RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #04

RW-RB-004

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# When Relationship-Connected Homicide Is Followed by Suicide

Recorded circumstances, relationship context, warning indicators, and available event-sequence evidence in relationship-connected incidents classified as murder-suicide. The victim group can include a partner, children, household members, or other people harmed in the same incident.

Based on a fixed 1284 verified RelationWatch cases

Patterns, not causal explanations

**136**

**Classified murder-suicide**

Core analytical group in this fixed snapshot

**132**

**Known relationship status**

Of the murder-suicide group

**25**

**Explicit order in event text**

Homicide recorded before suicide in available event text

**194**

**Broader self-harm signal**

Kept separate because classifications differ

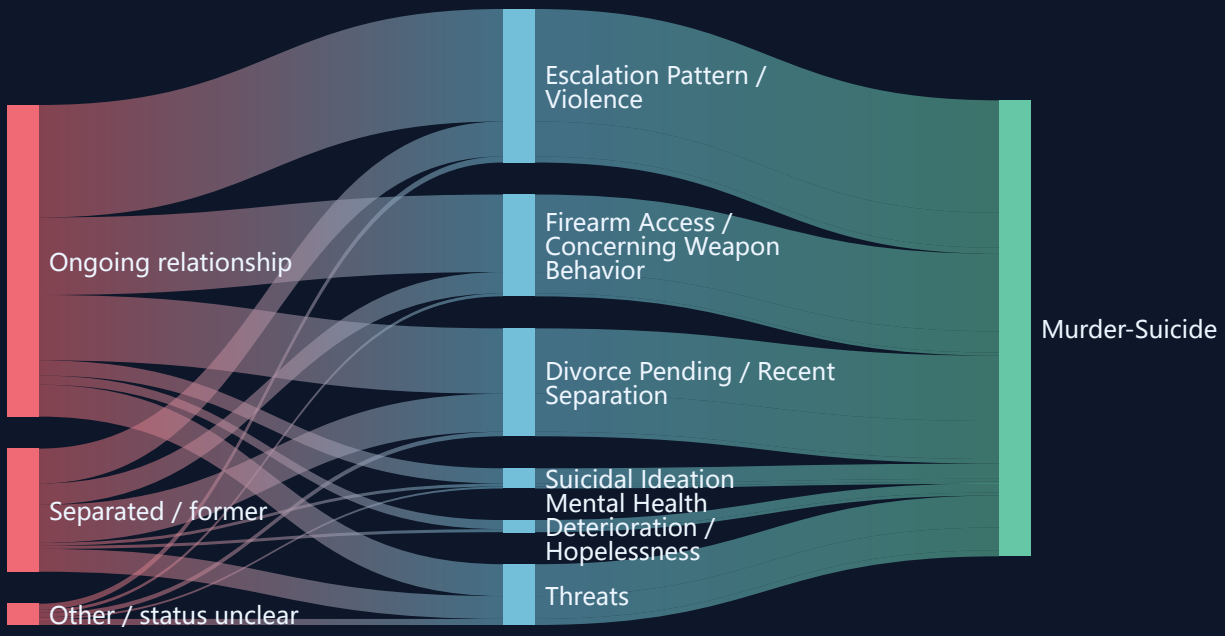
## What happened to the other cases?

This Brief analyzes **136 of 1284** verified cases because they are explicitly classified *Murder-Suicide*. The remaining **1147** cases are not in this core classification. They may include homicide, attempted homicide, injury, disappearance, or other relationship-connected incidents; they are not evidence that suicide, self-harm, or relationship factors were absent. The broader self-harm signal is

displayed separately because the current historical fields do not consistently identify who died by suicide, the exact attempt outcome, the exact order, or every child/third-party victim.

