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CITY OF PHOENIX

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

2025 REPORT

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City of Phoenix

Letter from the chairs

To the Phoenix Community:

Domestic violence is a critical public safety issue that endangers not only victims, but also their friends, families, co-workers, law enforcement, and the broader community. Its far-reaching impact requires a coordinated response from multiple agencies, creating complex systemic implications.

The Phoenix DVFRT is committed to identifying systemic gaps and recommending improvements to reduce domestic violence-related homicides. In 2025, the team continued its vital work, leveraging its collective expertise to enhance domestic violence awareness and response strategies. We are grateful for the hard work of the review team members, the assistance from the staff liaisons, and the support from the City of Phoenix executive team members.

As first-time committee members and Co-Chairs of the DVFRT, we are honored to present the 2025 Phoenix Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Annual Report. Our intent is that this report provides valuable insights to strengthen domestic violence prevention efforts and improve system-wide responses.

Sincerely,

Tracee Hall

Tracee Hall, Assistant Director
City of Phoenix
Human Services Department

Steve Martos

Steve Martos, Commander
Phoenix Police Department
Family Investigations Bureau

MISSION AND INTRODUCTION

In alignment with Arizona Revised Statute § 41-198, the City of Phoenix assembled a Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT). DVFRT members offer diverse experience from multiple perspectives including: the criminal justice system, advocacy community, healthcare, municipal government, and other community-based agencies. This wide-ranging membership provides a unique opportunity to work with many disciplines to evaluate systemic issues and to develop comprehensive and practical recommendations for improvement.

The mission and purpose of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team is to examine domestic violence fatality and near-fatality incidents in order to improve our understanding of the dynamics of such incidents and provide concrete recommendations to improve system responses to domestic violence. Following a comprehensive review of the selected incident, the members apply their knowledge and expertise in their various disciplines to develop recommendations for systems improvements to better serve victims and survivors of domestic violence. The team's goal is to have a positive impact and influence in preventing future domestic violence incidents and fatalities from occurring.

2025 DVFRT Process:

The Phoenix Police Department researched incidents of domestic violence homicides and near-fatal incidents for the DVFRT to review and select from. The DVFRT members collectively selected the case for the 2025 report. The case review, report recommendations, and report drafting were completed by DVFRT subcommittees.

The 2025 DVFRT selected a homicide case that deviates from the types of cases previously examined. In this case, the woman's estranged husband engaged in geo-tracking and stalking to locate her and murder her new partner.

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

2025 DVFRT Members

Tracee Hall (Co-Chair), City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Steve Martos (Co-Chair), City of Phoenix Police Department

Michelle De Alba, City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Kelli Donley Williams, Maricopa County Department of Public Health

Dolores (D.C.) Ernst, Phoenix Fire Department

Karen Gerdes, La Frontera Empact

Laura Guild, Arizona Department of Economic Security

Susan Hallett, City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Bianca Harper, Arizona State University

James Hester, City of Phoenix Police Department

Nicholas Jimenez, City of Phoenix Police Department

Shannon Johanni, City of Phoenix Office of Accountability and Transparency

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Katelyn Osselaer, City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Stephanie Smith, Phoenix Fire Department

Shawn Steinberg, Maricopa County Attorney's Office

Christopher Sund, City of Phoenix Police Department

Hilary Weinberg, City of Phoenix Prosecutor's Office

Krista Wood, Arizona Attorney General's Office

2025 DVFRT Staff Liaisons

Kristina Blea, City of Phoenix Human Services Department

Luke Christian, City of Phoenix Law Department

Priscilla Lopez, City of Phoenix Human Services Department

City of Phoenix Executive Team

Ed Zuercher, City Manager

Ginger Spencer, Assistant City Manager

Gina Montes, Deputy City Manager

Jacqueline Edwards, Human Services Director

Matt Giordano, Police Chief

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INFORMATION AND STATISTICS

Domestic violence (DV) remains a critical public health concern with profound social, physical, and psychological consequences. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, domestic violence is defined as a "pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner." (14) Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship. (1)

No one is immune to domestic violence. It affects people of all ages, ethnicities, genders, and socioeconomic statuses. In the United States, about 41% of women and 26% of men have experienced some form of intimate partner violence (IPV) (2024). (2) In addition, research from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) shows that nearly 10 million adults experience domestic violence annually, in the United States (2017). (3) Factors that may cause or contribute to domestic violence are complex and often compounding. Parental substance abuse, family conflict or violence, history of child abuse and neglect, exposure to stress, undiagnosed mental health problems, poverty, peer rejection and low-self-esteem can increase the likelihood of someone perpetrating violence (2024). (4)

According to the National Network to End Domestic Violence, stalking is a significant component of domestic violence, and its prevalence is a growing concern, particularly with the rise of technology (2024). (5) Technology facilitated abuse (TFA) has been a growing trend in society (2022). (8) According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, TFA, also known as digital dating abuse, "encompasses a range of behaviors and is facilitated in online spaces" (2022). (8) Some examples of TFA include the use of surveillance apps, spyware, social media platforms, endless texting, and smart home technology (2022). (8)

Research from the NISVS found that nearly, "1 in 3 woman and about 1 in 6 men in the United States reported being stalked at some point during their lives, and that 43.4% of female victims and 32.4% of male victims were stalked by a current or former intimate partner" (2024). (6)

Cyber stalking, a form of TFA, is unwanted online behavior where an individual or group uses a social platform to "harass, threaten, or intimidate another person" (12). Cyber stalking has a correlation to intimate partner violence (IPV) because it has opened new avenues for abusers to exert control and power. Tactics like threatening to share explicit images, videos, and private information increase victims' overall safety risks (12).

