



ILLINOIS COALITION  
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

# ANNUAL ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT



2023



**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 2023.**

**During this period, there were 94 incidents of domestic violence which led to 120 deaths, a significant increase from the 45 incidents of domestic violence that led to 57 deaths reported for 2022.**

**This is a 110% increase in deaths caused by domestic violence.**

**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.**

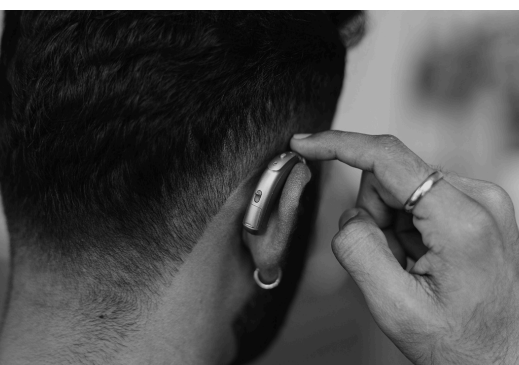
**Although it is our professional stance that child abuse is domestic violence, we do not include all cases of child abuse that result in the death of a child unless the elements of domestic violence are clearly presented in the newspaper report.**



# RISK OF LETHALITY

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

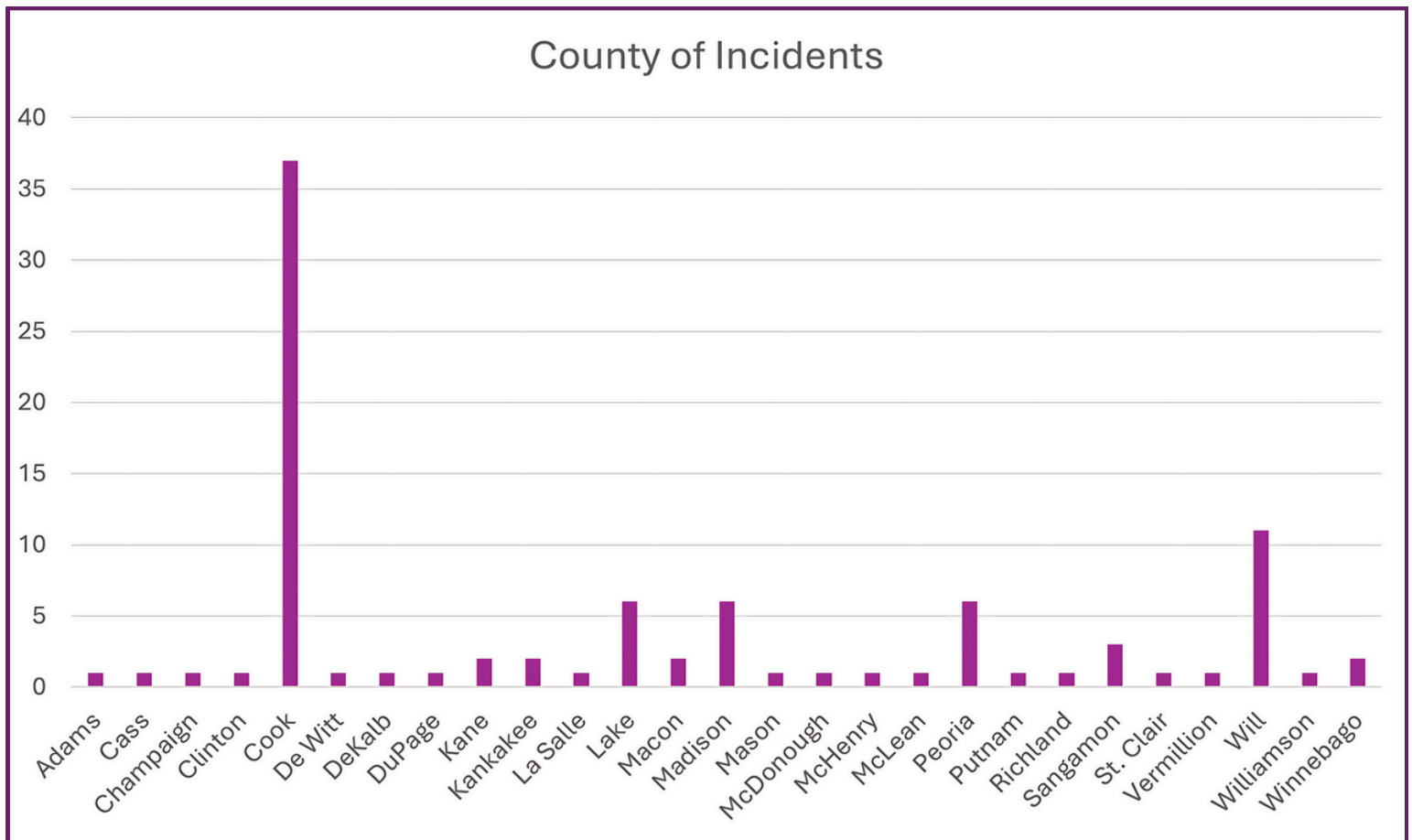
- **Separation or an attempt to end the relationship**
- **Threats to kill**
- **Access to weapons**
- **Stalking**
- **Strangulation during an assault**
- **Controlling, possessive and jealous behavior**
- **Drug and/or alcohol abuse**
- **Children not in common**
- **Unemployment**





