Women's Aid



Femicide Watch

1996 – 2026 (Republic of Ireland)

The Artist Regards the Woman Murdered

Paula Meehan

You will have to go outside for this one.
The night is bitter cold
but you must go out,
you could not invent this.
You can make a quick sketch
and later, in your studio,
mix the colours, the purple,
the eerie green of her bruises,
the garish crimson of her broken mouth.

For consolation there's the line
her spine makes as it remembers
its beginnings, as if at the very end
she turned foetal and knew again
the roar of her mother's blood in her ears,
the drum of her mother's heart
before she drowned in the seventh wave
beyond pain, or your pity.

Your hand will steady as you draw the cobbles.
They impose a discipline, the comfort of habit,
as does the symmetry of brick walls
which define the alley and whose very height
cut off the light and hid
the beast who maimed her.



You hold her as a white feather
on the palm of your hand,
so light it moves in your very breath.

You hold her as a raindrop
on the palm of your hand
beaded mirror to the wounded world.

You hold her as a small pink shell
on the palm of your hand,
a token the sea cast up on the strand.

You hold her as a robin's blue egg
on the palm of your hand,
the sky blue yonder of her eyes.

You hold her as a fallen leaf
on the palm of your hand,
stopped in its drift to the ground.

You hold her forever in memory
on the palm of your hand,
between heart line and life line

between heaven and earth
between then and now
between once and never
between here and there.

between heart line and life line
between heart line and life line.

Dedication

There is no greater violation of a woman's human rights than the taking of her life. As we publish this report to mark the UN Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women 2026, we remember all women who have lost their lives to violence and abuse, including the 291 women who have died in violent circumstances since our Femicide Watch began in 1996.[1]

Women killed by current or former boyfriends, partners and husbands; by acquaintances, brothers, sons and neighbours; and, in some cases, by strangers. Each of these killings is an outrage. Each is a devastating loss of life, leaving heartbreak and trauma for the people who loved them.

This report is dedicated to these women, whose own voices are silent in the court room, the police statement and the newspaper report, where too often the perpetrator's account becomes the story of how they died.

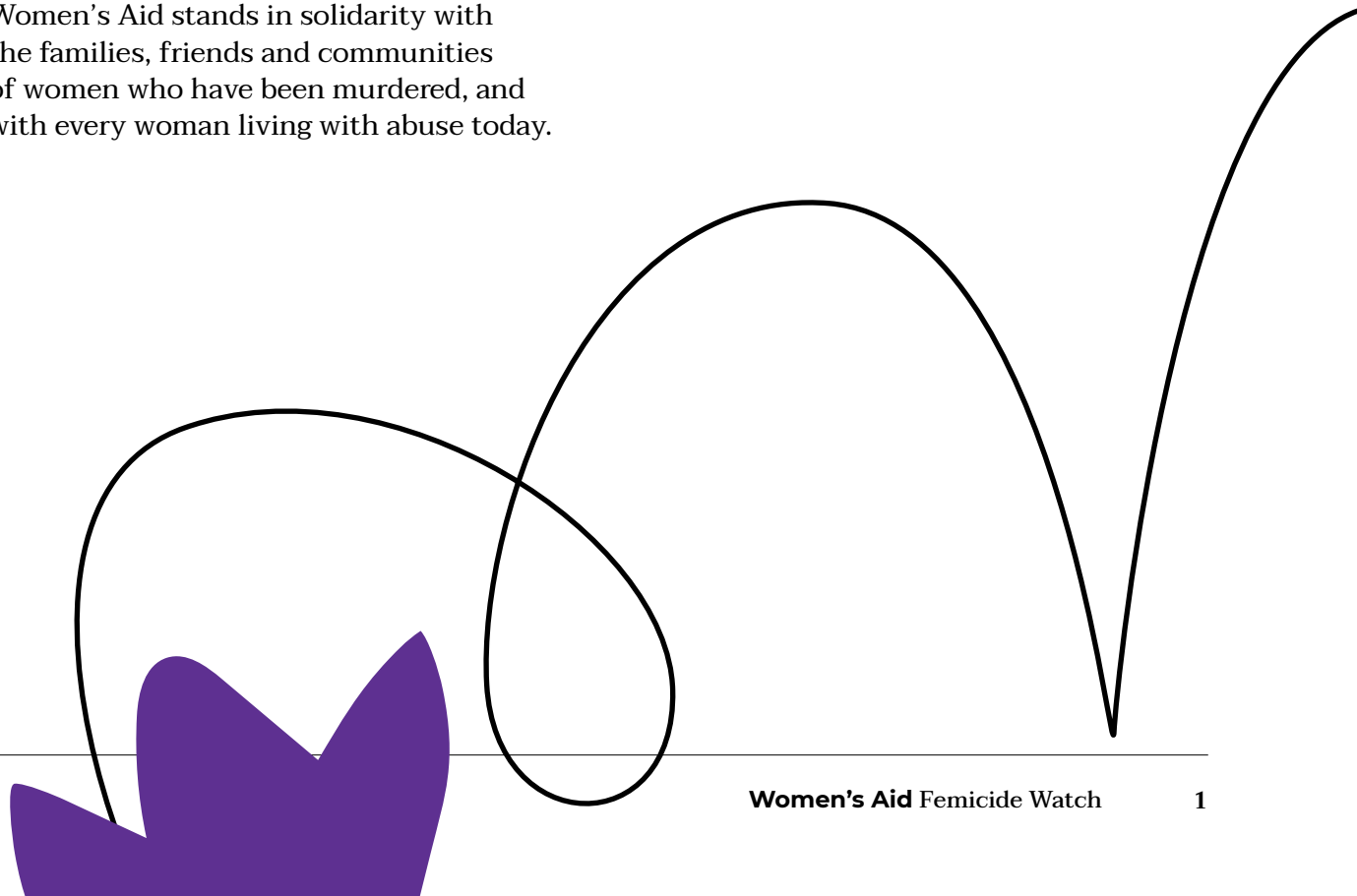
We also dedicate this report to their families and loved ones: those who live with unimaginable pain and absence, who carry on while picking up the pieces, and who have spoken out in courtrooms, on the streets and through the media to seek justice for their friends, sisters, daughters and mothers.

Women's Aid stands in solidarity with the families, friends and communities of women who have been murdered, and with every woman living with abuse today.

We Remember

Women's Aid has created an online memorial remembering each woman.

For more visit **www.femicide.ie**



1 From January 1996 to 18th November 2026.

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Section 1

Thirty years of the Femicide Watch

Introduction

1996 was a year of terrible loss for women in Ireland. By May, Irish Times journalist Colm Keena reported that eight women had already been killed, more than in the whole of the previous year.[2] By December, nineteen women were dead. Most were killed in their own homes by someone they knew. According to An Garda Síochána, women made up 45% of all murder victims that year.[3]

By then, Women's Aid had spent more than two decades supporting women and children, and we knew the danger well. A year earlier, we had published Ireland's first study on how common domestic abuse is, revealing one in five women subjected to domestic abuse.[4]

More recent EU research shows that today, 35% of women in Ireland, more than one in three, have experienced psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse from an intimate partner.[5]

The killings of 1996 confirmed what we feared, that the public still did not understand how deadly domestic violence could be. That year, we began the Femicide Watch, tracking the cases to any conclusion or developments. All updates have been tracked through media reporting, due to lack of official data.

Since then, we have recorded every case where a woman is killed in violent circumstances in the Republic of Ireland.

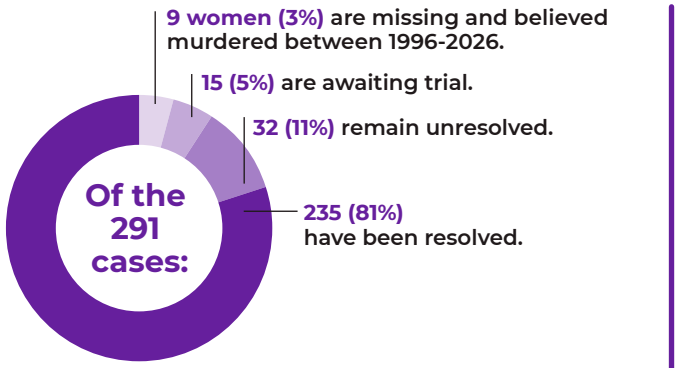
We record all incidents where women have been killed or are missing, believed to be killed. When cases are resolved and where the perpetrators are male (almost all cases), we analyse the relationship between the victims and their killers. It is difficult work but our commitment to it has never wavered. Behind every entry is a woman, and a family left behind. We keep this record so that no woman's death is forgotten, and so that by understanding how and why women are killed, Ireland can strengthen the protections that might prevent future fatal violence against women.

