



ILLINOIS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# ANNUAL ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT

# FY21





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**The worst and most tragic outcome of domestic violence is the loss of life. This report provides information about domestic violence homicides and suicides in Illinois during the 2021 fiscal year (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021).**

**During the period from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021, there were 68 incidents of domestic violence that led to 78 deaths.**

**Domestic violence threatens not only the safety of the survivor or victim, but also their children, as well as their entire community. Bystanders and others attempting to provide assistance or support to a survivor are often injured or killed.**





**Each year the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) gathers and summarizes information about homicides throughout Illinois and considers key elements to determine if the loss of life is in connection to domestic violence. Some of the details we analyze are the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator and whether there is a public record of past incidents of domestic violence, among other details provided in the incident reporting.**

**Although it is our professional stance that child abuse is domestic violence, we do not include all cases of child abuse that result in the death of a child unless the elements of domestic violence are clearly presented in the newspaper report.**





# RISK OF LETHALITY



**In a domestic violence situation, the risk of lethality increases with several factors, including:**

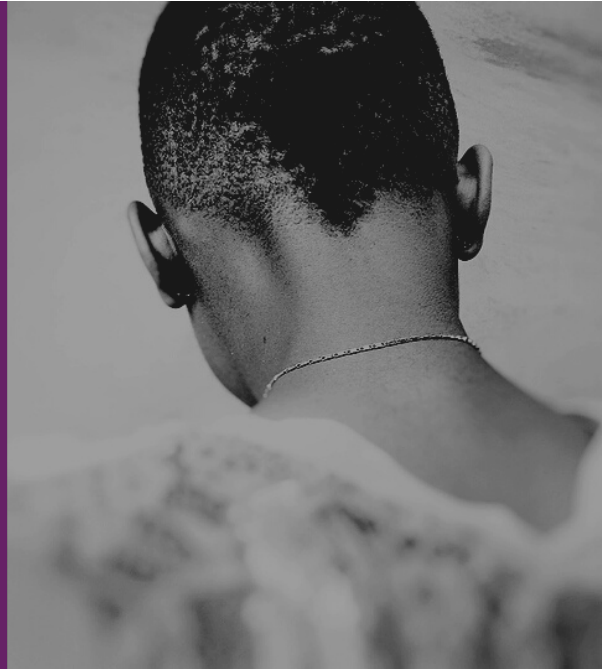
- **Separation or an attempt to end the relationship**
- **Threats to kill**
- **Access to weapons**
- **Stalking**
- **Strangulation during an assault**
- **Controlling, possessive and jealous behavior**
- **Drug and/or alcohol abuse**
- **Children not in common**
- **Unemployment**



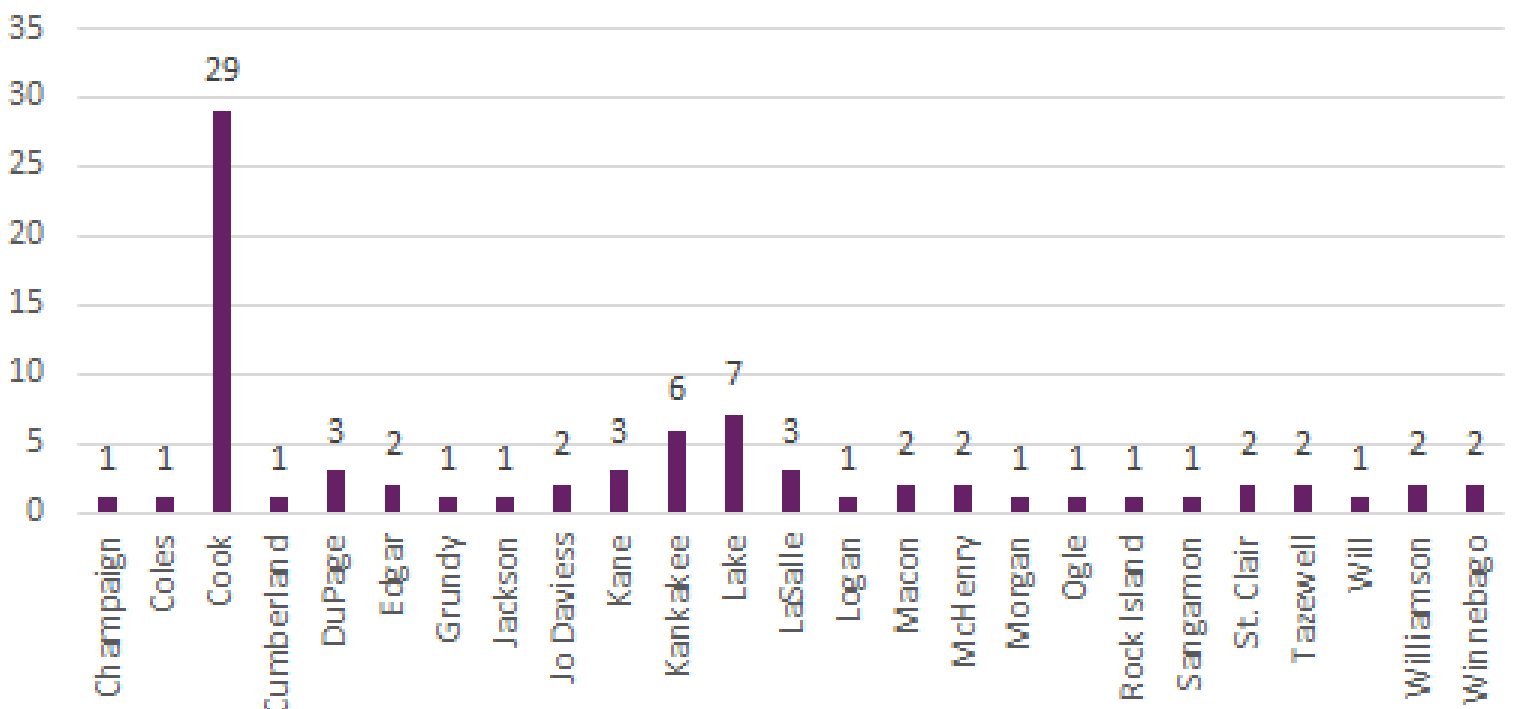
# LOCATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS



