

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN MOLDOVA

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**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.

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Gender and Small Arms in Moldova: Fast Facts

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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.

Through improved access to sex-disaggregated data, *Fast Facts* strives to increase knowledge and awareness of both professionals and the general audience of the highly gendered aspects of small arms. In addition, it provides policy makers in Moldova with an easy-to-use 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 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 indicated otherwise, data presented in this publication refers 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. 1,367 respondents completed the survey in Moldova.

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 reports by public institutions of relevant firearm-related incidents, where available. For the purpose of this analysis, 110 reports of incidents spanning from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

MAIN FINDINGS

■ Men own 98.9% of all firearms, while only 1.1% are owned by women;

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

■ 37.9% of men and 22% of women would own a gun;

■ 53.9% of women and 41.5% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;

■ 34.1% of men and 18.2% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun;

■ 24.2% of all homicides were committed with firearms;

■ Men accounted for 84.6% of the victims of firearm-related homicides, compared to 15.4% of women;

■ 27.4% of men and 14.7% of women killed in Moldova, were killed with firearms;

■ Men account for 93.2% of all victims of firearm-related injuries, compared to 6.8% of women;

■ 7% of all homicide victims were killed by a family member;

■ 15.1% of all women killed in Moldova were killed by a family member, compared to 4.3% of men killed;

■ Intimate partners committed 69.3% of all family-related homicide;

■ Only 5% of all rejected applicants for new licenses were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence;

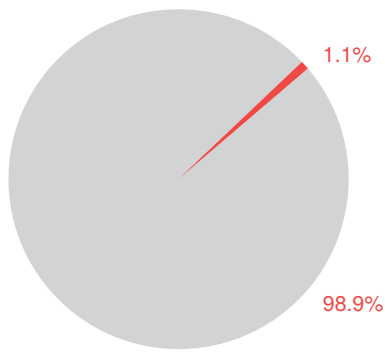
■ 13.5% of all revoked licenses were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence;

■ Men account for 99.5% of perpetrators of all firearm-related criminal offenses, women for only 0.5%;

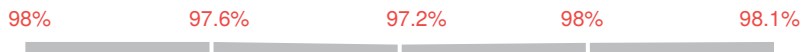
■ Men committed 21 out of 22 firearm-related homicides from 2012 to 2016;

■ 3 out of 4 women killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards;

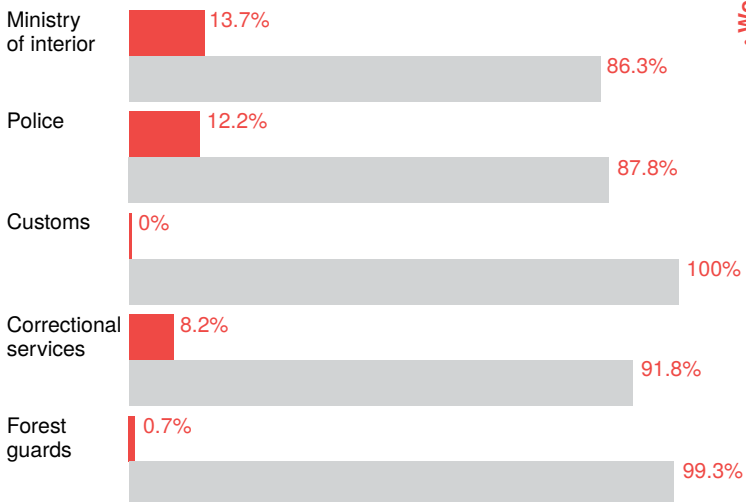
■ Men are equally at risk in private spaces and in forests, fields and uninhabited areas.



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 98.9% of all firearms, while only 1.1% are owned by women

Firearm ownership in Moldova is entirely dominated by men. In 2016, 55,723 men and 642 women held firearm licenses.

Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 97.8% of all licenses, compared to 2.2% acquired by women. In 2016 specifically, 2,581 men and 51 women applied for licenses. 53.2% of all applicants were men aged 36 to 60, followed by men aged 19 to 35 (27%). Among women, those 18 to 35 are the most likely to apply for licenses, followed by those aged 36 to 60.