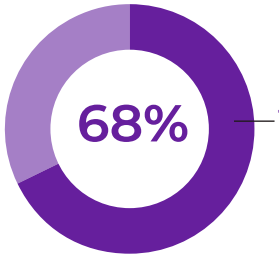
2 Deaths of eight women more than total for 1995, Irish Times, 8.05.1996, https://www.irishtimes.com/news/violent-deaths-of-eight-women-more-than-total-for-1995-1.47262, accessed 8.11.26.
3 An Garda Síochána Annual Report 1996, https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/publications/annual%20reports/1996-annual-report.pdf, accessed 8th November 2026.
4 Making the Links, O'Connor and Kelleher, Women's Aid, 1995, https://www.womensaid.ie/app/uploads/2023/07/making_the_links_womens_aid_1995.pdf, accessed 8.11.26
5 EU Gender-based Violence Survey - Key results, 2024, https://fra.europa.eu/en/publication/2024/eu-gender-violence-survey-key-results, accessed 8.11.26.

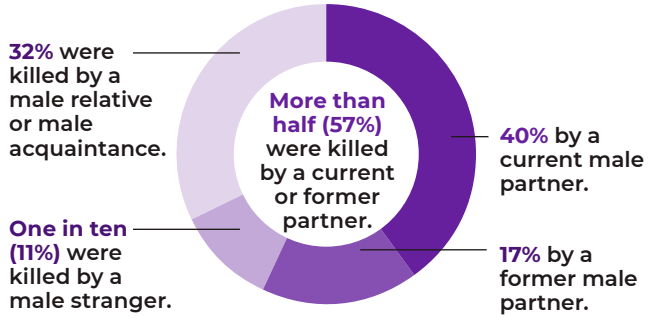
What we Know

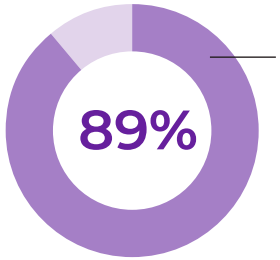
Between 1996 and 2026, 291 women died violently in the Republic of Ireland,[6] 13 of them so far in 2026.[7]

Our findings match what UN and EU data show, that the greatest danger to women comes from men they know, very often in their own homes.









Women aged 26-35 are the largest age group, at one in four (26%) of the women on the record.

The most common method was stabbing with a knife or other sharp objects (34%).

In 40 incidents we recorded others injured including fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers and bystanders.

There have been 25 murder-suicides.

In 24 of them, the killer was the woman's partner or ex-partner; in the other, it was her son.

25 children have been killed alongside a woman, usually their mother.

A further **410 children** have lost their mother, most of them under 18.

6 Since 2020, Women's Aid Ireland and Women's Aid Federation of Northern Ireland has curated an All-Ireland Femicide Watch which has recorded 89 violent killings of women (57 in the Republic of Ireland, 32 in Northern Ireland).

7 Note on data collected: This information has been compiled using media reports from local and national radio, tv, print and online news sources. Where the information is reprinted or republished the printer/publisher is solely responsible for the information and for any inaccuracies contained within.

What is Femicide?

At its simplest, femicide is the killing of women and girls.

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) defines it broadly as the killing of a woman or girl because of her gender. It takes many forms, including killings by a partner, the torture and misogynist killing of women, and so-called "honour" killings. It mostly covers intentional killings, but can also include deaths that were not intended, such as a woman dying from an unsafe abortion.[8]

EIGE describes femicide as the extreme end of a continuum of violence against women, present in every EU Member State. In other words, femicide is rarely a one-off incident. It is usually the end point of coercive control, abuse and escalating risk, which were often visible beforehand.

At UN level, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women measure femicide using a statistical framework they developed together. The UN Vienna Declaration on Femicide was the first international text to set out different types of femicides, including the killing of women by intimate partners.[9]

The Statistics

UN Women and UNODC estimate that 83,000 women and girls were intentionally killed in 2024. Around 50,000 of them (60%) were killed by a partner or family member, which is 137 women and girls every day. By comparison, only 11% of men who are killed die at the hands of a partner or family member. The UN stresses that a slight fall since 2023 does not reflect a real decrease. As UN Women puts it, for women the home remains the most dangerous place.[10]

In Europe, women are killed by a partner or family member at almost twice the rate of men. In 2024, Eurostat recorded 3.9 such killings per million women, against 2.3 per million men, and it describes the gap as persistent.[11]

8 European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE), Femicide: Name it, count it, end it; Measuring femicide in the EU and internationally: an assessment (2021); Femicide: a classification system; country factsheets on measuring femicide.

9 UNODC and UN Women (2025), Femicides in 2024: Global Estimates of Intimate Partner/Family Member Femicides, and accompanying press release, 25 November 2025, https://knowledge.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2025/11/femicides-in-2024-global-estimates-of-intimate-partner-family-member-femicides#:~:text=This%20latest%20UNODC%E2%80%93UN%20Women%20research%20report%20provides%20new,other%20family%20members%2C%20with%20updated%20data%20for%202024, accessed 8.11.26.

10 Ibid.

11 Eurostat, Crime statistics (Statistics Explained) and dataset crim_hom_vrel: intentional homicide victims by victim-offender relationship and sex (2023 and 2024 data).

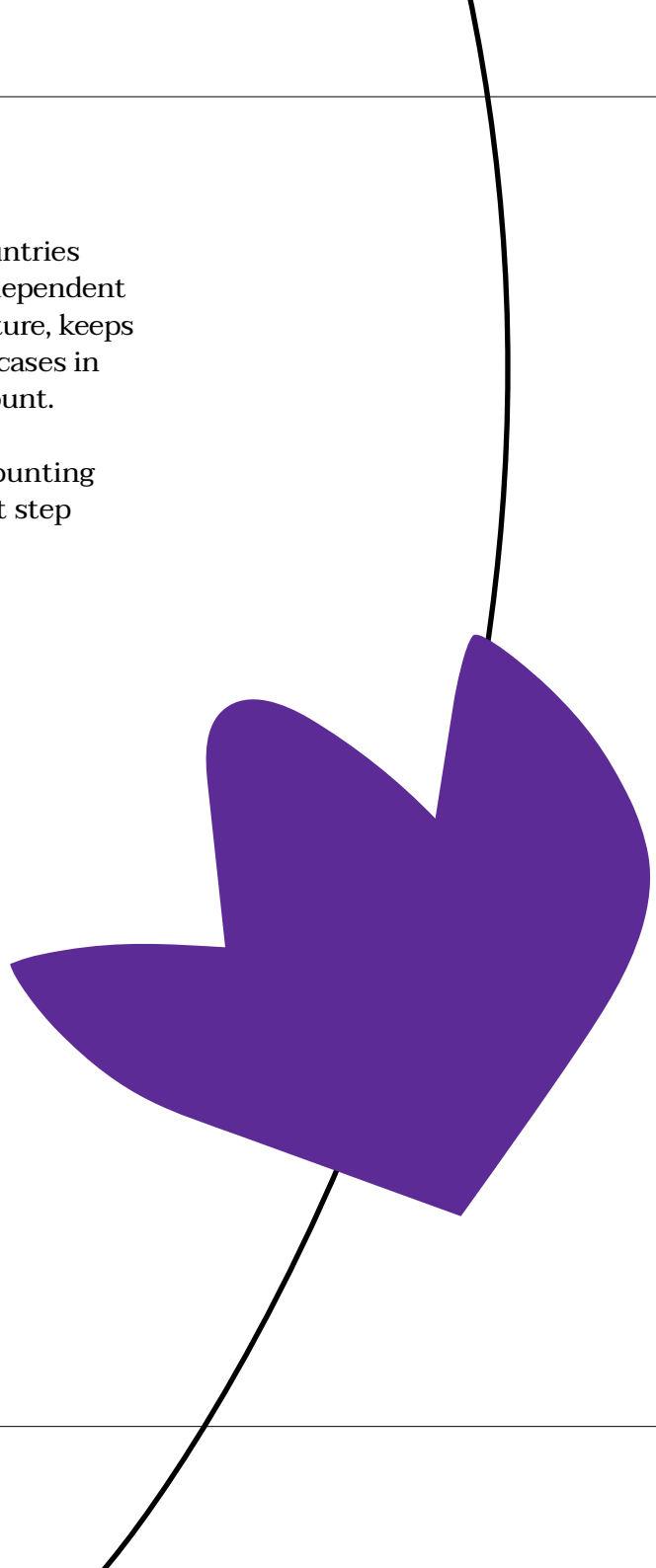
Why Definitions and Data Matter

For statistical purposes, EIGE counts femicide as either the killing of a woman by a current or former partner, or the death of a woman because of a practice harmful to women. It argues that a common EU definition would reveal gender-based killings that currently disappear into general figures. To get there, it has proposed a shared working definition, a minimum set of data to collect, rules for managing that data, and a femicide protocol.

