

SEPTEMBER 2018



Violence Policy Center

When Men Murder Women — The Great Lakes States

An Analysis of 2016 Homicide Data

WWW.VPC.ORG

COPYRIGHT AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Copyright © September 2018 Violence Policy Center

Violence Policy Center

1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 1210

Washington, DC 20036

202-822-8200

The Violence Policy Center (VPC) is a national nonprofit 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 study was funded with the support of The Joyce Foundation.

For a complete list of VPC publications with document links, please visit <http://www.vpc.org/publications>.

To learn more about the Violence Policy Center, or to make a tax-deductible contribution to help support our work, please visit www.vpc.org.

INTRODUCTION

Since 1998, the Violence Policy Center has published *When Men Murder Women*.¹ This annual study details the reality of homicides committed by males against females in single victim/single offender incidents. The study analyzes the most recent Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) data submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.² This companion report offers additional information on women killed by men in single victim/single offender incidents for states located in the Great Lakes region (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin). The information used for both reports is for the year 2016 and is the most recent data available.

The data presented over the years in *When Men Murder Women* coincides with the passage and implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)—which will be 24 years old this year and will expire on September 30, 2018 if Congress does not act to renew it—as well as the passage of restrictions on firearms possession by persons with misdemeanor convictions for domestic violence or those who are subject to certain protective orders for domestic violence. Since the passage of these laws, domestic violence has increasingly been treated as the serious problem that it is. States have also reformed their laws to better protect victims of domestic abuse and remove firearms from persons with histories of domestic violence.

Nationwide in 2016, there were 1,809 females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents that were submitted to the FBI for its Supplementary Homicide Report. For that year, the homicide rate among female victims murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents nationally was 1.20 per 100,000.

Nationally, for homicides in which the weapon could be identified, 56 percent of female victims (897 out of 1,615) were killed with a gun. Of these, 66 percent (592 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 308 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 108 females killed by a blunt object, and 181 females killed by bodily force. Of the females killed with a firearm, 62 percent were murdered by male intimates.

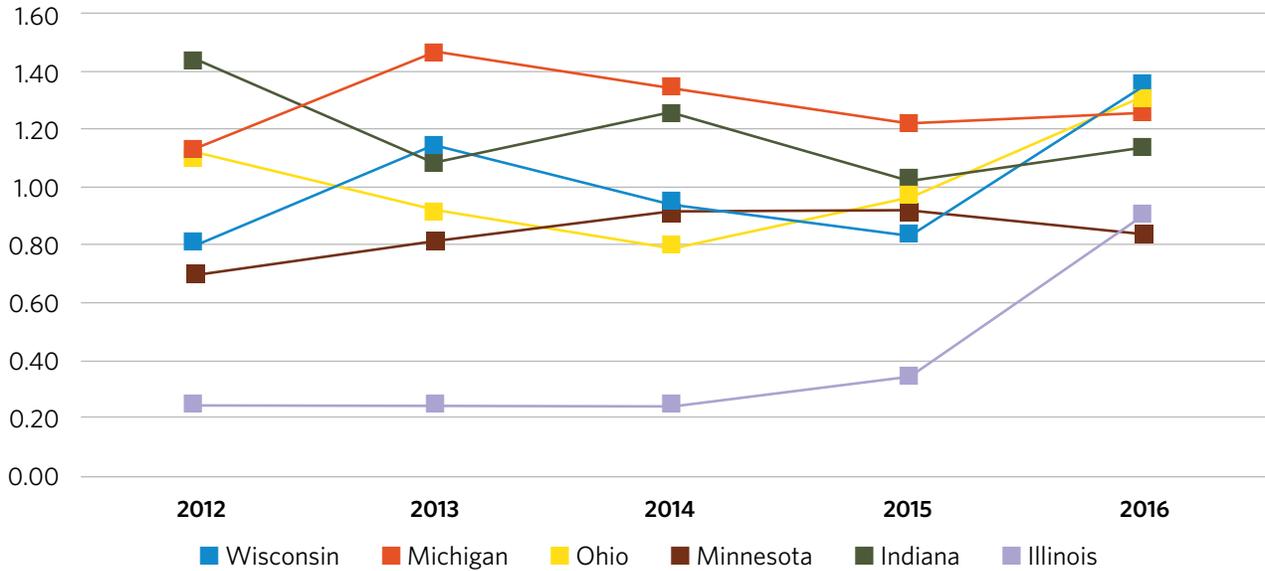
That same year, there were 299 females murdered by males in single victim/single offender incidents in the Great Lakes region. Three of the six Great Lakes states (Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin) had a female homicide victimization rate that was higher than the national average.

Information contained in this report for each of the Great Lakes states includes: age and race of victim; type of weapon used; relationship of victim to offender; and, the circumstances of the homicide. Additional information for each state includes historical data for the past five years including: the number of female homicide victims; the female homicide victimization rate; where the state's female homicide rate ranks nationally; and, the percentage of female homicide victims killed with guns.

