



ILLINOIS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ANNUAL ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT

2022





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 2022.

During this period, 45 incidents of domestic violence led to 57 deaths.

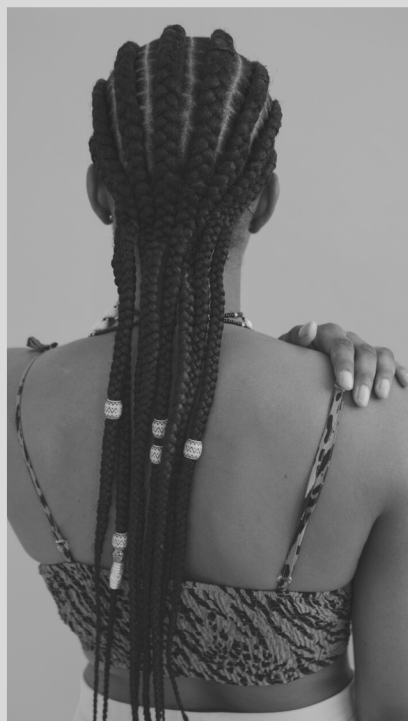
Domestic violence threatens not only the safety of the survivor or victim but also their children, as well as their entire community. Bystanders and others attempting to provide assistance or support to a survivor are often injured or killed.





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.

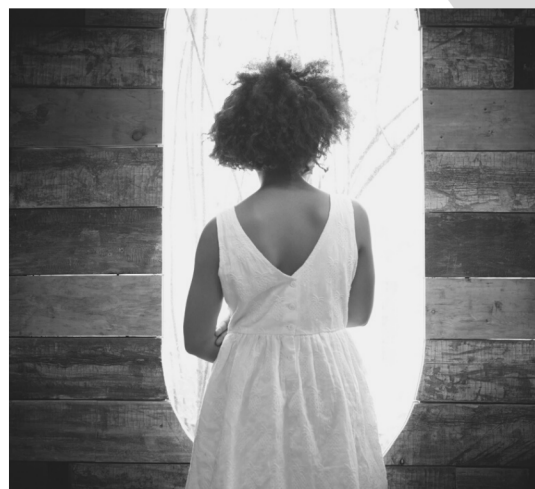
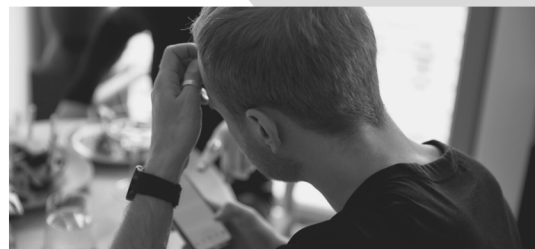


RISK OF LETHALITY



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

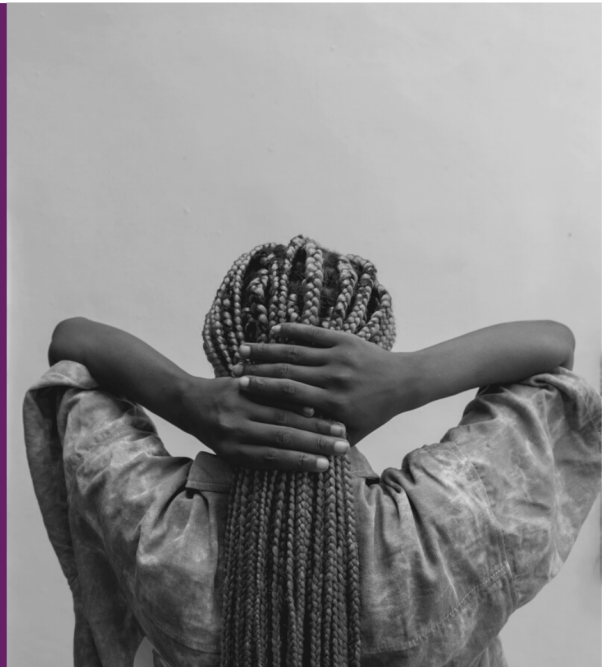
- Separation or an attempt to end the relationship
- Threats to kill
- Access to weapons
- Stalking
- Strangulation during an assault
- Controlling, possessive, and jealous behavior
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Children not in common
- Unemployment



