



IOWA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE FACT SHEET

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022 to 2024



IOWA COALITION AGAINST
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



At the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence,

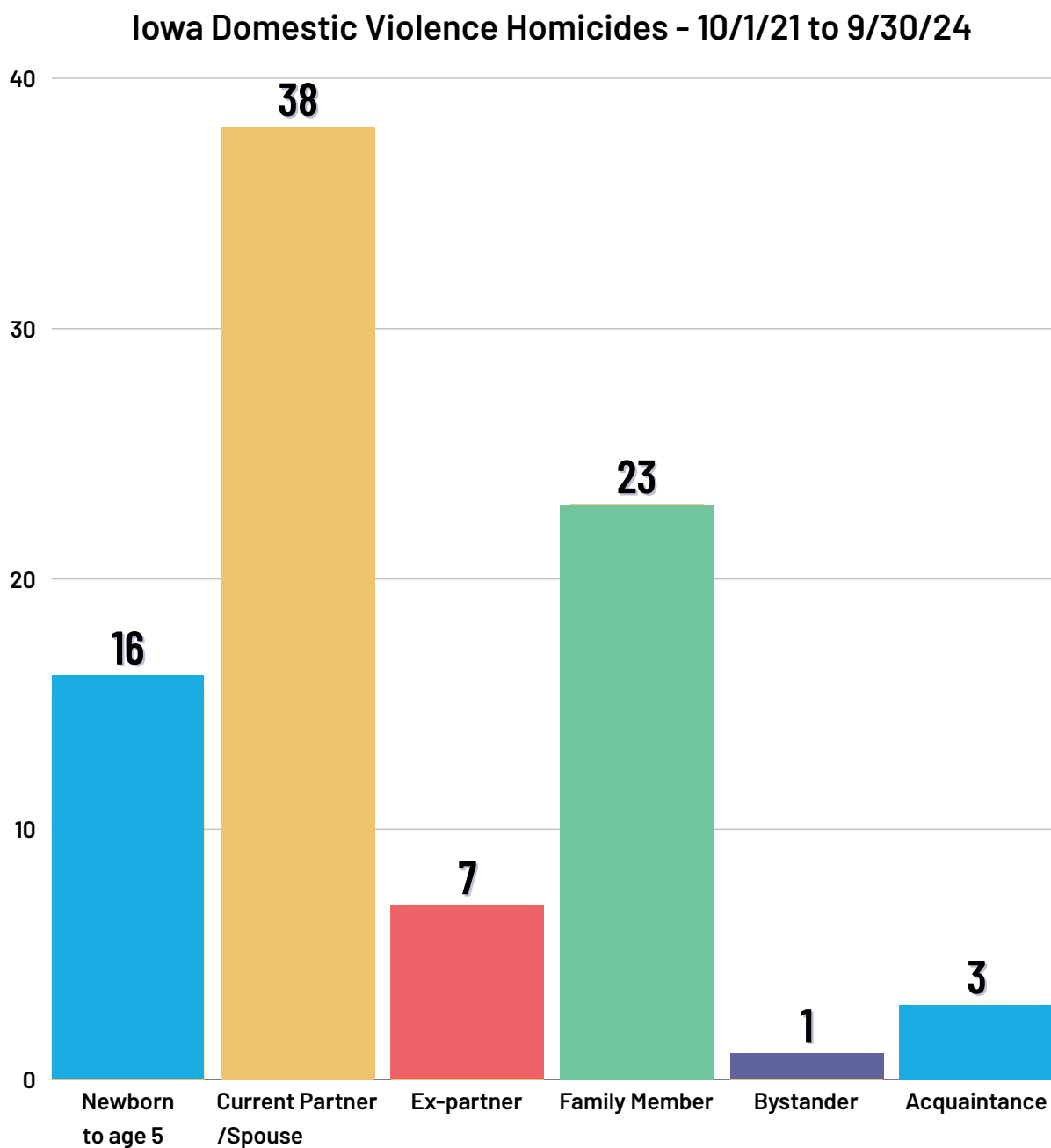
we believe domestic violence is a preventable public health issue and that all Iowans deserve a life free from violence. We work alongside a statewide network of victim service provider agencies, connect survivors to the help and services they need, and advocate for policy and community change that makes Iowa safer for everyone.

