

Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence

2015 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDES in NEVADA

In 2015, domestic violence-related incidents claimed 43 lives in Nevada, as documented in publically accessible police reports and published news stories. Each incident received varying degrees 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 2015, 28 such incidents were reported by publically accessible law enforcement reports and print media, including 16 women and 9 men killed by partners or ex-partners; 4 friends, family members, or new partners killed during the commission of a domestic violence homicide; 2 perpetrators killed by law enforcement officers; 11 perpetrators' suicide deaths following domestic violence homicide or attempted homicide; and 1 law enforcement officer killed by a domestic violence perpetrator. NNADV changed its methodology in researching domestic violence homicides which may account for the increase in homicides from the previous years.

In the death of . . .

Noelia Norton, 46 (female victim, gunshot wound); Joseph Norton, 50 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

January 6, 2015, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) responded to the home of Noelia and Joseph Norton in response to a 9-1-1 call. Police dispatchers heard a man and woman arguing on the open line followed by a gunshot. The argument continued. There were more gunshots, then the line went dead. Upon arrival, the police found that Joseph Norton murdered Noelia then committed suicide.

Won Jae Lee, 26 (male victim, gunshot wound); Jiyeon Lee, 23 (female perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

January 15, 2015, Las Vegas

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) reported Won Jae Lee and Jiyeon Lee, who were in a relationship, had a physical altercation in their house before moving into the garage. According to police, Jiyeon shot Won Jae in the head and neck before turning the gun on herself. Jiyeon was found dead with a gunshot wound to the head. Won Jae's death was ruled a homicide.

Rodolfo Solis-Gonzalez, 46 (male victim, gunshot wound)

February 14, 2015, Las Vegas

Rodolfo Solis-Gonzalez was shot and killed by Cristina Sanchez-Perez, 33, also known as Christina Delcarmen Sanchez. According to media reports, Gonzalez and Sanchez recently started “seeing each other.” Sanchez was upset regarding a sexual encounter between her and Gonzalez the day before. Sanchez shot and killed Gonzalez and stole the man’s car.

Veronica Caldwell, 33 (female victim, gunshot wound); Yvonne Rose Reyes, 18 (female family member, gunshot wound); Cory Childers, 21 (male friend, gunshot wound); and Blake Christopher Widmar, 21 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

March 3, 2015, Las Vegas

According to LVMPD, Veronica Caldwell, Yvonne Rose Reyes and Cory Childers were shot to death by Blake Christopher Widmar. Widmar was married to Caldwell. Reyes was Caldwell’s daughter, and Childers was Reyes’ boyfriend. According to the reports, a domestic violence disturbance took place in an apartment complex between Widmar and one of the victims. This prompted the three victims to run out of the apartment followed by Widmar just before the shooting. Police later found Widmar who had an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Rocio Nava, 36 (female perpetrator suicide, trauma)

March 17, 2015, Las Vegas

According to Ernesto Nava, he told his wife, Rocio Nava, that he was no longer in love with her and wanted a divorce. Nava said that Rocio snapped and pulled a gun on him at their home. The gun jammed, and Nava said he wrestled the gun away from his wife. According to LVMPD, they received a call about this incident just before 5:00 pm. About an hour later, police reported that Rocio Nava rammed her vehicle into the barrier on the ramp on Interstate 15 northbound, got out of her car, and jumped nearly 100 feet onto the U.S. Highway 95 exit ramp, near Martin Luther King Boulevard. She was taken to the University Medical Center, where she was pronounced dead.

Penny Sue Silas (female victim, stab wound)

March 27, 2015, Tonopah

Maureen Kinnamon, 49, was arrested for the fatal stabbing death of her girlfriend, Penny Sue Silas, at a motel in Tonopah. The Nye County Sheriff’s Office reported they found the body of Silas lying unresponsive on a second-floor balcony of the motel. An examination of the body revealed that Penny Sue Silas had suffered several stab wounds. Silas was transported to a local hospital where she succumbed to her injuries.

