

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN ALBANIA

:

**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 Albania: 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

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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 Albania 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

Data used in Fast Facts is extracted from multiple sources:

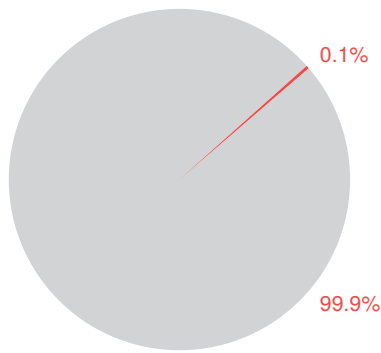
1. Distribution and Impact Survey: In cooperation with governments in SEE, SEESAC collected and analyzed data in order to identify trends in the distribution of small arms (particularly in relation to the type, quantity, possession, distribution, legal/illegal trade, production and movement of small 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 indicated otherwise, 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. 2,560 respondents completed the survey in Albania.

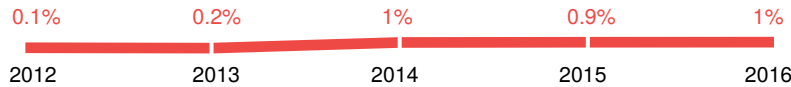
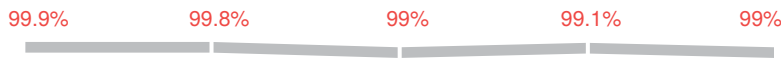
3. Armed Violence Monitoring Platform (AVMP): The AVMP monitors firearm-related incidents that have occurred in SEE since 2014. Data is collected daily using local media clippings, online search engines and reports by public institutions of relevant firearm-related incidents, where available. For the purpose of this analysis, 982 incidents reports spanning from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

MAIN FINDINGS

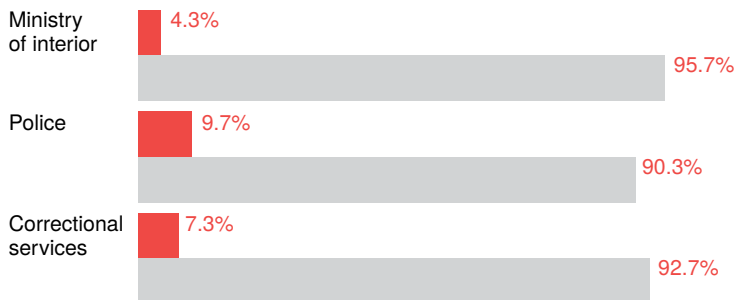
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- 99.9% of all firearms are owned by men, while women own only 0.1% of firearms;
-
- Men account for an overwhelming majority of personnel authorized to carry firearms across the security sector;
-
- Men account for 99.6% of private security companies personnel authorized to carry firearms, compared to only 0.4% of women;
-
- 27.9% of men and 16.5% of women would own a gun;
-
- 66.9% of women and 52.5% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;
-
- 30.8% of men and 14% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun;
-
- 64.3% of all homicides were committed with firearms;
-
- Men account for 82.5% and women for 17.5% of victims of firearm-related incidents;
-
- For 20.5% of female and 18.1% of male victims of firearm-related incidents, the outcome was lethal;
-
- Men aged 19–35 are most frequently exposed to firearm misuse and account for 37.9% of all victims of firearm-related incidents;
-
- 20.9% of homicide victims were killed by a family member;
-
- 70.5% of all women killed were killed by family members, compared to 11.5% of murdered men;
-
- Intimate partners committed 41.7% of all family-related homicides;
-
- 57.1% of women murdered by family members were killed with a firearm, while there were no cases reported of men being killed by family members with firearms;
-
- 27.8% of women in Albania killed by their intimate partner in 2015 and 2016 were killed with a firearm;
-
- 26.3% of domestic violence incidents which involved firearms had a lethal outcome;
-
- Men committed 98.1% all firearm-related incidents, while women committed only 1.9% of incidents;
-
- 53.7% of firearm-related incidents were committed by men aged 19–35;
-
- 76% of women killed with firearms were killed in in their homes, apartments or yards;
-
- 40.8% of men 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% of firearms is owned by women

Civilian firearm ownership in Albania is heavily dominated by men, while women own only a minor share of firearms.

In 2016, 96,685 men and 85 women held firearm licenses.

Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 99.5% of all licenses, compared to 0.5% of licenses acquired by women. In 2016 specifically, 1,069 men and 11 women applied for new licenses.

57.6% of all applicants were men aged 36 to 60, closely followed by men aged 18 to 35 at 28.4%. Among women, 70.6% of female applicants were in the 36 to 60 age group.