Our long-term goal is to end the threat of violence for everyone in our state. Feeling physically, mentally, and emotionally safe are basic human rights that every person and child deserves. When anyone in the community experiences violence, it affects the collective health of the entire population.

This fact sheet draws on publicly available data sources, including the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program in Iowa as well as news and media coverage of homicides in our state. We acknowledge the inherent limitations in the data, as disclosures from victims are often fragmented or incomplete. This is due not only to the compounding effects of trauma but also to the reality that many crimes — particularly those involving women, children, and other vulnerable populations — go unreported.



Even with limited data, we know that at least **88** people in Iowa lost their lives to domestic violence between October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024. Additionally, these numbers add to the **357** deaths tracked by the Iowa Attorney General's Office DV Fatality Chronicle from January 1, 1995 to September 30, 2021. At least **445** lives have been lost in Iowa since 1995 due to domestic violence. These numbers underscore an urgent public health concern that has claimed too many lives already.



NOTE: ICADV selected to begin Iowa's domestic violence homicide analysis on October 1, 2021, and will rely on our organization's methodology in reporting data moving forward. We refer to the Iowa Attorney General's Office DV Fatality Chronicle data from 1995-2021 to gain a broader understanding of domestic violence homicides in the state of Iowa over the past three decades.

Iowa Domestic Violence Homicide Overview

OCTOBER 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022

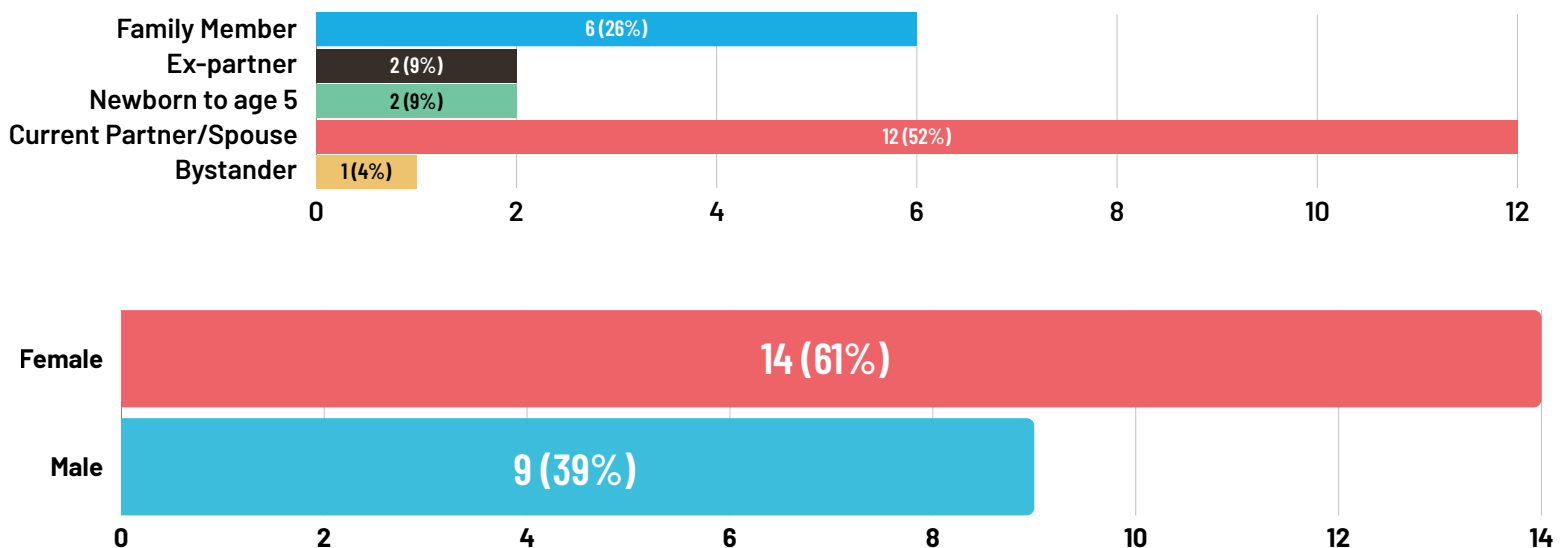
There were at least **23 homicides** in Iowa as a result of domestic violence and its impact on families and bystanders.

