



The South Carolina Silent Witness Story

Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2011

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October 2, 2012

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

In 2011, there were a total of 52 people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina¹² definition. Of those 52 people, 39 were women, constituting 75% of the total, and 13 were men, constituting 25% of the total.

The demographics of the victims were as follows: 38% were Black, 56% were White, 4% were Hispanic and 2% were Asian. The average age of these victims was 39 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-seven counties reported one or more domestic homicides for 2011.

Guns were the primary weapon used in these homicides. In 54% of the cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 21% of the cases; 10% were caused by blunt force trauma; 6% were strangulation; 4% were from asphyxiation; 4% were from unknown causes and 1% was from a forced drug overdose.

The courts have disposed of only eight cases. There are twenty-six trials pending, fourteen defendants have committed suicide, one died while awaiting trial, and two defendants were killed by police.

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

¹² §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:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	59
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Aiken

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg Age:	36
Whites:	2	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	suicide						

Allendale

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

Anderson

Women:	3	Men:	0	Total:	3	Avg Age:	36
Whites:	3	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	2		
Disposition:	awaiting trial (2); pled guilty						

Bamberg

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

Berkley

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	31
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	suicide						

Calhoun

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

Charleston

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg Age:	23
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial; suicide						

Cherokee

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	55
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	shot by police						

Chester

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

Chesterfield

Women:	1	Men:	1	Total:	2	Avg Age:	53
Whites:	0	Blacks:	2	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	2	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial; shot by police						

Clarendon

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

Colleton

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	37
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	suicide						

Darlington

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

Dillon

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

Dorchester

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

Edgefield

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	35
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Fairfield

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

Florence

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	22
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	pled guilty						

Georgetown

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

Greenville

Women:	5	Men:	1	Total:	6	Avg	
Whites:	3	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	2	Age:	41
Gun:	1	Knife:	3	Hand/Other:	2		
Disposition:	awaiting trial (4); suicide (2)						

Greenwood

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	19
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	pled guilty						

Hampton

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	0	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	1	Age:	34
Gun:	0	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Horry

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg	
Whites:	2	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	46
Gun:	1	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	pled guilty; awaiting trial						

Jasper

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

Kershaw

Women:	2	Men:	0	Total:	2	Avg	
Whites:	1	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	50
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial; suicide						

Lancaster

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

Laurens

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	38
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Lee

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

Lexington

Women:	4	Men:	0	Total:	4	Avg	
Whites:	3	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	33
Gun:	2	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial (2); suicide (2)						

Marion

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

Marlboro

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	1	Age:	20
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	pled guilty						

McCormick

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

Newberry

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	43
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Oconee

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

Orangeburg

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	21
Whites:	0	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	pled guilty						

Pickens

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg Age:	52
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	awaiting trial						

Richland

Women:	3	Men:	4	Total:	7	Avg Age:	36
Whites:	3	Blacks:	4	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	3	Knife:	3	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial (4); suicide (3)						

Saluda

Women:	0	Men:	2	Total:	2	Avg Age:	41
Whites:	0	Blacks:	2	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	0	Knife:	1	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	awaiting trial (2)						

Spartanburg

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg Age:	64
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0		
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	died after incident						

Sumter

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

Union

Women:	1	Men:	0	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	1	Blacks:	0	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	21
Gun:	1	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	0		
Disposition:	suicide						