A Bureau of Justice Statistics report summarized data collected from the Supplemental Victimization Survey to the National Crime Victimization Survey which estimated that among the, "3.4 million U.S. persons ages 16 and older who reported experiencing stalking in 2019, 80%

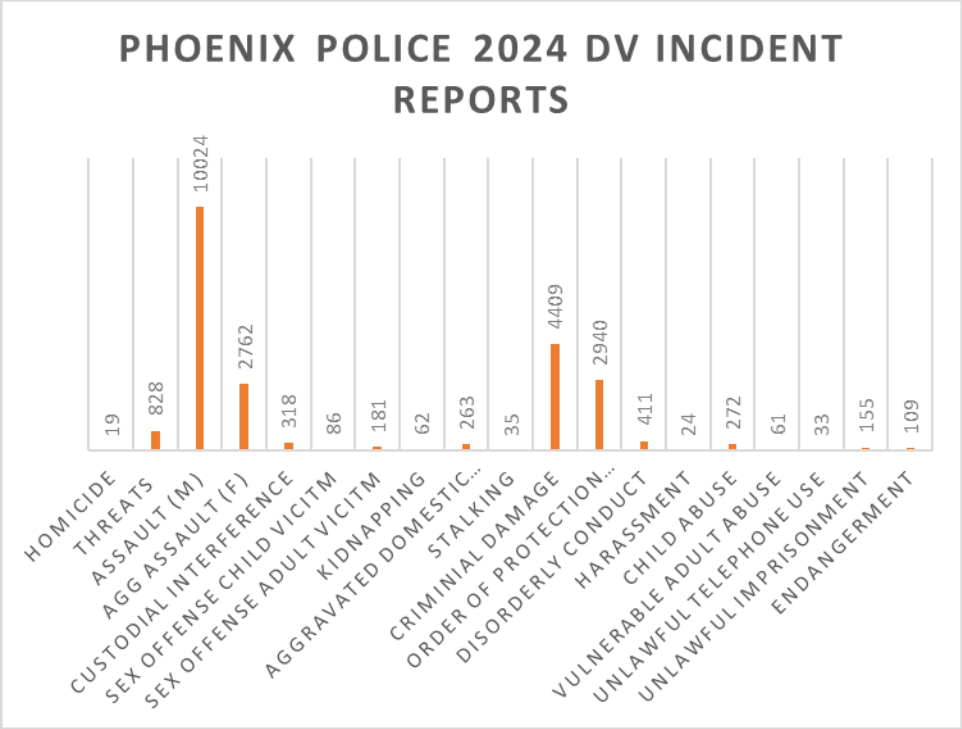
indicated that the use of technology was involved. Among this group, 14% reported they had their whereabouts tracked with an electronic device" (2022). (7)

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STATISTICS

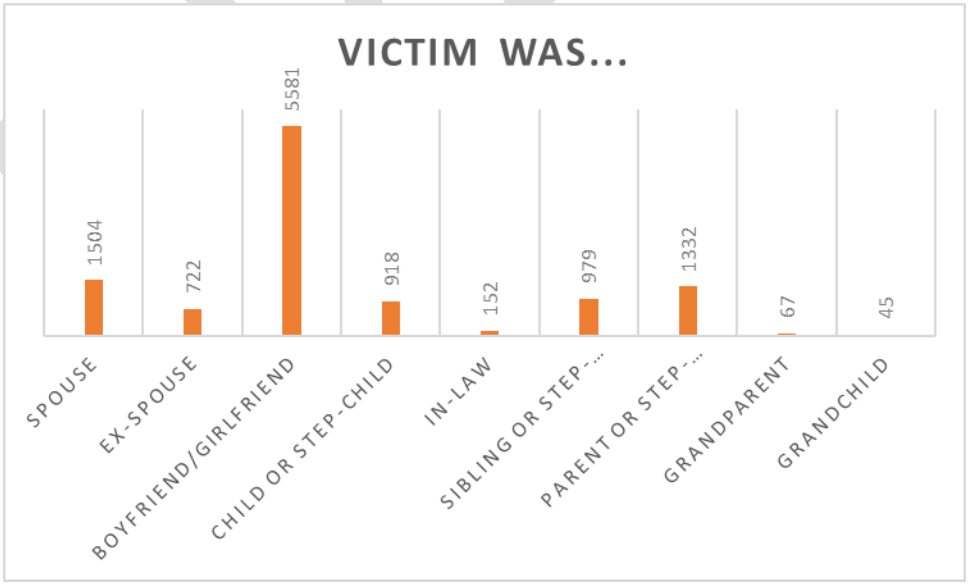
Based on the 2024 City of Phoenix Police Department's (PD) Domestic Violence Statistical Report, PD's domestic violence calls for service totaled 33,408 and domestic violence incident reports totaled 23,889. (9) From those calls and incident reports, there were 8,568 adult arrests involving domestic violence and 421 juvenile contacts involving domestic violence (2024). (9) Of those arrests, 263 involved aggravated domestic violence, and 19 involved domestic violence homicides (2024). (9) Under Arizona law, "a person commits aggravated domestic violence if, within an 84-month (seven-year) period, they commit a third or subsequent domestic violence offense, or if they are convicted of a domestic violence offense and have two or more prior convictions for domestic violence offenses or equivalent acts that would qualify as domestic violence if committed in Arizona. This offense is classified as a Class 5 felony under A.R.S. § 13-3601.02." (13)

