RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #01

RW-RB-001

Published August 20, 2026

From Separation to Homicide: Escalation Patterns Across 1,000 Relationship-Connected Cases

Escalation patterns in relationship-connected cases. This publication examines patterns documented in a fixed RelationWatch research snapshot; it does not estimate population prevalence.

Based on exactly 1,000 verified RelationWatch cases

Fixed research snapshot

OSINT-derived case intelligence

Snapshot created August 19, 2026

1,000

Verified cases screened

Fixed Brief 01 snapshot

922

Known relationship status

of 1,000 screened cases

169

Separation-connected cases identified

of 922 with known relationship status

103

Documented threats

60.9% of 169 separation-connected cases

118

Recorded homicide outcome

69.8% of 169 separation-connected cases

Where are the other cases?

Brief 01 examines the **169 of 1,000** cases with a recorded separation, divorce, or former-partner condition. The remaining **830** cases are not assumed to be non-separation cases: **753** have another recorded relationship condition, and **77** do not have a usable relationship-status classification. Brief 02 examines that complementary group and its recorded outcomes.

Read Brief #02: relationship conditions beyond separation

What this brief investigates

Brief 01 examines the portion of the fixed 1,000-case snapshot in which separation, divorce, or a former-partner condition was recorded. The analytical denominator for this Brief's separation findings is therefore 169 cases, not all 1,000 screened cases. It describes documented warning behaviors, relationship contexts, and incident outcomes.

Key finding

Among the 169 separation-connected cases identified in the fixed 1,000-case snapshot, threats were recorded in 103 (60.9%) and stalking or repeated harassment in 33 (19.5%). Homicide was the recorded outcome in 118 (69.8%) of these separation-connected cases. These are documented associations within the snapshot, not causal findings.

Recorded pathway snapshots

These are the strongest documented intersections within Brief 01's separation/former-partner subset.

> **38 cases — Separating / separated → Threats → Homicide**

> **36 cases — Former partners → Threats → Homicide**

> **23 cases — Separating / separated → Firearm Access / Concerning Weapon Behavior → Homicide**

> **22 cases — Former partners → Firearm Access / Concerning Weapon Behavior → Homicide**

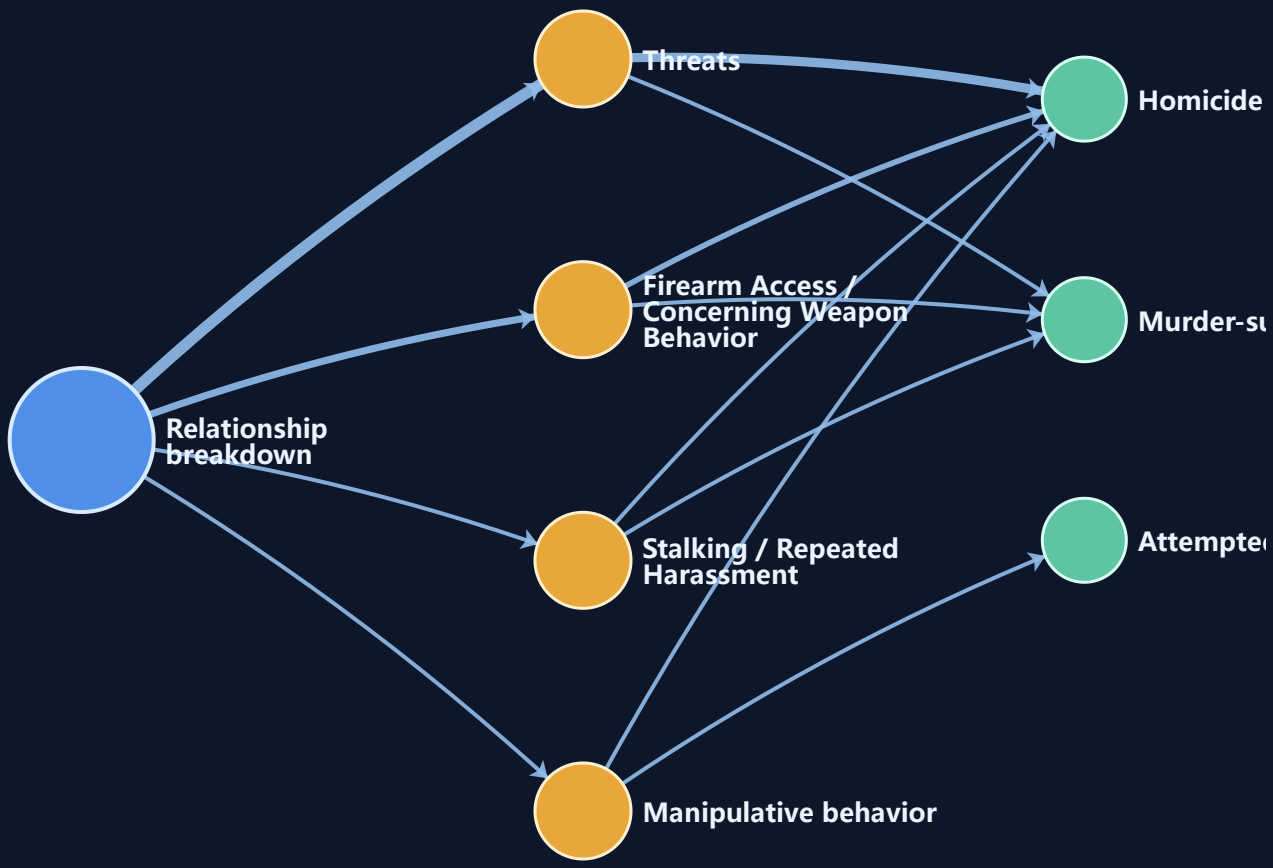
> **16 cases — Separating / separated → Stalking / Repeated Harassment → Homicide**