SECURITY SECTOR

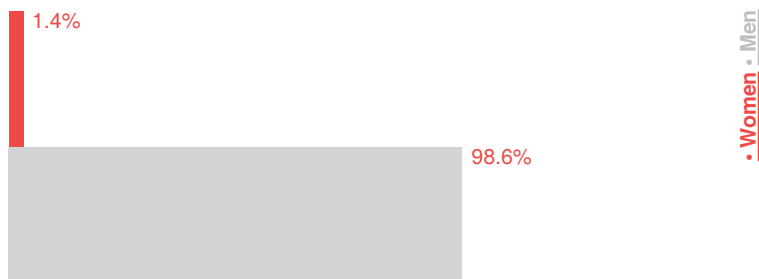
Men account for an overwhelming majority of personnel authorized to carry firearms across the security sector

In 2016, men accounted for 87.6% of the security sector personnel authorized to carry firearms compared to 12.4% of women¹. 8,679 men and 1,373 women in the Ministry of Interior and 7,996 men and 1,116 women in police forces were authorized to carry firearms that year.

¹ This refers to institutions for which data was available.

10

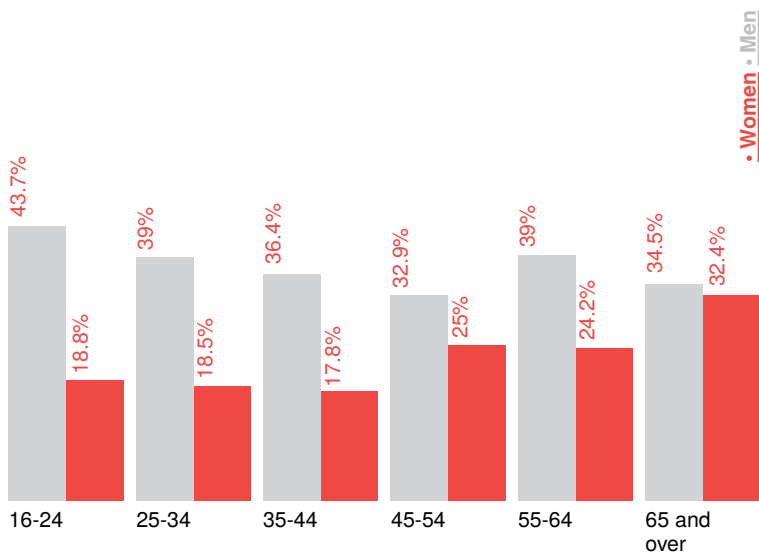
Private security companies



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

Men accounted for **98.6%** of the personnel of private security companies authorized to carry firearms compared to **1.4%** of women

In 2016, 1,581 men and 22 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)

ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

37.9% of men and **22%** of women would own a gun

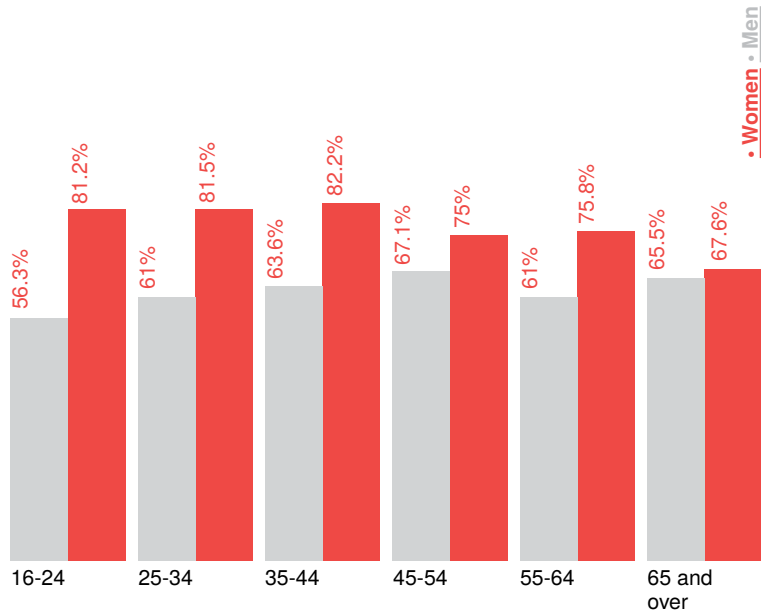
Men aged 16 to 24 are most likely to say they would own a gun, followed by men aged 25 to 34 and 55 to 64. As for women, demand for firearms was the highest among the oldest age group, 65 and over.

