

Reported Cases of Mothers Accused of Killing Their Children

United States | January 2019 – October 11, 2026

Purpose and scope: This document collects selected, publicly reported U.S. cases from 2019 through October 11, 2026, with source links written out in full. It is not an exhaustive list and should not be used as a count of all such cases. Cases are included because they were reported in the cited sources; charges and allegations are not the same as convictions.

Filicide

Filicide by women refers to the killing of one's own child by the child's mother or another female parent. The term filicide describes the killing of a child by a parent, regardless of the parent's sex or gender.

Definitions and related terms

- Filicide: The killing of one's own child by a parent.
- Maternal filicide: Filicide committed by a child's mother.
- Paternal filicide: Filicide committed by a child's father.
- Neonaticide: The killing of a newborn within the first 24 hours after birth, often used in legal and criminological research.
- Infanticide: The killing of an infant. In some jurisdictions, the term also has a specific legal definition.
- Familicide: The killing of multiple family members, sometimes including one's children and spouse or partner.

Important distinction: Filicide by women does not necessarily mean the killing of an infant. It can involve children of any age, including teenagers and adult offspring, depending on the definition used.

In research, maternal filicide cases may be examined according to the circumstances, the child's age, the mother's relationship to the child, the motive or circumstances alleged, and the legal outcome. Explanations sometimes investigated include domestic violence, abuse or neglect, severe mental illness, financial or family crises, and other factors. These factors do not apply to every case and do not, by themselves, establish motive or excuse a crime.

Selected reported cases

1. Lisa Rachelle Snyder — Pennsylvania (2019)

Snyder was charged in December 2019 in connection with the deaths of her children, Conner, age 8, and Brinley, age 4. The cited report describes the allegations and the children's deaths in September 2019. This entry summarizes charges reported at that time and does not, by itself, establish the final legal outcome.

Source: The Washington Post, December 3, 2019

Full URL: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/12/03/lisa-rachelle-snyder-murder-conner-brinley-hanging/>

2. Lindsay Clancy — Massachusetts (2023; trial in 2026)

Clancy's three children were killed in January 2023. At her 2026 trial, the defense argued that postpartum psychosis affected her criminal responsibility. The jury deadlocked, and a mistrial was declared on September 4, 2026. The case therefore should not be described as resulting in a conviction based on this trial.

Source: The Washington Post / Associated Press, September 4, 2026

Full URL: https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2026/09/04/lindsay-clancy-postpartum-massachusetts-trial/fc14b164-a815-11f1-9e38-f705d048bd5a_story.html

3. Andrea Shaw — Idaho (children died in 2025; charges reported in 2026)

Shaw was indicted in 2026 in connection with the 2025 deaths of her 18-month-old twins. Prosecutors alleged that the children died by suffocation. The source describes criminal charges, which remain allegations unless established in court.

Source: ABC News, July 8, 2026

Full URL: <https://abcnews.com/US/mom-claimed-twins-died-vaccines-charged-murder/story?id=134595219>

4. Janette MacAusland — Massachusetts (2026)

MacAusland was accused of killing her two children, ages 7 and 6, in Wellesley, Massachusetts. In April 2026, she appeared in Vermont court during extradition proceedings and was expected to return to Massachusetts to face murder charges. The cited article reports allegations and procedural developments, not a conviction.

Source: CBS Boston, updated April 28, 2026

Full URL: <https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/news/wellesley-ma-mother-janette-macausland-murder-charges/>

5. Valencia Duke — District of Columbia (2026)

Duke was arrested and charged in June 2026 in connection with the death of her 13-month-old daughter and the serious condition of her 13-month-old son. The U.S. Department of Justice stated that the charges were allegations and that the defendant was presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, June 4, 2026 (updated June 30, 2026)

Full URL: <https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/mother-13-month-olds-death-arrested-and-charged>

What the available statistics do—and do not—tell us

A 2026 peer-reviewed study examined **3,974 reported filicide** incidents in U.S. National Incident-Based Reporting System data from 1999 through 2023. The study defines filicide as a killing by a parent or parental figure and includes victims across age groups, including adults. It reports 1,597 female offenders (40.2%) and 2,371 male offenders (59.8%) in the dataset. These are figures for the full 1999–2023 period, not a count of mothers who killed children during 2019–2023, and they should not be treated as the total for 2019–October 2026.

Study: Walsh, J. A., Krienert, J. L., & Voksic, E. (2026). Innocence interrupted: A 25-year study of reported filicide incidents in the United States, 1999 to 2023. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.

Full URL: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/08862605261444011>

The FBI's Child Victimization, 2019–2023 report uses National Incident-Based Reporting System data, but coverage varied by year and was not complete across the entire U.S. population. Its figures on child victimization are not automatically a count of children killed by mothers.

Report: U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Child Victimization, 2019–2023 (released April 2025).

Full URL: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/resources/reports/Child%20Victimization%202019-2023.pdf>

The FBI's 2019 Expanded Homicide page includes victim–offender relationship data for a subset of homicide records. For example, it reports parent-related homicide categories, but those figures are not a multi-year total of mothers killing their children.

Report: FBI, Expanded Homicide, Crime in the United States, 2019.

Full URL: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/expanded-homicide>

Conclusion

The sources above document several cases reported between 2019 and October 11, 2026, but they do not establish a complete national count for that period. A reliable count would require a systematic case search and/or analysis of law-enforcement data with consistent definitions, while accounting for incomplete reporting, different legal statuses, and the distinction between biological mothers, other female caregivers, and other parental figures.