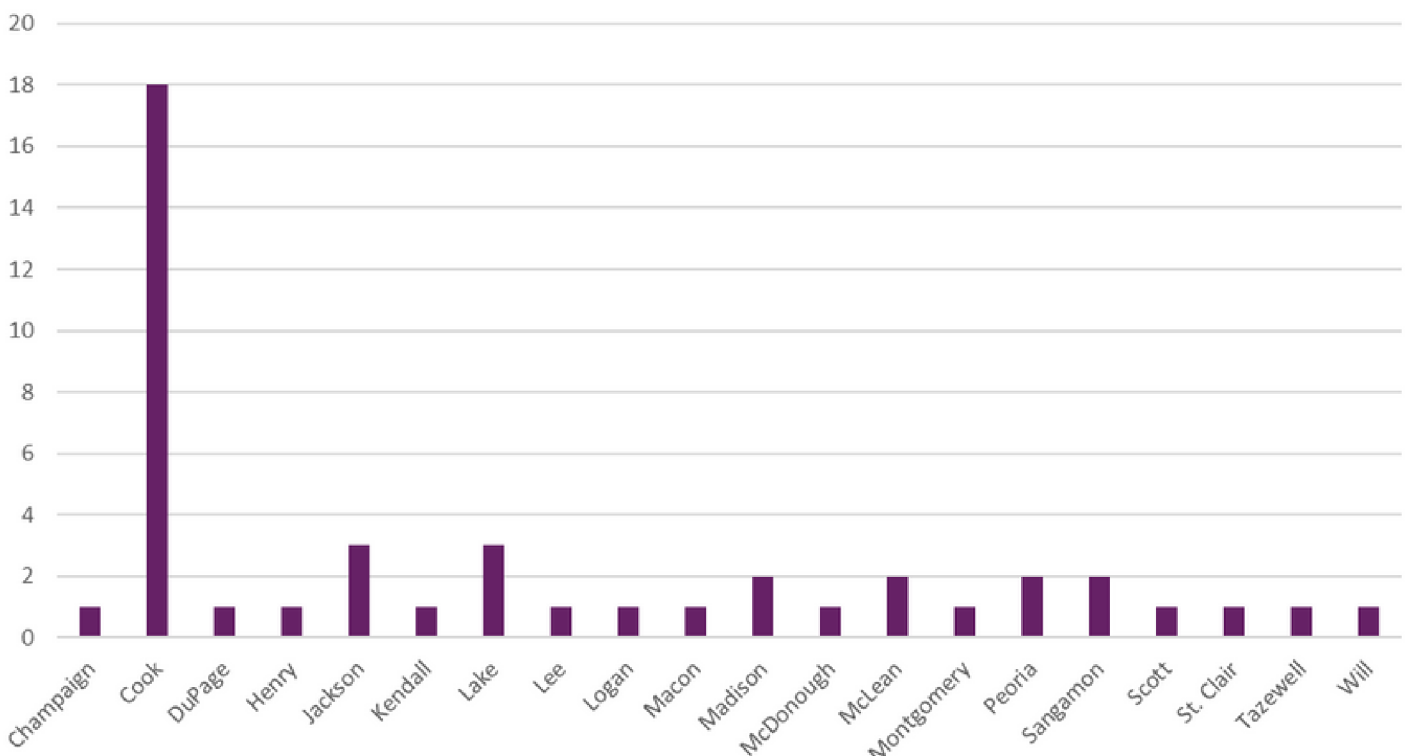
LOCATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS



Out of the 102 Illinois counties, 20 counties were found to have reported deaths in connection to a domestic violence incident.