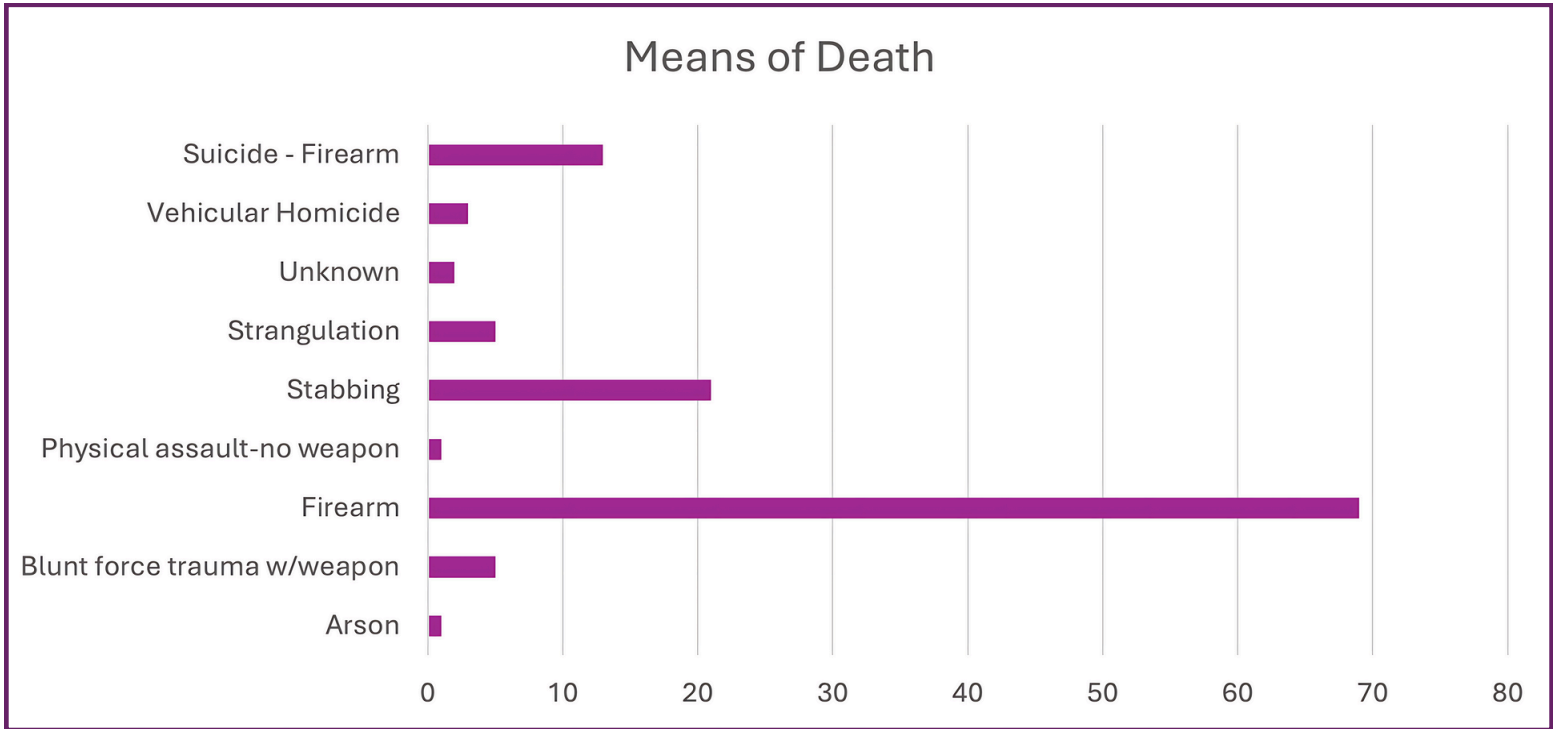
# LOCATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DEATHS

**Out of the 102 Illinois counties, 27 counties were found to have reported deaths in connection to a domestic violence incident, an increase from the 20 counties reported in 2022.**





# MEANS OF DEATH



**68%**

Firearms were the means of death in 82 of the 120 total deaths during this period.

