

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN KOSOVO*

:

**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.

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Acknowledgements:

We would like to express our gratitude to the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) Commission 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 Kosovo: 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:

Circulation: 100 copies

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* For the United Nations Development Programme, references to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
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GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN KOSOVO

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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 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 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 Kosovo with an easy tool for evidence-based policymaking for mainstreaming gender in small arms and light weapons control legislation and policies.

Data sources

Data presented in *Fast Facts* is extracted from multiple sources:

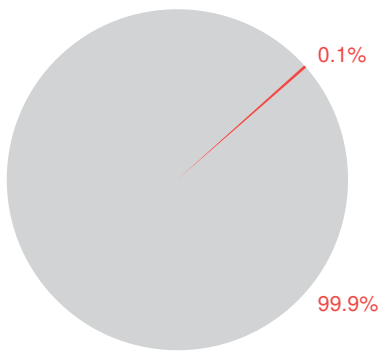
1. Distribution and Impact Survey: In cooperation with governments in SEE, SEESAC collected and analyzed data in order to identify trends in the distribution of small arms (particularly in relation to the type, quantity, possession, distribution, legal/illegal trade, production and movement of small 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 South East Europe. In Kosovo, 1,307 respondents completed the survey.

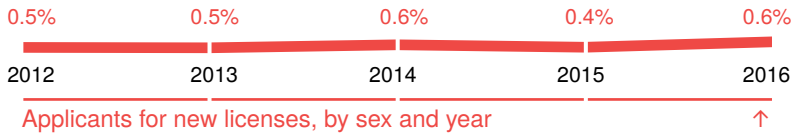
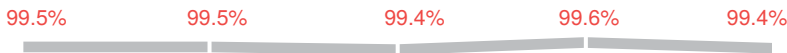
3. Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP): The AVMP monitors firearm-related incidents that have occurred in SEE since 2014. Data is collected daily using local media clippings, online search engines and, where available, the reports by public institutions of relevant firearm-related incidents. For the purpose of this analysis, 1,103 reports of incidents that occurred from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

MAIN FINDINGS

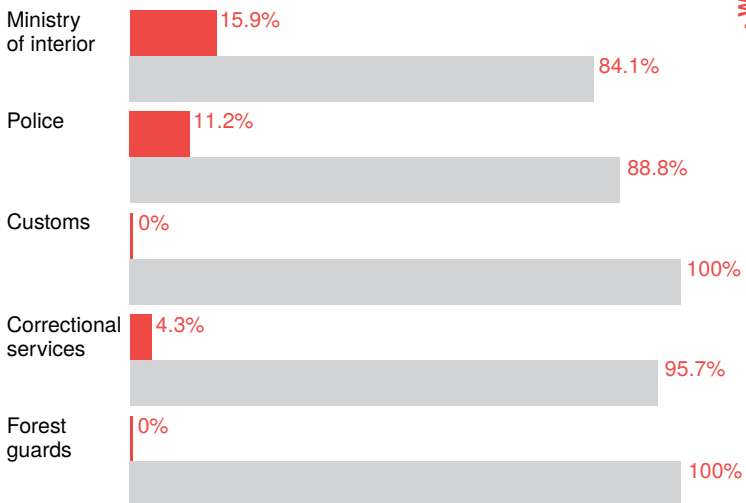
- 99.9% of all firearms are owned by men, while women own only 0.1% firearms;
- Men account for an overwhelming majority of personnel authorized to carry firearms across the security sector;
- 37.3% of men and 24.3% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun;
- 54.6% of women and 43.5% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;
- 36.3% of men and 24.2% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun;
- Men account for 92.1% of the victims of firearm-related homicide, while women make up 7.9% of victims;
- 47.8% of killed women and 71.3% of killed men were killed with firearms;
- Men account for 87.4% and women for 12.6% of persons who suffered injuries inflicted with firearms;
- 77.8% of persons killed by a family member were killed with firearms;
- 71.4% of women and 81.8% of men murdered by a family member were killed with firearms;
- All women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms;
- The misuse of firearms in domestic violence is more lethal than in any other type of incident;
- Men committed 99.6% of all firearm-related criminal offences, while only 0.4% were committed by women;
- Men accounted for 95% of victims of firearm-related suicides, compared to 5% of women;
- 88.9% of women and 18.9% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards;
- 43.3% of men and 11.1% of women killed with firearms were killed in streets.



Firearm license holders, by sex, 2016



Applicants for new licenses, by sex and year



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

8

• Women • Men

1 / OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

CIVILIAN POSSESSION

Men own **99.9%** of all firearms, while only **0.1%** are owned by women

In 2016, 38,821 men and 23 women held firearm licenses.

Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 99.5% of all licenses, compared to 0.5% acquired by women. In 2016 alone, 3,680 men and 23 women applied for licenses.

