RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #03

RW-RB-003

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When a New Partner Enters the Picture

New relationships, romantic rivals, jealousy, and escalation in relationship-connected crime. This Brief uses its own fixed 1037-case RelationWatch snapshot: Brief 01's original 1,000 cases plus 37 additional verified public cases.

Fixed 1037-case snapshot

Recorded context, not inferred chronology

260

Relevant recorded contexts

New-partner intent, affair started, or rival/triangle context

106

New-partner intent

Desire to begin, replace, or leave a partner

225

Affair started

Affair or concurrent relationship recorded

38

Rival / triangle

Romantic-rival or love-triangle context

What happened to the other cases?

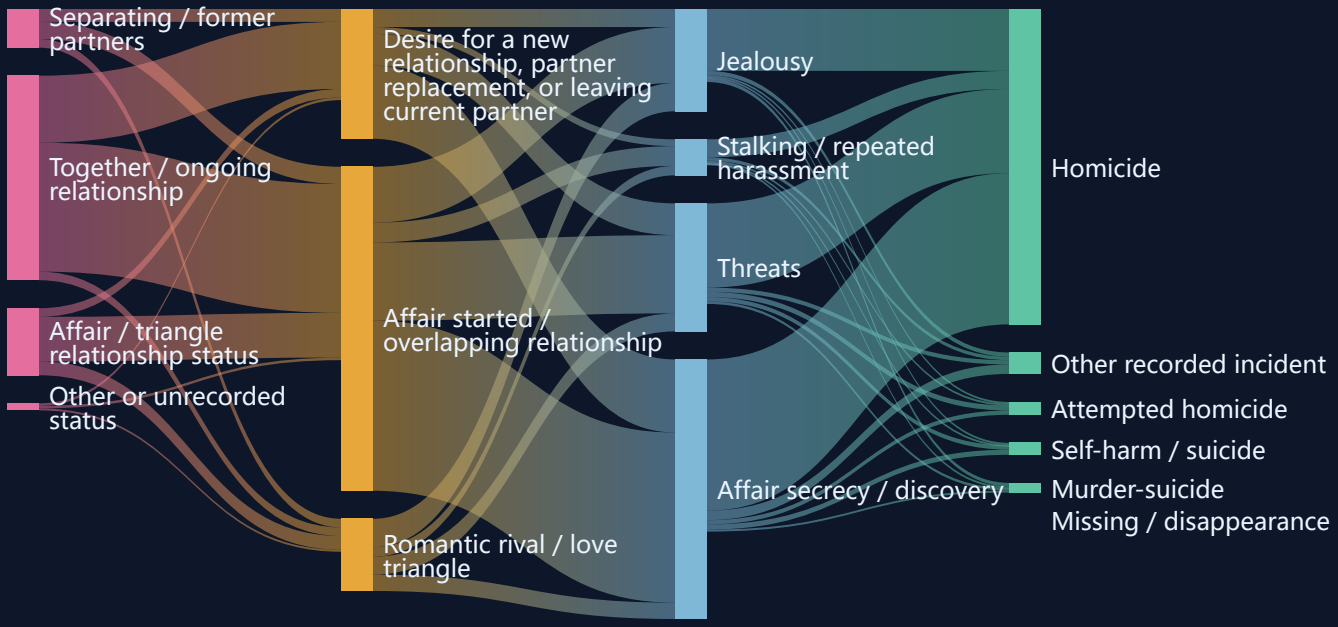
This Brief analyzes **260 of 1037** cases because they have at least one structured indicator of new-partner intent, an affair started/concurrent relationship, or romantic-rival/love-triangle context. The remaining **776** cases are still part of the fixed snapshot, but do not have one of these specific context indicators recorded. They may involve other relationship conditions or warning patterns covered in Briefs 01 and 02; they are not treated as evidence that no relationship factor existed.

Important scope limitation

The structured fields record relationship context and behavior, but do not consistently identify whether the victim or the alleged offender was the person who began a new relationship. The visual therefore compares documented relationship situations, contexts, behaviors, and outcomes; it does not assign a new relationship to a particular person without a specific structured record.