1 See <http://vpc.org/revealing-the-impacts-of-gun-violence/female-homicide-victimization-by-males/>.

2 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.

RATE OF WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN THE GREAT LAKES, 2012 - 2016



While the FBI SHR is the best national data available that offers information on the type of firearm used, the relationship between victim and offender, and circumstance, it is dependent on data submitted by each state.³

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. Furthermore, far too many abusers have access to firearms. A gun in the home presents clear risks that should deeply worry anyone concerned about domestic violence.

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.

³ For example, from 2012 to 2015, Chicago and Rockford were the only two reporting agencies in Illinois to submit SHR data to the FBI. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies were required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI.

Illinois

59 females were murdered by males in Illinois in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Illinois was 0.90 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 35th (tie) in the United States

Age	For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (58 homicides), 8 victims (14 percent) were less than 18 years old and 6 victims (10 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 38 years old.
Race	Out of 59 female homicide victims, 39 were white and 20 were black.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 47 percent of female victims (26 out of 55) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 85 percent (22 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 17 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 1 female killed by a blunt object, and 7 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 (49 out of 51) were murdered by someone they knew. Two female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 73 percent (36 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 56 percent (20 victims) were killed with guns; 80 percent of these (16 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 91 percent (48 out of 53) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 56 percent (27 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN ILLINOIS, 2012 - 2016⁴

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	59	0.90	35th (tie)	47%
2015	22	0.34	46th	55%
2014	16	0.24	47th	56%
2013	16	0.24	48th	25%
2012	16	0.24	48th	71%

⁴ From 2012 to 2015, Chicago and Rockford were the only two reporting agencies in Illinois to submit SHR data to the FBI. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies were required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI.

Indiana

38 females were murdered by males in Indiana in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Indiana was 1.13 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 29th in the United States

Age	For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (37 homicides), 4 victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 2 victims (5 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 36 years old.
Race	Out of 38 female homicide victims, 30 were white and 8 were black.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 56 percent of female victims (20 out of 36) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 80 percent (16 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 2 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 females 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, 97 percent of female victims (33 out of 34) were murdered by someone they knew. One female victim was killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 52 percent (17 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 65 percent (11 victims) were killed with guns; 82 percent of these (9 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 73 percent (24 out of 33) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 54 percent (13 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN INDIANA, 2012 - 2016

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	38	1.13	29th	56%
2015	34	1.01	26th	58%
2014	42	1.25	17th	41%
2013	36	1.08	21st (tie)	58%
2012	47	1.42	14th	60%

Michigan

63 females were murdered by males in Michigan in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Michigan was 1.25 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 26th in the United States

Age For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (59 homicides), 4 victims (7 percent) were less than 18 years old and 6 victims (10 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 40 years old.

Race Out of 63 female homicide victims, 46 were white, 14 were black, 1 was Asian or Pacific Islander, and 2 were of unknown race.

Most Common Weapons For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 64 percent of female victims (32 out of 50) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 59 percent (19 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 7 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, 95 percent of female victims (52 out of 55) were murdered by someone they knew. Three female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 42 percent (22 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 68 percent (15 victims) were killed with guns; 60 percent of these (9 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 84 percent (31 out of 37) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 58 percent (18 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN MICHIGAN, 2012 - 2016

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	63	1.25	26th	64%
2015	61	1.21	20th	46%
2014	67	1.33	12th (tie)	47%
2013	73	1.45	10th	53%
2012	57	1.13	24th (tie)	52%

Minnesota

23 females were murdered by males in Minnesota in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Minnesota was 0.83 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 37th (tie) in the United States

Age	For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (21 homicides), 4 victims (19 percent) were less than 18 years old. The average age was 31 years old.
Race	Out of 23 female homicide victims, 20 were white, 2 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 1 was of unknown race.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 67 percent of female victims (12 out of 18) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 83 percent (10 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 2 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments 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 (21 out of 21) were murdered by someone they knew. No female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 62 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; 88 percent of these (7 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 88 percent (15 out of 17) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 20 percent (3 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN MINNESOTA, 2012 - 2016

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	23	0.83	37th (tie)	67%
2015	25	0.91	33rd	50%
2014	25	0.91	34th (tie)	48%
2013	22	0.81	32nd (tie)	47%
2012	19	0.70	39th (tie)	37%

Ohio

77 females were murdered by males in Ohio in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Ohio was 1.30 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 24th in the United States

Age For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (75 homicides), 8 victims (11 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (4 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 37 years old.

Race Out of 77 female homicide victims, 50 were white and 27 were black.

