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Violence Policy Center

Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun Use

**An Analysis of Federal Bureau of Investigation
and National Crime Victimization Survey Data**

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INTRODUCTION

Guns are rarely used to kill criminals or stop crimes.

In 2016, across the nation there were only 274 justifiable homicides¹ involving a private citizen using a firearm reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program as detailed in its Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).² That same year, there were 10,341 criminal gun homicides tallied in the SHR. *In 2016, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 37 criminal homicides.*³ And this ratio, of course, does not take into account the tens of thousands of lives ended in gun suicides or unintentional shootings that year.⁴

This report analyzes, on both the national and state levels, the use of firearms in justifiable homicides. It also details, using the best data available on the national level, the *total* number of times guns are used for self-defense by the victims of both attempted and completed violent crimes and property crimes whether or not the use of the gun by the victim resulted in a fatality.

Key findings of this report, as detailed in its accompanying tables, include the following.

JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES WITH A GUN COMPARED TO CRIMINAL GUN HOMICIDES

- In 2016, there were only 274 justifiable homicides involving a gun. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, there were only 1,233 justifiable homicides involving a gun. [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2012-2016.*]

1 The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) defines "justifiable homicide" as the killing of a felon, during the commission of a felony, by a private citizen.

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from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR). The SHR contains more detailed information not available through published UCR data or elsewhere including: the age, sex, and race of victims and offenders; the types of weapons used; the relationship of victims to offenders; and, the circumstances of the homicides. Detailed information (such as weapon used, relationship between the victim and offender, etc.) in the SHR is available *only* for the first victim and/or offender in any justifiable homicide or homicide incident. In 2016, 97.8 percent of firearm justifiable homicide incidents (268 out of 274) had just one victim. Recognizing how the data are presented in the SHR and the fact that virtually all justifiable incidents had just one victim, throughout this report justifiable homicide incidents will be referred to as justifiable homicides.

3 Number of reported justifiable homicides and homicides taken from Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) as tabulated by the Violence Policy Center. It is important to note that the coding contained in the SHR data used in this report comes from law enforcement reporting at the local level. The level of information submitted to the SHR system may vary from agency to agency. While this study utilizes the best and most recent data available, it is limited by the degree of detail in the information submitted.

4 In 2016 there were 22,938 firearm suicide deaths and 495 fatal unintentional shootings. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

- In 2016, 19 states⁵ reported no justifiable homicides (Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming). [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2012-2016.*]
- In 2016, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 37 criminal homicides. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 35 criminal homicides. [For additional information see *Table Two: Circumstances for Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2016, 34.3 percent (94 of 274) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter,⁶ 47.8 percent (131) were strangers, and in 17.9 percent (49) the relationship was unknown. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 34.1 percent (420 of 1,233) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter, 52.2 percent (644) were strangers, and in 13.7 percent (169) the relationship was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Three: Relationship of Person Killed to Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2016, of the 274 firearm justifiable homicides, 88.0 percent (241) were committed by men, 10.9 percent (30) were committed by women, and in three cases (1.1 percent) the sex of the shooter was unknown. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, of the 1,233 firearm justifiable homicides, 91.8 percent (1,132) were committed by men, 7.6 percent (94) were committed by women, and in seven cases (0.6 percent) the sex of the shooter was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Four: Sex of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2016, of the 274 firearm justifiable homicides, 98.2 percent (269) of the persons shot and killed were men and 1.8 percent (five) were women. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, of the 1,233 firearm justifiable homicides, 97.9 percent (1,207) of the persons shot and killed were men and 2.1 percent (26) were women. [For additional information see *Table Five: Sex of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

5 Alabama, Florida, and the District of Columbia did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) for the years 2012 through 2016. In addition, according to the FBI, limited SHR data was received from Illinois for the years 2012 through 2015. Beginning in 2016, all Illinois law enforcement agencies were required by state law to report SHR data to the FBI. Data from these jurisdictions were not requested individually because the difference in collection techniques would create a bias in the study results.

6 Relationship categories in which the justifiable homicide victim was known to the shooter are acquaintance, boyfriend, brother, common-law husband, employee, ex-husband, ex-wife, father, friend, girlfriend, homosexual relationship, husband, in-law, neighbor, other family, other known, sister, son, stepfather, stepson, and wife.

