

# Criminal Justice Research Report

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## **Domestic Homicide in New York State 2014**

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This report presents a statistical account of domestic homicide reported by state and local police in New York State during 2014.

**Definitions:** Domestic homicide involves a murder or non-negligent manslaughter in which the victim was known to have a domestic relationship with the offender, including an intimate partner or another family member.<sup>1</sup>

An "intimate partner" relationship includes spouse, ex-spouse, heterosexual or same-sex partner (including expartner) whether or not the victim and offender lived together at the time of the incident or previously.<sup>2</sup> "Other family" member includes child,<sup>3</sup> parent, sibling or other family relationship.

**Data:** The data analyzed for this report are taken from the Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) submitted by law enforcement agencies to the state Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

Part of New York State's Uniform Crime Reporting program (UCR), the SHR collects case-level information on all criminal homicides reported by police, including: victim-offender relationship, demographic characteristics of victim and offender, such as gender, race/ethnicity and age, and the circumstances of the homicide and the type of weapon used.<sup>4</sup>

**Overview:** Domestic homicides are compared in this report with all other homicides statewide and by region.

Regional homicide data are presented for the five counties (boroughs) of New York City and the Rest of the State, which is the 57 counties Upstate and on Long Island.

Statistics detail the demographic characteristics of homicide victims, the circumstances surrounding the homicide and the types of weapons used.

Specific details also are provided about intimate partner homicide, which is the most frequent type of domestic homicide.

In addition, relevant findings from the analysis of homicides involving minor child victims and "other family" member victims also are presented.

Domestic homicide trends for the fiveyear period from 2010 to 2014 also are detailed, as are trends by county and region.

#### Major Findings

- The 123 domestic homicides reported are the fewest since 2007. DCJS analyzed data from that year in its first Domestic Homicide Report, published in 2008. Reports have been published annually since 2008.
- The number of intimate partner homicides also is at the lowest point since 2007, 65 reported in 2014.
- Domestic homicides were 20.1 percent (123) of all homicides (611).
- Of all female homicide victims age 16 or older, 46.3 percent (50 of 108) were killed by their intimate partners.
- Of all male homicide victims age 16 or older, 3.2 percent (15 of 467) were killed by their intimate partner.
- Among intimate partner homicides, a knife, cutting instrument or blunt object was the primary weapon used against 52.3 percent (34) of victims.
- A firearm was used in 29.2 percent (19) of all intimate partner homicides.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Homicide is defined as "the willful killing of one human being by another." *Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook.* Murder and non-negligent manslaughter refer to crimes in New York State Penal Laws Section 125.15 through Section 125.27 and include: murder in the first and second degree, aggravated murder, aggravated manslaughter in the first and second degree, and manslaughter in the first and second degree.

<sup>2</sup> New York Criminal Procedure Law section 530.11(1)(a-e).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> "Child" is defined as under 18 years old and includes a biological or adopted child, as well as a child who is killed by the intimate partner of his or her parent.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> New York City homicide data are extracted from the New York City Police Department Shootings and Homicides database, which differs from the SHR but not in ways that substantially affect this analysis.

Chart 1 presents a statewide breakdown of domestic homicides compared to all other homicides in 2014.<sup>5</sup>

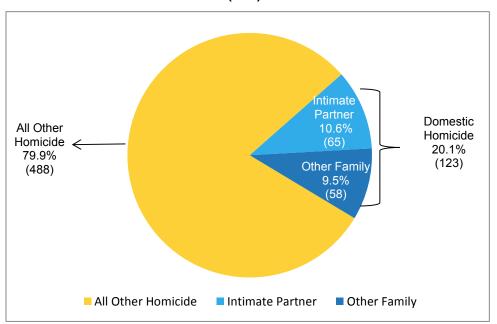


Chart 1. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides by Type of Relationship in New York State<sup>6</sup> (611)

- Police in New York State reported a total of 611 homicide victims. Victims in 123 homicides (20.1%) had a
  domestic relationship with their offenders.
- In 65 homicides, the victim and offender were intimate partners. Intimate partner homicides represented 10.6 percent of all homicides and 52.8 percent of all domestic homicides.
- 58 homicide victims were killed by "other family" members. These victims most commonly were the child, parent, grandparent or sibling of the offender.

Seven domestic homicide incidents reported in 2014 involved multiple victims. These seven incidents involved a total of 15 victims, including five children. Additional details:

Three were murder-suicides, in which offenders killed their intimate partners and/or others, then themselves; the offender in each of these incidents is not counted as a victim in these descriptions:

- In one incident, a female offender killed her two young daughters ages 6 and 9.
- In one incident, a male offender killed his estranged wife and her boyfriend.
- In one incident, a male offender killed his wife and 15-year old son.

The remaining four incidents involved male offenders killing their intimate partner and others:

- In two incidents, offenders killed their spouse and a second victim. The second victims in both incidents were identified as boyfriends of the victims.
- In one incident, the offender killed his wife and their two daughters, who were 1 and 2.
- In one incident, a male offender killed his intimate partner and her 25-year-old daughter.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The "all other" type of homicide relationship includes categories in which the victim's relationship to the offender was known (e.g., friend, acquaint-ance, stranger, or otherwise known) or where the victim-offender relationship was unknown.

<sup>6</sup> As reported to DCJS through April 24, 2015.

Table 1 compares domestic and other homicides in New York City and the Rest of the State. Of the 611 homicides reported statewide in 2014, 333 (54.5%) occurred in New York City and 278 (45.5%) occurred in the Rest of the State. See Appendix A for county and regional statistics.

