

GENDER
AND
SMALL ARMS
IN
BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

:

FAST
FACTS

The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) is a joint initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Regional Cooperation Council (RCC) aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, thus contributing to enhanced stability, security and development in South Eastern and Eastern Europe.

The publication of *Gender and Small Arms – Fast Facts* was facilitated by the contribution of the European Union, through EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2356 in support of SEESAC disarmament and arms control activities in South-East Europe.

For further information contact:

SEESAC Project Manager
Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 64, 11000 Belgrade Serbia
Tel: +381 11 415 5300 Fax: +381 11 415 5359
www.seesac.org

Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our gratitude to the Coordination Board for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and other competent institutions for the crucial support in data collection, which have made this report possible.

This report has also benefited from the inputs and comments of the members of the SEESAC team Juliana Buzi and Teodora Zafiu.

Gender and Small Arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina: Fast Facts

This report was written Dragan Božanić, SEESAC Gender and Research Project Officer. The support in the development of the report was provided by Dušan Đukić, Junior Consultant. The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Cooperation Council, or the European Union. The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of the United Nations Development Programme, the Regional Cooperation Council, or the European Union concerning 1) the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities or armed groups; or 2) the delineation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Copy editor: Christine Prickett

Design and layout: Vladimir Garboš

Design Quality Assurance: Marina Iles

Printed by: Cicero

Circulation: 100 copies

© SEESAC 2019 – All rights reserved

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

:

FAST FACTS

About Fast Facts

The *Gender and Small Arms Fast Facts* series documents the multiple linkages between gender and small arms in South East Europe (SEE) and outlines the specific risks that women and men face with respect to firearm use and misuse.

Fast Facts provides an overview of sex-disaggregated data related to ownership, access, demand for firearms and their impact on women and men, including the misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence and suicide.

Through improved access to sex-disaggregated data, *Fast Facts* strives to increase the knowledge and awareness of both professionals and the general audience about the highly gendered aspects of small arms. In addition, it provides policy makers in Bosnia and Herzegovina with an easy-to-use tool for evidence-based policymaking and mainstreaming gender in small arms and light weapons control legislation and policies.

Data sources

The data used in Fast Facts is extracted from multiple sources:

1. Distribution and Impact Survey: In cooperation with governments in SEE, SEESAC collected and analyzed data in order to identify trends in the distribution of small arms (particularly in relation to the type, quantity, possession, distribution, legal/illegal trade, production and movement of small arms and light weapons) and the impact of their misuse on the citizens in the region, both on women and men. The data was collected for the period 2012-2016. Unless otherwise indicated, data presented in this publication refer to this source.

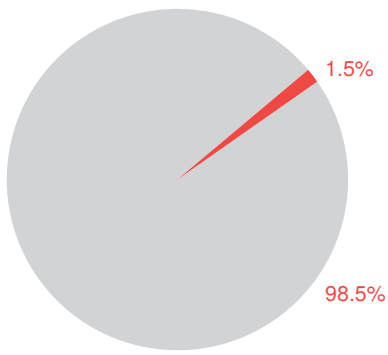
2. Perception Survey: In November and December 2017, SEESAC conducted an online public perception survey to obtain a better understanding of the public perception on safety and security, on the use and possession of firearms, and on the exposure to firearm violence in SEE. A total of 53,936 respondents participated in the online survey throughout SEE. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1,209 respondents completed the survey.

3. Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP): The AVMP monitors firearm-related incidents that have occurred in SEE since 2014. Data is collected daily using local media clippings, online search engines and, where available, the reports by public institutions of relevant firearm-related incidents. For the purpose of this report, 1,714 reports of incidents that occurred from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

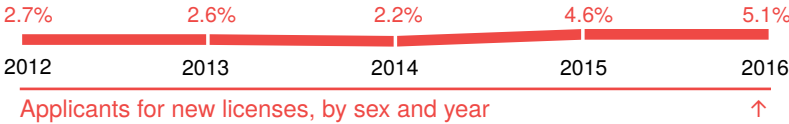
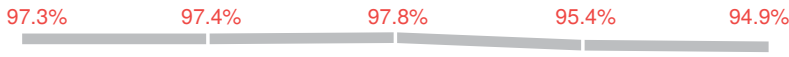
MAIN FINDINGS

- Men own 98.5% of all firearms, while only 1.5% are owned by women;
- 37.4% of men and 21% of women would own a gun;
- 58.8% of women and 46.2% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;
- 48.8% of men and 25% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun;
- Men account for 77% of the victims of firearm-related homicides, while women account for 23%;
- 57.2% of killed men and 48.5% of killed women are killed with firearms;
- 28.9% of people killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina were killed by a family member;
- 66.7% of all women and 15.5% of all men killed were killed by a family member;
- 45.2% of all family-related homicides are committed with firearms;
- 62.1% of men and 34.1% of women killed by family members were killed with firearms;