Official data tells only part of the story. Eurostat, for example, counts intentional killings by a family member or partner. Our Femicide Watch records every woman who dies in violent circumstances, including killings by strangers and cases still unresolved. Both are needed.

Official data lets us compare countries and track changes over time. Independent monitoring captures the full picture, keeps unresolved and missing-women cases in view, and holds the State to account.

As EIGE stresses, naming and counting femicide consistently is the first step towards ending it.[12]



12 Ibid.

Connecting the Dots -
Domestic Violence and Femicide

Domestic violence kills women, and it kills children too. The abuse that comes before an intimate partner femicide mirrors what women tell us every day on our 24-hour National Freephone Helpline and in our face-to-face services. When a woman tells Women's Aid that she is afraid for her life, we believe her, because we know how dangerous domestic abuse can be.

In 2025, Women's Aid had 37,790 contacts, during which 62,275 disclosures of domestic violence against women and children were made. [13]

One in three women
are subjected to domestic abuse in Ireland.[14]

Our Helpline support workers heard:

1,321 disclosures
of a man threatening to kill the woman, her children, a family member or himself.

10,825 disclosures
of physical abuse, including non-fatal strangulation, smothering, beating, and threats to beat with a weapon.

906 disclosures
of stalking, online and in person.

1,522 disclosures
of abuse during pregnancy.

3,020 disclosures
of rape and sexual abuse.

512 disclosures
of non-fatal strangulation.

Behind these figures are not only physical injuries, but the fear and intimidation women and children live with before, during and after an assault. Leaving does not always end abuse.

In 2025, nearly one in three women (32%)
using our services were being abused by an ex-partner.

What women tell us is only the tip of the iceberg. In hundreds of thousands of homes across Ireland, women and children are beaten, controlled and threatened by men. For every woman whose life is taken, thousands more are living on a knife's edge of fear.

13 Women's Aid Annual Impact Report 2025, https://www.womensaid.ie/about-us/our-impact/, June 2026.
14 EU gender-based violence survey, Fundamental Rights Agency, 2024.

What are the Risk Factors?

International research[15] shows that intimate partner femicide rarely comes out of nowhere. It points to clear warning signs and moments of heightened danger:

- **Separation** - leaving, or trying to leave, is the most consistent trigger. Risk rises sharply around separation and stays high for about a year, especially where the man has been highly controlling.
- **Coercive control** - jealousy, monitoring, isolation and control over daily life show up in femicide cases far more reliably than a history of serious physical violence. Many women killed had no recorded physical assault beforehand.
- **Non-fatal strangulation** - a past strangulation raises the risk of attempted or completed murder. It is often played down by victims and under-recorded by services.
- **Weapons** - access to guns and past threats with a weapon are among the strongest predictors internationally. Guns matter less in Ireland, but threats with knives or other weapons remain significant.
- **Threats to kill** - threats against the woman, her children or the man himself. A perpetrator who is suicidal is a recognised warning sign for murder-suicide.
- **Stalking** - persistent watching and following, including online, especially after separation.
- **Escalating abuse** - abuse that becomes more frequent or more severe, and the woman's own sense that he is capable of killing her.
- **Sexual violence** within the relationship.
- **Abuse during pregnancy.**
- **A child in the home who is not his biological child.**
- **Other factors** in the perpetrator: unemployment, substance misuse (which makes violence worse but does not cause it), a criminal record, and breaches of protection orders.

In Ireland, our Femicide Watch shows the same pattern: the home is the most dangerous place for women, a current or former partner is the most likely killer, and a knife or other sharp object is the most common weapon.

15 For example, Jane Monckton Smith's homicide timeline research and Preventing and Eradicating Femicide WAVE Thematic Paper, February 2017, http://fileserver.wave-network.org/researchreports/Thematic_Paper_Femicide_15Febr2017.pdf, accessed 9.11.26.

Other Irish research and official data

Other Irish research and official data back up what the Femicide Watch shows.

The most rigorous Irish dataset outside our own is a joint study by RCSI and the Office of the State Pathologist (OSP), it reviewed every homicide referred to the OSP from 2012 to 2023 and identified 97 femicides.[16] The review found that:

Femicide rose
from about one in five homicides referred to the OSP in 2012–2020 (19%) to three in ten in 2021–2023 (29%).

96 of the 97
women and girls were killed by a man.

Three in four (74%)
were domestic femicides, and **41% of women** were killed in the home they shared with their killer.

56% were killed by a current or former partner, and **20%** by a family member.

A history of domestic violence was recorded in **42%** of intimate partner femicides and **20%** of family femicides.

Where there was a history of sexual violence, **75% of women** had sharp force injuries.

According to An Garda Síochána, murders in Ireland have fallen over time, but a growing share are linked to domestic abuse. In 2021, for the first time between 2013 and 2021, domestic abuse was the most common motive for murder, manslaughter and infanticide (13 incidents, against 12 for all other motives combined). That year, domestic abuse accounted for 52% of these killings, up from 29% in 2013 and above the 38% average of the previous five years.[17]

16 McGoldrick, Kate; Collis, SallyAnne; Mulligan, Linda (2024). Femicide in Ireland 2012-2023. Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Journal contribution. https://hdl.handle.net/10779/rcsi.27210675.v1

17 Domestic, Sexual and Gender Based Violence: A Report on Crime Levels and Garda Operational Responses, An Garda Síochána, 2022, https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/our-departments/office-of-corporate-communications/news-media/an-garda-siochana-domestic-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-report-sept-22.pdf, accessed 8.11.26.

The Impact of the Femicide Watch

For 30 years, the Women's Aid Femicide Watch has counted and remembered every woman killed in violent circumstances in Ireland. Its findings have shaped media reporting, Government strategy, legal reform and public awareness.

At the heart of this work are the people most affected: the women who were killed, their families, and the women across Ireland living under serious threat today. The Femicide Watch shows that these killings are not isolated tragedies. They are rooted in gender inequality and gender-based violence.

We stand with bereaved families, at their invitation and for as long as they need us. We offer emotional support and support through trials, and we back their advocacy, media work, fundraising and campaigns. Even in the worst moments of their lives, these families act for justice and to protect others. Their courage drives our work.

Conclusion

In Ireland and internationally, the link between domestic violence and femicide is clear. Any strategy to end femicide must tackle domestic violence and every other form of violence against women.

When we began the Femicide Watch in 1996, we knew we had to record these killings to show the danger women face, and to build the understanding needed to protect women and children. That purpose has not changed.

Ireland is one of the wealthiest countries in the world, and we have good laws. Yet recent EU statistics show that one in three women suffers physical, psychological or sexual abuse from a partner. Most men choose never to behave this way, and that is exactly why we need everyone in our communities to recognise the problem and call it out.

Every woman has the right to be safe in her home and in her community, and today that is not the reality. Women's Aid will continue this difficult work, and our efforts to break the pattern of male violence against women, so that fewer lives are lost. Together, we must do what it takes to make Ireland a country with truly zero tolerance for domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Recommendations for Government

Domestic and Family Violence Death Reviews (DFVDRs)

Women's Aid understands that a model for Domestic and Family Violence Death Reviews is being developed, as recommended by the 2024 Study on Familicide and Domestic and Family Violence Death Reviews.

In other jurisdictions, DFVDRs now also cover suspected suicides following domestic abuse, and the number of these cases has risen sharply.[18] The need for strong monitoring of how review recommendations are implemented has also been noted.[19]

Women's Aid recommends that the model include the following:

- **Participation of specialist domestic violence services:** Relevant domestic violence and abuse support services should be included in reviews and funded to take part
- **Phased expansion of scope:** Reviews should begin with domestic homicides and child deaths related to DVA and extend to suspected suicides following domestic abuse within a set timeframe.
- **Oversight of recommendations:** An oversight mechanism should monitor progress and ensure recommendations are implemented. This should include, but not be limited to, a centrally maintained public database of all anonymised reviews.
- **Meaningful family involvement:** Families, including children where appropriate, should be meaningfully involved in reviews and supported to participate safely.

