was intoxicated, took her purse, and was damaging her vehicle. She was initially arrested but charges were refused by the DA's office. Denver, Denver. (SD) 1

- 9/10/2019 **Alexis Bush (22, Female)** was shot to death inside an apartment. Police responded to a call for a welfare check and **Matthew Martin (24, Male)** was arrested after briefly barricading himself in the apartment. Bush was identified as Martin's girlfriend and he was arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder, which were later dismissed. Denver, Denver. (M) 1
- 9/20/2019 Police responded to a physical altercation involving a gun between **Scott Johnson (57, Male)** and his wife, **Michelle Johnson**, outside of the Lakewood Police station at 445 South Allison Parkway. Scott and his wife had dinner at a nearby restaurant and had planned to go to the theater that night but had an argument and ended up standing outside the Lakewood Police Department. When confronted by police, Johnson refused to drop his handgun. Agents believed the subject was either going to shoot the female or Police Agents. He was subsequently shot after refusing commands to drop the weapon. Lakewood, Jefferson. (Killed by LE) 1
- 9/20/2019 **Ty Tesoriero (10, Male)** was shot and killed by his father, **Anthony Tesoriero (48, Male)**, who then killed himself. Hours after a custody hearing in which a judge awarded full custody of Ty to his mother, **Jing Tesoriero**, Anthony sent an email stating his intention to kill them both. Police responding to the scene found Ty and Anthony dead in a murder-suicide. Anthony was currently under a protection order for a pattern of abusive behavior towards Ty and Jing. Less than 24 hours before her ex-husband murdered her son and killed himself, they were both in court for a custody hearing where the judge said she planned to award Tesoriero full custody of her son. Lone Tree, Douglas. (Collateral M/S) 2
- 9/26/2019 **Andrew Hapoff (39, Male)** died after being stabbed in the chest by his wife, **Sabrina Stevens (36, Female)**. Hapoff was alleged to have problems with alcoholism and was alleged to have abused Stevens. Stevens is facing second-degree murder charges. Clifton, Mesa. (M) 1
- 9/27/2019 **Michelle Jacobson (43, Female)** was found dead from a gunshot wound in the home she shared with her fiancé, **Micah Kimball (43, Male)**. Police Responded to the home on South Pennsylvania Street, finding Jacobson dead with a Kimball's firearm in her hand and a gunshot wound on the top of her head. Court filings show neighbors contacted 911 when they heard Jacobson screaming. One told detectives she had heard loud banging, a man yelling and a woman crying. She said she saw Kimball go into a shed in the backyard and heard a woman screaming that he was hurting her and crying. She said she called 911 and then also heard the woman "kicking or throwing her body against the side of the shed after Micah left," the affidavit says. The witness said she heard the woman yell for someone to help. Kimball was arrested and charged with first-degree murder and false imprisonment, but acquitted on all charges in August, 2020. Kimball said he'd watched Jacobson pull the gun from a nightstand and point it at him, then fled to another room, heard a gunshot, and returned to the bedroom to find Jacobson dead. Prosecutors argued Kimball killed Jacobson as a way to exert control over her, and pointed to the hours-long, at times physical argument, they'd had that night, including a series of text messages and voicemails Kimball sent Jacobson in the hours before she died. They argued that the couple was arguing in the minutes before Jacobson died, and she was not suicidal. Defense attorneys emphasized a lack of physical evidence implicating Kimball in the crime, and relied heavily on testimony from the deputy director of the Denver Crime Laboratory, who testified for the defense that she believed

Jacobson's wound was self-inflicted, based on a lack of blood spatter on Kimball's clothing and body, and the pattern of blood on the bed and walls around Jacobson. The medical examiner ruled the manner of death to be undetermined. Denver, Denver. (Manner of death unknown) 1

