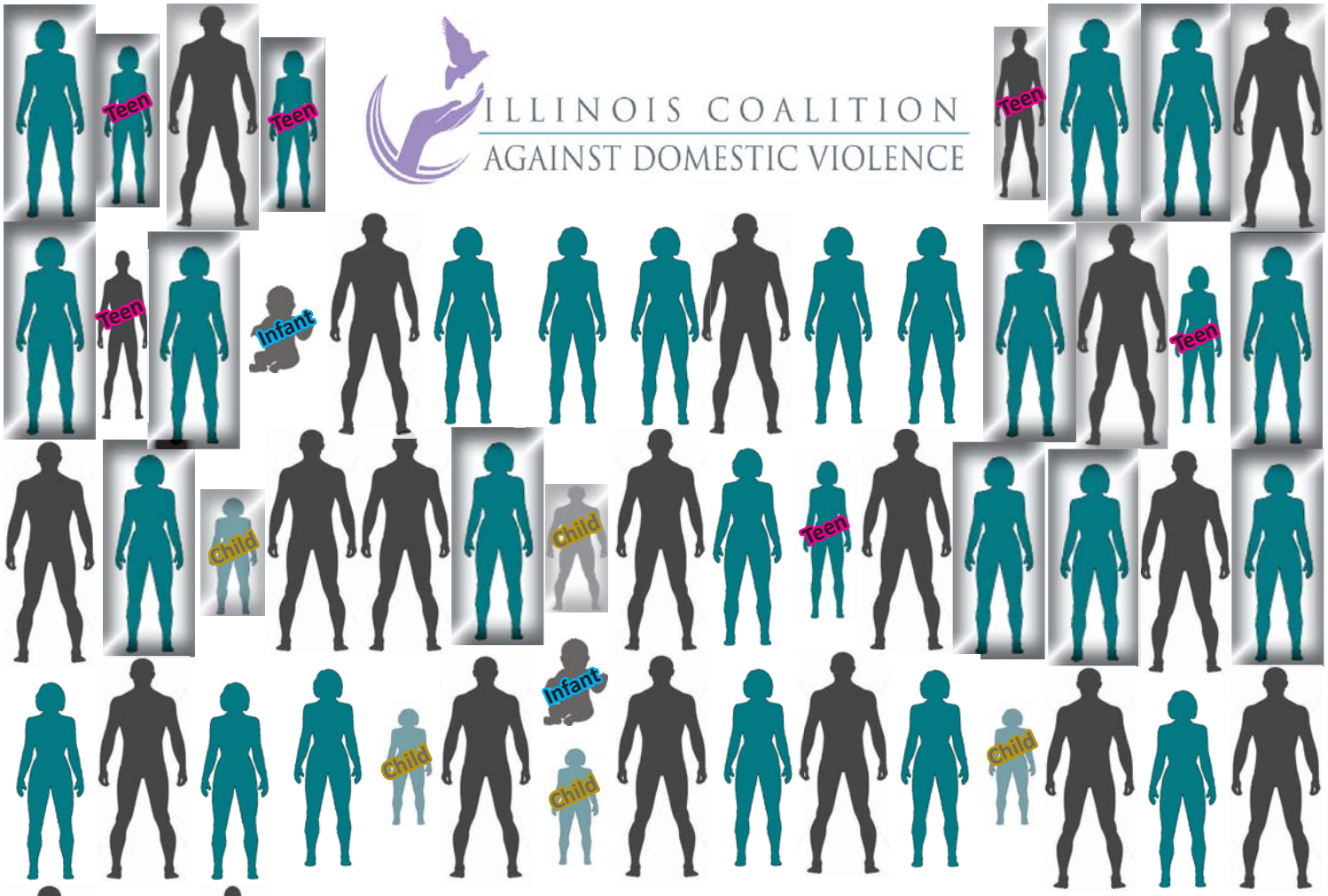
FY14
Domestic Violence Homicide Report



ILLINOIS COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There were

63 Incidents of Domestic Violence Homicides

killing

74 Homicide Victims.

Out of the 63 incidents there were

9 Multiple Homicide Events

*(*killing 20 total). There were*

15 Child Homicide Victims

and

59 Adult Homicide Victims.

Additionally,

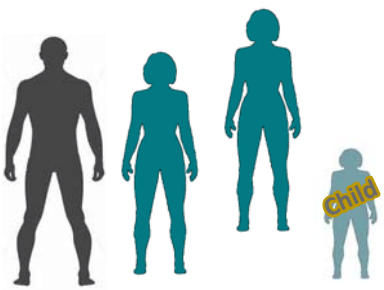
10 Perpetrators Committed Suicide

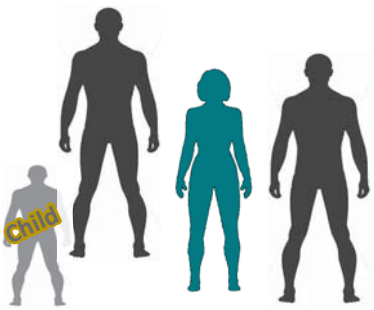
after committing the homicides. This is a total of

84 Domestic Violence Deaths

in Illinois.

** Silhouettes with gray background depict the victims from the 9 multiple homicide events.*





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE REPORT JULY 2013-JUNE 2014

In fiscal year 2014, July 2013 through June 2014, 63 domestic violence (dv) homicide incidents took the lives of 84 individuals in Illinois. This report summarizes what the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) learned about these incidents when a domestic violence situation became fatal.

Child Homicide Victims

In fiscal year 2014 there were 15 victims under the age of 18. The age of the child victims ranged from two months to 17 years old, five were under the age of six. Means of death and ages for the child victims:

- (5) Stabbing—3, 7, 8, 11, and 17 year old.
- (6) Firearms—(2)5, (2)15, and (2)17 year old.
- (2) Physical assault without a weapon—4 and 2 months old,
- (2) Strangulation—8 and 17 year old.

Adult Homicide Victims

In fiscal year 2014 there were 59 adult victims, 35 were female and 24 were male. The victims ranged in age from 19 to 82 years old. Firearms accounted for 26 of the 59 adult victim homicides. The second highest means of death was caused by stabbing which accounted for 20 of the adult homicides. The chart titled "Means of Death-Homicides" provides a full list of all homicides.

Perpetrator Suicides

In fiscal year 2014 there were 10 perpetrators (all males) who committed suicide after committing homicide(s). These deaths are included in the grand total for fiscal year 2014 as they are domestic violence related. Firearms accounted for eight of the 10 suicides. The chart titled "Means of Death-Suicides" provides a full list of all suicides.

We are more than emergency shelter

While emergency shelter is an important service that we offer communities, only about 44% of child witnesses we served last year received residential services. 58% of all child witnesses we served received nonresidential services and not emergency shelter. Domestic violence programs provide a wide variety of services for child witnesses of domestic violence.

- *Counseling and therapy help child witnesses better understand the dynamics of domestic violence and provide them emotional support to help them heal after experiencing the trauma of domestic violence.*
- *Services to strengthen the parent-child bond, such as family groups and parental services, are provided to help reestablish a healthy relationship between victimized parent and their children.*
- *Other supportive services help child witnesses establish routines in a life filled with chaos resulting from domestic violence, such as transportation and case management.*
- *Assistance with educational issues and life skills increase their self esteem and help them gain confidence after witnessing domestic violence in their homes.*

Source: ICADV's Fiscal year 2014 Children's data sheet. More information like this can be found on our website: www.ilcadv.org under "Resources".