Table 1. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides by Type of Relationship and Region 2014<sup>7</sup>

|                      |        | Homicide Victims by Region    |                   |                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|----------------------|--------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|                      | Nev    | v York City                   | Rest of the State |                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Type of Relationship | Number | Percent of Total<br>Homicides | Number            | Percent of Total<br>Homicides |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Domestic Homicide    | 66     | 19.8%                         | 57                | 20.5%                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Intimate Partner     | 28     | 8.4%                          | 37                | 13.3%                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Other Family         | 38     | 11.4%                         | 20                | 7.2%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| All Other Homicide   | 267    | 80.2%                         | 221               | 79.5%                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Known                | 102    | 30.6%                         | 77                | 27.7%                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Unknown              | 165    | 49.5%                         | 144               | 51.8%                         |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total                | 333    | 100.0%                        | 278               | 100.0%                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |

- New York City reported 66 domestic homicides, accounting for 19.8 percent of all homicides in the five boroughs. In the Rest of the State, 20.5 percent (57) of all reported homicides were domestic.
- There were more other family victims of domestic homicide in New York City as compared to the Rest of the State, where intimate partner homicides were more common.

Table 2 compares the gender of homicide victims 16 and older, both statewide and by region. In 2014, 575 (94.1%) of the 611 homicide victims were 16 or older.

Table 2. Victims of Homicide (Age 16 and Older) by Gender and Region 2014

|                   | Age                            | Age 16 & Older *           |                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Gender            | Intimate<br>Partner<br>Victims | All<br>Homicide<br>Victims | Percent<br>Intimate<br>Partner |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide         | 65                             | 575                        | 11.3%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Female            | 50                             | 108                        | 46.3%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male              | 15                             | 467                        | 3.2%                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New York City     | 28                             | 315                        | 8.9%                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Female            | 19                             | 44                         | 43.2%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male              | 9                              | 271                        | 3.3%                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rest of the State | 37                             | 260                        | 14.2%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Female            | 31                             | 64                         | 48.4%                          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Male              | 6                              | 196                        | 3.1%                           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup> Includes a 15-year old killed by an intimate partner in NYC.

- In 2014, 65 individuals were killed by their intimate partner: 64 of those individuals were 16 years old or older and one was 15. The 15-year-old was a female killed by her 20-year-old intimate partner in New York City.
- Among 108 female homicide victims in New York State, 50 (46.3%) were killed by their intimate partners.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> For this report, intimate partners include spouse, ex-spouse, heterosexual partner or ex-partner, and same-sex partner or ex-partner, whether or not the victim and offender were living together at the time of the homicide or had previously lived together. NYPD homicide statistics include victims of domestic homicide incidents who are not intimate partners or members of the same family. These victims are excluded in this report.

#### Domestic Homicides vs. All Homicides by Victim's Gender

Charts 2 and 3 present female and male homicide victims of any age separately by type of relationship to the offender, as compared to all homicide victims in the state.

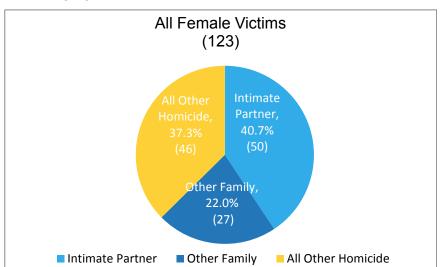


Chart 2. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides of All Female Victims by Type of Relationship in New York State 2014

- Statewide, nearly two-thirds of the 123 female victims were killed by an intimate partner (40.7%) or another family member (22%).
- Among the 46 females killed in a non-domestic homicide, eight were killed by a friend or acquaintance and nine by a stranger. The victim-offender relationship was listed as unknown or not reported for 29 female victims.

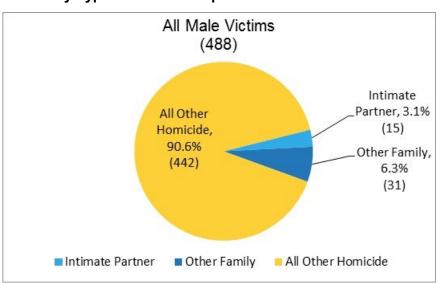


Chart 3. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides of All Male Victims by Type of Relationship in New York State 2014

- Statewide, 90.6 percent (442) of the 488 male victims were killed in a non-domestic incident.
- Of the 488 male victims killed, 3.1 percent (15) were killed by an intimate partner and 6.3 percent (31) by another family member.

### **Demographics of Domestic Homicide Victims**

Table 3 presents the gender and race/ethnicity of domestic and other homicide victims statewide, in New York City and the Rest of the State.

Table 3. Domestic Homicides and Other Homicides by Victim Demographics and Region 2014

