

# Murdered Women in Kansas

KCSDV acknowledges the pain that the loss of these women caused their families, friends and communities. Losing a family member to sexual and domestic violence is not something anybody can overcome. We hope by sharing their stories in this report we will move closer to ending the violence.

The following information refers to incidents occurring between August 2004 and August 2006 that appeared in Kansas media reports. The number of incidents found in the media may or may not represent the total number of murders and attempted murders of women related to domestic and sexual violence during the 24-month-period.

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## **Allen County, April 26, 2006**

### ***Briawna, 19***

Briawna was found dead by firefighters on a burning mattress in her smoke-filled apartment. Her boyfriend is in jail on charges that include first degree murder, rape and arson. Her friend who was at the apartment during the attack was forced into a closet but later escaped and contacted the police. The murder happened the day after Briawna's boyfriend brought their son back to her after leaving the state, two weeks after he was supposed to have returned him. The night of her death, Briawna had her son sleep at her mother's house because she worried her boyfriend would come and take her son away again. Briawna was planning to enter college in the fall.

## **Cherokee County June 23, 2006**

### ***Brenda, 46***

Brenda was killed after being shot eight times in the chest and arms by a man claiming to be her common-law husband. A second person shot during the attack survived. The man is in jail on charges of first degree murder and attempted first degree murder.

## **Clay County, January 16, 2006**

### ***Bobbi, 49***

Bobbi was shot and killed by her husband less than two weeks after getting a protection order against him. Her husband had moved out of their home earlier in the year, but had returned with a rifle to find Bobbi with four other people, including one of the couple's two grown sons, and a child. They all fled after her husband fired the rifle into the ceiling. <sup>3</sup>She was attempting to get away, went to a neighbor's home, and he confronted her in the yard,<sup>2</sup> the sheriff said. After shooting her, he killed himself. Both were found in the neighbor's yard.

## **Douglas County, August 1, 2006**

### ***Linda, 37***

Linda was able to call 911 as she was being beaten with a wooden object and dragged to a car by her boyfriend. She was hospitalized and died three days later. Her boyfriend is charged with second degree murder. At the time of the attack, he was under a judge's order to have no contact with Linda, the result of a domestic battery charge against him just six weeks prior to her death. He had also been charged with battering Linda twice in the past.

## **Ellis County, November 29, 2005**

### ***Angela, 21***

Angela was able to identify her killer as she was being attacked. She dialed 911 on her cell phone and the dispatcher heard her screaming and pleading with her boyfriend to stop. Soon after that, others calls came in, including one from a student who had passed by the crime scene as Angela was being killed. Moments later, she was dead. The coroner estimated that three handfuls of dirt and debris were forced down her throat. Just two weeks before her death, Angela had moved back to her hometown to get away from her boyfriend. Angela was scared of him because he threatened to kill her or harm her family if she broke up with him. <sup>3</sup>He never hit her, but would get violently angry and drive crazy with her in the car,<sup>2</sup> her mom testified. He pleaded no contest to second degree murder and had not been sentenced at press time.

## **October 8, 2004**

### ***Lindsay, 25***

Lindsay was suffocated to death in the home she shared with her boyfriend. The murder happened just two

weeks after her boyfriend was arrested for battering her. Lindsay's boyfriend will stand trial on a first degree murder charge in October 2006.

**Finney County, July 15, 2006**

***Irma, 52***

Irma was shot dead at a local club. Her ex-boyfriend has been charged. After getting into an argument at the club, her ex-boyfriend left, only to return soon after with a gun. He shot and killed her and shot at her friend and missed. He then fled the scene, but was caught later that evening. He is in jail on charges of first degree murder and attempted first degree murder.

**Johnson County, August 30, 2004**

***Robin, 49***

Robin's body was found in her backyard, a victim of multiple stab wounds inflicted by her boyfriend. He had been released from prison on a battery charge just two months prior to the murder; he was on probation at the time he killed her. Court records indicate he had three convictions of domestic battery against her since 200January Three weeks before the murder, prosecutors sought to revoke his probation, one reason being his failure to complete a court-mandated batterer's intervention program. Authorities said that this was the first murder in the town in at least 25 years. Her boyfriend pleaded guilty and received a life sentence. He will not be eligible for parole for 25 years.

**September 15, 2005**

***Maria, 30***

Maria had been dead for several days when a friend found her body in her apartment. She had died of multiple stab wounds. Police have charged the man she had dated with first degree murder. Maria's van was later found in Texas, near the Mexican border. Authorities believe the man to be in Mexico or Central or South America.

**March 19, 2006**

***Harchand, 69***

Harchand was strangled to death by her husband in their home. The district attorney said that the killing appeared to be a domestic violence murder and confirmed that police had been to the home in the past. A judge ordered more testing of the husband's mental competency at Larned State Hospital after results from a local agency proved inconclusive. The results of the hospital's evaluation were unknown at press time.