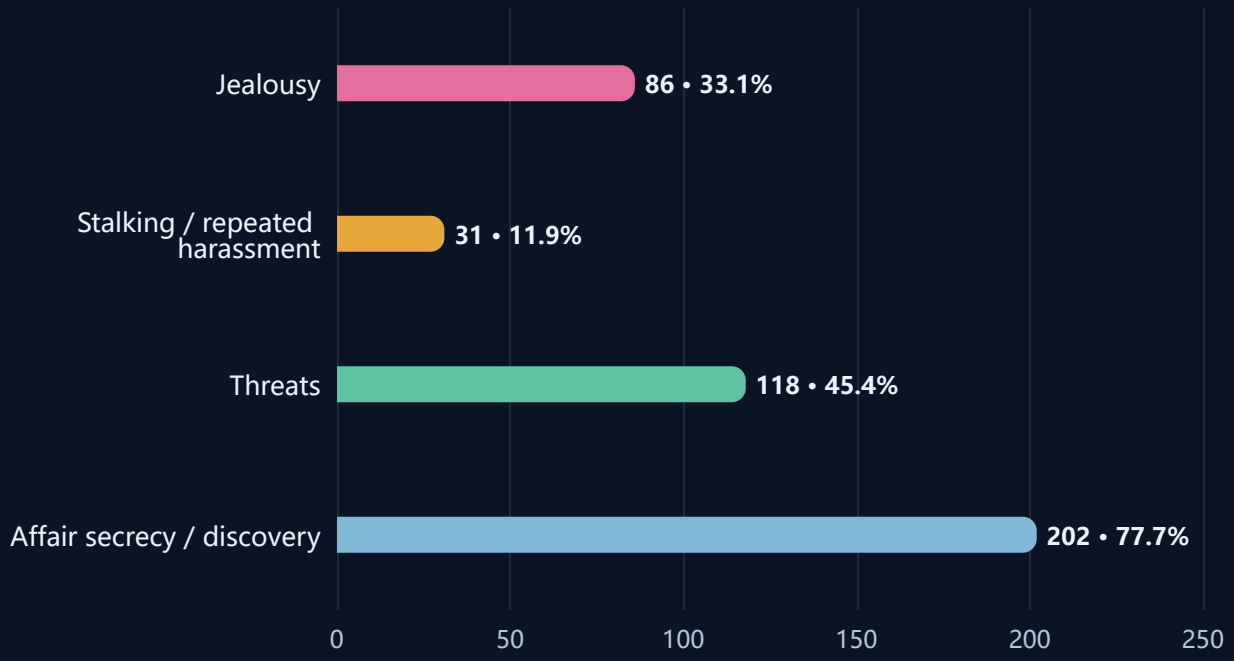
Relationship situation → context → behavior → outcome

The Sankey displays strongest documented co-occurrences among cases where new-partner intent, an affair started/concurrent relationship, or romantic-rival context was recorded. It is not a claim that every link is a complete time sequence or causal pathway.



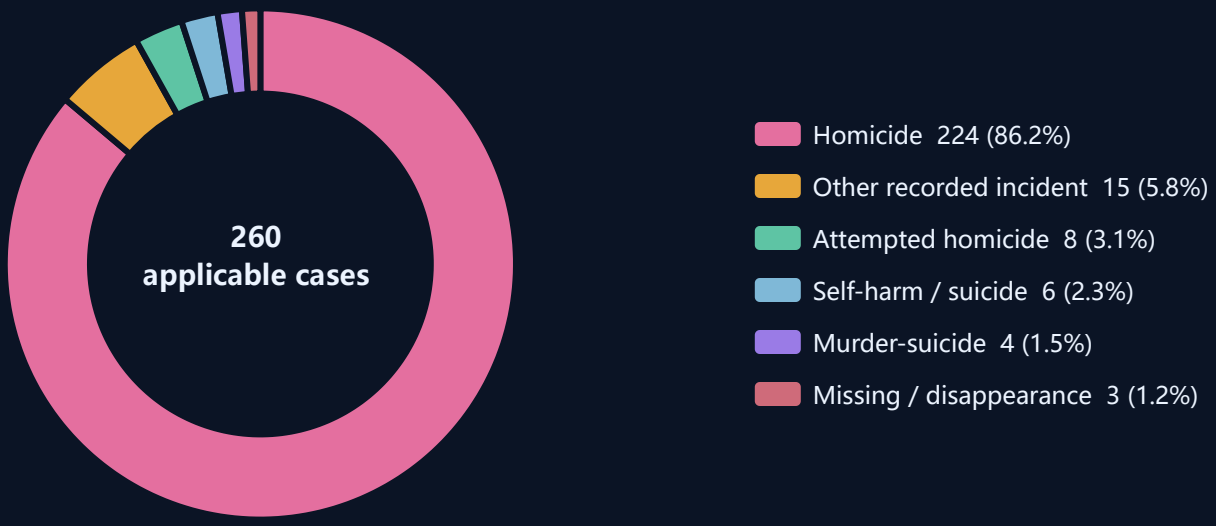
Recorded behaviors in the analytical group

Jealousy, stalking, threats, and affair secrecy/discovery are shown only when structured in the case record.