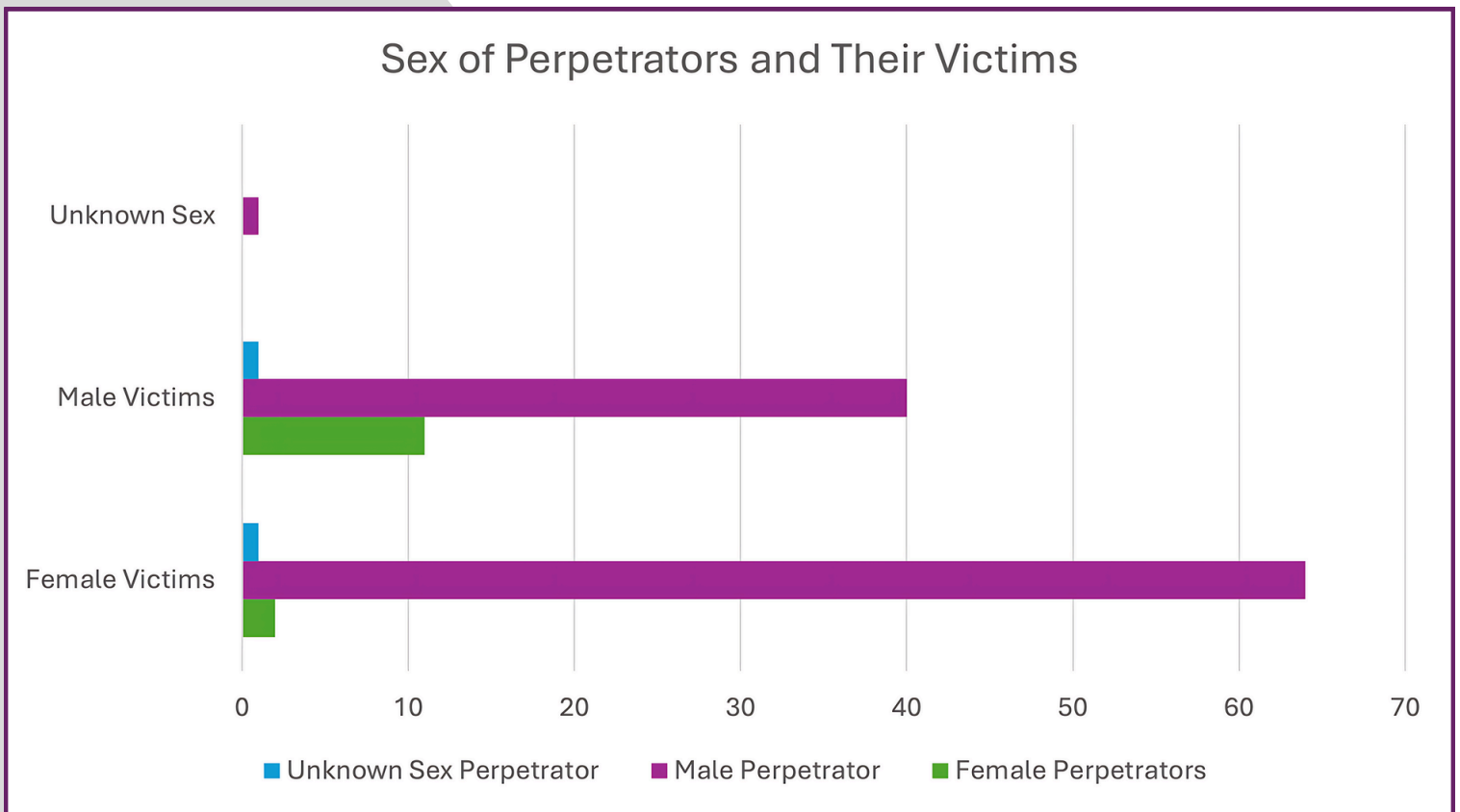
In 2022, firearms were the means of death in 49% of the deaths during that reporting period.