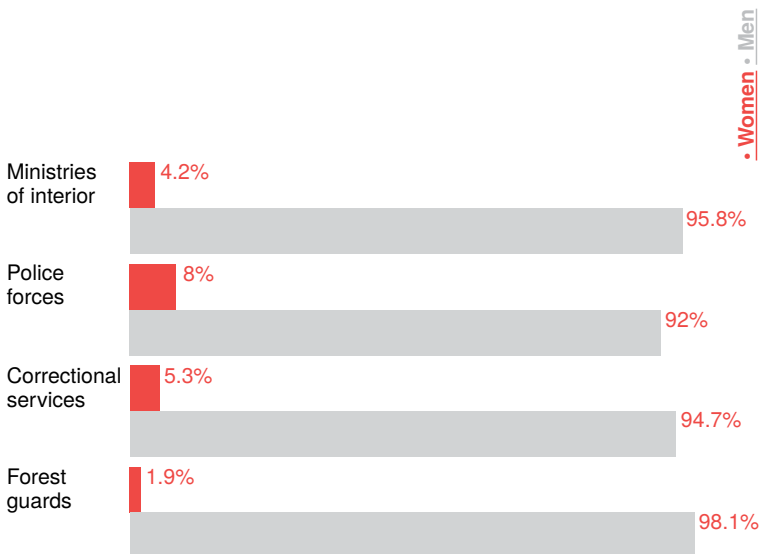
- 45.5% of women killed by their intimate partner were killed with firearms;
- 50% of incidents of domestic violence that involved firearms resulted in a lethal outcome;
- Only 1.9% of all rejected applicants for licenses are rejected on the grounds of domestic violence;
- 1.3% of all revoked licenses are revoked on the grounds of domestic violence;
- 98.9% of all firearm-related criminal offenses are committed by men and only 1.1% by women;
- 95.7% of firearm-related homicides are committed by men, compared to 4.3% committed by women;
- Young men are the most likely to commit homicide;
- Men account for 82.7% of all firearm-related suicide victims, and women account for 17.3%;
- 71.4% of women and 45.5% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards.



Firearm license holders, by sex, 2016



Applicants for new licenses, by sex and year



Security sector personnel authorized to carry firearms, by sex, 2016

1 / OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

CIVILIAN POSSESSION

Men own 98.5% of all firearms, while only 1.5% are owned by women

Men account for an overwhelming majority of firearm owners in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while women own only a minor share of firearms.

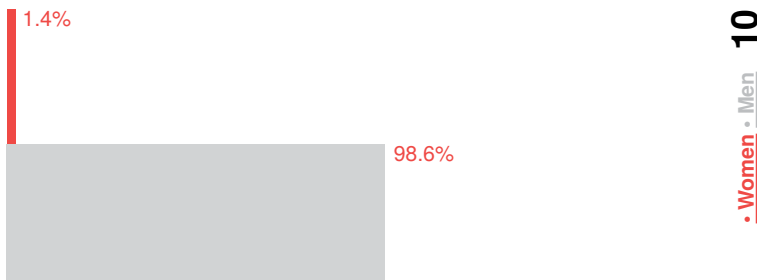
In 2016, 240,196 men and 3,768 women held firearm licenses.

Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 96.5% of all licenses, compared to 3.5% of women. In 2016 alone, 13,110 men and 782 women applied for new licenses.

Men aged 36 to 60 account for 48.8% of all applicants, followed by men aged 19 to 35 at 36.2%. Among women, those aged 36 to 60 make up 60.4% of all female applicants.

SECURITY SECTOR

Men make up the vast majority of personnel across the security sector authorized to carry firearms



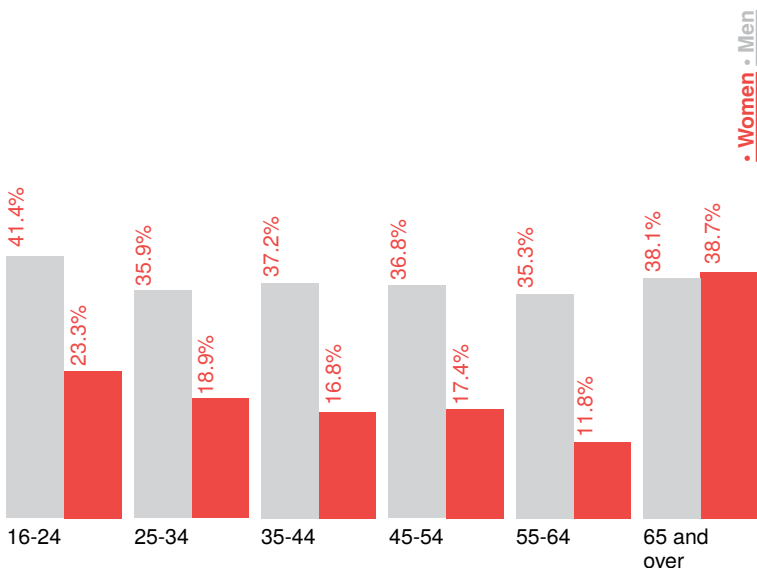
Personnel of private security companies authorized to carry firearms, by sex, 2016

10
• Women • Men

Private security companies

Men account for 98.6% of the personnel at private security companies authorized to carry firearms

In 2016, 3,636 men and 52 women hired by private security companies were authorized to carry firearms.



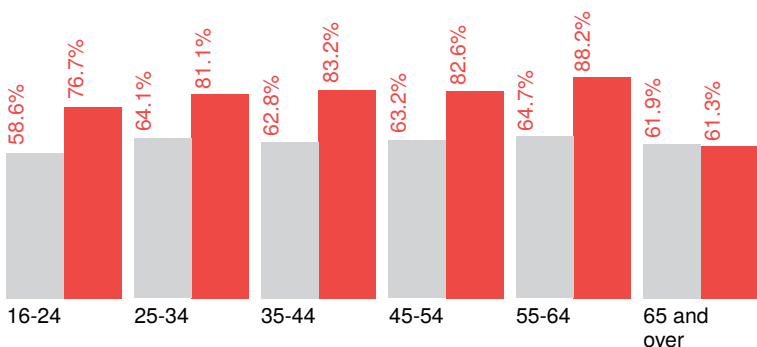
Would you own a gun? - **Yes**; by sex and age, 2017
(Source: Perception survey)

• Women • Men

ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

37.4% of men and 21% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun

Men aged 16 to 24 are the most likely to say they would own a gun, followed by women aged 65 and older.



