

**OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
FATALITY REVIEW BOARD**

# 2025

**ANNUAL REPORT**





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2026

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## Introduction

The purpose of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB)<sup>1</sup> is to reduce the number of domestic violence-related deaths by identifying gaps in the domestic violence prevention and protection system. The Board proposes recommendations aimed at improving the coordinated response of the individuals, organizations, and agencies within the system.

This annual report is prepared in compliance with Oklahoma statute Title 22, § 1601. The law mandates that the DVFRB submit an annual statistical report on the previous year's domestic violence fatality trends in Oklahoma, as well as a set of policy recommendations on how to improve the state's domestic violence prevention and protection system. The recommendations are drawn from the Board's discussions and reviews of Oklahoma domestic violence homicide cases.

## Domestic Violence Statistical Findings for 2024

The DVFRB and Program Staff annually identify, review, and report on domestic violence-related fatalities that occurred in Oklahoma during the previous calendar year. A fatality is classified as domestic violence-related if it falls into one of the following broad categories: intimate partner homicide (IPH), family homicide, triangle homicide (also known as sexual-competitor homicide), bystander/good Samaritan homicide, and roommate homicide.<sup>2</sup> The table below outlines domestic violence-related fatality totals DVFRB staff compiled for the 2024 calendar year. (Table 1)

**Table 1. 2024 DVFRB Domestic Violence Homicide Statistical Findings**

Variables	2024 Total
Homicide Cases	77
Domestic Violence Homicide Victims (All)	87
Intimate Partner Homicide Victims (Only)	31 (35.6%)
Murder-Suicide Victims (Only)	20 (23.0%)
Child Victims (< 18)	16 (18.4%)

The 87 domestic violence-related homicide victims identified in 2024 is the second lowest total in the past ten years (2015-2024). It almost matches the total seen in 2018 (88) and is five more than the decade low (82) recorded in 2017. Overall, 2024 marks the end of five consecutive years where the DVFRB identified more than 100 victims who were killed due to domestic violence in Oklahoma.

DVFRB research shows Oklahoma averaged 110 domestic violence homicide victims between 2020-2024. In contrast, the average between 2015-2019 was 95. Notably, the total of IPH victims (31) is one of the lowest ever recorded by the DVFRB in the past decade, only surpassed by the 26 IPH victims recorded in 2021. The average number of IPH victims during 2015-2024 was 39; the 2024 total is -20.5% lower than the average total recorded in the last decade.

Women made up the majority of IPH victims of the last 10 years (283; 72.0%), while their killers were a largely men. This aligns with national research placing Oklahoma as second in the nation for women being murdered by men in single victim/single offender incidents when analyzing 2020 homicide data.<sup>3</sup> Further analysis of state

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<sup>1</sup> Referred to interchangeably as the DVFRB, the Review Board, or the Board.

<sup>2</sup> Categories are further defined on page 4.

<sup>3</sup> Violence Policy Center. (2022, September). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2020 homicide data*. Retrieved from <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2022.pdf>

rankings shows that, since 1996, Oklahoma consistently ranked in the top ten states for women murdered by men.<sup>4</sup>

The number of victims killed by family members decreased from 56 in 2023 to 45 in 2024, marking a decrease from the increasing trend in family killings over the last five years. While the state averaged 40 victims killed by family members during 2015-2019, the average between 2020-2024 was 53. The average in the last five years is 32.5% higher than during 2015-2019.

The number of victims killed in domestic violence-related murder-suicides in 2024 (20) was the lowest number of murder-suicide victims recorded by the DVFRB since 2018. 2024 marked a near return to the 2018 total of 19. 2024 saw a 33.3% decrease from the record high of 30 IPH victims in 2023. All but two perpetrators of intimate partner murder-suicide were male (85.7%). Of the 20 murder-suicide victims, 8 (40.0%) were killed by their current or former intimate partner. Additional victims included other family members, such as a parent or a stepparent. Overall, intimate partner violence (IPV) was the driving force behind the death of 13 (65.0%) of all murder-suicide victims, a slight decrease from 80% of all murder-suicide victims in 2023.

The total number of children (16) killed by family or household members decreased by five in 2024. It is the lowest total recorded since 2020, when 13 children were killed in domestic violence situations. Notably, 7 (43.8%) of the 16 child homicide victims were killed in the context of a murder-suicide. A total of four (57.1%) of those 7 were killed in the context of IPV-related murder-suicides. In other words, these children were killed in the context of their father trying to “get back at” their mother by killing the child.

In cases where it was possible to determine, DVFRB research found 45 (51.7%) out of 87 victims were killed in the context of IPV across all relationship categories. This includes 31 IPH victims, 7 family killings in the context of IPH or situations where an IPV altercation led household members to kill others, and seven triangle killings.

State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS) crime data submitted to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) by Oklahoma law enforcement agencies show an increasing number of reported unique incidents and victims.

As of May 2025, agencies reported 29,198 domestic violence incidents and 33,634 victims in 2024. It marks three consecutive years where OSBI’s SIBRS totals increased across these two categories. From 2021-2024, Oklahoma averaged 26,750 reported domestic abuse incidents annually. Meanwhile, the average total of reported victims equaled 30,660 per year.

It must be noted that these statistics reflect only incidents where law enforcement determined a crime occurred. The numbers do not take into consideration the tens of thousands of domestic violence-related calls for service that law enforcement responds to but are ultimately not counted towards official statistics. This may be due to law enforcement being unable to determine a criminal offense occurred because of uncooperative parties. Alternatively, the pattern of abuse or coercive control may have been beyond what can statutorily be considered a criminal offense.

Finally, DVFRB research found a total of 21,509 victim protective orders (VPOs) were filed in 2024. It is the highest number recorded between 2016-2024. It marks four consecutive years where the total increased after a significant decrease in 2020. The decrease in 2020 was likely influenced by the public health concerns brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Although it is difficult to pinpoint the precise causes of fluctuations in VPO filings, the statistics suggest filings have resumed the increasing trend that began in 2018.

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<sup>4</sup> Violence Policy Center. (2023, October). *When men murder women: A review of 25 years of female homicide victimization in the United States*. Retrieved from <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2023.pdf>

# 2025 DVFRB Recommendations

In 2025, DVFRB case reviews and discussions predominantly revolved around the following:

1. Continued state appropriation funding for specialized trauma-focused mental health services for children and adolescents who have been impacted by intimate partner violence homicide and attempted murder.
2. The need for mandatory domestic violence-related training as part of law enforcement officers' annual peace officer certification requirements.
3. Enacting domestic violence propensity evidence legislation to strengthen evidence-based prosecution.
4. Strengthening areas of Oklahoma law regarding the use of GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders in bail and VPO proceedings.
5. The continued necessity of making domestic violence offenses 85% crimes, and including them as eligible offenses for the purposes of the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Registration Act

## Recommendation One

*In its 2024 report, the DVFRB called on the Oklahoma legislature to allocate \$850,000 to set up Oklahoma's first statewide program offering comprehensive and specialized trauma-focused mental health services dedicated exclusively to serving children exposed to IPV-related homicide and attempted murder. The proposed program aimed to foster the care and healing of children impacted by murders and attempted murders driven by IPV.*

*During the 2025 legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature appropriated \$600,000 to the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office (OAG) for program implementation. Unfortunately, after evaluating costs, conversations about launching the program in 2026 quickly pivoted to concerns about sustainability in the absence of continued state funding from one legislative session to the next.*

*As a result, its service area had to be scaled down to just Oklahoma County and its contiguous counties, thus leaving families and children in the Tulsa metropolitan area, as well as rural and many tribal communities unserved. The initiative's focus also had to be scaled down to focusing only on serving children exposed to IPV-related homicides, excluding those impacted by attempted murders.*

*We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate \$600,000 to continue funding and enable the expansion of Oklahoma's first program focused on providing direct trauma-informed mental health services, such as specialized case management and therapy, to children, adolescents, as well as their caregivers, who have been impacted by the following types of IPV:*

- *Intimate partner homicide (IPH) and/or murder-suicide: Murder of a child's parent or caregiver by a current or former partner*
- *Near IPH: Attempted murder of a child's parent/caregiver by a current or former intimate partner*
- *Familial homicide: Murder of a family member by any family member resulting from IPV*
- *Sexual-competitor homicide: A parent or caregiver's former partner murders a new partner or vice-versa*



## Recommendation Two

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to amend 70 O.S. §3311.4(A) so that every active full-time peace officer, certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3311, must attend and complete a minimum of four (4) mandatory continuing education hours on domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.*

*Similarly, the Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate action to amend 70 O.S. § 3311.4(B) so that active reserve peace officers, certified by CLEET pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3311, shall complete a minimum of two (2) mandatory continuing education hours on domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.*

***This can be accomplished with the passage of HB 3763 in the 2026 legislative session.<sup>5</sup> HB 3763 closely aligns with our proposal.<sup>6</sup> We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 3763 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law.***

## Recommendation Three

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to create a new law enabling state prosecutors to use domestic violence propensity evidence in their cases. This new evidence-based prosecution tool would allow for previous acts of domestic violence or abuse to be considered admissible evidence in certain proceedings against defendants accused of domestic violence or abuse. This would align domestic violence with Oklahoma's current sexual abuse (12 O.S. § 2413) and child sexual abuse (12 O.S. § 2414) propensity evidence statutes.*

*In 2024, SB 1557 aimed to accomplish this and passed both chambers of legislature with overwhelming support but was ultimately vetoed by Oklahoma's Governor. In 2026, lawmakers will be able to consider HB 4342, which mirrors SB 1557. We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 4342 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law in the interest of victim safety and offender accountability.*

## Recommendation Four

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to amend 22 O.S. §60.17, which governs the circumstances for which Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring may be used to monitor defendants accused of domestic violence offenses.*

*As a first step towards reaching this goal, the DVFRB recommends the following:*

- ***The passage of SB 1325 in the 2026 Legislative Session.*** *This legislative proposal would amend 22 O.S. 2021, § 60.17 so that any defendant charged with domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic abuse with a dangerous or deadly weapon, or domestic abuse after a previous adjudication for domestic abuse is not released on bail without wearing a GPS monitoring device.*

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<sup>5</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=hb3763&Session=2600>

<sup>6</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Introduced Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF)

*It also places the costs of the monitoring on the defendant and designates the Department of Corrections as the government agency responsible for the monitoring of defendants until the conclusion of the case.*

- **Further consideration of SB 728 from the 2025 Legislative Session.** At the time, SB 728 proposed amending 22 O.S. 2021, Sections 60.6 and 60.17 by changing a “May” to “Shall” as it relates to courts requiring defendants subject to a victim protective order (VPO) accused of domestic abuse to use an active, real-time, 24-hour GPS monitoring device. A VPO is civil court order designed to protect a victim and/or their children from abuse, stalking, or harassment from an abuser. SB 728 proposed requiring courts to order defendants to wear the device for as long as the VPO remained in effect.

*While SB 1325 aims to enhance GPS monitoring in the context of bail proceedings, SB 728 looked at accomplishing the same in the context of VPO proceedings. The findings in Senate Interim Study (IS) 25-023 made it clear that VPO-related GPS monitoring is an area meriting further improvement. Hence, we encourage the legislature to consider taking appropriate legislative action addressing the concerns listed throughout IS-25-023 by DAC’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, ADA Jacobi Whatley.*

### **Recommendation Five**

*The DVFRB encourages the Oklahoma Legislature to enact the remaining statutory change recommended in the Board’s second recommendation of the 2023 Annual Report. That recommendation proposed categorizing all domestic violence offenses as 85% crimes— that is, crimes that require defendants to complete 85% of their prison sentences before being eligible for release. Alternatively, we recommend prioritizing the following:*

1. *Amend 21 O.S. § 13.1 to include Domestic Abuse by Strangulation (21 O.S. § 644) as an 85% crime.*

***This can be accomplished with the passage of HB 3264 in the 2026 legislative session. We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 3264 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law.***

*The DVFRB also encourages the Legislature to enact the following statutory proposal:*

2. *Amend 57 O.S. § 593 to include domestic violence offenses in 21 O.S. § 644 as eligible offenses for the purposes of Oklahoma’s Violent Offender Registration System.*

***This can be accomplished by refiling similar legislation proposed in 2022 (SB 1568) and 2024 (SB 1326).***

## **2026 Legislative Roadmap**

The table below outlines bills up for consideration in the 2026 legislative session aligning with the recommendations advanced in this year’s edition of the DVFRB report. (Table 2)

**Table 2. 2026 Legislative Roadmap – Bills Implementing DVFRB Recommendations**

<b>Bills</b>	<b>Authors</b>	<b>Implements</b>
<b>Budget</b>	Members of the Legislature	Recommendation #1 – Continued state appropriation of \$600,000 to Oklahoma Attorney General state agency budget to fund specialized trauma-focused mental health services for child witnesses of intimate partner violence-related homicide or attempted murder.
<b>HB 3763</b>	Rep. Tim Turner	Recommendation #2 – Requiring annual domestic violence training for Oklahoma law enforcement officers.
<b>HB 4342</b>	Speaker Pro Tempore Anthony Moore	Recommendation #3 – Enacting domestic violence propensity evidence legislation.
<b>SB 1325</b>	Senator Bill Coleman	Recommendation #4 – Strengthening areas of Oklahoma law regarding the use of GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders in bail and VPO proceedings.
<b>HB 3264</b>	Rep. John George	Recommendation #5 – Making all domestic violence offenses 85% crimes. At a minimum, prioritize Domestic Abuse by Strangulation.

## Conclusion

This 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the DVFRB Annual Report marks the second lowest number of domestic violence homicide victims identified by the Review Board in the last ten editions of this publication.

It is difficult to determine the causal factors that may have led to a decrease in homicides in 2024. It remains to be seen whether this trend will be sustained over the next few years or if it was an outlier in what has been consistently record-breaking years of family violence murder in Oklahoma.

Although the decrease in murders may be reason for optimism in the short term, we must not lose sight of the fact that domestic abuse statistics reported by law enforcement agencies to the OSBI continue to increase across all categories (i.e. unique incidents, victims, suspects, and arrestees).

Our hope is that this report, and its lessons drawn from tragedy, continue encouraging and guiding Oklahoma’s legislature, systems, agencies, organizations, communities, and individuals in the development and implementation of actionable policies that strengthen our state’s comprehensive and coordinated response to domestic violence.

# INTRODUCTION



## From the Desk of the Attorney General

Thank you to the members of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board for your unwavering commitment to ending domestic violence in Oklahoma. Your insight and recommendations have played a critical role in strengthening our state's response to this ongoing crisis. The sobering truth is that Oklahoma continues to rank among the highest in the nation for domestic violence incidents. The Board's work remains vital as we strive to end this cycle of violence and drive meaningful change in our communities.

Gentner Drummond  
Oklahoma Attorney General  
January 2026

## Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

This 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the DVFRB Annual Report marks the second lowest number of domestic violence homicide victims identified by the Review Board in the last ten editions of this publication.

It is difficult to determine the causal factors that may have led to a decrease in homicides in 2024. It remains to be seen whether this trend will be sustained over the next few years or if it was an outlier in what has been consistently record-breaking years of family violence murder in Oklahoma.

Although the decrease in murders may be reason for optimism in the short term, we must not lose sight of the fact that domestic abuse statistics reported by law enforcement agencies to the OSBI continue to increase across all categories (i.e. unique incidents, victims, suspects, and arrestees).

We would be remiss, however, to not acknowledge that the decrease in homicides coincides with a renewed sense of purpose and urgency across our society over the last three years to combat this epidemic that has plagued our communities for too long. We have seen increased media coverage of the issues, successful community-based advocacy efforts, successful prosecutions, and a legislature consistently working to enact change.

For example, in just the last two years, we have seen a significant, and recurrent, funding increase to Oklahoma Attorney General-certified victim service agencies, as well as other legislative accomplishments that were advocated for in this publication (Table 3).

We commend the legislature for taking such actions and call on lawmakers to use this momentum and continue pressing forward with legislation that will get us closer to a better Oklahoma for survivors.

Our hope is that this report, and its lessons drawn from tragedy, continue encouraging and guiding Oklahoma's legislature, systems, agencies, organizations, communities, and individuals in the development and implementation of actionable policies that strengthen our state's comprehensive and coordinated response to domestic violence.



**Table 3. DVFRB Legislative Update 2022-2025**

Bill	Filing Year	Summary	DVFRB Recommendation Year
HB 3752	2024	Added Department of Corrections representation to the DVFRB membership.	2022
SB 2039	2024	State appropriations funding increase to Oklahoma Attorney General victim service providers	2023
SB 541	2025	Allows prosecutors to file Domestic Assault & Battery (A&B) with a Deadly Weapon charge if any deadly weapon is present.  Made Domestic Assault and Battery Subsequent Offense and Domestic Assault and Battery on a Pregnant Person statutorily considered violence crimes. Classified both as 85% crimes.	2023, 2024
SB 813	2025	Clarified that law enforcement must make every effort to serve a protective order but ensures that petitions are filed with the district court the following day, regardless.  Repeals the statute requiring law enforcement to provide a Stalking Warning Letter to the accused whenever a stalking complaint is made, and the law enforcement agency determined that stalking occurred.	2024
SB 607	2025	Declares that statements related to domestic abuse are admissible in pre-trial and post-trial criminal and juvenile delinquent hearing, merit hearings, probation revocation hearings, and deferred judgement hearings.	2024
HB 1413	2025	Makes pleas and finding of guilt to stalking or violations of a protective order constitute a conviction for sentencing purposes related to domestic violence where a prior conviction is relevant.	2024
State Budget	2025	State appropriation (\$600,000) funding to set up specialized trauma-informed case management and mental health services for children impacted by intimate partner violence-related homicide and attempted murder.	2024

# Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Members

Below are the members serving on the Review Board through June 2026 (Table 2). The selection process for and composition of the Review Board are established in [Title 22 O.S. § 1602](#).

**Table 4. Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Membership as of January 2026**

Member	Agency
Eric Pfeifer, M.D. Celia Cobb, MD (Primary Designee) Jarred Michalski, MD (Alternate Designee)	Chief Medical Examiner
Gentner Drummond, J.D. Susan Laib, Victim Advocacy & Services Unit Chief (Primary Designee) Melissa Van Duyne (Alternate Designee)	Oklahoma Attorney General
Keith Reed, R.N., MPH, CPH Brandie Combs, MPH, Regional Director (Primary Designee) Jackie Kanak (Alternate Designee) Jill Nobles-Botkin (Alternate Designee)	State Commissioner of Health
Tracy Wendling, DrPH. Brandi Woods-Littlejohn, MCJ (Primary Designee) Emily Nicholls (Alternate Designee)	Chief of Injury Prevention Services Department of Health
Jeffrey Cartmell, J.D. Jennifer Postlewait, MSW (Primary Designee) Amanda Dembowski (Alternate Designee) Serena Newby (Alternate Designee) Marissa Belase, MSW (Alternate Designee)	Director Department of Human Services
Greg Mashburn, J.D. Lt. Jenny Virden (Designee) (Primary Designee) Francia Thompson (Alternate Designee)	Director State Bureau of Investigation
Gregory Slavonic, M.Ed. Crystal Hooper (Primary Designee) Jim Jackson (Alternate Designee)	Commissioner Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Justin Farris, B.A. Nicole Flemming (Primary Designee) Clint Castleberry (Alternate Designee)	Director Department of Corrections
Sharon Millington, LPC Vacant (Designee)	Executive Director Office of Juvenile Affairs
Joe Harper, Sheriff, Payne County Tom Edwards, Investigator (Alternate Designee)	Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association
Chief Don Sweger, Guthrie Police Department	Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
Laura McConnell, J.D.	Board of Governors Oklahoma Bar Association
Laura Thomas, J.D. DA, District 9 Sean Webb, J.D. ADA, District 9 (Alternate Designee)	District Attorneys Council
Sarah Coffey, D.O.	Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
Martina Jelley, M.D., M.S.P.H.	Oklahoma State Medical Association
Janice Carr, DNP., RN, CNE (Interim Chair)	Oklahoma Nurses Association
Hon. Sheila Stinson, J.D. District Court, Oklahoma County	Oklahoma Supreme Court
Laura Kuester, M.A., LPC (Vice Chair) Angela Beatty, CDSVRP (Alternate Designee)	Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (former)
Vacant	Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (Survivor)
Shelly Harrison, J.D.	Native Alliance Against Violence
Tania Bardin, B.A.	Native Alliance Against Violence (Survivor)

# 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

Each recommendation is accompanied by suggested target systems and aligns with the Review Board's continuous goal of reducing domestic violence fatalities in Oklahoma. The five recommendations made below are the direct results of discussion and analysis from in-depth case reviews by the Review Board in 2025.

## Recommendation One<sup>7</sup>

*In its 2024 report, the DVFRB called on the Oklahoma legislature to allocate \$850,000 to set up Oklahoma's first statewide program offering comprehensive and specialized trauma-focused mental health services dedicated exclusively to serving exposed to IPV-related homicide and attempted murder. The proposed program aimed to foster the care and healing of children impacted by murders and attempted murders driven by IPV.*

*During the 2025 legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature appropriated \$600,000 to the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office (OAG) for program implementation. We commend the legislature for prioritizing this decades-long DVFRB priority in what we recognize was a challenging legislative session with many competing budgetary needs.*

*Since then, OAG staff assigned to the DVFRB have engaged with clinical experts at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) at the University of Oklahoma's (OU) and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and obtained scopes of work outlining program implementation details and the cost of clinical services. Both partners described the comprehensive mental health services, including but not limited to evidence-based treatments such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCITT), Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT), and Attachment Biobehavioral Catchup Model (ABC-model). Both noted specialized case management would also be provided to further connect children and families to other community-based resources.*

*Unfortunately, after evaluating costs, conversations about launching the program in 2026 quickly pivoted to concerns about sustainability in the absence of continued state funding from one legislative session to the next. As a result, instead of a statewide initiative as originally intended, the service area had to be scaled down to only Oklahoma County and its contiguous counties, thus leaving families and children in the Tulsa metropolitan area, as well as rural and many tribal communities unserved. Additionally, the initiative's focus also had to be scaled down to focusing only on serving children exposed to IPV-related homicides, excluding those impacted by attempted murders.*

*We ask the Oklahoma Legislature to appropriate \$600,000 to continue funding and enable the expansion of Oklahoma's first program focused on providing direct trauma-informed mental health services, such as specialized case management and therapy, to children, adolescents, as well as their caregivers, who have been impacted by the following types of IPV:*

- **Intimate partner homicide (IPH) and/or murder-suicide:** Murder of a child's parent or caregiver by a current or former partner
- **Near IPH:** Attempted murder of a child's parent/caregiver by a current or former intimate partner
- **Familial homicide:** Murder of a family member by any family member resulting from IPV

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<sup>7</sup> Contributing Author: OAG DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera, MA

- **Sexual-competitor homicide:** A parent or caregiver's former partner murders a new partner or vice-versa

## Target Systems

Oklahoma House of Representatives; Oklahoma State Senate; Office of the Governor; Office of the Attorney General

## Purpose

Develop a statewide program focused on providing specialized wrap-around services to children, as well as their caregivers, who have been impacted by IPV-related homicide.

## Rationale

### *Problem Statement*

#### *Introduction – Revisiting the Effects of Child-Exposure to Family Violence and Homicide*

“What happened to the kids? Did they ever get any help? I wonder how they are doing.” These questions have constantly been asked during executive sessions throughout the 25-year history of the DVFRB. The past year was no exception when the DVFRB regularly reviewed intimate partner homicides and/or murder-suicides with children either witnessing or being exposed to the killing of one or both parents. The extent of children’s exposure to murder has ranged from directly witnessing the torture of their mother by their father or her current or former boyfriend in some cases, to being in a nearby room listening to everything unfold in others. It has been relatively common for the Board to identify cases where children were taken hostage or forced to clean up the crime scene by the murderer. In 2025, the Board reviewed cases where children found their mother’s dead body. Investigative reports in others emphasized the children had visible blood splatter on their clothing upon being rescued and ushered to safety.

The DVFRB, pursuant to 22 O.S. § 1601, is unable to disclose case-specific examples of the horrors to which some Oklahoma children have been exposed. However, publicly available information from other states’ DV fatality review team annual reports capture vivid examples of what children in our communities are exposed to and what the DVFRB’s membership ultimately reviews:

State of Kansas, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, 2006 Report<sup>8</sup>

*Marty strangled his wife, Mary, to death on July 28, 2004. The report notes, “The children testified hearing their mother scream the night she was killed as if she could not breath.”*

Hennepin County, Minnesota, A matter of life and death: Findings of the domestic violence fatality review team, 2006 Report<sup>9</sup>

*“People in the community knew of ongoing conflict in the victim’s marriage, which was not reported to the police... On the night of the murder, the victim was initially shot and injured*

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<sup>8</sup> Kansas Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2006). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2006 Report* (p. 14). Retrieved from <https://ndvfri.org/download/kansas-statewide-annualreport-2006-2/?wpdmdl=779>

<sup>9</sup> Hennepin County Domestic Fatality Review Team. (2007). *Annual Report, A matter of life and death: Findings of the Domestic Fatality Review Team 2006 Report* (p. 11). Retrieved from <https://ndvfri.org/download/minnesota-hennepin-annualreport-2006/?wpdmdl=833>



during an argument. Children then took the gun from their father who subsequently stabbed the victim and ultimately shot her to death with a different gun. The perpetrator then killed himself and a son called 911. The couple's 13 children were home at the time of the killings."

State of Georgia, Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, 2013 Report<sup>10</sup>

"The 16-year-old daughter shared with investigators the lasting impact it had on her: 'Every time we heard them screaming, it felt like he was hitting us also.' Their father often told the children his plan for killing their mother. One day, the 12-year-old daughter woke up to her mother and father fighting in the kitchen. When she no longer heard her mother's voice, she went to the kitchen where she found her on the floor with several stab wounds. Her father was screaming he had killed her mother because she ruined his life. While a visiting pastor called 911, the 12-year-old threw the knife in the trashcan and cleaned her mother's face off with a towel before the police arrived."

Oklahoma case reviews often reveal a long history of domestic battering in the presence of children before the killing occurs. In other words, the murder was the culmination of a long history of reported and unreported abuse in the home. In the end, these children face the loss of one or both parents because of the murder of one parent and, in some instances, the suicide or imprisonment of the other. Exposure to tremendous family violence and trauma ultimately reverberate throughout their lives.

Studies demonstrate the profound effects that exposure to intimate partner violence (IPV) has on children's social and emotional development<sup>11</sup> For example, it can impact not only their immediate experience of safety, but also children's ability to learn and function in school.<sup>12</sup> Youth exposed to IPV are also at an increased risk of developing poor coping habits, chronic medical conditions, including substance use disorder, mental health

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<sup>10</sup> Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Project. (2013). *Annual Report, Georgia Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team* (p. 14). Retrieved from <https://ndvfri.org/download/georgia-statewide-annualreport-2013/?wpdmdl=750>

<sup>11</sup> Wood, S. L., & Sommers, M. (2011). Consequences of intimate partner violence on child witnesses: A systematic review of the literature. *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Nursing*, 24(4), 223–236. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6171.2011.00302.x>; Stiller, A., et al. (2022). Witnessing intimate partner violence as a child and associated consequences. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 37(21-22). doi: 10.1177/08862605211055147; Holmes, M. R., et al. (2022). Nearly 50 years of child exposure to intimate partner violence empirical research: Evidence mapping, overarching themes, and future directions. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37(8), 1207–1219. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00349-3>; Vu, N. L., et al. (2016). Children's exposure to intimate partner violence: A meta-analysis of longitudinal associations with child adjustment problems. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 46, 25–33. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2016.04.003>; Gartland, D., et al. (2021). Intimate partner violence and child outcomes at age 10: A pregnancy cohort. *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, 106(11), 1066–1074. <https://doi.org/10.1136/archdischild-2020-320321>; Gewirtz, A. H., & Edleson, J. L. (2007). Young children's exposure to intimate partner violence: Towards a developmental risk and resilience framework for research and intervention. *Journal of Family Violence*, 22(3), 151–163. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-007-9065-3>; Harding, H. G., et al. (2013). Exposure to maternal- and paternal-perpetrated intimate partner violence, emotion regulation, and child outcomes. *Journal of Family Violence*, 28(1), 63–72. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-012-9487-4>

<sup>12</sup> Bogat, G. A., et al. (2023). Developmental consequences of intimate partner violence on children. *Annual Review of Clinical Psychology*, 19(1), 303–329. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-clinpsy-072720-013634>; A.E., et al. (2022). Childhood exposure to intimate partner violence and effects on social-emotional competence: A systematic review. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37, 1263–1281. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00315-z>

disorders, and chronic health conditions later in life.<sup>13</sup> Studies show that merely being aware of violence, as opposed to witnessing it, can also lead to lasting negative effects on children and adolescents.<sup>14</sup>

A review of the literature over the last 50 years found indications of the following impact on IPV-exposed children when compared to non-IPV children:<sup>15</sup>

- **Health:** Higher rates of ER visits, poorer lung functioning, and greater reported health concerns.
- **Social-emotional Competence:** Lower levels of social-emotional competence and higher levels of emotional dysregulation.
- **Bullying:** Significant relationship between IPV exposure and both bullying perpetration and victimization.
- **IPV Acceptance:** “higher likelihood of accepting parental IPV as normative or justifiable, which in turn predicted youths’ Adult DV perpetration and victimization outcomes.”
- **Education:** Negative effect on academic functioning “as measured by grade retention, suspension and expulsion, truancy and absenteeism, disciplinary infractions, and failing grades.”

#### *Child-Exposure to Family Violence Homicide in Oklahoma; Previous Recommendations and Statistics*

The Review Board’s concern for children’s well-being in the aftermath of homicides is reflected in its early research. For example, in 2003 it found children were present in 36% of slayings, 16% of which were determined to have been eyewitnesses.<sup>16</sup> Since then, it has repeatedly advocated for systems to ensure children on the scene of homicides were being connected with the services and support needed to foster care and healing.

In 2005 the Board called for the development of crisis response plans devoted to making sure children receive appropriate services in the aftermath of fatalities.<sup>17</sup> In 2009, it emphasized the importance of trauma-informed care for children while also calling for the adherence to the joint response protocol between law enforcement and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services (OHS) when responding to homicide scenes with children

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<sup>13</sup> Ravi, K. E., & Black, B. M. (2022). The relationship between children's exposure to intimate partner violence and an emotional-behavioral disability: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(3), 868–876;

McTavish, J. R., et al. (2016). Children’s exposure to intimate partner violence: An overview. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 28(5), 504–518. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540261.2016.1205001>

<sup>14</sup> McTavish, J. R., et al. (2016). Children’s exposure to intimate partner violence: An overview. *International Review of Psychiatry*, 28(5), 504–518. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09540261.2016.1205001>

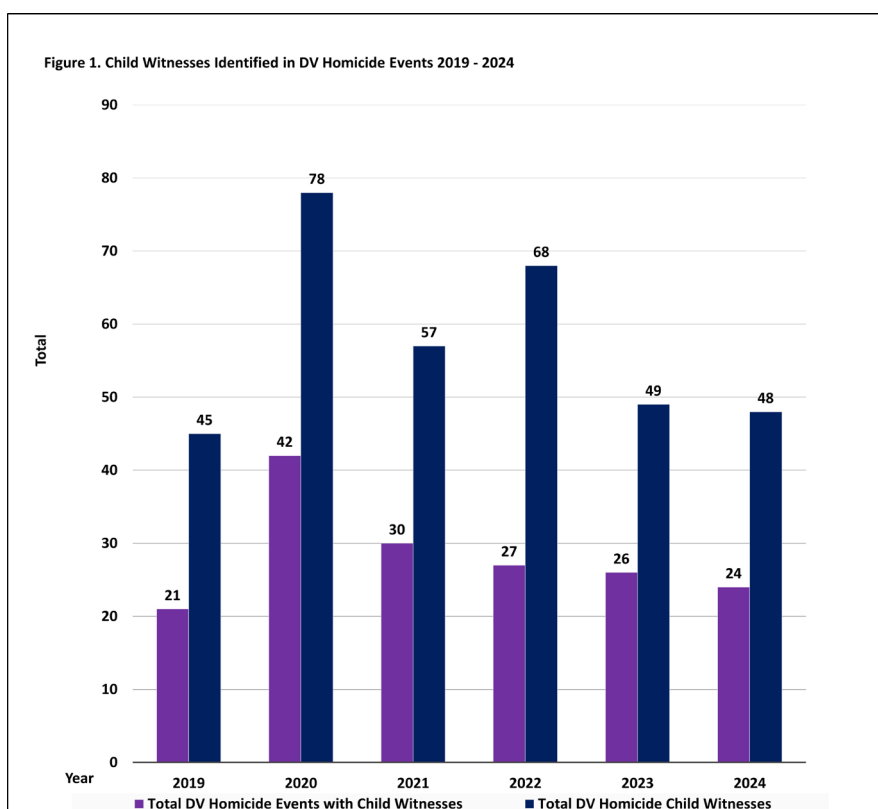
<sup>15</sup> Holmes, M. R., et al. (2022). Nearly 50 years of child exposure to intimate partner violence empirical research: Evidence mapping, overarching themes, and future directions. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37(8), 1207–1219. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00349-3>

<sup>16</sup> Woods-Littlejohn, B., & Duncan, C. (2003). *Annual report, domestic violence homicide: A Multi-Disciplinary Analysis by the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2003* (p. 6). Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2003\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2003_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2005). *Annual report, domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2005* (p. 11). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2005\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2005_annual_report.pdf)

present.<sup>18</sup> Meanwhile in 2015, recognizing missed opportunities for early trauma-informed intervention, called for the joint response between law enforcement agencies and OHS child welfare to address the immediate and long-term needs of children who witnessed the loss of one or both parents because of domestic violence homicide.<sup>19</sup> It circled back to the issue in 2022 when it sought to bring attention to the issue of child witnesses at the scene of fatalities by calling for a scan of available resources dedicated to serving this uniquely vulnerable population.<sup>20</sup>

DVFRB research showcases the extent to which Oklahoma children are exposed to family-related murder. For the cases on which staff were able to collect data, statistics for the years 2019-2024 indicate that, on average, children are on the scene in 32.3% of all homicide cases each calendar year. A total of 348 children were identified as being present at the scene. This equals an average of 57 children witnessing the violent death of a family member every year in Oklahoma. (Figure 1)



<sup>18</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2009). *Annual report, domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report 2009* (p. 2). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2009\\_annual\\_report\\_summary.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2009_annual_report_summary.pdf)

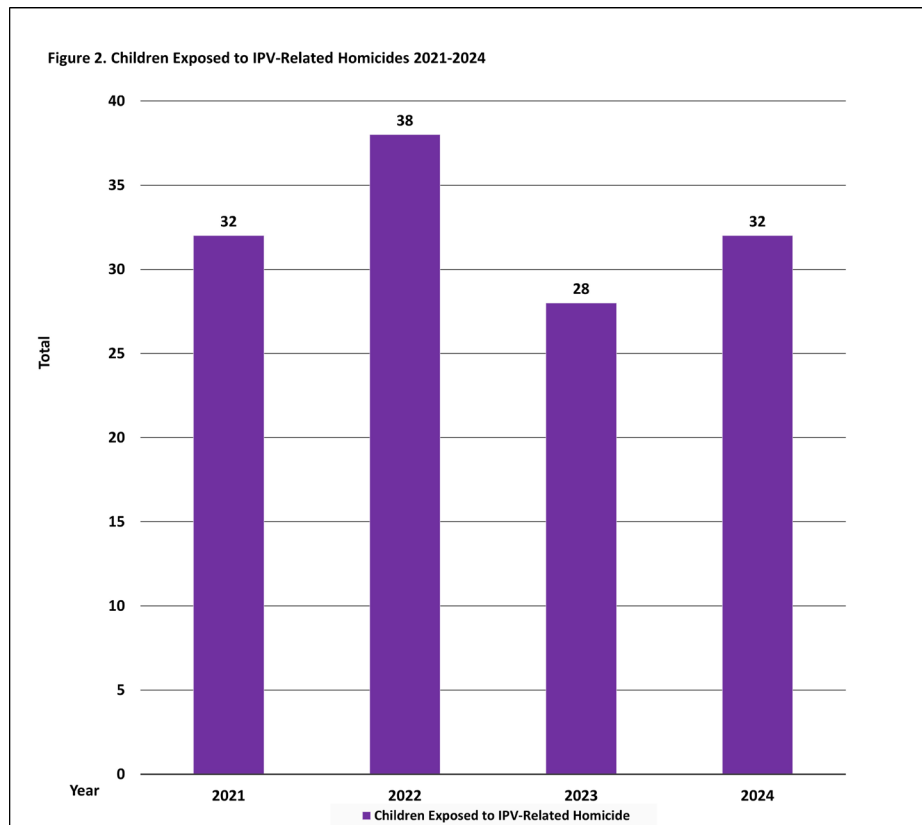
<sup>19</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2015). *Annual report, domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2015* (p. 26). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/domestic\\_violence\\_fatality\\_review\\_board\\_annual\\_report\\_2015.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/domestic_violence_fatality_review_board_annual_report_2015.pdf)

<sup>20</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2022). *Annual Report, Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board: Annual Report 2022* (pp. 34-35). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/1.24.23\\_-\\_2022\\_dvfrb\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/1.24.23_-_2022_dvfrb_annual_report.pdf)

**Table 5. Domestic Violence Homicide Child Witness Data 2019-2024**

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
<b>DV Homicide Event with Child Witnesses</b>	21	42	30	27	26	24	170
<b>Total DV Homicide Events</b>	97	106	104	92	108	77	584
<b>% Homicide Events with Child Witnesses</b>	21.6	39.6	28.8	29.3	24.1	50.0	-
<b>Child Witnesses Total</b>	45	78	57	68	49	48	345

New DVFRB research affirms the need for surviving children of IPV-related homicide cases to receive specialized, wrap-around, and trauma informed services. Between 2021-2024, an average of 59.0% of the total number of children (222) witnessed homicide incidents that occurred in the context of IPV across all DVFRB homicide categories. These include intimate partner homicides (IPH), sexual competitor homicides, familial killings (e.g. father is murdered by son who came to his mother's defense; or father defends daughter from abuse intimate partner, etc.), and bystander killings who were killed because of an IPV-related altercation. (Figure 2)

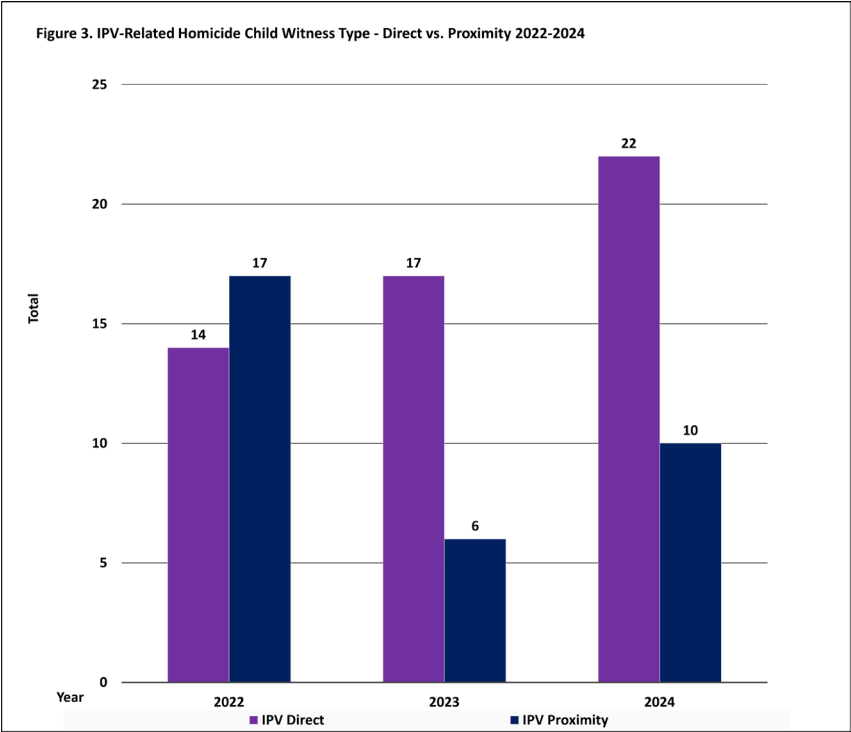
**Table 6. IPV Homicide Child Witness Data 2021-2024**

	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
<b>IPV Murder Children Only Total</b>	32	38	28	32	130
<b>All Child Witnesses Total</b>	57	68	49	48	222
<b>% IPV Murder Child Witnesses</b>	56.1%	55.9%	57.1%	66.7%	59.0%

The DVFRB has sought to further contextualize the extent of violence to which children are exposed to during IPV murders by categorizing the type of exposure. For example, exposure categorized as direct refers to situations where a child sees the victim being tortured, killed, or comes across the body shortly after the fatal altercation. In contrast, proximity exposure refers to situations where the child was in another room when the homicide happened.



For the cases where it was possible to determine, staff utilized the *direct* vs. *proximity* typology and found that 53 children directly witnessed the homicide while 33 were proximate to where the homicide happened for the years 2022-2024. On average 17 children directly witnessed while 11 were proximate to the IPV-related murder of a family member per year during that two-year period. (Figure 3)



These recommendations and statistics have sought to highlight that without proper intervention and support, the impact these murders may lead to the unraveling of children’s lives and a rippling effect on the community.

*2025 Legislative Appropriation, Next Steps, and Challenges*

In its 2024 report, the DVFRB called on the Oklahoma legislature to allocate \$850,000 to set up Oklahoma’s first statewide wrap-around services program for children exposed to IPV-related homicide and attempted murder. The proposed program aimed to foster the care and healing of children impacted by murder driven by IPV. During the 2025 legislative session, the Oklahoma legislature appropriated \$600,000 to the Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office (OAG) for program implementation. We commend the legislature for prioritizing this decades-long DVFRB priority in what we recognize was a challenging legislative session with many competing budgetary priorities.

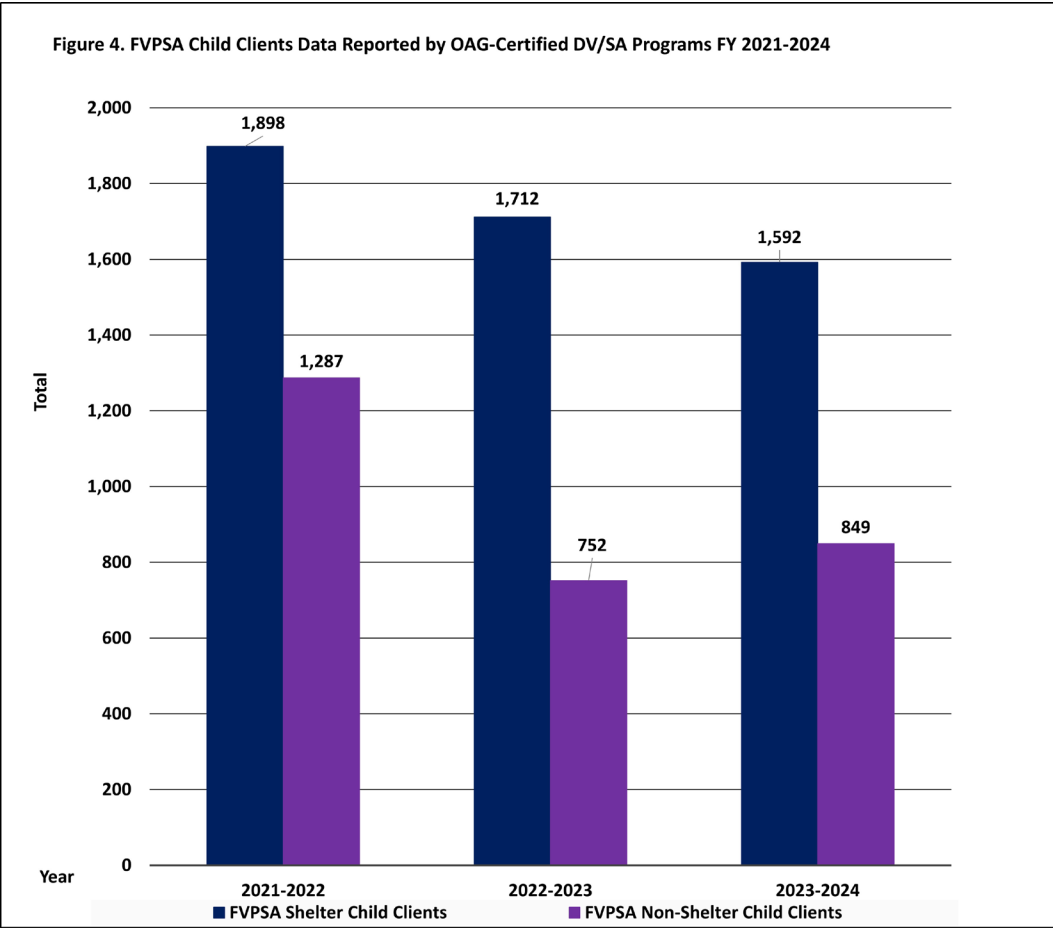
Since then, the OAG engaged with clinical experts at the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) at the University of Oklahoma’s (OU) and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and obtained scopes of work outlining program implementation details and the cost of clinical services. Both described the comprehensive mental health services they are capable of offering to children and families, including but not limited to evidence-based treatments such as Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Parent-Child Interaction Therapy (PCITT), Alternatives for Families: A Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (AF-CBT), and Attachment Biobehavioral Catchup Model (ABC-model). Both noted specialized case management would also be offered to further connect children and families to other community-based resources.

However, after evaluating costs, conversations about a potential program launch in 2026 quickly pivoted to concerns about sustainability in the absence of continued state funding from one legislative session to the next.

As a result, instead of a statewide initiative as originally intended, its service area had to be scaled down to encompassing only Oklahoma County and its contiguous counties, thus leaving families and children in the Tulsa metropolitan area, as well as rural and many tribal communities unserved.

Additionally, the initiative’s focus also had to be scaled down to one focusing only on serving children exposed to IPV-related homicides and exclude those impacted by attempted murders. This major limitation will hinder our state’s ability to serve children who are exposed to brutal yet not lethal violence, which might include exposure to situations like strangulations, beatings, stabbings, gunshots and torture.

Meanwhile, victim services data from OAG-certified DV/SA programs showcase the need for a safety net of care for children exposed to those kinds of situations. On average a total of 1,734 children accessed OAG-certified shelter services, and 962 accessed non-shelter services, alongside their caregivers during Fiscal Years (FY) 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024. Although there is no information about the circumstances that led children to being served by OAG-certified program, the numbers showcase an at-risk population who, at a minimum, were exposed to some level of violence that led their caretakers to seek out shelter or non-shelter services. It would not be unreasonable, however, to imagine some of those situations having been close to lethal and to have happened in the presence of children. (Figure 4)



*The DVFRB’s Position – Sustain Appropriated Funding*

The DVFRB commends the legislature for appropriating funding to the OAG in 2025 so the agency could implement what has been one of our most pressing priorities since 2001 – ensuring children impacted by IPV murder have a safety net of care after arguably the worst of adverse childhood experiences. Making this a priority showcases our state’s continued commitment to ensuring adequate levels of funding to domestic

violence and sexual assault victim services, and in this specific case: supporting and fostering the healing of children whose families have been torn apart by IPV murder.

Recurring funding is the next step to ensure the program's long-term sustainability and for it to reach communities beyond Oklahoma City. Since the first allocation of funding, DVFRB staff have sought to identify additional funding streams, including that of private foundations, and federal grants. For example, DVFRB staff submitted a proposal to a U.S. Department of Justice OJJDP FY 25 *Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence* grant in October 2025. State funding, however, must be a recurrent source of funding if we want to set up this initiative for long-term success amid the uncertainty of federal grants and charitable giving by private foundations.

We all recognize that the safety and wellbeing of Oklahoma's families and children are vital to the strength and health of our state. At its core, the basic building blocks of our state are our families. Together they make up our neighborhoods, communities, cities, and ultimately the social fabric of our state. That is why in recent years, the highest level of our state government recognized this and has proclaimed November "Oklahoma Family Month."<sup>21</sup> In part, the proclamation holds that family "is the cornerstone of a health and thriving society," "families continue to be the most central social circle that a person can experience," and the "health and strength of the average family determines the path of society[.]"

Governor Stitt's proclamation recognizes the central role family life plays in the strength and future of our state and nation. The DVFRB agrees, but every year, for the past two-and-a-half decades, we are bound by our statutory mission to remind our state of the gruesome impact family violence poses across countless households. Tragically, children who are exposed to rampant family violence and murder are **not** afforded the strength, security, and benefits of a healthy home. On the contrary, these children comprise one of the most neglected and at-risk groups in our communities and are constantly in danger of falling through the cracks under the overwhelming weight of trauma and adverse childhood experiences.

We reiterate last year's call to action to support a vital safety net for children who are not afforded the positive warmth and affection of a healthy family home due to family violence and homicide. Hence, we request continued state funding through the OAG for this program to ensure long-term sustainability and statewide expansion. By doing this our state commits to not leaving any child and their new caregivers, regardless of where they live, to fend for themselves in the aftermath of family tragedy.

## Implementation

The implementation of this recommendation hinges on continued state appropriations by the Oklahoma legislature to the OAG's Victim Advocacy and Services Unit (VASU) to support the ongoing deployment of the first statewide wraparound services program for child witnesses of intimate partner homicide and attempted murder.

Recurrent legislative appropriations guarantee program sustainability and statewide expansion. The funds are to be sub-granted to the Center on Child Abuse and Neglect (CCAN) at the University of Oklahoma and the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Oklahoma State University (OSU) to provide clinical trauma-focused mental health services to children on behalf of the State of Oklahoma.

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<sup>21</sup> Stitt, K. (2023, October 26). Governor's proclamation: November as Family Month. Executive Department, Oklahoma. Retrieved from <https://www.sos.ok.gov/documents/proclamations/41779.pdf>

# 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation Two<sup>22</sup>

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to amend 70 O.S. §3311.4(A) so that every active full-time peace officer, certified by the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3311, shall attend and complete a minimum of four (4) mandatory continuing education hours on domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.*

*Similarly, the Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate action to amend 70 O.S. § 3311.4(B) so that active reserve peace officers, certified by CLEET pursuant to 70 O.S. § 3311, shall complete a minimum of two (2) mandatory continuing education hours on domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.*

***This can be accomplished with the passage of HB 3763 in the 2026 legislative session.***<sup>23</sup> *HB 3763 closely aligns with our proposal.*<sup>24</sup> *We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 3763 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law.*

### Target Systems

Oklahoma House of Representatives; Oklahoma State Senate; Office of the Governor; Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET)

### Purpose

Requiring domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol training in Oklahoma peace officer's annual continuing education requirements to enhance our state's proactive response to victim safety, offender accountability, and officer safety.

### Rationale

#### *Problem Statement*

Domestic violence (DV)-related calls for service, and particularly those involving intimate partner violence (IPV), are among the most frequent incidents law enforcement encounters and represent some of the most critical moments in public safety. Their significance extends far beyond the risks to responding officers; these calls require a coordinated, trauma-informed response across victim services, law enforcement, and the broader public-safety system to protect victims, hold offenders accountable, and prevent escalating harm. In the State of Oklahoma, it is also the type of situation for which peace officers receive the least training on. Theoretically, a peace officer in Oklahoma can go their entire career without any continuing education on DV/IPV response and investigations other than what they were instructed on in their basic academy at the beginning of their careers. Presently, CLEET stipulates law enforcement cadets receive a minimum of 8 hours of DV-related

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<sup>23</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=hb3763&Session=2600>

<sup>24</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Introduced Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF)

instruction during their basic academy. Notably though, according to 70 O.S. §3311.4(A) and (B), which outlines active full-time and reserve peace officer annual continuing education requirements, neither full-time nor reserve officers are required to earn any continuing education hours on DV/IPV issues after earning their certification.

Section 3311.4(A) of Title 70, O.S., requires every certified full-time peace officer in Oklahoma to attend and complete a total of twenty-five (25) hours annually of continuing law enforcement training accredited or provided by CLEET. The only mandatory requirements are two (2) hours that must be dedicated to mental health issues; one (1) hour regarding the policies and protocols for responding to sexual assault calls; and one (1) hour on missing persons training. In contrast, active reserve peace officers are required to attend and complete eight (8) hours of continuing law enforcement education every year. Their only requirements are to complete one (1) hour of training regarding mental health issues; one (1) regarding response to sexual assault calls; and one (1) hour on missing persons training.

Meanwhile, state and tribal law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma respond to tens of thousands of domestic violence (DV)-related calls for service each year. For example, the Tulsa Police Department (TPD) responded to 18,787 DV-related calls for service in 2023 alone.<sup>25</sup> Considering Oklahoma City's higher population, the Oklahoma City Police Department (OCPD) likely responds to a similar if not higher volume of these calls for service each year. Thousands of other DV calls are worked by municipalities within our state's largest metros, such as Edmond in Oklahoma City, and Broken Arrow in Tulsa. We must also consider the thousands of DV calls to which law enforcement officers in Sheriffs' Offices, smaller rural municipalities, and tribal agencies are dispatched to across our state's 77 counties.

Unfortunately, due to agencies' use of different computer aided dispatch systems (CAD), there is no readily available data capturing the total number of DV calls for service Oklahoma's law enforcement agencies respond to on any given year. Nevertheless, it is possible to estimate, based on just the Oklahoma City and Tulsa totals, that statewide annual DV-related calls for service easily surpass 50,000 per year. Based on this conservative estimate, the true extent of domestic violence plaguing our communities goes beyond what is captured by statewide crime statistics reported by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI). Indeed, law enforcement agencies only report to the OSBI incidents where they were able to determine a crime occurred. Between 2021-2024, Oklahoma law enforcement agencies reported on average 26,750 DV incidents and 30,660 victims to the OSBI across all relationship categories. On average, approximately 14,611 of those were IPV incidents impacting about 16,374 victims each year. Nevertheless, by not considering total call for service volume, these statistics can be misleading, as it gives the impression those were the only DV incidents worked by law enforcement on a given year. Additionally, we cannot overlook that most domestic violence incidents are not reported to law enforcement. According to crime victimization surveys, only about half of all DV incidents are reported to law enforcement.<sup>26</sup>

The degree to which DV is underreported means the state must be as proactive as it can to protect and serve victims who report their abuse to law enforcement. This entails approaching every call for service as a critical opportunity to interrupt the cycle of violence before it escalates toward lethality. Meaningful engagement with

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<sup>25</sup> Tulsa Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit. (2025, April). Presentation to DVFRB on April 31, 2025, Regular Meeting (Community Review). Handout and PowerPoint presentation. *Tulsa Police Department Domestic Violence 2023 Data*.

<sup>26</sup> USA Facts. (October 21, 2021). News Article, Data says domestic violence incidents are down, but half of all victims don't report to police: Fewer victims reported the crime to authorities in 2019 than in 2010, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey. Retrieved from <https://usafacts.org/articles/data-says-domestic-violence-incidents-are-down-but-half-of-all-victims-dont-report-to-police/>

the victim built through trust, trauma-informed communication, and genuine connection is the cornerstone that allows every other part of the response to function effectively. From writing thorough reports and documenting the scene to linking victims with community-based advocacy and resources, each action depends on establishing that initial rapport. For these efforts to be consistent and effective, a regularly trained law enforcement workforce is essential, ensuring a professional response to a crime that is complex, often misunderstood, and too frequently underestimated. Ultimately, this impacts victim safety, officer safety, and offender accountability alike.

## 2025 DVFRB Findings

DVFRB discussions throughout 2025 often revolved around the need for law enforcement to be better trained to respond to DV/IPV crimes. These discussions often stemmed from reviewing situations where law enforcement could have been more proactive in their response to calls involving the homicide victim and perpetrator. These reviews also included considered law enforcement’s responses to prior calls for service related to abusive relationships involving the victim and/or perpetrator before they met each other. The common theme across these discussions was members’ concerns about law enforcement being insufficiently trained to work what is one of the most common, and arguably, dangerous calls they are dispatched to on a regular basis. Reviews often discussed shortcomings in law enforcement’s understanding of this vulnerable population of victims, who may be subjected to an array of manipulative, coercive, and oftentimes violent circumstances at the hands of an abusive intimate partner.

