



Colorado Domestic Violence Coalition

The Crime Of Silence — Colorado's 1992 Domestic Violence Deaths

by Connie Platt

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITIES

70

DEAD ADULTS

Men: 22

Women: 27

DEAD CHILDREN

Male: 2

Female: 2

Unborn: 2

SUICIDES

Men: 13

Women: 2

AMBIGUOUS CASES:

RELATIONSHIP IMPLIED BUT ACCOUNT TOO

BRIEF TO JUDGE;

not part of homi/femicide total

Men: 2

Women: 3

Every fifth day of 1992 a Coloradan was murdered in a domestic-violence-related crime. Last year 70 homicides or femicides in Colorado that I was able to document were directly attributable to domestic violence. I suspect that that figure is conservative.

The list of victims (see page 4) gathered from a year-long scrutiny of Denver's daily newspapers reveals the carnage. But there is no official list, because no state or national law enforcement agency, health department or other institution of public record gathers such statistics. The result is that crimes associated with domestic violence continue to be misinterpreted or minimized in public reports.

Violence arising from thwarted attachments killed more men than women in 1992, in spite of the fact that 27 adult women were shot, stabbed, or bludgeoned to death.

Fifteen men were killed by other men in domestic-violence-related homicides, including two cases in which law officers shot alleged perpetrators. Thirteen men committed suicide after attacking or killing their rivals, their spouses, their girlfriends or their estranged wives. Seven men were killed by their mates or girlfriends. Two boys were

murdered along with their mothers as a result of domestic violence.

And no one reported the sex of the two unborn children who died when their mothers were murdered.

The reader didn't have to look far for other child victims of domestic violence, however. Two female children died. One was a teenager whose boyfriend was arrested for her murder; the other was murdered simply because she was in the house when a vengeful killer called.

A number of the child witnesses tried to help their mothers. In Monte Vista, Nellie Balderas' 3- and 7-year old daughters couldn't be of much help as they watched their father allegedly stab their mother 7 times with a knife, but 7-year-old Jasmine Smith was able to testify in court that she saw Larry Adams kill her mother with a claw hammer. Nine-year-old Christopher Phillips was able to run for help as his stepfather, using two knives, slashed and stabbed Christopher's mom. Mrs. Phillips died but her husband was apprehended.

The Rocky Mountain News reported a 12-year-old's wounding by her father on August 18, 1992, when he used a shotgun to gain entry to the house where his wife

was staying. *The Rocky* reminded readers of other adolescents who had been involved in domestic-violence-related crimes that year: a 14-year-old girl who was stabbed in the eye by her mother's boyfriend when she tried to break up their fight; a 13-year-old girl who stabbed and a 13 year-old boy who shot the men who were assaulting their mothers.

The social costs of this violence are impossible to compute, as are the psychological costs to survivors, witnesses and families of both victims and perpetrators. The money spent on arrest, trial, imprisonment and health care totals millions each year. For example, in February 1993, a Denver General Hospital spokeswoman reported at \$643,237 the cost thus far of treating attempted suicide Ray Stuart, accused in July 1992 of murdering his estranged wife and her 15-year-old son.

In April the Colorado Bureau of Investigation will issue state homicide statistics for 1992. These will not give a picture of the family violence by which men, women, and children are victimized. Until they do, only careful readers will be aware that fatal crimes of domestic violence are far from exceptional.

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CDVC Mission

To eliminate violence in all of its forms through

- community awareness & education
- technical assistance
- program development
- coordination
- advocacy
- social change

The View From Here

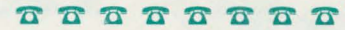
Jan Mickish Ph.D.

If you think you read a lot in the newspapers about domestic violence these days, you're right. Once a week, at least, there is a story about another domestic-violence-related killing. That's because, according to our statistics, there IS more than one domestic violence killing per week in Colorado. This issue of the CDVC newsletter focuses on the deaths due to domestic violence that the newspapers believed significant enough to report to the public. The toll is alarming: 70 in 1992.

