RELATIONWATCH RESEARCH BRIEF #08

RW-RB-008

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Blame, Accusation, and Escalating Conflict in Relationship-Connected Cases

A descriptive analysis of verified public cases with a recorded manipulation, accusation, blame-shifting, or exaggerated-financial-conflict signal. These records do not establish intent, causation, or that conflict was deliberately created.

Fixed cohort: 648 verified public cases

Signals and outcomes can overlap

648

Cases in this Brief

At least one included recorded signal

166

False-accusation signal

Infidelity or financial-misconduct accusation

471

Also recorded threats

Recorded co-occurrence, not a pathway

123

High-conflict household

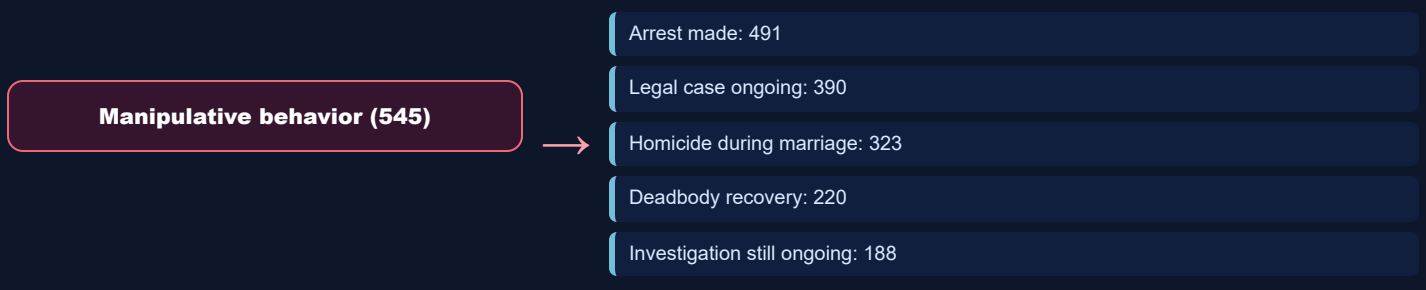
Recorded co-occurrence, not a causal finding

How this cohort was selected

All 648 cases have one or more structured signals for manipulative behavior, a false accusation, blame shifting / gaslighting, or an artificial or exaggerated financial conflict. The data does not determine who made a claim, whether it was false as a matter of fact, or the reason for the conflict.

Manipulative behavior → recorded outcomes

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



False accusations → recorded outcomes

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

False accusations (166) →

- Arrest made: 144
- Legal case ongoing: 131
- Homicide during marriage: 105
- Investigation still ongoing: 63
- Divorce filed: 60

Blame shifting / gaslighting → recorded outcomes

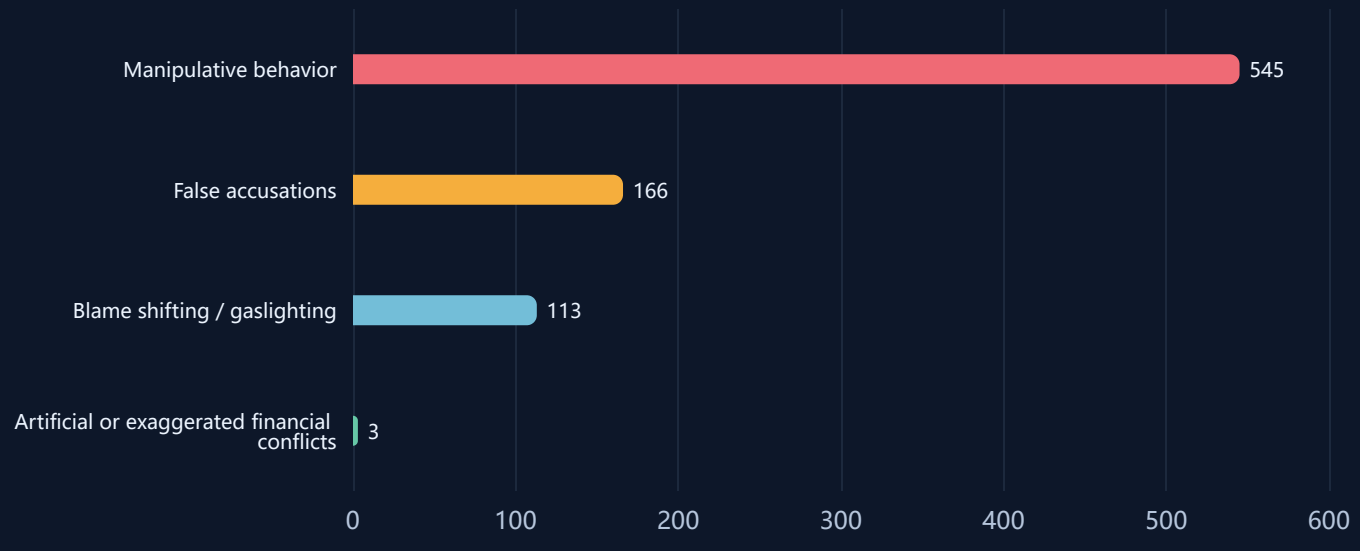
113 cases with this signal. Arrows show recorded co-occurrence, not a causal pathway.