- 10/2/2019 **Rafael Jaime (25, Male)** was stabbed to death by **Hector Mendoza (38, Male)**. Jaime was married to Mendoza's ex-wife, who he still associated with. Mendoza was charged with first-degree murder, second-degree murder, two assault-related counts, and a violent crime sentence enhancer. Clifton, Mesa. (Collateral M) 1
- 10/20/2019 **Dajanae Brice (26, Female)** shot and killed **Tyre Falls (27, Male)** in self-defense. Police were called to respond to North Quebec Street and East 7th Avenue for a report of fighting and a woman being threatened by men. One caller said they heard "males threatening to kill a female" in the courtyard. That caller went on to say that the people involved went into a unit and that it "sounded like a female was being assaulted" and they heard a woman say, "help me, help me", the statement says. When they arrived they found Falls dead from a gunshot, with Brice kneeling over him, crying. Brice was reported to have bite marks, bruising and abrasion. Brice was arrested and charged with 2nd degree murder of Falls, but charges were refused by the DA's office. Denver, Denver. (SD) 1
- 10/20/2019 **Jennifer Young (39, Female)** was strangled to death by her husband **Fredrick Young (42, Male)**. He then walked into the Criminal Justice Center and stated that his wife was dead and he had not yet notified anyone. Officers were dispatched to the home and found the deceased body. It was determined that the cause of death was manual strangulation and further investigation led to the arrest of her husband. He has been charged with first-degree murder and is scheduled for arraignment on 6/4/20. Colorado Springs, El Paso. (M) 1
- 10/23/2019 **Roxine Foster (59, Female)** was shot to death by her husband, **Mark Anthony Foster (61, Male)**. Deputies discovered Roxine after responding to a 911 call from Mark Foster stating that his wife had been shot. He claimed that she was on a tractor and shot from behind by an unknown shooter. Text and voice messages showed evidence of arguments between the couple and threats by Roxine to end the relationship. Mark was arrested by the Mesa County Sheriff's Office and charged with first-degree murder, attempt to influence a public servant, and domestic violence. Grand Junction, Mesa. (M) 1
- 11/1/2019 **Martha Sianez-Hernandez (32, Female)** was shot and killed by her husband **Jose Gallegos (38, Male)**. He then fled the property with their two children and a gun, and police tracked him to the top level of the Table Mesa Park and Ride, confronting him when he exited the vehicle. Gallegos told officers he was responsible for killing his wife, stated he had a gun, and ordered them to shoot him or he would jump. While in negotiations with police, Gallegos jumped from the structure, dying on scene from the impact. Their two sons were recovered from the vehicle and placed in the care of family. Sianez-Hernandez's sister said her sister had been in an abusive relationship for years and shortly after saying she was done with the marriage, she was found dead. Boulder, Boulder. (M/S) 2
- 11/02/2019 **Rotasha Pryor-Thomas (32, Female)** was strangled to death by her boyfriend, **Jarvis Gates (38, Male)** at the Chalet Motel. She was found deceased in a bathtub with water

running and had been observed earlier trying to escape the motel room but was dragged back into the room by the Gates. He admitted being present with his girlfriend but denied involvement. Gates has history of DV arrests and has been charged with first-degree murder in this case. Trial is scheduled for 8/3/20. Lakewood, Jefferson. (M) 1

