



The South Carolina Silent Witness Story

Report on Domestic Violence Homicide Victims from 2008

Kelly W. Hall
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This year's ceremony will mark the **twelfth anniversary of Silent Witness**.

In **2008**, there were a **total of 32** people murdered by a household member, according to the South Carolina¹ definition. Of those 32 people, **26 were women**, constituting 81% of the total, and **6 were men**, constituting 19% of the total.

The demographics of the victims were as follows: 53% were black and 47% were white. The average age of these victims was 45 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.

Eighteen counties reported one or more domestic homicides for 2008.

Guns were the primary weapon used in these homicides. In 56% of the cases, a gunshot wound was listed as the primary cause of death. Knives were used in 9.5% of the cases; in 9.5% of the cases the victim was beaten to death (by hand); and in 25% of the cases another form of weapon was used.

The courts have disposed of only five cases. There are nineteen trials pending and eight defendants have committed suicide.

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.

Totals

South Carolina

Total: 32 Women: 26 Men: 6
Whites: 15 Blacks: 17
Gun: 18 Knife: 3 Hand: 3
Other: 8
Disposition: 19 trials pending
 1 guilty verdict
 4 guilty pleas
 8 committed suicide

Average Age of Victim

45 years

By County

Abbeville

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

Aiken

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

Allendale

Total: 1 Women: 1 Men: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 1
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 1/ Unknown because the body was never recovered
Disposition: Found guilty of murder and serving life sentence

Anderson

Total: 3 Women: 2 Men: 1
Whites: 2 Blacks: 1
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 2/ Blunt force to head w/ hammer; Strangulation
Disposition: Trial pending; Trial pending; Trial pending

Bamberg

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

Barnwell

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

Beaufort

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

Berkeley

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

Calhoun

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

Charleston

Total: 2 Women: 2 Men: 0
Whites: 1 Blacks: 1
Gun: 2 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 0
Disposition: Trial Pending; Committed suicide

Cherokee

Total: 1 Women: 1 Men: 0

Whites: 0 Blacks: 1

Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand: 0

Other: 0

Disposition: Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 30 years in prison

Chester

Total: 0 Women: 0 Men: 0

Whites: 0 Blacks: 0

Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 0

Other: 0

Disposition: 0

Chesterfield

Total: 0 Women: 0 Men: 0

Whites: 0 Blacks: 0

Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 0

Other: 0

Disposition: 0

Clarendon

Total: 0 Women: 0 Men: 0

Whites: 0 Blacks: 0

Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 0

Other: 0

Disposition: 0

Colleton

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

Darlington

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

Dillon

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

Dorchester

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

Edgefield

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

Fairfield

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

Florence

Total: 3 Women: 3 Men: 0
Whites: 1 Blacks: 2
Gun: 2 Knife: 0 Hand: 1/ Blunt force to torso w/ hand
Other: 0
Disposition: Committed suicide; Trial pending; Trial pending

Georgetown

Total: 1 Women: 1 Men: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 1
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 1/ Blunt force to head w/ hand
Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending

Greenville

Total: 3 Women: 2 Men: 1
Whites: 2 Blacks: 1
Gun: 3 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending; Trial pending; Committed suicide

Greenwood

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

Hampton

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

Horry

Total: 3 Women: 2 Men: 1
Whites: 3 Blacks: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 2/ Strangulation, Strangulation
Disposition: Trial pending; Trial pending; Trial pending

Jasper

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

Kershaw

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

Lancaster

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

Laurens

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

Lee

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

Lexington

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

Marion

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

Malboro

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

McCormick

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

Newberry

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

Oconee

Total: 2 Women: 2 Men: 0
Whites: 2 Blacks: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand: 1/ Blunt force to head
Other: 0
Disposition: Pled guilty to murder and sentenced to 17 years in prison with credit for time served; Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 20 years in prison

Orangeburg

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

Pickens

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

Richland

Total: 3 Women: 2 Men: 1
Whites: 0 Blacks: 3
Gun: 1 Knife: 1 Hand: 0
Other: 1/ Blunt force trauma from an automobile
Disposition: Trial pending; Trial pending; Trial pending

Saluda

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

Spartanburg

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

Sumter

Total: 2 Women: 2 Men: 0
Whites: 1 Blacks: 1
Gun: 2 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 0
Disposition: Trial pending; Committed suicide

Union

Total: 1 Women: 1 Men: 0
Whites: 0 Blacks: 1
Gun: 0 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 1/ Unknown because there were only limited skeletal remains
Disposition: Trial pending

