

MCBW

Minnesota Coalition  
for Battered Women



# 2012 Annual Femicide Report

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## **Domestic Violence Homicides in Minnesota: 1989-2012**

**We remember our mothers, our fathers, our sisters, our brothers, our daughters, our sons,  
our wives, our husbands, our intimate partners, our family members, our friends, our  
neighbors, our co-workers, our fellow Minnesotans...**

- 1989 At least 18 women died from domestic violence\*
- 1990 At least 26 women died from domestic violence
- 1991 At least 12 women died from domestic violence
- 1992 At least 31 women died from domestic violence  
At least 8 children died from child abuse+  
At least 3 women were murdered while being used in prostitution#  
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered by a woman's current or former partner\*\*
- 1993 At least 28 women died from domestic violence  
At least 13 children died from child abuse  
At least 6 women were murdered while being used in prostitution  
At least 5 family members/friends were murdered
- 1994 At least 19 women died from domestic violence  
At least 7 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 women were murdered while being used in prostitution
- 1995 At least 29 women died from domestic violence  
At least 11 children died from child abuse
- 1996 At least 22 women died from domestic violence  
At least 17 children died from child abuse  
At least 6 women were murdered while being used in prostitution
- 1997 At least 17 women died from domestic violence  
At least 5 children died from child abuse
- 1998 At least 22 women died from domestic violence  
At least 15 children died from child abuse
- 1999 At least 22 women died from domestic abuse  
At least 20 children died from child abuse

- 2000 At least 40 women died from domestic violence  
At least 6 children died from child abuse  
At least 1 family member was murdered
- 2001 At least 33 women died from domestic violence  
At least 12 children died from child abuse  
At least 6 family members/friends were murdered
- 2002 At least 16 women died from domestic violence  
At least 13 children died from child abuse
- 2003 At least 14 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse
- 2004 At least 13 women died from domestic violence  
At least 11 children died from child abuse  
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2005 At least 26 women died from domestic violence  
At least 1 women was murdered while being used in prostitution  
At least 4 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered
- 2006 At least 20 women died from domestic violence  
At least 20 children died from child abuse  
At least 1 family member/friend was murdered
- 2007 At least 22 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse  
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered
- 2008 At least 23 women died from domestic violence  
At least 7 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family members/friends were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence from his male partner
- 2009 At least 12 women died from domestic violence  
At least 10 children died from child abuse  
At least 2 family member/friends/intervener were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

2010 At least 15 women died from domestic violence  
At least 7 children died from domestic violence  
At least 4 family members/friends were murdered.  
At least 2 men died from domestic violence

2011 At least 23 women died from domestic violence  
At least 4 children died from domestic violence  
At least 6 family members/friends were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

2012 At least 14 women died from domestic violence++  
At least 3 family members/friends were murdered  
At least 1 man died from domestic violence

\*Cases of women murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, intimate partner, household member, or family member.

+Cases of children murdered where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was the father, mother, guardian, babysitter, child care provider, or household/family member of the child; or the perpetrator was the parent's spouse or intimate partner.

#MCBW recognizes prostitution as a system of violence against women and children.

\*\*Cases of family or friends murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

++Cases of children murdered as a result of violence involving current or former intimate partners are now tracked under the family members, friends & interveners category. Those involved in prostitution who are murdered are tracked as well. In 2012, MCBW was unaware of anyone involved in prostitution who was murdered.

## **In Minnesota in 2012**

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women (MCBW) tracks homicides in which the known or suspected perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner or the homicide is the result of domestic violence between current or former intimate partners. This includes family members, friends, and interveners who are killed as a result of the domestic violence being perpetrated by a current/former intimate partner.

When we use the terms battering and domestic violence, we are referring to the pattern of violence that affects the level of fear and quality of life for all women. It encompasses both physical and sexual violence and includes pervasive emotional abuse and threats; control over finances and access to transportation; manipulation of and often harm to the children; and social norms that persist today that a man has the right to put his partner in her place. While these same dynamics are also present in same sex relationships and on rare occasions women use similar tactics against their male partners, the broader social institutions support this pervasive and historically sanctioned pattern of behavior that MCBW seeks to change.