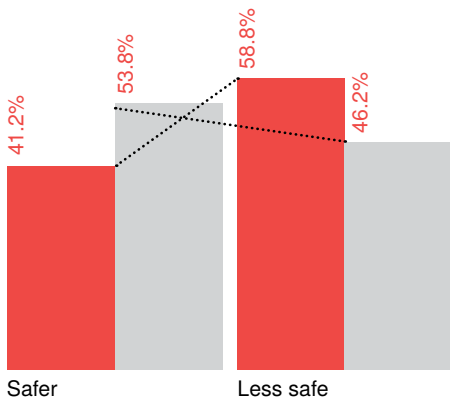
Would you own a gun? - **No**; by sex and age, 2017
(Source: Perception survey)

↑

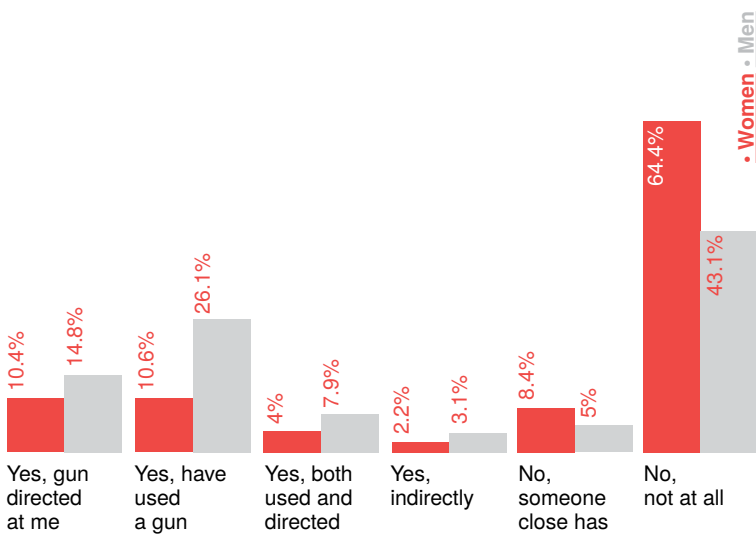
However, the majority of both women and men, 79% and 62.6% respectively, would not own a gun

Women aged 55 to 64 are the least likely to say they would own a gun.

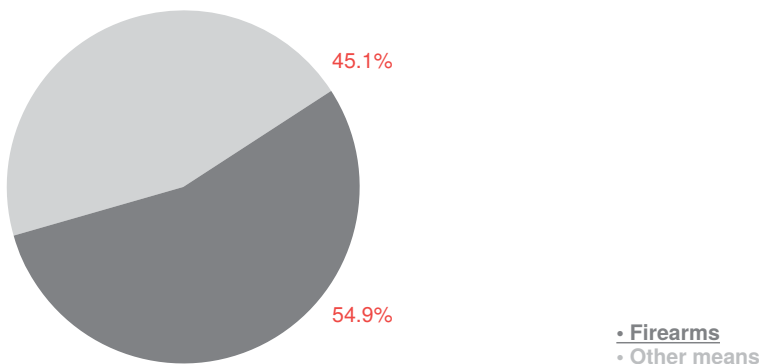
Although 21% of women said they would own a gun, they accounted for only 5.1% of applicants for new licenses in 2016



Would having a gun at home make you feel safer or less safe?, by sex, 2017 (Source: Perception survey)



Have you ever experienced the use of a gun?, by sex, 2017 (Source: Perception survey)



Firearm-related homicides out of total homicides, 2012-2016

58.8% of women and 46.2% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe

Women are more likely than men to feel that a gun at home makes them less safe. Men aged 16 to 24 are most likely to feel safer with a gun at home (62.2%), while women aged 55 to 64 are most likely to feel less safe with a gun at home (74.2%).

2 / EXPERIENCE

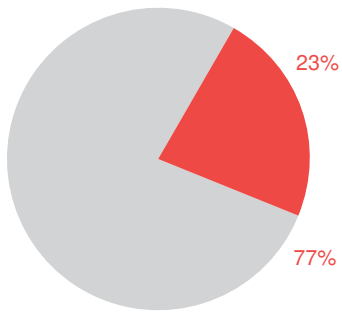
48.8% of men and 25% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – either used a gun, had a gun directed at them, or both

While differences between men and women occur across gun experiences, they are particularly significant in terms of firearm usage: 26.1% of men have used a gun compared to 10.6% of women. In terms of exposure to gun violence, 10.4% of women and 14.8% of men have had a gun directed at them.

3 / VICTIMS

54.9% of all homicides are committed with firearms

Firearms are the most prevalent weapon of choice when homicide is committed. 139 out of 253 people killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed with a firearm.



Firearm-related homicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016

14
• Women • Men

Men account for 77% of the victims of firearm-related homicides, while women account for 23%

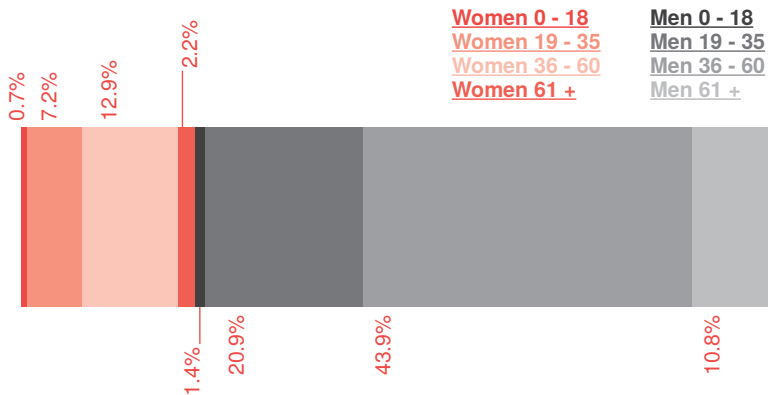
107 men and 32 women were killed with firearms from 2012 to 2016.

