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When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2007 Homicide Data

Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents

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The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national non-profit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in America and provides information and analysis to policymakers, journalists, advocates, and the general public. This report was authored by VPC Policy Analyst Marty Langley. The study was funded in part with the support of the David Bohnett Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, and the Public Welfare Foundation. Past studies released by the VPC include:

- *Law Enforcement and Private Citizens Killed by Concealed Handgun Permit Holders—An Analysis of News Reports, May 2007 to April 2009* (July 2009)
- *Indicted: Types of Firearms and Methods of Gun Trafficking from the United States to Mexico as Revealed in U.S. Court Documents* (April 2009)
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- *The U.S. Gun Industry and Others Unknown—Evidence Debunking the Gun Industry's Claim that Osama bin Laden Got His 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles from the U.S. Afghan-Aid Program* (February 2002)
- *"A .22 for Christmas"—How the Gun Industry Designs and Markets Firearms for Children and Youth* (December 2001)
- *Unintended Consequences: Pro-Handgun Experts Prove That Handguns Are a Dangerous Choice For Self-Defense* (November 2001)
- *Voting from the Rooftops: How the Gun Industry Armed Osama bin Laden, Other Foreign and Domestic Terrorists, and Common Criminals with 50 Caliber Sniper Rifles* (October 2001)
- *Hispanics and Firearms Violence* (May 2001)
- *Where'd They Get Their Guns?—An Analysis of the Firearms Used in High-Profile Shootings, 1963 to 2001* (April 2001)
- *A Deadly Myth: Women, Handguns, and Self-Defense* (January 2001)
- *Handgun Licensing and Registration: What it Can and Cannot Do* (September 2000
- *Pocket Rockets: The Gun Industry's Sale of Increased Killing Power* (July 2000)
- *Guns For Felons: How the NRA Works to Rearm Criminals* (March 2000)
- *One Shot, One Kill: Civilian Sales of Military Sniper Rifles* (May 1999
- *Cease Fire: A Comprehensive Strategy to Reduce Firearms Violence* (Revised, October 1997)

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Introduction

Intimate partner violence against women is all too common and takes many forms. The most serious is homicide by an intimate partner.[1] Guns can easily turn domestic violence into domestic homicide. One federal study on homicide among intimate partners found that female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined, concluding that "the figures demonstrate the importance of reducing access to firearms in households affected by IPV [intimate partner violence]."[2]

Gun use does not need to result in a fatality to involve domestic violence. A study by Harvard School of Public Health researchers analyzed gun use at home and concluded that "hostile gun displays against family members may be more common than gun use in self-defense, and that hostile gun displays are often acts of domestic violence directed against women."[3]

The U.S. Department of Justice has found that women are far more likely to be the victims of violent crimes committed by intimate partners than men, especially when a weapon is involved. Moreover, women are much more likely to be victimized at home than in any other place.[4]

A woman must consider the risks of having a gun in her home, whether she is in a domestic violence situation or not. While two thirds of women who own guns acquired them "primarily for protection against crime," the results of a California analysis show that "purchasing a handgun provides no protection against homicide among women and is associated with an increase in their risk for intimate partner homicide."[5] A 2003 study about the risks of firearms in the home found that females living with a gun in the home were nearly three times more likely to be murdered than

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[1] An intimate partner or intimate acquaintance is defined as a spouse, common-law spouse, ex-spouse, or girlfriend/boyfriend.

[2] Leonard J. Paulozzi et al, "Surveillance for Homicide Among Intimate Partners—United States, 1981-1998," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Surveillance Summaries* 50 (October 12, 2001): 1-16.

[3] Deborah Azrael and David Hemenway, "'In the Safety of Your Own Home': Results from a National Survey on Gun Use at Home," *Social Science & Medicine* 50 (2000): 285-291.

[4] Diane Craven, "Sex Differences in Violence Victimization, 1994," *Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report* (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1997).

[5] Garen Wintemute et al., "Increased Risk of Intimate Partner Homicide Among California Women Who Purchased Handguns," *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 41, no. 2 (2003): 282.

females with no gun in the home.[6] Finally, another study reports, women who were murdered were more likely, not less likely, to have purchased a handgun in the three years prior to their deaths, again invalidating the idea that a handgun has a protective effect against homicide.[7]

While this study does not focus solely on domestic violence homicide or guns, it provides a stark reminder that domestic violence and guns make a deadly combination. Firearms are rarely used to kill criminals or stop crimes.[8] Instead, they are all too often used to inflict harm on the very people they were intended to protect.