In reporting the total number of deaths, it is important to note that at least this many people have been murdered. We cannot be certain we have not missed some deaths since we must use a method of data collection that primarily relies on news accounts. No state or federal agency collects comprehensive data on domestic homicides. In addition, the murders of women and children of color, Native American people, immigrant and refugee women and children, those living in poverty, people with disabilities, rural women, lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender people, and those exploited in prostitution and sex trafficking may be underreported in our listing as they frequently go unreported in mainstream media.

### **At least 14 women**

Were murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner.

### **At least 3 friends, family members or interveners**

Were murdered in domestic violence-related situations.

### **At least 1 man**

Was murdered in a case where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former intimate partner.

### **At least 11 minor children**

Were left motherless due to domestic violence murders.

## Femicide Report:

### Adult Victims and Relationship to the Alleged Perpetrators

	2012		
Relationship to Victim	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Current or former boyfriend or Husband	11	61%	Ashantai Nicole Finch Carolyn Leete Dominga Limon Sharon Love Kathleen Ponsness Tensia Richard Georgia Lynn Rogers Adelaida Sadd Lane Christine Schnor Woynshet Woldemariam Lora Ann Wright
Former Girlfriend	1	6%	Bret Struck
Other	6	33%	Christopher Fulmer Patrick Jaworski Vinessa Lozano Lolitta Malone Rosemary Oberg-Johnson Jennifer Smith
<b>Total:</b>	<b>18</b>		

## Red Flags for Batterer Lethality

In this report we pay special attention to women murdered by intimate partners, as the majority of women murdered in the United States and in Minnesota are murdered by their current or former intimate partners. Various tools to assess for high risk or potential lethality have been developed based on research of women killed by their intimate partners. It is impossible to predict with certainty which batterers will become lethal to their victims. All batterers should be viewed as potentially deadly, though there are well-documented indicators of lethality of which everyone should be aware. Included in the factors that have been identified as possible lethality indicators are: separation, extended history of domestic violence or other violence, pregnancy, threats or fantasies of homicide or suicide, access to a firearm, threats to use a weapon, stalking, attempted strangulation, forced sex, extreme jealousy and control of daily activities.

We look at the homicide cases in Minnesota and see whether information was known regarding key lethality factors. In assessing for lethality factors, MCBW relies almost entirely on media reports of the homicides. MCBW specifically focuses on four lethality factors: the victim's attempts to leave the abuser, previous threats to kill the victim, perpetrator access to firearms, and perpetrator history of violence. MCBW has been looking at these four lethality factors since 2006. For the past seven years, these lethality factors were present in a significant number of cases. We would expect that a more complete analysis of public records and interviews with friends and family of the victims would yield further information on other cases and further information on the other red flags.

For each homicide case there is much to be learned from the individual circumstances as the circumstances surrounding each death are complex and unique. We look at the key lethality factors with the expectation that this information is useful to inform public policy and intervention strategies.

There were 14 women murdered in Minnesota in 2012 by a current or former intimate partner.

***Victim's Attempts to Leave the Abuse:*** While conventional wisdom persists that leaving an abuser will always make a battered women safer, separation often increases the risks of further harm, as batterers "step up" their efforts to control or intimidate the victim. In 2012, 7 of 14 cases of intimate partner homicide occurred after the woman had left the relationship or when she was attempting to leave. This statistic has been consistent for the past

At the time of her murder Ashantai Finch and her boyfriend Dymond Hayden were living with Ashantai's sister, brother-in-law and their daughter. Finch was trying to end the relationship. On April 10<sup>th</sup> the couple was having an argument. Hayden pulled a gun and shot Finch, killing her. He then ran upstairs to Finch's sister and brother-in-law claiming that the two had been playing with the gun when it went off and shot Finch. When the police arrived they soon discovered that the ballistics did not match Hayden's story and later during the trial he pled guilty to third-degree murder. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.

few years (47 – 67%) and supports the national studies indicating that one of the most dangerous times for battered women can be when they leave, or attempt to leave the batterer.

***Threats to Kill the Victim:*** Threats by the abuser to kill the victim are among the most reliable indicators of lethality and are the most often overlooked by the criminal and civil justice systems. A review of the media reports of the 2012 murders does not reveal much information about threats to kill. What we do know is that at least 9 of the 14 victims had experienced prior abuse. We know that in at least 2 instances, the women had experienced threats to kill and we can only surmise that threats to kill may have been part of the prior abuse in other cases.