Throughout the year the Board hosted several subject matter experts who presented various proposals aimed at improving Oklahoma’s statutory landscape, each with the goal of enhancing victim safety and offender accountability. One of these speakers, a state prosecutor, echoed many of the Board’s concerns regularly voiced in executive session – that law enforcement must be better trained to promote adequate investigations and foster a better criminal justice system response to DV crimes and victims.<sup>27</sup> These concerns emphasized the need for continuing education in peace officer annual certification requirements as a way of strengthening DV investigations so that prosecutors are better positioned to secure favorable outcomes in court. The main argument for this proposal was that investigations could be strengthened if mandated continuing education training focused on keeping peace officers regularly informed of what powers, as well as responsibilities, they are entrusted with when responding to DV crimes.

**Table 7. Subject-Matter Presentation to DVFRB – Law Enforcement Mandatory vs. Discretionary or Semi-Discretionary Powers Overview<sup>28</sup>**

Mandatory Powers of Law Enforcement	Discretionary / Semi-Discretionary Powers
DHS Referral – Child Abuse and Neglect (10 A. O.S. 1-2-101)	Arrest without warrant (22 O.S. § 196)
Arrest for VPO (22 O.S. § 60.9)	Arrest vs. Warrant Request
LAP (21 O.S. § 142A-3)	-
Written Notice of Victim Rights (21 O.S. § 142A-3)	-
Production of Evidence (22 O.S. § 2002)	-

The DVFRB has consistently elevated concerns regarding law enforcement training since the Board began reviewing fatalities in 2001. In fact, mandating continuing education on DV for all CLEET certified peace officers

<sup>27</sup> Kay and Noble County District Attorney’s Office (District 8), Assistant District Attorney Shawna Taylor. (2025, September). Presentation to DVFRB on September 24, 2025, Regular Meeting. PowerPoint presentation. *Proposals for Law Modifications to Achieve Justice*.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.*



was one of the first set of recommendations ever made by the Board in the first publication of this report in 2002.<sup>29</sup> Similar calls were made throughout the 2000s when the membership called on first responders to be trained on the signs of violent escalation in DV situations in both 2005 and 2008.<sup>30, 31</sup> By 2009, the Board repeated its 2002 request that the legislature to mandate CLEET to formulate and establish an eight-hour, mandatory, continuing education curriculum on DV and stalking for all certified full-time and reserve peace officers.<sup>32</sup> Additionally, the DVFRB recommendations for improving law enforcement training were made in 2012, specifically addressing the following:<sup>33</sup>

- *Address mistaken beliefs that law enforcement officers cannot intervene in verbal disturbance – prosecutable threats to kill do not have to be done in person.*
- *Address mistaken beliefs that victim is responsible for taking action against perpetrator.*
- *Realize that repeat calls are tedious but must remember each call could be a life-or-death situation.*
- *Improve documentation of domestic violence calls and protective order violations, as documentation is vital for the ultimate safety of the victim. All reports of physical violence, protective order violations and threats of violence should be forwarded to the district attorney.*
- *Always provide a SAFELINE card to the victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking.*
- *Refer victims to victim services.*

In 2025, homicide reviews identified instances where law enforcement failed to implement the lethality assessment protocol (LAP), as mandated by 21 O.S. § 142A-3, during IPV-related calls for service. The LAP is a statutorily-mandated screening tool law enforcement are required to implement at the scene of IPV calls to identify victims of who are at an elevated risk of being re-assaulted or killed by their intimate partner. This tool is used to connect IPV victims to community-based victim services providers. Unfortunately, since the passage of the law in 2014, the DVFRB has consistently reviewed homicides where the LAP was not implemented in prior responses before the homicide or even in previous abusive relationships as required by statute. The review board first elevated this concern in 2016, and since then has been a regular issue discussed during homicide reviews over the last decade.<sup>34</sup> In 2022, the DVFRB felt compelled to elevate the issue again and called on lawmakers to

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<sup>29</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2002). *Annual Report, Murder in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report July 2001-September 2002* (p. 31). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2002\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2002_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>30</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2005). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2005* (p. 12). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2005\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2005_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>31</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2008). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report 2008* (p. 11). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2008\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2008_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>32</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2009). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report 2009* (p. 2). Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2009\\_annual\\_report\\_summary.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2009_annual_report_summary.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2012). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2012* (p. 10). Retrieved from: [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_annual\\_report\\_2012.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_annual_report_2012.pdf)

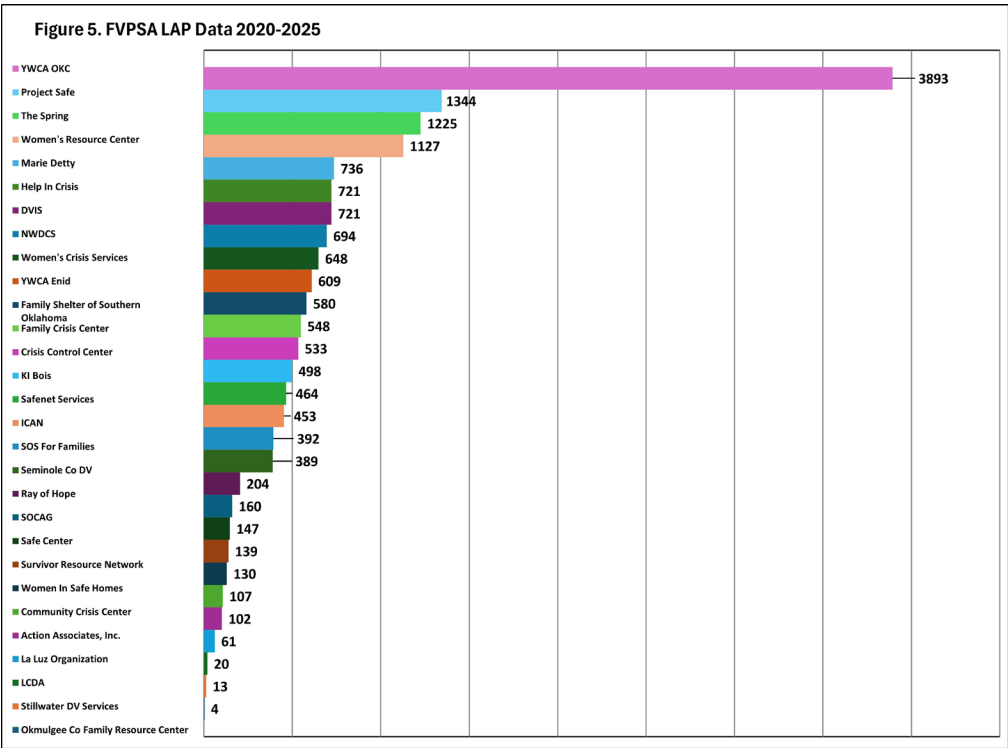
<sup>34</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2016). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Fatality Review Board: An Analysis of 2015 Domestic Violence*



legislate a one (1) hour LAP training requirement as part of peace officer’s annual certification requirements.<sup>35</sup> The Board also called on LAP training to be made available at major law enforcement conferences, such as those organized by the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) and the Sheriffs’ Association (OSA).<sup>36</sup> Unfortunately, LAP implementation continues to be a major issue across Oklahoma despite having become state law 11 years ago.

The data used to evaluate LAP utilization in Oklahoma is derived in part from reporting collected under the Oklahoma Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA). FVPSA data is submitted by state-certified victim services providers across Oklahoma and represents one of the most consistent, standardized sources of statewide information on domestic violence–related victim contacts, services, and referrals. These providers collect data as a condition of certification and funding, and the information is aggregated to reflect the scope of family and intimate partner violence affecting Oklahoma residents.

FVPSA reporting captures victim encounters that occur after law enforcement contact, including crisis response, shelter intake, safety planning, legal advocacy, and follow-up services. As such, FVPSA data provides an important downstream indicator of how often victims are being identified, referred, and connected to services by first responders. Because the LAP is specifically designed to identify victims at elevated risk of serious injury or homicide and facilitate immediate referral to victim service providers, FVPSA data serves as a critical benchmark for assessing whether LAP screenings are occurring at a rate that aligns with the known volume of domestic violence cases statewide. (Figure 5)



*Homicides* (p. 20). Retrieved from: [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/2016 annual report updated 1-17-17.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/2016%20annual%20report%20updated%201-17-17.pdf)

<sup>35</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2022). *Annual Report, Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report 2022* (p. 34). Retrieved from: [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/1.24.23 - 2022 dvfrb annual report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/1.24.23%20-%202022%20dvfrb%20annual%20report.pdf)

<sup>36</sup> *Id.*

LAP utilization can also be evaluated through a law enforcement capacity lens. During the same five-year period, Oklahoma had 14,515 active employed certified law enforcement officers, including 11,538 full-time certified officers and 2,977 reserve officers. When LAP activity is distributed across all active officers, the statewide average is 0.894 LAPs per officer over five years, or 0.179 LAPs per officer per year, meaning one LAP for approximately every 5.6 officers annually. When limited to full-time certified officers—the personnel most likely to respond to domestic violence calls—the rate increases modestly to 1.125 LAPs per officer over five years, or 0.225 LAPs per officer per year, equating to one LAP for every 4.4 full-time officers annually.

When viewed alongside FVPSA data collected by victim service providers, these calculations highlight a significant gap between the number of victims seeking or receiving services and the number of LAP screenings being completed by law enforcement. FVPSA data reflects sustained and substantial demand for domestic violence services across the state, while LAP utilization rates demonstrate that only a small fraction of the population—and a relatively small proportion of law enforcement capacity—is being leveraged to formally assess and document lethality risk. This disparity underscores the need for greater consistency in LAP application to ensure high-risk victims are identified earlier and connected more reliably to the services documented through Oklahoma’s FVPSA reporting system.

#### *Four-Year Comparative Analysis of LAP Utilization and IPV Incident Reporting*

Over a four-year period, 11,945 LAP-initiated calls were made to victim service agencies statewide, resulting in an average of 2,986 LAP calls per year. During this timeframe, law enforcement reported 58,442 intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents statewide. When comparing total LAP referrals to total IPV incidents over the four-year period, LAP was utilized in approximately 20% of reported IPV cases, equating to one LAP for every 4.89 victims reflected in law-enforcement incident data. This comparison illustrates that, while LAP is being applied in a meaningful subset of cases, it is not yet a routine component of IPV response across the state.

From a workforce perspective, among 14,515 active employed full-time certified and active certified reserve law enforcement officers, approximately 21% completed at least one LAP during the four-year comparison period—equating to one out of every 4.86 officers. When evaluated on an annualized basis per active full-time certified officer which is 11,538, this translates to approximately 26% LAP participation per officer per year, or one out of every 3.86 officers completing a LAP annually. These figures demonstrate that LAP usage is concentrated among a limited segment of the workforce, reinforcing the need for standardized training, supervisory reinforcement, and clear expectations to ensure lethality screening is consistently integrated into domestic and intimate partner violence responses statewide.

#### *The DVFRB’s Position – The Importance of DV Training*

Law enforcement officers routinely respond to a significant volume of domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) calls throughout their careers. These encounters place officers in direct contact with some of Oklahoma’s most vulnerable individuals—victims who are often experiencing ongoing coercion, manipulation, intimidation, and escalating violence (Stark, 2007).<sup>37</sup> DV/IPV calls are consistently identified as some of the most volatile and unpredictable calls for service and present substantial officer-safety concerns.<sup>38</sup> Addressing these incidents safely and effectively requires officers to understand not only offender behavior and scene dynamics but also the cumulative trauma victims may be experiencing.

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<sup>37</sup> Stark, E. (2007). *Coercive Control: How Men Entrap Women in Personal Life*. Oxford University Press.

<sup>38</sup> Johnson, R. R. (2017). How dangerous are domestic violence calls to officer safety? *Dolan Consulting Group Research Brief*. Retrieved from [https://www.dolanconsultinggroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RB\\_Domestic-Violence-Calls\\_Officer-Safety.pdf](https://www.dolanconsultinggroup.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/RB_Domestic-Violence-Calls_Officer-Safety.pdf)

Without adequate training, first responders may misinterpret victim behavior that appears contradictory or inconsistent with traditional expectations of “victim behavior.” Officers frequently respond to repeat disturbances at the same residence and may encounter victims who appear calm, minimizing the threat, or express reluctance to leave. Research shows that these behaviors are common trauma responses and are often shaped by coercive control, fear of retaliation, financial dependence, or the presence of children.<sup>39</sup> Insufficient training can cause officers to underestimate danger—particularly when there are no visible injuries—or to assume the situation is less serious than it truly is. Systematic evidence supports this concern: the 2024 scoping review by Kajeepeta et al. found that poorly trained officers are more likely to misidentify the primary aggressor, make dual arrests, or rely on informal mediation, all of which increase risk to survivors and discourage future help-seeking.<sup>40</sup> Additional national evaluations similarly demonstrate that inadequate training contributes to inconsistent enforcement and reduced victim safety.<sup>41</sup>

Domestic violence cannot be accurately assessed or effectively addressed if it is framed exclusively around physical injury. The widely adopted *Power and Control Wheel* developed by the Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs highlights how non-physical tactics—such as isolation, emotional abuse, economic control, threats, intimidation, and the use of children—form the backbone of long-term abusive relationships.<sup>42</sup> These patterns explain why victims may remain in the relationship, recant statements, or present as conflicted during police contact. Research consistently shows that coercive control is a stronger predictor of severe and lethal violence than physical assault alone.<sup>43</sup> Recognizing these dynamics is essential for accurate risk assessment and for avoiding the misinterpretation of victim behavior.

Comprehensive, evidence-based training is therefore critical. Training equips officers with investigative skills, trauma-informed communication strategies, and contextual understanding necessary to identify danger and support victim safety. The Lethality Assessment Program (LAP)—including the Oklahoma quasi-experimental field trial—demonstrates that officers who receive structured DV/IPV training are significantly more likely to identify high-risk victims, connect survivors with advocacy services, and reduce re-assault.<sup>44</sup> National studies of

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<sup>39</sup> Dutton, M.A., & Goodman, L.A. (2005). Coercion in Intimate Partner Violence: Toward a New Conceptualization. *Sex Role*, 52(11/12). DOI: 10.1007/s11199-005-4196-6. Retrieved from <https://niwaplibrary.wcl.american.edu/wp-content/uploads/Dutton-Goodman-coercive-control-model.pdf>; Herman, J. (1997). *Trauma and Recovery: The Aftermath of Violence – From Domestic Abuse to Political Terror*. Basic Books

<sup>40</sup> Kajeepeta, S., et al. (2024). Generalized and racialized consequences of the police response to intimate partner violence in the U.S.: A systematic scoping review. *Aggress Violent Behav*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2024.101947>

<sup>41</sup> Newmark, L., et al. (November 1995). Evaluation of Family Violence Training Programs. National Institute of Justice Research Preview. U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, National Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles/famvio.pdf>; Richards, T.N., et al. (2019). An examination of the lethality assessment program (LAP): Perspectives on implementation, help-seeking, and victim empowerment. *Violence Against Women*, 26(12-13). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801219880965>

<sup>42</sup> Pence, E., & Paymar, M. (1996). *Power and Control Wheel – Power and Control Tactics of Men Who Batter*. Domestic Abuse Intervention Program. Retrieved from <https://www.cvan.org/powercontrol.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> Myhill, A. (2015). Measuring Coercive Control: What Can We Learn From National Population Surveys? *Violence Against Women*, 21(3), 355-375. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801214568032>; Campbell, J.C. (2003). Risk factor for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study. *Am J Public Health*, 97(3), 1089-97. Doi: 10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089

<sup>44</sup> Messing, J.T., et al. (2015). The Oklahoma Lethality Assessment Study: A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation of the Lethality Assessment Program. *Social Service Review*, 89(3), 499-530. <https://doi.org/10.1086/683194>; Messing, J.T., et al. (2014). Police Departments’ Use of the Lethality Assessment Program: A Quasi-Experimental Evaluation. Final Report. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/247456.pdf>

DV training programs show similar improvements in documentation quality, primary aggressor identification, arrest accuracy, and victim engagement.<sup>45</sup> Collectively, the research reinforces that properly trained officers protect victims more effectively, enhance case outcomes, and improve officer safety during some of the most dangerous calls in law enforcement.

Additionally, mandating domestic violence and LAP training will significantly enhance law enforcement safety by equipping officers with the knowledge and skills to better recognize dangerous patterns, escalating behavior, and indicators of imminent violence before they enter or remain in high-risk situations. Domestic violence calls are among the most unpredictable and lethal encounters officers face, often involving armed offenders, heightened emotional volatility, and complex dynamics such as strangulation history, stalking behavior, threats of murder-suicide, and offenders who exhibit obsessive control. Training ensures officers can identify these red flags early, assess scene safety more accurately, and adjust their tactical approach to reduce exposure to harm. Training also strengthens situational awareness, reinforces proper officer-safety protocols, and improves decision-making during volatile encounters. Additionally, training improves communication between officers and victims, helping responders gather more accurate information that can reveal hidden risks before they escalate. By standardizing how officers assess lethality and respond to high-risk domestic violence incidents, mandated training enhances readiness, reduces preventable dangers, and ultimately protects the lives of the law enforcement professionals tasked with intervening in these complex and often deadly situations.

#### *The DVFRB's Position - Requiring DV/IPV Training in Annual Peace Officer Certification Requirements*

The DVFRB maintains that mandated training on high-risk DV response, particularly LAP, is essential to prevent DV homicides and improving our statewide response. As the Board has repeatedly documented, Oklahoma continues to experience a high number of intimate partner violence (IPV) related fatalities each year. Many of these deaths follow repeated opportunities for system intervention, where law enforcement officers were the first and sometimes only point of contact for victims in escalating danger. Without consistent, evidence-based training, first responders may be unprepared to recognize high-risk indicators, understand counterintuitive victim behavior, detect lethality patterns, or act decisively when signs of imminent harm are present. Mandated training ensures that every agency —large or small, urban or rural—receives standardized instruction, rather than relying on inconsistent local practices or resource availability. Consistency is the cornerstone of preventing fatalities, and the DVFRB holds that training cannot remain optional if Oklahoma seeks meaningful reductions in DV deaths.

The statewide rollout of the LAP, developed and implemented through the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office (OAG) as required by statute, represents a significant advancement in frontline victim safety. LAP equips officers to identify signs of increasing danger, conduct a brief evidence-based screen with victims, and immediately connect those at high risk to qualified victim services for safety planning. While the LAP project is achieving important gains particularly in awareness, service referrals, and early identification of high-risk victims, its impact is inherently limited without comprehensive, ongoing training. At present, LAP must be used during qualifying calls, but there is no legal requirement that every responding officer receive formal training on when, why, and how to apply the protocol. Implementation of fidelity varies widely across jurisdictions, especially in rural agencies with fewer training resources. Without mandated training embedded in annual CLEET continuing-education requirements, the LAP risks becoming inconsistently applied, dependent upon individual officers rather than grounded in systemic practice. The Board has long emphasized that even the best protocol cannot function effectively without proper, recurrent training to accompany it.

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<sup>45</sup> Gover, A.R., et al. (2011). Law Enforcement Officers' Attitudes About Domestic Violence. *Violence Against Women*, 17(5), 619-36. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801211407477>; United States Department of Justice. (May 2022). *Improving Law Enforcement Response to Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence by Identifying and Preventing Gender Bias*. Retrieved from <https://www.justice.gov/ovw/page/file/1509451/dl?inline>

Current training efforts by the OAG demonstrate both the promise and limitations of voluntary training models. Hundreds of law enforcement officers, dispatchers, victim advocates, and service providers have already received LAP instruction since the statewide project began. These trainings have strengthened officer safety, improved victim referrals, supported stronger documentation, and enhanced coordination between law enforcement and advocacy agencies. Victims benefit when officers understand risk indicators such as strangulation, stalking, weapons access, threats of homicide or suicide, and escalating violent behavior. Law enforcement benefits from consistent guidance, increased situational awareness, and evidence-based decision-making during some of the most volatile calls for service they encounter. However, the current voluntary framework means many personnel, especially those in rural or understaffed agencies, still have not been trained. **Without a mandate, however, training will always reach some, but not all, limiting the statewide impact needed to strengthen our response to DV.**

For these reasons, the DVFRB asserts that mandated LAP and high-risk domestic violence training is necessary to ensure statewide consistency, improve response outcomes, and make measurable progress toward reducing domestic violence fatalities. Mandated training would ensure that every officer who responds to intimate partner violence receives standardized, recurrent instruction—not just those whose agencies have the capacity to attend optional training. The Board further notes that resources, such as online modules, regional training hubs, and state support, can ensure equitable access for small and rural agencies. While training alone cannot eliminate domestic violence deaths, it is a critical foundational component of a broader, coordinated system that includes victim advocacy, shelter capacity, protective order enforcement, and offender accountability. With mandated training, Oklahoma can move from optional best-practice recommendations to a unified statewide standard of care, strengthening both victim safety and officer preparedness.

In summary, the DVFRB strongly supports establishing mandated annual training on the Lethality Assessment Protocol and high-risk domestic violence response. This approach reflects the Board’s statutory mission, aligns with national best practices, and builds upon the foundational work already underway through the Attorney General’s Office. A training mandate would not only enhance law enforcement’s ability to identify and mitigate lethal danger but also advance Oklahoma’s commitment to reducing domestic violence fatalities and improving systemwide response for victims across all 77 counties.

**This can be accomplished in the 2026 legislative session with the passage of HB 3763, authored by Representative Tim Turner.<sup>46</sup> Although the measure proposes half of the required training hours argued for in this recommendation, HB 3763 still closely aligns with our proposal and addresses our fundamental concerns.<sup>47</sup> We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 3763 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law.**

## Implementation

Implementing this recommendation would require the Oklahoma Legislature to amend 70 O.S. § 3311.4(A) and (B) to specify that:

- Active full-time peace officers shall dedicate four (4) hours of their annual peace officer certification requirements to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.

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<sup>46</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=hb3763&Session=2600>

<sup>47</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 3763: Introduced Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB3763%20INT.PDF)

- Active reserve peace officers dedicate two (2) hours of their annual peace officer certification requirement to domestic violence, intimate partner violence, and lethality assessment protocol (LAP) issues.

Lawmakers can accomplish this with the passage of HB 3763 during the 2026 legislative session. Although the measure proposes half of the required training hours argued for in this recommendation, HB 3763 closely aligns with our proposal and addresses our fundamental concerns. Implementation hinges on the successful passage of HB 3763 in both chambers of the legislature and its signing into law by the executive branch.

The Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General (OAG) has implemented a comprehensive statewide strategy to train law enforcement officers and victim advocates in the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP), following formal recommendations issued by the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB). The DVFRB identified critical inconsistencies in how the LAP was administered across jurisdictions, as well as gaps in referral practices for high-risk victims. In response, the OAG established a dedicated LAP Team to deliver standardized training, strengthen statewide coordination, and enhance the overall quality of domestic violence response throughout Oklahoma.

This initiative is supported through approximately \$1.3 million in federal grant funding. These funds allowed the OAG to create a three-region operational structure—Southern, Western, and Eastern Oklahoma—to ensure statewide coverage. While each LAP Coordinator is assigned to one of these regions for primary outreach and logistical support, they are not restricted to their regional boundaries. Coordinators regularly cross regional lines to assist agencies, support large-scale training, and meet emerging needs anywhere in the state.

The LAP Team is composed of a Lead Lethality Assessment Protocol Coordinator and two Lethality Assessment Protocol Coordinators, each bringing a diverse and extensive background to the initiative. Collectively, the team represents decades of combined experience across law enforcement, military service, grant and program administration, higher education, and victim-services collaboration. This multidisciplinary expertise allows the team to engage effectively with both criminal-justice partners and community-based advocacy organizations, ensuring training is practical, evidence-informed, and operationally relevant.

Since the LAP Team formally began operations on April 1, 2025, OAG personnel have trained approximately 600 hundred individuals statewide. This includes sworn officers, dispatch professionals, tribal law-enforcement partners, campus police, prosecutors' offices, and victim advocates. Training is provided at no cost and is available both in-person and virtually, typically lasting two hours. Instruction emphasizes proper administration of the LAP screening tool, recognition of risk indicators, liability, case studies, completing required documentation, and facilitating immediate referrals to victim service providers for high-risk individuals.

Through this regional-yet-flexible deployment model and the multidisciplinary expertise of the LAP Team, the OAG continues to advance the DVFRB's recommendations by strengthening statewide consistency, improving victim safety outcomes, and fostering unified collaboration across Oklahoma's law enforcement and advocacy communities.



# 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation Three<sup>48</sup>

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to create a new law enabling state prosecutors to use domestic violence propensity evidence in their cases. This new evidence-based prosecution tool would allow for previous acts of domestic violence or abuse to be considered admissible evidence in certain proceedings against defendants accused of domestic violence or abuse. This would align domestic violence with Oklahoma's current sexual abuse (12 O.S. § 2413) and child sexual abuse (12 O.S. § 2414) propensity evidence statutes.*

*In 2024, SB 1557 aimed to accomplish this and passed both chambers of legislature with overwhelming support but was ultimately vetoed by Oklahoma's Governor. **In 2026, lawmakers will be able to consider HB 4342, which advances SB 1557's same proposal. We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 4342 in the interest of victim safety and offender accountability.***

### Target Systems

Oklahoma House of Representatives; Oklahoma State Senate; Office of the Governor; District Attorneys Council; District Attorney's Offices

### Purpose

Increasing the use of evidence-based prosecution so prosecutors are better equipped to hold abusers accountable in court.

### Rationale

#### *Problem Statement*

#### *Background*

In 2024, both chambers of the Oklahoma Legislature overwhelmingly supported the enactment of SB 1557 into state law, a legislative proposal that would have empowered the usage of domestic violence propensity evidence by prosecutors against those accused of domestic violence crimes. This would have allowed prosecutors to admit certain kinds of evidence in criminal proceedings showcasing a defendant's tendency to engage in abusive patterns of behavior. This generally consists of evidence depicting prior acts of domestic abuse, regardless of whether they resulted in a conviction.

Unfortunately, despite SB 1557 being overwhelmingly supported by lawmakers and our state's District Attorneys as a vital tool needed in our state's ongoing fight against domestic violence, the bill was vetoed by Oklahoma's Governor on April 23, 2024.<sup>49</sup> DVFRB homicide reviews in 2025, and throughout the Board's 24-year history, reveal a dire need for the enactment of domestic violence propensity legislation such as that in SB 1557.

### *2025 DVFRB Findings*

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<sup>48</sup> Contributing Authors: OAG DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera, MA; District Attorneys' Council Assistant Executive Coordinator Ryan Stephenson, J.D.; DVFRB Member and Assistant District Attorney (District #9) Sean Webb, J.D.

<sup>49</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 59th Leg., 2nd Sess. (2024). Senate Bill 1557: Bill History. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB1557&Session=2400>



DV crimes continue to be among the most difficult to prosecute due to the complex dynamics underpinning DV situations. For example, DVFRB homicide case reviews often reveal some abusers who killed their current or former intimate partner, had a long history of having been charged with DV crimes in the past, but were never convicted. Court records indicate charges were often dropped due to the state being unable to produce a witness – that individual being, most often, the victim. This outcome is not uncommon in cases brought against offenders who abused but did not kill their victims – In Oklahoma County alone, for example, over half of declined cases are due to victims being uncooperative.<sup>50</sup> Additionally, nearly half of charged cases are dismissed because a victim will not testify.<sup>51</sup>

A victim's decision not to engage with the criminal justice system is driven by complex dynamics. Factors may include dissatisfaction with the criminal justice system, threat of retaliation, attempted reconciliation, and self-blame.<sup>52</sup> These factors stem from the reality that DV cases often present far more complex interpersonal and social dynamics than stranger-on-stranger cases. For instance, the victim and the defendant oftentimes are parents to the same child(ren). Victims may also be at the receiving end of defendants', and at times even family members', manipulative and coercive tactics, such as being made to believe moving forward with the case will break up their own family or take a parent from the child through incarceration. Notably, victims who financially depend on the perpetrator almost entirely, frequently against their choice, are faced with deciding between "putting away" the abuser at the expense of risking poverty or homelessness. As a result, in contrast to other types of crimes, DV victims thrust into the criminal justice process are forced to deal with the consequences of both the crime and the punishment.

To make matters more complicated, the criminal justice system is reliant on victim pre-trial and trial testimony. This plays into abusers' hands and results in them escalating their manipulative and coercive tactics to hijack the process at the expense of justice and victim safety. This plays out through implicit and explicit threats of further physical violence, stalking, and the weaponization of guilt to steer victims away from participating in the process. Accordingly, when taking into consideration their risk as a witness and the prospects of underwhelming sentencing outcomes, victims' cost-benefit and safety analyses may ultimately tilt towards electing nonparticipation. The situation is further complicated by the unique dynamics absent in other cases, including the witness' love, loyalty, or emotional dependence on a defendant who is often more than willing to exploit whatever he can to avoid being held accountable for their actions.

Consequently, the justice system may be undermined by abusers. Their ability to employ a range of manipulation, intimidation and coercive tactics means they have motive, opportunity, and means to wither away at victims' will to pursue justice. Abusers are capable of doing this through their unrelenting use of subtle or blunt manipulative and abusive attrition tactics. This results in situations, such as those previously reviewed by the DVFRB, where an intimate partner homicide perpetrator may have had domestic abuse charges filed against him in the past, but was able to escape accountability due to the victim being unable or unwilling to cooperate. Ultimately, a perpetrator's ability to evade justice from one abusive relationship emboldens them and may lead to the use of higher levels of near-lethal violence in future relationships. It is important for prosecutors to be able to bring those, and other instances, to the forefront of any domestic violence-related prosecution.

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<sup>50</sup> Oklahoma County District Attorney's Office, Domestic Violence Unit. (2024, May). Presentation to DVFRB on May 29, 2024, Regular Meeting. PowerPoint presentation. *Proposed law changes*.

<sup>51</sup> *Id.*

<sup>52</sup> Corsilles, A. (1994). No-drop policies in the prosecution of domestic violence cases: Guarantee to action or dangerous solution? *Fordham Law Review*, 63(5), 853-856. As referenced in Hudders, N. A. (2000). The problem of using hearsay in domestic violence cases: Is a new exception the answer? *Duke Law Journal*, 49, 1041-1047.

In 2024, Senator Adam Pugh authored SB 1557, which proposed a new law that would have allowed evidence of prior acts of domestic violence or abuse by a defendant to be admitted as evidence if the defendant is accused of that same type of offense in a criminal case filed against them.<sup>53</sup> This legislative proposal stemmed from District Attorneys’ advocacy through both the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC) and the District Attorneys Association (ODAA).<sup>54</sup> This legislative priority stemmed from state prosecutors recognizing the ongoing need for additional statutory mechanisms facilitating the evidence-based prosecution of more DV crimes across the state. It also recognizes the need to manage the system’s reliance on victim pre-trial and trial testimony to move cases forward.

In the leadup to the 2024 legislative session, the DAC and ODAA identified domestic violence propensity evidence legislation as a missing component in the state’s evidence-based prosecution toolbox. They aimed to create a new mechanism to admit prior acts of domestic violence against defendants charged with new domestic violence cases, thereby aligning domestic violence to current Sexual Abuse (12 O.S. § 2413) and Child Sexual Abuse (12 O.S. § 2414) propensity evidence statutes enacted since 2007. This new propensity tool would have enabled prosecutors to better establish the history of abusive behavior, dominance, and control by the defendant that led to the charged criminal act.<sup>55</sup> In other words, it better equips prosecutors to show a pattern of abuse by the defendant against the victim or against others in prior relationships. A 2017 Strategies in Brief by AEquitas, a technical assistance group with a mission to improve sexual violence, intimate partner violence, stalking, and human trafficking prosecution practices, outlined five (5) core strategic benefits of propensity to IPV prosecutions:<sup>56</sup>

1. Provides greater context for the current crime as part of a pattern of abuse. Many abusers escalate from emotion/psychological violence to physical violence. Evidence of prior assaults against an intimate partner can demonstrate the context in which a particular assault occurred, which is necessary to understand the extent of the victimization, as well as the perpetrator’s intent.
2. Helps the jury understand why the crime happened—to explain otherwise inexplicable or confusing criminal acts or dynamics between the victim and the defendant.
3. Overcomes victim-blaming biases exploited by the defense. This strategy is particularly effective when accompanied by expert testimony explaining the effects of the violent history on the victim’s behavior.

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<sup>53</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 59<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2024). *Senate Bill 1557: Enrolled Version*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB1557&Session=2400>

<sup>54</sup> Oklahoma District Attorney Council, Assistant Executive Coordinator Ryan Stephenson. (2024, August). Presentation to DVFRB on August 28, 2024, Regular Meeting. PowerPoint presentation. *The Life and Death of SB 1557*.

<sup>55</sup> Hartler, C.C., & Ryan, R. (1998). *Prosecution Strategies in Domestic Violence Felonies: Telling the Story of Domestic Violence*. Retrieved from <https://www.ojp.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/194074.pdf>; Vartabedian, P. (2007). The Need to Hold Batterers Accountable: Admitting Prior Acts of Abuse in Domestic Violence Cases. *Santa Clara Law Review Journal*, 47(157)

<sup>56</sup> AEquitas, Strategies in Brief (2017). *Evidence of Other “Bad Acts” In Intimate Partner Violence, Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Human Trafficking Prosecutions* (p.3). Retrieved from <https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/Aequitas-Evidence-of-Other-Bad-Acts-IPV.pdf#:~:text=Evidence%20Showing%20Propensity,evidence%20may%20still%20be%20necessary>

4. Helps establish the requisite purpose, intent, or knowledge that is an element of the offense.
5. Strengthening evidence-based prosecutions where a victim is unable or unwilling to participate in the prosecution of the abuser, or recants statements from the original complaint, by showing that the victim has reason to fear the defendant or that the defendant has historically manipulated the victim.

As a result, SB 1557’s domestic violence propensity proposal was intended to give prosecutors the ability to paint a clear history for the trier of fact. Along with the existing ability to present statements by victims seeking medical treatment and other forensic evidence, SB 1557 opened the door for more evidence-based prosecutions, potentially reducing the burden placed on victims to testify, while also increasing accountability for an offender’s entire pattern of behavior.

These reasons led to SB 1557 receiving overwhelming support at each stage of the legislative process in 2024. It notably passed both the Senate and House’s respective judiciary committees unanimously, and after being overwhelmingly supported on the floors of both chambers, it seemed poised to becoming law. (Table 8)

**Table 8. 2024 Legislative Session — SB 1557’s Legislative History**

Date	Legislative Outcome	Votes
2/27/2024	Passed Senate Judiciary Unanimously	11 – 0
3/7/2024	Passed Senate Floor	34 – 9
3/27/2024	Passed House Criminal Judiciary Unanimously	7 – 0
4/16/2024	Passed House Floor	83 – 9

Source: Oklahoma State Legislature, 2024 Regular Session – SB 1557 Bill Information

Despite this clear legislative backing, the Governor vetoed the bill on April 23, 2024. In his veto message he stated that allowing the admissibility of evidence of a defendant’s prior conduct to a criminal proceeding meant prosecutors would be able to persuade juries that a defendant cannot change. He also voiced opposition on the grounds that the legislation was impermissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence due to how prejudicial such evidence is to defendants. The governor’s reasoning for vetoing SB 1557, based on the reading of his veto message, was driven by the belief that the bill went against the principle of a defendant’s presumption of innocence until proven guilty. The governor’s veto message read as follows:<sup>57</sup>

*“In Oklahoma, the accused are presumed innocent until proven guilty. Senate Bill 1557 departs from this principle by allowing prosecutors to bring evidence of a defendant’s prior conduct to persuade a jury that the defendant cannot change, and therefore must be guilty.*

*This sort of evidence, commonly called propensity evidence, as contemplated by Senate Bill 1557 is impermissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence. This is because such evidence is extremely prejudicial to defendants and obfuscates the prosecution’s duty to show that a defendant committed a specific act, at a specific time, against a specific victim. In Oklahoma, the innocent will not suffer in an attempt to convict the guilty.”*

*The DVFRB’s Position — What did the Governor’s veto get wrong?*

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<sup>57</sup> Stitt, K. (May 2024). Vetoed Legislation from 2024 Regular Session. *Executive Department, Oklahoma*. Retrieved from: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/governor/documents/20240423181553814.pdf>

Although the Governor's desire to ensure that defendants are not unfairly prejudiced in their prosecutions is admirable, his conclusion that propensity evidence is impermissible was misinformed. He failed to consider that propensity evidence already exists in sexual abuse cases under Oklahoma Statutes (12 O.S. § 2413 and § 2414) and, more importantly, has been upheld by appellate courts. For example, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals in the 1979 case of *Burks v. State* allowed for the introduction of other bad acts by a Defendant, including patterns of criminal behavior.

Notably, the presumption of innocence does not preclude the Legislature from codifying law that allows prosecutors to address specific criminal behavior before a jury. The Federal Rules of Evidence (FRE) allows the introduction of prior bad acts to show "motive, opportunity, intent, plan, knowledge, identity, absence of mistake, or lack of accident." Further, the Legislature, using the FRE as a guide, has enacted into law language allowing the introduction of prior sexual assaults against a defendant charged as such. This was done due to the nature of such criminal acts. In each of these circumstances, the defendant is provided due process, and the burden is on the State to justify the introduction of the prior bad acts — SB 1557 codified such protections. This is why the framework for the domestic violence propensity bill mirrors the statutory language for law already in place in 12 O.S. § 2413 and § 2414 almost verbatim.

We recognize that unchecked admission of propensity evidence certainly could obscure the prosecution's duty and unduly prejudice a defendant. Fortunately, as routinely occurs with sexual-abuse propensity evidence, Oklahoma law provides safeguards that prevent this. The Governor's veto message fails to account for two critical tests the prosecution must satisfy before any evidence—propensity or otherwise—may be admitted.

First, the prosecution must show that the evidence is relevant to the case at hand. For example, a defendant who previously assaulted his brother and is now charged with strangling his wife may technically face two domestic-violence charges, but the former would be difficult to show as relevant in a domestic-violence propensity hearing. By contrast, a pattern of strangling previous girlfriends is directly relevant to determining whether the same individual strangled his current partner.

Second, and perhaps most importantly, evidence may be excluded if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, misleading the jury, undue delay, needless presentation of cumulative evidence, or unfair and harmful surprise. In other words, the evidence's ability to prove a fact must significantly exceed its potential to unfairly sway a jury. Judges conduct this balancing test by considering what the evidence tends to prove and the degree to which it may provoke an overly emotional response. This principle applies not only to propensity evidence but to all evidence offered at trial.

Pursuing this legislation again is not only warranted but necessary to ensure that Oklahoma's courts have the same tools to address patterns of domestic violence that they already possess in sexual-abuse prosecutions. Domestic violence occurs in cycles, and juries should be permitted to consider established patterns of behavior, subject to the same safeguards that have long protected defendants' rights in other contexts. The Governor's concerns about unfair prejudice are fully addressed within existing evidentiary framework: judges already act as gatekeepers, applying strict relevance and probative-value tests before any propensity evidence may be admitted. By reintroducing this bill, the Legislature can strengthen the justice system's ability to hold repeat domestic abusers accountable while still preserving the fundamental fairness owed to every defendant.

*The DVFRB's Position — Where do we go from here?*

Enacting DV propensity evidence legislation into law should be the next step in Oklahoma's ongoing effort to strengthen our state's ability to hold DV perpetrators accountable. Opening the door for the introduction of prior

abusive acts allows prosecutors to focus the judge or jury's attention back to the specific act of violence alleged. Showing a pattern of abuse can be highly probative in explaining facts often mischaracterized by defense. For example, jurors often consider why it took so long to come forward. Discouragement from disclosure and cooperation with the justice system is embedded in the abuser's tactics. Furthermore, it assists the jury with understanding the allegations when presented with an absent victim or a victim who cannot remember the details. It allows prosecutors to inform jurors about the cyclical nature of domestic violence.

The legislation aligns with the DVFRB's long-standing position that evidence-based prosecution mechanisms are a key component to minimizing the extent to which abusers are able to weaponize the criminal justice system to their advantage to avoid any sort of accountability. It is also justified by the review of hundreds of Oklahoma intimate partner homicides, members' countless years of experience in the field, as well as the extant literature on domestic violence dynamics. Overall, it aligns with our 25-year position that perpetrator's manipulation and the cycle of violence are often the real culprits for victims' refusal to participate in our legal system.

This is evident in our decades-long advocacy for the implementation of evidence-based prosecution practices in our state such as those found in previous editions of this publication.<sup>58</sup> The Board has also previously recognized the importance of the availability of training, so that prosecutors are equipped with the know-how to move forward with cases with limited or no victim participation in the process.<sup>59</sup> Other calls highlighted training opportunities and resources offered by the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council (DAC), such as technical assistance offered by the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor.<sup>60</sup> These recommendations

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<sup>58</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2006). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2006*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2006\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2006_annual_report.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2007). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2007*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2007\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2007_annual_report.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2008). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2008*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2008\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2008_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>59</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2002). *Annual Report, Murder in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Report July 2001-September 2002*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2002\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2002_annual_report.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2003). *Annual Report, Domestic Violence Homicide: A Multi-Disciplinary Analysis by the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2003*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2003\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2003_annual_report.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2007). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2007*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_2007\\_annual\\_report.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_2007_annual_report.pdf)

<sup>60</sup> Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2012). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2012*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb\\_annual\\_report\\_2012.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/dvfrb_annual_report_2012.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2015). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2015*. Retrieved from

have all stemmed from our long-held recognition of the ways in which our justice systems may burden victims during what can be a yearslong journey towards justice.

That burden can be alleviated with the use of evidence-based practices in the courtroom. Nevertheless, our District Attorneys (DAs) and their Assistants (ADAs) are only able to alleviate these burdens insofar as current statutory landscape allows them to. As a result, evidence-based practices are only as good as the statutory mechanisms readily available to our prosecutors that can facilitate those kinds of prosecutions moving forward. The foundation for any evidence-based prosecution practice is contingent of having statutes in place allowing for the admission of as many pieces of evidence as possible at certain stages of the process without having to rely entirely on the victim's testimony.

Consequently, it is our position that the passage of DV propensity evidence legislation into law should be the next step in Oklahoma's ongoing effort to strengthen our state's ability to hold DV perpetrators accountable. **This can be accomplished in the 2026 legislative session with the passage of HB 4342, authored by House of Representatives Speaker Pro Tempore Anthony Moore.<sup>61</sup> We encourage lawmakers in both legislative chambers to support HB 4342 like SB 1557 was supported in 2024 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law in the interest of victim safety and offender accountability.**

## Implementation

Implementing this recommendation requires the Oklahoma Legislature to create a new law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes aligning to what SB 1557 proposed in 2024. HB 4342 in 2026 does this and proposes the same language as SB 1557 <sup>62</sup>

- A. *In a criminal case in which the defendant is accused of an offense involving domestic violence or abuse, evidence of the commission of another act of domestic violence or abuse by the defendant is admissible and may be considered for its bearing on any matter to which it is relevant.*
- B. *In a criminal case in which the state intends to offer evidence under this section, the attorney for the state shall disclose the evidence to the defendant, including statements of witnesses or a summary of the substance of any testimony that is expected to be offered, at least fifteen (15) days before the commencement of trial or at such later time as the court may allow for good cause.*
- C. *The provisions of this section shall not be construed to limit the admission or consideration of evidence under any rule or provision of law.*

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[https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/domestic\\_violence\\_fatality\\_review\\_board\\_annual\\_report\\_2015.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/domestic_violence_fatality_review_board_annual_report_2015.pdf); Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2019). *Annual Report, Domestic violence homicide in Oklahoma: A Report of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2019*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/2019\\_dvfrb\\_annual\\_report\\_-\\_final.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board-annual-report/2019_dvfrb_annual_report_-_final.pdf)

<sup>61</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 4342: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=hb4342&Session=2600>

<sup>62</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). *House Bill 4342: Introduced Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB4342%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/hB/HB4342%20INT.PDF)

*D. For purposes of this section, “domestic violence or abuse” means any incident of controlling, coercive, or threatening behavior, violence, or other act of abuse against a person in a relationship as specified in subsection C of Section 644 of Title 21 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The violence or abuse may be psychological, physical, sexual, economic, or emotional.*



# 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation Four<sup>63</sup>

*The Oklahoma Legislature should take appropriate legislative action to amend 22 O.S. §60.17, which governs the circumstances for which Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring may be used to monitor defendants accused of domestic violence offenses.*

*As a first step towards reaching this goal, the DVFRB recommends the following:*

- ***The passage of SB 1325 in the 2026 Legislative Session.*** This legislative proposal would amend 22 O.S. 2021, § 60.17 so that any defendant charged with domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic abuse with a dangerous or deadly weapon, or domestic abuse after a previous adjudication for domestic abuse is not released on bail without wearing a GPS monitoring device. It also places the costs of the monitoring on the defendant and designates the Department of Corrections as the government agency responsible for the monitoring of defendants until the conclusion of the case.
- ***Further consideration of SB 728 from the 2025 Legislative Session.*** At the time, SB 728 proposed amending 22 O.S. 2021, Sections 60.6 and 60.17 by changing a “May” to “Shall” as it relates to courts requiring defendants subject to a victim protective order (VPO) accused of domestic abuse to use an active, real-time, 24-hour GPS monitoring device. A VPO is civil court order designed to protect a victim and/or their children from abuse, stalking, or harassment from an abuser. SB 728 proposed requiring courts to order defendants to wear the device for as long as the VPO remained in effect.

*While SB 1325 aims to increase GPS monitoring while a defendant is on bail, SB 728 looked at accomplishing the same in the context of VPO proceedings. The findings in Senate Interim Study (IS) 25-023 made it clear that VPO-related GPS monitoring is an area meriting further improvement. Hence, we encourage the legislature to consider taking appropriate legislative action addressing the concerns listed throughout IS-25-023 by DAC’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, ADA Jacobi Whatley.*

### Target Systems

Oklahoma House of Representatives; Oklahoma State Senate; Office of the Governor; District Attorneys Council; District Attorney’s Offices

### Purpose

Promoting victim safety by requiring the use of GPS tracking technology for high-risk domestic violence offenders as a condition of bail.

### Rationale

#### *Problem Statement*

*Background – The DVFRB Discusses GPS Monitoring of High-Risk Domestic Violence Offenders*

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<sup>63</sup> Contributing Author: OAG DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera, MA

In recent years, the DVFRB has reviewed cases where intimate partner homicide perpetrators showcased dangerous histories of stalking in the aftermath of separation. The stalking ranged from monitoring victims' whereabouts and digital harassment (i.e. repeated phone calls or text messages) to assault and battery after closely tracking them. In some cases, upon separating, abusers surveilled the victim's home up until the murder. At times, unbeknownst to the victim, a perpetrator broke into the victim's home, waited patiently for the victim's arrival, and then ambushed and killed them. Other perpetrators stalked victims before killing them. The outcome, however, was the same across all homicides — victims were entrapped. Sadly, other than the filing of a VPO, they had no other recourse to regain a sense of safety amid the ensuing stalking and threatening behavior upon the relationship ending.

These situations sparked conversations about how GPS monitoring of high-risk DV offenders could improve victim safety. For example, members discussed the use of GPS ankle monitoring systems to track offenders in real time and programming capabilities allowing for the delineation of certain “safety” or “exclusion” zones (i.e. areas where the alleged abuser may not enter, or is required to remain, respectively). Common zones include locations like the victim's home or workplace. Discussions revolved around how these features could be aligned with conditions of bond release and VPOs to encourage offender compliance and therefore increase victim safety.

Members, however, agreed they had rarely, if ever, witnessed the use of ankle monitoring in the context of DV-related civil (i.e. VPO court dockets) or criminal proceedings in their careers. This was the collective experience across disciplines represented on the Review Board's membership. Representatives for law enforcement, prosecutors, judges, and victim services providers, as well as other front-line advocates, could collectively remember perhaps one or two situations where a GPS monitor was utilized in a high-risk DV situation. Alarming, on the one occasion a member remembered a monitor being used, they noted that the victim, upon the defendant declaring himself indigent, had to be the one to purchase the monitor. Questions about our state government's role in funding, procurement, and enforcement of this system subsequently became topic of discussion.

*Further DVFRB Discussion and Oklahoma State Senate Interim Study 25-023*

To gain a better understanding of how the GPS monitoring system can be improved, the DVFRB sought subject-matter expertise from a member of the Judiciary.<sup>64</sup> This was done as part of the Review Board's regular practice of hosting subject matter experts to learn about proposals aimed at bolstering Oklahoma's statutory landscape to enhance victim safety and offender accountability. The speaker, a District Court Judge, made several proposals emphasizing an intervention and accountability model, one of which addressed GPS enforcement issues and aligned with the DVFRB's previous concerns about the system.<sup>65</sup> (Table 9)

**Table 9. GPS enforcement proposals discussed during October 22, 2025, presentation to the DVFRB**

Proposals Regarding 22 O.S. § 60.17
• Expand and fund 22 O.S. § 60.17 to require GPS tracking for high-risk offenders.
• Victims may opt-in for real time alters.
• Annual review for ongoing necessity.
• State indigency fund for GPS cost coverage.

<sup>64</sup> Oklahoma County District Court, Special Judge Sara M. Bondurant. (2025, October). Presentation to DVFRB on October 22, 2025, Regular Meeting. Handout and PowerPoint presentation. *Reimagining Oklahoma's Response to Domestic Violence: Toward an Intervention and Accountability Model*.

<sup>65</sup> *Id.*

The Board’s interest and concerns on the issue were further echoed in October 2025 during Oklahoma State Senate interim study (IS) 25-023.<sup>66</sup> The study was hosted by Senator Bill Coleman and focused on using GPS technology to make DV victims safer by keeping abusers away from them. During his opening remarks Senator Coleman stated:<sup>67</sup>

“We are here to explore requiring GPS tracking for defendants under a victim protective order or VPO. I believe this is a commonsense and lifesaving step forward to protecting victims of domestic violence and preventing recurring abuse. Unfortunately, in far too many cases a VPO isn’t the deterrent we wish it were. We know that many abusers continue to stalk, threaten, and physically hurt their victims or in some cases kill them. Even after being served with this protective order. While Oklahoma law does give judges the discretion to impose GPS monitoring, this seems to be very rarely used. This needs to change. I’ve spoken to several survivors who told me GPS could save lives. When a victim has advance notice that their abuser is nearby, that time can be making all the difference in preventing a tragedy.”

The study featured a survivor’s testimony narrating the horrible abuse she endured at the hands of an ex-boyfriend, followed by a presentation by Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Jacobi Whatley, who also serves as the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor for the District Attorneys Council (DAC). ADA Whatley’s presentation focused on giving an overview of 22 O.S. § 60.17, which is the statute governing the use of GPS monitoring in the context of VPO proceedings, while also identifying areas that could be improved in the statute.<sup>68</sup> (Table 10 and 11)

**Table 10. Oklahoma State Senate Interim Study 25-023 – 22 O.S. § 60.17 Statutory Overview by DAC Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor**

22 O.S. § 60.17	Stipulation
Court <b>may</b> order the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real-time 24-hour GPS monitoring device for such term as the court deems necessary</li> <li>Upon application of the victim, the Court may authorize the victim to view the location of the defendant. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring limited to within a specified distance of victim <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excludes residence and work of defendant</li> </ul> </li> <li>Requires an annual review by the court to determine if still necessary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Before GPS ordered, Court <b>shall</b> find the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That defendant has history that demonstrates an intent to commit violence against the victim, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prior conviction for an offense under the Protection from Domestic Abuse Act or any other violent offense.</li> <li>OR</li> <li>Any other evidence that shows by a preponderance of the evidence that the defendant is likely to commit violence against the victim.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<sup>66</sup> Coleman, B. (2025). VPO Tracking. Okla. Senate Interim Study No. 25-023. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/publications/senate-interim-studies/vpo-tracking>

<sup>67</sup> Coleman, B. (2025). VPO Tracking. Okla. Senate Interim Study No. 25-023. Opening remarks on October 1, 2025. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/live-chamber>

<sup>68</sup> Whatley, J. (2025). Presentation to Oklahoma Senate Interim Study No. 25-023. PowerPoint Presentation: *Victim Protective Order Interim Study 2025*. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/sites/default/files/2025-10/Coleman-Jacobi%20Whatley.pdf>

**Table 11. Oklahoma State Senate Interim Study 25-023 – 22 O.S. § 60.17 Statutory Analysis by DAC Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor**

Issue	Explanation	Solution
Use of the word prior “conviction”	Would not include pleas of guilty (or people who are on deferred probation).	Change “conviction” wording so that it includes o probation/plea of guilty similar to DUI statutes, DV statutes, and Violation of Protective Order statutes.
The use of the word “violence”	Up to interpretation what “violence” means. Some acts by the perpetrator, such as love bombing the victim, showing up to their workplace uninvited, and following them, might not be threatening in nature but are part of a broader pattern of coercive control and entrapment.	Removal of the word “violence.” Possibly change to mirror that this monitoring is necessary to protect the victim from a crime outlined in Protection from Domestic Violence Act
Enforcement and who monitors? (GPS monitoring)	Zero authority for how this occurs and who monitors. Judges often ask who enforces their court order if they use the authority vested in 22 O.S. § 60.17.  VPOs are civil in nature so there will not always be law enforcement involve or a probation entity until a violation of a VPO, which at that point becomes a criminal matter. In other words, a violation must occur for active law enforcement involvement to occur.	Clear language about which agency/entity enforces the monitoring
Differs from 22 O.S. 60.6(I)	----- These offenders are placed on probation under supervision of a supervising agency, either DOC probation and parole or private supervision company (mostly misdemeanors)	

IS-25-023’s findings were later summarized in a press release in the following terms:<sup>69</sup>

1. While courts in Oklahoma can already order GPS tracking in protective order cases, it’s rarely used, and there’s no consistent framework to use GPS devices in this matter.
2. Many victims are unaware they can ask the court to mandate a GPS tracking for their abuser. Even when that option is requested, there can be confusion about next steps, and which entity is responsible for monitoring the individual in question.

Senator Coleman also made following remarks: <sup>70</sup>

“When I was a freshman senator, I was shocked to learn that domestic strangulation was only a misdemeanor under state law. The Legislature has since made it a felony, which was an

<sup>69</sup> Oklahoma State Senate. (October 2, 2025). Press Release, Senator Coleman Hosts Interim Study on Domestic Violence. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/press-releases/senator-coleman-hosts-interim-study-domestic-violence?back=/node>

<sup>70</sup> *Id.*

important step forward. But Oklahoma still has more work to do to stop domestic violence. GPS tracking will give victims the peace of mind that comes with knowing their abuser is being monitored. And if that person gets too close, law enforcement can respond immediately.”

The findings of IS-25-023 ultimately aligned almost exactly to the DVFRB’s discussions and concerns in 2025. They also aligned with the recommendations by subject matter experts who presented to the Board.

*The DVFRB’s Position — Supporting SB 1325 (2026 Session) and SB 728 (2025)*

We commend Senator Coleman and the legislature for identifying and elevating GPS monitoring issues in the lead up to the 2026 legislative session. The legislature should build on IS-25-023’s findings and take appropriate legislative action to improve a critical area in our statutes (22 O.S. § 60.17) currently underutilized to the detriment of victim safety and offender accountability. Taking legislative action on this front could be the difference maker for countless survivors looking to regain their sense agency and security.