SECURITY SECTOR

Men account for an overwhelming majority of personnel authorized to carry firearms across the security sector

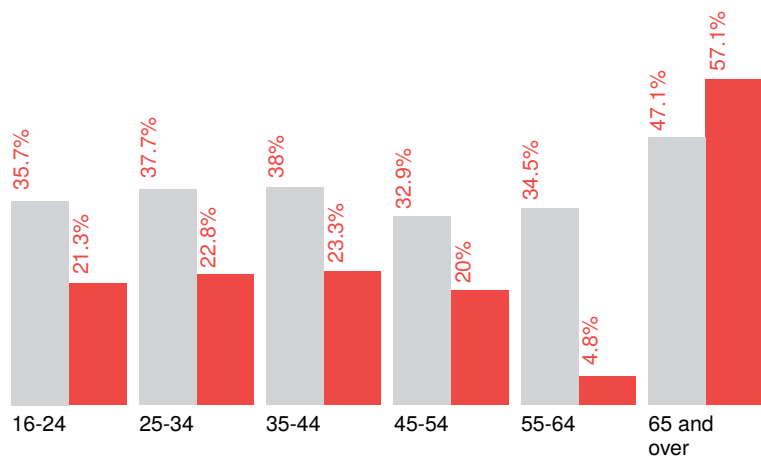
In 2016, 877 women and 6,956 men in the police force and 22 women and 492 men in correctional services were authorized to carry firearms.

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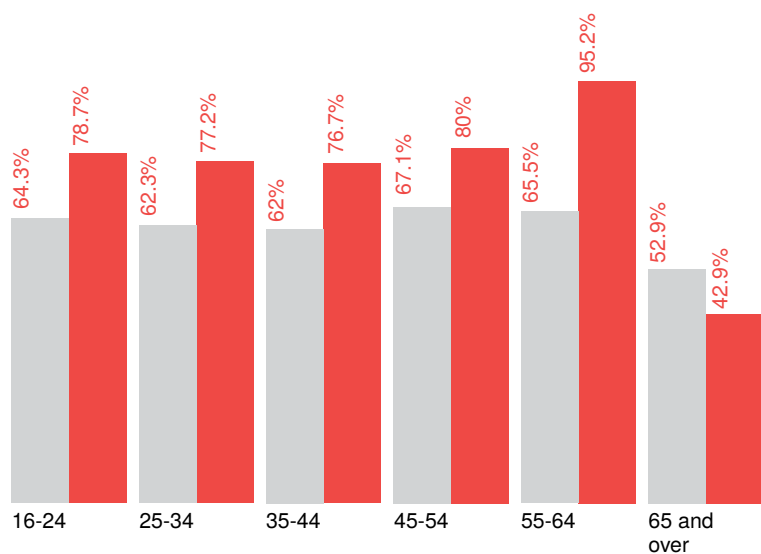
GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN KOSOVO : FAST FACTS

Private security companies

In 2016, all the personnel hired by private security companies authorized to carry firearms were men (31)



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



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



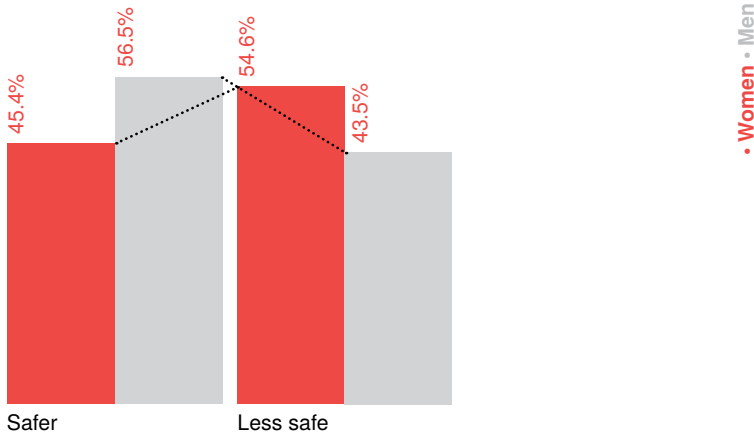
ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

37.3% of men and **24.3%** of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun

Women aged 65 and older are the most likely to say they would own a gun. Apart from this notable exception, men account for the majority of those who would own a gun.

However, the majority of both women and men, **75.7%** and **62.7%**, respectively, would not own a gun.

Except for those 65 and older, the overwhelming majority of women across all age groups would not own a gun, while the dominant respondents who would not own a gun are women aged 55 to 64 (95.2%).