October 25, 2012, Tensia Richard was killed by her estranged husband. Tensia was attacked outside Anytime Fitness center in Cottage Grove, chased across the parking lot over to the Jimmy John's restaurant where she tried to signal for help. Once, inside the restaurant the employees ran and hid inside the freezer, leaving Tensia alone and helpless with her husband who then shot her to death. After killing his wife, Chevel then shot and killed himself. Chevel had a long history of domestic violence and in the past, Tensia had also taken a protective order against Chevel. Just two weeks before the incident Tensia had separated from her husband and was in the process of filling for a divorce. Tensia is survived by the couple's two young sons.

### ***Access to Firearms:***

In 2012, 7 of 14 (50%) intimate partner femicides were committed with firearms. While the percentage of femicides using firearms fluctuates some year to year, murder with firearms is the most frequent weapon of choice and is the weapon used in about 50% of the domestic violence homicides (60% in 2010, 52% in 2011 and 50% in 2012), supporting the studies showing that possession of firearms can increase the risk of lethality. In light of current debates regarding guns and gun control legislation, it is helpful to consider these statistics. When there is a history of domestic violence, we should be looking at the question of access to firearms.

Lora Ann Wright was shot to death by her husband Sammie Wright in the front yard of their house. The same day as she was shot to death friends had confronted her about being in an abusive relationship. She had admitted to being in an abusive relationship and that her husband was becoming more controlling. She told her friend that she was going to file for a protection order if he did not change. When she came home that day, Sammie started an argument and then drew a gun. Sammie shot and killed Lora Ann Wright and then shot and killed himself. The couple's 25-year-old son was also shot in the leg during the incident. The couple's two other children a 16-year-old and a 19-year-old were also in the house at the time of the shooting.

## **Challenge to Minnesota Communities**

Domestic violence and domestic homicide have a devastating effect on every person living in Minnesota. Each of the victims whose story is told here was someone's daughter, son, mother, father, sister, brother, family member, intimate partner, friend, neighbor, or co-worker. An abusive relationship that ends in the murder of the victim illustrates the failure of our systems and society to respond effectively to the needs of battered women and their families.

We pledge to remember the women, children, family members, and friends who die each year from domestic violence and child abuse, as well as those used in prostitution and sex trafficking, who are in need of protection from abuse.

Our challenge to the community is to not let these deaths go unnoticed but rather to use these brutal murders as a springboard for action.

While we have research and tools that can assist us in identifying the people most likely to reoffend and those most likely to engage in high risk and lethal behaviors, nothing we have can predict 100% of the batterers who will seriously injure or kill. Some of the women injured and killed in Minnesota each year, were so isolated or so disconnected from systems that they never told anyone what was happening and no one had any information about the abuse. But for many of these women, they did interact with our legal system, our medical system, our mental health system or they reached out to family, friends or community members. It is precisely those cases where we can start to make a difference. We can learn from the tragic loss of life.

Over the past 35 years, we have learned much about domestic violence. Our laws have improved; our systems and the personnel within those systems have learned, changed and improved how they respond to domestic violence; we talk with our children about healthy relationships and about domestic violence. We applaud all of those efforts. But we can do even better. That is the challenge we have for ourselves and for all of Minnesota.

## **Recommendations for the Community**

In some intimate partner femicides examined for this report, there were no known red flags for potential lethality. However, in the majority, at least one of the leading lethality indicators was present. As a community, we should not assume that there is nothing we can do to prevent intimate partner homicides. While the ultimate responsibility for these murders rests with the perpetrators alone, opportunities for meaningful intervention in many of these cases were missed. Especially in the cases in which the victim reached out for help, we should examine the reasons why our systems ultimately failed to protect those victims from lethal violence.

***Safety is the Priority:*** Safety is a fundamental human right and an essential building block for stable communities. When talking about healthy relationships, when considering criminal or family court policies, when making funding decisions, the starting point needs to be safety. All too often, important decisions are made and policies are enacted that provide for an “opt out” or other special considerations for domestic violence—relegating safety to an afterthought and not a priority. When mistakes are made, people can and do lose their lives. The stakes are too high for us to get it wrong.

