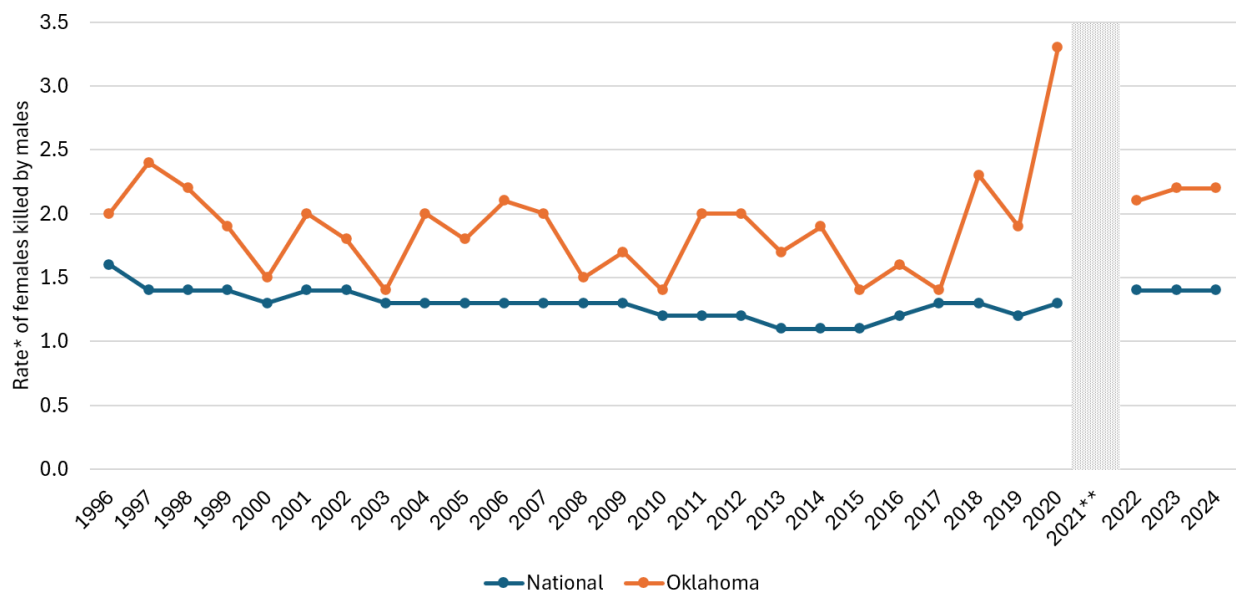


Oklahoma's History of Deadly Violence Against Women

Compared to national rates, Oklahoma has consistently had a higher rate of female victims killed by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents (Figure 1).¹ From 1996 to 2020, Oklahoma ranked among the 10 states with the highest rates of females killed by males for 15 out of 25 years.^a

Rates of females killed by males in Oklahoma more than doubled between 2017 and 2020, jumping from 1.4 per 100,000 to 3.3 per 100,000 (Figure 1).² Rates were more stable between 2022 and 2024, though the state rate of 2.2 per 100,000 is higher than the national rate of 1.4 per 100,000.^{2,3} A total of **46 female victims were killed by males** in the state that year.

Figure 1. Rate* of females killed by males in Oklahoma and nationally, 1996 — 2024²⁻⁴



*Rates are per 100,000 and not adjusted for age

**FBI crime data are not shown for 2021 due to the degree of unreliability of data caused by the transition between FBI crime data reporting systems (depicted by grey area of graph)

^a Due to changes in the way Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) crime data are collected and reported, beginning with 2021 data, the VPC has not been able to rank the states or offer state-level information for all 50 states. The VPC hopes that at some point in the near future FBI crime data will once again be sufficiently robust to allow for a more complete analysis of the data, including state rankings.

RACE

Out of 46 female homicide victims in Oklahoma in 2024, seven were Black (15.2 percent) and 31 were white (67.4 percent). Five victims were American Indian/Alaska Native and one victim was Asian/Pacific Islander. The race of two victims was unknown. Homicide rates are not calculated due to the small number of homicides among Black, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander victims.

