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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 2014, across the nation there were only 224 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 7,670 criminal gun homicides tallied in the SHR. *In 2014, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 34 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 2014, there were only 224 justifiable homicides involving a gun. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, there were only 1,125 justifiable homicides involving a gun. [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2010-2014.*]

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from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).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. From 2008 to 2014, 97.5 percent of firearm justifiable homicide incidents (1,505 out of 1,543) had just one victim. Recognizing how the data is 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 2014 there were 21,334 firearm suicide deaths and 586 fatal unintentional shootings. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

- In 2014, 18 states⁵ reported no justifiable homicides (Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia). [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2010-2014.*]
- In 2014 for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 34 criminal homicides. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 36 criminal homicides. [For additional information see *Table Two: Circumstances for Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2014, 34.4 percent (77 of 224) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter,⁶ 54.9 percent (123) were strangers, and in 10.7 percent (24) the relationship was unknown. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 33.2 percent (374 of 1,125) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter, 55.3 percent (622) were strangers, and in 11.5 percent (129) the relationship was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Three: Relationship of Person Killed to Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2014, of the 224 firearm justifiable homicides, 93.3 percent (209) were committed by men, and 6.7 percent (15) were committed by women. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, of the 1,125 firearm justifiable homicides, 91.6 percent (1,030) were committed by men, 7.9 percent (89) were committed by women, and in six cases (0.5 percent) the gender of the shooter was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Four: Sex of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2014, of the 224 firearm justifiable homicides, 97.3 percent (218) of the persons shot and killed were men and 2.7 percent (six) were women. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, of the 1,125 firearm justifiable homicides, 97.9 percent (1,101) of the persons shot and killed were men and 2.1 percent (24) were women. [For additional information see *Table Five: Sex of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

5 The state of Florida and the District of Columbia did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) for the years 2010 through 2014. Alabama did not submit data to the SHR for the years 2011 through 2014. In addition, according to the FBI, limited SHR data was received from Illinois for the years 2010 through 2014. Data from these jurisdictions was 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, husband, in-law, neighbor, other family, other known, son, stepfather, stepson, and wife.

- In 2014, 97.1 percent (203) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 2.9 percent (six) were female. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 97.8 percent (1,007) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 2.2 percent (23) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]
- In 2014, 100.0 percent (15) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 0.0 percent (zero) were female. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 98.9 percent (88) 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, 2010-2014.*]

RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2014, 50.5 percent (113) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 48.2 percent (108) were black, 0.9 percent (two) were Asian, 0.0 percent (zero) were American Indian, and 0.5 percent (one) were of unknown race.⁷ For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 48.9 percent (550) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 47.7 percent (537) were black, 2.0 percent (22) were Asian, 0.4 percent (four) were American Indian, and 1.1 percent (12) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Seven: Race of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2014, 43.3 percent (97) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 56.7 percent (127) were black, 0.0 percent (zero) were Asian, 0.0 percent (zero) were American Indian, and 0.0 percent (zero) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 38.4 percent (432) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 60.0 percent (675) were black, 0.7 percent (eight) were Asian, 0.5 percent (six) were American Indian, and 0.4 percent (four) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Eight: Race of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]
- In 2014, 77.9 percent (88) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a white shooter were white, 22.1 percent (25) were black, none were Asian, none were American Indian, and none were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 70.5 percent (388) of the persons killed by white shooters were white, 27.5 percent (151) were black, 0.2 percent (one) were Asian, 1.1 percent (six) were American Indian, 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, 2010-2014.*]
- In 2014, 6.5 percent (seven) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a black shooter were white, 93.5 percent (101) were black, none were Asian, none were American Indian, and none were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, 5.6 percent (30) of the persons killed by black

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.

shooters were white, 94.2 percent (506) were black, 0.2 percent (one) were Asian, none were American Indian, and none were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Nine: Race of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2010-2014.*]