When Men Murder Women is an annual report prepared by the Violence Policy Center detailing the reality of homicides committed against women. The study analyzes the most recent Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).[9] The information used for this report is for the year 2007. Once again, this is the most recent data available. This is the first analysis of the 2007 data on female homicide victims to offer breakdowns of cases in the 10 states with the highest female victim/male offender homicide rates, and the first to rank the states by the rate of female homicides.

This study examines only those instances involving one female homicide victim and one male offender. This is the exact scenario—the lone male attacker and the vulnerable woman—that is often used to promote gun ownership among women.

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[6] Douglas Wiebe, "Homicide and Suicide Risks Associated with Firearms in the Home: A National Case-Control Study," *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 41, no. 6 (2003): 775.

[7] K.M. Grassel et al., "Association between Handgun Purchase and Mortality from Firearm Injury," *Injury Prevention* 9 (2003): 50.

[8] According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports, in 2008 there were only 204 justifiable homicides (the justified killing of a felon during the commission of a felony) committed by private citizens using firearms. Of these, only 161 involved handguns. While firearms are at times used by private citizens to kill criminals or to stop crimes, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that the most common scenarios of gun use in America in 2006, the most recent final data available, are suicide (16,883), homicide (13,151), or fatal unintentional injury (642).

[9] The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program collects basic information on serious crimes from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). Submitted monthly, supplementary data consists of: the age, sex, race, and ethnicity of both victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationship of victims to offenders; and, the circumstances of the murders. According to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program, supplementary data are provided on only a subset of homicide cases. Additionally, SHR data are updated throughout the year as homicide reports are forwarded by state UCR programs.

In 2007, there were 1,865 females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents that were submitted to the FBI for its Supplementary Homicide Report.[10] These key findings from the report, expanded upon in the following sections, dispel many of the myths regarding the nature of lethal violence against women.

- For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 91 percent of female victims (1,587 out of 1,743) were murdered by someone they knew.

- More than 10 times as many females were murdered by a male they knew (1,587 victims) than were killed by male strangers (156 victims).

- For victims who knew their offenders, 62 percent (990) of female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.[11]

- There were 315 women shot and killed by either their husband or intimate acquaintance during the course of an argument.

- Nationwide, more female homicides were committed with firearms (51 percent) than with any other weapon. Knives and other cutting instruments accounted for 21 percent of all female murders, bodily force 14 percent, and murder by blunt object seven percent. Of the homicides committed with firearms, 76 percent were committed with handguns.

- In 88 percent of all incidents where the circumstances could be determined, homicides were *not* related to the commission of any other felony, such as rape or robbery.

The study also analyzes available information on the murders of black females. Not surprisingly, these homicides mirror the trends for women overall: most homicides against black women are not committed by strangers, but by men known to the victims.

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[10] In 2007, as in years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report. Data from Florida was not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results.

[11] A female intimate acquaintance is defined as a wife, common-law wife, ex-wife, or girlfriend.

Section One:
National Data

When Men Murder Women offers both national and state-by-state statistics from FBI Supplementary Homicide Report data including charts listing the number and rate of female homicides by state and a chart ranking each state by rate. For the top 10 states, data are broken out by: age and race of victim; type of weapon used; relationship of victim to offender; and, the circumstances of the murder. General findings are summarized below. More detailed data on each of the 10 states can be found in Appendix Two.

State Rankings

In 2007, the homicide rate among female victims murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents nationally was 1.30 per 100,000. For that year, Louisiana ranked first as the state with the highest homicide rate among female victims killed by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents. Its rate of 2.53 per 100,000 was nearly double the national average. Louisiana was followed by Alaska (2.44 per 100,000) and Wyoming (2.33 per 100,000). The remaining states that comprise the top 10 can be found in Chart One on page six. For a ranking of all states that submitted data to the FBI, please see Appendix One on page 15.