Even though men account for the majority of homicide victims, firearm-related deaths are frequent for both women and men.



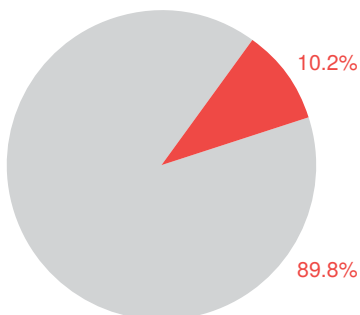
Firearm-related homicide victims out of all homicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016

48.5% of women (32 out of 66) and 57.2% of men (107 out of 187) killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina were killed with firearms



Firearm-related homicide victims, by sex and age, 2012-2016

Men aged 36 to 60 account for 43.9% of all homicide victims, followed by men aged 19 to 35. Among women, those aged 36 to 60 run the greatest risk of being killed with firearms at 12.9% of all firearm-related homicide victims.

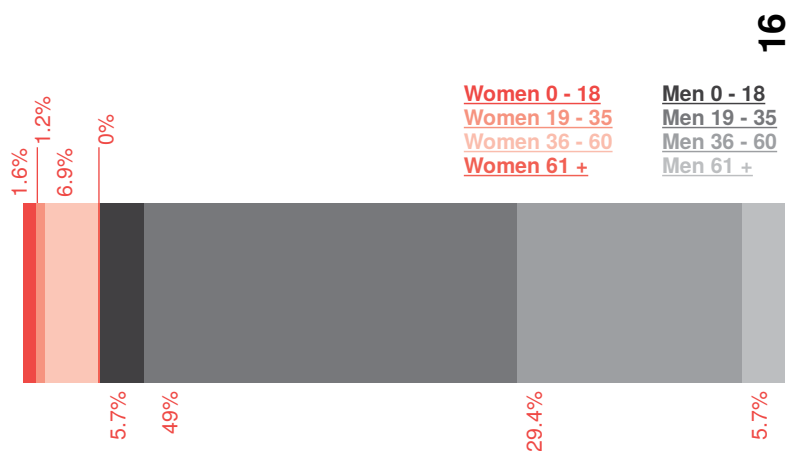


Victims of firearm-related injuries, by sex, 2012-2016

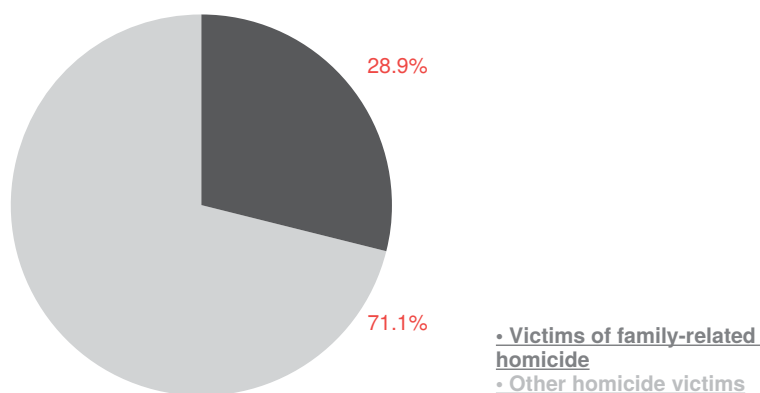
• Women • Men

Men account for 89.8% and women for 10.2% of people injured by firearms

Men are significantly more likely to suffer injuries inflicted with firearms than are women. 25 women and 220 men were reported to be injured with firearms from 2012 to 2016.



Victims of firearm-related injuries, by sex and age, 2012-2016



Family-related homicide vs. other homicide, 2012-2016



Family-related homicides out of total homicides, by sex, 2012-2016

Men aged 19 to 35 account for 49% of all those injured by firearms, followed by both men and women aged 36 to 60.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

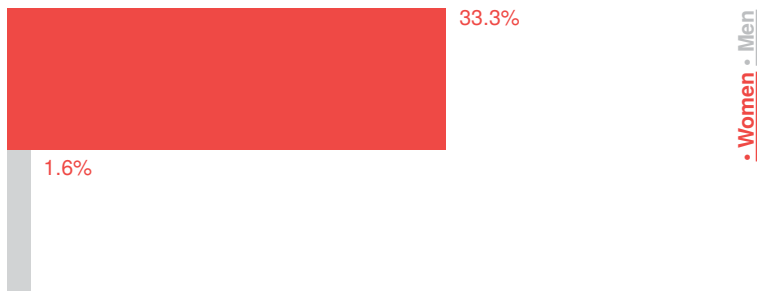
28.9% of people killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina were killed by a family member

Domestic violence disproportionately affects women. Women account for 60.3% of all people killed by a family member, compared to 39.7% of men.

Out of 253 people killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2012 to 2016, 73 people (44 women and 29 men) were killed by a family member, either with a firearm or by other means.

