



# **The South Carolina Silent Witness Story**

## **Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2010**

**Laura Church**  
**October 3, 2011**

This year's ceremony will mark the **fourteenth anniversary of Silent Witness**.

In **2010**, there were a **total of 44** people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina<sup>12</sup> definition. Of those 44 people, **34 were women**, constituting **77%** of the total, and **10 were men**, constituting **23%** of the total.

The demographics of the victims were as follows: **39%** were Black, **57%** were White, **2%** were Hispanic and **2%** were Indian. The average age of these victims was **40** years old.

The Office of the Attorney General, through its S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women program, collected the data by contacting every Sheriff's Office, Coroner's Office, Police Department and Solicitor's Office in the State. Those offices were provided with a victim information sheet to complete and asked to provide any incident reports related to domestic homicide victims. As always, these offices were gracious and provided this Office with an abundance of information. In addition, all information was crosschecked for accuracy with the records of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

**Twenty-three** counties reported one or more domestic homicide for 2010.

Guns were the primary weapon used in these homicides. In **59%** of the cases, a **gunshot** wound was listed as the primary cause of death. **Knives** were used in **27%** of the cases; and in **14%** of the cases **another form** of weapon was used.

The courts have disposed of only **four** cases. There are **twenty-six** trials pending, **twelve** defendants have committed suicide, **one** died while awaiting trial, and **one** suspect is still at large but an arrest warrant has been issued.

Attached to this document are county-by-county statistics and statewide graphs depicting the statistics mentioned in this report.

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<sup>2</sup> §16-25-10 defines "household member" as spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common, or a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited.

**County Statistics**

**Abbeville**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Aiken**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	23
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Committed suicide						

**Allendale**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Anderson**

Women:	3	Men:	0	Total:	3	Avg Age:	32
Whites:	2	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Committed suicide (2); trial pending (1)						

**Bamberg**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Barnwell**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Beaufort**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Berkley**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Calhoun**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Charleston**

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	60
Whites:	2	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending; committed suicide						

**Cherokee**

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg Age:	34
Whites:	2	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	Trial pending (2)						

**Chester**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Chesterfield**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	27
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**Clarendon**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Colleton**

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg Age:	44
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Committed suicide						

**Darlington**

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg Age:	30
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Committed suicide, trial pending						

**Dillon**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Dorchester**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	36
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**Edgefield**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Fairfield**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Florence**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Georgetown**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	29
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Committed suicide						

**Greenville**

Women:	6	Men:	0	Total:	6	Avg Age:	34
Whites:	4	Blacks:	2	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	3	Knife:	2	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	Committed suicide (4); trial pending (2)						

**Greenwood**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Hampton**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Horry**

Women:	3	Men:	0	Total:	3	Avg Age:	43
Whites:	2	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	2		
Disposition:	Trial pending; died awaiting trial; committed suicide						

**Jasper**

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	24
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Found guilty of voluntary manslaughter - sentenced to 23 years						

**Kershaw**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Lancaster**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Laurens**

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	32
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**Lee**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Lexington**

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	29
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	1		
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending; at large						

**Marion**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	36
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**Marlboro**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	42
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	1		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**McCormick**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Newberry**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Oconee**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Orangeburg**

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	51
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending (2)						

**Pickens**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	47
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

**Richland**

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	40
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Trial pending (2)						

**Saluda**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

**Spartanburg**

Women:	3	Men:	2	Total:	5	Avg Age:	48
Whites:	3	Blacks:	2	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	3	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	Trial pending (4); Pled guilty--serving life without parole						

**Sumter**

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	46
Whites:	0	Blacks:	2	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:			
Disposition:	Trial pending; Found guilty of involuntary manslaughter--sentenced to 5 years						

**Union**

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	37
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	Pled guilty – sentenced to 5 years						

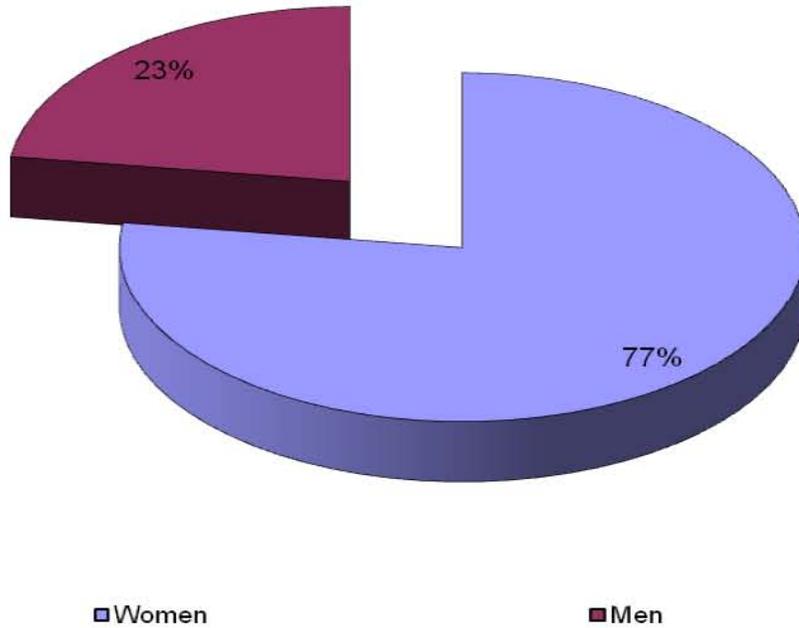
**Williamsburg**

Women:	0	Men:	0	Total:	0	Avg Age:	0
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	0						