- In 2016, 98.8 percent (238) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 1.2 percent (three) were female. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 97.9 percent (1,108) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 2.1 percent (24) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]
- In 2016, 96.7 percent (29) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 3.3 percent (one) were female. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 98.9 percent (93) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 1.1 percent (one) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2016, 44.9 percent (123) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 47.4 percent (130) were black, 5.1 percent (14) were Asian, 0.4 percent (one) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.2 percent (six) were of unknown race.⁷ For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 48.2 percent (594) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 47.4 percent (585) were black, 2.6 percent (32) were Asian, 0.4 percent (five) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 1.4 percent (17) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Seven: Race of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2016, 35.8 percent (98) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 61.3 percent (168) were black, 1.5 percent (four) were Asian, 1.1 percent (three) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.4 percent (one) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 37.5 percent (462) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 60.6 percent (747) were black, 0.9 percent (11) were Asian, 0.7 percent (nine) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.3 percent (four) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Eight: Race of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]
- In 2016, 62.6 percent (77) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a white shooter were white, 31.7 percent (39) were black, 2.4 percent (three) were Asian, 2.4 percent (three) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.8 percent (one) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 67.7 percent (402) of the persons killed by white shooters were white, 29.6 percent (176) were black, 0.7 percent (four) were Asian, 1.3 percent (eight) were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 0.7 percent (four) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Nine: Race of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]
- In 2016, 10.8 percent (14) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a black shooter were white, 88.5 percent (115) were black, 0.8 percent

⁷ Detailed information (such as race of offender and victim) in the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report is only available for the first victim and/or offender in the incident. Hispanic ethnicity could not be determined because of the inadequacy of data collection and reporting.

(one) were Asian, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and none were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, 7.9 percent (46) of the persons killed by black shooters were white, 92.0 percent (538) were black, 0.2 percent (one) were Asian, none were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and none were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Nine: Race of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2012-2016.*]

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

- In 2016, firearms were used in 83.8 percent of justifiable homicides (274 of 327). Of these: 71.5 percent (196) were handguns; 3.6 percent (10) were shotguns; 4.0 percent (11) were rifles; 20.4 percent (56) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.4 percent (one) were other gun. For the five-year period 2012 through 2016, firearms were used in 81.9 percent of justifiable homicide incidents (1,233 of 1,505). Of these: 76.6 percent (944) were handguns; 4.6 percent (57) were shotguns; 4.2 percent (52) were rifles; 14.2 percent (175) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.4 percent (five) were other gun. [For additional information see *Table Ten: Weapon Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2012-2016* and *Table Eleven: Type of Firearms Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2012-2016.*]

HOW OFTEN ARE GUNS USED IN SELF-DEFENSE WHETHER OR NOT A CRIMINAL IS KILLED?

While it is clear that guns are rarely used to justifiably kill criminals, an obvious question remains: How often are guns used in self-defense whether or not a criminal is killed?

Pro-gun advocates – from individual gun owners to organizations like the National Rifle Association – frequently claim that guns are used up to 2.5 million times each year in self-defense in the United States.⁸ According to the 2004 book *Private Guns, Public Health* by Dr. David Hemenway, Professor of Health Policy at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center:

Much discussion about the protective benefits of guns has focused on the incidence of self-defense gun use. Proponents of such putative benefits often claim that 2.5 million Americans use guns in self-defense against criminal attackers each year. This estimate is not plausible and has been nominated as the most outrageous number mentioned in a policy discussion by an elected official.

