

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN NORTH MACEDONIA

:

**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 North Macedonia: 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 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 North Macedonia 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 North Macedonia, 2,666 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, 480 reports of incidents that occurred from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

MAIN FINDINGS

■ 99.5% of all firearms in North Macedonia are owned by men, while women own only 0.5%;

■ 35.5% of men and 15% of women would own a gun;

■ 63.3% of women and 50.6% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;

■ 37% of men and 13.9% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun;

■ Men account for 76% of the victims of firearm-related homicides, while women account for 24%;

■ 45% of women killed and 64.8% of men killed were killed with firearms;

■ Every third person murdered in North Macedonia was murdered by a family member;

■ 50% of people killed by a family member were killed with firearms;

■ 80% of women killed by their intimate partner were killed with firearms;

■ Every fourth domestic violence incident which involved firearms had a lethal outcome;

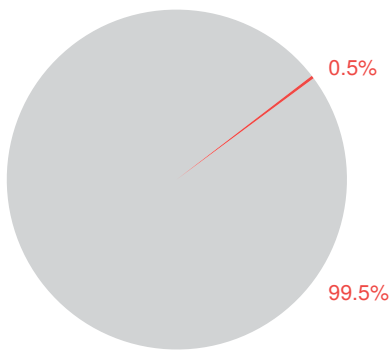
■ Only 5.7% of all revoked firearm licenses were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence;

■ 97.7% of firearm-related criminal offenses were committed by men and only 2.3% by women;

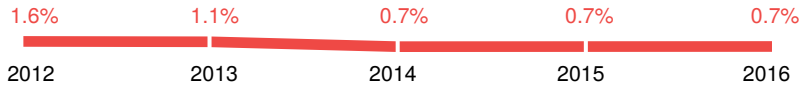
■ All firearm-related homicides were committed by men;

■ Women are two times more likely than men to be killed in their homes, apartments or yards;

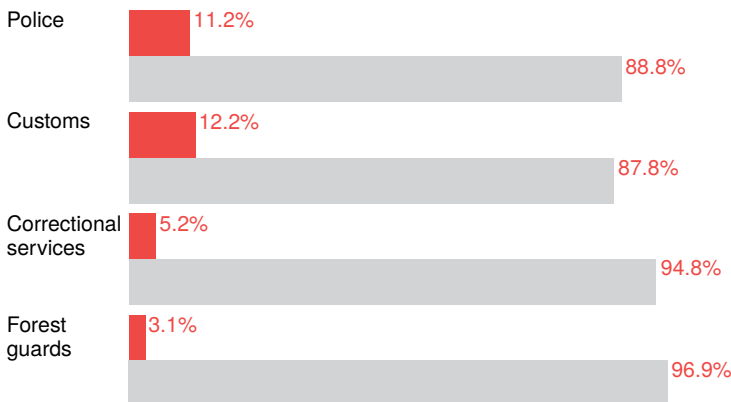
■ Men are two times more likely than women to be killed in the street and are more at risk in public spaces.



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

99.5% of all firearms are owned by men, while women own only 0.5% of firearms.

In 2016, 172,790 men and 914 women held firearm licenses.

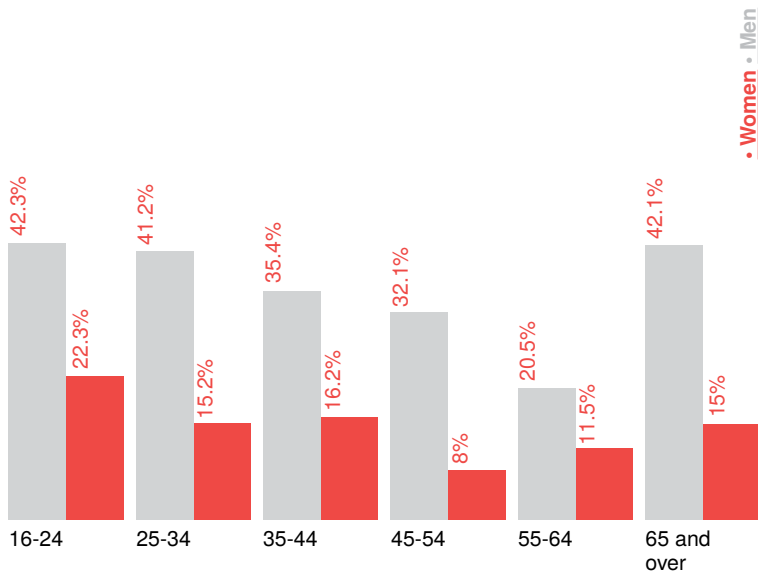
Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 99.1% of all licenses, compared to 0.9% acquired by women. In 2016 alone, 33,781 men and 254 women applied for new licenses.