**Consequently, we support proactive policies and interventions to strengthen offender compliance with court orders such as bond conditions and VPOs. Timely changes to our GPS monitoring statute such as those proposed by Senator Coleman’s SB 1325 in the 2026 legislative session and that of SB 728 in 2025 aim to accomplish this.<sup>71</sup>**

SB 1325 amends 22 O.S. 2021, § 60.17 so that any defendant charged with domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic abuse with a dangerous or deadly weapon, or domestic abuse after a previous adjudication for domestic abuse is not released on bail without wearing a GPS monitoring device. It also requires defendants to pay for GPS monitoring and assigns the Department of Corrections to monitor those defendants until the conclusion of the case.<sup>72</sup>

The Board also encourages further consideration of Senator Coleman’s 2025 SB 728. At the time, SB 728 proposed amending 22 O.S. 2021, Sections 60.6 and 60.17 by changing a “May” to “Shall” as it relates to courts requiring defendants subject to a VPO accused of domestic abuse to use an active, real-time, 24-hour GPS monitoring device. The measure proposed requiring courts to order defendants to wear the device for as long as the protective order remained in effect.<sup>73</sup>

In order words, while SB 1325 aims to improve GPS monitoring in the context of bail proceedings, SB 728 looked at accomplishing the same in the context of VPO proceedings. The findings in IS-25-023 make it clear that VPO-related GPS monitoring is still an area meriting further improvement. Hence, we encourage the legislature to consider taking appropriate legislative action addressing the concerns listed throughout IS-25-023 by DAC’s Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor, ADA Jacobi Whatley. (Table 11)

*The DVFRB’s Position — Building on Tennessee’s 2024 GPS Monitoring Law*

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<sup>71</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). Senate Bill 1325: Bill Information. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=sb1325&Session=2600>; Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). Senate Bill 728: Bill Information. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB728&Session=2500>

<sup>72</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2026). Senate Bill 1325: Introduced Version. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SB/SB1325%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SB/SB1325%20INT.PDF)

<sup>73</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). Senate Bill 728: Introduced Version. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SB/SB728%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20INT/SB/SB728%20INT.PDF)

When looking at other states in the region with similar laws, we would be remiss not to mention that the passage of SB 1325 in 2026, would result in Oklahoma joining Tennessee as one of the leading states in the nation on the issue of GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders.<sup>74</sup>

SB 1325 builds on recently enacted Tennessee state law **requiring** GPS tracking of certain violent domestic abusers. In effect since July 1, 2024, the new law moved the ordering of GPS tracking from discretionary to mandatory for judges in Tennessee. Enacted as the Debbie and Marie Domestic Violence Protection Act, the law was named after a mother and daughter were killed in an intimate partner murder-suicide on April 12, 2021.<sup>75</sup> The perpetrator in that case, Marie Varso's estranged husband, had been out on bail after strangling Marie and threatening her with a gun a month earlier. At the time of posting bail, the perpetrator was enough of a threat that the judge could have required a GPS monitor as a condition of bail, but they did not do so for unknown reasons. What is known, however, is that ordering the monitor was at the judge's discretion (i.e. may vs. shall).

The DVFRB, pursuant to 22 O.S. § 1601, is unable to disclose case-specific examples of situations like that of Debbie and Marie's. However, a recent federal criminal trial at the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma, showcases how GPS monitoring could have added an extra layer of safety against a highly dangerous individual. The victim, thankfully, survived what would have likely been a homicide the Board would have reviewed if she had been killed.

In that case, Robert Lee Harrison Jr, was sentenced to serve 55 years in federal prison on ammunition, attempted kidnaping and attempted car jacking charges after shooting his partner, Tara Currin, eight times in March 2022. During the incident, Harrison ambushed Currin in the parking garage of the hospital Currin worked at — the day after she was granted a VPO against him. Harrison coerced her into her car at gunpoint and threatened to shoot her before she could escape. Currin was shot after a brief struggle and survived after undergoing seven hours of emergency surgery.<sup>76</sup>

Harrison had an extensive criminal history, including several prior felony convictions, and a litany of previous charges filed against him.<sup>77</sup> His prior history, and the shooting that left Tara Currin so close to losing her life, is comparable to fatal situations identified by the Review Board. For example, the Board regularly reviews homicides where the victim was either separated, in the process of separating, or had intentions to do so at the time they were murdered. This aligns with research finding that risk of intimate partner femicide increases up to 9-fold by the combination of a highly controlling abuser and previous cohabitation.<sup>78</sup>

Consequently, it is critical that Oklahoma take actionable steps to curtail the risks associated with potentially lethal flashpoints, such as those triggered by separation, the filing of a VPO, or an arrest after a domestic altercation. Enacting legislation mandating the use of GPS monitoring in the context of bond and VPO

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<sup>74</sup> Weisberg, D. K., (2025). Landmark Tennessee Law Mandates GPS Tracking. *The Journal of Offender Monitoring*. Retrieved from <https://www.civiceconomicinstitute.com/online/PDF/JOM-3702-02-Tennessee.pdf>; Oliver, M., (July 1, 2024). CBS News. News Article, *Tennessee enacts law requiring GPS tracking of violent domestic abusers, the first of its kind in U.S.* Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/tennessee-law-gps-tracking-for-domestic-abusers-debbie-sisco-marie-varso/>

<sup>75</sup> Weisberg, D. K., (2025). Landmark Tennessee Law Mandates GPS Tracking. *The Journal of Offender Monitoring*. Retrieved from <https://www.civiceconomicinstitute.com/online/PDF/JOM-3702-02-Tennessee.pdf>;

<sup>76</sup> Hancock, A., (January 13, 2026). NonDoC. News Article, Judge sees no 'genuine expression of guilt,' sentences Robert Lee Harrison Jr. to 55 years. Retrieved from <https://nondoc.com/2026/01/13/judge-sees-no-genuine-expression-of-guilt-sentences-robert-lee-harrison-jr-to-55-years/>

<sup>77</sup> *Id.*

<sup>78</sup> Campbell, J. C., et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case-control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089–1097. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089>

proceedings could be a watershed moment in the state's response to violence against women. Alongside adequate safety planning, it could systematically help mitigate the risks associated with high-risk flashpoints precipitating the murder of victims at the hands of a current or former intimate partner.

We encourage Oklahoma's legislature to follow Tennessee's lead in shifting away from the *discretionary* paradigm governing GPS monitoring across many states. As it currently stands in Oklahoma, that discretion has led to a seldom used statute, and much uncertainty on how it should be implemented in the rare instances it is requested by victims or a judge orders it.

By SB 1325 making GPS monitoring a requirement in domestic abuse cases and explicitly placing the burden of costs on the offender, we showcase in law and practice, a commitment to not tolerate any further harm against the most vulnerable without any additional consequences.

## Implementation

Implementing part of this recommendation hinges on the passage of SB 1315 during the 2026 legislative session. This bill strengthens the use of GPS monitoring in the context of bail proceedings. The bill proposes the following amendment to 22 O.S. 2021 § 60.17:

- A. Any defendant charged with domestic abuse by strangulation, domestic abuse with a dangerous or deadly weapon, or domestic abuse after a previous adjudication for domestic abuse shall not be released on bail without a GPS monitoring device attached to the defendant. The cost of the monitoring device shall be paid by the defendant at his or her own expense until the conclusion of the criminal case. The Department of Corrections shall monitor such GPS monitoring device and the defendant until the conclusion of the case, and the defendant shall pay a supervision fee as provided for other persons subject to supervision by the Department. At the conclusion of the case, the court shall order the removal of the GPS monitoring device if the defendant is acquitted, is to be incarcerated, or the case is dismissed.
- B. Upon application of the victim, the court may authorize the victim to monitor the location of the defendant. Monitoring by the victim shall be limited to the ability of the victim to make computer or cellular inquiries to determine if the defendant is within a specified distance of locations, excluding the residence or workplace of the defendant, or to receive a computer- or cellular generated signal if the defendant comes within a specified distance of the victim.

The implementation of changes to improve the use of GPS monitoring in the context of VPO proceedings hinges on appropriate legislative action to implement suggestions made during IS 25-023 by DAC's Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor ADA Jacobi Whatley. (Covered above in Table 7).



# 2025 RECOMMENDATIONS

## Recommendation Five<sup>79</sup>

*The DVFRB encourages the Oklahoma Legislature to enact the remaining statutory change recommended in the Board's second recommendation of the 2023 Annual Report. That recommendation proposed categorizing all domestic violence offenses as 85% crimes— that is, crimes that require defendants to complete 85% of their prison sentences before being eligible for release. Alternatively, we recommend prioritizing the following:*

1. *Amend 21 O.S. § 13.1 to include Domestic Abuse by Strangulation (21 O.S. § 644) as an 85% crime.*

***This can be accomplished with the passage of HB 3264 in the 2026 legislative session. We recommend lawmakers support HB 3264 and for the executive branch to sign the bill into law.***

*The DVFRB also encourages the Legislature to enact the following statutory proposal:*

2. *Amend 57 O.S. § 593 to include domestic violence offenses in 21 O.S. § 644 as eligible offenses for the purposes of Oklahoma's Violent Offender Registration System.*

***This can be accomplished by refiling similar legislation proposed in 2022 (SB 1568) and 2024 (SB 1326).***

### Target Systems

Oklahoma House of Representatives; Oklahoma State Senate; Office of the Governor; Department of Corrections

### Purpose

To eliminate discrepancies between domestic abuse and non-domestic crimes in Oklahoma statutes.

### Rationale

#### ***Recommendation Subcategory One Domestic Violence Offenses as 85% Crimes***

#### *Background*

Since 2023, the DVFRB has made it a priority to elevate statutory recommendations aimed at increasing offender-accountability in Oklahoma. This has entailed identifying changes that would equip our elected District Attorneys (DAs) with additional statutory tools to enhance victim-safety by expanding their options for removing high-risk domestic violence offenders from our communities through adequate jail or prison sentences.

This priority has stemmed from repeated DVFRB case reviews and discussions on how failure to hold abusers accountable emboldens them to continue abusive patterns of behavior from one relationship to another. Throughout the board's history, reviews have consistently shown that lack of accountability increases the likelihood of violence escalating, possibly resulting in the killing or harm of intimate partners, children, family members, innocent bystanders, or public safety personnel.

For example, over the last six years, the Board has identified cases where intimate partner homicide perpetrators engaged law enforcement officers with gunfire after killing the victim. DVFRB reviews and research therefore

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<sup>79</sup> Contributing Author: OAG DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera, MA

continue showing an alarming trend—the aftermath of IPV and IPH continues resulting in some of the most dangerous officer-involved shootings and responses in our state.

More recently, DVFRB research uncovered an alarming number of situations where abusers were killed by individuals who either intervened to stop an ongoing domestic situation or in self-defense due to finding themselves in the middle of a volatile domestic altercation. A total of six (6) of these situations were identified in 2024, resulting in six (6) abuser deaths that were not counted towards DVFRB statistics due to not falling within the definitions of cases we traditionally track.

These situations speak towards a broader problem – if abusers are not held accountable, violence may escalate. In other words, dangers associated with unaccountable IPV do not necessarily stay confined to an individual home or relationship; on the contrary, left unchecked, it is bound to spillover and jeopardize the safety of entire communities.

As a result, it is imperative that when abuse is reported to law enforcement, and charges are filed, that the state can bring to bear significant consequences when it is able to secure a conviction or any kind of plea. That ability, however, is only as good as the statutory landscape at prosecutor’s disposal. Case reviews over the years have identified situations where, if perpetrators had prior domestic violence charges filed against them, they often resulted in dismissals or, when they were convicted, little to no time under supervision or incarcerated. According to state prosecutors, this is a reoccurring pattern in the prosecution of domestic abuse cases across the state.

Unfortunately, when speaking about holding abusers accountable, the spotlight inevitably pivots to a glaring overarching issue in our state statutes — the discrepancy between domestic violence and non-DV crime statutes and punishments. Although more work is needed, the legislature in recent years has taken commendable action to address longstanding issues that have hindered our state’s ability to hold abusers accountable.

*Oklahoma House of Representatives Interim Study No. 23-015, Legislative Momentum and DVFRB Recommendations (2023-2024)*

The Board’s concerns about offender accountability were echoed in a 2023 interim study by the Oklahoma House of Representatives.<sup>80</sup> The study featured a presentation about structural issues surrounding domestic violence sentencing that has hindered abuser accountability for many years.<sup>81</sup> These structural issues had a common theme – steeper punishments and discrepancies between stranger-on-stranger crimes in comparison to their domestic violence equivalents. Several statutory issues, as well as their respective remedies, were highlighted. Since 2023, the review board has regularly elevated these policy issues in this publication. Major legislative progress has been made since then. (Table 12)

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<sup>80</sup> Ford, R. (2023). Domestic violence and sexual assault nurses. Okla. H.R. Interim Study No. 23-051. Retrieved from <https://former.okhouse.gov/Documents/InterimStudies/2023/23-051%20mtgnotice.pdf>

<sup>81</sup> See Nix, A. (2023). Domestic violence sentencing and survivor services. In Domestic violence and sexual assault nurses, Okla. H.R. Interim Study No. 23-051 (pp. 23-051\_ Domestic Violence Sentencing and Survivor Services\_Ashley Nix, Tulsa County DA’s office\_presentation.pdf). Retrieved from [https://former.okhouse.gov/Documents/InterimStudies/2023/23-051\\_Domestic%20Violence%20Sentencing%20and%20Survivor%20Services\\_Ashley%20Nix,%20Tulsa%20County%20DAs%20office\\_presentation.pdf](https://former.okhouse.gov/Documents/InterimStudies/2023/23-051_Domestic%20Violence%20Sentencing%20and%20Survivor%20Services_Ashley%20Nix,%20Tulsa%20County%20DAs%20office_presentation.pdf)

**Table 12. 2023 DVFRB Annual Report –Recommendation #2 Legislative Update**

Policy Issue in Order of Publication	Outcome
<p>Proposal— Amend 21 O.S. §644 so Oklahoma prosecutors are not limited to filing Domestic Assault &amp; Battery (A&amp;B) with a Deadly Weapon charge only if a shooting was involved.</p> <p>Goal — Eliminating the discrepancy between Domestic A&amp;B with a Deadly Weapon and its non-DV counterpart, which can be filed if an offender commits A&amp;B by means of any deadly weapon, such as a firearm or knife, or any other means likely to produce death.</p>	Implemented in 2025 Legislation: SB 541
<p>Proposal — Amend 21 O.S. §644 to increase the range of punishment for first time DV A&amp;B by Strangulation.</p> <p>Goal — A broader range of punishment, such as 1-10 years, would allow appropriate sentencing based on the severity and facts of an individual incident.</p>	Implemented in 2024 Legislation: SB 1211
<p>Proposal — Amend 57 O.S. §571 so that DV A&amp;B Subsequent Offender and Domestic A&amp;B on a Pregnant Person are statutorily considered violence crimes.</p>	Implemented in 2025 Legislation: SB 541

We commend the Oklahoma legislature for the progress made in recent years at addressing discrepancies between stranger-on-stranger offenses and their domestic violence counterparts. Recent legislative action has led to the closing of statutory gaps that for too long undermined the consequences faced by those who commit violence against their families and intimate partners.

*The DVFRB’s Position – Categorizing Domestic Violence Offenses as 85% Crimes*

Lawmakers should use the legislative momentum outlined above to address the one gap identified in House interim study 23-015 and elevated in the 2023 and 2024 editions of this report that has yet to be fully addressed. This issue pertains to that of offenders not serving at least 85% of their sentence when convicted of domestic violence crimes outlined in 21 O.S. § 644.

Up until November 1, 2025, not one crime included in 21 O.S. § 644 was considered an 85% crime. In 2025, SB 541 made Subsequent Offense of Domestic Assault and Battery and Domestic Abuse Against a Pregnant Woman with Knowledge of the Pregnancy 85% crimes.<sup>82</sup> According to legislative research, the former normally carried an average sentence length of 4.5 years while the latter entailed 4.6 years.<sup>83</sup> Over the last five (5) years, however, average time served for each crime was approximately only 2 and 1.9 years respectively.<sup>84</sup> SB 541 passed unanimously in the Senate and was a major step in our state’s ongoing mission of enhancing victim safety by upholding offender accountability. Upon the bill’s passage from the Senate, bill author Senator Todd Gollihare, remarked:

<sup>82</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). *Senate Bill 541: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=SB541&Session=2500>

<sup>83</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). *Senate Bill 541: Bill Summary*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20SUPPORT%20DOCUMENTS/BILLSUM/House/SB541%20ENGR%20BILLSUM.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20SUPPORT%20DOCUMENTS/BILLSUM/House/SB541%20ENGR%20BILLSUM.PDF)

<sup>84</sup> *Id.*

*The unanimous passage of Senate Bill 541 underscores our collective commitment to safeguarding the well-being of Oklahomans. By enforcing longer sentences for repeat domestic violence offenders and those who harm pregnant women, we are taking decisive action to protect some [of] our most vulnerable citizens and deter future acts of violence. This is a pivotal step toward addressing domestic violence, and continued efforts are essential. I view this measure as part of a broader strategy to combat domestic violence in Oklahoma. We must persist in our mission to protect victims and ensure we remove those convicted of these horrific crimes from society.<sup>85</sup>*

Meanwhile, HB 1591 by Representative John George attempted to move three additional offenses into the 85% crime category in 2025.<sup>86</sup> This included Aggravated Assault Upon a Law Officer, and notably, two additional domestic violence crimes included in 21 O.S. § 644, specifically Domestic Abuse by Strangulation and Domestic Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon. Upon the bill's passage in committee, Representative George, stated:

*These criminals are among our most violent offenders. Our citizens deserve to know that if someone commits this aggravated type of assault or abuse they will be held to a higher level of punishment.*

HB 1591 received overwhelming support in the Criminal Judiciary Committee (4-1), as well as the Judiciary and Public Safety Oversight Committee (7-2) before passing the House floor on a 91-0 vote. It then passed in the Senate's Judiciary Committee (7-1) before its enacting clause was stricken on April 22, 2025. This may have been due to the proposal's high fiscal impact. Legislative research placed the proposal's maximum cost aggregate to the Department of Corrections (DOC) at \$114,268,986.58.<sup>88</sup> The same research, however, shed light to a concerning fact – Abusers convicted for strangulation and assault and battery with a deadly weapon are serving a fraction of the sentences imposed by district courts.<sup>89</sup> (Table 9)

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<sup>85</sup> Oklahoma State Senate. (March 6, 2025). Press Release, Senate Unanimously Passes Senator Gollihare's Bill to Strengthen Penalties for Domestic Violence Offenders. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/press-releases/senate-unanimously-passes-senator-gollihares-bill-strengthen-penalties-domestic?back=/senator-press-releases/todd-gollihare>

<sup>86</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). *House Bill 159: Bill Information*. Retrieved from <https://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=HB1591&Session=2500>

<sup>87</sup> Oklahoma House of Representatives. (February 4, 2025). Press Release, *George Public Safety Bills Pass Criminal Judiciary Committee*. Retrieved from [https://www.okhouse.gov/posts/news-20250204\\_2](https://www.okhouse.gov/posts/news-20250204_2)

<sup>88</sup> Oklahoma House of Representatives, 60<sup>th</sup> Leg., 1<sup>st</sup> Sess. (2025). *House Bill 1591: Bill Summary*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2025-26%20SUPPORT%20DOCUMENTS/BILLSUM/House/HB1591%20INT%20BILLSUM.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2025-26%20SUPPORT%20DOCUMENTS/BILLSUM/House/HB1591%20INT%20BILLSUM.PDF)

<sup>89</sup> *Id.*

**Table 9. House of Representatives - HB 1591 Fiscal Impact Research Findings**

Description	Average Sentence Length Imposed (Years)	Average Time Served	85% of Average Sentenced Imposed (Years)	Average Increase in Time Served (Years)	# Inmates Sentenced for this Crime
Domestic Abuse by Strangulation	10.99	1.63	9.34	7.70	438
Domestic Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon	11.01	2.08	9.35	7.27	7
Aggravated Assault Upon a Law Officer	33.86	7.42	28.76	21.34	49

The data reveals that abusers convicted of Domestic Abuse by Strangulation are serving, on average, a mere 14.8% of their sentences. Those convicted of Domestic Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon are only serving approximately 18.8% of their sentence.

These statistics lay bare an unfortunate reality – By virtue of these two specific domestic violence offenses not being 85% crimes, convicted abusers found to at least warrant 11 years away from our communities are released without having served even a quarter of their imposed sentence. The fact this would be the case for 438 offenders convicted of domestic strangulation at the time of legislative research is alarming. The findings are concerning because research on strangulation in the context of IPV has been widely shown to be an important risk factor for the killing of women by abusers.<sup>90</sup>

This structural issue is an ongoing concern for prosecutors, who are left with little-to-no insight on when an offender will be released, making it difficult to gauge appropriate sentencing requests. Critically, as a result of the minimal time served for what are serious crimes, abusers may be further emboldened. This can elicit significant fear and anxiety for survivors, who, despite an offender pleading guilty to years in prison, have no idea when offenders will be released. This undermines the security of an in-custody sentence and increases safety concerns related to unpredictable release dates.

Further, it jeopardizes the security of additional individuals with whom the perpetrator might develop a relationship after being released. Indeed, case reviews often reveal abusers have a long history of severely battering previous intimate partners before ultimately killing one. As a result, it is vital that when the state is able to bring charges, and secure a conviction or plea deal, that these dangerous individuals, who are often at a high rate of recidivism, are removed from our communities for a significant amount of time.

*The DVFRB's Position — Domestic Violence Offenses as 85% Crimes — Where do we go from here?*

Light consequences for domestic abuse erode survivors' faith in the criminal justice system and undermines justice. Alternatively, by making DV offenses 85% crimes, the State of Oklahoma sends a message to both

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<sup>90</sup> Campbell, J. C., et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case-control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089–1097. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089>; Glass, N., (2008). Non-fatal strangulation is an important risk factor for homicide of women. *The Journal of Emergency Medicine*, 35(3), 329-335. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jemermed.2007.02.065>

offenders and survivors that DV is a major breach in our society, and as a result carries significant consequences. Ensuring these violent offenders are removed from our communities for a significant amount of time is pivotal. Doing otherwise, even after our courts impose significant sentences, undercuts justice and is a disservice to victims and public safety.

We commend Senator Gollihare's SB 541 and the legislature for having recognized the importance of enforcing longer sentences for both repeat domestic violence offenders and those who harm pregnant women. The passage of this bill was an important step towards ensuring that offenders are serving a larger part of their imposed sentences. We also commend the filing of Representative John George's HB 1591 despite it not becoming law. **Our position is that there is a necessity to build on SB 541 and make other deadly domestic violence offenses, such as Domestic Strangulation and Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon, 85% offenses.**

We would be remiss if we did not acknowledge this proposal's recurring fiscal impact on our state budget. Nevertheless, it is our steadfast belief that this is a worthwhile investment in the interest of protecting our state's most basic building block – families. Unsafe families lead to unsafe neighborhoods, which go on to jeopardize communities, endanger our cities, counties and ultimately, the social fabric of our state.

By making a commitment to removing domestic violence offenders from our communities for extended periods of time, we harden our state's resolve against family violence. **Lawmakers can take a step towards this goal by supporting the passage of HB 3763 in the 2026 legislative session. This bill would add domestic abuse by strangulation as set in 21 O.S. § 644 to the list of 85% crimes set forth in 21 O.S. § 13.1.**

#### *Addressing the Unintended Consequences of the Wrongful Criminalization of DV Victims*

When strengthening criminal laws, there is justifiable concern that unjust outcomes and sentences will result. Due to the nature of domestic violence and its cycle,<sup>91</sup> there are instances of criminalizing victims' use of force and self-defense.

With justice system involvement, IPV victims are particularly susceptible to being misidentified as offenders. The Women's Justice Commission, of which Oklahoma First Lady Sarah Stitt serves as Senior Adviser, noted in its 2024 report, "The transformation of 'victims' into 'offenders' can be attributed to several factors, including the coercive actions of abusers and a lack of understanding about the dynamics of interpersonal violence from system stakeholders."<sup>92</sup>

Research indicates that "[c]riminal justice system proceedings seldom address intimate partner violence as a pathway into the system or explore how these experiences contribute to women's use of violence in self-defense or to protect their children or other loved ones."<sup>93</sup> An impediment to justice and safety is the lack of specialized, updated, ongoing training on DV. "Research indicates that law enforcement officers,

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<sup>91</sup> See DomesticShelters.org. (2022). *What is the cycle of violence?* Retrieved from <https://www.domesticshelters.org/articles/identifying-abuse/what-is-the-cycle-of-abuse> (last accessed Jan. 3, 2025) (highlighting the four common stages of 1. Tension Building, 2. Incident, 3. Reconciliation, 4. Calm, and back to 1. Tension Building, and so on, which can lead to chronic and escalating abuse over time).

<sup>92</sup> Council on Criminal Justice. (2024). *Women's justice: A preliminary assessment of women in the criminal justice system* (p. 9). Retrieved from <https://counciloncj.org/womens-justice-a-preliminary-assessment-of-women-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>

<sup>93</sup> *Id.*, p. 8.



judges, and other stakeholders who interact with justice-involved women and have authority over the outcomes of their cases rarely understand the impact of violence and abuse on women’s criminal behavior.”<sup>94</sup>

For example, use-of-force in self-defense may look different in chronic abuse cases compared to non-relationship-based incidents. Victims, who often become experts on reading abusers’ behavior and signals as a survival mechanism, may react to signs of imminent harm—such as “the look”—that are imperceptible to others or on paper. IPV victims may react to threats and signs of threats that do not exist in stranger crimes. The dynamics of abuse and self-defense inherent in many IPV cases are often so different from other types of crimes that justice cannot be served without contextualizing them.

From 9-1-1 telecommunicators to law enforcement to attorneys to judges, every individual on the other end of victims’ and abusers’ interactions with the justice system must be trained on the complex, distinctive—and often counter-intuitive and coercive—dynamics of IPV. Otherwise, the system is ripe to be manipulated by abusers and weaponized against victims.

There seems a general respect for self-defense in U.S. jurisprudence; however, often IPV victims’ use of force does not fit neatly into traditional defenses. Additionally, the system often views IPV cases as far less coercive than they are and heavily weighs the belief that many victims have ample opportunity to flee the situation or relationship.

Part of the uniqueness of self-defense in IPV is that the risk of violence and homicide actually increases during break-up or post-separation periods. “Just leave” can be dangerous—if not deadly—advice. “Abusive relationships are extremely complex situations and it takes a lot of courage to leave. Abuse is about power and control. When a survivor leaves their abusive relationship, they threaten the power and control their partner has established over the survivor’s agency. This often causes the partner to retaliate in harmful ways. As a result, leaving is often the most dangerous period of time for survivors of abuse.”<sup>95</sup>

During post-separation, abusers are known to stalk, threaten, and harm their victims. That is, they hunt their victims and sometimes victims’ loved ones. Many victims have learned that leaving does not make them safer, and they cannot rely on the system for protection once they do. The system response is largely reactive and not preventive.

The National Online Resource Center on Violence Against Women published *Women’s Experiences of Abuse as a Risk Factor for Incarceration: A Research Update* in 2015. This applied research paper highlights how victimization may lead women into the criminal justice system, where experiences of abuse are not always acknowledged or understood by the legal system. The paper highlights both direct and indirect routes in a potential victimization-to-incarceration pipeline, summarized below.<sup>96</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> *Id.*, p. 9.

<sup>95</sup> National Domestic Violence Hotline. (n.d.). *Why people stay in an abusive relationship*. Retrieved from <https://www.thehotline.org/support-others/why-people-stay-in-an-abusive-relationship/>. Statistics out of Canada, for example, hold that 77% of DV homicides occur upon separation, with the following two years often bringing increased violence, post-separation. Battered Women Support Services (2020, June 11). *Eighteen Months After Leaving Domestic Violence is Still the Most Dangerous Time*. <https://www.bwss.org/eighteen-months-after-leaving-domestic-violence-is-still-the-most-dangerous-time/>

<sup>96</sup> Council on Criminal Justice. (2024). *Women’s justice: A preliminary assessment of women in the criminal justice system*. Retrieved from <https://counciloncj.org/womens-justice-a-preliminary-assessment-of-women-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>



## Direct Pathways

- **Victims' Use-of-Force:** Victimized women may resort to violence as a form of self-defense or to protect others, which can lead to arrest and incarceration. However, the legal system often fails to recognize such acts as self-defense, particularly in IPV cases where the threat is not easily identifiable to outsiders.
- **Misidentifying Predominant Aggressor:** "It may not be clear that the violence was used in response to violence or a threat of violence, particularly in cases of IPV when there may be a longstanding and ongoing threat that is reinforced symbolically and not necessarily easily identifiable to an outside party....Women who have experienced battering have spoken about a particular 'look in his eyes,' for example, that conveys an imminent threat based on past behavior."<sup>97</sup> Victims may preemptively react to such a look, for example, knowing from experience the abuse that follows that look. On the surface, however, it may appear as though the victim is the "instigator."
- **Perception:** There is a narrow view of victims that perceives personal agency and victimization as mutually exclusive. This results in the legal system's perception of women as either helpless victims or perpetrators, which complicates recognition of self-defense in abuse cases.
- **Coercion:** Abusive partners may force victims to participate in crimes or take the blame for crimes they did not commit, sometimes under the threat of further violence.
- **Child-related Charges:** Women may face charges of failure to protect or child neglect or endangerment if they cannot protect their children from abusive partners. In these ways, sometimes abusers can "take their victims down" with them. In 2020, CBS requested data from Oklahoma DAs, finding that nearly 72% of those incarcerated for failure to protect are women (41 women to 16 men), sometimes with failure-to-protect defendants receiving harsher sentences than the direct abusers.<sup>98</sup> The paper highlighted that, "a majority of incarcerated women and girls report (sometimes extensive) histories of violence and abuse prior to their incarceration. Additionally, we see that violence in childhood or adulthood can erode protective factors, including health, family and social networks, community integration, education, employment, housing, sobriety, and self-esteem; this reduction in social, human, and economic capital increases girls' and women's vulnerability to incarceration."<sup>99</sup>
- **Manipulation:** Abusers may falsely accuse women of crimes or manipulate the legal system to have them arrested, a tactic known as "retaliatory arrest." Research indicates that batterers may manipulate the criminal justice system, including using justice system knowledge to control their partners. The context of victimization should be considered when evaluating cases in the criminal justice system. This includes recognizing coerced or false accusations, recantations, and ensuring decisions take trauma and ongoing coercion into account.

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<sup>97</sup> *Id.*, p. 4.

<sup>98</sup> CBS News. (2020, June 7). *Failure to protect: Oklahoma child abuse law*. Retrieved from <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/failure-to-protect-oklahoma-child-abuse-law-60-minutes-2020-06-07/#:~:text=Any%20parent%20or%20guardian%20who%20knows%20a%20child,than%20men%20under%20the%20failure%20to%20protect%20law>

<sup>99</sup> Council on Criminal Justice. (2024). *Women's justice: A preliminary assessment of women in the criminal justice system* (p. 6). Retrieved from <https://counciloncj.org/womens-justice-a-preliminary-assessment-of-women-in-the-criminal-justice-system/>

- **Vulnerabilities of Immigrant Women:** Immigrant women often face heightened vulnerability due to immigration status, language barriers, or cultural differences. These may serve as barriers to victims seeking help through the justice system, such as calling the police, and abusers may exploit these factors to control victims.

#### Indirect Pathways:

- **Trauma Fall-Out:** Victimization, particularly from caregivers or intimate partners, causes psychological trauma, social isolation, and depletion of personal resources, which increases the risk of involvement in criminal activities and vulnerability to arrest and incarceration. A significant portion of incarcerated women and girls report histories of abuse, with violence eroding protective factors like health, family support, and employment, increasing vulnerability to incarceration.
- **Other Offenses:** IPV is linked to increased criminal engagement among women, such as drug offenses, property crimes, and commercial sex work. IPV often leads women to self-medicate with drugs, increasing their risk of arrest for drug-related offenses and other crimes. “Women and girls may use drugs as a mechanism of self-medicating to cope with psychological and physical pain caused by violence and then be arrested and incarcerated for drug-related offenses, including attempts to gain financial resources to support a violence-related drug addiction[.]”<sup>100</sup>
- **Financial Instability:** IPV can hinder women's financial independence and employment opportunities, leading to economic desperation and criminal acts, like theft or prostitution, to survive or escape abuse. IPV can cause “poor mental health (post traumatic stress disorder, depression, drug/alcohol addiction), which negatively impacted women’s ability to maintain legal employment and imposed additional costs (e.g., for purchase of drugs), and, thus, led to criminalized attempts to secure economic resources. [Other research] also presented examples of women who had experienced abuse turning to fraud or theft, drug sales, and prostitution to gain financial resources to escape further violence and provide for their children.”<sup>101</sup>

This survey of issues is not to say that all those who are victimized are not responsible for harm caused to others. However, the Board would be remiss to ignore the ways in which it is possible for someone victimized by an abuser to be revictimized by the justice system in cases tied to the abuse.

It is the responsibility of those responding to the scene and those prosecuting on behalf of the State of Oklahoma to properly apply discretion in every type of case. With discretionary authority comes the critical responsibility of evaluating cases, particularly involving domestic violence, from all angles and staffing cases with fellow prosecutors to gain additional perspective. This also requires considering all surrounding circumstances, perpetration histories (both reported and non-reported through interviewing family members and previous partners), the documented history between the parties, as well as in what direction the evidence ultimately leads.

For example, if the historical perpetrator accuses the historical victim of domestic violence, which is a scenario that is sometimes seen when a perpetrator has pending charges for domestic violence, it is particularly important to look at every facet of the evidence, such as whether the reporting party’s injuries would be consistent with the accused historical victim using self-defense.

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<sup>100</sup> *Id.*

<sup>101</sup> *Id.*

In considering the DVFRB's recommendations to strengthen the statutory response to DV crimes, the Board recognizes the critical need for the system to be simultaneously committed to a well-informed response to such crimes. This includes considering previous Board recommendations, such as improved 9-1-1 telecommunicator training, lethality assessment protocol (LAP) training and implementation, and DV training for judges and law enforcement. Increased training, collaboration with DV expert witnesses and advocates, and active participation on Coordinated Community Response Teams are all recommended.

While there are many steps to prevent the wrongful prosecution of domestic violence victims, the responsibility largely falls on those who prosecute on behalf of the State to be trained on DV dynamics, properly screen and evaluate cases, review LAPs, dig deeply into DV histories, and apply discretion accordingly. Additionally, while wrongful prosecution is a valid concern, it should be considered that the weaknesses in the current domestic violence laws potentially contribute to this precise issue.

When abusers face unjustly light sentences or lax oversight, it affirms victims' lack of faith in the criminal justice system. Survivors are disincentivized from reporting abuse or participating in cases and often become more reluctant to separate from the abuser. What often results is continued violence, if not an escalation, increasing the likelihood of homicide or a victim being wrongfully accused.

For example, if the historical perpetrator accuses the historical victim of domestic violence, which is a scenario that is sometimes seen when a perpetrator has pending charges for domestic violence, it is particularly important to look at every facet of the evidence, such as whether the reporting party's injuries would be consistent with the accused historical victim using self-defense.

The concern of wrongful prosecutions also underscores how critical it is for Oklahoma to explore a variety of approaches in our domestic violence response toolbox. This might include exploring how to best strengthen our Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) system, Coordinated Community Response, early intervention education in schools, and areas that can address violence from its early onset before it escalates to the extreme abuse that often characterizes cases reviewed by the DVFRB.

### ***Recommendation Subcategory Two*** ***Including Domestic Violence Crimes in the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act***

#### ***Background – The DVFRB and the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act***

The DVFRB often hosts speakers during its regular meetings to learn about current issues or initiatives related to domestic violence prevention and intervention. In 2025, the DVFRB, alongside the Child Death Review Board (CDRB) membership, hosted representatives from DOC's Sex and Violent Offender Registration (SVOR) Unit for a presentation during one of its annual joint meetings.<sup>102</sup> The invitation was extended after DVFRB-CDRB joint reviews in 2024 led to questions about the state's sex offender registration system and the monitoring of sex offenders. The presentation's goal was to provide both memberships with an overview of how the registration systems operate and potential barriers or gaps hindering their effectiveness.

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<sup>102</sup> Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. (2025). Meeting Agenda, Notice of Regular Meeting – Joint Meeting of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board & Child Death Review Board, Thursday, July 17, 2025. Retrieved from: <https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/oag/resources/meetings/victims-services-boards-councils-and-task-forces/domestic-violence-fatality-review-board/2025/7.17.2025%20DVFRB-CDRB%20Joint%20Mtg.%20Agenda.pdf>

DOC's presentation revealed another area in our statutes where there are differences in our state's treatment of DV and non-DV crimes. This policy gap revolved around how convictions for domestic violence crimes are not considered violent offenses for the purposes of one of our state's offender registration systems – Oklahoma's Violent Offender Registry (VOR). Much less known than Oklahoma's sex offender registry, the VOR enables the public to readily search for individuals convicted of certain violent offenses, just like the former is utilized to search for individuals convicted of certain sex crimes.

The VOR was created in 2004 with the enactment of 57 O.S. § 591-599.1, otherwise known as the Oklahoma Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act. It is named after 89-year-old Mary Rippy, who in 2003 was strangled to death by a neighbor—a man with a violent criminal record, including serving time for two convictions for possession of a firearm after a former felony conviction and first-degree manslaughter.

At the time, advocates of the Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act argued that if Ms. Rippy had been aware of the man's violent criminal history, her murder might not have happened. Shortly afterwards, Oklahoma legislators passed the Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act in her name and outlined the violent offenses for which the act requires registration. (Table 14)

**Table 14. Violent offenses requiring registration with Oklahoma's Violent Offender Registry**

Statute	Crime	Requires Court Order
21 O.S. § 701.7	First degree murder	No
21 O.S. § 701.8	Second degree murder	No
21 O.S. § 711	First degree manslaughter	No
21 O.S. § 652	Shooting or discharging a firearm with intent to kill, use of a vehicle to facilitate the intentional discharge of a firearm, crossbow or other weapon, assault, battery, or assault and battery with a deadly weapon or by other means likely to produce death or great bodily harm	No
21 O.S. § 653	Assault with intent to kill	No
21 O.S. § 1767.1	Bombing	No
21 O.S. § 843.5 or § 843.1, 843.4, 852 or 852.1	Abuse involving the following circumstances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Physical pain, injury, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation, unreasonable restraint or confinement, or mental anguish to the victim</li> <li>Deprivation of nutrition, clothing, shelter, health care, or other care of services which caused serious physical or mental injury to the victim</li> </ul>	Yes

*The DVFRB's Position – Convictions for Domestic Violence Crimes Should Warrant Violent Offender Registration*

Abusers who target their families, particularly those targeting intimate partners, are arguably some of the most violent individuals in our communities. Mainly because their use of physical violence or coercive control is seldom isolated to just one incident. On the contrary, their use of violence coercive control is frequently part of broader patterns of dangerous, and often, criminal behavior spanning across one to multiple relationships.

As a result, it is vital for citizens to have as much information as possible at their disposal to protect themselves from individuals with a history of committing family and intimate partner violence. Domestic abuse, however, is a crime of secrecy happening almost entirely behind closed doors. Silence is enforced constantly under the long shadow of the threat of violence. As a result, abuse is notoriously underreported, with some estimates calculating that half of domestic abuse victims do not report to law enforcement.<sup>103</sup>

It is therefore vital that when it is reported to authorities, and a conviction is secured, that the information becomes a matter of public record on as many platforms as possible. Consequently, domestic violence crimes should be considered eligible violent offenses for the purposes of the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act.

#### *Government-Based records search engines, criminal history look-up platforms, and registries in Oklahoma*

DOC's VOR is one of many important government-based court records search engines, criminal history look-up platforms, and registries in Oklahoma. The Oklahoma State Courts Networks (OSCN) and On Demand Court Records (ODCR) are arguably the most well-known platforms. More specialized platforms include OSBI's Criminal History Information Request Portal (CHIRP), DOC's Sex Offender Registry (SOR), and the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs' (OBNDD) Methamphetamine Offender Registry (MOR).

They all play important roles in our state. The first two promote judicial transparency and our collective commitment to the rule of law while ensuring the public's right to access government records. Together they, when used proactively, can also serve a crucial public safety role. For example, DOC's SOR is often used by families to be aware of any convicted child sex offenders living in or around their neighborhood.

Meanwhile, it is not uncommon for women to use OSCN to search whether a suitor, or any man in their orbit, has had prior protective orders or criminal charges filed against them. OSBI's CHIRP makes an individual's criminal history, including a person's arrest history, prior charges, and case dispositions readily available for a fee. Notably, it has been marketed as a tool to check whether a son or daughter's significant other or a person with whom someone has a personal relationship has a criminal history.<sup>104</sup>

For many people, becoming aware of any prior domestic violence charges, convictions, or protective order filings, is a strong enough reason to be cautious or outright stay away from individuals with that prior history.

#### *The DVFRB's Position – Previous Legislative History & Where do we go from here?*

The Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act was created for the purpose of making our citizens aware of individuals with a history of committing violent crimes. It, however, leaves out what are often the most violent offenses committed in our community, domestic violence crimes. It is important to strengthen this system in the interest of furthering victim safety and offender accountability.

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<sup>103</sup> USA Facts. (October 2021). Article, Data says domestic violence incidents are down, but half of all victims don't report to police: Fewer victims reported the crime to authorities in 2019 than in 2010, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics survey. Note: The survey results covered in the article are drawn from the National Crime Victimization Survey. Retrieved from <https://usafacts.org/articles/data-says-domestic-violence-incidents-are-down-but-half-of-all-victims-dont-report-to-police/>

<sup>104</sup> Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. Brochure, *Criminal History Information Request Portal*. Retrieved from [https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osbi/documents/chirp-document/CHIRP\\_Tri\\_Final\\_Draft.pdf](https://oklahoma.gov/content/dam/ok/en/osbi/documents/chirp-document/CHIRP_Tri_Final_Draft.pdf)

Attempts were made to address this statutory gap in the 2022 and 2024 legislative sessions. In 2022, SB 1568 proposed adding domestic abuse, domestic assault, domestic assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, and domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon, to the list of crimes requiring registration for the purposes of the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act.<sup>105</sup> The same proposal was made in 2024 with the filing of SB 1326.<sup>106</sup> The bill stalled on both occasions and failed to become law.

In 2024, Senator Michale Brooks, the bill's author, released a statement saying his first attempt to enact this legislative proposal stemmed from conversations with residents and staff at a local domestic violence shelter.<sup>107</sup> He added the decision to refile the bill in 2024 was driven by those conversations and later talking with students from a local high school who expressed alarm at the high rates of domestic abuse and homicides in the state. He stated:<sup>108</sup>

*The idea behind the violent crime registry, the sex offender registry, and the meth registry, is to help keep the public safer by making sure this information is available. Domestic abusers are some of the most dangerous individuals there are. Adding them to the violent crime registry can help save lives.*

To the best of our knowledge, the bill was not refiled in the 2025 legislative session. Due to this ongoing policy gap, our state finds itself not using an already existing and readily available tool at citizen's disposal to combat family and intimate partner violence. The enactment of the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act in 2004 was borne out of tragedy and the belief that if 89-year-old Mary Rippy had known of her killer's prior criminal past that her murder could have been prevented. In other words, the law's intent was driven by the belief that **information** and **awareness** can lead to individuals making informed decisions about their safety.

As a result, it runs against the interest of public safety to not put the VOR at the service of citizens who are looking to protect themselves from abusers with adjudicated DV criminal offenses. Additionally, enacting what was previously advanced in SB 1568 and SB 1326 would also enable state agencies, as well as community-based victim services organizations, to raise awareness about this safety-planning resource in community outreach efforts.

**Consequently, it is our position that adding DV crimes to the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act is another necessary step in elevating the seriousness, and consequences, of DV to the same stature as other violent offenses in statute.** DV is arguably the most violent of offenses affecting countless Oklahomans daily, yet our statutes implicitly diminish their severity by not considering them violent crimes in many instances. For instance, it was not until the passage of SB 541 in the 2025 legislative session that crimes such as a subsequent offense of domestic assault & battery and domestic assault & battery on a pregnant person were statutorily made violent crimes. Since 2009, the Mary Rippy Act's applicability section, 57 O.S. § 593, which outlines eligible crimes, has not been amended.

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<sup>105</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 58<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2022). *Senate Bill 1568: Floor Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2021-22%20FLR/SFLR/SB1568%20SFLR.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2021-22%20FLR/SFLR/SB1568%20SFLR.PDF)

<sup>106</sup> Oklahoma State Legislature, 59<sup>th</sup> Leg., 2<sup>nd</sup> Sess. (2024). *Senate Bill 1568: Introduced Version*. Retrieved from [https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf\\_pdf/2023-24%20INT/SB/SB1326%20INT.PDF](https://www.oklegislature.gov/cf_pdf/2023-24%20INT/SB/SB1326%20INT.PDF)

<sup>107</sup> Oklahoma State Senate. (January 23, 2024). Press Release, *Senator Brooks files bill to add domestic violence to registry*. Retrieved from <https://oksenate.gov/press-releases/sen-brooks-files-bill-add-domestic-violence-registry?back=/senator-press-releases/michael-brooks/2024-01>

<sup>108</sup> Ibid

**We encourage the legislature to take appropriate legislative action and include domestic violence crimes as eligible offenses for the purposes of Oklahoma’s Violent Offender Registry.** This can be accomplished by refiling legislation proposed in 2022 (SB 1568) and 2024 (SB 1326).

## Implementation

Implementing this recommendation would require the Oklahoma Legislature to amend several statutes. Below is an implementation roadmap:

1. Amend 21 O.S. § 13.1 to include domestic violence crimes outlined in 21 O.S. 644 as 85% crimes. Alternatively, lawmakers should take appropriate action to, at a minimum, make Domestic Abuse by Strangulation an 85% crime.

Lawmakers can implement the latter with the passage of HB 3264 in the 2026 legislative session.

2. Amend 57 O.S. § 593 so that DV offenses in 21 O.S. § 644 are considered violent offenses for the purposes of the Mary Rippy Violent Crime Offenders Registration Act.

Severe DV crimes should entail automatic enrollment. This might include offenses like subsequent offense of domestic assault & battery, domestic assault and battery on a pregnant person, domestic assault and battery with a deadly weapon, and domestic abuse by strangulation. Others could be subject a Judges’ discretion like those currently in statute.

Lawmakers can implement this by refiling legislation proposed in 2022 (SB 1568) and 2024 (SB 1326).



# STATEWIDE OVERVIEW

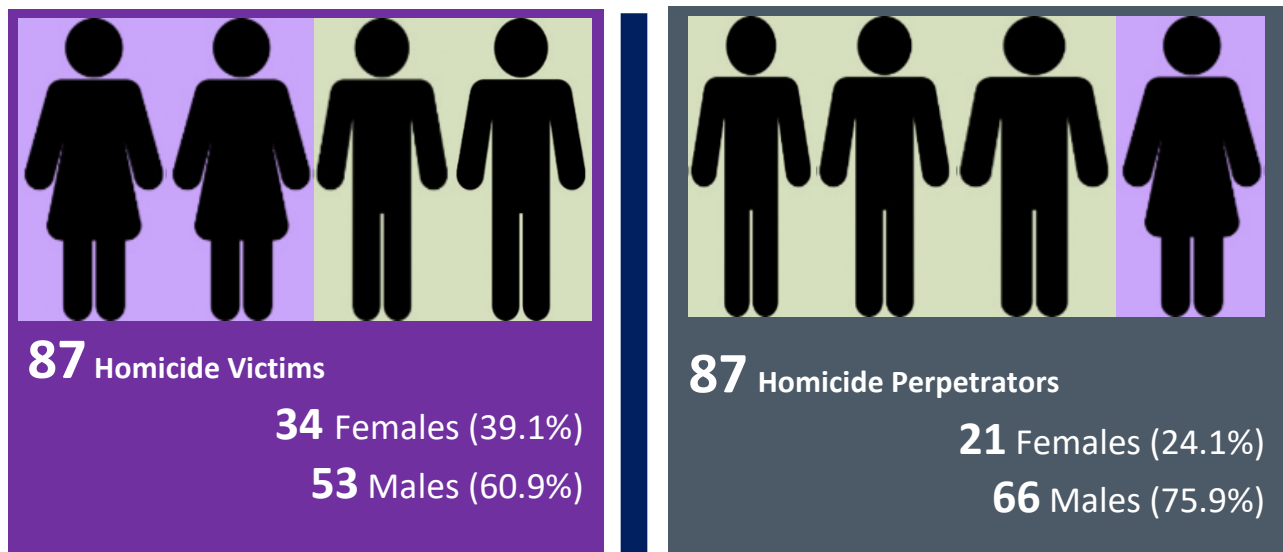
## Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Homicides

The Review Board and Program Staff annually identify, review, and report on domestic violence-related fatalities that occurred in Oklahoma during the previous calendar year. A fatality is classified as domestic violence-related if it falls into one of the following broad categories:

- Intimate Partner Homicide (IPH)
- Family Homicide
- Roommates
- Bystander / Good Samaritan
- Triangle

Other deaths included in this report are perpetrators who die due to law enforcement intervention, bystander intervention, or by suicide. It is important to note that for the purposes of this report, the term *victim* refers to the individual(s) killed in a domestic violence homicide event; the term *perpetrator* refers to the individual(s) who committed the homicide, even if they perished as well. ***This use of terms is not intended to correlate to roles in any existing victim/perpetrator domestic violence dynamic.***

### 77 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE CASES



In 2024 there were 77 incidents, also known as cases or events, identified by DVFRB Program Staff in which one or more persons were killed in a domestic violence-related homicide. There were 87 victims and 87 homicide perpetrators, 14 of whom died, for a total of 101 Oklahomans who died due to domestic violence. (Table 15)

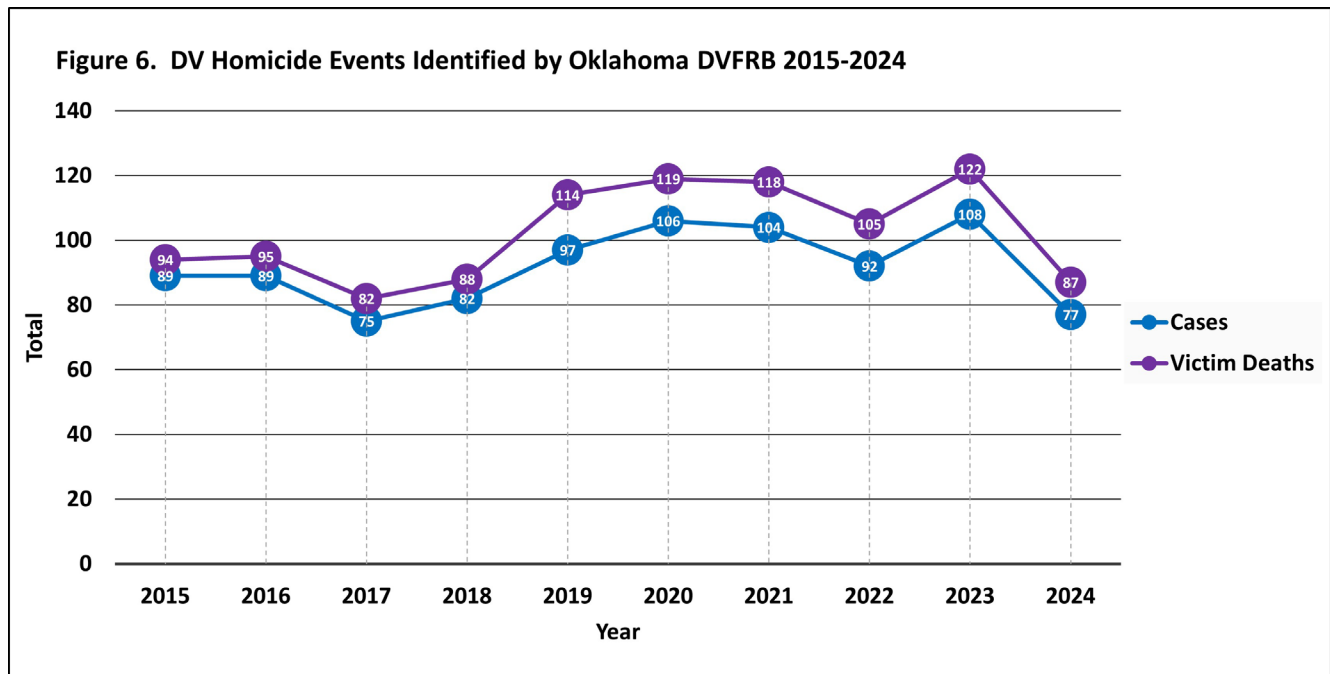
**Table 15. DVFRB Domestic Violence Homicides in Oklahoma, 2015 to 2024**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide Cases	89	89	75	82	97	106	104	92	108	77
Total homicide victims	94	95	82	88	114	119	118	105	122	87
IPH victims only	36	37	37	44	43	45	26	43	50	31
Child victims < 18	24	15	11	14	17	13	19	17	21	16
Homicide perpetrators	100	95	83	85	108	112	110	99	113	87
Homicide perpetrators who died / were killed	17	10	9	17	19	19	16	17	19	14

## Statewide Observations

From 2015-2024, Oklahoma averaged about 92 domestic violence (DV)-related homicide cases per year. The average between 2015 and 2019 was around 95 DV homicide victims per year. Since 2020 the state average has increased to around 110 DV homicide victims per year. This trend continued with the increase in the total number of deaths, which is the sum of both victims and homicide perpetrators who died or were killed from domestic violence. On average about 109 individuals died in domestic violence related homicides from 2015 to 2019 but starting in 2020 it increased to approximately 127 deaths annually.

The number of perpetrator deaths has increased in recent years and remained consistently high. This is alarming because perpetrator deaths are largely associated with DV-related murder-suicides and are often some of the most violent homicide cases. Between 2017 and 2020 perpetrator deaths doubled in Oklahoma from a decade low of 9 in 2017 to 17 in 2018 and then 19 deaths in both 2019 and 2020. Perpetrator deaths decreased slightly in 2024 to 14, a slight reduction from the decade high of 19 seen in 2019, 2020, and 2023. (Figure 6)



## By County

Staff identified a total of 101 individuals who died in domestic violence-related fatalities during 2024: 87 victims and 14 perpetrators. This resulted in a death rate of about 2.5 per 100,000 for the entire state. Consistent with prior years, the highest numbers of domestic violence-related deaths were concentrated in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties (Map 1 and 2); a total of 42 people lost their lives to domestic violence in those two counties alone, comprising 48.3% of the total number of deaths. The higher share of deaths in Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties is most likely due to their high population, given that a combined 37.0% of Oklahoma's population resides in those two counties. The death rate in Oklahoma County was 3.2 per 100,000 people. Meanwhile the death rate in Tulsa County was 3.3 per 100,000, while the death rate in the remaining 75 other counties combined was about 2.0 per 100,000.

