

# Domestic Violence Homicide

## 5-Year Trends: 2014-2018

Domestic violence and the homicides that result from this form of violence are serious public health problems. Over **10 million** women and men in the United States experience physical violence by a current or former partner each year; approximately **1 in 4 women** and nearly **1 in 7 men** experience severe physical violence by a partner at some point in their lifetime.<sup>1</sup> An estimated **39 percent** of women in DC have been physically or sexually assaulted by an **intimate partner**.<sup>2</sup> And while the rate of intimate partner homicides in DC is trending down, the national rate is **increasing**.<sup>3</sup>

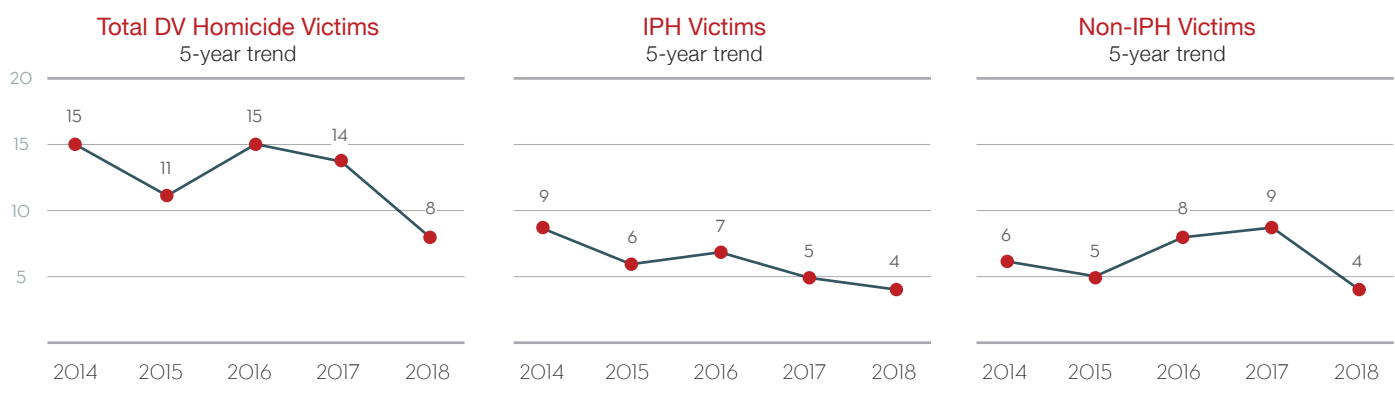
Data in this trends report are based on an analysis of available **police, court, medical, and media records**<sup>4</sup> reviewed by the District of Columbia's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (DVFRB). Between 2014-2018, there were 63 homicides in the District of Columbia that were determined to be linked to domestic violence.

The DVFRB divides these cases into aggregate domestic violence homicides, intimate partner-related homicides (IPH), and non-IPH domestic violence homicides. Because its main goal is to prevent future domestic violence deaths by identifying previous gaps in services and issuing

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- 1 Truman, J.L., & Morgan, R.E. (2014). *Nonfatal Domestic Violence, 2003-2012* (Rep.). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. doi:<https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndvO312.pdf>
  - 2 Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report*. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR34305.v1>
  - 3 Fridel, E.E., & Fox, J.A. (2019). Gender Differences in Patterns and Trends in U.S. Homicide, 1976-2017. *Violence and Gender*, 6(1), 27-36. doi:10.1089/vio.2019.0005
  - 4 Media records include data from DC *Witness*, which tracks all homicides in the District of Columbia. Only those homicides of victims 16 years and older that were attributed to domestic violence are included in this report.
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recommendations for improvement, the DVFRB closely examines all intimate partner homicides. Unlike other domestic violence homicides, IPH is largely predictable and preventable. A well-developed body of scientific research surrounding intimate partner fatality risk factors and prevention strategies guides the Board's review of these cases.

For the DVFRB's full findings and recommendations, please refer to the Board's [annual report](#), available from the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES DEFINED

According to the DC law that created the DVFRB, D.C. Code § 16-1051, a “domestic violence fatality” includes a homicide under any of the following circumstances:

- The alleged perpetrator and victim resided together at any time;
- The alleged perpetrator and victim have a child in common;
- The alleged perpetrator and victim were married, divorced, separated, or had a romantic relationship, not necessarily including a sexual relationship;
- The alleged perpetrator is or was married to, divorced, or separated from, or in a romantic relationship, not necessarily including a sexual relationship, with a person who is or was married to, divorced, or separated from, or in a romantic relationship, not necessarily including a sexual relationship, with the victim;
- The alleged perpetrator had been stalking the victim;
- The victim filed a petition for a protective order against the alleged perpetrator at any time;
- The victim resided in the same household, was present at the workplace of, was in proximity of, or was related by blood or affinity to a person who experienced or was threatened with domestic violence by the alleged perpetrator; or
- The victim or the perpetrator was or is a child, parent, sibling, grandparent, aunt, uncle, or cousin of a person in a relationship that is described within this subsection.