In his book, Hemenway dissects the 2.5 million figure from a variety of angles and, by extension, the NRA's own non-lethal self-defense claims for firearms. He concludes, "It is clear that the claim of 2.5 million annual self-defense gun uses is a vast overestimate" and asks, "But what can account for it?" As he details in his book, the main culprit is the "telescoping and...false positive problem" that derives from the very limited number of respondents claiming a self-defense gun use, "a matter of misclassification that is well known to medical epidemiologists."⁹

8 See, for example: "The Armed Citizen" ("Studies indicate that firearms are used more than 2 million times a year for personal protection...."), *America's 1st Freedom*, National Rifle Association, June 2019; and, "Chris Cox's NRA Armed Citizen: True Stories of Your Right to Self Defense in Action," ("While the anti gun media doesn't want to report the truth about Americans using guns for self defense as often as 2.5 million times a year, you can read breaking stories of everyday citizens fending off violent criminals in CHRIS COX'S ARMED CITIZEN"), *Armed Citizen E-Newsletter* (March 26, 2015). The 2.5 million estimate is the result of a telephone survey conducted by Florida State University criminologist Dr. Gary Kleck, see Hemenway, David, "The Myth of Millions of Annual Self-Defense Gun Uses: A Case Study of Survey Overestimates of Rare Events," *Chance* (American Statistical Association), Volume 10, No. 3, 1997.

9 For a more detailed discussion, please see Hemenway, David, *Private Guns, Public Health*, (The University of Michigan Press, 2004), pp. 66-69 and pp. 238-243.

ESTIMATES ON SELF-DEFENSE USE OF FIREARMS FROM THE BUREAU OF JUSTICE STATISTICS NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMIZATION SURVEY

Hemenway notes, and numerous others agree, that the most accurate survey of self-defense gun use is the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) conducted by the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The survey has been ongoing since 1973.¹⁰

VIOLENT CRIME

According to the NCVS, looking at the total number of self-protective behaviors undertaken by victims of both attempted and completed violent crime for the *three-year period 2014 through 2016*, in only 1.1 percent of these instances had the intended victim in resistance to a criminal “threatened or attacked with a firearm.”¹¹ As detailed in the chart on the next page, for the three-year period 2014 through 2016, the NCVS estimates that there were 16,115,500 victims of attempted or completed violent crime. During this same *three-year period*, only 177,300 of the self-protective behaviors involved a firearm. Of this number, it is not known what type of firearm was used or whether it was fired or not. The number may also include off-duty law enforcement officers who use their firearms in self-defense.

10 According to the website of the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the “National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) is the nation’s primary source of information on criminal victimization. Each year, data are obtained from a nationally representative sample of about 240,000 interviews on criminal victimization, involving 160,000 unique persons in about 95,000 households. Persons are interviewed on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. The NCVS collects information on nonfatal personal crimes (i.e., rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, and personal larceny) and household property crimes (i.e., burglary, motor vehicle theft, and other theft) both reported and not reported to police. Survey respondents provide information about themselves (e.g., age, sex, race and Hispanic origin, marital status, education level, and income) and whether they experienced a victimization. For each victimization incident, the NCVS collects information about the offender (e.g., age, race and Hispanic origin, sex, and victim-offender relationship), characteristics of the crime (e.g., time and place of occurrence, use of weapons, nature of injury, and economic consequences), whether the crime was reported to police, reasons the crime was or was not reported, and victim experiences with the criminal justice system.” (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Data Collection: National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS),” <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>.)

11 For “violent crime” the NCVS measures rape or sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Violent Crime,” <https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=31#summary>.)

SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS, BY TYPE OF CRIME, 2014-2016

	Violent Crime 2014-2016		Property Crime 2014-2016	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total Number of Crimes	16,115,500	100	45,816,900	100
"Victim was present"^a	16,115,500	100	7,319,100	16.0
Self-Protective Behavior				
Took no action or kept still	6,528,900	40.5	5,866,000	12.8
Threatened or attacked with a firearm	177,300	1.1	123,800	0.3
Threatened or attacked with other weapon	234,800	1.5	17,200	~
Threatened or attacked without a weapon	3,641,300	22.6	239,800	0.5
Nonconfrontational tactics ^b	4,811,700	29.9	910,700	2.0
Other reaction	695,700	4.3	154,300	0.3
Unknown reaction	25,900	0.2	7,300*	~*
Property crime, victim not present ^a	±	±	38,497,900	84.0
a By definition, victims are present during violent crime victimizations. Victims are not necessarily present during property crime victimizations.				
b Includes yelling, cooperating, running away, arguing or reasoning, calling police, or trying to attract attention or warn others.				
~ Less than 0.05%				
* Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50 percent.				
± Not applicable				
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2014-2016, Special Tabulation.				

