

GENDER AND SMALL ARMS IN SERBIA

:

**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 Serbia: 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 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.

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 Serbia 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 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 SEE. In Serbia, 2,452 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, 1,462 reports of incidents that occurred from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2018 were analyzed.

MAIN FINDINGS

- Men own 94.7% of all firearms, while 5.3% of firearms are owned by women;

- 37.6% of men and 19% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun;

- 60.2% of women and 45.2% of men feel that a gun at home makes them less safe;

- 42.2% of men and 14.7% 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;

- Men account for 78.8% and women for 21.2% of all firearm-related homicide victims;

- Women account for 64.2% of all people killed by a family member, compared to 35.8% of men;

- Women accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons killed by their intimate partner – 88.1%, compared to 11.9% of men;

- 31.2% of people who were killed by a family member were killed with firearms;

- Women account for 63.2% people killed by family members using firearms, compared to 36.8% of men;

- Women account for 91.1% of people killed by an intimate partner with firearms, compared to 8.9% of men;

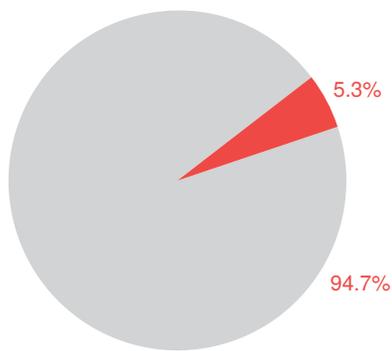
- 39.4% of women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms;

- 51.9% of incidents of domestic violence that involved firearms resulted in a lethal outcome;

- Men committed 96.6% of all firearm-related criminal offenses, while only 3.4% were committed by women;

- 61.1% of women and 32.8% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards;

- 44.8% of men and 16.7% of women killed with firearms were killed in the streets, sidewalks or parking lots.



Firearm license holders, by sex, 2016



Applicants for new licenses, by sex and year



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

8
• Women • Men

1 / OWNERSHIP, ACCESS AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

CIVILIAN POSSESSION

Men own 94.7% of all firearms, while 5.3% of firearms are owned by women

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

In 2016, 489,499 men and 27,554 women held firearm licenses.

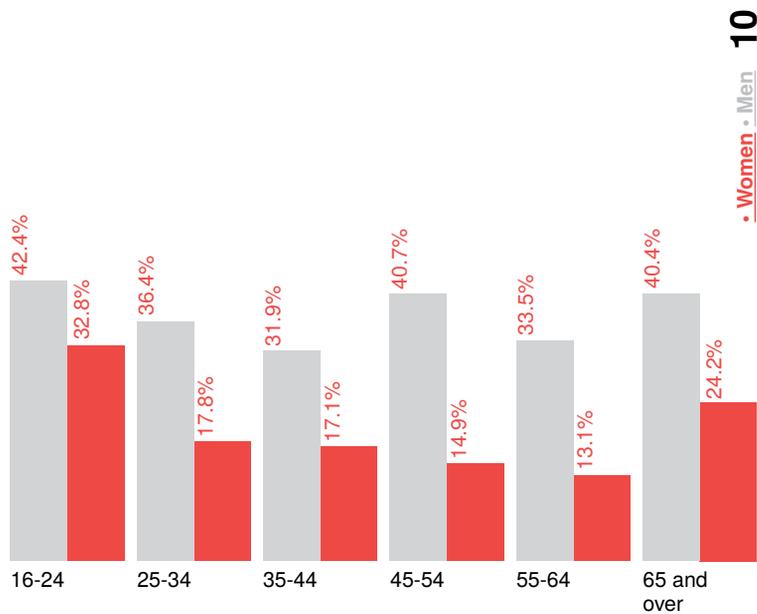
Between 2012 and 2016, men acquired 91.3% of all licenses, compared to 8.7% acquired by women. In 2016 alone, 12,452 men and 673 women applied for new licenses.