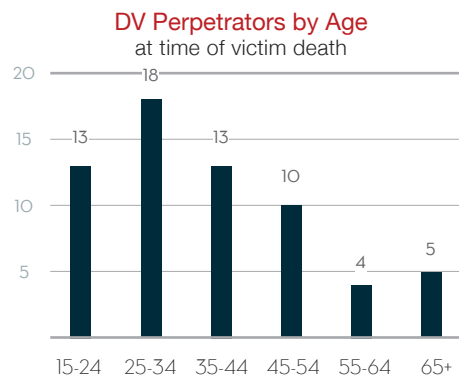
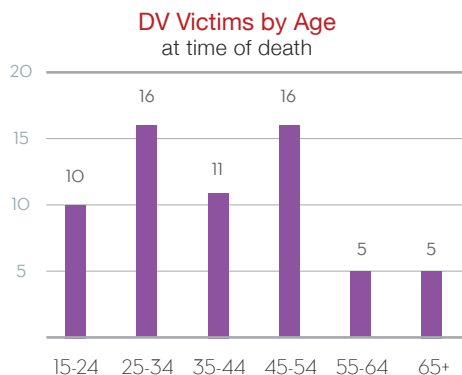
# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE

## 5-Year Trends: 2014-2018

The District of Columbia had **63** domestic violence homicides from 2014-2018.

Victims and perpetrators of domestic violence homicide ranged broadly in age from their teens through 80s.

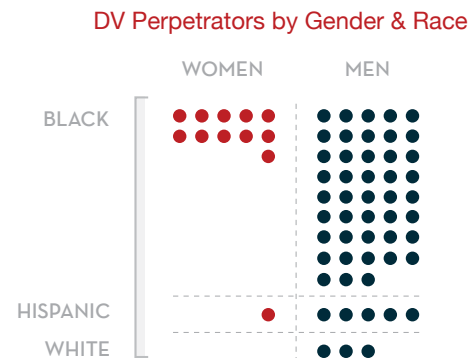
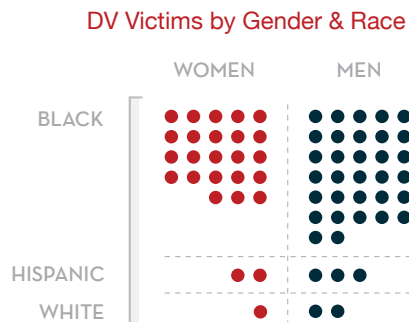
The average age was **42** for victims and **38** for perpetrators.



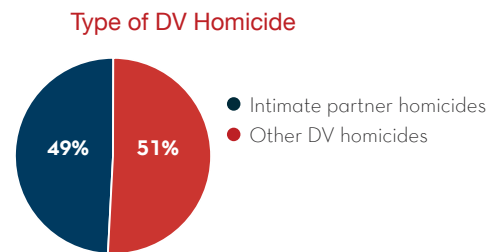
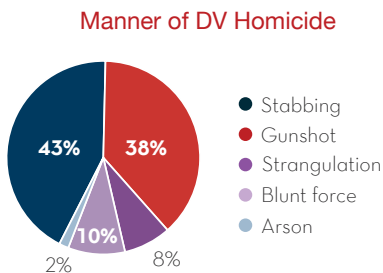
Both men and women were victims of domestic violence homicide. Men made up the majority of perpetrators.

Most victims and perpetrators were Black. All domestic violence homicides but one were intraracial.

(Term *Hispanic* based on MPD data collection category.)

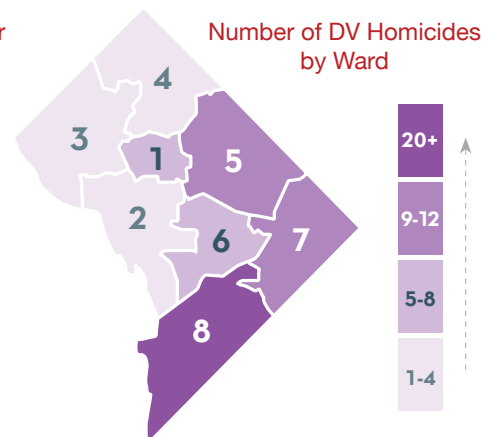
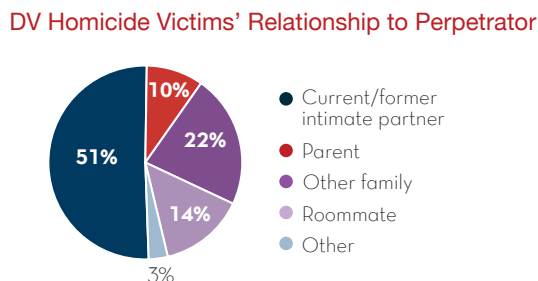


Domestic violence homicide victims were largely stabbed or shot.