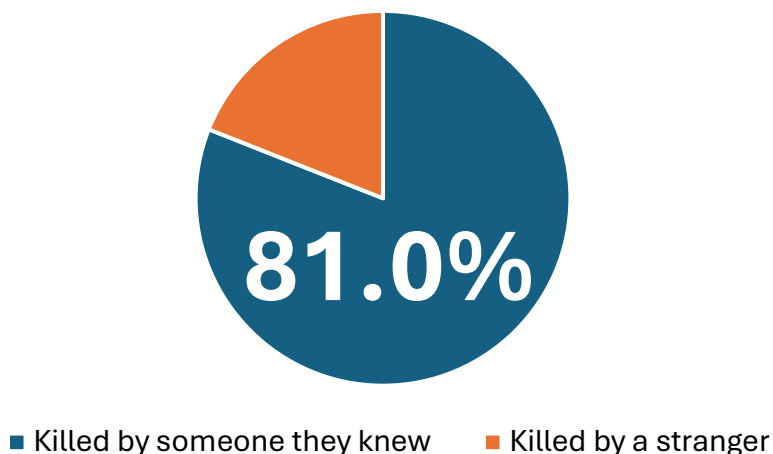
AGE

Victim age was available for all female homicide victims in Oklahoma in 2024. Two victims were less than 18 years old (4.3 percent) and one victim was age 65 and older (2.2 percent). The average victim age was 41.1 years old.

VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 81.0 percent of female victims (34 out of 42) were murdered by a male they knew (Figure 2). Eight victims were killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 64.7 percent (22 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.

Figure 2. Percentage of female homicide victims in Oklahoma killed by someone they knew, 2024²



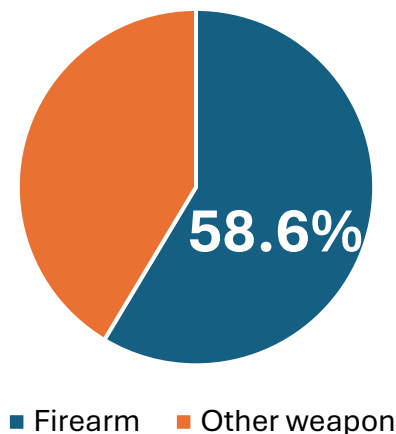
MOST COMMON WEAPONS

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 58.6 percent of victims (17 out of 29) were killed with guns (Figure 3). ***Of the female victims killed with a firearm, 58.8 percent were murdered by male intimates*** (10 out of 17).

Among victims killed with a gun, 58.8 percent (10 victims) were killed with a handgun, one victim was killed with a shotgun (5.9 percent), and six were killed with an unknown type of firearm (35.3

percent). Three females were killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, four were killed by bodily force, and five were killed with other weapons.

Figure 3. Percentage of female homicide victims in Oklahoma killed with firearms, 2024²



CIRCUMSTANCE

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 95.2 percent (40 out of 42) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 40.0 percent (16 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Of homicides that involved arguments between the victim and offender, 50.0 percent (eight out of 16) were committed with a firearm. ***In 2024, seven women in Oklahoma were shot and killed by their husbands or intimate acquaintances in single victim/single offender incidents during the course of an argument.***

REFERENCES

1. Violence Policy Center. *When Men Murder Women: A Review of 25 Years of Female Homicide Victimization in the United States*. October 2023. Available at: <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2023.pdf>.
2. FBI Supplementary Homicide Report data. Downloaded from the Crime Data Explorer on March 15, 2026. Available at: <https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>.
3. Violence Policy Center. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2024 Homicide Data*. September 2026. Available at: <https://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2026.pdf>.
4. Rates for individual years were taken from the respective annual study. All past versions of *When Men Murder Women* studies are available at: <https://vpc.org/revealing-the-impacts-of-gun-violence/female-homicide-victimization-by-males/>.

For more information, please contact VPC Development and Communications Manager Georgia Seltzer at gseltzer@vpc.org or 202-822-8200 x 104.

*The national report, *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2024 Homicide Data* can be found at <https://vpc.org/publication/when-men-murder-women-an-analysis-of-2024-homicide-data/>.*