**July 21, 2006**

***Alieghya, 21***

Authorities found Alieghya's body in the woods two months after she was reported missing. Authorities believe she was strangled to death while or shortly after she was raped. Under Kansas law, homicide committed in concert with rape qualifies as a capital offense. A man who attended the same church as Alieghya and who lived just around the corner from her is in jail on charges of capital murder and rape.

**Leavenworth County, March 10, 2006**

***Dalena, 45***

Dalena's body was found at the apartment she shared with her boyfriend. She had been stabbed. Her boyfriend was charged with voluntary manslaughter. His trial was just beginning at press time.

**Montgomery County, June 19, 2005**

***Deborah, 41***

Ten days after filing for divorce, Deborah's estranged husband shot her at point-blank range with a shotgun, in front of their 18-year-old son and her sister. Deborah was on the phone with 911 at the time. Having previously moved out of the house, she had returned home with her son and sister to pick up her belongings. Her husband confessed to the killing at the scene. Originally charged with murder in the first degree, he pleaded to second degree murder.

**Osage County, June 16, 2005 *Eileen, 35***

Eileen was shot dead in their home by her husband, who then apparently shot himself. He survived and was sent to a hospital with life-threatening injuries. Their five children were home at the time of the shooting, but were not physically hurt. No further information on his condition was available at press time.

**Reno County, June 19, 2005 *Kristyn, 30***

Kristyn was shot in the chest by her boyfriend in their home. Even though Kristyn lay critically injured, her boyfriend drank a beer and then left the house to dispose of the gun. She was found in front of the house by a passer-by several hours later. Doctors performed at least nine surgeries during her hospital stay, to no avail. She died three and a half weeks later. Her boyfriend was arrested and charged with first degree murder. He died three months later in jail while awaiting trial.

**Sedgwick County, November 18, 2004 *Donna, 72***

Donna was killed by her husband in their home. He then committed suicide. Police responded to reports of a fire at their home. They discovered both bodies. Authorities would only say it was a murder-suicide.

**August 3, 2005 *Lazetta, 21***

Nine days after being released from jail on charges of battering Lazetta, her boyfriend killed her with a shot to the neck using her own gun. The barrel of the gun was pressed to her skin just under her jaw. When he was released from jail just nine days before the murder, he was ordered to have no contact with Lazetta. He called her the first day he was free. Lazetta had reported that he battered her at least three times in the past. Found guilty of second degree murder, he was sentenced to 54 years in prison.

**June 9, 2006 *Chelsea, 14***

Authorities found the body of Chelsea, who was nine months pregnant, partially buried in a wheat field six days after she was reported missing. Three men have been charged in her death, in what prosecutors called a murder-for-hire scheme. One of the men was also charged with two counts of rape for having sex with Chelsea before she turned 14-years-old, and with violating a protection order, one that Chelsea's mother got against him five months prior to Chelsea's death. Police had been investigating Chelsea's pregnancy and were waiting for the baby's birth so they could conduct a paternity test. Prosecutors contend that the baby's father agreed to pay \$500 to have Chelsea murdered to prevent her from giving birth. One of the three men charged has pleaded guilty to capital murder. The other two men are in jail awaiting trial.

**Shawnee County, September 15, 04 *Melissa, 31***

Ten months after her divorce was granted, Melissa was shot dead by her ex-husband. On the morning he was to be in court to face three felony charges, Melissa's ex-husband shot and killed her and then kidnapped their five-year-old daughter, taking her on a journey across the upper-Midwest. Authorities issued an Amber Alert. Tips from motorists helped the police locate the child 12 hours later near Laramie, Wyoming, about 700 miles away. There the journey ended when Melissa's ex-husband released their daughter and then committed suicide.

**Sherman County, December 5, 2004 *Donna, 68***

Donna was killed by her husband in their home. He then committed suicide. At press time, no other details had been released.

**Wyandotte County, April 10, 2005 *Beverly, 78***

Beverly was strangled to death by her husband after nearly 53 years of marriage. Her husband was charged with premeditated first degree murder but later was declared incompetent to stand trial. No further information on his whereabouts was available at press time.

**May 22, 2006 *Lisa, 43***

As she walked to her office building one Monday morning, Lisa was chased down, thrown to the ground and shot dead by her ex-boyfriend, who had been waiting for her to arrive. She had been scared of her ex-boyfriend for a very long time. Lisa had moved with her young daughter to a different county to get away from him. But he found her. She then moved again, but he found her and moved in right down the street. The weekend before the murder, Lisa's ex-boyfriend picked a fight with Lisa in a local store. He followed her out to the parking lot, blocked her car with his truck, and then rushed over to hers and punched her car window, all the while making threats to her life. He said that she was done. After he shot her that Monday, he fled. A short time later he killed himself after a brief standoff with police.

## **Beyond Statistics: Attempted Murders**

The following information refers to incidents occurring between August 2004 and August 2006 that appeared in Kansas media reports. It is a list of instances in which accused perpetrators were charged with or jailed on suspicion of attempted murder.