Out of the 102 Illinois counties, 25 counties were found to have reported deaths in connection to a domestic violence incident.



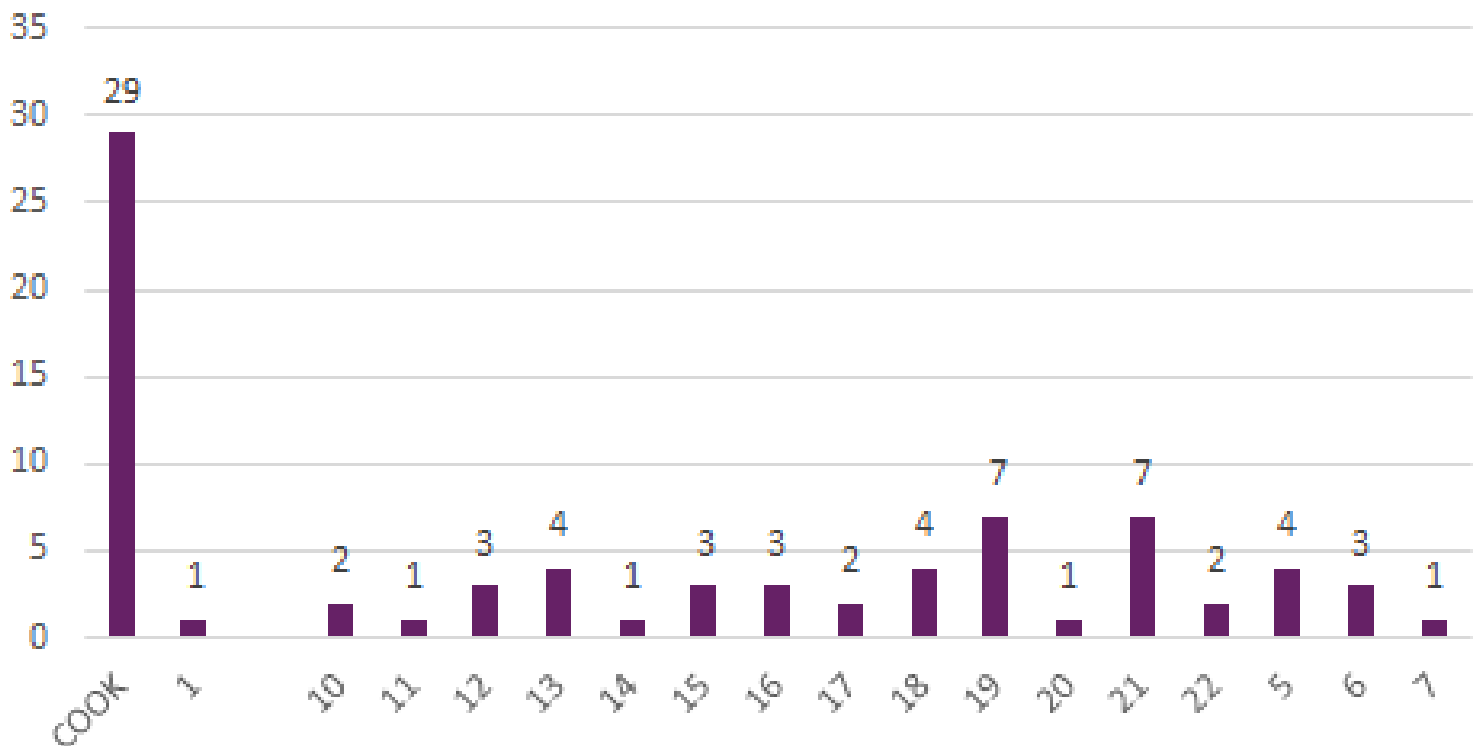
Deaths By County



# LOCATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS



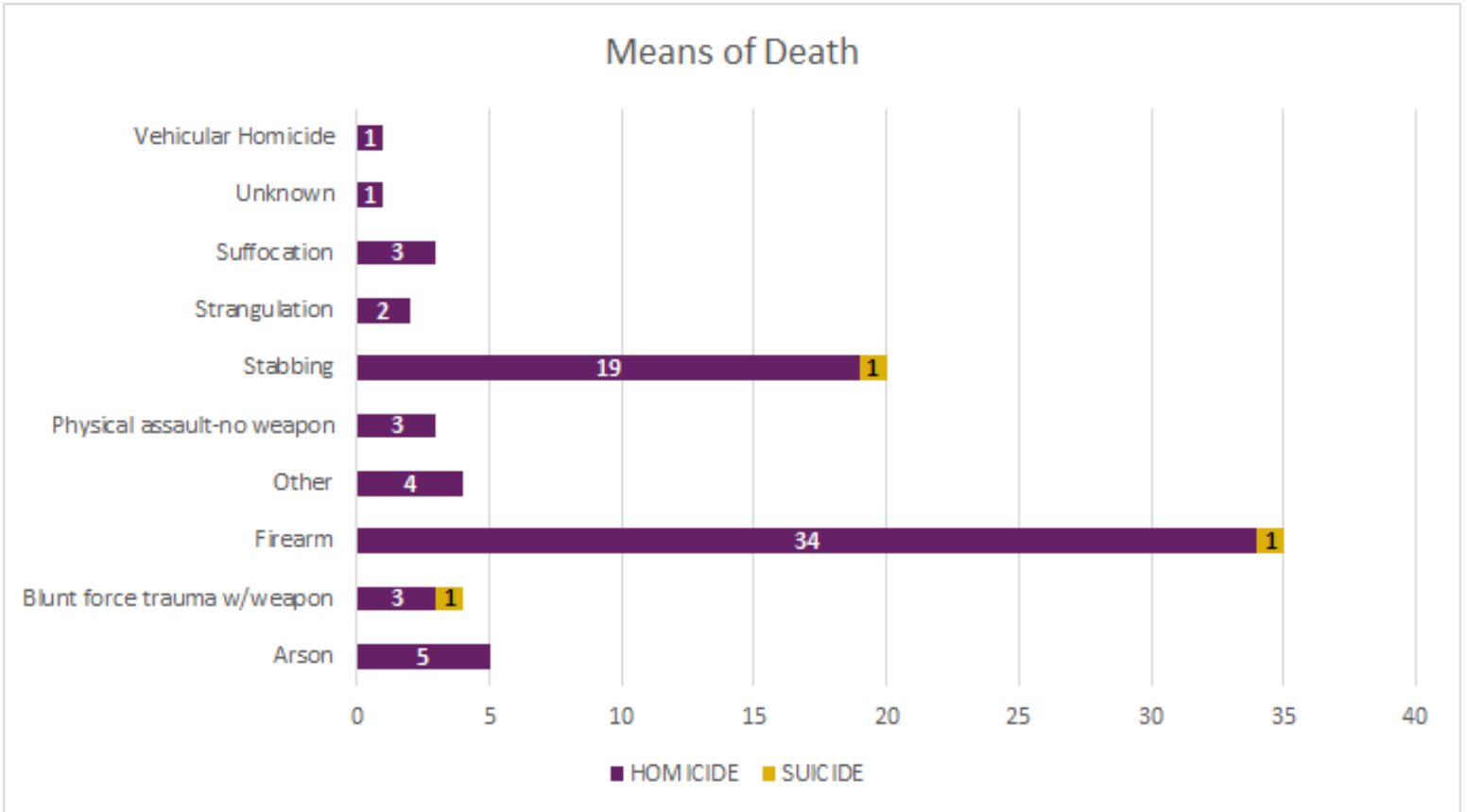
## Deaths By Judicial District



**37%**

**29 of the 78 deaths during this period took place in the Cook County judicial district.**

# MEANS OF DEATH



**45%**

Firearms was the means of death in 35 of the 78 total deaths during this period.