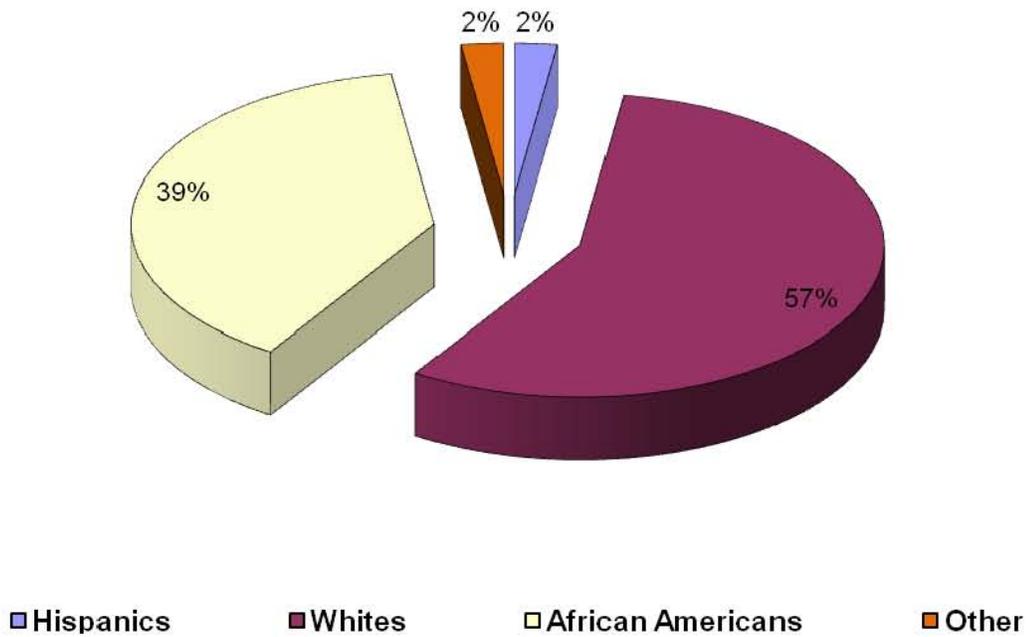
**York**

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	79
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	Trial pending						

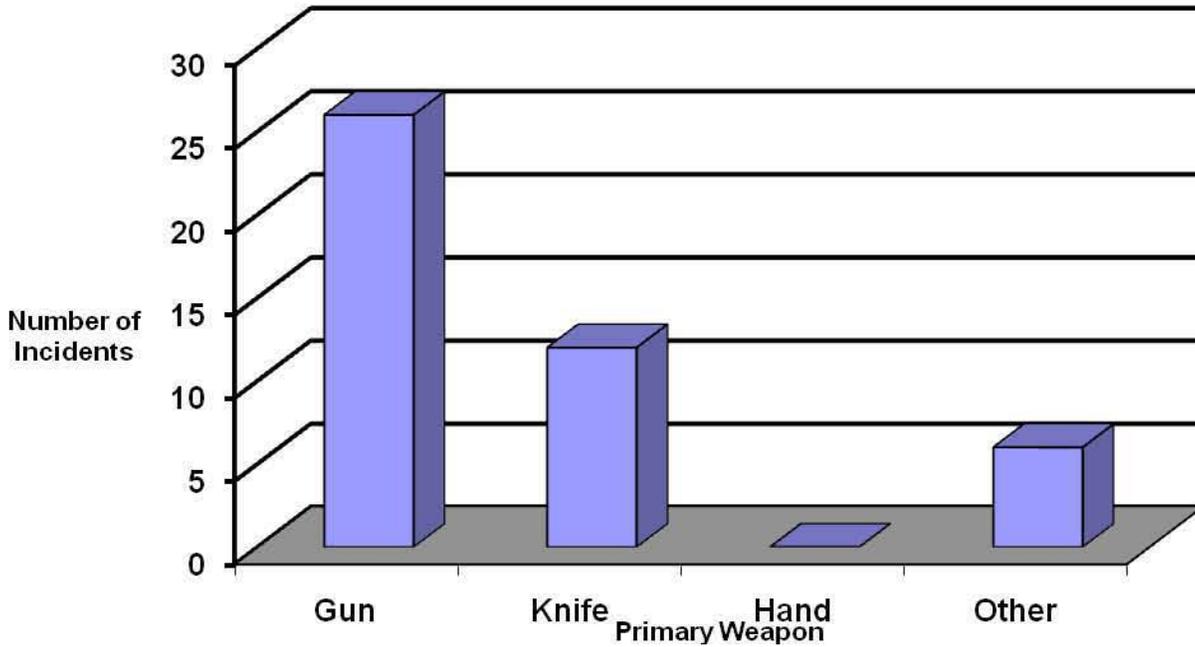
**2011  
Domestic Violence Homicides  
State of South Carolina  
Sex Differential**



**2011 Domestic Violence Homicides  
State of South Carolina  
Race Differential**



2011 Domestic Violence Homicides  
State of South Carolina  
Primary Weapon Differential



2011 Domestic Violence Homicides  
State of South Carolina  
Case Disposition

