RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #07

RW-RB-007

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The Hidden Third Person: Secret Affairs, Concealed Communication, and Recorded Outcomes

A descriptive analysis of verified public cases with a recorded secret affair, concealed communication, or private/hidden meeting. This Brief does not claim that a third person was introduced as a friend, relative, or colleague: that subtype is not separately coded in the current public data.

Fixed cohort: 519 verified public cases | Signals and outcomes can overlap

519
Cases in this Brief
At least one recorded concealment signal

281
Concealed communication
Phone, messages, or secretive communication

244
Divorce / separation context
Recorded contributing factor

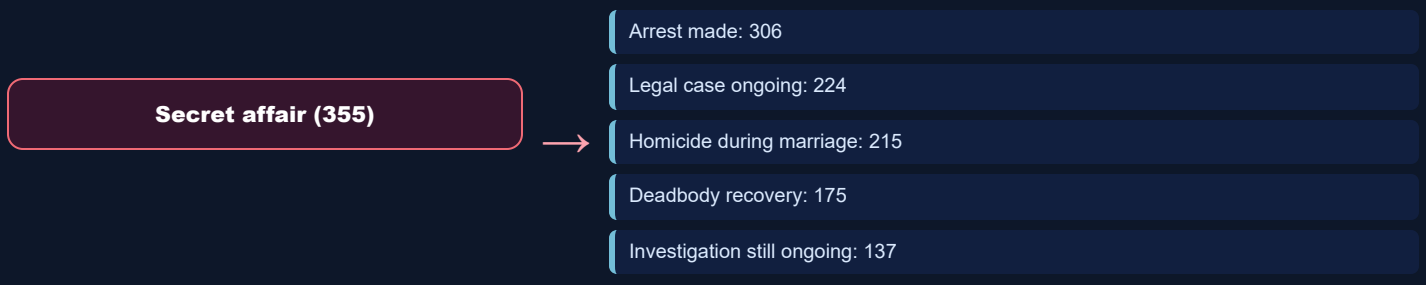
448
Most recorded outcome
Arrest made

How this cohort was selected

All 519 cases have one or more structured third-party concealment signals. The pattern may describe reported behavior by any involved person; it does not prove deception, causation, or the precise social role of a third person.

Secret affair → recorded outcomes

355 cases with this signal. Arrows show recorded co-occurrence, not a causal pathway.



Concealed communication → recorded outcomes

281 cases with this signal. Arrows show recorded co-occurrence, not a causal pathway.

Concealed communication (281) →

- Arrest made: 244
- Legal case ongoing: 184
- Homicide during marriage: 143
- Deadbody recovery: 127
- Investigation still ongoing: 111

Private or hidden meetings → recorded outcomes

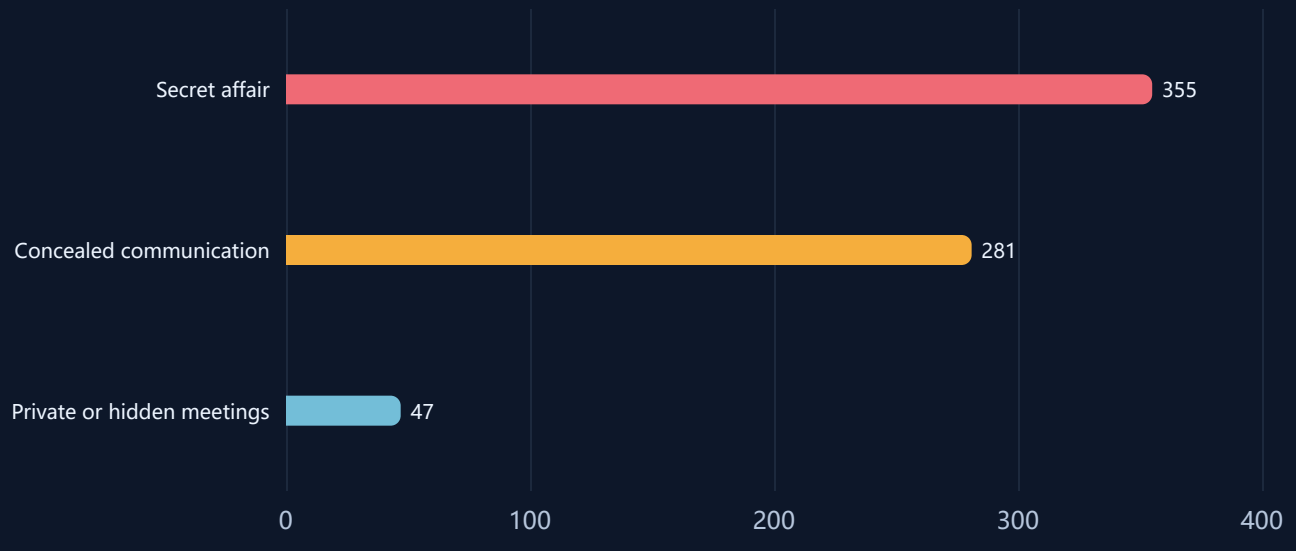
47 cases with this signal. Arrows show recorded co-occurrence, not a causal pathway.