# ABOUT THE PERPETRATORS

**Of the total deaths, 105 were caused by male perpetrators. 61% of their victims were female.**

**Of the 13 deaths caused by female perpetrators, 85% of these victims were male.**

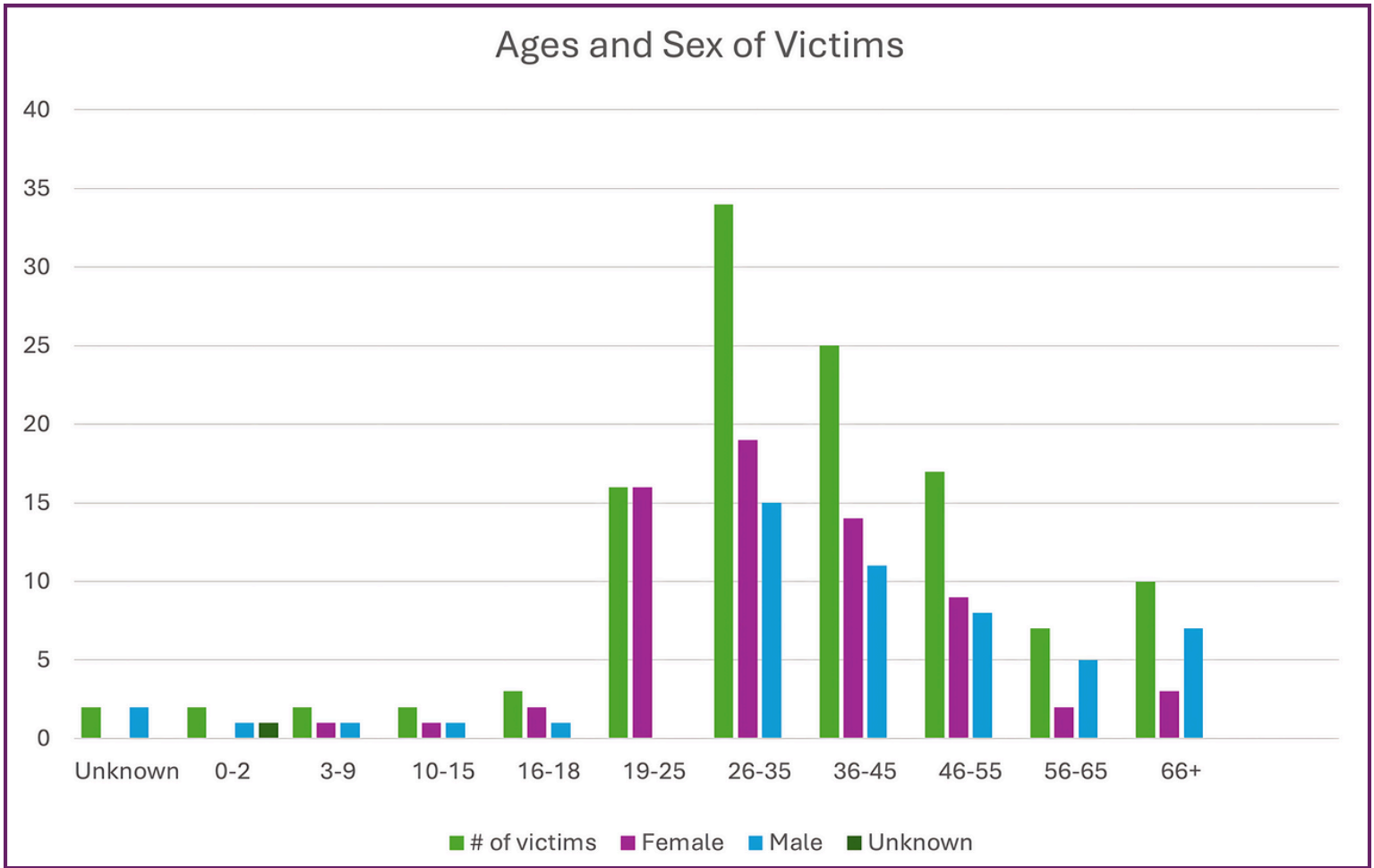




# ABOUT THE VICTIMS

Ranging from less than one year old to 86 years old, victims who died as a result of domestic violence relationships represent all age groups