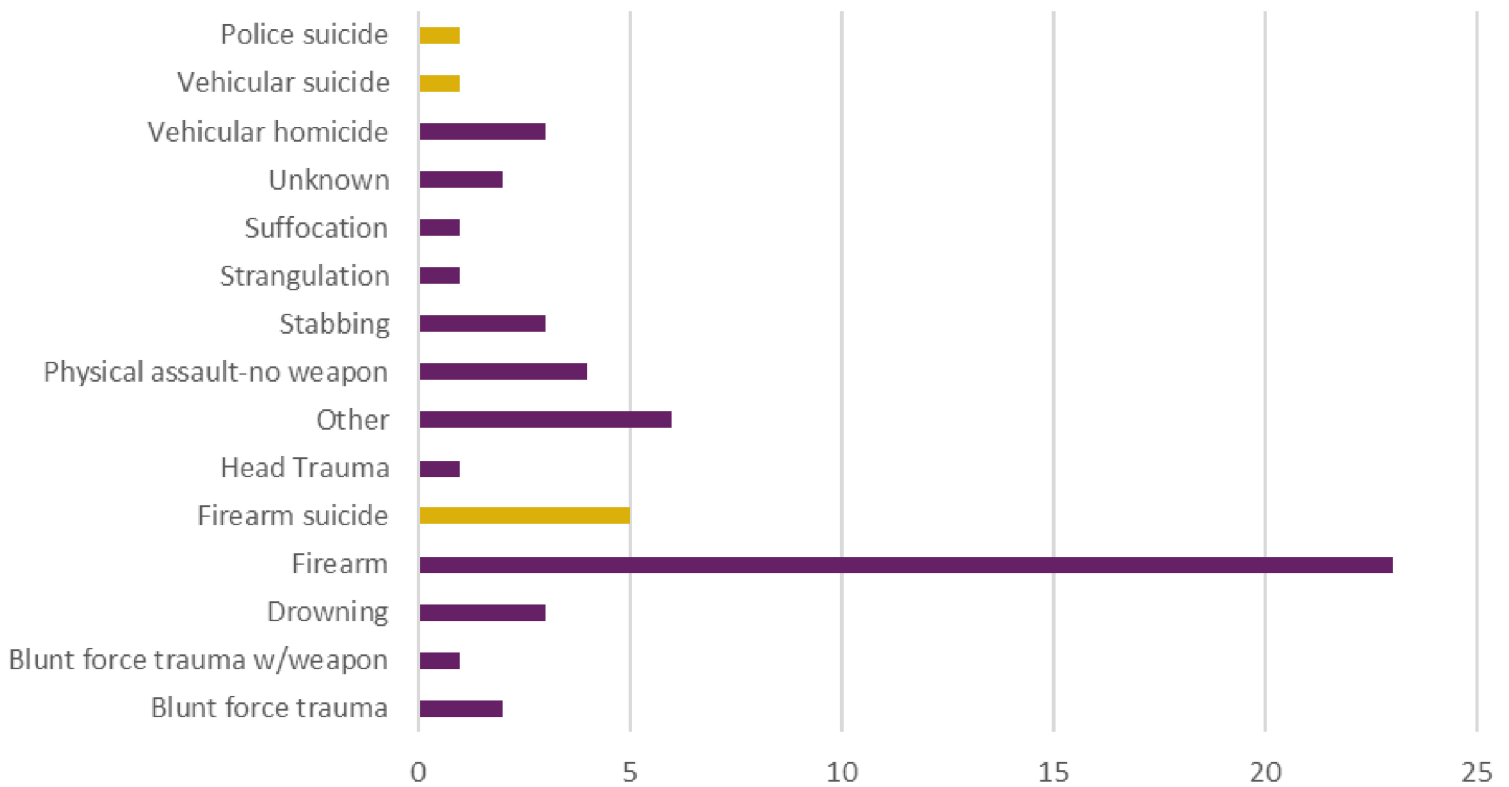
Incidents Per County



MEANS OF DEATH



Means of Death: Homicides and Suicides



49%

Firearms were the means of death in 28 of the 57 total deaths during this period.