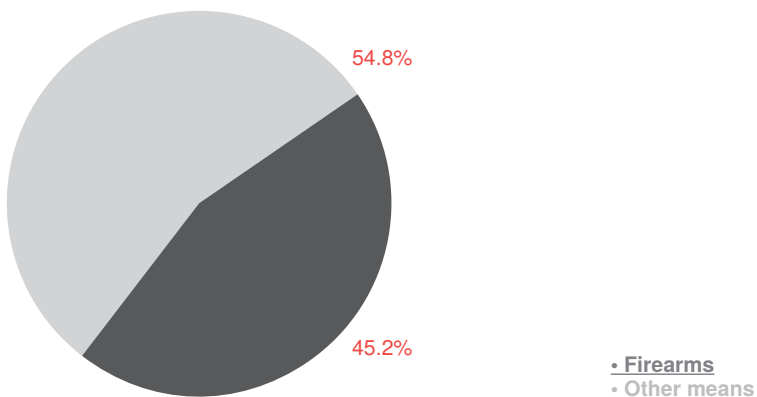
66.7% of all women and 15.5% of all men killed in Bosnia were killed by a family member

Women are more likely to be killed by a family member than men. Out of a total of 66 women killed from 2012 to 2016, 44 were killed by a family member. The same holds true for 29 men out of the 187 men killed.



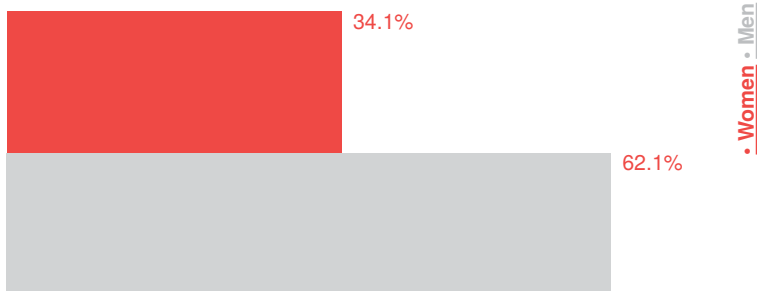
Intimate partner homicides out of total homicides, by sex, 2012-2016

18
• Women • Men



Family-related homicide by means, 2012-2016

• Firearms
• Other means



Family-related homicides committed with firearms out of total family-related homicides, by sex, 2012-2016

• Women • Men

Every third woman killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina is killed by her intimate partner

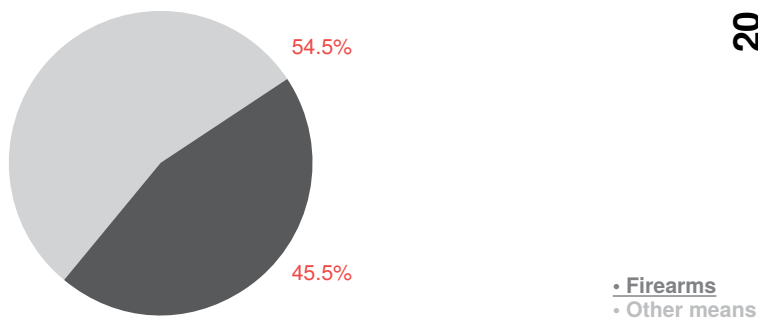
Whereas 22 out of 66 women killed in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 2012 to 2016 were killed by their intimate partners, the same holds true for only 3 out of 187 killed men.

45.2% of all family-related homicides are committed with firearms

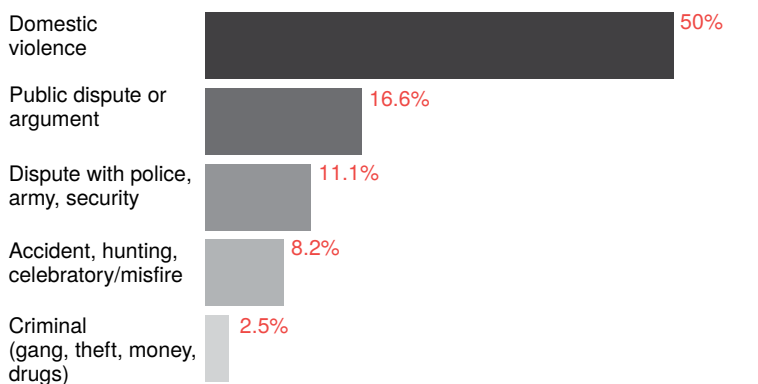
33 out of 73 persons killed by family members from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.

62.1% of men and 34.1% of women killed by family members were killed with firearms

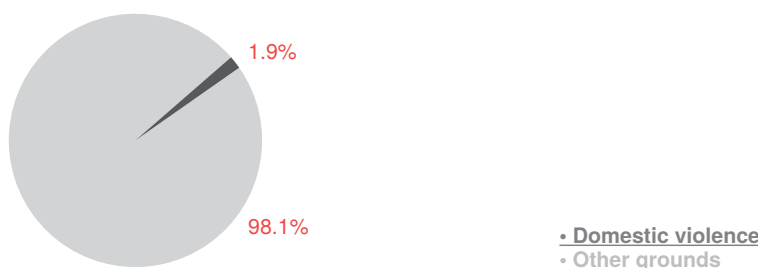
Men are proportionately more likely to be killed with firearms than women. 15 out of 44 women and 18 out of 29 men killed by family members from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.



