

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

2014 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES in NEVADA

In 2014, domestic violence related incidents claimed 18 lives in Nevada, as documented in published news stories in print media. Each incident received varying degree of attention from reporters, ranging from multi-story investigative reporting to simple one-paragraph crime reports. As such, the descriptions below should not be considered an attempt to capture the full complexity of the events. Rather, this list is a commemoration of lives lost to domestic violence.

In order to be included in this list, each homicide was identified as an intimate partner violence related incident; the deaths resulted from violence between adults who were either current or past intimate partners. In 2014, 15 such incidents were reported by print media, including 12 women and 2 men killed by partners or ex-partners; 1 male perpetrator killed during the course of a domestic homicide; and 3 male perpetrators' suicide deaths following domestic violence homicide or attempted homicide.

In the death . . .

Daisy Casalta Dahan, 28 (female victim, stab wounds)

January 10, 2014, Las Vegas

Richard Magdayo Dahan killed his wife of two years, Daisy Casalta Dahan. According to the police report, Dahan grabbed a large serrated kitchen knife and stabbed her in the back of the neck. He said that he ended up stabbing and cutting his wife several times with a serrated knife, a meat cleaver, and a fillet knife. Richard Dahan reported the crime himself to Las Vegas police. Detectives obtained a warrant to search the couple's apartment and found Daisy Dahan's body in the kitchen. Dahan had cuts on his hands, including one that severed the tendon on his right ring finger. His left ring finger was broken.

Soontorn Rachchusiri, 49 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

January 14, 2014, Las Vegas

North Las Vegas police responded to a domestic dispute call involving a man armed and barricaded inside a home. Authorities said the man was arguing with his wife when their daughter tried to intervene. The man pulled out a firearm and shot his daughter and then turned the gun on his wife. Their other two teenage children fled to the roof when they heard the shots and were uninjured. Officers found a woman lying on the floor severely injured with multiple gunshot wounds; the daughter suffered nonlife-threatening injuries. The SWAT team found the man dead from a gunshot wound.

Theresa Rivera, 34 (female victim, strangulation)

January 16, 2014, Las Vegas

According to a police report and a criminal complaint made public, Rickey Lee Massey Jr. is accused of strangling Theresa Rivera during a domestic argument in their kitchen, and then taking what investigators feared was an overdose of medication or sleeping pills found nearby. Massey was arrested after he was found asleep and nearly unconscious in a home where investigators discovered the body of his wife beneath a blanket in the garage.

Frances Dresser, 86 (female victim, gunshot wound)

January 19, 2014, Carson City

While hospitalized, Frances Dresser was shot by her husband, William Dresser. Frances Dresser died from injuries suffered when she was shot once in the chest while at Carson-Tahoe Regional Medical Center. Authorities were investigating William Dresser's claims that his wife became paralyzed and incapacitated after a fall at the couple's home two weeks ago. Dresser suggested to officers that his motive was to end his wife's suffering. According to police, he told officers he intended to kill his wife and then kill himself. He brought a recently purchased small handgun to the hospital and four bullets—two intended for her, two for him—but his gun jammed after the first shot. William Dresser was charged with open murder in the fatal shooting of his wife.

Wendy Whitmore, 39 (female victim, gunshot wound); Wade Elliott Adams, 45 (male perpetrator suicide, drug overdose)

January 25, 2014, Henderson NV

Clark County Coroner's officials say Wade Elliott Adams was found dead in his home from an apparent overdose. Officers also found Adams' wife, Wendy Whitmore, dead from an apparent gunshot wound. Henderson police say a passerby called 911 after spotting the man's daughter crying outside. The daughter told responding officers she discovered her father dead when she went to the home after finding her father's vehicle keys and money at her house.

Harry Leibel, 64 (male victim, gunshot wound)

February 23, 2014, Minden NV

Investigators said Tatiana Leibel told authorities that her husband had shot himself. She said they were the only people at the home when the shooting occurred. But the sheriff's office said information obtained during the investigation implicated Tatiana Leibel as a suspect. The couple argued over a trip the morning she is accused of shooting him twice, killing him. When rescuers arrived they found Leibel dead in the living room with a clearly visible gunshot wound to the hand and a second gunshot wound to the right side of his torso.

Deborah Schuler, 66 (female victim, blunt force trauma)

March 6, 2014, Las Vegas

Randel Anthony Torres Sr. was indicted in what prosecutors called “systematic abuse” that led to the death of his live-in girlfriend, Deborah Schuler. Torres attacked Schuler inside the couple’s apartment. She suffered blunt force trauma to the head and had bruises all over her body. Torres then waited four days to call paramedics. Torres told authorities that his girlfriend had fallen. Schuler died 13 days later and authorities launched a homicide investigation. Torres faces one count of murder of a person 60 or older.