Angela Sims, 45 (female victim, asphyxiation)

April 1, 2015, Las Vegas

According to the Clark County Coroner's office, Angela Sims died of asphyxia due to smothering and suffocation. Sims' body was found after her ex-boyfriend, Valentine Kaul, 58, told a friend that he and Sims had fought and that he had punched her in the mouth and placed a pillow over her face. Kaul told police he wrapped Sims' body in trash bags and hid it under his trailer. Sims' body laid hidden for at least three days before it was found.

Lakeitha Thomas, 26 (female victim, gunshot wound); Legatha Ball, 28 (family member, gunshot wound); and Michael Latimore, Jr., 27 (male perpetrator suicide)

April 19, 2015, Las Vegas

Lakeitha Thomas and her sister Legatha Ball were shot and killed by Michael Latimore, Jr., prior to him shooting himself. Both Thomas and Ball were mothers and left behind 8 children. Thomas and Latimore were dating.

Kathy Small, 50 (female victim, gunshot wound); and Larry Loran Small, 63 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

April 20, 2015, Fallon

Larry Loran Small killed his former spouse, Kathy Small, with a single .22-caliber gunshot to the back of the head at the Churchill County Cemetery. Larry Small fled in his truck north to Interstate 80 and was later found dead of a self-inflicted wound in Humboldt County by NHP troopers.

Marrie Hall, 42 (female victim, strangulation, blunt force trauma); and Hannibal Stewart, 56 (male suicide)

April 20, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD and the Clark County Fire Department responded to the home of Hall and Stewart. Stewart escaped the fire, but Hall was found inside dead from strangulation and blunt force trauma. On September 17, 2015, Stewart jumped to his death off the US 95 overpass. Police stated Stewart was the sole suspect in Hall's death.

Charles Schroeder, 66 (male victim, gunshot wound); and Zoey Schroeder, 67 (female perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

April 25, 2015, Henderson

Henderson Police Department (HPD) reported Charles Schroeder was found dead in his home after relatives reported they were unable to reach him. Schroeder died of a gunshot wound to the torso, and the case was ruled a homicide. About a month later, HPD reported that the case is being investigated as a murder-suicide after Schroeder's estranged wife, Zoey Schroeder, was found dead in a Las Vegas hotel.

Police say Zoey Schroeder appeared to have died from self-inflicted gunshot wound. HPD indicated that Charles Schroeder was killed by Zoey Schroeder.

Christine McQuade, 63 (female victim, strangulation)

May 6, 2015, Las Vegas

According to LVMPD reports, Christine McQuade died of strangulation and blunt-force injury to the head as a result of a homicide. Police found McQuade unresponsive on her back with her arms to her side and a pool of blood under her head. Joseph Frohlich, 79, told detectives that he killed his girlfriend of 30 years after an evening together. He told police he "felt compelled" to choke McQuade and then smash her head into a piece of furniture while she was asleep.

Fred Fensch, 87 (male victim, gunshot wound); and Silke Fensch, 80 (female perpetrator suicide)

May 6, 2015, Las Vegas

According to media reports, Fred Fensch was shot and killed by his wife, Silke Fensch. Silke Fensch then shot and killed herself. The motive is unknown.

Enrique Hernandez, 43 (male victim, dismemberment)

May 25, 2015, Las Vegas

Enrique Hernandez was hacked to death with a hatchet by his wife, Maria Hernandez, and his brother-in-law, Hector Gutierrez. According to the police report, Maria Hernandez initially stated to police that she and her husband were carjacked and he was murdered while in the parking lot of restaurant. Amid the investigation, LVMPD was informed that Gutierrez was being transported from the same restaurant to the hospital due to a stab wound.