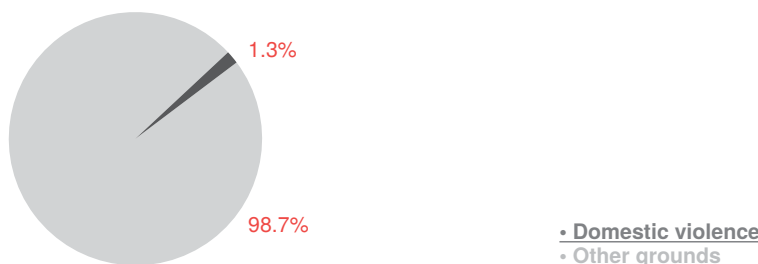
Women killed by intimate partner with firearms and other means, 2012-2016



Frequency of fatal outcome according to the type of incident, 2014-2018 (Source: AVMP)



Rejected applicants for new licences, by the grounds for rejection, 2012-2016



Revoked licenses on the grounds for revocation, 2012-2016

20

45.5% of women killed by their intimate partner were killed with firearms

The presence of firearms within the context of intimate partner violence posed particular risks to the safety of women. From 2012 to 2016, 10 out of 22 women killed by their intimate partner were killed with firearms, while the same holds true for only one man.

50% of incidents of domestic violence that involved firearms resulted in a lethal outcome

The misuse of firearms in domestic violence is more lethal than in any other type of incident.

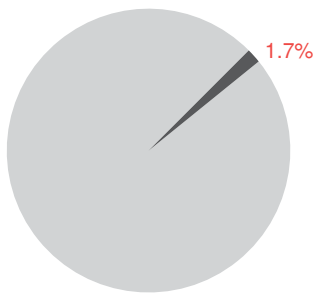
Only 1.9% of all rejected applicants for licenses are rejected on the grounds of domestic violence

Only 73 out of 3,884 applicants whose applications were rejected from 2012 to 2016, were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence.

1.3% of all revoked licenses are revoked on the grounds of domestic violence

Only 59 out of 4,426 revoked licenses from 2012 to 2016 were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence

21

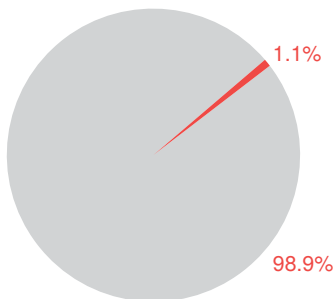


• Reported cases of the criminal offense of domestic violence in which misuse of firearms was reported
 • Reported cases of domestic violence

Reported misuse of firearms in cases of the criminal offense of domestic violence, 2012-2016

The misuse of firearms was reported in only 1.7% of registered criminal offenses of domestic violence

Out of 2,706 cases of domestic violence that were registered in the period 2012-2016, the misuse of firearms was reported in merely 45 cases.



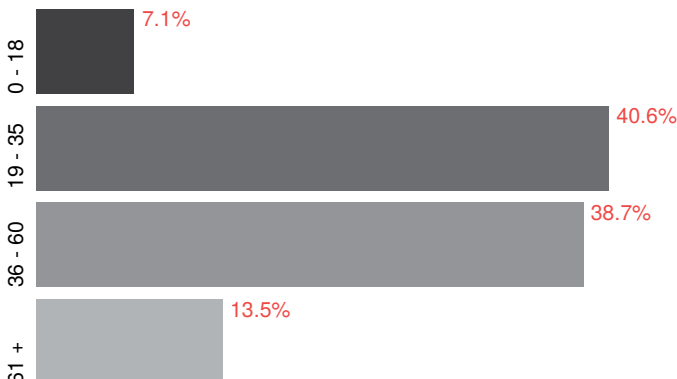
• Women • Men

Perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses, by sex, 2012-2016

4 / PERPETRATORS

98.9% of all firearm-related criminal offenses are committed by men, and only **1.1%** by women

Firearms are predominantly misused by men. Out of 6,163 firearm-related criminal offenses registered from 2012 to 2016, 6,096 were committed by men and 67 by women.