- 11/11/2019 **Samuel Harding (60, Male)** was shot and killed by his wife, **Tammy Pierce (58, Female)**, who was later shot and killed by responding law enforcement. SWAT entered the home after a welfare check revealed a deceased man lying on the floor of the home. Pierce was armed with a handgun and SWAT officers engaged fire with her, killing her in the shootout. Later investigation revealed Pierce had killed husband Harding several days prior. Loveland, Clear Creek. (M/Killed by LE) 2
- 11/23/2019 Police officers responded to a domestic disturbance at the 3200 block of Rex Street based on a 911 call placed in which they heard threats being made by a male party towards a female. When they arrived, officers heard screaming and yelling coming from inside the residence, and a man threatening to take a woman hostage. They forced entry and found **Courtney Piper (22, Female)** and **Estevon Cruz (24, Male)** inside. Piper was able to get out and, after attempting to secure the scene, police officers fatally shot Cruz after he charged them with a pellet gun. Pueblo, Pueblo. (Killed by LE) 1
- 11/27/2019 **Russel Recelistino (27, Female)** was killed by her husband, **Joseph Garza (37, Male)**. Police arrested Joseph Garza after an ambulance responded to a call about an unresponsive woman at the 1200 block of 3rd Street. Garza is believed to have killed Recelistino in an act of domestic violence. According to her mother, Recelistino's husband was a very jealous man. She was waiting for her green card, but she could no longer stand her life with her husband and planned to return to the Philippines in January after she got her state tax refund. Cause of death is unknown. Fort Lupton, Weld. (M) 1
- 12/8/2019 **Lydia Tesfuoo (25, Female)** was found stabbed to death at the Advenir at Cherry Creek South apartment complex. Police responding to a welfare check discovered the victim. A warrant was issued for **Tegegn Habtemariam (31, Male)**, but no arrest has been made. Denver, Denver. (M) 1
- 12/9/2019 **Heath Clayton Jones (39, Male)** died of a gunshot wound. The shooting is believed to be connected to a domestic dispute. This case is still under investigation as of and no additional information is available. Bennett, Adams. (Manner of death unknown) 1
- 12/15/2019 **Karen Leithauser (59, Female)** was strangled to death by **Dale Bauder (56, Male)**. Bauder called 911 to report the female victim was found unconscious. Officers and medical arrived and the female was transported to the hospital with substantial injuries. She died after being removed from life support 5 days later. The three charges on which police arrested Bauder carried "family" designations, according to CBI records. Citing an ongoing investigation, police declined to specify any relation between Bauder and the woman, or any details of her injuries. Prosecutors have since levied a total of six charges against Bauder, although three of the counts are sentence enhancers and would only come into effect if Bauder were to be convicted. Felony strangulation and felony assault accompany the top murder charge, according to CBI data. Bauder was previously found guilty of a misdemeanor domestic violence-related charge in Aurora in April 2008. Aurora, Arapahoe. (M) 1

12/24/2019

**Brianna Carpenter (28, Female)** was shot and killed by her husband, **Aaron Carpenter (33, Male)**. Aaron told dispatch he shot her in the stomach and “was too upset to check on her or render aid,” according to the arrest affidavit. Later in the conversation he said his wife called him names, so he shot her, and in an interview later he said that he did not do anything for his wife of four years as she lay on the floor because “he was too tired and it was too early in the morning,” the affidavit said. He told police Brianna kept a handgun in her purse and during the fight she grabbed the handgun and told him “if he was going to (shoot or kill) her, just do it” and handed him the gun with the barrel pointed toward her. Aaron Carpenter was arrested and charged with assault and first-degree murder. Grand Junction, Mesa. (M) 1

