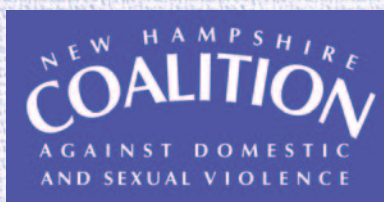


Beyond Statistics: **Intimate Partner Homicides 2005-2007**

The High Price of Domestic Violence in New Hampshire



A publication of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Domestic Violence Review Fatality Committee of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence

www.nhcadv.org and www.reachoutnh.com

About this Project:

Beyond Statistics is a project of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee of the Governor's Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence. The New Hampshire Violence Against Women Survey found at least a third of New Hampshire women have been the victim of intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. This report shows what happens when domestic violence rises to a lethal level. It also attempts to put the focus back on the victims of these crimes and acknowledge that these were real people, not statistics. We recognize the pain that the loss of these victims has had on their family and friends. We hope by sharing their stories we can educate the public on this devastating problem that has claimed too many lives in New Hampshire.

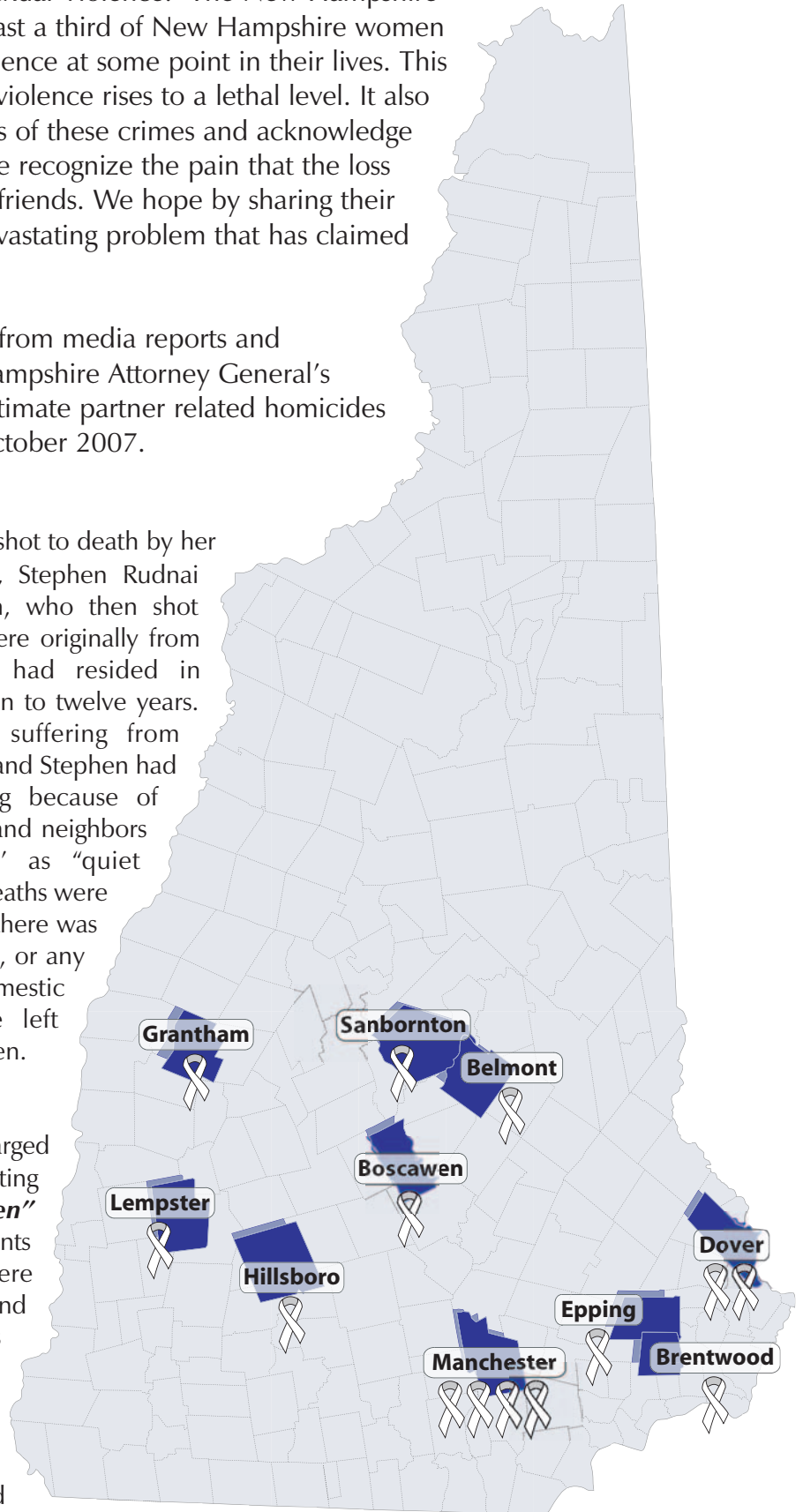
The information in this report was collected from media reports and reviewed by victim advocates at the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office. Included is information about the intimate partner related homicides that occurred between January 2005 and October 2007.

