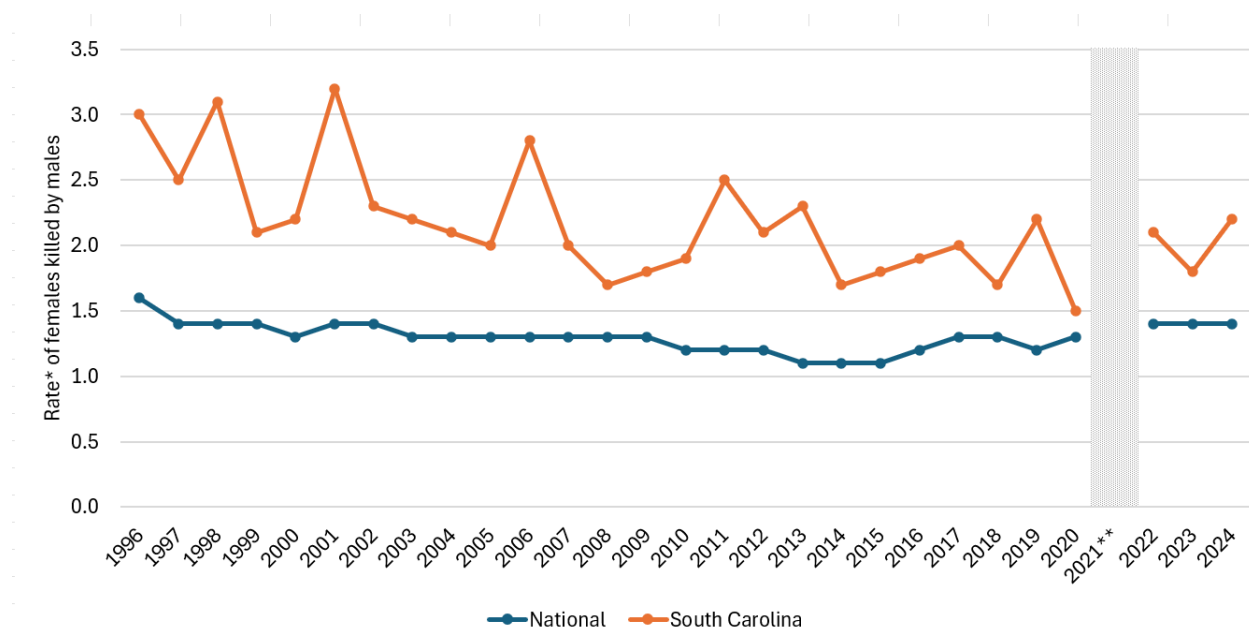


South Carolina's History of Deadly Violence Against Women

Compared to national rates, South Carolina 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, South Carolina ranked among the 10 states with the highest rates of females killed by males for 23 out of 25 years.^a

However, South Carolina has experienced an overall decline in the rate of females killed by males since it had the highest rate in the nation in 1998 as detailed in the 2000 edition of the Violence Policy Center's annual report *When Men Murder Women*.² In 2024, South Carolina's rate of females killed by males was 2.2 per 100,000, compared to the national rate of 1.4 per 100,000 (Figure 1).^{3,4} A total of **62 female victims were killed by males** in the state that year.

Figure 1. Rate of females killed by males in South Carolina and nationally, 1996 — 2024³⁻⁵



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

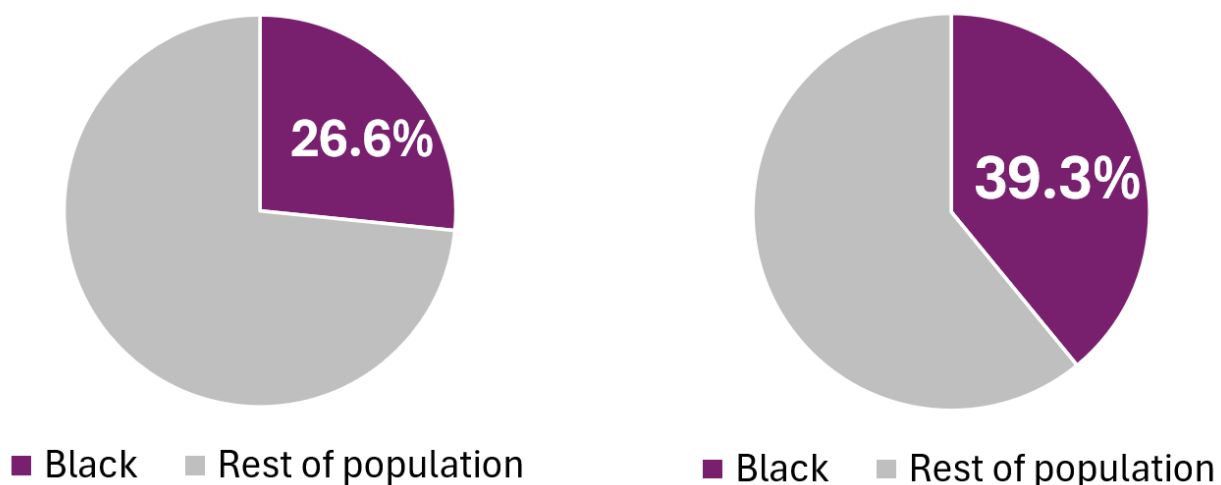
**FBI crime data are not shown for 2021 due to the degree of unreliability of data caused by the transition between FBI crime data reporting systems (depicted by grey area of graph)