Most Common Weapons For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 60 percent of female victims (41 out of 68) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 51 percent (21 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 9 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 3 females killed by a blunt object, and 10 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 (69 out of 73) were murdered by someone they knew. Four female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 57 percent (39 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 74 percent (29 victims) were killed with guns; 45 percent of these (13 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 83 percent (49 out of 59) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 63 percent (31 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN OHIO, 2012 - 2016

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	77	1.30	24th	60%
2015	57	0.96	31st	53%
2014	46	0.78	40th	43%
2013	54	0.91	30th	46%
2012	66	1.12	26th	52%

Wisconsin

39 females were murdered by males in Wisconsin in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in Wisconsin was 1.34 per 100,000 in 2016

Ranked 21st in the United States

Age For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (39 homicides), 2 victims (5 percent) were less than 18 years old and 3 victims (8 percent) were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 38 years old.

Race Out of 39 female homicide victims, 28 were white, 10 were black, and 1 was American Indian or Alaskan Native.

Most Common Weapons For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 58 percent of female victims (22 out of 38) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 82 percent (18 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 6 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 2 females killed by a blunt object, and 4 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 (36 out of 38) were murdered by someone they knew. Two female victims were killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 67 percent (24 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 50 percent (12 victims) were killed with guns; 83 percent of these (10 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.

Circumstance For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 86 percent (32 out of 37) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 47 percent (15 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

WOMEN KILLED BY MEN IN WISCONSIN, 2012 - 2016

Year	Female Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate	National Rank	Percent of Female Victims Killed with Guns
2016	39	1.34	21st	58%
2015	24	0.83	36th	57%
2014	27	0.93	33rd	62%
2013	33	1.14	18th	55%
2012	23	0.80	37th	21%

United States

1,809 females were murdered by males in the United States in 2016

The homicide rate among females murdered by males in the United States was 1.20 per 100,000 in 2016

Age	For homicides in which the age of the victim was reported (1,765 homicides), there were 124 female homicide victims (7 percent) who were less than 18 years old and 173 victims (10 percent) who were 65 years of age or older. The average age was 40 years old.
Race	Out of 1,809 female homicide victims, 1,188 were white, 517 were black, 55 were Asian or Pacific Islander, 26 were American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 23 were of unknown race.
Most Common Weapons	For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 56 percent of female victims (897 out of 1,615) were shot and killed with guns. Of these, 66 percent (592 victims) were killed with handguns. There were 308 females killed with knives or other cutting instruments, 108 females killed by a blunt object, and 181 females killed by bodily force.
Victim/Offender Relationship	For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 93 percent of female victims (1,537 out of 1,651) were murdered by someone they knew. There were 114 female victims killed by strangers. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 63 percent (962 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. Among the female intimates who were murdered, 57 percent (552 victims) were killed with guns; 67 percent of these (371 victims) were shot and killed with handguns.
Circumstance	For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 82 percent (1,142 out of 1,389) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 64 percent (727 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender.

NUMBER OF FEMALES MURDERED BY MALES IN SINGLE VICTIM/SINGLE OFFENDER HOMICIDES AND RATES BY STATE, 2016

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000 Females
NA ⁵	Alabama	NA	NA
1	Alaska	12	3.40
27	Arizona	43	1.24
4	Arkansas	30	1.97
33	California	184	0.93
17 (tie)	Colorado	38	1.38
41	Connecticut	14	0.76
8	Delaware	9	1.83
NA	Florida	NA	NA
25	Georgia	67	1.27
12 (tie)	Hawaii	11	1.55
12 (tie)	Idaho	13	1.55
35 (tie)	Illinois	59	0.90
29	Indiana	38	1.13
37 (tie)	Iowa	13	0.83
31	Kansas	16	1.10
9	Kentucky	38	1.69
2	Louisiana	58	2.42
46 (tie)	Maine	4	0.59
10	Maryland	49	1.58
48	Massachusetts	16	0.46
26	Michigan	63	1.25
37 (tie)	Minnesota	23	0.83
19	Mississippi	21	1.37
7	Missouri	57	1.84
12 (tie)	Montana	8	1.55
44 (tie)	Nebraska	6	0.63
3	Nevada	29	1.98
46 (tie)	New Hampshire	4	0.59
32	New Jersey	44	0.96
22 (tie)	New Mexico	14	1.33
40	New York	83	0.81

5 In 2016, as in years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report. Also in 2016, data from Alabama was not available from the FBI. Data from Florida and Alabama was not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results.

State Ranking by Rate	State	Number of Homicide Victims	Homicide Rate per 100,000 Females
17 (tie)	North Carolina	72	1.38
20	North Dakota	5	1.36
24	Ohio	77	1.30
11	Oklahoma	31	1.57
42	Oregon	15	0.73
35 (tie)	Pennsylvania	59	0.90
34	Rhode Island	5	0.92
6	South Carolina	48	1.88
28	South Dakota	5	1.17
5	Tennessee	65	1.91
15	Texas	208	1.48
30	Utah	17	1.12
44 (tie)	Vermont	2	0.63
22 (tie)	Virginia	57	1.33
39	Washington	30	0.82
43	West Virginia	6	0.65
21	Wisconsin	39	1.34
16	Wyoming	4	1.40
	U.S. Total	1,809	1.20



Violence Policy Center

1025 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 1210

Washington, DC 20036

WWW.VPC.ORG