These numbers expose the most dramatic tip of the iceberg. Day-to-day battering that slowly, methodically drains the life from those touched by the violence rarely makes the news. Some murders and suicides resulting from domestic violence, even when detected, never make the news. The effects on other family members and the community at large are also absent from most accounts of murders and daily battering.

In 1991 (the most recent period for which we have statistics), Colorado domestic violence programs provided counseling to more than 8,500 women. Each woman was abused many times. Each family was touched by the violence. Each family lived in a community that experienced a loss in their sense of safety and security.

CDVC and its members are serving more people each day, and the numbers keep growing. We ask you to contact CDVC or the domestic violence program in your area to discuss ways in which you can help.



The Public Utilities Commission extended for another 30 days (until April 4, 1993) the FREE PER LINE BLOCKING OF CALLER ID for all phones. They reached their decision after receiving numerous complaints about Caller ID and Line Blocking. The community is confused about these services. In some cases even US WEST seems to have been confused about these services. Some customers have been given wrong information about the services - including whether their line is blocked. US WEST has, in the opinion of the PUC, not provided adequate remedies to these and other problems. Therefore, the PUC EXTENDED FREE PER LINE BLOCKING. After April 4, there will be a one-time \$8.00 fee to block your line.

If you value your privacy, are a battered woman, believe you will ever help a battered woman, provide services for battered women or others who seek safety:

BLOCK YOUR LINE
1-800-637-9393

Announcements

April 3

Domestic Violence Conference,
Greeley (303) 356-5120

April 17

"Woman as Survivor: Therapy Skills Training", Lenore Walker, Ed.D. & Johanna Gallers, Ph.D.
Denver (303) 322-3444

April 25 - May 1

Nation Crime Victims'
Rights Week

May 20 - 21

"The Next Step: . . . Relationship Violence in Oppressed Populations"
Denver (303) 797-1094

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For ad rates call Connie Platt
(303) 573-9018

Citizen Volunteers Monitor DV Perpetrators In 18th Judicial District

by Connie Platt

Any metro Denver citizen who wants a simultaneous course in civics and Domestic Violence 101 can get it free of charge by enrolling in a unique volunteer program sponsored by the 18th Judicial District probation department.

The Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) program was born out of a happy marriage of administrative interests. The District's Chief Probation Officer, Frank Minkner, was aware of the potential danger to the community posed by increasing numbers of domestic violence perpetrators and veteran probation department volunteer Virginia Vobejda saw the need for offender services. The program they and other probation department staff devised now has 20 citizen volunteers serving 412 perpetrators at the Littleton location, which is where I worked nine months as a volunteer.

Volunteers are asked to commit for six months' service and to be available approximately four hours a week. They have their choice of working with adolescents, the general adult probationer or domestic violence perpetrators. I chose the latter.

After 18 hours of evening and weekend training, I got my first cases, thick manila folders each filled with police and court information, a social history reported by the perpetrator and a presentencing report prepared by Dr. Frank Robinson, the department psychologist who evaluates the treatment needs of those arrested for domestic violence. This was the beginning of my experience Doing Paperwork.

It's the DPOs job to master all the material about each client and with the help of the department director, to devise a plan of supervision. As a DPO I was given lower-risk cases. Using a risk/needs assessment form to determine the frequency at which they needed to be seen, I scheduled interviews with my clients and met the first of twelve men who had kicked, choked, punched, slapped, restrained, threatened or spanked their partners,

girlfriends, ex-girlfriends or, in one case, "a woman who just kept bugging me."

And who were these men? Several were self-described innocents, railroaded by what they knew from past unfortunate experiences was a cruel system that had no business interfering in their personal lives. Several allowed as how they had done what they had pled guilty to, but wanted me to understand that their acts were not as violent as they were described. Several were already enrolled in treatment and attending regularly. They seemed to be struggling to understand how they had gotten where they were now. Several were in treatment for alcohol abuse as well as domestic violence, because they had problems with both drinking and violence.