Women's Aid would welcome continued engagement with the Department of Justice as the model is developed.

Risk Assessment

Agencies and services in Ireland currently use a disparate variety of Domestic Violence and Abuse (DVA) risk assessment tools and/or practices to assess risk and support safety planning.

Developing an intuitive, standardised approach to assessing risk and safety planning would help services understand each other and work together. However, it is very important to acknowledge that risk assessment is not "one size fits all" and should be approached as an engaged process with victim-survivors and not a 'checklist' exercise. It must suit the setting, the context, and the person carrying it out. Training on the 'soft skills' to engage in meaningful risk assessment are essential for any practitioners engaged in this work. Any standardised practices should also set out recommended actions, depending on the level of risk identified and who is at risk.

18 Hoeger, Katherine, et others, 2026, Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides 2020-2025 Year 5 Report. https://www.vkpp.org.uk/assets/Year-5-Report_FINAL-for-publication.pdf, accessed 10.11.26.

19 For an insightful discussion on the need of this mechanism see The Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales, 2025, Learning from loss Ensuring the lessons from domestic homicide reviews lead to change, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6888a361a11f85999440914d/E03400492_DAC+Learning+from+Loss+_English__Accessible+w+Corrslip.pdf, accessed 10.11.26

Where children are present, risk assessments must assess the impact of DVA, including coercive control, on them.

Women's Aid recommends a national mapping and evaluation of current DVA risk assessment practices and frameworks, informed by victim-survivors and DVA services, and also considering positively evaluated international examples. The findings should shape a national risk assessment framework that is informed by an understanding of DVA, particularly coercive control, and can be adapted to different settings.

Regional Multi-Agency Critical Planning and Response Teams (MACPARs)

Women's Aid welcomes the Government's commitment to establish MACPARs to improve support for families affected by familicide.[20] We recommend:

- **Independent chair:** Each regional MACPAR should have an independent chairperson, rather than an Assistant Commissioner of An Garda Síochána.
- **Specialist support for children:** Specialist support services on MACPAR teams appear to be focused on supporting adults. Children bereaved by a DFV death also need support, which requires specialist expertise. Barnardos has extensive experience in this area, including supporting children bereaved by homicide. This should complement, not replace, the Guardian ad Litem role, providing a more holistic response for children.
- **Skilled secretariat:** The current proposals do not provide for secretariat support. This has resource implications, and a named agency should be identified to provide it.
- **Case management system:** MACPARs need a case management system to ensure a consistent response to every family member who engages with them. It should keep a documented record of all contact and supports offered, including who has committed to provide which support, and when.

Improved Data Collection

As recommended by EIGE, the collection of accurate and comparable data on femicide by the police and justice sectors across Member States helps to increase knowledge and improve responses to prevent femicide. It is therefore important to:

- develop a femicide definition for statistical data collection, in order to reflect the specific circumstances relating to the killing of women;
- implement a process of continuous data collection;
- establish comprehensive data collection, adding variables that are important for detecting key aspects of femicide, such as those describing the context and the circumstances of the killing, the genderrelated motivation, and the victim and perpetrator characteristics, in order to systematise and harmonise the collection of data for statistical use;
- crossreference the variables of the victim and those of the perpetrator, and analyse them using an intersectional approach;
- ensure that the gender dimension of homicide data is made visible.[21]

20 https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/debates/question/2026-06-23/520/#pq-answers-520_521

21 Measuring femicide in Ireland, EIGE, 2021, file:///C:/Users/christinasherlock/AppData/Local/Microsoft/Olk/Attachments/ooa-3eba38e7-1f85-423f-ad2e-15c56fbbc3de/5b2a3f11a119c1353d27c786dc8f2865b858912b976010c7b6b8fb8bf4b2a539/20211569_mh0421096enn_pdf.pdf, accessed 10.11.26.

Recommendations for Media

Media Reporting on Femicide and Domestic Abuse

For 30 years, Women's Aid has monitored reports of female homicide in the media and public archives. Drawing on that experience and expertise, we believe the recommendations below would improve media reporting on intimate partner femicide.

While there are examples of respectful and positive media coverage, reporting remains inconsistent. Several high-quality resources on this topic already exist.[22] These should form the basis of training developed and delivered in partnership with specialist domestic violence services that have training experience. Responsible reporting on domestic abuse and homicide can deepen public understanding and support those affected as they seek help and justice.

We believe further research is needed on the reporting of femicide and domestic, sexual, and gender-based violence more broadly.

In the meantime, Women's Aid recommends the following:

1. **Agree guidelines** - the Press Council should work with domestic violence experts and other stakeholders to agree on guidelines on reporting domestic violence and femicide.
2. **Report on her life, not only her death** - coverage should reflect the woman's life and the loss to those who loved her, not just the traumatic and graphic manner of her death. Women and their loved ones deserve dignity.
3. **Don't define her by others** - women who are killed should not be presented, or valued, solely through their relationship with their killer or their family.
4. **Include the victim's voice** - her voice is often lost in coverage of the killing and any later court case. Too often, the story reported is the one the perpetrator tells in his defence.
5. **Don't sympathise with the perpetrator** - reporting should not be unduly sympathetic to him, nor present his actions as understandable or inevitable.
6. **Avoid victim-blaming** - reporting should steer clear of stereotypes and myths about domestic violence.
7. **End the hierarchy of victims** - the amount of coverage a case receives often depends on the socio-economic and ethnic background of the woman and the perpetrator, the victim's age, where in the country the killing took place, or whether the details lend themselves to salacious reporting.

22 For example, Zero Tolerance Scotland's resources for media https://www.zerotolerance.org.uk/work-media/.

8. **Avoid stock imagery of physical violence -** such images reinforce the myth that abuse is only physical, and ignore the emotional, controlling, economic and sexual abuse that women experience from current or former partners.

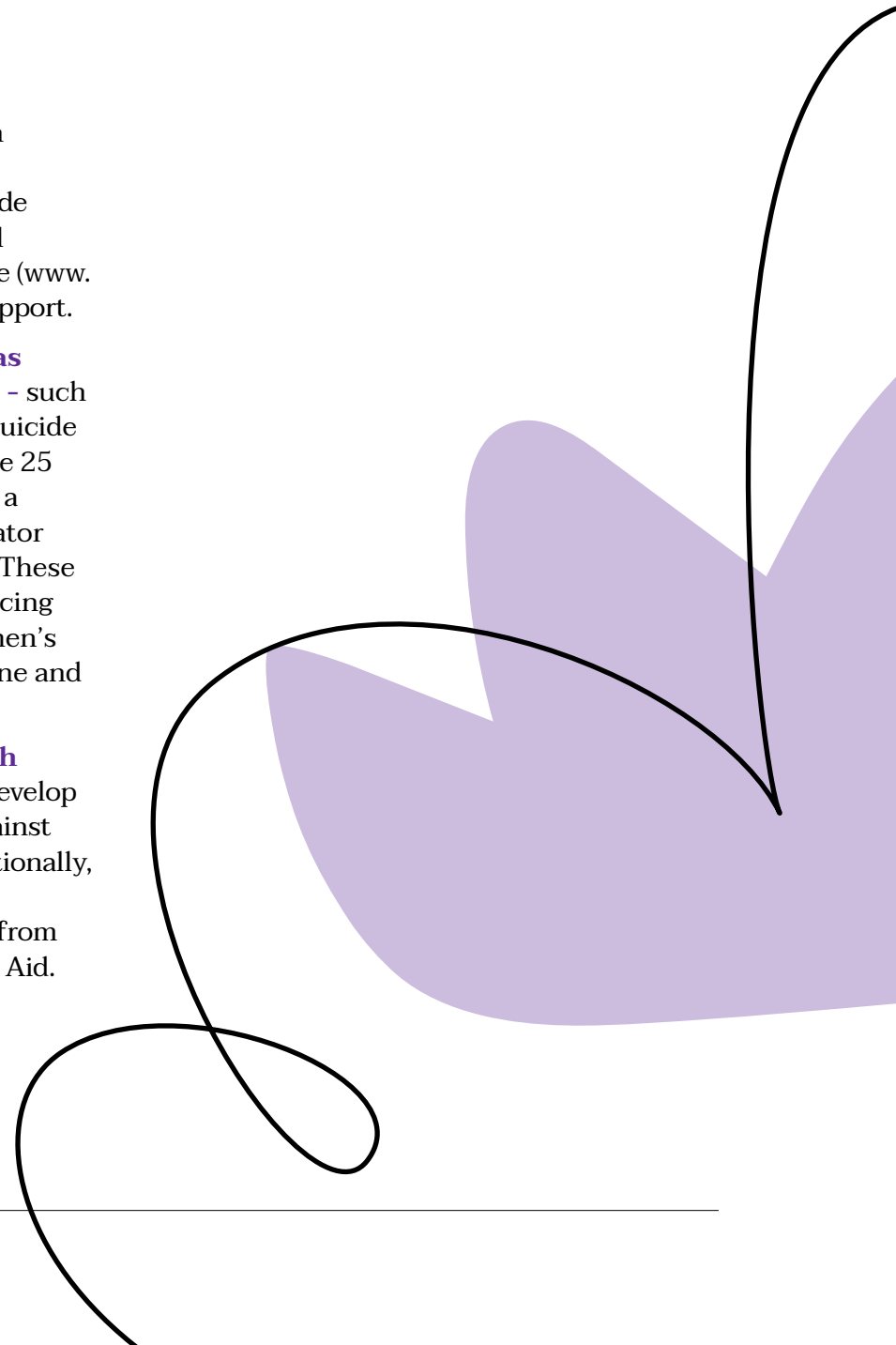
9. **Challenge the "once-off" narrative -** one in two women murdered in Ireland is killed by a current or former intimate partner. Fatal domestic violence should be named and reported as part of the wider issue of violence against women in Irish society.