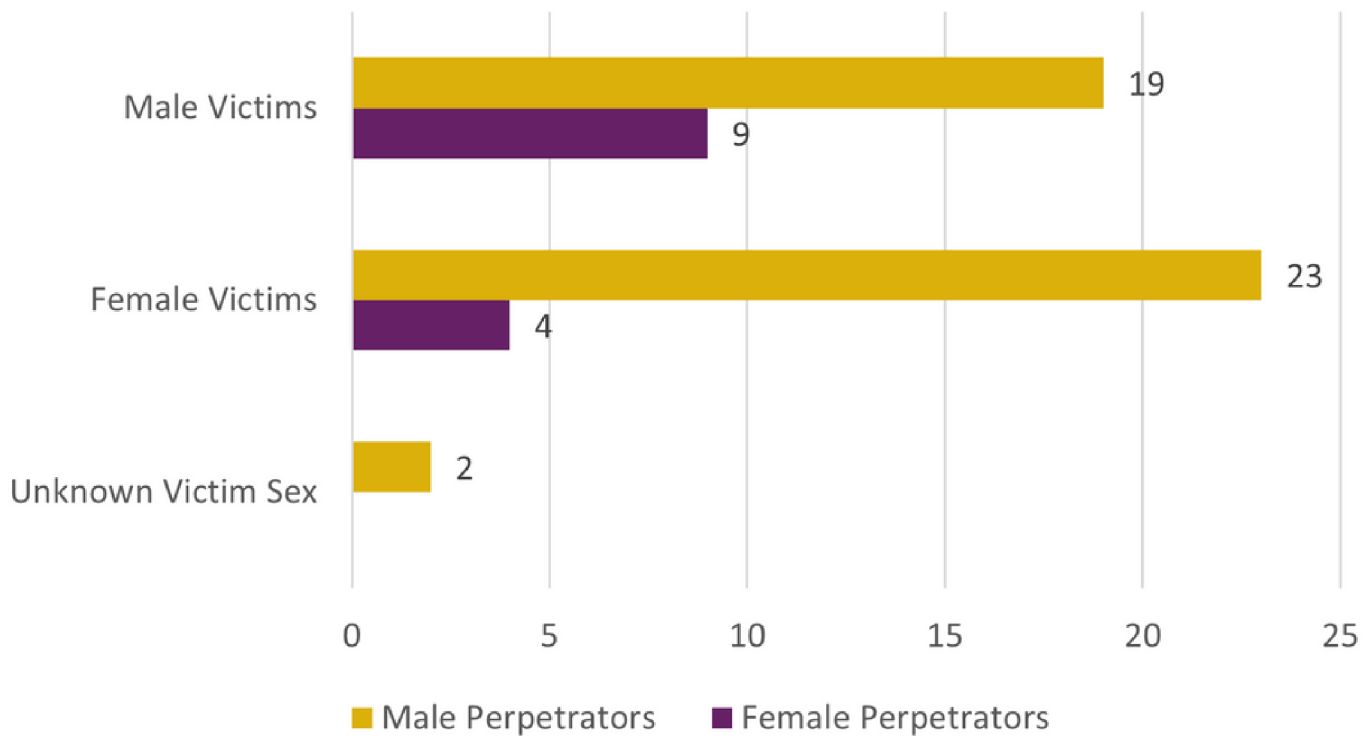
ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS



Of the deaths, 77% were caused by male perpetrators. 52% of these victims were female.

Of the 23% of deaths caused by female perpetrators, 69% of these victims were male.