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

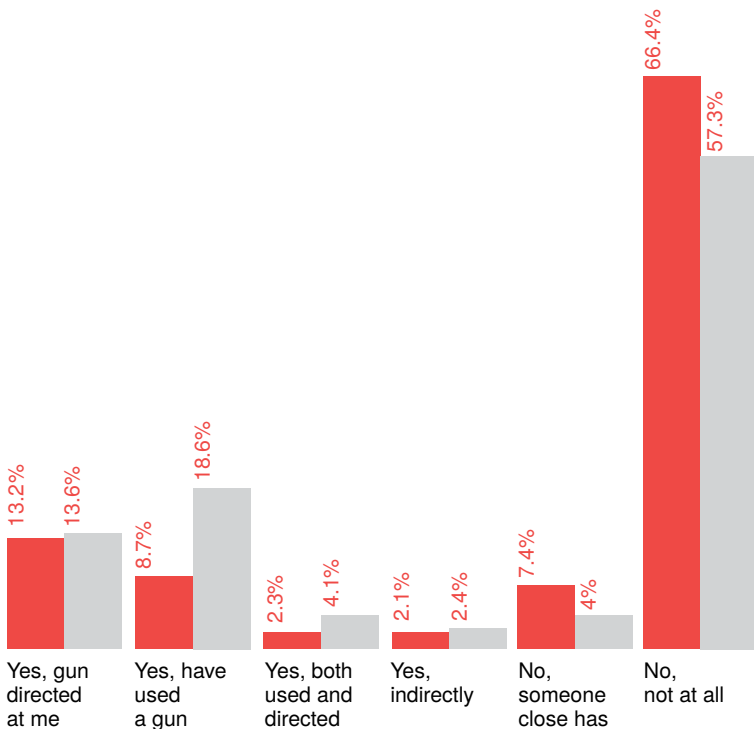
• Women • Men

Although **24.3%** of women said they would own a gun, they made up only **0.5%** applicants for new licenses

54.6% of women and **43.5%** of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe

Women are significantly more likely than men to feel that a gun at home makes them less safe, while the majority of men feel that the presence of a gun at home increases their safety.

Men aged 65 and over and 16 to 24 are most likely to feel safer with a gun at home (62.3% and 60%, respectively), while women aged 25 to 34 are most likely to feel less safe with gun at home (61.9%).



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

↑

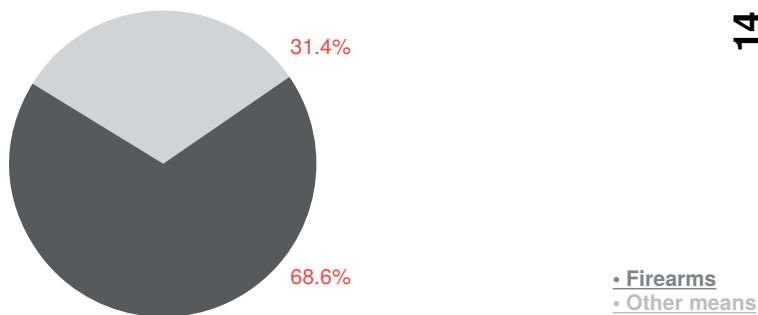
2 / EXPERIENCE

36.3% of men and **24.2%** 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

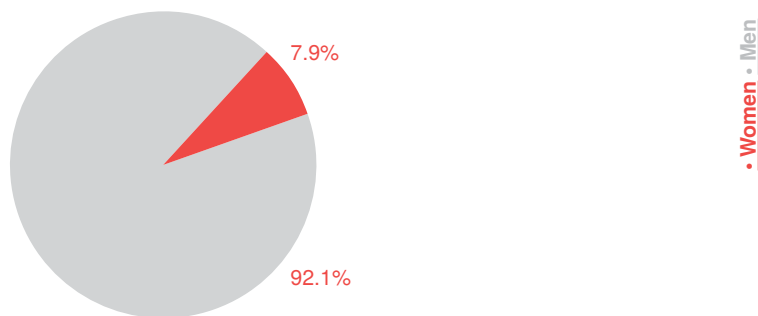
While differences between women and men occur across gun experiences, they are particularly significant in terms of firearms usage – 18.6% of men reported to having used a gun, compared to 8.7% of women. In terms of exposure to gun violence, women's and men's experience converge, with 13.2% of women and 13.6% of men having had a gun directed at them.

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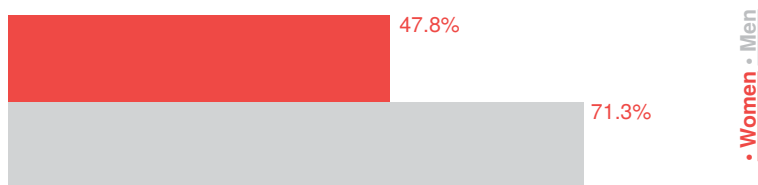
3 / VICTIMS



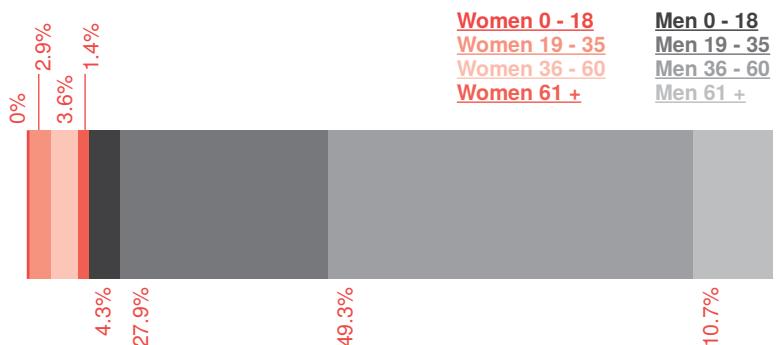
Firearm-related homicides out of total homicides, 2012-2016



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



Victims of firearm-related homicides out of all homicides, by sex, 2012-2016



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

68.6% of all homicides were committed with firearms

Firearms are the most prevalent weapon of choice when homicides are committed. Between 2012 and 2016, 140 out of 204 homicides were committed with firearms.