According to Gutierrez' arrest report, Enrique Hernandez had found out about an affair Maria Hernandez was having and threatened to take the children. He and Maria Hernandez began planning Enrique Hernandez' murder a month prior to the act. In Maria Hernandez' arrest report, she claimed that her husband was physically and sexually abusive to her for several years and she had no one to talk to about the abuse.

Allen Hanson (male victim, unknown)

June 12, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD found Allen Hanson unresponsive on the floor of an apartment. Officers said Hanson died after he and his boyfriend, Allen Pierce, 46, got into an argument that turned physical. Metro police did not disclose details of the fight or how Hanson was killed. Pierce was booked on a murder charge but later agreed to plead guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

Gregory Russell, 49 (male victim, gunshot wound); and Paula Russell, 61 (female perpetrator suicide)

July 1, 2015, Las Vegas

Gregory Russell was shot and killed by his wife, Paula Russell, who then shot herself. No motive was reported in the media.

Kirsten Krasovec, 30 (female victim, asphyxiation and blunt force trauma)

July 5, 2015, Reno

Reno Police Department (RPD) reported that Kirsten Krasovec was killed by her fiancé, Cory Oneal Brewer, 31. According to police reports, paramedics found a woman's body in a North Reno apartment, and police started what they called a "suspicious death" investigation. An autopsy revealed that Krasovec's death was determined to be a homicide. Her death was presumed to be by means of asphyxiation and blunt force trauma to her head and body. Brewer was charged with open murder and felon in possession of a firearm.

Tsai Mattox, 70 (female victim, gunshot wound)

July 13, 2015, North Las Vegas

North Las Vegas Police (NLVPD) reported that Arthur Mattox shot and killed his wife, Tsai Mattox, after an argument at their North Las Vegas home. According to the Coroner's Office, the cause of her death was a gunshot wound to the chest. Police said it was Mattox who called 911 and told officers that he and his wife had been arguing prior to the shooting. Police found Tsai Mattox with a gunshot wound. She was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Mattox was charged with one count of murder with a deadly weapon.

Josie Kate Jones, 41 (female victim, stab wounds)

August 5, 2015, Las Vegas

Leonard Woods, 46, fatally stabbed his longtime girlfriend, Josie Kate Jones, outside of a west Las Vegas Valley Walgreens. According to a police report, the stabbing took place when Josie Kate Jones returned to her vehicle with her teenage daughter after visiting the drugstore. Woods pulled up to a lot next to Walgreens, got out and hid near Jones' vehicle before attacking Jones as she entered the driver side of her vehicle. Jones suffered from wounds to her chest, neck, and arms. She was rushed by ambulance to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. Jones' daughter stated that Woods threatened to kill her, her mother, and her younger brother in the past; she stated that Woods threatened to hurt her mother if she tried to leave him.

Carl Howell, 35 (law enforcement officer, gunshot wound); and Jonathon Pope, 30, (male perpetrator killed, gunshot wound)

August 15, 2015, Carson City

Carson City Sheriff's Deputies responded to a report of domestic battery involving physical injury in east Carson City. As deputies arrived at the scene, they met with a woman, who had visible injuries. While investigating the scene, Deputy Howell tried to meet with the suspect, Jonathon Pope. As Deputy Howell approached the door, Pope appeared armed with a firearm, police said. Pope and Howell exchanged gunfire, resulting in both men being struck. Pope was pronounced dead at the scene and Deputy Howell died of his injuries later at the hospital. Additional units arrived on the scene and evacuated three children and one adult.

Debra Constantino, 52 (female victim, gunshot wound); James Anderson, 54 (male friend, gunshot wound); and Mark Constantino, 53 (male perpetrator suicide, gunshot wound)

September 22, 2015, Reno and Sparks

According to the Sparks Police Department (SPD) report, the events began when a woman went home and found the body of her roommate, James Anderson, who had been shot to death. Her other roommate, Debra Constantino, could not be found, so police used cell phones pings to track her and her estranged husband, Mark Constantino to their daughter's apartment in Sparks. When SPD knocked on the door, police said they heard gunfire and a man's voice telling them to stay away. The incident escalated into a standoff involving a hostage. A short time later, a single gunshot was heard inside the apartment. Officers forced their way into the apartment and found the couple dead of gunshot wounds. During the investigation, officers learned that the couple had a long history of domestic violence.