Of the 75 domestic violence homicides, the two primary means of death were firearms and stabbing.

The means of death was unclear based in details available in one homicide.

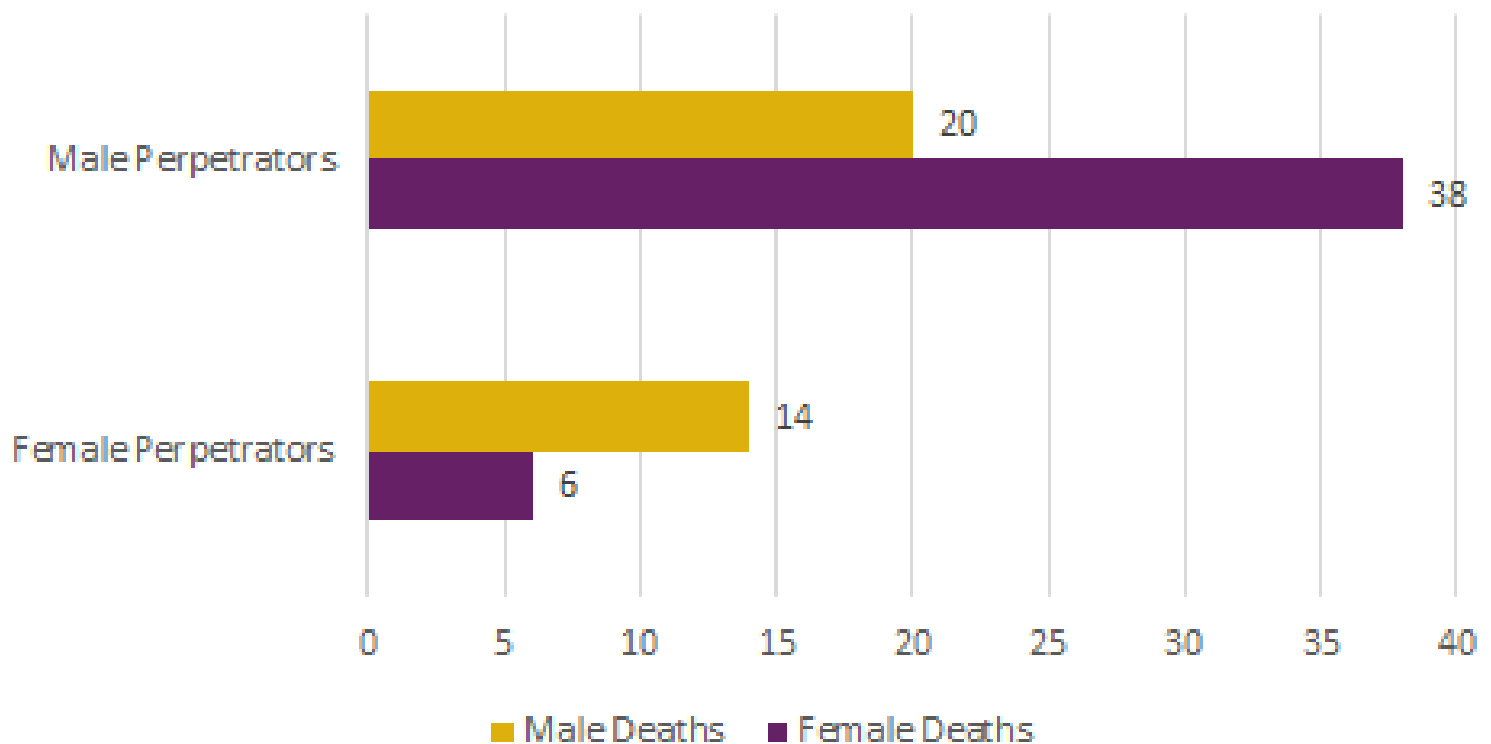


# ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS

**Of the 78 deaths, 74% were caused by male perpetrators. 