Age and Race of Female Homicide Victims

In single female victim/single male offender homicides reported for 2007, nine percent of the victims were younger than 18 years old (154 victims) and eight percent were 65 years of age or older (146 victims). The average age of female homicide victims was 38 years old. Homicides in which race was identified (1,836 victims) included: 16 American Indian or Alaskan Native females; 44 Asian or Pacific Islander females; 579 black females; and 1,197 white females. Eighty-seven percent (1,598 out of 1,836) of the homicides where the race of the female victim and male offender were known were intra-racial.[12] Overall, black women were murdered by men at a rate (2.87 per 100,000) nearly three times higher than white women (0.99 per 100,000). American Indian and Alaskan Native women (1.06 per 100,000) were more likely than

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[12] Intra-racial homicides are homicides where the victim and the offender are of the same race.

white women to be murdered by a male offender, while Asian and Pacific Islander women were the least likely (0.62 per 100,000) women of any race to be murdered by a male offender. Unfortunately, Hispanic ethnicity could not be determined on a national level because of the inadequacy of data collection and reporting. Of the 49 states reporting, only 11 states reported having at least one Hispanic female homicide victim. Yet, even most of these states did not code a sufficient number of their female victims' ethnicity as either Hispanic or non-Hispanic to run a valid analysis.

Chart One: Number of Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Homicides and Rates by State in 2007, Ranked by Rate

Ranking	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Louisiana	57	2.53
2	Alaska	8	2.44
3	Wyoming	6	2.33
4	Arkansas	33	2.29
5	Nevada	28	2.23
6	Alabama	53	2.22
7	New Mexico	22	2.21
8	South Carolina	46	2.04
9	Oklahoma	37	2.03
10	Arizona	61	1.92

Victim to Offender Relationship

The relationship of victim to offender differs significantly between male and female victims of homicide. Compared to a man, a woman is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance, or a family member than by a stranger. For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 91 percent of female victims (1,587 out of 1,743) were murdered by someone they knew. More than 10 times as many females were murdered by a male they knew (1,587 victims) than were killed by male strangers (156 victims) in single victim/single offender incidents in 2007.[13] Of victims who knew their offenders, 62 percent (990 out of 1,587) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. (Ex-girlfriends cannot be included in the intimate acquaintance analysis because there is not a separate designation for ex-boyfriends or ex-girlfriends in the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report relationship category.)

Female Homicide Victims and Weapons

Firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapon used by males to murder females in 2007. For homicides in which the weapon could be identified, 51 percent of female victims (847 out of 1,657) were killed with a gun. (The weapon used was identified in 1,657 out of 1,865 incidents). Of the females killed with a firearm, nearly two-thirds were murdered by male intimates. The number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance (545 victims) was more than three times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined (156 victims) in single victim/single offender incidents in 2007. In homicides where males used firearms to kill females, handguns were clearly the weapon of choice over rifles and shotguns. In 2007, 76 percent of female firearm homicide victims (640 out of 847) were killed with handguns.

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[13] These are homicides in which the relationship between the victim and the offender could be identified. According to the FBI's 2007 Supplementary Homicide Report data on females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents, the relationship of victim to offender could be determined in 1,743 of 1,865 incidents. In 122 homicides the relationship of victim to offender was "unknown," meaning the reporting police officer was unable to determine at the scene if the victim and offender knew each other or were strangers. According to the July 1992 *Journal of Trauma* study "Men, Women, and Murder: Gender-Specific Differences in Rates of Fatal Violence and Victimization," local law enforcement agencies generally submit case reports early in the course of their investigation, sometimes before the identity of the offender is known. Although one might assume that most homicides where the relationship was initially unknown would eventually be determined to have been committed by a stranger, follow-up data from one large metropolitan police jurisdiction (Los Angeles) suggest that a substantial number involve an acquaintance or relative of the victim.

Female Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides among females by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents in 2007 were not related to any other felony crime. Most often, females were killed by males in the course of an argument—usually with a firearm. In 2007 there were 1,523 incidents in which the circumstances of the homicide between the female victim and male offender in single victim/single offender incidents could be identified. Of these, 88 percent (1,335 out of 1,523) were not related to the commission of any other felony.

Of the homicides not related to the commission of another felony, 60 percent (803 out of 1,335) involved arguments between the female victim and male offender. Fifty-one percent (412 out of 803) of the homicides stemming from an argument involved guns. According to the Supplementary Homicide Report data, in 2007 there were 315 women shot and killed by their husbands or intimate acquaintances in single victim/single offender incidents during the course of an argument.

Section Two:
Black Women

The disproportionate burden of fatal and nonfatal violence borne by black women has almost always been overshadowed by the toll violence has taken on black men. In 2007, black women were murdered at a rate nearly three times higher than white women: 2.87 per 100,000 versus 0.99 per 100,000.

Age of Black Female Homicide Victims

In single female victim/single male offender homicides reported for 2007, 10 percent of black female victims were less than 18 years old (55 victims) and five percent were 65 years of age or older (30 victims). The average age of black female homicide victims was 34 years old.