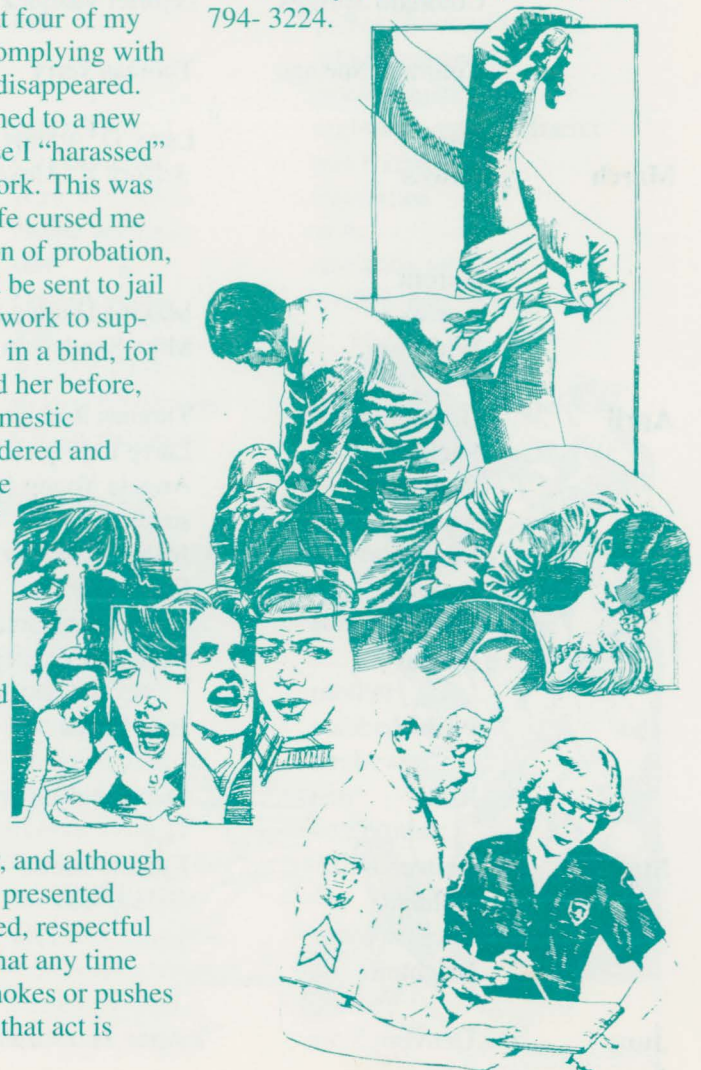
During the course of my tenure, I had to report to the court that four of my probationers were not complying with the court's orders. Two disappeared. One asked to be reassigned to a new probation officer because I "harassed" him by calling him at work. This was the same man whose wife cursed me for reporting his violation of probation, telling me that he would be sent to jail and wouldn't be able to work to support the family. She was in a bind, for sure, but he had punched her before, was not in alcohol or domestic violence treatment as ordered and during his last assault, he happened to punch their son just as a law officer arrived on the domestic violence call.

The paperwork was incredible. I documented my little heart out. The first principle of the DPO program is our responsibility for the safety of the community, and although all but one of these men presented himself as mild-mannered, respectful and compliant, I knew that any time somebody punches or chokes or pushes or slaps somebody else, that act is

potentially lethal. So I took seriously the directive to write complete and accurate notes so my supervisor, Dexter Shipman, would have documentation if an emergency arose.

During the course of my volunteer service, I developed an enormous respect for the probation officers who do this work. I observed Dexter, Frank and the clerical staff dealing conscientiously and competently with a wide array of people, some of whom were very difficult. They understand the challenge of monitoring and containing a population that is in many cases resistant even to the idea that they have committed a criminal act. This is citizen participation in government on the front lines, a professional opportunity.