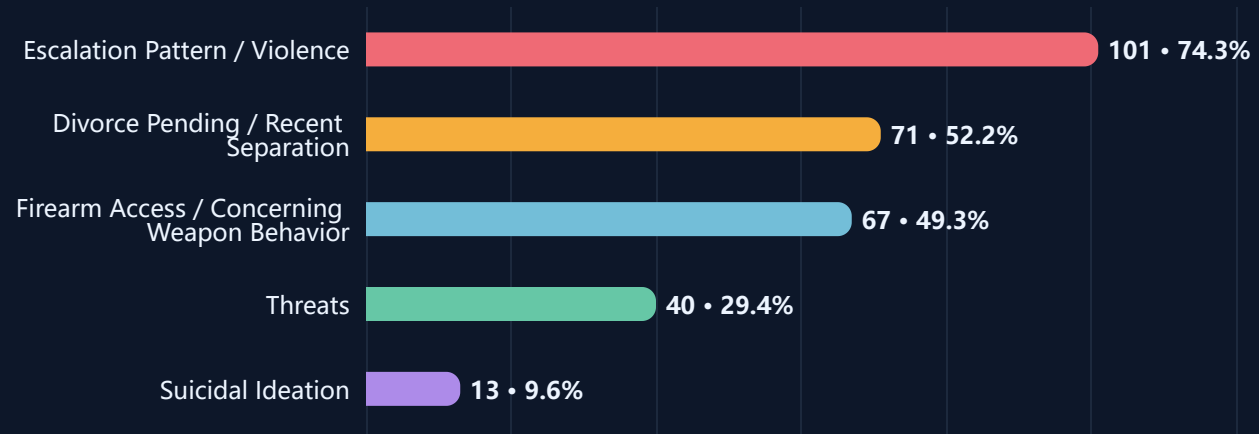
## Relationship situation → recorded warning → outcome

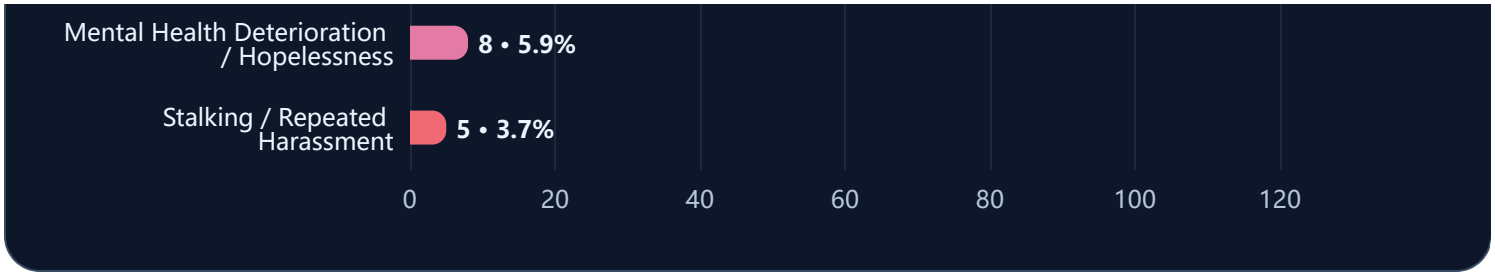
The Sankey is limited to the strongest structured co-occurrences. Hovering any node or link keeps its connected path visible from relationship situation through the recorded outcome. It is not a complete timeline and does not show that one condition caused another.