10. **Respect families and communities -** when a woman, and sometimes her children, are murdered, journalists are approaching a family and community in deep trauma. The pursuit of a story must not add to that trauma, and privacy and dignity should be respected at all times.

11. **Signpost support -** reports on intimate partner femicide and domestic violence should include the Women's Aid 24hr National Freephone Helpline and website (www.womensaid.ie) as a source of support.

12. **Don't treat murder-suicide as solely a mental health story -** such cases are often reported with suicide helplines alone. Yet in 24 of the 25 murder-suicide cases in which a woman was killed, the perpetrator was her partner or ex-partner. These reports affect women experiencing domestic violence, so the Women's Aid National Freephone Helpline and website should also be listed.

13. **Build understanding through training -** journalists should develop their knowledge of violence against women, nationally and internationally, and receive training on the dynamics and impact of abuse from organisations such as Women's Aid.

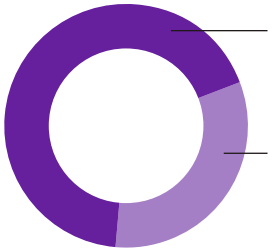


Section 2

Femicide Watch 1996-2026

Since 1996, 291 women have died in violent circumstances in the Republic of Ireland. Most women were killed in a place where they should be safe, their own home. 32% of women were killed in other locations (e.g., waste ground, perpetrator's home, car, workplace)

Location



198 **Women** were killed in their own home. **(68%)**

93 **Women** were killed at another location **(32%)**

Impact on Children

We have recorded the violent deaths of 23 children who died in incidents alongside their mothers. 2 children died in the same incident as their sister.

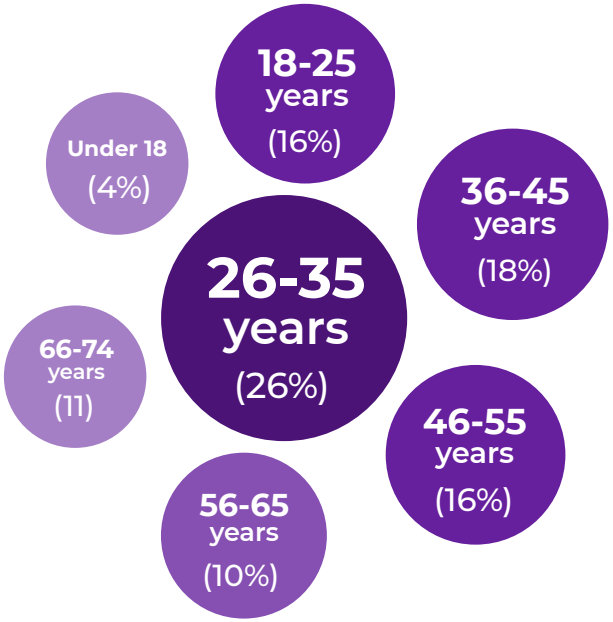
157 women were mothers (54%). We noted that 410 children have been bereaved. Most of the children were under 18 at the time.

Other people hurt or killed

There are 40 cases where in addition to the woman, others have been either killed or injured including children, friends, sisters, brothers, mothers and husbands.

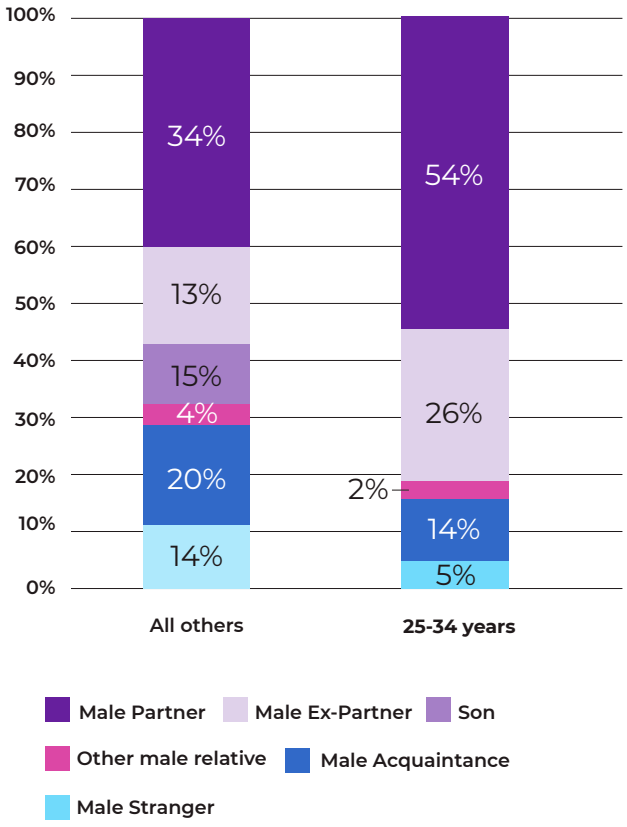
Age of Victims

We have recorded women and girls on the Femicide Watch from the age of 12 to 89.[23] The age category most represented are women aged 26-35 representing one in four (26.4%) of all women in the femicide watch.



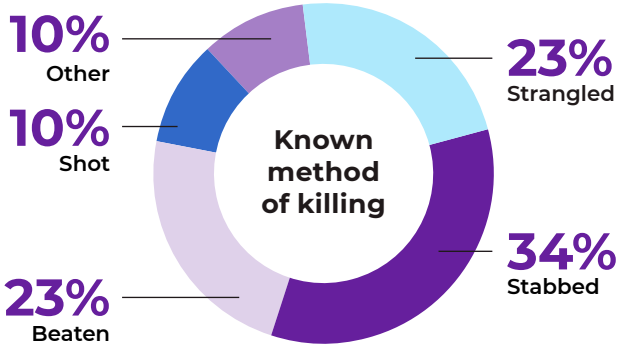
23 When a girl is killed in a clear case of gender-based violence (i.e. by a boyfriend, incidences of grooming for sexual exploitation or during incidents of rape or sexual assault.

Our figures show that women aged 26-35 are most at risk from being killed by someone they know. 4.7% of murdered women aged 26-35 have been killed by stranger compared to 13.5% of women in all other age group.



Method of Killing

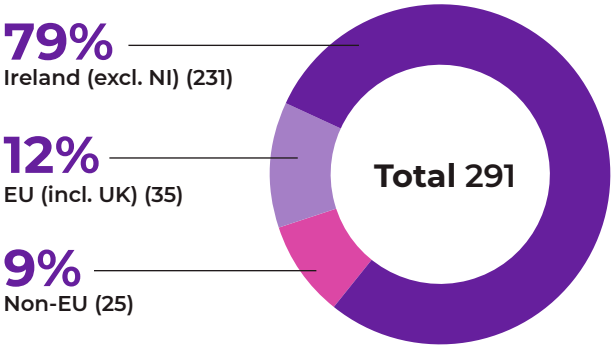
Of the 291 women who have died in violent circumstances since 1996, we have information on the method of killing in 282 cases. 96 women were stabbed, 64 women were strangled, 64 women were beaten, 29 women were shot and 29 women were killed by other means. We have noted the primary cause of death but many women suffered multiple forms of violence during the fatal attack.