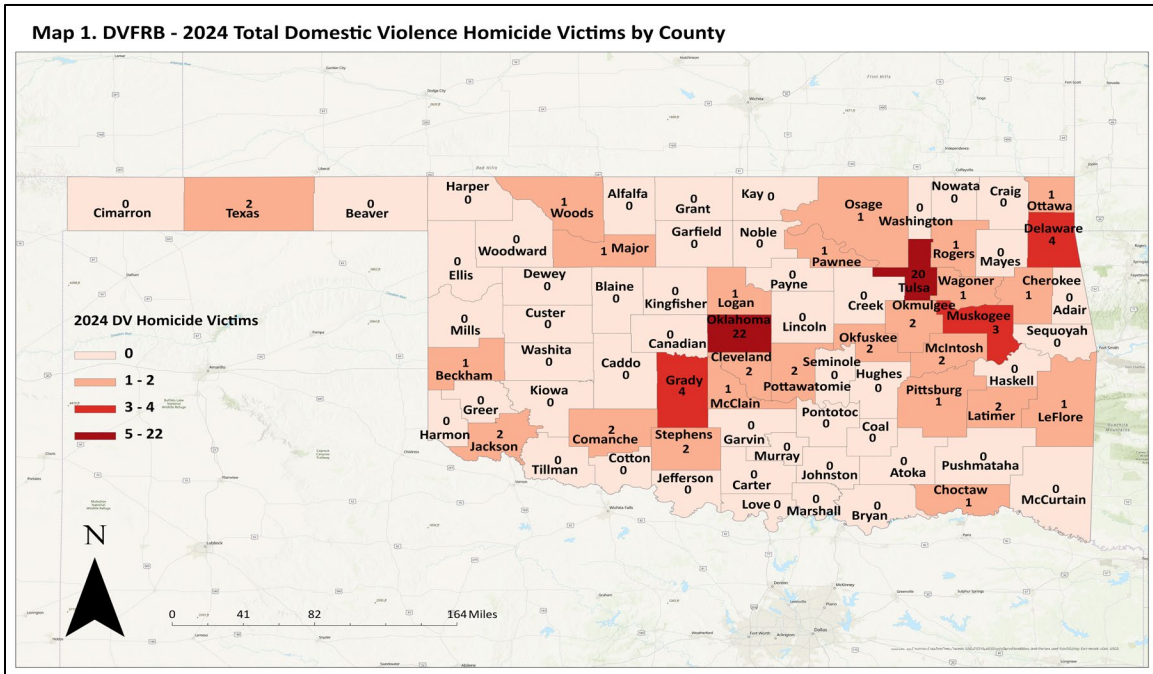
At least one domestic violence-related homicide occurred in 29 out of Oklahoma's 77 counties (37.7%) in 2024 (Map 2). The 2024 county total decreased by six in comparison to 2023 and is the lowest county total since the 22 recorded in 2017. An average of 32 counties had at least one domestic violence homicide during 2015-2024. The number of Oklahoma district attorney (DA) districts with at least one homicide decreased by 2 from the previous year. These homicides occurred in 21 (77.8%) of the 27 Oklahoma DA Districts.

29

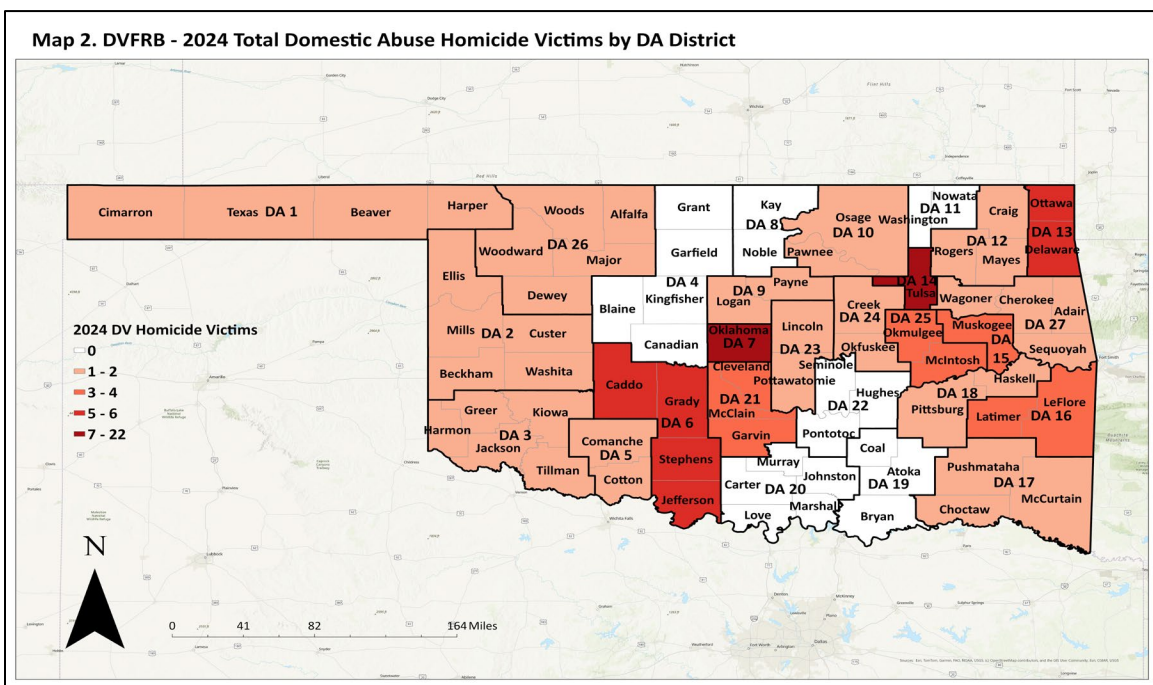
Oklahoma Counties With At Least One Homicide

21

Oklahoma DA Districts With At Least One Homicide



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. The data may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that may not have been accounted for during the 2025 data collection process.



Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 34. DVFRB – 2024 Total Domestic Violence Homicide Victims by DA District.

# Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Domestic Abuse Data

## *Oklahoma State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS) 2021-2024 Domestic Abuse Trends*

The 2021 Crime statistics published by the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) in its most recent edition of *Crime in Oklahoma* report were drawn utilizing the new Oklahoma State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS). This was due to recent changes by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), which has transitioned to only accepting incident-based data compatible with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and is no longer accepting Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data via the Summary Reporting System (SRS). Due to these federal changes, local law enforcement jurisdictions in Oklahoma have transitioned from reporting data via the Oklahoma SRS UCR to the new SIBRS, which is maintained by OSBI along with the SRS.

The new incident-based reporting system has several advantages compared to its UCR counterpart. The UCR data only collected data for eight crimes and included a Hierarchy Rule to determine which offense was reported when more than one crime was committed. For example, if a Robbery and Murder occurred in the same incident, the Hierarchy Rule dictated that only the Murder be reported. In contrast, the data collected via SIBRS collects information for 52 unique Group A offenses and 11 Group B offenses and allows for the reporting of up to 10 offenses in a single incident. Notably, it is also able to collect incident-specific information such as victim(s) and suspect(s) demographics, victim-to-offender relationships, premise types, and type of injuries, etc.

The *Crime in Oklahoma 2021* report was the first OSBI crime statistics annual publication that used data entirely drawn from the new incident-based reporting system. It included domestic abuse data collected using SIBRS and, for the first time, statistics on the individuals involved that were not available in previous *Crime in Oklahoma* publications. SIBRS data for 2021-2023 will be presented in the next section to provide the most up to date snapshot of the domestic violence landscape in Oklahoma.

### Disclaimer

The data presented in the next section was provided to DVFRB staff in advance by our partners at the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC). We must note that due to SIBRS being a live database, the tallies presented below might differ slightly from the ones that appear in previous or future editions of either this publication or *Crime in Oklahoma* reports. DVFRB staff have included notes in all relevant figures or tables depicting OSBI SIBRS domestic abuse data with the date it was queried by staff at the OSBI SAC. The 2021-2024 OSBI SIBRS totals in this publication are current as of May 13, 2025.

### SIBRS Unique Domestic Abuse Incident, Victim, and Arrestee Trends 2021-2024



To be included as a Domestic Violence incident, an incident reported must have reported one of the following Offenses and report at least one of the following Victim-to-Offender relationship types:

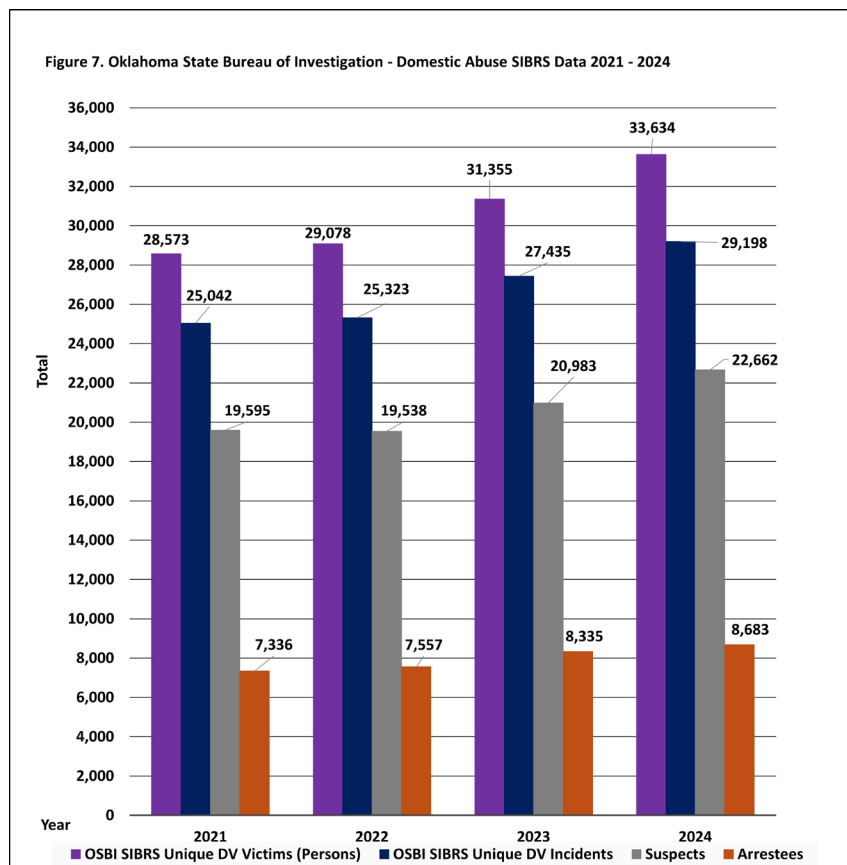
- **Offenses:** Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter, Negligent Manslaughter, Justifiable Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, Forcible Rape, Forcible Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Forcible Fondling, Kidnapping/Abduction.

- **Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types:** Adoptive/Foster Child, Adoptive/Foster Partner, Biological Parents of Same Child, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Child, Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Common-Law Spouse, \*Ex-Roommate, Ex-Spouse, Grandchild, Grandparent, Homosexual Relationship, In-Law, Other Family Member, Parent, Roommate, Sibling, Spouse, Spouse of Ex-Spouse, Stepchild, Stepparent, Stepsibling.

In 2024, a total of 461 Oklahoma law enforcement agencies contributed data to the SIBRS. These agencies reported 29,198 **unique incidents** having a domestic abuse offense and a domestic relationship. The 2024 total is 1,763 (+6.4%) more than the 2023 SIBRS total of 27,435. (Figure 7)

There were 35,015 unique victims (e.g. individuals, businesses, society, etc.) involved in these incidents in 2024, and of those victims, 33,634 were reported to be individual persons. The 2024 total of individual persons is 2,279 (+7.3%) more than the 2023 SIBRS total of 31,355. Law enforcement also reported 22,662 suspects, which is 1,679 (8.0%) more than the 20,983 identified in 2023. Finally, a total of 8,683 individuals were reported to have been arrested during incidents. This is a 348 (+4.2%) increase to the 8,335 reported in 2023.

It is important to note that every year since 2021 (except for 2022's suspect category) has seen a continual increase in all categories. From 2021-2024 the total of unique DV victims has increased by 15.0%, the total number of unique DV incidents increased by 16.6%, the total number of suspects increased by 15.7%, and the total number of arrestees increased by 18.4%. While the rate of arrestees has outpaced growth in suspects, it is important to put this in context. In 2021 there were 12,259 DV suspects that were not arrested, and in 2024 there were 13,979 suspects that weren't arrested, an increase of 14.0%. In percentages, this means that only 38.3% of suspects were arrested in 2024, an increase from 37.4% that were arrested in 2020. While arrests have increased, the number of arrests continues to stay below 40.0% of suspects. Of note, these numbers do not include unreported incidents/suspects, nor do they include the future criminal justice outcomes (i.e. convictions or jail time) of the arrestees.





**Table 16. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation – Domestic Abuse SIBRS Data 2021 - 2024**

	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>SIBRS Unique Incidents</b>	25,024	25,307	26,297	29,198
<b>SIBRS Unique DV Victims (Persons)</b>	28,551	29,064	30,109	33,634
<b>SIBRS Unique DV Suspects</b>	19,577	19,524	19,975	22,662
<b>SIBRS Unique DV Arrestees</b>	7,335	7,556	8,110	8,683

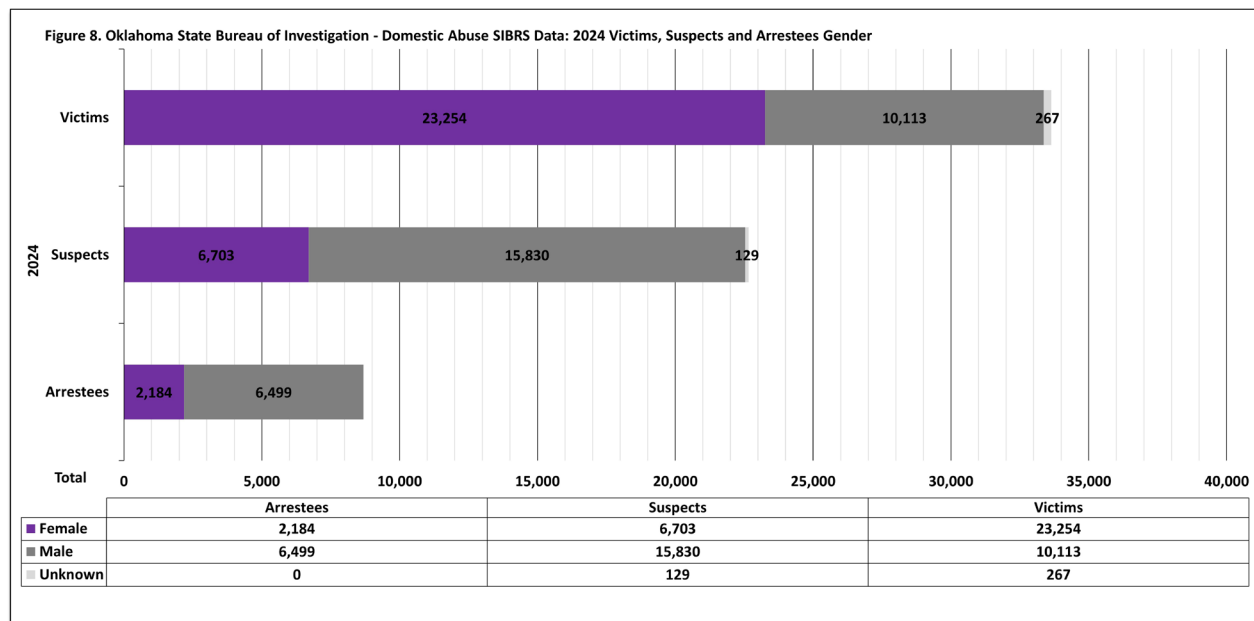
Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

## SIBRS Unique Domestic Abuse Victim and Arrestee Demographic Trends 2024

### Gender

An advantage of SIBRS data is that it collects demographic information on the victims, suspects, and arrestees associated with domestic abuse incidents. Of the 33,634 unique victims in 2024 a total of 22,254 (69.1%) were female and 10,113 (30.1%) were male. Gender information was unknown for 267 (0.8%) victims. Of the 22,662 suspects, a total of 15,830 (69.9%) were male and 6,703 (29.6%) were female. Of the 8,683 arrestees, a total of 6,499 (74.8%) were male and 2,184 (25.2%) were female. (Figure 8)

Of note is the disparity between female and male victims. Domestic violence continues to be a very gendered crime, with almost 70.0% of all DV suspects being male, and 69.0% of DV victims being female. DV arrestees are similarly disproportionate, with almost 75.0% being male. However, these numbers only reflect known and reported DV incidents, suggesting a possible undercount in additional female victims, or an undercount in male victims. This undercount is also possible in the predominance of male DV arrestees/suspects, with female offenders being possibly undercounted.

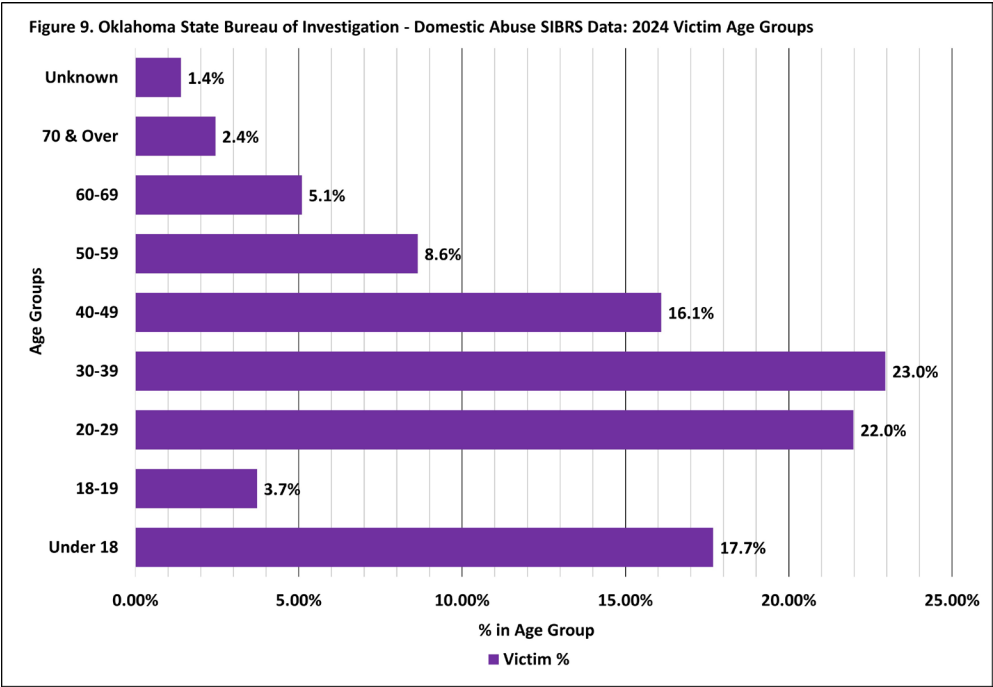


Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

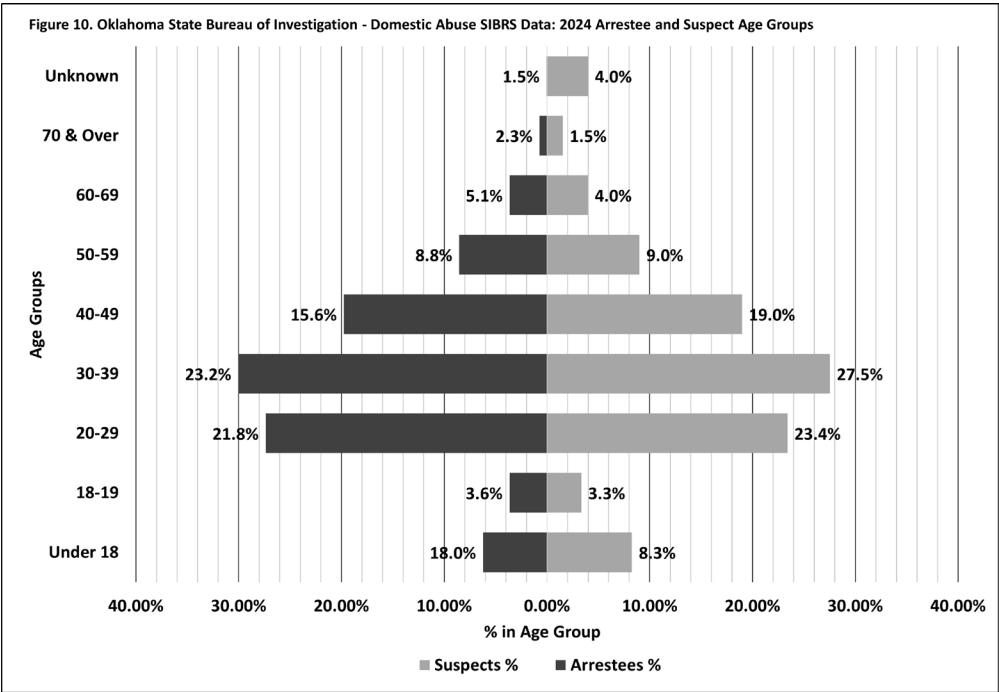
### Age

SIBRS also compiles data on the age of unique victims, suspects, and arrestees involved in reported incidents. In 2024, the most common age ranges for victims were: Under 18 (17.7%), 20 – 29 (22.0%), and 30 – 39 (23.0%). A total of 62.7% of all victims fell within these age groups (Figure 9). The most common age groups for suspects were: 40 – 49 (19.0%), 20 – 29 (23.4%), and 30 – 39 (27.5%). A total of 69.9% of all suspects fell within these

three age groups. The most common age groups for arrestees were: 40 – 49 (19.8%), 20 – 29 (27.4%), and 30 – 39 (30.0%) (Figure 10).



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

These graphs show that the plurality of victims (45.0%), arrestees (45.0%) and a majority of suspects (50.9%) are within the 20-29 and 30-39 age groups. All groups show a gradual decline starting with the 40-49 age group, with a steeper decline occurring with the 50-59 age group. It should not be assumed that domestic violence declines with age, it could be that older adults are more reluctant to report domestic violence to authorities.



**Table 17. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation – 2024 Domestic Abuse SIBRS Data: Domestic Abuse Victim Suspect, and Arrestee Age Ranges**

Age Range	DV Victims	%	DV Suspects	%	DV Arrestee	%
Under 18	5,946	17.7	1,871	8.3	540	6.2
18 – 19	1,252	3.7	756	3.3	317	3.7
20 - 29	7,392	22.0	5,306	23.4	2,376	27.4
30 – 39	7,721	23.0	6,239	27.5	2,608	30.0
40 – 49	5,412	16.1	4,301	19.0	1,716	19.8
50 – 59	2,907	8.6	2,037	9.0	742	8.5
60 – 69	1,713	5.1	901	4.0	316	3.6
70 & Over	823	2.4	347	1.5	64	0.7
Unknown	468	1.4	904	4.0	4	<0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>33,634</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>22,662</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>8,683</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### *Race and Ethnicity*

Notably, SIBRS compiles victim, suspect, and arrestee racial and ethnicity information. Of the 33,634 unique domestic abuse victims, 22,455 (66.8%) were White, 6,879 (20.5%) were Black, 2,680 (8.0%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 309 (0.9%) were Asian, and 60 (0.2%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Race information was unknown for 1,251 (3.7%) victims. In terms of ethnicity, 2,402 (7.1%) were Hispanic and 15,040 (44.7%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 16,192 (48.1%) victims. (Figure 11)

Since 2023 the percentage of white DV victims declined by 1.3%, black victims increased by 1.2%, Native American victims declined by 0.4%, racially unknown victims increased by 0.4%, Asian victims increased by 0.1% and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander victims increased by 0.1%. This decline reflects similar trends since 2021.

From 2021-2024, white DV victims have declined from 68.4% to 66.8% (-1.6%). Black DV victims have increased from 18.6% to 20.5% (+1.9%), Native American victims have decreased from 8.6% to 8.0% (-0.6%), racially unknown victims have remained consistent at 3.7%, Asian victims have increased from 0.7% to 0.9% (+0.2%), and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander/Other has increased from 0.1% to 0.2% (+0.1%).

It is important to note that percentage changes represent a share of the DV population, and not a net decrease in the number of victims. For example, while the total share of the white DV victims have increased by 1.6%, the total number of white victims increased from 19,389 to 22,455, an increase of 3,066. Overall, since 2021 the largest decrease in the share of DV victims was in the white category, while the largest increase was among black victims.

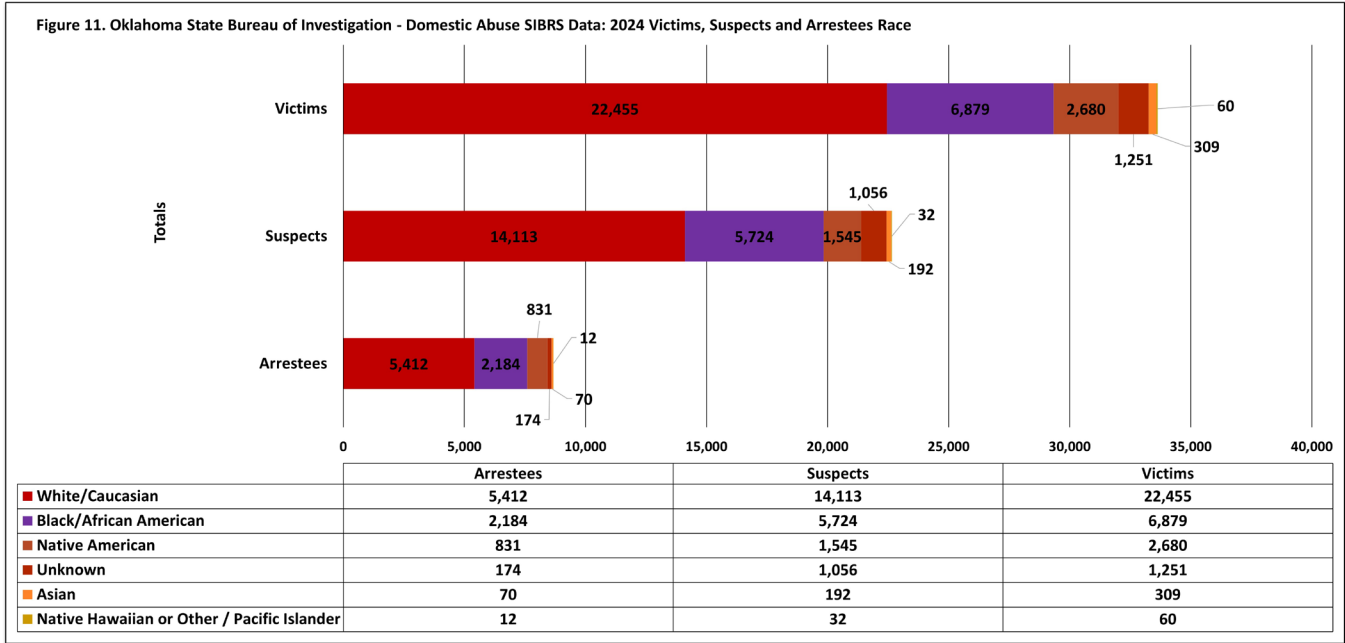
Of the 22,662 suspects, 14,113 (62.3%) were White, 5,724 (25.3%) were Black, 1,545 (6.8%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 192 (0.8%) were Asian, and 32 (0.1%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Racial information was unknown for 1,056 (4.7%) suspects. A total of 1,463 (6.5 %) of suspects were Hispanic and 9,303 (41.1%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 11,896 (52.5%) suspects.

Of the 8,683 arrestees, 5,412 (62.3%) were White, 2,184 (25.2%) were Black, 831 (9.6%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 70 (0.8%) were Asian, and 12 (0.1%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Racial information was unknown for 174 (2.0%) of arrestees. 852 (9.8%) arrestees were Hispanic and 5,224 (60.2%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 2,607 (30.0%) arrestees. (Figure 11)

When compared to 2023, the representative share of white arrestees decreased from 63.8% to 62.3% (-1.5%), the share of black arrestees increased from 25.0% to 25.2% (+0.2%), the share of American Indian/Alaska Native arrestees increased from 8.7% to 9.6% (+0.9), the racially unknown arrestees increased from 1.5% to 2.0% (+0.5%), Asian arrestees decreased from 0.9% to 0.8% (-0.1%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander arrestees decreased from 0.2% to 0.1% (-0.1%).

From 2021-2024, the share of white arrestees decreased from 64.7% to 62.3% (-2.4%), the black arrestees increased from 23.5% to 25.2% (+1.7%), the American Indian/Alaska Native arrestees increased from 9.5% to 9.6%, the racially unknown arrestees increased from 1.6% to 2.0%, Asian arrestees increased from 0.6% to 0.8% (+0.2%), and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander arrestees remained consistent at 0.1%.

From these trends it is apparent that the white arrestees in 2024 make up a smaller share of the arrestee population, while black arrestees now make up more than 25% of all arrestees. Other categories remained largely consistent, although the racially unknown category share increased in the same timeframe.

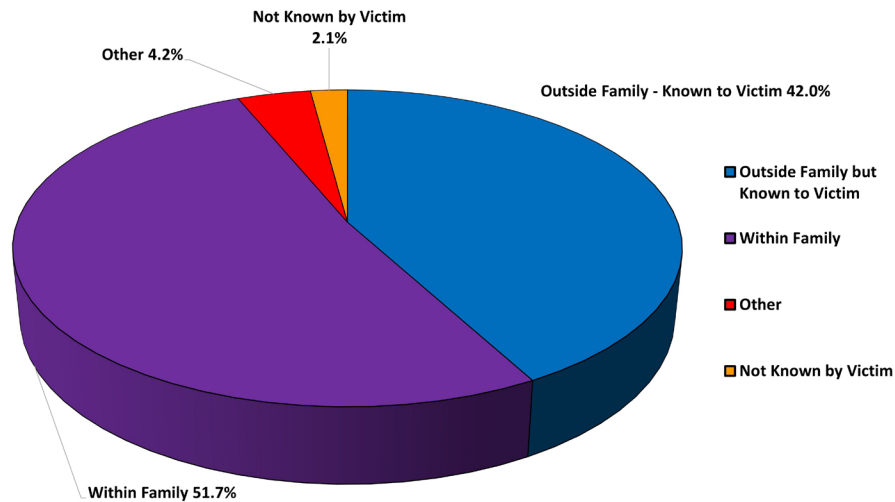


Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### Relationship Types for Domestic Abuse Victims 2024

SIBRS also compiles information on the number of victim-to-offender relationships found in domestic abuse incidents. This provides a snapshot on who is perpetrating the violence and who is being victimized. Overall, there were 37,745 victim-to-offender relationships identified. In comparison to 2023, identified victim-to-offender relationships increased by +3,030 (+8.0%). Victims categorized as being Within Family (19,521) outnumber the Outside Family but Known to Victim (15,871) category (Appendix A – Table 35. OSBI SIBRS Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types in Domestic Abuse Incidents, 2023-2024). Notably, 15,663 (41.5%) relationships across the categories appear to have involved intimate partner violence (IPV). The number of IPV relationships across the categories increased by +829 (+5.3%). (Figure 12)

Figure 12. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation - Domestic Abuse SIBRS Data: 2024 Victim-to-Offender Relationships

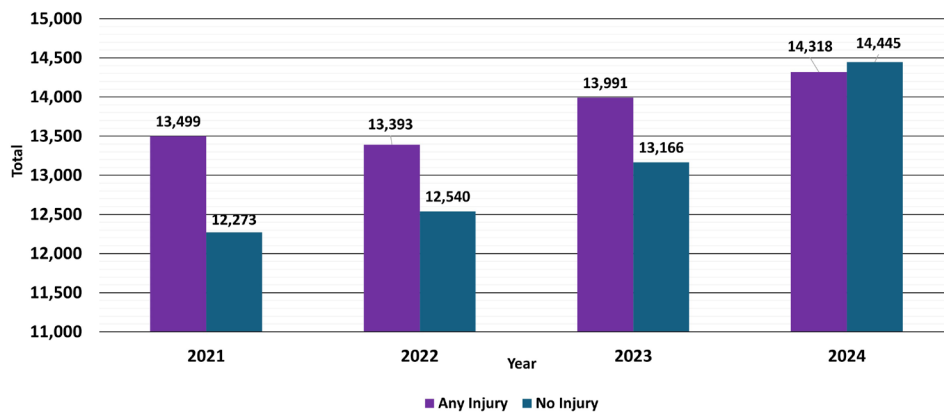


Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### Domestic Abuse Victim Injuries 2021-2024

SIBRS compiles data on the type of injuries sustained by reported domestic abuse victims. This is the first time this data is showcased in this report. For the years 2021-2024, law enforcement reported an average of 13,106 (48.7%) DV victims as being uninjured as a result of the DV incident. In contrast, an average of 13,800 (51.3%) DV victims were reported to have some type of injury, however, on average 12,383 (89.7%) of those were categorized as apparent minor injuries. For 2024, 50.2% of DV victims did not have an injury, an increase of 1.7% from 2023. 49.8% of DV victims suffered an injury in 2024, a decrease of 1.7% from 2023. Note that while the proportion decreased, the overall total numbers of the uninjured and injured DV victim counts increased from 2023 to 2024 by 1,279 and 327 respectively. (Figure 13)

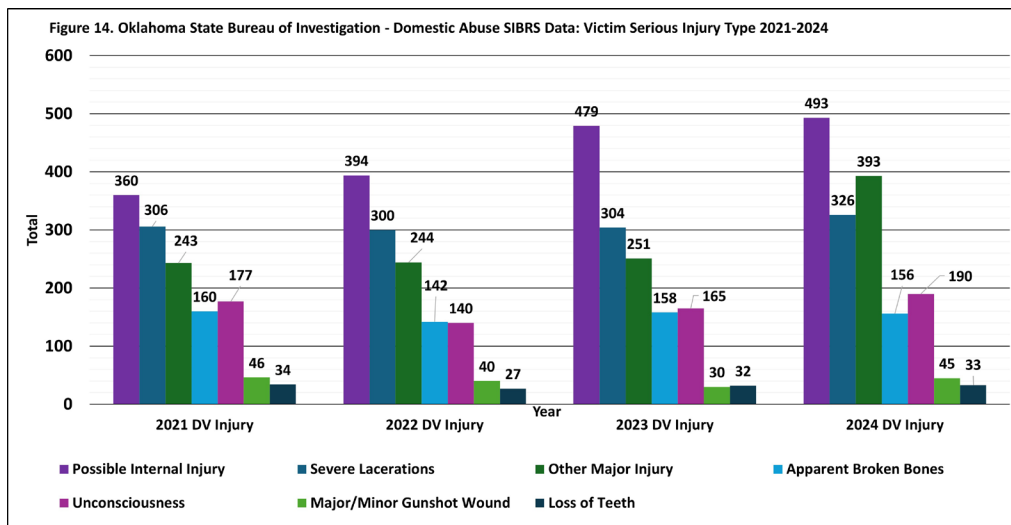
Figure 13. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation - Domestic Abuse SIBRS Data: Victim Injuries 2021-2024



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

An average of 1,417 (10.3%) DV victims were categorized as having been seriously injured. Notably, while overall injured victims decreased as a proportion, the seriously injured category increased from 2023 to 2024 by 1.3% (+217). This category includes major/minor gunshot wounds, possible internal injury, other major injury, severe lacerations, apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, and unconsciousness. However, it must be noted these observations, and ultimately categorizations, were done by law enforcement and not medical professionals, and as a result may have undercounted the extent of serious injuries for not being sufficiently apparent at the time

of the investigation. The data reveals the leading three serious injury categories were consistently Possible Internal Injury, Severe Lacerations, and Other Major Injury. These averaged to about 432, 309, and 283, respectively. (Figure 14)



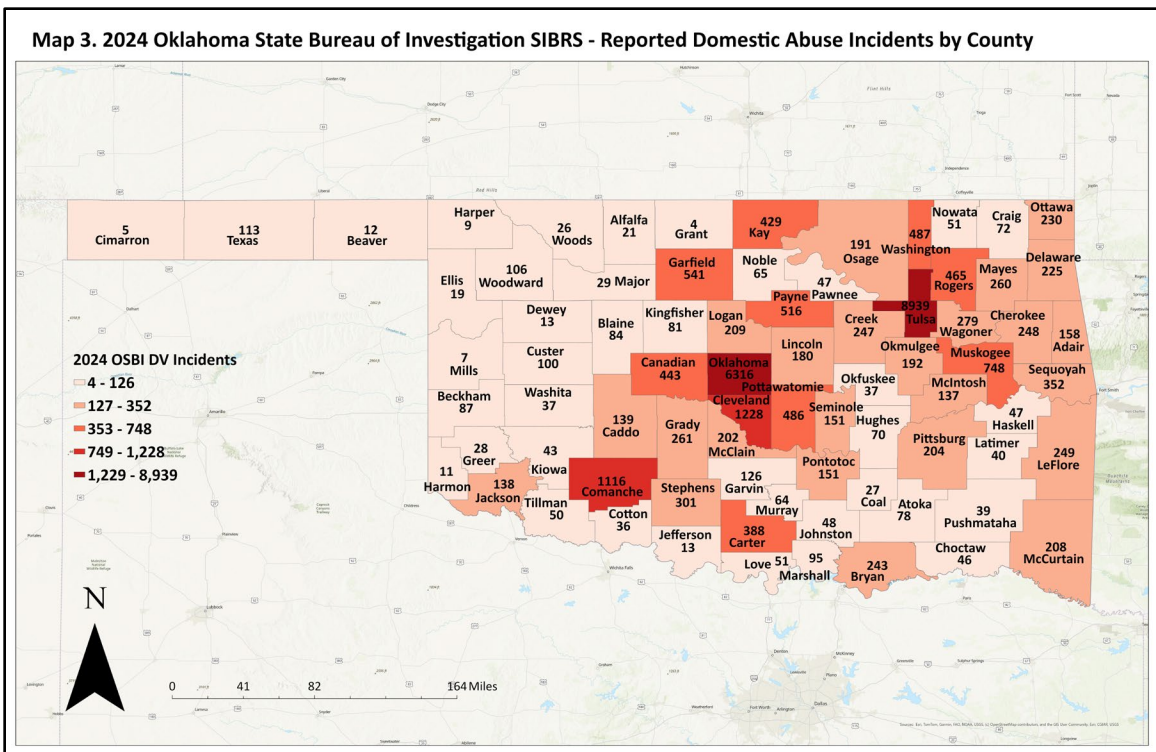
Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### *Domestic Abuse Incidents and Victims by County 2024*

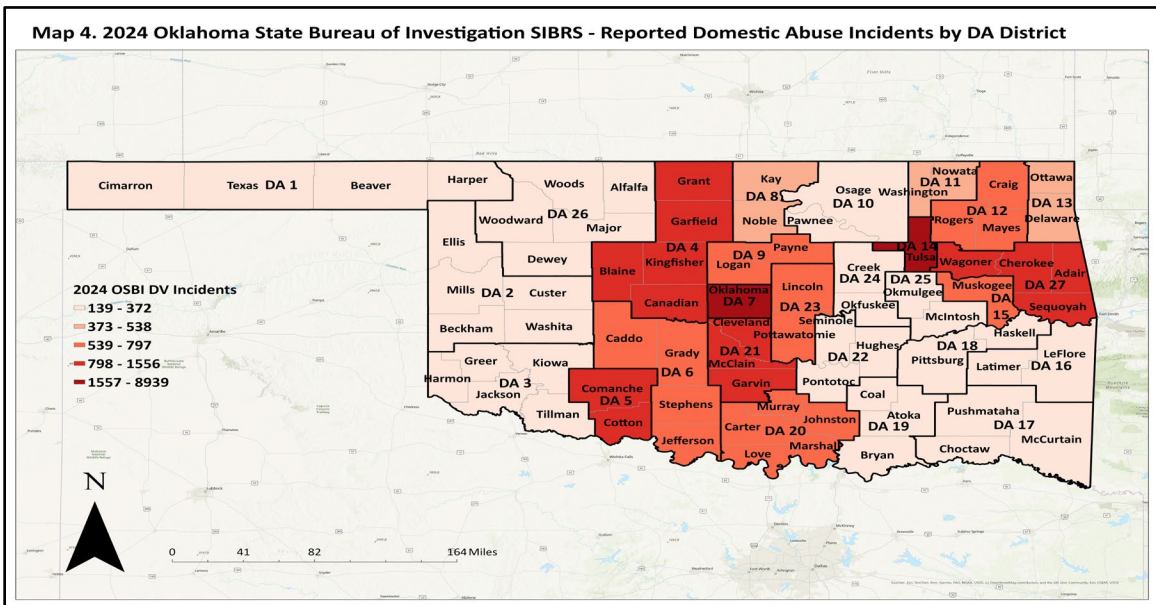
A total of 29,194 unique domestic abuse incidents were reported by law enforcement agencies in 2024. A total of 42 (54.5%) counties had more incidents than the previous year. Oklahoma and Tulsa County saw the greatest increases with the former having reported a total of 6,316 (+789 = +14.3%) and the latter 8,939 (+773 = +9.5%) incidents in 2024. Overall, 21 of the 42 (50.0%) counties seeing increases in their totals had increments ranging from 1 – 15 more incidents. These 21 counties saw their totals increase by on average +6.4 incidents. The remaining 21 counties seeing increases had increments ranging from 17 – 789 (Oklahoma). When excluding Oklahoma County and Tulsa County (outliers), the range increment is between 17 – 51. These 19 counties saw their totals increase by on average 31.7 incidents. (Map 3 and 4)

In contrast, 35 (45.4%) counties had decreases in the number of incidents reported. Rogers and Garvin County were tied with the biggest decreases with the first having reported a total of 465 (-90 = -16.2%) incidents and the second 126 (-65 = -34.0%) in 2024. Overall, 25 of the 35 (71.4%) counties seeing decreases in their totals saw their numbers decline by a range of 1 – 15 incidents. These 25 counties saw their totals decrease by on average -6.7 incidents. The remaining 10 counties saw decreases ranging from 16 – 90 incidents. These counties saw their totals decrease by on average -37.3 incidents.

The 2024 statewide incident rate was 712.8 incidents per 100,000 people. In comparison, the 2023 statewide incident rate was 648.7 per 100,000. As a result, the incident rate increased by 64.1 (+9.9%) incidents per 100,000 people.



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.



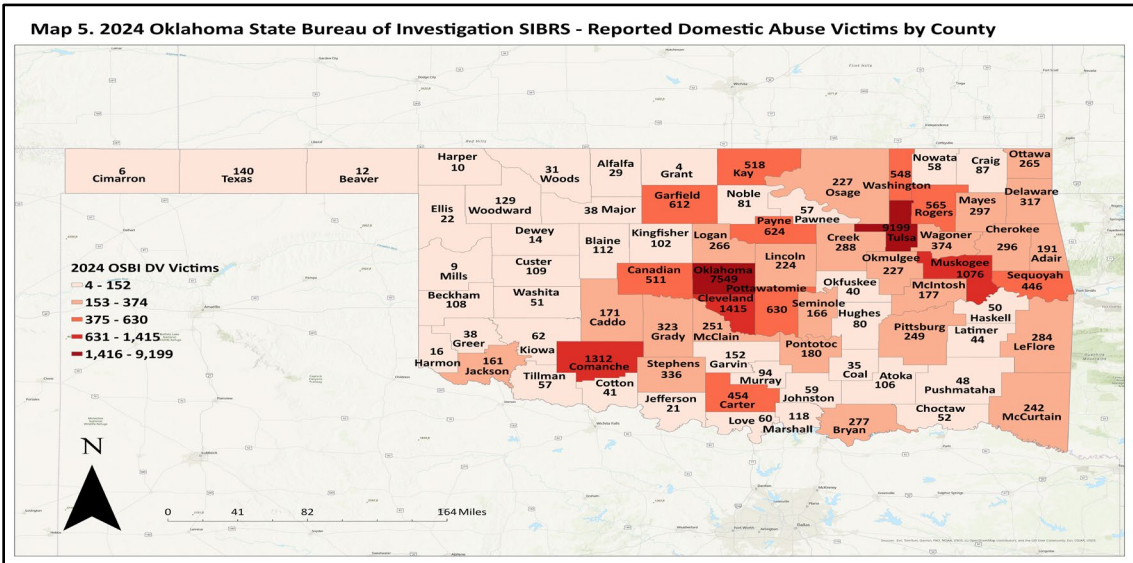
Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 36. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Domestic Abuse Incidents by DA District.

A total of 33,630 unique domestic abuse victims (persons) were reported by law enforcement agencies in 2024. A total of 41 counties had more victims than the previous year. Oklahoma and Tulsa County saw the biggest increases with the former reporting 7,549 (+1,111 = +17.3%) total victims and the latter 9,199 (+774 = +9.2%) total victims. Overall, 16 of the 41 counties seeing increases in their totals had increments ranging from 1 – 15 more incidents. These 15 counties saw their totals increase by on average +9.4 victims. The remaining 26 counties seeing increases had increments ranging from 18 – 1,111 (Oklahoma). When excluding Oklahoma County and Tulsa County (outliers), the range increment is between 18 – 88 victims. These counties saw their totals increase by +37.5 victims. (Map 4)

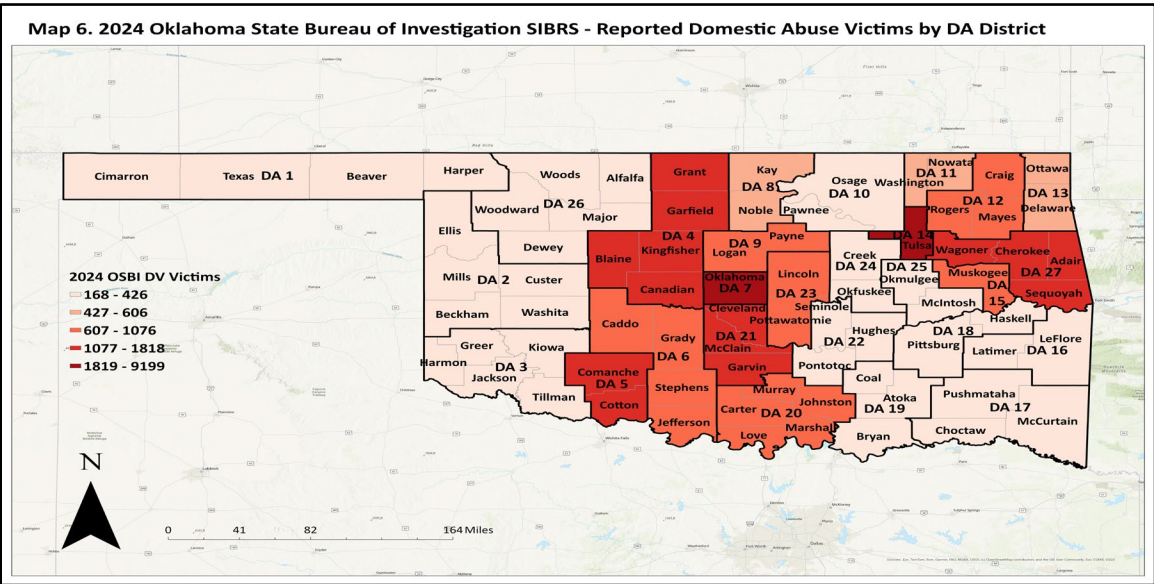


In contrast, 36 counties saw decreases in the number of reported victims. Rogers and Garvin County saw the biggest decreases in their victim totals with the first having reported a total of 565 (-77 = -12.0%) and the second 152 (-76 = -33.3%). Overall, 25 of the 36 counties seeing decreases saw the number of victims decline by increments ranging from 1 – 15. These 25 counties saw their totals decrease by on average -8.7 incidents. The remaining 11 counties saw decreases ranging from 16 – 77 less victims. These counties saw their totals decrease by on average -39.5 victims.

The 2024 rate of victims in reported domestic abuse incidents was 821.2 victims per 100,000 people. In comparison, the same rate in 2023 was 742.7 victims per 100,000 people. As a result, the victim rate increased by +78.5 (+10.6%) victims per 100,000 people.



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.



Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 37. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Domestic Abuse Victims by DA District.

SIBRS Unique Intimate Partner Violence Incident, Victim, and Arrestee Trends 2021-2024

In addition to the data presented in the previous section, this year’s publication showcases SIBRS data specifically on reported **intimate partner violence** incidents, victims, and arrestees **only**. To be included as an Intimate Partner Violence incident, an incident must have reported at least one of the following Victim-to-Offender relationship types:

- **Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types:** Spouse, Common-Law Spouse, Boyfriend/Girlfriend, Homosexual Partner, Ex-Spouse.

In 2024, a total of 461 Oklahoma law enforcement agencies contributed data to the SIBRS. These agencies reported 15,333 unique intimate partner violence incidents. The 2023 total is 795 (+4.6%) more than the 2023 IPV incident total of 14,538. (Figure 15)

There were 17,290 unique intimate partner violence victims involved in these incidents in 2024. The 2024 total of individual IPV victims is 980 (+5.7%) more than the 2023 IPV total of 16,310. Law enforcement also reported 10,952 suspects, which is 702 (6.4%) more than the 10,250 identified in 2023. Finally, a total of 5,145 individuals were reported to have been arrested during incidents. This is a 199 (+3.9%) increase to the 4,946 reported in 2023.

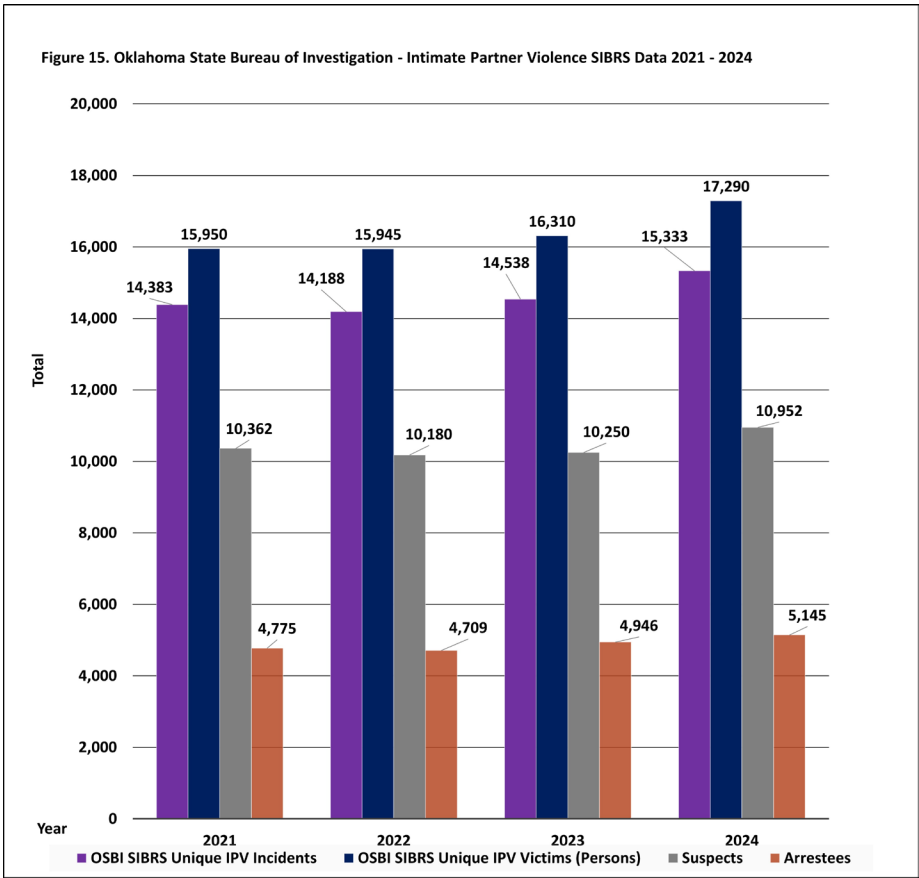


Table 18. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation – Intimate Partner Violence SIBRS Data 2021 - 2024

	2021	2022	2023	2024
SIBRS Unique IPV Incidents	14,383	14,188	14,538	15,333
SIBRS Unique IPV Victims (Persons)	15,950	15,945	16,310	17,290
SIBRS Unique IPV Suspects	10,362	10,180	10,250	10,952
SIBRS Unique IPV Arrestees	4,775	4,709	4,946	5,145

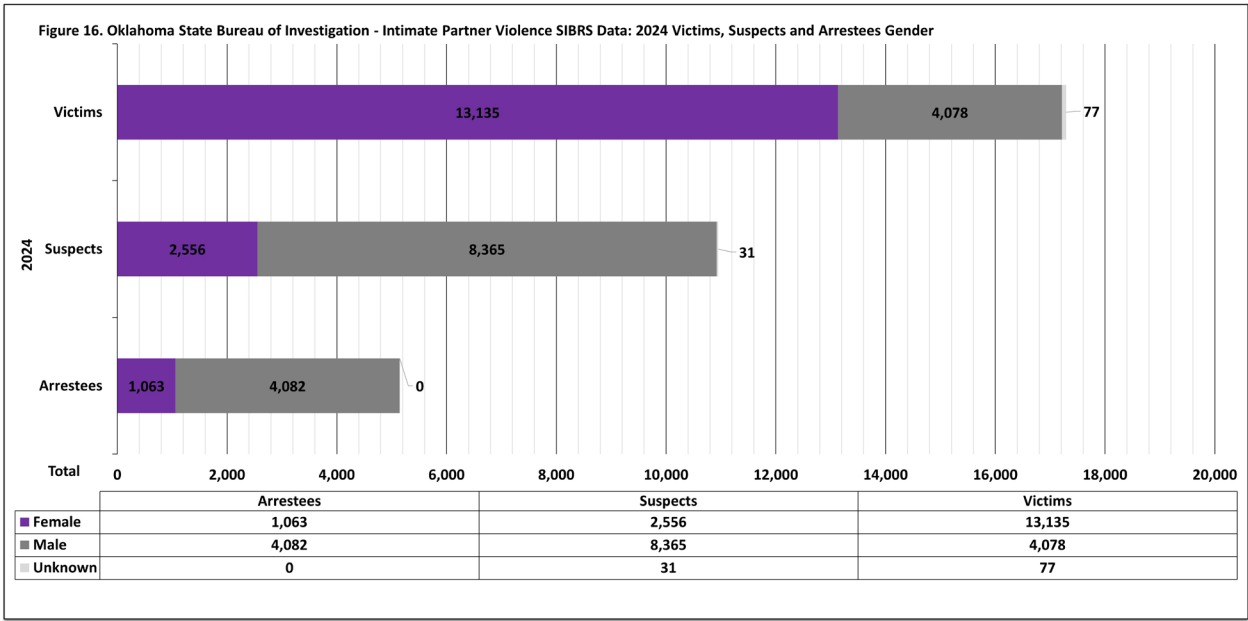
Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.