Women • Men

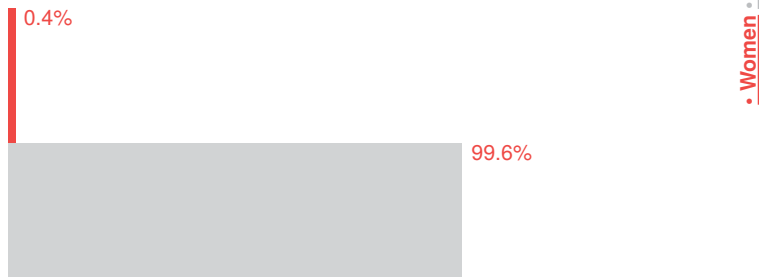
SECURITY SECTOR

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

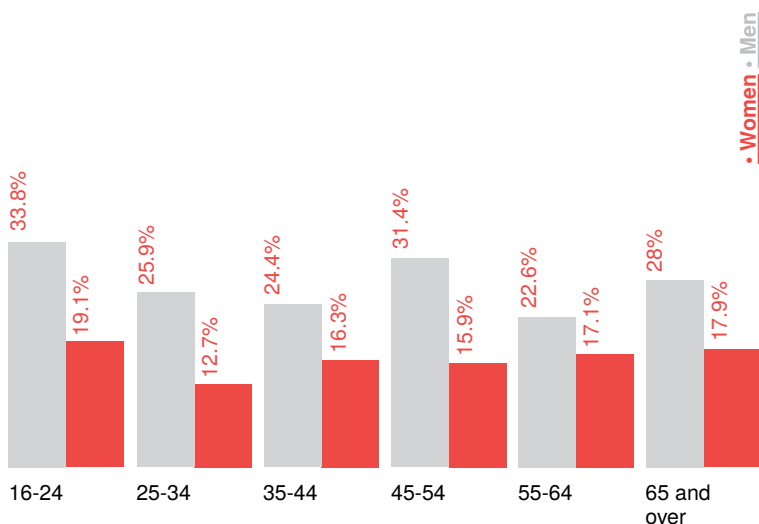
In 2016, 1,295 men and 58 women in the Ministry of Interior, 8,597 men and 921 women in the police forces and 2,261 men and 177 women in correctional services were authorized to carry firearms.

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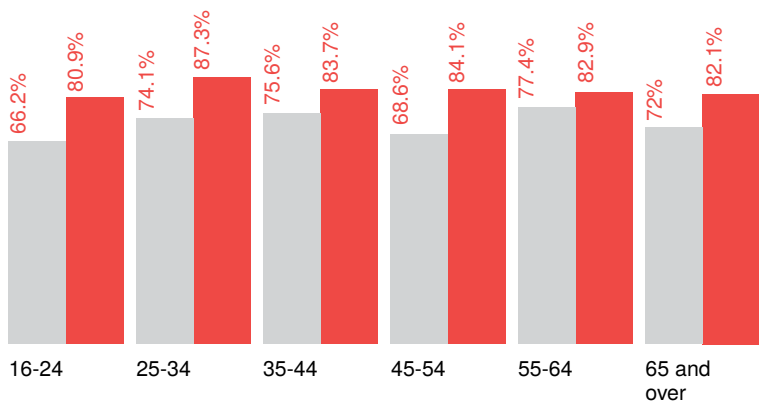
GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN ALBANIA : FAST FACTS



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



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)

Private security companies

Men account for **99.6%** of private security companies personnel authorized to carry firearms, compared to only **0.4%** women

In 2016, 8,835 men and 35 women hired by private security companies were authorized to carry firearms.

ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

27.9% of men and **16.5%** 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 those aged 45 to 54. Among women, respondents in the 16 to 24 age group were most likely to say they would own a gun.

However, the majority of both women and men, **83.5%** and **72.1%** respectively, would not own a gun

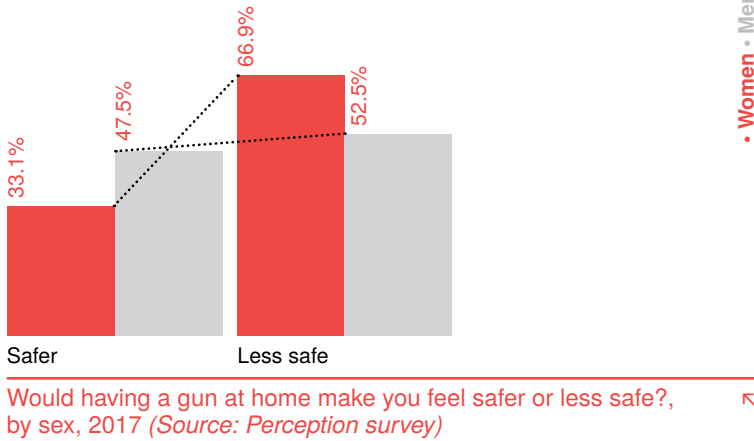
Women aged 25 to 34 are the least likely to say they would own a gun.

12

Although 16.5% of women said they would own a gun, they accounted for only 1% of applicants for new licenses in 2016