• Women • Men

↑

• Women • Men

↑



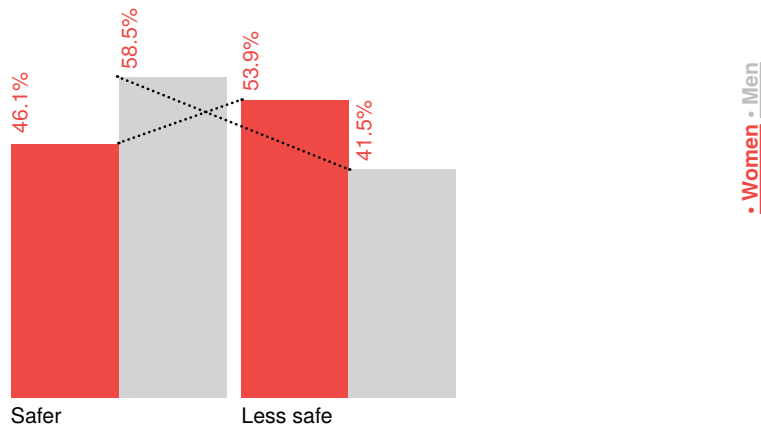
Would you own a gun? - **No**; by sex and age, 2017
(Source: Perception survey)



However, the majority of both women and men would not own a gun, **78%** and **62.1%** respectively

Women aged 35 to 44 are the least likely to say they would own a gun.

Although **22%** of women said they would own a gun, they accounted for only **2.2%** of applicants for new licenses in 2016



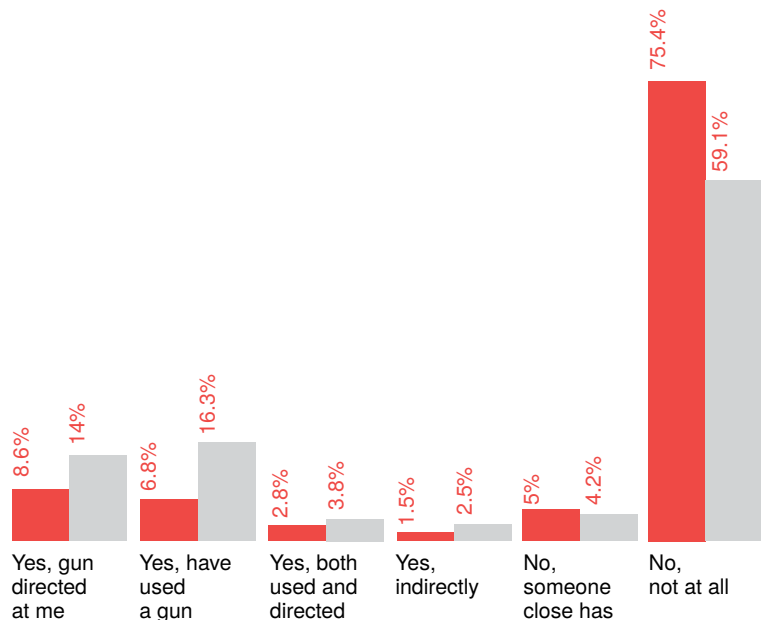
Would having a gun at home make you feel safer or less safe?, by sex, 2017 (Source: Perception survey)



53.9% of women and **41.5%** of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe

Men aged 55 to 64 and 16 to 24 are the most likely to feel safer with a gun at home, 64.9% and 62.6% respectively, while women aged 25 to 34 are the most likely to feel less safe with gun at home (59.7%).

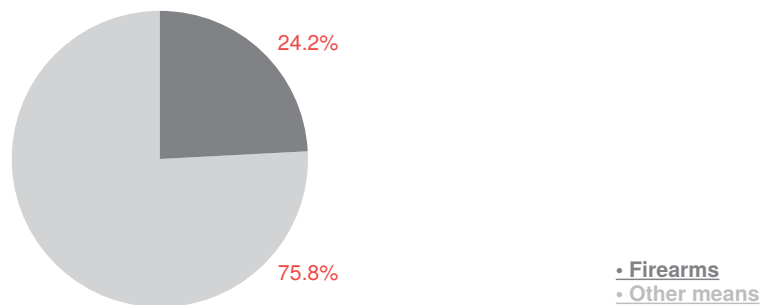
2 / EXPERIENCE



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

34.1% of men and 18.2% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – 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 firearms usage – 16.3% men and 6.8% women had used a gun.

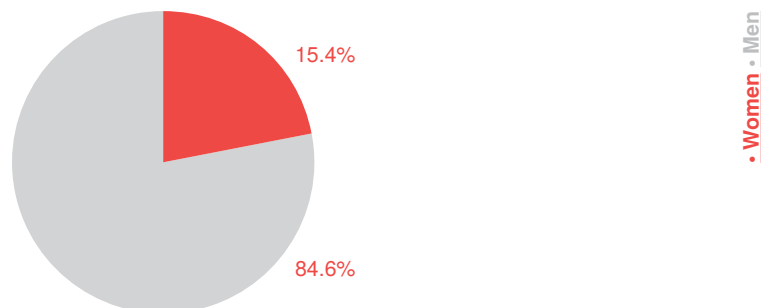


Firearm-related homicides out of total homicides, 2012-2016 ↵

3 / VICTIMS

24.2% of all homicides were committed with firearms

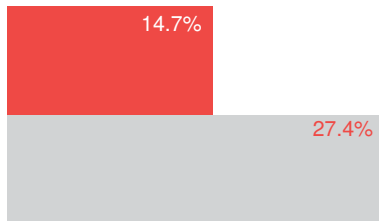
247 out of the 1,022 people killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed with a firearm.