65% of these victims were female.**

**Of the 26% of deaths caused by female perpetrators, 70% of these victims were male.**

Gender of Perpetrators and Their Victims





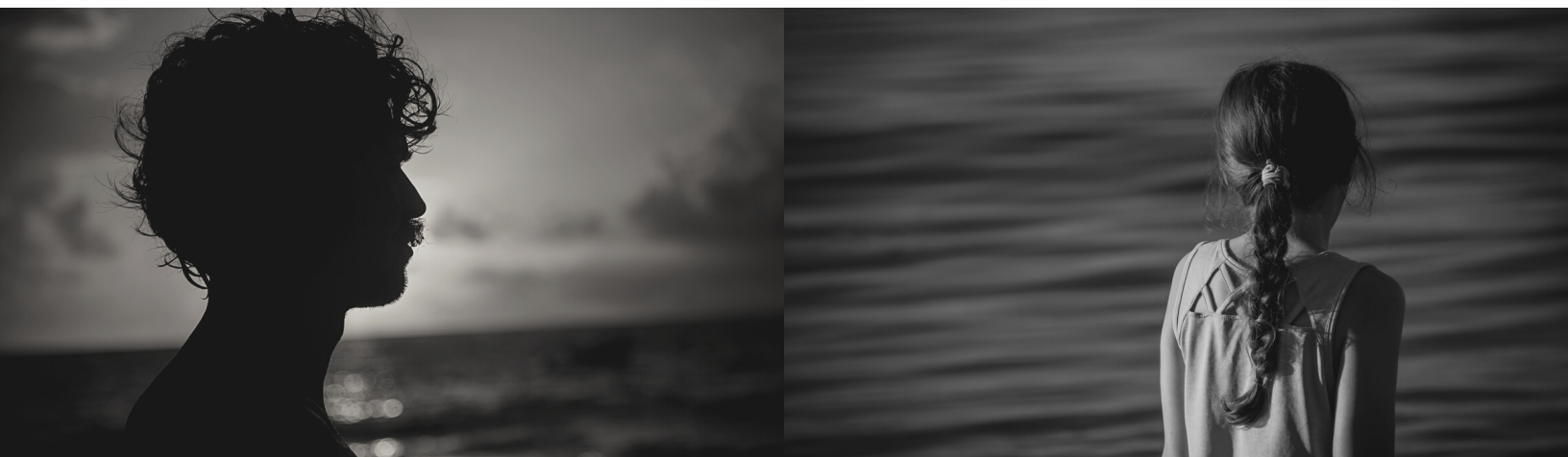
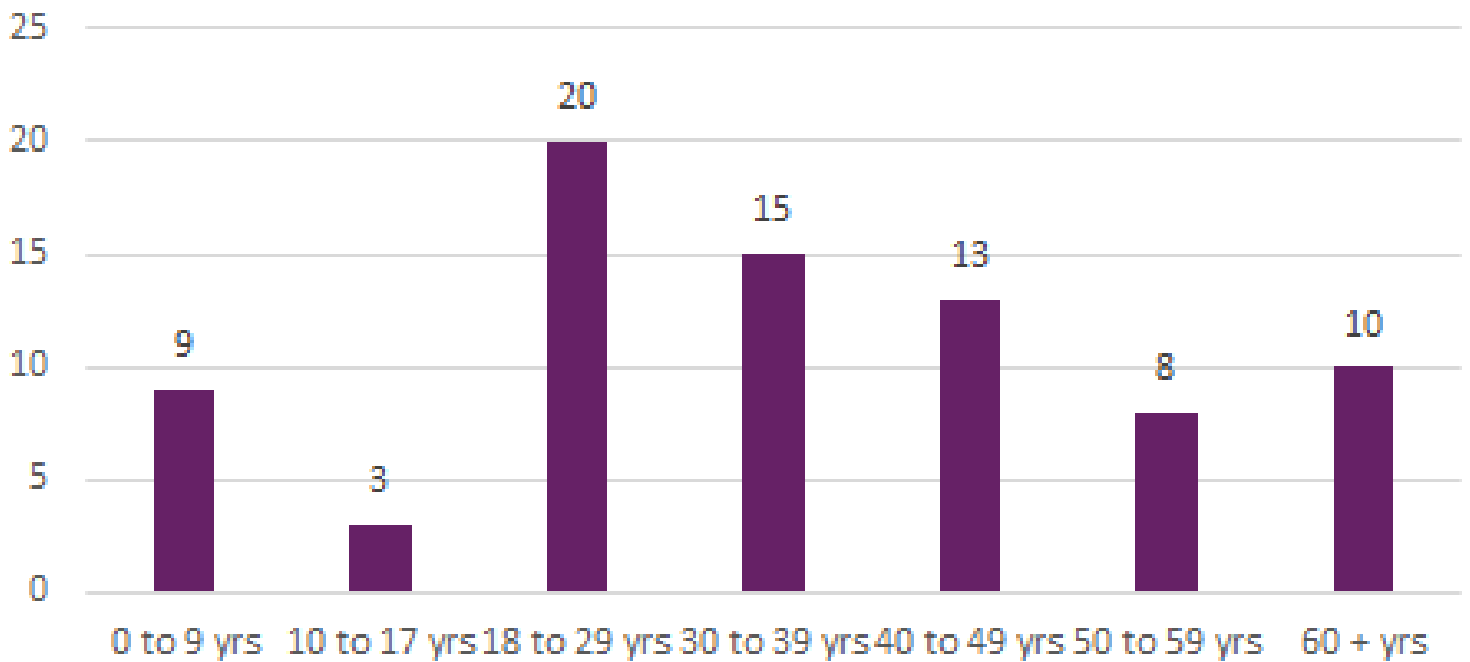


