

# The Epidemic of Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community: 2023 Report Toplines

*Last updated 11/17/23*

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation has been monitoring fatal violence against the transgender and gender non-conforming community since 2013, releasing annual reports each year.

**Since 2013 we have identified at least 335 transgender and gender non-conforming individuals lost to fatal violence, including 33 lost in the last year.** We say “at least” since, far too often cases go unreported, or misreported, leaving our estimates to likely be an undercount of the full scope of the epidemic of violence faced by the transgender community.

On Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20, 2023), we released our latest annual report, “The Epidemic of Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in the United States: The 2023 Report,” detailing findings from the last 11 years, as well as telling the stories of the 33 people we have lost in the last 12 months.

Below we summarize the key findings from this report.

To read more about the people we've lost—and the lives they lived—as well as how we collected and analyzed this data, please read the full report at: [hrc.im/fataltransviolence2023](https://hrc.im/fataltransviolence2023)

To read more about each of the people included in our reporting, and the lives they lived, see our memorials for them here: [“Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2023”](#) and [“Fatal Violence Against the Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Community in 2022.”](#)

## **OVERALL COUNTS**

- Since 2013, HRC has identified **a total of 335** transgender and gender non-conforming individuals lost to fatal violence.
- **In the 12-month period** from right after Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) 2022 (November 21, 2022), through TDOR 2023 (November 20, 2023) **a total of 33** transgender and gender non-conforming people have been killed
  - This includes **26 people** to-date in calendar year 2023 (since 1/1/23)
  - And **7 people** identified in calendar year 2022 after TDOR 2022 (e.g. between 11/21/22 and 12/31/22)

## TRENDS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

The vast majority of victims were Black, Indigenous, or people of color (BIPOC), and, in particular, were Black.

- **SINCE 2013**
  - **85%** of victims were people of color (n=286)
  - **Two-thirds (69%)** of victims were Black (n=232)
  - **15%** of victims were Hispanic/Latine (n=50)
  - **13%** were White (n=42)
- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**
  - **9 in 10 (90.9%)** victims were people of color (n=30)
  - **7 in 10 (68.7%)** victims were Black (n=23)
  - **2 in 10 (21.2%)** victims were Hispanic/Latine (n=7)
  - **1 in 10 (9.1%)** victims were White (n=3).

## SPOTLIGHT ON BLACK TRANSGENDER WOMEN

Year-over-year, Black transgender women are disproportionately impacted by fatal violence.

- **SINCE 2013**
  - **Three-quarters (74.9%)** of all victims were transgender women of color (n=251)
  - **More than six in ten (61.8%)** were Black trans women (n=207)
- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**
  - **Two-thirds (66.7%)** of all victims were transgender women of color (n=22)
  - **More than half (51.5%)** were Black transgender women (n=17)

## TRENDS BY GENDER IDENTITY

The vast majority of victims were transgender women.

- **SINCE 2013**
  - **4 in 5 (83.3%)** victims were transgender women (n=279)
  - **Less than 1 in 10** of victims were either transgender men (8.7%; n=29) or non-binary/gender non-conforming (8.1%; n=27)
- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**
  - **7 in 10 (69.7%)** of all victims were transgender women (n=23)
  - **2 in 10 (18.2%)** of all victims were transgender men (n=6)
  - **>1 in 10 (12.1%)** of all victims were non-binary/gender non-conforming (n=4)

## TRENDS BY AGE

Many victims have been young at the time of their death, though ages range from 16 to 66.

- **SINCE 2013**

- Victims have been an **average age of 30** at the time of their death
- **3 in 4 (76.4%)** were under the age of 35 (n=249)
- **1 in 10 (9.5%)** were under the age of 21 (n=31)
- **11** were minors under the age of 18

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- Victims have been an **average age of 28.1** at the time of their death
- **3 in 4 (78.8%)** were under the age of 35 (n=26)
- **3** victims were 18 or younger

## TRENDS BY LOCATION

Fatal violence is found in blue states and red states, in cities and rural areas.