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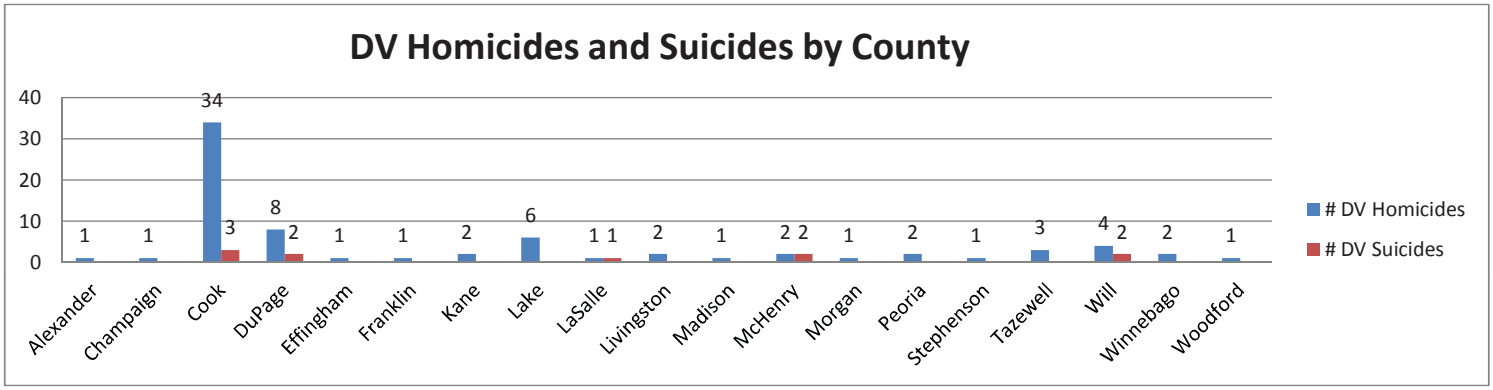
Homicides and Suicides by County

There are 102 counties in Illinois, but there were only 19 counties in which homicides occurred. Cook County had the most homicides, totaling 34. DuPage County ranks second, with eight homicide victims. The chart below reflects the number of homicide victims and perpetrator suicides by county.



Reductions In Funding

Can force dv programs to reduce staff. This leads to reductions in service availability.

According to the 2013 National Network to End Domestic Violence Census Report, in one 24 hour period in September 2013, 408 or 15% of the requests for help went unmet by Illinois domestic violence agencies due to lack of staff caused by reductions in funding. If that many unmet requests went unanswered every day, in one year over 148,000 cries for help by victims and their children would go unanswered.

