



## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
**Thursday, October 11, 2001**

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### **INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE HOMICIDES, 1994-1999**

(Salt Lake City, UT) - Nearly half of the 131 female homicide victims between 1994 and 1999 were killed by a current or former intimate partner according to a new report by the Utah Department of Health, Violence and Injury Prevention Program.

The report, **Intimate Partner Homicide in Utah, 1994-1999**, was prepared by a multi-disciplinary team consisting of representatives from public health, law enforcement, corrections and other agencies, that met twice a month to review all female homicides perpetrated by an intimate partner.

Included in the report are the characteristics of the homicide victims as well as the perpetrators and their relationship. According to the report the victims ranged in age from 15 to 79 years of age with an average age of 34.5 years. The majority (75%) of victims were White, non-Hispanic females. Another 18.8 percent were Hispanic, 4.7 percent were Black, and 1.5 percent Asian. Three of the victims were pregnant at the time of their deaths.

Forty-eight (75%) of the perpetrators had a prior police record. The offenses ranged from drug or alcohol crimes to aggravated assault. Of those offenses, 33 (69%) perpetrators had a record that included one or more violent offenses. Nine of the victims had protective orders in place against the perpetrators at the time of the homicide, and 5 of the 9 had reported protective order violations to law enforcement. Handguns were the most frequent method of homicide (55%).

The most frequent relationship between the victim and perpetrator was that of husband and wife (47%), although over half of the husbands and wives had, at some point separated or threatened to do so. In 20 cases, children either witnessed the homicide or were present at the time of the homicide.

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The report recommends increasing treatment resources for children who witness intimate partner homicide, developing and implementing a public education campaign about domestic violence, and expanding the review of intimate partner violence homicides to include all domestic violence homicides.

**Intimate Partner Homicide in Utah, 1994-1999** is available through the Utah Department of Health, Violence & Injury Prevention Program. Call 538-6864 to obtain a copy.

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