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Domestic Partner Homicides

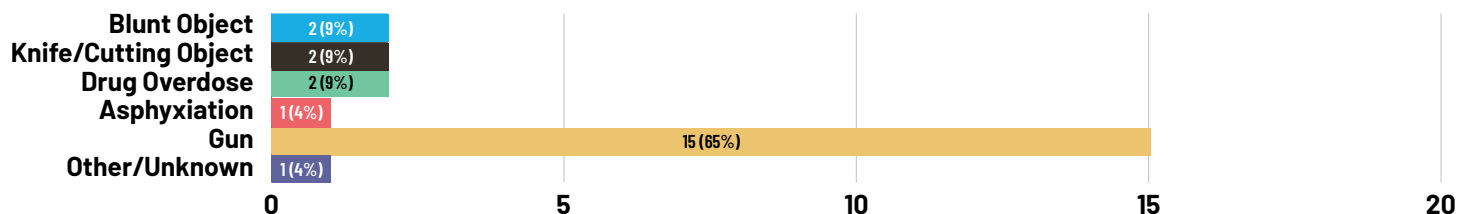
8
Additional Homicides
of Family Members

1
Bystander in a
Domestic Violence Homicide

Demographics of Victims



Weapon Used in Homicide



Iowa Domestic Violence Homicide Overview

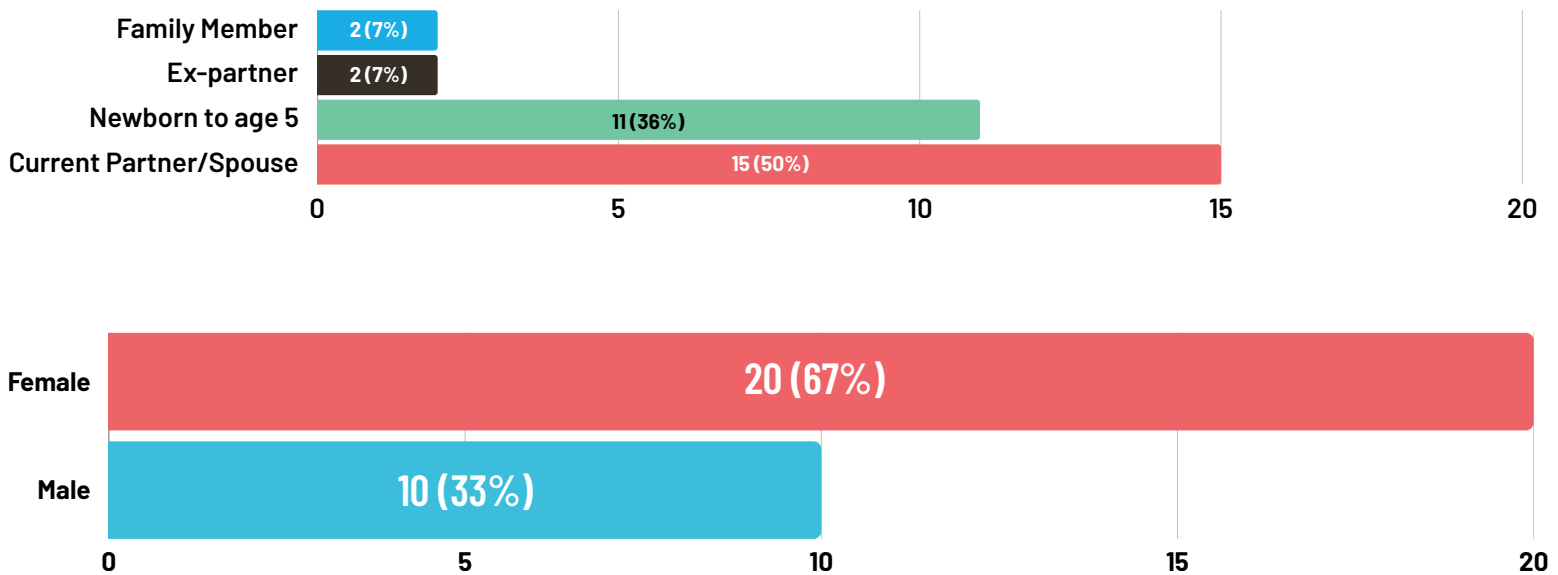
OCTOBER 1, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