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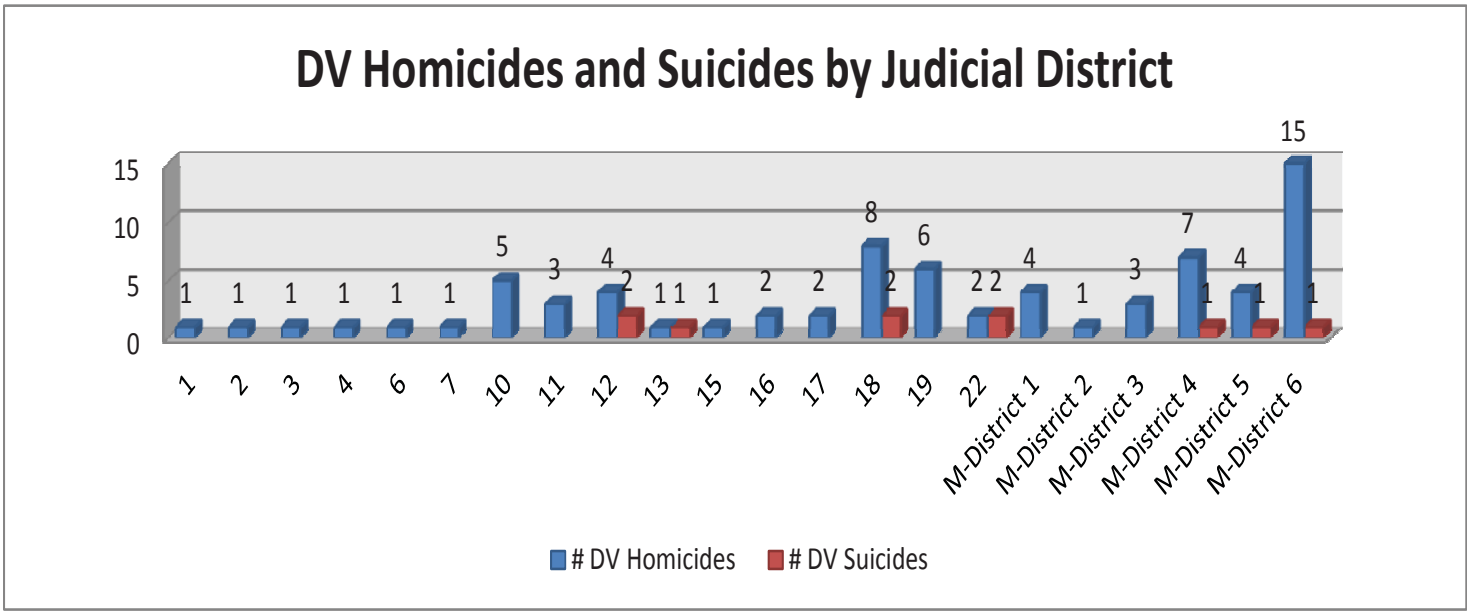
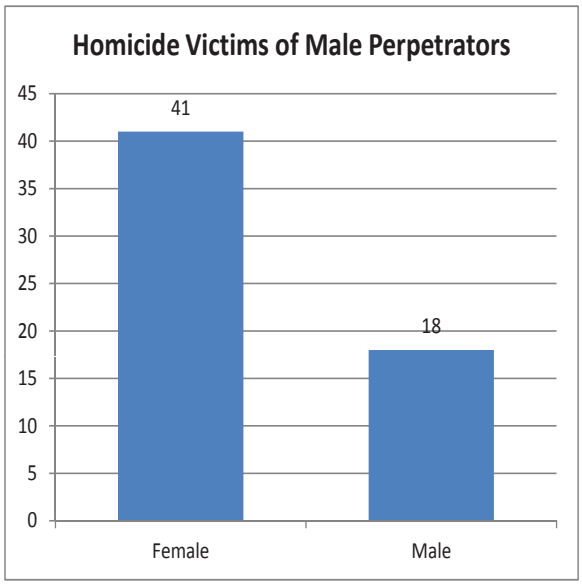
Homicides and Suicides by Judicial Circuit

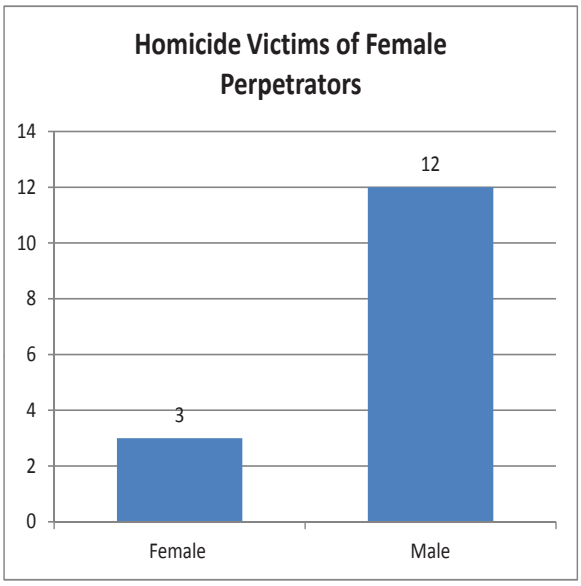
Illinois has 23 judicial circuits along with six municipal districts which are located in Cook County. This report summarizes the number of homicides that occurred within each of the judicial circuits and municipal districts in Illinois. Not all are listed in this report because no homicides were reported as domestic violence related in excluded circuits. The 18th Judicial Circuit had the second most homicides with eight victims total. The highest homicide rate was in Cook County's 6th Municipal District with 15 victims total. The chart below provides more information on homicides and suicides by judicial circuit.