Stalking coupled with coercive control and a predictable sequence of events can eventually lead to domestic violence homicides (2018). (11) Per the 2024 Phoenix Police Department Domestic Violence Statistical Report, 35 cases were classified as stalking under the domestic violence crime types. (9)

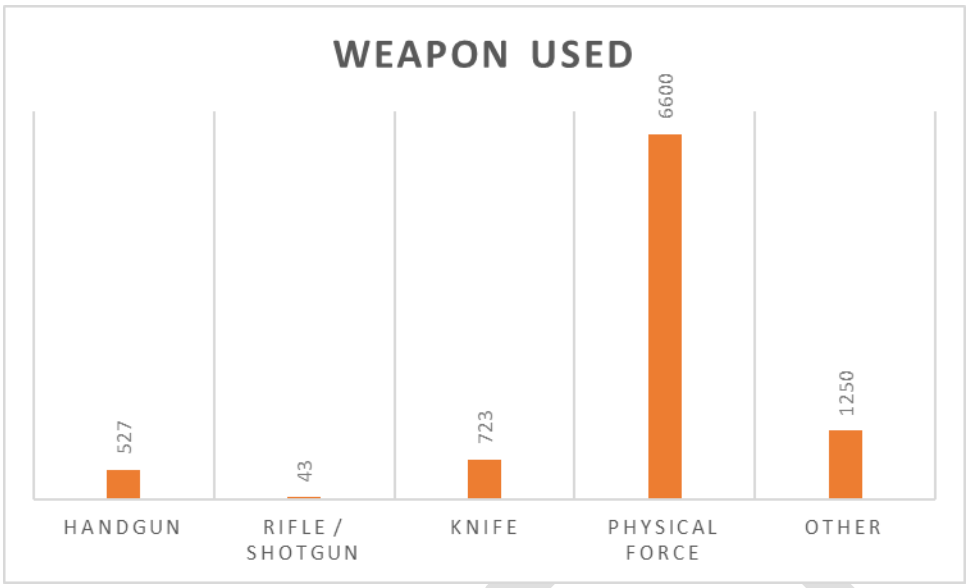
In 2024, assaults were documented as the highest form of reported domestic violence incidents to Phoenix Police. The summary report is provided in attachment A. (9) The following charts represent information from the 2024 Phoenix Police summary report.



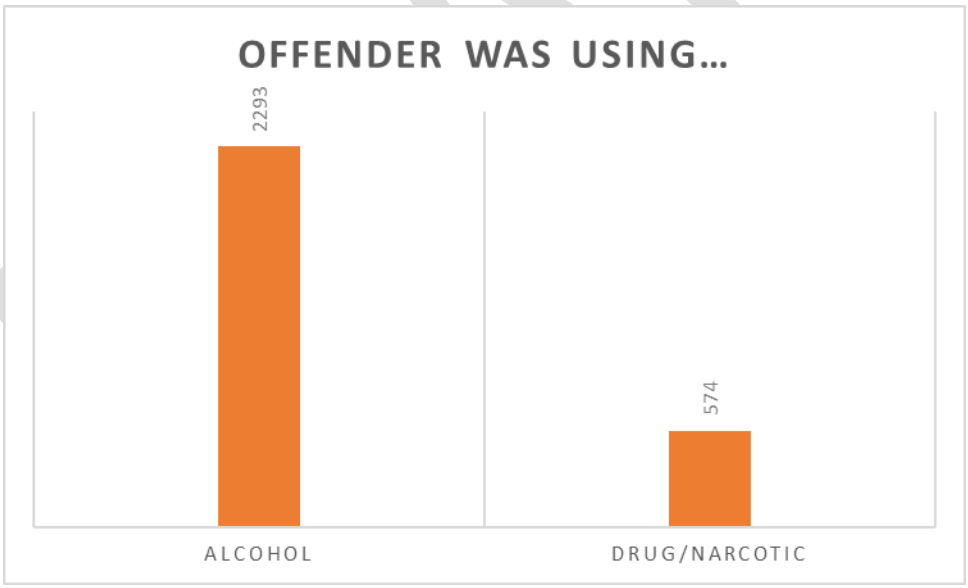
In the city of Phoenix, the most common relationship between abuser and victim in 2024 was among unmarried persons.



The most used “weapon” during a domestic violence incident in the city of Phoenix was “physical force”. Defined as the use of hands, fists, or feet, to assault the victim. Strangulation is included in this category.



When a substance was involved in a domestic violence situation, the highest used substance was alcohol.



References

(1) U.S. Department of Justice: Office on Violence Against Woman (OVW)

Website: https://www.justice.gov/ovw/domestic-violence

(2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: About Intimate Partner Violence

Website:https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/about/index.html#:~:text=IPV%20is%20common.,killed%20by%20an%20intimate%20partner.

(3) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey

Website: https://www.cdc.gov/nisvs/documentation/NISVSReportonIPV_2022.pdf

(4) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Intimate Partner Violence Risk and Protective Factors

Website: https://www.cdc.gov/intimate-partner-violence/risk-factors/index.html

(5) National Network to End Domestic Violence: The Intersections of Stalking and Domestic Violence

Website:https://nnedv.org/latest_update/intersections-of-stalking-and-domestic-violence/#:~:text=At%20the%20same%20time%2C%20we,behaviors%20are%20often%20the%20same.