SIBRS Unique IPV Victim and Arrestee Demographic Trends 2024

Gender

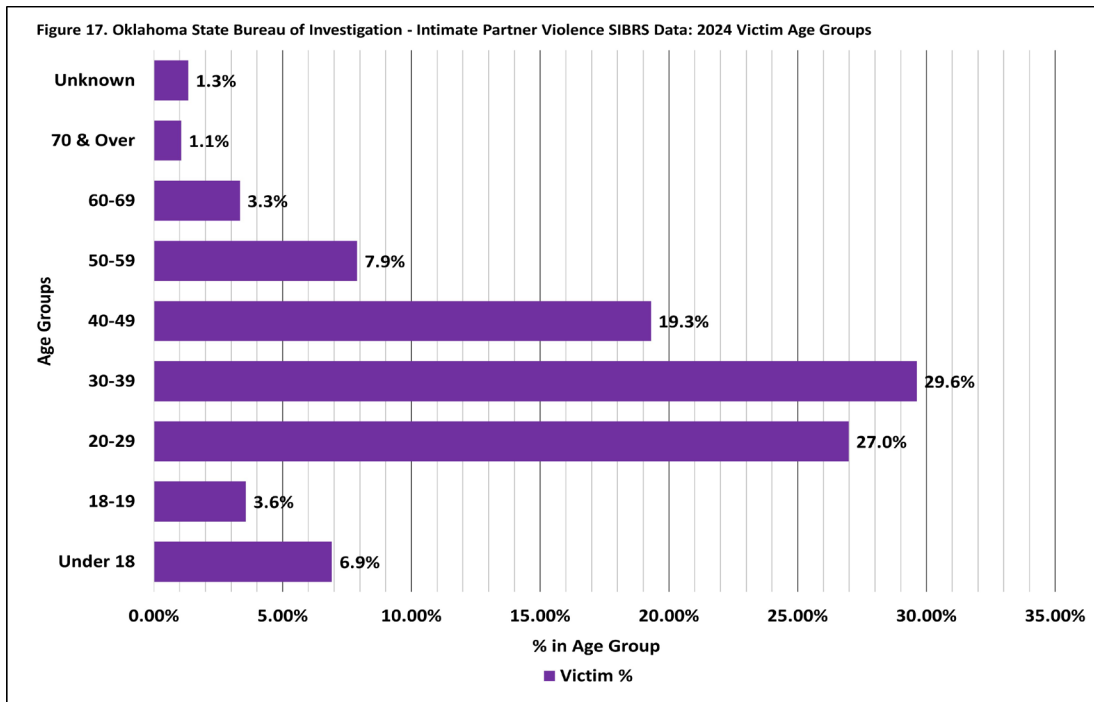
Of the 17,290 unique IPV victims in 2024 a total of 13,135 (76.0%) were female and 4,078 (23.6%) were male. Gender information was unknown for 77 (0.4%) victims. Of the 10,952 suspects, a total of 8,365 (76.4%) were male and 2,556 (23.3%) were female. Of the 5,145 arrestees, a total of 4,082 (79.3%) were male and 1,063 (20.7%) were female. (Figure 16)



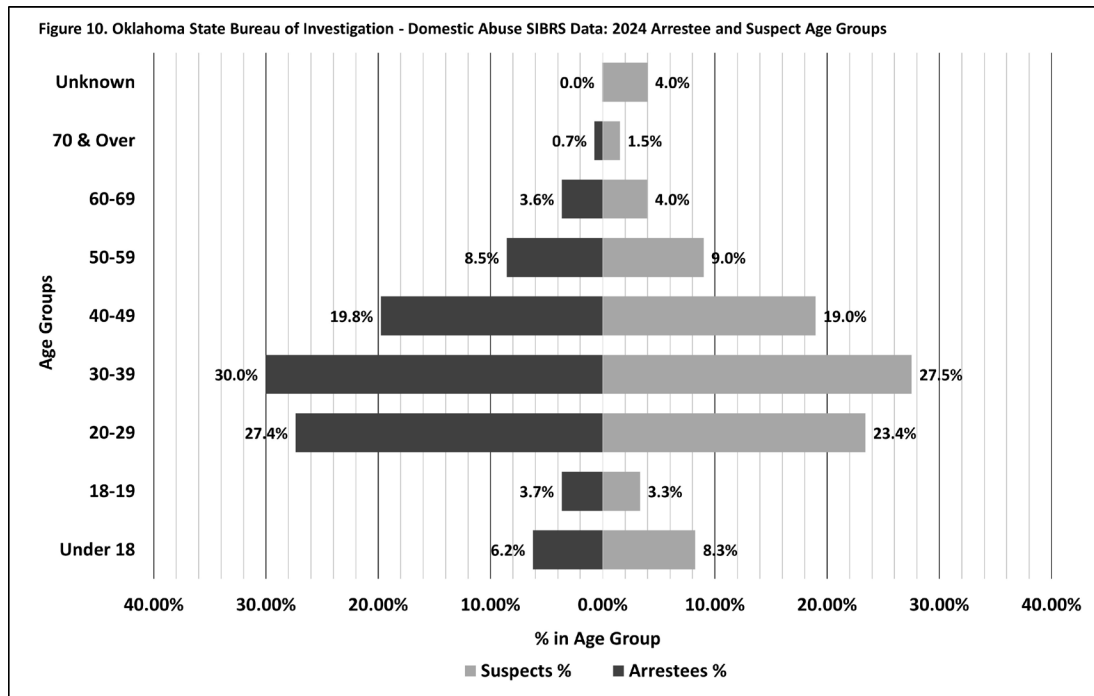
Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

Age

In 2024, the most common age ranges for IPV victims were: 20 – 29 (27.0%), 30 – 39 (29.6%), and 40 – 49 (19.3%). A total of 75.9% of all victims fell within these age groups (Figure 17). The most common age groups for suspects were: 20 – 29 (25.5%), 30 – 39 (30.8%), and 40 – 49 (21.7%). A total of 78.0% of all suspects fell within these three age groups. The most common age groups for arrestees were: 20 – 29 (28.7%), 30 – 39 (32.5%), and 40 – 49 (21.3%) (Figure 18).



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

**Table 19. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation – 2024 IPV SIBRS Data: Intimate Partner Violence Victim Suspect, and Arrestee Age Ranges**

Age Range	DV Victims	%	DV Suspects	%	DV Arrestee	%
<b>Under 18</b>	1,195	6.9	229	2.1	42	0.8
<b>18 – 19</b>	617	3.6	297	2.7	164	3.2
<b>20 - 29</b>	4,665	27.0	2,789	25.5	1,476	28.7
<b>30 – 39</b>	5,122	29.6	3,372	30.8	1,673	32.5
<b>40 – 49</b>	3,337	19.3	2,382	21.7	1,096	21.3
<b>50 – 59</b>	1,364	7.9	1,054	9.6	469	9.1
<b>60 – 69</b>	577	3.3	389	3.6	184	3.6
<b>70 &amp; Over</b>	183	1.1	124	1.1	38	0.7
<b>Unknown</b>	230	1.3	316	2.9	3	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,290</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>10,952</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>5,145</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### *Race and Ethnicity*

Of the 17,290 unique IPV victims, 11,887 (68.8) were White, 3,296 (19.1%) were Black, 1,341 (7.8%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 186 (1.1%) were Asian, and 35 (0.2%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Race information was unknown for 545 (3.2%) victims. In terms of ethnicity, 1,266 (7.3%) were Hispanic and 7,925 (45.8%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 8,099 (46.8%) victims. (Figure 19)

When compared to 2023 IPV victims, the largest decrease was a -0.7% decrease in the share of White victims, followed by a -0.3% decrease in the share of American Indian/Alaska Native victims. Conversely, there was a +0.6% increase in the share of racially unknown IPV victims, followed by Black IPV victims increasing by 0.3%, Asian victims increasing by +0.2%, and a +0.1% increase in the share of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander victims.

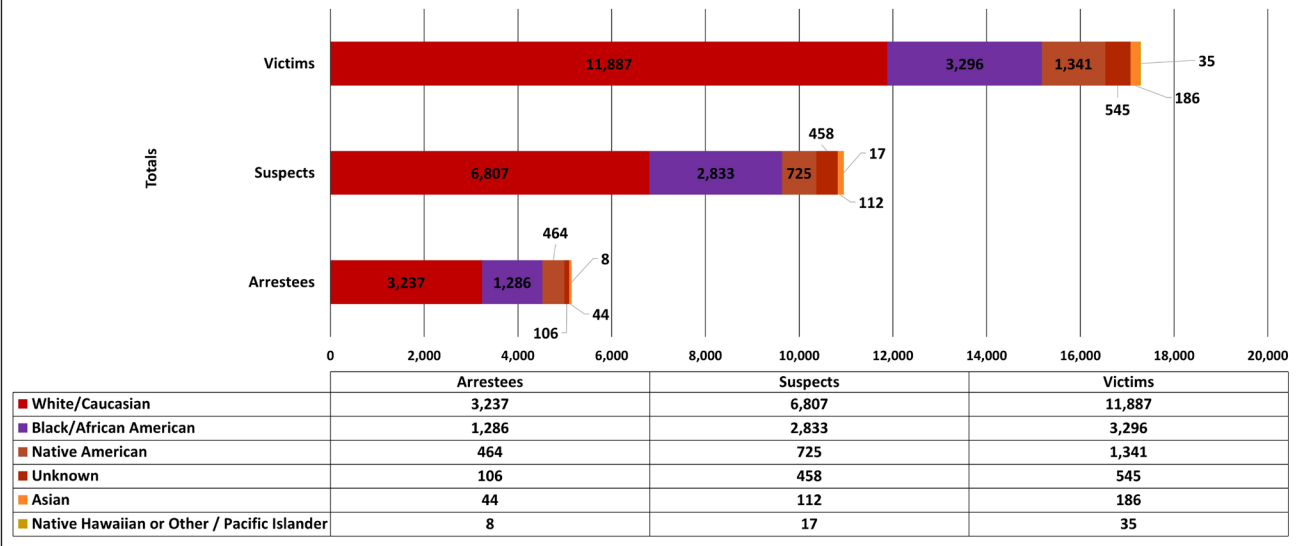
Of the 10,952 suspects, 6,807 (62.2%) were White, 2,833 (25.9%) were Black, 725 (6.6%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 112 (1.0%) were Asian, and 17 (0.2%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Racial information was unknown for 458 (4.2%) suspects. A total of 694 (6.3%) of suspects were Hispanic and 4,532 (41.4%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 5,726 (52.3%) suspects. (Figure 19)

When compared to 2023, White suspects saw the largest decrease in the suspect category, decreasing by -1.5% as a share of suspects, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native suspects decreasing by -0.2%. Racially unknown suspects had the largest increase in the share of suspects with a +0.8% increase, followed by a +0.6% increase in the Black share of suspects, a +0.3% increase in the share of Asian suspects, and a +0.1% increase in the share of Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander suspects.

Of the 5,145 arrestees, 3,237 (62.9%) were White, 1,286 (25.0%) were Black, 464 (9.0%) were American Indian/Alaska Native, 44 (0.9%) were Asian, and 8 (0.2%) were Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Racial information was unknown for 106(2.1%) of arrestees. 508 (9.9%) arrestees were Hispanic and 3,065 (59.6%) were non-Hispanic. Ethnicity information was unknown for 1,572 (30.6%) arrestees. (Figure 19)

White arrestees saw the largest decrease in the overall share of arrestees, decreasing by -0.9% when compared to 2023, followed by Black arrestees decreasing by -0.6%, and Asian arrestees decreasing by -0.1%. American Indian arrestees saw the largest increase, increasing by 1.0% as a share of arrestees, followed by racially unknown arrestees increasing by 0.7%. Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander remained the same proportion of arrestees from 2023 to 2024.

Figure 19. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation - Intimate Partner Violence SIBRS Data: 2024 Victims, Suspects and Arrestees Race

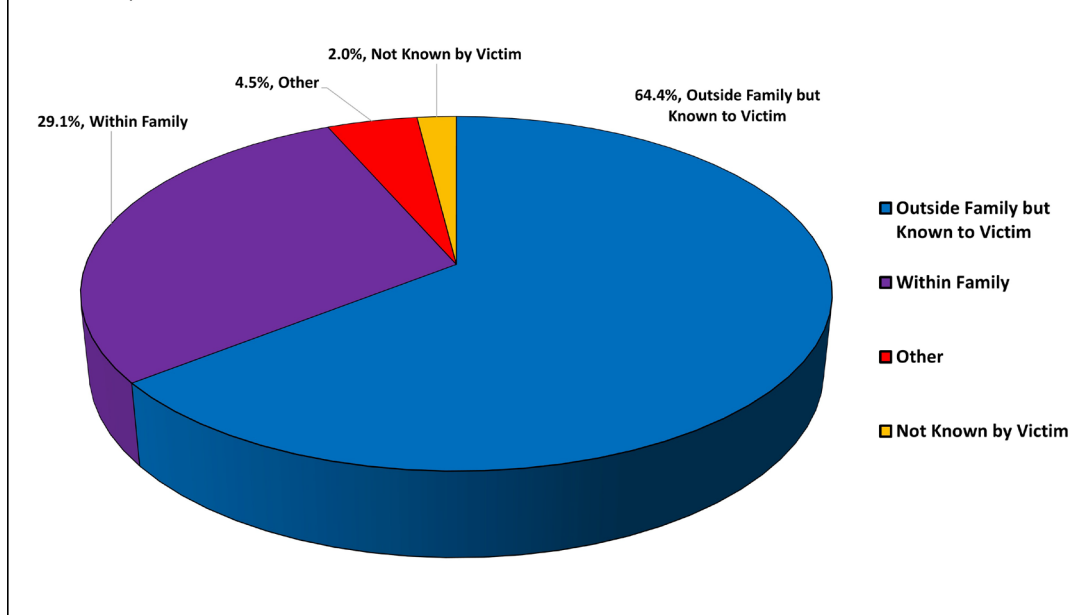


Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

### Relationship Types for Intimate Partner Violence Victims 2024

Overall, there were 18,967 victim-to-offender relationships identified in the context of intimate partner violence incidents. In comparison to 2023, identified victim-to-offender relationships increased by +1,410 (+7.4%). Victims categorized as being Outside Family but Known to Victim (12,207) outnumber the Within the Family (5,511) category (*Appendix A – Table 38. OSBI SIBRS Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types in Intimate Partner Violence Incidents, 2023-2024*). Notably, the largest relationship type categories were Boyfriend/Girlfriend (49.9%) and Spouse (22.2%). (Figure 20)

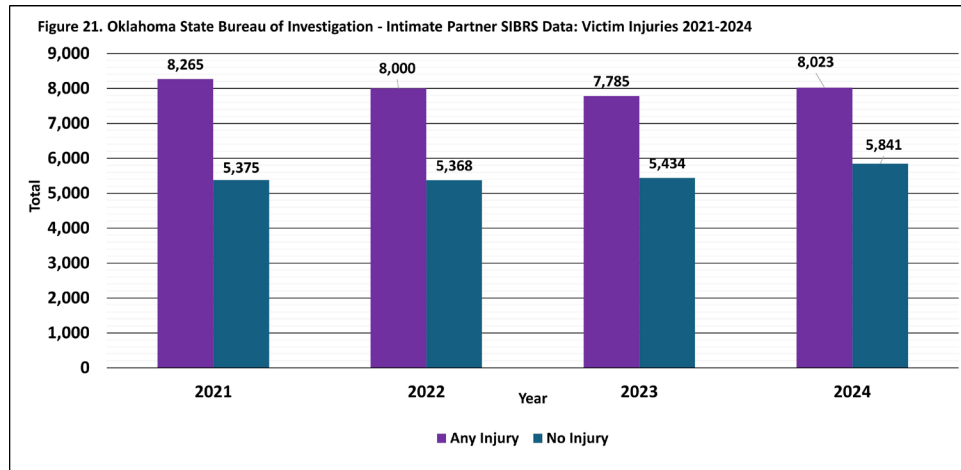
Figure 20. Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation - Intimate Partner Violence SIBRS Data: 2024 Victim-to-Offender Relationships



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

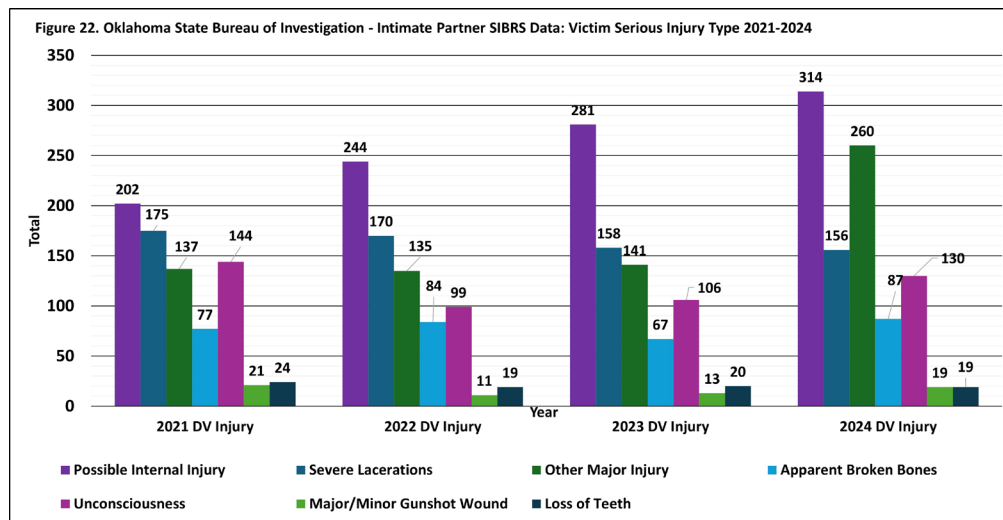
## Intimate Partner Violence Victim Injuries 2021-2024

For the years 2021-2024, law enforcement reported an average of 5,505 (40.7%) IPV victims as being uninjured as a result of the IPV incident. In contrast, an average of 8,018 (59.3%) IPV victims were reported to have some type of injury, however, on average 7,190 (89.7%) of those were categorized as apparent minor injuries. For 2024, 42.1% of IPV victims did not have an injury, an increase of 1.0% from 2023. 57.9% of IPV victims suffered an injury in 2024, a decrease of 1.0% from 2023. Note that while the proportion decreased, the overall total numbers of the uninjured and injured IPV victims increased from 2023 to 2024 by 238 and 407 respectively. (Figure 21)



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

An average of 828 (10.3%) IPV victims were categorized as having been seriously injured. Notably, while overall injured victims decreased as a proportion, the seriously injured category increased from 2023 to 2024 by 2.2% (+199), largely driven by a substantial increase in the Other Major Injury category (+119, +8.5%) Overall, the injured victims category includes major/minor gunshot wounds, possible internal injury, other major injury, severe lacerations, apparent broken bones, loss of teeth, and unconsciousness. These injuries are typically so severe that if left untreated or they might result in the death of the victim. However, it must be noted these observations, and ultimately categorizations, were done by law enforcement and not medical professionals, and as a result may have undercounted the extent of serious injuries for not being sufficiently apparent at the time of the investigation. The data reveals the leading three serious injury categories were consistently Possible Internal Injury, Other Major Injury, and Severe Lacerations. These averaged to about 260, 168, and 165, respectively. (Figure 22)



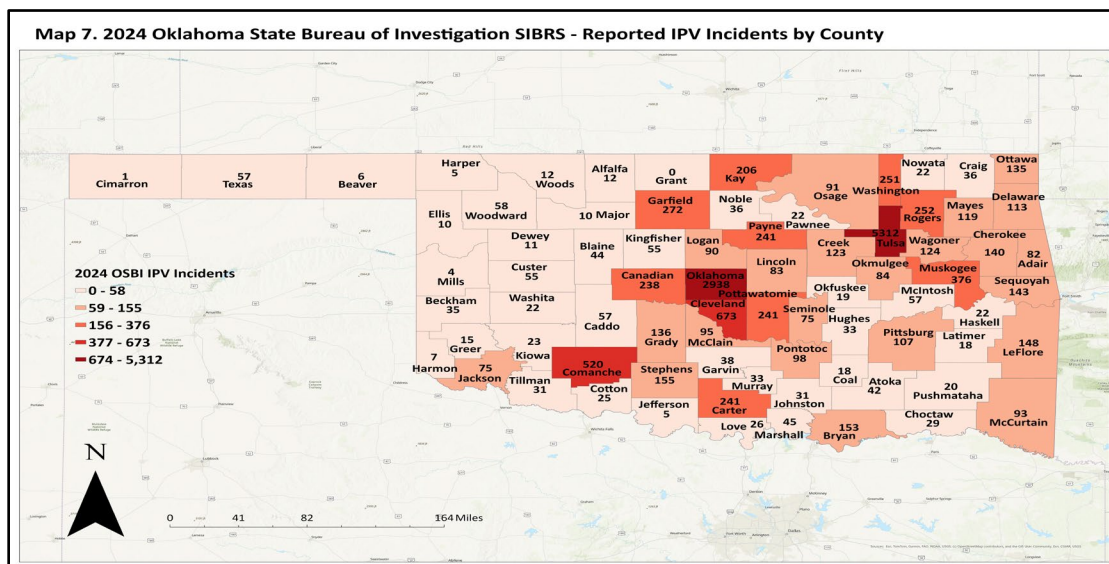
Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.

## Intimate Partner Violence Incidents and Victims by County 2024

A total of 15,333 **unique intimate partner violence incidents** were reported by law enforcement agencies in 2024. A total of 42 (54.5%) counties had more incidents than the previous year. Tulsa County and Oklahoma County saw the greatest increases with the former having reported a total of 5,312 (+491 = +10.2%) and the latter 2,938 (+205 = +7.5%) incidents in 2024. Overall, 29 of the 42 (69.0%) counties seeing increases in their totals had increments ranging from 1 – 15 more incidents. These 22 counties saw their totals increase by on average +6.8 incidents. The 13 counties seeing increases had increments ranging from 16 – 491 (Tulsa). When excluding Tulsa and Oklahoma counties (outliers), the range increment is between 16 – 42. These 11 counties saw their totals increase by on average 24.4 incidents. (Map 7)

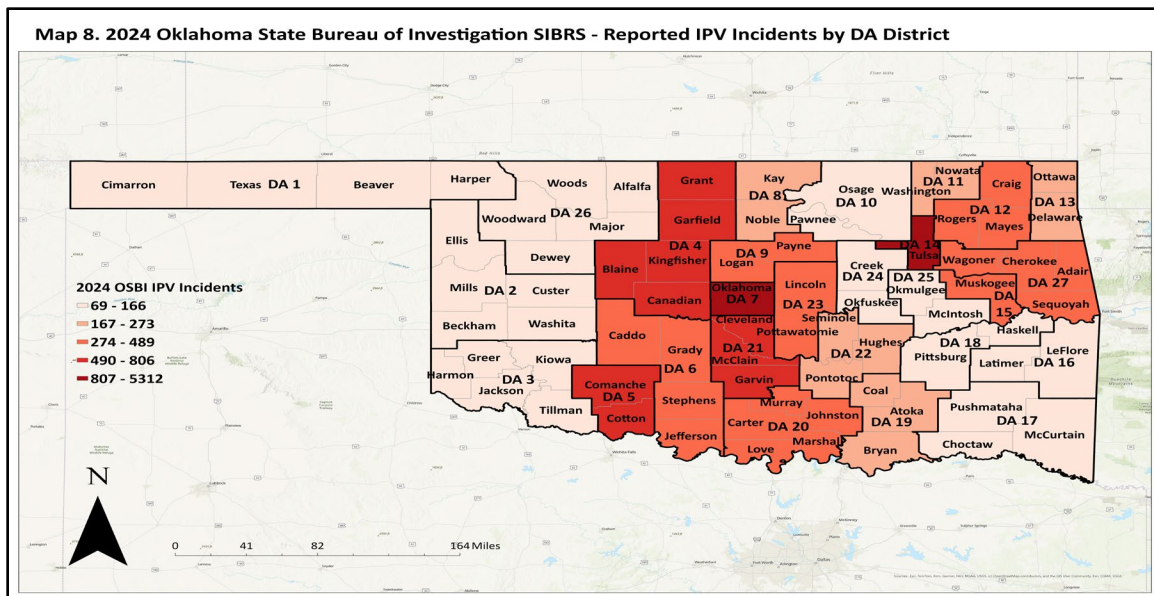
In contrast, 28 (36.4%) counties had decreases in the number of incidents reported. Garvin County and McCurtain County were tied with the biggest decreases with the first having reported a total of 38 (-46 = -54.8%) incidents and the second 93 (-34 = -26.8%) in 2024. Overall, 20 of the 28 (61.5%) counties seeing decreases in their totals saw their numbers decline by a range of 1 – 15 incidents. These 20 counties saw their totals decrease by on average -7.85 incidents. The remaining 8 counties saw decreases ranging from 16 – 46 incidents. These counties saw their totals decrease by on average -26.4 incidents.

Seven (7) counties saw no change in the number of reported incidents from the previous calendar year. The statewide incident rate in 2024 was 374.4 incidents per 100,000. In comparison, the statewide incident rate in 2023 was 357.7 incidents per 100,000. As a result, the incident rate increased by +16.7 (+4.7%) incidents per 100,000 people.



Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database.





Note: Data provided by the OSBI Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) and current as of May 13, 2025. Totals may be subject to change due to SIBRS being a live database. Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 39. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Domestic Abuse

A total of 17,290 unique intimate partner violence victims (persons) were reported by law enforcement agencies in 2024. A total of 40 counties had more victims than the previous year. Tulsa County and Oklahoma County saw the biggest increases with the former reporting 5,422 (+483 = +9.8%) total victims and the latter 3,465 (+343 = +11.0%) total victims. Overall, 21 of the 40 counties seeing increases in their totals had increments ranging from 1 – 15 more incidents. These 21 counties saw their totals increase by on average +6.8 victims. The remaining 19 counties seeing increases had increments ranging from 16 – 483 (Tulsa). When excluding Tulsa County and Oklahoma County (outliers), the range increment is between 16 – 55 victims. These counties saw their totals increase on average by +26.7 victims. (Map 9)

In contrast, 35 counties saw decreases in the number of reported victims. Garvin and Sequoyah County saw the biggest decreases in their victim totals with the first having reported a total of 44 (-53 = -54.6%) and the second 178 (-41 = -18.7%). Overall, 26 of the 35 counties seeing decreases saw the number of victims decline by increments ranging from 1 – 15. These 26 counties saw their totals decrease by on average -6.9 incidents. The remaining 9 counties saw decreases ranging from 16 – 53 less victims. These counties saw their totals decrease by on average -29.6 victims.

Only two (2) counties (Harper and Hughes) saw no change in the number (5, 35) of reported victims from the previous calendar year. The statewide rate of victims in reported intimate partner violence incidents in 2024 was 422.2 victims per 100,000 people. In comparison, the same rate in 2023 was 401.3 victims per 100,000 people. As a result, the victim rate increased by +20.9 (+5.2%) victims per 100,000 people.





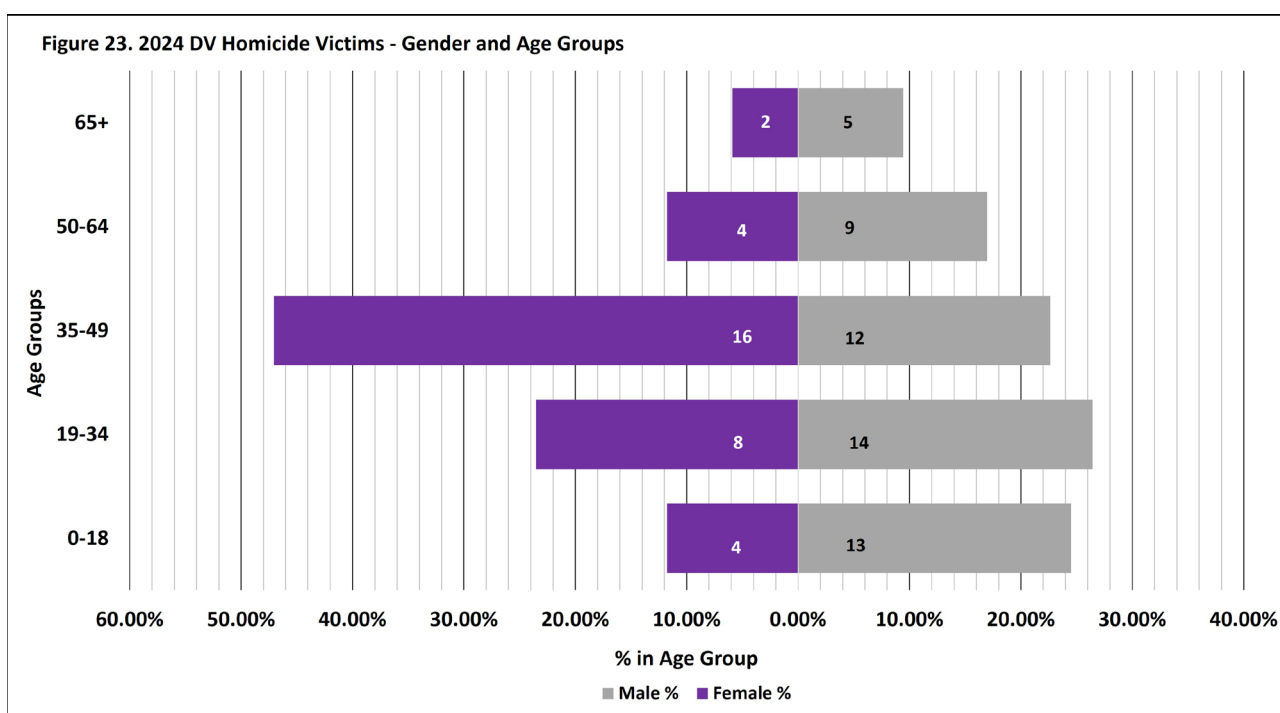
# HOMICIDES - KEY FINDINGS FOR 2024

## Victim and Perpetrator Demographics

The demographics presented in this section of the report include intimate partner homicide (IPH) and non-intimate partner homicides (non-IPH) identified by the Review Board occurring in calendar year 2024. Non-IPH cases include family members, triangle victims' bystanders, and Good Samaritans.<sup>109</sup>

### Gender

Program staff were able to determine the gender of all 87 (100.0%) domestic violence homicide victims. A total of 34 (39.1%) were female and 53 (60.9%) were male. A total of 34 female victims were identified, 28 (88.2%) of which were determined to have been killed by male perpetrators, three (6.3%) were killed by female perpetrators, one (3.1%) were killed by four perpetrators, two of which was male and two were female, and two were killed by five perpetrators, 3 of which were male, and two were female. 53 male victims were identified, 37 (78.2%) of which were killed by male perpetrators, 12 (21.8%) were killed by female perpetrator, and four (5.5%) were killed by two perpetrators, one of which was male and the other female. Staff were able to identify the gender of all 87 (100.0%) domestic violence homicide perpetrators. A total of 66 (75.9%) perpetrators were male and 21 (24.1%) were female. Eleven (11) (52.4%) female perpetrators killed or were implicated in the killing of their current or former intimate partner. (Figures 23 and 24)



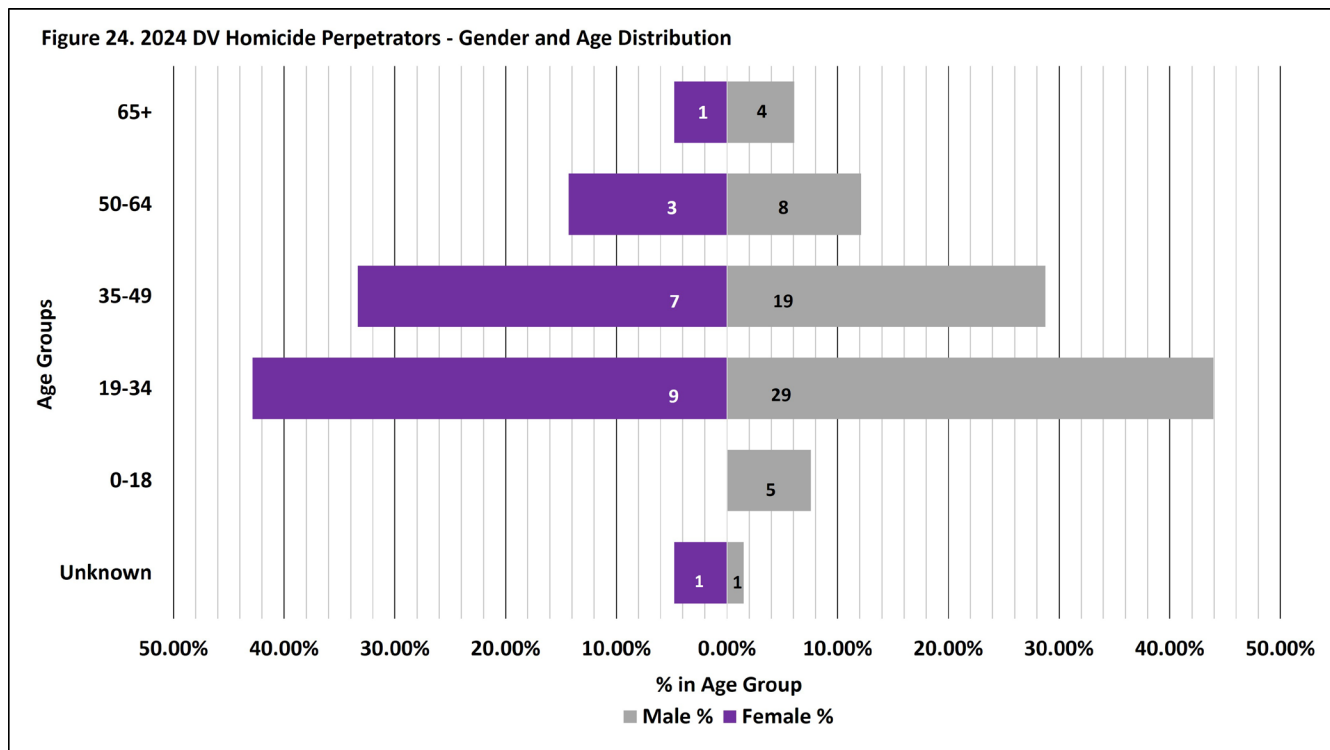
Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

<sup>109</sup> See *Appendix E: Data Methodology and Limitations* for a more detailed description about how the Review Board categorizes the different relationships between homicide perpetrators and victims.

## Age

Program staff were able to determine the age of all 87 (100.0%) victims.<sup>110</sup> The 87 victim's ages ranged from four months old to 76 years old. The leading age group was 35 – 49 with a total of 28 (32.2%) victims belonging to this age group. This was followed by 23 victims in the 19 – 34 age group (26.4%), and 16 victims being 18 years old or younger (18.4%). A total of 7 (8.0%) were 65 years or older. The average age of adult victims was 43.3 years old. Of the 16 juvenile victims,<sup>111</sup> eight (28.6%) were under the age of five, six (14.3%) were less than a year old. The average age of all victims was 36.5 years old.

Staff were able to calculate the age for 85 (97.7%) out of 87 perpetrators. Those between the age of 19 and 34 years old (32.2%) represented the largest age group. This was followed by those between the age of 35 and 4 years old (26.4%). The youngest perpetrator was 15 years old, and the oldest was 74. The average age of all perpetrators was 37.6 years old, with the average age of adult perpetrators being 38.6 years. Seven (4) perpetrators (4.6%) were juveniles under 18 years old. (Figure 24)



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

## Race and Ethnicity

Program staff obtained racial and ethnicity information for 87 (100.0%) of 87 domestic violence homicide victims. Of the victims whose racial information was obtained, 63 (72.4%) were White/Caucasian, 11 (12.6%) were Black/African American, 11 (12.6%) were Native American, and two (2.3%) were identified as Asian (Figure 25). A total of 12 (13.8%) were identified as of Hispanic/Latino descent.

In 2024, the number of White/Caucasian and Native American victims decreased by 24 and 8, respectively, in comparison to 2023 numbers (81 and 18). In contrast, the total of Asian victims increased by two. The number

<sup>110</sup> The age of the unborn victim was not calculated due to not having a date of birth to make the customary calculation.

<sup>111</sup> Juvenile is defined as an individual aged <18 years old at the time of the incident.

of Black/African American victims decreased by four when compared to the previous year (20). The number of Hispanic/Latino descent increased by two.

It is important to note that the DVFRB has continued identifying higher number of Native American victims in recent years. The increase in the identification of Native American victims is likely due to two factors. First, the U.S. Supreme Court's 2020 decision in *McGirt v. Oklahoma* required more thorough identification of Native American individuals involved in crimes. Second, Program Staff implemented a methodology whereby three sources are utilized to validate the race and ethnicity of victims and perpetrators.

Staff also obtained racial and ethnicity information for 85 (97.7%) of 87 domestic violence homicide perpetrators. Of the perpetrators whose racial information was obtained, 57 (65.5%) were White/Caucasian, 16 (18.4%) were Black/African American, 10 (11.5%) were Native American, and 2 (2.3%) perpetrators were identified as Asian (Figure 25). A total of 14 (16.1%) were identified as of Hispanic/Latino descent. In 2024, the number of White/Caucasian and Black/African American perpetrators decreased by 14 and 7 respectively. The total of Native American perpetrators decreased by seven. In contrast, the number of perpetrators identified as Asian increased by two, and those identified of Hispanic/Latino descent increased by 11.

Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

## Relationship Types

The Review Board collects and compiles data according to the type of relationship that existed between the victim(s) and the perpetrator(s) (Table 20 and Figure 26). Historically, Program Staff have compiled this statistic utilizing a one-to-one relationship between perpetrators and homicide victims so that the number of relationships matches the number of victims. In recent years, Program Staff have identified several cases where there are two perpetrators with different domestic relationships associated with one victim (two-to-one relationship). Naturally, this means that the number of relationships can outnumber the total number of victims. As a result, contrary to previous years, the totals below will outnumber the total of victims.

**Table 20. Perpetrator Relationship to 2024 Homicide Victims**

Relationship Type	2024	%
Intimate Partner	31	32.3
Family	45	46.9
Triangle	8	8.3
Roommate	7	7.3
Bystander/Good Samaritan	5	5.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>100.0</b>

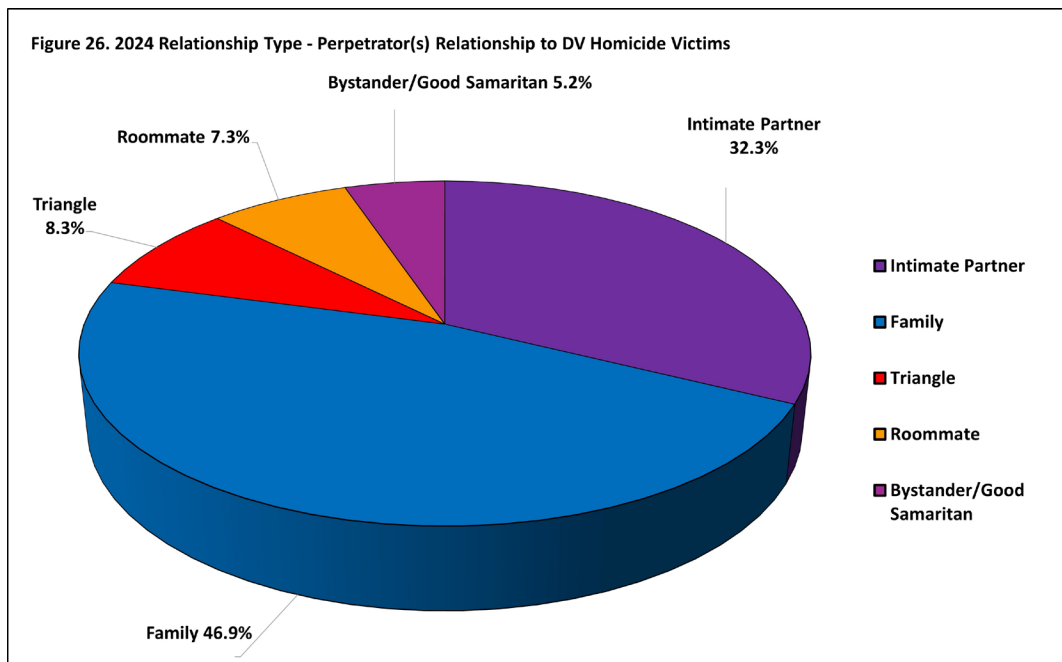
Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

In 2024, 96 different relationship types were identified to exist between perpetrators and homicide victims. This includes fathers, stepfathers, mothers, mothers' boyfriends, sons, stepsons, grandparents, grandsons, brothers, and other relatives. The leading perpetrator relationship was the Family category at 45 (46.9%). A total of 31 perpetrators were identified as current or former intimate partners of victims, including current or former spouses and current or former dating partners, which represents a 39.2% decrease when compared to the 2023 total of 51. The number of familial relationships between perpetrators and victims decreased from 57 in 2023 to 45 in 2024, representing a decrease from the increase in in family killings over the last five years. Overall, the state averaged 53 victims killed by family members per year during 2020-2024, which is an increase from the average of 40 familial victims per year during 2015-2019. 2020-2024 familial deaths saw an increase of 32.5% from the average in 2015-2019. It is important to note that the number of familial deaths decreased by 11 from the 56 recorded in 2023. (Figure 27)

Triangle relationships, one in which the former spouse or intimate partner kills the current spouse or intimate partner of their former or current spouse or intimate partner (or vice versa), were identified 8 times. Six victims were killed by a roommate, the same number recorded in 2023.

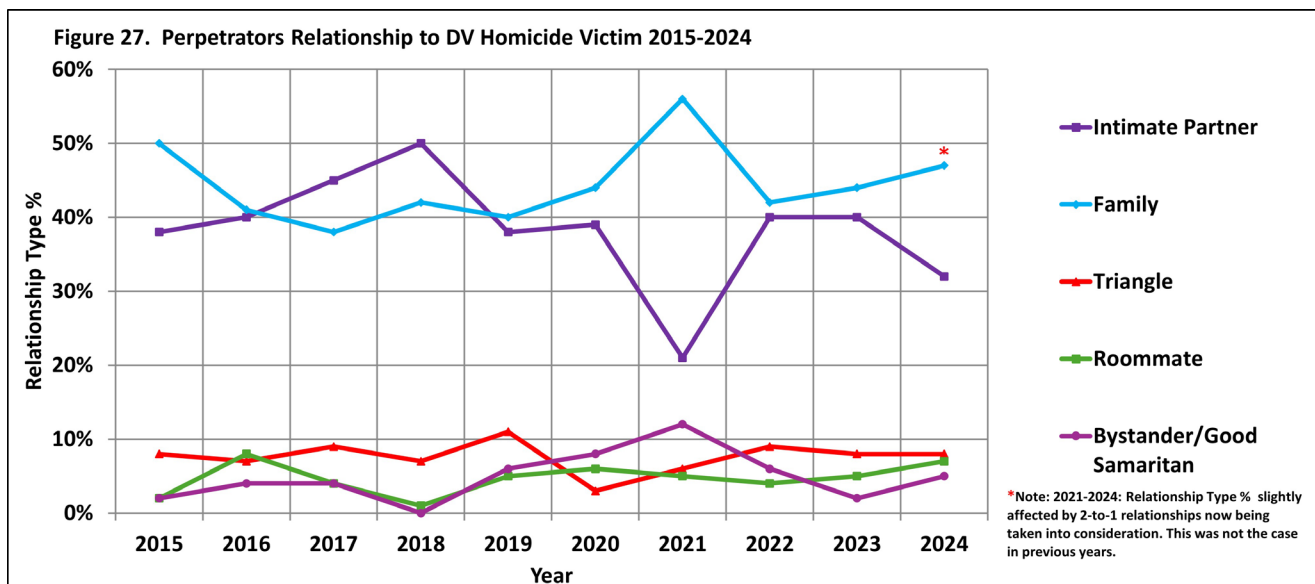
There is often significant overlap between relationship categories in the sense that one type of killing can occur within the context of another. For example, there are situations where children are killed by their father just before or after he killed their mother. As a result, while the female's murder would be considered an intimate partner homicide, the child killing(s) would be categorized as a family homicide. The same would happen if other individuals died in triangle situations or when bystanders are caught in the crossfire of these types of incidents. Notably, there are situations that would be categorized as family homicides even though one family member might have been defending another in an intimate partner violence situation (such as when a child kills their father or stepfather in defense of his/her mother). In others, a father might retaliate against a current or former intimate partner for separating by killing the children they share before committing suicide. This would be categorized solely as family homicides even though there is explicit evidence linking their motive to intimate partner violence.

In order obtain a better picture of the overlap between categories, DVFRB staff researched whether intimate partner violence played a role in the immediate leadup to all homicides. In cases where this was possible to determine, DVFRB research found 45 (51.7%) out of 87 victims were killed in the context of intimate partner violence across all relationship categories. This includes 31 IPH victims, 7 family killings in the context of IPH or situations where an IPV altercation led household members to kill others (such as when a child or siblings kill their mother's/sister's abuser, and 7 triangle killings. The 45 deaths in 2024 are a decrease from the 73 (60.3%) of victims killed in the context of intimate partner violence in 2023, representing 28 fewer IPV-related homicides and a decrease of 8.6% as a share of overall DV homicide victims.



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

From 2015-2024, family and intimate partner homicides made up the largest categories of domestic violence-related homicides each year, though which one is the largest category varies from year to year. (Figure 27)



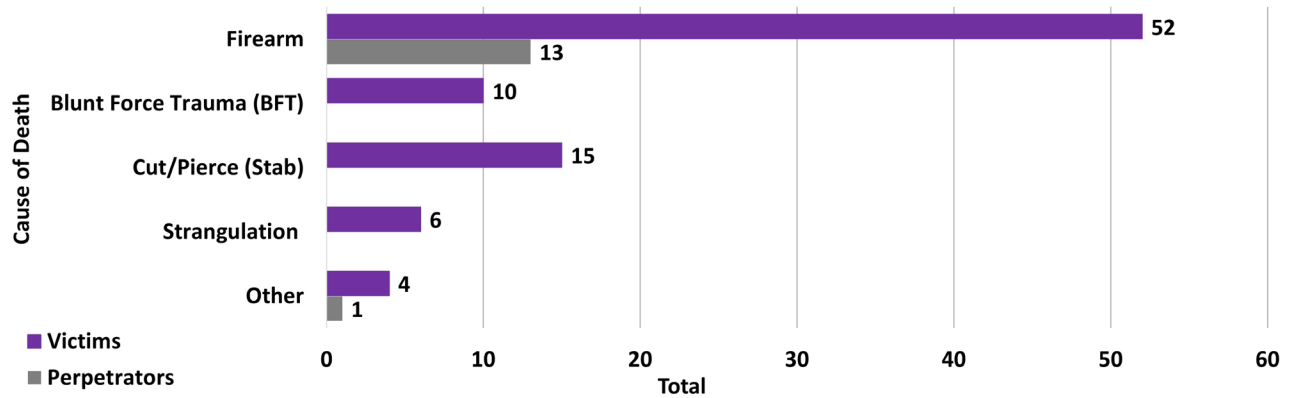
Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

## Cause of Death

The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of Oklahoma (OCME) investigates sudden, violent, unexpected, and suspicious deaths and conducts medico-legal investigations related to the death. The Review Board draws from data obtained from the OCME that includes a determination as to the cause and manner of death of individuals who die in domestic violence related incidents. Program staff were able to determine the cause of death for all 87 homicide victims and all 14 perpetrators who died in murder-suicides. (Figure 28)



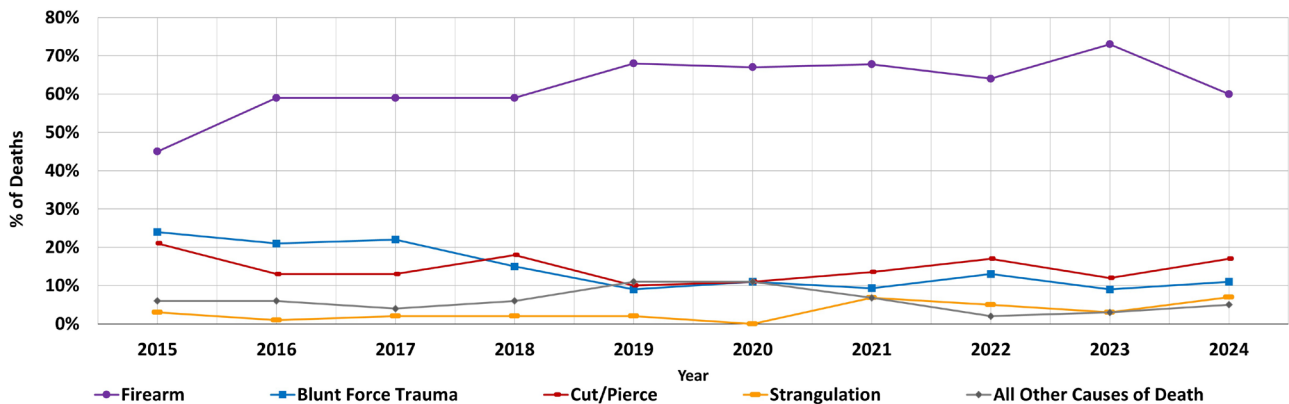
Figure 28. 2024 DV Homicide Victim and Perpetrator Cause of Death



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during the 2025 data collection process.

Firearms have consistently remained the most prevalent cause of death in domestic violence homicide cases since the DVFRB began tracking cases in 1998. In 2024, firearms were the identified cause of death in 59.8% of all domestic violence-related fatalities for both victims and perpetrators who committed suicide. From 2015-2024, firearms were the cause of death in an average of 62% of domestic violence homicide victim deaths (Figure 29). While DV homicides from firearms in 2024 has decreased 14.5% from 2023, around 66% of all DV victims were killed with a firearm over the last five years (2020-2024).

Figure 29. DV Homicide Victim Cause of Death 2015-2024



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

## Murder-Suicide

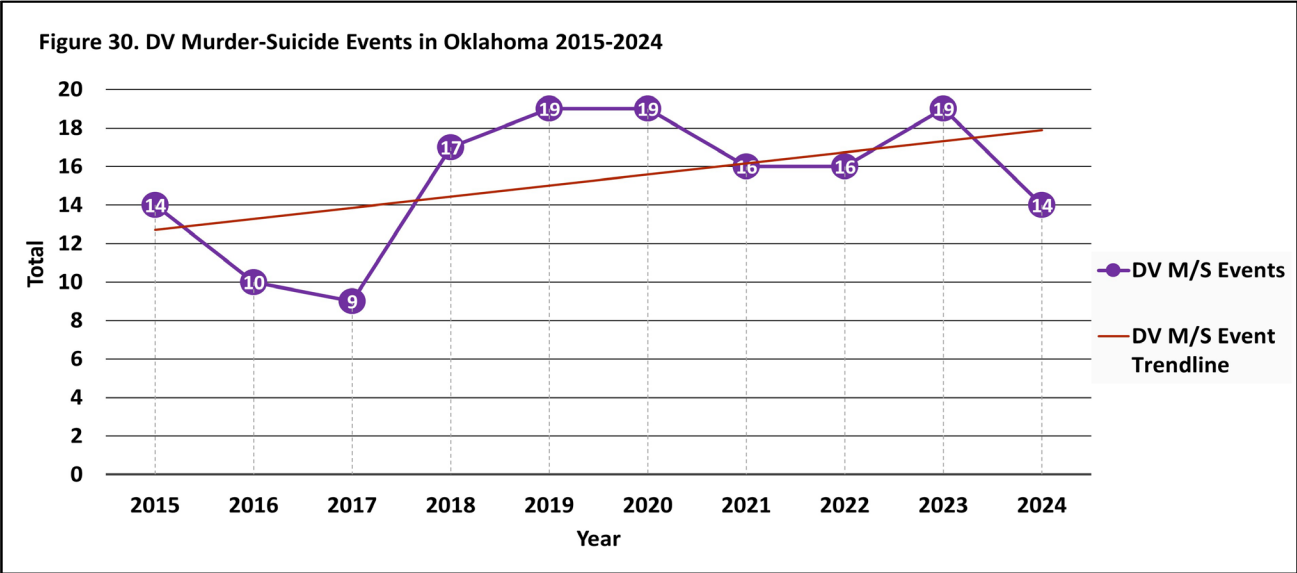
An event is defined as a murder-suicide<sup>112</sup> (M/S) when someone murders an individual and then kills himself or herself, usually within 72 hours following the homicide, or is killed in a confrontation with law enforcement or by bystander/good Samaritan intervention in the aftermath of killing of victim.

In 2024, the Review Board identified 14 M/S cases resulting in the death of 20 victims. The total number of cases decreased by five (-26.3%) when compared to the previous year (19) and is the lowest number of murder-suicide events since 2017. This is a substantial decrease from the record high in 2023 and is the largest percentage decrease in 10 years since the 2015-2016 decrease of -28.6%. It is also the largest net decrease in M/S events, seeing a decrease of 5 M/S events in 2024, compared to the 4 in 2016. (Figure 30)

<sup>112</sup> Murder-suicide and homicide-suicide are often used interchangeably in research literature.

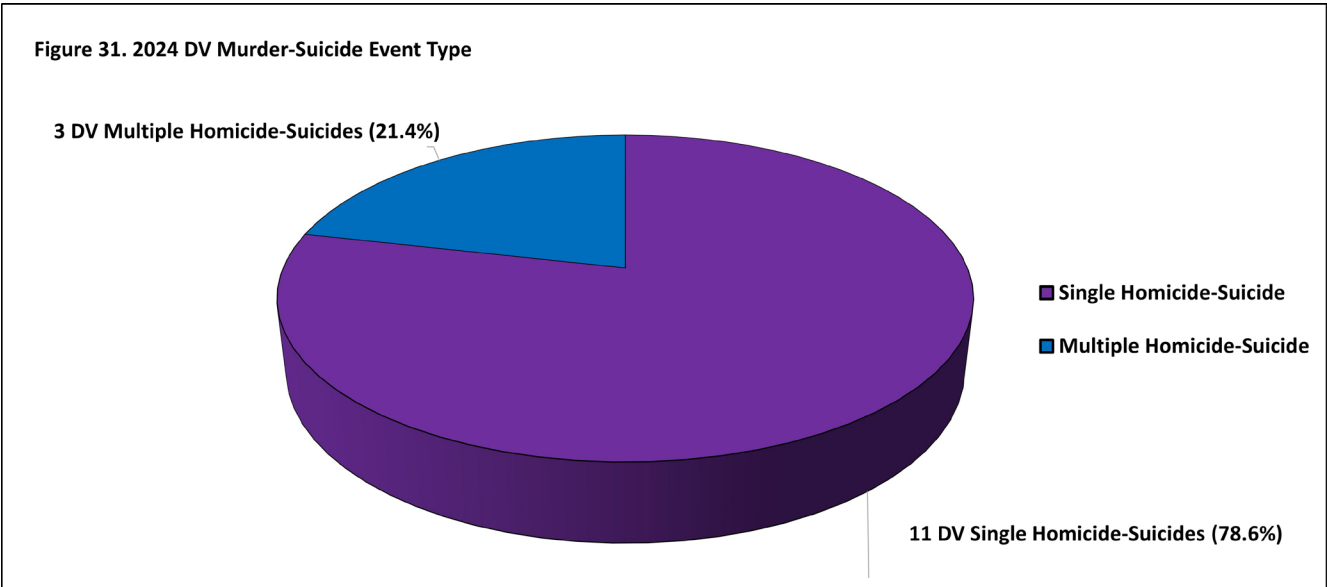


Notably, the total number of children killed in M/S events decreased to seven (7) after two consecutive years totaling 12. The 2024 total is the lowest total since 2021 when five (5) were identified as having been killed in M/S events.



Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

Of the 14 M/S cases identified, 11 (78.6%) were classified as *single M/S* events, in which there was one homicide victim and one homicide perpetrator who completed suicide or was killed due to law enforcement or bystander intervention. This total decreased by 4 in comparison to the previous year. In contrast, three of the 14 homicide-suicide cases (21.4%) were *multiple homicide-suicide* events, in which the perpetrator killed more than one victim before dying by suicide or by being killed by law enforcement or bystander intervention. Due to the nature of multiple homicide-suicide events, there are typically more homicide victims than there are events and/or perpetrators. (Figure 31)

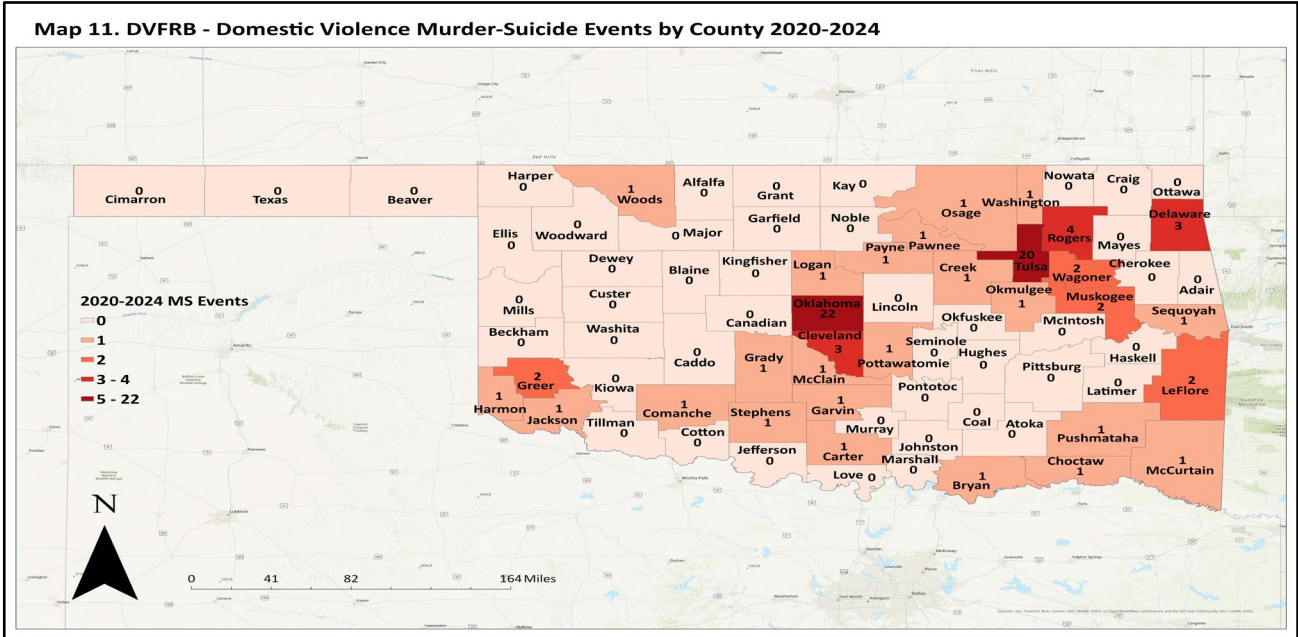


Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

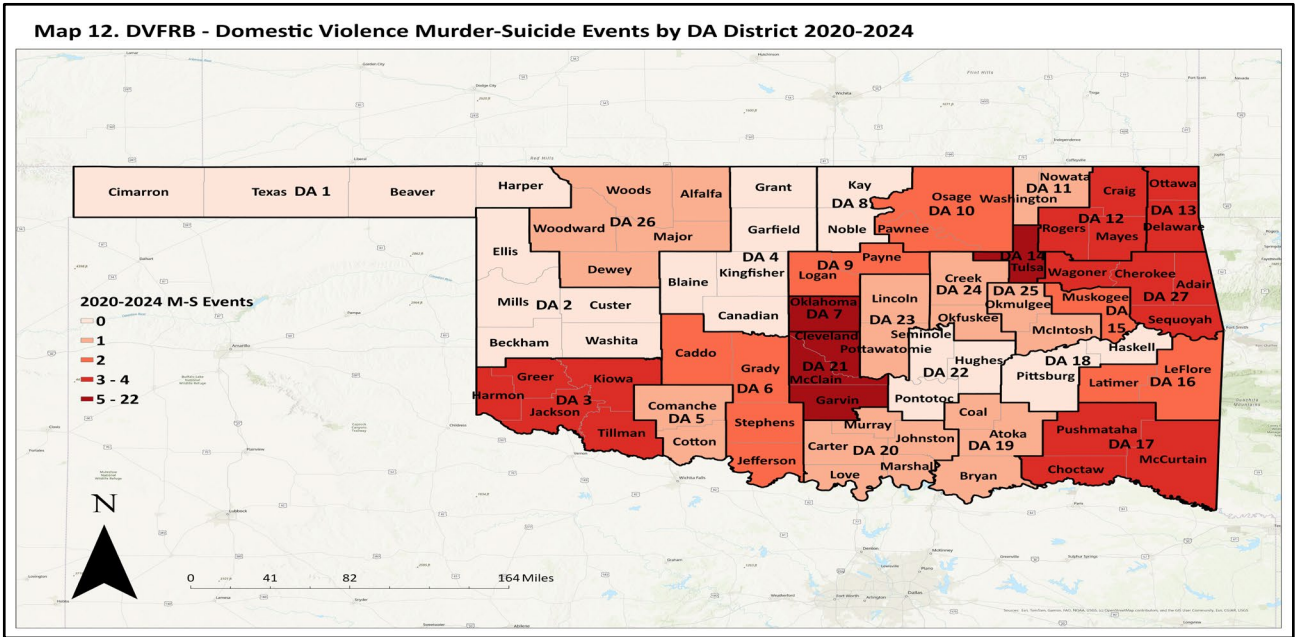
Overall, DVFRB research has found that the annual number of domestic violence related murder-suicides has increased overall in recent years, although 2024 data show a -26.3% decline from 2023. The data shows that after 2015 there was a slight decline in the number of M/S events from 2016-2017, before a large spike started

in 2018. From 2015-2019 the state averaged about 14 every year, while from 2020-2024, Oklahoma has averaged about 17 murder-suicides annually, representing a +21.4% increase from the 2015-2019 period. A total of 84 M/S cases have been identified by the DVFRB during 2020-2024.

A total of 31 (40.3%) counties in Oklahoma have had at least one domestic violence-related murder-suicide between 2020-2024. Oklahoma County led the state with a total of 22 murder-suicides, while Tulsa County had 20. Both counties averaged approximately four (4) murder-suicide events annually during the five (5) year reporting period.

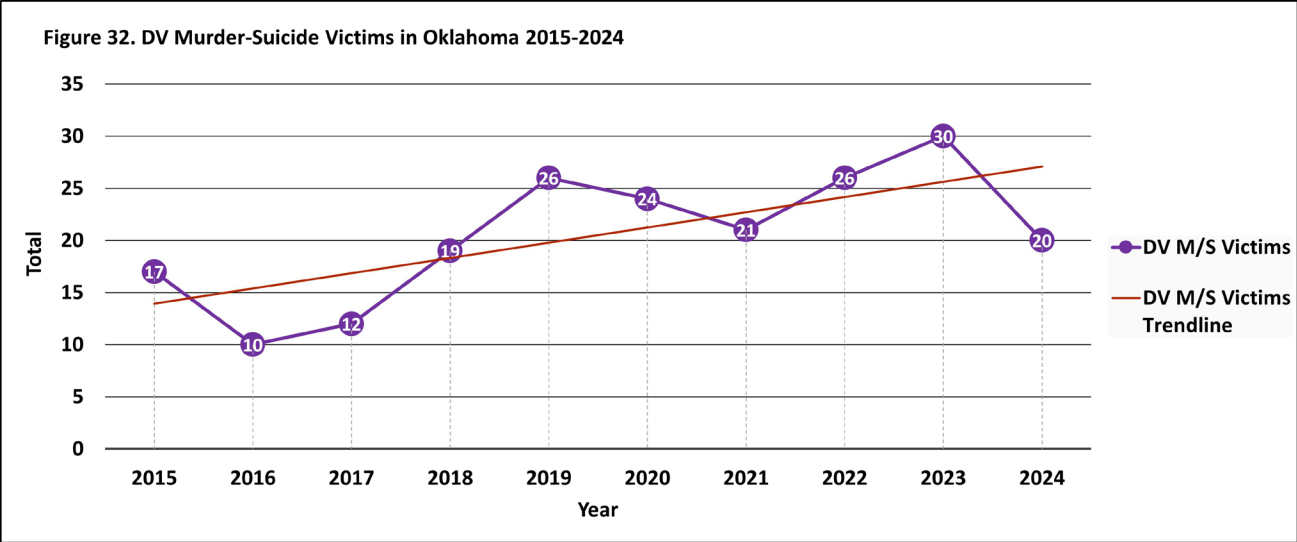


Note: Data is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.



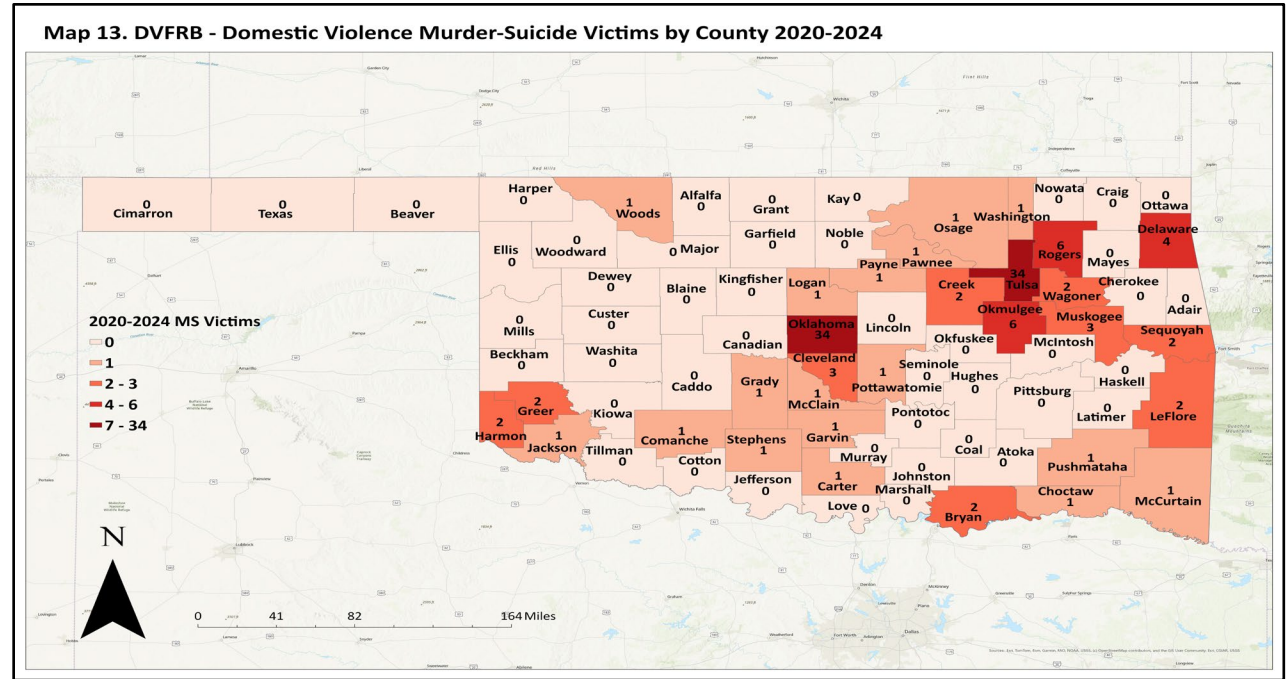
Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 41. DVFRB – Domestic Violence Murder-Suicide Events by DA District 2020-2024.

The total number of victims in 2024 (20) decreased by ten compared to 2023. This is a substantial decrease (-33.3%) from the highest recorded number of M/S victims in DVFRB history and closely matches the 2018 M/S total of 19. Since 2018, the state averaged about 24 victims killed every year in M/S cases (2018-2024). While the large decrease from 2024 is reason for optimism, the overall trend is still concerning considering the annual average between 2015-2019 was 17, and the annual average between 2020 and 2024 was 24. This means the number of annual M/S victims has increased by +41.2% when comparing the averages for the years 2015-2019 and 2020-2024. A total of 121 M/S victims have been identified from 2020-2024 (Figure 32).



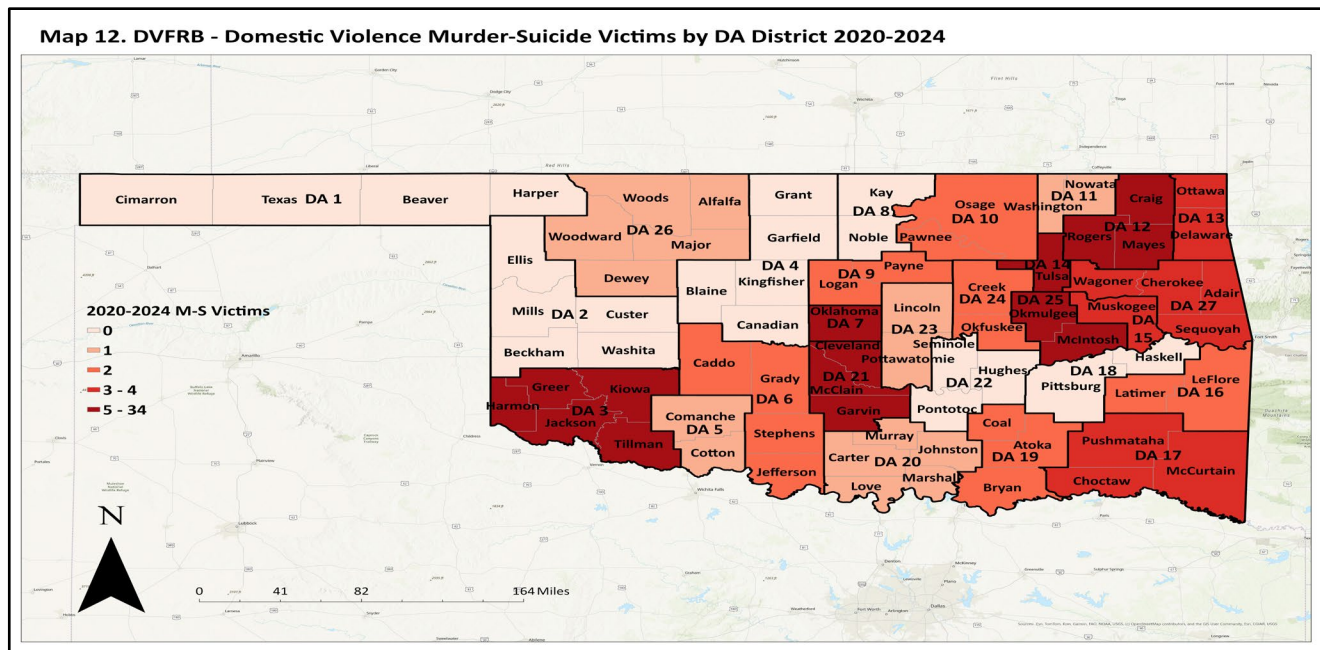
Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of January 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

Oklahoma and Tulsa County both led the state in the number of victims (34) killed in domestic violence-related murder-suicide events during 2020-2024. A total of 68 victims were killed in those counties alone during the five (5) year reporting period. Both counties averaged approximately seven (7) murder-suicide victims annually during the five (5) year reporting period.



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of January 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.





Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 42. DVFRB – Domestic Violence Murder-Suicide Victims by DA District 2020-2024.

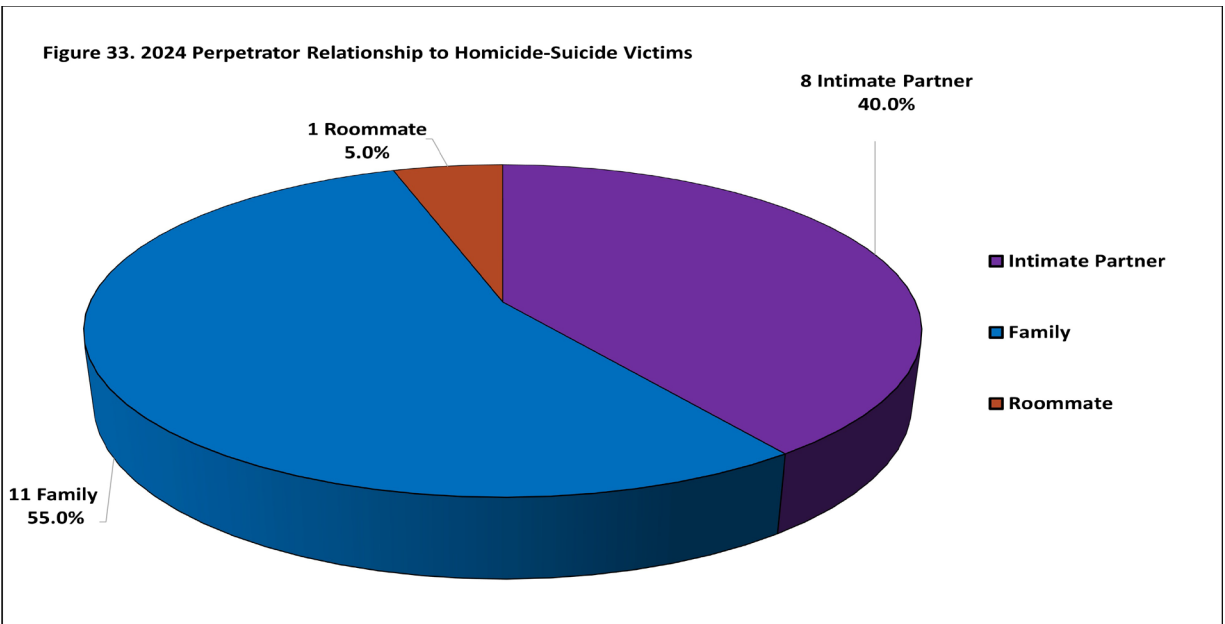
National research finds that M/S cases most often involve intimate partners; usually a man killing his current or former intimate partner and then himself.<sup>113</sup> In 2024, the Review Board found that 8 (84.3%) of the 14 M/S cases happened in the context of an intimate partner homicide. All eight (100.0%) were single M/S events. Of the 20 victims who died in M/S events, 8 (40.0%) were killed by their current or former intimate partner. An additional three victims were killed in the context of perpetrators killing their intimate partners. These three additional victims were children killed in the context of a single-family annihilation event. Overall, intimate partner violence (IPV) was the driving force behind the death of 11 (55%) of all M/S victims. Only one (12.5%) female was identified as one of the 8 perpetrators of an intimate partner M/S. The remaining 7 (87.5%) were men. (Table 21 and Figure 33)

**Table 21. Perpetrator Relationship to 2024 Homicide Victims**

Relationship Type	2024	%
Intimate Partner	8	40.0
Family	11	55.0
Bystander/Good Samaritan	0	0.0
Triangle	0	0.0
Roommate	1	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during the 2025 data collection process.

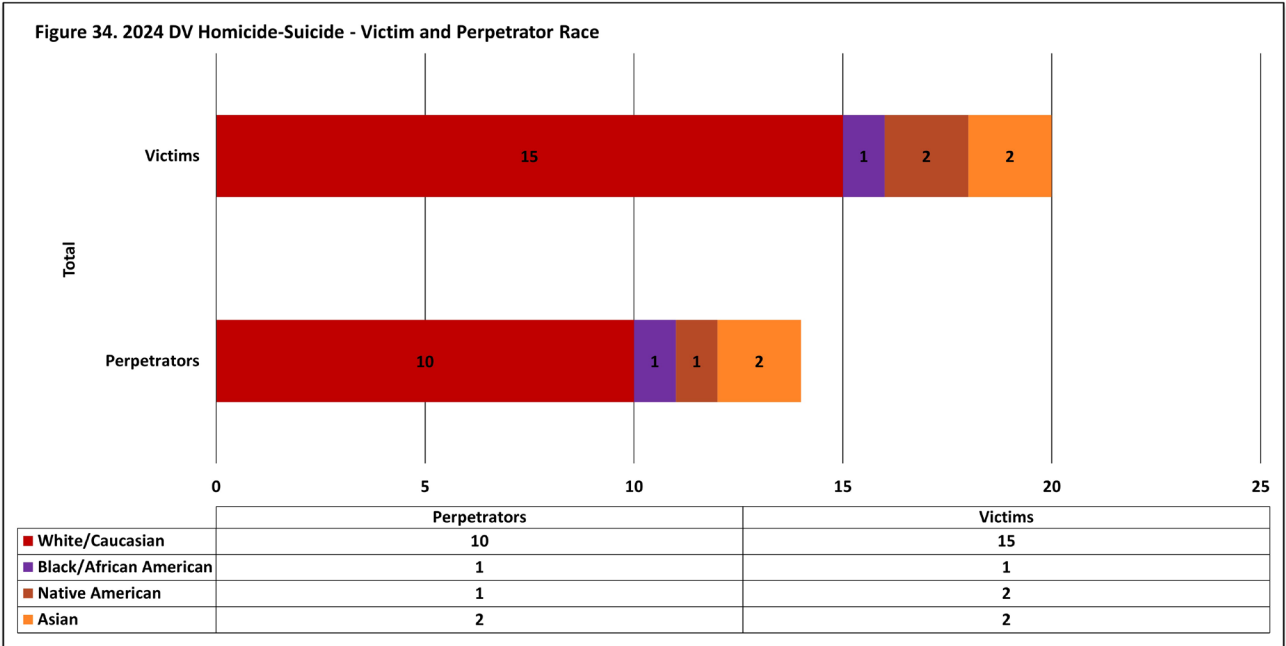
<sup>113</sup> Marzuk, P. M., Tardiff, K., & Hirsch, C. S. (1992, June 17). The epidemiology of murder-suicide. *JAMA*, 267(23), 3179–83.



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

Most victims and perpetrators of domestic violence M/S were White/Caucasian; 23 (76.7%) victims and 15 (78.9%) perpetrators were White. Of the remaining victims, five (16.7%) were Native American and one (3.3%) was Black/African American. Staff were unable to identify the race of one (3.3%) victim. A total of 4 victims were identified as being of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. Among the remaining perpetrators, three (15.8%) were Black/African American and one (5.3%) was Native American. Only one (7.1%) perpetrator was identified to be of Hispanic/Latino descent. (Figure 34)

When compared to 2023, White M/S victims decreased from 23 victims to 15 (-1.07), Black/African American M/S victims remained consistent at one, Native American victims decreased from 5 to 2 (-6.7%), and Asian victims entered the demographic count with 2 (+10.0%). The most significant demographical change in the M/S victim was the addition of the Asian demographic into the overall count, with the group not being represented in the 2023 tally.

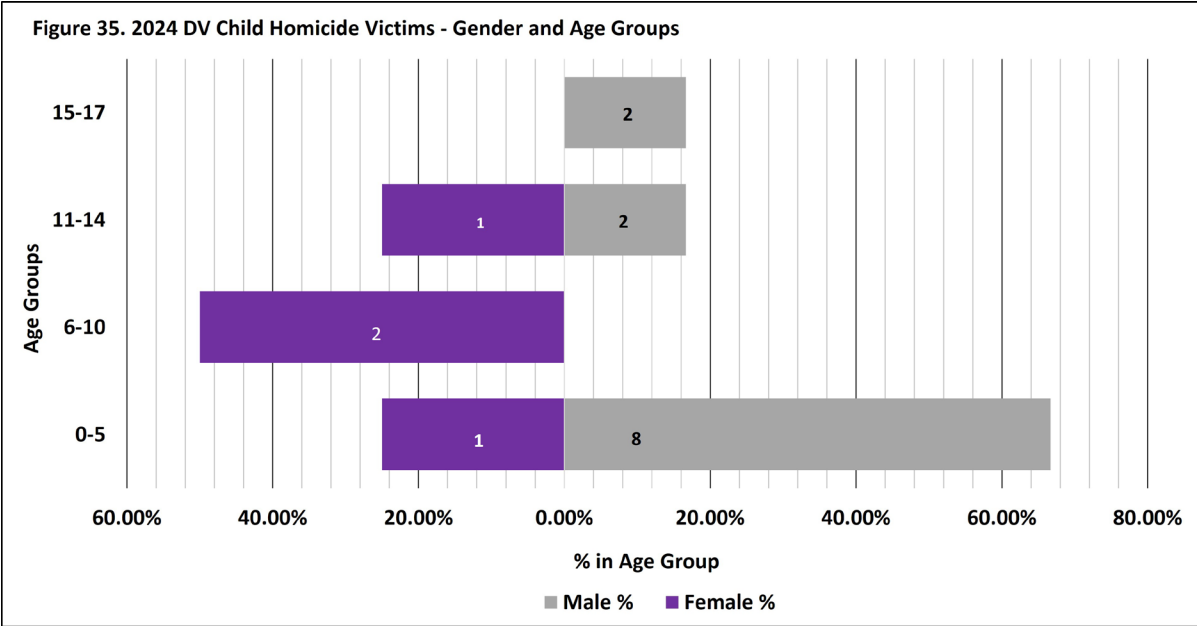


Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

A total of 18 (90.0%) M/S victims in Oklahoma in 2024 were killed with a firearm. This finding aligns closely with previous national research, which posits that a majority of murder-suicides are committed with firearms.<sup>114</sup> All murder-suicide perpetrators except one died as a result of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. This matches the 2023 statistic of 90% of M/S being committed with a firearm. An important note is that while 60% of overall DV homicides were committed with a firearm in 2024, 90% of murder-suicides in 2024 were committed with a firearm. A firearm is 50% more likely to be used in a M/S DV event as opposed to a non-M/S DV event.

## Domestic Violence Fatalities and Children

The Review Board focuses on child homicides and does not review cases of children who die due to negligence. The Oklahoma Child Death Review Board reviews child death cases resulting from neglect. Child homicides include, but are not limited to, deaths in which children are killed by parents, stepparents, foster parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles, aunts, or cousins. In 2024, the Review Board identified 13 domestic violence-related incidents in which 16 children were killed. Of the 16 children, 12 were male (75.0%) and 4 were female (25.0%). (Figure 35 and Table 22)



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

**Table 22. 2024 Child DV Victims by Gender and Age**

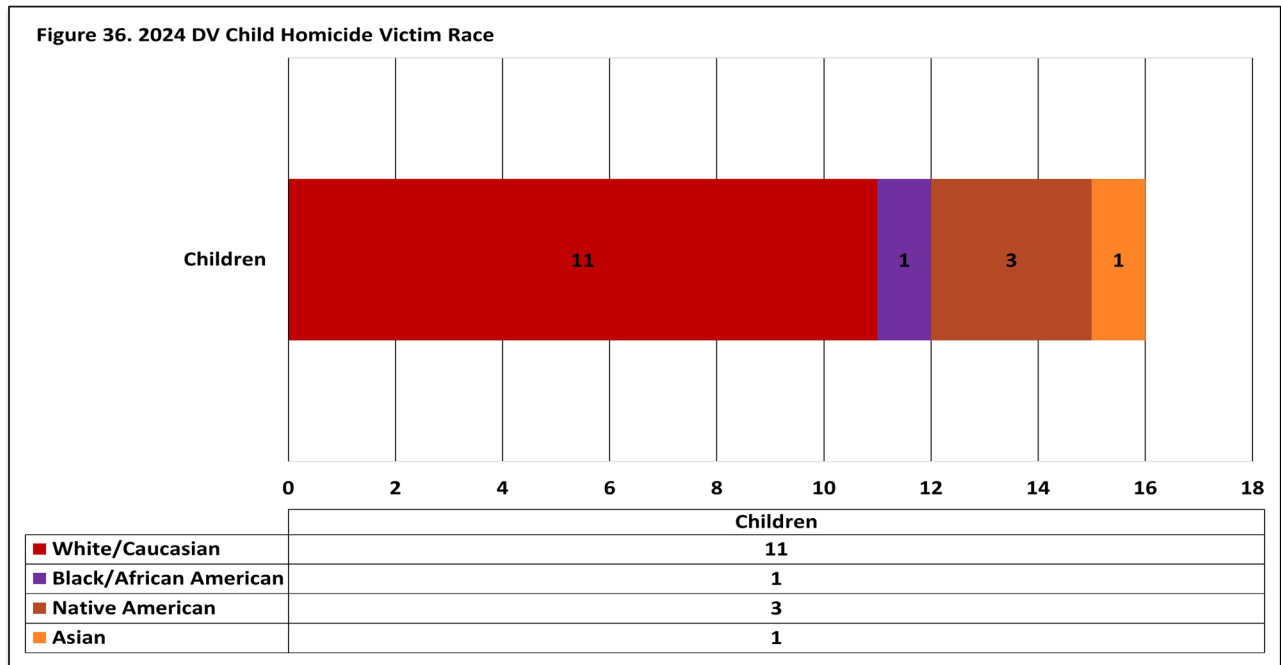
Gender	Count	%
Female	4	25.0
Male	12	75.0
Total	16	100.0
Age Group (in years)	Count	%
0-5	9	56.3
6-10	2	12.5
11-14	3	18.8
15-17	2	12.5
Total	16	100.00

<sup>114</sup> Logan, J., et al. (2008). Characteristics of perpetrators in homicide-followed-by-suicide incidents: National Violent Death Reporting System—17 US States, 2003-2005. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 168(9), 1056–64. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwn213>



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

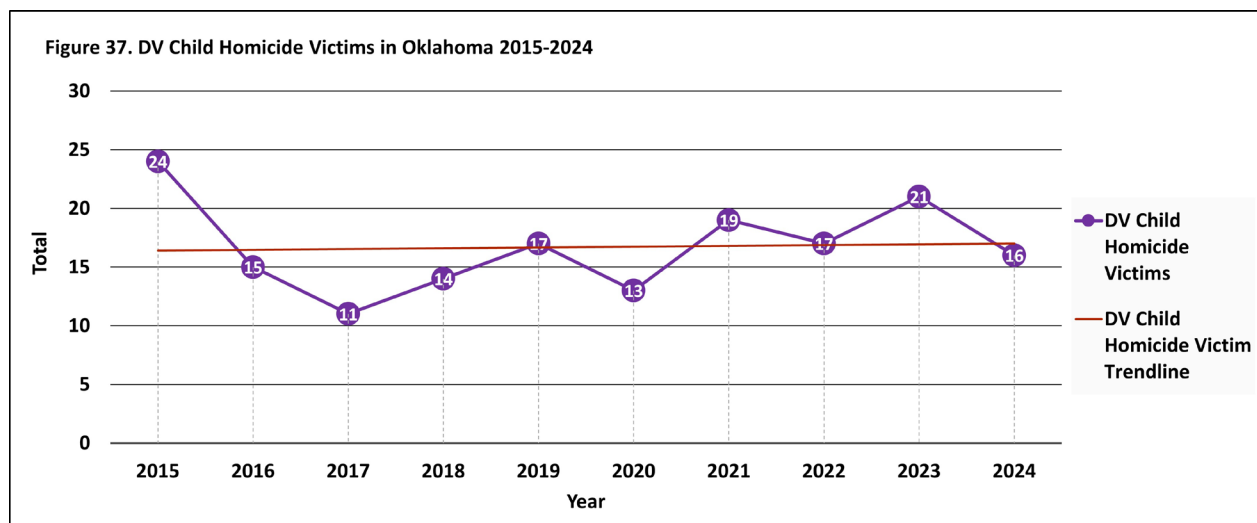
Program staff were able to obtain racial and ethnicity information for all child victims. Of the children, 11 (68.8%) were White/Caucasian, one (6.3%) was Black/African American, three (18.8%) were Native American, and one (6.3%) was Asian. (Figure 36)



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

In some cases, children were killed by perpetrators in the context of an adult intimate partner homicide (IPH) or an attempted IPH. There was one IPH event in 2024 where a child was also killed. This event was a family annihilation event that ended with the death of the mother, the two children, and the suicide of the perpetrator. While not involving the death of the intimate partner, there were two additional children killed in the context of intimate partner violence, resulting in IPV being a driving force in the death of 4 children in 2024.

A total of 7 children were killed in murder-suicides. This is a decrease from the 11 that died in 2023, which was tied for the highest number of children killed in murder-suicide events for the years 2015-2024. (Figure 37)



**Table 23. Child Victims of DV-Related Homicide (All Homicide Cases, 2015-2022)**

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
# Of Child Homicide Victims	24	15	11	14	17	13	19	17	21	16
# Of Victims ≤ 5 years old	16	12	10	9	10	9	14	11	8	9
Age of Youngest Child	2 months	< 1 month	< 1 month	3 months	2 months	2 months	2 months	2 months	1 month	4 months
Age of Oldest Child	15	17	6	17	17	17	17	13	17	17

Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

Children aged five years and younger consistently represent the largest age group of children killed in domestic violence-related incidents in Oklahoma (Table 23). In 2024, nine (9) of the children killed were age five years or younger (56.3%), which was an increase of once from 2023. Notably, children that were killed while being five years or younger represented a majority (56.3%) of child DV homicide victims in 2024, a substantial increase from representing 38.1% of DV victims in 2023. While overall DV child homicide victims decreased from 21 to 16 (-23.8%), children killed that were age five years or younger increased from 8 to 9 (+12.5%). In the period 2015-2024, there were 167 child victims and 64.7% of the children killed were age five years or younger. In 2024, the average age of children five years or younger (excluding unborn child) was 1.7 years old.

**Table 24. 2024 Child DV Victims by Relationship to Perpetrator(s)**

Relationship Type	Count	%
Father	9	42.9
Stepfather	1	4.8
Boyfriend of Mother	2	9.5
Mother	5	23.8
Other Relative	1	4.8
Other Non-Relative	3	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Note: Calculated percentages have been rounded up or down to the whole percent, which may result in categories with less than or more than 100.0% if totaled. Data collected by DVFRB staff is current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

As with other domestic violence-related fatalities, there may be more than one perpetrator in a child's death, or more than one child may be killed by the same perpetrator. This can lead to the number of victims and perpetrators not being identical. In 2024, 18 perpetrators were identified in child deaths. 13 (72.2%) of perpetrators were men and 5 (28.8%) were women.

In addition to being killed in domestic violence-related incidents, children also bear witness to such events. Staff were able to identify whether children were present in 77 (100.0%) of the 77 domestic violence fatality events identified in 2024. A total of 48 children were identified as having witnessed or been in direct proximity to 24 separate domestic violence fatalities. This means children were present in 31.2% of the domestic violence fatality events in 2024 (Figure 38). Witnessing acts of domestic violence, particularly an act as severe as homicide, can result in short-term reactions such as generalized anxiety, sleeplessness, aggression, difficulty concentrating, nightmares, high levels of activity, and separation anxiety in children<sup>115</sup>. The long-term impact of witnessing

<sup>115</sup> National Child Traumatic Stress Network. (n.d.). *Home*. National Child Traumatic Stress Network. Retrieved from <https://www.nctsn.org/>

domestic violence as a child includes being three times more likely than peers to engage in violent behavior<sup>116</sup> and being more likely to become the victim or perpetrator in their own future intimate partner relationships.<sup>117</sup>

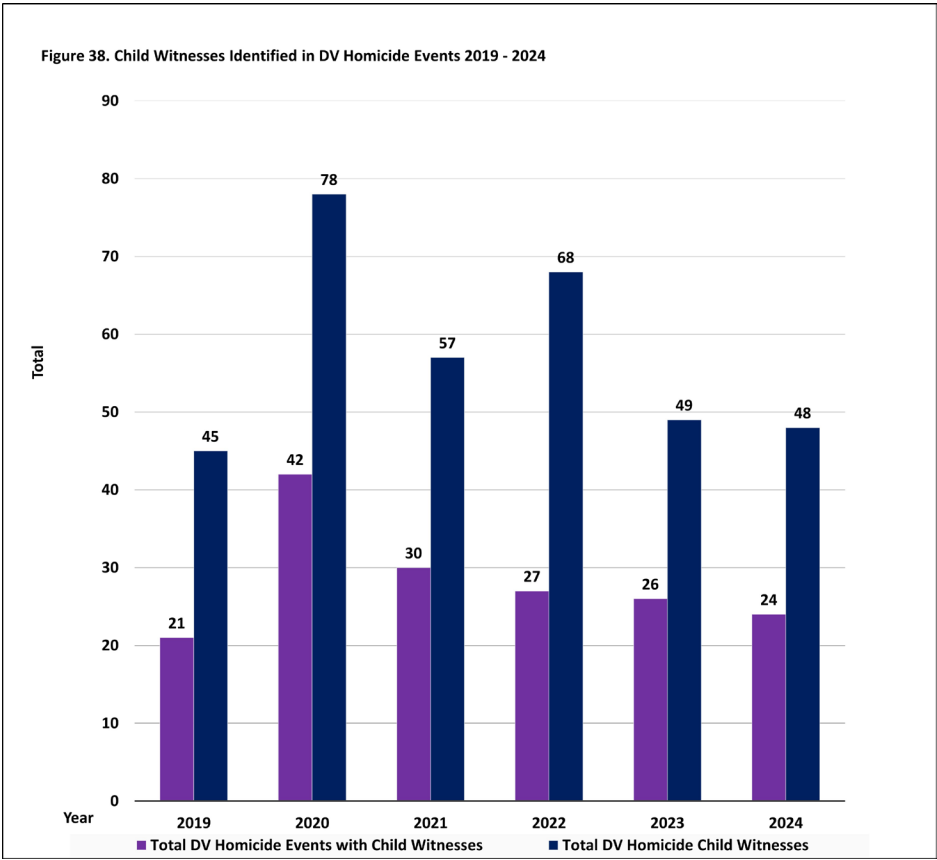


Table 25. Domestic Violence Homicide Child Witness Data 2019 - 2024

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
DV Homicide Event with Child Witnesses	21	42	30	27	26	24	170
Child Witnesses	45	78	57	68	49	48	345

Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

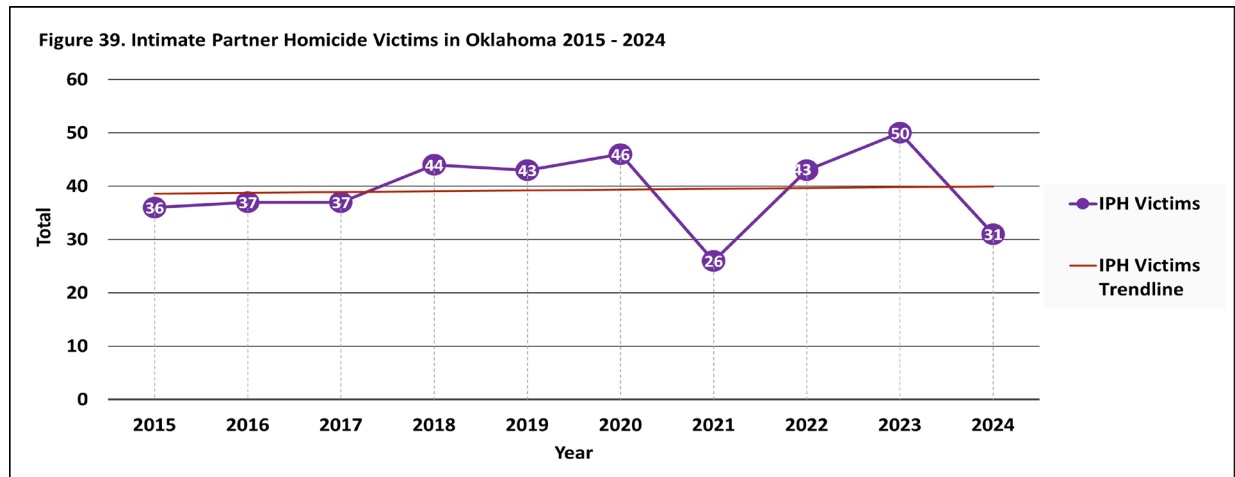
For the cases on which staff were able to collect data, statistics for the years 2019-2024 indicate that, on average, children are on the scene in 29.12% of all homicide cases each calendar year. A total of 350 children were identified as being present at the scene. This equal an average of 58 children witnessing the violent death of a family member every year in Oklahoma. Notably, DVFRB research found that on average for the years 2021-2024, approximately 59.0% of the total number of children (222) witnessed homicide incidents that occurred in the context of intimate partner violence.

<sup>116</sup> Fantuzzo, J. W., & Mohr, W. K. (1999). Prevalence and effects of child exposure to domestic violence. *The Future of Children*, 9(3), 21–32. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1602779>

<sup>117</sup> Stith, S. M., et al. (2000). The intergenerational transmission of spouse abuse: A meta-analysis. *Journal of Marriage and Family*, 62(3), 640–654. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1741-3737.2000.00640.x>

## Intimate Partner Homicides

In the United States, women are more likely to be killed by an intimate partner than by any other group of people.<sup>118</sup> A study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention analyzed data from 18 states (including Oklahoma) between 2003 and 2014 and found that domestic violence was involved in 55% of 10,018 female victim homicides. In the same study, adult female victims ( $\geq 18$ ) were killed by current or former intimate partners in 93% of the cases.<sup>119</sup> The Review Board collects data related to intimate partner homicides (IPH) in Oklahoma. Intimate partners are current or former spouses and current or former dating partners, including same sex partners.



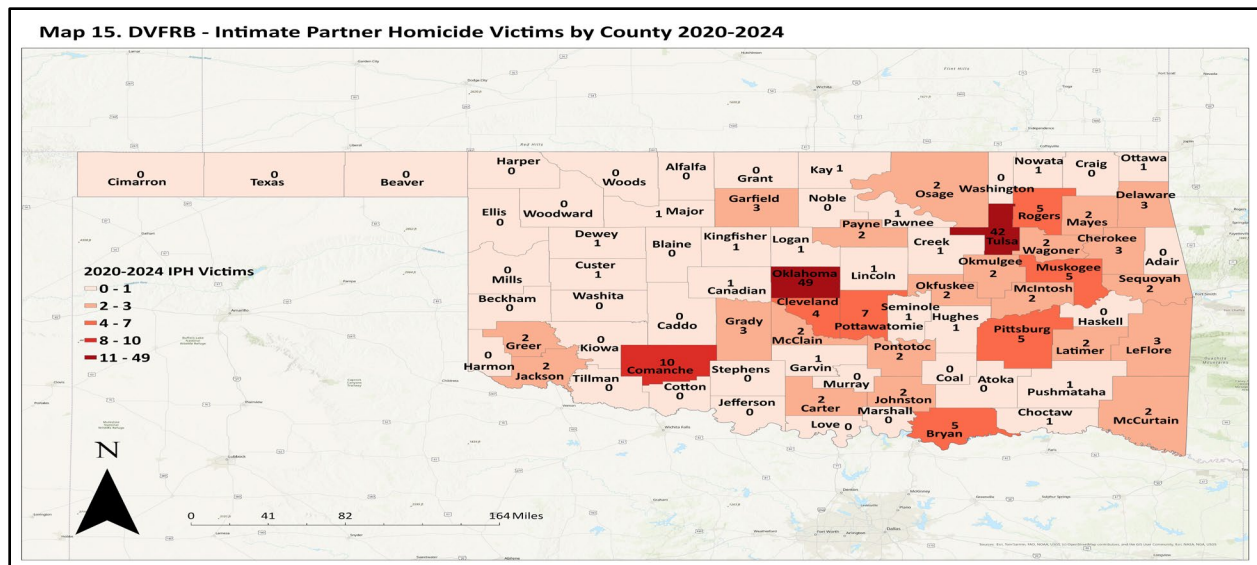
Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of December 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2025 data collection process.

In Oklahoma, 31 (40.3%) of the 77 total domestic violence-related incidents in 2024 involved an IPH, with 31 victims, or 35.6% of the total number of victims, being killed by their current or former intimate partner. (Figure 39)

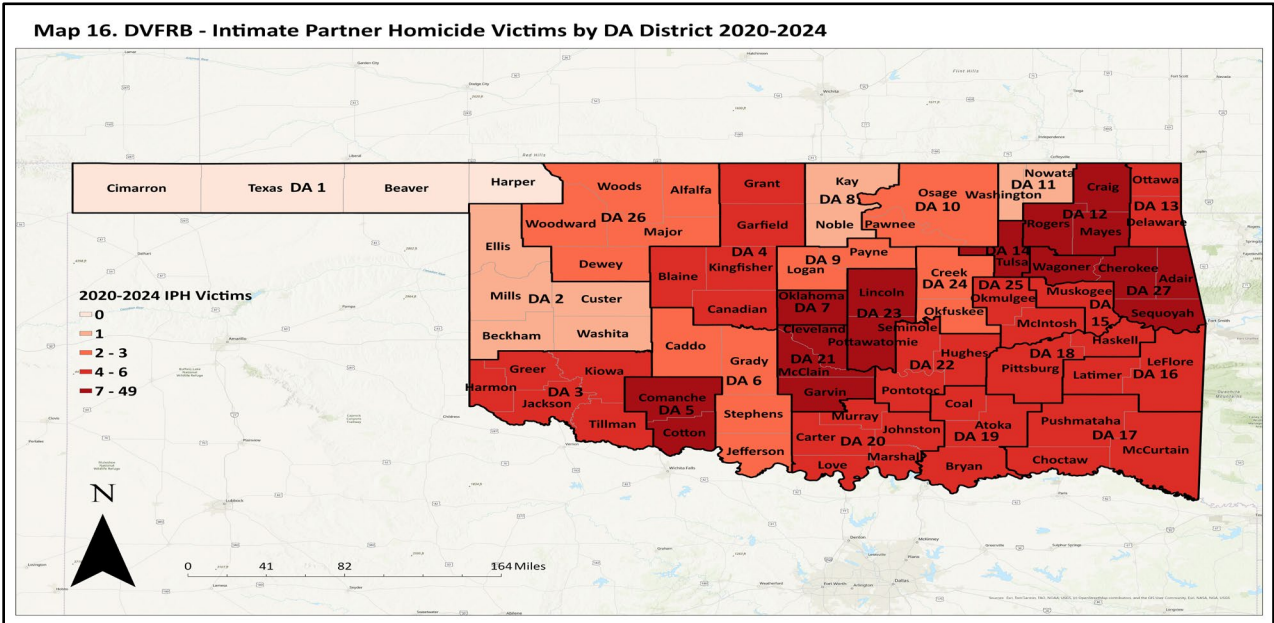
Notably, there was one IPH case (1.2%) in which three additional victims were killed in addition to the intimate partner in a family annihilation event, resulting in a total of 34 victims (39.1%) killed in the context of an IPH. The 2024 IPH total of 31 is a sharp decline from the 2023 total of 50 direct deaths from IPH, which was the highest number of IPH deaths recorded in Oklahoma, but it is too early to tell whether this will be a downward trend going forward. (Figure 39)

<sup>118</sup> Petrosky, E., Blair, et al. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence - United States, 2003-2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 66(28), 741–746. <https://doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1>

<sup>119</sup> *Id.*



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of January 2025. Totals may be subject to change if staff are alerted to other incidents that might not have been accounted for during 2024 data collection process.

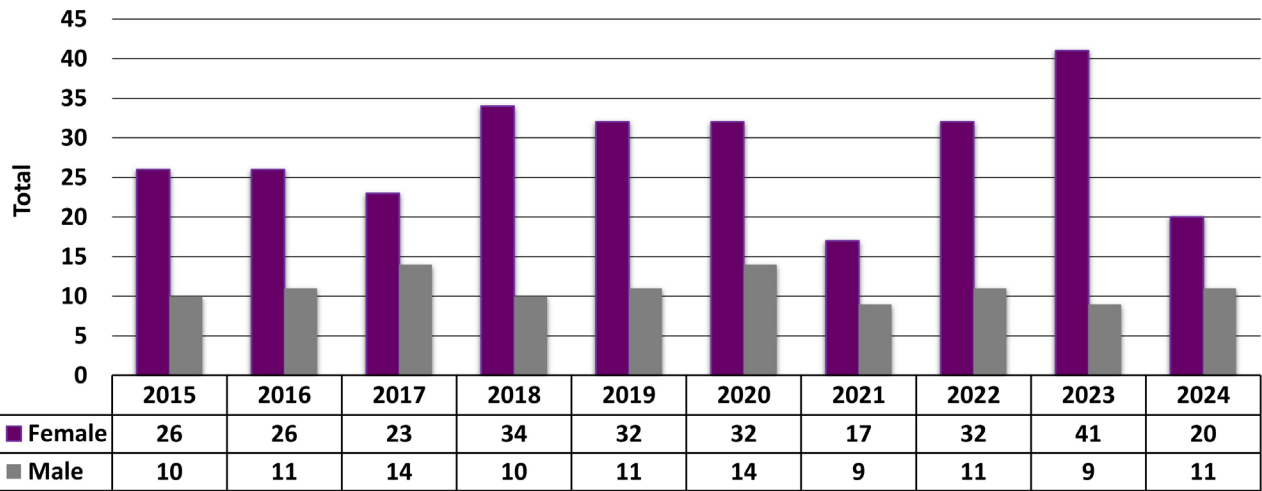


Note: Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 43. DVFRB – Intimate Partner Homicide Victims by DA District 2020-2024.

### Gender

In 2024, consistent with previous years, women were more likely than men to be killed by an intimate partner. Of the 31 IPH victims, 20 were female (64.5%) and 11 were male (35.5%). Notably, this is a sharp decrease in the number of IPH femicides, declining to 20 from the record-high of 41 recorded in 2023. Of the 393 victims killed between 2015 and 2024 by a current or former intimate partner, 283 (72.0%) were female and 110 (28.0%) were male. On average, 28 women and 11 men were killed each year in Oklahoma by an intimate partner for the period from 2015-2024. Men were still the majority of IPH perpetrators (63.3%), although this was less than the two-thirds of IPH perpetrators seen in prior years. (Figure 40)

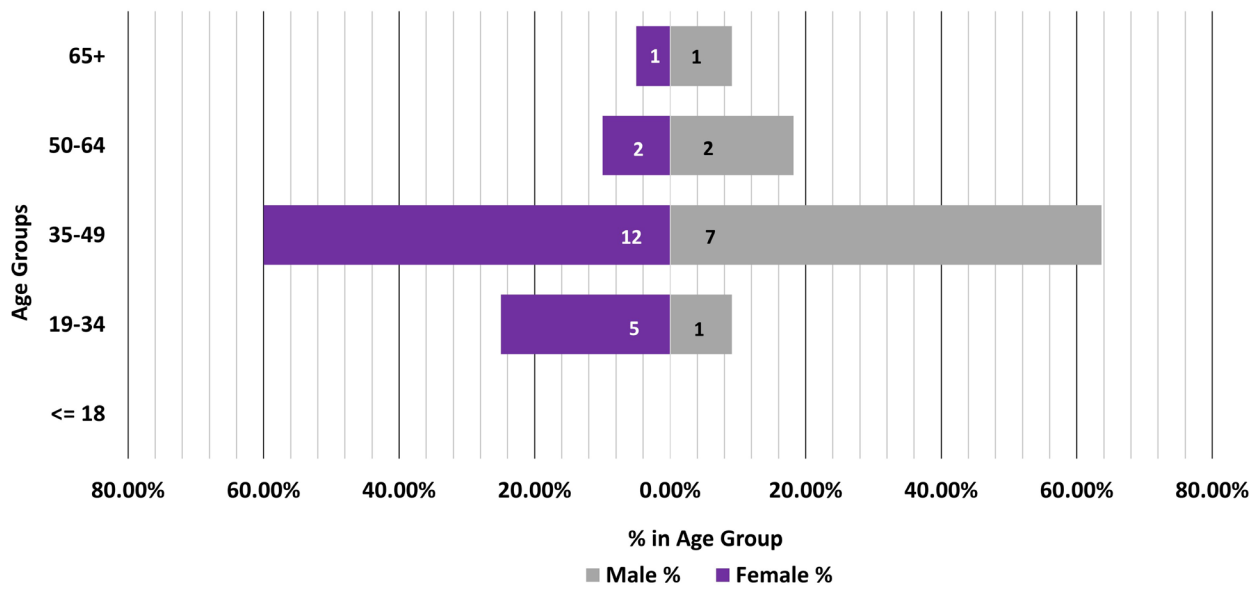
**Figure 40. Intimate Partner Homicide Victims by Gender 2015-2024**



## Age

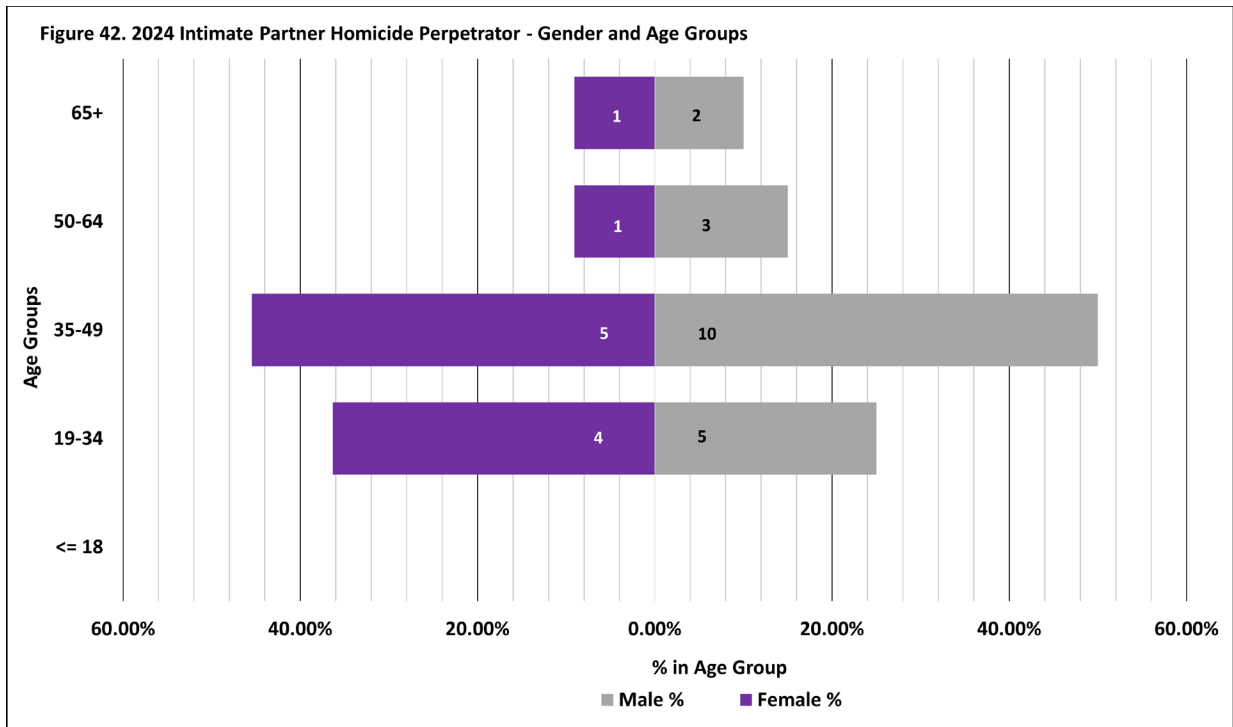
The average age of the 31 intimate partner homicide (IPH) victims was 43 years old. The youngest IPH victim was 24 years old and the oldest was 73 years old. Most IPH victims were between the ages of 35-49 years (61.3%). 19.4% were between the ages of 19-34 and 12.9% between the ages of 50-64. Most female victims were between 35-49 years old (60.0%) and most male victims (63.6%) were between the ages of 35-49 years old. (Figure 41)

**Figure 41. 2024 Intimate Partner Homicide Victim - Gender and Age Groups**



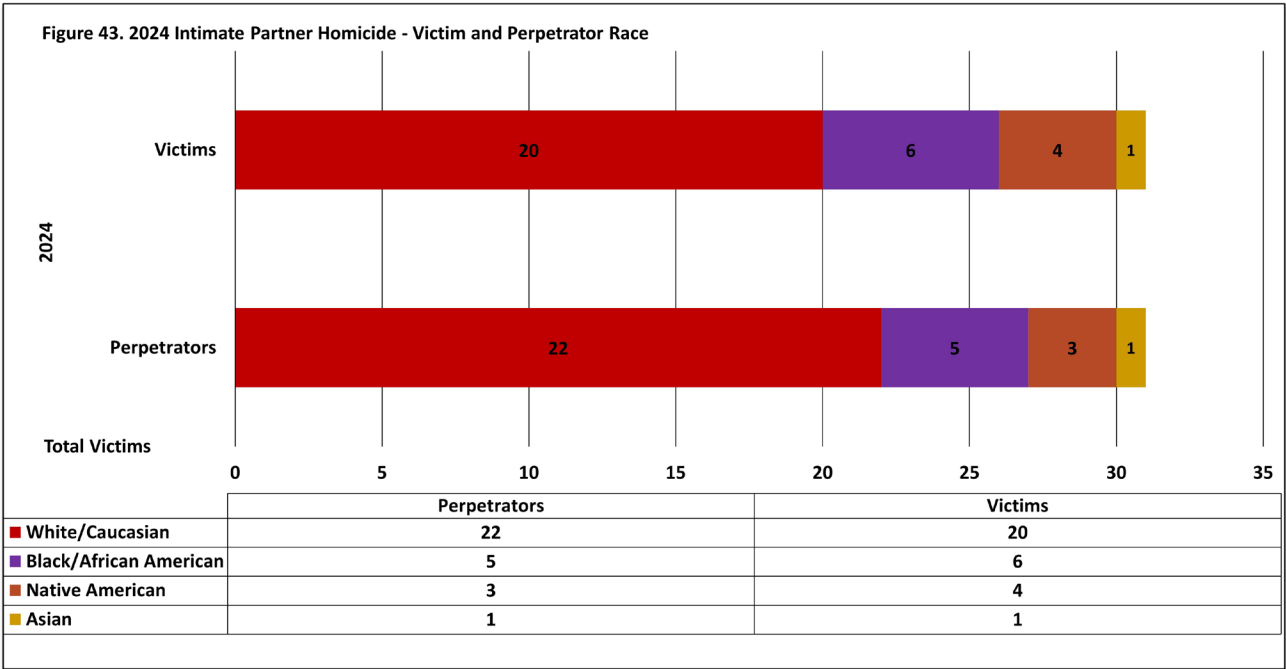
The average age of IPH perpetrators was 43 years old. The youngest IPH perpetrator was 20 years old, and the oldest was 74 years old. As with IPH victims, most IPH perpetrators (48.4%) were between 35-49 years old. Most female perpetrators (45.5%) were between the ages of 35-49 and most male perpetrators (50.0%) fell into the 35-49 age range. (Figure 42)





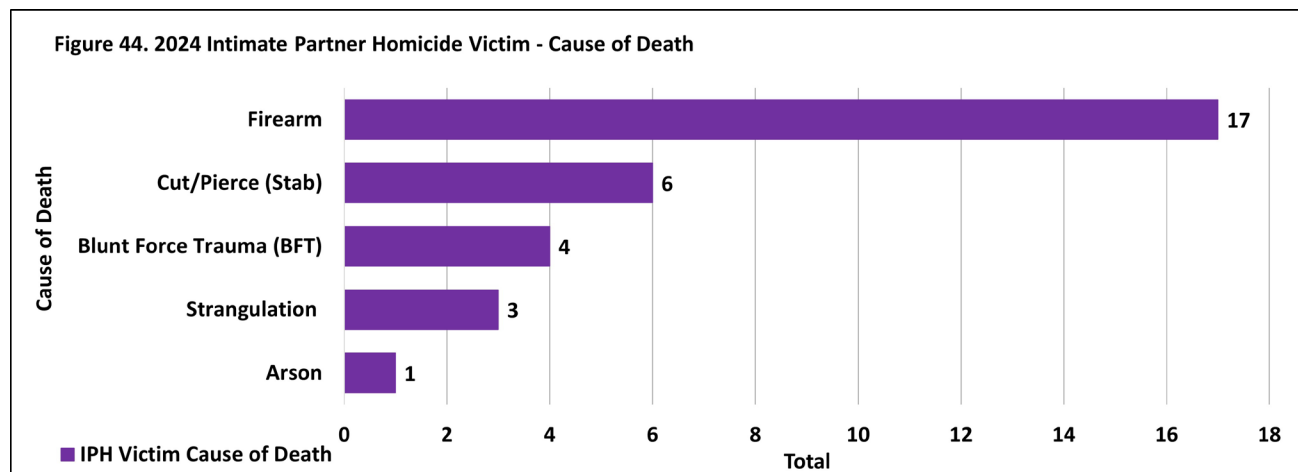
*Race and Ethnicity*

Of the 31 IPH victims, 20 (64.5%) were White/Caucasian, six (19.4%) were Black/African American, four (12.9%) were Native American, and one (3.2%) was Asian. Three victims (9.7%) were identified as having a Hispanic/Latino origin. White/Caucasian perpetrators represented the majority of IPH perpetrators with 71.0%, followed by Black/African Americans with 16.1%, Native Americans with 9.1%, and Asian with 3.2%. Finally, four perpetrators (12.9%) were of Latino/Hispanic ethnicity. (Figure 43)



## Cause of Death

Aligned with national research,<sup>120</sup> Oklahoma's data shows firearms to be the most used weapons in intimate partner homicides (IPH), typically surpassing the total of all other causes combined. In 2024, 17 IPH victims in Oklahoma (54.8%) were killed by firearms. This is a decrease in the proportion of homicides committed with firearms from 2023 (a decrease from 74.0% to 54.8%). (Figure 44)



Of U.S. firearms, handguns are the most used weapon by males to murder females in single victim/offender murders.<sup>121</sup> In one study, females were more likely to be murdered by their intimate partners with firearms than by all other causes combined.<sup>122</sup> Other research analyzing risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships found that an abused woman is five times more likely to be killed by her abusive partner when her partner owns a firearm.<sup>123</sup> In addition, there appears to be a link between *non-fatal* intimate partner violence, firearm ownership, and a perpetrator's likelihood of using the gun to threaten the partner.<sup>124</sup> Perpetrators of intimate partner violence use guns as tools of intimidation and psychological control of the intimate partner, most often as means to threaten and instill fear.<sup>125</sup>

## Relationship Status

All statistics reported on behavior and activities present in the intimate partner relationship prior to death are underreported from actual occurrence, as the Review Board relies on police reports, various agency reports, case notes, documentation, and witness statements/interviews for this information. Therefore, capturing all the prior behavior is impossible because the victims and perpetrators are not in a position to reveal all past behaviors.