66.9% of women and 52.5% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe

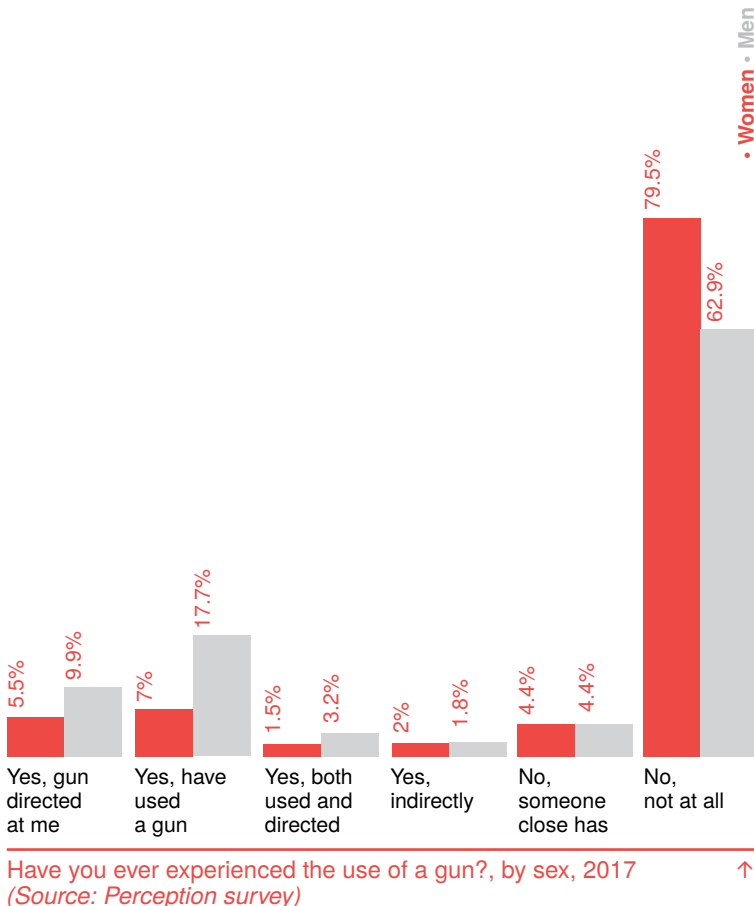
Women are significantly more likely than men to feel that a gun at home makes them less safe, while men are split over this. Men aged 16 to 24 are most likely to feel safer with a gun at home (55.7%), while women aged 55 to 64 are most likely to feel less safe with a gun at home (75%).

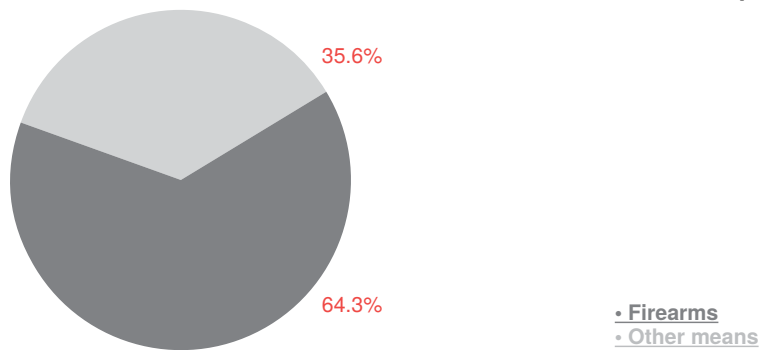


2 / EXPERIENCE

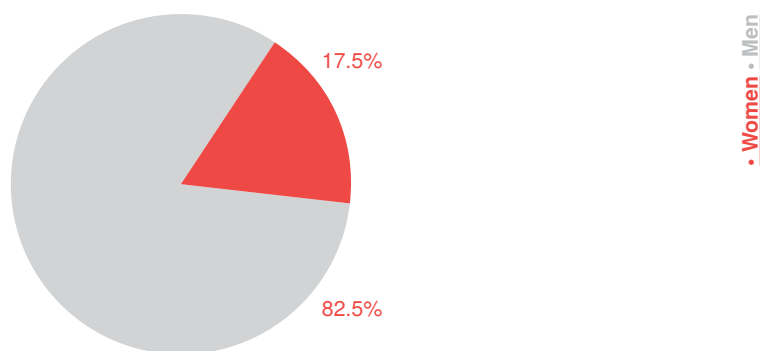
30.8% of men and 14% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – used a gun, had a gun directed at them, or both

While differences between men and women occur across gun experiences, they are particularly significant in terms of firearm usage – 17.7% of men reported to having used a gun, compared to 7% of women.

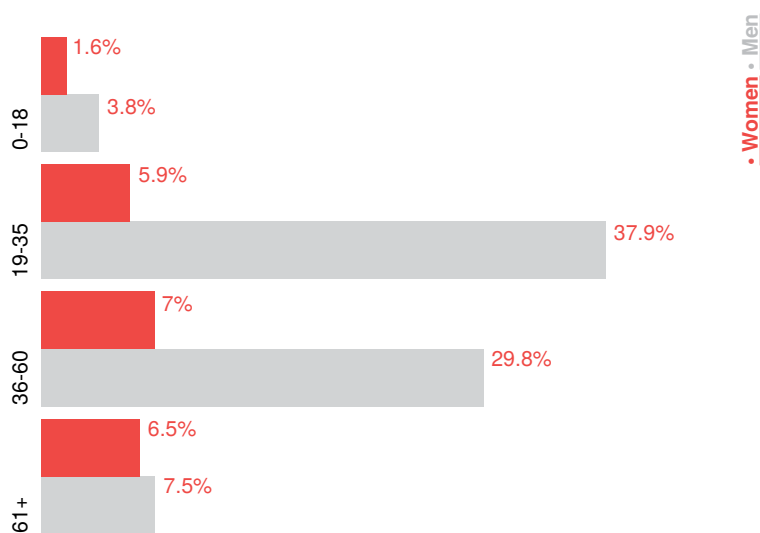




Firearm-related homicides out of total homicides, 2012-2016



Victims firearm-related incidents, by sex, 2014-2018
(Source: AVMP)



Victims of firearm-related incidents, by sex and age, 2014-2018
(Source: AVMP)