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

Men accounted for 84.6% of the victims of firearm-related homicides, compared to 15.4% of women

209 men and 38 women were killed with firearms from 2012 to 2016



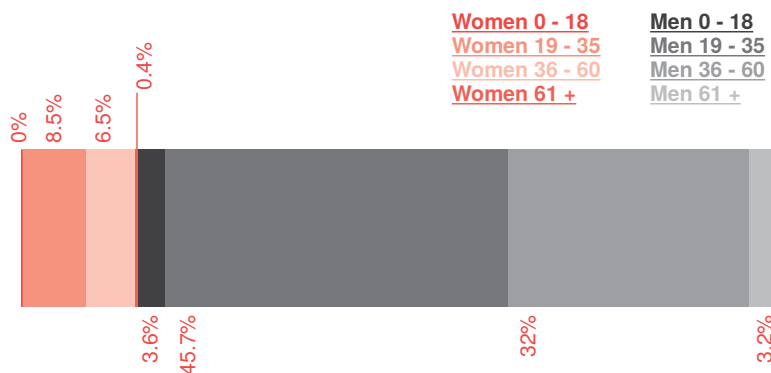
Victims of firearm-related homicides out of all homicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016

Women • Men

16

27.4% of men and 14.7% of women murdered in Moldova were killed with firearms

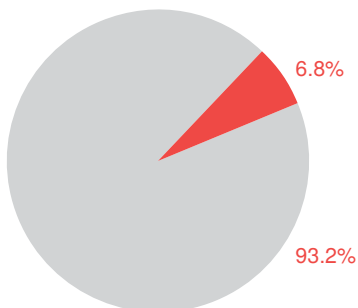
209 out of 764 of the men killed and 38 out of 258 of the women killed from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.



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

Women • Men

Men aged 19 to 35 account for 45.7% of all victims of firearm-related homicide, followed by men aged 36 to 60 with 32%. As for women, those aged 19 to 35 are the most likely to fall victim to firearm misuse at 8.5% of all victims, followed by those 36 to 60 at 6.5%.



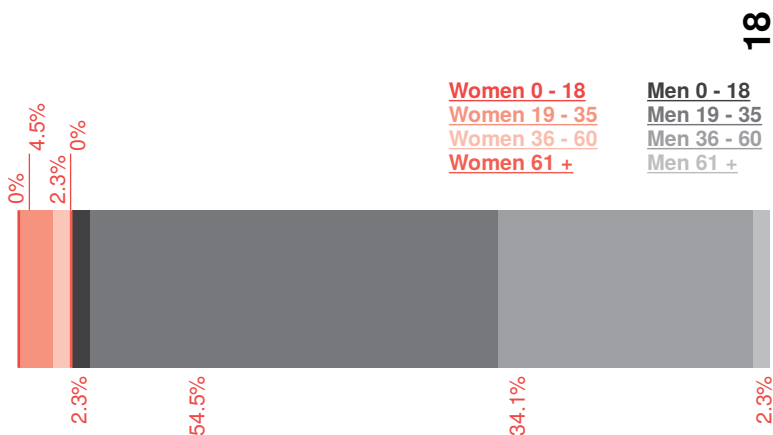
Victims of firearm-related injuries, by sex, 2012-2016

Women • Men

INJURIES

Men account for 93.2% of all victims of firearm-related injuries, compared to 6.8% of women

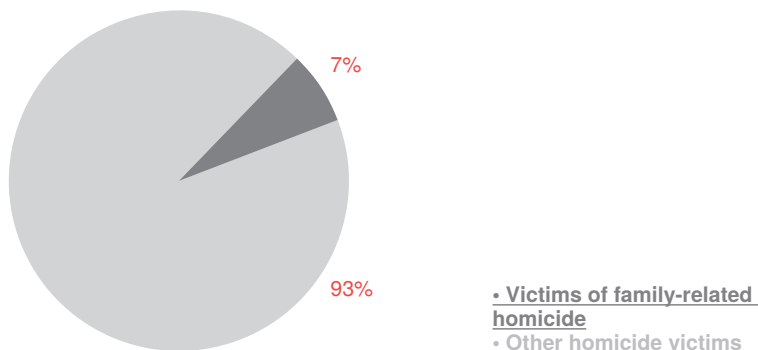
3 women and 41 men were reported to suffer injuries inflicted with firearms from 2012 to 2016.



