



## 2024 Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Fact Sheet

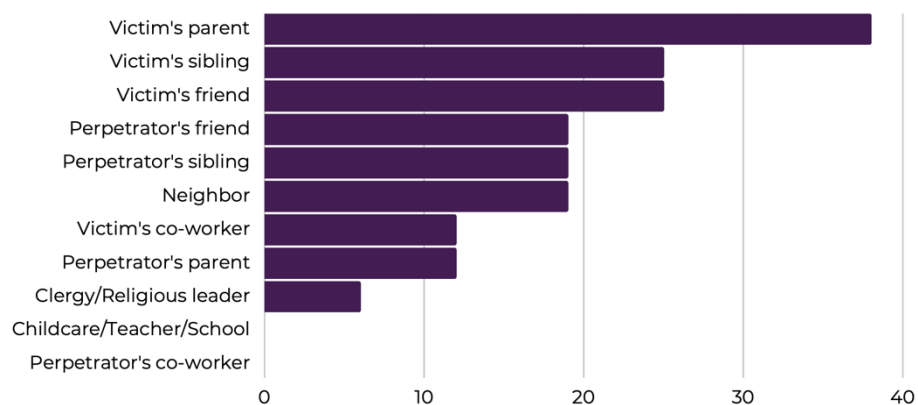
Developed by [Wellstone Collaborative Strategies](#) for Trailhead Institute

### Focus 1. Define & Monitor the Problem

“Last year, the 2021 report identified an all-time high number of Colorado Domestic Violence Fatalities (DVF) in any year since the creation of the Board in 2016. Tragically, the number of DVFs identified for 2022 is higher—there were **94 DVF fatalities occurring in 62 cases**. This is **1.5 times the average** number of Colorado DVFs (65.7) over the Board's seven years of data collection.” Source: [Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, 2023 Report](#).

Cases of domestic violence (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) are often underreported by survivors or their community.<sup>1</sup> In addition, connections between a fatality and DV are often unknown or inconsistently reported, and comprehensive data are challenging to obtain.<sup>2</sup> These factors limit the current understanding of DV prevalence and risk factors for all people, especially for the most marginalized members of our communities, and indicate the continued need for mechanisms to identify and report on DV. Below is a summary of the data provided in the [Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2023 Report](#) (DVFRB 2023).

- Of the 94 fatalities in 2022, an unprecedented **23% were collateral victims**, including six children age 16 and under, law enforcement, and bystanders who sought to intervene.
- **95% involved male perpetrators and female victims**, underlining known gender disparities and highlighting the need for solutions that address gender inequities.
- Of the fatalities, **86% were caused by firearms**, including 73% of DV victims, 86% of collateral victims, and 100% of perpetrator fatalities.
- **25% had no evidence that others knew of the abuse**, out of the 16 cases assessed by DVF Review Teams (see **Figure 1**).
- In 2022, DVFs were more concentrated in highly populated counties while DVF rates per 100,000 people were higher in less populated counties. This is consistent with research that suggests rural counties experience elevated rates of DVFs relative to urban counties.
- Of the 16 cases assessed by Review Teams, 81% of DV perpetrators were known to have or had substantial indications of drug or alcohol problems (44% involved problems with alcohol; 56% involved problems with drugs).



**Figure SEQ Figure \\* ARABIC 1.** Percentage of people known to be aware of the DV (N=16). Source: Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board.

<sup>1</sup> McCoy, Derek. (2023) Personal Communication.

<sup>2</sup> McCoy, Derek. (2023) Personal Communication.

## Focus 2: Develop Understanding of Risk & Protective Factors

### Risk Factors

**DVFRB 2023 Report.** An important focus of DVF Review Teams is to develop a set of red flags or risks for DVFs. The risks are based on several decades of Review Teamwork in the Denver Metro area and are supported by research. Risks are grouped into more and *less* commonly known, and include but aren't limited to DV perpetrators who:

- Have access to a gun.
- Abuse drugs/alcohol.
- Feel betrayed or abandoned.
- Were overly possessive of their victims.
- Feel a loss of control.
- Have a DV history.
- Were socially dependent on their victims.
- Have pending legal cases.
- Have whirlwind courtships.
- Financially depend on their victims.
- Exploited their victim's "caretaking" personalities.
- *Were going to have an imminent separation.*
- *Stalks or monitors the DV victim.*
- *Already threatened to kill the DV victim.*
- *Lost coping skills or are emotionally dependent on the DV victim.*
- *Are un- and under-employed or lost their job*

### 2023 Public Health Roundtable on Firearm-Related Harm Prevention Findings

The following risk factors emerged from Roundtable discussions:

#### Environmental Risk Factors

- Systemic racism, marginalization, or oppression.
- Harmful gender norms.
- Lack of linguistically or culturally relevant support and resources.
- Disconnection from systems due to past trauma.

#### Individual Risk Factors

- Exposure to violence or trauma during childhood.
- Limited economic resources or stability.
- Limited connection to culture or community.

**Protective Factors:** The following protective factors emerged from discussions at the 2023 Roundtable:

- Access to mental and behavioral health care.
- Connection to others in community or existence of a support network.
- Connection to culture and culturally relevant support and resources.
- Economic stability and opportunity.
- Exposure to diverse people and ideas.

## Focus 3: Engage the Community to Promote Multi-Sector Prevention Strategies

### Upstream (e.g., root cause & social determinants of health)

- Provide social-emotional skill development for at risk populations, including self-advocacy and healthy boundaries.<sup>3</sup>
- Shift gender narratives and gendered social expectations.<sup>i</sup>
- Support community investment and empowerment.

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<sup>3</sup> Bornstein, Jacob. (2023) *Youth Protection in Every Neighborhood Project*. Wellstone Collaborative Strategies.

## Direct Prevention

- Improve background checks. <sup>ii</sup>
- Provide culturally relevant gatekeeper training.
- Increase awareness of and access to resources.
- Increase/improve data collection and reporting, including from dating apps, and ensure data connections between relevant service providers.
- Engage people who identify as males/men in targeted prevention programs, especially those addressing toxic masculinity.
- Widen access to evidence-based family support interventions such as Nurse Family Partnership.

## Intervention

- Provide family mental health supports. <sup>ii</sup>
- Enact Red Flag laws or buddy programs (as law and enforced). <sup>ii</sup>
- Train and support school identification of family violence. <sup>ii</sup>
- Invest in strategies that ensure firearm relinquishment. <sup>4</sup>
- Expand domestic violence training opportunities for judicial officers, potentially including partnering with advocacy groups. <sup>iii</sup>
- Invest in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts that improve the response to domestic violence statewide. <sup>iii</sup>
- Engage with and support potential perpetrators of domestic violence.
- Use universal home visit programs.

## Preparedness & Response

- Require mandatory training for police and other law enforcement officers, judges, and other workers in the judicial system. <sup>ii</sup>
- Use a Statewide command center to coordinate response and support.
- Ensure equitable and streamlined grant and funding processes to enable community response.

## Recovery

- Create a mechanism for law enforcement agencies to report Domestic Violence Fatalities (DVF's) directly to the Attorney General's Office. <sup>iii</sup>
- Develop a local domestic violence fatality review team best practices and protocol manual. <sup>iii</sup>
- Coordinate wraparound support for the victim (if survived) and any children, including "handle with care" or warm handoff processes. <sup>iii</sup>
- Create stronger connections between mental health professionals and victim advocates.
- Support restorative justice



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<sup>4</sup> Colorado Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, [2023 Annual Report](#).