In 163 (58%)
of the cases, weapons were used.

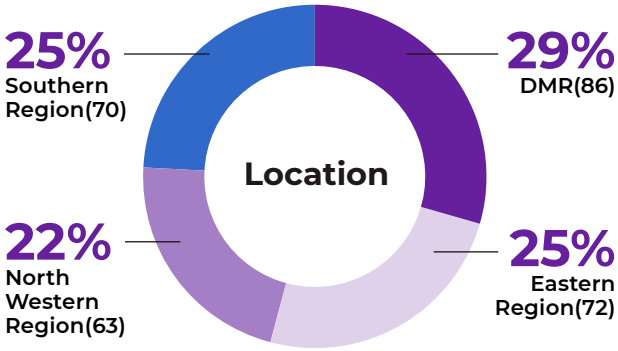
Nationality of Victim

Most women recorded on the Femicide Watch are Irish women, while 12% were women who were originally from EU countries (incl. UK) and 9% of women were from non-EU countries.



Location of Violent Death by Garda Divisions

We have broken down the number of women who have died violently since 1996 by Garda Divisions. The majority of victims were withing the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR),



County where a woman was killed/abducted	
Carlow	4
Cavan	7
Clare	9
Cork	30
Donegal	6
Dublin	86
Galway	16
Kerry	9
Kildare	9
Kilkenny	7
Laois	7
Limerick	14
Longford	1

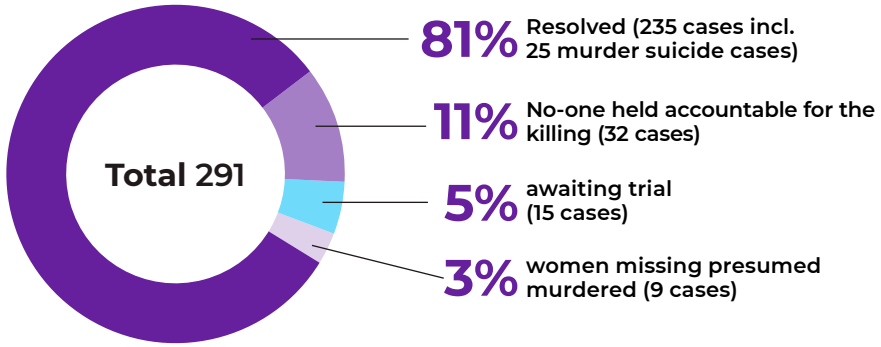
County where a woman was killed/abducted	
Louth	13
Mayo	7
Meath	10
Monaghan	1
Offaly	5
Roscommon	5
Sligo	7
Tipperary	8
Waterford	14
Westmeath	5
Wexford	4
Wicklow	7

Incidents of Murder-Suicide

There have been 25 murder suicide cases since 1996 where the perpetrator has murdered a woman and then taken his own life. In 24 cases, the perpetrator was a partner or a former partner. In the other case, the perpetrator was the woman's son. 5 cases have included the murder of the woman and her children.

Status of Cases

235 cases have been resolved (81%) either through a court process or because it was a murder suicide (25 cases). 15 cases are awaiting trial (5%) and there are 32 cases (11%) where no one has been held accountable for the killing. We have recorded nine cases (3%) where women are missing, and Gardaí have launched murder enquiries.

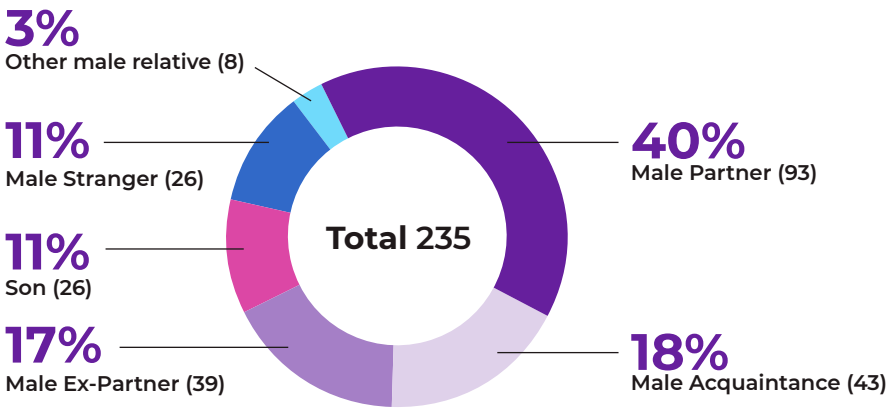


Perpetrators

Women's Aid has recorded the relationship between the victim and perpetrator in the 235 cases resolved.

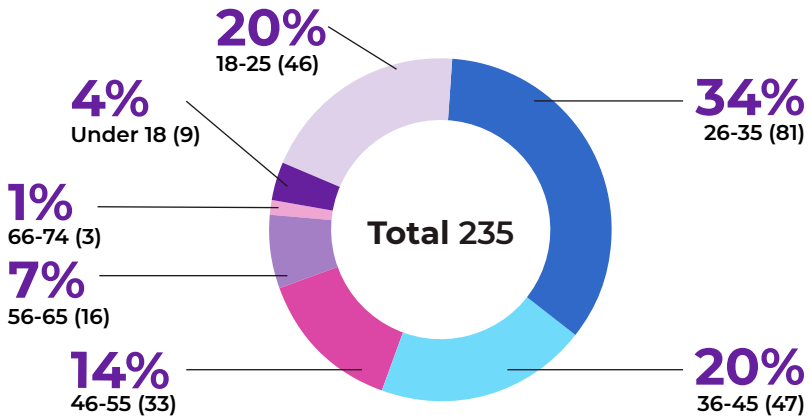
In resolved cases, almost 9 in 10 women were killed by a man known to them.

Within that figure, 57% of women were killed by a current or former male partner.



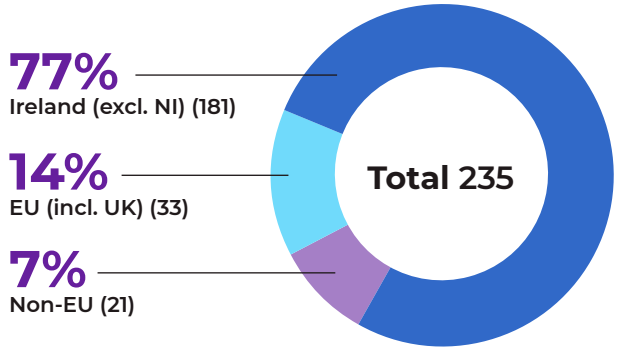
Age of Perpetrator

We have recorded the age of the perpetrator at the time of killing.



Nationality of Perpetrator

Most perpetrators recorded on the Femicide Watch are Irish men (77%), while 14% were men who were originally from EU countries (incl. UK) and 9% of men were from non-EU countries.



