

Violence Free Iowa releases FY2025 Domestic Violence Homicide Report

At least 28 Iowans killed, bringing 30-year total to 473

DES MOINES, Iowa – October 6, 2026 – Violence Free Iowa released its [**FY2025 Domestic Violence Homicide Report**](#), revealing that at least 28 Iowans lost their lives to domestic violence between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025.

Combining last year's fatalities with data reaching back to 1995, at least 473 lives have been lost to domestic violence in the past 30 years.

"Many people think of domestic violence as a private tragedy, but it's actually a pervasive and urgent public health issue," says Dr. Maria Corona, CEO of Violence Free Iowa. "These are our family members, friends, co-workers, and neighbors — the effects of this violence ripple beyond the home and impact the collective health of entire communities."

Some of the most serious statistics from the FY2025 report:

- Five victims were minors. All of them were younger than five years old.
- At least 23 children lost a parent. Eight lost both parents to murder-suicide.
- In nine cases, the victim or their family or friends disclosed a history of domestic violence by the aggressor. In four of those cases, the victim had a protective order in place that the aggressor violated.
- 20 of the 28 victims were killed by men, seven were killed by women, and one was killed by law enforcement responding to a domestic disturbance call.
- 46% of the homicides were carried out with guns. All six victims and five aggressors killed in murder-suicide events were killed by a gun at the hands of a male aggressor.
- At least one victim was pregnant, resulting in the death of both the mother and her unborn child.

Dr. Ruxandra Marcu, Chief Impact Officer at Violence Free Iowa, leads the project, which she says is designed to inform public policy, funding, and prevention work statewide.

“Every victim represented in this report is a reminder that we have an opportunity and a responsibility to learn from what the data is telling us,” she says. “By identifying patterns, risk factors, and gaps before violence becomes fatal, we can strengthen prevention efforts and ensure that survivors and their families have access to support that can make a difference.”

The Past, Present, and Future of the Report

From 1995 through 2021, the Iowa Attorney General’s office published domestic violence-related homicide information. In 2025, Violence Free Iowa ([then known as](#) the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence) took up the charge and developed a [fact sheet that covered 2021 through 2024](#).

Now, the plan is to publish a more in-depth report like [the FY2025 version](#) annually.

Report data was collected from multiple sources, including the Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) database, media coverage, and information from victim service providers and other community partners.

“We consider this a data-informed analysis of the cases we were able to identify — not necessarily a complete picture of DV-related fatalities in Iowa,” says Dr. Marcu. “Public information about homicides is often incomplete and can change over the course of investigation, so it’s difficult to develop a definitive report.”

Topics highlighted in the report include:

- Criminalized survival (when a victim is arrested for actions taken to protect themselves).
- Gender’s role in domestic violence homicide.
- The importance of safe emergency shelter and access to affordable housing.
- The need for more robust prevention work and more comprehensive, survivor-centered services.
- A call for better collaboration and more stable funding for victim services.

“Every life lost is a reality check. Our systems and our communities fell short, and that is on all of us,” says Dr. Corona. “Speaking up, intervening safely, and investing in prevention and crisis services aren’t optional — they are how we make sure the next person gets help before it’s too late.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL FY2025 IOWA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT](#)

About [Violence Free Iowa: The Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence](#)

Violence Free Iowa leads and supports a statewide coalition of 25 victim service provider organizations advancing sexual assault and domestic violence prevention efforts, crisis intervention, and long-term stability. The coalition strengthens partners through training and education, technical assistance, advocacy, and capacity building, while bringing communities, policymakers, and systems together to improve how Iowa prevents and responds to sexual assault and domestic violence. Together, the coalition and its members are working to create an Iowa where everyone can feel safe, heal, and thrive. To learn more, visit www.violencefreeiowa.org.

This report is launching during [Domestic Violence Awareness Month \(DVAM\)](#), which brings people together to raise awareness about domestic abuse, support survivors, and recognize the work happening every day to make Iowa communities safer. Learn more at www.violencefreeiowa.org/dvam.