Men aged 36 to 60 account for 51.8% of all applicants, closely followed by men aged 18 to 35 at 43.8%. Among women, those 36 to 60 years old were the most likely to apply for licenses, accounting for 60.8% of all female applicants.

SECURITY SECTOR

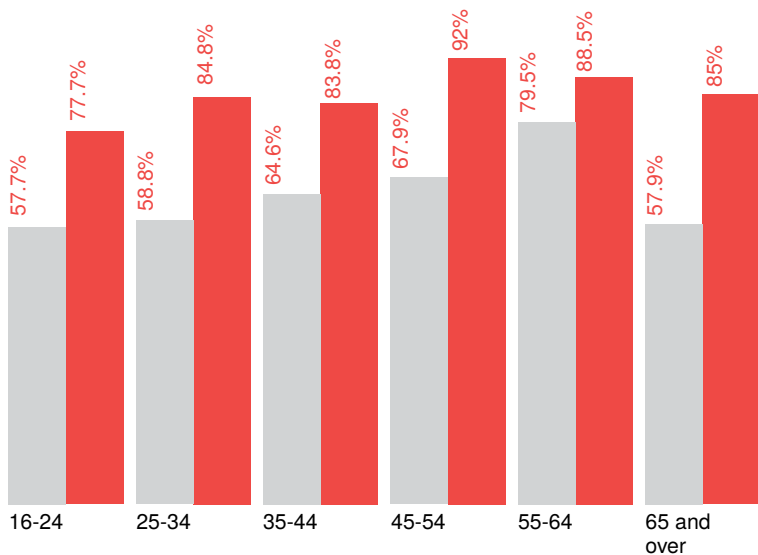
Men account for an overwhelming majority of the personnel authorized to carry firearms across the security sector

In 2016, 8,461 male and 945 female members of police forces were authorized to carry firearms.



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)

↑

All the personnel hired by private security companies and authorized to carry firearms are men (184).

ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

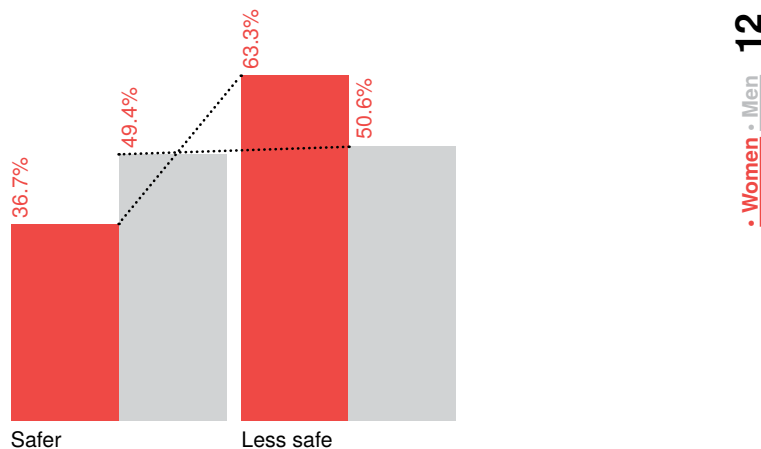
35.5% of men and 15% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun

Men aged 16 to 24 and those older than 65 are the most likely to say they would own a gun.

