



Domestic
Violence &
Family Violence*
Claimed
101 Lives
in Wisconsin
in 2025

End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin Homicide Report 2025

Executive Summary

**published
October 2026**

Find the full report at
www.endabusewi.org

Executive Summary

Since 2000, End Domestic Abuse Wisconsin has chronicled deaths due to domestic violence (DV) in our state. **In 2025, 101 individuals died in Wisconsin due to DV/FV at a rate of approximately one death every 3.6 days.** The basic findings contained in this report are outlined below. An additional 19 cases of fatal family violence are included in a supplemental section where intimate partner violence was not a factor.

Homicide Victim and Harm-doer Deaths Related to Domestic Violence (DV) and Family Violence (FV) in 2025

TOTALS	2025
Victims of DV-related Homicide	61
Victims of FV Homicide	19
Total Victims - 2025 DV & FV Homicides	80
DV Harm-doer Deaths <i>(includes murder-suicides, attempted murder-suicides, homicides by legal intervention, suicides during law enforcement response)</i>	21
Total 2025 Deaths - DV-related & Family Violence	101

Other findings in the 2025 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include: *not including family violence

- Harm-doers of domestic violence homicide incidents were overwhelmingly male. **In 2025, 86% of harm-doers were male.***
- The ages of DV homicide victims in this report range from **two months to 85 years old**. Harm-doers' ages ranged from **17 to 86 years old**. The average age of harm-doers was **37** years old, and the average age of victims was **39** years old.
- Homicides occurred in **17 counties in Wisconsin**.
- Firearms remain the most common means of perpetrating domestic violence homicides. In 2025, **firearms were the weapons used in 72% of domestic violence deaths.*** Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are **12 times more likely to result in death** than those involving other weapons or bodily force.
- There were **17 harm-doer suicides** in 2025. There were 13 murder-suicides, and 3 harm-doer suicides with an attempted homicide. Harm-doer suicides in our report are connected to the homicide they completed or attempted to complete just prior to their suicide, or were completed when law enforcement responded to an incident of domestic violence. This reflects **the connection between homicidality and suicidality in domestic violence cases** and should thus be considered when discussing domestic violence and homicide prevention.
- There were **five deaths** identified as justifiable homicide due to **self defense**.
- **Three** of the domestic violence homicide **incidents** included **two or more deaths**.
- Many of the 2025 homicide cases reflect the **risk factors that research has found to be associated with lethal violence**. These include, among other factors: threats to use or actual use of a weapon, threats to kill, stalking, strangulation, obsessive jealousy, and sexual assault.

Other findings in the 2025 Wisconsin Domestic Violence Homicide Report include:

- In 2025, **19 of Wisconsin's 61 domestic violence homicide victims—over 31%—were age 50 or older.** Over the past five years, 84 people age 50 and older were killed in domestic violence homicides, accounting for 26% of all victims. Older adults are not a small or isolated part of the domestic violence homicide picture. Year after year, they represent a significant share of lives lost. See page 73 for an essay from [the National Clearinghouse on Abuse in Later Life \(NCALL\)](#), an initiative of End Abuse.
- In the context of domestic violence-related deaths, **accidental deaths** are exceedingly rare. However, there is one case from 2025 where a woman died in a circumstance that was ruled to be accidental by investigating law enforcement. In May 2025, a 31-year-old woman in Milwaukee allegedly pulled out a loaded firearm during an argument with her 33-year-old boyfriend and dropped the gun. The gun discharged when it fell, striking and killing the woman. No charges connected to her death have been filed. While this case is not a part of the 2025 domestic violence homicide death count or case narratives included in this report, this case illuminates how introducing **a firearm** into a situation where emotions are heightened increases the risk for anyone within the proximity, including the person handling the firearm.

2025 Key Findings

*DV-Related Homicides & Deaths**

KEY FINDINGS	2025
Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents (this figure is not included in total DV deaths; single homicide incidents sometimes include multiple victim deaths)	57
Victims of DV Homicide	61
DV Homicides with Harm-doer Suicides**	13
Deaths by Legal Intervention (Responding Law Enforcement kills Harm-doer)	4
Harm-doer Suicides during Law Enforcement Response	2
Attempted DV Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide**	3
Total 2025 DV-Related Deaths (Homicide Victims, Harm-doer Suicides & Deaths by Legal Intervention)	82

*See methodology on page 4 for definitions and inclusion criteria.