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

- In 2014, firearms were used in 82.7 percent of justifiable homicides (224 of 271). Of these: 77.7 percent (174) were handguns; 4.9 percent (11) were shotguns; 4.5 percent (10) were rifles; 12.5 percent (28) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.4 percent (1) were other gun. For the five-year period 2010 through 2014, firearms were used in 81.1 percent of justifiable homicide incidents (1,125 of 1,388). Of these: 75.7 percent (852) were handguns; 6.5 percent (73) were shotguns; 4.9 percent (55) were rifles; 12.6 percent (142) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.3 percent (three) were other gun. [For additional information see *Table Ten: Weapon Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2010-2014* and *Table Eleven: Type of Firearms Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2010-2014.*]

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...."), *American Rifleman*, National Rifle Association, April 2017; 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 2013 through 2015*, 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 2013 through 2015, the NCVS estimates that there were 16,492,600 victims of attempted or completed violent crime. During this same *three-year period*, only 175,700 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 90,000 households, comprising nearly 160,000 persons, on the frequency, characteristics, and consequences of criminal victimization in the United States. Each household is interviewed twice during the year. The survey enables BJS to estimate the likelihood of victimization by rape or sexual assault, robbery, aggravated and simple assault, theft, household burglary, and motor vehicle theft for the population as a whole as well as for segments of the population such as women, the elderly, members of various racial or ethnic groups, city dwellers, and other groups. The NCVS provides the largest national forum for victims to describe the impact of crime and characteristics of violent offenders,” (see <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=dcdetail&iid=245>).

11 For “violent crime” the NCVS measures rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault. (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Violent Crime,” <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=931>).

SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS, BY TYPE OF CRIME, 2013-2015

	Violent Crime 2013-2015		Property Crime 2013-2015	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total Number of Crimes	16,492,600	100	46,673,600	100
Self-Protective Behavior				
Took no action or kept still	6,375,500	38.7	5,777,400	12.4
Threatened or attacked with a firearm	175,700	1.1	109,000	0.2
Threatened or attacked with other weapon	304,800	1.8	16,300*	~*
Threatened or attacked without a weapon	4,005,500	24.3	286,000	0.6
Nonconfrontational tactics, including yelling, running, or arguing	4,887,400	29.6	928,700	2.0
Other reaction	710,800	4.3	132,700	0.3
Unknown reaction	32,900	0.2	13,200*	~*
Property crime, victim not present.	≠	≠	39,410,300	84.4
~ Less than 0.05 percent	≠ Not applicable			
* Interpret with caution. Estimate based on 10 or fewer sample cases, or coefficient of variation is greater than 50 percent.				
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2013-2015, 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 2013 through 2015*, in only 0.2 percent of these instances had the intended victim in resistance to a criminal threatened or attacked with a firearm.¹² As detailed

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>.)

in the prior table, for the *three-year period 2013 through 2015*, the NCVS estimates that there were 46,673,600 victims of attempted or completed property crime. During this same three-year period, only 109,000 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, data from the Department of Justice shows that an average of 232,400 guns were stolen *each year* from U.S. households from 2005 to 2010.¹³

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 2013 through 2015*, the total number of self-protective behaviors involving a firearm by victims of attempted or completed violent crimes or property crimes totaled only 284,700. 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 34.4 percent of the justifiable homicides that occurred in 2014 the persons shot and killed were known to the shooter.

The devastation guns inflict on our nation each and every year is clear. In 2015, guns killed more than 36,000 Americans and injured nearly 85,000 leaving an untold number of lives traumatized and communities shattered.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵

13 "Firearms Stolen During Household Burglaries and Other Property Crimes 2005-2010," U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics, November 2012.

14 In 2015, 36,252 Americans died from firearms and 84,997 were injured by firearms. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

15 It is estimated that the total number of firearms available to civilians in the United States is 310 million: 114 million handguns, 110 million rifles, and 86 million shotguns. Krouse, William J., *Gun Control Legislation*, Congressional Research Service, November 14, 2012, p. 8.