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

18

Men aged 19 to 35 make up the majority of victims, 54.5%, followed by men aged 36 to 60 and women aged 19 to 35.



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

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

7% of all homicide victims were killed by a family member

72 out of 1,022 persons killed from 2012 to 2016 were murdered by their family members.

Women account for the majority of victims of family-related homicides

From 2012 to 2016, 39 women (54.2%) and 33 men (45.8%) were killed by family members.



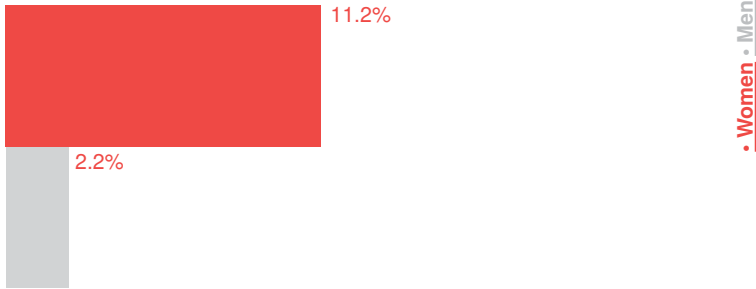
Family-related homicides out of total homicides, by sex, 2012-2016

• Women • Men

15.1% of all women killed in Moldova were killed by a family member, compared to 4.3% of men killed by a family member

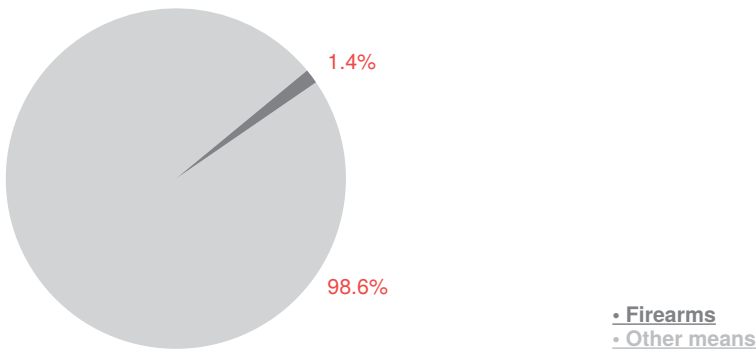
39 out of 258 women and 22 out of 764 men killed in Moldova from 2012 to 2016 were killed by a family member.

19



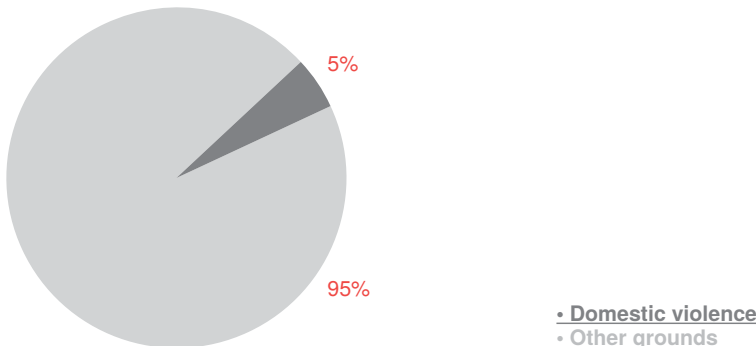
Intimate partner homicide out of total homicide, by sex, 2012-2016

• Women • Men



Family-related homicide, by means, 2012-2016

• Firearms
• Other means



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

• Domestic violence
• Other grounds

Intimate partners committed 69.3% of all family related homicide

Intimate partner violence with a lethal outcome disproportionately affected women, accounting for 63% of all persons killed by their intimate partner. From 2012 to 2016, 29 women and 17 men were killed by their intimate partner.