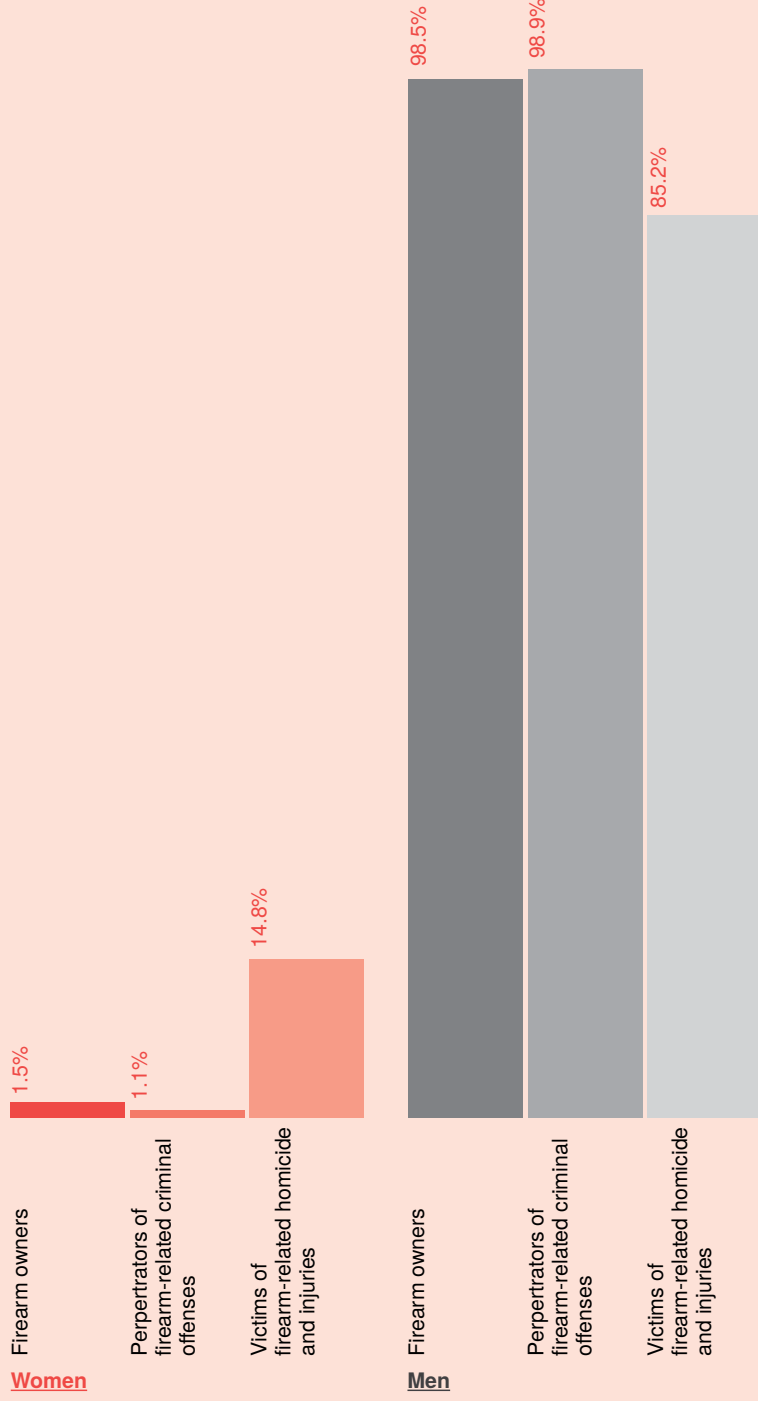


Male perpetrators of firearm-related homicide by age, 2012-2016

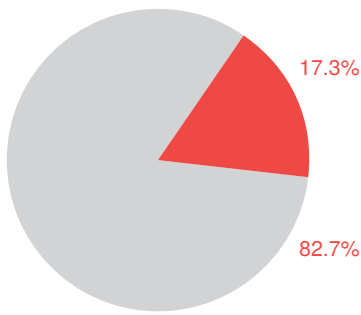
95.7% of firearm-related homicides are committed by men, compared to **4.3%** committed by women, 155 and 7 respectively

Young men are more likely to commit homicide than men in other age groups

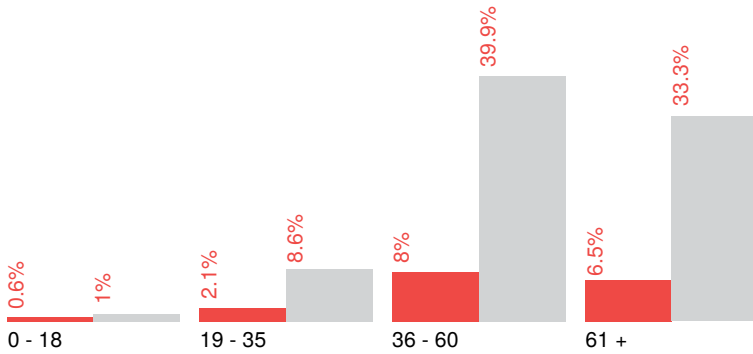
Men aged 19 to 35 committed 40.6% of all homicides with firearms, while those aged 36 to 60 were statistically close behind. Among women, those aged 19 to 35 and 36 to 60 were the most likely to commit homicides with firearms.



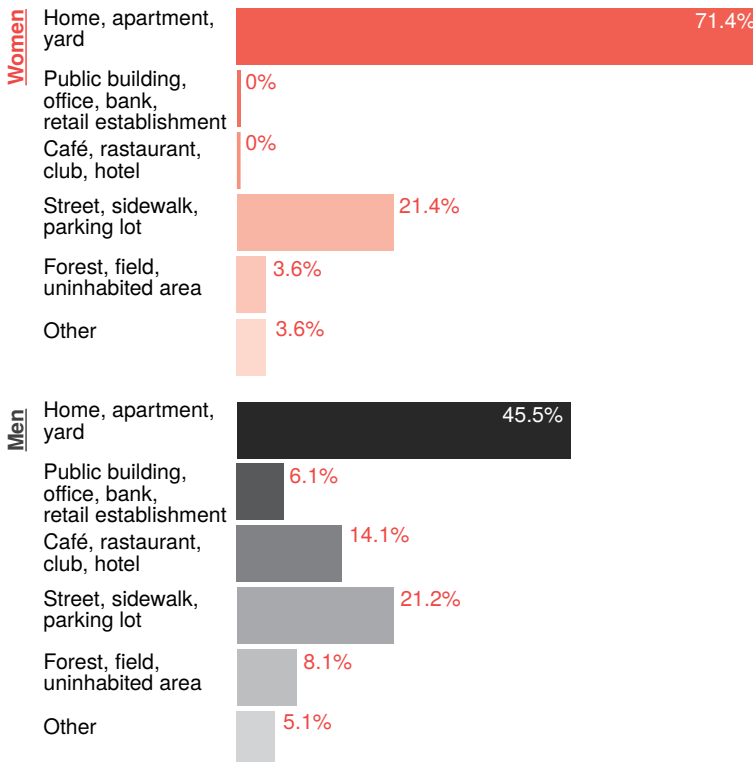
Men make up 98.5% of firearm owners and commit 98.9% of firearm-related criminal offenses. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides and injuries (85.2%) but are proportionately more frequently the perpetrators than the victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, own only 1.5% of firearms, make up 1.1% of the perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses but are disproportionately represented among the victims at 14.8%.



