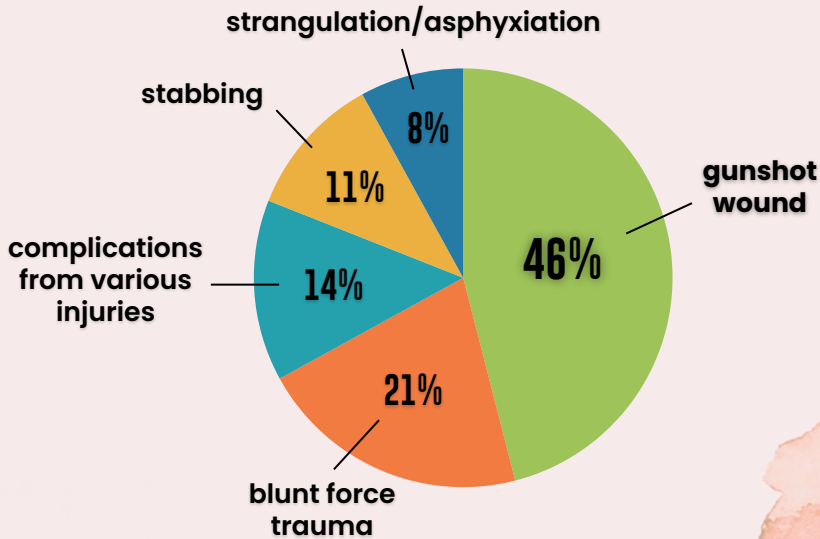


FY2025 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE SUMMARY

(Oct. 1, 2024 — Sept. 30, 2025)

28 total victims of domestic violence homicide



6 victims of murder-suicide
(all killed by guns at the hands of male aggressors)

4 victims had protective orders in place, which their aggressors violated

ALL 13 female victims were killed by men they knew.

OF THE 15 male victims, 7 were killed by men they knew. One was killed by a law enforcement officer during a domestic violence call, and the other 7 were killed by women.

23 children lost a parent to DV homicide

8 of those children lost both parents to murder-suicide

5 victims were under the age of 18
(all younger than 5 years old)

1 victim was pregnant, resulting in the loss of the unborn child as well

86% of victims were killed in their own homes

Data sources: Iowa Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) database, statewide media coverage, case information from community partners, and reports from coalition members (victim service provider organizations).

Notes: Information about homicides is often incomplete, may change as investigations progress, and/or may never be publicly disclosed. Furthermore, DV is not always known or reported prior to a homicide. Therefore, this report is not a comprehensive account of DV-related fatalities in Iowa. It is a **data-informed analysis of identified cases to better understand patterns, trends, risk factors, and opportunities to improve prevention, intervention, and response.**



Domestic violence is not inevitable — it is preventable.

AT LEAST
473

lives lost to domestic violence since January 1, 1995

357 reported by Attorney General's Fatality Chronicle, 1995-2021 +
88 reported in our FY2021-204 report + 28 in our FY2025 report

Homicide data captures only the cases where violence resulted in death, leaving the full scope of coercion, intimidation, and non-fatal violence unmeasured. Many survivors do not engage with law enforcement or victim service systems for various reasons, which means calls to these resources represent just a fraction of the prevalence of abuse.

And, while fatality reviews and criminal justice responses are essential, they are only part of a comprehensive approach to addressing domestic violence. Survivors need access to a full continuum of options, including confidential advocacy and community-based services.

More specifically, housing access and early lease termination allow survivors to escape violence without facing eviction, financial burdens, homelessness, or potential death. Safe emergency housing is the #1 barrier to safety and self-determination for survivors, and the most-requested service within our network of 25 victim services providers. We continue to push for public policies that remove barriers to housing for survivors, and this will remain a priority for the 2027 legislative session.

44,680

**contacts to the Iowa Victim Service Call Center
from Jan. 1–Dec. 31, 2025**

A comprehensive response to domestic violence must also include prevention. Research consistently shows that people experience greater safety and stability when their basic needs are met. Identifying barriers, disparities, and the ways they intersect with violence is critical for developing more effective, prevention-oriented strategies and systems. Indicators include, but are not limited to, adverse childhood experiences, access to healthcare, housing stability, and economic security.

And, while domestic violence affects people of all genders, women disproportionately experience its most extreme forms. This is why prevention must also involve education – especially for boys and young men – about healthy relationships, emotional regulation, conflict resolution, and harmful gender norms.

Effective prevention relies on strong partnerships, robust data systems, and well-funded community-based services (including culturally specific programs). We must ensure that all survivors – regardless of whether they engage with formal systems – have access to safety, healing, and long-term stability. And we must work to prevent teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, and family violence before patterns of harm become established.



The Coalition Against
Sexual and Domestic Violence

See the full version of this report at www.violencefreeiowa.org/advocacyresearchpublicpolicy