**One DV homicide incident counts in two categories – an attempted homicide with a suicide and a completed homicide with a suicide involving the same harm-doer. This case is only counted once in the total.

2025 Key Findings

*Family Violence (FV) Homicides**

KEY FINDINGS	2025
FV Homicide Incidents	17
Victims of FV Homicide	19
Male Harm-doers - FV Homicide	14
Female Harm-doers - FV Homicide	3
Female FV Homicide Victims	7
Male FV Homicide Victims	12
Self Defense/Justified FV Homicides	1
FV Homicide Incidents with two or more Victims	2
FV Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicides	0
Total Family Violence Homicide Deaths - 2025	19

NOTE: Family Violence Homicide case demographics are not included in the charts and graphs on the *Key Findings* pages 11-17 to keep these metrics consistent from year to year.

Family Violence Homicide Case Narratives can be found on pages 65-74.

*See methodology on page 4 for definitions and inclusion criteria.

2025 Key Findings

Completed DV-Related Homicides

Relationship between Male Harm-doer and Homicide Victim

When the harm-doer was a male, victim was:	2025
Current/Former Intimate Partner	25
Parent	10
Person attempting to help a DV victim	3
Child of Current/Former Partner and Harm-doer	3
Child of Current/Former Partner	2
Friend or acquaintance	2
"Romantic Rival"	3
Bystander	1
Family member of harm-doer's partner	1
Family member of harm-doer	1
Abusive partner of homicide harm-doer's adult child	1
New partner of harm-doer's ex-partner	1
Total	53

2025 Key Findings

Completed DV-Related Homicides

Relationship between Female Harm-doer and Homicide Victim

When the harm-doer was a female, victim was:	2025
Current/Former Intimate Partner	6
Bystander	1
"Romantic Rival"	1
Total	8

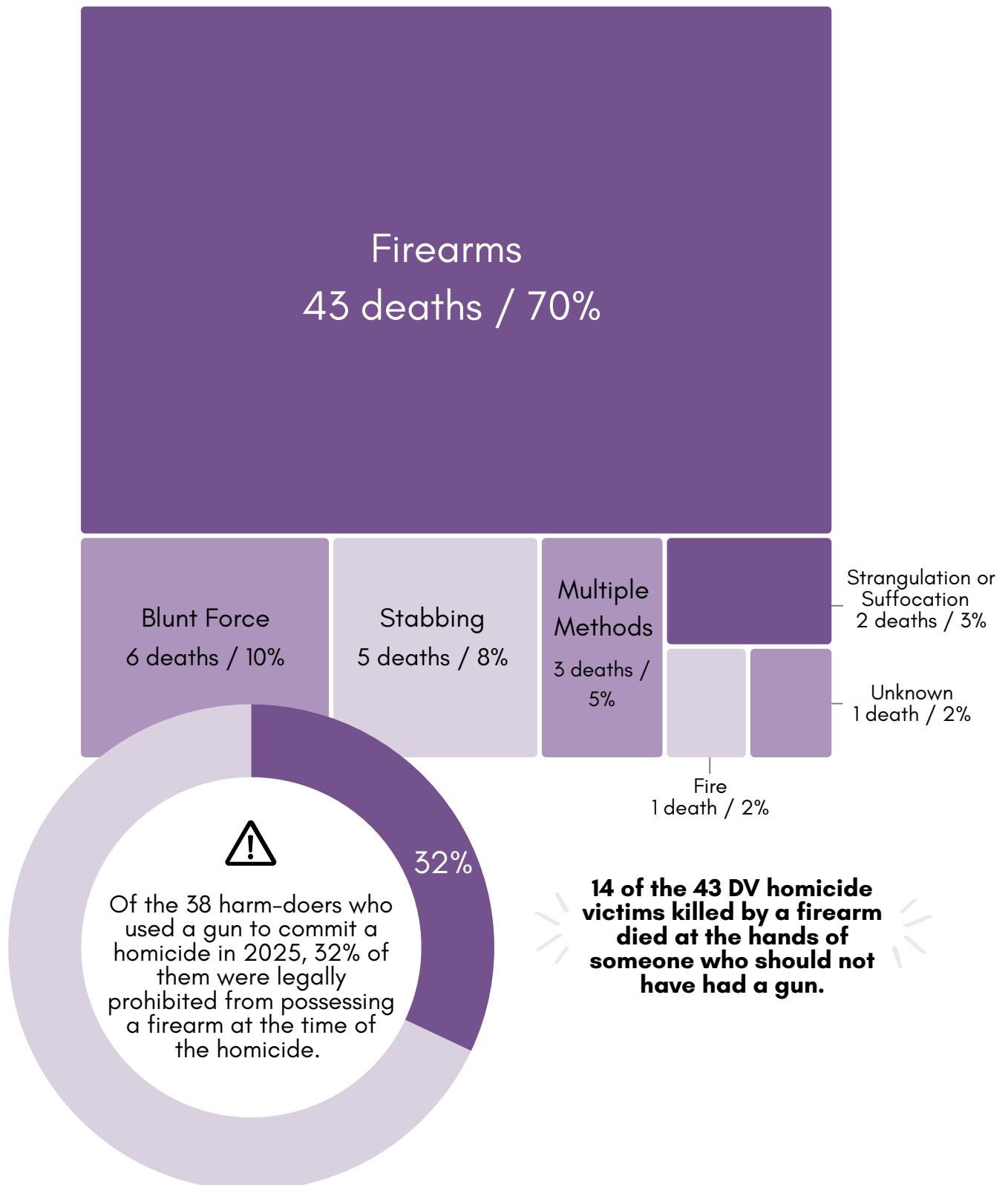
Harm-doer Suicides	2025
Homicide Incidents with Harm-doer Suicide (Murder-suicide)*	13
Homicide-Suicide Incidents Involving Firearm(s)	13
Male Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide	12
Female Harm-doers of Homicide-Suicide	1
Harm-doer Suicides During Law Enforcement Response	2
Attempted Homicide-Completed Suicide*	3
Total Completed Harm-doer Suicides*	17