Men aged 36 to 60 account for 49.3% of all applicants, followed by men aged 18 to 35 at 28.7%. Among women, those 36 to 60 make up 48.2% of all female applicants, closely followed by those 61 and older at 40.9%.

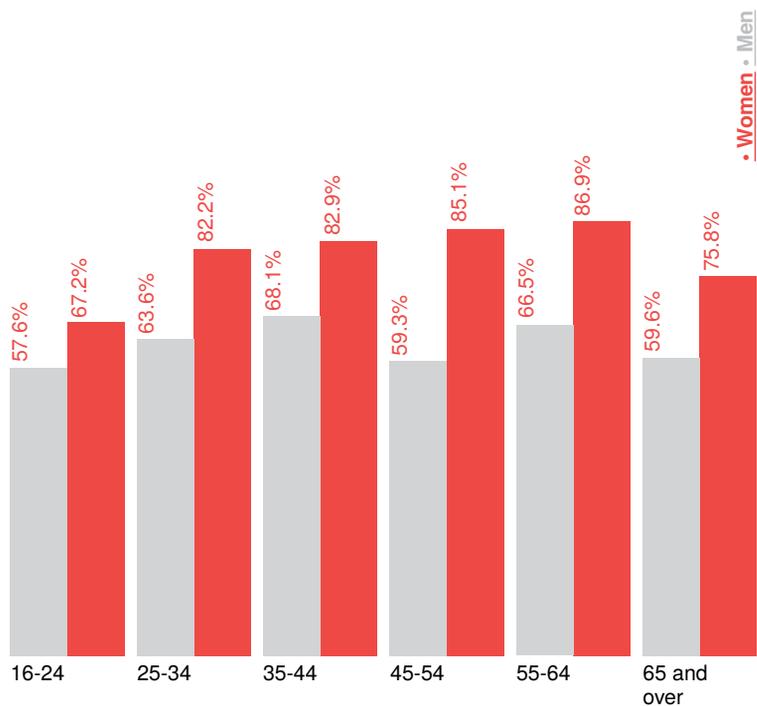
Private security companies

Men make up 98.3% of the personnel at private security companies authorized to carry firearms, compared to only 1.7% of women

In 2016, 6,290 men and 121 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) ↑



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

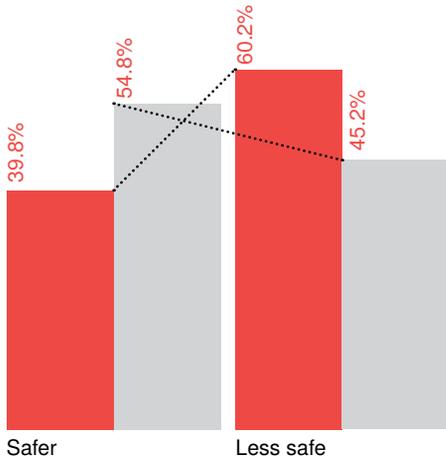
ATTITUDES AND DEMAND FOR FIREARMS

37.6% of men and 19% of women surveyed in 2017 would own a gun

The difference among women and men is the smallest among those 16 to 24, where 42.4% of male and 32.6% of female respondents would own a gun. Men belonging to this age group are the most likely to say they would own a gun, closely followed by men aged 45 to 54 and 65 and older.

However, the majority of both women and men, 81% and 62.4%, respectively, would not own a gun.