Donavan Kyle Anderson, 25 (male perpetrator killed, gunshot wounds)

September 22, 2015, North Las Vegas

NLVPD responded to a 911 call. The caller told police that Kyle Anderson was pointing a shotgun at him, his daughter, and his three grandchildren. When police arrived, Donovan Unks, his daughter, and grandchildren ran out of the house. As police approached Anderson, he fired and wounded two officers. Police returned fire and killed Anderson. The officers were rushed to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries, but Anderson died at the scene. Unks said that Anderson was his daughter's boyfriend. There was a fight between Anderson and his daughter that sparked the violence and then quickly spiraled out of control. Unks said that Anderson was threatening his daughter with a shotgun when he called 911.

Arely Azrate-Lujan, 16 (female victim, gunshot wound)

October 15, 2015, North Las Vegas

Casey Olaf Sandoval, 16, was indicted on one count of murder with a deadly weapon after a medical examiner determined that a .22-caliber handgun was pressed directly against the back of Arely Azrate-Lujan's head when she was shot. The medical examiner called the killing an "execution." After the shooting, Azrate-Lujan was rushed to the hospital, where doctors discovered the gunshot wound and a bullet lodged in her left temple. She later died.

Elizabeth Green, 48 (female victim, stabbing)

October 23, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD was called to a Siegel Suites on Fremont Street to find Elizabeth Green dead due to a knife wound to the chest. On November 2, Kelvin James was arrested for the murder of Green. The first reports indicate Green and James were in a relationship.

Henry Gregory Bankey, 58 (male victim, gunshot wound)

November 26, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD officers found Henry Gregory Bankey dead inside his Las Vegas home early Thanksgiving morning. Bankey was shot in the chest by his ex-wife Michelle Young, 53. Police say they suspect the two may have been arguing shortly before Bankey was shot. Other family members and children were reportedly inside the home when the shooting happened.

Dorothy Larry, 69 (female victim, stab wounds)

December 5, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD reported that Wesley Perry, 60, was arrested as the suspect in the fatal stabbing of his girlfriend, Dorothy Larry. Police found her dead from multiple stab wounds to the chest when they conducted a welfare check at an apartment. Perry was arrested shortly after Larry's body was found. Police said the two were dating. Police said that Perry called multiple family members and told them "something bad had happened" and that he had "hurt someone." Larry's family alerted the police. Perry is facing one count of murder with a deadly weapon.

Anshanette Unique McNeil, 28 (female victim, gunshot wounds)

December 13, 2015, North Las Vegas

According to media reports, Anshanette Unique McNeil was shot in front of two of McNeil's children by Vernon Newson Jr. near a freeway exit. Witnesses told the police that McNeil and Newson were in the same vehicle, both got out, and Newson shot McNeil multiple times. McNeil and Newson had a child in common. Newson was apprehended Dec. 22 in Claremont, CA on a warrant for murder and being an ex-felon in possession of a firearm.

David Timothy Cordova, 45 (male victim, gunshot wounds)

December 24, 2015, Las Vegas

LVMPD reported that a husband was dead and his wife is facing murder charges after a Christmas Eve shooting ended in fatal gunfire in a downtown Las Vegas casino hotel. Maria Escalante, 34, was arrested after police were called to the scene of a shooting death in a downtown hotel room. A child was reportedly present when the gunfire erupted. Police say Escalante's husband was shot multiple times and he was pronounced dead at the scene. Maria Escalante was arrested and faces a murder charge and one count of child neglect and endangerment.