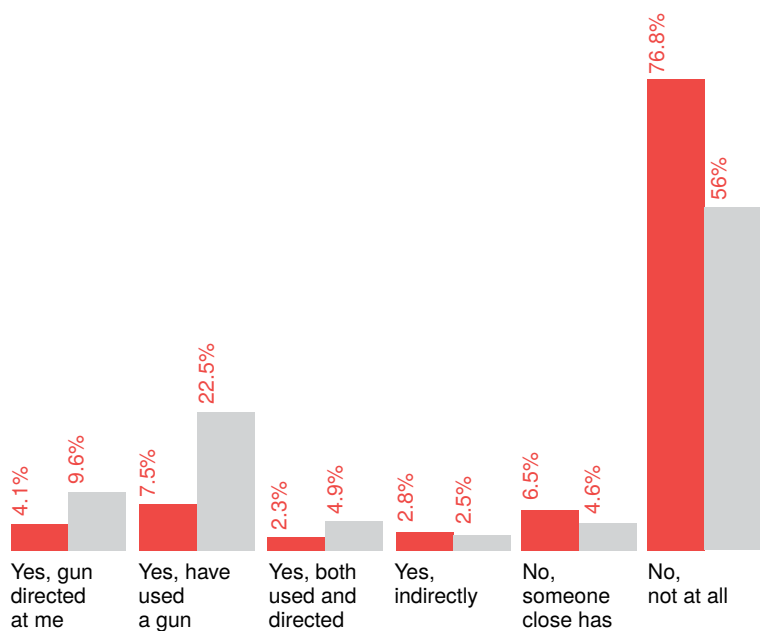
However, the majority of both women and men, **85% and 64.5% respectively, would not own a gun**

Women aged 45 to 64 are the least likely to say they would own a gun.

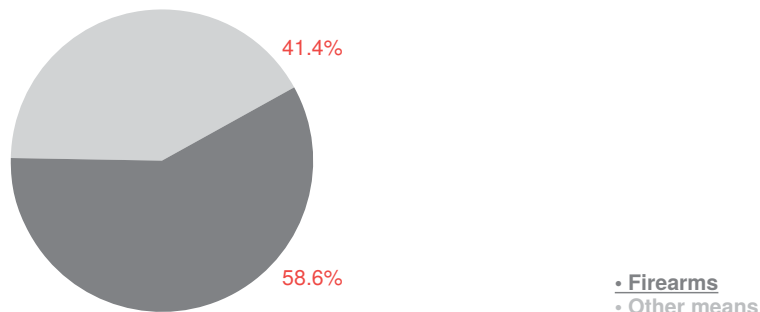
Although **15% of women** said they would own a gun, they account for only **0.9% of applicants for new licenses**



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

63.3% of women and 50.6% 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 (60%), while women aged 45 to 54 are most likely to feel less safe with gun at home (74.3%).

2 / EXPERIENCE

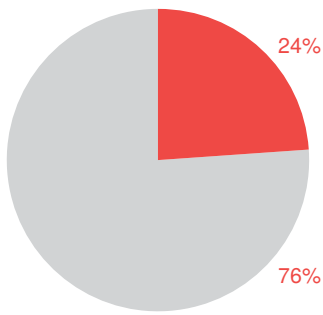
37% of men and 13.9% of women have had some form of direct personal experience with a gun – either used a gun, had a gun directed at them, or both

While differences between men and women occur across gun experiences, they are particularly significant in terms of firearm usage - 22.5% of men used a gun compared to 7.5% women.