Victim to Offender Relationship

Compared to a black man, a black woman is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance, or a family member than by a stranger. Where the relationship could be determined, 88 percent of black females killed by males in single victim/single offender incidents knew their killers (464 of 527). More than seven times as many black females were murdered by a male they knew (464 victims) than were killed by male strangers (63 victims) in single victim/single offender incidents in 2007. Of black victims who knew their offenders, 58 percent (268 out of 464) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Ninety-one percent (527 out of 579) of the homicides of black women where the race of the male offender was known were intra-racial.

Black Female Homicide Victims and Weapons

As with female homicide victims in general, firearms—especially handguns—were the most common weapons used by males to murder black females in 2007. In the 520 homicides for which the murder weapon could be identified, 54 percent of black female victims (281 victims) were shot and killed with guns. And when these women were killed with a gun, it was most often a handgun (223 victims or 79 percent). The number of black females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance (152 victims) was more than twice as high as the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined (63 victims) in single

victim/single offender incidents in 2007.

Black Female Homicide Victims and Circumstance

The overwhelming majority of homicides of black females by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents in 2007 were not related to any other felony crime. Most often, black females were killed by males in the course of an argument—most commonly with a firearm. In 2007, for the 473 homicides in which the circumstances between the black female victim and male offender could be identified, 85 percent (404 out of 473) were not related to the commission of any other felony.

Nearly two-thirds of non-felony related homicides (251 out of 404) involved arguments between the black female victim and male offender. Fifty-seven percent (142 victims) were shot and killed with guns during those arguments.

Section Three:
Laws that Help Protect Women from Abusers

In the 1990s, two major provisions were added to federal law to prevent domestic abusers from obtaining firearms.

In 1993, the late Senator Paul Wellstone (D-MN) attached an amendment to the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act to prohibit individuals who are the subject of a protective order involving domestic violence from buying or possessing firearms. The Wellstone amendment became law in 1994.[14] Twenty-two states supplement the federal prohibition with a similar state law.

In 1996, Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) sponsored a provision prohibiting individuals with misdemeanor domestic violence convictions from purchasing or possessing firearms (those with felony domestic violence convictions are already precluded from firearms possession under a general provision prohibiting firearms possession by felons).[15] Twenty-six states have comparable state law prohibitions.[16]

These laws are enforced in part by the Brady Law background checks performed on firearm transactions conducted through Federal Firearms License holders (FFLs). In 2005, the most recent year for which data is available, the two domestic violence prohibited categories accounted for approximately 15 percent of rejected firearm transfers.[17]

However, not all states make the records of domestic violence protective orders and misdemeanors available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), the computer system used to conduct the Brady background checks. Moreover, the U.S. Department of Justice identifies several common impediments to thorough checks of domestic violence records: incomplete automation; incomplete records; and, the inability to distinguish domestic violence misdemeanors from other misdemeanors.

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[14] 18 USC § 922 (g)(8).

[15] 18 USC § 922 (g)(9).

[16] Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Survey of State Procedures Related to Firearm Sales, 2005* (November 2006)

[17] Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2005* (November 2006)

For charts detailing which states make available records of protective orders and misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to systems used to conduct the Brady background check for gun purchases, as well as information on the completeness of these records, please see Appendix Three.

Conclusion

Many women—those in abusive relationships, those who have left such relationships, those who fear, in general, for their safety—have considered bringing a gun into their home as a measure of protection. Yet, gun ownership contains clear risks that should deeply concern women. One study that examined the risk factors of violent death for women in the home in three United States counties found that when there were one or more guns in the home, the risk of homicide increased more than three times.[18] The increased risk of homicide associated with firearms was attributable to homicides at the hands of a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative. Furthermore, a gun in the home is a key factor in the escalation of nonfatal spousal abuse to homicide. In a study of family and intimate assaults for the city of Atlanta, firearm-associated family and intimate assaults were 12 times more likely to result in death than non-firearm associated assaults between family and intimates.[19]

A 2002 study from researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health found that although the United States represented only 32 percent of the female population among 25 high-income countries, it accounted for *84 percent of all female firearm homicides*. The study's lead author, Dr. David Hemenway, concluded that "the difference in female homicide victimization rates between the U.S. and these other industrialized nations is very large and is closely tied to levels of gun ownership. The relationship cannot be explained by differences in urbanization or income inequality."[20]

The picture that emerges from *When Men Murder Women* is that women face the greatest threat from someone they know, most often a spouse or intimate acquaintance, who is armed with a gun. For women in America, guns are not used to save lives, but to take them.