Grantham January 5, 2005

Valerie Rudnai (75) was shot to death by her husband of many years, Stephen Rudnai (80), a retired physician, who then shot himself. The Rudnais were originally from New York State, and had resided in Grantham for the past ten to twelve years. Both individuals were suffering from substantial health issues, and Stephen had recently stopped driving because of poor eye sight. Friends and neighbors described the Rudnais' as "quiet people." Although the deaths were ruled a murder/ suicide, there was no evidence of a struggle, or any previous history of domestic violence. The couple left behind two grown children.

Lempster February 23, 2005

Ken Carpenter (43) is charged with killing and incinerating the body of **Edith "Pen" Meyer (55)**. Bone fragments of Pen's remains were recovered from a fire pit and other locations on Ken's property, which he shared with his wife. Ken had been having an affair with SM, a friend of Pen's. SM had attempted to break off the relationship



with Ken, but he continued to contact her. With Pen's help, SM contacted the police and subsequently obtained a stalking order. Ken violated the stalking order many times, and with Pen's encouragement, SM contacted the police. Ken confronted Pen on several occasions, expressing his anger and frustration for what he perceived was her interfering in his relationship with SM. On February 2, 2005 Pen made two phone calls to SM telling her to drop the stalking petition and reconcile with Ken. This was an obvious and drastic change in attitude for Pen and therefore alarming to SM. This was the last direct contact anyone had with Pen. Ken Carpenter has been charged with first-degree murder and is awaiting trial. Pen left behind three grown children.

Dover
March 28, 2005

Jennifer Zani (32) was shot by her live-in boyfriend of several years, Shawn Hill (27), who then turned the gun on himself. Jennifer died from gunshot wounds and her death was ruled a homicide. Jennifer and Shawn were found after she failed to pick up her two children from their paternal grandparent's home on Easter Sunday. There was a history of domestic violence and there had been previous protective orders filed against Shawn. He had been convicted of domestic violence related crimes in 2003. Jennifer was a hairdresser, who was described as a "good mother" and "one of those people who was always upbeat. She was feisty but loveable." Jennifer leaves behind her two young children.

Manchester
May 15, 2005

William Burns (29) was stabbed to death, by his girlfriend, Caryn Acevedo (22), in the apartment they shared. Caryn and William were drinking alcohol, arguing and William had assaulted Caryn. Both had issues with substance abuse, and there was a history of mutual physical abuse. Caryn stated to police, that during the argument, she became angry and wanted to scare him, so she got a knife from the kitchen, and when William turned to walk away she stabbed him in the back. Caryn called 911 and William was pronounced dead at the hospital. Caryn was charged with manslaughter and convicted after a trial of negligent homicide and is serving a 3-1/2 to 7 year sentence at the New Hampshire State Prison for Women.

Manchester
July 21, 2005

Brandi Bernard (19), 2-1/2 months pregnant with her first child, was beaten to death by her boyfriend Robert Lopez (35). Robert hit Brandi with a hammer over 30 times, inflicting wounds all over her body. The murder happened at her mother's home, where Robert left Brandi on the bedroom floor, and fled to his mother's home in New Jersey. In January, Robert had been released from a Pennsylvania Prison after serving time for the attempted murder of another girlfriend, who he had stabbed over 13 times. Brandi had moved out of their shared apartment one week prior to the murder because of Robert's controlling behavior, jealousy and threats. He had told her many times that if "he couldn't have her nobody would". Robert Lopez was convicted of first-degree murder and is serving life without parole in the New Hampshire State Prison for men.

Epping
November, 2005

In 1991, **Kimberly Ernest (21)**, was beaten and strangled by her ex-boyfriend, Walter Hutchinson, (35), and was left in a vegetative state. According to Kimberly's mother, the couple's relationship quickly became violent and she had moved out because of physical and sexual violence. Fifteen years later, in November 2005, Kimberly died as a result of the injuries caused by the attack. Walter was originally found guilty of attempted murder. After Kimberly died, he was indicted on one charge of first-degree murder and two counts of second-degree murder. Walter Hutchinson's trial on the murder charges is pending.