Blame shifting / gaslighting (113) →

- Arrest made: 95
- Legal case ongoing: 72
- Homicide during marriage: 63
- Investigation still ongoing: 49
- Deadbody recovery: 46

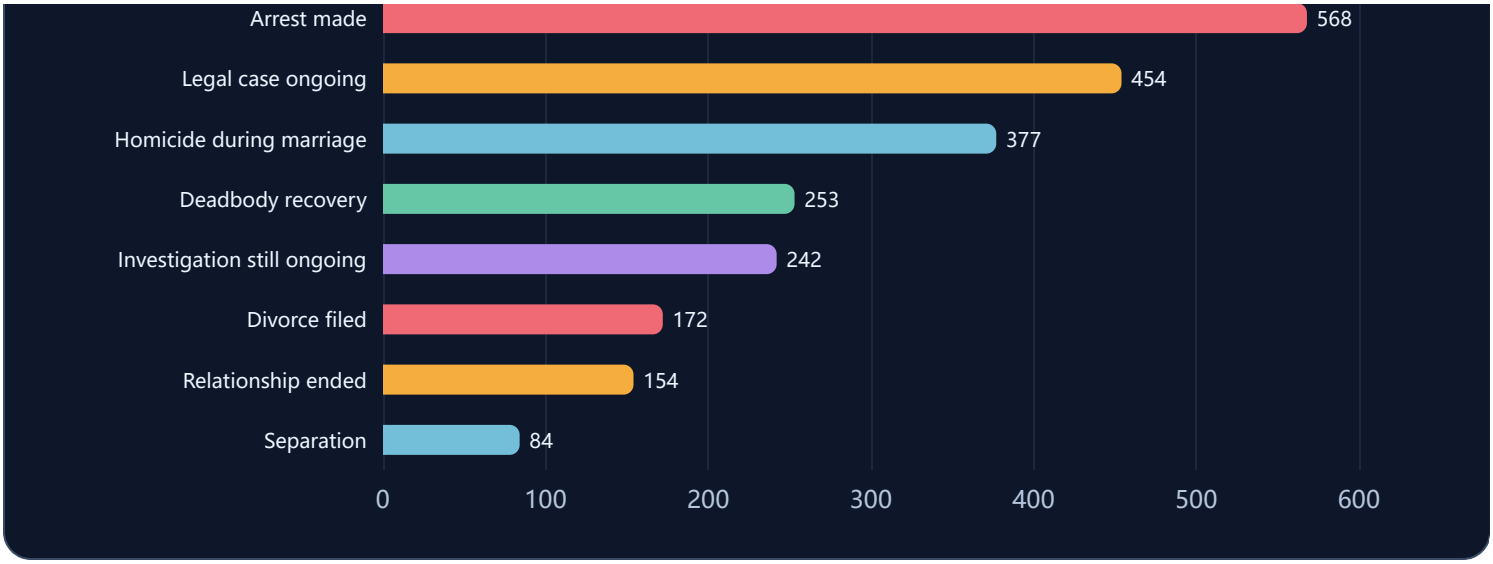
Recorded signals

Cases can have more than one structured signal.



