

Basic Facts

- A homicide-suicide is one or more homicides with the subsequent suicide of the perpetrator.
- Homicide-suicide occurs mainly in intimate partnerships and families.
- Relationships between intimate partner victims and the perpetrators are often marked by abuse.
- On average, nine homicide-suicide events occur in Oregon each year.
- Most perpetrators of homicide-suicide events are adult males; most victims are the perpetrator's current or former female intimate partner and/ or the perpetrator's child/children.
- About one in five homicide-suicide events are among adults age 65 and older.

Prevention

- Promote non-violence education
- Strengthen support for victims
- Encourage treatment for perpetrators
- Reduce perpetrator access to firearms

Resources

Portland Women's Crisis Line: 503-235-5333 Or toll-free: 1-888-235-5333

National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

From 2003 to 2012...

- 90 homicide-suicide events occurred in Oregon. These events resulted in 107 homicides and 90 suicides (197 deaths).
- Most homicide victims were women and children.
- Nearly 85% of the victims were killed by an intimate partner or family member. More than half of the victims were killed by their current/former spouse or boyfriend (Table 2).
- Firearms accounted for 87% of deaths in homicide-suicide events.
- Marital conflict, violence involving jealousy/lover's triangles" are common factors.
- 38% of perpetrators were reported to have behavioral health problems such as a mental disorder, alcohol/substance use problem and/or depressed mood.
- 55% of events among persons age 65 years and older involved declining physical health.
- 22% of perpetrators had job and/or financial problems.

Table 1. Demographics of victims and suspects, Oregon, 2003-2012

	Homicide Victims	% of total	Perpetrators /suicides	% of total
Total	107		90	
Gender				
Male	27	25%	85	94%
Female	80	75%	5	6%
Race / Ethnicity				
Non-Hispanic White	94	88%	79	88%
Black	2	2%	1	1%
Asian	4	4%	2	2%
Am. Indian / Native Alaskan	1	1%	2	2%
Other / Unknown	3	3%	1	1%
Hispanic	6	6%	5	6%
Age group (years)				
0 - 17	22	21%	0	0%
18 - 24	6	6%	7	8%
25 - 44	31	29%	30	33%
45 - 65	25	23%	33	37%
65 and over	23	21%	20	22%
Marital status				
Married	53	50%	29	32%
Divorced	13	12%	13	14%
Widowed	6	6%	29	32%
Single, never married	35	33%	19	21%

Table 2. Relationship characteristics in homicide-suicide events, Oregon, 2003-2012

Relationship to homicide victim	Victims	%
I. Intimate partner		
Spouse (current or former)	49	46%
Boy/Girlfriend (current or former)	14	13%
Same sex	1	1%
II. Family member		
Mother/Stepmother	2	2%
Father/Stepfather	17	16%
Child/Stepchild	4	4%
Other family member or relative	3	3%
III. Other		
Someone related to intimate partner (Ex-Boy/Girlfriend of boy/girlfriend)	8	7%
Stranger	5	5%
Other	3	3%
Unknown	1	1%
Total	107	100%

For more information:

<http://1.usa.gov/1uVV3VK>

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Data source: Oregon Violent Death Reporting system