Brentwood
March 15, 2006

Caitlyn Brady (18) had been dating Dante Silva (22) for several years, off and on, when she died on March 15th from a heroin overdose, allegedly dispensed by Dante. In court, Caitlyn's family portrayed her as a naïve teenager stuck in an abusive relationship with Dante, a longtime heroin user, who himself had overdosed a year earlier. The Brady family said Caitlyn was aware that he was "bad

for her” but had a caring nature that led her to think she could turn him around. She even wrote in her diary, “I love Dante, I wish I didn’t.” Gayle Brady, Caitlyn’s mother, recalled the numerous times Silva abused and controlled her daughter, even going so far as to rip up items in Caitlyn’s “memory box.” Caitlyn’s mother said her daughter was not a heroin user and just weeks before her death had told her how she wanted to embark on a career in alcohol and drug counseling. Prosecutors argued that Dante gave Caitlyn a massive dose of heroin and after witnessing her go into a coma, instead of calling for help, he collected his drug paraphernalia and discarded it in a dumpster, leaving her alone and dying for more than five hours. The medical examiner testified at trial that Caitlyn did not die immediately, and she could have conceivably been saved had someone gotten her medical attention in the first few hours after the overdose. Dante Silva was found guilty of providing a controlled drug with death resulting and sentenced to life in prison, with no chance for parole for at least 10 years.

Dover
July 18, 2006

After a heated argument, **Lauralee Perkins (36)** was shot in the chest by her partner Heather Stone (35) in the home they shared in Dover. At the time of the shooting, Heather’s young son and Lauralee’s daughter were asleep in a bedroom. At first, Heather tried to cover up the murder with a friend, Joyce Zilinek, to make it look like self-defense. Heather had a long violent history of abusing previous partners. She was charged with 15 different crimes between 1996 and 2001. On March 10, 2006, Dover police responded to the residence for a domestic disturbance where Lauralee was said to have put her hand through a window. No arrests were made. Heather was arrested and charged with first-degree murder, and one count of second-degree murder. Heather Stone is scheduled to plead guilty to second-degree murder in October 2007, accepting a sentence of 30 years to life.

Sanbornton
September 8, 2006

Janet Tourtellotte (56) was shot by her husband, Thomas Tourtellotte (63), at their home, in a murder-suicide. The couple had been married for about 30 years and had no children. Police had gone to check on the couple after Janet failed to show up for her night shift at Lakes Region General Hospital, where she had worked for 20 years, most recently as a medical and surgical nurse. She was described as quiet, punctual, and dedicated. Neighbors and Sanbornton residents said the couple kept to themselves. “They’ve been here 18 years and not even their neighbors knew them well.”

Belmont
September 20, 2006

Jennifer Huard (26) and her brother **Jeremy “Jay” Huard (29)** were shot and killed by Jennifer’s ex-boyfriend, Kirkman Cassavaugh III (27). Jennifer had lived on and off with Kirkman for the past year and had recently left, after he tried to strangle her. There was long history of drugs and alcohol, and Kirkman had a violent history with a previous ex-girlfriend. Jeremy was described as a loving and protective older brother. Jennifer loved to sing and was a good mother to her two young sons. Kirkman was charged with two counts of first-degree murder for fatally shooting Jennifer and fatally stabbing and shooting Jeremy. Kirkman Cassavaugh continues to be held without bail at the New Hampshire State Prison for Men, pending trial.

Hillsboro
January 28, 2007

Kristin Roy (40) was beaten to death in bed with a hammer by her boyfriend Robert M. Jenkins (52) in their Hillsboro apartment. Robert was apparently upset about many issues going on in his life and had been drinking for several hours before attacking Kristen. Robert was charged with first-degree murder for the death of Kristen, who was a mother of three teenage children. Kristen worked as a valet at Concord Hospital and also operated her own cleaning business. She loved animals and was active in the Friendly Kitchen. She was described as a loving and devoted parent and kindhearted. Robert Jenkins is being held without bail pending trial.

Boscawen
March 2, 2007

Brenda Hewey Barnum (34) was shot in the chest and killed by her ex-husband, Jacob Smith (34), who later killed himself. On Friday, March 2, 2007, Jacob went to the home of the Bamford family where his ex- wife and their 11 year old son were staying. Brenda and her friend Mark Bamford

were allegedly shot by Jacob. The Bamford family, including their four children, fled to safety after the shootings, but Jacob took his own son hostage. After a four hour stand off with police the 11 year old walked out of the home. He had been shot and stabbed in the chest. Brenda and Jacob had been wrangling for custody of their son since he was just eight months old. In that time, Brenda twice filed domestic violence petitions against Jacob. She leaves behind three children.