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



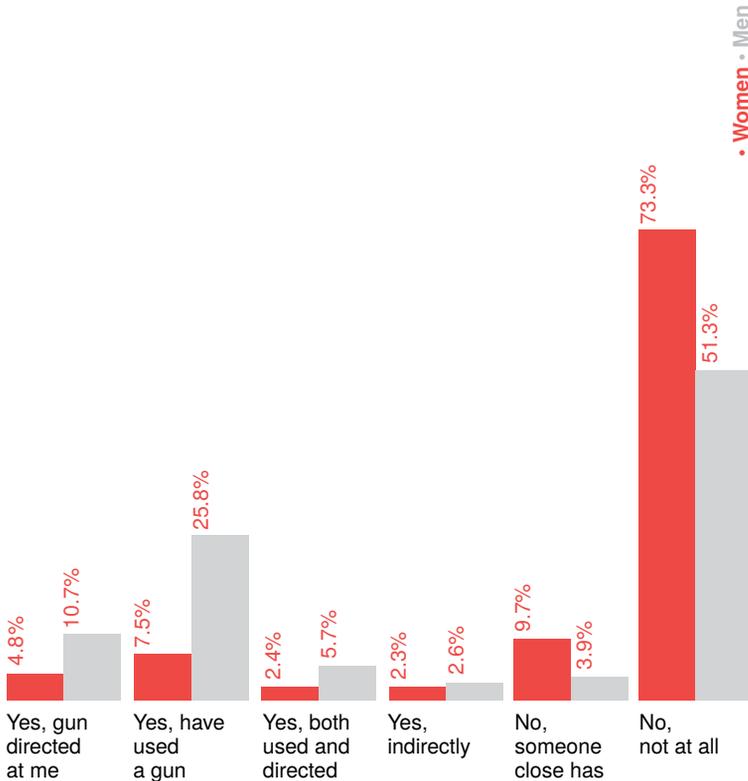
Would having a gun at home make you feel safer or less safe?, by sex, 2017 (Source: Perception survey)

12
• Women • Men

60.2% of women and 45.2% 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 (64.9%), while women aged 35 to 44 are most likely to feel less safe with a gun at home (65.7%).



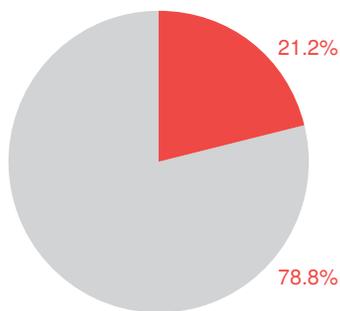
Have you ever experienced the use of a gun?, by sex, 2017 (Source: Perception survey)

• Women • Men

2 / EXPERIENCE

42.2% of men and 14.7% 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, with 25.8% of men and 7.5% of women having had used a gun. 10.7% of men and 4.8% of women have had a gun directed at them.



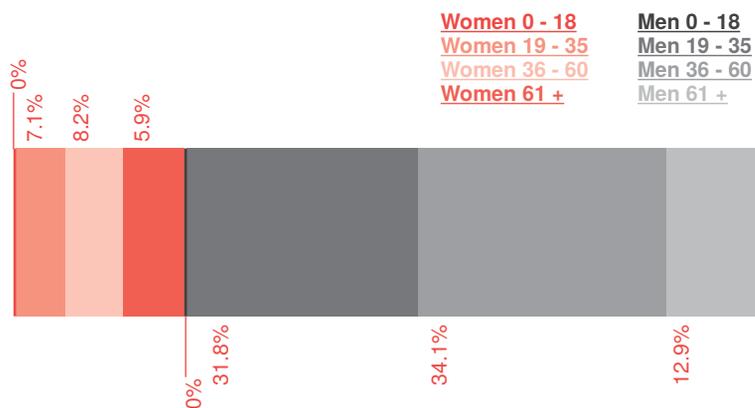
Firearm-related homicide victims, by sex, 2012-2016

14
• Women • Men

3 / VICTIMS

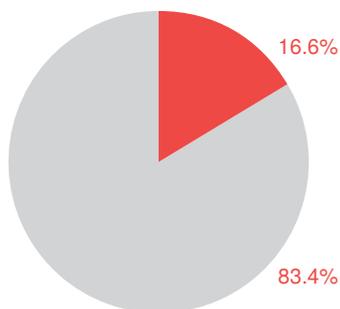
Men account for 78.8% and women for 21.2% of all firearm-related homicide victims

67 men and 18 women were killed with firearms from 2012 to 2016¹.