TABLE ONE: FIREARM JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY STATE, 2010-2014

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Alabama	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0
Alaska	2	3	6	0	0	11
Arizona	16	6	7	13	9	51
Arkansas	3	0	3	0	1	7
California	23	23	27	22	26	121
Colorado	5	3	2	3	2	15
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	1	1
Delaware	1	0	0	0	1	2
Florida	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Georgia	19	5	8	6	4	42
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	0	4	1	2	1	8
Indiana	12	6	12	11	16	57
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	3	1	3	0	1	8
Kentucky	4	3	7	0	1	15
Louisiana	10	9	10	6	16	51
Maine	1	1	2	0	0	4
Maryland	6	2	6	5	3	22
Massachusetts	2	0	1	0	0	3
Michigan	13	31	20	12	15	91
Minnesota	2	0	1	2	2	7
Mississippi	1	0	1	1	0	3
Missouri	5	8	8	3	6	30
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	TOTAL
Nebraska	1	0	1	3	3	8
Nevada	3	2	1	1	2	9
New Hampshire	0	0	0	1	0	1
New Jersey	2	2	0	3	1	8
New Mexico	2	1	1	1	5	10
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	3	5	1	6	15
North Dakota	0	1	0	0	0	1
Ohio	2	1	2	4	0	9
Oklahoma	5	5	11	7	6	34
Oregon	4	3	6	0	0	13
Pennsylvania	8	11	9	12	5	45
Rhode Island	1	0	0	0	0	1
South Carolina	7	6	11	6	6	36
South Dakota	1	0	1	0	0	2
Tennessee	14	21	20	16	27	98
Texas	44	29	47	49	43	212
Utah	1	0	2	0	0	3
Vermont	0	0	0	1	0	1
Virginia	5	6	7	9	4	31
Washington	2	5	4	8	4	23
West Virginia	0	0	1	0	0	1
Wisconsin	0	0	5	3	6	14
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	230	201	259	211	224	1,125

TABLE TWO: CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Circumstance	Number of Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Criminal Homicide	8,275	97.3%	8,066	97.6%	8,342	97.0%	7,838	97.4%	7,670	97.2%	40,191	97.3%
Justifiable Homicide	230	2.7%	201	2.4%	259	3.0%	211	2.6%	224	2.8%	1,125	2.7%
Ratio of Criminal Homicide to Justifiable Homicide	36-1		40-1		32-1		37-1		34-1		36-1	
Total	8,505		8,267		8,601		8,049		7,894		41,316	

TABLE THREE: RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Relationship	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Acquaintance	51	22.2%	36	17.9%	52	20.1%	30	14.2%	53	23.7%	222	19.7%
Boyfriend	2	0.9%	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.4%	4	1.8%	12	1.1%
Brother	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	2	0.9%	8	0.7%
Common-Law Husband	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	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	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Ex-Wife	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Father	2	0.9%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Friend	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	5	1.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	9	0.8%
Girlfriend	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Husband	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	1	0.4%	4	1.9%	3	1.3%	12	1.1%
In-Law	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Neighbor	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	5	1.9%	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	12	1.1%
Other Family	0	0.0%	5	2.5%	3	1.2%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	10	0.9%
Other Known	7	3.0%	8	4.0%	13	5.0%	9	4.3%	12	5.4%	49	4.4%
Son	4	1.7%	3	1.5%	4	1.5%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	13	1.2%
Stepfather	2	0.9%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.3%
Stepson	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	7	0.6%
Stranger	130	56.5%	110	54.7%	133	51.4%	126	59.7%	123	54.9%	622	55.3%
Wife	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Unknown Relationship	18	7.8%	25	12.4%	34	13.1%	28	13.3%	24	10.7%	129	11.5%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	

TABLE FOUR: SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Sex of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Male	205	89.1%	181	90.1%	237	91.5%	198	93.8%	209	93.3%	1,030	91.6%
Female	24	10.4%	17	8.5%	20	7.7%	13	6.2%	15	6.7%	89	7.9%
Unknown	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	2	0.8%	0	0.0	0	0.0%	6	0.5%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	