|                     |          |           | Statew     | /ide    |         |           |            |            |  |
|---------------------|----------|-----------|------------|---------|---------|-----------|------------|------------|--|
|                     | Intimate | Partner   |            | Family  | Total D | omestic   | All Others |            |  |
| Victim Demographics | Number   | Percent   | Number     | Percent | Number  | Percent   | Number     | Percent    |  |
| Gender              |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Female              | 50       | 76.9%     | 27         | 46.6%   | 77      | 62.6%     | 46         | 9.4%       |  |
| Male                | 15       | 23.1%     | 31         | 53.4%   | 46      | 37.4%     | 442        | 90.6%      |  |
|                     |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Race/Ethnicity      |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| White               | 30       | 46.2%     | 20         | 34.5%   | 50      | 40.7%     | 55         | 11.3%      |  |
| Black               | 21       | 32.3%     | 26         | 44.8%   | 47      | 38.2%     | 323        | 66.2%      |  |
| Hispanic            | 10       | 15.4%     | 9          | 15.5%   | 19      | 15.4%     | 98         | 20.1%      |  |
| Other               | 4        | 6.2%      | 3          | 5.2%    | 7       | 5.7%      | 11         | 2.3%       |  |
| Unknown             | 0        | 0.0%      | 0          | 0.0%    | 0       | 0.0%      | 1          | 0.2%       |  |
|                     |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Total Victims       | (        | <b>35</b> | 5          | 58      | 1       | 23        | 4          | 88         |  |
|                     |          |           | New Yor    | k City  |         |           |            |            |  |
| <u>Gender</u>       |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Female              | 19       | 67.9%     | 17         | 44.7%   | 36      | 54.5%     | 15         | 5.6%       |  |
| Male                | 9        | 32.1%     | 21         | 55.3%   | 30      | 45.5%     | 252        | 94.4%      |  |
|                     |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Race/Ethnicity      |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| White               | 5        | 17.9%     | 6          | 15.8%   | 11      | 16.7%     | 14         | 5.2%       |  |
| Black               | 10       | 35.7%     | 22         | 57.9%   | 32      | 48.5%     | 177        | 66.3%      |  |
| Hispanic            | 9        | 32.1%     | 7          | 18.4%   | 16      | 24.2%     | 66         | 24.7%      |  |
| Other               | 4        | 14.3%     | 3          | 7.9%    | 7       | 10.6%     | 10         | 3.7%       |  |
| Unknown             | 0        | 0.0%      | 0          | 0.0%    | 0       | 0.0%      | 0          | 0.0%       |  |
|                     |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Total Victims       | 2        | 28        | <u> </u>   | 8       |         | 66        | 2          | 67         |  |
|                     | •        |           | Rest of th | e State |         |           | 1          |            |  |
| <u>Gender</u>       |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Female              | 31       | 83.8%     | 10         | 50.0%   | 41      | 71.9%     | 31         | 14.0%      |  |
| Male                | 6        | 16.2%     | 10         | 50.0%   | 16      | 28.1%     | 190        | 86.0%      |  |
|                     |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| Race/Ethnicity      |          |           |            |         |         |           |            |            |  |
| White               | 25       | 67.6%     | 14         | 70.0%   | 39      | 68.4%     | 41         | 18.6%      |  |
| Black               | 11       | 29.7%     | 4          | 20.0%   | 15      | 26.3%     | 146        | 66.1%      |  |
| Hispanic            | 1        | 2.7%      | 2          | 10.0%   | 3       | 5.3%      | 32         | 14.5%      |  |
| Other               | 0        | 0.0%      | 0          | 0.0%    | 0       | 0.0%      | 1          | 0.5%       |  |
| Unknown             | 0        | 0.0%      | 0          | 0.0%    | 0       | 0.0%      | 1          | 0.5%       |  |
| Total Victims       |          | 37        |            | 20      |         | <b>57</b> | ,          | 21         |  |
| TOTAL VICTILIS      | 3        | ) (       |            | .0      | ,       | 57        |            | <b>4</b> I |  |

#### Gender

- Females were most frequently the victims of intimate partner homicides: 76.9 percent (50 of 65). Meanwhile, females were only 9.4 percent (46 of 488) of victims of all other homicides.
- More males than females were victims in "other family" homicides, which totaled 58: 31 males vs. 27 females.

#### Race and Ethnicity

- Statewide, 40.7 percent (50) of domestic homicide victims were white, 38.2 percent (47) were black and 15.4 percent (19) were Hispanic.
- New York City reported more black (32) and Hispanic victims (16) of domestic homicide than white victims (11).
- In the Rest of the State, whites (39) were most commonly the victims of domestic homicide as compared to 15 blacks and three Hispanics.
- Among the 65 intimate partner homicide victims statewide, 46.2 percent (30) were white: five in New York City (17.9%) and 25 (67.6%) in the Rest of the State.
- Blacks were victims in 21 intimate partner homicides statewide (32.3%): 10 reported in New York City (35.7%) and 11 (29.7%) in the Rest of the State.
- Hispanics were victims in 10 intimate partner homicides statewide (15.4%): nine in New York City (32.1%) and one (2.7%) in the Rest of the State.

Table 4 presents domestic homicide victims according to the type of relationship and age group statewide, for New York City and the Rest of the State.