Section 3

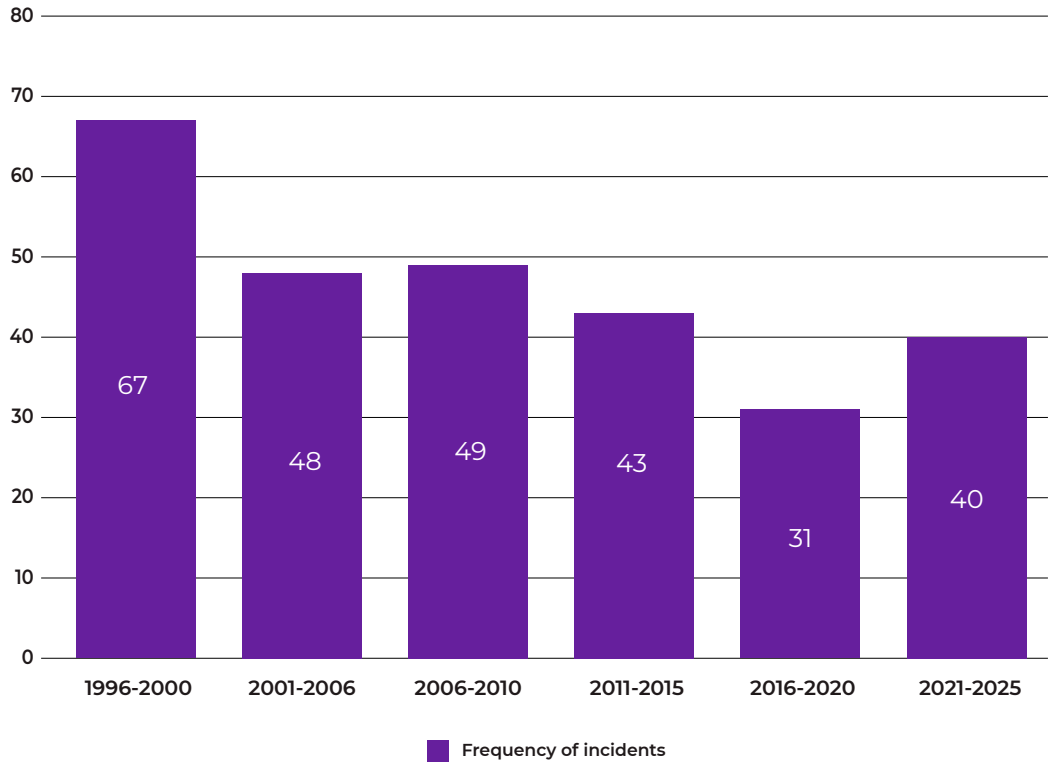
Five-Year Comparisons

Trends in the Frequency of Incidents

We have broken down the number of incidents by 5-year blocks where women have died violently. As you can see the levels of violent deaths of women had continued to drop from a high of 67 women (1996-2000) to a low of 31 between 2016 and 2020.

Worryingly, if we compare the most recent periods, there is a 29% increase from 2016-2020 to 2021-2025.[24]

We have recorded 13 violent deaths in 2026
so far, compared to seven violent deaths in 2025.

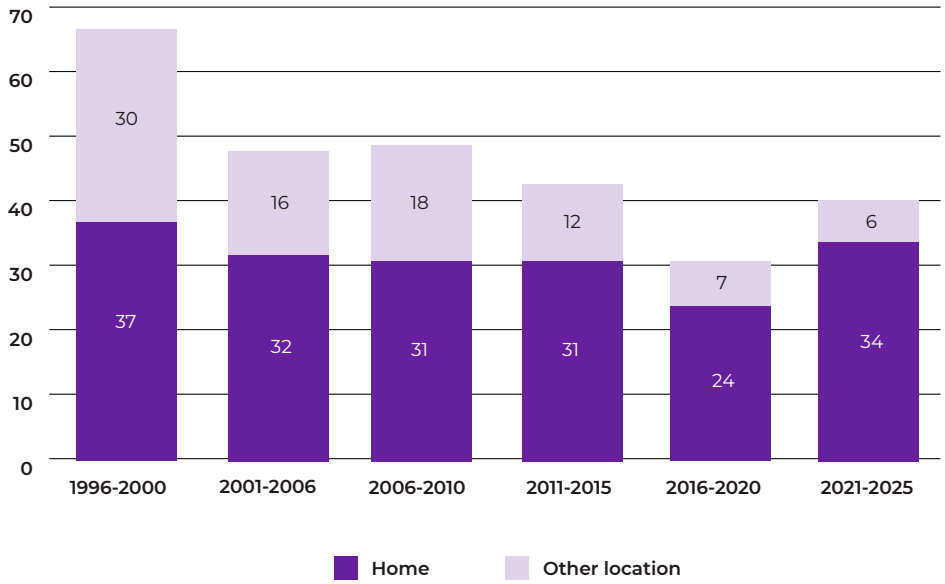


24 The population in Ireland has grown by approximately 16% in the same period, according to the CSO. See https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-mip/measuringirelandsprogress2026/keyfindings/.

Location

The trend where women are more likely to be killed in their own home is borne out in every 5-year period. What is notable is that there was an increase of women of women killed at home (85%) between 2021-2025. This is against an average of 68% across the 30 year period.

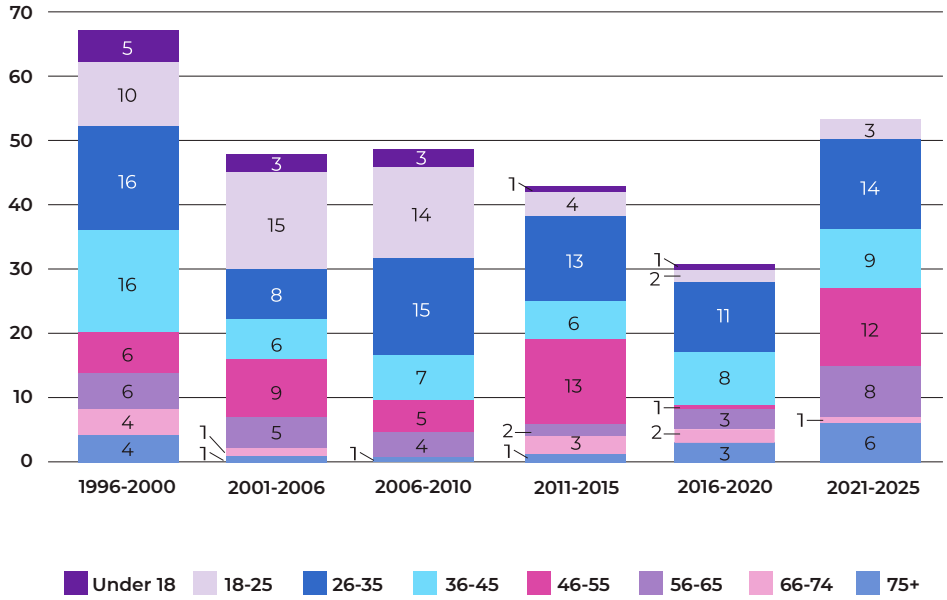
The Covid-19 Pandemic and related lockdowns are likely to have contributed to this increase.



Age of woman

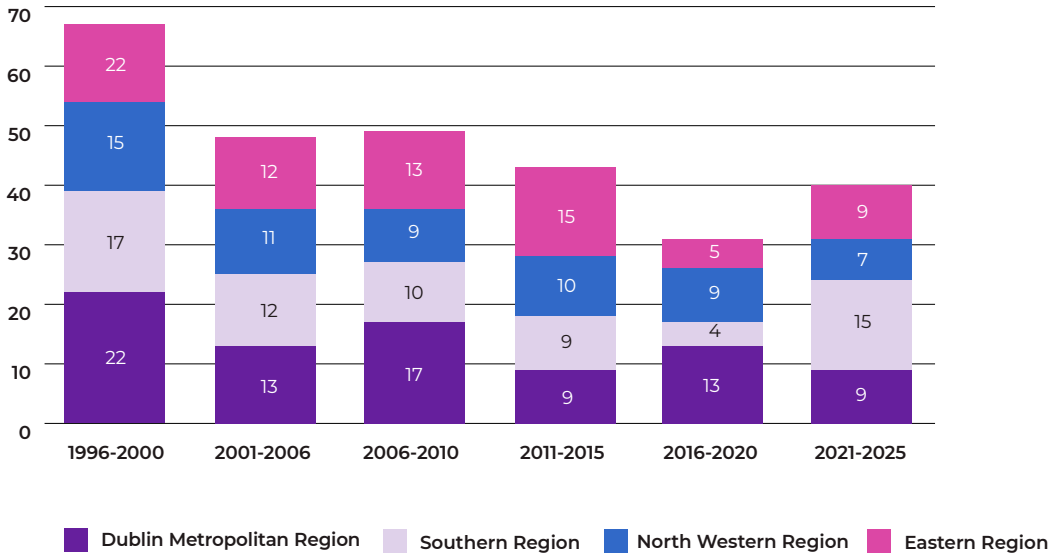
The majority of women on the Femicide Watch across the six periods compared here were under 45 years of age. The majority of these women were killed by a current or former male intimate partner.

In the recent period, 2021-2025 we have noted an increase in the number of women over the age of 45 who were killed by sons.