Sex of Perpetrators and Thier Victims

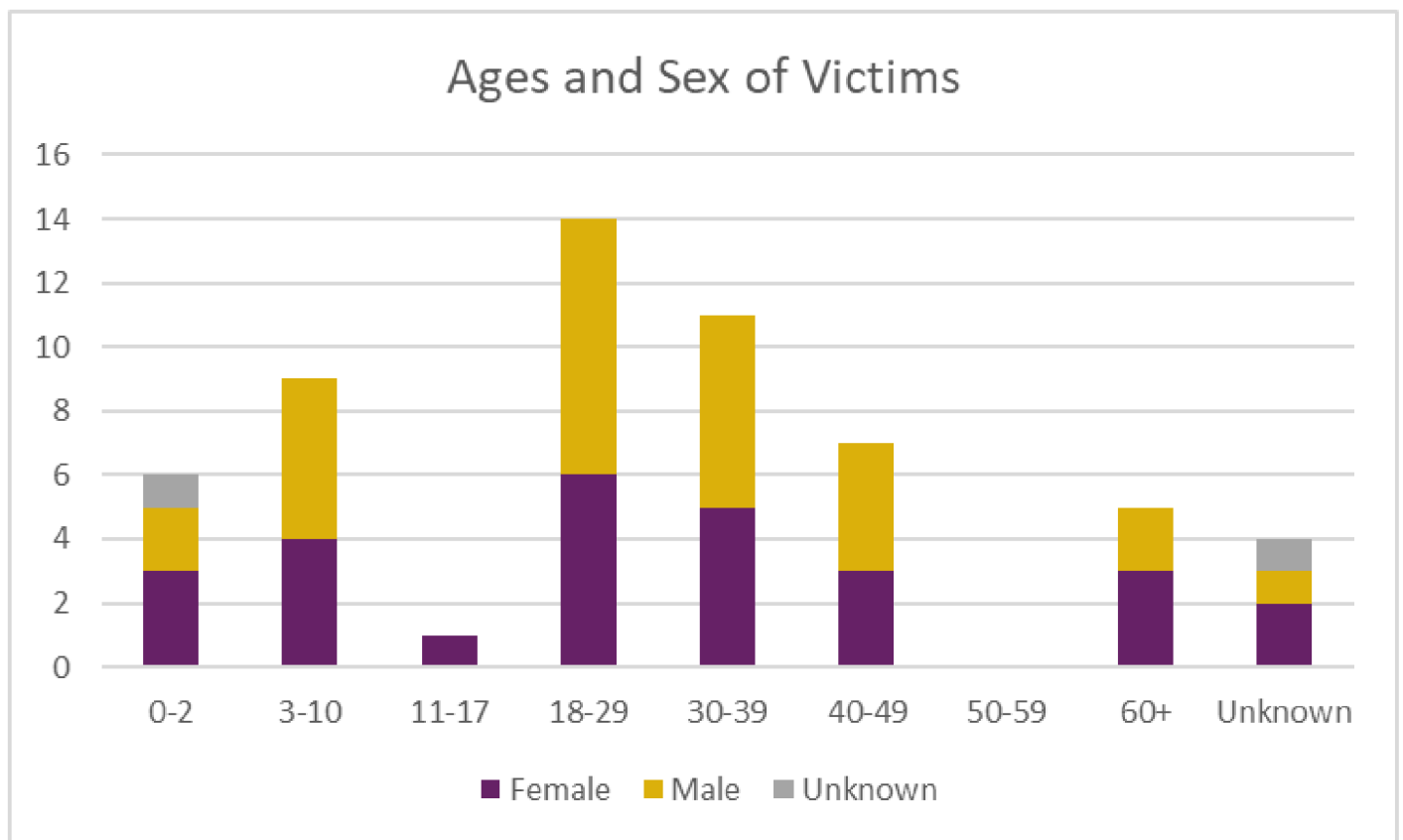


ABOUT THE VICTIMS



Ranging from less than one year old to 79 years old, victims who died as a result of domestic violence relationships represent all age groups.

1/3 (33%) of all deaths were children 17 years old and younger.