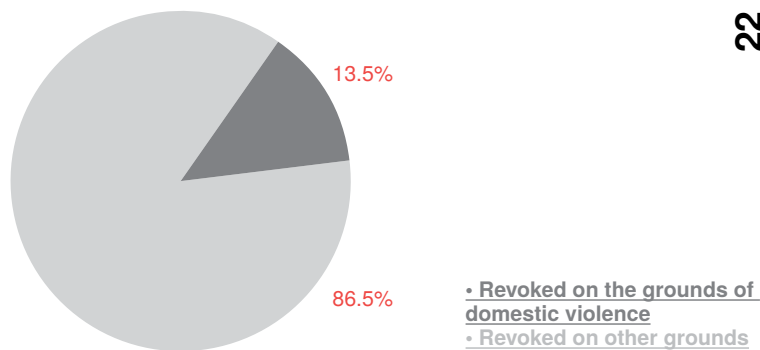
Intimate partner homicide accounts for 11.2% of all female homicide, compared to 2.2% of male homicide.

As per official data, from 2012 to 2016, there was only one victim of firearm-related domestic homicide reported, a woman who was killed by her intimate partner. This suggests that firearms are not frequently used when family related homicide is committed, but it may also reflect a case of under-reporting or misrecording of both domestic violence and the misuse of firearms.

Only 5% of all rejected applicants for new licenses are rejected on the grounds of domestic violence

Out of 754 firearm license applications that were rejected from 2012 to 2016, 38 were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence.

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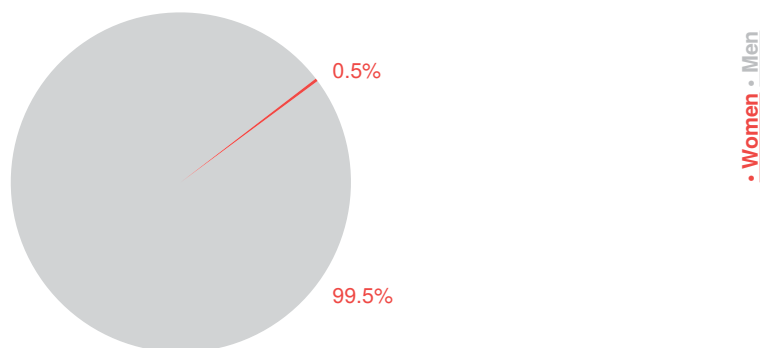
Firearm licenses revoked on the grounds of domestic violence out of total revoked licenses, 2012-2016

13.5% of all revoked licenses are revoked on the grounds of domestic violence

From 2012 to 2016, 37 out of a total of 275 revoked licenses were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence.

The presence of firearms in domestic violence incidents is rarely reported

Out of the 8,072 cases of domestic violence that were registered in the period 2012-2016, the misuse of firearms was reported in merely two cases.

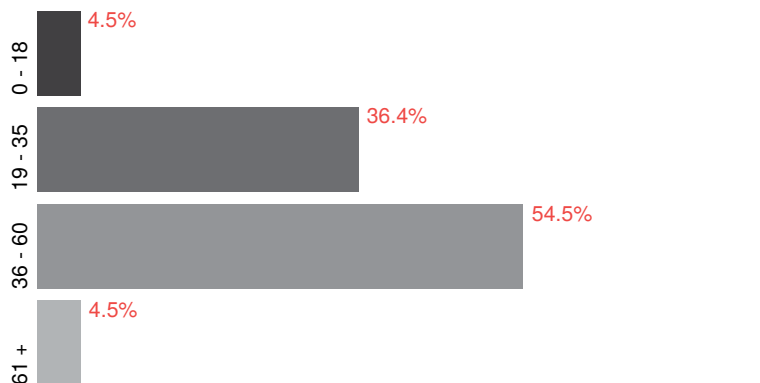


Perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses, by sex, 2012-2016

4 / PERPETRATORS

Men committed 99.5% of all firearm-related criminal offenses, while women committed only 0.5%