Safety must be addressed and considered not just when dealing with legal system policies but when looking at any policy. When discussing how we provide quality education, we must make sure that children are safe in order that they be ready to learn. When looking at ways to stimulate the business economy, we must make sure that employees are safe at home so they are able to be present and productive at work. We must prioritize safety.

***Assess Batterer Lethality at Every Opportunity:*** Comprehensive and ongoing assessments for domestic violence should be the norm with all systems. In every circumstance in which a battered woman or abuser encounters the criminal justice system, the civil or family court, or an advocacy program, a concerted effort should be made to assess potential lethality, assess for risk and for potential re-offense. Many excellent assessment tools exist and most rely on a routine, direct inquiry of the victim as to the presence of risk and lethality indicators. In some cases, a review of public records could assist in assessing for high risk or lethality. Minnesota has developed a number of tools and models for assessing risk including the Blueprint for Safety and various Minnesota counties have developed specific coordinated community responses for screening. Criminal proceedings do not represent the sole opportunity to assess batterer lethality or risk of re-offense. When battered women seek protection orders, are involved in family court proceedings, or seek mental health or medical services, screening should happen. The screening should not just be at times and places where previously identified victims come in contact with a provider. Providers and agencies should be assessing for domestic violence with everyone, looking for both potential perpetrators and victims.

***Strengthen Partnerships:*** Assessing for lethality is only the first step. Assessment tools provide information that can and should be used to fashion meaningful responses to the individuals and families. This means we need to have strong partnerships that include the various agencies and systems and also community based organizations. Each organization has a role to play in order to achieve effective intervention. We need to have sufficient and appropriate resources to effectively apprehend, monitor and, when necessary, incarcerate dangerous batterers. We need to have sufficient and appropriate resources to support families in gaining and maintaining safety. Law enforcement, the courts, battered women's advocacy programs, schools, public benefits programs, public health clinics, all struggle to meet the public safety needs of the community with limited resources. An investment in the whole spectrum of public safety systems is necessary to reduce domestic violence in our communities.

***Invest in Prevention:*** Effective intervention in domestic violence cases and improved identification of high risk and lethal offenders are not the full answer. We must also commit to prevention efforts to stop the violence before it starts. It is critical to stem the incidents of domestic violence by creating an environment where everyone knows that violence will not be tolerated and where healthy, respectful and violence free relationships are the norm for everyone.

If we do not invest in prevention to stem this epidemic, if we do not understand the impact of policy changes on domestic violence victims, if we fail to keep safety as a top priority, women will continue to be killed and our communities destabilized.

***We cannot afford to compromise on safety.***

## Key Femicide Statistics (2010-2012)\*

### Adult Women Murdered by a Current or Former Intimate Partner

Cause of Death	2010		2011		2012		Name of Victim
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	
Gunshot	10	60%	12	52%	7	50%	Christine Schnor
							Ashantai Nicole Finch
							Lora Ann Wright
							Adelaida Sadd Lane
							Woynshet Woldemariam
							Tensia Richard
							Jennifer Smith
Stabbing	3	20%	6	26%	3	21%	Dominga Limon Vinessa Lozano Lolitta Malone
Strangulation	2	13%	2	9%	2	14%	Kathleen Ponsness Sharon Love
Beating			2	9%	2	14%	Carolyn Marie Leete
							Georgia Lynn Rogers
Unknown	1	7%	1	4%			
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>14</b>		

## Victim was Separated from Perpetrator or Attempting to Leave

	2010		2011		2012		
	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Separated or attempting to leave	10	67%	11	48%	6	43%	Ashantai Finch
							Sharon Love
							Woynshet Woldemariam
							Tensia Richard
							Lora Ann Wright
							Dominga Limon
Together	6	33%	12	52%	5	36%	Carolyn M. Leete
							Christine Schnor
							Adelaide Sadd Lane
							Kathleen Ponsness
							Georgia Lynn Rogers
Not applicable	-	-	-	-	3	21%	Jennifer Smith
							Lolitta Malone
							Vinessa Lozano
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>14</b>		

## History of Violence

	2010		2011		2012		
History of Violence		% of Total		% of Total		% of Total	Name of Victim
Prior history of abuse but no documented involvement with legal system	2	14%	6	26%	1	7%	Lora Ann Wright
Prior history of abuse and prior law enforcement involvement or OFP	5	33%	8	35%	7	50%	Dominga Limon
							Woynshet Woldemariam
							Carolyn Leete
							Ashantai Finch
							Georgia Lynn Rogers
							Lolitta Malone
Tensia Richard							
Unknown	9	53%	9	39%	6	40%	Sharon Love
							Christine Schnor
							Kathleen Ponsness
							Adelaide Sadd Lane
							Jennifer Smith
							Vinessa Lozano
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>23</b>		<b>14</b>		