3 / VICTIMS

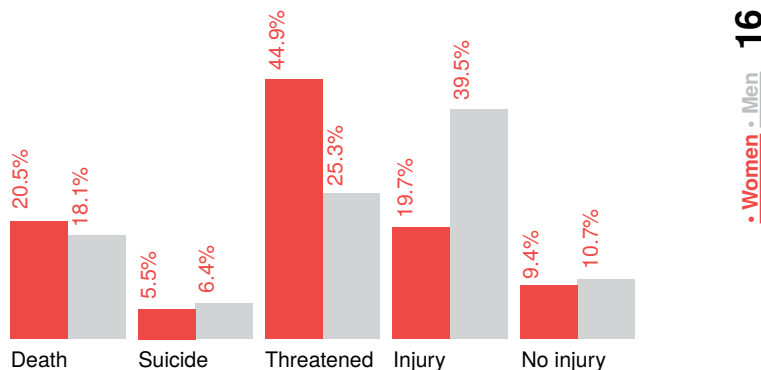
64.3% of all homicides were committed with firearms

Firearms are the most prevalent weapon of choice when homicide is committed. 354 out of 550 people killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed with a firearm.

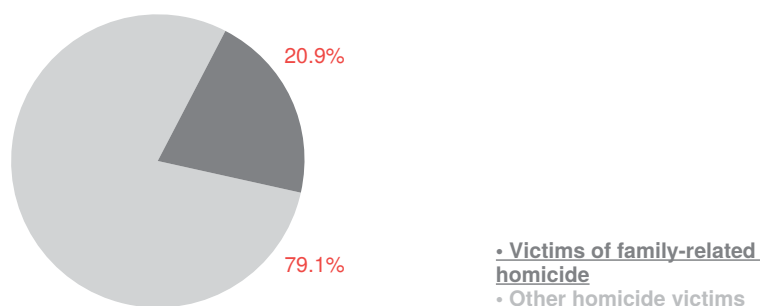
Men account for 82.5% and women for 17.5% of victims of firearm-related incidents¹

Men aged 19 to 35 are most frequently exposed to firearm misuse and account for 37.9% of all victims of firearm-related incidents. Men aged 36 to 60 come second followed by those aged 61 and older, and women aged 36 to 60 and 61 and older.

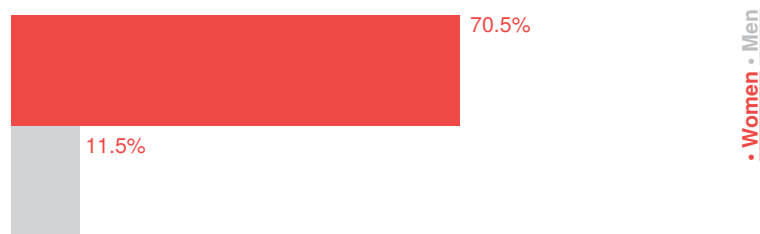
¹ Based on the analysis of 982 incidents captured through the AVMP. The analysis identified 127 female and 599 male victims, while for 58 victims the sex was not reported.



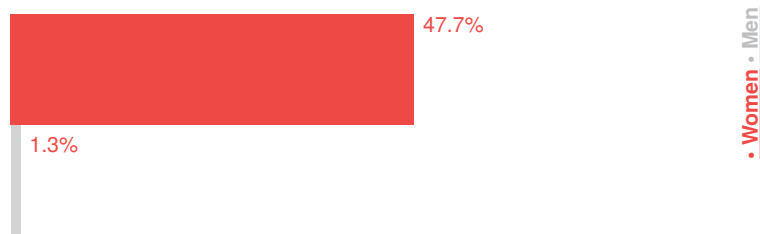
Outcome of firearm-related incidents, by sex of a victim, 2014-2018, (Source: AVMP)



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



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



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

For 20.5% of female and 18.1% of male victims of firearm-related incidents the outcome was lethal.

The likelihood of a lethal outcome is proportionately more common among women than men. Women are also more likely to be threatened with firearms, while men were significantly more likely to be injured or commit suicide.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

20.9% of people killed in Albania were killed by a family member

Between 2012 and 2016, 115 out of a total 550 homicides reported were committed by family members.

Women outnumber men as victims of the homicides committed by a family member, with 62 (53.9%) of women and 53 (46.1%) of men killed by family members. Domestic violence affects both women and men, but patterns of victimization are different.

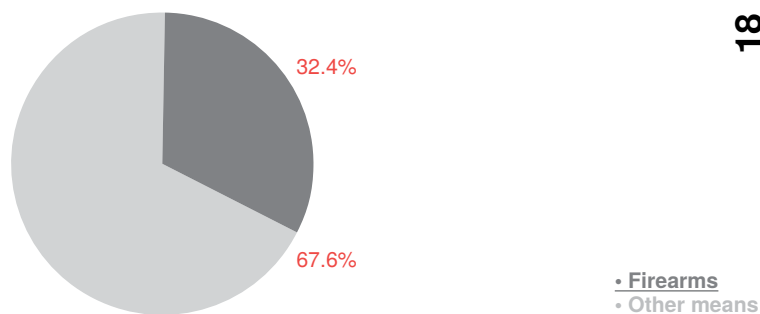
70.5% of all women killed in Albania were killed by family members, compared to 11.5% of killed men

Intimate partners committed 41.7% of all family-related homicides

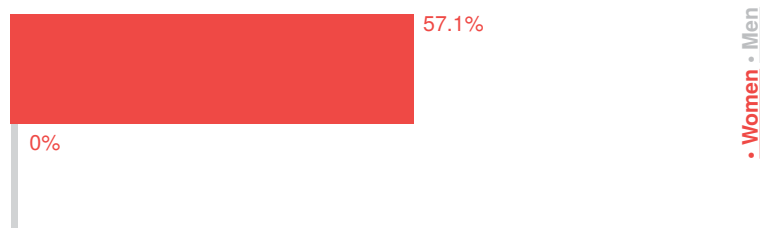
Between 2012 and 2016, 48 people, 42 women and 6 men were killed by their intimate partners, 87.5% and 12.5% respectively.