**Bourbon, May 27, 2006**

A man is charged after beating Carolyn, his ex-wife.

**Cherokee, June 23, 2006**

A man is charged after shooting a man and Brenda, a woman he claims to be his common-law wife. Brenda dies and the man survives. The shooter is charged with both attempted first degree and first degree murder.

**Cowley County, August 5, 2005**

A man is jailed on suspicion of attempted first degree murder after shooting at Melinda, his wife, as she stood barricaded behind her front door. He was attempting to break into her home. She was shot but survived with non-life-threatening injuries. The couple was separated at the time of the incident.

**April 17, 2005**

A man is charged after putting a plastic bag over his girlfriend's head and threatening to kill her during an argument.

**Douglas County, August 2, 2005**

A man pleads no contest to attempted murder after stabbing his ex-girlfriend nearly 30 times with a pocket knife. The incident happened just two weeks after he battered her. He tried to kill her to prevent her from testifying against him in that case.

**Finney County, July 15, 2006**

A man is charged after shooting and killing his ex-girlfriend, Irma, and shooting at her friend, Sanjuana, outside a local club. Sanjuana survives without physical injury. He is charged with both attempted first degree and first degree murder.

**July 8, 2006**

A man is charged after stabbing his ex-girlfriend, Kindra, 13 times during an argument at her home. She was stabbed in front of her three children and sister. Attacked first inside her home, Kindra broke away and was running across the street to find help when he attacked her again. She later underwent surgery and was released from the hospital. The man is currently being evaluated to determine if he is competent to stand trial.

**Ford County, July 22, 2006**

A man is charged after trying to kill Joyce, his companion, at the home they shared.

**Franklin County, September 24, 2005**

A man was arrested on charges of attempted second degree murder after physically attacking a woman during what police described as a domestic violence case. Her two children received minor injuries in the incident.

**Harvey County, April 9, 2005**

A man is charged with capital murder and four counts of attempted murder for shooting at officers during a domestic violence standoff at his home. He had been holding his girlfriend, Alveda, hostage. Police were called by the Alveda's daughter who told them her mom was being beaten and the attacker had a gun. Hours later police forced entry into the home after hearing Alveda being beaten. Two members of the police response team were shot; one deputy died. After the shooting, the man stayed barricaded in his home but surrendered five hours later. He was convicted on all counts and sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

**Johnson County, November 15, 2005**

A man is charged with attempted murder after attacking Judith, his ex-girlfriend's mother. He strangled her until she lost consciousness. The attacker and his ex-girlfriend had broken up the month before.

**May 2005**

A man is charged with two counts of attempted murder after beating his wife and daughter with a sledgehammer as they slept in their home.

**Leavenworth County, March 1, 2005**

A man breaks into his ex-girlfriend's home and shoots her once. She survives but is in critical condition at the hospital. After shooting her, he kills himself. The week before the shooting she received a protection from abuse

order against him. Her condition was unknown at press time.

**Linn County, August 26, 2006**

A man shoots Carol, his wife, four times in the chest and abdomen. She survives but is in critical condition at the hospital. After shooting her, he kills himself. Carol's condition was unknown at press time.

**Montgomery County, April 22, 2006**

A man was charged with three counts of attempted murder after shooting Tammy, his girlfriend, four times and her mother, Debbie, twice. The third count of attempted murder resulted because Tammy was holding their six-week-old son at the time she was shot. Tammy and Debbie were hospitalized but survived. The man goes on trial in late October 2006.

**October 4, 2005**

A man is charged with attempted second degree murder after repeatedly using his car to ram his wife Vicky's car while she was in it. The incident happened in traffic. The man also crashed into another car, but no one was physically hurt. The man was subdued by a pedestrian. The couple had separated three days before the incident. Vicky was on her way to the police department to report her husband for not returning their daughter from a visit with him

**Neosho County, April 3, 2006**

A man is jailed on suspicion of three counts of attempted murder after dousing his wife, Kim, and their son and daughter with gasoline and trying to set them on fire.

**Stafford County, January 10, 2005**

A man is found dead inside his home, found by police after they were alerted after his wife, Suzanne, was brought wounded into town. She survives but is in critical condition at the hospital. The local SWAT team and sheriff's deputies had responded to domestic violence calls at the couple's home on multiple occasions. Four years before the man had been holed up in his house surrounded by his firearms and wouldn't come out. Authorities seized his firearms and he was charged with assault against his wife. Four months later the court ordered his firearms be returned to him.

## **By the Numbers: Violence Against Women in Kansas**

The following information refers to incidents occurring between August 2004 and August 2006 that appeared in Kansas media reports.

**Women murdered by current or former intimate partners - 21**

**Women raped and murdered - 2**

**Women declared missing whose whereabouts are still unknown - 5**

**Women victims in attempted murder cases - 18**

**Women held hostage during domestic violence standoffs - at least 3**