# ABOUT THE VICTIMS

Ranging from less than one year old to 81 years old, victims who died as a result of domestic violence relationships represent all age groups.

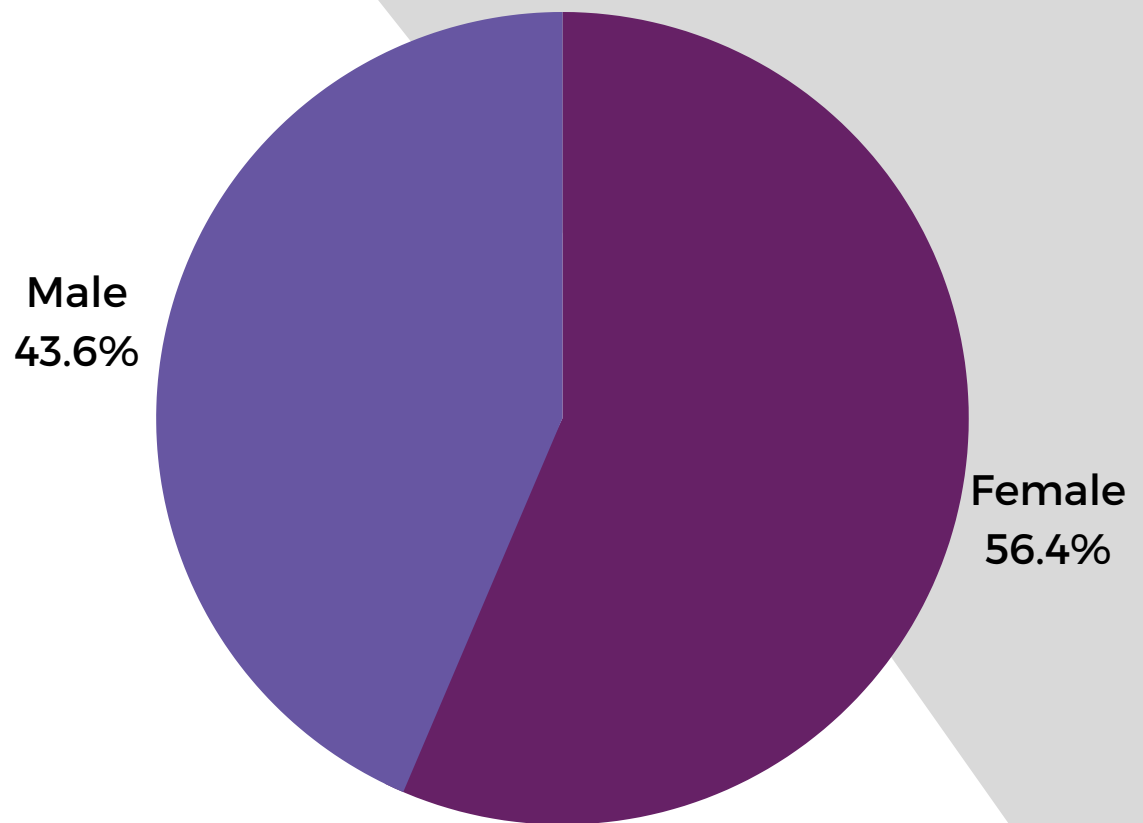
Of the 78 total deaths, 12 (15%) victims were children (0-17 years) and 66 (85%) were adults (18 and older).