There were at least **30 homicides** in Iowa as a result of domestic violence and its impact on families and bystanders.

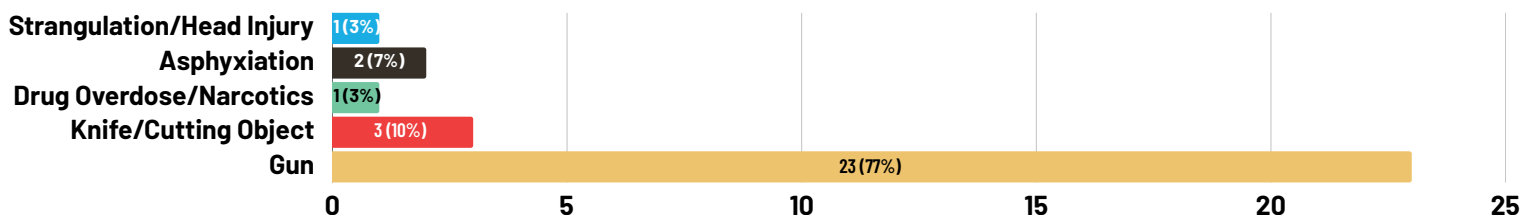
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Domestic Violence Homicides

13
Additional Homicides of
Family Members

Demographics of Victims



Weapon Used in Homicide



Iowa Domestic Violence Homicide Overview

OCTOBER 1, 2023 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

There were at least **35 homicides** in Iowa as a result of domestic violence and its impact on families and bystanders.