To learn more, call Susan Cooper, Community Alternatives, Inc., (303) 794- 3224.



Domestic Violence Fatalities

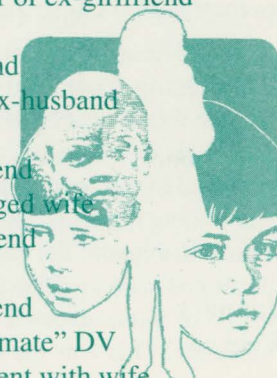
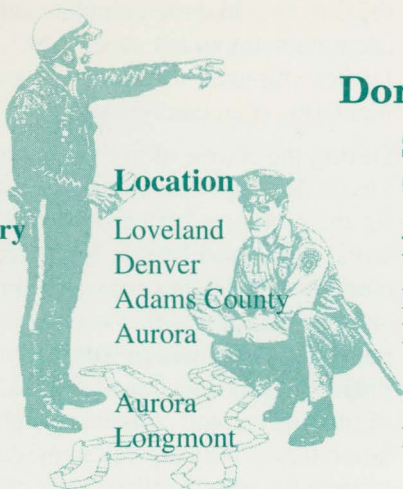
by *Connie Platt*

Domestic-violence-related crimes: victims by gender, counting suicides

37 Men
31 Women

Domestic Violence Deaths 1992

	Location	Suspect(s), Charged (ch) or Convicted(c)	Dead	Circumstances/Relationship
January	Loveland	Joe Crespin (s)	Gilbert Rodriguez	jealous rival
	Denver	William Bronson (ch)	Ramona Macon	girlfriend
	Adams County	Michelle Atencio (c)	Raymond Mascarenas	husband
	Aurora	Pranfar Prakongkai	self	attack on woman on whom his attentions were fixed
	Aurora	?	Sharon Ann Harris	self
February	Longmont	Robert Tresch	self	attack on woman on whom his attentions were fixed
	Center	Charles Jaramillo	self	attempted murder of former wife
	Denver	James Eric Scott (ch)	Angela Lopez	girlfriend
	Loveland	Carroll Dean Wheeler (c)	Dennis Potemski	argument over estranged wife
	Colorado Springs	Gabriel Vazquez (s)	Julio Zamarron	parents-in-law
March	Colorado Springs	Thomas Terry	Guadalupe Zamarron	girlfriend
	Denver	Larry D. Adams (c)	Shelly L. Blackman	self
	Denver	Jeffrey K. Alexander (c)	Jennifer Jones	girlfriend
	Aurora	?	Elva Castro	mother
	Aurora	Maxine Dooley (s)	Nohemi Alvarado (10)	visitor
April	Windsor	Mike Sanderson	Antonio Robles (13)	brother of ex-girlfriend
	Grand Junction	Thomas Rodden (ch)	Stephen Katibah	husband
	Pueblo	Larry Phillips (ch)	Larry Dooley	ex-husband
	Denver	Angela Young (c)	Denise Weber-Sanderson	self
	Aurora	suspect	Theresa Horton	girlfriend
May	Denver	Joshua P. Muniz (s)	Karen Phillips	estranged wife
	Denver	Frank Lee (s)	Leonard Davis	boyfriend
	Thornton	Christopher Smart	Yvette Strong	girlfriend
	Pueblo	Panciano Zendejas-Garces (ch)	Denise Salazar	"roommate" DV
	Pueblo	Jose Miera	Faustino Cucinega	argument with wife
June	Rifle	David Bollinger (ch)	Phylis Mendoza	ex-girlfriend
	Denver	Ethel Lamorie	self	unborn child
	Golden	Bela Boros	Linda Cortez	girlfriend
	Brighton		James Vertrees	killed couple for trailer to impress ex-girlfriend
	Denver	Alice Mae Grant (s)	Rose Vertrees	in presence of boyfriend
4			self	estranged husband
			Maria Boros	wife
			Tony Garcia	ex-husband died of heart attack after trespass argument
			Jose Sanchez	husband