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

Men aged 36 to 60 account for 34.1% of all victims of firearm-related homicides, followed by men aged 19 to 35 at 31.8%. Among the age groups of women killed with firearms, the majority are 36 to 60 and 19 to 35.



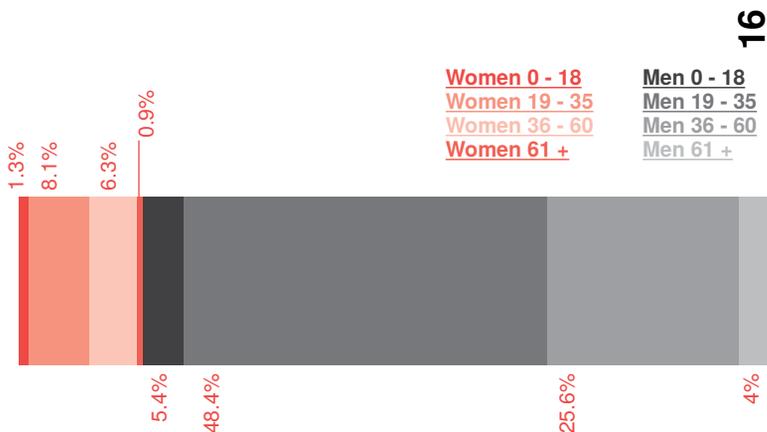
Victims of firearm-related injuries, by sex, 2012-2016

14
• Women • Men

Men account for 83.4% and women for 16.6% of people who were injured by firearms

186 men and 37 women were reported to be injured with firearms from 2012 to 2016.

¹ According to information received from the Ministry of Interior (MoI), the data on homicide and firearm-related homicide were collected through the MoI Unified Information System, while the data on domestic violence were retrieved from the MoI manual record keeping system. Since different methodologies for obtaining this data were employed, data on homicides and data on family-related homicides are not comparable.

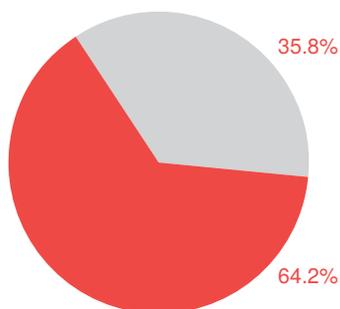


Victims of firearm-related injuries, by sex and age, 2012-2016

16

Men aged 19 to 35 are the most likely to fall victim to firearm-related injury at 48.4% of all injured, followed by men aged 36 to 60 at 25.6%. Among women, those 19 to 35 run the greatest risk of firearm-related injury.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

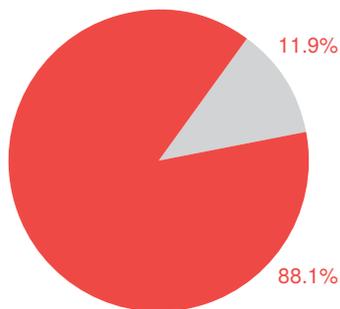


Family-related homicide victims, 2012-2016

• Women • Men

Women account for **64.2%** of all people killed by a family member, compared to **35.8%** of men

Domestic violence disproportionately affects women. 179 women and 100 men were killed by a family member from 2012 to 2016, whether with a firearm or by other means.



Victims of intimate partner homicide, by sex, 2012-2016

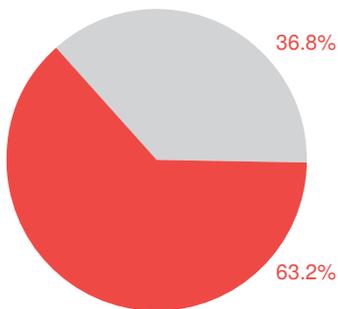
• Women • Men

Women accounted for the overwhelming majority of persons killed by their intimate partner – **88.1%**, compared to **11.9%** of men

104 women and 14 men were killed by an intimate partner from 2012 to 2016.