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[18] James E. Bailey et al., "Risk Factors for Violent Death of Women in the Home," *Archives of Internal Medicine* 157 (April 14, 1997): 777-782.

[19] Linda E. Salzman et al., "Weapon Involvement and Injury Outcomes in Family and Intimate Assaults," *JAMA* 267, no. 22 (1992): 3043-3047.

[20] David Hemenway et al., "Firearm Availibility and Female Homicide Victimization Rates among 25 Populous High Income Countries," *Journal of the American Medical Women's Association (JAMWA)* 57 (Spring 2002): 100-104 and Harvard School of Public Health press release, April 17, 2002.

Appendix One: Number of Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Homicides and Rates by State, 2007

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
6	Alabama	53	2.22
2	Alaska	8	2.44
10	Arizona	61	1.92
4	Arkansas	33	2.29
27	California	209	1.15
20	Colorado	36	1.50
37 (tie)	Connecticut	16	0.89
35 (tie)	Delaware	4	0.90
NA	Florida	NA	NA
15	Georgia	86	1.78
23	Hawaii	8	1.26
30	Idaho	8	1.08
47	Illinois	27	0.41
13	Indiana	59	1.84
48	Iowa	6	0.40
33	Kansas	13	0.93
24	Kentucky	26	1.20
1	Louisiana	57	2.53
22	Maine	9	1.34
16	Maryland	51	1.76
43	Massachusetts	26	0.78
25	Michigan	60	1.18
34	Minnesota	24	0.92
28	Mississippi	17	1.13
14	Missouri	55	1.83
39 (tie)	Montana	4	0.84

Appendix One: Number of Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Homicides and Rates by State, 2007

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000
45	Nebraska	6	0.67
5	Nevada	28	2.23
46	New Hampshire	4	0.60
35 (tie)	New Jersey	40	0.90
7	New Mexico	22	2.21
39 (tie)	New York	84	0.84
11	North Carolina	87	1.88
32	North Dakota	3	0.94
29	Ohio	65	1.11
9	Oklahoma	37	2.03
41 (tie)	Oregon	15	0.80
26	Pennsylvania	74	1.16
49	Rhode Island	2	0.37
8	South Carolina	46	2.04
17	South Dakota	7	1.75
12	Tennessee	59	1.87
18	Texas	190	1.59
44	Utah	10	0.76
31	Vermont	3	0.95
21	Virginia	56	1.43
41 (tie)	Washington	26	0.80
19	West Virginia	14	1.52
37 (tie)	Wisconsin	25	0.89
3	Wyoming	6	2.33
	U.S. Total	**1,865**	**1.30**

Appendix Two:
Additional Information for the 10 States with the Highest Rates of Female Homicide

Louisiana

57 females were murdered by males in Louisiana in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Louisiana was 2.53 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 1st in the United States

Age

Seven female homicide victims (13 percent) were less than 18 years old and 4 victims (7 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 36 years old.

Race

Out of 57 female homicide victims, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, 31 were black, and 25 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 64 percent of female victims (34 out of 53) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 76 percent (26 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 6 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 females killed by a blunt object, and 6 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 90 percent of female victims (46 out of 51) were murdered by someone they knew. Five female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 67 percent (31 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 61 percent (19 victims) were killed with guns; 74 percent of these (14 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 85 percent (29 out of 34) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 76 percent (22 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Alaska

8 females were murdered by males in Alaska in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Alaska was 2.44 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 2nd in the United States

Age

One female homicide victim (14 percent) was less than 18 years old. The average age was 28 years old.

Race

Out of 8 female homicide victims, 1 was black, 3 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 4 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 13 percent of female victims (1 out of 8) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 100 percent (1 victim) was killed with a handgun. There was 1 female killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, and 5 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 88 percent of female victims (7 out of 8) were murdered by someone they knew. One female victim was killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 29 percent (2 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 86 percent (6 out of 7) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 33 percent (2 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Wyoming

6 females were murdered by males in Wyoming in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Wyoming was 2.33 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 3rd in the United States

Age

The average age was 30 years old.

Race

Out of 6 female homicide victims, all 6 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 33 percent of female victims (2 out of 6) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 50 percent (1 victim) were killed with a handgun. There was 1 female killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, and 3 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 100 percent of female victims (6 out of 6) were murdered by someone they knew. No female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 83 percent (5 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 40 percent (2 victims) were killed with guns; 50 percent of these (1 victim) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (4 out of 4) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 50 percent (2 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Arkansas

33 females were murdered by males in Arkansas in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Arkansas was 2.29 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 4th in the United States

Age

Two female homicide victims (6 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (6 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 40 years old.