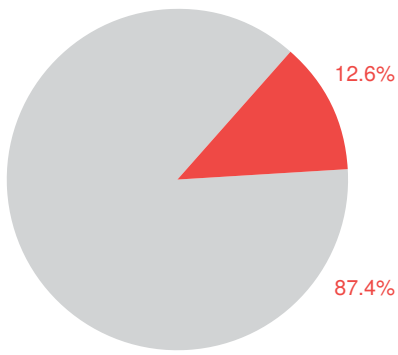
Men account for 92.1% of the victims of firearm-related homicide, while women make up 7.9% of victims

129 men and 11 women were killed with firearms from 2012 to 2016.

Even though men account for the vast majority of homicide victims, firearm-related deaths are frequent for both women and men. 11 out of 23 women and 129 out of 181 men killed from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.

47.8% of killed women and 71.3% of killed men were killed with firearms

Men aged 36 to 60 account for slightly less than one half of all homicide victims, followed by men aged 19 to 35 at 27.9%. Among killed women, the same age group is the most likely to fall victim to firearm misuse.



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

16
• Women • Men

Men account for 87.4% and women for 12.6% of victims who suffered injuries inflicted with firearms

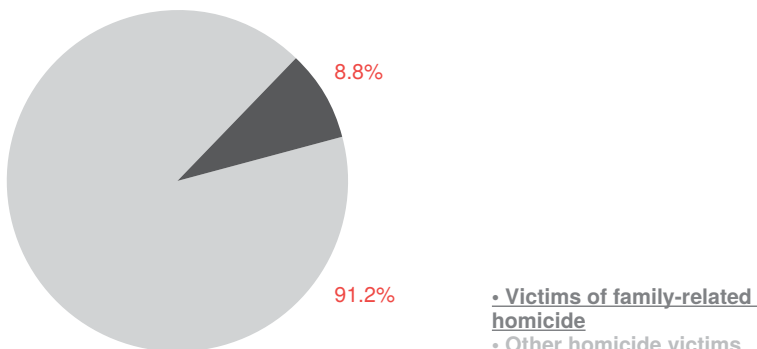
Men are significantly more likely to suffer injuries inflicted by firearms than are women. From 2012 to 2016, 49 women and 341 men were injured with firearms.



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

Men aged 19 to 35 accounted for 48.2% of victims of firearm-related injuries, followed by men aged 36 to 60.

Among women, those 19 to 35 run most risk of being injured with firearms.



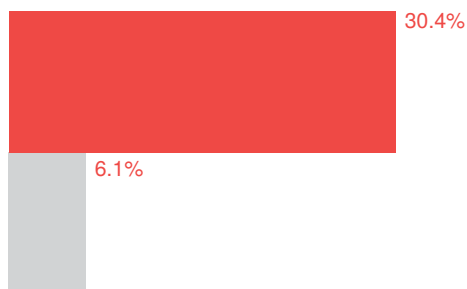
Family-related homicide vs. other homicide, 2012-2016

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

8.8% of all homicides were committed by a family member

Out of 204 people killed in Kosovo from 2012 to 2016, 18 - 11 men and 7 women, were killed by a family member.

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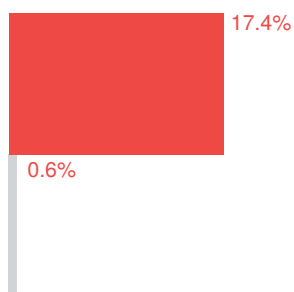


Family-related homicides out of total homicides, by sex, 2012-2016 ↵

• Women • Men

Domestic violence affects both women and men, but women run a disproportionate risk of being killed by a family member

While men account for the majority of victims killed by a family member (11 out of 18), women are proportionately more exposed to the risk of being killed by a family member. Out of 23 women killed from 2012 to 2016, 7 were killed by a family member. The same holds true for the 11 out of 181 men killed.

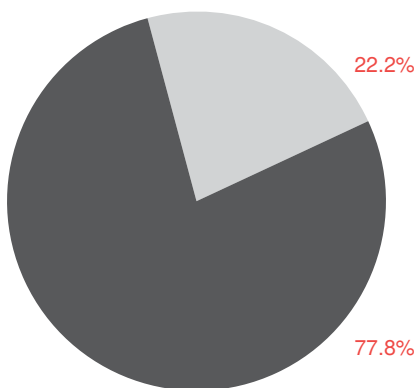


Intimate partner homicides in total homicides, by sex, 2012-2016 ↵

• Women • Men

17.4% of all killed women and 0.6% of all killed men were killed by an intimate partner

Women run particular risk of intimate partner homicide. 5 out of 23 women killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed by their intimate partners. In the same period, 2 out of 181 murdered men were killed by their intimate partner.