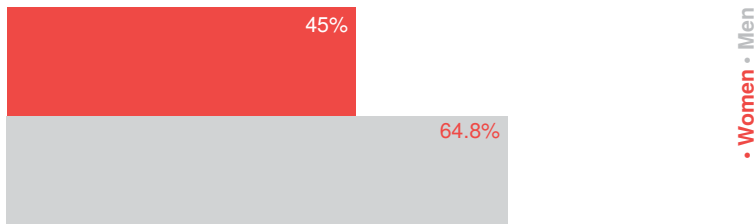
3 / VICTIMS

58.6% of all homicides were committed with firearms

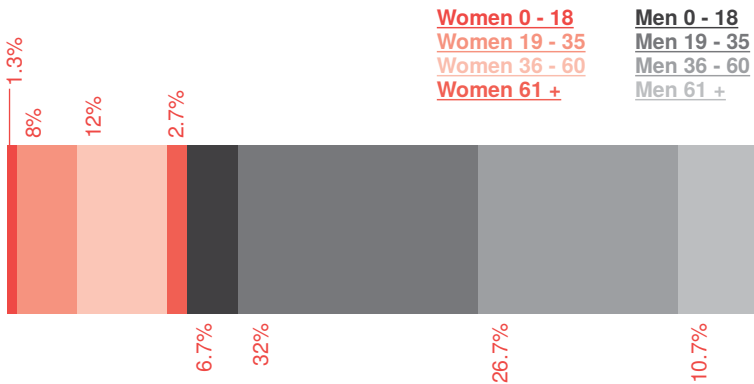
Firearms are the most prevalent weapon of choice when homicide is committed. 75 out of 128 people killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed with a firearm.



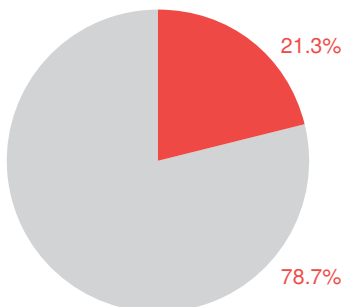
Firearm-related homicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016



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



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



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

14
• Women • Men

• Women • Men

↗

↖

↗

↗

Men account for three quarters of the victims of firearm-related homicides, while women make up slightly less than one quarter

57 men and 18 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.

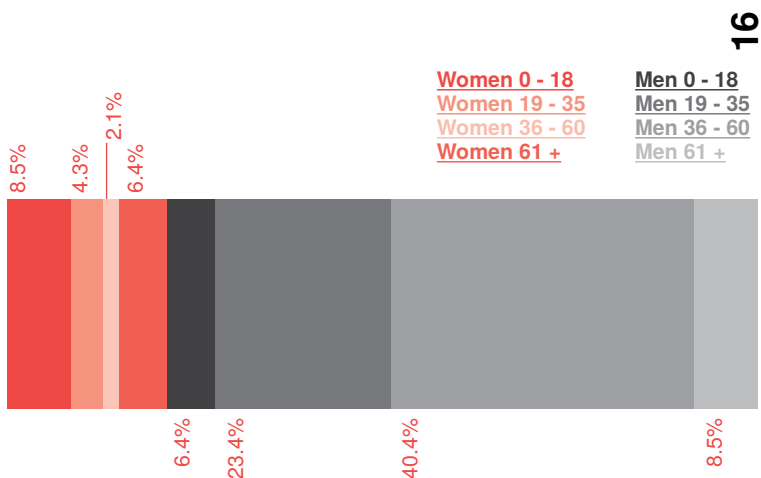
45% of women (18 out of 40) and 64.8% of men (57 out of 88) killed in North Macedonia were killed with firearms

Men aged 19 to 35 account for slightly less than one third of all homicide victims. Among killed women, the majority is 36 to 60 years old.

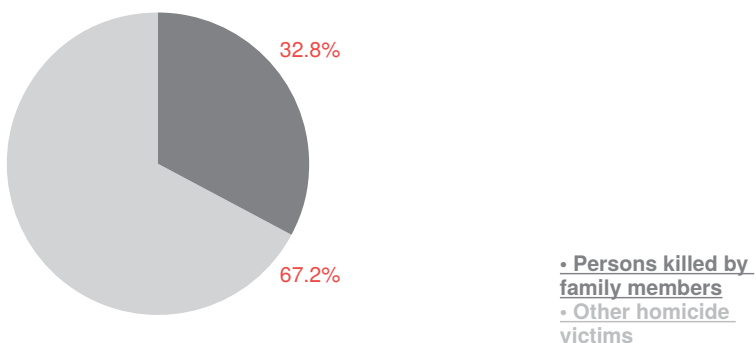
INJURIES

Men account for 78.7% and women for 21.3% of people who were injured by firearms

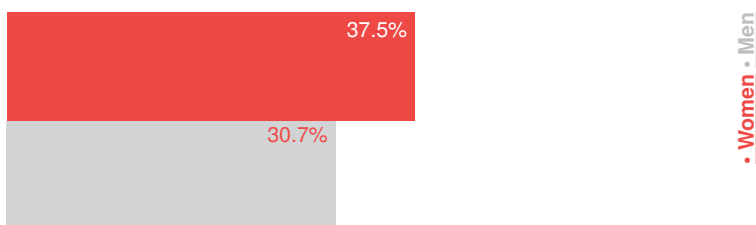
37 men and 10 women were reported to suffer injuries inflicted by firearms from 2012 to 2016.