## Recorded warning indicators

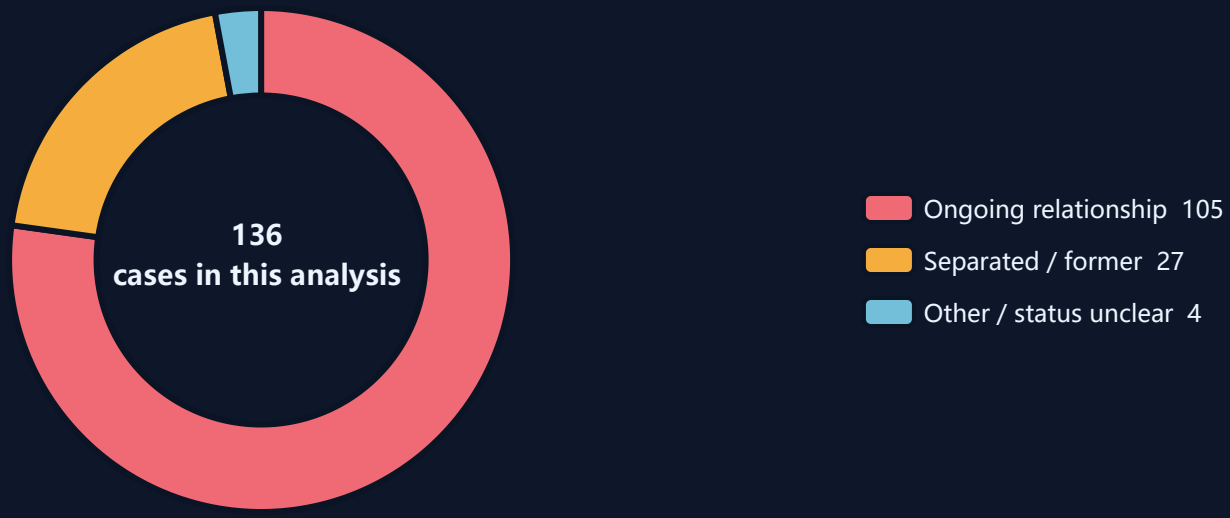
Ranked structured indicators within the 136 cases in this analysis.





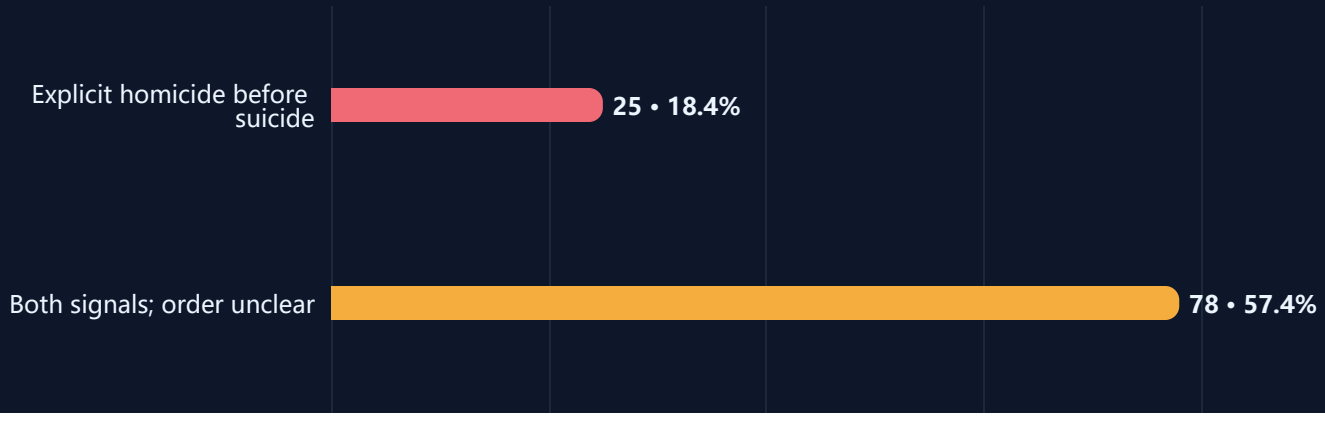

## Relationship context

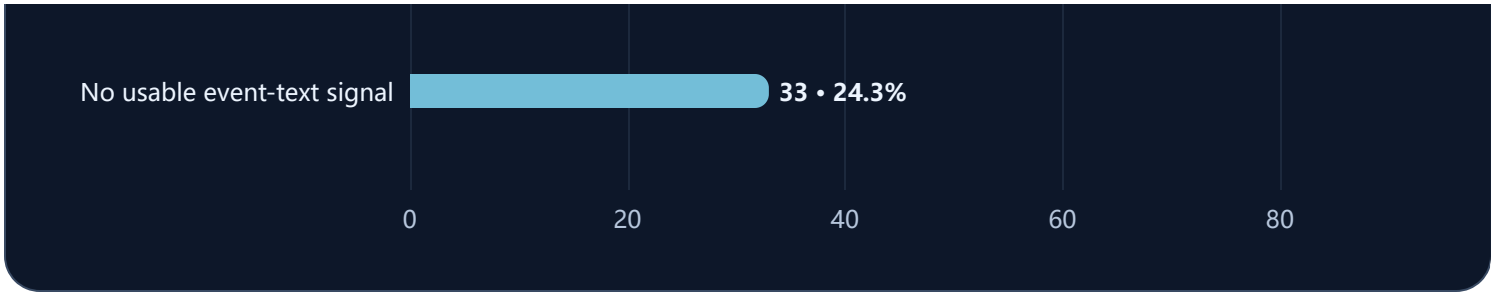
Status recorded in the core group; categories describe recorded context, not victim identity.