Firearm-related suicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016



Firearm-related suicide victims, by sex and age, 2012-2016



Location of firearm-related homicides, 2012-2016

26
- Women - Men

4 / SUICIDES

Men committed 82.7% and women 17.3% of all firearm-related suicide

From 2012 to 2016, men committed 662 suicides and women 132 suicides using firearms. Given that women account for only 1.5% of firearm owners, they are disproportionately represented among the victims.

Men aged 36 to 60 are the most likely to commit suicide using firearms, followed by men aged 61 and older.

5 / CONTEXT OF THE INCIDENT

71.4% of women and 45.5% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards

21.4% of women and 21.2% of men killed with firearms were killed in the streets

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

623.44:305-055.1/.2(497.6)"2012/2107"

BOŽANIĆ, Dragan, 1975-

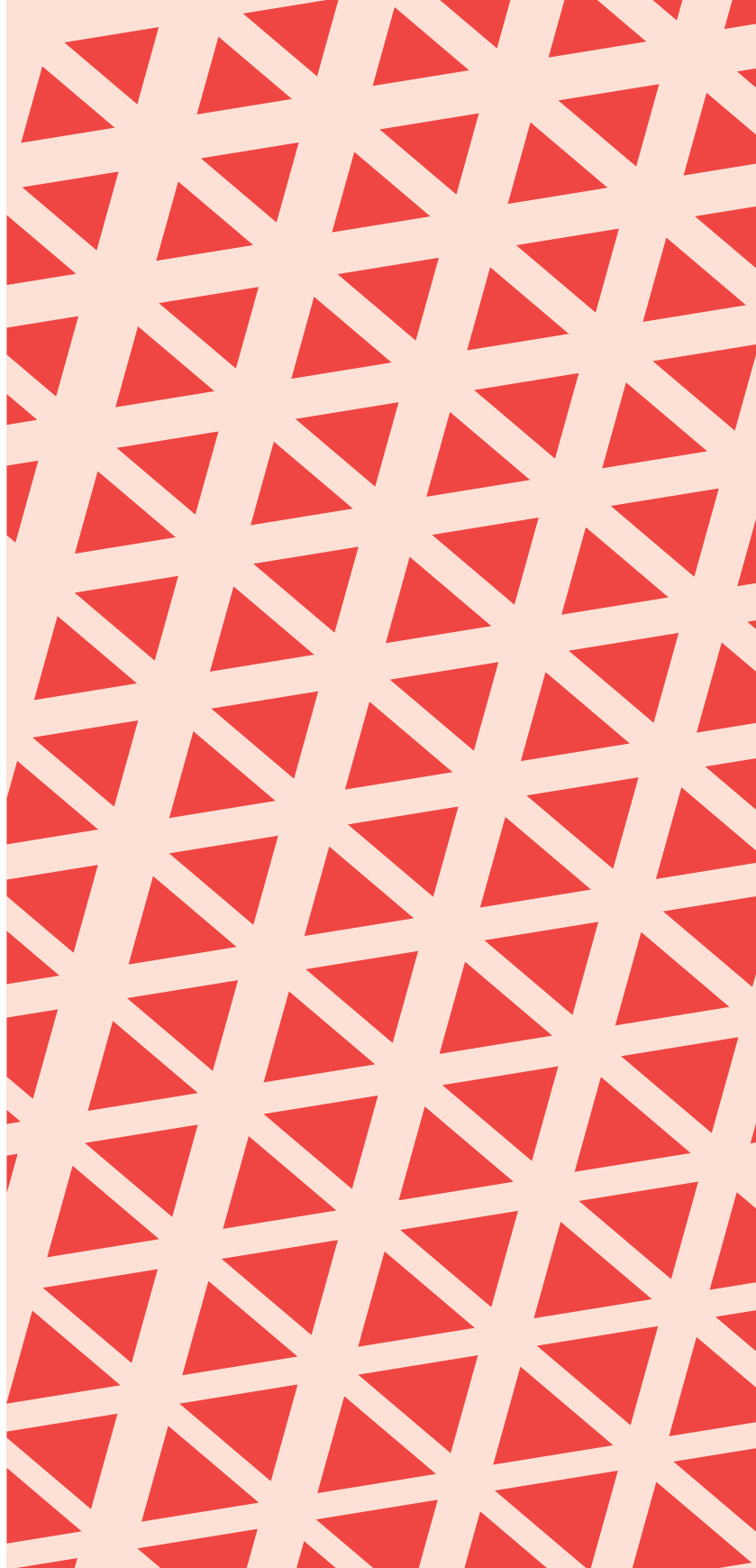
Gender and Small Arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina : Fast Facts
/ [this report was written Dragan Božanić]. - Belgrade : UNDP
SEESAC, 2019 (Belgrade : Cicero). - 27 str. : tabele, graf. prikazi ;
30 cm

Tiraž 100.

ISBN 978-86-7728-274-5

а) Оружје -- Родни аспект -- Босна и Херцеговина -- 2012-2017
-- Статистика б) Ватрено оружје -- Родни аспект -- Босна и
Херцеговина -- 2012-2017 -- Статистика

COBISS.SR-ID 281002252





*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse
for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

Bulevar Zorana Đinđića 64, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

Tel: +381 11 415 5300

Fax: +381 415 5499

E-mail: seesac@undp.org

www.seesac.org



*This project is funded by
the European Union*

Working within the framework of:



Regional Cooperation Council

#SaferRegion