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



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



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

Men aged 36 to 60 make up 40.4% of all those injured by firearms, followed by those 35 to 60 and women aged 0 to 18 and 61 and older.

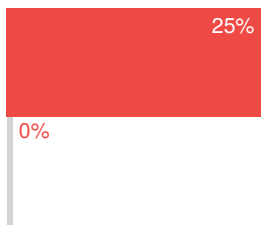
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Every third person murdered in North Macedonia was killed by a family member

Out of 128 people killed in North Macedonia from 2012 to 2016, 42 were killed by a family member, whether by firearm or by other means. 64.3% of them were men and 35.7% women, 27 and 15 in absolute numbers respectively.

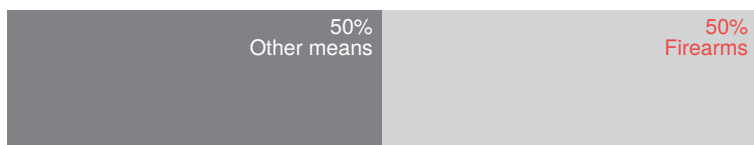
Domestic violence affects both women and men, but patterns of victimization are different

Proportionately, women are more likely to be killed by a family member than men.

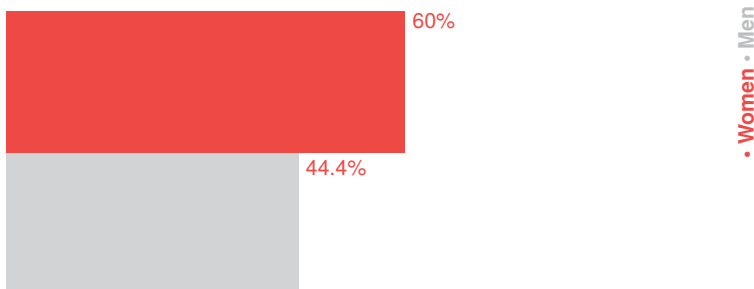


Intimate partner homicide in total homicide, by sex, 2012-2016

18
• Women • Men



Family-related homicide, by means, 2012-2016



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

• Women • Men

Out of a total of 40 women killed from 2012 to 2016, 15 were killed by a family member. The same holds true for 27 men out of the 88 men killed.

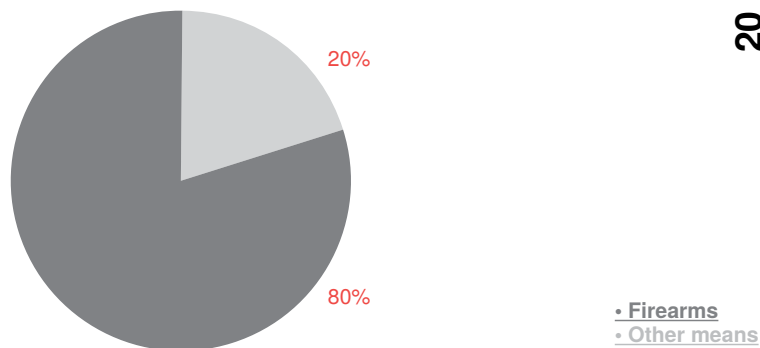
Every fourth woman killed was killed by her intimate partner

Women are at particular risk of intimate partner homicide. 10 out of 40 women killed between 2012 and 2016 were killed by their intimate partner. In the same period, there were no cases of men being killed by their intimate partners.