(6) The Intersections of Stalking and Domestic Violence

Website: The Intersections of Stalking and Domestic Violence - NNEDV

(7) Stalking Concerns Raised by Bluetooth Tracking Technologies

Website: Stalking Concerns Raised by Bluetooth Tracking Technologies: In Brief | Congress.gov | Library of Congress

(8) Technology-Facilitated Abuse in Intimate Relationships: A Scoping Review

Website: Technology-Facilitated Abuse in Intimate Relationships: A Scoping Review - PMC

(9) Phoenix Police Department: Crime Analysis and Research Unit

Phoenix Domestic Violence Statistics (attachment A)

(10) WomansLaw.org: Selected Statues of Arizona

Website:https://www.womenslaw.org/laws/az/statutes/ss-13-1204-aggravated-assault-classification-definition

(11) Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence Fact Sheet

Website: https://www.stalkingawareness.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Stalking-IPV-Fact-Sheet.pdf

(12) The chilling connection- cyber stalking and intimate partner violence

https://www.hcdvcc.org/chilling-connection/

(13) Arizona Legislature

https://www.azleg.gov/ars/13/03601-02

(14) United States Department of Justice

Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) | Domestic Violence

THE PHOENIX DVFRT PROCESS

Case Selection and Review:

Members of the Phoenix Police Department reviewed four fatal and near-fatal domestic violence incidents with the DVFRT. After a thorough discussion, the DVFRT reached a consensus and selected the case detailed below for the 2025 fatality review.

The selected case involved a shooting incident where the husband stalked and used geo-location information to locate his estranged wife who was in a new heterosexual intimate partner relationship. The husband ultimately killed the new partner. After the case was selected by the DVFRT, a subset of members volunteered for the Case Review Subcommittee.

In preparation for the review, Phoenix Police DVFRT members collected police reports, criminal histories, charging documents, body-worn camera footage, and court records, and provided these items to the subcommittee. Subcommittee members interviewed the incarcerated perpetrator virtually. The subcommittee members were unable to successfully contact other involved parties, including the estranged wife/domestic violence victim.

The Case Review Subcommittee reviewed all collected information and created a timeline that includes police involvement, details of the domestic violence victim and perpetrator's relationship, the history of violence in this relationship leading up to the homicide of the domestic violence victim's new partner (hereinafter, "homicide victim"), and through the perpetrator's conviction.

CASE SUMMARY TIMELINE

DATE	EVENT
1980	Homicide victim born.
1983	Perpetrator born.
1987	Domestic violence victim born.
2001-2007	Perpetrator joined the military and served active duty. No relevant or major discipline during this service.
	2001- Military referred Perpetrator to Alcohol Drug Abuse Treatment.
	2004- Perpetrator deployed at an unknown location.
	2006- Perpetrator and domestic violence victim met during Perpetrator's deployment out of the country. They married approximately one year later.
	2008- Perpetrator transitioned to the Reserves.
	2008- Military referred Perpetrator for a second time to Alcohol Drug Abuse Treatment.
	2009- Perpetrator and domestic violence victim's first child born.
	2010- Perpetrator transferred to a military law enforcement position.
2012	Perpetrator and domestic violence victim's second child born.
2014	Perpetrator and domestic violence victim's third child born.
2016	Perpetrator suspected domestic violence victim of cheating. The incident prompted the couple to seek marital counseling, but the perpetrator felt the counselor would take the domestic victim's side because she was a female also. This made the perpetrator upset and he walked out of the counseling session. The couple later tried counseling services through the military, but there were no therapists available who spoke the primary language of the domestic violence victim.
2019	Perpetrator was deployed to overseas for six months. Perpetrator suspected domestic violence victim of cheating due to monitoring of cell phone history.
2020	Military referred Perpetrator to Alcohol Drug Abuse Treatment for a third time.
2020	Perpetrator suspected domestic violence victim of lying about her whereabouts through cell phone and geo-location data monitoring.

Fall 2021	Domestic violence victim and homicide victim started dating. A few months later, perpetrator began looking through domestic violence victim's call logs, determined she was communicating with homicide victim, and looked up information on homicide victim. Perpetrator was angry about her new relationship and forbade her from continuing to contact homicide victim. Domestic violence victim agreed to this to avoid conflict. She continued to see homicide victim.
December 2021	Perpetrator and domestic violence victim separated and contemplated divorce. Perpetrator and domestic violence victim continued to live in the same house.
February or March 2022	Perpetrator confronted domestic violence victim about her relationship with homicide victim. Domestic violence victim said she would stop seeing the homicide victim.
May 2022	Perpetrator messaged domestic violence victim and told her he knew where she was, knew she had been with homicide victim and that she was at his house. Domestic violence victim searched her vehicle for a tracker and didn't find anything. Perpetrator sent her an old photo of herself in sexually suggestive clothing and indicated he was going to post it and other photos and videos of her to social media to embarrass and shame her. Domestic violence victim called the perpetrator and told him that if he escalated the situation, she would contact the police and obtain an order of protection. Perpetrator hung up on her, and they did not have contact for the rest of the week. Domestic violence victim stayed away from the home until late in the evening. When she arrived home, their children told her that Perpetrator had taken his belongings and moved out to stay with his mother. Perpetrator took his handgun.
May 2022 Incident date:	1:00 p.m. – Perpetrator picked up two of his children from the home. Domestic violence victim saw him. Perpetrator dropped the children off at his mother's house. Domestic violence victim went to homicide victim's home. 3:46 p.m. – Perpetrator called domestic violence victim's phone, but she did not answer. Approximately 1-2 minutes later, perpetrator opened the bedroom door at the homicide victim's home. Perpetrator shot and killed homicide victim inside his home. Domestic violence victim was present