Family-related homicide, by means 2012-2016



Victims of family-related homicide committed with firearms, by sex, 2012-2016

• Women • Men

31.2% of people who were killed by a family member were killed with firearms

87 out of 279 people killed by family members from 2012 to 2016 were killed with firearms.

Women account for 63.2% of people killed by a family member using firearms, compared to 36.8% of men

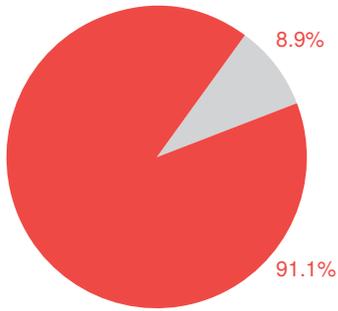
55 women and 32 men were killed with a firearm by a family member from 2012 to 2016.



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

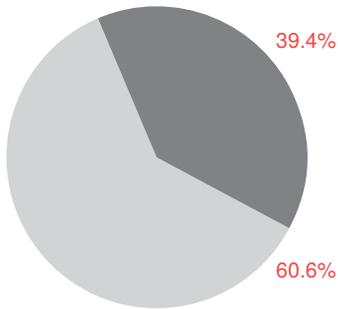
• Women • Men

Proportionately, firearm-related homicides within the domestic context are equally frequent for both women and men, with 30.7% of women and 32% of men killed by a family member using firearms.



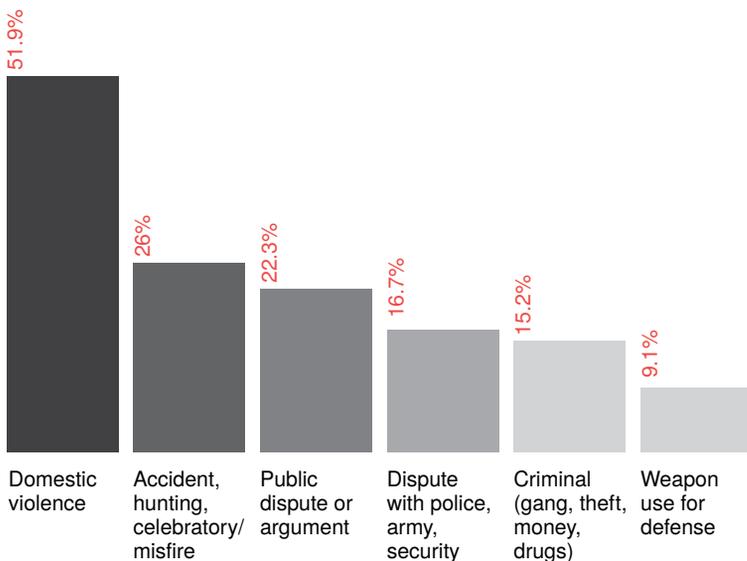
Victims of intimate partner homicide committed with firearms, by sex, 2012-2016

20
• Women • Men



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

• Firearms
• Other means



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

↑

Women account for **91.1%** of people killed by an intimate partner using firearms, compared to **8.9%** of men

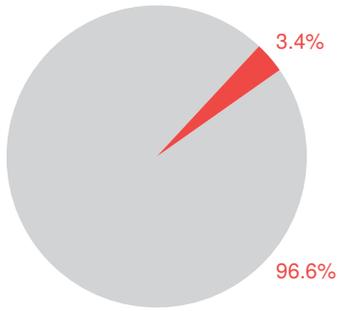
41 women and 4 men were killed by intimate partners with firearms from 2012 to 2016.