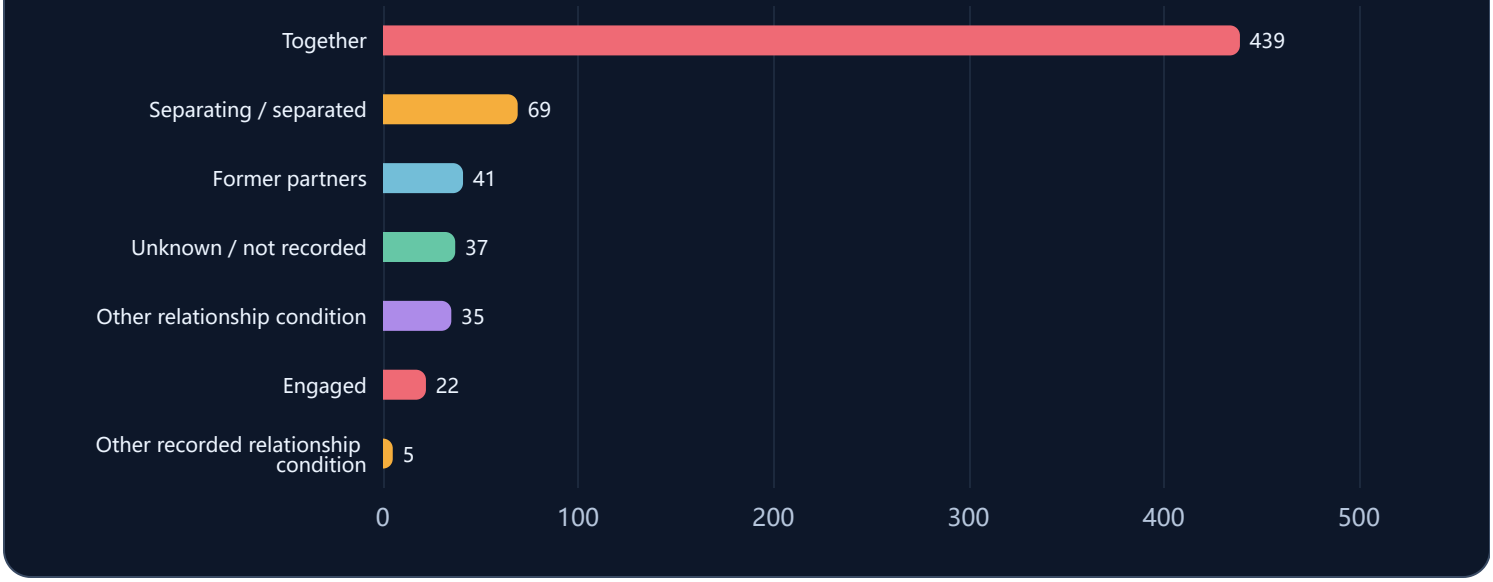
Recorded relationship outcomes

Outcomes may coexist in a case and are not a sequence.



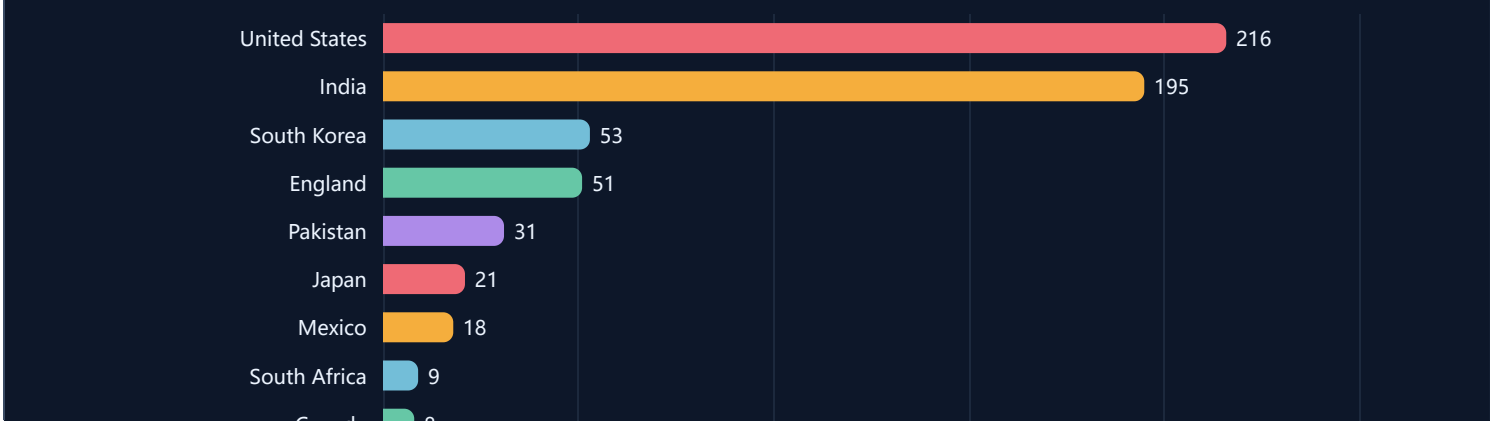
Relationship context

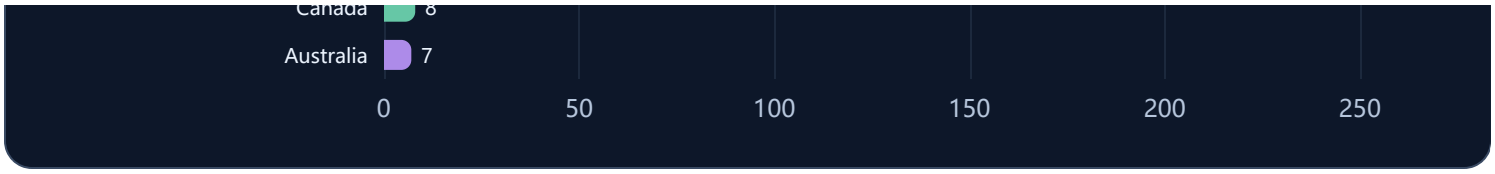
Relationship statuses recorded within this fixed cohort.



Countries represented

Dataset composition, not a national comparison.





Examples from the selected public-case cohort

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

Ashley Flynn Allegedly Murdered by Caleb Flynn, Tip City, Ohio, United States

Recorded signals: False accusations of infidelity, Manipulative behavior

Shannon Graves Disappearance Involving Arturo Novoa, Katrina Layton, and others, Youngstown, Ohio, United States

Recorded signals: Manipulative behavior

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

Recorded signals: Manipulative behavior

Angela Bledsoe Allegedly Murdered by James Ray III, Montlair, New Jersey, United States

Recorded signals: Manipulative behavior

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

Recorded signals: False accusations of infidelity, Manipulative behavior

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

Recorded signals: Manipulative behavior

A source may report accusations, conflict, or manipulation without independently proving the truth of any allegation. This Brief therefore describes records, not findings of fact.