Women are at particular risk of intimate partner homicide. 47.7% of the women killed in Albania were killed by their intimate partner (42 out of 88), compared to 1.3% of men (6 out of 462).

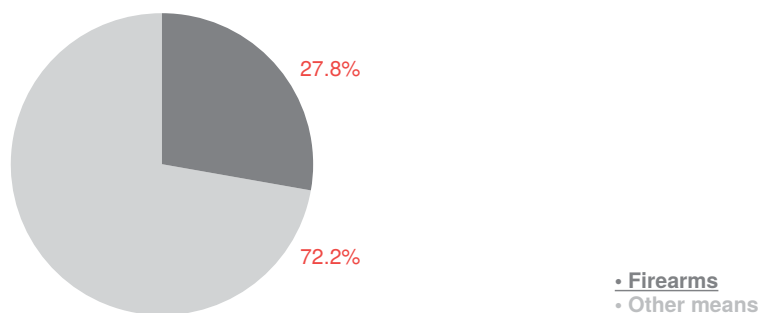
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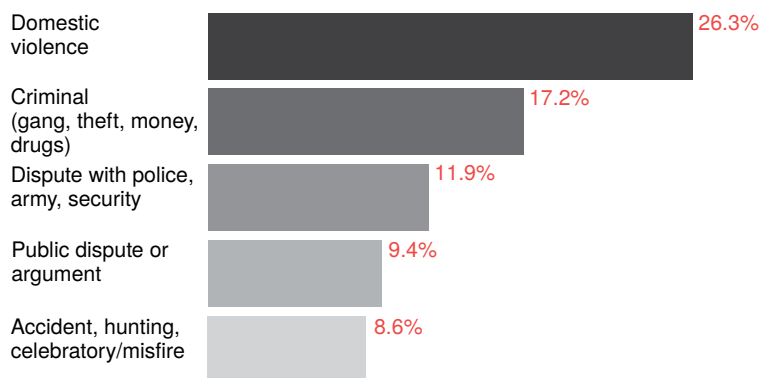
Family-related homicide, by means, 2015-2016



Family-related homicide committed with firearms out of total family-related homicides, by sex, 2015-2016



Women killed by intimate partner with firearms and other means, 2015-2016



Frequency of fatal outcome according to type of incident, 2014-2018

32.4% of family-related homicide is committed with firearms

In 12 out of 37 homicides committed by family members² in 2015 and 2016, firearms were the weapon of choice.

57.1% of women killed by family members were killed with a firearm, while there were no cases reported of men being killed by family members with firearms

Of the 12 people murdered with firearms, all were women.

27.8% of women in Albania killed by their intimate partner in 2015 and 2016 were killed with a firearm

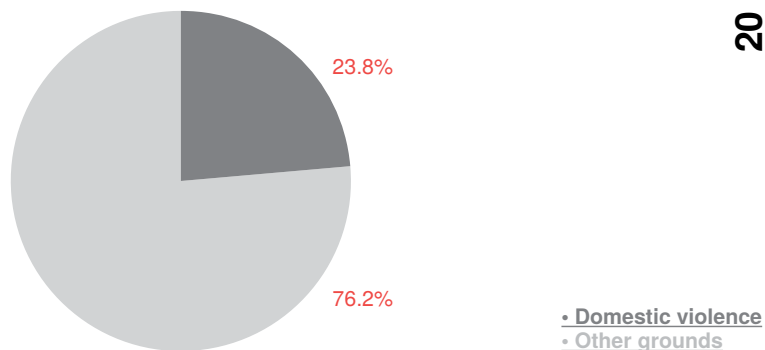
5 out of 18 women killed by their intimate partner in 2015 and 2016 were killed with firearms, while there were no cases reported of men being killed with firearms by their intimate partner.

26.3% of domestic violence incidents which involved firearms had a lethal outcome

The misuse of firearms in domestic violence is more lethal than any other type of incident, and it is 1.5 times more deadly than in criminal incidents.

² Data on number of people killed by family members with firearms was available only for 2015 and 2016. In all, 37 people were killed by family members in 2015 and 2016, 12 of them with firearms.

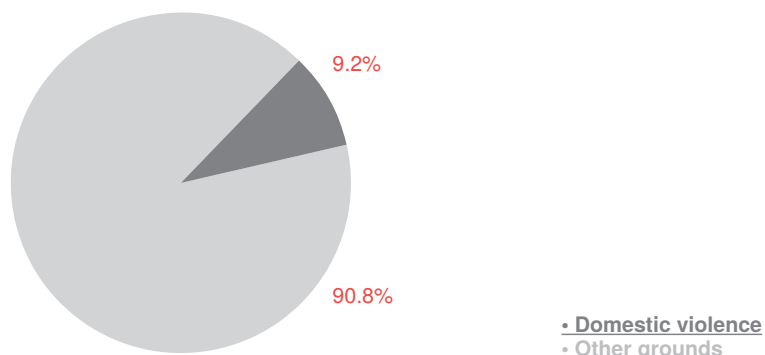
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Rejected applicants for new licences, by the grounds for rejection, 2012-2016

