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### **Domestic Violence Homicide Continues To Be Too High in Illinois**

In this turbulent year of national elections, community unrest and distrust, and state budget chaos, the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) again takes time during October to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Advocates and activists in the movement to end gender based violence have long believed that domestic violence in the home is at the root of most of our social ills. Abusive tactics take many forms including social isolation, financial deprivation, sexual assault, emotional torture. The worst form of domestic violence is homicide.

Today ICADV is releasing its annual report of domestic violence homicides that occurred in Illinois during the past state fiscal year. 49 people died in 36 separate domestic violence incidents between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. 29 of the perpetrators were male and eight (8) of them subsequently committed suicide. Three of the dead are children.

"This may seem a small number in contrast to the shootings we have heard about in Chicago, but they are no less important. Domestic Violence homicide is preventable in most cases", says Vickie Smith, Executive Director of ICADV. "There are almost always many clues prior to these homicides."

ICADV is calling upon all its citizens to make this the year to help reduce these very preventable deaths. Gather information about a local hotline and be ready to share with someone you suspect may be in a relationship where he or she is not safe. Talk to your church group or social club about working with the local domestic violence program to find out what they need to keep helping survivors and their children. Ask the local domestic violence agency to come speak at your high school or college about what signs to look for and how to be a helpful bystander.

Domestic violence continues in our state because abusers make choices and excuses about their behavior and victims do not know how to seek help. You can be the catalyst to changing this in your town or neighborhood. For further information call ICADV or visit [www.ilcadv.org](http://www.ilcadv.org).

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