*One DV homicide incident counts in two categories – an attempted homicide with a suicide and a completed homicide with a suicide involving the same harm-doer. This case is only counted once in the total.

2025 Key Findings

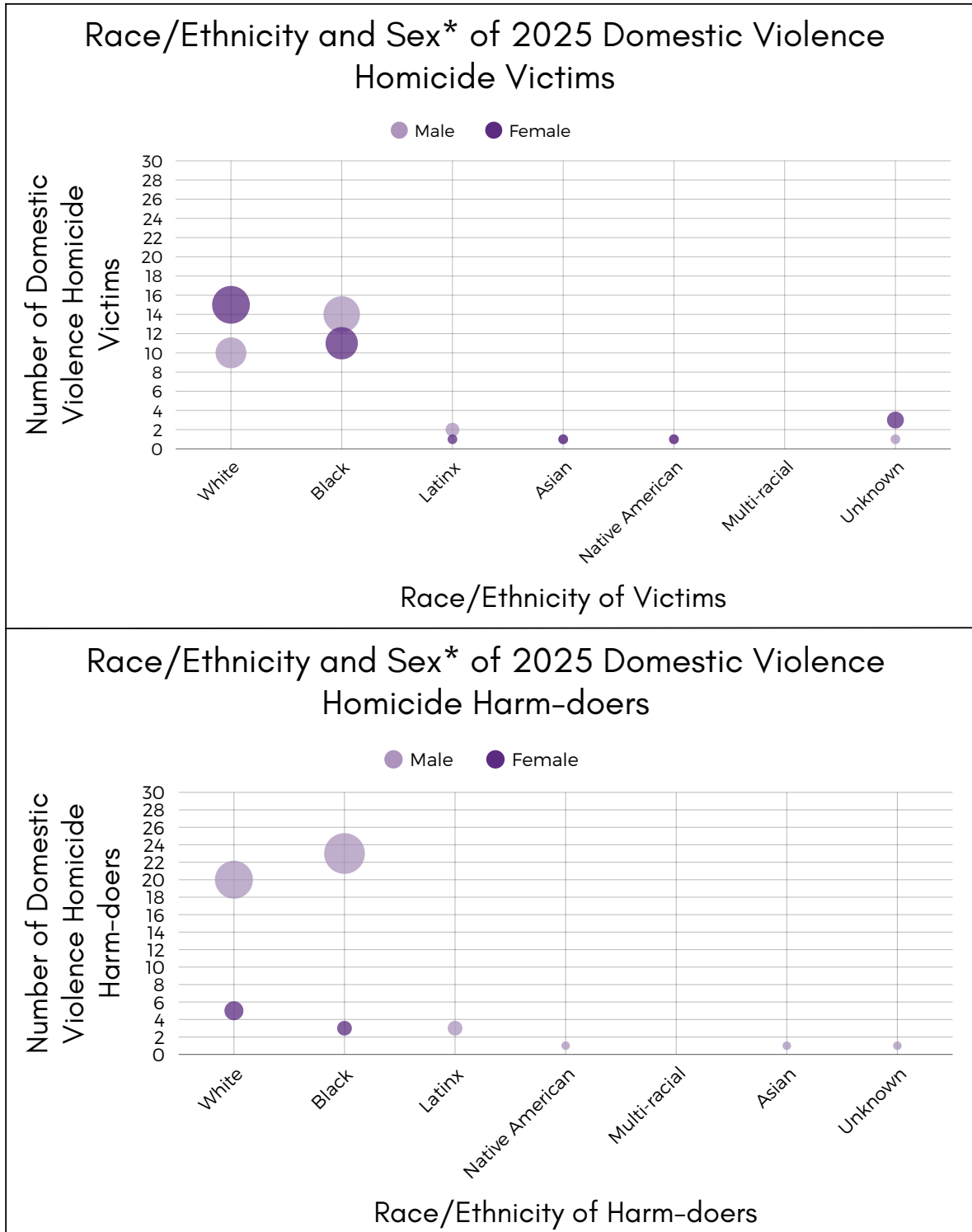
Completed DV-Related Homicides

Method of 2025 DV-Related Homicide Victim Deaths (61 total)