	Parachute	Richard Manupella	self	jealousy over ex-wife
July	Fox Creek/Alamosa	Richard Williams (s)	Richard Kimball Rhonda Williams unborn child	estranged wife
	Julesburg Byers	Sean Stiles (s) Ray Stuart (ch)	Ken Ball Tracy Jo Stuart Kevin Woodson	mother's boyfriend estranged wife stepson
August	Wiggins Aurora Edgewater	Alfredo Martinez (s) Nathan Breackenridge (s) Pat Lowe	Maria Montez F.J. McDermott Virginia Lowe John Lowe	estranged husband father-in-law wife son
	Fort Collins	John V. Miller	Valerie Miller John V. Miller	ex-wife shot by police
September	Fort Carson Denver Brighton Silver Cliff	Varnardo Larkin (s) Michael Janoushek (s) Daniel L. Evans	Shawn Carter Steven Gant Rose Jenkins self Dennis Finn Jeriann Evans Virginia Peters	insult to wife police shot on DV call girlfriend estranged wife ex-wife girlfriend girlfriend
	Bailey Brighton Colorado Springs Grand Junction	James Peters (s) Benny Padilla (ch) Mark S. Manning (ch) ?	Shirley Shook/Carr Paula Jean Moore	girlfriend girlfriend
October	Louisville Arapahoe County	W.D. Roberts Maurice Glenn	self self	family argument police shootout in Ohio attempted murder of estranged wife argument over girlfriend girl friend boyfriend wife
	Wheat Ridge Denver Fort Carson Monte Vista New Castle Denver Denver	Benjamin Sparrow (s) Reginald Carter (ch) Honey Downen (ch) Juanito Balderas (ch) Sally Simms Alfonso Olivera (s) James Polson	Mark Rust Chaka Eaton Donald Corbett Nellie Balderas self Louis Contos self Joyce Polson	domestic violence rivalry over victim's wife estranged wife wife killed in self-defense wife
November			Robert Monheiser Cheryl Brantner	
December	Jefferson County Colorado Springs	Robert Brantner (s)		

Other Family Violence

January	Ft. Collins	John Alexander (ch)	Robert Alexander	father
February	Denver	Patrick Ortez	suicide Tony Ortez	son
April	Byers	Lawrence W. Edens	suicide Marty Edens	mother stabbed father
	Dacono	Paul Landwehr	suicide	nephew
June	Longmont	Manuel E. Muela (s)	Luis Armendariz	son
August	Denver	Gabriel Ned (s)	Michael Ned	son/brother
October	LaJunta	?	Carlos Vasquez	AIDS
November	Littleton	double suicide? murder/suicide?	Patrick McCloskey Josie McCloskey	asphyxiation
December	Thornton	34-year-old woman	apparent suicide 5-year-old daughter	mother stepfather
	Woodland Park	15-year-old son	Pamela Jordan Kermode Jordan	



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Nite Shirt (one size fits all)			\$26.00	
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ADA Compliance In The Shelter Phone Screen

by *Lisbeth Mullin*

Four out of five women with disabilities will be abused. A staggering statistic, yet without it we would not recognize the importance of access for all women to battered women's shelters. Domestic Violence Initiative for Women with Disabilities (DVI) has begun gathering statistics of the number of women served by Denver metro area shelters. An average of 35% of shelter residents have disabilities. The numbers come in because shelters are asking a simple, yet vital question during their phone screen: "Do you have any special needs?"