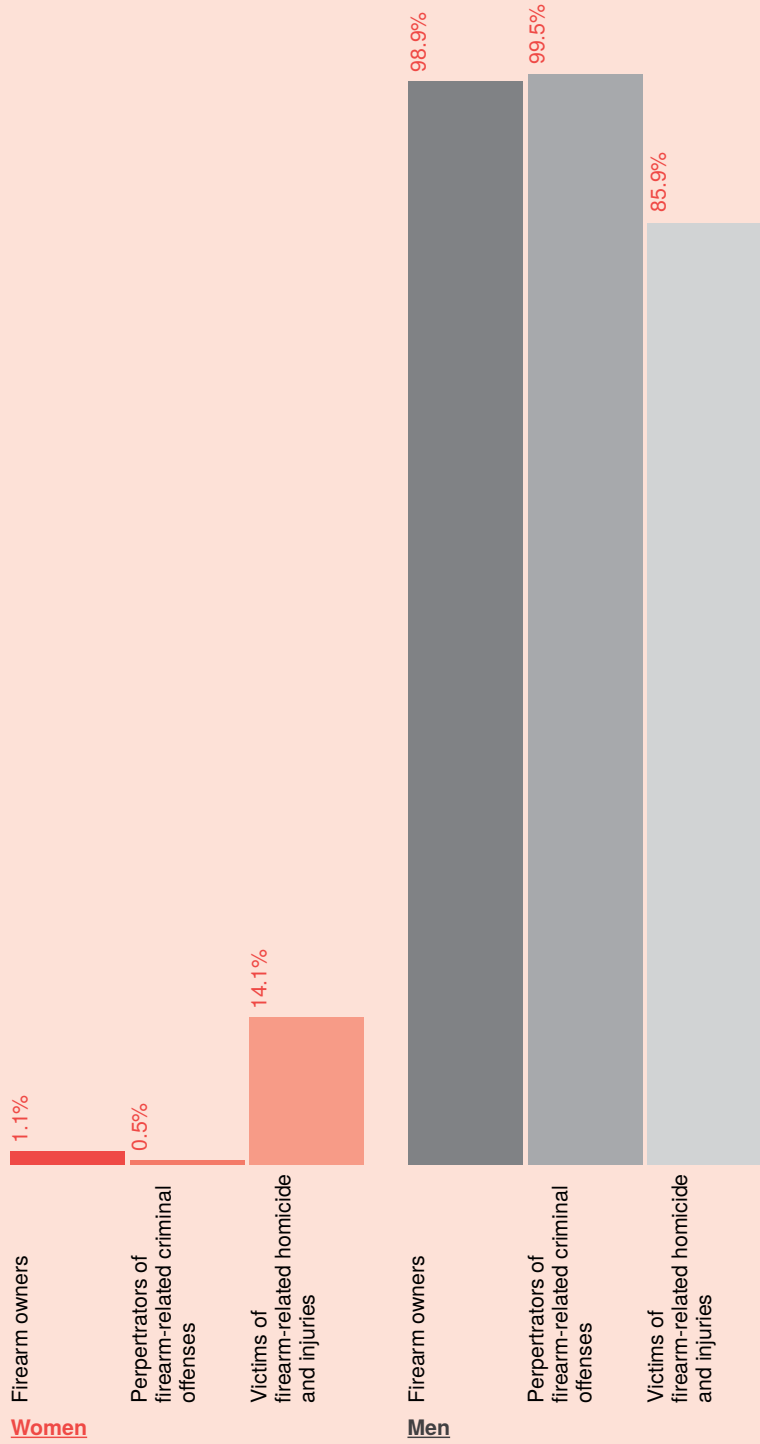
Out of 185 firearm-related criminal offenses committed within the period 2012-2016, 184 were committed by men and only one by a woman.



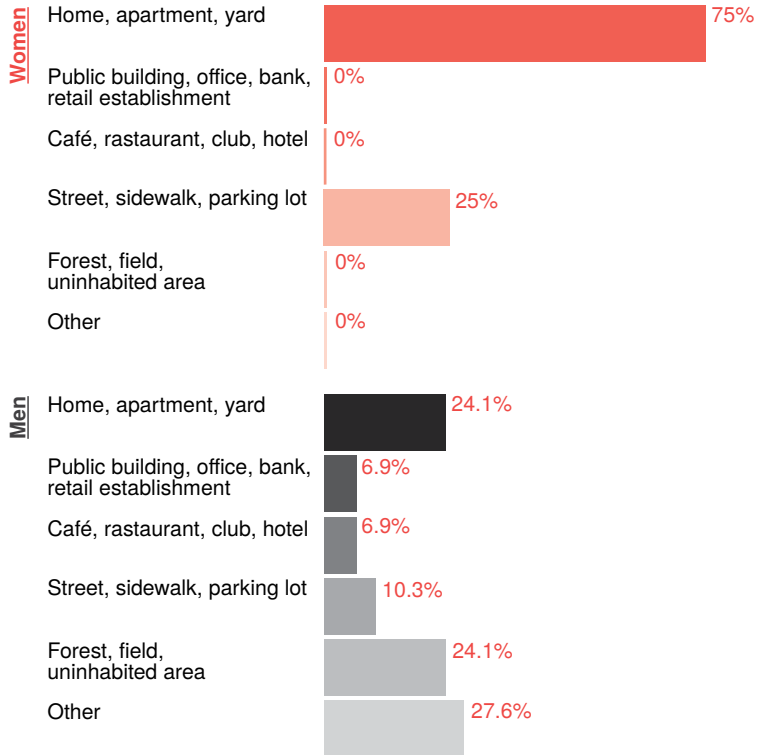
Male perpetrators of firearm-related homicides by age, 2012-2016

Men committed 21 out of 22 firearm-related homicides from 2012 to 2016

The majority of criminal firearm-related homicides was committed by men aged 36 to 60, followed by those 19 to 35.



