

Homicide in Oregon Related to Intimate Partner Violence

Basic Facts

- Intimate partner violence (IPV) is actual or threatened physical aggression, sexual assault, and psychological/emotional abuse directed toward a spouse, ex-spouse, former or current boyfriend or girlfriend, or former dates.
- IPV-related homicides are homicides that occur in the context of IPV.
- IPV-related homicides account for nearly one in four homicides in Oregon.
- IPV-related homicides occur among all ages, races/ethnicities, social economic classes, and among women and men.
- Most female victims are killed by a current spouse or boyfriend. Most male victims are killed by someone other than an intimate partner.
- Firearms are a common mechanism of death among IPV-related homicides.

Prevention

- Prevent adverse childhood experiences
- Promote non-violence education
- Strengthen support for victims
- Encourage treatment for perpetrators
- Reduce perpetrator access to firearms

Resources: Portland Women's Crisis Line: 503-235-5333 Or toll-free: 1-888-235-5333
National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

From 2003 to 2012:

- 256 people were killed in the context of intimate partner violence (IPV) in Oregon. Most homicide victims were women and children.
- More than 80% of female victims of intimate partner homicide were killed by their current spouses or boyfriends.

Table 1. Demographic characteristics of IPV-related homicide victims, Oregon, 2003-2012

	Killed by an intimate partner		Killed by other	
	Deaths	%	Deaths	%
Age				
Under 15	1	0.6%	15	17.9%
15-24	24	14.0%	11	13.1%
25-44	66	38.4%	38	45.2%
45-64	56	32.6%	18	21.4%
>=65	25	14.5%	2	2.4%
Sex				
Male	31	18.0%	72	85.7%
Female	141	82.0%	12	14.3%
Race/Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic White	140	81.4%	63	75.0%
African American	10	5.8%	7	8.3%
Am. Indian/Native Alaskan	4	2.3%	1	1.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	3	1.7%	3	3.6%
Other / More than one race	2	1.2%	4	4.8%
Hispanic, all races	16	9.3%	10	11.9%

- Nearly two thirds of victims who were killed by an intimate partner were living with the perpetrator when the incident occurred.
- 17% of IPV perpetrators were reported to have a mental illness and/or alcohol/substance use problem.
- 22% of IPV-perpetrators were reported to have used alcohol, illicit substances or both prior to the homicide incident.

Table 2. Relationship of victim and suspect among IPV-related homicides by sex, Oregon, 2003-2012

Homicide victim was killed by:	IPV-related homicide victims		
	Female	Male	Total
Current spouse	79	12	91
Ex-spouse	6	1	7
Current boy/girlfriend	41	9	50
Ex-boy/girl friend	14	4	18
Couple (same sex)	3	3	6
Total homicide victims killed by an intimate partner	143	29	172
Partner's ex-partner	3	15	18
Ex-partner's or lover's current partner	0	17	17
Police officers	0	13	13
Other	10	26	36
Total homicide victims killed by someone other than a partner	13	71	84
Homicides related to IPV	156	100	256