Table 4. Domestic Homicides by Victim Age Group 2014 8

|            | Statewide    |                 |              |         |         |         |  |  |  |
|------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|
|            | Intimate     | Partner Partner | Other        | Family  | Total D | omestic |  |  |  |
| Age Group  | Number       | Percent         | Number       | Percent | Number  | Percent |  |  |  |
| Infant <1  | _            | _               | 5            | 8.6%    | 5       | 4.1%    |  |  |  |
| 1 - 4      | _            |                 | 11           | 19.0%   | 11      | 8.9%    |  |  |  |
| 5 - 15     | 1            | 1.5%            | 8            | 13.8%   | 9       | 7.3%    |  |  |  |
| 16 - 19    | 2            | 3.1%            | 1            | 1.7%    | 3       | 2.4%    |  |  |  |
| 20 - 29    | 12           | 18.5%           | 6            | 10.3%   | 18      | 14.6%   |  |  |  |
| 30 - 39    | 18           | 27.7%           | 3            | 5.2%    | 21      | 17.1%   |  |  |  |
| 40 - 49    | 15           | 23.1%           | 3            | 5.2%    | 18      | 14.6%   |  |  |  |
| 50 - 59    | 8            | 12.3%           | 10           | 17.2%   | 18      | 14.6%   |  |  |  |
| 60 & Older | 9            | 13.8%           | 11           | 19.0%   | 20      | 16.3%   |  |  |  |
| Total      | 65           | 100.0%          | 58           | 100.0%  | 123     | 100.0%  |  |  |  |
|            |              | Ne              | w York City  | /       |         |         |  |  |  |
| Infant <1  | _            | _               | 2            | 5.3%    | 2       | 3.0%    |  |  |  |
| 1 - 4      | _            |                 | 9            | 23.7%   | 9       | 13.6%   |  |  |  |
| 5 - 15     | 1            | 3.6%            | 2            | 5.3%    | 3       | 4.5%    |  |  |  |
| 16 - 19    | 0            | 0.0%            | 1            | 2.6%    | 1       | 1.5%    |  |  |  |
| 20 - 29    | 5            | 17.9%           | 5            | 13.2%   | 10      | 15.2%   |  |  |  |
| 30 - 39    | 8            | 28.6%           | 3            | 7.9%    | 11      | 16.7%   |  |  |  |
| 40 - 49    | 5            | 17.9%           | 2            | 5.3%    | 7       | 10.6%   |  |  |  |
| 50 - 59    | 5            | 17.9%           | 9            | 23.7%   | 14      | 21.2%   |  |  |  |
| 60 & Older | 4            | 14.3%           | 5            | 13.2%   | 9       | 13.6%   |  |  |  |
| Total      | 28           | 100.0%          | 38           | 100.0%  | 66      | 100.0%  |  |  |  |
|            |              | Res             | t of the Sta |         |         |         |  |  |  |
| Infant <1  | <del>-</del> | _               | 3            | 15.0%   | 3       | 5.3%    |  |  |  |
| 1 - 4      | _            | _               | 2            | 10.0%   | 2       | 3.5%    |  |  |  |
| 5 - 15     | _            | _               | 6            | 30.0%   | 6       | 10.5%   |  |  |  |
| 16 - 19    | 2            | 5.4%            | 0            | 0.0%    | 2       | 3.5%    |  |  |  |
| 20 - 29    | 7            | 18.9%           | 1            | 5.0%    | 8       | 14.0%   |  |  |  |
| 30 - 39    | 10           | 27.0%           | 0            | 0.0%    | 10      | 17.5%   |  |  |  |
| 40 - 49    | 10           | 27.0%           | 1            | 5.0%    | 11      | 19.3%   |  |  |  |
| 50 - 59    | 3            | 8.1%            | 1            | 5.0%    | 4       | 7.0%    |  |  |  |
| 60 & Older | 5            | 13.5%           | 6            | 30.0%   | 11      | 19.3%   |  |  |  |
| Total      | 37           | 100.0%          | 20           | 100.0%  | 57      | 100.0%  |  |  |  |

- Statewide, 50.8 percent (33) of the 65 intimate partner homicide victims were between the ages of 30 and 49.
- Among the 20 the domestic homicide victim who were 60 or older, nine were intimate partners of the offenders.
- Forty-one percent of "other family" victims were children 15 or younger and more than one-third were 50 years and older. Among victims who were 50 and older, 12 of 21 were parents of the offender. Table 5 on Page 8 provides additional details on child victims (under 18) of domestic homicide.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> In 2014 NYC reported a 15-year old female victim killed by her 20-year old male intimate partner and a second offender.

#### **Child Victims of Domestic Homicide**

Table 5 presents demographic information on child victims of domestic homicide; child is defined as a person under 18 years old who was killed either by a parent, a parent's intimate partner or another family member.

Table 5. Child Domestic Homicide Victims by Demographic Characteristics 2014

| Victim Demographics       | Statewide | New York<br>City | Rest of the State |
|---------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|
| Age Group                 |           |                  |                   |
| Infant (< 1 yr.)          | 5         | 2                | 3                 |
| 1 - 4                     | 11        | 9                | 2                 |
| 5 - 9                     | 6         | 1                | 5                 |
| 10 - 17                   | 2         | 1                | 1                 |
| Gender                    |           |                  |                   |
| Female                    | 11        | 6                | 5                 |
| Male                      | 13        | 7                | 6                 |
| Race/Ethnicity            |           |                  |                   |
| White                     | 5         | 0                | 5                 |
| Black                     | 11        | 7                | 4                 |
| Hispanic                  | 6         | 4                | 2                 |
| Other                     | 2         | 2                | 0                 |
| Offender's Relationship   |           |                  |                   |
| to Victim                 |           |                  |                   |
| Parent                    | 14        | 7                | 7                 |
| Step-Parent               | 4         | 4                | 0                 |
| Parent's Intimate Partner | 2         | 0                | 2                 |
| Sibling                   | 1         | 0                | 1                 |
| Other Family              | 3         | 2                | 1                 |
| Total                     | 24        | 13               | 11                |

- Statewide, there were 24 child victims of domestic homicide, with 13 were reported in New York City and 11 in the Rest of the State.
- Fourteen child victims were killed by a parent, four by their stepparent and two by their parent's intimate partner. One was killed by a sibling and three by another family member.
- Statewide, 16 child victims were under 5 years old (66.7%) and five were infants who were younger than one.

#### **Adult Family Member Victims of Domestic Violence**

• Statewide, adult (age 18 years and older) family member victims of domestic violence included 14 parents, 6 siblings, 2 in-laws, 2 adult children (ages 19 and 65), 1 child of intimate partner (age 25), and 9 other family members (Data not presented).

#### **Circumstances of Domestic Homicide**

Table 7 presents the circumstances surrounding domestic homicides as reported by police. Circumstances include argument, murder-suicide, other felony involved<sup>9</sup>, physical abuse/neglect, other and unknown.

