

Utah Domestic Violence – Related Deaths 2011

An Ongoing Public Information Report of the
Utah Domestic Violence Council



Utah Domestic Violence
COUNCIL

January 1 – December 31, 2011

This report has been reviewed and approved for public distribution by the Utah Domestic Violence Council. To be listed in this report, case-specific information must demonstrate a connection between domestic violence and the death of the person as shown by corroborating public information. The Utah State Cohabitant Abuse Act and/or the Department of Justice description of domestic violence are the two definitions utilized to identify the domestic violence related deaths in this report. These troubling statistics, in summary, convey the broad scope and tragic impact of domestic violence in Utah.

Upon this 8th year of publication, the Utah Domestic Violence Council has made changes to the report. Names of the deceased are not published. Although the information obtained for this report is a matter of public record, the Utah Domestic Violence Council feels it is vital to respect the privacy of the victims and their families. We will continue to publish age, gender, date of death, county, and a brief summary in the report.

The Utah Domestic Violence Council compiles and continually updates information on domestic violence related deaths. Information contained in this report was gathered from public sources—largely from newspapers and the electronic media. Once cases have resulted in official governmental action, the committee may refer to publicly available information from law enforcement, prosecution offices, and/or the Utah State Courts.

While virtually all homicides are covered in the media, and are therefore included in this report, the majority of suicides not related to a criminal event are not included in the report. Accordingly, it is probable that a number of domestic violence related suicides were not publicized and therefore, unknown to the compilers of this report, and thus are not included in the report. That assumption is supported by information compiled by the Utah State Department of Health from confidential sources.

For more information contact the Utah Domestic Violence Council at (801) 521-5544.

DATE OF DEATH	SUMMARY	PLACE OF DEATH
<p>#1</p> <p>January 20, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Police responding to a 911 call found a 46-year-old man stabbed three times by his roommate of five years. The victim died a short time later at the hospital. The two had been drinking and their alcohol levels were extremely high when they started arguing.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 Utah, December 12, 16, 2011; Deseret News, August 31, 2011, November 15, 2011; Fox 13 News, September 1, 2011, Salt Lake Tribune, December 16, 17, 2011</i></p>	<p>Uintah County</p>
<p>#2</p> <p>February 19, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>Police received a 911 call from a woman claiming her estranged husband has just shot her son and he was now coming after her. Arriving at the scene, police found a female victim, age 42 and a male victim age 19. The couple had been separated for about a year. The woman was planning to leave permanently.</p> <p><i>Sources: Associated Press, February 21, 2011; Deseret News, February 19, 22, 2011; KSL 5 News, February, 19, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, February 23, 2011; The Spectrum, February 24, 2011</i></p>	<p>Washington County</p>
<p>#3</p> <p>February 19, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide, (See above story)</p>	<p>Washington County</p>
<p>#4</p> <p>March 15, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>The police found a 23-year-old woman and a 25-year-old man in a vehicle, each with a gunshot wound to the head. The couple had been separated recently and female victim had asked for a divorce. The man had purchased a gun one week before.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News March 16, 2011; Deseret News, March 16, 2011; Fox 13 News, March 16, 2011; KMVT 11, March 17, 2011; ObitsUtah.com, March 21, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, March 17, 2011</i></p>	<p>Utah County</p>
<p>#5</p> <p>March 15, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 25, Perpetrator Suicide (See Above story)</p>	<p>Utah County</p>