Sex of Perpetrators and Their Victims

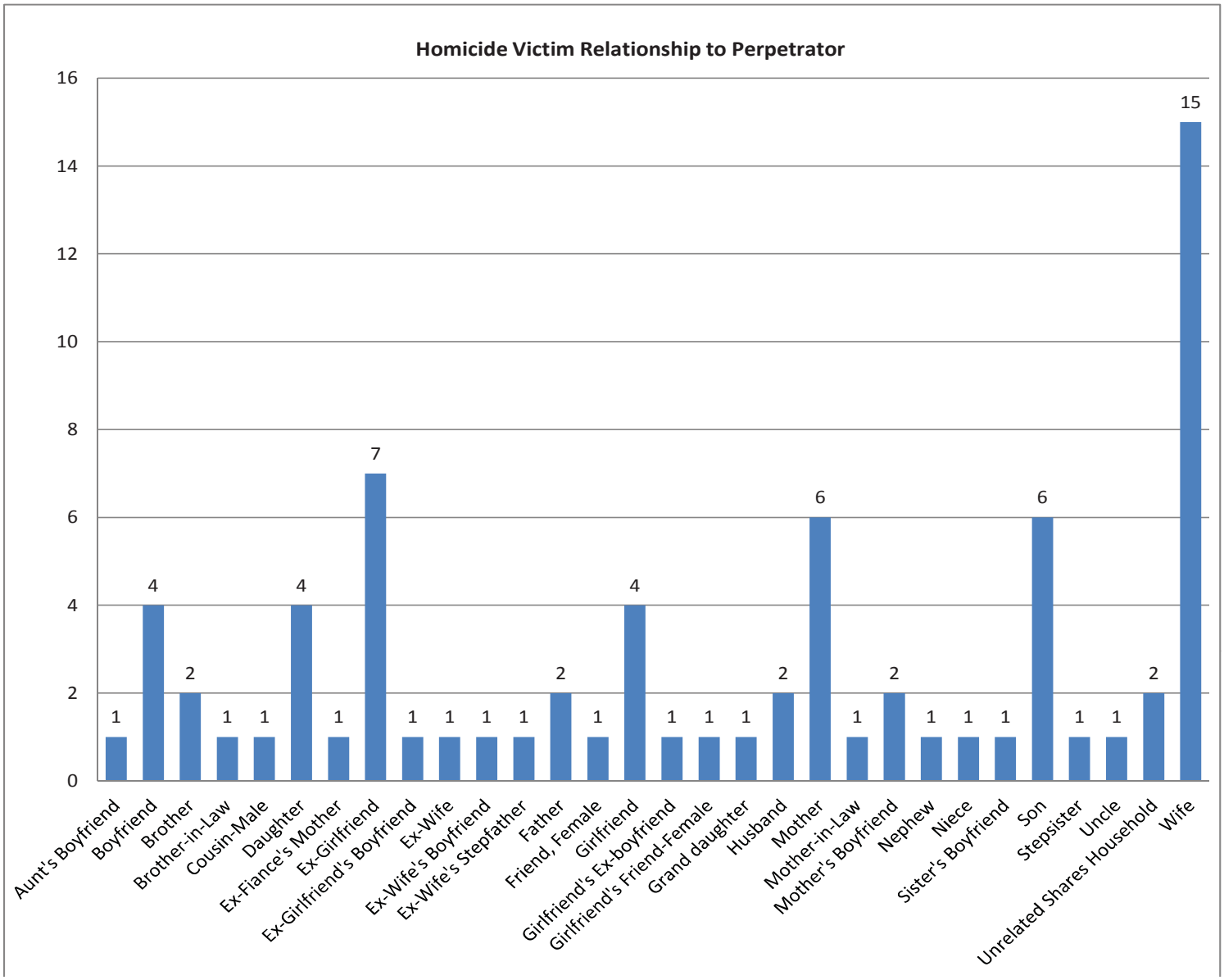
This report reviews how many perpetrators were male versus female. Female perpetrators' most common victims were male. Of the 15 homicides committed by female perpetrators, 12 victims were male and three were female. Male perpetrators' most common victims were female. Male perpetrators were responsible for 59 domestic violence homicides, and 41 of those 59 were female. The remaining 18 victims killed by male perpetrators were male.