PROPERTY CRIME

According to the NCVS, looking at the total number of self-protective behaviors undertaken by victims of attempted or completed property crime for the three-year period 2014 through 2016, in only 0.3 percent of these instances had the intended victim in resistance to a criminal threatened or attacked with a

firearm.¹² As detailed in the prior table, for the *three-year period 2014 through 2016*, the NCVS estimates that there were 45,816,900 victims of attempted or completed property crime. During this same *three-year period*, only 123,800 of the self-protective behaviors involved a firearm. Of this number, it is not known what type of firearm was used, whether it was fired or not, or whether the use of a gun would even be a legal response to the property crime. And as before, the number may also include off-duty law enforcement officers. In comparison, a 2017 study estimated that there are approximately 250,000 gun theft incidents *per year*, with about 380,000 guns stolen.¹³ Further, according to the FBI, firearms were used in 189,718 aggravated assaults and 125,289 robberies in the United States *in 2016 alone*.¹⁴

COMPARING NCVS DATA TO CLAIMS THAT GUNS ARE USED IN SELF-DEFENSE 2.5 MILLION TIMES A YEAR

Using the NCVS numbers, for the *three-year period 2014 through 2016*, the total number of self-protective behaviors involving a firearm by victims of attempted or completed violent crimes or property crimes totaled only 301,100. In comparison, the gun lobby claims that during the same *three-year period guns* were used 7.5 million times in self defense (applying to the three-year period the gun lobby's oft-repeated claim, noted earlier, that firearms are used in self defense 2.5 million times a year).

CONCLUSION

The reality of self-defense gun use bears no resemblance to the exaggerated claims of the gun lobby and gun industry. The number of justifiable homicides that occur in our nation each year pale in comparison to criminal homicides, let alone gun suicides and fatal unintentional shootings. And contrary to the common stereotype promulgated by the gun lobby, those killed in justifiable homicide incidents don't always fit the expected profile of an attack by a stranger: in 34.3 percent of the justifiable homicides that occurred in 2016 the persons shot and killed were known to the shooter.

The devastation guns inflict on our nation each and every year is clear. In 2016, guns killed more than 38,000 Americans and injured more than 116,000, leaving an untold number of lives traumatized and communities shattered.¹⁵ Unexamined claims of the efficacy and frequency of the self-defense use of firearms are the default rationale offered by the gun lobby and gun industry for this unceasing, bloody toll. The idea that firearms are frequently used in self-defense is the primary argument that the gun lobby and firearms industry use to expand the carrying of firearms into an ever-increasing number of public spaces and even to prevent the regulation of military-style semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. Yet this argument is hollow and the assertions false. When analyzing the most reliable data available, what is most striking is that in a nation of more than 300 million guns, how *rarely* firearms are used in self-defense.¹⁶

12 For "property crime" the NCVS measures household burglary, motor vehicle theft, as well as property theft. Since the survey information is obtained from a sample of households, it does not include property crimes affecting businesses or other commercial establishments. If such crimes are reported to law enforcement, they are included in the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The NCVS includes property crimes affecting victims and household members which were reported and not reported to the police. (Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Property Crime," <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=32>.)

13 Hemenway, D., Azrael, D., & Miller, M., "Whose guns are stolen? The epidemiology of Gun theft victims." *Injury Epidemiology*, December 2017, <http://doi.org/10.1186/s40621-017-0109-8>.

14 See <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-14> and <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2016/crime-in-the-u.s.-2016/topic-pages/tables/table-13>.