39.4% of women killed by an intimate partner were killed with firearms

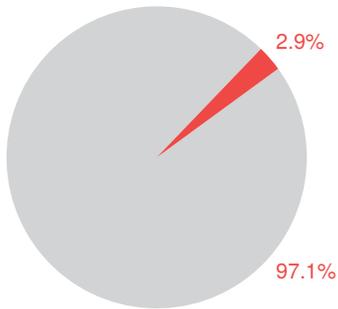
41 out of 104 women killed by intimate partners were killed with firearms.

51.9% of incidents of domestic violence that involved firearms resulted in a lethal outcome

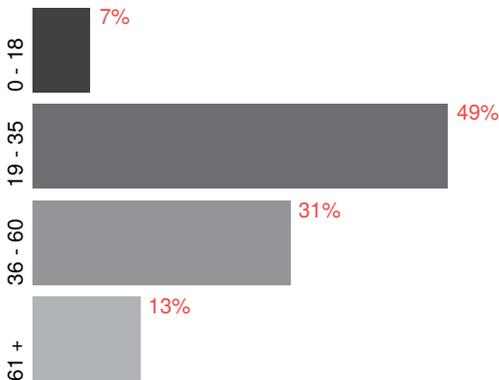
The likelihood of a fatal outcome was the highest in incidents of domestic violence and was two times higher than the second most lethal and more than three times higher than in a criminal context.



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



Perpetrators of firearm-related homicides, by sex, 2012-2016



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



4 / PERPETRATORS

Men committed **96.6%** of all firearm-related criminal offenses, while only **3.4%** were committed by women

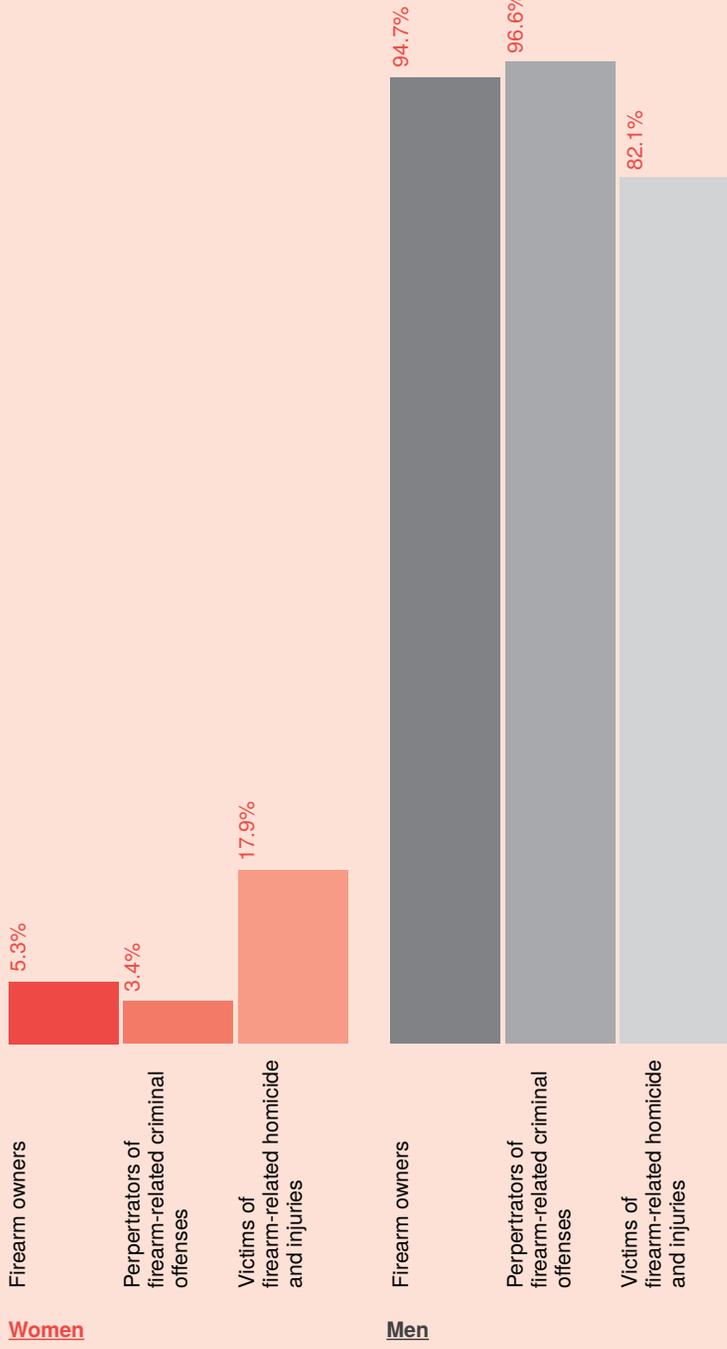
Firearms are predominantly misused by men. Out of 8,364 registered firearm-related criminal offenses committed within the 2012-2016 period, 8,078 were committed by men and only 286 by women.