Family-related homicide, by means, 2012-2016 ↵

• Firearms
• Other means

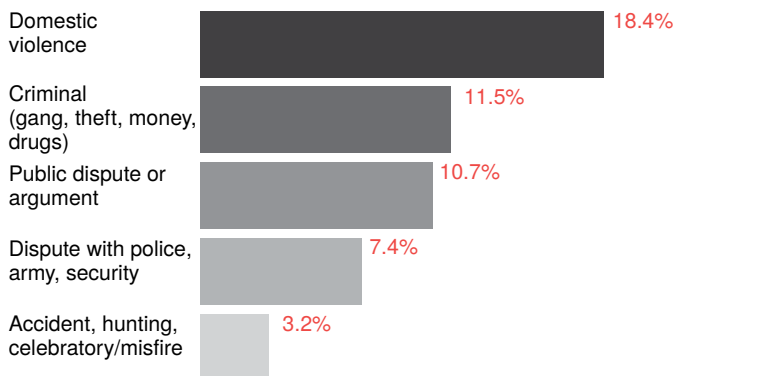
Firearms are the most frequently used weapon when family-related homicide is committed. 77.8% of persons killed by a family member were killed with firearms

Firearms are the most frequently used weapon when family-related homicides are committed.

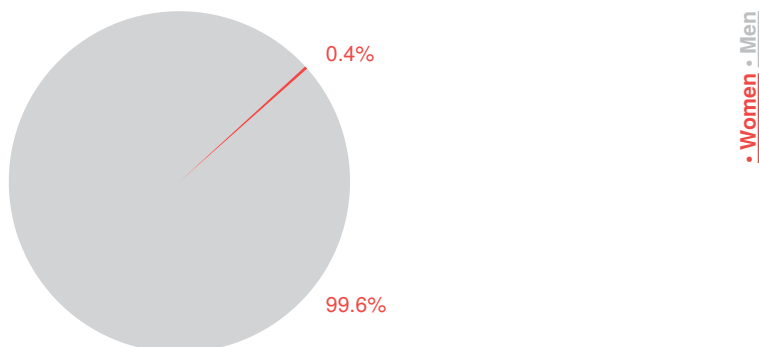
14 out of 18 persons, 5 women and 9 men, killed by a family member were killed with firearms between 2012 and 2016.



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



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



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

20

• Women • Men

↶

71.4% of women and 81.8% of men killed by a family member were killed with firearms

5 out of 7 women and 9 out of 11 men killed by a family member from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.

All women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms

4 out of 4 women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms. The same holds true for 1 out of 2 men killed by an intimate partner.

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

18.4% of domestic violence incidents captured by the AVMP where firearms were present resulted in a lethal outcome, compared to 11.5% of incidents related to a criminal context.

4 / PERPETRATORS

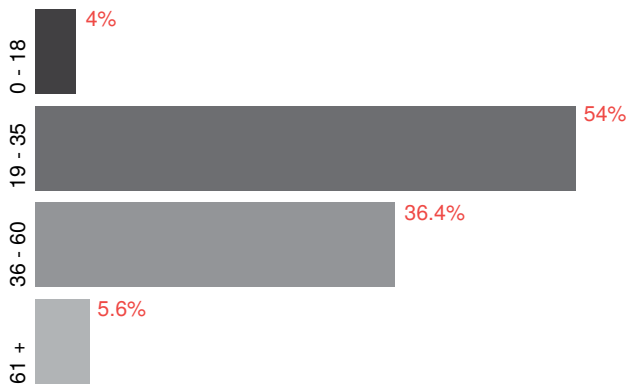
Men committed 99.6% of all firearm-related criminal offenses, while only 0.4% were committed by women

Firearms are predominantly misused by men. Out of 3,337 firearm-related criminal offenses reported from 2012 to 2016, 3,325 were committed by men and 12 by women.