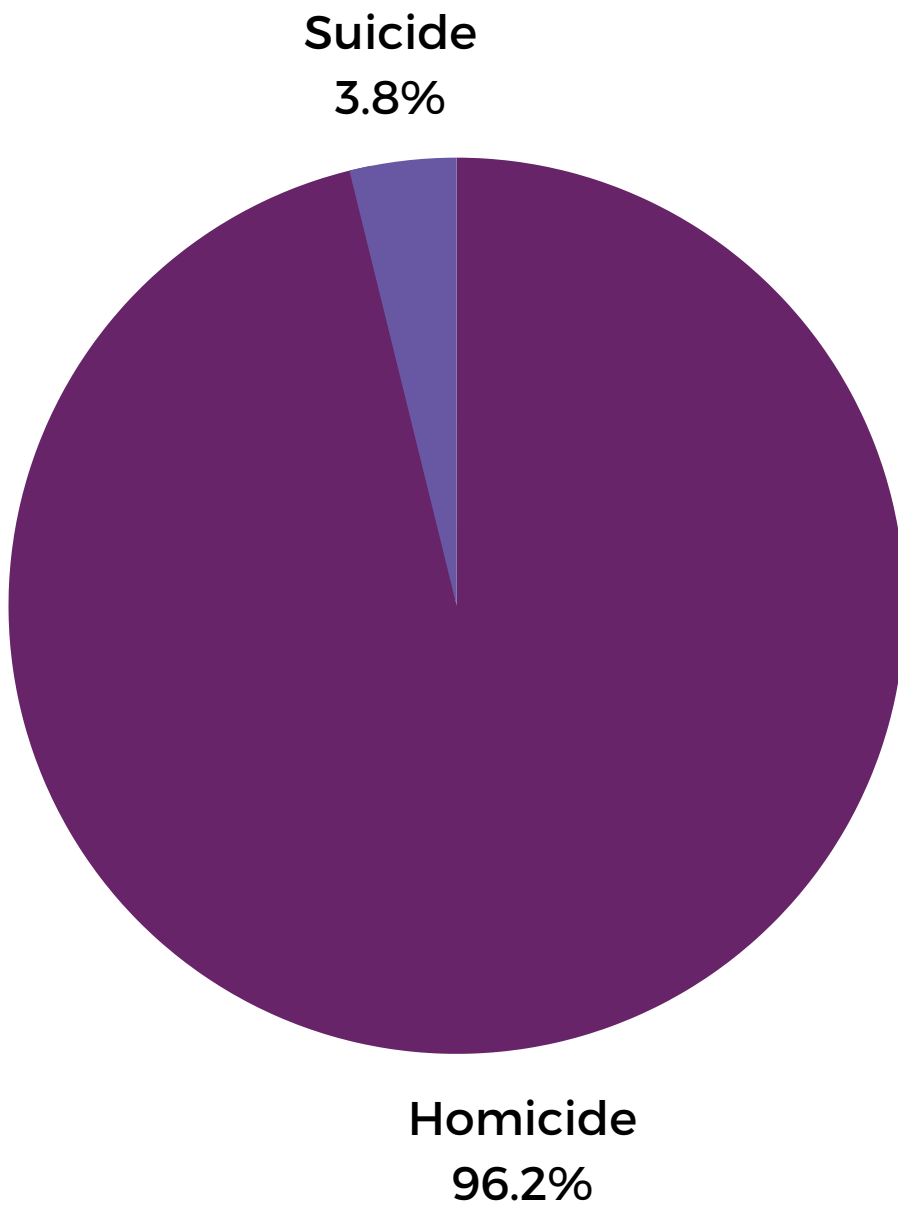
### Age At Time Of Death





44 of the 78 domestic violence related deaths during this period were female.





75 of the 78 total deaths were homicides.