## Geographic Location of Victim

	2010		2011		2012		
Location of Victim	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Twin Cities Metro Area*	9	60%	14	58%	10	71%	Carolyn M. Leete
							Christine Schnor
							Ashantai Finch
							Lora Ann Wright
							Georgia Lynn Rogers
							Adelaide Sadd Lane
							Woynshet Woldemariam
							Jennifer Smith
							Tensia Richard
							Bret Struck
Lolitta Malone							
Greater Minnesota	7	40%	10	42%	4	29%	Vinessa Lozano
							Dominga Limon
							Sharon Love
							Kathleen Ponsness
<b>Total:</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>14</b>		

\*Twin Cities Metro Area includes Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington Counties. According to the 2000 United States census, approximately 60% of Minnesota's population lives in the Twin Cities area and 40% lives in Greater Minnesota.

## Murder of Mothers and Effect on Children

	2010		2011		2012		
Children	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	#	% of Total	Name of Victim
Murders of mothers with minor children	7	47%	6	26%	7*	50%	Lora Ann Wright
							Adelaide Sadd Lane
							Woynshet Woldemariam
							Jennifer Smith
							Tensia Richard
							Dominga Limon
Vinessa Lozano							
Number of minor children who lost mother	10		11		11		
Number of adult children who lost mother	10		16		8		
Child(ren) present at time of murder or discovered the body	14		7		2**		

\*This represents the percentage of cases in which the woman who was killed was a mother. There were 7 mothers of minor children killed in 2012.

\*\* Dominga Limon's 20 year-old daughter was present at her mother's murder & Lora Ann Wright's three children (16,19&25 year-olds) were all present at the murder, but only the 16year-old is counted in the report.

**Women murdered in cases where the suspected, alleged, or convicted perpetrator was a current or former husband, boyfriend, or intimate partner.**

<p>Vinessa Lozano Age 18 Montevideo January 13, 2012</p>	<p>On January 13, 2012, Vinessa Lozano had just finished a shift at the Pizza Ranch in Montevideo, Minnesota when her co-worker, 24-year-old Darek Nelson, stabbed her 30 times with a large hunting knife. She was brought to the hospital but died soon after. Vinessa had befriended Nelson after he started working at the pizza restaurant in 2011 but Nelson took her friendship to be something more, despite the fact that she had an 18-month old son and a fiancée. Just before the murder, Vinessa had refused Nelson's invitation to meet him at his mother's residence. A grand jury indicted Nelson on first-degree murder.</p>
<p>Christine Schnor Age 39 Moundsview January 25, 2012</p>	<p>After a week of not being able to reach Christine and Mark Schnor, relatives decided to call the police and ask them to do a welfare check on the couple. When the police arrived, they found them both dead in their bed. The police determined that Mark Schnor shot his wife, Christine and then committed suicide. The couple's dog was also found shot to death in the house.</p>
<p>Dominga Limon Age 40 Glencoe February 21, 2012</p>	<p>On February 23<sup>rd</sup> Dominga Limon's 20-year-old daughter had just come to her mother's house. The daughter had stepped outside to her car and saw through a window her mother being attacked by the mother's boyfriend, David Muniz Bustos. David Bustos stabbed Limon several times in the chest. When the daughter rushed inside to help her mother, Bustos escaped on foot down the street but was later apprehended by the police. Limon was taken to the hospital where she passed away due to the severity of her injuries. Dominga Limon left behind three children – including an eight year old son. Bustos had a past pattern of domestic abuse. David Bustos has been indicted on first-degree murder charges and is awaiting trial.</p>
<p>Carolyn Leete Age 32 Saint Paul</p>	<p>Carolyn Leete was a St. Paul artist and nanny. On the night of March 2<sup>nd</sup>, she was out with her boyfriend, Bret Lynch. While the couple was out to a bar during the evening, Leete's van was stolen. Lynch called his mother,</p>