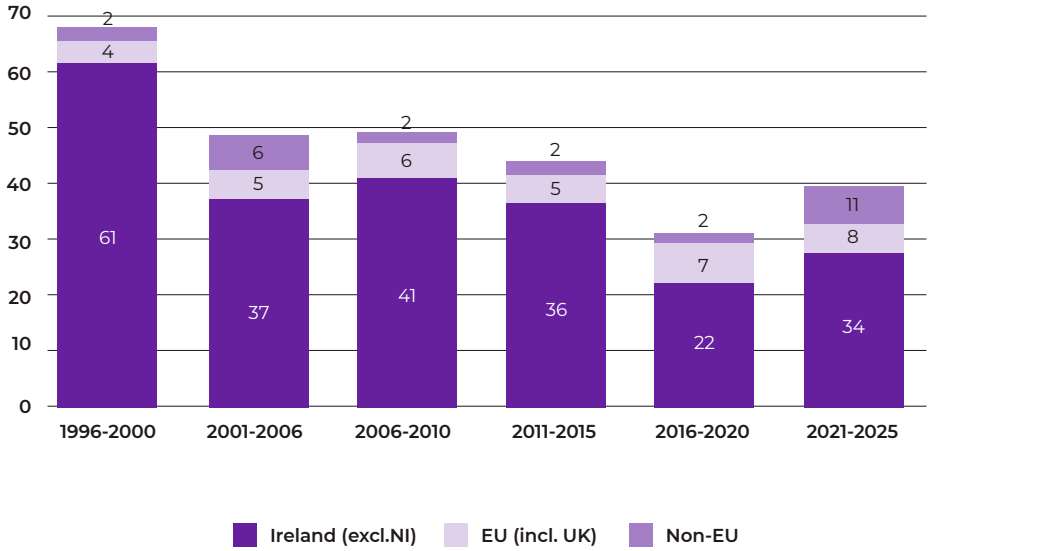
Location of Violent Death by Garda Divisions

The split across Garda Divisions is consistent over the 30 years. However, there has been a notable shift in the last 5 years when compared with the previous 5-year period. 38% of women (15) were killed in the Southern Region between 2021-2025. This figure was 13% of violent deaths (4 women) between 2016-2020.



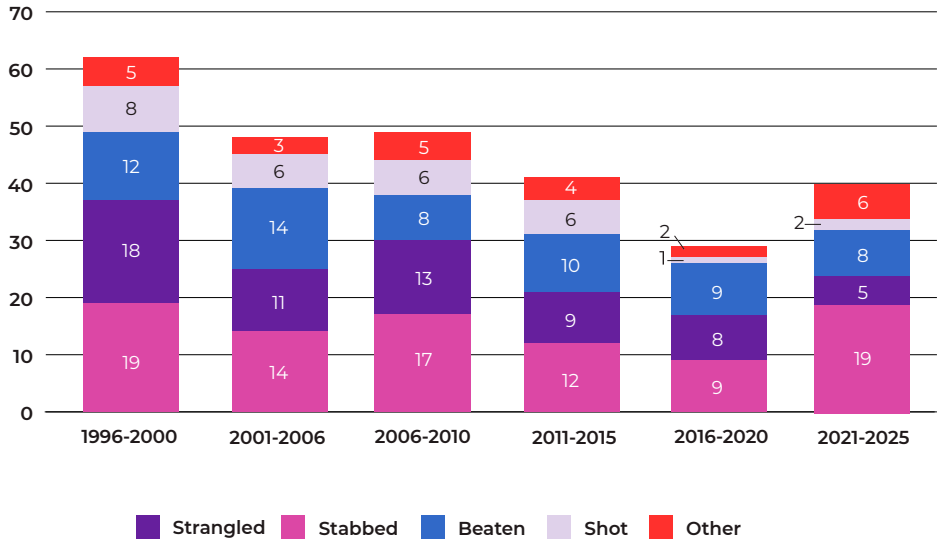
Nationality of women

The nationality of the women recorded across the six periods shows that the majority were Irish. Where EU and Non-EU women are noted, their nationality usually matches that of their killer.



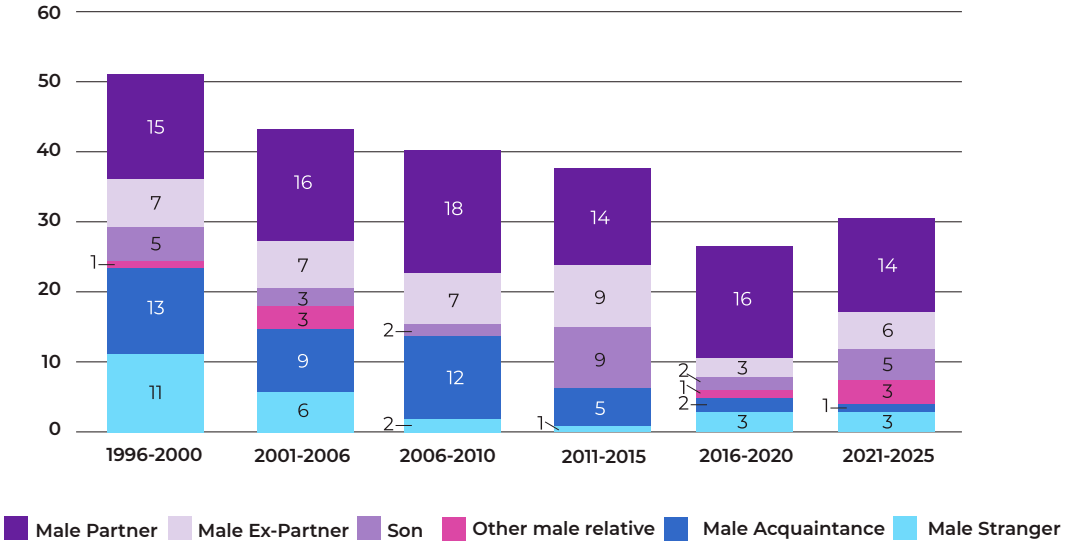
Method of killing

We have noted an increase of women killed with knives and other sharp objects between 2021-2025 (48% of women) and the previous 5 year period (31% of women). This is also an increase on the average over the 30 year period (34% of women).



Perpetrators

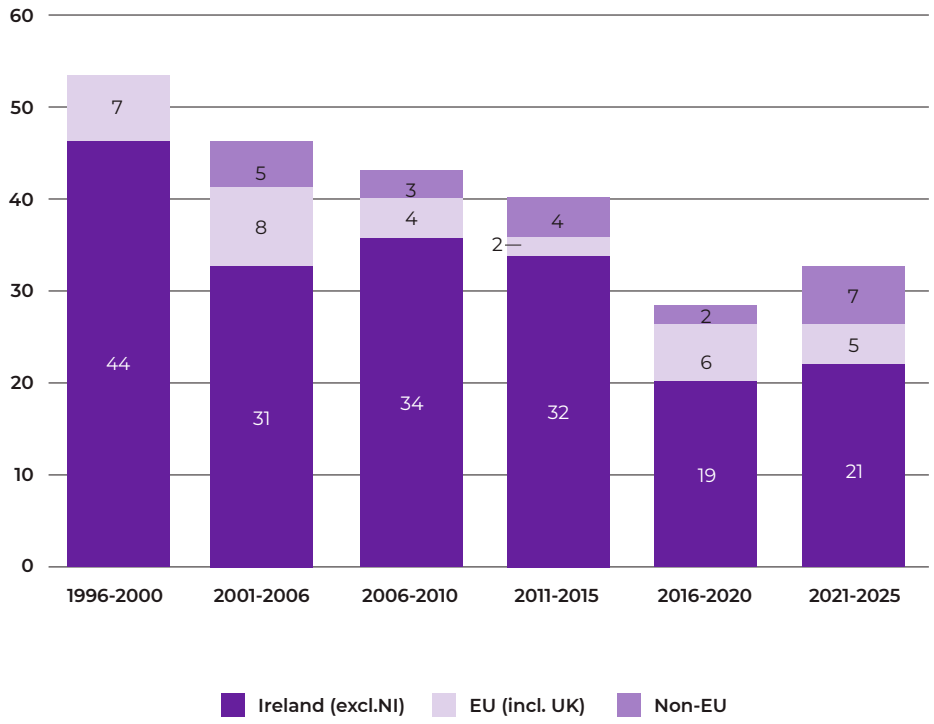
The trend where women were killed by a man they knew is consistent across all 5-year periods, with the majority of perpetrators being male partners or male intimate partners.



Nationality of Perpetrator

The nationality of the perpetrators recorded across the six periods shows that the majority were Irish.

Where EU and Non-EU perpetrators are noted, their nationality usually matches that of their victims.



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