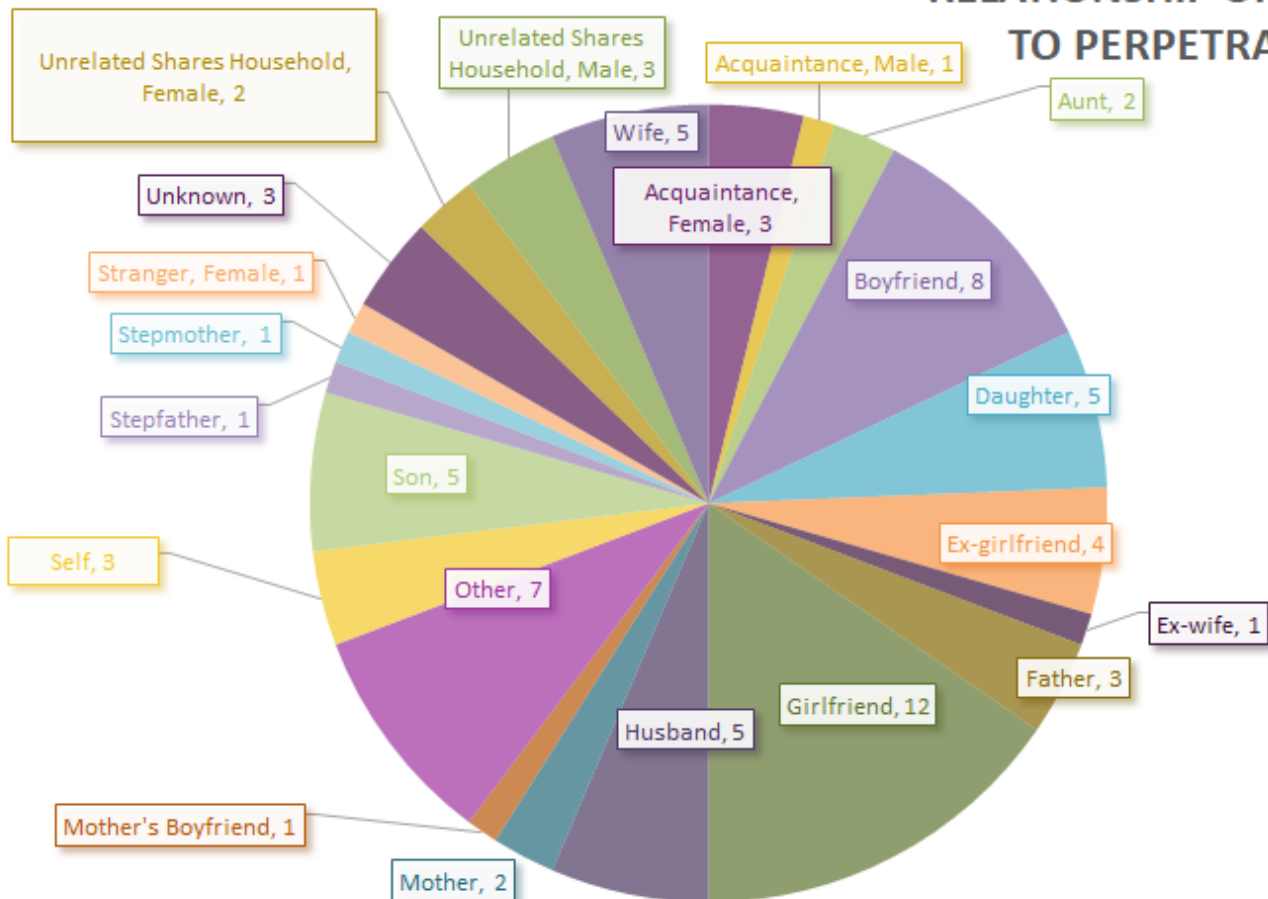
3 of the reported incidents ended in suicide, with all the perpetrators who took their own lives being male.



# 13%

In 10 of the 78 deaths, the victim was the current wife or husband of the perpetrator.

## RELATIONSHIP OF VICTIM TO PERPETRATOR



The relationships between the victim and the perpetrator vary greatly. About half of the relationships were current or former intimate partner relationships.



# **METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION**

**The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) will continue to collect homicide data on a regular basis, increasing comparative data from one year to the next enabling us to identify possible trends. In year two of this project, ICADV began using a news clipping service to increase efficiency of domestic violence homicide news searches.**

**ICADV staff gathered data throughout the 2021 fiscal year. The Meltwater News online system for articles pertaining to domestic violence homicides was checked regularly. Additionally, domestic violence agency staff throughout the state occasionally submit articles to the ICADV administrative office.**

**Thank you to everyone who assisted in the production of this report.**





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**Our heartfelt condolences to the families of these homicide victims.**

**These homicides were all preventable. To find out how you can help support your local domestic violence agency or the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence, visit <https://www.ilcadv.org/every-one-can-be-an-advocate/>.**

**If you are a survivor of domestic violence and are looking for support, help is available, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Find help here: <https://www.ilcadv.org/get-help/>.**



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