Table 7. Domestic Homicides by Circumstance Reported 2014

|                       |          | State     | wide     |         |        |         |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
|                       | Intimate | Partner   | Other    | Family  | To     | otal    |
| Circumstance          | Number   | Percent   | Number   | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Argument              | 37       | 56.9%     | 21       | 36.2%   | 58     | 47.2%   |
| Murder - Suicide      | 4        | 6.2%      | 4        | 6.9%    | 8      | 6.5%    |
| Other Felony Involved | 3        | 4.6%      | 1        | 1.7%    | 4      | 3.3%    |
| Abuse and/or Neglect  | 0        | 0.0%      | 14       | 24.1%   | 14     | 11.4%   |
| Other                 | 8        | 12.3%     | 13       | 22.4%   | 21     | 17.1%   |
| Unknown               | 13       | 20.0%     | 5        | 8.6%    | 18     | 14.6%   |
| Total                 | 65       | 100.0%    | 58       | 100.0%  | 123    | 100.0%  |
|                       |          | New Yo    | ork City |         |        |         |
| Argument              | 14       | 50.0%     | 16       | 42.1%   | 30     | 45.5%   |
| Murder - Suicide      | 0        | 0.0%      | 1        | 2.6%    | 1      | 1.5%    |
| Other Felony Involved | 1        | 3.6%      | 1        | 2.6%    | 2      | 3.0%    |
| Abuse and/or Neglect  | 0        | 0.0%      | 12       | 31.6%   | 12     | 18.2%   |
| Other                 | 2        | 7.1%      | 4        | 10.5%   | 6      | 9.1%    |
| Unknown               | 11       | 39.3%     | 4        | 10.5%   | 15     | 22.7%   |
| Total                 | 28       | 100.0%    | 38       | 100.0%  | 66     | 100.0%  |
|                       |          | Rest of t | he State |         |        |         |
| Argument              | 23       | 62.2%     | 5        | 25.0%   | 28     | 49.1%   |
| Murder - Suicide      | 4        | 10.8%     | 3        | 15.0%   | 7      | 12.3%   |
| Other Felony Involved | 2        | 5.4%      | 0        | 0.0%    | 2      | 3.5%    |
| Abuse and/or Neglect  | 0        | 0.0%      | 2        | 10.0%   | 2      | 3.5%    |
| Other                 | 6        | 16.2%     | 9        | 45.0%   | 15     | 26.3%   |
| Unknown               | 2        | 5.4%      | 1        | 5.0%    | 3      | 5.3%    |
| Total                 | 37       | 100.0%    | 20       | 100.0%  | 57     | 100.0%  |

- An argument was reported as the leading circumstance in 47.2 percent (58 of 123) of domestic homicides and 56.9 percent (37 of 65) of intimate partner homicides. In 14.6 percent (18) of domestic homicides, the circumstance surrounding the death was unknown.
- In eight (6.5%) domestic homicides, the offender also committed suicide. Four of those murder-suicides involved intimate partners and four involved "other family" members.
- All four murder-suicides involving intimate partners occurred in the Rest of the State, with women the victims and men the offenders in every incident. (Data not shown in table).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Other Felony Involved refers to a homicide that occurred as a result of the commission of another felonious crime, such as arson, robbery or burglary.

#### Weapons Used in Domestic Homicide

Table 8 provides statewide and regional breakdowns on the type of weapon used in domestic homicides by the relationship of the victim to the offender. Weapon types include firearms; knives, cutting instruments, or blunt objects; personal weapons (hands, feet and teeth); and miscellaneous weapons (motor vehicle, fire and poison).

Table 8. Domestic Homicide by Type of Weapon Used 2014

| Statewide                             |          |                 |              |               |              |         |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------|-----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|---------|--|--|--|--|
|                                       | Intimate | Partner Partner | <u>Other</u> | Family Pamily | <u>Total</u> |         |  |  |  |  |
| Weapons Used                          | Number   | Percent         | Number       | Percent       | Number       | Percent |  |  |  |  |
| Firearm                               | 19       | 29.2%           | 8            | 13.8%         | 27           | 22.0%   |  |  |  |  |
| Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments      | 34       | 52.3%           | 22           | 37.9%         | 56           | 45.5%   |  |  |  |  |
| Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) | 5        | 7.7%            | 10           | 17.2%         | 15           | 12.2%   |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous Weapons                 | 5        | 7.7%            | 10           | 17.2%         | 15           | 12.2%   |  |  |  |  |
| Not Reported/Unknown                  | 2        | 3.1%            | 8            | 13.8%         | 10           | 8.1%    |  |  |  |  |
| Total                                 | 65       | 100.0%          | 58           | 100.0%        | 123          | 100.0%  |  |  |  |  |
|                                       | New      | / York City     |              |               |              |         |  |  |  |  |
| Firearm                               | 5        | 17.9%           | 7            | 18.4%         | 12           | 18.2%   |  |  |  |  |
| Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments      | 20       | 71.4%           | 15           | 39.5%         | 35           | 53.0%   |  |  |  |  |
| Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) | 1        | 3.6%            | 4            | 10.5%         | 5            | 7.6%    |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous Weapons                 | 1        | 3.6%            | 6            | 15.8%         | 7            | 10.6%   |  |  |  |  |
| Not Reported/Unknown                  | 1        | 3.6%            | 6            | 15.8%         | 7            | 10.6%   |  |  |  |  |
| Total                                 | 28       | 100.0%          | 38           | 100.0%        | 66           | 100.0%  |  |  |  |  |
|                                       | Rest     | of the State    | 1            |               |              |         |  |  |  |  |
| Firearm                               | 14       | 37.8%           | 1            | 5.0%          | 15           | 26.3%   |  |  |  |  |
| Knives/Cutting/Blunt Instruments      | 14       | 37.8%           | 7            | 35.0%         | 21           | 36.8%   |  |  |  |  |
| Personal Weapons (hands, feet, teeth) | 4        | 10.8%           | 6            | 30.0%         | 10           | 17.5%   |  |  |  |  |
| Miscellaneous Weapons                 | 4        | 10.8%           | 4            | 20.0%         | 8            | 14.0%   |  |  |  |  |
| Not Reported/Unknown                  | 1        | 2.7%            | 2            | 10.0%         | 3            | 5.3%    |  |  |  |  |
| Total                                 | 37       | 100.0%          | 20           | 100.0%        | 57           | 100.0%  |  |  |  |  |