Men make up 98.9% of firearm owners and commit 99.5% of firearm-related criminal offenses. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides and injuries (85.9%) but are proportionately more frequently the perpetrators than the victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, own only 1.1% of firearms, make up 0.5% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and account for 14.1% of victims.



Location of firearm-related homicide, by sex, 2012-2016



5 / CONTEXT OF THE INCIDENT

3 out of 4 women killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards

Men are equally at risk in private spaces and in forests, fields and uninhabited areas

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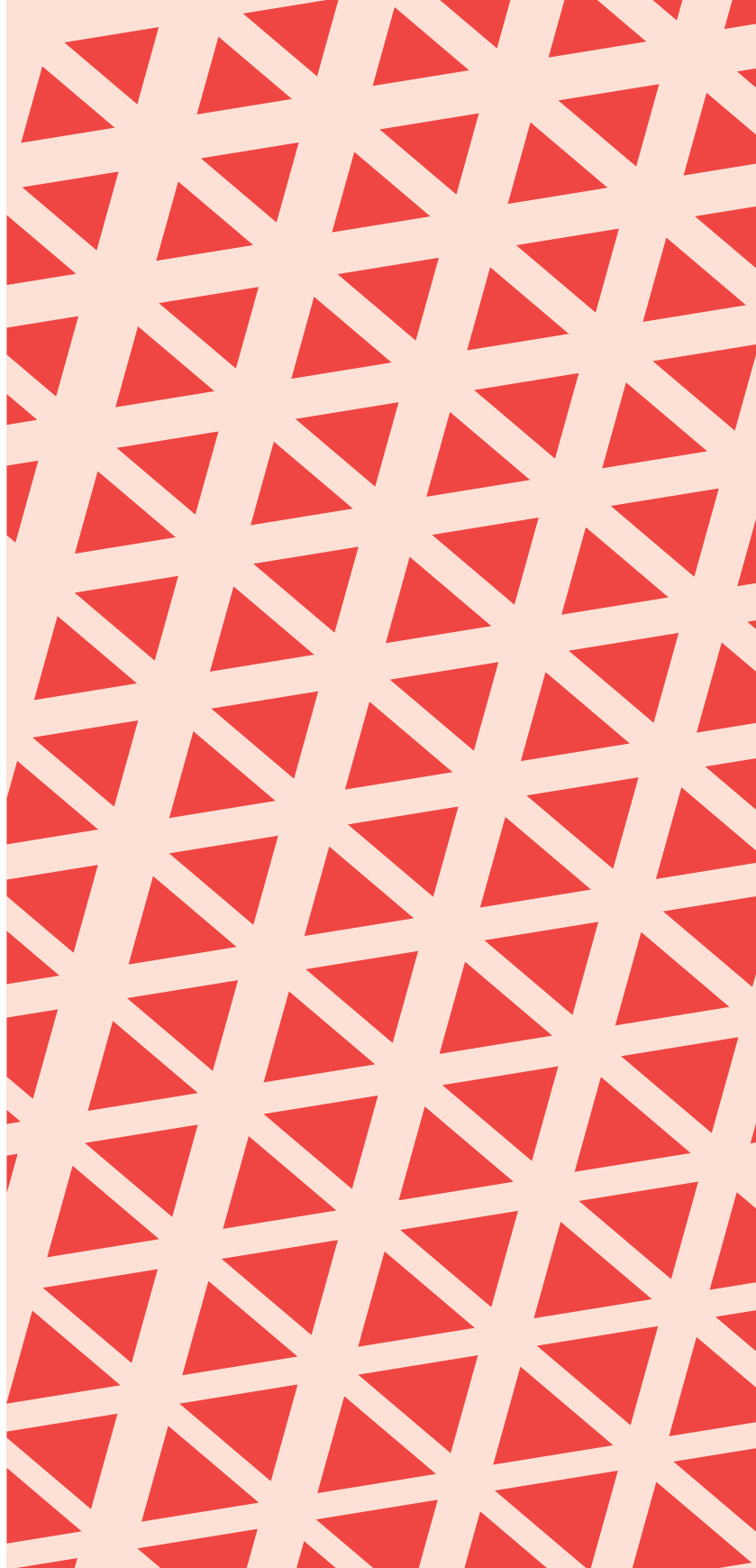
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