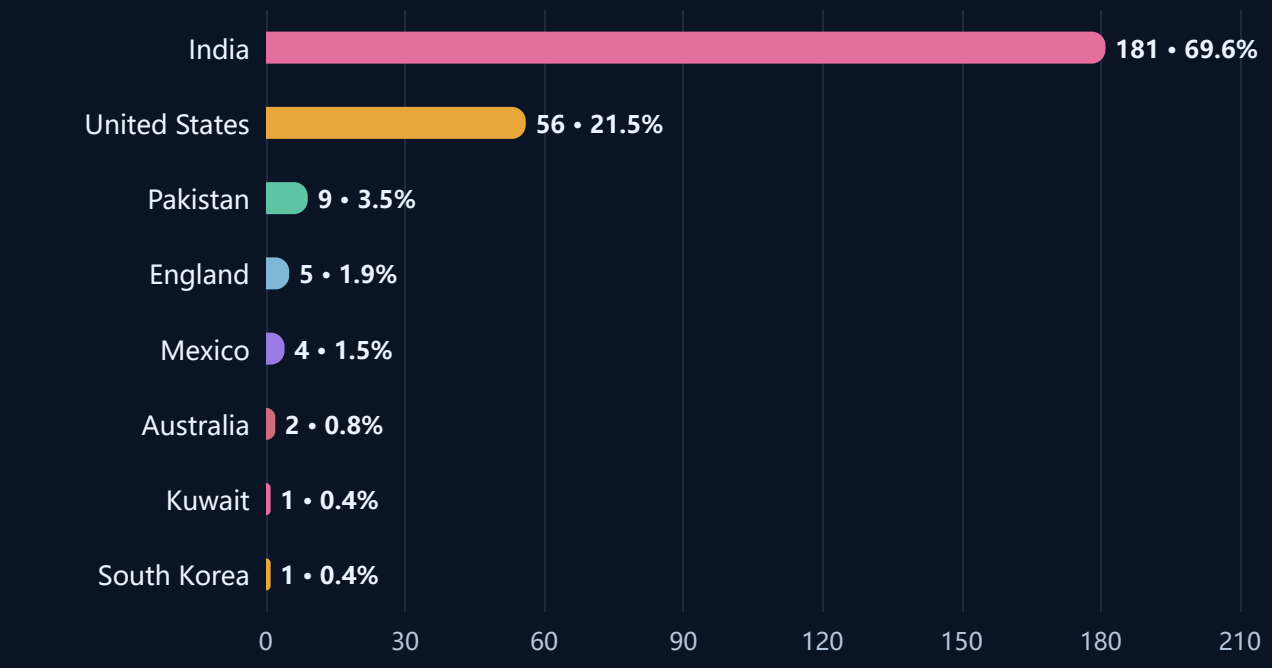
Recorded incident outcomes

Outcome classifications among the 260 cases in Brief 03's analytical group.



