



Reduce Risk – Increase Safety: Towards Ending SALW Misuse in the Context of Domestic Violence

WOMEN KILLED WITH FIREARMS

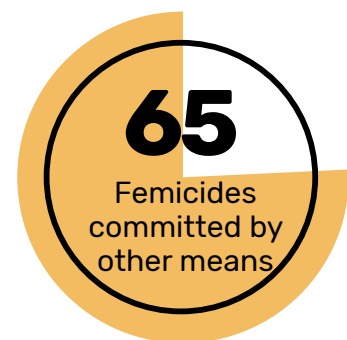
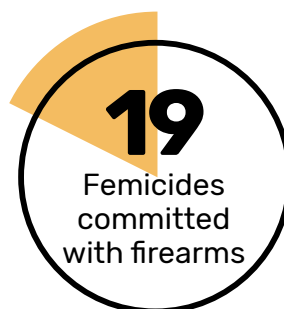
Analysis of Cases of Femicide Committed with Firearms (June 2017 – June 2020)
– Key Findings –

Despite major changes in legislation and institutional practices, the killing of women – femicide – as the direct consequence of domestic and intimate partner violence continues to happen.

Femicide is a violation of the right to life, and affects overall community safety too, as these cases may take place in the presence of the victim’s family, colleagues, passers-by in the street, and even children.

The presence and accessibility of firearms and their misuse in violence against women increases the risk and likelihood of a fatal outcome in the context of gender-based violence.

FEMICIDE CASES FROM JUNE 2017 TO JUNE 2020



Firearms’ lethal power increases the likelihood of repeated assaults and severe injuries that change victims’ lives permanently.

In the observed period, assaults with firearms resulted in the loss of **21 lives – 19 women and 2 persons close to them**¹.

Firearms are also misused for intimidation, threats, physical and sexual violence, as a result of which victims are afraid to report violence, and witnesses hesitate to help victims.

¹In the absence of publicly available institutional data, the Analysis of Cases of Femicide Committed with Firearms (June 2017 – June 2020) relies on media reports, as the only publicly available information source that can, to an extent, provide an insight into the characteristics of femicide cases, as well as risk factors indicating the likelihood of a fatal outcome of violence against women.

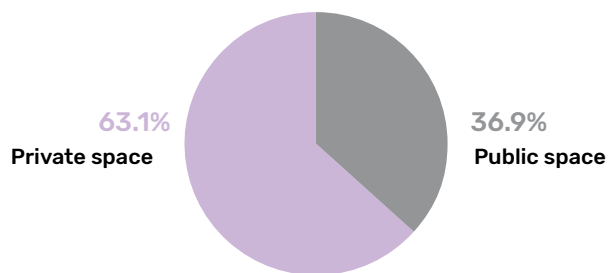
FEMICIDES WITH FIREARMS

Almost two thirds of recorded femicides were committed in private spaces, where victims have fewer opportunities to avoid assaults with a firearm.

One out of three femicides took place in public, with several witnesses in the immediate vicinity.

Twice as many femicides were committed in cities as in rural areas.

Place of execution of femicides with firearms by privacy level



VICTIMS AND PERPETRATORS OF FEMICIDES WITH FIREARMS

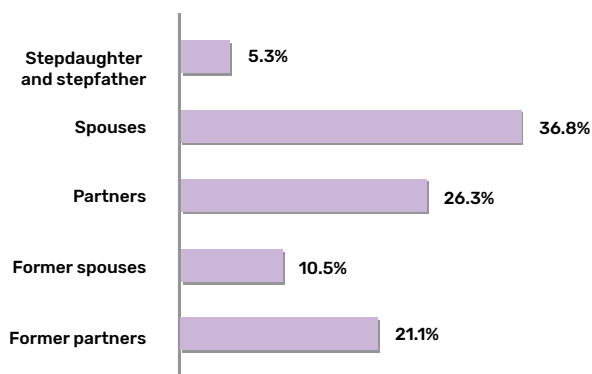
A great majority of femicides were committed in an intimate partner relationship.

Most of the women killed were aged between 46 and 55.

In most cases, the perpetrators were men aged 46 to 55 and those over 65.

In four cases, the perpetrators had access to weapons based on their work (farmland warden, game warden, police officer).

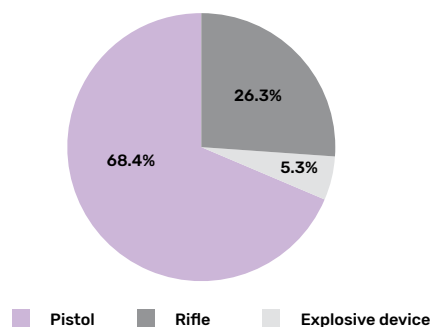
Relationship between the victims and perpetrators of femicides with firearms



FIREARMS USED TO COMMIT FEMICIDES IN SERBIA

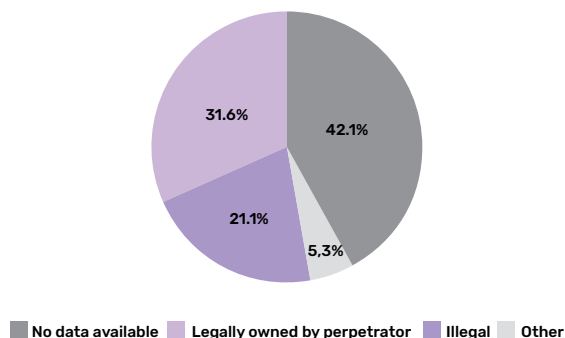
The means most commonly used to commit femicides with firearms are pistols, which were used in 13 out of 19 cases.

Femicides with firearms by type of weapon

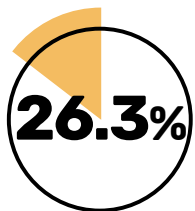


The firearm was legally owned in one out of three cases, and one out of five firearms were illegal.

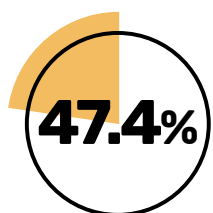
Femicides with firearms by weapon ownership status



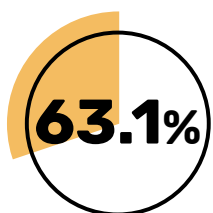
Most prevalent risk factors leading up to the killing



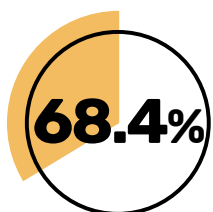
In a quarter of the cases, **the perpetrator stalked and followed the victim.**



Almost half of the women were **afraid of the abuser and/or feared that the abuser would kill them.**



In two thirds of the cases, **the perpetrator was jealous.**



In two thirds of the cases, the killing took place when **the victim announced leaving, tried to leave or had already left the abuser.**

Regular collection and publication of data on femicides is essential for **understanding the circumstances leading up to the killings, in order for institutions and the community to recognise the danger of escalating violence in time, to respond and prevent femicide.**

For more details, please refer to: [Analysis of Cases of Femicide Committed with Firearms.](#)

The analysis was prepared by the Autonomous Women's Centre with support from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Serbia. The analysis was conducted under the project Reduce Risk, Increase Safety – Towards Ending SALW Misuse in the Context of Domestic Violence, implemented by UNDP Serbia. The project is implemented with the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office, Germany and contributes to the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to combat illicit possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024.