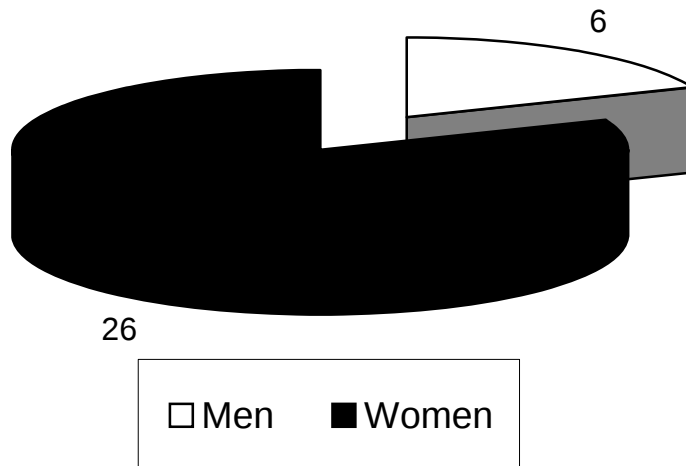
Williamsburg

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

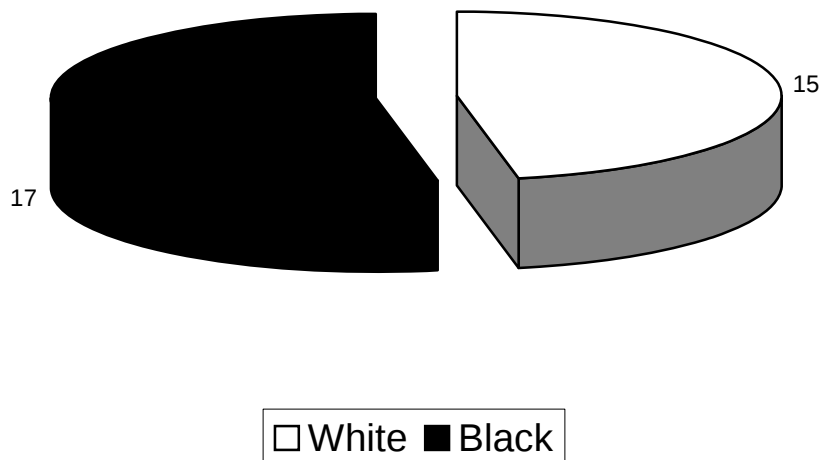
York

Total: 1 Women: 1 Men: 0
Whites: 1 Blacks: 0
Gun: 1 Knife: 0 Hand: 0
Other: 0
Disposition: Pled guilty to voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 7 years in prison

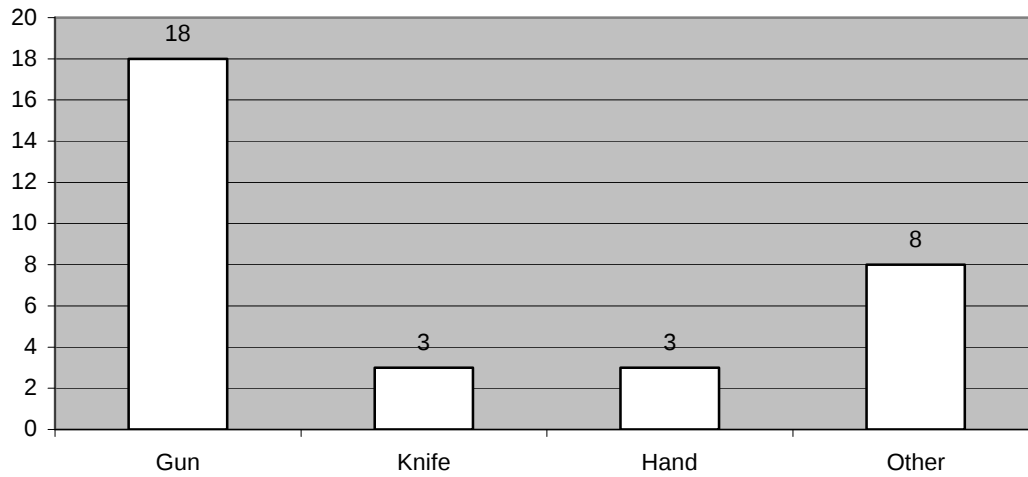
**2008 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Sex Differential**



**2008 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Race Differential**



**2008 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Primary Weapon Differential**



**2008 Domestic Violence Homicides
State of South Carolina
Disposition Differential**