97.1% of all firearm-related homicides were committed by men and only **2.9%** by women

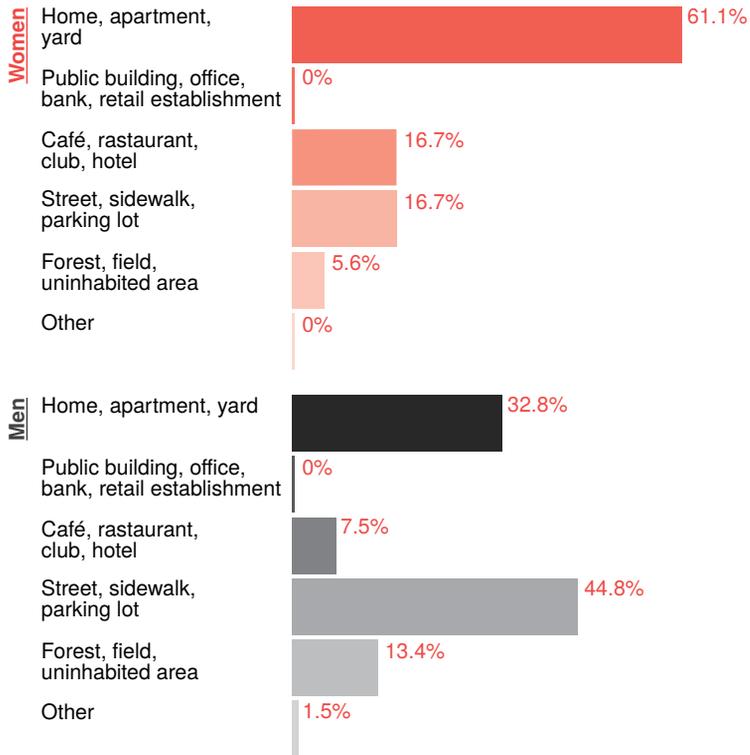
Men also dominate among the perpetrators of homicides committed with firearms. From 2012-2016, 100 men committed homicide using firearms, compared to 3 women.

Every second firearm-related homicide is committed by men aged 19 to 35

49% of male perpetrator of homicides are aged 19-35, followed by men in the 36 to 60 age group at 31%. Out of the three women who committed homicides, two were aged 36 to 60 and one was in the 19 to 35 age group.



Men make up 94.7% of firearm owners and commit 96.6% of firearm-related criminal offenses. They also account for the majority of victims of firearm-related homicides and injuries (82.1%) but are proportionately more frequently the perpetrators than the victims of firearm misuse. Women, on the other hand, own 5.3% of firearms, make up 3.4% of perpetrators of firearm-related criminal offenses and account for 17.9% of victims



Location of firearm-related homicide, by sex, 2012-2015
(Source: AVMP)



5 / CONTEXT OF THE FIREARM-RELATED INCIDENTS

61.1% of women and 32.8% of men killed with firearms were killed in their homes, apartments or yards