Race

Out of 33 female homicide victims, 16 were black, and 17 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 46 percent of female victims (13 out of 28) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 77 percent (10 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 6 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 female killed by a blunt object, and 6 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 89 percent of female victims (24 out of 27) were murdered by someone they knew. Three female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 54 percent (13 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 62 percent (8 victims) were killed with guns; 63 percent of these (5 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 84 percent (21 out of 25) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 81 percent (17 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Nevada

28 females were murdered by males in Nevada in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Nevada was 2.23 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 5th in the United States

Age

Two female homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (7 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 35 years old.

Race

Out of 28 female homicide victims, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, 4 were black, and 23 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 58 percent of female victims (15 out of 26) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 100 percent (15 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 5 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 3 females killed by a blunt object, and 2 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 96 percent of female victims (26 out of 27) were murdered by someone they knew. One female victim was killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 77 percent (20 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 60 percent (12 victims) were killed with guns; 100 percent of these (12 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 95 percent (20 out of 21) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 30 percent (6 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Alabama

53 females were murdered by males in Alabama in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Alabama was 2.22 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 6th in the United States

Age

Four female homicide victims (9 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (6 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 39 years old.

Race

Out of 52 female homicide victims, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, 23 were black, 1 was American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 27 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 63 percent of female victims (27 out of 43) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 85 percent (23 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 9 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 female killed by a blunt object, and 5 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 83 percent of female victims (35 out of 42) were murdered by someone they knew. Seven female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 60 percent (21 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 76 percent (16 victims) were killed with guns; 81 percent of these (13 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 88 percent (30 out of 34) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 93 percent (28 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

New Mexico

22 females were murdered by males in New Mexico in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in New Mexico was 2.21 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 7th in the United States

Age

Two female homicide victims (10 percent) were less than 18 years old. The average age was 34 years old.

Race

Out of 22 female homicide victims, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, 1 was black, 2 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 18 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 48 percent of female victims (10 out of 21) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 100 percent (10 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 2 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, and 9 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 91 percent of female victims (20 out of 22) were murdered by someone they knew. Two female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 55 percent (11 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 36 percent (4 victims) were killed with guns; 100 percent of these (4 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 100 percent (21 out of 21) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 57 percent (12 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

South Carolina

46 females were murdered by males in South Carolina in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in South Carolina was 2.04 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 8th in the United States

Age

Three female homicide victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (7 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 39 years old.

Race

Out of 46 female homicide victims, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, 18 were black, 1 was American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 26 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 51 percent of female victims (20 out of 39) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 80 percent (16 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 9 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 4 females killed by a blunt object, and 2 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 95 percent of female victims (41 out of 43) were murdered by someone they knew. Two female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 66 percent (27 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 48 percent (13 victims) were killed with guns; 85 percent of these (11 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 78 percent (32 out of 41) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 78 percent (25 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Oklahoma

37 females were murdered by males in Oklahoma in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Oklahoma was 2.03 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 9th in the United States

Age

Four female homicide victims (12 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (6 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 35 years old.

Race

Out of 37 female homicide victims, 7 were black, 2 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 28 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 47 percent of female victims (16 out of 34) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 75 percent (12 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 8 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 females killed by a blunt object, and 6 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 92 percent of female victims (34 out of 37) were murdered by someone they knew. Three female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 56 percent (19 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 47 percent (9 victims) were killed with guns; 89 percent of these (8 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 88 percent (30 out of 34) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 63 percent (19 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Arizona

61 females were murdered by males in Arizona in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Arizona was 1.92 per 100,000 in 2007

Ranked 10th in the United States

Age

Six female homicide victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 6 victims (11 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 37 years old.

Race

Out of 61 female homicide victims, 3 were Asian or Pacific Islander, 10 were black, and 48 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 47 percent of female victims (28 out of 59) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 86 percent (24 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 12 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 4 females killed by a blunt object, and 11 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 92 percent of female victims (56 out of 61) were murdered by someone they knew. Five female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 52 percent (29 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 62 percent (18 victims) were killed with guns; 89 percent of these (16 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 95 percent (56 out of 59) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 52 percent (29 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

United States

1,865 females were murdered by males in the United States in 2007

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in the United States was 1.30 per 100,000 in 2007

Age

There were 154 female homicide victims (9 percent) who were less than 18 years old and 146 victims (8 percent) who were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 38 years old.

