



The South Carolina Silent Witness Story

Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2009

Yolanda Knox
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This year's ceremony will mark the **thirteenth anniversary of Silent Witness**.

In **2009**, there were a **total of 33** people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina¹ definition. Of those 33 people, **31 were women**, constituting 94% of the total, and **2 were men**, constituting 6% of the total.

The demographics of the victims were as follows: 42% were Black, 52% were White, 3% were Hispanic and 3% 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 counties reported one or more domestic homicides for 2009.

Guns were the primary weapon used in these homicides. In 64% of the cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 15% of the cases; in 12% of the cases the victim was beaten to death (by hand); and in 9% of the cases another form of weapon was used.

The courts have disposed of only six cases. There are fifteen trials pending, eleven defendants have committed suicide 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.

¹ §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
Whites:0	Blacks:0	Hispanics: 0
Gun:0	Knife:0	Hand/Other:0
Disposition: 0		

Aiken

Women:0	Men:0	Total: 0
Whites0	Blacks:0	Hispanics: 0
Gun:0	Knife:0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Allendale

Women:0	Men:0	Total: 0
Whites:0	Blacks:0	Hispanics: 0
Gun:0	Knife:0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Anderson

Women:0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other:
Disposition: 0		

Bamberg

Women: 0	Men:	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks:0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Barnwell

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Other: 0

Hand: Blunt force trauma to head from beating
Disposition: Pled guilty to murder and sentenced to life in prison

Beaufort

Women: 2	Men: 0	Total: 2
Whites: 1	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 1	Hand/Other: 0

Disposition: Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison; Trial pending

Berkeley

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0

Disposition: Trial pending

Calhoun

Women: 1	Men:	Total: 1
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other:

Disposition: Pled guilty and sentenced to life in prison

Charleston

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 1	Hand/Other: 0

Disposition: Trial Pending

Cherokee

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Chester

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Chesterfield

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Clarendon

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Colleton

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Darlington

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites:0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife:0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Dillon

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites:0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Dorchester

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Committed suicide		

Edgefield

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Fairfield

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun:	Knife:	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Florence

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending		

Georgetown

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Greenville

Women: 6	Men: 0	Total: 6
Whites: 4	Blacks: 1	Asian: 1
Gun: 3	Knife: 2	Other: 0
Hand: Complications from injuries sustained in a beating		
Disposition: 2 committed suicide; 2 trial pending; 1 warrant has been issued for his arrest, but suspect is still at large		

Greenwood

Women: 1	Men: 1	Total: 2
Whites: 0	Blacks: 2	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 2	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Committed suicide; committed suicide		

Hampton

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand: 0

Other: Strangulation
Disposition: Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 25 years

Horry

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0

Disposition: Committed suicide

Jasper

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Other: 0

Hand: Blunt force trauma due to beating by an object
Disposition: Trial pending

Kershaw

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand: 0

Other: Strangulation
Disposition: Trial pending

Lancaster

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Laurens

Women: 2	Men: 0	Total: 2
Whites: 2	Blacks: 2	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 2	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending		

Lee

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Lexington

Women: 3	Men: 0	Total: 3
Whites: 3	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 2	Knife: 1	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Committed suicide; committed suicide; committed suicide seven months after the incident		

Marion

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Marlboro

Women: 2	Men: 1	Total: 3
Whites: 1	Blacks: 2	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 2	Knife: 0	Other: 0
Hand: Blunt force trauma		
Disposition: Trial pending; trial pending; committed suicide		

McCormick

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Newberry

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Oconee

Women: 2	Men: 0	Total: 2
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 1
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand: 0
Other: Strangulation		
Disposition: Trial pending; pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 30 years		

Orangeburg

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Pickens

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Found guilty of murder and unlawful conduct toward a child; sentenced to 10 years on unlawful conduct and life on murder charge (to run consecutively)		

Richland

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 1	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending		

Saluda

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Spartanburg

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Sumter

Women:0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Union

Women:0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

Williamsburg

Women: 0	Men: 0	Total: 0
Whites: 0	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 0	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		

York

Women: 1	Men: 0	Total: 1
Whites: 1	Blacks: 0	Hispanics: 0
Gun: 1	Knife: 0	Hand/Other: 0
Disposition: 0		