	and witnessed this. Domestic violence victim reported that perpetrator pointed the gun at her and said, "I told you!" Domestic violence victim feared for her life, fled the bedroom and locked herself in the bathroom. 3:49 p.m. – Domestic violence victim called 911. 3:52 p.m. – Emergency call of a shooting. Approximately 3:45 to 3:50 p.m. – Perpetrator called his mother. Before this call, perpetrator's mother was contacted by an officer asking if she knew of perpetrator whereabouts. Perpetrator's mother informed officer she was taking her grandchildren to the sports complex. Perpetrator's mother met him in a public location with his three children, where she observed him crying while hugging and kissing them. Approximately 4:00 p.m. – Perpetrator contacted his stepfather. Perpetrator's stepfather and his stepfather's brother met perpetrator at a CVS and perpetrator asked for help to turn himself in. 6:08 p.m. – Perpetrator arrested.
May 4, 2023	Plea agreement-change of plea.
June 23, 2023	Perpetrator sentenced to 25 years for 2nd Degree Murder & Aggravated Assault.
June 30, 2023	Modification approved by the court to allow contact between domestic violence victim and perpetrator. Filed with court on 7/5/2023.
June 12, 2051	Perpetrator due to be released.

About the Homicide Victim

At the time of the incident, the homicide victim, an adult male, had an estranged wife and children. He was actively dating the domestic violence victim.

About the Domestic Violence Victim

The domestic violence victim was an adult at the time of the incident. She was married to the perpetrator, and they have three minor children in common. She is a permanent resident in the United States and English is her second language. The domestic violence victim met her husband (the perpetrator) in her country of origin while the perpetrator was outside of the United States on a deployment. They married and the domestic violence victim moved to the United States. At some point in their relationship, the domestic violence victim and the perpetrator attempted to obtain counseling services but stated language barriers as an issue.

In the fall of 2021, the domestic violence victim started dating the homicide victim. A few months later, the perpetrator began looking through her call logs and determined she was communicating with the homicide victim and looked up information about him. The perpetrator confronted the domestic violence victim about the relationship.

In the beginning of 2022, the perpetrator confronted the domestic violence victim again about her relationship with the homicide victim.

About the Perpetrator

The perpetrator was an adult at the time of the incident. He was married to the domestic violence victim, and they have three children.

He was born and raised in the United States. The perpetrator reports having an inconsistent relationship with his father. He also notes his parents having an on and off again relationship and his father would come home drunk. The perpetrator also noted that he grew up in a home where he observed verbal and possibly some physical abuse.

The perpetrator considered himself to be a ‘latchkey kid”, and he remembers not having a happy childhood. He stated he was bullied by his siblings, and he got into trouble as a teenager by, “turning on the fire alarm,” and “being destructive during a school dance.” He reported

doing drugs with his friends and he fell behind in his school credit hours. The perpetrator was transferred to an alternative school due to disruptive behaviors.

The perpetrator noted that he had his first girlfriend in first grade and another girlfriend in sixth grade. He also said that he dated and was very popular amongst the young ladies while in high school. He stated there was never verbal or physical abuse in his intimate relationships.

The perpetrator graduated from high school and then enlisted in the military. He used the GI Bill from the military to get his bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He joined the military in 2001. He was in active service from 2001-2007 and was deployed to multiple countries. He had no major discipline during his service.

The perpetrator was 23 years old, and the domestic violence victim was 19 years old when they met in her home country during his deployment. He stated he was initially not looking to be in a serious relationship and wanted to have fun. The perpetrator and domestic violence victim were together for six months and they continued with a long-distance relationship when he returned home to the United States. They were together for one year prior to getting married. Once they were married, the domestic violence victim moved to the United States.

According to the perpetrator, the relationship between perpetrator and domestic violence victim started off well. Although he reports feeling unsure if he "really loved" her. He perceived that issues began to arise when a friend told him the domestic violence victim was cheating on him. The perpetrator stated trust was the biggest issue for him in the relationship and he could not see past the infidelity by the domestic violence victim.

In 2016, the perpetrator reported going to marital counseling with the domestic violence victim. According to the perpetrator, he felt that the counselor was siding with the domestic violence victim because she was also a female. He got upset and walked out of the session and they never attended again.

When the perpetrator was deployed in 2019, he continued to have contact with the domestic violence victim. During that time, he also looked at her call logs. He saw calls from a restricted number. The perpetrator stated the domestic violence victim denied any cheating and everything went back to normal.

By 2020, the domestic violence victim had a cell phone with a GPS tracker. The perpetrator reports that the domestic violence victim would tell him she was at a given location which was not accurate per the GPS tracker. The perpetrator says he wanted to remove the GPS tracker from their plan at one point because the domestic violence victim stated she had issues with it.

In the fall of 2021, the domestic violence victim stated she was going to her friend's house. The perpetrator became suspicious, and he checked her call logs and noticed an unlisted number on the logs multiple times in the prior few months. The perpetrator said he called the number, and a man answered the phone. The man on the phone denied having contact with the domestic violence victim and then hung up. The perpetrator confronted the domestic violence victim when she came home. When asked about the man on the phone, she told the perpetrator he was just a friend.

A few months after that incident, the perpetrator looked at the domestic violence victim's call logs again while she was out of town. The perpetrator notes this is when he suspected the domestic violence victim was dating the homicide victim.

The perpetrator and domestic violence victim decided to divorce in 2021 but continued to live together. In early 2022, the perpetrator confronted the domestic violence victim about her relationship with the homicide victim again.