Race

Out of 1,836 female homicide victims where race was identified, 44 were Asian or Pacific Islander, 579 were black, 16 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 1,197 were white.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 51 percent of female victims (847 out of 1,657) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 76 percent (640 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 353 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 116 females killed by a blunt object, and 227 females killed by bodily force.

Victim/Offender Relationship

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 91 percent of female victims (1,587 out of 1,743) were murdered by someone they knew. There were 156 female victims killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 62 percent (990 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 55 percent (545 victims) were killed with guns; 75 percent of these (410 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 88 percent (1,335 out of 1,523) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 60 percent (803 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Understanding the Statistics

This analysis of female homicide victims in America is limited to cases involving one female victim and one male offender. Supplemental data on age and race of victim, the type of weapon used, the relationship of victim to offender, and the circumstances of the murder are provided for each state as follows:

Rates

Rates of females killed by males in single victim/single offender incidents by state were computed using reported incidents by state and female population estimates for 2007 from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Ranking

States were ranked by their female homicide rates. Rates were rounded to the second decimal place.

Age

This section notes how many female homicide victims were less than 18 years old and how many were 65 years of age or older.

Race

This section identifies the race of female victims.

Most Common Weapons

For homicides in which the weapon could be identified, this section records the number of females killed by firearms, specifically handguns. It also lists the most common weapons—other than firearms—used by males to kill females.

Victim/Offender Relationship

This section lists the number of females killed by known offenders and the number killed by strangers. This section also enumerates the number of victims identified as wives or intimate acquaintances (common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends) of the offenders, as well as the number of these intimates shot and killed with firearms in general and handguns in particular.

Circumstance

This section indicates the number of cases in which the homicide was related to the commission of any other felony. This section also provides the number of cases that involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

Appendix Three:
Additional Information on State Efforts to Help Prevent Domestic Violence Abusers from Obtaining Firearms

Table 13. Data accessed for firearm background checks: domestic violence, December 31, 2005

Jurisdiction	Restraining (protective) orders: Statewide database	Restraining (protective) orders: Entered into NCIC file	Domestic violence misdemeanor convictions: In criminal history (CH) records	Domestic violence misdemeanor convictions: Method used to distinguish from other misdemeanors in CH[a]
Federal	--	■	■	Flagged records (from States)
State totals	43	46	44	
Alabama	■	■	■	Flagged records
Alaska	■	■	■	Flagged records
Arizona	■	■	■	Flagged records
Arkansas	■	■	■	Flagged records
California	■	■	■	Flagged records
Colorado	■	■	■	Flagged records
Connecticut	■	■	■	Flagged records
Delaware	■	■	■	Flagged records
Florida	■	■	■	
Georgia	■	■	■	Flagged records
Hawaii	■	--	■	Flagged records
Idaho	--	■	■	
Illinois	■	■	■	Flagged records
Indiana	■	■	--	
Iowa	■	■	■	Flagged records
Kansas	■	■	■	Statute citations
Kentucky	■	■	■	
Louisiana	■	■	■	Modifier denoting DV
Maine	■	■	--	
Maryland	■	■	■	Flagged records
Massachusetts	■	■	■	Included in crimes of violence[b]
Michigan	■	■	■	Flagged records
Minnesota	■	■	■	Offense codes
Mississippi	--	■	--	
Missouri	■	■	■	Flagged records
Montana	--	■	■	Flagged records
Nebraska	■	■	■	Flagged records
Nevada	■	--	■	Flagged records
New Hampshire	■	■	■	Flagged records
New Jersey	■	--	■	Flagged records
New Mexico	■	■	■	Flagged records
New York	■	■	--	
North Carolina	--	■	■	Flagged records
North Dakota	■	■	--	
Ohio	--	■	--	
Oklahoma	--	■	■	Offense codes / flagged records
Oregon	■	■	■	Flagged records
Pennsylvania	■	■	■	Flagged records
Rhode Island	■	■	■	Flagged records
South Carolina	--	■	■	Flagged records
South Dakota	■	■	■	Flagged records
Tennessee	■	■	■	Flagged records
Texas	■	■	■	Flagged records
Utah	■	--	■	Flagged records
Vermont	■	■	■	Flagged records
Virginia	■	■	■	Flagged records
Washington	■	■	■	Flagged records
West Virginia	■	■	■	
Wisconsin	■	■	■	Flagged records
Wyoming	■	■	■	Flagged records

--No data are available for firearm background checks or availability is unknown.

■Data are accessed by checking agencies within the jurisdiction (may not be available to other checking agencies).

