Domestic Violence Homicides in Arizona

A comprehensive look over the past 2 decades.
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- Scottsdale Police Department - +29 Years

- Served on the Governor’s Commission since 2012

- MA Criminal Justice - Arizona State University

- Training Institute of Strangulation Prevention - Faculty
Objective

- Provide a broad overview of Arizona DV Homicides statistics (Past to Present)

- Provide factors specific to Arizona that influence how success or failure can be measured when analyzing DV homicides

- How the media can create unnecessary panic using narrow angles of data

- Demonstrate how our efforts have made DV victims safer than ever before
While homicides and aggravated assaults increased by 25% from the same time period last year, homicides involving domestic violence saw a 140% increase, with 24 cases this year compared to 10 in the first half of 2019 in Phoenix, according to Sgt. Mercedes Fortune, spokesperson for Phoenix police.

Domestic violence deaths year-to-date through Aug. 3 jumped 180% compared with the same time period in 2019, which is even more of a concern, said Fortune.

Data released by the Phoenix Police Department on Wednesday shows that domestic violence makes up a quarter of the increased homicides. Since more
Looking back...  2000 - 2009

What did we experience?
ARIZONA DV HOMICIDES
2000 - 2009

Statistics Provided by the Arizona Coalition To End Sexual & Domestic Violence

United States Census Bureau
*2020 is a projection based on the 74 homicides as of August 31, 2020

Statistics Provided by the Arizona Coalition To End Sexual & Domestic Violence
Population of Arizona (2010 - 2020)
ARIZONA DV HOMICIDES 2000 - 2020

Statistics Provided by the Arizona Coalition To End Sexual & Domestic Violence

United States Census Bureau
What’s the overall Picture?

**POPULATION GROWTH**

- **2000-2009:**
  - Population > 1.794 Million

- **2010 - 2019:**
  - Population > 0.602 Million

- **2000-2019:**
  - Population > 2.396 Million

**DV HOMICIDE CHANGE**

- **2000-2009:**
  - Average # of DV Homicides per year decreased from 106 to 102

- **2010 - 2019:**
  - Average # of DV Homicides per year increased from 102 to 104

- **2000-*2020:**
  - Average # of DV Homicides per year decreased from 106 to 104
OUTSTANDING RESULTS BUT WE’RE NOT FINISHED!

- It is important to emphasize that the **average number of DV Homicides** over the past 20-years has relatively **remained the same** (decreased of 1.89%), while the **population of Arizona has steadily risen** by a total of 49% (**2.396 Million**) during this same period.

- Simply put..
  - In 2000, 1:46,066 people were a victim of a DV Homicide
  - In 2020, 1:69,990 people were a victim of a DV Homicide

- Arizona has **decreased** the average DV homicide rate by **50%** since 2000, which equates to **52 less** DV Homicides in *2020.*
How We Attain This Success? How Will We Continue To Get Better?

- The overall success over the past 2 decades didn’t happen by accident.
- Improvement in Training, Policies, and Best Practices
  - Law Enforcement
  - City & County Attorney’s Offices
  - Courts
  - Probation
  - Advocacy
  - Shelters
  - Crisis / Social Workers
  - Medical Exams / Imaging
  - Academic (Research)
  - Community Outreach
Be Focused
Remain Determined
&
Stay Passionate
Hold Offenders Accountable
One DV Homicide is One Too Many

- Although we must focus on the statewide status of DV homicides to grasp the most comprehensive picture in Arizona, this **DOES NOT** mean we ignore communities experiencing higher than normal rates of DV homicide.

- We must continue to target communities that experience high rates of DV homicides if we intend to make progress towards the goal of having zero (0) DV Homicides per year.
Domestic Violence Awareness Month