2025 Key Findings *Completed DV-Related Homicides*

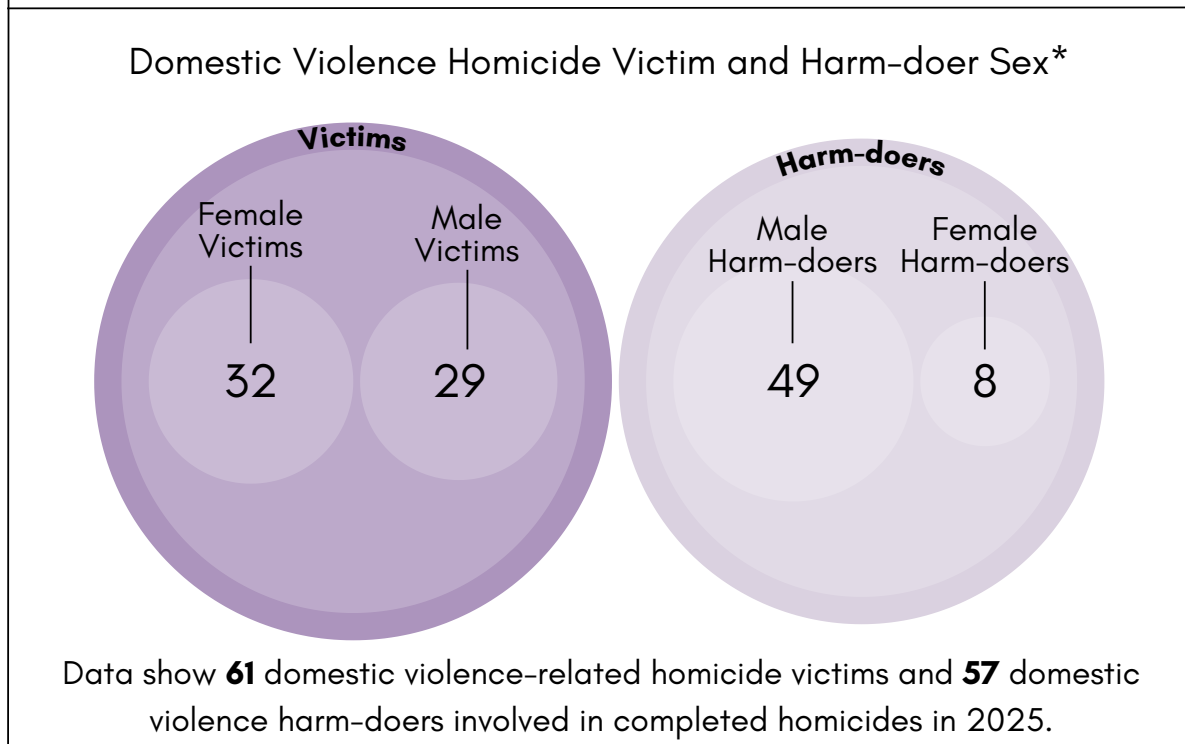
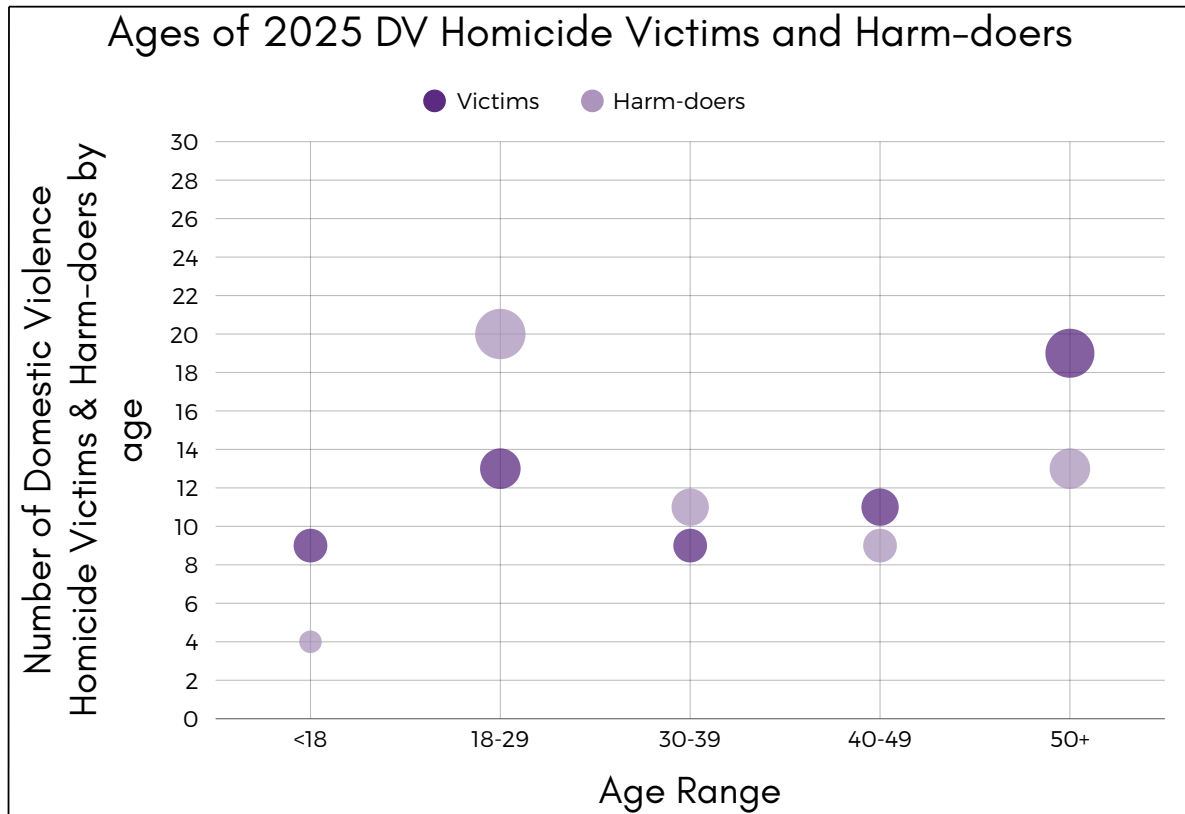
Data excludes two harm-doers who died by suicide in attempted homicide-suicide incidents; two harm-doers who died by suicide during law enforcement response; and four harm-doers who died by law enforcement intervention. Data also excludes three victims from the attempted homicide-suicide cases.