`14 cases — Separating / separated → Manipulative behavior → Homicide`

Each row is a documented intersection of relationship condition, warning indicator, and outcome. It does not establish a complete timeline or causal sequence.

Separation → escalation → outcome

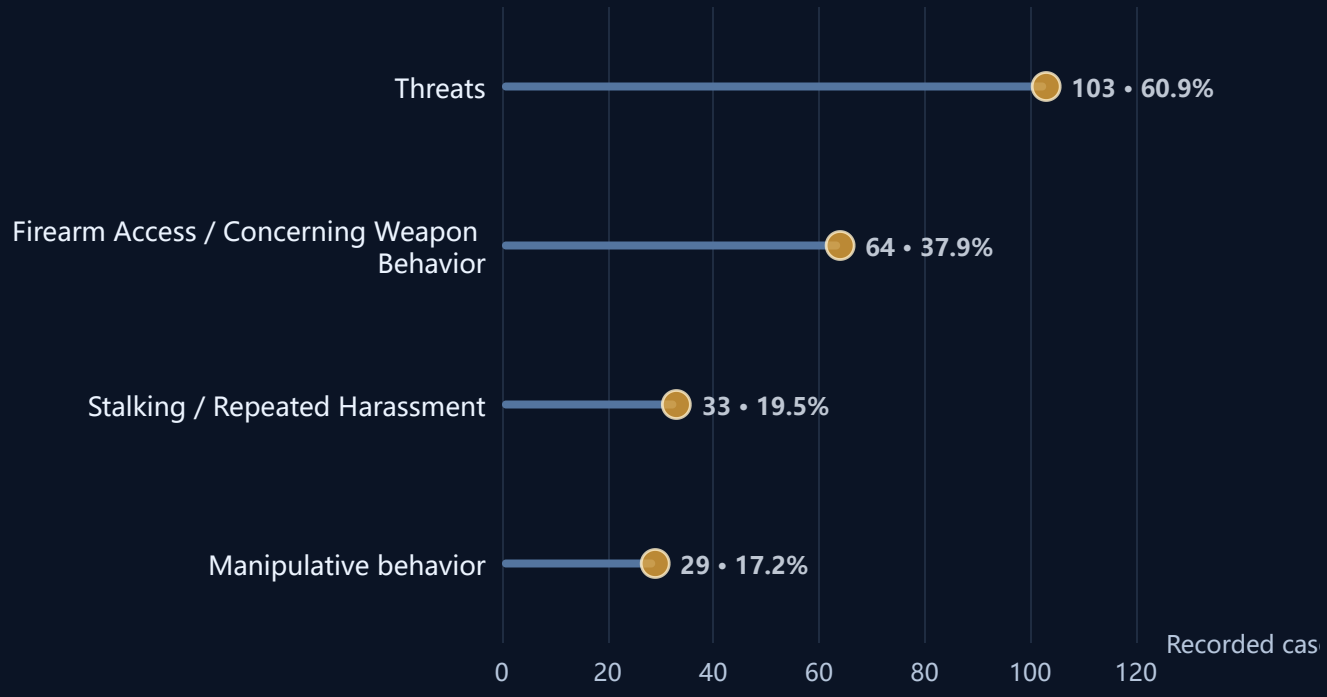
The flow begins with a recorded separation-related relationship condition, then shows only behavior-level warning indicators and serious recorded outcomes.



