**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board**

An overview of the key findings of the 2020 domestic violence-related deaths in Oklahoma.

### TOTAL FATALITIES: 138

There were 106 incidents totaling 119 victim and 19 perpetrator deaths. Of the 119 victims, 51 were female and 67 were male. There were two prenatal victims.*

### INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES

There were 46 victims of intimate partner homicide (IPH), or 38.7% of the total number of domestic violence-related deaths.

Of the IPH victims, 69.5% were female.

### Perpetrator–Victim Relationship

52 victims were killed by family members, including 14 children. Triangle homicides were the least prevalent at 3.4% of relationships.

### Victim and Perpetrator Race

The Black community is the most impacted by domestic violence-related fatalities, comprising 5.5% of Oklahoma’s population but 21.0% of homicide victims and 24.1% of perpetrators. Native Americans are next with 5.8% of the population but 15.1% of victims and 17.9% of perpetrators.

### HOMICIDE–SUICIDES

Twenty-four victim were killed in homicide–suicide events, including 4 children. Homicide–suicide victims comprised 20.2% of all domestic violence-related homicide victims.

### Cause of Death

Firearms were used five times more frequently than any other weapon in domestic violence-related fatalities and were the identified cause in 68.8% of deaths.

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*Including one whose gender was not identified.
** Violence Policy Center, 09/2021.
The average age of adult female domestic homicide victims is 45.5 years.

Adult Black women are killed in domestic violence homicides at a rate of 1.02 per 10,000, almost 4 times the average. Adult Native American women die at a rate almost 45% more than average.

Adult Black women are an average of 32.6 years old when they die from domestic homicide. Native American women average 40.9 years.

Black women make up less than 10% of the adult female population but are almost 1 out of every 4 adult female domestic violence homicide victims. Native American women comprise 11.6% of adult female victims, a rate almost 47% higher than their share of the adult female population.

Women of color are disproportionately impacted by domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma, especially those in Black and Native American communities.
Women of color experiencing domestic violence face unique circumstances which may account for underreporting of domestic violence and hesitance about seeking help or services.

- Lack of providers that look like or share common experiences with the survivor and/or a lack of culturally and language appropriate services.
- Strong loyalty or bonds to race, culture, and/or family.
- Distrust of law enforcement, the criminal justice system, and social services based on history of racism and classism.
- More likely to be criminalized by the legal system.
- Oppression, including re-victimization, is intensified at the intersections of race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, legal status, age and socioeconomic status.
- Fear their experiences will reflect on or confirm stereotypes and/or that providers will make assumptions based on race/ethnicity.

CULTURALLY-SPECIFIC RESOURCES

24-HOUR OKLAHOMA SAFELINE
800.522.SAFE (7233)
https://www.oag.ok.gov/victim-services

UJIMA: THE NATIONAL CENTER ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY
844.778.5462 | https://ujimacommunity.org/

STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE
844.762.8483
www.strongheartshelpline.org

ESPERANZA UNITED
651.772.1611
www.esperanzaunited.org | info@esperanzaunited.org

NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE
405.207.0212 | PO Box 5507, Norman 73070
https://oknaav.org/ | info@oknaav.org

LA LUZ ORG
405.724.8474 | 405.812.0762 (24/7 line)
PO Box 864, Oklahoma City 73101
https://www.laluzokc.org/ | info@laluzokc.org

LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
405.236.0701 | 420 SW 10th St, Oklahoma City 73109
https://lndaok.org/ | info@lndaok.org

CARDINAL POINT: A DIRECTION FOR HOPE
405.706.0990 | 7905 OK Rt 66, El Reno 73036
https://cardinalpointok.org/

FAMILY SAFETY CENTER
918.742.7480 | 600 Civic Center, Ste 103, Tulsa 74103
https://fsctulsa.org/ | dir@fsctulsa.org

PALOMAR: OKLAHOMA CITY’S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
405.552.1010 | 405.355.3556 (text)
1140 N Hudson, Oklahoma City 73103
https://palomarokc.org/ | help@palomarokc.org

This publication was prepared by the DVFRB Program Staff at the Office of the Attorney General on behalf of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. The DVFRB annual report includes supplemental material or responses. Published under State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma District Attorney’s Council, Office of Victims of Crime, Department of Justice, Fiscal Year 2021. Information is updated by the Office of the Attorney General, Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board and Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence.
IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE PHYSICAL TO BE DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse is controlling, coercive, threatening, or degrading and violent behavior, including sexual violence, by a current or former partner, family member, or caregiver. It can be a single event or a pattern of incidents.

Coercive Control

an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation, and/or intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a victim

Emotional/Mental Abuse

non-physical behaviors meant to control, isolate, or frighten a victim, such as threats, insults, constant monitoring, excessive jealousy, manipulation, humiliation, intimidation, and dismissiveness

Economic Abuse

perpetrator using or misusing money and/or restricting access to essential resources such as food, clothing or transportation, denying a victim means to improve their economic status

Sexual abuse/coercion

acts or statements that force the victim to perform sexual acts against their will and/or pressure, guilt, or shame the victim so they feel obligated to perform sexual acts

Digital Abuse

the use of technology and the Internet to bully, harass, stalk, intimidate, and/or control a partner
Common examples of non-physical domestic abuse include:

- Calling a victim names, insulting them, and/or constantly criticizing them.
- Attempting to control what a victim wears, including their clothes, makeup, or hairstyle, or forcing them to wear clothes and/or style themselves in a way they're uncomfortable with.
- Gaslighting a victim by pretending not to understand or refusing to listen to them, questioning their recollection of facts, events or sources, trivializing their needs or feelings and/or denying previous statements or promises.
- Isolating a victim from friends or family and/or controlling who they can see.
- Monitoring a victim’s time and/or activities without their knowledge and/or excessively demanding to know where they go, who they contact, and how they spend their time.
- Damaging a victim's belongings, including throwing objects, punching walls, kicking doors, etc.
- Providing the victim with an allowance and closely monitoring how they spend it, including demanding receipts.
- Preventing a victim from viewing or accessing bank accounts and/or their funds.
- Preventing a victim from working, limiting the number of hours they can work, getting them fired, or forcing them to work certain types of jobs.
- Refusing to provide a victim money for necessary or shared expenses such as food, shelter, clothing, medical care, medicine, or transportation.
- Forcing or manipulating a victim into having sex, especially when they are sick, tired, and/or physically injured from abuse.
- Using the relationship status as leverage by demanding sex as a way for the victim to "prove" their love or by threatening to cheat or leave.
- Demanding the victim send explicit photos, videos, or messages they are uncomfortable with.
- Demanding the victim provide the passwords for or give the perpetrator access to all their electronic accounts, such as email and social media.
- Calling and/or texting the victim excessively and/or sending them threatening messages when they don't respond right away to the perpetrator.

For more information or to get help call the Oklahoma SafeLine:
1.800.522.HELP (7233)