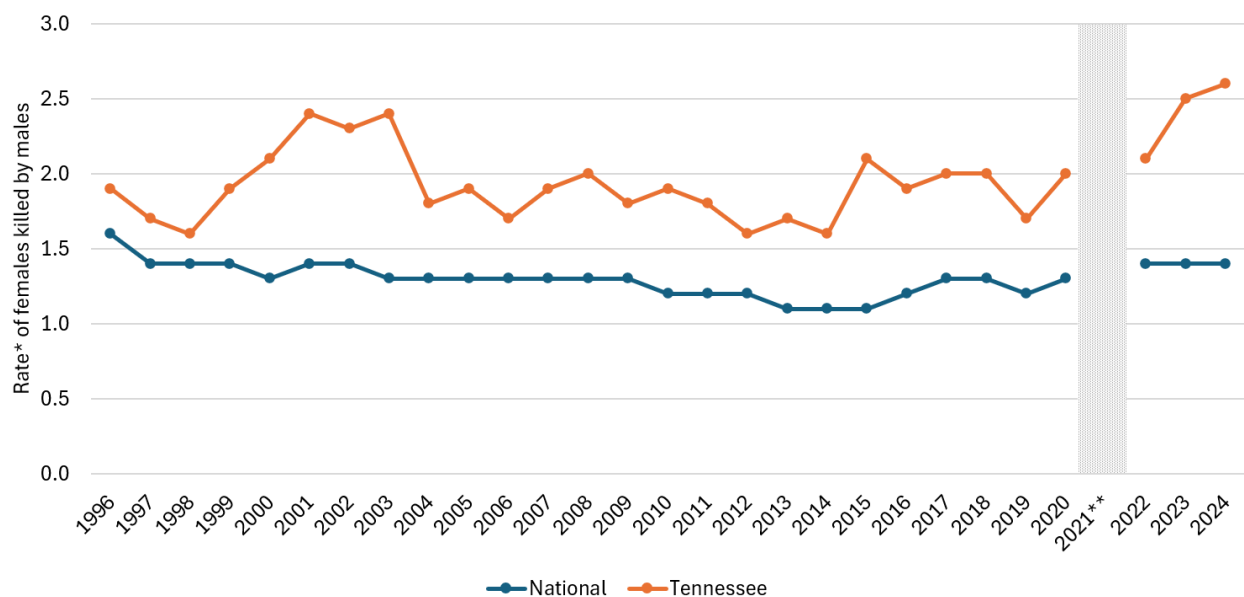


Tennessee's History of Deadly Violence Against Women

Compared to national rates, Tennessee 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, Tennessee ranked among the 10 states with the highest rates of females killed by males for 20 out of 25 years.^a

The rate of females killed by males in Tennessee jumped from 1.6 per 100,000 in 2014 to 2.6 per 100,000 in 2024, reaching the highest rate the state has seen in the last 29 years.² In 2024, Tennessee's rate was nearly twice the national rate of 1.4 per 100,000.^{2,3} A total of **97 female victims were killed by males** in the state that year.

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



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

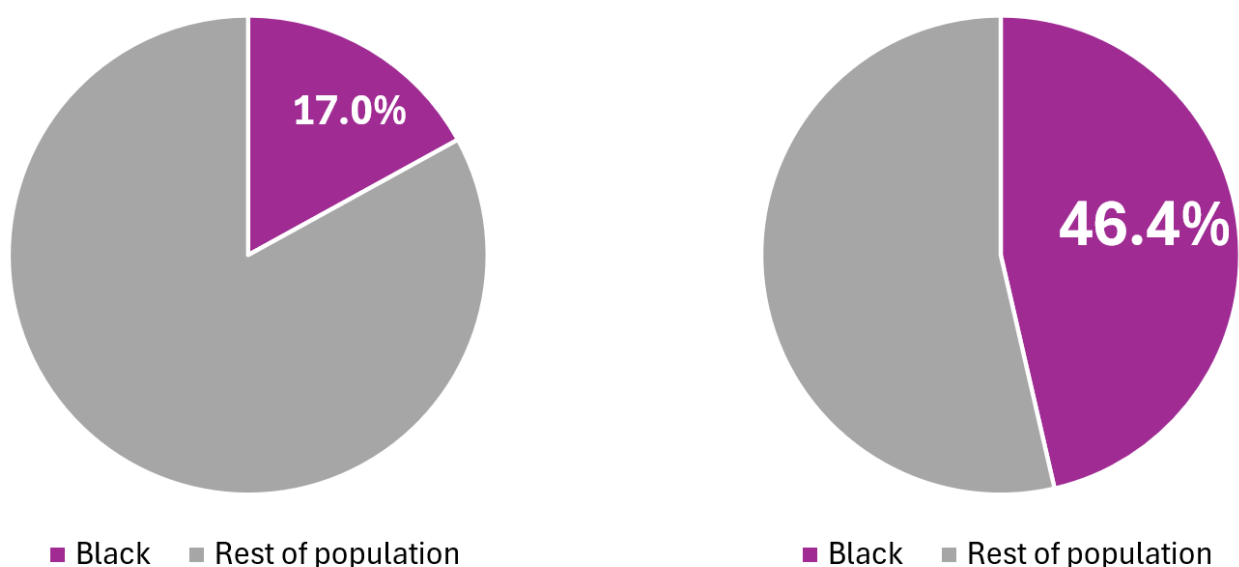
**FBI crime data are not shown for 2021 due to the degree of unreliability of data caused by the transition between FBI crime data reporting systems (depicted by grey area of graph)

