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114 people, including 15 children and teens, died from domestic violence in Ohio, according to 9th annual fatality count

At least 79 minor children lost a parent and 51, a grandparent

COLUMBUS, Ohio (Oct. 9, 2024) – Ohio suffered 114 domestic violence fatalities in the year ending June 30, 2024, including 15 children and teenagers, according to the Ohio Domestic Violence Network’s (ODVN’s) ninth annual [count](#) of domestic violence fatalities. The number of deaths of adults and young people is two more than in last year’s count.

Victims were shot, strangled, beaten, run over by cars, killed in their bedrooms and in public places. In nearly a quarter of the cases, the victim was ending the relationship.

The numbers reveal the cascading effect domestic violence can have on families, particularly on children. In 2023-2024, at least 79 minor children in Ohio lost a parent to domestic violence and 51 lost a grandparent – meaning these children have often lost their closest caregivers.

Sometimes children witnessed the violence. At least 33 children were present when these deaths occurred. In one case, police report that a 10-year-old placed the 911 call – reporting a murder-suicide in which both parents died.

The [Ohio Domestic Violence Network](#) released its [9th annual fatality report](#) Oct. 9 at its annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month event in the Capitol Atrium. This count of domestic violence fatalities occurring between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 was compiled from media reports and information provided by ODVN’s 76 member programs. More than 150 people were registered to attend the event.

One police officer died: 23-year-old Officer Jacob Derbin of the Euclid Police Department, ambushed and shot as he searched in a dark back yard for a man who had threatened to kill his ex-girlfriend and her mother. Through the year, six other law enforcement officers and one police K-9 dog were shot responding to domestic violence cases, but survived.

The dead included 15 children – six of whom were teenage girls killed by a boyfriend or former boyfriend, most of whom were teenagers themselves. Seven of the children who died were killed by a parent or step-parent. In addition, five of the women killed were pregnant. A seventh pregnant woman was saved when a man intervened to try to stop the assault – a man who then was stabbed and killed. Four-year-old Leo Robinson was one of seven children murdered by a parent. His mother, Aubree Robinson, of Dublin, who attended the event, said she pleaded with police, prosecutors, lawyers and

judges to protect her son, who was abducted by his father and taken to Virginia a month before his father fatally shot him and then himself. "My son was very intelligent, strong, empathetic, happy, loving and was an amazing little boy," Robinson said. "His death was preventable."

In most of the cases (72%), victims had been involved with the criminal or civil justice systems, including divorce or custody proceedings, and 56% of the killers had prior contact with the criminal justice system.

"We continue to see victims, particularly parents, reach out for help to protect themselves and their children and not receive what is needed to save their lives," said ODVN's Legal Counsel Lisa DeGeeter, who oversees the count each year. "These victims were leaving, they were reporting, filing charges, requesting protection orders, but it wasn't enough to stop the violence."

More than two-thirds of the cases (70%) involved guns. Another of the deaths 25% involved strangulation or traumatic brain injuries. Of those who died, 65 were women and 49 men; 39% were people of color.

At the event, ODVN presented the Croucher Family Awards for Outstanding Leadership to two individuals who have made an impact in addressing intimate partner violence in Ohio: The Honorable Denise Herman McColley and advocate C. J. Williams. McColley, a retired Henry County Domestic Relations/Juvenile Court judge, spent 18 years on the bench making family court a better place for domestic violence survivors. Williams, who retired last month from Turning Point in Marion and Delaware counties, spent much of her 34-year career advocating for marginalized survivors, including running the Domestic Violence Program at the Ohio Reformatory for Women.

About the Ohio Domestic Violence Network (ODVN): ODVN provides a strong statewide voice for Ohio's domestic violence programs that serve all 88 counties, and advocates on domestic violence-related issues at the state and federal level. The network's 76 member programs served more than 98,000 survivors and their children in 2023.

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