DRAFT

## DV-RELATED SUICIDE DEATHS

- 1/31/2019 **Larry Puckett (57, Male)** shot and killed himself in front of his wife, **Janeen Puckett (53, Female)** after striking her during an argument. One of their children witnessed this and called 911, which is when Larry shot himself. Children (ages 11 and 12) did not see the shooting but heard it and were escorted outside by mom until police arrived. (S) 1
- 2/12/2019 **Joshua Moore (37, Male)** shot and killed himself after an argument and physical struggle with his estranged wife, **Roberta Moore (44, Female)**. Reportedly, the couple had an argument earlier in the day and both left the residence. Joshua returned to the house, destroying the inside with a sledgehammer and spray-painting hateful messages on the walls, then left again. Roberta returned followed by Joshua shortly after, who started firing a gun into the home, shattering the window and nearly hitting people inside. As Joshua tried to force his way into the home, the people inside escaped and fled in a vehicle. Roberta ran outside in an opposite direction in order to distract Joshua so the others could escape. Law enforcement responded to 2600 block of Bradbury Court after receiving several calls about shots fired. They arrived to find that Joshua had chased Roberta into the street with a gun and there was a physical struggle. The responding officer ordered Joshua to move away from Roberta and drop the weapon, at which point he raised it and shot himself in the head, as the officer simultaneously fired multiple times. Joshua's death was ruled a suicide. No one else was physically injured. Fort Collins, Larimer. (S) 1
- 2/2/2019 **Kevin Hartmann (39, Male)** was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The day prior to the fatality, during a confrontation with his wife, Hartmann threatened to kill himself as a way to punish her. She took his gun away and watched him all day to ensure that he did not commit suicide. The following night, Hartmann's wife awoke to him standing over, demanding her phone and passcode, and she refused. He dragged her out of bed by her hair and across the walkway to the loft in their home. When he released her, she stood up and he shoved her into a nearby chair. At this point, their son intervened and began hitting him. Hartmann then went to the bedroom, retrieved his weapon, and left the home with the weapon and with the victim's phone. Law enforcement was contacted regarding a suicidal subject with a weapon driving around in his truck. The truck was located, and Hartmann was inside the truck, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Hartmann's wife reported that her husband had PTSD and suffered from alcoholism due to his time as a firefighter and a law enforcement officer, and that the offender's anger had been progressively increasing in frequency and severity. The offender was employed as a law enforcement officer with Englewood Police Department at the time of this incident. Highlands Ranch, Douglas. (S) 1
- 6/8/2019 A welfare check was requested after pre-trial services noticed that **Charles Mendes' (42, Male)** GPS bracelet had not moved and the battery died. His wife, who was the victim of an assault by him in February reported concerns that he was going to hurt himself and had threatened to find and kill her. When law enforcement responded they found Mendes deceased and determined he had hung himself in his hotel room. (S) 1

- 6/25/2019 **Silvano Atencio (42, Male)** was found dead of a drug overdose and his death was ruled a suicide. His wife, who has been a victim in several DV cases he had, had called police for a welfare check because he had recently made statements about killing himself due to losing her. The day before his death, he had been yelling to her about someone being in the house and she got scared and attempted to leave. He chased after her and caught her on the stairs, at which point she screamed for him to let her go and was able to get away from him. Denver, Denver. (S) 1
- 7/14/2019 **Kathleen Petrocco (36, Female)** was found dead in her home on July 14, 2019. Despite no indications of suicide to her family, friends, coworkers, or psychiatrist, Adams County Coroner determined that she died by asphyxiation by hanging. Her estranged husband, who she was in the process of divorcing, had plead guilty to two counts of domestic assault-related charges on April 19, 2018. Kate's two children had witnessed prior abuse by their father. Brighton, Adams. (S) 1
- 8/4/2019 **Heather Woosley (41, Female)** died by suicide and referenced domestic violence in a video she left. Heather had been the victim in multiple reported DV cases in 2018 and her abuser had served jail time for these crimes, which involved stalking and harassment. He had been released from jail shortly before Heather's death and had continued the abusive behaviors. Denver, Denver. (S) 1
- 10/3/2019 **Mark Latour (49, Male)** was found dead by hanging in his apartment. A female had reported a DV incident and left the apartment the day prior. When she left, she stated she thought he was going to kill himself. There had been a history of abuse in the relationship. Denver, Denver. (S) 1
- 11/11/2019 **Tushar Rae (31, Male)**, former dean of Aurora West Prep was found dead of an apparent suicide. In the preceding months, he had been arrested three times. Charges included attempted assault with a deadly weapon and carrying a weapon on school grounds, menacing and false imprisonment. Some of these charges were related to domestic violence. (S) 1
- 11/24/2019 **Kenny Wehby-Wilson (88, Female)** survived being stabbed by **Richard Wehby (82, Male)**. The incident began on 11/14 while the Douglas County Sheriff's Office Civil Division was attempting to begin an eviction at the home shared by the two. While DCSO deputies were knocking on the door, Wehby stabbed Wehby-Wilson in the chest as she was sleeping. She was able to call 911 and law enforcement was already outside of the home and were able to render immediate aid. Wehby also stabbed the dog, that was primarily the Wehby-Wilson's pet. Wehby-Wilson was taken to the hospital and transported by helicopter to another hospital for emergency heart surgery. Her heart was punctured by the stab wound and she almost died due to her injuries. The suspect was arrested and brought to jail, where he was placed on suicide watch. On 11/24/2019, the suspect died by apparent suicide while in jail at the Douglas County Sheriff's Office. There was a documented history of domestic violence in the relationship. Castle Pines, Douglas. (S/Near-death) 1
- 12/17/2019 **Clifford Mitchell (56, Male)** was on a court ordered Supervised Release program with a GPS ankle monitor as a result of a DV case against a woman he had dated. Adams