• Women • Men

↶

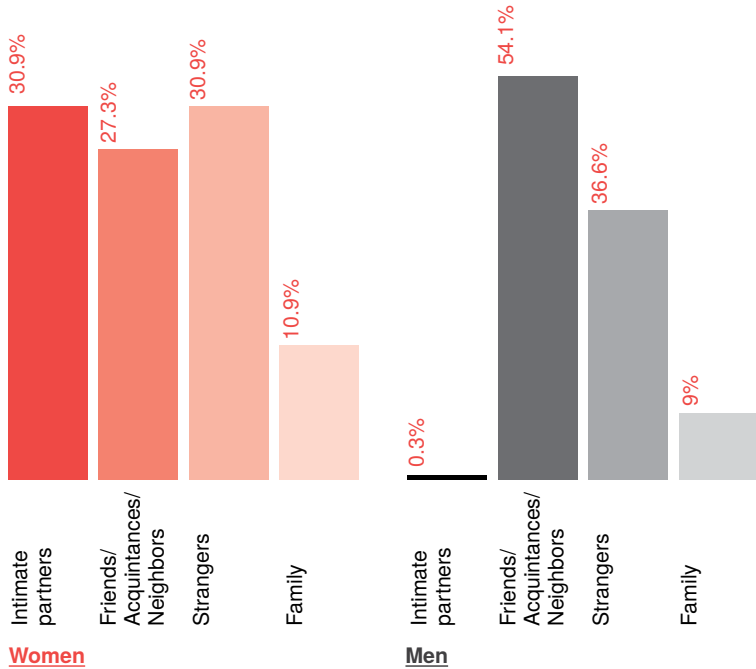
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Male perpetrators of firearm-related homicides by age, 2012-2016 ↵

99.2% of firearm-related homicides were committed by men, and only 0.8% by women, 250 and 2 in absolute numbers, respectively

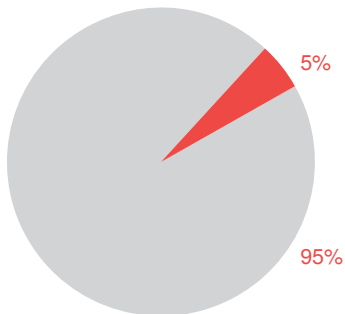
The majority of male perpetrators of homicide were aged 19 to 35, closely followed by men aged 36 to 60. The only two women who committed homicide using firearms were aged 19 to 35.



Relationship between victim and perpetrator of firearm-related incidents, by sex, 2014-2018 (Source: AVMP) ↑

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR OF FIREARM-RELATED INCIDENTS

Women are most at risk of firearm misuse from intimate partners and strangers. Men are predominantly at risk from friends/acquaintances/neighbors, followed by strangers