Manchester
April 9, 2007

Patricia Kaliscik (64) was stabbed to death by her husband John Kaliscik Sr. (59) who then took his own life, in their home where they had lived for many years. Their son Brian (24) who is mentally challenged and was cared for by his parents, was also stabbed multiple times, but survived the attack. The Kaliscik's other son, who did not live in the apartment, found his parents dead and his brother injured. According to family, Patricia had chronic illness, and John was having medical problems as well as being depressed. The family was uninsured. There was no previous history of domestic violence.

Manchester
June 30, 2007

Patricia Holmes (62) was shot by Andrew Lareau (64) who then killed himself. Autopsies revealed that Patricia died of gunshot wounds to the chest and abdomen and her death was ruled a homicide. Their landlord said the pair had lived in the Manchester apartment for nearly eight years. A relative found the two bodies after Patricia failed to show up for work. Neighbors said the two kept to themselves, although Patricia was more friendly and engaged in small talk and conversations about her new red Cadillac car. Andrew, who needed walking crutches and was driven around by Patricia, was much more reserved according to neighbors. One said of Andrew, "He was the type of guy, if you said 'hi' to his "wife", he gave you a dirty look." Patricia had been a Manchester resident for 44 years. She was employed as a dietary aide at Holy Cross Health Care Facility. Her family includes two sons, a daughter, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Domestic Violence in New Hampshire:

The following statistics were collected by the 14 member programs of the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence. They reflect the number of victims served in 2006.

Over 8,186 victims/survivors of domestic violence were assisted in 2006

- * 7,261 women and 380 men sought services for domestic violence.
- * 655 people stayed in the 12 shelters across the state.
- * 132 children received services for child abuse
- * 413 children received services for being exposed to domestic violence.

About the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee was formed as part of the Governors Commission on Domestic and Sexual Violence in 1999. The committee consists of professionals from many different organizations, agencies, and branches of government that convene periodically to review domestic violence homicide cases. The theory underlying this review process is that if we are better able to understand why and how the homicide occurred, we can learn important lessons to help prevent future deaths. The core belief underlying the committee's work is that every death is preventable, and we must work together to make this belief a reality.

About the New Hampshire Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence:

NHCADSV is a statewide network committed to ending sexual violence, domestic violence and stalking, through direct services to victims provided by the 14 member programs located throughout the state. The NHCADSV supports its network by providing community education, coordination, training, resource sharing, and advocacy for public policy changes that affect victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

**If you or someone you know is in need of support you
can call our confidential statewide hotlines 24 hours a day.**

**Domestic Violence Hotline
1-866-644-3574**

**Sexual Assault Hotline
1-800-277-5570**

*TTY and language line service is available

Help is available.

New Hampshire Coalition crisis centers provide free, safe and confidential counseling, education and advocacy for all victims of domestic and sexual violence and stalking.

**BERLIN/COLEBROOK/LANCASTER:
RESPONSE to Sexual & Domestic Violence
1-800-644-3574**

**LEBANON:
Women's Information Service (WISE)
1-866-348-WISE**

**CLAREMONT/NEWPORT:
Women's Supportive Services
1-800-639-3130**

**LITTLETON:
The Support Center at Burch House
1-800-774-0544**

**CONCORD:
Rape & Domestic Violence Crisis Center
1-866-644-3574**

**MANCHESTER/DERRY:
YWCA Crisis Service
603-668-2299**

**CONWAY/OSSIPEE:
Starting Point:
Services for Victims of Domestic & Sexual Violence
1-800-336-3795**

**NASHUA/MILFORD:
Bridges:
Domestic & Sexual Violence Support
603-883-3044**

**DURHAM/UNH:
Sexual Harassment & Rape Prevention Program
(SHARPP) 888-271-7233**

**PLYMOUTH:
Voices Against Violence
603-536-1659**

**KEENE/PETERBOROUGH:
Monadnock Center for Violence Prevention
1-888-511-MCVP (6287)**

**PORTSMOUTH/ROCHESTER/SALEM
A Safe Place
800-854-3552**

**LACONIA AND ALL OF BELKNAP COUNTY:
New Beginnings
1-866-644-3574**

**PORTSMOUTH/ROCHESTER:
Sexual Assault Support Services
1-888-747-7070**