^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 62 female homicide victims in South Carolina in 2024, 24 were Black (39.3 percent) and 37 were white (60.7 percent). One victim's race was unknown. While Black females comprise only 26.6 percent of the female population in South Carolina, they represent 39.3 percent of all females killed by males (Figure 2). With a rate of 3.2 per 100,000, Black females in South Carolina are more than one and a half times as likely to be killed by a male compared to white females (1.9 per 100,000). The rate of Black females killed by males is slightly higher in South Carolina compared to nationally. In 2024, Black females in the U.S. were murdered by males at a rate of 2.9 per 100,000,⁴ while in South Carolina the rate was 3.2 per 100,000.³

Figure 2. Black percentage of South Carolina female population (left figure)⁶; Black percentage of South Carolina female homicide victims (right figure)³, 2024



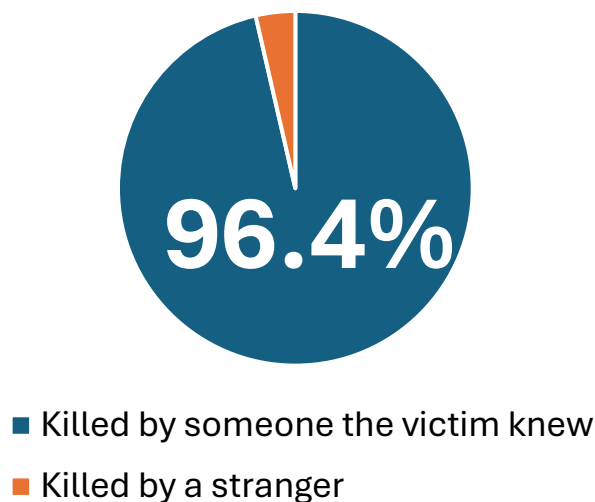
AGE

Victim age was available for all female homicide victims in South Carolina in 2024. Four victims were less than 18 years old (6.5 percent) and eight victims were age 65 and older (12.9 percent). The average victim age was 42.3 years old.

VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 96.4 percent of female victims (53 out of 55) were murdered by a male they knew (Figure 3). Two victims were killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 49.1 percent (26 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.

Figure 3. Percentage of female homicide victims in South Carolina killed by someone they knew, 2024³

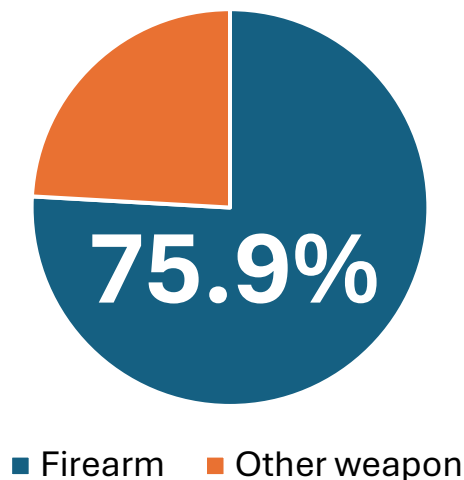


MOST COMMON WEAPONS

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 75.9 percent of victims (44 out of 58) were killed with guns (Figure 4). Of the female victims killed with a firearm, 47.7 percent were murdered by male intimates (21 out of 44).

Among victims killed with a gun, 47.7 percent (21 victims) were killed with a handgun, six victims were killed with a rifle or shotgun (13.6 percent) and 17 were killed with an unknown type of firearm (38.6 percent). Four females were killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, three were killed by bodily force, two with a blunt object, and five with other weapons.

Figure 4. Percentage of female homicide victims in South Carolina killed with firearms, 2024³



CIRCUMSTANCE

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 82.7 percent (43 out of 52) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 76.7 percent (33 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Of homicides that involved arguments between the victim and offender, 81.8 percent (27 out of 33) were committed with a firearm. ***In 2024, 18 women in South Carolina were shot and killed by their husbands or intimate acquaintances in single victim/single offender incidents during the course of an argument.***

REFERENCES

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2. Violence Policy Center. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 1998 Homicide Data*. October 2000. Available at: <https://vpc.org/publications/when-men-murder-women-an-analysis-of-1998-homicide-data/>.
3. 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>.
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5. 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/>.
6. CDC WISQARS Fatal and Nonfatal Injury Reports. Accessed July 6, 2026. Available at: <https://wisqars.cdc.gov/reports>.

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*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/>.*