<p>March 3, 2012</p>	<p>who sent his aunt to pick up the couple. His mother later admitted to being afraid of her son whenever he would drink. Once back at the apartment, Lynch claimed that he had to carry Leete up the stairs and that fatal injuries occurred when he was carelessly putting her down. However, the evidence did not support Lynch's story. According to investigators, Leete suffered brutal injuries and was beaten to death by Lynch. The medical examiner ruled that Leete died of traumatic head injury due to physical assault. Lynch has a long history of domestic violence, including four felony convictions involving other women. He was convicted of making terroristic threats against his then-pregnant girlfriend, and the same offense shortly after she gave birth. He also was convicted of third-degree assault and criminal damage to property against another woman. Lynch has pled guilty to second-degree intentional murder of Carolyn Leete and has received 32 years in prison.</p>
<p>Ashantai Nicole Finch Age 32 Brooklyn Center April 10, 2012</p>	<p>At the time of her murder Ashantai Finch was living with her sister, brother-in-law and their daughter. Finch's boyfriend Dymond Hayden was also living at the house. Finch was trying to end the relationship. An argument on April 10<sup>th</sup> turned fatal. Hayden pulled a gun and shot Finch, killing her. He then ran upstairs to Finch's sister and brother-in-law claiming that the two had been playing with the gun when it went off and shot Finch. The police arrived and soon discovered that the ballistics did not match Hayden's story. During the trial, Dymond Hayden pled guilty to third-degree murder. He was sentenced to 15 years in prison.</p>
<p>Sharon Love Age 38 Alexandria April 18, 2012</p>	<p>On April 18, Sharon Love was meeting with her ex-boyfriend David Everett of rural Osakis so that he could retrieve some of his things from the apartment they shared in Alexandria. The meeting turned fatal when Everett attacked and killed Love at her home. After committing the crime Everett drove away from the scene. He was later found dead in his car, having committed suicide. Sharon Love died of multiple traumatic injuries, including strangulation, blunt force trauma, closed head trauma and sharp force injury. Love and Everett were reportedly going through a break up.</p>
<p>Kathleen Ponsness Age 57 Lake Edward April 30, 2012</p>	<p>On April 30, 2012, Kathleen Ponsness and her husband Kenneth Ponsness were found dead in the aftermath of a house fire. Investigators have found that Kathleen Ponsness was strangled prior to the house fire. The case has been ruled a murder-suicide. The couple is survived by their two adult children.</p>

<p>Lora Ann Wright Age 45 St. Anthony May 16, 2012</p>	<p>Lora Ann Wright was shot to death by her husband Sammie Wright in the front yard of their house. The same day as she was shot to death friends had confronted her about being in an abusive relationship. She had admitted to being in an abusive relationship and that her husband was becoming more controlling. She told her friend that she was going to file for a protection order if he did not change. When she came home that day, Sammie started an argument and then drew a gun. Sammie shot and killed Lora Ann Wright and then shot and killed himself. The couple's 25-year-old son was also shot in the leg during the incident. The couple's two other children a 16-year-old and a 19-year-old were also in the house at the time of the shooting.</p>
<p>Georgia Lynn Rogers Age 42 Richfield July 4, 2012</p>	<p>On July 4<sup>th</sup> Georgia Lynn Rogers died of injuries after an argument and struggle occurred between her and her boyfriend, Milton Ellery Geshick. When the police arrived they declared Rogers dead and arrested Geshick. Geshick was not charged with murder but he was charged with violating a no-contact order that Rogers had in place against Geshick.</p>
<p>Adelaida Sadd Lane Age 26 Minneapolis July 14, 2012</p>	<p>On July 14<sup>th</sup>, Adelaida Lane was shot to death by her boyfriend Giovanni Mario Dots. Adelaida was shot in the chest and left to die in North Minneapolis. Not much is known, but Dots is currently in custody after being on the run for several months. He is charged with second degree manslaughter and is awaiting trial.</p>
<p>Woynshet Woldemariam Age 41 Apple Valley July 14, 2012</p>	<p>Woynshet Woldemariam and her husband Anteneh Tesgaye were involved with various court procedures – protective orders, police calls, and custody proceedings. On paper Woynshet Woldemariam was identified as “the aggressor” of the relationship. She was charged with violating two orders of protection, arrested for hitting her husband and convicted on domestic abuse charges. Nevertheless, on July 14<sup>th</sup> Woldemariam was shot to death by her husband Anteneh Tsegaye in a parking lot outside of her home where she lived with the couple's two children. Tsegaye then turned the gun on himself and committed suicide. After the incident another story of their abusive relationship came out, the story of family and friends living close to the couple. It painted a picture of Woldemariam as the victim of emotional and physical abuse. Tsegaye took advantage of the system, recording Woldemariam's statements and using them out of context to characterize her as the abusive partner. He</p>