*Data for race/ethnicity and sex has been identified where available from the Uniform Crime Report and other sources, but is notably flawed because those sources are restrictive and incomplete in their categorization of singular racial identity and binaried sex. Incomplete data perpetuates violence and dehumanization, particularly against marginalized communities.

2025 Key Findings *Completed DV-Related Homicides*

Data excludes two harm-doers who died by suicide in attempted homicide-suicide incidents; two harm-doers who died by suicide during law enforcement response; and four harm-doers who died by law enforcement intervention. Data also excludes the three victims from the attempted homicide-suicide cases.

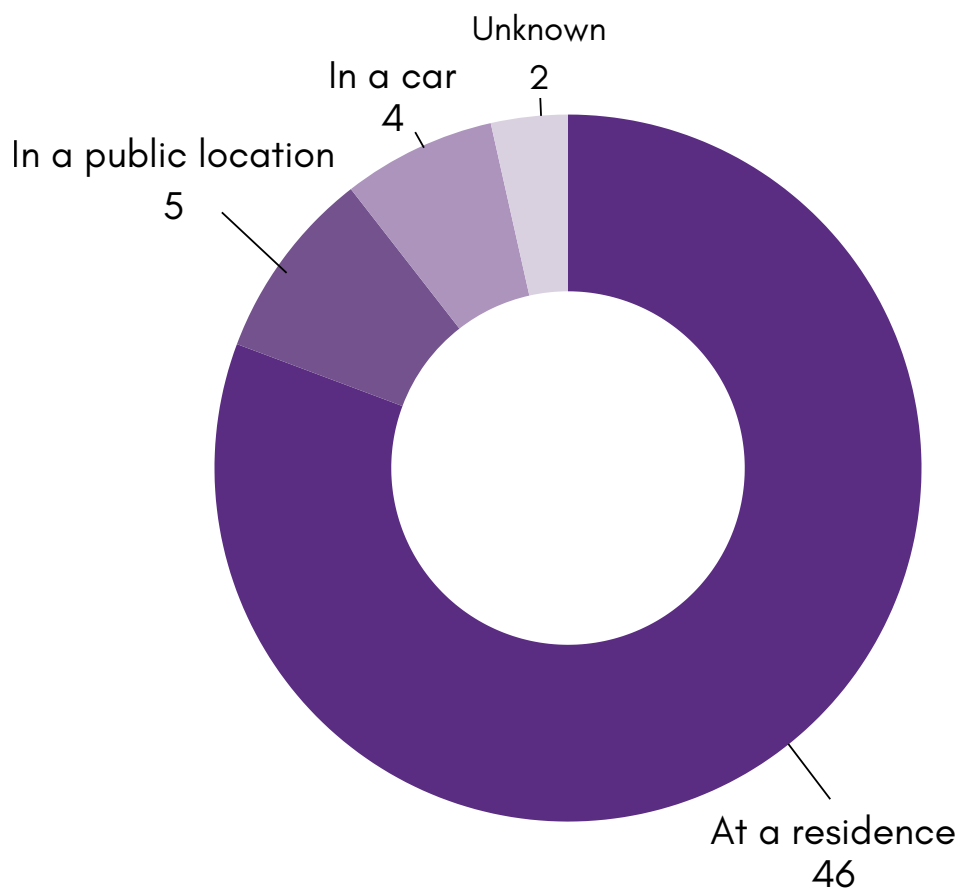


*See footnote on previous page for a discussion of data limitations related to sex and gender.