- Knives, cutting instruments or blunt objects were the most common weapon used in domestic homicides statewide (56 of 123).
- Firearms were used in 22 percent (27) of domestic homicides statewide: 18.2 percent (12) in New York City and 26.3 percent (15) in Rest of State.
- Statewide, a knife, cutting instrument or blunt object was the primary weapon used against 52.3 percent (34) of victims in intimate partner homicides. In New York City, 71.4 percent (20) of intimate partner homicides involved those weapons, while 37.8 percent (14) of intimate partner homicides involved those weapons in the Rest of the State.
- In the Rest of the State, 37.8 percent (14) of intimate partner homicides involved a firearm, while in New York City, firearms were used in 17.9 percent (5) of intimate partner homicides.
- Among the 58 "other family" domestic homicides, 22 (37.9%) involved knives, cutting instruments or blunt objects and 10 (17.2%) involved personal weapons (hands, feet, teeth).
- Statewide, the type of weapon used was unknown or not reported in 8.1 percent of domestic homicides.

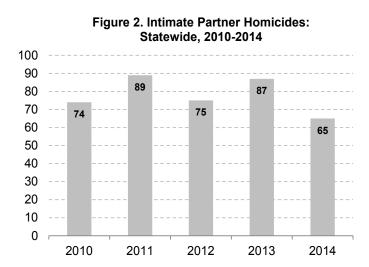
#### Trends in Domestic Homicide 2010 - 2014

DCJS began publishing an annual Domestic Homicide Report in 2008, analyzing data from 2007. Those reports are posted to the DCJS website — www.criminaljustice.ny.gov — click on the Publications link on the home page.

This section compares domestic homicides during the five-year period from 2010 through 2014.

Figures 1 through 4 show trends in all domestic homicides and by type of relationship.

Figure 1. Total Domestic Homicides: Statewide, 2010-2014 180 160 140 145 138 120 100 80 60 40 20 0 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014



- The 123 domestic homicides in 2014 was the lowest reported and the fewest since 2007, the first year this data were analyzed. There were 135 domestic homicides that year.
- The 65 intimate partner homicides in 2014 also were the fewest reported since 2007. There were 72 intimate partner homicides reported that year.

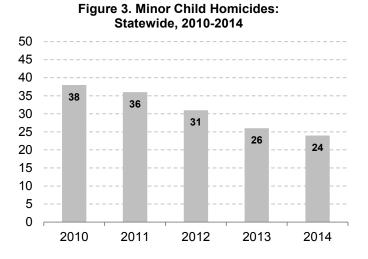
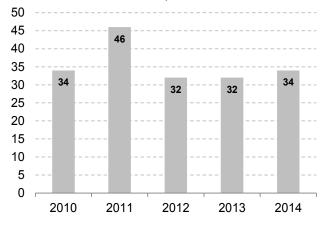


Figure 4. Other Family Homicides: Statewide, 2010-2014



- The number of child domestic homicide victims has decreased annually since 2010.
- There were 34 "other family" victims in 2014; that number has changed little in the past three years.

#### Trends in Domestic Homicide 2010 - 2014

Figures 5 through 8 show domestic homicides reported from 2010 through 2014 in New York City and the Rest of the State by type of relationship.

Figure 5. Total Domestic Homicides:
NYC vs. Rest of the State

100

80

77

69

77

69

71

67

61

40

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

New York City Rest of the State

Figure 6. Intimate Partner Homicides:
NYC vs. Rest of the State

80

70

60

40

30

34

40

49

40

40

35

38

37

20

10

2010

2011

2012

2013

2014

New York City Rest of the State

- In New York City, domestic homicide reached its highest point in 2011, with 94 reported that year. In Rest of the State, domestic homicide reached its highest point in 2013, with 84 reported.
- Intimate partner homicides in New York City reached a five-year low of 28 in 2014 while the second fewest intimate partner homicides (37) were reported in the Rest of the State last year.

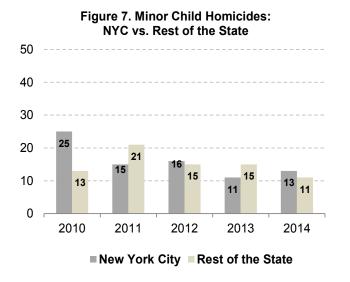
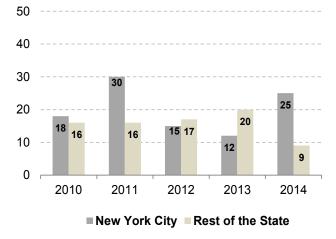


Figure 8. Other Family Homicides: NYC vs. Rest of the State



- The number of child victims of domestic homicide have ranged from 11 to 25 in New York City over the past five years. In the Rest of the State, the number of minor child victims has ranged from 11 to 21.
- The number of "other family" homicide victims reported in New York City more than doubled, from 12 in 2013 to 25 in 2014. In the Rest of the State, the number decreased from 20 to 9 during the same time period.

#### **Comparison of Gender of Intimate Partner Homicide Victims**

Table 9 shows gender trends in intimate partner homicide victims and all homicide victims who were 16 or older during the five-year period from 2010 through 2014.