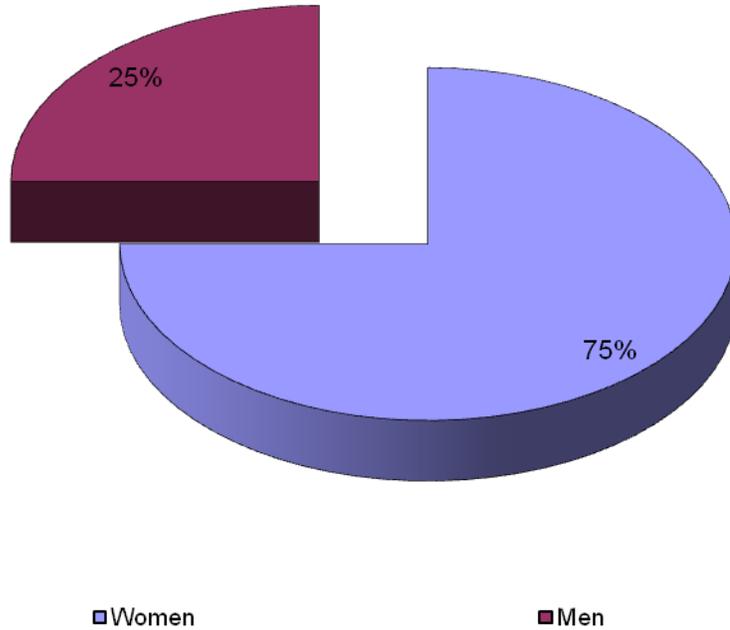
Williamsburg

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

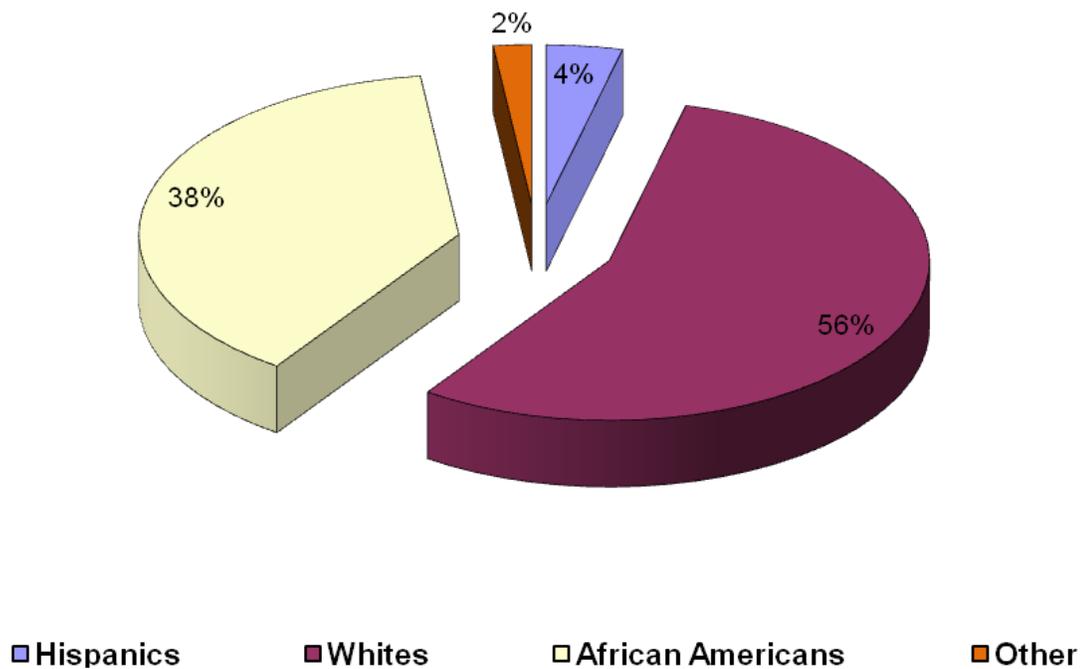
York

Women:	0	Men:	1	Total:	1	Avg	
Whites:	3	Blacks:	1	Hispanic/Other:	0	Age:	44
Gun:	3	Knife:	0	Hand/Other:	1		
Disposition:	suicide; pled guilty (2); awaiting trial						