23.8% of applicants whose applications were rejected between 2012 and 2016 were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence

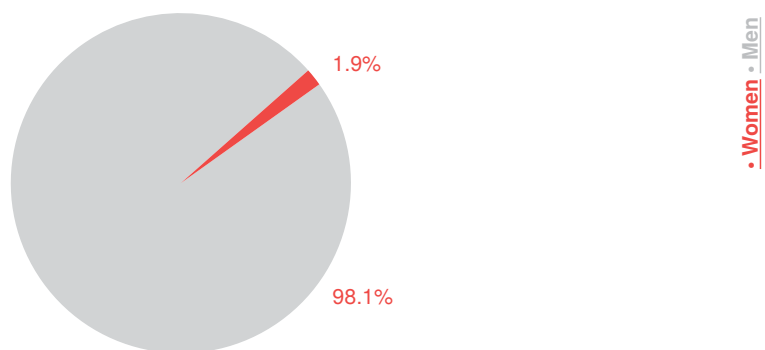
Of the 868 firearm license applicants whose applications were rejected between 2012 and 2016, 207 were rejected on the grounds of domestic violence. While a criminal record of domestic violence is often a basis upon which firearm license applications are rejected, the number of rejected applicants declined significantly over the survey period, by more than four times, bottoming out in 2016.



Revoked licenses by the grounds for revocation, 2012-2016

9.2% of all revoked firearm licenses were revoked due to domestic violence

106 out of 1,156 licenses revoked from 2012 to 2016 were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence.

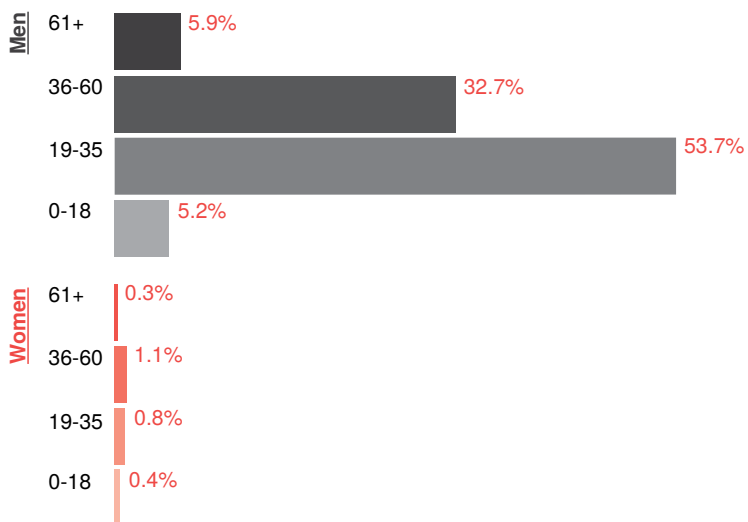


Perpetrators of firearm-related incidents, by sex, 2014-2018 (Source: AVMP)

Women • Men

4 / PERPETRATORS

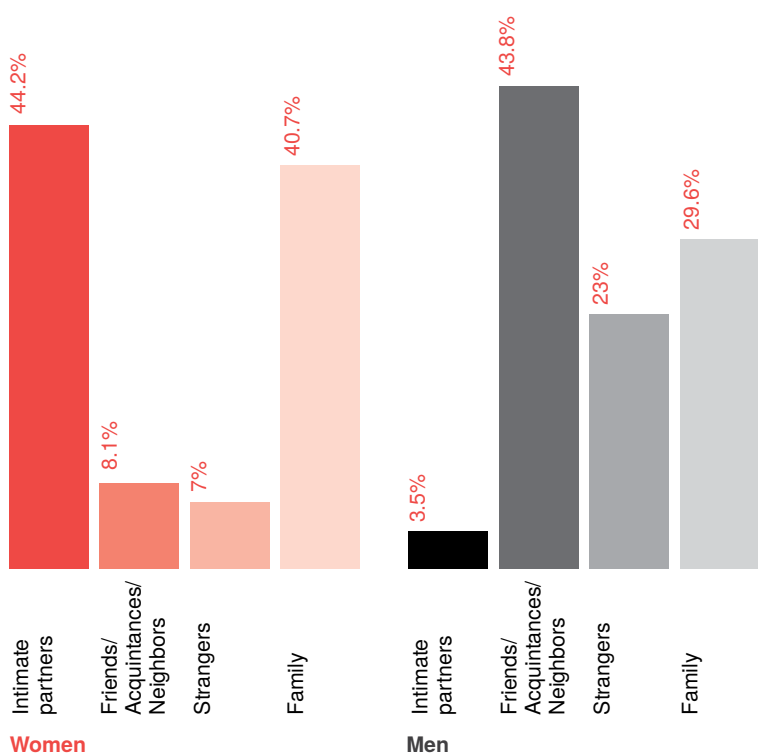
Men committed **98.1%** all firearm-related incidents, while only **1.9%** was committed by women



Perpetrators of firearm-related incidents, by sex and age, 2014-2018 (Source: AVMP) ↗