Table 9. Trends in Intimate Partner (IP) Homicide by Gender and by Region 2010-2014

| Persons            |         | Intimate Partner Homicides |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Ages 16 & Older    | 2010    | 2011                       | 2012    | 2013    | 2014*   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Statewide:         |         |                            |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Female          | 63      | 67                         | 61      | 67      | 50      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Female       | 143     | 152                        | 104     | 130     | 108     |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Female)      | (44.1%) | (44.1%)                    | (58.7%) | (51.5%) | (46.3%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Male            | 11      | 22                         | 14      | 19      | 15      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Male         | 657     | 558                        | 532     | 469     | 467     |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Male)        | (1.7%)  | (3.9%)                     | (2.6%)  | (4.1%)  | (3.2%)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| New York City:     |         |                            |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Female          | 29      | 35                         | 33      | 27      | 19      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Female       | 78      | 93                         | 58      | 51      | 44      |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Female)      | (37.2%) | (37.6%)                    | (56.9%) | (52.9%) | (43.2%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Male            | 5       | 14                         | 7       | 10      | 9       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Male         | 423     | 393                        | 334     | 268     | 271     |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Male)        | (1.2%)  | (3.6%)                     | (2.1%)  | (3.7%)  | (3.3%)  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Rest of the State: |         |                            |         |         |         |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Female          | 34      | 32                         | 28      | 40      | 31      |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Female       | 65      | 59                         | 46      | 79      | 64      |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Female)      | (52.3%) | (54.2%)                    | (60.9%) | (50.6%) | (48.4%) |  |  |  |  |  |
| IP Male            | 6       | 8                          | 7       | 9       | 6       |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total Male         | 234     | 165                        | 198     | 201     | 196     |  |  |  |  |  |
| (% IP Male)        | (2.6%)  | (4.8%)                     | (3.5%)  | (4.5%)  | (3.1%)  |  |  |  |  |  |

<sup>\*</sup> Includes one 15-year old female killed by her 20-year old intimate partner in NYC.

- In 2014, 46.3 percent of all female homicide victims who were 16 or older were killed by their intimate partners.
- Slightly more than 3 percent of male homicide victims were killed by their intimate partners in 2014.
- From 2013 to 2014 in New York City, the number of female intimate partner victims decreased from 27 to 19 and the number of male intimate partner victims decreased from 10 to nine.
- Also, from 2013 to 2014 in the Rest of State, the number of female intimate partner victims decreased from 40 to 31 and the number of male intimate partner victims decreased from nine to six.

#### About the author:

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Appendix A. Domestic and Total Homicides by Region and County 2014

|                    | С                | All Homicides |       |       |
|--------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|-------|
| County             | Intimate Partner | Other Family  | Total | Total |
| New York City      | 28               | 38            | 66    | 333   |
| Bronx              | 9                | 6             | 15    | 95    |
| Kings              | 6                | 12            | 18    | 122   |
| New York           | 1                | 3             | 4     | 37    |
| Queens             | 11               | 16            | 27    | 64    |
| Richmond           | 1                | 1             | 2     | 15    |
| Rest of the State  | 37               | 20            | 57    | 278   |
| Albany             | 1                | 2             | 3     | 10    |
| Allegany           | 1                | 0             | 1     | 2     |
| Broome             | 1                | 0             | 1     | 4     |
| Cattaraugus        | 1                | 0             | 1     | 3     |
| Chautauqua         | 1                | 0             | 1     | 3     |
| Chemung            | 0                | 0             | 0     | 1     |
| Chenago            | 1                | 0             | 1     | 3     |
| Clinton            | 2                | 0             | 2     | 3     |
| Cortland           | 0                | 0             | 0     | 2     |
| Dutchess           | 0                | 0             | 0     | 3     |
| Erie               | 5                | 2             | 7     | 66    |
| Genesee            | 0                | 1             | 1     | 1     |
| Greene             | 1                | 0             | 1     | 2     |
| Jefferson          | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Livingston         | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Madison            | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Monroe             | 1                | 0             | 1     | 35    |
| Nassau             | 1                | 2             | 3     | 18    |
| Niagara            | 1                | 0             | 1     | 6     |
| Oneida             | 3                | 0             | 3     | 9     |
| Onondaga           | 1                | 1             | 2     | 20    |
| Orange             | 2                | 0             | 2     | 7     |
| Oswego             | 0                | 0             | 0     | 2     |
| Rensselaer         | 2                | 2             | 4     | 9     |
| Rockland           | 1                | 0             | 1     | 3     |
| St. Lawrence       | 0                | 0             | 0     | 3     |
| Saratoga           | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Schenectady        | 1                | 0             | 1     | 6     |
| Seneca             | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Suffolk            | 2                | 5             | 7     | 29    |
| Sullivan           | 1                | 1             | 2     | 3     |
| Tompkins           | 1                | 0             | 1     | 1     |
| Ulster             | 0                | 3             | 3     | 5     |
| Westchester        | 1                | 1             | 2     | 14    |
| <b>Grand Total</b> | 65               | 58            | 123   | 611   |

The following counties with no homicides of any type reported in 2014 are excluded from the table: Cayuga, Columbia, Delaware, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Hamilton, Herkimer, Lewis, Montgomery, Ontario, Orleans, Otsego, Putnam, Schoharie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Wyoming and Yates. Five other counties with no domestic homicide but at least one other homicide — Chemung, Cortland, Dutchess, Oswego and St. Lawrence — reported in 2014 are included.

