

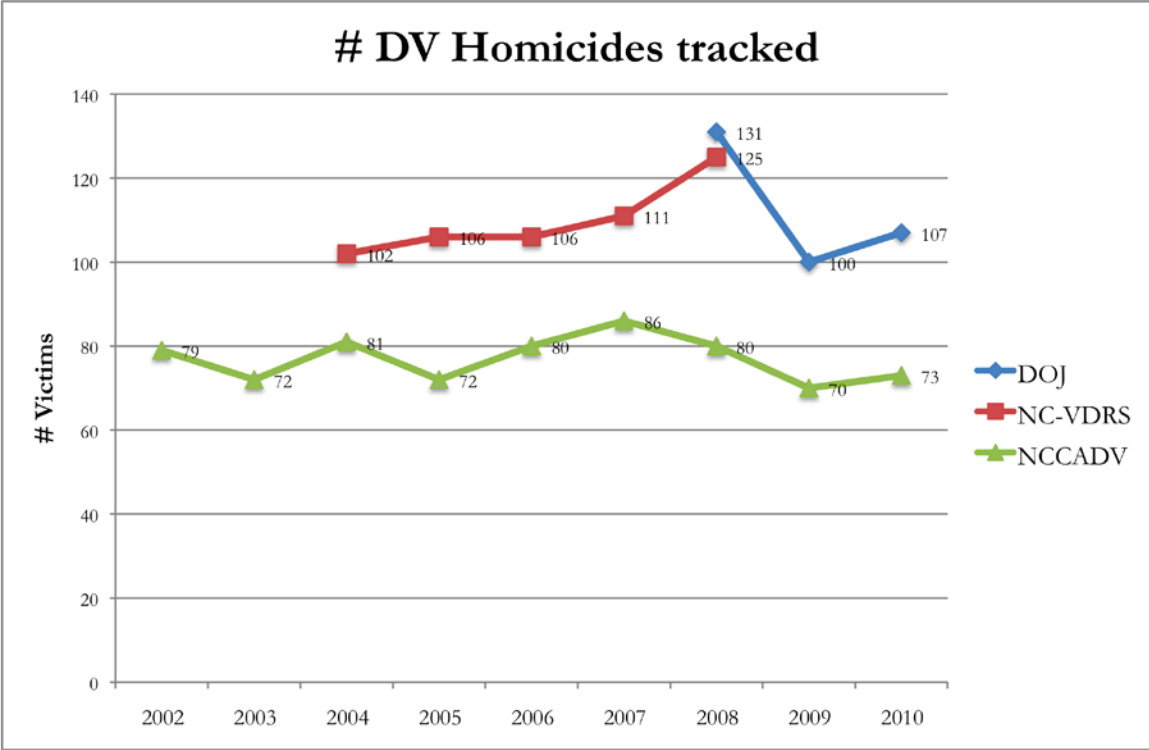
- Example: perpetrator/victim relationship in unsolved cases; there may be less investigation in murder-suicides cases since the perpetrator is identified right away, resulting in limited information.

Given the various definitions these tracking systems used for classifying a domestic violence homicide and the different data collection methods employed, it follows that each of these agencies, NC-DOJ, NCCADV domestic violence, NC-VDRS, report a different total at the end of each year.

- Example: In 2008, the total number of domestic violence homicides reported by each agency was:
 - NCVDRS – 125
 - NCCADV – 81
 - NC DOJ – 131

Why it Matters

The three domestic violence-homicide tracking systems in North Carolina use varying data collection methods and classify domestic violence homicides differently. The graph below illustrates how each tracking system tells a different story. The trajectory of homicides captured by VDRS and NCCADV domestic violence is similar over time; this may be due, in part, to the similar definitions NC-VDRS and NCCADV domestic violence use to classify domestic violence homicides. The difference in the absolute number of homicides captured by NC-VDRS and NCCADV domestic violence may be attributed to the data collection methods employed by each system.



Despite differences in methodology, each agency plays an important role in monitoring trends in domestic violence homicides. The availability of these data will assist researchers, legislators, law enforcement, and domestic violence advocates in understanding the extent to which domestic violence homicides affect the citizens of North Carolina, and in identifying possible strategies to prevent future deaths related to domestic violence from occurring. We thank the NC-DOJ and NC-VDRS for sharing the data that made this report possible.

Concluding Remarks

The vision of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence is to empower all North Carolina communities to build a society that prevents and eliminates domestic violence. To this end, it is our hope that this document serves as an awareness raising tool and educational resource that initiates and/or strengthens collective community action to prevent and end domestic violence in North Carolina.

Again, our hearts go out to the victims, family members and friends across the state. NCCADV will continue to collaborate with allied professionals and local domestic violence service agencies to prevent this tragic loss of life, support survivors of domestic violence and their families, and work to create a future in which all North Carolinians enjoy safe, productive and empowered lives.

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123 W. Main Street
Suite 700
Durham NC, 27701

Western North Carolina Office
PO Box 17398
Asheville, NC 28816

(919) 956-9124 (phone)

(919) 682-1449 (fax)

www.nccadv.org

Researched, Compiled and Written by:

Rachel Larsen

Editors:

Leah Perkinson and Kris Macomber