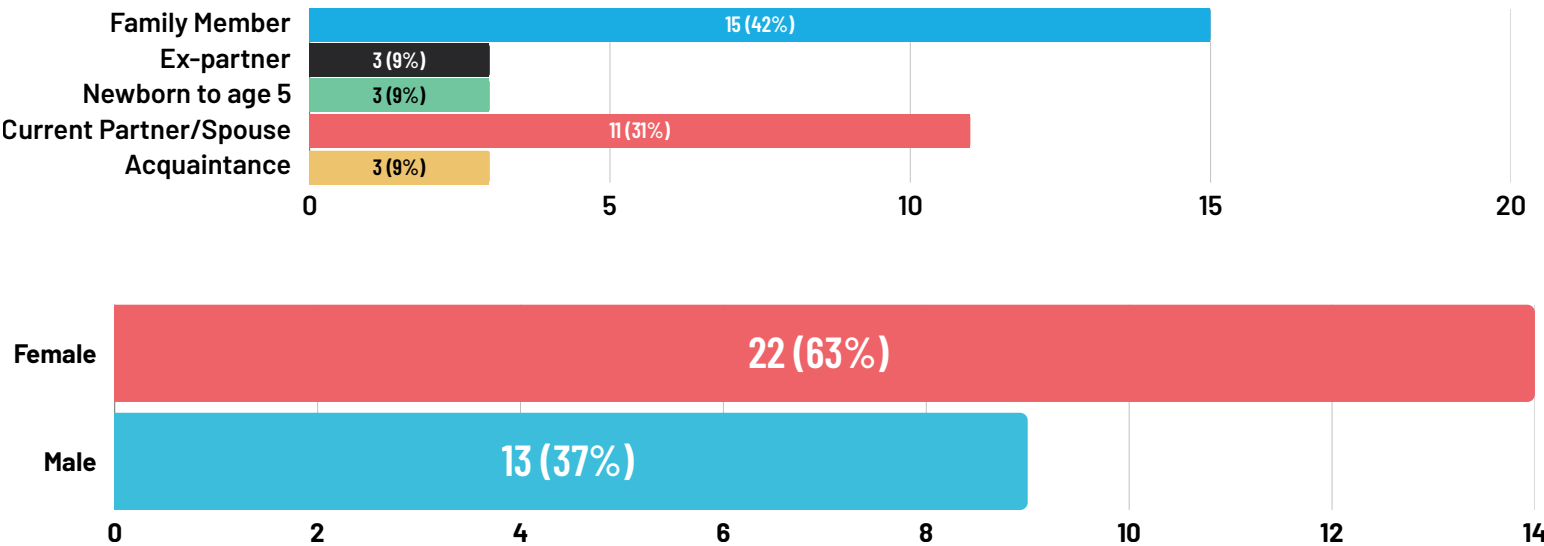
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Domestic Violence Homicides

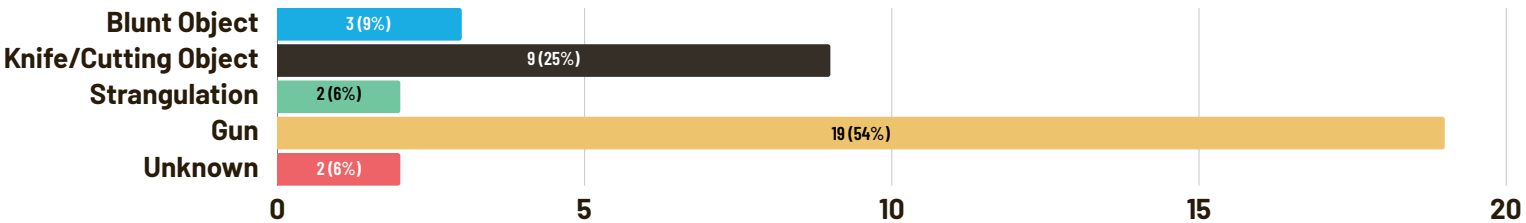
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Additional Homicides of
Family Members

Demographics of Victims



Weapon Used in Homicide



Types of Violence

Domestic Violence (DV)

In this fact sheet, the term **domestic violence (DV)** is used as an umbrella term to describe all forms of violence that occur within intimate or familial relationships. DV differs from random or stranger violence in that it is rooted in interpersonal dynamics, relationships, power, and control.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Within this category, **intimate partner violence (IPV)** refers specifically to violence between current or former romantic partners. IPV can take many forms, including physical, emotional, sexual, or economic abuse, and it is the most common context for the homicides reported here.