Appendix B. Domestic Homicide Victims by Region and County 2010 - 2014

| pendix B. Do         | mes    |             |        |              | e vi   | ctim |               |                |    | and  | a C0 |             |                |    | 201  |
|----------------------|--------|-------------|--------|--------------|--------|------|---------------|----------------|----|------|------|-------------|----------------|----|------|
| County               | 2010   | All<br>2011 | 2012   | stic<br>2013 | 2014   | 2010 | Intim<br>2011 | ate Pa<br>2012 |    | 2014 | 2010 | Oth<br>2011 | er Far<br>2012 |    | 2014 |
| New York City        | 77     | 94          | 71     | 61           | 66     | 34   | 49            | 40             | 38 | 28   | 43   | 45          | 31             | 23 | 38   |
| Bronx                | 18     | 27          | 23     | 15           | 15     | 8    | 14            | 12             | 7  | 9    | 10   | 13          | 11             | 8  | 6    |
| Kings                | 28     | 31          | 22     | 25           | 18     | 13   | 16            | 11             | 16 | 6    | 15   | 15          | 11             | 9  | 12   |
| New York             | 8      | 14          | 8      | 6            | 4      | 5    | 10            | 4              | 3  | 1    | 3    | 4           | 4              | 3  | 3    |
| Queens               | 15     | 19          | 15     | 13           | 27     | 7    | 8             | 11             | 10 | 11   | 8    | 11          | 4              | 3  | 16   |
| Richmond             | 8      | 3           | 3      | 2            | 2      | 1    | 1             | 2              | 2  | 1    | 7    | 2           | 1              | 0  | 1    |
| Rest of the State    | 69     | 77          | 67     | 84           | 57     | 40   | 40            | 35             | 49 | 37   | 29   | 37          | 32             | 35 | 20   |
| Albany               | 0      | 2           | 1      | 2            | 3      | 0    | 2             | 0              | 2  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 2    |
| Alleghany            | 0      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Broome               | 1      | 0           | 3      | 1            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 2              | 1  | 1    | 1    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Cattaraugus          | 0      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Cayuga               | 0      | 3           | 1      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 2             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 1           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Chautauqua           | 0      | 0           | 0      | 2            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 2  | 0    |
| Chemung              | 3      | 0           | 2      | 0            | 0      | 2    | 0             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 1    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Chenango             | 0      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Clinton              | 2      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 2      | 2    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 2    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Columbia             | 1      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 1    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Cortland             | 0      | 0           | 1      | 0            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Delaware<br>Dutchess | 1<br>5 | 0           | 1      | 2<br>6       | 0      | 1    | 0             | 0              | 2  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Erie                 | 6      | 2           | 7      | 7            | 7      | 4    | 2             | 3              | 3  | 5    | 2    | 0           | 4              | 4  | 0    |
| Essex                | 0      | 0           | 1      | 0            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Franklin             | 0      | 1           | 1      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 0    | 0    | 1           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Fulton               | 0      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Genesee              | 0      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 1    |
| Greene               | 0      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Herkimer             | 0      | 0           | 2      | 0            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Jefferson            | 3      | 1           | 1      | 1            | 1      | 2    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 1    | 1    | 1           | 1              | 0  | 0    |
| Lewis                | 0      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Livingston           | 1      | 1           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 1    | 1             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Madison              | 0      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Monroe               | 8      | 13          | 9      | 6            | 1      | 5    | 6             | 4              | 4  | 1    | 3    | 7           | 5              | 2  | 0    |
| Nassau               | 6      | 8           | 4      | 4            | 3      | 0    | 5             | 4              | 4  | 1    | 6    | 3           | 0              | 0  | 2    |
| Niagara              | 1      | 0           | 1      | 2            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 1              | 2  | 1    | 1    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Oneida               | 2      | 1           | 1      | 6            | 3      | 1    | 0             | 1              | 4  | 3    | 1    | 1           | 0              | 2  | 0    |
| Onondaga             | 3      | 5           | 1      | 3            | 2      | 2    | 2             | 0              | 2  | 1    | 1    | 3           | 1              | 1  | 1    |
| Ontario              | 1      | 0           | 1      | 0            | 0      | 1    | 0             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Orange               | 3      | 5           | 3      | 4            | 2      | 1    | 2             | 2              | 3  | 2    | 2    | 3           | 1              | 1  | 0    |
| Orleans              | 0      | 1           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 0    | 0    | 1           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Oswego               | 2      | 0           | 0      | 2            | 0      | 2    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Otsego               | 0      | 1           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 1           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Putnam<br>Rensselaer | 0      | 0           | 0      | 0            | 0<br>4 | 2    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Rockland             | 1      | 2           | ა<br>1 | 2            | 1      | 1    | 1             | 0              | 1  | 1    | 0    | 1           | 1              | 1  | 0    |
| St. Lawrence         | 1      | 2           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 1    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 2           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Saratoga             | 0      | 2           | 2      | 1            | 1      | 0    | 2             | 1              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 1  | 0    |
| Schenectady          | 2      | 1           | 2      | 3            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 2              | 1  | 1    | 2    | 1           | 0              | 2  | 0    |
| Seneca               | 0      | 1           | 0      | 0            | 1      | 0    | 1             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Steuben              | 2      | 2           | 0      | 0            | 0      | 1    | 2             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 1    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Suffolk              | 8      | 6           | 6      | 7            | 7      | 7    | 4             | 4              | 3  | 2    | 1    | 2           | 2              | 4  | 5    |
| Sullivan             | 1      | 1           | 0      | 1            | 2      | 1    | 1             | 0              | 1  | 1    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 1    |
| Tioga                | 0      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 1  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 0              | 0  | 0    |
| Tompkins             | 1      | 0           | 0      | 1            | 1      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 1    | 1    | 0           | 0              | 1  | 0    |
| Ulster               | 0      | 0           | 1      | 2            | 3      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 2  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 0  | 3    |
| Warren               | 0      | 3           | 4      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 1             | 1              | 1  | 0    | 0    | 2           | 3              | 0  | 0    |
| Washington           | 0      | 2           | 2      | 1            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 1              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 2           | 1              | 1  | 0    |
| Wayne                | 0      | 0           | 1      | 2            | 0      | 0    | 0             | 0              | 0  | 0    | 0    | 0           | 1              | 2  | 0    |
| Westchester          | 2      | 8           | 4      | 3            | 2      | 0    | 3             | 2              | 2  | 1    | 2    | 5           | 2              | 1  | 1    |
| Grand Total          | 146    | 171         | 138    | 145          | 123    | 74   | 89            | 75             | 87 | 65   | 72   | 82          | 63             | 58 | 58   |

The following six counties with no domestic homicides reported for the five-year period from 2010 through 2014 are excluded from the table: Hamilton, Montgomery, Schoharie, Schuyler, Wyoming and Yates.