Private or hidden meetings (47) →

- Arrest made: 40
- Legal case ongoing: 28
- Deadbody recovery: 27
- Investigation still ongoing: 22
- Homicide during marriage: 20

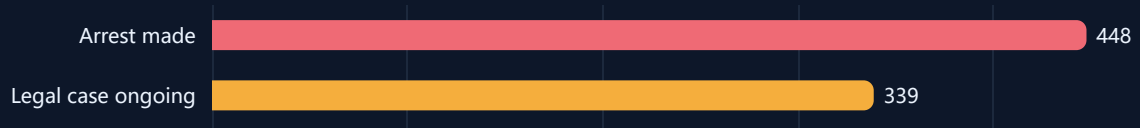
Recorded concealment signals

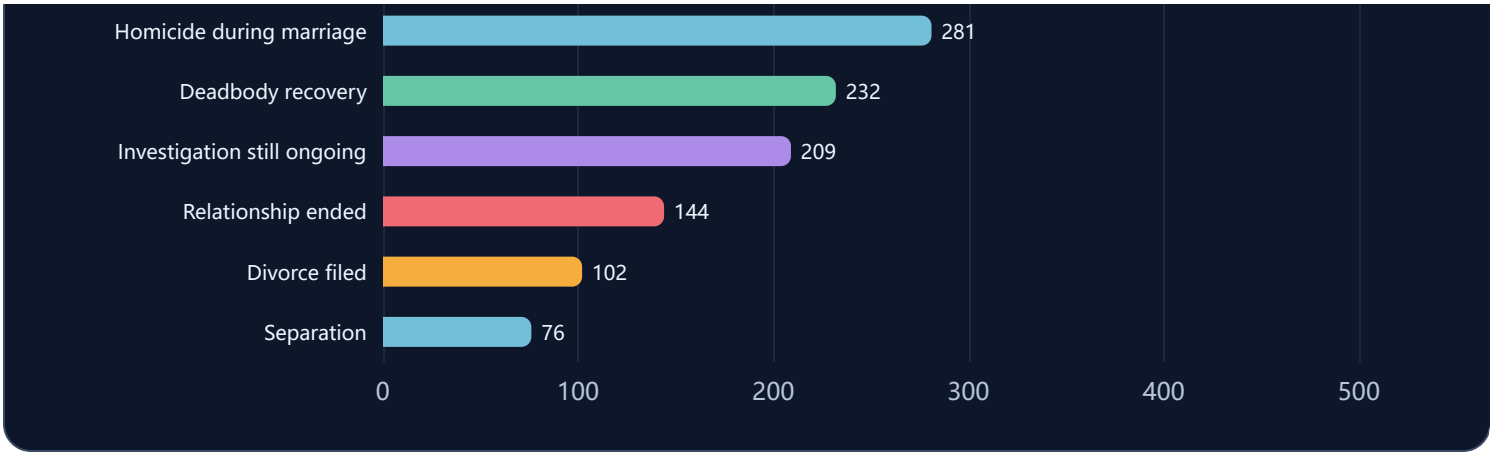
Cases can have more than one signal.



Recorded relationship outcomes

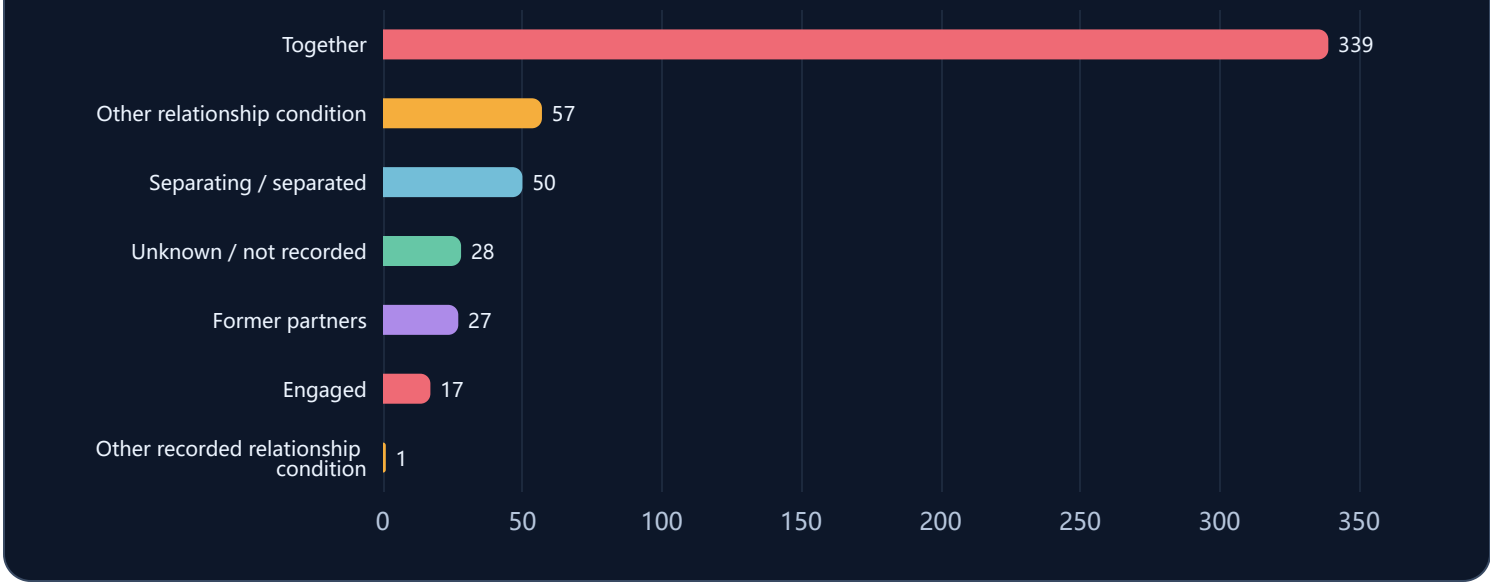
Recorded outcomes may coexist in a case and are not a sequence.