The Incident

In May 2022, the perpetrator messaged the domestic violence victim and told her that he knew where she was and knew she had been with the homicide victim. He told her he knew she was at the homicide victim's house. The domestic violence victim searched her vehicle for a tracker and could not find anything. The perpetrator then sent the domestic violence victim an old photo of the domestic violence victim in sexually suggestive clothing. The perpetrator indicated he was going to post it and other photos and videos to social media to embarrass and shame her. The domestic violence victim called him about this and told him that if he escalated the situation, she would call the police and obtain an order of protection. The perpetrator hung up on the domestic violence victim. The domestic violence victim stayed away from her home until late in the evening. When she arrived home, their children told her that the perpetrator had taken belongings to stay at his mother's house. The domestic violence victim was aware he took his handgun.

Five days later, the domestic violence victim went to the homicide victim's home. She had been in the home for approximately 30 minutes when she received a call from the perpetrator which she did not answer. One to two minutes later, the perpetrator opened the homicide victim's bedroom door. The perpetrator pointed the gun at the homicide victim, who was on the bed with the domestic violence victim and was unarmed. The domestic violence victim got out of the bed and

told the perpetrator to stop. The perpetrator pushed her away and shot the homicide victim. The perpetrator then pointed the gun at the domestic violence victim and said, “I told you!” The domestic violence victim feared for her life and ran into the bathroom and closed the door. She called 911 and later went to the bedroom to check on the homicide victim.

Witnesses said they heard two loud sounds, saw the perpetrator exit the bedroom, leave the house, and drive away. Phoenix Police responded to the homicide victim’s home. Officers located the homicide victim on a bed, unresponsive, and bleeding from apparent gunshot wounds. The homicide victim was transported to the hospital and once there, was pronounced deceased.

Following the shooting, the perpetrator called his mother and said “I did something stupid. I did something bad.” The perpetrator said he would turn himself in but first wanted to meet with her to say goodbye. She drove the children to meet the perpetrator at a designated parking lot.

Police contacted the mother of the perpetrator to ask if she knew where he was.. She told the officer that she had the perpetrator’s children, that they were fine, and she agreed to respond to the officers’ location.

The perpetrator contacted his stepfather and said, “I messed up” and asked him, “You know [domestic violence victim] was cheating on me? I caught them and I shot him.” The perpetrator asked his stepfather if the stepfather’s brother could help the perpetrator turn himself in. The perpetrator, the stepfather, and the stepfather’s brother met at a designated parking lot.

Phoenix officers located the perpetrator’s vehicle in the designated parking lot. They observed the perpetrator talk with a subject in another vehicle. Officers followed the other vehicle to a law enforcement substation located in the area. Officers contacted the passenger and identified him as the perpetrator. The perpetrator told officers his gun was in the trunk of his car. The driver of the other vehicle said he was transporting the perpetrator to the substation so he could be arrested and interviewed. Officers located a gun in the trunk of the perpetrator’s car.

Post Incident

The domestic violence victim told police she and the perpetrator had decided to get a divorce about a year prior, but they were still living together in the same house. She stated, the perpetrator had been physically violent at times during the first 12 years of their 14-year marriage; however, she did not report any of the incidents. The perpetrator became very jealous when he learned she had a relationship with the homicide victim by reviewing her phone call logs.

The domestic violence victim explained the perpetrator had indicated he was tracking her electronically, but she did not know how. The perpetrator and the domestic violence victim had a fight approximately five days prior when he threatened to post provocative photos of her on social media. The perpetrator moved out of the house the same day and took his firearm with him. The domestic violence victim believed the perpetrator used the same gun to kill the homicide victim.

FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Due to the complexity of the case, the recommendations provided in this report are broad approaches to educating, preventing, and addressing domestic violence. After careful consideration and much discussion, the Team makes the following recommendations:

1. **Research need for Domestic Violence Education and Prevention Programs**

Due to the upswing in available technologies and exposure through social media coupled with teen/young adult use of technology and social media, there is a heightened need for prevention and education programs that focus on healthy relationships, resource access, and appropriate use of technology and public platforms. The DVFRT recommends:

- Create a DVFRT subcommittee to explore current, community-based initiatives and programming that are focused on healthy relationships, specifically for youth, including recognizing healthy boundaries and engagement with technology and social media.
- The same DVFRT subcommittee will seek to identify or develop a resource library and determine how to best share with residents and community partners.

2. **Explore the need for expansion of Domestic Violence Education and Awareness Campaigns**

While this recommendation can apply to all domestic violence cases, the Team recognized in this case that there were multiple opportunities for intervention, support, and redirection for all parties involved. The DVFRT wants to explore avenues for expanding current awareness campaigns and seeking external partnerships to create opportunities for greater knowledge, broader reach, and ideally, increased access to intervention and support before relationships escalate to fatalities. The DVFRT recommends:

2.a Within the City of Phoenix:

- The City of Phoenix HR Department, with support from the Phoenix Police Department, Fire Department, and Human Services Department/Victim Services

Division, explore existing City training videos and review/develop new content and opportunities to enhance or focus on domestic violence awareness optional classes.

- Research options for a DV training module for all Phoenix City employees to take on an annual basis. The Training module could include information about identifying domestic violence, available resources, and how to report on domestic violence.

2.b External Partnerships:

- The Team recommends researching (additional or new) opportunities for the City of Phoenix to coordinate and partner with large organizations (e.g. Suns, Mercury, Diamondbacks) to disseminate a public service video during major events. The video could be available by QR code throughout a venue (e.g., entrance, ticket office, restrooms, vending areas, merchandise stores).