2025 Key Findings

Completed DV-Related Homicides

Location of 57 Domestic Violence Homicide Incidents in 2025



2025 Key Findings

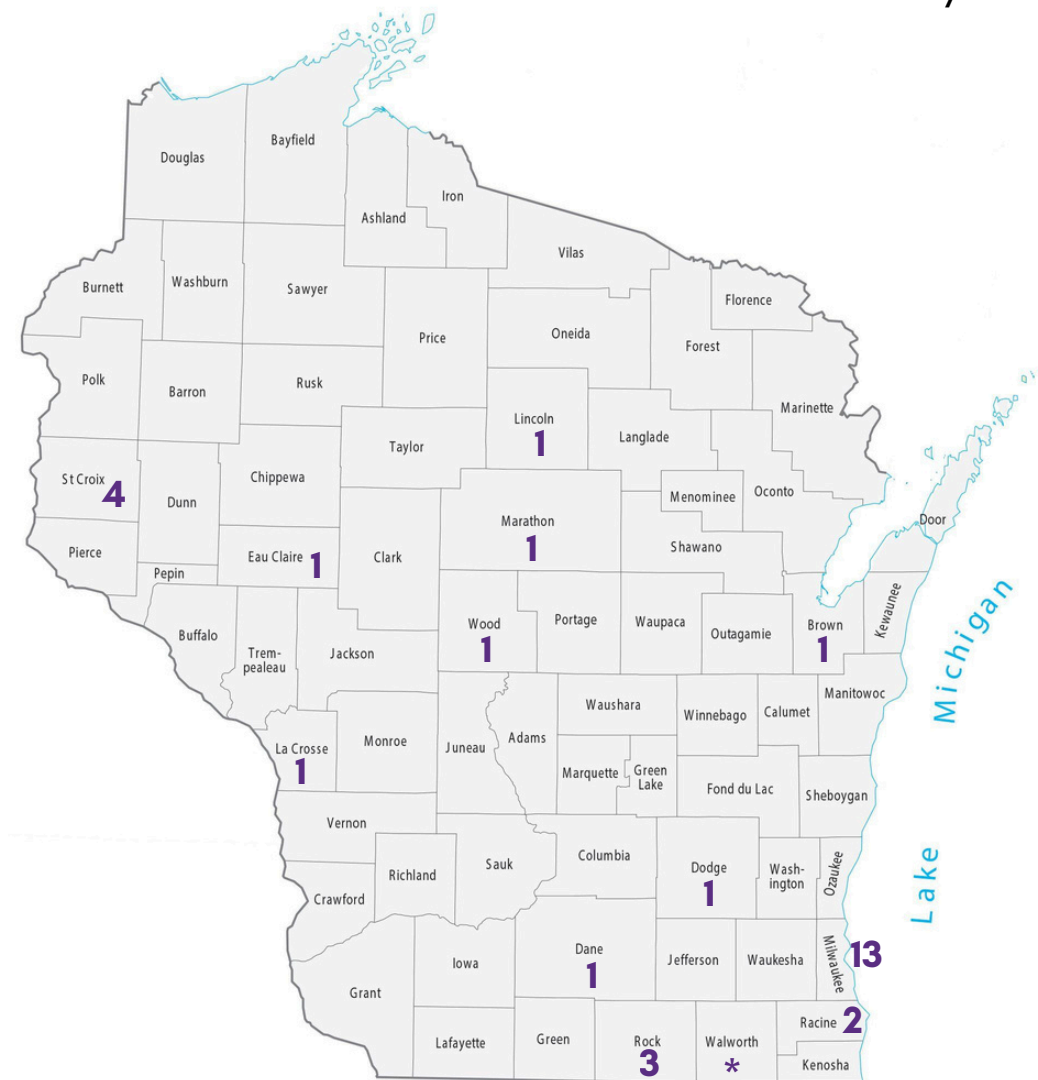
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Homicides

IPV accounted for approximately 51% of the 61 DV-related homicide deaths included in this report. **At least 31 Wisconsinites were killed by a current or former intimate partner in 2025.**