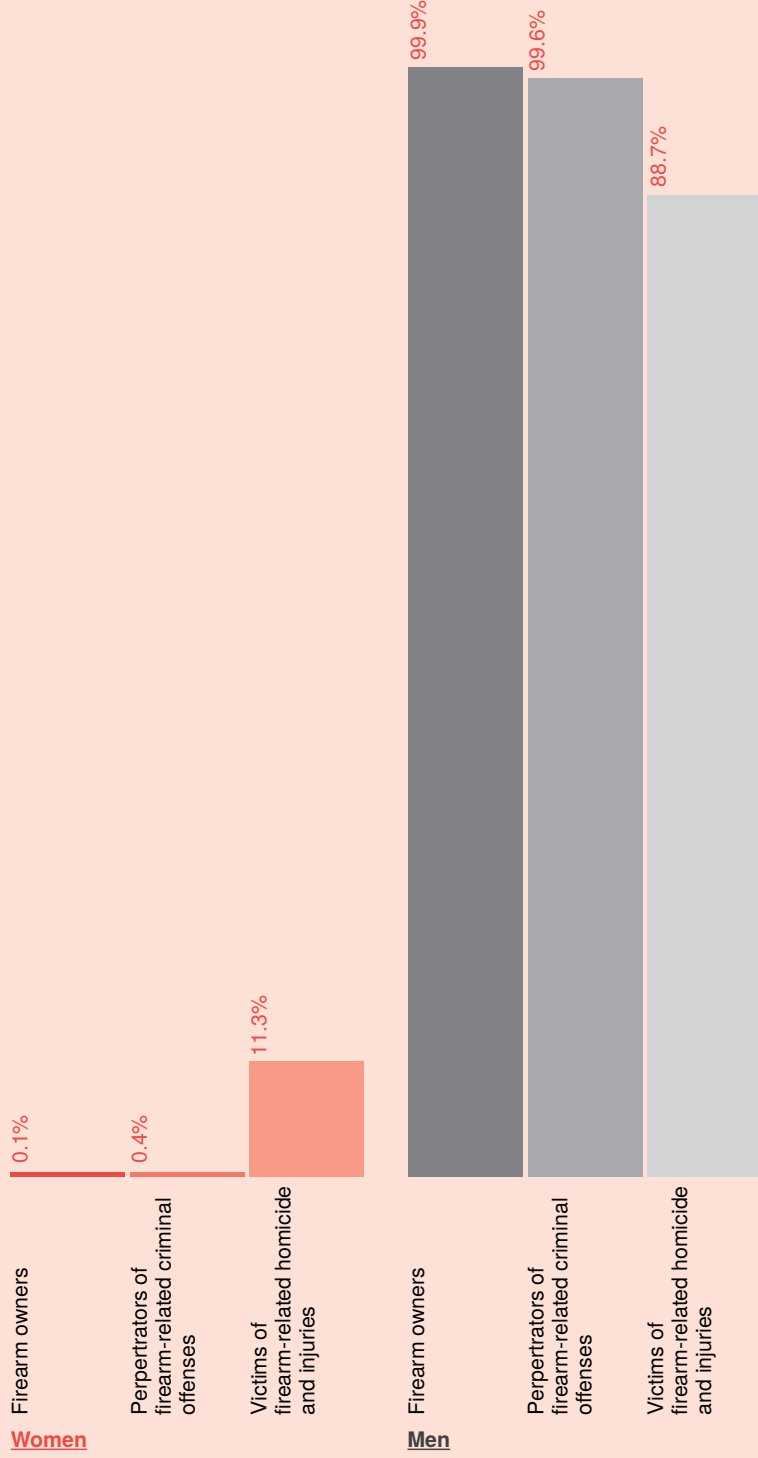


Firearm-related suicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016 ↗

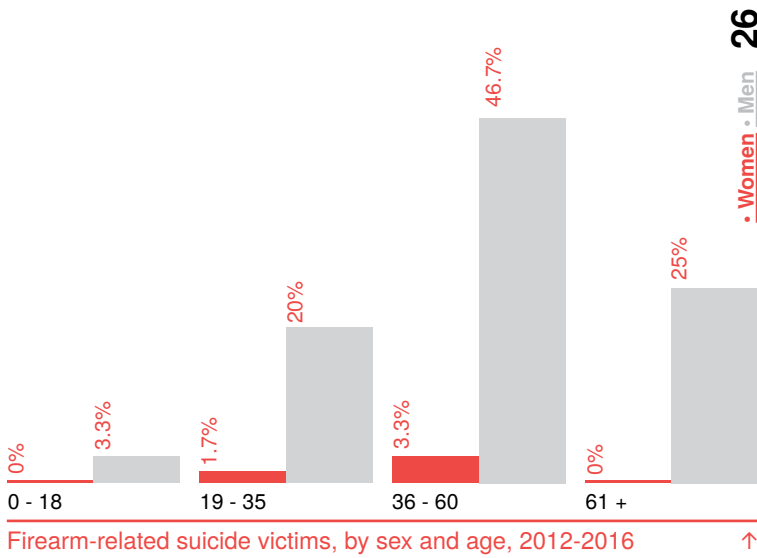
• Women • Men

4 / SUICIDES

Men account for 95% and women for 5% of all firearm-related suicide victims →



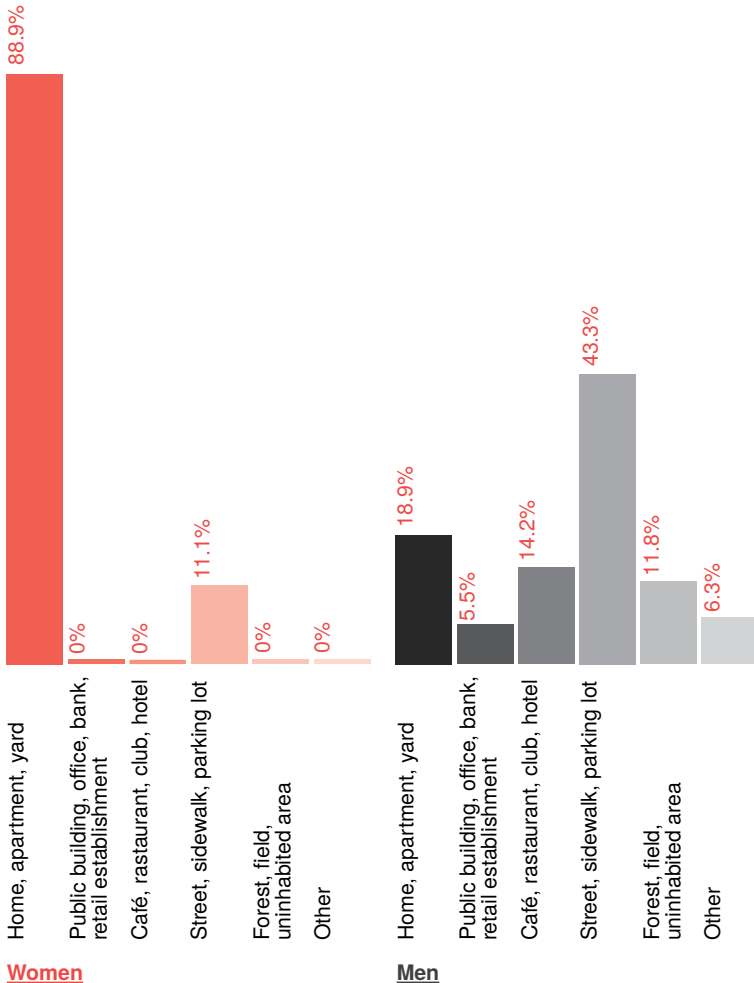
Men make up 99.9% of firearm owners and committed 99.6% of firearm-related criminal offenses. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides and injuries (88.7%) but are proportionately more frequently the perpetrators than the victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, own only 0.1% of firearms, make up 0.4% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and account for 11.3% of victims.