Applicable denominator: 169 separation-connected cases. Links represent documented co-occurrences, not causal proof.

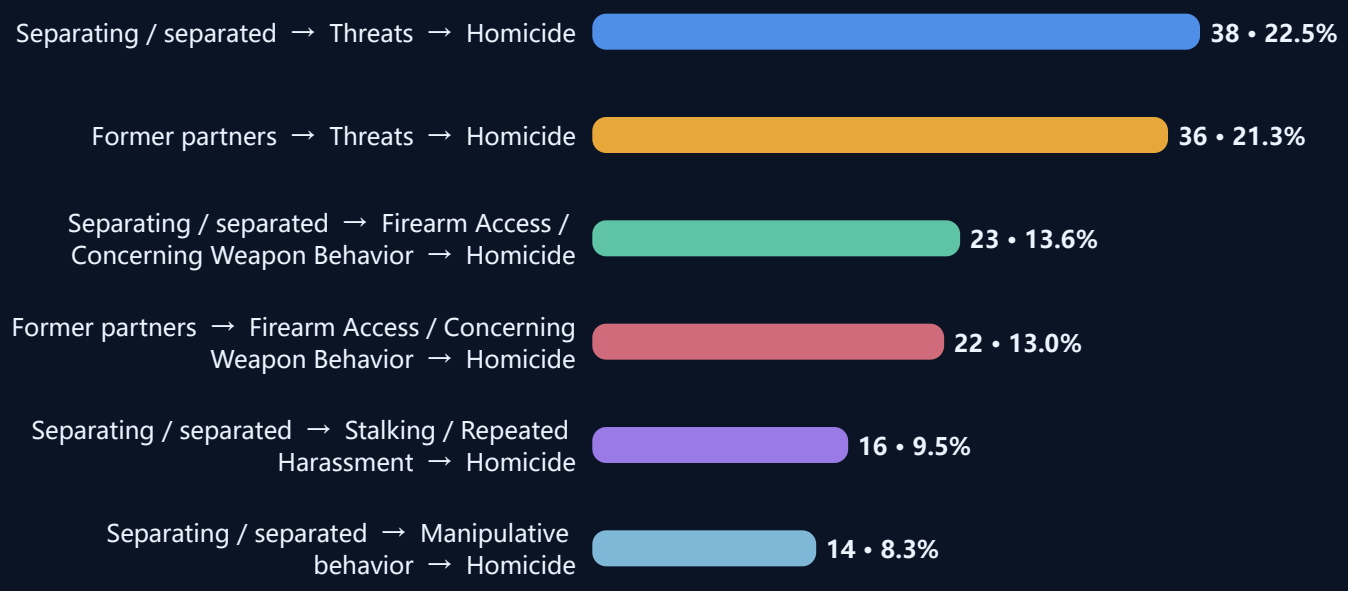
Post-separation warning indicators

Ranked documented behaviors among the 169 separation-connected cases.