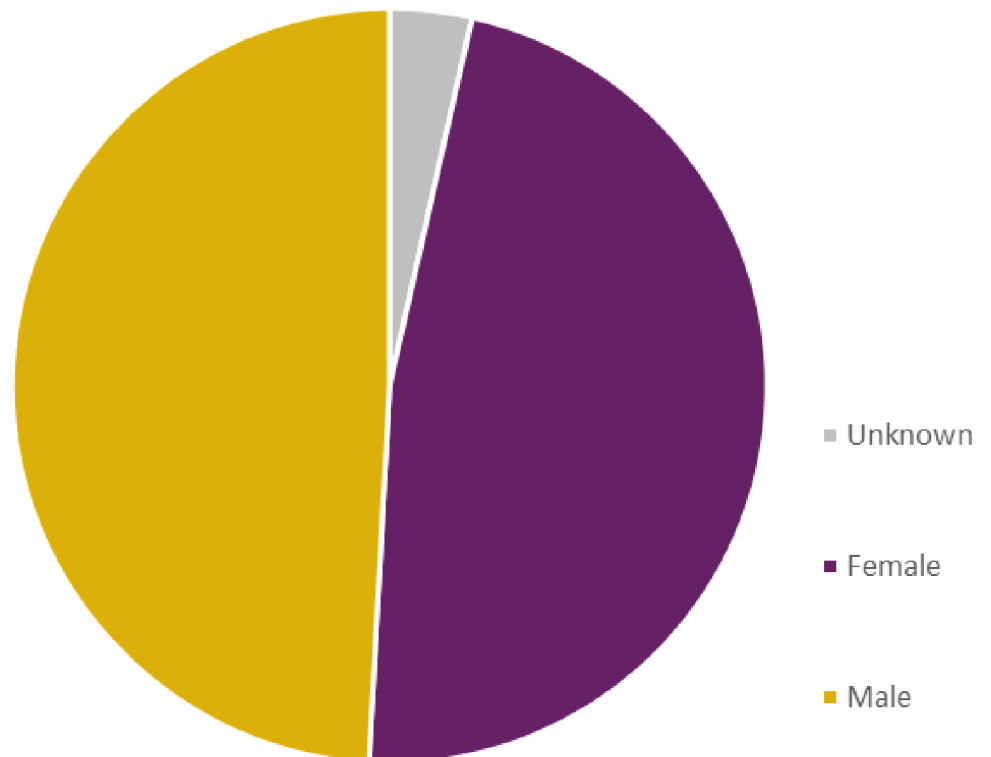


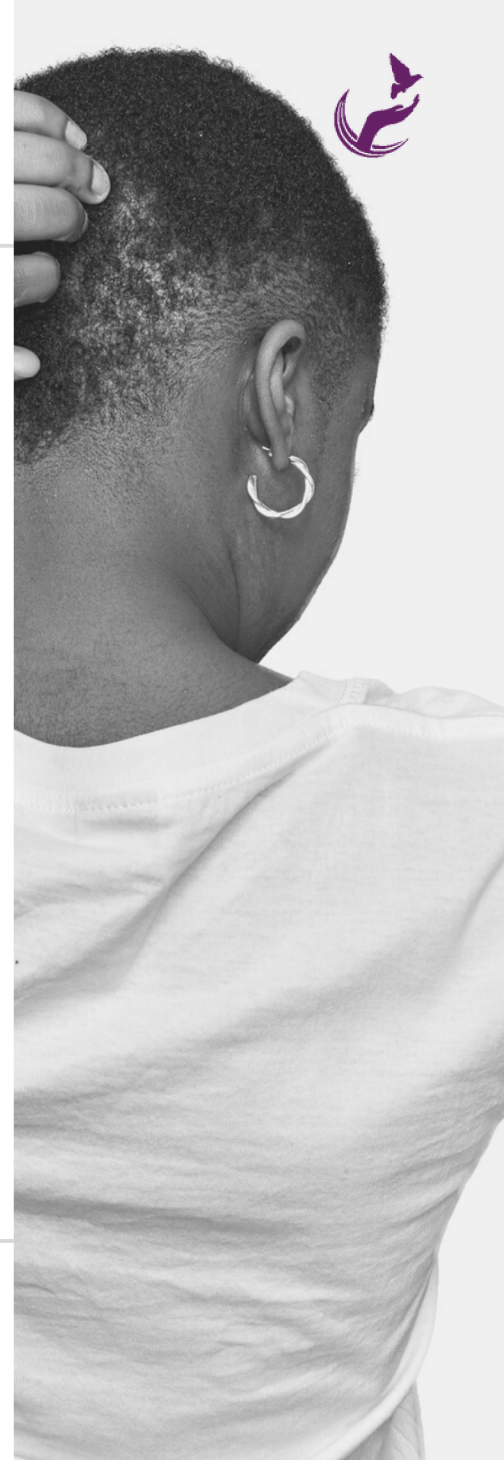


27 of the 57 domestic violence related deaths during this period were female.