County notified the Brighton Police that Mitchell was in an exclusion zone around the residence of the victim of the aforementioned case. Upon arrival at the residence, officers found Mitchell sitting up against the fence with a large laceration to his neck and pronounced him dead on scene. The victim of Mitchell's DV case who resided in the home believed he was planning to kill her. The two were scheduled to appear in court the following day for a permanent protection order hearing. Brighton, Adams. (S) 1

DRAFT

*The following cases are for information only and are not included in statistics*

#### **NEAR-DEATH**

- 07/19/2019 **Walker Walgenbach (24, Male)** was stabbed by **Samantha Reed(24, Female)**, but survived. Deputies were dispatched to an assault in progress, but no one was found at the residence when they arrived. St. Mary's Hospital called and advised a male with a stab wound had just been dropped off. Security camera video showed a female in a white car dropping off the victim. An investigator with the Mesa Co Sheriff's Office found the vehicle parked in an upper tier of the hospital parking garage and the female was attempting to drive off and was confronted at gun point. Samantha Reed was arrested and charged with 2nd degree assault with a deadly weapon/domestic violence and causing serious bodily injury. The victim, Walker Walgenbach, had been stabbed in the abdomen, which was considered life-threatening. Walker recovered from his injuries. Walker's 7 yr old daughter witnessed the couple arguing and saw Samantha grab a knife and stab Walker. She and Samantha grabbed Samantha's two younger children and took Walker to the hospital where Samantha dropped him off. Samantha took the children to her father's house and then returned to the hospital where she was contacted by law enforcement. Samantha claimed Walker accidentally walked into the knife while she was trying to cut his headphones during the argument. Clifton, Mesa County. (Near-death)
- 9/26/2019 Police responded to a domestic violence call at W. 71st Avenue and Hooker Street. A woman called 911 at 9:20 a.m. to report that her ex-husband had stolen her handgun on Wednesday and then called Thursday morning and threatened to kill her, as police arrived, a man was dragging a woman out of the apartment complex by her hair, while carrying a gun. Officers shot and wounded the man after he pointed the weapon at them. Westminster, Adams. (Near-death)
- 10/19/2019 **Ceacy Staley (31, Female)** was strangled and stabbed by **Jonathan Descheenie (39, Male)**, but survived. Descheenie returned Staley's vehicle that he took earlier in the day and she told him he needed to leave and that they were done. He then tackled her to the ground and strangled her. Staley grabbed her phone and attempted to leave and Descheenie pulled her by the hair multiple times, pulled her to the ground, took a knife and stabbed her once in the neck. Denver, Denver. (Near-death)
- 10/27/2019 Police responded to a domestic violence call at Villa Rosa Apartments. When they arrived, they confronted a male suspect holding a weapon. When the man refused to drop the weapon, the police opened fire, wounding him. Lakewood, Jefferson. (Near-death)
- 11/16/2019 Police responded to a domestic disturbance at the 33000 block of Harmon Road. **Richard Brown (41, Male)** had barricaded himself in his home after menacing his wife and children with a shotgun. The standoff ended after Brown attempted suicide, surviving after hospitalization. Pine, Jefferson. (Near-death)
- 12/2/2019 Police were called to respond to a house after **Matthew Cotter (19, Male)** texted his ex-girlfriend that he was going to kill himself, then parked outside her house. As officers

arrived on scene the suspect began firing at them and **Officer Pelton** with the Fort Lupton Police Department was shot. Officers returned fire, injuring the lone suspect. Both injured parties were transported by helicopter to local hospital and survived. Cotter was charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder after deliberation, one count of first-degree assault with a deadly weapon causing serious bodily injury, two counts of first-degree assault involving threatening a peace officer with a weapon, and one count of attempted first-degree assault with a deadly weapon. Ft. Lupton, Weld. (Near-death)