^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 97 female homicide victims in Tennessee in 2024, 45 were Black (46.4 percent) and 49 were white (50.5 percent). Two victims were American Indian/Alaska Native and one victim was Asian/Pacific Islander. While Black females comprise only 17.0 percent of the female population in Tennessee, they represent 46.4 percent of all females killed by males in the state (Figure 2). With a rate of 7.2 per 100,000, **Black females in Tennessee are more than four times as likely to be killed by a male compared to white females** (1.7 per 100,000). The rate of Black females killed by males is higher in Tennessee compared to the national rate. In 2024, Black females in the U.S. were murdered by males at a rate of 2.9 per 100,000,³ while in Tennessee the rate was 7.2 per 100,000.²

Figure 2. Black percentage of Tennessee female population (left figure)⁵; Black percentage of Tennessee female homicide victims (right figure)², 2024



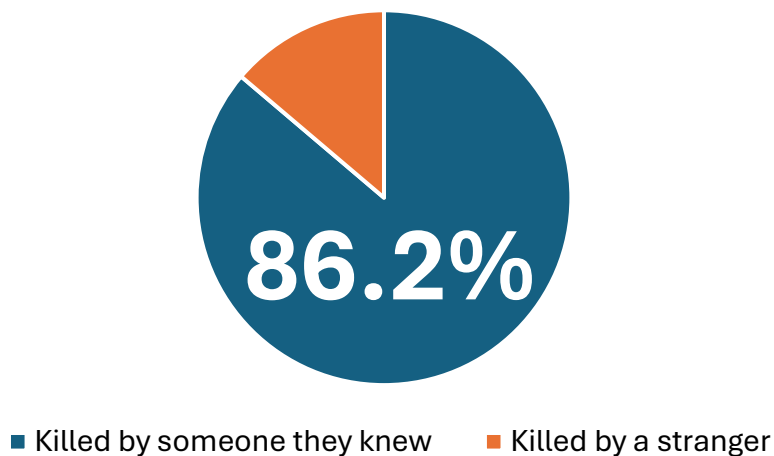
AGE

Victim age was available for all female homicide victims in Tennessee in 2024. Nine victims were less than 18 years old (9.3 percent) and 12 victims were age 65 and older (12.4 percent). The average victim age was 39.0 years old.

VICTIM/OFFENDER RELATIONSHIP

For homicides in which the victim to offender relationship could be identified, 86.2 percent of female victims (75 out of 87) were murdered by a male they knew (Figure 3). Twelve victims were killed by a stranger. Of the victims who knew their offenders, 56.0 percent (42 victims) were wives, common-law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders.

Figure 3. Percentage of female homicide victims in Tennessee killed by someone they knew, 2024²

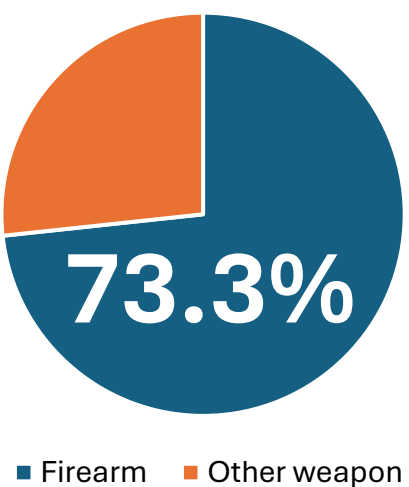


MOST COMMON WEAPONS

For homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 73.3 percent of victims (63 out of 86) were killed with guns (Figure 4). Of the female victims killed with a firearm, 49.2 percent were murdered by male intimates (31 out of 63).

Among victims killed with a gun, 58.7 percent (37 victims) were killed with a handgun, two victims were killed with a rifle or shotgun (3.2 percent), and 24 were killed with an unknown type of firearm (38.1 percent). Fourteen females were killed with a knife or other cutting instrument, three were killed by bodily force, two with a blunt object, and four were killed with other weapons.

Figure 4. Percentage of female homicide victims in Tennessee killed with firearms, 2024²



CIRCUMSTANCE

For homicides in which the circumstances could be identified, 90.4 percent (66 out of 73) were not related to the commission of any other felony. Of these, 57.6 percent (38 homicides) involved arguments between the victim and the offender. Of homicides that involved arguments between the victim and offender, 73.7 percent (28 out of 38) were committed with a firearm. ***In 2024, 18 women in Tennessee 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. 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/>.
5. CDC WISQARS Fatal and Nonfatal Injury Reports. Accessed July 7, 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/>.*