44.8% of men and 16.7% of women killed with firearms were killed in the streets, sidewalks or parking lots

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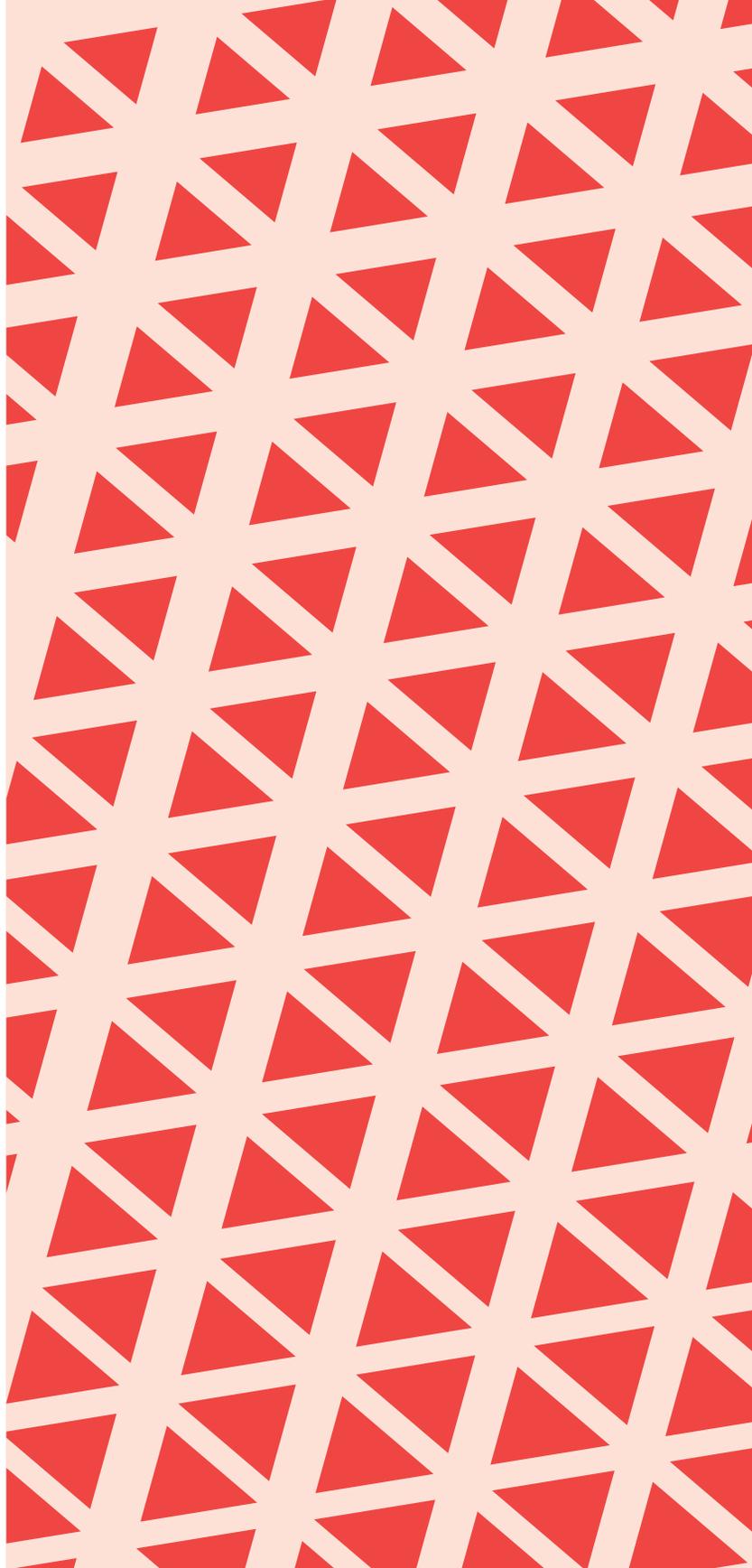
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