12/08/2019 **Dekevia Williams (21, Male)** was stabbed by **Killia Ford (19 Female)**, but survived. Williams was w/friends when he rec'd a call from Ford stating she was outside. He went outside and she grabbed him by the hair and started to punch and kick him. She then pulled out a knife and stabbed him. Denver, Denver. (Near-death)

12/17/2019 **Tami Keller (56, Female)** survived being attacked by her husband, **Thomas Keller (56, Male)** with a samurai sword. According to the victim, the suspect had been acting oddly and drinking a significant amount of alcohol for a few days. On the day of the incident, she called 911 because Tom was in a "bad place" and "chasing" her around the house. She saw Tom come out of their bedroom with a "Samurai in his hand" and she hid in a closet. She was trying to hold the closet door closed but Tom was able to pull the door away from her. She "pushed" Tom on his belly, and he came back at her and made contact with the sword to her arm, nearly severing her hand. The victim was taking video on her cell phone during this incident, which the suspect swinging at her multiple times with the sword, while she begs him to stop. The video captures him hitting her arm with the sword and swinging the sword at her neck. She was able to run from the home, where DCSO deputies were arriving and received medical attention immediately. While she was in surgery, the surgeon informed the Detective who was present that the injury was "life and limb threatening." Parker, Douglas. (Near-death).

## FURTHER CONSIDERATION

- 4/12/2019 Police responded to a call at a residence on the 1500 block of S. Sable Boulevard, finding two residents deceased from gunshot wounds.
- 6/2/2019 A woman was shot while driving near 12780 Colorado Boulevard by a passenger in her vehicle. A 19yo male was arrested for negligent discharge of a firearm in association with the incident. Thornton, Adams. (Near-death)
- 7/31/2019 **Daniel Hunt (35, Male)** was shot and killed by his girlfriend's roommate, **Daniel Gray (40, Male)**. Gray claims he had to shoot Hunt because he was assaulting his girlfriend. The woman, who was uninjured, said Hunt did not assault her and Gray later admitted he never saw Hunt hurting the woman. She said she was arguing with him over a text message he got from another woman, when Hunt grabbed her face with both hands "so they could look at each other." Then Gray knocked on the door and came into the bedroom and the woman assured him everything was all right. Hunt had his arms around her when she heard four rapid shots. Gray had "been physical" with Hunt on March 6 too, she said, when he thought Hunt was holding her hostage, kicked in a door and hit Hunt with a barbell, the documents said. Gray was found guilty of second-degree murder. Colorado Springs, El Paso
- 9/30/2019 Police responded to a woman stabbed at 6300 block of Knox Court, who later succumbed to her injuries at the hospital.
- 10/22/2019 **Kelly Jo Kiess (24, Female)**, was shot and killed by her neighbor, **Justin Chaney (45, Male)** in self-defense. Kelly had reportedly been trying to leave an abusive relationship with **Andy Bernadeau (22, Male)**. Bernadeau was engaging in some stalking behaviors, and was not allowed in the building where Kelly lived. He snuck into the building after one of the residents, and proceeded to bang on Kelly's door, trying to get her to let him in. Chaney came into the hallway, along with **Jamie Anderson** and confronted Bernadeau about what he was doing and the commotion he was causing. Neighbors knew Bernadeau wasn't allowed to be there and the confrontation resulted in him physically assaulting Chaney. Chaney then went to his apartment, retrieved a gun, and called 911 while still holding a gun to Bernadeau. Something was said loudly enough for Kelly to hear a confrontation was occurring in the hallway and she came out and saw Chaney holding Bernadeau at gunpoint. She then went into her apartment, and came back out with a gun, which the Chaney saw and he shot Kelly because he was in fear for his life and Anderson's life. No charges were filed and Kelly's family feels that her death is the result of domestic violence and should be viewed in that context.
- 11/1/2019 **Anthony Pena** was killed by police following a hostage situation on West 84th Avenue and Fox Street. Thornton, Adams.
- 11/14/2019 **Edwin Morales, Jr. (43, Male)** was shot and killed by his son **Edwin Jay Morales (21, Male)**. The two had gotten into an argument and Edwin Jay went into a bedroom to retrieve a gun, then came out and shot his father. Edwin Jay told police he shot his father because he feared for his life and his dad "had been beating his mother and