Young men are the most likely to commit incidents with firearms

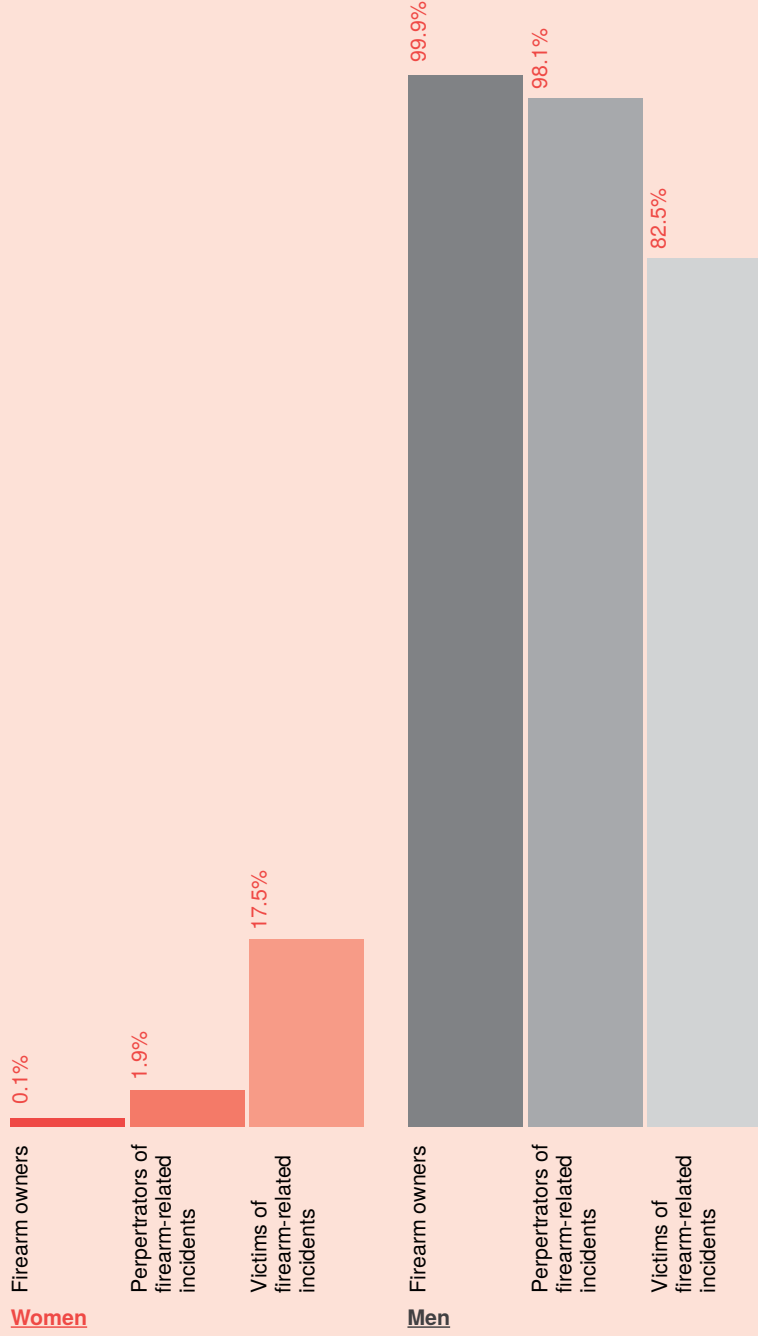
53.7% of firearm-related incidents were committed by men aged 19 to 35, followed by men aged 36 to 60 at 32.7%.



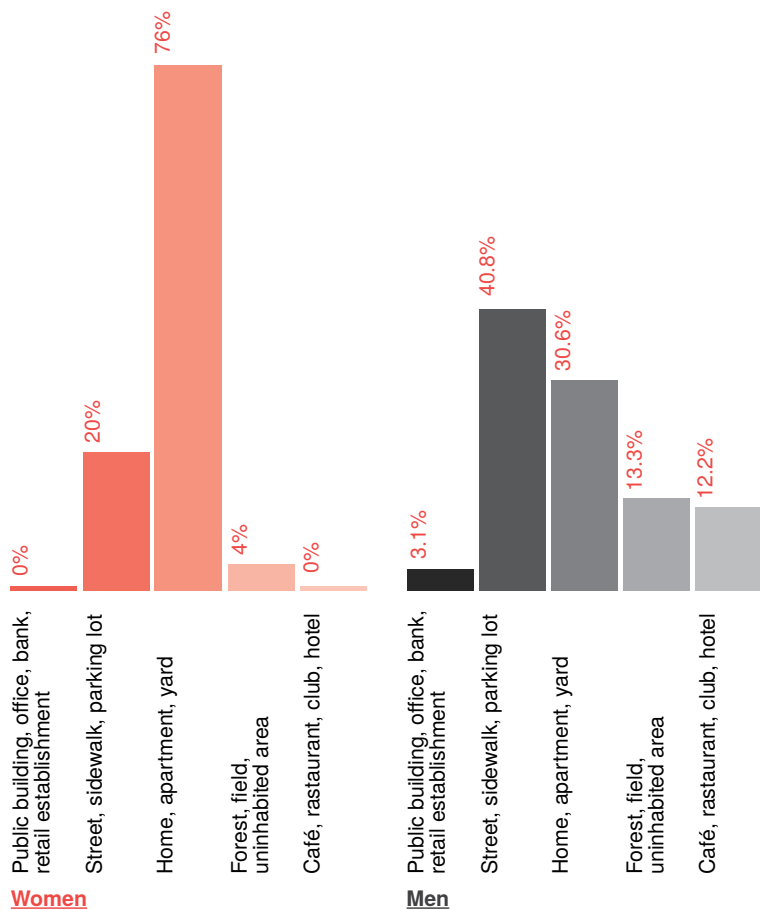
Relationship between victim and perpetrator of firearm-related incidents, by sex, 2014-2018 (Source: AVMP) ↗

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN VICTIM AND PERPETRATOR OF FIREARM-RELATED INCIDENTS

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



Men make up 99.9% of firearm owners and commit 98.1% of firearm-related incidents. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related incidents (82.5%) 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 1.9% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and account for 17.5% of victims.



