

Supplementary detail:

Intimate partner violence death information sheet



Definitions

Intimate partner – the current or previous intimate relationship, including live-in and dating relationships.

Intimate partner deaths – the death of an intimate partner caused by their current, or previous, partner. This also includes the death of a previous partner caused by a new partner. At present, the following deaths are not included:

- non-family member bystanders or interveners
- suicide
- suicide-assisted deaths
- deaths from chronic illness associated with family violence.

Offender – the person responsible for causing the death of their intimate partner.

Predominant aggressor – the person who is the most significant or principal aggressor in an intimate partner violence relationship, and who has a pattern of using violence to exercise coercive control.

Primary victim – the person who (in the abuse history of the relationship) is experiencing ongoing coercive and controlling behaviours from their intimate partner.

Data source

The information contained within the information sheet is taken from the Family Violence Death Review Committee's database. Data in this database is collated from police family violence death notifications and reviews, judicial decisions and health records. The Family Violence Death Review Committee database is live and therefore may be updated.

Statistical detail

Between 2009 and 2018, the Family Violence Death Review Committee recorded 125 intimate partner violence deaths.

Of the 125 deaths recorded, 76% of offenders were men and 70% of deceased were women.

- Men were responsible for 98% (n=86) of female deaths and 26% (n=10) of male deaths.
- Women were responsible for 74% of male deaths (n=28). Of these:
 - 81% (n=21) of the women offenders were the primary victim in the relationship history (they had killed their predominant aggressor partner)
- Ninety-seven percent (n=93) of the male offenders were the predominant aggressor in the relationship history.

The pattern of violence resulting in the death was different for men and women.

- Men were the offender in 95% of the 19 deaths where people were shot.
- Men were responsible for 100% of deaths resulting from an assault without a weapon (n=10) and 89% of deaths resulting from strangulation (n=9).
- Of deaths perpetrated by women, 70% (n=21) resulted from the deceased being stabbed 1–2 times. These had strong defensive features.

Separation does not equate with safety.

- Fifty-one percent (n=47) of women who died were in the process of separating from their violent partner (they had separated within three months of the death event).
- A further 14% (n=12) had separated more than three months before the death event.

See our *Fifth Report Data* for detailed analysis of intimate partner violence death data:

www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/2952

Download the information sheet:

www.hqsc.govt.nz/our-programmes/mrc/fvdrcc/publications-and-resources/publication/4298