3. Research Options to Expand Sentencing Statutes to Include a Domestic Violence Enhancement

Many other factors can be considered in Arizona's felony sentencing schemes that allow for enhancements based on characteristics of the offense, however the nature of the relationship is not currently one of those enhancements. Domestic violence homicides have an impact and a reach, for those who remain after the death and for the perpetrators, that necessitate legislative recognition of this difference. This enhancement would give prosecutors the ability to reflect this difference and provide greater flexibility in negotiating plea agreements that result in both accountability and reduced re-victimization for witnesses and surviving victims. While this case is not a domestic violence homicide, the committee acknowledges that domestic violence motivated the homicide. The DVFRT recommends:

- The City of Phoenix Police Department explore, with key stakeholders, the possibility of recommending a sentencing enhancement or increased punishment for a person convicted of any domestic violence homicide. If this legislative change is deemed appropriate, a recommendation will be sent to multiple legislative liaisons (e.g., City of Phoenix, MCAO, MAG, ACESDV) for further consideration.

- The Team recommends a potential enhancement of two to five years when the elements of domestic violence as defined in A.R.S. 13-3601 are proven, making the homicide a domestic violence offense.

4. Present and Share Annual DVFRT Reports with Local Government Agencies

The more domestic violence case reviews can be shared, the more awareness agencies will have to create system-wide improvements related to preventing and addressing domestic violence incidents. The DVFRT recommends:

- Identify and recommend opportunities for the City of Phoenix to present the annual DVFRT reports to local government bodies such as Phoenix City Council and Maricopa Association of Governments.

CLOSING

The 2025 case review stood out from previous cases examined by the Phoenix DVFRT because the fatality involved the new romantic partner of a domestic violence victim rather than the victim themselves. Though they are less common, assaults and fatalities targeting domestic violence victims' new romantic partners are still tragic outcomes that stem from domestic violence dynamics. Additionally, this case involved stalking through geo-tracking technology. Although the team had not previously reviewed a case involving stalking, it is frequently a component of domestic violence, and cyberstalking in particular is becoming increasingly prevalent in intimate partner violence. Stalking becomes increasingly dangerous, and sometimes violent, when the perpetrator is a current or former intimate partner.

In reviewing this case, the Phoenix DVFRT aimed to identify potential system improvements. However, the team concluded that even though specific system improvements were not identified, this case nonetheless underscores the importance of education and awareness about the various forms and dynamics of domestic violence. The committee is grateful for the ongoing efforts by the City of Phoenix to address domestic violence and remains committed to supporting these initiatives wherever possible.

2023/2024 DVFRT ANNUAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

The DVFRT process also entails reporting progress on the previous year's report recommendations. The 2023/2024 report findings, recommendations, and updates are in the chart below.

2023/24 DVFRT Report Finding	2023/24 DVFRT Report Recommendations	Responsible Party	Status
Establish Protocols for Crisis Response Team (CRT) responses to Domestic Violence Calls	The Team recommends that the Police and Fire Departments collaborate to develop a protocol for CRT response to incidents of domestic violence where the likely charges resulting from the incident include aggravated assault, attempted murder, or murder. Consideration should be given to the presence of minor children at the scene and the level of violence inflicted on the victim(s).	Phoenix Police Department	Police Patrol/Investigations officers on scene will provide Dispatch and Fire phone numbers for improved communications and assist with safety concerns for CRT personnel. The Family Investigations Bureau has updated their protocol when responding to investigate domestic violence crimes to include the response of CRT when victims or witnesses are on scene. Dispatch has been informed not to cancel calls.
	The Team recommends that the Fire Department examine its policies related to CRT response to domestic violence scenes. Current policy requires that police be present on-scene for CRT to respond but makes an exception for Behavioral Health Teams (BHT). To achieve greater consistency across programs, the Fire Department may wish to examine these policies.	Phoenix Fire Department	The Fire Department confirmed that Phoenix Police must be present on scene for the CRT to respond to domestic violence calls.
Create protocols for medical follow-up in the weeks after victimization.	The Team recommends that providers of forensic examinations implement a follow-up process for all client victims who have received a forensic medical exam. While preparing this report, Team members learned that such a program is currently under consideration by the provider of forensic examinations at the FAC.	HonorHealth	HonorHealth is conducting follow-up phone calls to patients and tracking the calls on a spreadsheet. Follow-up conversations with patients are being documented in their case notes.

Advocate for Training for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) and Paramedics related to Strangulation.	The Team recommends that the co-chairs reach out to the EMS Medical Director at the Phoenix Fire Department to discuss the training requirements of EMTs, and paramedics related to strangulation and impeded breathing.	Phoenix Fire Department	The Phoenix Fire Department provides comprehensive initial paramedic training that includes clinical assessment and management of patients involved in domestic violence, airway trauma, and injuries related to strangulation and hangings. Additionally, PFD provides ongoing department-wide training and continuing education focused on adult and pediatric trauma, including the recognition and management of airway compromise and obstructed breathing.
	The Team recommends that on scene EMTs and Paramedics consult with their Medical Director when a victim of strangulation (impeded breathing) "refuses" transportation to a medical facility.	Phoenix Fire Department	PFD has protocols in place for EMTs and Paramedics to seek medical direction on high-risk refusals.
Amend Data Collection Protocol	The Team recommends that the Police Department consider including "Strangulation / Impeding Breathing" as a separate category in their annual report on domestic violence cases.	Phoenix Police Department	Phoenix PD is currently tracking strangulation cases. Phoenix PD implemented a new department-wide Records Management System (RMS) in Fall 2025. A drop-down category for strangulation was added, thus strangulation cases will be tracked and included in next annual domestic violence statistical report.
	The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division track reports of strangulation and impeded breathing in their case management system.	Human Services Department Victim Services Division	VSD confirmed this crime type category can be added to the Case Management System (CMS). Designated staff attended Strangulation 101 training through the Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention. Next steps include designating funding for strangulation training related to domestic violence for all VSD staff by June 2026. Once training completed, strangulation related

			policies and procedures will be updated also in 2026.
Victim Services Case Management	The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division consider changes to case management protocols to establish follow-up guidelines for staff members assigned to domestic violence cases.	Human Services Department Victim Services Division	VSD held case management discussions pertaining to follow up in domestic violence cases. Victim Advocates are providing follow up in the form of ensuring safety planning and identifying resources. VSD will create policies and procedures as related to general client engagement, follow up, and support by June 2026.