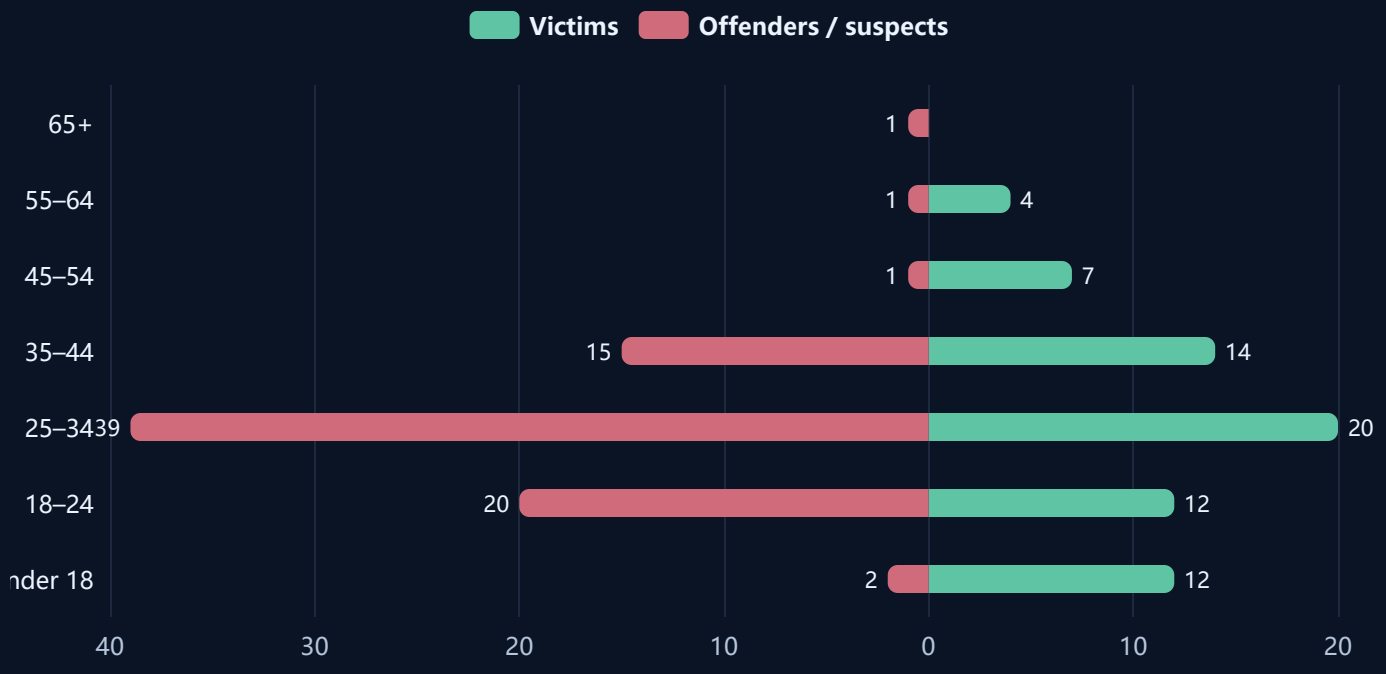
Countries represented

Composition of Brief 03's analytical group; this is not national prevalence.



Age at incident: victims and offenders / suspects

Recorded-person age distribution in Brief 03's analytical group.



Recorded pathway snapshots

These are the strongest comparable intersections that the structured fields can support. The dataset does not reliably record whether the victim or the alleged offender was the person who started a new relationship, so the diagram uses neutral context labels.

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183 Separated / former → 15 New-partner intent / replacement / leaving → 3 Stalking / repeated harassment → 1 re
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183 Separated / former → 20 Affair started / overlapping relationship → 5 Threats → 4 recorded homicide
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707 Still together → 150 Affair started / overlapping relationship → 36 Jealousy → 28 recorded homicide
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707 Still together → 78 New-partner intent / replacement / leaving → 28 Threats → 24 recorded homicide
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Each number after an arrow is the subset satisfying every preceding recorded condition. These are documented intersections, not a proven event sequence or causal pathway.

Does the pattern differ after separation versus while still together?

Comparison within the same fixed 1,037-case Brief 03 snapshot. The relationship-context categories can overlap, so rows should not be added together.

Answer: Yes, the recorded pattern differs. New-partner intent, an affair started/concurrent relationship, or rival/triangle context was more frequently recorded while couples were still together (169 of 708, 23.9%) than after separation or in former partnerships (33 of 183, 18.0%). An affair started/concurrent relationship was especially concentrated while together (21.3% vs. 10.9%). By contrast, among the relevant-context subset, stalking (27.3% vs. 4.1%), threats (45.5% vs. 35.5%), and romantic-rival/love-triangle context (5.5% vs. 1.4%) were proportionally more often recorded after separation or in former partnerships. These are documented co-occurrence patterns in RelationWatch cases, not proof that a new relationship caused the incident.

Recorded pattern	Separated/former	Still together
Cases in relationship group	183	708
New-partner intent / affair started / rival context	33 (18.0%)	169 (23.9%)
Affair started / concurrent relationship	20 (10.9%)	151 (21.3%)
New-partner intent / replacement / leaving	15 (8.2%)	78 (11.0%)
Rival/love-triangle context	10 (5.5%)	10 (1.4%)

Within the relevant-context subset:

- **Stalking** was more commonly recorded after separation/former partnership: 9 of 33 (27.3%) vs. 7 of 169 (4.1%) while together.
- **Threats** were also more common in the separated/former subset: 45.5% vs. 35.5%.
- **An affair started / concurrent relationship** is the dominant recorded context while still together.
- **Romantic-rival/love-triangle** context is proportionally more prominent after separation/former partnership.
- Recorded homicide was 25 of 33 (75.8%) in the separated/former relevant subset and 158 of 169 (93.5%) in the ongoing relevant subset.