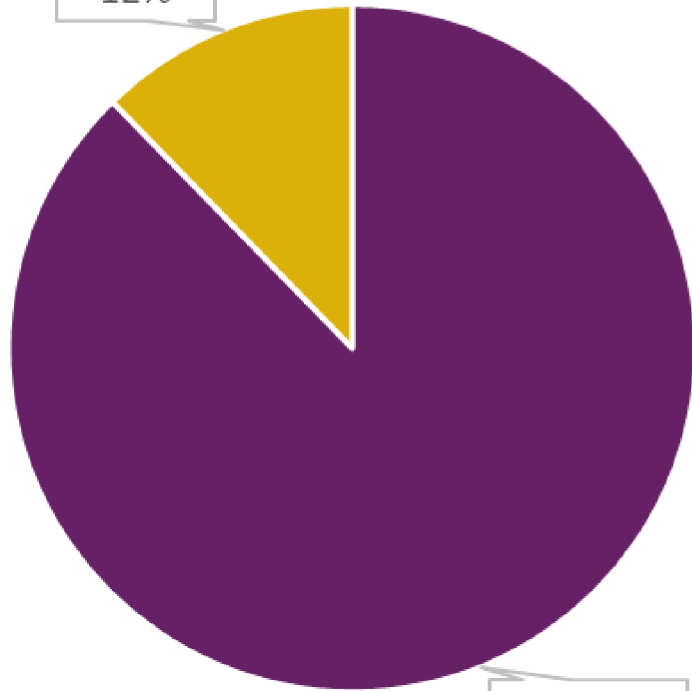


Sex of Victim





Suicides
12%



Homicides
88%

■ Homicides
■ Suicides

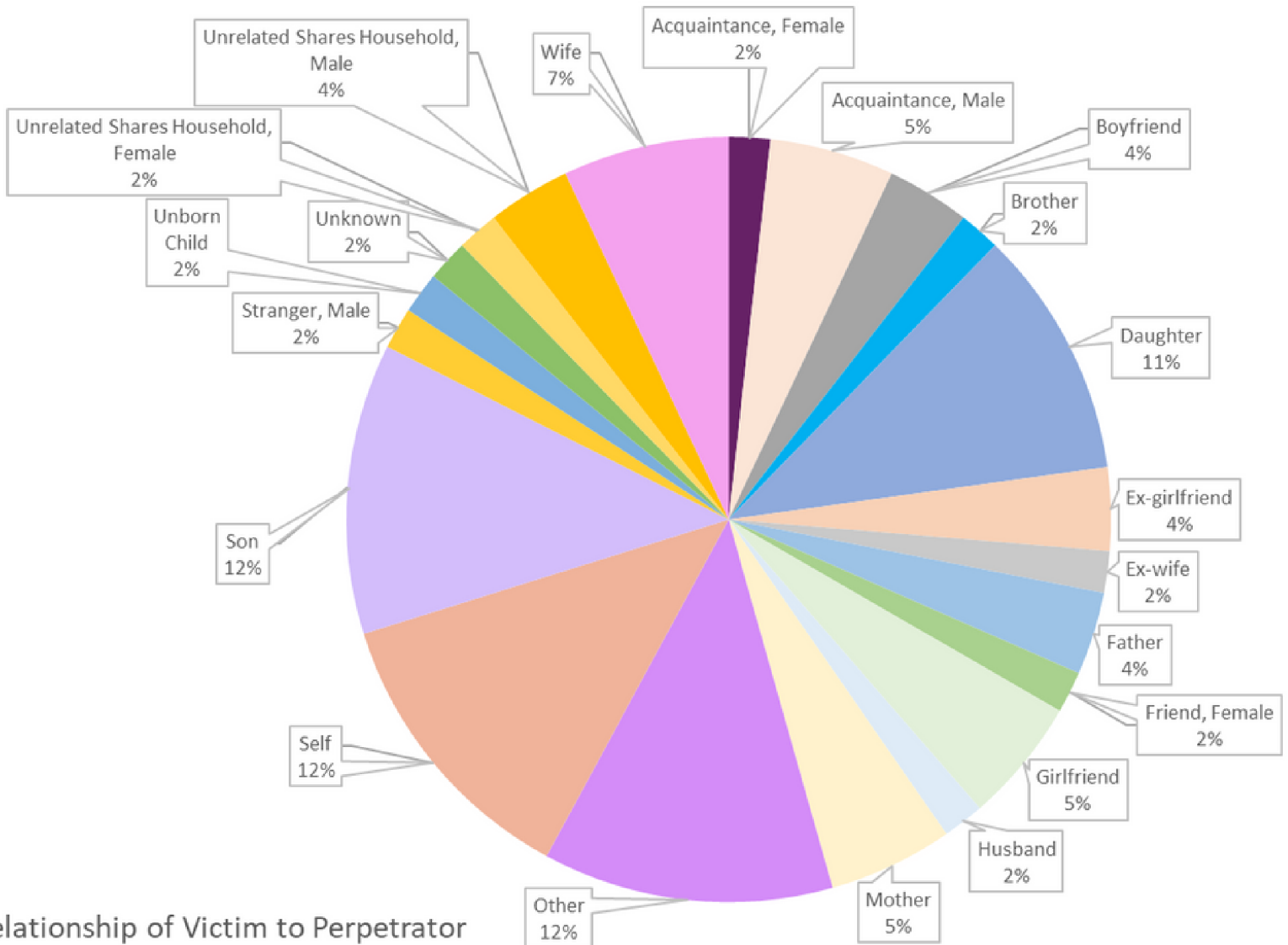
50 of the 57 total deaths were homicides.

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



9%

In 5 of the 57 deaths, the victim was the current wife or husband of the 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 regularly, 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 the efficiency of domestic violence homicide news searches.

ICADV staff gathered data throughout 2022. The Meltwater News online system for articles related 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.



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/everyone-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/>.

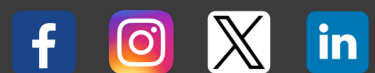
The 24-hour National Domestic Violence Hotline can also be reached at:

Phone: 800-799-7233

SMS: Text START to 88788



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www.ilcadv.org