[a]Extent of flagging and ability to distinguish domestic crimes from other misdemeanors varies significantly by jurisdiction.

[b]Domestic misdemeanors are not flagged because all crimes of violence are disqualifying offenses.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Survey of State Procedures Related to Firearm Sales, 2005* (November 2006).

Table 8a. Final disposition reporting, 2006

State	Total final case dispositions received in 2006	How many sent to FBI?	Percent of FBI-forwarded dispositions sent by machine readable data (MRD)	Percent of FBI-forwarded dispositions sent via hard copy or paper	Percent of FBI-forwarded dispositions sent by other than MRD or hard copy	Percent of felony charges with final disposition	Percent of domestic violence misdemeanor charges with final disposition
Total	**10,475,400**	**4,652,100**					
Alabama	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Alaska	47,200	...	100%	...	...	...	...
American Samoa	300	...	0	0%	0%	100%	100%
Arizona	255,800	255,800	100	0	0	64	57
Arkansas	114,000	36,400	20	80	0	na	na
California	1,500,000	1,500,000	100	0	0		na
Colorado	36,000	0	0	0	0	6	na
Connecticut	...	...	na	na	na	100	100
Delaware	154,200	154,200	0	0	0	96	...
District of Columbia	28,500	0	...	...	...	...	...
Florida	1,036,600 [a]	0	0	0	0	68	70
Georgia	454,600	454,600	100	...	...	70	...
Guam	500	300	0	0	100	100	100
Hawaii	75,100	56,500	100	0	0	96	92 [b]
Idaho	111,500	0	...	...	...	61	na
Illinois	492,500	0	...	...	...	83	...
Indiana	211,400	0	0	0	0	...	...
Iowa	141,500	Very few	0	3	3 (fax)	na	na
Kansas	240,200	0	na	na	na	56	na
Kentucky	101,600	...	0	100	0	...	na
Louisiana	15,000	20,300	0	...	...	na	na
Maine	...	0	0	0	0	...	...
Maryland	58,500	0	na	0	0	na	na
Massachusetts	424,700	0	...	...	...	na	na
Michigan	295,000	34,000	0	100	0	80	na
Minnesota	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mississippi	13,300	0	0	0	0	5	...
Missouri	158,200	158,200	90	10	0	83	...
Montana	17,800	0				38	72
Nebraska	51,100	51,100	100	0	0	67	na
Nevada	84,000	2,500	0	3	0	33	31
New Hampshire	...	...	...	...	...	...	na
New Jersey	465,900	0	na	na	na	90	90
New Mexico	14,300	12,500	0	100	0	...	na
New York	482,900	Convictions	90	10	0	88	na
North Carolina	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
North Dakota	12,500	12,500	100	0	0	...	na
Ohio	211,100	211,100	100	0	0	...	na
Oklahoma	56,400	13,700	100			35	na
Oregon	166,000	0	na	na	na	...	na
Pennsylvania	331,400	...	100	...	...	86	65
Puerto Rico	53,500	0	0	0	0	88	na
Rhode Island	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
South Carolina	199,600	199,600	100	...	...	90	na
South Dakota	42,900	25,800	97	3	0	95	95
Tennessee	131,300	131,300	55	45	0	38	na
Texas	1,015,300	1,015,300	100	0	0	na	na
Utah	158,200	0	0	0	0	79	na
Vermont	29,100	6,100 [c]	0	1	0	>99	>99
Virgin Islands	0	600	0	80	20	...	...
Virginia	315,700	100	0	100	0	87	na
Washington	262,000	262,000	100	0	0	...	...
West Virginia	43,000	27,000	...	100	...	...	...
Wisconsin	354,700	100	0	100	0	95	93
Wyoming	10,500	10,500	100	...	...	81	72

Table 8a explanatory notes:

- Percentages and numbers reported are estimates.
- Percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole percent.
- Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
- … Not available.
- na Not applicable.

Data footnotes:

a 818,953 entered into the Florida computerized criminal history file.

b Domestic violence misdemeanor charges were identified as those that were charged with Abuse of Household Member, Section 709-906, Hawaii Revised Statutes. It does not include those cases that may have been the result of a domestic violence situation but the offender was charged with misdemeanor assault, or something other than Abuse of a Household Member.

c The majority of Vermont final dispositions sent to the FBI are cases which end in nonconviction. In these cases, the subjects' fingerprints must be removed from the FBI, which might result in the expungement of the record.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Survey of State Criminal History Information Systems, 2006* (October 2008)