<p>#6</p> <p>March 19, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A 52-year-old man was shot by his 28-year-old son who had been living with him in a motel. The perpetrator's parents were divorced and had a history of domestic violence. A close family member told reporters that the son threatened to kill his father to anyone who would listen.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, March 19, 2011; Deseret News, March 20, 21, 2011; KSL 5 News, March 19, 20, 2011; KUTV 2News, March 20, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, March, 19, 20, 21, 2011; Standard Examiner, March 19, 20, 2011</i></p>	<p>Davis County</p>
<p>#7</p> <p>March 25, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A 58-year-old man shot himself after shooting his wife, age 57 and son, age 35. The health of both mother and son had declined and the family had recently suffered the loss of their home. Police recovered a suicide note detailing their financial difficulties.</p> <p><i>Sources, ABC 4 News, March 25; Box Elder Journal, March 30, April 4, 2011; Deseret News, March 25, 2011; Fox13 News, March 25, 2011; KUTV 2 News, March 25, 2011; KSL 5 News, March 25, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, March 25, 26, 2011</i></p>	<p>Box Elder County</p>
<p>#8</p> <p>March 25, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide (See above Story)</p>	<p>Box Elder County</p>
<p>#9</p> <p>March 25, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 58, Perpetrator Suicide (See above Story)</p>	<p>Box Elder County</p>
<p>#10</p> <p>April 1, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>A 27-year-old legal guardian and care-taker was charged with murder, and intentional aggravated abuse of a disabled adult in the death of a woman, age 22. Two other adults living in the house were both charged with domestic violence abuse of a vulnerable adult.</p> <p><i>Sources: AOL News, March 30, 2011; Deseret News, March 29, April 1, 2011; Fox 13 News, March 30, April 1, 2011; KUTV 2 News, March 29, 2011; NY Daily News, March 29, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, March 28, 2011; True Crime, March 29, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>

<p>#11</p> <p>April 6, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A 51-year-old man has been charged with the death of his 74-year-old mother. Police reports stated that she had been sitting in a chair for two weeks. She was rushed to the hospital and died a day later. The medical examiner said she had a pressure ulcer exposing muscle and bone.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret News, December 3, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, December 2, 3, 2011, The Republic, December 3, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#12</p> <p>April 22, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>A female victim, age 23, and a male, age 21, were found dead by their roommate. They were engaged and planning to get married in June. The male's employer told reporters that the young man had become angry over the woman dancing with another man.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, April 22, 2011; Associated Press, April 23, 2011; Deseret News, April 23, 2011; Fox 13 News, April 22, 2011; KSL 5 News, April 22, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, April 22, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#13</p> <p>April 22, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 21, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#14</p> <p>April 29, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>A 42-year-old man admitted to police he had strangled his 39-year-old girlfriend during a fight. They began dating early January and the victim had begun telling her friends "she was a little bit afraid" of him. In August 2010, the perpetrator's then-wife accused him of abuse and sought a protective order against him.</p> <p><i>Sources: Associated Press, April 30, 2011; Deseret News, April 30, 2011; My Life of Crime, April 30, 2011; KSL 5 News, April 29, 30, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, April 30, May 1, 2011; SALT TV Network, May 4, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>

<p># 15</p> <p>May 5, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>Following a SWAT standoff, police arrested a 23-year-old man for the murder of a 44-year-old woman. Earlier that day, police had gone to the residence in response to a domestic violence incident; however, no one responded to knocks on the door.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, May 5, 2011; Deseret News, May 6, 2011; KSL, 5 News, May 5, 2011; Legacy.com, May 15, 16, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, May 5, 6, 7, 17, 2011;</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#16</p> <p>June 1, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>A member of a motel discovered the body of a 25-year-old woman with indications of strangulation and multiple stab wounds. Video surveillance showed the victim and a 28-year-old male entering the motel together. The victim's step-mother told police that the two were boyfriend and girlfriend.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, June 3,4, 2011; Deseret News, June 3,4, 2011; Fox 13, June 3, 2011; KSL 5 News, June 3, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, June 3, 2011, Standard Examiner, June 3, 2011; The CW 30, June 3, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#17</p> <p>June 21, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A male, age 51, shot his wife, age 46, in a parking lot then turned the gun on himself. The female victim died immediately and the male two days later. Court records confirm that the female victim had filed for divorce after being married for one year.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, June 22, July 1, 2011; Deseret News, June 21, July1, 2011; Deseret News Obituary, June 26, 2011; KSL 5 News, June 21, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, June 21, 22, 23, 2011; Standard Examiner, June 21, 2011; The CW 30, 2011; Twitter, June 21, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#18</p> <p>June 21, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 51, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>

