



## Domestic Violence Fatality List

**55 Domestic Violence Fatalities**

**In Louisiana**

**September, 2015 – August, 2016**

- WHO?** Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) tracks domestic violence homicides primarily through media reports.
- WHAT?** The data is compiled in a spreadsheet to monitor yearly trends, to inform the Coalition's public policy work, and to confirm the accuracy of external reports.
- This is *not* a memorial list. It is a compilation of homicides based on criteria set forth by the Louisiana DVFR Project.
- WHY?** A master dataset regarding domestic violence fatalities was completed in 2010 when LCADV issued findings and recommendations of the Louisiana Domestic Violence Fatality Review (DVFR) Project. LCADV has adopted that methodology in an effort to consistently collect statistics regarding fatalities. This data informs interpretation of reports from external sources. For example, the Violence Policy Center's annual report, *When Men Murder Women*, analyzes the highest homicide rates among female victims killed by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents. That report utilizes data from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting Program. Read in concert, these three sources provide a more accurate depiction of domestic violence fatalities in Louisiana. Equipped with that information, LCADV can better appreciate the number of domestic violence homicides, track potential gaps in services, and further its goal in eliminating future fatalities.
- HOW?** The Louisiana DVFR Project defined a domestic violence fatality as a fatality that arises from an abuser's efforts to seek power and control over his intimate partner. Using this broad definition, domestic violence fatalities in this list include:
- 1) All homicides in which the victim was a current or former intimate partner of the perpetrator.
  - 2) Homicides in which the victim was someone other than the perpetrator's intimate partner, but which occur in the context of domestic violence or in the context of a perpetrator attempting to kill an intimate partner (i.e., friend, family member, new intimate partner, law enforcement).
  - 3) Homicides occurring as an extension of or in response to ongoing intimate partner abuse (i.e., revenge killing of children).
  - 4) Suicides, other than the abuser's, which may be a response to domestic violence.
- CAVEATS** Information is gathered through media reports which can lack significant information. Because each circumstance is nuanced and fact-driven, the list can be both under and over-inclusive. In addition, it does not take into account that the person listed as victim may, in some cases, be the predominant aggressor. The person listed as victim is the person who was killed during the altercation.
- WHEN?** LCADV collects media clips on an ongoing basis. Some programs may choose to use the information in crafting memorial lists in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Programs are encouraged to evaluate the list and modify it as necessary for their needs.