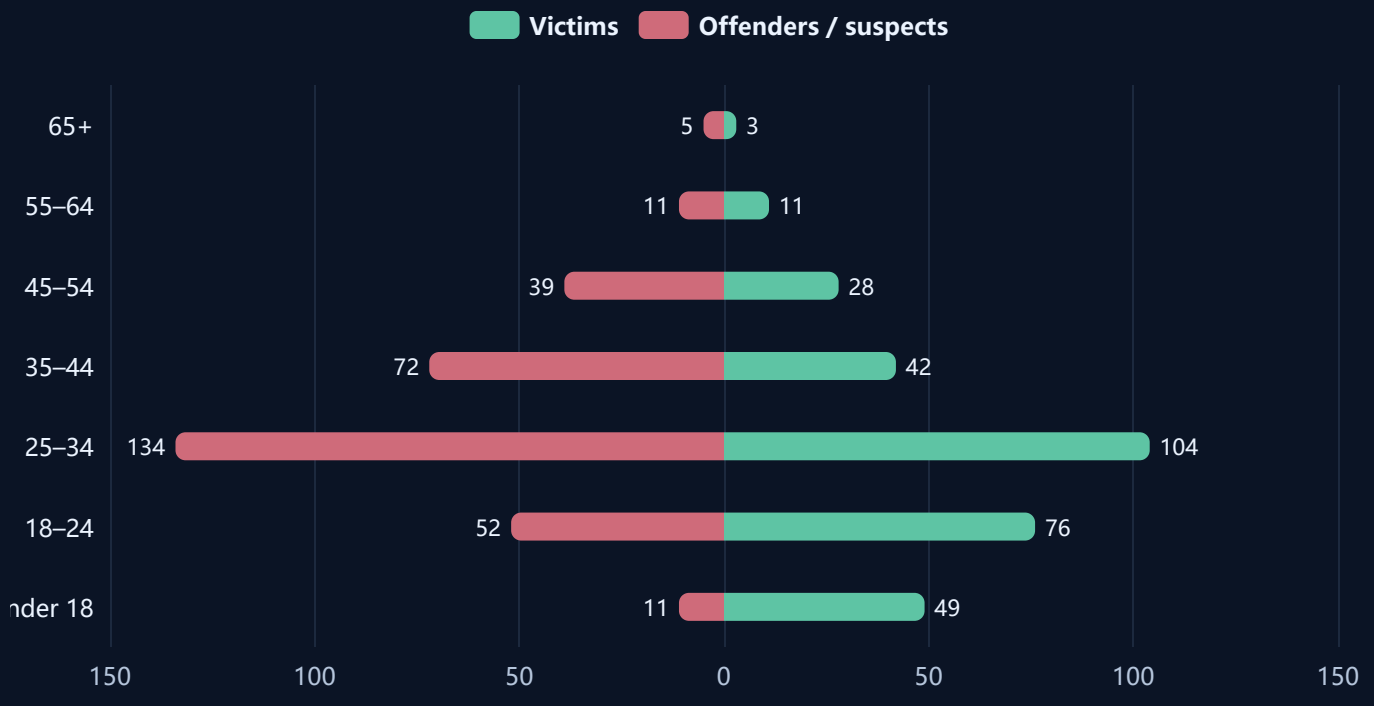
Most common escalation sequences

Observed structured co-occurrences, not inferred complete event order.



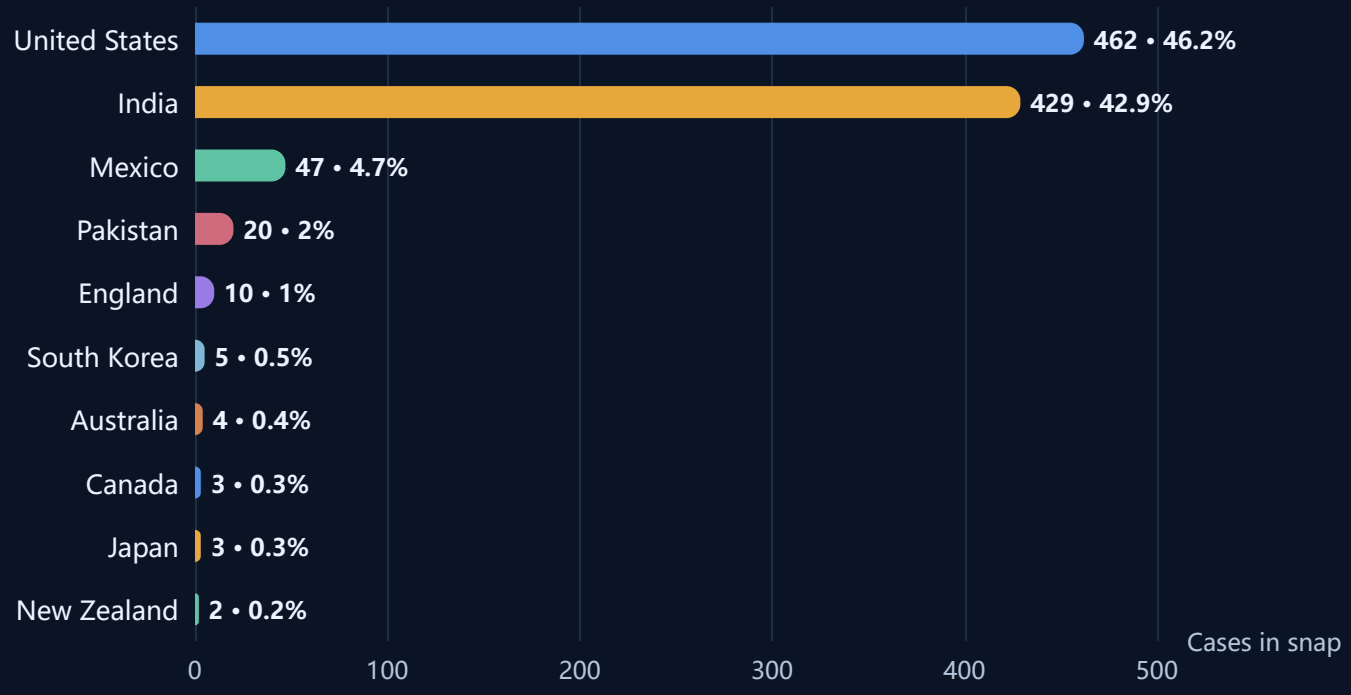
Age at incident: victims and offenders / suspects