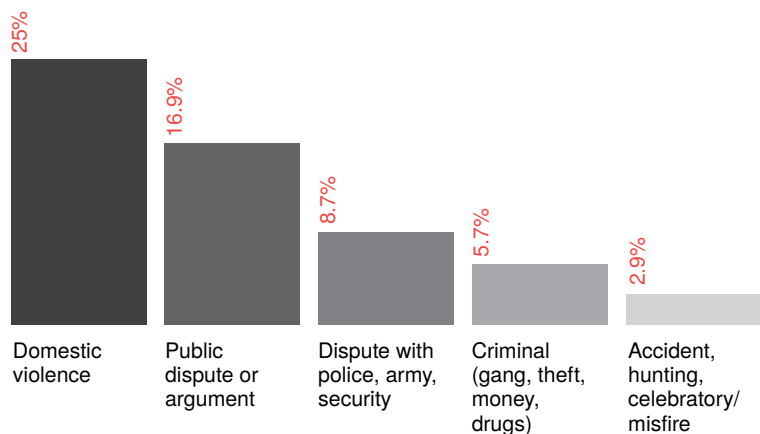
Every second person killed by a family member was killed with firearms

Firearms are the most frequently used weapon when family-related homicide is committed. 21 out of 42 people killed by family members were killed with a firearm between 2012 and 2016. This included 12 men and 9 women.

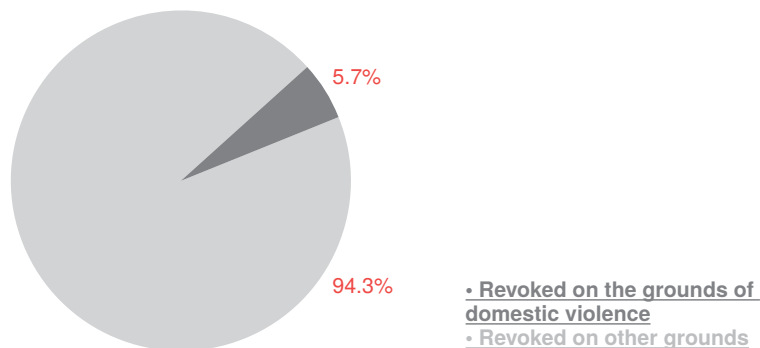
Even though in absolute numbers men account for the majority of victims, women are proportionately more likely to be killed with firearms by a family member than are men.



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



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



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

20

80% of women killed by their intimate partner were killed with firearms

Firearms are more frequently used by intimate partners to commit murder than by family members in general. 8 out of 10 women killed by their intimate partners were killed with a firearm.

Every fourth incident of domestic violence that involved firearms had a lethal outcome

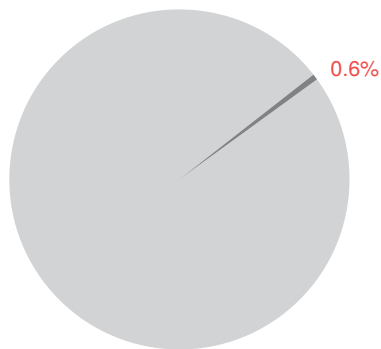
The misuse of firearms in the context of domestic violence is highly lethal. The likelihood of a fatal outcome is the highest in domestic violence incidents involving firearms and is 4.5 times more likely than in criminal incidents involving firearms.

5.7% of all revoked firearm licenses were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence.

Out of 4,914 individuals whose licenses were revoked during 2012 to 2016, 278 were revoked on the grounds of domestic violence. All the revoked licenses were held by men.

21

22



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

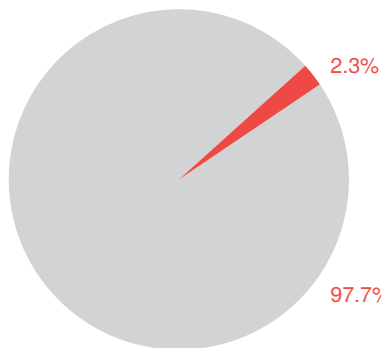
Reported misuse of firearms in cases of the criminal offense of domestic violence, 2012-2016



The misuse of firearms was reported in only 0.6% of registered criminal offenses of domestic violence

Out of 4,048 cases of domestic violence that were registered in the period 2012-2016, the misuse of firearms was reported in merely 23 cases. Similarly, the misuse of firearms was reported in only 4 of the 640 cases of criminal offense against sexual freedom.