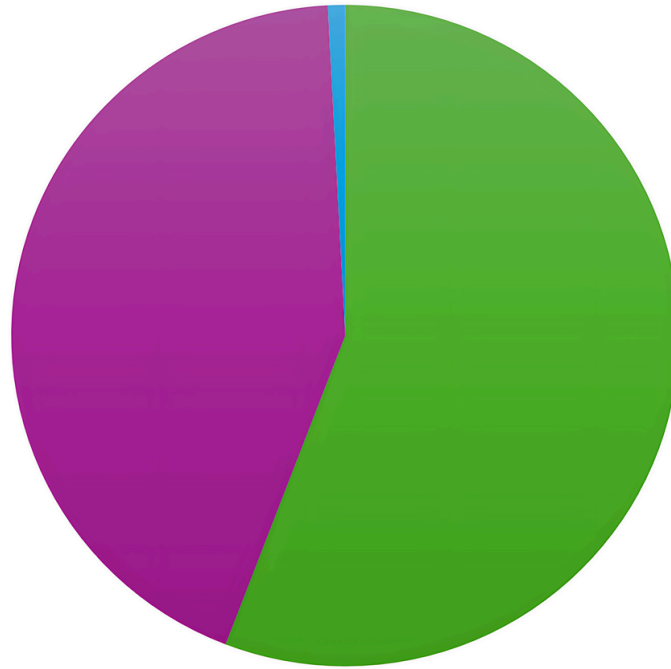
8% of all deaths were children 17 years old and younger, a significant decrease from the 33% reported in 2022.