Tyanna Reynolds, 24 (female victim, blunt force trauma)

March 15, 2014, Las Vegas

Edward Edgerton was arrested after summoning help for his girlfriend, Tyanna Reynolds, after reporting that she was unconscious after an argument in their apartment. Edgerton told police that he and Reynolds argued about text messages she received from an ex-boyfriend, and that she later collapsed in the shower. He later told police he grabbed Reynolds’ arm hard enough to leave a bruise, struck Reynolds several times with a belt, and pinned her beneath him on the bed. The Clark County Coroner was investigating the cause of death.

Iris Moran, 37 (female victim, blunt force trauma)

June 13, 2014, Las Vegas

Iris Moran was found brutally beaten. Police found her body, lying face up in a puddle of blood inside her apartment, according to an arrest report made public. Her hands were tied behind her back, and she had been beaten with an unknown object. Marvin Moran told police he had been monitoring his ex-wife, with whom he had a 13-year old daughter and 11-year old son. Police linked Marvin Moran to his ex-wife’s death through a 911 call he made the morning of the slaying from his ex-wife’s phone.

Carolyn Jo Smith, 59 (female victim, stab wounds)

June 15, 2014, Reno

Zollie Edward Dumas was met by Reno police when they went to a motel room on a domestic disturbance call. Dumas told officers he had killed his girlfriend, Carolyn Jo Smith. She was found stabbed to death. Dumas was on parole after serving more than 20 years in prison for stabbing a previous girlfriend in Henderson. He was booked on a parole violation and subsequently an open murder charge was added during the course of the murder investigation.

Angela Tamayo, 34 (female victim, stab wounds); Scott Brown, 40 (male perpetrator killed, gunshot wounds)

August 11, 2014, Las Vegas, NV

According to police, the incident began behind the gates of a golf course community. Police said the victim, Angela Tamayo, was driving in the area when Scott Brown rammed his pickup truck into hers. Tamayo stopped and got out of her vehicle, then Brown stabbed her up to 15 times. Tamayo was later pronounced dead at the hospital. Police said Brown left the scene of the stabbing, broke into a nearby home in North Las Vegas, prompting a fight with the male homeowner. The homeowner shot Brown. Brown then used a knife to cut himself.

Jodi Joyce, 40 (female victim, stab wounds)

October 20, 2014, Las Vegas, NV

Las Vegas police say James Joyce stabbed his ex-wife, Jodi Joyce, to death in their home before he turned the knife on himself in a suicide attempt. On the day of the incident, the couple began to argue after Jodi Joyce lost her car keys as she was trying to leave for work. He told her he was going into the kitchen to make lunch for their children. But instead, James Joyce took a 10-inch knife into the bedroom where Jodi and their two children were. Their daughter ran out to call 911. Their son watched as James Joyce stabbed his ex-wife in the chest before stabbing himself in the belly. Jodi Joyce was found lying on the floor and pronounced dead at the scene.

Janice Gannon, 54 (female victim, stab wounds)

November 17, 2014, Reno, NV

Reno police took Daniel Pancake into custody accused of stabbing his wife to death at their apartment. Reno police dispatch received a 911 call from a young boy who described to dispatchers that his father was beating his mother inside their home. Officers arrived on the scene and found Pancake standing in the front yard covered in blood, with lacerations to both of his wrists. Upon entering the house, officers found a large amount of blood in the entryway and dining room that trailed upstairs to a bedroom where Gannon was found. Gannon had been stabbed several times, with a deep cut to her throat. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

Robert Verdun, (male victim, gunshot wounds)

November 30, 2014, Dayton, NV

Kristyn Verdun is accused of fatally shooting her husband. Authorities say they responded to reports of a shooting at about 11:00 pm. They say they found a man in a bathroom with a gunshot wound in his torso. He was taken to the hospital, where he later died. The victim was identified as Robert Verdun.

Julia Hendrix, 57 (female victim, gunshot wound); Bruce Wayne Hendrix, 63 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

December 8, 2014, Ely, NV; December 12, 2014, Lincoln County, NV

A statewide manhunt for Bruce Hendrix ended when his body was found inside his truck on a dirt road in Lincoln County. He died as a result of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. Police began looking for Hendrix after the body of his wife, Julia Hendrix, was found in the couple's burned-out home. She was shot dead and the fire was fueled by a flammable liquid poured around the house. Neighbors reported seeing Bruce Hendrix leave the area in his truck just before the flames erupted.