4 / PERPETRATORS



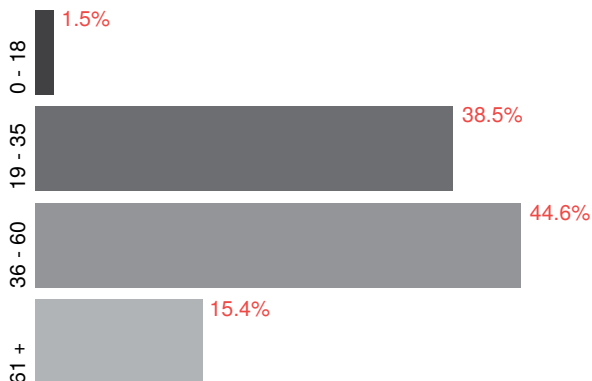
• Women • Men

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



97.7% of firearm-related criminal offenses were committed by men, and only 2.3% by women.

Firearms are predominantly misused by men. Out of 1,711 firearm-related criminal offenses registered from 2012 to 2016, 1,672 were committed by men and 39 by women.

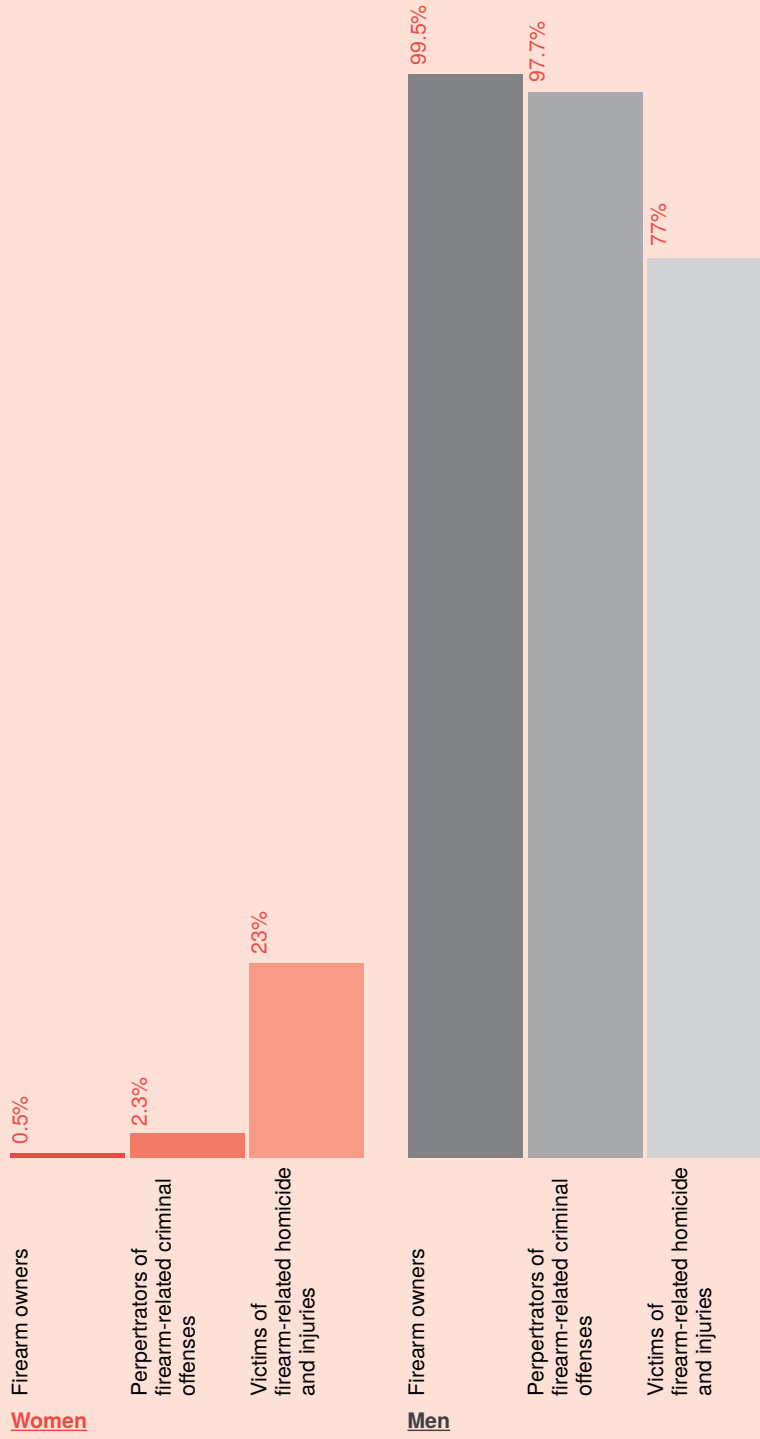


Male perpetrators of firearm-related homicide by age, 2012-2016

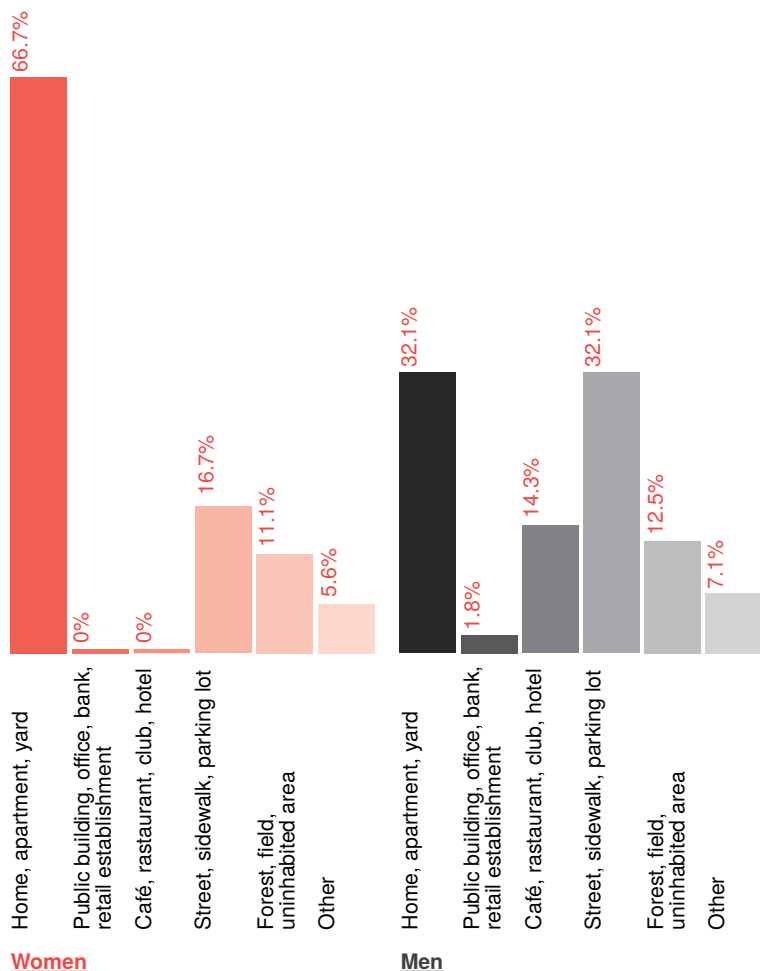


All firearm-related homicides were committed by men

The majority of the male perpetrators of firearm-related homicides are aged 36 to 60, followed by those 19 to 35. These two age groups together account for an overwhelming majority of perpetrators of firearm homicides.



Men make up 99.5% of firearm owners and commit 97.7% of firearm-inflicted criminal offenses. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides and injuries (77%) but are proportionately more frequently the perpetrators than the victims of firearms misuse. Women, on the other hand, own only 0.5% of firearms, make up 2.3% of the perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses but are disproportionately represented among the victims at 23%.



Women

Men

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



66.7% of women and 32.1% of men killed with firearms were killed in their private spaces

Both women and men are frequently killed in domestic settings. However, women are two times more likely than men to be killed in their homes, apartments or yards. Two thirds of women killed with firearms in North Macedonia were killed in such locations.

Men, on the other hand, are two times more likely than women to be murdered in the street and are more at risk in public spaces such as streets, sidewalks and parking lots.

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