

Chart 5: Perpetrators' History as Known by the Community, 2004-2008

PERPETRATORS' BEHAVIOR	Percentage of cases where this factor was present	WHO WAS AWARE?					
		Family and friends	Law enforcement	Criminal courts	Civil courts	Service providers	
Violent or criminal behavior	History of DV against victim	88%	68%	60%	19%	21%	30%
	Threats to kill primary victim	57%	54%	41%	16%	27%	19%
	Violent criminal history	57%	43%	86%	32%	11%	27%
	Threats to harm victim with weapon	43%	54%	39%	18%	7%	18%
	Stalking	43%	54%	36%	11%	4%	14%
	Child abuse perpetrator*	35%	36%	50%	29%	36%	36%
	History of DV against others*	30%	58%	58%	33%	17%	8%
	Sexual abuse perpetrator	26%	47%	35%	0%	24%	12%
	Inflicted serious injury on victim*	25%	100%	50%	40%	0%	20%
	Strangulation	20%	38%	38%	23%	0%	8%
	Threats to kill children, family, and/or friends*	20%	63%	50%	25%	25%	13%
	Harmed victim with weapon*	15%	67%	67%	50%	0%	33%
	Hostage taking*	10%	75%	50%	50%	25%	50%
Controlling behavior	Monitoring and controlling	54%	71%	11%	0%	6%	14%
	Isolation of victim*	35%	86%	0%	0%	7%	7%
	Ownership of victim*	20%	100%	0%	0%	0%	13%
Mental health issues and substance abuse	Alcohol and drug abuse	51%	64%	58%	15%	15%	30%
	Suicide threats and attempts	38%	52%	24%	8%	4%	32%
	Depression*	28%	64%	27%	18%	9%	55%

*Note: Asterisks indicate only 2005-2008 data. There were a total of 40 cases during those years, so the denominator changes in the calculation of the percentage.

Chart 5:

Information for this chart was gathered primarily through available protective order petitions, police reports, prosecutor files, homicide investigations, and interviews with family and friends. Project Coordinators then categorized these behaviors based on commonly used guidelines for lethality indicators. Conclusions about who knew what information were based on the source of the information.

Here is an example of how this chart may be read: "In cases where monitoring and controlling behaviors were present, family and friends knew about this in 71% of those cases."

Key Points:

- ❖ These numbers reveal that family and friends of the victim generally know the most information about the relationship.
- ❖ In cases where the perpetrator had inflicted serious injury on the victim, family and friends were aware of this fact 100% of the time, yet law enforcement was only aware of this fact 50% of the time. These numbers remind us that law enforcement often has limited information about the relationship. They also reinforce how knowledgeable friends and family are about the abuse.

- ❖ In 88% of the cases, the perpetrator had a history of some domestic violence against the victim prior to the homicide. This suggests that a good indicator of future and possibly lethal violence is the presence of past violence. This history was not always known to the criminal justice system.
- ❖ In only 25% of the cases did the perpetrator inflict serious injury on the victim in an incident prior to the homicide. This suggests that while serious or visible injury is a predictor of future and possibly lethal violence, it will not always be present in cases where victims are later killed.