

Utah Domestic Violence Coalition

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UTAH Domestic Violence Related Deaths in 2019

Prepared: 07/22/2019

Count	Name	Date of Death	Age	Children	Cause of Death	Location	Fatality Caused By	Circumstances
1	Ashley Vigil	01/15/2019	26	N/A	Stabbing	South Salt Lake, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>Angelo Terry Kirstine stabbed his girlfriend, Ashley Vigil, to death in a domestic violence incident in South Salt Lake and then turned himself in at a local hospital. After the incident, Kirstine sought help for some kind of mental distress and told others he had hurt someone and that person needed to be checked on.</p> <p>Police were notified of the incident around 1 a.m. by multiple people attempting to report the stabbing. Kirstine's grandfather also went to the couple's apartment in South Salt Lake and found the woman deceased with an "apparent stab wound to the neck."</p> <p>The jail booking report states: "[Kirstine] is suspected of killing his current girlfriend. There is an active protective order against [Kirstine] which restricts him from contacting a female and her children."</p>
2	UNK	01/25/2019	4 months	N/A	Beaten to death	Midvale, Salt Lake County	Mother	<p>According to court documents, the mother of a 4-month-old boy, 20-year-old Jessica Mario Lujan, severely beat, scratched and even threw the baby in the time leading up to the infant's death. Lujan and the boy's father, 21-year-old Jose Ramirez, are both facing child abuse homicide charges.</p> <p>Police were first called to complaints that the infant</p>

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3	Sarah Hawley	01/27/2019	27	N/A	Gunshot	Sugar House, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>Travis Geddes, 30, and Sarah Hawley, 27, were found dead inside their Sugar House home. Investigators believe Geddes killed Hawley and then killed himself. Police were called just after 8 p.m. Sunday by a neighbor. The woman heard a "disturbance" and possibly a woman screaming, Shearer said. She thought the house was possibly being burglarized and called 911. When officers arrived, they found the couple dead inside the home.</p> <p>There was not a history of reported domestic violence between the couple.</p>
4	Travis Geddes	01/27/2019	30	N/A	Gunshot	Sugar House, Salt Lake County	Self-inflicted	<p>Travis Geddes, 30, and Sarah Hawley, 27, were found dead inside their Sugar House home. Investigators believe Geddes killed Hawley and then killed himself. Police were called just after 8 p.m. Sunday by a neighbor. The woman heard a "disturbance" and possibly a woman screaming, Shearer said. She</p>

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5	Dylan Milian	02/01/2019	23	At least 2	Gunshot	Logan, Cache County	Ex girlfriend's current boyfriend	<p>A 911 call came in about 6:30 a.m. from an apartment unit in Logan with a woman telling dispatch that Dylan Milian, 23, had been shot in the torso. Police arrived and tried to save him, but were unsuccessful. The shooter was Jeremy Boyle, 26, the current boyfriend of Jordan Oakland (Milian's ex).</p> <p>"My ex came to get the kids," said Oakland on a call to Logan Dispatch. "Last night he threatened to kill the person I am with, and then he showed up at six in the morning to get the kids." When he arrived that morning, she was going to make arrangements for him to leave so she went out to start her car. At that point, Milian stepped inside the apartment. Some type of argument occurred between Boyle and Milian, resulting in Boyle shooting Milian.</p> <p>Oakland's four children, as well as her mother, were all staying in the apartment at the time of the shooting. Police released Boyle from custody while they attempt to determine whether or not the shooting was justified.</p>
6	Belinda Thomas	02/10/2019	46	At least 1	Stabbing	West Valley City, Salt Lake County	TBD (Roommate)	<p>A 5-year-old neighbor called the police on behalf of Belinda Thomas and her 5-year-old son. The child indicated to officers that a woman was hurt and needed help. Officers arrived and discovered the door to the trailer home was open. Inside, they found Belinda Thomas suffering from what appeared to be multiple stab wounds. Officers began life saving efforts but were not able to revive Thomas.</p> <p>After investigation, police identified the suspect as Darren Byrd, 50, and located the vehicle he was driving. Byrd was found and then booked on charges of aggravated murder, child abuse, obstruction of justice, and domestic violence in the presence of a child among other charges.</p> <p>Thomas' 5-year-old son has been taken into immediate custody by the Division of Child and Family Services.</p>