15 In 2016, 38,658 Americans died from firearms and 116,414 were injured by firearms. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

16 See Krouse, William J., *Gun Control Legislation*, Congressional Research Service, November 14, 2012, p. 8.

TABLE ONE: FIREARM JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY STATE, 2012-2016

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Alabama	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alaska	6	0	0	1	1	8
Arizona	7	13	9	15	13	57
Arkansas	3	0	1	1	3	8
California	27	22	26	20	26	121
Colorado	2	3	2	1	1	9
Connecticut	0	0	1	0	0	1
Delaware	0	0	1	0	0	1
Florida	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Georgia	8	6	4	16	20	54
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	1	2	1	7	4	15
Indiana	12	11	16	6	9	54
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	3	0	1	2	4	10
Kentucky	7	0	1	13	6	27
Louisiana	10	6	16	7	10	49
Maine	2	0	0	0	0	2
Maryland	6	5	3	7	0	21
Massachusetts	1	0	0	0	0	1
Michigan	20	12	15	7	6	60
Minnesota	1	2	2	3	3	11
Mississippi	1	1	0	0	0	2
Missouri	8	3	6	15	12	44
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	TOTAL
Nebraska	1	3	3	0	0	7
Nevada	1	1	2	6	8	18
New Hampshire	0	1	0	0	0	1
New Jersey	0	3	1	3	3	10
New Mexico	1	1	5	4	0	11
New York	0	0	0	5	4	9
North Carolina	5	1	6	4	3	19
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	2	4	0	1	2	9
Oklahoma	11	7	6	11	7	42
Oregon	6	0	0	1	4	11
Pennsylvania	9	12	5	6	12	44
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	11	6	6	14	16	53
South Dakota	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tennessee	20	16	27	18	21	102
Texas	47	49	43	61	46	246
Utah	2	0	0	1	1	4
Vermont	0	1	0	0	0	1
Virginia	7	9	4	2	12	34
Washington	4	8	4	1	5	22
West Virginia	1	0	0	0	0	1
Wisconsin	5	3	6	6	12	32
Wyoming	0	0	1	0	0	1
Total	259	211	224	265	274	1,233

TABLE TWO: CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Circumstance	Number of Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Criminal Homicide	8,342	97.0%	7,838	97.4%	7,670	97.2%	9,027	97.1%	10,341	97.4%	43,218	97.2%
Justifiable Homicide	259	3.0%	211	2.6%	224	2.8%	265	2.9%	274	2.6%	1,233	2.8%
Ratio of Criminal Homicide to Justifiable Homicide	32-1		37-1		34-1		34-1		37-1		35-1	
Total	8,601		8,049		7,894		9,292		10,615		44,451	

TABLE THREE: RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Relationship	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Acquaintance	52	20.1%	30	14.2%	53	23.7%	51	19.2%	37	13.5%	223	18.1%
Boyfriend	1	0.4%	3	1.4%	4	1.8%	6	2.3%	7	2.6%	21	1.7%
Brother	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	2	0.9%	5	1.9%	2	0.7%	15	1.2%
Common-Law Husband	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Employee	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ex-Husband	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ex-Wife	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Father	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Friend	5	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	7	2.6%	4	1.5%	16	1.3%
Girlfriend	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.1%
Homosexual Relationship	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	2	0.2%
Husband	1	0.4%	4	1.9%	3	1.3%	1	0.4%	7	2.6%	16	1.3%
In-Law	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Neighbor	5	1.9%	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	4	1.5%	3	1.1%	15	1.2%
Other Family	3	1.2%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.1%	2	0.7%	10	0.8%
Other Known	13	5.0%	9	4.3%	12	5.4%	14	5.3%	25	9.1%	73	5.9%
Sister	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Son	4	1.5%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	2	0.8%	2	0.7%	10	0.8%
Stepfather	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	2	0.2%
Stepson	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	3	1.1%	1	0.4%	7	0.6%
Stranger	133	51.4%	126	59.7%	123	54.9%	131	49.4%	131	47.8%	644	52.2%
Wife	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	3	0.2%
Unknown Relationship	34	13.1%	28	13.3%	24	10.7%	34	12.8%	49	17.9%	169	13.7%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	

TABLE FOUR: SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Sex of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Male	237	91.5%	198	93.8%	209	93.3%	247	93.2%	241	88.0%	1,132	91.8%
Female	20	7.7%	13	6.2%	15	6.7%	16	6.0%	30	10.9%	94	7.6%
Unknown	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	3	1.1%	7	0.6%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	