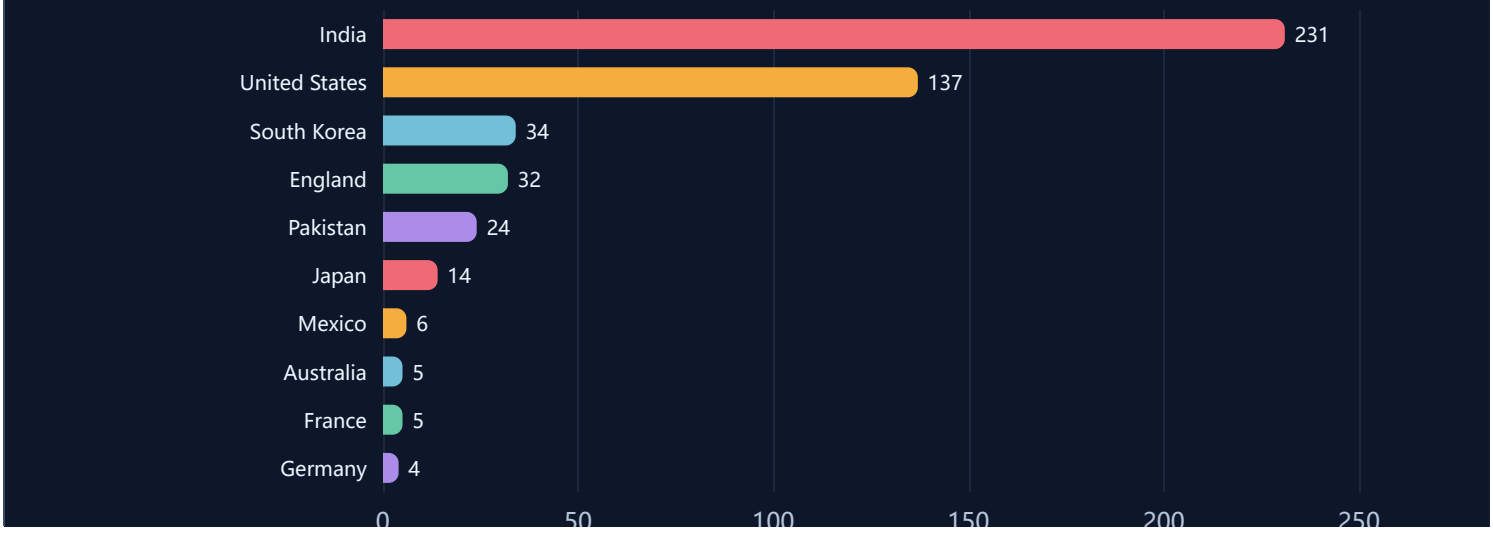
Relationship context

Conditions recorded within this fixed cohort.



Countries represented

Dataset composition, not a national comparison.



Examples from the selected public-case cohort

These examples show the structured signal used for inclusion. They do not establish a uniform motive or outcome.

Sue Markham Murdered by Jorge Landeros and Andrew Hamlin, Bethesda, Maryland, United States

Recorded signals: Secretive communication patterns

Heather Strong Disappearance Involving Amelia Carr and Joshua Damian Foggam, Reic, Florida, United States

Recorded signals: Secret affair

Tong Pao Hang Allegedly Murdered by Kou Thao, Wausau, Wisconsin, United States

Recorded signals: Secretive communication patterns

Cynthia Stack, Sean Stack, and others Allegedly Murdered by Amelia Bissoon, Joshua Ramsawmy, and others, Orlando, Florida, United States

Recorded signals: Secretive communication patterns

Leslie Reeves, Chris Smith, and others Injured in Murder Attempt by Robert Tarr, Farmersville, Illinois, United States

Recorded signals: Secretive communication patterns

Nicole Lovell, Tammy Weeks, and others Kidnapped by David Eisenhower, Natalie Keepers, and others, Blacksburg, Virginia, United States

Recorded signals: Secret phone communication, Secretive communication patterns

Future source intake can separately record an alleged introduction as a friend, relative, or colleague only when the source clearly supports that specific statement.