brothers for years.” The victim’s other son, 24-year-old Xzavier Loucks, told police during the fight that Edwin Junior yelled at Edwin Jay, “Shoot me, me if you’re gonna shoot me.” Edwin Jay has been charged with first-degree murder and arraignment is set for 5/28/20. Colorado Springs, El Paso

11/24/2019 **Joelle Peterson** had barricaded herself inside their bathroom after her husband **Edward Daniel Seguin (54, Male)** began hallucinating under the influence of meth and began firing a rifle at the hallucinations. Responding police shot and wounded Seguin, incapacitating him and allowing for Peterson's escape. Seguin recovered from his injuries in a hospital. Estes Park, Larimer. (Near-death)

12/25/2019 **Joy Delucio (20, Female)** was stabbed to death in an Aurora mobile home. Police also found a man who had been stabbed. He was transported in critical condition to the hospital where he remains. Aurora, Arapahoe.

12/27/2019 A woman was shot in the arm while in her car on the 4400 block of Washington street. Denver, Denver. (Near-death)

DRAFT

Number of People Killed in DV-Related Incidents	
Women Killed by Male Partner/Ex-partner	27
Women Killed by Female Partner/Ex-partner	2
Women Killed by other women	0
Collateral Women Killed	0
Suicides by Women	3
Men Killed by Female Partner/Ex-partner	5
Men Killed by Male Partner/Ex-partner	0
Men Killed by other men	1
Collateral Men Killed	3
Suicides by Men	16
Children Killed	1
Killed by Law Enforcement	7
Killed in Self-Defense	3
Unknown	2

**Total Fatal Incidents: 60      Total Deaths: 70**

**Incident Types**

**Murder: 31\***  
**Murder/Suicide: 8**  
**Suicide Only: 11**  
**Killed by LE: 7\***  
**Self-defense: 3**  
**Unknown: 2\*\***

\* Numbers total higher than total incidents due to the following: In 1 case, the DV perpetrator killed his father in law, then was killed by LE. In another, a woman murdered her husband, then was killed by LE, so these are counted under multiple incident categories

\*\* The manner of death for these cases is unknown, but reports indicate that they occurred in the context of domestic violence

DV-Related Deaths in Colorado by Year (at least)					
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Average
37	58	40	43	70	49.6

**County and City of Incidents**

Adams: 6	Highlands Ranch: 1	Mesa: 5
Aurora: 1	Castle Pines: 1	Grand Junction: 3
Bennett: 1		Clifton: 2
Denver: 1	El Paso: 5	Montezuma: 1
Brighton: 2	Colorado Springs: 4	Mancos: 1
Commerce City: 1	Fountain: 1	
	Jefferson: 6	Morgan: 1
Arapahoe: 3	Lakewood: 5	South of Brush: 1
Aurora: 3	Arvada: 1	
Archuleta: 1	Kit Carson: 1	Otero: 1
Pagosa Springs: 1	Flager: 1	Rocky Ford: 1
Boulder: 1	La Plata: 1	Park: 1
Boulder: 1	Ignacio: 1	Lake George: 1
Broomfield: 2	Larimer: 2	Pueblo: 2
Broomfield: 2	Loveland: 1	Pueblo: 2
Denver: 15	Fort Collins: 1	Weld: 2
Denver: 15	Logan: 1	Fort Lupton: 1
Douglas: 3	Sterling: 1	Frederick: 1
Lone Tree: 1		