TABLE FIVE: SEX OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Male	254	98.1%	207	98.1%	218	97.3%	259	97.7%	269	98.2%	1,207	97.9%
Female	5	1.9%	4	1.9%	6	2.7%	6	2.3%	5	1.8%	26	2.1%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	

TABLE SIX: SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Sex of Shooter	Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Male	Male	232	97.9%	194	98.0%	203	97.1%	241	97.6%	238	98.8%	1,108	97.9%
	Female	5	2.1%	4	2.0%	6	2.9%	6	2.4%	3	1.2%	24	2.1%
Female	Male	20	100.0%	13	100.0%	15	100.0%	16	100.0%	29	96.7%	93	98.9%
	Female	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.3%	1	1.1%
Total		257		211		224		263		271		1,226	

TABLE SEVEN: RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Race of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
White	131	50.6%	99	46.9%	113	50.5%	128	48.3%	123	44.9%	594	48.2%
Black	117	45.2%	104	49.3%	108	48.2%	126	47.5%	130	47.4%	585	47.4%
Asian	6	2.3%	5	2.4%	2	0.9%	5	1.9%	14	5.1%	32	2.6%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	1	0.4%	5	0.4%
Unknown	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	4	1.5%	6	2.2%	17	1.4%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	

TABLE EIGHT: RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
White	98	37.8%	77	36.5%	97	43.3%	92	34.7%	98	35.8%	462	37.5%
Black	152	58.7%	130	61.6%	127	56.7%	170	64.2%	168	61.3%	747	60.6%
Asian	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	4	1.5%	11	0.9%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	3	1.2%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	3	1.1%	9	0.7%
Unknown	2	0.8%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	4	0.3%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	

TABLE NINE: RACE OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2012-2016

Race of Shooter	Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
White	White	85	64.9%	71	71.7%	88	77.9%	81	63.3%	77	62.6%	402	67.7%
	Black	40	30.5%	26	26.3%	25	22.1%	46	35.9%	39	31.7%	176	29.6%
	Asian	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	2.4%	4	0.7%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	3	2.3%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	3	2.4%	8	1.3%
	Unknown	2	1.5%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	4	0.7%
Black	White	10	8.6%	5	4.8%	7	6.5%	10	7.9%	14	10.8%	46	7.9%
	Black	107	91.5%	99	95.2%	101	93.5%	116	92.1%	115	88.5%	538	92.0%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	1	0.2%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asian	White	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	5	35.7%	7	21.9%
	Black	2	33.3%	3	60.0%	1	50.0%	5	100.0%	9	64.3%	20	62.5%
	Asian	3	50.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	5	15.6%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
American Indian/ Alaskan Native	White	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	3	60.0%
	Black	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	100.0%	1	20.0%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	American Indian/Alaskan Native	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Total		255		209		223		261		268		1,216	

TABLE TEN: WEAPON USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2012-2016

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Firearm	259	83.8%	211	78.1%	224	82.7%	265	80.8%	274	83.8%	1,233	81.9%
Knife or cutting instrument	35	11.3%	35	13.0%	36	13.3%	39	11.9%	32	9.8%	177	11.8%
Blunt object	4	1.3%	7	2.6%	1	0.4%	5	1.5%	5	1.5%	22	1.5%
Bodily force	9	2.9%	11	4.1%	9	3.3%	14	4.3%	14	4.3%	57	3.8%
Strangulation	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Asphyxiation	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.3%	2	0.1%
Unknown	2	0.7%	4	1.5%	1	0.4%	5	1.5%	1	0.3%	13	0.9%
Total	309		270		271		328		327		1,505	

TABLE ELEVEN: TYPE OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2012-2016

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		TOTAL	
Firearm, Type Not Stated	30	11.6%	30	14.2%	28	12.5%	31	11.7%	56	20.4%	175	14.2%
Handgun	195	75.3%	165	78.2%	174	77.7%	214	80.8%	196	71.5%	944	76.6%
Rifle	19	7.3%	6	2.8%	10	4.5%	6	2.3%	11	4.0%	52	4.2%
Shotgun	15	5.8%	8	3.8%	11	4.9%	13	4.9%	10	3.6%	57	4.6%
Other Gun	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	5	0.4%
Total	259		211		224		265		274		1,233	



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