25 Females Killed by a Current or Former Male Intimate Partner

6 Males Killed by a Current or Former Female Intimate Partner

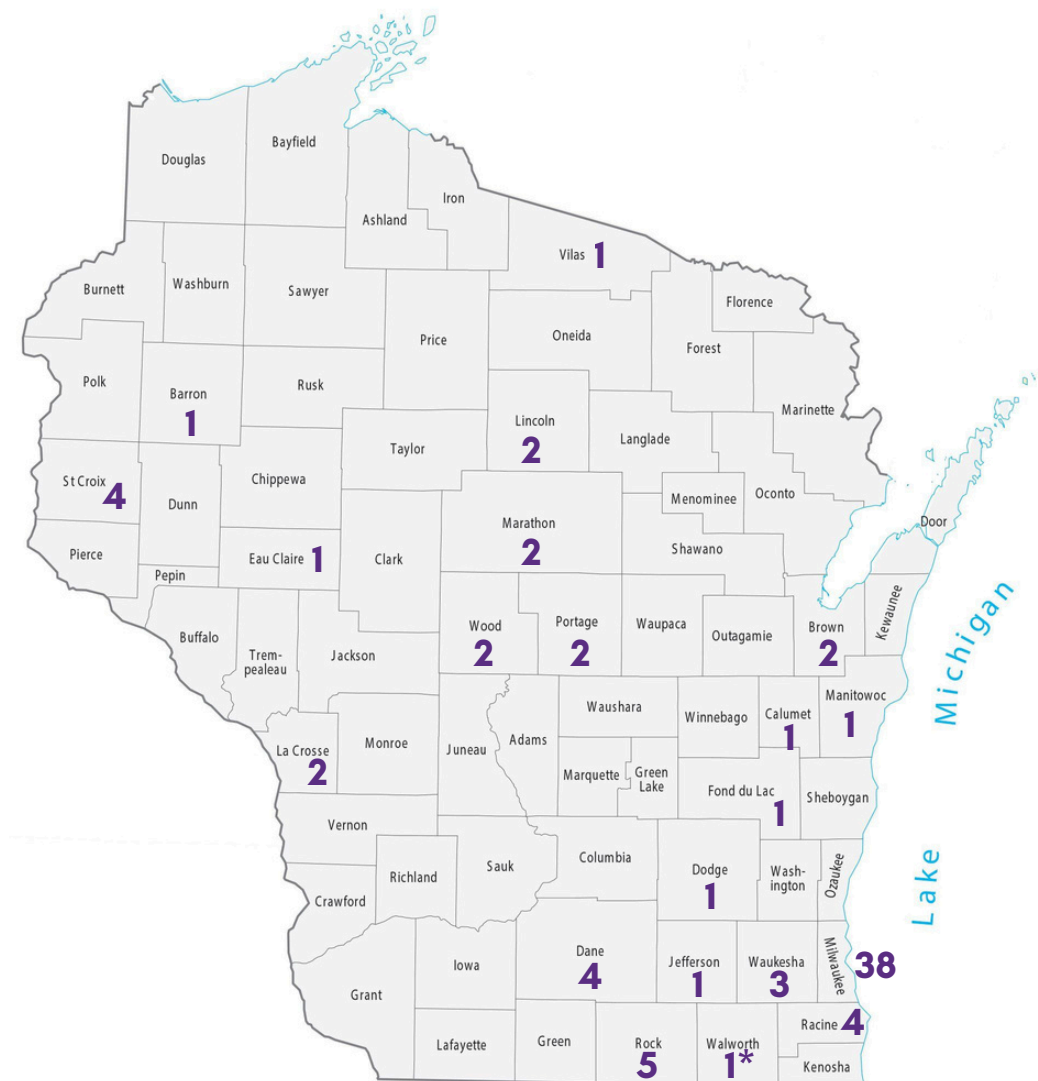
2025 Intimate Partner Homicide Victim Deaths by County



*A couple from Walworth County died in a murder-suicide incident in their car a short distance from their home in Harvard, IL. This incident is counted in the totals but excluded from the homicide maps, as it did not occur in Wisconsin.

2025 Homicide Map

Domestic and Family Violence Homicide Victim Deaths (total of 80*)



*A couple from Walworth County died in a murder-suicide incident in their car a short distance from their home in Harvard, IL. This incident is counted in the totals but excluded from the homicide maps, as it did not occur in Wisconsin.

Family violence-related deaths occurred in 8 Counties in 2025. The total number of domestic violence- and family violence-related deaths in each of those counties is shown below.

Domestic violence-related deaths

Barron 2
Dane 3
Fond du Lac 0
Jefferson 0
Milwaukee 29
Racine 2
Vilas 0
Waukesha 0

Family violence-related deaths

Barron 0
Dane 1
Fond du Lac 1
Jefferson 1
Milwaukee 9
Racine 2
Vilas 1
Waukesha 3