	<p>also used their children to manipulated and abuse her, forcing her to have sex with him in order to see her children. This story has been confirmed by law enforcement officers who had previously worked with the couple. Woldemariam is survived by her two children, a 5 and 4 year-old.</p>
<p>Jennifer Smith Age 27 Robbinsdale September 14, 2012</p>	<p>Jennifer Smith was killed by an old acquaintance, Ronald West, who she had known for more than 10 years. The acquaintance was an old neighbor of the family and was supposed to be offering protection to Smith from her estranged boyfriend. Nevertheless, on September 14<sup>th</sup> West went over to Smith's house with a gun. After shooting Smith several times he then turned the gun on himself. Jennifer's five year old son found her body and ran to the next door neighbor for help. The case was ruled a murder-suicide and Smith is survived by three minor children now living with their grandparents.</p>
<p>Tensia Richard Age 22 Cottage Grove October 25, 2012</p>	<p>October 25, 2012, Tensia Richard was killed by her estranged husband, Chevel Richard. Tensia was attacked outside Anytime Fitness center in Cottage Grove, chased across the parking lot over to the Jimmy John's restaurant where she tried to signal for help. Once, inside the restaurant the employees ran and hid inside the freezer, leaving Tensia alone and helpless with her husband who then shot her to death. After killing his wife, Chevel then shot and killed himself. Chevel had a long history of domestic violence and in the past, Tensia had also taken a protective order against Chevel. Just two weeks before the incident Tensia had separated from her husband and was in the process of filling for a divorce. Tensia is survived by the couple's two young sons.</p>
<p>Lolitta Malone Age 31 Minneapolis December 27, 2012</p>	<p>On December 27<sup>th</sup>, Lolitta Malone was murdered by an acquaintance Honora Patterson who was a frequent visitor to her home in North Minneapolis. While Lolitta was in bed, Patterson soaked her with gasoline and stabbed her several times. Lolitta is survived by her 26-year-old son. Patterson was charged with second degree murder and is awaiting trial.</p>

**Friends- Family members- Interveners murdered in domestic violence-related situations:**

<p>Patrick Jaworski Age 20 Saint Paul January 1, 2012</p>	<p>Patrick Jaworski was at a New Year’s Eve party surrounded by friends when he entered into a fight that was fatal. Earlier that evening Patrick had been dancing with a friend, B. B’s boyfriend, William Dudley Cummins, was also at the party. Cummins was acting jealously and at one point took his girlfriend’s phone. B asked Jaworski for help retrieving the phone. Jaworski approached Cummins and asked for the phone back. Cummins then stabbed him. Jaworski was taken to the hospital but did not survive his stab wounds.</p>
<p>Christopher M. Fulmer Age 37 Blue Earth February 21, 2012</p>	<p>On February 20<sup>th</sup>, Christopher Fulmer, his girlfriend CF and her three daughters were asleep in Fulmer’s house when CF’s estranged husband, Brian Daniel Freeman, broke into the house armed with a hammer. Freeman injured CF’s two teenage daughters, beat Fulmer to death with the hammer, and severely injured CF who was lying in the bed next to Fulmer. CF and her two daughters were badly hurt and Fulmer was dead.</p>
<p>Rosemary Oberg-Johnson Age 55 Grand Rapids December 28, 2012</p>	<p>Rosemary Oberg-Johnson’s son’s girlfriend, S, was leaving a long-term abusive relationship with William Levi Payne. S had recently secured an order for protection against her estranged husband, William Levi Payne.. On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, Payne broke into the Oberg Johnson’s house where her son and S were also present and fired shots at Oberg-Johnson and her son and kidnapping S. Payne later called 911 using S’s phone and reported that he just killed two people and that law enforcement could come and pick him up. Oberg-Johnson died on December 28<sup>th</sup> from her injuries. Oberg-Johnson’s son was critically injured but survived. Payne is charged with murder in the second degree, attempted murder in first degree, felony kidnapping, first degree burglary, second degree assault, and violating an order for protection and is awaiting trial.</p>

