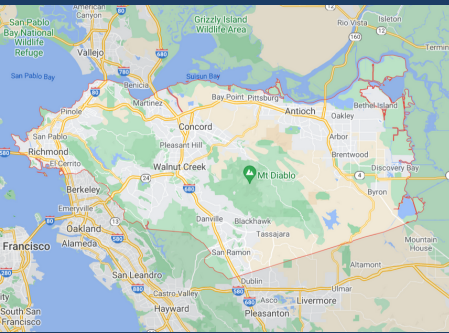


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (DV) DEATHS

A NEW REPORT WITH LIFE-SAVING INFORMATION

In 2020, the Contra Costa Alliance to End Abuse revitalized the Domestic Violence (DV) Death Review Team for the first time in 15 years, even in the face of Coronavirus pandemic restrictions. The resulting report (covering 2010–2019) reminds us that domestic violence **can be deadly** and touches members of our community across age, race, and location. It also identifies patterns and gaps that can be addressed as life-saving measures.



THE FACTS

- There were 86 domestic violence related homicides or suicides in Contra Costa County between 2010 and 2019.
- Domestic violence affects people **regardless of age, race, gender, immigration status, or city where one lives.**
- The five cities with the **highest rates of homicide and suicide (2010–2019)** were Antioch, Pittsburg, Richmond, San Pablo, and Walnut Creek.
- Domestic violence affects people **across the lifespan.** Victims may be as young as 2 or as old as 90. Suspects may be as young as 15 or as old as 83.

WHAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD KNOW

- The **most dangerous time** for victims is **attempting to leave** a domestic violence relationship.
- **Current or former dating partners** were the most frequent type of relationship between the victim and suspect.
- **Non-fatal strangulation (choking)** is a **key predictor** for subsequent homicide victims of domestic violence.
- **Gun shot wounds** made up the most frequent cause of death (63%).



RECOMMENDATIONS



Direct funding towards the development and implementation of danger assessments and in custody, in-person intervention services.



Immediately connect children who have experienced the loss of a parent due to a homicide, or suicide related to domestic violence, to supportive services.



Establish law enforcement agency protocols to support the mental health needs of personnel dealing with homicide or suicide calls.



Strengthen community awareness around the Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) process by providing frequent training for agencies that work with individuals requesting DVROs.

HOW TO GET HELP

- **Current Contra Costa County projects** reducing the risk of DV homicide include:
 - DV Multidisciplinary Teams
 - Lethality Assessment Program
 - Strangulation Task Force
- **[Click here to access our help resource page.](#)**

[Click here to view our complete DV Report](#)

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to End Abuse