7	Steven Richard Nyce	02/18/2019	61	UNK	Beaten to death	Millcreek, Salt Lake County	TBD (Roommate)	<p>The body of Steven Richard Nyce, 61, was found at his home. Tyler James Vernon, 37, was arrested for investigation of aggravated murder in his death.</p> <p>Police were called to the house after witnesses say Vernon ran outside the house with bloody hands yelling that someone was hurt. Vernon told a neighbor "he had just killed someone." The first arriving officers found Vernon standing on a front porch holding a metal object. "Officers gave several commands for (him) to drop the object, which he did, and was safely taken into custody."</p> <p>Police then entered the house and found Nyce "lying face up in the living room next to the couch," according to the report. He had "suffered severe head injuries and appeared to be deceased." Investigators said Nyce appeared to have been beaten to death. Officers noted in the report that items in the room were knocked over, as if there had been a struggle in the room.</p> <p>Investigators believe both men lived in the house, but it was not immediately known how they were associated.</p>
8	Blaine Reed	02/21/2019	35	2	Gunshot	Layton, Davis County	Ex girlfriend's current boyfriend	<p>Blaine Reed was shot and killed upon breaking into the home of his ex-girlfriend's current boyfriend after the two men got into a physical altercation.</p> <p>According to Reed's attorney (who was representing him for a separate domestic violence incident), Reed called him on 02/21/2019 and told him he was angry and felt betrayed after finding out his best friend since grade school was in a relationship with an ex-girlfriend of two years who he still wanted to be with. His attorney said he told Reed to get counseling and not do anything stupid.</p> <p>After speaking with his attorney, Reed ended up going to the (currently unnamed) man's house to confront him. Reed then apparently entered the home without permission and confronted the man about the alleged</p>

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9	UNK	02/26/2019	6	N/A	Beaten, trauma to the brain	Sandy. Salt Lake County	Mother	<p>Reyna Flores-Rosales has been charged with murder, sexual abuse and child abuse in the death of her 6-year-old son.</p> <p>Sandy Police Department responded to Flores-Rosales's home when a 911 caller reported the boy was found unresponsive on the floor of the shower. When Sandy paramedics arrived, the boy had no pulse and first responders observed several injuries on the boy's body. A police officer noted the boy had burns, cuts, and 'deep wounds' all over his body.</p> <p>After being transported to Alta View Hospital, the boy was flown to Primary Children's where doctors noted the severe head trauma, amongst other injuries. Doctors told police the injuries to the boy's head appear to be from one incident and were definitely not accidental.</p> <p>Flores-Rosales reportedly told them that the boy had gone to the bathroom in a diaper and she left him in the shower for nearly an hour, occasionally checking on him. Officers then inspected the area where the boy was found and saw a small amount of blood on the floor of the shower. Flores-Rosales told detectives that the boy 'constantly had new bruises, marks, and</p>

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10	Maria De Jesus Cervantes	03/03/2019	53	At least 1	Stabbing	Bothwell, Box Elder County	Husband	<p>Maria De Jesus Cervantes, 53, was found dead in her Bothwell home Sunday morning with multiple stab wounds to her neck. The Box Elder County Sheriff's Office responded to a call for an unknown problem at the residence. A third party had called emergency dispatchers and said that "his brother told him he done something stupid" and that he and his wife needed medical attention. When Tremonton Police arrived at the home, Jose Gutierrez-Torres opened the door "covered in blood" and with wounds to his throat. An officer tried to assist Gutierrez-Torres, but he started to fight and had to be subdued.</p> <p>Officers found Cervantes's body face down and covered in blood in the back west bedroom. A bloody steak knife wrapped in a wash cloth was found laying near her head. Gutierrez-Torres was taken to a hospital, stabilized, and then moved to another hospital for surgery. Doctors found no evidence of defensive wounds when they examined Gutierrez-Torres, and it did not appear that Jose had been assaulted in any way other than by himself.</p> <p>Police interviewed family members, who said Gutierrez-Torres had sent a text message that said "he was soon going to join his brother-in-law," who had died a week earlier. At 5:45 a.m., Gutierrez-Torres called family members and said "they are dying." Family could also hear Cervantes groaning in the background. Cervantes's daughter also told police she received a text message from her mother around 5 a.m. stating "Jose has a knife call the police."</p> <p>Gutierrez-Torres is being held in police custody on one count of aggravated murder.</p>