<p>#19</p> <p>July 16, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A 30-year-old man was charged with the murder of his father, age 77. The son originally claimed his father was in an accident and they had been assaulted by two men. Evidence at the scene showed no other assailants and the victim's injuries did not support the son's story of assault by unknown assailants. An autopsy showed that some of his injuries were inflicted even after his death with a number of different weapons.</p> <p><i>Sources: Daily Reporter, July 17, 2011; KSL 5 News, July 17, 19, 2011; Mid Utah Radio, July 20, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, July 19, 2011</i></p>	<p>Sevier County</p>
<p>#20</p> <p>July 16, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A 72-year-old man died a day after he was taken to a hospital. His 49-year-old son who was his primary caregiver was charged for aggravated elder abuse resulting in the elderly man's death. The report stated he died from dehydration, malnutrition, electrolyte abnormalities and decubitus ulcers due to the complications of inadequate care.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 Utah, December 1, 2011, Deseret News, December 1, 2011; Fox 13 News, December 1, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, December 1, 3, 2011; The Associated Press, December 1, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#21</p> <p>August 3, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>A 39-year-old woman was shot by her ex-boyfriend, age 50. The couple had broken up two months before the incident. Police determined that male turned the gun on himself after shooting and killing the female victim.</p> <p><i>Sources: Fox13 News, August, 3, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, August 3, 2011</i></p>	<p>Sevier County</p>
<p>#22</p> <p>August 3, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 50, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Sevier County</p>

<p>#23</p> <p>August 12, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>An 82-year-old woman was stabbed to death by her 75-year-old husband who then attempted suicide. The husband told investigators that his wife was in constant pain, and the couple several times had discussed “ending it”.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, August 18, 2011; Associated Press, August 18, 2011; Deseret News, August 19, 2011; KSL, 5 News, August 18, 2011; Mid Utah Radio, August 18, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, August 18, 2011; The Republic, August 18, 2011; Uintah Basin Standard, August 18, 2011</i></p>	<p>Duchesne County</p>
<p>#24</p> <p>August 28, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Dating Relationship Homicide</p> <p>A 31-year-old man was shot by a 24-year-old ex-boyfriend who fired shots through a window and then attempted to kill a woman who was able to escape. The woman had been receiving text messages from the ex-boyfriend which had become more agitated. When Sheriff Deputies arrived, they found the ex-boyfriend’s body with what appeared to be self-inflicted wounds.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, September 2, 2011; Citizen’s Hourly News, September 8, 2011; Price News Wire, September 7, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, August 30, 31, 2011, September 7,8, 2011</i></p>	<p>Carbon County</p>
<p>#25</p> <p>August 28, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 24, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Carbon County</p>
<p>#26</p> <p>September 22, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>Police discovered the bodies of a 69-year-old man and a 66-year-old woman inside a car, the husband was shot by the wife who then shot herself. Police found that the wife had called her attorney earlier in the week to find out what would happen to their debt after a suicide. Documentation indicated that she had been researching this subject for several months.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, September 27, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, September 27, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>

<p>#27</p> <p>September 22, 2011</p>	<p>Female, Age 66, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#28</p> <p>October 15, 2011</p>	<p>Male Victim, Cohabitant Homicide</p> <p>A man, age 47, died of blunt force trauma caused by his roommate, a 23-year-old man. Just hours before his murder, the victim had called the perpetrator's estranged wife and left a message on her voicemail letting her know he was worried about her estranged husband's behavior.</p> <p><i>Sources: Deseret news, October 15, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, October 15, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p># 29</p> <p>November 5, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>Police were called after a maintenance worker at an apartment complex had observed the bodies of a man and woman through a window which appeared to be deceased. Police found the bodies of a 46-year-old woman and a 56-year-old man dead from gunshot wounds.</p> <p><i>Sources: ABC 4 News, November 4, 2011; Hinterland Gazette, November 4, 2011; Standard Examiner, November 5, 2011; The Republic, November 5, 2011</i></p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#30</p> <p>November 5, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 56, Perpetrator Suicide (See story above)</p>	<p>Salt Lake County</p>
<p>#31</p> <p>November 17, 2011</p>	<p>Female Victim, Domestic Violence Related Homicide</p> <p>A family member discovered the bodies of his 41-year-old step-mother and 57-year-old father, dead from gunshot wounds to the head. The couple had been married a year and had a history of domestic violence.</p> <p><i>Sources: KSL 5 News, November 11, 2011; KUTV 2 News, November 17, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, November 17, 18, 22, 2011</i></p>	<p>Morgan County</p>
<p>#32</p> <p>November 17, 2011</p>	<p>Male, Age 57, Perpetrator Suicide (See above story)</p>	<p>Morgan County</p>