Location of firearm-related homicide, by sex, 2014 - 2018, (Source: AVMP) ↑

76% of women and 30.6% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards

Women are 2.5 times more likely than men to be killed in their private spaces.

40.8% of men and 20% of women killed with firearms were killed in streets

Men are two times more likely to be killed in such settings than women.

CIP - Каталогизација у публикацији
Народна библиотека Србије, Београд

623.44:305-055.1/.2(496.5)"2012/2107"

BOŽANIĆ, Dragan, 1975-

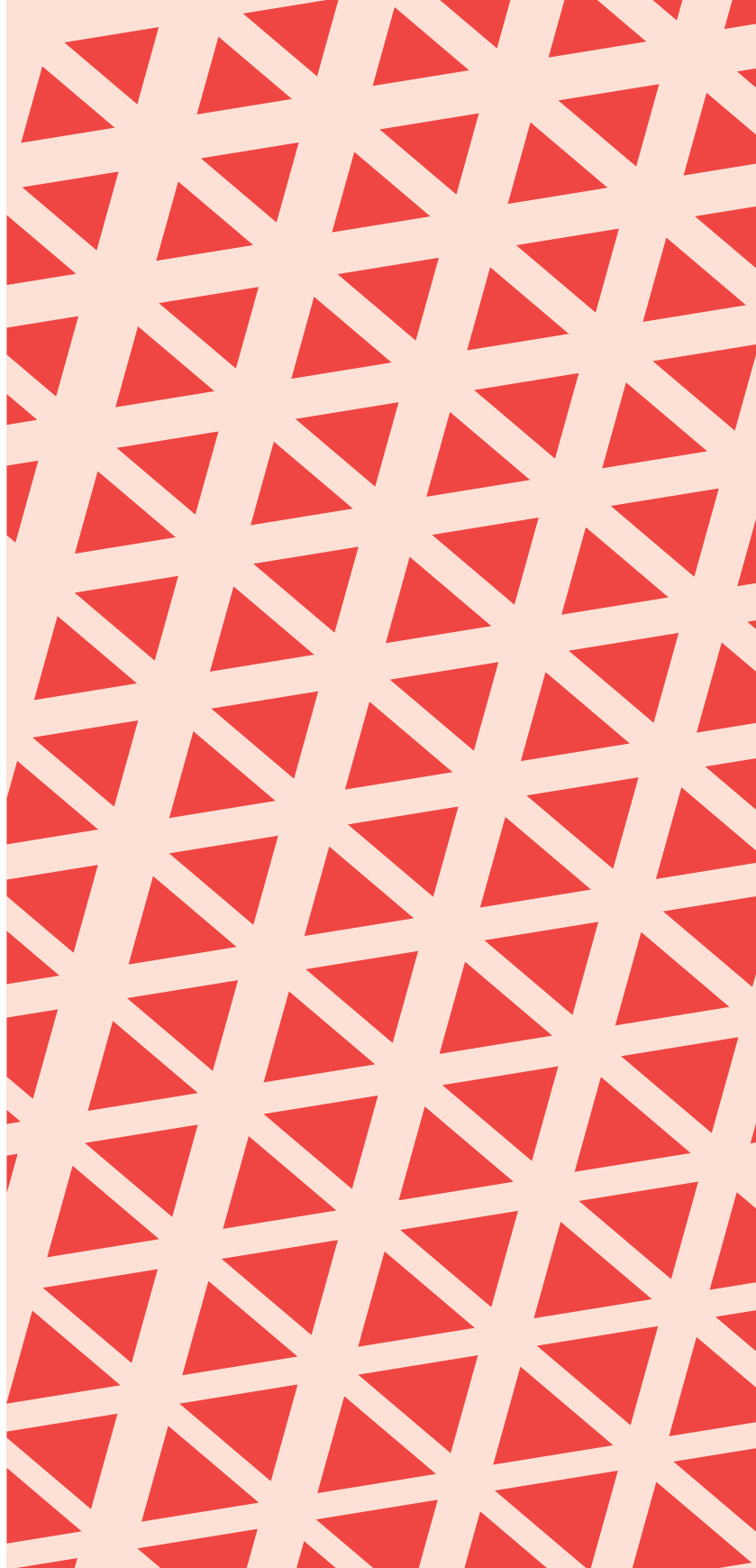
Gender and Small Arms in Albania : Fast Facts / [this report
was written Dragan Božanić]. - Belgrade : UNDP SEESAC, 2019
(Belgrade : Cicero). - 27 str. : tabele, graf. prikazi ; 30 cm

Tiraž 100.

ISBN 978-86-7728-272-1

а) Оружје -- Родни аспект -- Албанија -- 2012-2017 --
Статистика б) Ватрено оружје -- Родни аспект -- Албанија --
2012-2017 -- Статистика

COBISS.SR-ID 281009676





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*This project is funded by
the European Union*

Working within the framework of:



Regional Cooperation Council

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