11	Bianca Villalobos	03/18/2019	31	UNK	Gunshot	Ogden, Weber County	TBD	<p>Maria "Isabella" Villalobos, 63, and her daughter Bianca, 30, were both shot in what police believe to be a murder-suicide.</p> <p>Friends of the women called police to ask for a welfare check after Bianca did not show up for her shift at work earlier that evening, with the friends then arriving at her house and discovering both women's cars in the driveway. At this point, neither women were responding to phone calls or answering the door which was concerning to the friends. Once police got inside the home to do a welfare check around 2am the next morning, they discovered both women deceased from gunshot wounds.</p> <p>At this moment, police have not released who murdered who before taking their own life. It has been noted in other articles, however, that the family believes it was Isabella who shot and killed Bianca before turning the weapon on herself.</p>
12	Maria "Isabella" Villalobos	03/18/2019	63	TBD	Gunshot	Ogden, Weber County	TBD	<p>Maria "Isabella" Villalobos, 63, and her daughter Bianca, 30, were both shot in what police believe to be a murder-suicide.</p> <p>Friends of the women called police to ask for a welfare check after Bianca did not show up for her shift at work earlier that evening, with the friends then arriving at her house and discovering both women's cars in the driveway. At this point, neither women were responding to phone calls or answering the door which was concerning to the friends. Once police got inside the home to do a welfare check around 2am the next morning, they discovered both women deceased from gunshot wounds.</p> <p>At this moment, police have not released who murdered who before taking their own life. It has been</p>

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13	Cory Haney	03/21/2019	40	N/A	Stabbing	Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County	Roommate	<p>On March 21, Salt Lake police responded to a 911 call on a report of a fight by caller Jesse Joel Bruce. When officers arrived, "they could hear someone yelling 'help' from inside the residence," according to charging documents.</p> <p>As officers were trying to break in, they could hear someone yelling "He tried to kill me," "I killed him," and "My leg is broke." Once inside, police found Bruce on the floor complaining of a broken leg, and he had a knife next to him. While being treated for his leg injury at the hospital, Bruce allegedly said that he wanted to talk to someone. "I just killed someone. I killed my best friend for 25 years," he said.</p> <p>Haney, who was found deceased in another hallway, died from multiple stab wounds to his head and neck.</p> <p>Salt Lake police said they did not believe Bruce acted in self-defense, because "based on the evidence collected from the crime scene detectives have reason to believe (Bruce) was the aggressor in this deadly confrontation,"</p>
14	Frank Wynn Bringard	04/14/2019	76	N/A	Gunshot	Delta, Millard County	Brother	<p>John Peck, 63, is facing a charge of first-degree felony murder after he allegedly fatally shot his brother Sunday night in a dispute over property.</p> <p>At approximately 10:35 p.m. Sunday, the arresting officer was dispatched to an address in Delta, on a report of a man who had been shot. The reporting person, later identified as Peck, stated he had shot his brother and needed help. Two deputies responded and made contact with Peck, who was outside the</p>

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15	Freya Larsen	05/07/2019	27	N/A	Gunshot	Provo, Utah County	Boyfriend	<p>Michael Taylor Robinson, 27, of Provo, was booked into the Utah County Jail Tuesday night in connection with the death of 27-year-old Freya Larsen.</p> <p>According to probable cause affidavit filed in 4th District Court, Robinson and Larsen got into an altercation at an apartment in Provo.</p> <p>"The two of them were in the living room at the apartment of the victim. Michael pulled out a gun that he owned and was carrying at the time," the report states. "He pointed the gun at the victim as she stood near the front door and pulled the trigger. Michael shot the victim one time in the head on the right side."</p> <p>Robinson called 911 after allegedly shooting Larsen. During the call, he made a statement that "she scared him and he shot her. He also stated that they were fighting and she told him she was going to kill him and she was mad at him. He also made the statement later that he shot her but it was an accident."</p> <p>Larsen was taken to a local hospital where she died from her injuries. Her family members told police that she and Robinson had a history of violence.</p>
16	Elizabeth Shelley	05/25/2019	5	N/A	Stabbed, beaten	Logan, Cache County	Uncle	<p>Elizabeth Shelley was reported missing from her home on the west side of Logan. Her mother, Jessica, said she and her live-in boyfriend, Detrich Black, last saw</p>