#33 December 19, 2011	Female Victim, Cohabitant Homicide A 45-year-old woman died from a beating she received from her 49-year-old live-in boyfriend four days earlier. The boyfriend has prior dealings with law enforcement on domestic violence related issues. <i>Sources: Deseret News, December, 20, 2011; KSL 5 News, December, 20, 2011; Salt Lake Tribune, December, 20, 2011</i>	Salt Lake County
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SUMMARY

Cohabitant Homicides	4 Female, 2 Male
Domestic Violence Related Homicides	8 Female, 6 Male
Domestic Violence Related Suicides	
Domestic Violence Related Deaths	
Dating Relationship Homicides	3 Female, 1 Male
Dating Relationship Suicides	
Perpetrator Suicides	1 Female, 8 Male
Total Deaths in 2011	33

BREAKDOWN OF WEAPON USED OR APPARENT CAUSE OF DEATH

Blunt Force Trauma	5
Firearm	20
Stabbing	3
Strangulation	3
Abuse and Neglect	2

**24 HOMICIDES:
15 Female Victims
9 Male Victims**

**9 MURDER SUICIDE INCIDENTS:
10 Victims, 9 Perpetrator Suicides
Total of 19 Deaths in Murder Suicide Incidents**

UTAH STATUTE

1. “Domestic violence” means:

- any criminal offense involving
 - violence
 - physical harm
 - threat of violence or physical harm
- any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit a criminal offense involving
 - violence or physical harm
- when committed by one cohabitant against another

(See Utah Code Ann. § 77-36-1(2))

“Domestic violence” also means commission or attempt to commit any of the following offenses by one cohabitant against another:

- aggravated assault
- assault
- criminal homicide
- harassment
- telephone harassment
- kidnapping, child kidnapping or aggravated kidnapping
- mayhem (mutilation of a body part)
- sexual offenses
 - unlawful sexual intercourse
 - rape
 - object rape
 - sodomy/forcible sodomy
 - forcible sexual abuse
 - aggravated sexual assault
 - sexual exploitation of a minor

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- stalking
- unlawful detention
- violation of a protective order
- offenses against property (theft is not a domestic violence offense)
- offenses against possession of a deadly weapon with intent to assault
- discharge of a firearm from a vehicle, near a highway, or in the direction of any person, building or vehicle
- disorderly conduct if conviction result of plea negotiation from an original domestic violence offense
- child witnessing domestic violence child abuse
- any other criminal offense involving violence or physical harm

(See Utah Code Ann. § 77-36-1)

2. "Cohabitant" means:

- an emancipated person or a person who is 16 years old or older who:
- is or was a spouse of the party (separated or divorced)
- is or was living as if a spouse of the other party (common law marriage, cohabitant)
- is related by blood or marriage to the other party; (relative, in-law, elder parent)
- has one or more children in common with the other ; or
- resides or has resided in the same residence as the other party (roommates, same sex relationships)
- is the biological parent of the other's unborn child

"Cohabitant" does not include the relationship of a natural parent, adoptive parent, or step-parent to a minor or the relationship of minor siblings to each other

(See Utah Code Ann. § 78B-7-102(2), (3)).

DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is 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. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Physical Abuse: Hitting, slapping, shoving, grabbing, pinching, biting, hair pulling, etc are types of physical abuse. This type of abuse also includes denying a partner medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use upon him or her.

Sexual Abuse: Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact or behavior without consent. Sexual abuse includes, but is certainly not limited to, marital rape, attacks on sexual parts of the body, forcing sex after physical violence has occurred, or treating one in a sexually demeaning manner.

Emotional Abuse: Undermining an individual's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem is abusive. This may include, but is not limited to constant criticism, diminishing one's abilities, name-calling, or damaging one's relationship with his or her children.

Economic Abuse: Is defined as making or attempting to make an individual financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding one's access to money, or forbidding one's attendance at school or employment.

Psychological Abuse: Elements of psychological abuse include - but are not limited to - causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner, children, or partner's family or friends; destruction of pets and property; and forcing isolation from family, friends, or school and/or work.

Domestic violence can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. Domestic violence occurs in both opposite-sex and same-sex relationships and can happen to intimate partners who are married, living together, or dating.

Domestic violence not only affects those who are abused, but also has a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses, and the community at large. Children, who grow up witnessing domestic violence, are among those seriously affected by this crime. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life - therefore, increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers

(Source: The United States Department of Justice; <http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov/domviolence.htm>)