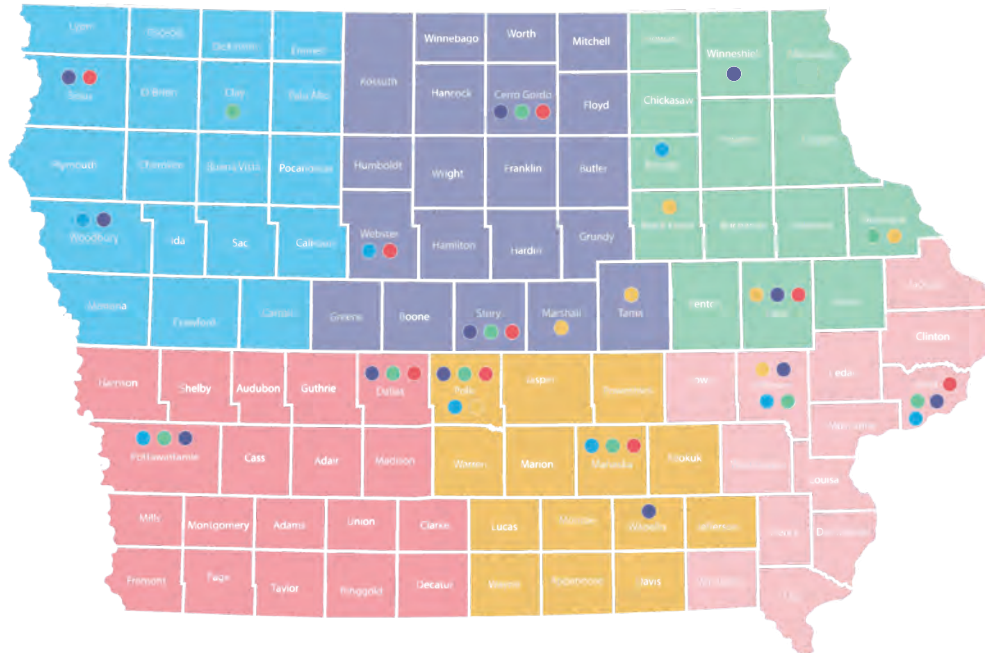
Family Violence

A separate but related category, **family violence**, captures situations where children, parents, siblings, or other relatives are killed in the context of IPV. In these cases, their deaths are directly linked to violence between intimate partners. For example, a child who is killed during an incident of IPV, or a parent who becomes a casualty of their child's abusive relationship, are both considered victims of family violence. This, in turn, becomes part of the larger data set of domestic violence in our state.

Together, these categories illustrate the wide-reaching and often devastating impact of domestic violence, extending beyond the intimate relationship itself to harm entire families and communities.

Iowa has experienced a year-over-year increase in domestic violence homicides — **22** in FY 2022, **30** in FY 2023, and **35** in FY 2024 — marking the highest levels in recent history and a **52% increase** over three years. Of the 88 homicides tracked during this period, **57** (65%) were carried out with a firearm. These alarming trends demand system reform, including stronger public policies and coordinated action to address the deadly role of guns in domestic violence.

IOWA VICTIM SERVICE SUPPORT NETWORK



REGION 1

- CAASA
- Family Crisis Centers, Inc.
- SafePlace

REGION 2

- ACCESS
- Crisis Intervention Service
- DSAOC

REGION 3

- Friends of the Family
- Helping Services
- Riverview Center
- Waypoint

REGION 4

- Catholic Charities Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program
- Crisis Intervention & Advocacy Center

REGION 5

- Children & Families of Iowa
- Crisis Intervention Services
- Family Crisis Center
- Polk County Crisis & Advocacy Center

REGION 6

- DVIP/RVAP
- Family Resources

STATEWIDE VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES

CULTURALLY SPECIFIC PROGRAMS

- Amani Community Services
- EMBARC
- L.U.N.A.
- Monsoon Asians & Pacific Islanders in Solidarity
- Nisaa African Family Services
- R.I.S.E.
- Thrive Together

IOWA VICTIM SERVICE CALL CENTER

- Toll Free: 1.800.770.1650
- Text: "iowahelp" to 20121



IOWA
COALITION
AGAINST
DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE

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Artwork and Photos

Cover Photo: 4th Annual Dia de los Muertos Tribute captured by ArtForce Iowa

Inside Page Artwork: Where Flowers Bloom so Does Hope by Lucy Swauger, What is Love? Art Contest Participant