Overall, most victims were either the perpetrator's current intimate partner (35.5%) or spouse (51.6%). Male perpetrators were more likely to kill their spouse (55.0%) when compared to their current intimate partner

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<sup>120</sup> Zeoli, A. M., et al. (2018). Analysis of the strength of legal firearms restrictions for perpetrators of domestic violence and their associations with intimate partner homicide. *American Journal of Epidemiology*, 188(7), 1290–1297. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aje/kwy174>

<sup>121</sup> Violence Policy Center. (2019, September). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2017 homicide data*. Violence Policy Center. <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>

<sup>122</sup> Campbell, J. C., et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case-control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089–1097. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.93.7.1089>

<sup>123</sup> *Id.*

<sup>124</sup> Rothman, E. F., et al. (2005). Batterers' use of guns to threaten intimate partners. *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association* (1972), 60(1), 62–68. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16845765/>

<sup>125</sup> Sorenson, S.B. (2017 March). Guns in intimate partner violence: Comparing incidents by type of weapon. *Journal of Women's Health*, 26(3), 249–258. doi: 0.1089/jwh.2016.5832

(30.0%). Female perpetrators meanwhile killed their spouse or current intimate partner evenly (45.5%). (Table 26)

**Table 26. Relationship of IPH Victim to Perpetrator, 2024**

When perpetrator was male, victim was:	Total	%
Spouse	11	55.0
Ex-Spouse	1	5.0
Current Intimate Partner	6	30.0
Former Intimate Partner	2	10.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100.0</b>
When perpetrator was female, victim was:	Total	%
Spouse	5	45.5
Ex-Spouse	1	9.0
Current Intimate Partner	5	45.5
Former Intimate Partner	0	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### *Living Arrangements*

The Review Board tracks information related to the living arrangements between the IPH perpetrator and victim at the time of the homicide. In 2024, known data indicated 22 IPH victims (71.0%) were living with their partner full-time or intermittently when the homicide occurred. Reports suggest that 9 IPH victims (29.0%) were not cohabiting at the time of their murders in 2024.

For the 31 victims in 2024, a cohabiting spouse or intimate partner were more likely to be killed than any other group, comprising 71.0% of victims collectively. Victims who were cohabiting with their spousal perpetrators represented the largest plurality at 45.2%.

Men were more likely to kill a married spouse with whom they lived, with 60.0% of victims killed by men were cohabiting (married) with the perpetrator at the time of the incident. A lower percentage of victims (30.0%) were killed by their cohabiting male partners (unmarried). Overall, 65.0%% of IPH victims killed by men were cohabiting with the perpetrator at the time of the incident. Of the 20 IPH committed by men, 19 victims were female, and one was male. Women killed a cohabiting spouse in 45.5% of incidents and killed an intimate partner (unmarried) in 45.5% of incidents. Overall, almost 81.8% of IPH victims killed by women were cohabiting with the perpetrator at the time of their deaths. Out of the overall 31 IPH victims there were 9 (29.0%) that were not cohabiting with the perpetrators at the time of their deaths.

### *Separation*

Of the 31 IPH victims identified in 2024, program staff ascertained that 26 victims (83.9%) were not separated from the perpetrator at the time of the homicide. Spouses make up 14 of these 26 cases (53.9%), with 12 of the 26 coming from non-married intimate partners (46.1%). In homicides with a female victim, 16 (80.0%) victims were not separated from their partner, compared to 4 victims who were separated from their partner before the homicide (20.0%). In cases with a male victim, 10 of the victims were not separated from their partner (90.9%), while one victim had separated (9.1%).

### *Prior Physical Violence*

A history of prior physical violence in the relationship is difficult to ascertain. The Review Board relies on sources of information such as law enforcement reports, protective order petitions, prosecutorial records, hospital records, and information from family and friends. However, since many of the IPH cases from 2024 are not yet closed in the criminal justice system, complete prosecutorial records are not available for most cases at the time

of this report. In addition, abuse in most intimate partner relationships is not reported to authorities, and victims may not disclose abuse to anyone prior to their deaths.

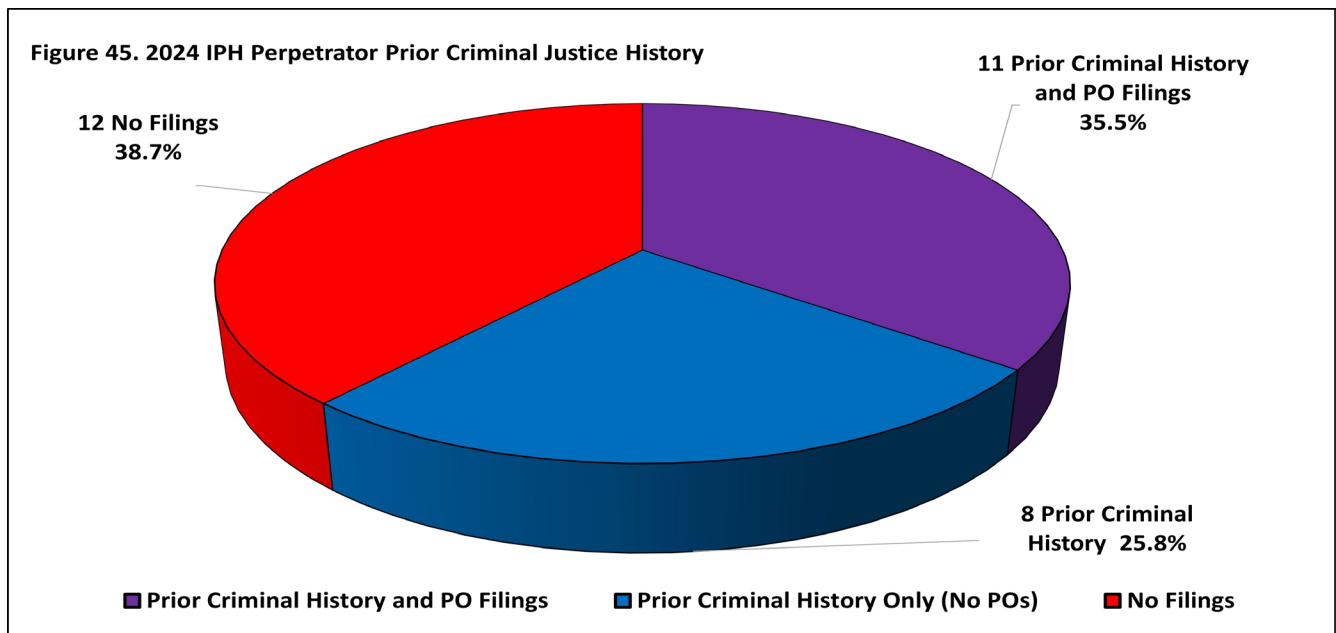
Despite these limitations, in 2024 program staff were able to uncover enough information in the records for 17 of the 31 IPH victims to determine if the victim experienced physical violence by the IPH perpetrators at some point prior to the homicide. Of the 17 victims, 15 (88.2%) were subjected to physical violence by the perpetrator prior to their death. Among the 15 IPH victims in 2024 who suffered physical violence by their perpetrator, current spouses (53.3%) was the largest group experiencing pre-homicide physical violence, followed by current intimate partners (46.7%).

### *Intimate Partner Homicide Perpetrator Court Records Check*

Homicide case reviews often reveal that some intimate partner homicide perpetrators had a long history of criminal misdemeanor or felony charges filed against them prior to killing their intimate partner. In other cases, perpetrators may not have had a history of criminal charges but had prior protective orders (PO) filed against them by family members or an intimate partner. On some occasions, extensive criminal history suggests there were ample opportunities for intervention and keeping the offender away from the community.

To obtain a broader picture of intimate partner homicide perpetrator criminal history, staff conducted criminal background checks for all 31 IPH perpetrators to ascertain whether they had ever been charged with criminal misdemeanors, felonies, or whether they had PO history prior at any point prior to the homicide. Staff relied on OSBI Criminal History Information Request Portal (CHIRP) requests and searches through both the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) and On Demand Court Records websites' search engines. It is important to note that while this research was extensive, out of state filings were not searched, and it is possible some perpetrators may have had additional criminal history or protective order filings out of state.

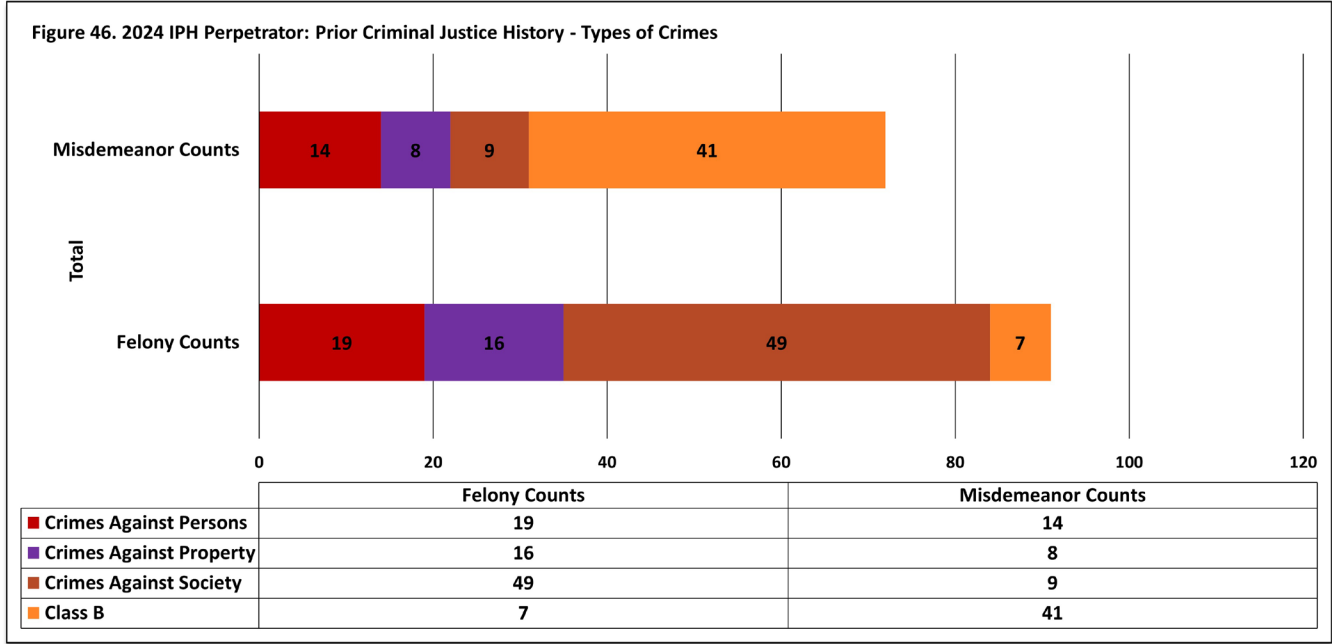
Utilizing this methodology, it was determined that 19 IPH perpetrators had prior criminal history before committing the homicide. Of those 19, 11 had a protective order filed by or against them. (35.5%) Only 8 (25.8%) that had prior criminal history did not have a PO filed by or against them. 12 (38.7%) did not have a criminal history, or a protective order filing. (Figure 45)



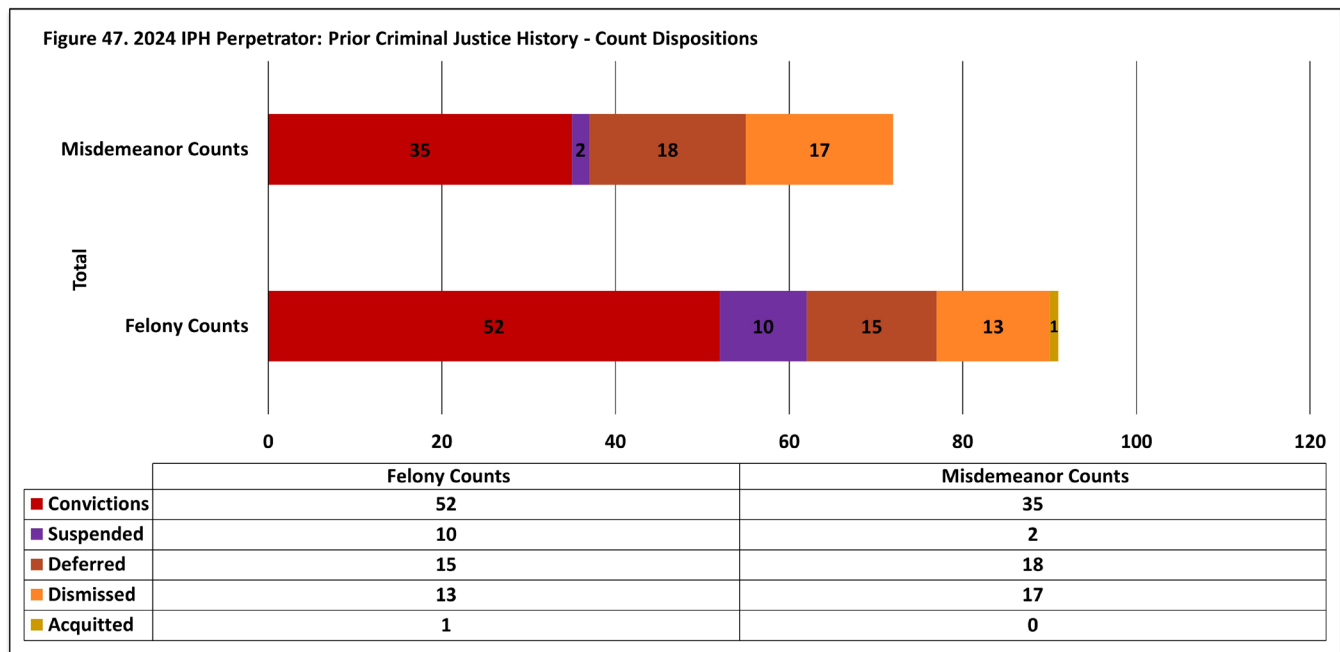
Staff also worked to find and categorize any charges found using the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) criteria. Under the NIBRS system, each reported crime is classified as either a Group A or Group B offense, and these offenses are then separated into one of three categories: Crimes Against Persons, Against Property, or Against Society. Crimes Against Persons are crimes where the victims are always individuals; these

include murder, rape, assault, etc. Crimes Against Property are crimes where the object is to obtain some kind of property or monetary benefit; examples are robbery, bribery, and burglary. Crimes Against Society are crimes that are prohibited by society in engaging in certain types of activity and tend to be victimless crimes like drug crimes and prostitution. Group B offenses tend to be more minor in nature in comparison to other crimes, usually consisting of liquor law violations, DUIs, and other offenses of that nature.

This methodology was used to classify both misdemeanor and felony criminal counts into one of four categories: crimes against a person/property/society or a Group B offense. In terms of misdemeanors, it was determined 14 were crimes against persons, 8 against property, 9 against society, and 41 were Group B offenses. Looking at felony counts, it was determined 19 were crimes against persons, 16 against property, 49 against society, and 7 were Group B offenses. (Figure 46)



A total of 49 criminal misdemeanor cases were filed against IPH perpetrators, with a total of 72 individual criminal counts being associated with these misdemeanor cases. Of that total, 35 (48.6%) resulted in convictions, 17 (23.6%) were dismissed, 18 (25.0%) resulted in deferred sentences, and two (2.8%) were suspended. In contrast, a total of 42 criminal felony cases were identified as being filed against IPH perpetrators. A total of 91 felony counts were associated with these cases. Of that total, 52 (44.9%) resulted in convictions, 13 (36.4%) were dismissed, 15 (6.8%) resulted in deferred sentences, 10 (5.1%) resulted in suspended sentences, and one was acquitted. (Figure 37)

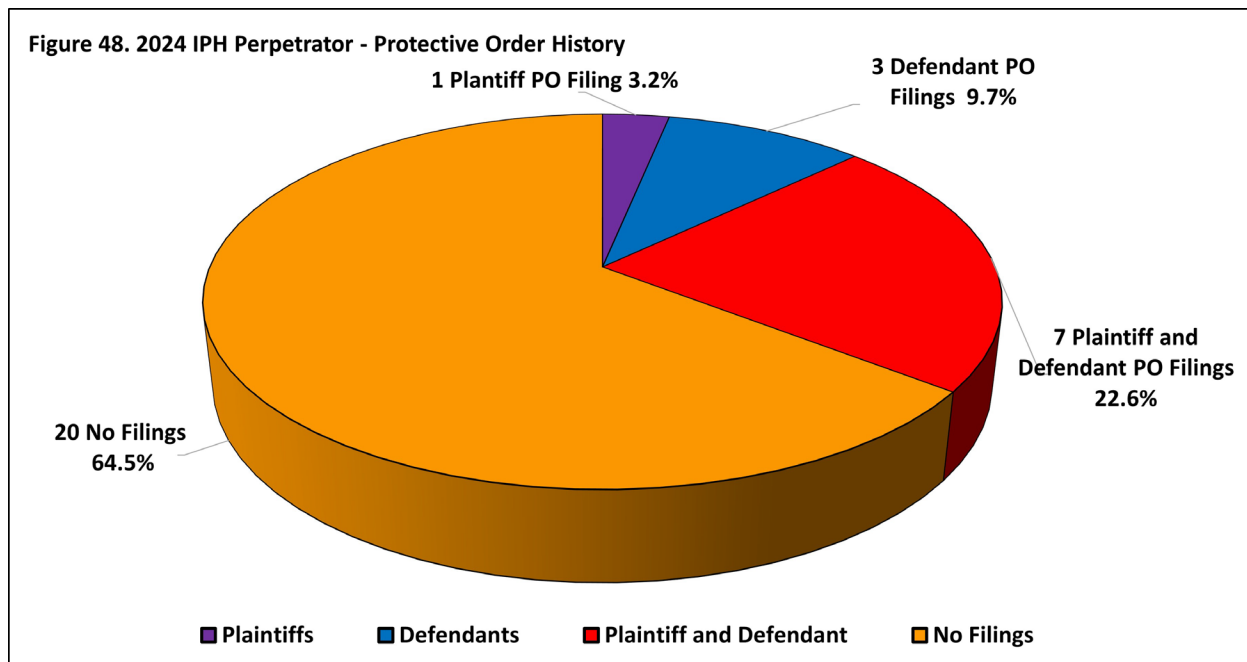


Both the prior misdemeanors and prior felonies suggest a history of criminality could be linked to IPH incidents, given that 61% of all IPH perpetrators had criminal history prior to the IPH incident. While most of these offenses were Class B, Crimes Against Persons had a significant share (20.9%) of prior felonious offenses, suggesting a causal link to IPH offender with offenses against individuals. Dispositional history suggests minimal consequences for IPH offenders with a criminal history, with a conviction rate below 50.0% for misdemeanors (48.6%) and only a 57.1% conviction rate for felonies (45.0%). A deferred sentence was the 2<sup>nd</sup> most likely outcome for the disposition of misdemeanors (25.0%) and felonies (16.5%). It should be noted that the conviction rate for felonies is 12.0% higher when compared to last year (45.0%).

Program staff analyzed how many protective orders were filed mentioning the 31 IPH perpetrators. Collectively, IPH perpetrators had 21 individual protective orders filed against them and filed 16 individual protective orders against others.

Eleven (11) IPH perpetrators were mentioned in a protective order filing, with three perpetrators being defendants in a protective order filing, and one being a plaintiff. Seven (7) IPH perpetrators were both plaintiff and defendants in various protective order filings. Twenty (20) IPH perpetrators were not mentioned in any protective order filings.





## Criminal Justice

The DVFRB has historically tracked the status of cases against identified DV homicide perpetrators. For cases being prosecuted in the Oklahoma District Courts, open-source search engine tools, such as those provided by the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) and On Demand Court Records (ODCR), are used to collect case information. Cases being prosecuted in Federal Court are tracked using the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) system.

Throughout 2024 and 2025, charges were filed in District, Tribal or Federal Court against 63 (72.4%) domestic violence homicide perpetrators or accomplices. As of December 2025, 52 domestic violence homicide perpetrators have been charged in Oklahoma District Courts. Of those 52 cases brought against perpetrators, 31 (59.6%) were still ongoing, 19 (36.5%) have resulted in a conviction, one (1.95%) has been dismissed, and one (1.95%) resulted in an acquittal. (Table 27)

**Table 27. Status of District Court Cases Against 2024 Homicide Perpetrators**

Status	Total	%
Ongoing	31	59.6
Conviction	19	36.5
Dismissed	1	1.95
Acquitted	1	1.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100.0</b>

One (1.6%) perpetrator was charged in a Tribal Court. That case (100%) was still ongoing. (Table 28)

**Table 28. Status of Tribal Court Cases Against 2024 Homicide Perpetrators**

Status	Total	%
Ongoing	1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Finally, charges were filed against 10 (15.9%) perpetrators in Federal Courts. A total of three (30.0%) resulted in convictions, five (50.0%) are still ongoing, and two (20.0%) were acquitted. (Table 29)

**Table 29. Status of Federal Court Cases Against 2024 Homicide Perpetrators**

Status	Total	%
Ongoing	5	50.0
Conviction	3	30.0
Acquitted	2	20.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Out of the remaining 24 (27.6%) perpetrators, 14 were not charged because the perpetrator died at the time of the incident, and 10 were not charged by prosecutors because they deemed it self-defense or because the cases are still under investigation. (Table 30)

**Table 30. Charges not Filed**

Status	Total	%
No Charges – Death of Perpetrators	14	58.3
No Charges – Self Defense or Other	10	41.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>100.0</b>

### *Intimate Partner Homicide Cases*

Charges were filed in District, Tribal, or Federal Court against 20 (64.5%) out of the 31 intimate partner homicide perpetrators. Staff were unable to determine whether charges were filed against three (2.0%) perpetrators. 19 (95.0%) of those perpetrators were charged in Oklahoma District Courts. Of those cases, 8 (42.1%) are still ongoing and 11 (57.9%) have resulted in convictions. (Table 31)

**Table 31. Status of District Court Cases Against 2024 IPH Perpetrators**

Status	Total	%
Ongoing	8	42.1
Conviction	11	57.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>100.0</b>

One (3.2%) perpetrator was charged in Federal Court, resulting in a conviction. (Table 32)

**Table 32. Status of Tribal Court Cases Against 2024 IPH Perpetrators**

Status	Total	%
Ongoing	1	100.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Charges were not filed against the remaining 11 (35.5%) perpetrators. A total of 8 (72.7%) died at the time of the incident and three (27.3%) were not charged by prosecutors because they deemed it self-defense or the cases are still under investigation. (Table 33)

**Table 33. Charges not Filed**

Status	Total	%
No Charges – Death of Perpetrators	8	72.7
No Charges – Self Defense or Other	3	27.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>100.0</b>

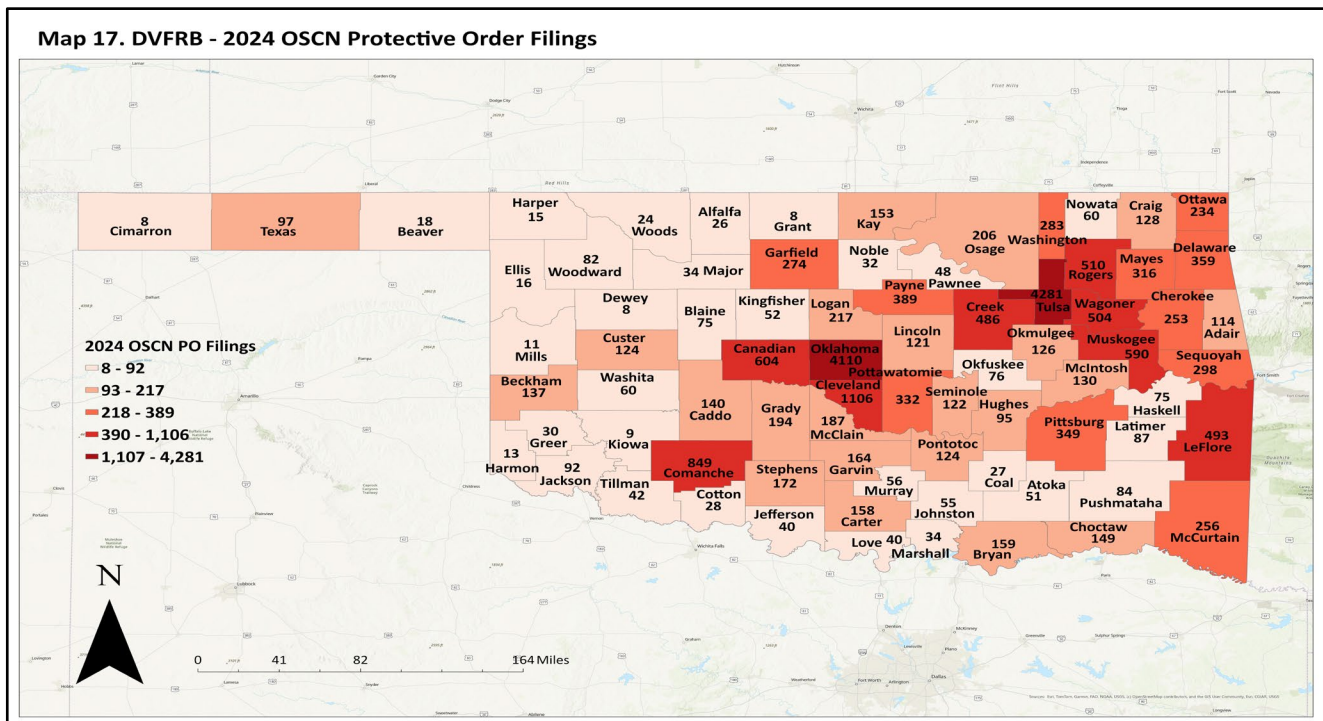
# VICTIM PROTECTIVE ORDERS

Staff at the Office of the Attorney General are directed under 22 O.S. §1603 to collect data on the number of victim protective orders (VPOs) issued and the number of protective order violations in each county. The statute further indicates the data collected shall be provided to the Review Board and the Administrative Office of the Courts. DVFRB Program Staff are the instinctive choice to collect this data, given the goals and mission of the Review Board. However, collecting the protective order data necessary to fulfill this obligation meets with a myriad of challenges.

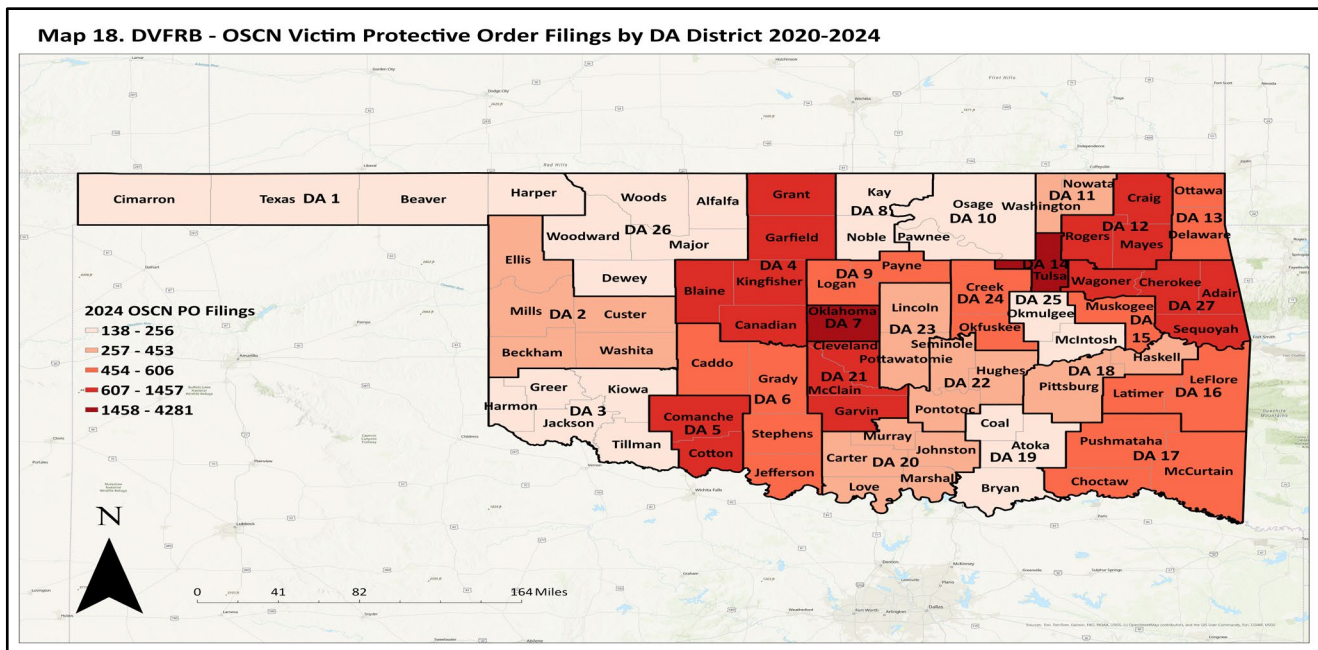
Currently, there is no central repository where information regarding Protective Order filings, issuances, and violations is stored. Protective orders filed in District Courts must be entered into the Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN); however, determining if a VPO has been issued requires a manual search of every VPO case filed in each county. Determining if a VPO has been violated would likewise require a manual search of every criminal misdemeanor and felony case filed in the District Court for each county. In both cases, the work necessary would be incredibly time-consuming and still may not yield accurate results.

Despite these challenges, program staff have been able to closely monitor the number of VPOs being filed in Oklahoma utilizing the OSCN Case Search webpage. Staff obtain a total count of VPO filings by determining the last VPO filed on a given calendar year per county. This is done because each new VPO has a unique identifying number (e.g., PO-202X-XXXX) per county where the first four digits are the given calendar year, and the last digits are the total of VPO filings at that courthouse at that given time.

Utilizing the method described earlier, staff found that a total of 21,509 VPOs were filed in Oklahoma in 2024. The 2024 total is 2.1% higher than the one found in 2023.



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of January 2026.



Note: Data collected by DVFRB staff and current as of January 2026. Map data table can be found in Appendix A – Table 44. DVFRB – OSCN Protective Order Filings by DA District 2024.

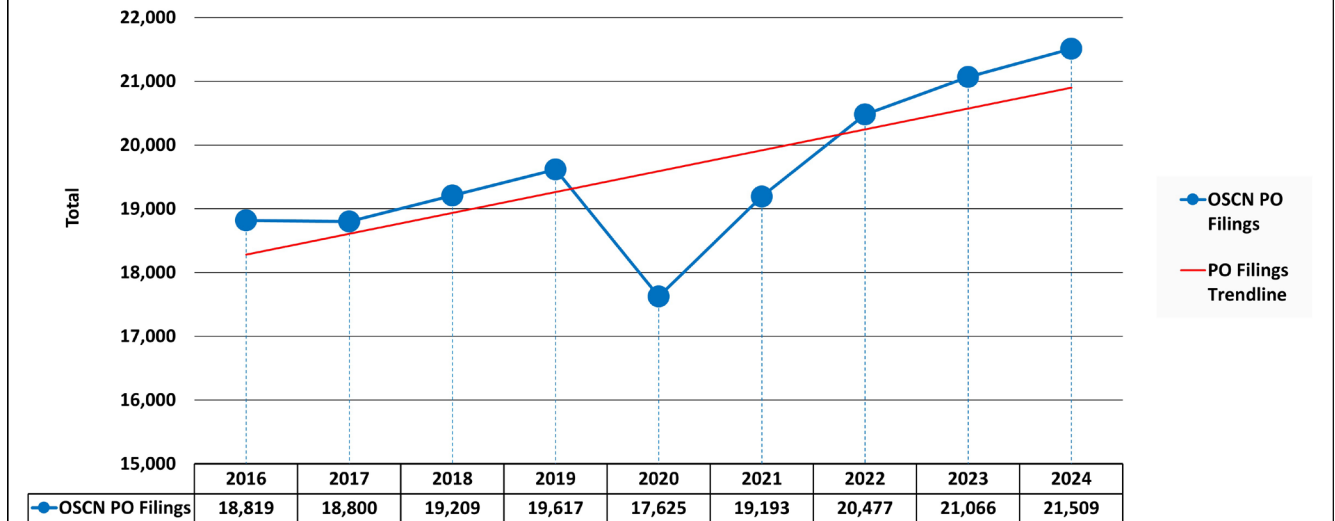
County totals were obtained for all 77 (100.0%) Oklahoma counties. The number of VPO filings increased in 36 (46.7%) counties while the number decreased in 37 (48.1%). Four (5.2%) counties had the same number of filings as the previous year.

Oklahoma and Cleveland counties saw the biggest increases compared to the previous year. Oklahoma county saw 346 more filings, while Cleveland County saw 141 additional filings. This represented a 9.2% increase for Oklahoma County and a 14.6% increase for Cleveland County. A total of 19 of the 36 counties seeing increases in their totals had increments ranging from 1-15 more VPO filings. These 19 counties saw their totals increase by on average +6.8 filings. The remaining 17 counties seeing increases had increments ranging from 17-346. When excluding Oklahoma and Cleveland counties, the range increment for the 15 other counties was between 17-59. These counties saw their totals increase by on average 35.1 filings.

In contrast, the number of VPO filings decreased in 37 (48.1%) counties. Pottawatomie and Seminole counties saw the biggest decreases in the total number of filings when compared to 2023. Pottawatomie County's total of 332 was -95 less than the previous year, representing a decrease of -22.2% from 2023. Seminole County's total of 122 was 61 less than in 2023, representing decrease of -33.3% when compared to 2023. A total of 21 of the 37 counties had their totals decrease by a range of 1-15. These counties saw their total number of filings decrease by on average -6.5 filings. The remaining 16 counties saw their totals decline by numbers ranging from 16-95. When excluding the two biggest total decreases (95 and 61), the numbers range from 16-60. These counties saw their totals decrease by on average -29.1 filings.

The 2024 total continues the increasing trend in VPO filings after the 10.2% decrease in 2020. The 2024 total is 22.0% more than the one recorded in 2020. Although it is difficult to pinpoint the exact cause of fluctuations in VPO filings the statistics suggest that filings have resumed the increasing trend that started in 2018. The decrease in 2020 may have likely been influenced by the public health concerns and unique challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. The numbers suggest the increasing trend has resumed as the state has continued to move on from the COVID-19 pandemic. (Figure 49)

Figure 49. Oklahoma State Courts Network (OSCN) - Protective Order Filings in Oklahoma 2016 - 2024



# Spotlight Article – The OAG’s LAP Team

*Contributing Authors: Scott Hawkins, Lead LAP Training Coordinator, David Folkert, LAP Training Coordinator, and Jaiden Balthrop-Russell, of the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General*

## **Background – The OAG’s LAP Team**

For the first time, Oklahoma has a dedicated team focused solely on the training and implementation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP). The LAP team was created in direct response to recommendations made by the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB). After years of reviewing domestic violence homicides, the DVFRB identified the need for a dedicated team to strengthen statewide LAP implementation, improve coordination between law enforcement and victim services, and ensure consistent, evidence-based practices for identifying high-risk victims. Acting on these recommendations, the Office of the Attorney General formed the LAP team to provide training, guidance, technical assistance, and ongoing support to agencies across the state.

The Office of the Attorney General expanded its LAP implementation through two key U.S. Department of Justice awards. The first was the Office on Violence Against Women “Grants to Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR)” grant, Project No. 15JOVW-24-GG-01639-ICJR, which funded two new LAP training coordinators and supported a statewide LAP training and awareness campaign, including onboarding law enforcement agencies to a new digital referral database. The second was awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) “Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program (Byrne SCIP)” grant, Project No. 15PBJA-23-GG-00028-BSCI. This grant funded a third LAP training coordinator to lead the team and assist with statewide LAP training and implementation. Together, these DOJ grants are significantly enhancing Oklahoma’s LAP infrastructure and helping ensure consistent, statewide application of the protocol.

## **LAP Team in Action Throughout 2025**

Beginning in April 2025, the OAG LAP Team launched a comprehensive, statewide Training and Outreach initiative designed to strengthen Oklahoma’s coordinated community response to intimate partner homicide.

A major priority for the LAP Team has been strengthening connections with rural and tribal law enforcement agencies across Oklahoma, where training can be especially difficult to access. Our team remains committed to traveling, coordinating, and meeting agencies where they are to ensure every officer, regardless of location, has access to high-quality LAP training.

LAP cannot function without strong partnerships with victim service providers. This year, the LAP Team established LAP Points-of-Contact with every OAG-certified victim service agency in Oklahoma. This guarantees that each LAP training includes a victim service provider, no matter where it is held, and reinforces the essential collaboration between law enforcement and advocates.

The LAP Team is also working toward consistent, standardized LAP training statewide. To support this effort, we are developing a digital LAP platform that will streamline the entire process. This platform will provide officers with a fast, secure, user-friendly way to complete screenings and immediately connect high-risk victims to local victim service providers. It enhances accuracy, improves data collection, and strengthens communication among law enforcement, advocates, and state partners, ultimately ensuring victims receive timely, life-saving safety planning and intervention. The LAP Team aims to begin deploying the platform in 2026.

In addition to its training efforts, the LAP Team launched a monthly newsletter designed to help law enforcement and advocates deepen their understanding of LAP. Five newsletters were published in 2025, covering topics such as an introduction to the team, a breakdown of intimate partner violence (IPV), legal liability related to LAP, a



spotlight on the new LAP form, and the history of LAP in Oklahoma. This newsletter will continue into 2026, with new topics already in development. Nearly 900 individuals across the field receive newsletters each month, and engagement continues to grow steadily.

As Oklahoma moves forward, the LAP Team remains committed to improving victim safety, strengthening multidisciplinary collaboration, and providing the tools necessary to identify and respond to high-risk situations before tragedy occurs. Through continued training, outreach, and statewide partnerships, the OAG LAP Team is laying the foundation for a safer, more coordinated response to intimate partner violence across the state.

### ***LAP Team's Impact in 2025 and Beyond***

Since April 2025, the LAP Team has trained 666 individuals, including 358 officers, 155 sheriffs, 65 advocates, 26 tribal officers, 3 tribal advocates, 18 state officers, 17 prosecutors, and 24 other. The team has reached at least one participant from 65 counties, reflecting strong statewide engagement. In total, 39 training events were held in 2025, with 9 additional events already scheduled for 2026.

### ***Meet the LAP Team***

The OAG LAP Team consists of three individuals. Scott W. Hawkins serves as the Lead LAP Coordinator, bringing over 23 years of law enforcement experience and a proven record of statewide leadership in domestic violence prevention, legislation, and victim advocacy. He is widely recognized for his legislative achievements, technical expertise, and long-standing commitment to improving outcomes for survivors across Oklahoma.

David Folkert, a U.S. Army veteran and former police sergeant and detective, serves as an LAP Coordinator, drawing on extensive experience in emergency services, mental health, and law enforcement to strengthen statewide efforts to improve victim safety.

Jaiden Balthrop-Russell, also an LAP Coordinator, brings a background in public service, grant management, and advocacy, focusing on survivor-centered, evidence-based approaches that enhance system-wide collaboration.

### ***Contact the LAP Team & Resources***

LAP is designed to support law enforcement, victim service providers, and communities by strengthening early intervention and creating timely, life-saving connections for victims of intimate partner violence. Through training, technical assistance, and ongoing collaboration, LAP helps ensure victims receive clear information, immediate support, and meaningful access to local resources at critical moments.

We invite you to explore our LAP [webpage](#)<sup>126</sup> and sign up for our [newsletter](#)<sup>127</sup> to stay up to date on program updates, resources, and upcoming training opportunities. If your agency or organization is interested in requesting LAP training or learning more about how we can support your work, we encourage you to reach out at your convenience.

Our team is always happy to connect and answer questions. You can contact us by phone at **(405) 522-1269** or by email at **[lap.training@oag.ok.gov](mailto:lap.training@oag.ok.gov)**.

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<sup>126</sup> Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. Website: Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Webpage - <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/lap.html>

<sup>127</sup> Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. Website: LAP Newsletter sign-up: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZHgwmpg-CE-5CnKLYs8yxePm6fhd4vJlJ4FZkC0nwLJUQVJZQ1Y5RIJHWEJTWIJaNIIBR1hGV1hHSy4u>

# Spotlight Article – Federal Prosecutors Meet with the DVFRB

*Contributing Authors: Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General DVFRB Staff - Anthony Hernandez Rivera, Program Manager, and Nicholas Massey, Research Analyst*

## Introduction

Over the years, a recurring topic of discussion has been how to tackle gun violence in the context of intimate partner violence. Discussions often revolve around how to proactively intervene to enhance victim safety when an abuser possesses a firearm or can readily access one. This stems from almost two and a half decades of DVFRB research consistently finding that intimate partner homicide victims are predominantly killed with firearms.

Consequently, the Review Board in recent years has looked to elevate successful initiatives aimed at tackling gun violence in the context of domestic violence. In both the 2019 and 2023 editions of this publication it dedicated a Spotlight section to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma, Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative, Operation 922.

The DVFRB sought to learn more Operation 922's effectiveness in 2025 and met with the federal prosecutors currently spearheading the initiative in Oklahoma. This article seeks to highlight Operation 922 again and convey the meeting's biggest takeaways.

## ***Operation 922 – Oklahoma's Project Safe Neighborhoods Initiative***

Announced by President George Bush in May 2001, Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a nationwide initiative that seeks to bring together federal, state, local, tribal law enforcement officials, prosecutors, and community leaders to identify and formulate solutions to the most pressing crimes in a community. The PSN was built up from previous gun crime reduction efforts like the Clinton-era Strategic Approaches to Community Safety Initiative (SACSI), the Richmond Project Exile, and the Boston Ceasefire program.

The PSNI seeks to incorporate research, data analysis, and prior knowledge from other violent crime reduction initiatives in order to inform decision-making on the most effective violence reduction strategies.<sup>128</sup> Funding through the PSNI has been used to hire new federal/state prosecutors, support existing prosecutions, provide law enforcement training, distribute gun lock safety kits, deter juvenile gun crime, and develop and promote community outreach efforts.<sup>129</sup>

Over the last 9 years, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma (USOK-W) has been one of the most successful programs in the country stemming from the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) PSN – Operation 922.

Operation 922 was started in November 2017 with the acknowledgment that while many defendants charged in state court were violent offenders of multiple crimes, prior prosecutions had not resulted in meaningful sentencing. Operation 922 sought to fill the gap in state law and to hold domestic abusers accountable without the victim having to testify. Through Operation 922, whenever officers respond to domestic violence situations,

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<sup>128</sup> Project Safe Neighborhoods. Last Accessed January 22, 2026, by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Source: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/project-safe-neighborhoods-psn>

<sup>129</sup> Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN). Last Reviewed August 14, 2019, by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Source: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/project-safe-neighborhoods-psn>

prosecutors at the state and federal level look to determine whether federal firearm or other federal offenses can be applied. Federal charges typically applied in these situations include illegal possession of a firearm or ammunition by a person: (1) previously convicted of a felony offense, (2) previously convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, or (3) subject to an active Victim Protective Order. Thanks to Operation 922's initiative, hundreds of violent offenders who would normally have faced lesser charges in state court, instead get charged with serious federal gun charges.

Operation 922 - Case Data (Since March 2018)		Total
Domestic Violence-Derived Cases / Defendants Charged		296
Defendants Convicted/Guilty Pleas		278
Defendants Sentenced		212
Average Sentence		72 Months

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma

In addition to prosecution, the actions through Operation 922 have resulted in significant numbers of firearms and ammunition being seized from domestic abusers. Many of these individuals already have Victim Protective Orders out against them, prohibiting them from owning a firearm. By removing these firearms, the abuser is denied a lethal tool that is used seven times more often than any other weapon in domestic homicides.<sup>130</sup>

Operation 922 – Firearms/Ammunition Seized		Total
Number of Firearms Seized		423 (1.43 average guns per defendant)
Ammunition Seized		8,654 rounds (29.37 average rounds per defendant)

Source: U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma

The DVFRB has continued to emphasize the necessity and effectiveness of Operation 922's effort in getting violent domestic abusers out of Oklahoma's communities. By utilizing federal gun laws, prosecutors have been able to keep dangerous weapons out of the hands of habitual violent criminals, while also reducing burdensome state caseloads and protecting victims' rights. It is vital to maintain support for and to expand initiatives like Operation 922 so that violent domestic abusers can continue to be held accountable.

### ***DVFRB Hosts Representatives from Northern, Western, and Eastern U.S. Attorney's Offices***

In 2025, the Review Board brought together representatives from all three of Oklahoma's U.S. Attorneys' Offices to obtain a more in-depth overview of Operation 922 and how federal prosecutors fill gaps in state statute that would otherwise result in defendants not being held accountable in a meaningful manner. The goal was to specifically learn how state and federal law could be better aligned to further empower our state prosecutor's ability to file charges against domestic violence offenders for illegal possession of firearm offenses.

The presentation's main takeaway was the emphasis on holding abusers accountable by targeting their illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition. First, it highlighted the advantages of federal sentencing, including:

- Violation of 18 U.S.C. §922(g) carries up to 15 years in federal prison
- Armed Career Criminal Act (18 USC § 924(e))
- No Parole

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<sup>130</sup> Operation 922 a proven tool to fight county domestic violence. Published October 28, 2021, by the Yukon Review. Source: <https://www.theyukonreview.com/yukon-review/news/operation-922-proven-tool-fight-county-domestic-violence>

- Supervised after release
- 18 U.S.C. § 3661 = No limitation on the information a court may consider for sentencing, which may include hearsay. *United States v. Cook*, 550 F.3d 1292, 1296 (10 Cir, 2008).

Additionally, several other areas were highlighted as to other beneficial reasons for considering federal prosecution with state DV charges:

- Ammunition
- Speedy Trial Act
- Grand Jury
- Pretrial advantages and detention
- Predictability
- Resources
- Bureau of Prison (BOP)

Deputy Criminal Chief Jacquelyn Hutzell (Western District of Oklahoma) compared and contrasted areas of federal and Oklahoma law that highlighted why Operation 922, coupled with advantages unique to the federal system, has been so successful. Overall, it helped elevate areas of Oklahoma law that could be better aligned with federal statute to combat gun violence in the context of IPV.

Status	Total
18 U.S.C § 922(g)(1) – Felon in Possession of a Firearm	21 O.S. §1283 – Convicted Felons and Delinquents in Possession of a Firearm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrepancy = Does not Include ammunition</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §922(g)(3) – User of Controlled Substances in Possession of a Firearm or Ammunition	21 O.S. §1289.9 – Carrying Weapons Under Influence of Alcohol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrepancy = Must be under influence at the time of the carrying</li> </ul> 21 O.S. §1272 – Unlawful Carry – In Violation Relating to Illegal Drug Use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrepancy = Does not include ammunition and is a misdemeanor</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §922(g)(8) – Person Subject to an Active VPO in Possession of a Firearm	21 O.S. §1272 - Unlawful Carry – Includes Violation of a DV VPO <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrepancy = Does not include ammunition and is a misdemeanor</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §922(g)(9) – Person with a Prior Misdemeanor Conviction for Domestic Violence in Possession of a Firearm	21 O.S. §1272 - Unlawful Carry – Prior Domestic Abuse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discrepancy = Does not include ammunition and is a misdemeanor</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §922(n) – Knowing Shipment, Transport, or Receipt of a Firearm by a Person Under Indictment	No equivalent Oklahoma statute
18 U.S.C. §922(j) – Possession of a Stolen Firearm	21 O.S. §1713 Receiving Stolen Property <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note: No more than 5 years</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §922(k) - Possession of a Firearm with an Obliterated Serial Number	21 O.S. §1550 Committing a Felony in Possession of a Firearm with Obliterated Serial Number <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2-5 years</li> </ul> 21 O.S. §1550 - Obliterating a Serial Number on a Firearm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misdemeanor</li> </ul>

18 U.S.C §922(a)(6) – False Statement to a Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) Dealer	21 O.S. §1541.1 – Obtaining or Attempting to Obtain Property by False Statements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misdemeanor</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §924(c) – Possession of a Firearm in Furtherance of a Violent Crime or Serious Drug Offense	21 O.S. §1287 – Use of Firearm while committing a felony 2-10 years DOC
18 U.S.C. §922(o) – Possession of a Machinegun	No equivalent 21 O.S. §1287.1 – Penalty enhancement for a weapon possession Only applies to use during crimes of violence
26 U.S.C. §5461(d) – Possession of an Unregistered Firearm	21 O.S. §1289.18 – Possession of a Sawed-Off Shotgun/Rifle 2 years DOC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No equivalent for many weapons</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §81 – Arson Carries no more than 25 years in BOP, if a dwelling or life of a person is in jeopardy, up to Life	21 O.S. §1401 no more than 35 years
18 U.S.C. §1201 – Kidnapping Up to life in BOP	21 O.S. §741 – Kidnapping no more than 20 years
18 U.S.C. §2119 – Carjacking no more than 15 years in BOP; if serious bodily injury, NMT 25 years in BOP; if death, up to LIFE or Death	21 O.S. §798 – 1st Degree Robbery no less than 10 years 21 O.S. §801 no less than 5 years up to LIFE
18 U.S.C. §2261 – Interstate Domestic Violence no more than 5 years in BOP; if serious bodily injury, no more than 10 years in BOP; if permanent disfigurement or life-threatening injury, no more than 20 years; if death results, up to life	21 O.S. §644 – Domestic Assault and Battery no more than 30 days to life
18 U.S.C. §2261A – Stalking	21 O.S. §1173 – Stalking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• no more than 3 years; increasing with subsequent convictions to no more than 6 and then 12 years; other enhancements no more than 25 years</li> </ul>
18 U.S.C. §2262 – Interstate Violation of a Protective Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note: Penalties same as Interstate DV</li> </ul>	22 O.S. §60.6 – Violation of Protective Order Discrepancy = Misdemeanor; Subsequent Convictions no less than 1 year, no more than 3 + Injury no less than 1 and no more than 5

# Spotlight Article – The ATF in Oklahoma

*Contributing Authors: Ashley N. Stephens, ATF Resident Agent in Charge and Madison Rebel, ATF Special Agent*

## **Firing Back: ATF's Role in Fighting Domestic Violence and Firearm Violations**

In 2022, the United States Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022, which modified and reauthorized through FY 2027 the programs and activities under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) that work to prevent and respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

The Department of Justice, through the United States Attorneys' Offices and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) partner with each designated jurisdiction to develop plans to reduce intimate partner firearm violence and prioritize prosecutions of domestic violence offenders who are prohibited under 18 U.S.C. § 922(g) from possessing firearms.

By collaborating at state, local, tribal and federal levels, law enforcement strengthens the ability to address the complexities of these cases, particularly those involving gun violence. Specific communities within the federal districts are identified and designated in coordination with local stakeholders and include rural, suburban, urban, and Tribal areas. These designations reflect a coordinated partnership to ensure that federal resources are used effectively to combat intimate partner firearm violence.

In part, ATF's mission statement reads: "ATF protects America's communities by confronting violent crime driven by the illegal use of firearms, explosives, and acts of arson." At its core, ATF's mission is to combat violent crime, and domestic violence IS violent crime.

In alignment with this mission and its responsibilities under VAWA, ATF has designated a VAWA Point of Contact (POC) in each judicial district Nationwide, including all three federal judicial districts of Oklahoma. The POC's role is to prioritize the prosecution of domestic violence offenders who are prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law. This prioritization provides significant support to our state, local, and Tribal partners.

Statistics show that more than half of women living in Oklahoma will experience domestic violence at some point in their lives, and nearly half will endure sexual, psychological, or physical violence (World Population Review, 2025). In fact, one recent study showed more than half of intimate partner homicides involve a firearm, and firearms are frequently used by these perpetrators.<sup>131</sup>

Ensuring peace and safety in the home is a vital component of protecting our communities from violent crime. The ATF remains dedicated to safeguarding victims and holding offenders accountable.

Following the *McGirt v. Oklahoma* ruling in 2020, ATF's role in domestic violence cases expanded significantly, as many of these violent crimes now fall under federal jurisdiction. The increased availability of federal charges has allowed ATF to secure justice for many domestic victims. Post-McGirt, multiple avenues now exist to ensure victims receive justice, as well as access to additional resources, assistance, and rehabilitation.

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<sup>131</sup> Tobin-Tyler, E. (2023). Intimate partner violence, firearm injuries and homicides: A health justice approach to two intersecting public health crises. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 51(1), 64-76.  
doi:10.1017/jme.2023.41



Jeff Cooper, legendary firearms expert, Marine Officer, and renowned author once said, "If violent crime is to be curbed, it is only the intended victim who can do it. The felon does not fear the police, and he fears neither judge nor jury. Therefore, what he must be taught to fear is his victim." ATF stands with domestic violence victims by giving them confidence that justice will be served and empowering them to stand up to their perpetrators, knowing that the full weight of federal, state, and Tribal governments is behind them.