## Men murdered by Intimate Partners

<p>Bret Struck Brooklyn Park Age 42 February 12, 2012</p>	<p>On February 12, Rochelle Inselmen went to her ex-boyfriend Bret Struck's house. Inselmen, gained entry to Bret's house on the pretense that she needed to talk to him about something important. Once inside the house, the two started arguing and Inselmen pulled a gun, shooting Struck nine times. Prior to February 12<sup>th</sup>, Inselmen had been stalking Struck by hacking his Facebook and email accounts and sending defamatory messages to his friends and family. Inselmen was indicted for first degree murder, but pled guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to 40 years in prison.</p>

## **About the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women**

**The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women** was founded in 1978 to serve as a unifying voice for battered women and to link battered women's programs in the state with the common purpose of ending domestic violence.

**MCBW** is a statewide, member-based organization serving more than 80 local, regional, and statewide member organizations that advocate for an end to battering. MCBW members programs include battered women's shelters and safe homes, community advocacy programs, criminal justice intervention projects, state and national training and technical assistance organizations, human rights organizations, and homeless shelters and transitional housing programs. Members include 12 culturally specific and population specific programs serving differing communities.

MCBW is working to improve conditions for battered women and their families by increasing public awareness, impacting public policy and increasing the capacity of those who work directly with domestic violence victims and their families.

### **Mission Statement:**

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to provide a voice for battered women and member programs; challenge systems and institutions so they respond more effectively to the needs of battered women and their children; promote social change; and support, educate, and connect member programs.

### **Vision Statement:**

The vision of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women is to end violence against women and their children and to achieve social justice for all.

**In 2012, at least 18 Minnesotans lost their lives as a result of domestic violence.**

**Remember their names...**

1. January 1, 2012 Patrick Jaworski, St. Paul, died as a result of stabbing.
2. January 13, 2012 Vinessa Lozano, Montevideo, died as a result of stabbing.
3. January 25, 2010 Christine Schnor, Moundsview, died as a result of a gunshot.
4. February 12, 2012 Bret Struck, Brooklyn Center, died as a result of a gunshot.
5. February 21, 2012 Dominga Limon, Glencoe, died as a result of stabbing.
6. February 21, 2012 Christopher Fulmer, Blue Earth, died as a result of blunt force trauma.
7. March 3, 2012 Carolyn Leete, St. Paul, died as a result of beating.
8. April 10, 2012 Ashantai Finch, Brooklyn Park, died as a result of a gunshot.
9. April 18, 2012 Sharon Love, Alexandria, died as a result of strangulation.
10. April 30, 2012 Kathleen Ponsness, Lake Edward, died as a result of strangulation.
11. May 16, 2012 Lora Ann Wright, St. Anthony, died as a result of a gunshot.
12. July 4, 2012 Georgia Lynn Rogers, Richfield, died as a result of beating.
13. July 14, 2012 Adelaida Sadd Lane, Minneapolis, died as a result of a gunshot.
14. July 14, 2012 Woyshet Woldemariam, Apple Valley, died as a result of a gunshot.
15. September 14, 2012 Jennifer Smith, Robbinsdale, died as a result of a gunshot.
16. October 25, 2012 Tensia Richard, Cottage Grove, died as a result of a gunshot.

17. December 27, 2012 Lolitta Malone, Minneapolis, died as a result of stabbing.
18. December 28, 2012 Rosemary Oberg-Johnson, Grand Rapids, died as a result of a gunshot.

The Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women publishes *The Femicide Report*, a report on those murdered in our state, to educate the public about the lethality of domestic violence. We report on the murders that occur at the hands of abusers to direct attention to the challenges faced by all of the women and children who are living with abuse and as a call to all Minnesotans to come together because it takes the entire community to end violence.

The 2012 Femicide Report is compiled from news accounts. Please contact MCBW if we have missed a death or if you have updated or more complete information on any femicide.

We ask that the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women be credited when information from this report is used.

Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women  
60 Plato Blvd. E,  
Suite 130,  
St. Paul, MN 55107  
(651) 646-6177  
[www.mcbw.org](http://www.mcbw.org)