## Available sequence evidence

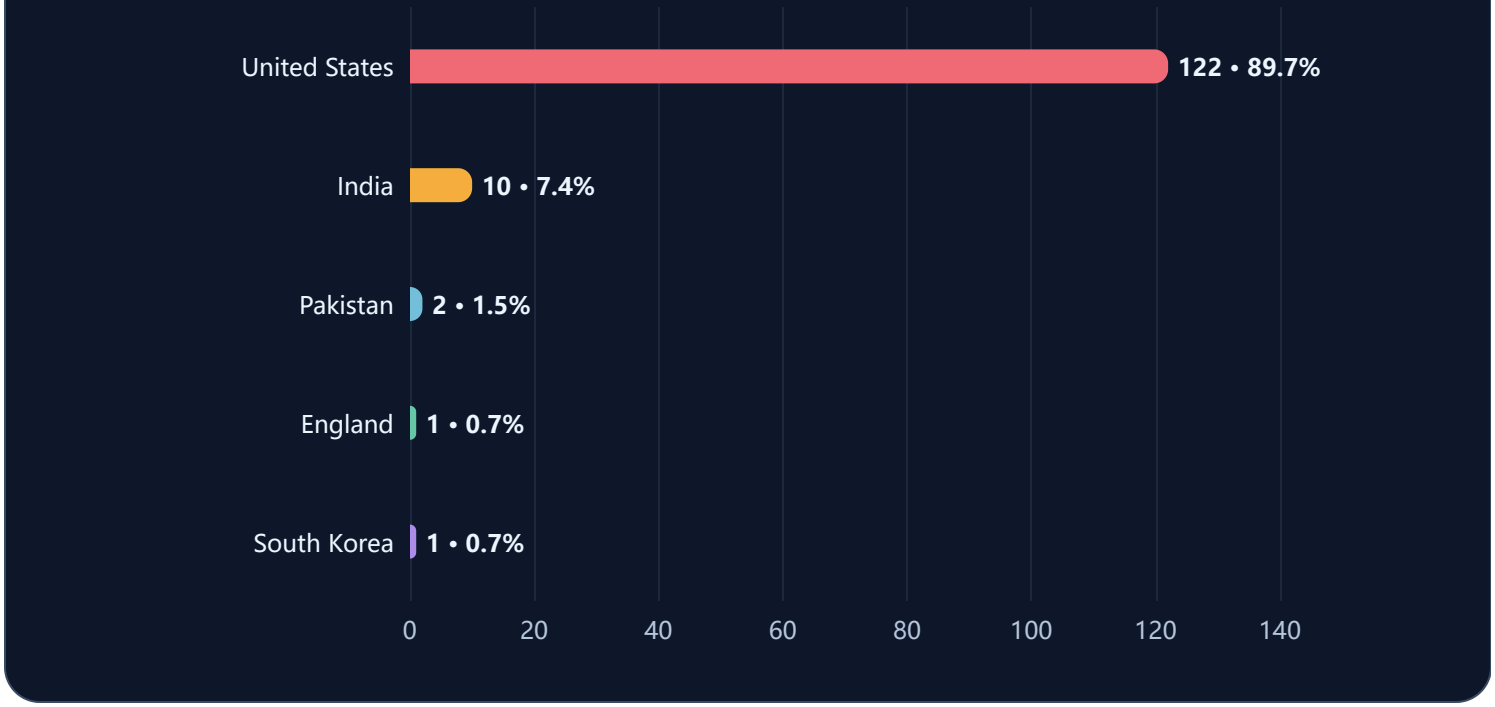
Existing timeline text is incomplete; this chart separates explicit ordering from ambiguity and missing signal.