TABLE FIVE: SEX OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Male	226	98.3%	196	97.5%	254	98.1%	207	98.1%	218	97.3%	1,101	97.9%
Female	4	1.7%	5	2.5%	5	1.9%	4	1.9%	6	2.7%	24	2.1%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	

TABLE SIX: SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Sex of Shooter	Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Male	Male	202	98.5%	176	97.2%	232	97.9%	194	98.0%	203	97.1%	1,007	97.8%
	Female	3	1.5%	5	2.8%	5	2.1%	4	2.0%	6	2.9%	23	2.2%
Female	Male	23	95.8%	17	100.0%	20	100.0%	13	100.0%	15	100.0%	88	98.9%
	Female	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.1%
Total		229		198		257		211		224		1,119	

TABLE SEVEN: RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Race of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
White	121	52.6%	86	42.8%	131	50.6%	99	46.9%	113	50.5%	550	48.9%
Black	102	44.3%	106	52.7%	117	45.2%	104	49.3%	108	48.2%	537	47.7%
Asian	5	2.2%	4	2.0%	6	2.3%	5	2.4%	2	0.9%	22	2.0%
American Indian	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Unknown	2	0.9%	3	1.5%	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	12	1.1%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	

TABLE EIGHT: RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
White	90	39.1%	70	34.8%	98	37.8%	77	36.5%	97	43.3%	432	38.4%
Black	138	60.0%	128	63.7%	152	58.7%	130	61.6%	127	56.7%	675	60.0%
Asian	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	4	1.5%	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	8	0.7%
American Indian	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	3	1.2%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	6	0.5%
Unknown	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	

TABLE NINE: RACE OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2010-2014

Race of Shooter	Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
White	White	82	67.8%	62	72.1%	85	64.9%	71	71.7%	88	77.9%	388	70.5%
	Black	37	30.6%	23	26.7%	40	30.5%	26	26.3%	25	22.1%	151	27.5%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
	American Indian	1	0.8%	1	1.2%	3	2.3%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	6	1.1%
	Unknown	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	1.5%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.7%
Black	White	5	4.9%	3	2.8%	10	8.6%	5	4.8%	7	6.5%	30	5.6%
	Black	97	95.1%	102	96.2%	107	91.5%	99	95.2%	101	93.5%	506	94.2%
	Asian	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
	American Indian	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	20.0%	2	50.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	50.0%	5	22.7%
	Black	4	80.0%	1	25.0%	2	33.3%	3	60.0%	1	50.0%	11	50.0%
	Asian	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	3	50.0%	2	40.0%	0	0.0%	6	27.3%
	American Indian	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	White	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	4	100.0%
	Black	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	American Indian	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%
Total		228		198		255		209		223		1,113	

TABLE TEN: WEAPON USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2010-2014

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Firearm	230	83.0%	201	77.0%	259	83.8%	211	78.1%	224	82.7%	1,125	81.1%
Knife or cutting instrument	32	11.6%	49	18.8%	35	11.3%	35	13.0%	36	13.3%	187	13.5%
Blunt object	4	1.4%	4	1.5%	4	1.3%	7	2.6%	1	0.4%	20	1.4%
Bodily force	4	1.4%	3	1.2%	9	2.9%	11	4.1%	9	3.3%	36	2.6%
Strangulation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Asphyxiation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Unknown	7	2.5%	4	1.5%	2	0.7%	4	1.5%	1	0.4%	18	1.3%
Total	277		261		309		270		271		1,388	

TABLE ELEVEN: TYPE OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2010-2014

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		TOTAL	
Firearm, type not stated	28	12.2%	26	12.9%	30	11.6%	30	14.2%	28	12.5%	142	12.6%
Handgun	166	72.2%	152	75.6%	195	75.3%	165	78.2%	174	77.7%	852	75.7%
Rifle	8	3.5%	12	6.0%	19	7.3%	6	2.8%	10	4.5%	55	4.9%
Shotgun	28	12.2%	11	5.5%	15	5.8%	8	3.8%	11	4.9%	73	6.5%
Other Gun	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	1	0.4%	3	0.3%
Total	230		201		259		211		224		1,125	



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