Homicide Victim Relationship to the Perpetrator

This report looks at the type of relationship that the homicide victim had with the perpetrator. Most often homicide victims were wives (15) and ex-girlfriends (7) of the perpetrator. Additional homicide victims included friends and family members of the homicide victim. See the chart below for further results.



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SURVIVORS AND THEIR CHILDREN RECEIVED OVER 588,533 HOURS OF SERVICE BETWEEN JULY 1, 2013 AND JUNE 30, 2014

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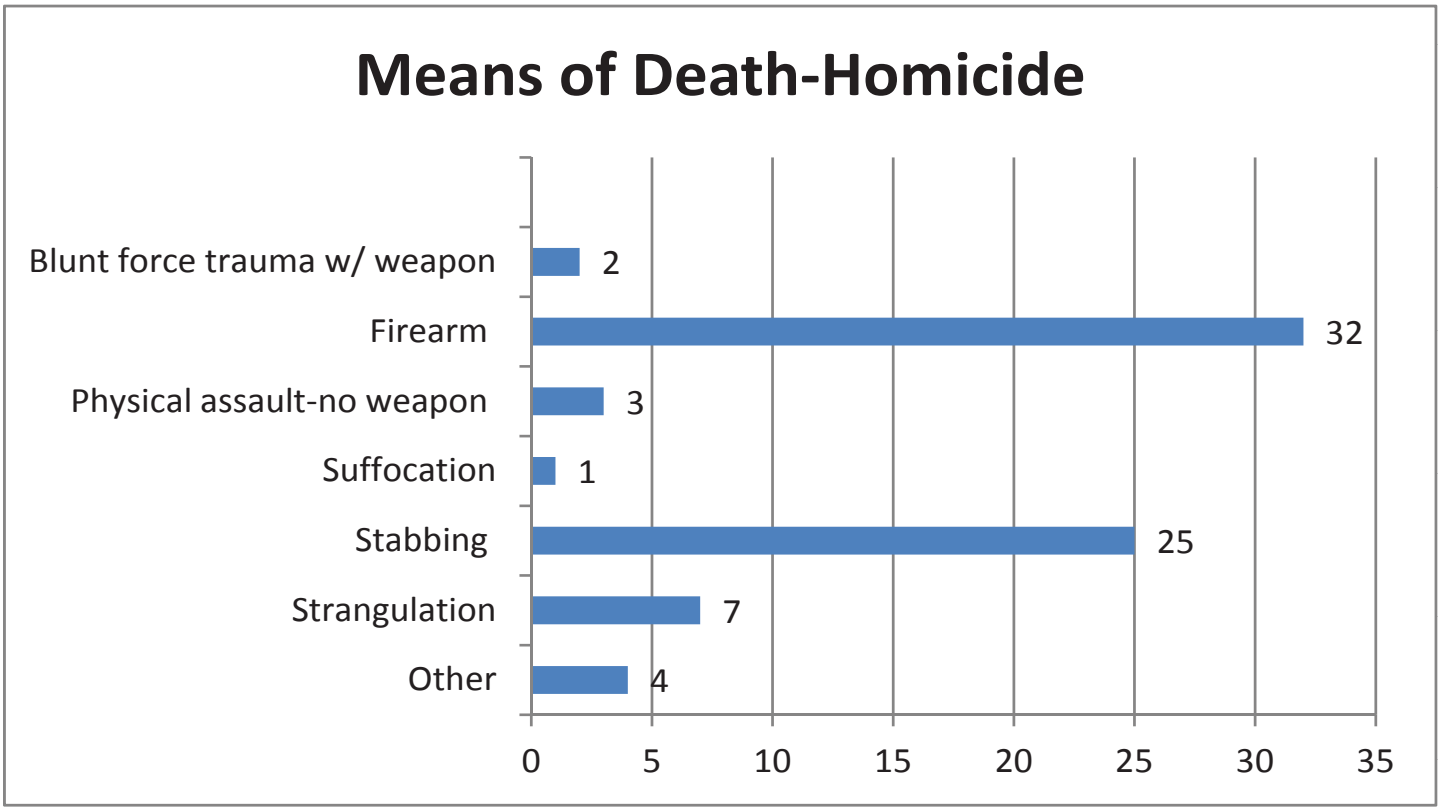
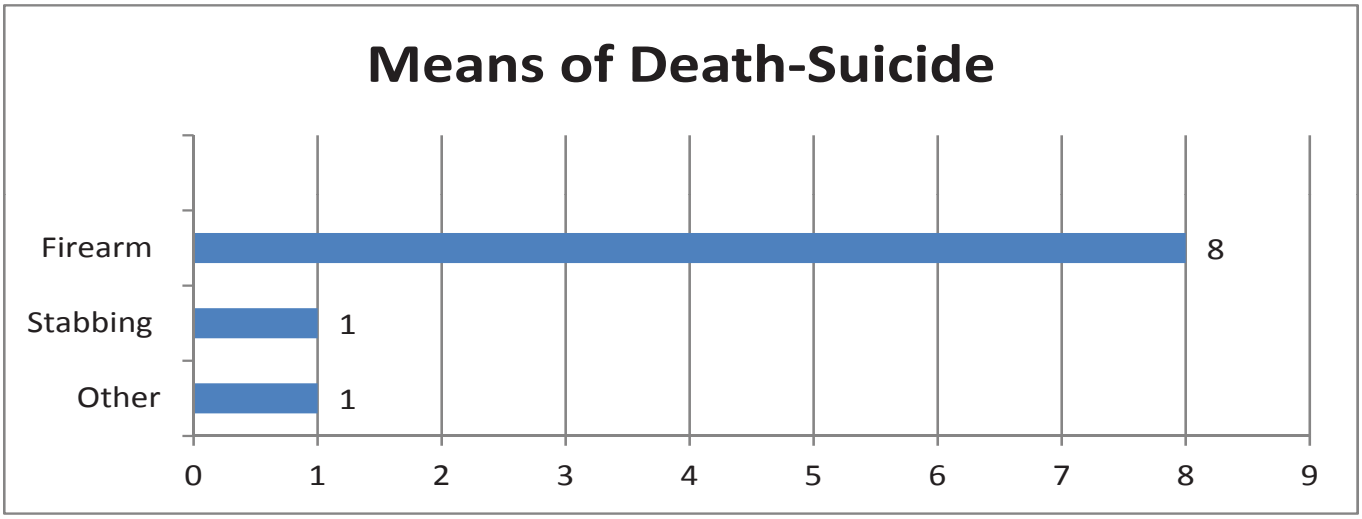
Means of Death by Homicide