								<p>Shelley at approximately 1 a.m.</p> <p>Jessica stated that she had been drinking alcohol with Whipple and Detrich on Friday at approximately 10 p.m. She had invited him over via Facebook messenger. Elizabeth and her sister were already in bed when Whipple arrived at the residence. Jessica went to sleep around midnight and told Whipple that he could stay on the couch. Jessica told police the last time she saw Elizabeth was around midnight just before she went to sleep. Detrich corroborated his girlfriend's story and said he last saw Elizabeth in her bed just after midnight and described her clothing, just as Jessica had.</p> <p>At approximately 9:30 a.m., Jessica woke up to find both Elizabeth and Whipple missing from the home. Around 3:00 p.m., police found Whipple wandering in a remote area of Logan and took him to the police station. For awhile, Whipple denied having seen Elizabeth, but as more evidence came to light that tied her disappearance to Whipple (PVC pipe covered in blood, knife covered in blood, her clothing, beer cans, etc.), he became more forthcoming with information regarding her whereabouts.</p> <p>After working with a defense attorney, Whipple confessed to the whereabouts of Elizabeth's body in exchange for removing the death penalty as an outcome for Whipple. Whipple is charged with aggravated murder, child kidnapping, obstruction of justice, rape, and sodomy.</p>
17	Jeremy Sorenson	06/03/2019	26	UNK	Gunshot	Provo, Utah County		Jeremy Sorenson was shot and killed in Provo after he continued to punch and bite a woman, then stomped on her head, after a passerby threatened to fire at him

								<p>if he did not stop.</p> <p>About 8 p.m. that day, Sorensen "ignored several clear verbal warnings" by the passerby and continued to assault an 18-year-old acquaintance before she broke free and ran behind the gunman, who had been driving by and pulled over when he saw the two struggling in the driveway of an apartment complex.</p> <p>Detectives say Sorensen advanced toward the woman and the man with a gun, whose names have not been released. "It was then that shots were fired," according to Provo police. Sorensen was struck twice, including once in the chest, and was rushed to a hospital where he later died. Police have not indicated how much time passed between the warnings and gunfire.</p> <p>Both the woman and the gunman are cooperating with police as they decide whether or not to press charges against both or either party.</p>
18	Mackenzie Lueck	06/17/2019	23	N/A	Blunt force trauma to the head	Rose Park, Salt Lake County	Potential dating partner	<p>Mackenzie Lueck, 23, went missing on June 17th after arriving back in Utah from California where she was attending her grandmother's funeral. From the Salt Lake City International Airport, Lueck took a 2:00AM Lyft ride to Hatch Park. The Lyft driver reported seeing Lueck exit their vehicle and then meet up with someone in another vehicle nearby. It was later discovered that Lueck's last communication was with Ayoola Ajayi, 31, and that their phones were both in Hatch Park when the Lyft driver dropped her off. By 2:59AM, Lueck's phone was off and not turned on again.</p> <p>Over the course of several days following her disappearance, law enforcement conducted investigations that ultimately resulted in the arrest of</p>

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19	Shaina Bigby	06/26/2019	27	1	Gunshot	Midvale, Salt Lake County	Boyfriend	<p>On June 25, Shaina Bigby suffered a gunshot wound to the head and was placed on life support.</p> <p>The next day, Bigby, 27 died from her injuries.</p> <p>The injury was originally reported as being self-inflicted. But as officers began interviewing witnesses, the stories didn't add up. Soon after, her boyfriend Cameron Lundgren was arrested on suspicion of homicide.</p> <p>The news release said witness statements didn't match the evidence at the scene. A probable cause booking statement says the path of the bullet appears to have been "back to front and right to left" which is unlikely to have been self-inflicted. The news release states that detectives also determined there had been a domestic dispute before Bigby was shot, and that Bigby and Lundgren were alone during the time of the shooting.</p> <p>At this time, the primary suspect in her death (Lundgren) has been released from jail while police are still investigating whether or not they believe this was a homicide.</p>