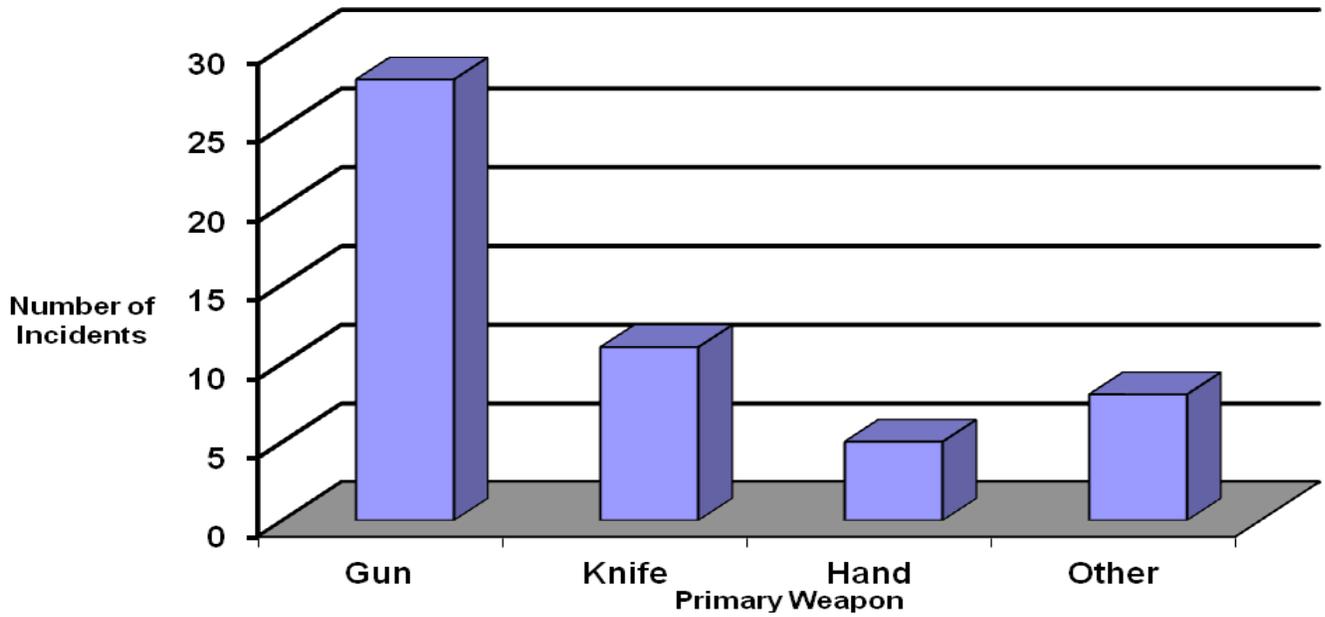
2011
Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Sex Differential



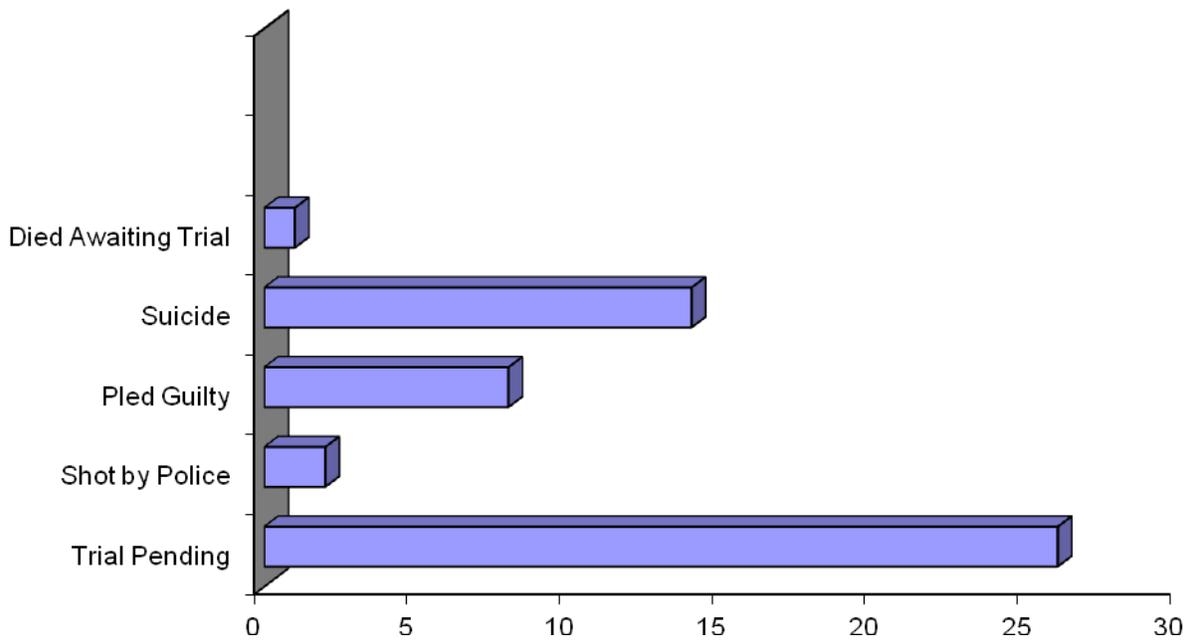
2011 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Race Differential



**2011 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Primary Weapon Differential**



**2011 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Case Disposition**



2011 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina-Month Differential