Together we can make Oklahoma a safer and stronger place for all who call it home. A place where survivors stand strong, offenders are held accountable, and safety is non-negotiable. A place where no one would have to look over their shoulder, and where every voice is protected. Our goal is to make Oklahoma a place where violence has nowhere to hide and every family can live without fear.

# REVIEW BOARD STAFF ACTIVITIES

## DVFRB Program Staff Activities

**Anthony Hernández Rivera**, MA, DVFRB Program Manager, **Nicholas Massey**, MA, constitute the DVFRB Program Staff. In addition to maintaining an annual list of people who die due to domestic violence and collecting information related to those deaths, Anthony and Nicholas are responsible for the administrative aspects of the DVFRB. This includes preparing case-related information for the DVFRB's monthly review meetings, collecting and analyzing data relevant to domestic violence, domestic violence-related deaths, protective orders, and authoring the DVFRB annual report.

In addition to managing the DVFRB, Mr. Hernández is also the OAG's LAP Program Manager and a grant writer. As LAP Program Manager, he supervises three LAP Training Coordinators working on a \$1.2 million federal grant project aimed at strengthening LAP implementation in Oklahoma. In 2025, he wrote two competitive federal grant proposals to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). The DOJ BJA grant resulted in a \$303,828.02 award for a DVFRB-related research and training initiative. The DOJ OJJDP grant award decision is still pending as of January 2026. Finally, Anthony is responsible for the establishment of the second specialized wrap-around services program in the country for children impacted by intimate partner violence-related homicide.

In addition to his DVFRB duties, Mr. Massey serves as the Research Analyst for various other programs under the OAG's Victims Advocacy and Services Unit (VASU), where he engages in data retrieval and analysis. Nicholas works within VASU to ensure data integrity for the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) grant, in addition to tracking and maintaining a database of subgrantee recipients. Nicholas also stands as the primary co-speaker for any engagements to which DVFRB staff are invited to and speaks on behalf of the DVFRB program at events the Program Manager is unable to attend. In 2025, Nicholas led an LAP training at the Muscogee Nation's Justice on the Reservation conference, held on March 5-6, 2025. He also led a presentation of domestic violence trends in Oklahoma County at the 10th Annual Domestic/Intimate Partner Violence Workshop, held on October 4, 2025 and hosted by the Oklahoma Region of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church.

As the DVFRB's lead researcher, Nicholas also attended the 2025 Crimes Against Women Conference on May 19-22 in Dallas, TX as part of the program's commitment to continuing education on domestic violence matter. Anthony and Nicholas both attended and presented at the Oklahoma Partners for Change Conference on September 15-16, in Norman, Oklahoma. Anthony led a domestic violence fatality review session, while Nicholas led another on statewide domestic violence statistical trends.

# APPENDIX A: DATA TABLES

**Table 34. OSBI SIBRS Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types in Domestic Abuse Incidents, 2023-2024**

Relationship Type	2023		2024	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
<b>Within Family</b>	<b>18,179</b>	<b>52.4</b>	<b>19,521</b>	<b>51.7</b>
Adoptive/Foster Parents	85	0.2	90	0.2
Adoptive/Foster Child	112	0.3	120	0.3
Biological Parents of Same Child	1,096	3.2	996	2.6
Spouse	4,018	11.6	4,204	11.1
Common-Law Spouse	225	0.6	246	0.7
Parent	2,612	7.5	2,757	7.3
Sibling	2,059	5.9	2,230	5.9
Child	3,472	10.0	3,945	10.5
Grandparent	318	0.9	377	1.0
Grandchild	388	1.1	357	0.9
In-Law	542	1.6	567	1.5
Stepparent	349	1.0	362	1.0
Stepchild	607	1.7	714	1.9
Stepsibling	131	0.4	116	0.3
Other Family Member	2,165	6.2	2,440	6.1
<b>Outside Family but Known to Victim</b>	<b>14,651</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>15,871</b>	<b>42.0</b>
Acquaintance	526	1.5	600	1.6
Friend	64	0.2	78	0.2
Neighbor	63	0.2	61	0.2
Babysitter	7	<0.1	3	<0.1
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	8,765	25.2	9,388	24.9
Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend	498	1.4	340	0.9
Homosexual Partner	391	1.1	399	1.1
Ex-Spouse	1,435	4.1	1,426	3.8
Spouse of Ex-Spouse	91	0.3	92	0.2
Roommate	927	2.7	974	2.6
Ex-Roommate	1,176	3.4	1,530	4.1
Employee	1	<0.1	0	0.0
Employer	3	<0.1	5	<0.1
Otherwise Known	704	2.0	975	2.6
<b>Not Known by Victim</b>	<b>568</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>2.1</b>
Relationship Unknown	287	0.8	442	1.2
Stranger	281	0.8	346	0.9
<b>Other</b>	<b>1,317</b>	<b>3.8</b>	<b>1,565</b>	<b>4.1</b>
Victim was Offender	1,071	3.1	1,314	3.5
Unfilled.	246	0.7	251	0.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,715</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>37,745</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 35. DVFRB – 2024 Total Domestic Violence Homicide Victims by DA District**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	2
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	1
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	2
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	0
5	Comanche, Cotton	2
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	6
7	Oklahoma	22
8	Kay, Noble	0
9	Logan, Payne	1
10	Osage, Pawnee	2
11	Nowata, Washington	0
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	1
13	Delaware, Ottawa	5
14	Tulsa	20
15	Muskogee	3
16	Latimer, LeFlore	3
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	1
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	1
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	0
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	0
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	3
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	0
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	2
24	Creek, Okfuskee	2
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	4
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	2
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>87</b>

**Table 36. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Domestic Abuse Incidents by DA District**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	139
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	250
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	270
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	1,153
5	Comanche, Cotton	1,152
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	714
7	Oklahoma	6,316
8	Kay, Noble	494
9	Logan, Payne	725
10	Osage, Pawnee	238
11	Nowata, Washington	538
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	797
13	Delaware, Ottawa	455
14	Tulsa	8,939
15	Muskogee	748
16	Latimer, LeFlore	289
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	293
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	251
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	348
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	646
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	1,556
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	372
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	666
24	Creek, Okfuskee	284
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	329
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	195
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	1,037
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>2,9194</b>

**Table 37. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Domestic Abuse Victims by DA District**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	168
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	299
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	334
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	1,341
5	Comanche, Cotton	1,353
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	851
7	Oklahoma	7,549
8	Kay, Noble	599
9	Logan, Payne	890
10	Osage, Pawnee	284
11	Nowata, Washington	606
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	949
13	Delaware, Ottawa	582
14	Tulsa	9,199
15	Muskogee	1,076
16	Latimer, LeFlore	328
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	342
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	299
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	418
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	785
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	1,818
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	426
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	854
24	Creek, Okfuskee	328
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	404
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	241
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	1,307
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>33,630</b>



**Table 38. OSBI SIBRS Victim-to-Offender Relationship Types in Intimate Partner Violence Incidents, 2023-2024**

Relationship Type	2023		2024	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
<b>Within Family</b>	<b>5,135</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>5,511</b>	<b>29.1</b>
Adoptive/Foster Parents	0	0.0	2	<0.1
Adoptive/Foster Child	9	0.1	5	<0.1
Biological Parents of Same Child	10	0.1	13	0.1
Spouse	4,020	22.9	4,207	22.2
Common-Law Spouse	225	1.3	246	1.3
Parent	44	0.3	52	0.3
Sibling	31	0.2	50	0.3
Child	541	3.1	621	3.3
Grandparent	1	<0.1	6	0.0
Grandchild	18	0.1	19	0.1
In-Law	57	0.3	63	0.3
Stepparent	21	0.1	19	0.1
Stepchild	87	0.5	122	0.6
Stepsibling	1	<0.1	0	0.0
Other Family Member	70	0.4	86	0.5
<b>Outside Family but Known to Victim</b>	<b>11,421</b>	<b>65.1</b>	<b>12,207</b>	<b>64.4</b>
Acquaintance	238	1.4	254	1.3
Friend	31	0.2	38	0.2
Neighbor	30	0.2	30	0.2
Babysitter	0	0.0	1	<0.1
Boyfriend/Girlfriend	8,817	50.2	9,452	49.9
Child of Boyfriend/Girlfriend	133	0.8	86	0.5
Homosexual Partner	394	2.2	400	2.1
Ex-Spouse	1,440	8.2	1,429	7.5
Spouse of Ex-Spouse	10	0.1	12	0.1
Roommate	22	0.1	35	0.2
Ex-Roommate	4	<0.1	11	0.1
Employee	0	0.0	0	0.0
Employer	1	<0.1	0	0.0
Otherwise Known	301	1.7	459	2.4
<b>Not Known by Victim</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>2.0</b>
Relationship Unknown	123	0.7	222	1.2
Stranger	105	0.6	153	0.8
<b>Other</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>864</b>	<b>4.6</b>
Victim was Offender	633	3.6	748	3.9
Unfilled.	130	0.7	116	0.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,547</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>18,957</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Table 39. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Intimate Partner Violence Incidents by DA District**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	69
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	126
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	151
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	609
5	Comanche, Cotton	545
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	353
7	Oklahoma	2,938
8	Kay, Noble	242
9	Logan, Payne	331
10	Osage, Pawnee	113
11	Nowata, Washington	273
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	407
13	Delaware, Ottawa	248
14	Tulsa	5,312
15	Muskogee	376
16	Latimer, LeFlore	166
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	142
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	129
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	213
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	376
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	806
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	206
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	324
24	Creek, Okfuskee	142
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	141
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	103
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	489
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>15,330</b>

**Table 40. 2024 OSBI SIBRS – Reported Victims in Intimate Partner Violence Incidents by DA District**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	77
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	151
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	177
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	698
5	Comanche, Cotton	626
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	406
7	Oklahoma	3,465
8	Kay, Noble	291
9	Logan, Payne	396
10	Osage, Pawnee	129
11	Nowata, Washington	294
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	483
13	Delaware, Ottawa	325
14	Tulsa	5,422
15	Muskogee	549
16	Latimer, LeFlore	179
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	165
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	151
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	246
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	440
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	938
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	232
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	399
24	Creek, Okfuskee	162
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	165
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	124
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	597
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>17,287</b>

**Table 41. DVFRB – Domestic Violence Murder-Suicide Events by DA District 2020-2024**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	0
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	0
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	4
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	0
5	Comanche, Cotton	1
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	2
7	Oklahoma	22
8	Kay, Noble	0
9	Logan, Payne	2
10	Osage, Pawnee	2
11	Nowata, Washington	1
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	4
13	Delaware, Ottawa	3
14	Tulsa	20
15	Muskogee	2
16	Latimer, LeFlore	2
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	3
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	0
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	1
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	1
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	5
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	0
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	1
24	Creek, Okfuskee	1
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	1
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	1
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>82</b>

**Table 42. DVFRB – Domestic Violence Murder-Suicide Victims by DA District 2020-2024**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	0
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	0
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	5
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	0
5	Comanche, Cotton	1
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	2
7	Oklahoma	34
8	Kay, Noble	0
9	Logan, Payne	2
10	Osage, Pawnee	2
11	Nowata, Washington	1
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	6
13	Delaware, Ottawa	4
14	Tulsa	34
15	Muskogee	3
16	Latimer, LeFlore	2
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	3
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	0
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	2
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	1
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	5
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	0
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	1
24	Creek, Okfuskee	2
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	6
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	1
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>121</b>

**Table 43. DVFRB – Intimate Partner Homicide Victims by DA District 2020-2024**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	0
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	1
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	4
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	5
5	Comanche, Cotton	10
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	3
7	Oklahoma	49
8	Kay, Noble	1
9	Logan, Payne	3
10	Osage, Pawnee	3
11	Nowata, Washington	1
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	7
13	Delaware, Ottawa	4
14	Tulsa	42
15	Muskogee	5
16	Latimer, LeFlore	5
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	4
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	5
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	5
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	4
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	7
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	4
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	8
24	Creek, Okfuskee	3
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	4
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	2
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>196</b>



**Table 44. DVFRB – OSCN Protective Order Filings by DA District 2024**

DA District	Counties Served	Total
1	Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, Texas	138
2	Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, Washita	348
3	Greer, Harmon, Jackson, Kiowa, Tillman	186
4	Blaine, Canadian, Garfield, Grant, Kingfisher	1,013
5	Comanche, Cotton	877
6	Caddo, Grady, Jefferson, Stephens	546
7	Oklahoma	4,110
8	Kay, Noble	185
9	Logan, Payne	606
10	Osage, Pawnee	254
11	Nowata, Washington	343
12	Craig, Mayes, Rogers	954
13	Delaware, Ottawa	593
14	Tulsa	4,281
15	Muskogee	590
16	Latimer, LeFlore	580
17	Choctaw, McCurtain, Pushmataha	489
18	Haskell, Pittsburg	424
19	Atoka, Bryan, Coal	237
20	Carter, Johnson, Love, Marshall, Murray	343
21	Cleveland, Garvin, McClain	1,457
22	Hughes, Pontotoc, Seminole	341
23	Lincoln, Pottawatomie	453
24	Creek, Okfuskee	562
25	Okmulgee, McIntosh	256
26	Alfalfa, Dewey, Major, Woods, Woodward	174
27	Adair, Cherokee, Sequoyah, Wagoner	1,169
<b>Total</b>	<b>77 Counties</b>	<b>21,509</b>

# APPENDIX B: DVFRB OVERVIEW

## Review Board Composition

The Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB or Review Board) is a statutory body enabled by the Oklahoma legislature under 22 O.S. § 1601-1603. Legislation creating the Review Board took effect in 2001. As of November 1, 2019, the Review Board is composed of twenty-one (21) members. The following nine (9) members are mandated by statute:

- Chief Medical Examiner
- Designee of the Office of Attorney General, Victim Services Unit
- State Commissioner of Health
- State Department of Health, Director, Injury Prevention Services
- Director, Department of Human Services
- Director, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation
- Commissioner, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- Executive Director, Office of Juvenile Affairs
- Designee of the Director of the Department of Correction with a minimum of five (5) years of experience in corrections and who is currently assigned to the Community Outreach, Programs, or Population Units of the Department of Corrections

The remaining 12 Review Board members are appointed by the Attorney General. Appointees serve terms of two years and are eligible for reappointment. The following agencies submit the names of three nominees for consideration of appointment by the Attorney General:

- A Sheriff, Oklahoma Sheriff's Association
- Chief of a municipal police department, Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
- A private practice attorney licensed in Oklahoma, Oklahoma County Bar Association
- A District Attorney, District Attorneys Council
- A physician, Oklahoma State Medical Association
- A physician, Oklahoma Osteopathic Association
- A nurse, Oklahoma Nurses Association
- A domestic violence representative, Certified Domestic Violence Programs in Oklahoma
- A domestic violence survivor, Certified Domestic Violence Programs in Oklahoma
- A tribal domestic violence representative, Native Alliance Against Violence
- A tribal domestic violence survivor, Native Alliance Against Violence
- A judge, Oklahoma Supreme Court

## Review Board Mission Statement

The mission of the Review Board is to reduce the number of domestic violence-related deaths in Oklahoma. The Review Board will perform multi-disciplinary reviews of statistical data obtained from sources within the jurisdiction and/or having direct involvement with the homicides. Using the information derived, the Review Board will identify common characteristics and develop recommendations to improve the systems of agencies and organizations involved to better protect and serve victims of domestic abuse.

## Review Board Recommendations

The Review Board uses data and information from in-depth case reviews to develop annual recommendations. Recommendations are critical to improving our communities' ability to respond effectively to domestic violence and enhance safety and access to resources for survivors. Recommendations are developed and presented as broad, rather than case specific, suggestions for professionals and systems to address the pressing issue of

domestic violence. Additionally, the Review Board monitors updates on recommendations made in previous years.

The Review Board makes recommendations based on cases reviewed during the calendar year. However, actual homicides reviewed in any given calendar year may not necessarily have occurred in the same year as the review. Since the case must first be closed in the criminal justice system, there is usually a delay between the time the actual homicide occurred and when the case is reviewed. A closed case is one in which the homicide perpetrator is deceased or has gone through initial court proceedings. The exception is in the case of murder-suicide or familicide. With no surviving perpetrators, there are no criminal legal proceedings. Therefore, the Review Board reviews these cases in closer proximity to the actual time the death event occurred.

The Review Board is optimistic that the systems, organizations, and agencies involved in the safety of victims and in holding perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their violent and abusive behavior will review and implement the recommendations in a sustained community effort to prevent homicide and increase the quality of life for families in Oklahoma.

## Dissemination of Review Board Findings and Recommendations

Each year, the Review Board disseminates findings in the form of an annual statistical report to the legislature as well as numerous agencies, organizations, and other stakeholders in Oklahoma. Program Staff is also available to conduct presentations, training, workshops, and discussions regarding the annual report and DVFRB statistical data.

## Confidentiality

Effective case review requires access to records and reports pertaining to victims and perpetrators. The Review Board collects and maintains all information in a confidential manner in accordance with 22 O.S. §1601. Per statute, the Review Board does not report personally identifying information and instead reports *de-identified and aggregate data* to maintain the confidentiality and privacy of domestic violence-related fatality victims and their families. When appropriate, the Review Board invites victims' families to appear before the Review Board to tell their stories. Their names remain confidential.

# APPENDIX C: RESOURCES FOR PROFESSIONALS

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board has compiled a list of local and national domestic violence resources professionals may find helpful in their work and can be used to inform and support domestic violence intervention and prevention efforts, promote best practices, and endorse strategies to improve Oklahoma's collective response to domestic abuse. The list is by no means exhaustive but serves as a starting point for professionals in the domestic violence prevention and protection network.

## Local Resources

### **OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT (VASU)**

**405.521.3921** | <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit.html>

Oklahoma's Victim Advocacy and Services Unit (VASU) supports crime victims and their families by providing information, connection to local services, and direct assistance throughout the criminal process. Updated lists of OAG-certified domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking programs can be found on their website, as can past Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Annual Reports. The unit also provides training for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and victim advocates and collaborates with statewide partners to conduct the annual Oklahoma Partners for Change Conference on Domestic & Sexual Violence and Stalking.

### **NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE**

**405.217.0212** | <https://oknaav.org/>

The Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV), is a nonprofit organization operating as Oklahoma's only tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalition. The NAAV serves Oklahoma's federally recognized tribes and their tribal programs that provide victims with the protection and services they need to pursue safe and healthy lives. The NAAV website contains a list of tribal domestic violence programs in Oklahoma and other informational resources.

### **24-HOUR OKLAHOMA SAFELINE**

**800.522.SAFE (7233)** | <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit.html>

The Oklahoma SafeLine is a confidential, toll-free, 24-hour hotline for Oklahomans seeking help or information about domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. Translation services are available in 150 languages.

## National Resources

### **NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**717.461.3939 (Office)** | [www.nrcdv.org](http://www.nrcdv.org) | [www.vawnet.org](http://www.vawnet.org)

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence (NRCDV) is a comprehensive source of information for those wanting to educate themselves and help others on the many issues related to domestic violence. Key initiatives work to improve community response to domestic violence and ultimately prevent its occurrence. NRCDV has many resources available to assist in planning domestic violence intervention and prevention efforts and offers comprehensive technical assistance, training, and resource development.

### **NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**202.543.5566** | <https://nnedv.org/>

NNEDV addresses the complex causes and far-reaching consequences of domestic violence through cross-sector collaborations at the state, national and international level. They provide comprehensive, specialized technical assistance and training to the coalitions in order to best address the needs of victims and local domestic violence programs and grant them access to technical assistance regarding best practices at the national level.

### **NATIONAL CENTER ON DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**512.407.9020** | [www.ncdsv.org/index.html](http://www.ncdsv.org/index.html)

Founded in 1988 and renamed the National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCDSV) in 2003, this organization provides training and consultation to a myriad of professionals who work with victims and perpetrators: law enforcement; criminal justice professionals such as prosecutors, judges and probation officers; health care professionals including emergency response teams, nurses and doctors; DV/SA advocates and service providers; and counselors and social workers. In addition to these professionals, NCDSV also works with local, state, and federal agencies; state and national organizations; educators, researchers, faith community leaders, media, community leaders, elected officials, policymakers, and all branches of the military on collaborative projects aimed at ending violence against women.

#### **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**800.799.7233 | 800.787.3224 (TTY) | [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)**

The National Domestic Violence Hotline has been a vital link to safety for women, men, children, and families affected by domestic violence since 1996. They respond to calls 24/7 and provide confidential, one-on-one support by phone or by chat available through the website, offering crisis intervention, options for next steps, and direct connection to sources for immediate safety. Their database holds over 5,000 agencies and resources from communities across the country. Bilingual advocates are on hand to speak with callers and their Language Line offers translations in 170+ different languages. The Hotline is an excellent source for concerned friends, family, co-workers, and others seeking information and guidance on how to help. The Hotline educates communities through events, campaigns, and dynamic partnerships.

#### **NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**737.225.3150 | [www.ncadv.org](http://www.ncadv.org)**

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) seeks to lead, mobilize, and raise the voices of professionals and survivors to support efforts that demand a change of conditions that lead to domestic violence. NCADV is dedicated to supporting survivors, holding offenders accountable, and supporting advocates. They collaborate with other national organizations to promote legislation and policies that serve and protect victims and survivors of domestic violence and work to change the narrative surrounding domestic violence. Their website contains training opportunities and resources for domestic violence professionals, victims, and survivors.

#### **BATTERED WOMEN'S JUSTICE PROJECT**

**800.903.0111, ext. 1 | [www.bwjp.org](http://www.bwjp.org)**

The Battered Women's Justice Project is the national resource center on civil and criminal justice responses to intimate partner violence. They provide technical assistance and training to professionals engaged in these systems: advocates, civil attorneys, judges and related court personnel, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, probation officers, batterer intervention program staff, and defense attorneys; as well as to policymakers, the media, and victims, including incarcerated victims, their families, and friends. BWJP also assists tribal and military personnel who fulfill equivalent positions in their respective institutional responses to intimate partner violence.

#### **THE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND FIREARMS**

**800.903.0111, ext. 1 | <https://www.preventdvgunviolence.org/>**

The National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms and the Safer Families, Safer Communities Project work to prevent domestic violence-related homicides involving firearms. The website provides resources pertaining to effective interventions in both criminal and civil domestic violence cases that can decrease the risk posed by dangerous domestic violence offenders with access to firearms.

#### **NATIONAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**415.678.5500 | <https://futureswithoutviolence.org/initiative/national-health-resource-center-on-domestic-violence/>**

The National Health Resource Center on Domestic Violence (HRC) supports healthcare professionals, domestic violence experts, survivors, and policy makers at all levels to improve healthcare's response to domestic violence. The center offers personalized, expert technical assistance at professional conferences and provides an online toolkit for healthcare providers and domestic violence advocates to prepare a clinical practice to

address domestic and sexual violence, including screening instruments, sample scripts for providers, and patient and provider educational resources.

#### **NATIONAL CENTER ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TRAUMA, & MENTAL HEALTH**

**312.726.7020** | <http://www.nationalcenterdvtraumamh.org/>

The National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma and Mental Health provides training, support, and consultation to advocates, mental health and substance abuse providers, legal professionals, and policymakers as they work to improve agency and systems-level responses to survivors and their children in a way that is survivor-defined and rooted in the principles of social justice. The website offers resources, educational materials and webinars related to domestic violence, trauma, and mental health directed toward various professional groups.

#### **NATIONAL CENTER FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME**

**202.467.8700** | [www.victimsofcrime.org](http://www.victimsofcrime.org)

The National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) is a nonprofit organization that advocates for victims' rights, trains professionals who work with victims, and serves as a trusted source of information on victims' issues. They are the most comprehensive national resource committed to advancing victims' rights and helping victims of crime rebuild their lives. The NCVC collaborates with local, state, and federal partners to provide direct victim services; secure rights, resources, and protections for victims of crime; and train and educate professionals and communities on understanding victims of crime and improving how they are treated.

#### **OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**202.307.6026** | [www.justice.gov/ovw](http://www.justice.gov/ovw)

The Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) provides federal leadership in developing national and states' capacities to reduce violence against women and administer justice for and strengthen services to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. In addition to providing information and resources regarding domestic violence, OVW provides funding opportunities for agencies and organizations serving victims.

## **National Culturally Specific & Underserved Population Resources**

#### **NATIONAL INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER**

**855.649.7299** | [www.niwrc.org](http://www.niwrc.org)

The National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC) is a Native nonprofit organization that was specifically created to serve as the National Indian Resource Center Addressing Domestic Violence and Safety for Indian Women. NIWRC seeks to enhance the capacity of American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations to respond to domestic violence and provide public awareness, resource development, training and technical assistance, policy development, and research activities.

#### **STRONGHEARTS NATIVE HELPLINE**

**844.762.8483** | [www.strongheartshelpline.org](http://www.strongheartshelpline.org)

StrongHearts Native Helpline is a safe domestic, dating, and sexual violence helpline for American Indians and Alaska Natives offering culturally appropriate peer support, safety planning, crisis intervention, referrals, information, and advocacy 24/7. StrongHearts is anonymous and confidential and can be reached by phone or chat through their website.

#### **ASIAN PACIFIC INSTITUTE ON GENDER-BASED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**415.568.3315** | [www.api-gbv.org](http://www.api-gbv.org)

The Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Domestic Violence is a national resource center on domestic violence, sexual violence, trafficking, and other forms of gender-based violence in Asian and

Pacific Islander communities. It analyzes critical issues affecting Asian and Pacific Islander survivors; provides training, technical assistance, and policy analysis; and maintains a clearinghouse of information on gender violence, current research, and culturally specific models of intervention and community engagement. The Institute serves a national network of advocates, community-based service programs, federal agencies, national and state organizations, legal, health, and mental health professionals, researchers, policy advocates, and activists from social justice organizations working to eliminate violence against women.

**ESPERANZA UNITED** (formerly Casa de Esperanza)

**651-646-5553** | <https://esperanzaunited.org/en/>

The Casa De Esperanza, Latin@ Network of Healthy Families and Communities is a leading, national Latin@ organization, founded in 1982, providing emergency shelter for Latinas and other women, family advocacy, and shelter services to leadership development and community engagement opportunities for Latin@ youth, women, and men. The Network provides training and consultations to practitioners and activists throughout the US, as well as in Latin America, and produces practical publications and tools for the field, disseminates relevant, up-to-date information and facilitates an online learning community that supports practitioners, policy makers, and researchers who are working to end domestic violence.

**UJIMA: THE NATIONAL CENTER ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY**

**844.778.5462** | <https://ujimacommunity.org/>

Launched in 2016, Ujima, also known as The National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, serves as a national, culturally specific services resources center to provide support to and be a voice for the Black Community in response to domestic, sexual, and community violence. Ujima was founded in response to a need for an active approach to ending domestic, sexual, and community violence in the Black Community. They are on the forefront of new training and outreach tools to reduce violence against and homicides of Black women. Ujima is a clearinghouse for research literature, webinars, national issue forums, regional trainings, community-specific roundtables, blogs, articles, and on-site technical assistance. Ujima also works with organizations to develop public service announcements, issue briefs, videos, monographs, and fact sheets.

**THE NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON ABUSE IN LATER LIFE (NCALL)**

**608.255.0539** | <https://www.ncall.us/>

A national project of End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin: The Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence, NCALL is committed to creating a world that respects the dignity of older adults and enhances the safety and quality of life of older victims and survivors of abuse by engaging communities to foster a collaborative, inclusive, survivor-centered response to abuse in later life. They provide technical assistance and consultation, training, and resources related to abuse in later life and elder abuse. information sheets, curricula, toolkits, videos, webinars, web graphics, and posters on a variety of topics for various audiences related to abuse in later life and unique issues facing older adults and survivors of abuse.



# APPENDIX D: VICTIM/SURVIVOR RESOURCES

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board has chosen to include a list of local and national domestic violence resources specifically for victims and survivors of domestic and intimate partner abuse. The list is by no means exhaustive but serves as a starting point for victims and survivors seeking safety and assistance.

## Local Resources

### 24-HOUR OKLAHOMA SAFELINE

**800.522.SAFE (7233) | <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit.html>**

The Oklahoma SafeLine is a confidential, toll-free, 24-hour hotline for Oklahomans seeking help or information about domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault, including shelter services. Translation services are available in 150 languages.

### OKLAHOMA ATTORNEY GENERAL VICTIM SERVICES

**405.521.3921 | <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit.html>**

Oklahoma's Victim Services Unit supports crime victims and their families by providing information, connection to local services, and direct assistance throughout the criminal process. An updated [list](#) of OAG-certified DV/SA programs can be found on their website.

### ADDRESS CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM

**866.227.7784 (For Oklahoma Area Codes Only) | <https://oklahoma.gov/oag/about/divisions/victim-advocacy-and-services-unit/acp.html>**

The Address Confidentiality Program (ACP) provides victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking who apply a substitute address to use when interacting with state and local government agencies. The address serves as a victim's home, work, and school address and helps ensure a perpetrator does not use government records to locate them.

### ENHANCED OKLAHOMA VINE: CRIMINAL TRACKING & VICTIM NOTIFICATION SYSTEM / PROTECTIVE ORDER

**877.654.8463 | <https://vinelink.vineapps.com/state/OK>**

An automated notification system that allows victims and survivors to receive information on the location of a perpetrator following arrest, during prosecution, during a sentence to probation or confinement, and when there is any release or escape from confinement. Registering through the site allows victims and survivors to receive automated notifications by email, text, or phone and to check custody status online anytime. The site also includes a searchable database of service providers.

### OKLAHOMA CRIME VICTIMS' COMPENSATION

**405.264.5006 | 800.745.6098 | <https://www.okvictimscomp.com/>**

The purpose of the Crime Victims Compensation Fund is to provide a method to compensate for victims of violent crime for unreimbursed expenses related to the crime, including medical, dental and prescription costs, counseling and rehabilitation, loss of work income, replacement of services, and mileage reimbursement for medical, dental, and counseling appointments. An arrest of the offender does NOT have to take place to be eligible to file a claim; however, the victim and/or claimant is expected to fully cooperate in the apprehension, investigation, and prosecution of the perpetrator.

### OKLAHOMA STATE COURTS NETWORK UNIFORM PROTECTIVE ORDERS

**[https://www.oscn.net/static/forms/aoc\\_forms/protectiveorders.asp](https://www.oscn.net/static/forms/aoc_forms/protectiveorders.asp)**

Provides downloadable Word and PDF copies of the forms required to file a Petition for Protective Order. Also includes a link to a video made about the Protective Order Process made by the Bench & Bar Committee of the Oklahoma Bar Association.

**OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS VICTIM SERVICES****405.425.2607** | <https://oklahoma.gov/doc/victim-services.html>

The Oklahoma Department of Corrections Victim Services provides information and resources to victims of crime while their perpetrator is in the DOC system. They can also help victims find assistance and support groups in their area.

**CARDINAL POINT: A DIRECTION FOR HOPE, CANADIAN COUNTY'S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER****405.776.0990** | <https://cardinalpointok.org/>

Cardinal Point brings together needed services and resources for Canadian County victims of abuse in a centralized location. Victims and survivors receive individualized care, safety planning, service coordination, and support from the public and private providers on-site and in the community.

**FAMILY SAFETY CENTER****918.742.7480** | 24-hour Number: **918.743.5763** | <https://fsctulsa.org/>

Tulsa's Family Safety Center strives to provide wrap-around services to domestic violence victims in a single location. On-site partners include Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS) Advocacy, DVIS Legal Services, RSVP Safety Shepherd Volunteers, Tulsa County District Attorney's Office, Tulsa County Sheriff's Office, Tulsa Police Department - Family Violence Unit, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries (TMM), YWCA of Tulsa Multicultural Service Center.

**PALOMAR: OKLAHOMA CITY'S FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER****405.552.1010** | text **405.355.3556** (during business hours) | <https://palomarokc.org/>

Palomar provides free and confidential assistance to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, trafficking and elder abuse and their children. Navigators assist victims and survivors with accessing available services from on-site providers that include victim advocates, law enforcement, legal assistance, mental health and substance abuse providers, and more. Palomar also has a network of resources for victims and survivors and their children residing in the Oklahoma City metro.

**LEGAL AID SERVICES OF OKLAHOMA, INC.****888.534.5243** | **800.421.1641** (OKC Office) | <https://www.legalaidok.org/>

Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma, Inc. (LASO) is a non-profit organization that assists low-income persons throughout Oklahoma with civil, non-criminal cases. They have 18 offices throughout the state and provide help with domestic violence issues. They can also assist domestic violence victims with immigration legal services. Victims can call or visit the website to apply for assistance.

## Culturally Specific Local Resources

**NATIVE ALLIANCE AGAINST VIOLENCE****405.217.0212** | <https://oknaav.org/>

The Native Alliance Against Violence (NAAV), is a nonprofit organization operating as Oklahoma's only tribal domestic violence and sexual assault coalition. The NAAV is not a direct service provider; however, their website does have a [list](#) of Oklahoma's Tribal domestic violence and sexual assault programs.

**LA LUZ ORG****405.724.8474** | **405.812.0762** (24/7 line) | <https://www.laluzokc.org/>

La Luz provides services to Latinx victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking. Their services are confidential, free, and culturally and linguistically trauma-informed. Located in Oklahoma City, they serve the Oklahoma City metro area but can be contacted by anyone statewide.

**LATINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY****405.236.0701** | <https://lcdaok.com/>

The Latino Community Development Agency (LCDA) is a non-profit organization that provides services for the Latinx community in Oklahoma, including domestic violence services. LCDA's mission is to enhance the quality of life of the Latino community through education, leadership services and advocacy.

#### **DIVERSITY CENTER OF OKLAHOMA**

**405.604.5217** | <https://www.diversitycenterofoklahoma.org/>

The Diversity Center of Oklahoma is a non-profit organization that provides quality services and community resources to the state's gender diverse and LGBTQ+ communities. Their mission is to reduce barriers for the Gender Diverse and LGBTQ+ communities and their families, including disenfranchised and marginalized people of color, by providing an OAG-certified DV/SA program, quality primary health care treatment, behavioral health treatment, and additional complimentary health care services.

## **National Resources**

#### **NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE**

**800.799.7233** | **800.787.3224 (TTY)** | [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org)

The National Domestic Violence Hotline responds to calls 24/7 and provides confidential, one-on-one support by phone or by chat available through the website, offering crisis intervention, options for next steps, and direct connection to sources for immediate safety. Their database holds over 5,000 agencies and resources from communities across the country. Bilingual advocates are on hand to speak with callers and their Language Line offers translations in 170+ languages.

#### **VICTIMCONNECT RESOURCE CENTER**

**855.484.2846** | <https://victimconnect.org/>

VictimConnect Resource Center (VCRC) is a weekday phone, chat, and text-based referral helpline operated by the National Center for Victims of Crime. Services are available for all victims of crime in the United States and its territories. Visitors to the hotline receive strength-based and trauma-informed services and referrals in over 200 languages.

#### **LOVE IS RESPECT**

**866.331.9474** | **Text LOVEIS to 22522** | <https://www.loveisrespect.org/>

A project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, Love is Respect offers inclusive, 24/7 information, support, and advocacy via phone, text, and live chat to young people between the ages of 13 and 26 who have questions or concerns about their romantic relationships. They also provide support to concerned friends and family members, teachers, counselors, and other service providers through the same free and confidential phone, text, and live chat services.

# APPENDIX E: DATA METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

## Types of Cases Reviewed

The Oklahoma statutory definition of domestic abuse found in 22 O.S. § 60.1. is “*any act of physical harm, or the threat of imminent physical harm which is committed by an adult, emancipated minor, or minor child thirteen (13) years of age or older against another adult, emancipated minor or minor child who is currently or was previously an intimate partner or family or household member.*” The latter is further defined in statute as parents, including grandparents, stepparents, adoptive parents, and foster parents; children, including grandchildren, stepchildren, adopted children, and foster children; and persons otherwise related by blood or marriage living in the same household.

The Review Board and Program Staff identify and report domestic violence-related deaths using a broad interpretation of the statutory definition to capture as representative a picture as possible of domestic violence fatalities in Oklahoma. For purposes of this report, the Review Board and Program Staff identify incidents (also known as events or cases) in which one or more of the following conditions were present:

- The adult or teen homicide victim(s) and perpetrator(s) were current or former spouses or intimate partners, had a child in common, or were in a current or former dating relationship (intimate partner).
- The homicide victim(s) and perpetrator(s) were related by blood, marriage, adoption, or fostering, or one was in a current intimate or dating partner relationship with a co-habiting family member of the other, i.e., the child of a live-in partner, the live-in partner of a parent, etc. (family).
- The homicide victim was a bystander or Good Samaritan who intervened in or was nearby during an attempted or completed domestic violence homicide and was killed. This includes:
  - friends
  - family of current or former intimate or dating partners who are not co-habiting or do not have a child in common
  - law enforcement officers or other professionals attempting to assist the victim of domestic violence
  - co-workers
- The adult or teen homicide perpetrator(s) and adult or teen victim(s) were living together at the time of the homicide (roommates).
- The adult or teen homicide perpetrator(s) is the current or former spouse, intimate partner or dating partner of the adult or teen victim’s current or former spouse, intimate partner, or dating partner (triangle).
- The adult or teen homicide perpetrator(s) died by suicide within 72 hours of committing the homicide, including suicide by officer-involved shooting.

## Case Identification

The Review Board and Program Staff search multiple Oklahoma newspapers and their social media sites for homicide incidents which have occurred in the state and which appear or are known to have been related to domestic violence. A major source of cases that falls into this category is the *Tulsa World’s* Tulsa homicide case [database](https://tulsaworld.com/news/specialreports-databases/tulsa-homicide-case-database-1989-to-present/html_cd9f9c2e-2c52-11e3-aa7e-001a4bcf6878.html#tncms-source=login)<sup>132</sup>, which tracks all homicides in the Tulsa metropolitan area from 1989 to present.

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<sup>132</sup> Tulsa World. (2025, January 20). *Tulsa homicide case database 1989 to present*. Retrieved from [https://tulsaworld.com/news/specialreports-databases/tulsa-homicide-case-database-1989-to-present/html\\_cd9f9c2e-2c52-11e3-aa7e-001a4bcf6878.html#tncms-source=login](https://tulsaworld.com/news/specialreports-databases/tulsa-homicide-case-database-1989-to-present/html_cd9f9c2e-2c52-11e3-aa7e-001a4bcf6878.html#tncms-source=login)

Program Staff also utilize multiple local television news and their social media accounts of homicides as another source of domestic violence-related murders and suicides that have occurred in the state. They also regularly search websites such as the [Gun Violence Archive](#)<sup>133</sup> and the [Gun Violence Memorial](#)<sup>134</sup> for Oklahoma gun deaths and use multiple sources, including some of those already listed, to evaluate if any of them are domestic violence-related.

In addition, Program Staff receives emails from police departments, particularly the Oklahoma City Police Department, regarding homicides and collect additional information to determine which are related to domestic violence. The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) also provides Program Staff with an annual list of domestic violence homicides reported by law enforcement agencies across the state through the State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS). Historically the list has only included homicides which met the statutory definition of domestic abuse, but in 2021 the OSBI and Program Staff met, and the list was expanded to include more categories incorporated in the DVFRB's broad definition of domestic violence-related homicides. Finally, OAG-certified, and Tribal domestic violence and sexual assault and batterer intervention programs are encouraged to contact Program Staff and inform them about any homicides in their area which are or appear to be related to domestic violence.

## Case Review Process

The fatality review process is like a public health model that promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work, and play. Program Staff collects information related to cases from various sources, including:

- the medical examiner (autopsies)
- criminal, civil, and juvenile court documents
- law enforcement agencies
- District Attorneys
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Corrections
- Department of Health
- mental health, substance abuse, and co-occurring treatment providers and agencies
- hospitals
- batterer intervention programs
- media reports
- obituaries
- social media accounts

In some cases, when appropriate, Program Staff or the Review Board will obtain background information from surviving family members, friends, and others.

Because the Review Board conducts in-depth reviews, they are only able to review a portion of the overall number of qualifying domestic violence homicides in any given year. A case is considered qualified for review when all criminal cases related to the homicide have been disposed or when the perpetrator also dies during the incident, as in cases of homicide/suicide. Program Staff monitor the remainder of the cases. The Review Board discusses selected cases during monthly closed, confidential meetings. The Review Board strives to find ways in which the system could have better served the deceased victims prior to their deaths and surviving family members.

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<sup>133</sup> Gun Violence Archive. (2025, January 8). *Gun violence archive*. Retrieved from <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>

<sup>134</sup> Gun Memorial. (n.d.). *Gun memorial*. Retrieved from <https://gunmemorial.org/>

## *The Review Process*

When a case undergoes in-depth review, the Review Board and Program Staff:

- examine the circumstances and context of the death
- establish a timeline and summary of events leading up to the death incident going back as far as possible
- identify potential lethality risk factors (also known as *red flags*)
- determine which agencies were involved with the homicide perpetrator(s), victim(s), and child(ren) prior to the death event
- identify agency and system responses
- ascertain any collaboration, communication, and coordination between the agencies and organizations involved
- identify agencies' use of evidence-based best practices
- pinpoint victim challenges and barriers to obtaining help (such as language, income, transportation, cultural beliefs, and values)
- identify possible gaps in the prevention and protection system's response to domestic violence (such as criminal justice, protective order, juvenile/family court, law enforcement, judiciary, and child welfare)
- asks, "Is there anything that could have been done differently to improve the systemic and/or community response to the victim(s) and/or perpetrator(s)?"

## Data Collection, Validation, and Limitations

### *Variables and Collection*

Program Staff gather two sets of variables on cases confirmed as being related to domestic violence. Cases are confirmed as domestic violence-related by requesting and reviewing information from at least three (3) sources, including the law enforcement report(s) pertaining to the homicide, death certificate(s), and news media stories, to determine the relationships of those involved and the circumstances of the fatality event. The first set of variables is collected for *all cases* in a calendar year verified as being domestic violence related. These are the variables needed to complete the statistical analyses contained within the annual report, including but not limited to demographic information (i.e., age, sex, race, ethnicity, etc.), relationship types, locations of incidents and deaths, causes and manners of deaths, and criminal justice information. These are referred to as the *master case list variables*.

The second set of variables is much more comprehensive than the first set and is currently primarily collected for cases that undergo in-depth review by the Review Board. This set contains the approximately 248 variables outlined in the *DVFRB Codebook Protocol v4.2* and are entered in the DVFRB Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) database after coding. These are known as the *Codebook variables* and were developed by previous program staff based on public health and domestic violence statistical research and guidance. Due to the number of domestic violence-related fatalities which occur each year and the limited number of staff, collecting and entering the Codebook variables for every confirmed case has not been possible for several years. However, program staff work diligently each year to collect and enter the variables for the backlog of cases.

The information needed to complete the master case list and Codebook variables is gleaned from the documents (listed above) collected by Program Staff. The former's variables are entered onto the master case list, an Excel book in which every confirmed domestic violence-related fatality is recorded by calendar year. The latter's variables are coded following the guidelines outlined in the *Codebook Protocol* and entered into the SPSS database.

### *Validation*

Variables are validated using three sources whenever possible. This is due in large part to differing information on the numerous sources used by Program Staff to collect data. For example, when collecting variables related to race and ethnicity, the law enforcement report may indicate a victim is white and their death certificate and

Child Welfare records show they are Native American. Program staff would code the victim as Native American in this case. In cases where there is no agreement among the sources on a specific variable and/or the information cannot be found at least two sources, Program Staff will prioritize information reported to sources by the victim (i.e., victim reported in a mental health assessment they are Native American) and/or an immediate family member (i.e., the informant for the victim's death certificate is the victim's mother, who reported they were a Tribal member). Many master case list variables collected are cross validated by the Program Manager and the Research Analyst to ensure accuracy.

### *Limitations*

Since Program Staff relies primarily on media reports and online databases to identify potential domestic violence-related fatalities, there is no certainty that all deaths are captured. Additional domestic violence fatalities could be found among deaths ruled to be due to unintentional injuries, to injuries of undetermined intent, and suicide.<sup>135</sup> In particular, deaths due to strangulation, suffocation, drug overdoses, and poisonings may not be ruled a homicide or reported as such by the media.

As indicated, Program Staff encounter numerous barriers when collecting information to complete the master case list and Codebook variables. In addition to conflicting information across sources, Program Staff may be unable to find the pertinent information in the sources they gather or are not granted access to documents that may contain the information, despite the wide purview granted to the DVFRB in 22 O.S. § 1601. In addition, some documents may be destroyed by agencies or organizations after a certain timeframe, making it difficult to collect certain information; for example, behavioral health records may be destroyed seven years after a victim discharges from services (with a few exceptions). This is particularly applicable to Codebook variables due to the sheer number of variables coded.

Because the information needed for certain variables may be conflicting or inaccessible, representative longitudinal and/or multivariate analyses of variables can be challenging. In addition, several changes in the Program Staff since the DVFRB's inception have resulted in documented and undocumented changes in data collection and validation methods. Both factors combined result in caveats for all data analyses conducted by Program Staff to date. To address this issue, current Program Staff are working on a Program Manual that outlines, among other things, procedures for data collection and validation, particularly for the master case list variables. In addition, the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative is working on a National Clearinghouse for Uniform Reporting System, a five-year initiative sponsored by the Office of Violence against Women and US Department of Justice, in which Oklahoma is a potential contributor.

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<sup>135</sup> For example, in Utah 33.1% of the IPV-related fatality victims from 2009-2016 were suicides. Utah Domestic Violence Prevention Fund. (2020). *Intimate partner and domestic violence fatalities in Utah: 2020 report*. Utah Department of Health. <https://vipp.utah.gov/wp-content/uploads/IP-DV-Fatalities-2020-1.pdf>



# APPENDIX F: TERMINOLOGY

ACRONYM/TERM	DEFINITION
<b>85% Crime</b>	Refers to a sentencing law that requires certain convicted offenders to serve at least 85% of their sentence before becoming eligible for parole.
<b>A&amp;B</b>	Assault and Battery. A criminal charge involving physical harm or the threat of harm, often part of domestic violence.
<b>ACASI</b>	Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative. A program in Arizona designed to provide specialized services to children and caregivers impacted by intimate partner homicide or violence, serving as a model for similar programs.
<b>ACE</b>	Adverse Childhood Experiences. Certain negative events occurring before age 18.
<b>ACP</b>	Address Confidentiality Program
<b>ADA</b>	Assistant District Attorney
<b>Advocacy</b>	Support and assistance provided to victims, often including safety planning, resources, and emotional & practical help from individuals or organizations.
<b>Battering</b>	Ongoing physical, emotional, or psychological abuse with the intent to control or intimidate.
<b>BIP</b>	Batterers Intervention Program
<b>Bystander/Good Samaritan Homicide</b>	A killing of an innocent bystander or a person who intervenes in a domestic violence situation, typically not directly involved in the conflict.
<b>CCRT</b>	Coordinated Community Response Team. A collaborative group of professionals and organizations addressing DV within their community and creating a more responsive, efficient system. The team typically includes representatives from law enforcement, victim advocates, legal professionals, social services, and other agencies and community organizations.
<b>Charge Enhancement</b>	Steps increasing the severity of a criminal charge, typically in cases of repeat offenses or aggravating circumstances, resulting in increased penalties.
<b>Child Exposure to Domestic Violence</b>	Refers to children witnessing or being affected by domestic violence, often leading to long-term harm.
<b>CHIRP</b>	Criminal History Information Request Portal
<b>CLEET</b>	Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
<b>Coercion</b>	The use of force, threats, or manipulation to make someone act against their will, often seen in abusive relationships.
<b>CPS</b>	Child Protective Services
<b>CWS</b>	Child Welfare Services
<b>Cycle of Abuse</b>	A repetitive pattern of abusive behavior, including tension building, violence, and reconciliation, followed by calm periods.
<b>DA</b>	District Attorney
<b>DAC</b>	District Attorneys Council
<b>Deferred Sentence</b>	A legal judgment in which a defendant pleads guilty but the court delays sentencing, offering the defendant a chance to avoid a formal conviction if he or she meets certain conditions.
<b>DHS</b>	Department of Human Services. The Oklahoma state agency responsible for services related to children and families, including welfare, child protective services, and response to domestic violence cases.
<b>DOC</b>	Department of Correction
<b>DOJ</b>	Department of Justice
<b>Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Resource Prosecutor</b>	A specialized role within the Oklahoma District Attorneys Council focused on providing assistance and expertise in domestic violence and sexual assault cases.

<b>DVFRB</b>	Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. A team that reviews domestic violence-related death cases to identify patterns and make recommendations to prevent future fatalities. Statutorily authorized under <a href="#">22 O.S. § 1601</a> <i>et seq.</i>
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence. A pattern of abusive behavior used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another.
<b>DV/SA</b>	Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
<b>Emergency Ex Parte Order</b>	A judge-signed order designed to provide immediate protection on an emergency basis for a person who is a victim of domestic violence, stalking, harassment, etc. <i>Ex parte</i> means without the abuser present in court, allowing for a swift response to protect the victim.
<b>ETO</b>	Emergency Temporary Order (of Protection). A legal order issued to provide immediate protection when the court is not open for business, usually in cases of domestic violence, when a victim's safety is at risk.
<b>Evidence-Based Prosecution</b>	A legal approach that emphasizes the use of physical evidence and law enforcement testimony in domestic violence cases, especially when victims are unable or unwilling to testify
<b>Hearsay</b>	Refers to a statement made outside of the current court proceeding that is offered in court as evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted in the statement. Such statements are generally inadmissible due to unreliability.
<b>Hearsay Exception</b>	A rule allowing certain out-of-court statements to be admissible in court, even though they are typically not allowed under hearsay rules.
<b>I.S.</b>	Interim Study. A brief study or review by the Oklahoma Legislature to examine a specific issue or policy.
<b>IPH</b>	Intimate Partner Homicide. The killing of one intimate partner by another in a domestic violence context.
<b>IPV</b>	Intimate Partner Violence. Abuse of another with whom the perpetrator is in a close relationship (physical, emotional, or sexual).
<b>LAP</b>	Lethality Assessment Protocol. A process and tool used by law enforcement to assess the potential risk of intimate partner homicide in domestic violence situations and connect with victim services.
<b>LE</b>	Law Enforcement
<b>Lethality Risk</b>	The likelihood that domestic violence may escalate to homicide. Tools like LAP are used to assess this risk.
<b>M/S</b>	Murder/Suicide. A homicide in which the perpetrator kills one or more victims before killing themselves.
<b>MHP</b>	Mental Health Provider. Professionals trained to offer mental health services, such as therapists, psychologists, or counselors, who provide treatment for trauma, grief, and other psychological needs.
<b>NIBRS</b>	National Incident-Based Reporting System
<b>Nolo Contendere</b>	A legal plea in which a defendant does not admit guilt but agrees to accept punishment as if guilty. Often referred to as a "no contest" plea.
<b>Nontestimonial</b>	A legal term describing statements or evidence that do not fall under the rules of testimony, often relevant in determining admissibility in court.
<b>O.S.</b>	Oklahoma Statutes. The codified body of laws governing Oklahoma.
<b>OAG</b>	Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General. The office responsible for overseeing law enforcement.
<b>OCDR</b>	On Demand Court Records
<b>OSBI</b>	Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation. The primary state agency that collects and manages criminal data in Oklahoma, including domestic violence reports.
<b>OSCN</b>	Oklahoma State Court Network
<b>PACER</b>	Public Access to Court Electronic Records

<b>SA</b>	Sexual assault.
<b>SAC</b>	Statistical Analysis Center
<b>Safety Plan</b>	A temporary, short-term, tailored plan to safeguard victim safety while more permanent safety provisions (including offender accountability) can be put in place.
<b>SAMHSA</b>	Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
<b>SIBRS</b>	State Incident-Based Reporting System. A system used by law enforcement agencies to report domestic violence incidents and victims to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI).
<b>SRS</b>	Summary Reporting System
<b>Stalking</b>	Repeated, unwanted behavior that causes annoyance, fear, or distress, often present in domestic violence cases and often precedes intimate partner homicides.
<b>Sublethal IPV</b>	Intimate partner violence that does not result in death but may still result in significant harm, such as physical injury or psychological trauma.
<b>SWAT</b>	Special Weapons and Tactics. A police unit specializing in high-risk operations.
<b>Target Systems</b>	Stakeholder organizations and entities that impact or will be impacted by or are involved in implementing a recommendation, such as the Oklahoma Legislature, Governor's Office, and District Attorney Offices.
<b>Trauma-Informed Care</b>	Services that recognize and address the impact of trauma, particularly in cases of abuse. This approach is grounded in the understanding that survivors of DV may experience physical, emotional, psychological, and/or sexual trauma, which can affect behavior, decision-making, and well-being.
<b>Triangle Homicide</b>	Also known as sexual-competitor homicide. A killing that often revolves around three parties where competition or control is exerted by the perpetrator against another individual over a romantic or sexual partner.
<b>VASU</b>	Victim Advocacy and Services Unit. A unit within the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General that provides advocacy and services to victims of crime, including domestic violence.
<b>Victim-Blaming</b>	Focusing on a victim's conduct more than the abuser's or holding the victim responsible for the violence he or she experiences, which can justify the abuser's actions. It often includes placing responsibility on the individual for the abuse, violence, or trauma experienced, and shifting the focus away from the perpetrator's conduct.
<b>Victim's Compensation</b>	Financial assistance provided to victims of crime to help cover expenses incurred as a result of certain crimes, such as medical bills, funeral costs, or lost wages.
<b>VPO</b>	Victim Protection Order. A legal order issued by a court to protect a victim from harm, often used in cases of DV. A VPO shall not exceed five years, unless a specific finding under 22 O.S. § 60.4 (G)(1)(b) qualifies it to be a continuous order.
<b>Witness Intimidation</b>	The act of threatening, coercing, or otherwise discouraging a witness from testifying in a criminal case, particularly common in domestic violence cases. Intimidation may occur directly from defendant to witness or by a defendant's proxy (friend, family member, etc.).

# APPENDIX G: REFERENCES

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# 2025 DVFRB ANNUAL REPORT

## OKLAHOMA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD OKLAHOMA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



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oklahoma.gov/oag/vasu

If you or someone you know  
needs help in a domestic  
violence situation, call:

**SafeLine**  
1-800-522-SAFE (7233)

If you need general info  
about domestic violence,  
please call:

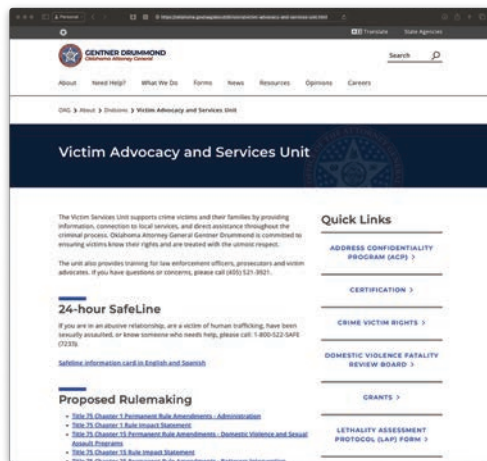
**Victim Advocacy & Services Unit**  
405-521-3921

If you need more info about  
the Domestic Violence Fatality  
Review Board, call:

**Office of the Attorney General**  
405-521-3921

If you are in an  
emergency situation  
please dial

**9-1-1**  
for Emergency Assistance



### VICTIM ADVOCACY AND SERVICES UNIT WEBPAGE

<https://oklahoma.gov/oag/vasu>

- Copies of reports from previous years;
- Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board mission, purpose, definitions, methods and limitations of data collection, and data; and
- History of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

**PLEASE WIDELY DISSEMINATE THIS ANNUAL REPORT.**

Publication prepared by the Oklahoma Office of the Attorney General, Gentner Drummond,  
on behalf of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB).

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