Half of domestic violence homicides were perpetrated by current or former intimate partners.

37% of domestic violence homicides occurred in Ward 8.



Please note numbers may not total 100% due to rounding.

# INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

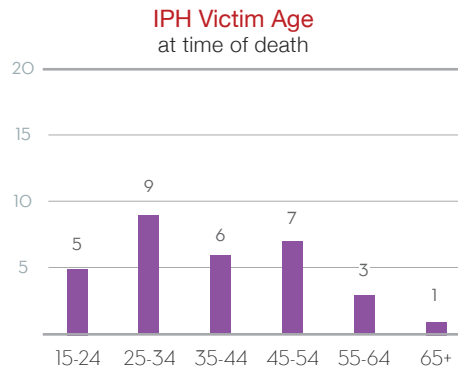
## 5-Year Trends: 2014-2018

The District of Columbia had **31** intimate partner homicides (IPH) from 2014-2018.

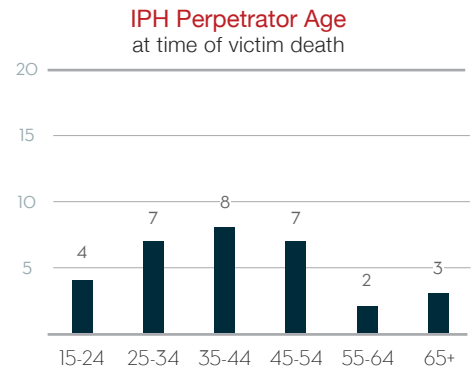
Victims and perpetrators of IPH ranged broadly in age from their teens through 80s.

The median age for victims was **36** and the average age was **39**.

For perpetrators, the median age was **37** and the average age was **41**.



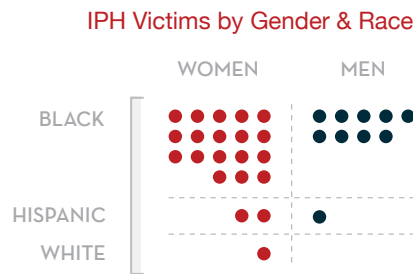
The youngest victim was **16** years old and the oldest was **80**



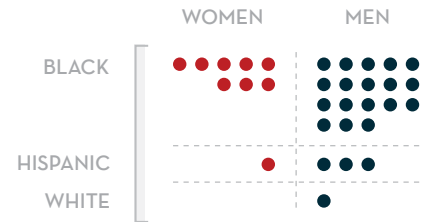
The youngest perpetrator was **18** years old and the oldest was **76**

IPH victims were more likely to be women than men. Both perpetrators and victims were majority Black.

(Term *Hispanic* based on MPD data collection category.)



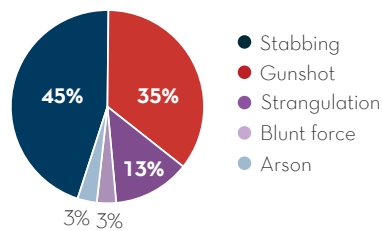
### IPH Perpetrators by Gender & Race



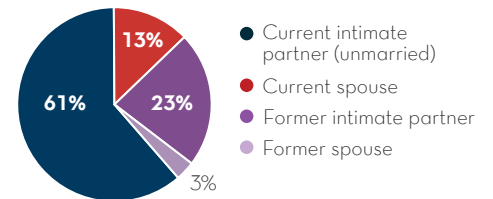
The majority of IPH victims were stabbed or shot.

74% of IPH victims were in a current relationship with the perpetrator. 1/4 were former partners.

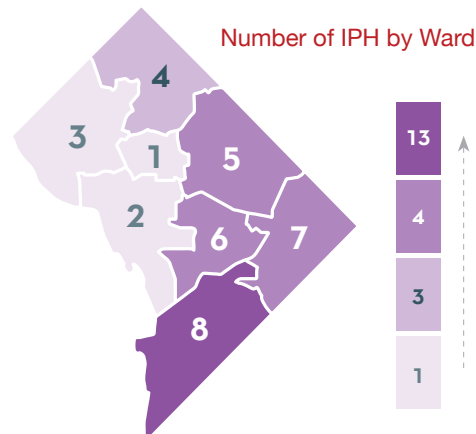
### Manner of Homicide



### IPH Victims' Relationship to Perpetrator



IPH deaths occurred in every Ward. Ward 8 had 3 times as many IPH deaths as the next highest Wards.