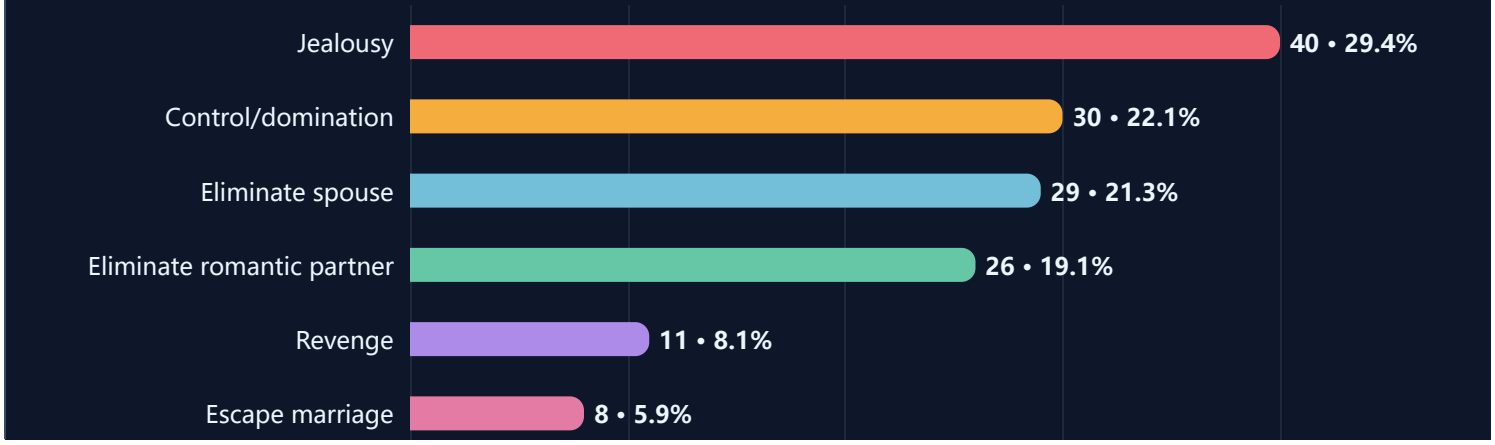

## Countries represented

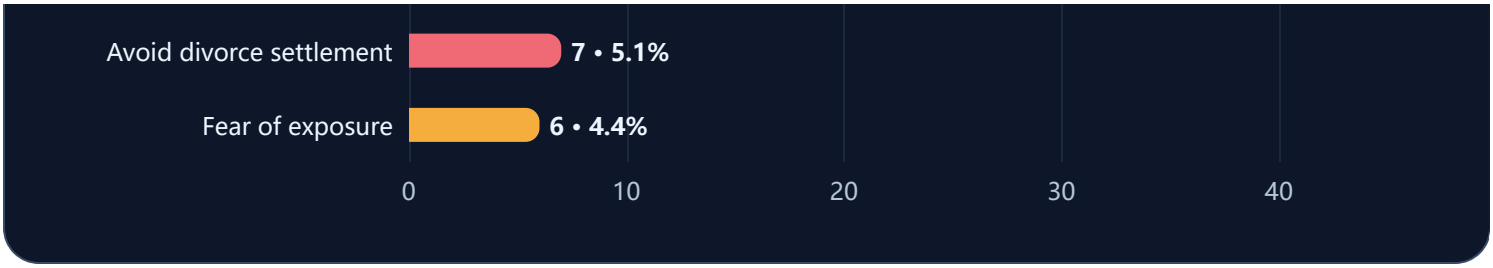
Dataset composition only, not a national prevalence estimate.