## Sex of Victims



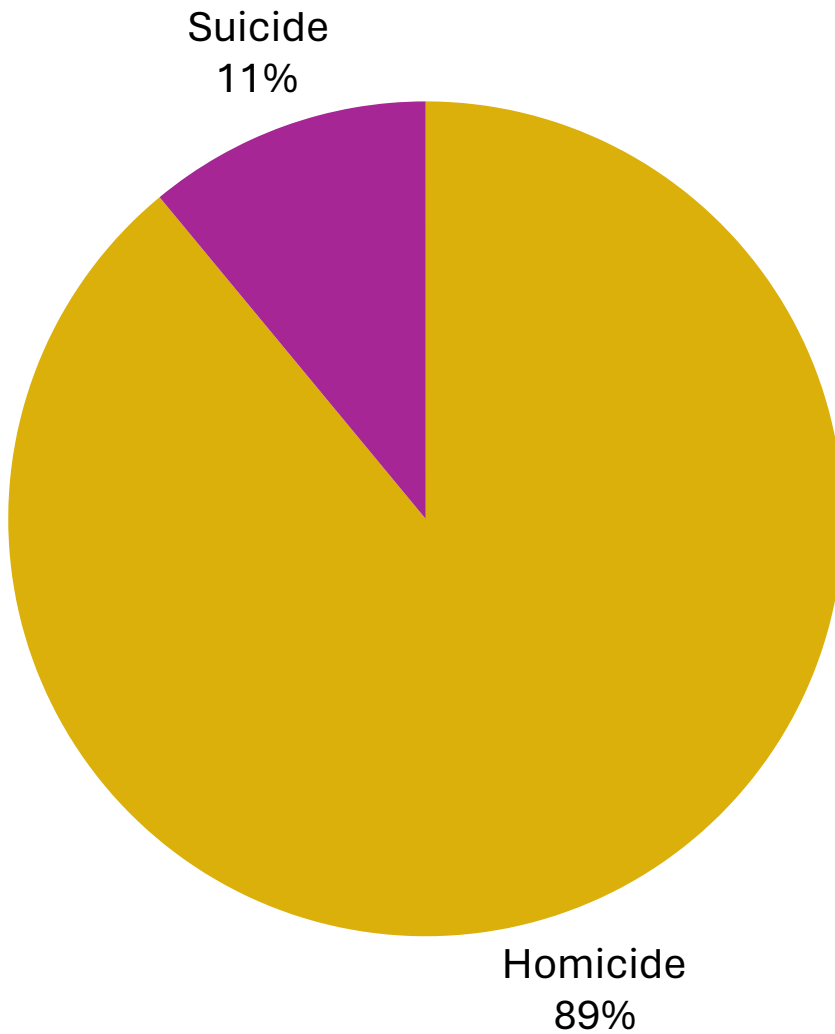
■ Female ■ Male ■ Unknown

**67** of the **120** domestic violence related deaths during this period were female.





## Type of Death

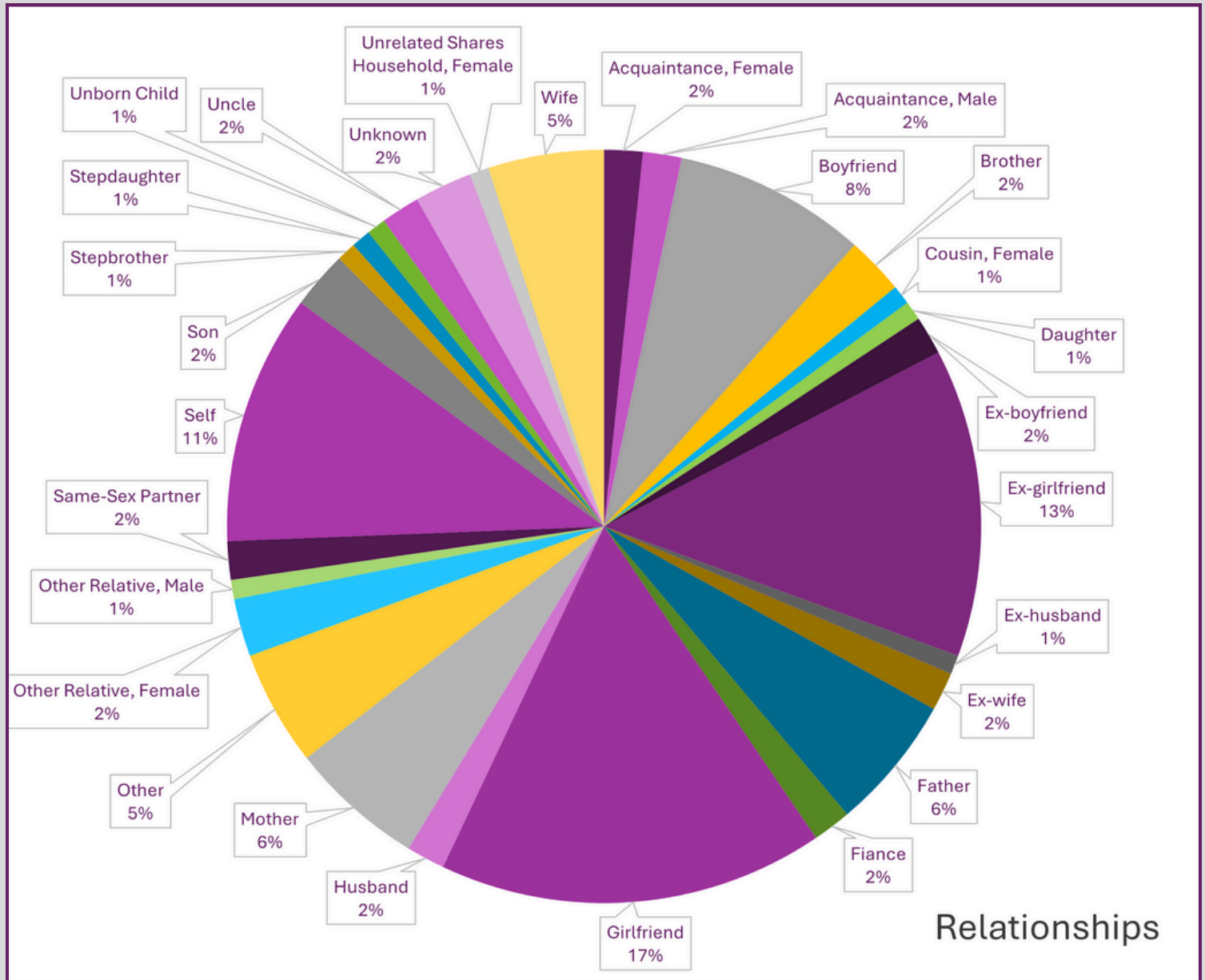


107 of the total deaths were homicides.

13 of the reported incidents ended in suicide, all of them by male perpetrators who took their own lives with firearms.



**The relationships between the victim and the perpetrator vary greatly. About half were current or former intimate partner relationships, with 42% of those being current or former partner of a male.**



**42% of males killed by males were those of immediate family and not a current or former intimate partner.**

**There were no found incidents of a female killing an immediate family member this reporting period.**



# 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.

ICADV staff gathered data throughout 2023. Both the Gun Violence Archive and the Meltwater News online system were used to find articles related to domestic violence homicides. Additionally, domestic violence agency staff throughout the state occasionally submit articles to the ICADV 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/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/>.**



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