

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

HOMICIDE & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACTS

WHEN MEN MURDER WOMEN

WHY IT MATTERS

A woman is far more likely to be killed by an intimate acquaintance (a husband, common-law husband or boyfriend) or a family member than by a stranger. In September, 2004 the Violence Policy Center released their annual report detailing the reality of murders committed against women in the U.S. This study analyzes the most recent Supplementary Homicide Report data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigations. This study examines only those instances involving one female homicide victim and one male offender.

DID YOU KNOW

- More than 9 times as many women were murdered by a man they knew (1,587 victims) than were killed by male strangers (168).
- 61% of female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.
- In 2002, 1,880 women were murdered by men in single victim/single offender incidents.
- 10% of the female homicide victims were less than 18 years of age (190 victims) and 9% were age 65 or older (156 victims).
- The average age of female homicide victims was 36 years old.

STATE RANKINGS

- In 2002, Alaska ranked first as the state with the highest female homicide rate.
- Following Alaska was (2) Louisiana, (3) New Mexico, (4) Nevada, (5) Wyoming, (6) South Carolina, (7) Tennessee, (8) Delaware, (9) North Carolina, (10) Alabama.
- Alaska's rate of 4.84 murders per 100,000 was more than three times than national average.
- California reported 239 female homicides, the highest total number of female homicides reported in any state.

USE OF GUNS

- 54% of female homicides were committed with firearms, more than with all other weapons combined.
- Of the homicides committed with firearms, 73% were committed with handguns.
- Two-thirds of female victims killed with firearms were killed by their male partners.
- The number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate (550 victims) was more than three times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all weapons combined (168).
- 287 women were shot and killed by either their husband or intimate during the course of an argument.

RACE AS A FACTOR

- 59% of all African American female homicide victims were shot and killed with guns.
- More than 8 times as many African American women were murdered by a male they knew (505 victims) than were killed by male strangers (61 victims) in 2002.
- 59% of African American female homicide victims were wives or intimate acquaintances of their killers.
- Homicides in which race was identified included: 15 American Indians or Alaskan Natives, 53 Asian or Pacific Islanders, 636 black females, and 1159 white females.

NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



The Public Policy Office of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) is a national leader in the effort to create and influence Federal legislation that positively affects the lives of domestic violence victims and children. We work closely with advocates at the local, state and national level to identify the issues facing domestic violence victims, their children and the people who serve them and to develop a legislative agenda to address these issues. NCADV welcomes you to join us in our effort to end domestic violence.

HOW TO HELP

One of the most effective ways to help end homicide in domestic violence cases is to write your Legislators asking them to support the following initiatives:

- Some states have laws prohibiting an individual from purchasing a fire arm if that individual is subject to a domestic violence protection orders or has been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor offense. If your state does not have such laws, work with your legislature to enact them.
- Check if your state makes the records of domestic violence protection orders and misdemeanors available to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the computer system used to conduct the Brady Law background checks performed on firearm transactions. Not all states provide these types of records to this national database or do not distinguish between misdemeanors and domestic violence misdemeanors.

BREAK DOWN BY STATE (rankings based upon # of female homicides per 100,000 people)

Ranking	State	Number of Homicides	Ranking	State	Number of Homicides
10	Alabama	42	36	Montana	4
1	Alaska	15	43	Nebraska	5
22	Arizona	36	4	Nevada	27
11	Arkansas	25	48	New Hampshire	2
20	California	239	31 (tie)	New Jersey	46
14	Colorado	38	3	New Mexico	25
15	Connecticut	10	25 (tie)	New York	120
8	Delaware	9	9	North Carolina	88
	Florida	NA	34	North Dakota	3
17	Georgia	70	27	Ohio	68
23	Hawaii	8	13	Oklahoma	31
31 (tie)	Idaho	7	41	Oregon	12
42	Illinois	43	24	Pennsylvania	78
25 (tie)	Indiana	38	29 (tie)	Rhode Island	6
40	Iowa	11	6	South Carolina	49
37	Kansas	11	49	South Dakota	0
46	Kentucky	11	7	Tennessee	67
2	Louisiana	67	12	Texas	197
39	Maine	5	28	Utah	13
18	Maryland	45	47	Vermont	1
45	Mass.	18	19	Virginia	53
21	Michigan	68	29 (tie)	Washington	33
38	Minnesota	20	33	West Virginia	9
15 (tie)	Mississippi	25	35	Wisconsin	26
15 (tie)	Missouri	49	5	Wyoming	6

SOURCES

This study "When Men Murder Women" was created by the Violence Policy Center. If you have any questions about this study or if you would like to view the study please go to <http://www.vpc.org>. A hard copy of the entire publication is available from the Violence Policy Center for \$5.00. Send a check or money order to the Violence Policy Center 1140 19th St. NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036. If you have any further questions regarding this summary, please contact the NCADV Public Policy office at (202) 745-1211.