The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division consider extending services to family members who witness domestic violence.	Human Services Department Victim Services Division	VSD staff offers services to family members who witness domestic violence. In August 2025, therapeutic counseling services became available for VSD clients including family members impacted by domestic violence homicides. Written procedures for serving family member who witness DV incidents will be added to an existing VSD procedure in 2026.
The Team recommends that the Victim Services Division (VSD) consider establishing a formal referral process with the Arizona Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative (ACASI) for victims and surviving family members impacted by intimate partner violence fatalities and near fatalities.	Human Services Department Victim Services Division	VSD consistently refers to this agency for applicable cases. A formal referral process with ACASI is not necessary as victim advocates currently utilize ACASI's online referral form.

Attachment A

CITY OF PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
Domestic Violence Statistical Report
1/1/2024 - 12/31/2024

Total incident reports involving domestic violence: * 23,889

Total calls for service involving domestic violence: ** 33,408

Total juvenile contacts involving domestic violence: *** 421

Total adult arrests involving domestic violence: *** 8,568

Adult Bookings: 6,410
Other Adult Arrests: 2,158

Crime Types*

Homicide (13-1101 et seq.)^	19	Criminal Damage (13-1602)	4,409
Threats and Intimidation (13-1202)	828	Order of Protection (13-2810, 13-3602)	2,940
Assault (13-1203)	10,024	Disorderly Conduct (13-2904)	411
Aggravated Assault (13-1204)	2,762	Harassment (13-2921)	280
Custodial Interference (13-1302)	318	Aggravated Harassment (13-2921.01)^^	24
Sex Offense, Child Victim (13-1404, 13-1405, 13-1410)	86	Child Abuse (13-3623)	272
Sex Offense, Adult Victim (13-1404, 13-1406)	181	Vulnerable Adult Abuse (13-3623)	61
Kidnapping (13-1304)	62	Unlawful Telephone Use (13-2916)	33
Aggravated Domestic Violence (13-3601.02)^^	263	Unlawful Imprisonment (13-1303)	155
Stalking (13-2923)	35	Endangerment (13-1201)	109

Relationship Between the Offender and Victim

Victim was Spouse	1504	Victim was Parent or Step-Parent	1,332
Victim was Ex-Spouse	722	Victim was Grandparent	67
Victim was Boyfriend/Girlfriend	5,581	Victim was Grandchild	45
Victim was Child or Step-Child	918		
Victim was In-Law	152		
Victim was Sibling or Step-Sibling	979		

Weapon Used*

Handguns	527
Rifles-Shotguns	43
Knives	723
Physical Force (hands, fists, feet, etc.)	6,600
Other Weapon	1,250

Offender Was Using

Alcohol	2,293
Drug/Narcotics	574

*This field counts all incident reports where the domestic violence flag was checked, which does not necessarily correspond directly with the calls for service total. Unfounded reports are excluded. Reports may have more than one offense code and may be counted in more than one crime type category; crime type totals include all incident reports with the domestic violence flag checked regardless of the offense code(s) listed. Weapons are linked to the offense code field; there may be more than one weapon listed for each incident.

**This value represents the total number of calls for service that had an initial or final radio code of domestic violence.

***These fields count all arrests/juvenile contacts with a corresponding incident report where the domestic violence flag was checked. Unfounded reports are excluded. Cancelled adult bookings are counted as "Other Adult Arrests".

^Homicide numbers are based on whether the incident was marked as "DV Chargeable" or with a motive of "Domestic" and may change after further investigation; counts may be different from other published reports or as categorized in the records management system. Data is selected based on the date of the homicide and is based on information provided by the homicide sergeant. Unfounded incidents (police-involved and citizen self-defense) are excluded.

^^Data based on arrests since reports cannot be categorized as "Aggravated". Each arrest may have multiple charges; these counts reflect the number of arrests, not charges.

Reported crimes, calls for service, adult arrests, and juvenile arrests are pulled from different systems and do not compare directly.

Reports/arrests still pending entry into the RMS system will not be included. Counts may change as additional reports are approved and/or reclassified. Any incidents with missing or incomplete information may not be properly depicted in this report. Implementation of a new Records Management System (RMS) occurred October 10, 2015; use caution when comparing totals across years. Converted data is limited to original reports only. This report is based on Arizona Revised Statutes which are not equivalent to Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics and therefore this data cannot be directly compared to data from other states or UCR reports. For crime report data, the date range is based on the report date if the date of occurrence is not available.

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
Crime Analysis and Research Unit
adh 1/22/2025 Source: RMS\Incident, Arrests, ArstChrg, Bookings, Calls_For_Service, Juvenile_Contacts
U:\Recurring Reports\Domestic Violence\Domestic Violence Report_NoCFS.rpt

Data Date/Time: 1/22/2025 11:38:55AM

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