Please note numbers may not total 100% due to rounding.

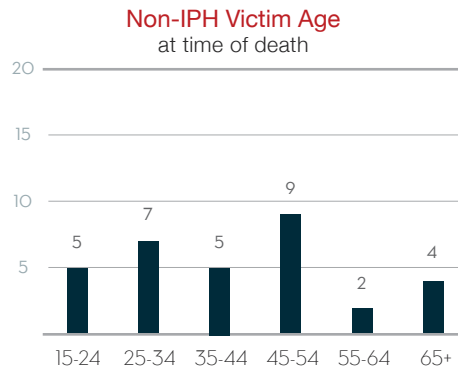
# NON-IPH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE

## 5-Year Trends: 2014-2018

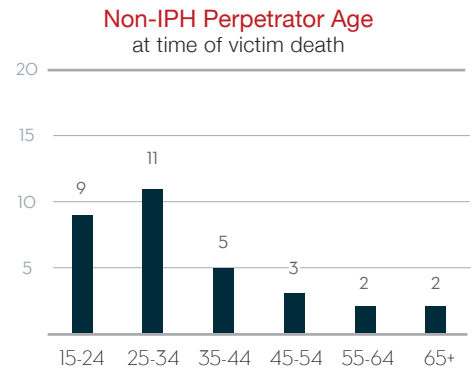
The District of Columbia had **32** domestic violence homicides that did **not** involve intimate partners from 2014-2018.

Non-IPH domestic violence homicide victims and perpetrators ranged in age from their 20s through 80s.

For victims, both the average and median age was **44**.  
For perpetrators, the average age was **34** and the median age was **29**.

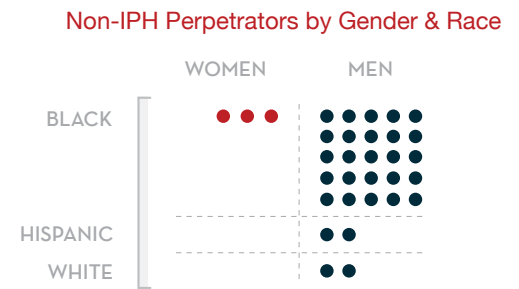
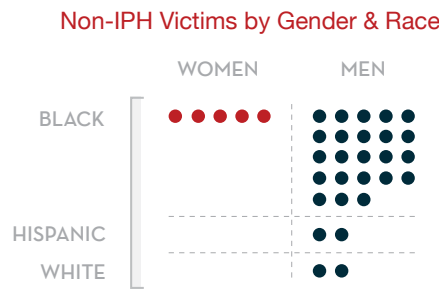


The youngest victim was **22** years old and the oldest was **88**



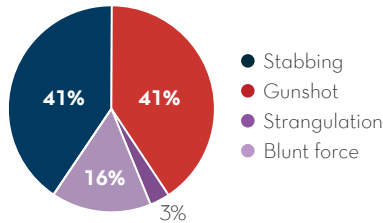
The youngest perpetrator was **20** years old and oldest were **67**

The majority of non-IPH domestic violence homicide victims and perpetrators were Black men.

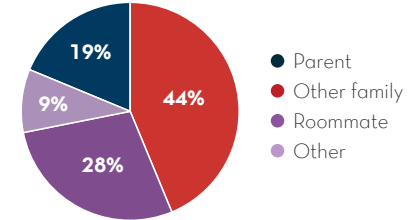


Most non-IPH domestic violence homicide victims were killed by a male relative or roommate through shooting or stabbing.

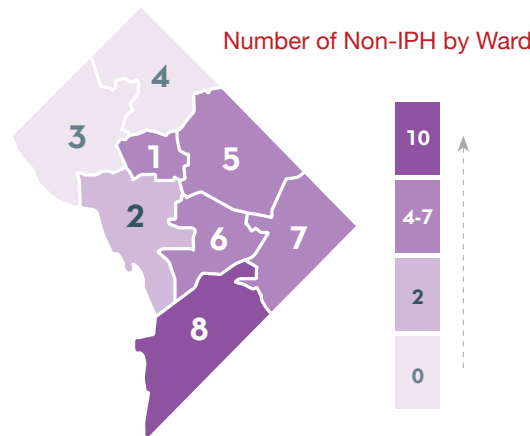
### Manner of Homicide



### Non-IPH Victims' Relationship to Perpetrator



Non-IPH domestic violence homicides occurred in every Ward but 3 & 4.



Please note numbers may not total 100% due to rounding.