## Recorded motives

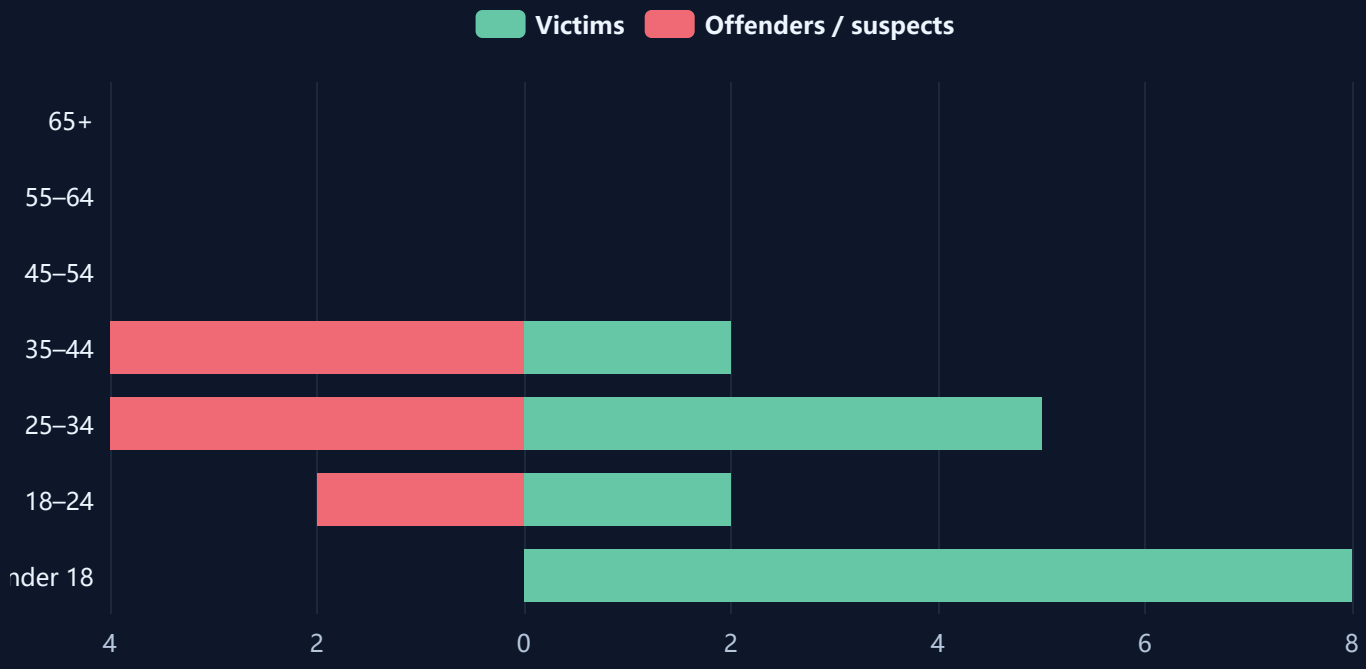
Structured motives can overlap and are not proven explanations for suicide.






## Age at incident

Recorded-person age distribution among victims and offenders / suspects.




## Recorded pathway snapshots

Each row is a documented intersection, not a claimed sequence or causal pathway.

74 cases — Ongoing relationship → Escalation Pattern / Violence → murder-suicide classification

51 cases — Ongoing relationship → Firearm Access / Concerning Weapon Behavior → murder-suicide classification

43 cases — Ongoing relationship → Divorce Pending / Recent Separation → murder-suicide classification

25 cases — Separated / former → Divorce Pending / Recent Separation → murder-suicide classification

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23 cases — Separated / former → Escalation Pattern / Violence → murder-suicide classification
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21 cases — Ongoing relationship → Threats → murder-suicide classification
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## How to read this Brief

- **“When” is deliberate.** The data support descriptive circumstances and repeated co-occurrences, not a general explanation of why a person died by suicide.
- Historical records do not consistently identify the person who died by suicide, a nonfatal attempt’s outcome, every additional child or third-party victim, or exact event order.
- The new structured incident-sequence fields will improve these variables for future cases; they do not retroactively fill missing information in this fixed publication.
- RelationWatch uses publicly available OSINT sources. Findings describe this fixed dataset, not population prevalence.