Total firearm deaths (32) 41% and stabbing deaths (25) 33% accounted for over two thirds of all of the domestic violence homicides in fiscal year 2014.



Means of Death by Suicide

This report reviews the rate of suicides after the altercation. Of the 84 total domestic violence deaths, 10 were suicides. Suicides were committed through the use of firearms (8), stabbing (1), and other means (1).



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Next Steps

The Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence will continue to collect homicide data on a regular basis to continue increasing comparative data from one year to the next which will enable us to identify possible trends. In year two of this project ICADV began using a news-clipping service to increase efficiency of domestic violence homicide news searches. This has lead to additional time for some in-depth analysis about cases already in the database. The history of orders of protection, as well as information about the disposition of the perpetrators of domestic violence homicide will continue to be of importance to this research.

Methods of Data Collection

ICADV, with the help of Intern Shelbi Tudor from Benedictine University in Springfield, gathered data for this important project throughout the year. Ms Tudor checked the Meltwater News online system for articles pertaining to domestic violence homicides in Illinois. Additionally, domestic violence program staff from around the state occasionally email, fax, or mail an article to the ICADV administrative office. Many thanks to Shelbi Tudor who assisted in the writing of this report.

Of survivors asked in 2014…

- 95% stated they knew more about community resources.
- 97% stated they knew more ways to plan for their safety.
- 97% stated they have a better understanding of their legal rights.
- 96% stated they feel better able to support themselves and their children.
- 98% stated they knew they could report violations of their order of protection.