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→ In the period from 2012 to 2016, 57 men and 3 women committed suicide using firearms.

Men aged 36 to 60 are the most likely to commit suicide using firearms, followed by men aged 19 to 35.



5 / CONTEXT OF THE INCIDENT

88.9% of women and 18.9% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards

43.3% of men and 11.1% of women killed with firearms were killed in the streets

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

623.44:305-055.1/.2(497.115)"2012/2107"

BOŽANIĆ, Dragan, 1975-

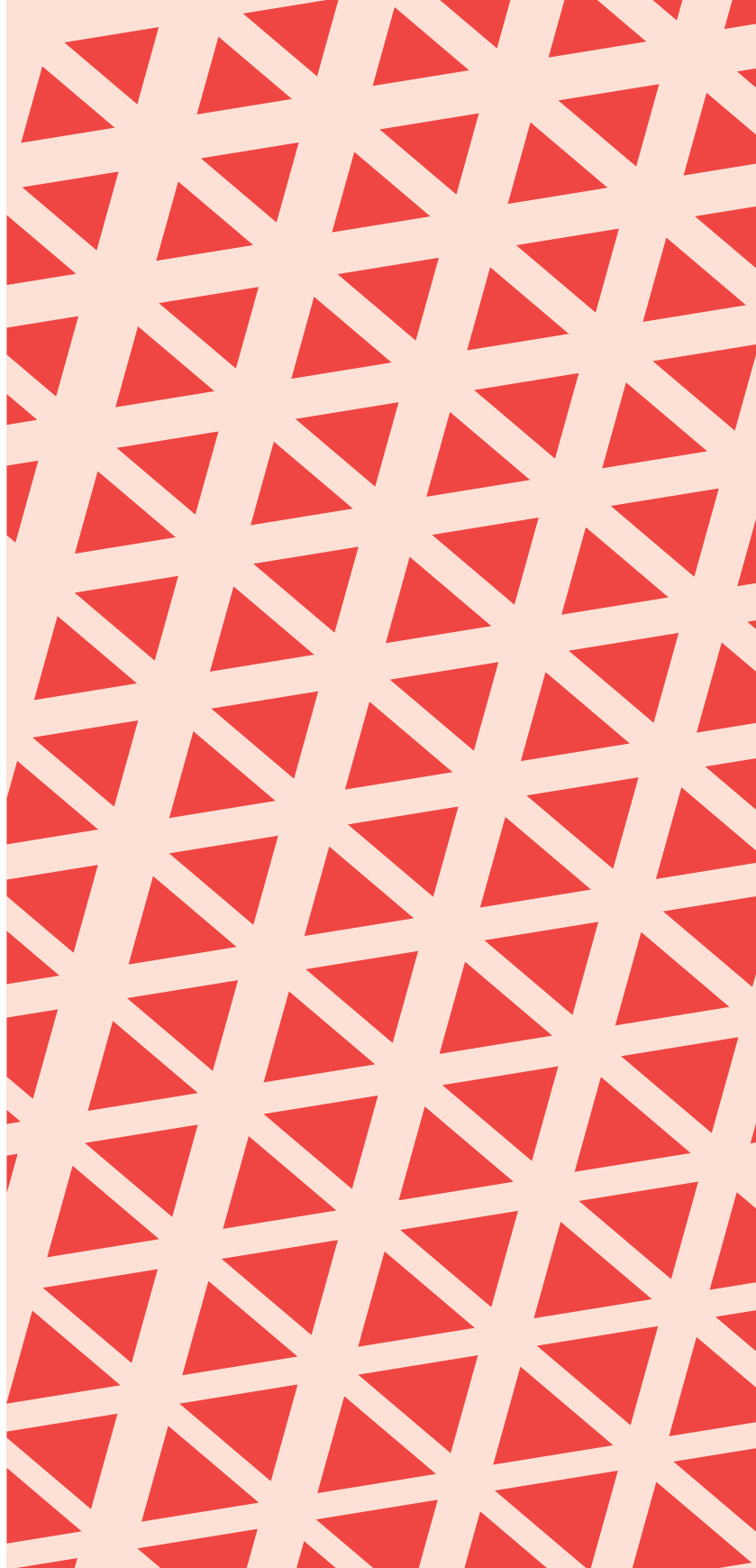
Gender and Small Arms in Kosovo: Fast Facts / [this report
was written Dragan Božanić]. - Belgrade : UNDP SEESAC, 2019
(Belgrade : Cicero). - 27 str. : tabele, graf. prikazi ; 30 cm

Tiraž 100.

ISBN 978-86-7728-276-9

a) Оружје -- Родни аспект -- Косово и Метохија -- 2012-2017
-- Статистика б) Ватрено оружје -- Родни аспект -- Косово и
Метохија -- 2012-2017 -- Статистика

COBISS.SR-ID 281005580





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for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)

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*This project is funded by
the European Union*

Working within the framework of:



Regional Cooperation Council

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