Distribution of recorded ages in the fixed snapshot. Victims: 313 people; offenders / suspects: 324 people.



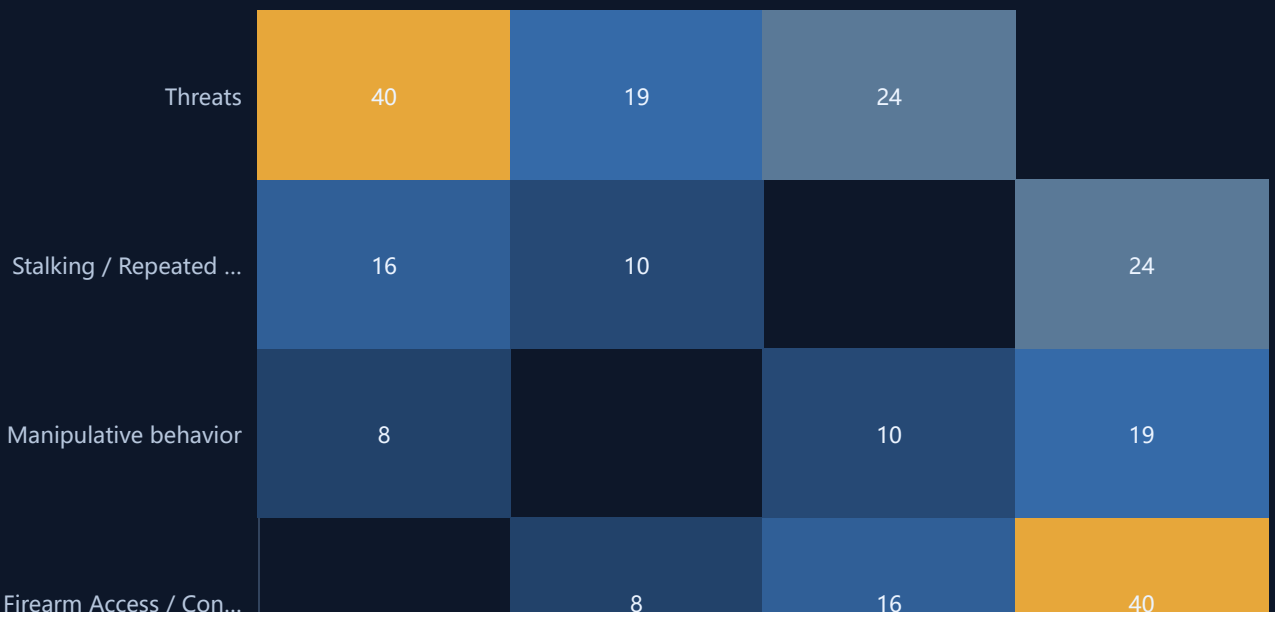
Dataset composition: countries represented

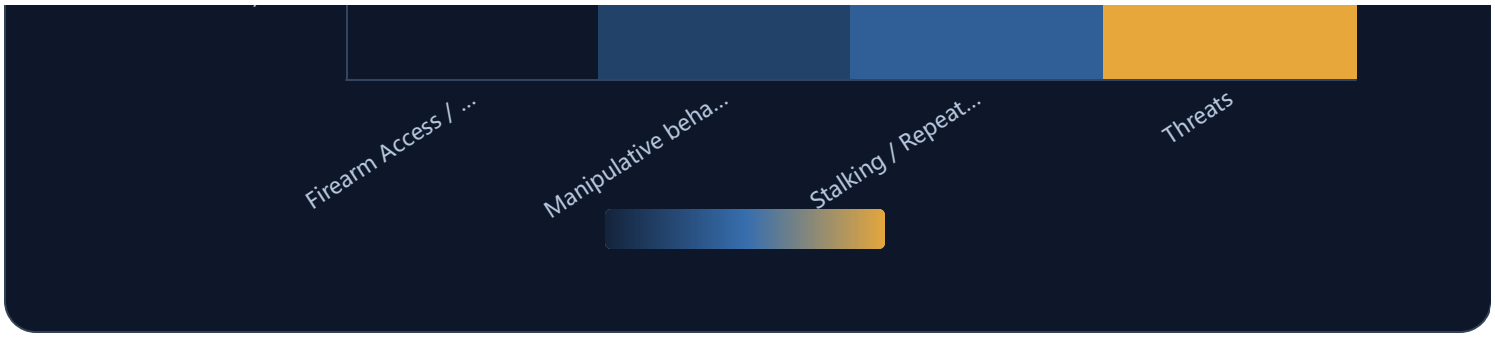
Cases and shares of the fixed 1,000-case snapshot; this does not measure national prevalence.