The counselor is telling the caller she recognizes barriers surround the disabled victim every day - and the shelter staff is assessing her reasonable-accomodation needs during this time of crisis. DVI can continue to keep track of the number of women receiving services and can assist the staff in providing appropriate services and referrals, assuring that the resident will not be revictimized by barriers to the system. Shelters are putting transition plans in place to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and one of the questions being asked is, "Is it legal to ask if she is disabled?" According to Ron Patick of Meeting the Challenge, Inc., (the regional experts on ADA compliance, once a client has been accepted into shelter during the initial phone-screen, the shelter can — and should — ask about her disability status. Some suggested wordings include: "Will you have any special medical or independent living needs while you stay with us?" "Do you need any special accomodations to assist you in your stay in shelter?" "We serve all members of the community and would like to know if you need any special accomodations." She will hear that you are sensitive to her needs, DVI can continue to collect vital statistics and ensure access to services, and the shelter will remain in compliance with the ADA laws.

SOURCES

interview	Jean Parker, Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition January 1993.
interview	Jeanne Elliott, Denver Center for Independent Living November 1992, January 1993.
interview	Ron Padick, Meeting the Challenge, Inc. February 1993.
informal interview	Laurie Kohn, U.S. Department of Justice ADA Compliance Department February, 1993.
interview	Jennie Riley Crossroads Safehouse November 1992.
interview	Mary Ann Ganey, DAAP Coordinator November 1992.

STATISTICS:

"Four out of five..."	Su Casa Los Angeles 1988
"35% of shelter residents..."	Sharon Hickman DVI February, 1993.

Additional Information:

Meeting the Challenge, Inc. ADA compliance line 1-719-444-0252
Department of Justice 1-202-434-9308
Domestic Violence Initiative 303-839-5510
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition 303-839-1775

Lisbeth Mullin is a survivor of domestic violence who will always remember how it felt to be asked if she had special needs before she entered shelter. She currently serves as Speaker's Bureau and Outreach Coordinator for Domestic Violence Initiative and has coordinated the Safe Pets program for the Denver metro area shelters for the past five years.



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PLEASE UPDATE OUR LIST OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS FOR 1992
If we are missing any names, write or call the Coalition.

CDVC Clippers Sailing

Down from Rifle, courtesy of Shara Leech, came a veritable mother lode of clippings this quarter. The exciting change is in coverage of domestic violence in Garfield County's *Citizen Telegram*. Reporter Nick Isenberg did some digging and wrote, "The Grand Jury's decision not to charge Robert Blotiaux with attempted first degree murder for pouring white gas on his wife, Sally Simms, was the final obstacle that caused Simms to take her life, according to papers found in her home after her death." Good lead, good story.


Domestic violence coverage has picked up in *The Glenwood Post*, also, but we have to scramble to find local coverage of DV in Grand Junction. In fact, *The Daily Sentinel* published a "Child Services Resource Guide" with no mention of domestic violence treatment or shelter services. Yet we know that at a conservative estimate, in half the families where the mom is getting beaten, the kids are also being hurt by abuse and/or neglect.

To join the CDVC Clippers, call Connie Platt (303) 355-4793

Thank You ...Thank You **...Thank You ...Thank You ...**

We know what time it is around here thanks to **Jean and Marg Winsauer** of Arlington Heights, Illinois. Two wall clocks for the office came across the prairie from Lincolnland to the foot of the Rockies. What a trip! And our volunteers: **Carolyn Horwitz, Karen Cohen, Lee Coleman, Gerry Horwitz, Dyan Harrison, Marilyn Peterson.** Vendors who helped with the Tax Check-off: **Paragon Mailing, Alfons Bonde, the Jewish Community Center, Curtis 1000, The Box Company.**

Wish List

- donations of materials for library
- bright colored copy paper
- volunteer to make new Coalition map
- newsletter reporters
- 10-key printing calculator
- your check in the enclosed envelope 

**We have a Speakers Bureau,
Do Trainings, and
Furnish Information
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RESOURCES

New CDVC Fact Sheet

Video: *Elder Abuse: 5 Case Studies*, Terra Nova Films, and new newsletter *Elder Abuse Awareness*.

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(303) 293-2100

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