S.C. Code §16-25-10 defines “household members” as spouses, former spouses, persons who have a child in common, or a male and female who are cohabiting or formerly have cohabited.

Statistical data were compiled using 2019 incident reports from the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Sheriffs’ Offices, Coroners’ Offices, Police Departments and Solicitors’ Offices statewide.

Of the 42 people murdered by a household member*, 86% of the victims were women (N=36), 14% of the victims were men (N=6).

55% of the victims were Black (N=23), 45% of the victims were white (N=19), and 0% identified as Hispanic/Latino.

The average age of the victims in 2019 was 40 years old. Victims’ ages ranged from 18 - 83 years old.

In 2% of cases the primary cause of death were from other causes.

- In 79% of cases a gunshot was the primary cause of death.
- In 12% of cases a knife was the primary cause of death.
- In 5% of cases a fist or an object was the primary cause of death.
- In 2% of cases strangulation was the primary cause of death.

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