



# Domestic Violence Watch

A Publication of the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence

Issue 2



Womancare

Domestic violence permeates our daily lives, communities, neighborhoods, and workplaces, which not only devastates families, but also places a financial burden on the state and its citizens. At its most extreme, this tactical violence ends in homicide. According to the Maine Department of Public Safety, on average, Domestic Violence is a factor in almost half of all homicides committed in Maine.



Abused Women's Advocacy Project

The graph below demonstrates the local and statewide Domestic Violence direct service statistics as reported to the Department of Health & Human Services during our fiscal year, October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007. These statistics demonstrate that **16,280 people** received services from the statewide network of Domestic Violence Projects. Also indicated on the graph you will find that **23,408 nights** of emergency shelter was provided to victims and their families.



Caring Unlimited



Battered Women's Project



Family Crisis Services

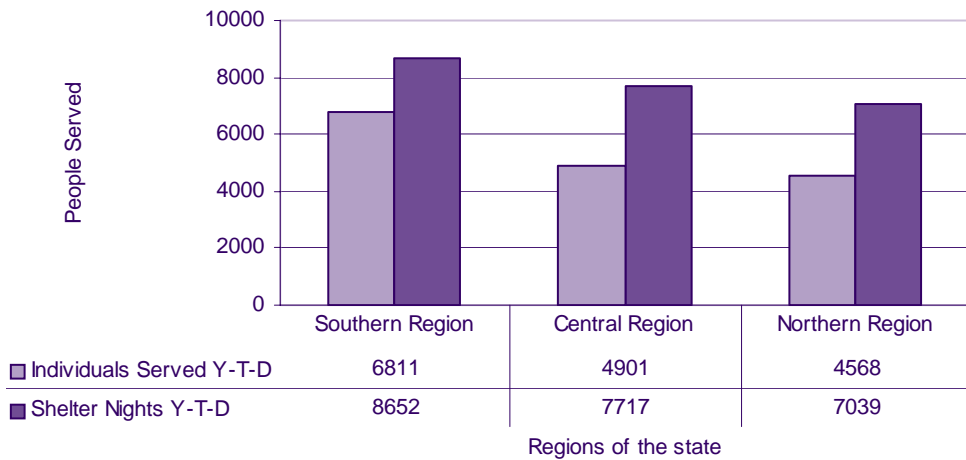


New Hope For Women



## Year to Date Statistics from October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007

Individuals Served October 2006 to September 2007



Please note, the above graph is divided by county into **Southern** (Cumberland, Sagadahoc & York counties), **Central** (Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Somerset, and Waldo counties), and **Northern** (Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington counties) regions.

Maine citizens continue to lose their lives to Domestic Homicide. Over the course of 12 months, while providing supportive services to people affected by domestic violence,

- 13 people lost their lives at the hands of a family member or intimate partner;
- which equates to 1.8 people murdered, on average, every 31 days.

Please see the reverse page for a list, provided by the Maine Department of Public Safety, of domestic homicide victims and perpetrators from which these stats are acquired.

The simple truth is that despite all the agencies, community members, social service providers and individuals who provide assistance to victims of domestic violence and their families, perpetrators continue to terrorize and threaten to murder their loved ones. We need to act to change social norms that support and dismiss domestic violence.

Take action now! Contact the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence at: 207.941.1194 or visit our website: [www.mcedv.org](http://www.mcedv.org) to help make Maine a safer place to live and love.

For free and confidential services, call: 1-866-834-HELP (4357)

## **Maine's Domestic Homicides, October 1, 2006 to September, 30, 2007**

According to the Maine Department of Public Safety, the following people were murdered:

6/20/06 CARATUNK, Somerset County - 47 year old **Amy Bruce** is beaten to death in her home. Her son, 25 year old William Bruce is charged with murder. DOMESTIC

7/4/06 PORTLAND, Cumberland County - 31 year old **Brenda Warren** is shot and killed by her husband, 35 year old Fred Warren, in the street in front of their home. Warren then shoots and kills himself. MURDER-SUICIDE, DOMESTIC

8/11/06 CANAAN, Somerset County - 37 year old **Cheryl Murdoch's** body found in woods near a home she was staying at. A second woman from that same house is also missing – 35 year old **Shirley Moon Atwood**. On 2/27/07, 37 year old Shannon Roy Atwood is arrested and charged with two counts of murder. DOUBLE HOMICIDE – BOTH DOMESTIC (2)

9/10/06 HARTLAND, Somerset County - 44 year old **Linda Spaulding** shot and killed at her home by her ex-husband, 45 year old Timothy Spaulding, who shoots and kills himself. MURDER-SUICIDE, DOMESTIC

11/8/06 LEWISTON, Androscoggin County - 65 year old **Roland Poirier** shot to death at his home. His 34 year old son, Scott Poirier, is charged with murder. DOMESTIC

11/12/06 SEARSPORT, Waldo County - 44 year old **Charles Nickerson** is stabbed to death at his home. His 49 year old brother, Michael Nickerson, is charged with manslaughter. DOMESTIC

11/28/06 PALMYRA, Somerset County - 13 year old **Anthony Tucker** shot to death in the front yard of his home. Todd Curry, 40, the boyfriend of the boy's mother is charged with murder. DOMESTIC

1/12/07 FAIRFIELD, Somerset County - **Rhonda Wakefield Reynolds**, 37, shot inside her home. Her estranged husband – 40 year old Richard Reynolds is charged with murder. DOMESTIC

3/3/07 STANDISH, Cumberland County - **Donald McKay**, 60, stabbed to death inside his home. His 21 year old son, Kristian McKay, is charged with murder. DOMESTIC

3/24/07 AUBURN, Androscoggin County - Eight month old **Emmy-Leigh Cole** dies of a head injury. The live-in boyfriend of the girl's mother, 24 year old Todd Gamache is indicted and arrested for murder on 4/4. DOMESTIC

3/30/07 AUBURN, Androscoggin County - **Margaret Peters**, 70, is shot and killed outside her home by her 42 year old son, James Peters, who is later killed by police. DOMESTIC

7/8/07 WELLS, York County - **Nicole Oliver**, 24, shot and killed by her estranged husband, Thomas Oliver, 30, who kills himself. DOMESTIC – MURDER-SUICIDE

**Twelve (12) individual men murdered Thirteen (13) people in acts of Domestic Violence homicide from October 1, 2006 to September, 30, 2007 FY 07. The Homicide Victims relationships to their murderers are, 2 female intimate partners; 4 wives; 2 mothers; 2 fathers; 1 daughter, 1 son; and 1 brother.**

**“We say we are a civilized society. All right, let's act like one and let's stop the violence in our families and the let's end the battering of women in our country.”**

**–C. Everett Koop, M.D., Former U.S. Surgeon General**