Connected behavioral context

Heatmap cells show how frequently pairs of recorded warning indicators appear together within the snapshot. This is co-occurrence, not correlation or causal proof.





Illustrative cases from the 1,000-case snapshot

The six cards below are examples selected from the fixed 1,000-case research snapshot. They illustrate the documented patterns; they are not the full dataset on which this Brief's findings are based. Each pathway uses only the recorded relationship condition, warning indicators, and incident outcome.

RW-142

Homicide of Fátima Ozoara Cid Vázquez in the State of Mexico

Mexico · 2026

Relationship: Separated

Separated → Escalation Pattern / Violence, Divorce Pending / Recent Separation → Homicide

View Case

RW-54

A Shoot down of Khushi (20) and Nidhi (18] by Johnny Valmik Ghaziabad Shooting Incident Uttar Pradesh, India.

India · 2026

Relationship: Ex-partners

Ex-partners → Escalation Pattern / Violence, Manipulative behavior, Threats → Attempted homicide

View Case

RW-127

Mohali Dimple Case by her former partner Harvinder Singh Man at her workplace in Punjab, India,

India · 2026

Relationship: Separated

Separated → Escalation Pattern / Violence, Threats, Stalking / Repeated Harassment → Homicide

View Case

RW-848

Melissa Wallace-Pulliam Allegedly Murdered by Shawn Dewayne Williams, Washington, District of Columbia, United States

United States · 2026

Relationship: Ex-partners

Ex-partners → Escalation Pattern / Violence, Suspects identified, Threats → Murder-suicide

View Case

RW-847

Alyssa Nicole Hill Allegedly Murdered by Rick Wright, Norwood, Ohio, United States

United States · 2026

Relationship: Ex-partners

Ex-partners → Escalation Pattern / Violence, Suspects identified, Threats → Homicide

View Case

RW-846

Melanie Lauren Hyer, Savannah Whiten, and others Allegedly Murdered by Ryan Charles Whiten, Doral, Florida, United States

United States · 2026

Relationship: Ex-partners

Ex-partners → Divorce Pending / Recent Separation, Mental Health Deterioration / Hopelessness → Murder-suicide

View Case

How this Brief fits within the fixed snapshot

Brief 01 is deliberately focused on the cases in which a separation, divorce, or former-partner condition was recorded. This accounting keeps its findings separate from the remaining cases rather than treating missing information as a relationship condition.

Fixed-snapshot group	Cases	Share of 1,000
Separation / former-partner condition — covered in Brief 01	169	16.9%
Another recorded relationship condition — covered in Brief 02	753	75.4%
No usable relationship-status classification	77	7.7%

- Brief 01's warning-indicator and outcome findings use the **169**-case separation/former-partner denominator, not all 1,000 cases.
- The **753** cases with another recorded condition are examined separately in Brief 02.
- The **77** unclassified cases are retained in the fixed snapshot but are not assumed to be either separated or still together.

Methodology

Dataset: RelationWatch

Research snapshot: 1,000 verified cases

Data source: Publicly available open-source intelligence (OSINT) sources

Analysis: Structured case variables, relationship characteristics, behavioral indicators, event timelines, outcomes, case pathways, and human-reviewed classifications.

Denominators are displayed with each metric where information is incomplete. Missing information is not coded as "No."

Limitations and citation

RelationWatch is an OSINT-derived case database and is not a population-based crime registry. Percentages and patterns in this Research Brief describe cases contained in the defined RelationWatch research snapshot and should not be interpreted as national or global prevalence estimates. The absence of a documented behavior may mean it was not documented in available OSINT sources.

RelationWatch. (2026). *From Separation to Homicide: Escalation Patterns Across 1,000*

Relationship-Connected Cases. RelationWatch Research Brief No. 01 (RW-RB-001).