Fiscal Year 2016
Domestic Violence Homicide Report
FY16 concluded with: 49 Domestic Violence related deaths in Illinois, 46 Adults and three children.

The worst result of domestic violence is the loss of life. This report provides information related to domestic violence related homicides and suicides in Illinois for the 2016 fiscal year (July 1, 2015–June 30, 2016). During this time, Illinois had 36 domestic violence incidents resulting in 49 total deaths.

The risk of lethality increases with several risk factors, including separation or an attempt to end the relationship, threats to kill, access to weapons, stalking, strangulation during an assault, controlling, possessive, jealous behavior; drug and/or alcohol abuse. Children not in common in the household and unemployment are also factors in the risk of lethality.
### Homicide Victim Relationship to Perpetrator

This report presents the type of relationship that the homicide victim had with the perpetrator. Domestic violence homicides quite often include friends, family and even coworkers of the victim. Fiscal year 2016 shows a wide array of relationships, the diagram below does not include domestic violence suicides.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrelated Shared Household</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wife</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyfriend</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Boyfriend</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Girlfriend</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girlfriend Father</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girlfriend Sister</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ex-Wife</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girlfriend</td>
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<tr>
<td>Husband</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Same-sex Partner</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Son</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step-Son</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sex of Perpetrators and Their Victims

This report reviews the sex of the perpetrators. Female perpetrators’ most common victims were male. Of the seven homicides committed by female perpetrators, six victims were male and one was female.

Male perpetrators’ most common victims were female. Male perpetrators were responsible for 42 domestic violence homicides, and 24 of those 42 were female. The remaining 18 victims killed by male perpetrators were male.
Means of Death by Suicide

This report reviews the rate of suicides following the commission of a homicide. Of the 49 total domestic violence deaths, eight were suicides. See diagram below on how suicides were committed.

Means of Death by Homicide

Once again, firearm deaths (16) and stabbing deaths (15) accounted for over two-thirds of all of the domestic violence homicides in fiscal year 2016.
FISCAL YEAR 2016—DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT

Homicides and Suicides by Judicial Circuit

Illinois has 23 judicial circuits along with six municipal districts (located in Cook County). This report summarizes the number of homicides that occurred within each of the judicial circuits and municipal districts in Illinois. Excluded circuits have no reported domestic violence related incidents. The 19th Judicial Circuit, Cook County’s 4th and 5th Municipal Districts were the highest with four homicide victims each. The chart below provides more information on homicides and suicides by judicial circuit.

Means of Domestic Violence Deaths (adults) for Homicides and Suicides

21—Firearms
15—Stabbings
3—Strangulation
2—Suffocations
2—Blunt force traumas with weapon
1—Vehicular Homicide
1—Physical assaults-no weapon
1—Poison
FISCAL YEAR 2016—DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT

Lethality Risk Considerations

⇒ Has the physical violence increased in severity or frequency over the past year?
⇒ Has the abuser ever used a weapon against you or threatened you with a weapon?
⇒ Does the abuser ever put a strangle hold on you?
⇒ Does the abuser own or have a gun?

Homicides and Suicides by County

There are 102 counties in Illinois, but only 16 counties reported domestic violence homicides. Cook County had the most homicides, totaling 17. The diagram below reflects the number of homicide victims and perpetrator suicides by county.

Domestic Violence Deaths by County
Next Steps

The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence 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. This led to additional time for some in-depth analysis about cases already in the database. The history of orders of protection, as well as information about the disposition of the perpetrators of domestic violence homicide, will continue to be of importance to this research.

Methods of Data Collection

ICADV staff gathered data throughout the fiscal year 2016. The Meltwater News online system for articles pertaining to domestic violence homicides in Illinois was checked regularly.

Additionally, domestic violence program staff throughout the state occasionally submit articles to the ICADV administrative office. Many thanks to everyone who assisted in the writing of this report.