- **SINCE 2013**

- Cases have been recorded in **177 cities and towns, across 38 states**, territories, and DC
- **Two-thirds (63.6%)** of victims were killed in just 10 states:
  - Texas, Florida, California, Louisiana, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, Maryland, and North Carolina.
- **Texas (n=34) and Florida (n=31)** are home to the most number of deaths per state, each accounting for ~ 1 in 10 of all victims identified to date
- Four cities are home to at least 10 victims each
  - Chicago (n=15) -- including 3 in the last 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - present)
  - Houston (n=11)
  - Miami (n=10)
  - Philadelphia (n=10) --including 2 in the last 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - present)

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- Cases have been recorded in **26 cities and towns, across 16 states**, territories, and DC
- Georgia and Illinois were each home to 4 fatalities
  - In Georgia, three of the four fatalities were in Atlanta, and the 4th was in Macon
  - In Illinois, all 4 deaths occurred in Chicago or the surrounding suburbs

## TRENDS BY CASE OUTCOME

For many transgender and gender non-conforming victims of fatal violence, their cases remain unsolved, or not prosecuted.

- **SINCE 2013**

- **In 4 out of 10 cases (40.3%; n=135)**, no arrest has been made. This includes both cases where
  - The killer remains unknown (**37.9%; n=127**)
  - A named suspect remains at large (**2.4%; n=8**)
- In **more than half (56%)** of cases, an arrest has been made (n=187)
  - In **less than half (45.7%)** of cases with an arrest, the killer has been convicted and is serving jail time (n=84)

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- An arrest has occurred in **just over half (51.5%)** of all cases (n=17)

## TRENDS BY RELATIONSHIP TO KILLER

While the relationship between the victim and their killer is unknown in many cases, among those with a known killer, many are killed by someone they know—and by someone they have a close relationship with, in particular. Unfortunately, random acts of violence are common as well.

- **SINCE 2013**

- The killer is unknown in **one-third of all cases (36.1%; n=121)**
- Among cases with a known killer
  - **1 in 3 (29.4%)** were killed in an act of random violence by someone they did not know
  - **1 in 5 (22.4%)** were killed by an intimate partner
  - **1 in 10 (12.2%)** were killed by a friend or family member

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- **Almost half (45.5%)** of the 22 victims with a known killer were killed by
  - An intimate partner n intimate partner (**31.8%; n=7**)
  - A friend or family member (**13.6%; n=3**)



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## INVOLVEMENT OF THE POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Police/law enforcement involved deaths, along with deaths while incarcerated/in police custody, are emerging as a key area of focus.

- **SINCE 2013**

- **16** transgender and gender non-conforming people have died either at the hands of, or while in custody of, law enforcement.
  - **11** people were killed by the police—including 1 in the last 12 months
  - **5** people died while in police custody, either in jail or ICE detention facilities
- **None of the officers involved** in the 11 police-involved shootings have faced charges for their involvement
  - In 9 incidents, the officers have been fully cleared, and/or the shooting was deemed justified
  - In 2 incidents, the officers were placed on administrative leave /reduced duties, but full results of investigations have not been released
- **55% (n=6)** of the victims of police-involved shootings are transgender men.
  - 45.5% (n=5) were BIPOC
  - 81.8% (n=9) were under the age of 35

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- **2 additional people** have been killed by armed security guards—with both of these deaths occurring in California

## GUN-RELATED FATAL VIOLENCE

Guns have been used in the vast majority of fatal killings of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

- **SINCE 2013**

- **233** transgender and gender non-conforming victims of fatal violence were killed with a gun – translating to **approximately 7 in 10 (69.6%) of all fatalities** recorded to date
- Guns were used in
  - **100%** of police involved killings
  - **81%** of killings by a friend or family
  - **58%** of killings by an intimate partner
- **Three-quarters (76.3%)** of Black trans women killed since 2013 were killed by a gun (n=158)
- **Two-thirds (68.7%)** of transgender and gender non-conforming people killed under the age of 35, were killed with a gun (n=171)

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23))**

- **7 in 10 (69.7%)** of all fatalities involved a firearm/gun violence (n=23)

## MISGENDERING AND DEADNAMING

Far too many transgender and gender non-conforming victims are misgendered after death, leading to reporting delays and difficulty in identifying victims and cases.

- **SINCE 2013**

- **Two-thirds (66.9%)** of all victims identified to date were initially misgendered by the media and/or police or criminal justice system (n=224)
- **For 38.4%** of victims who were deadnamed/misgendered, their killer remains unknown.
- In comparison, for **31.5%** of victims who were correctly named and gendered by authorities, the killer remains unknown

- **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS (11/21/22 - 11/20/23)**

- **More than half (51.5%)** of all victims were initially misgendered by the media and/or the police (n=17)