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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 2012, across the nation there were only 259 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 8,342 criminal gun homicides tallied in the SHR. *In 2012, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 32 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 2012, there were only 259 justifiable homicides involving a gun. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, there were only 1,108 justifiable homicides involving a gun. [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2008-2012.*]

- 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from participating police agencies and records supplementary information about the circumstances of homicides in its unpublished Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR).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 2012, 97.9 percent of firearm justifiable homicide incidents (1,085 out of 1,108) 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 2012 there were 20,666 firearm suicide deaths and 548 fatal unintentional shootings. Source: Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WISQARS database.

- In 2012, 13 states⁵ reported no justifiable homicides (Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wyoming). [For additional information see *Table One: Firearm Justifiable Homicides by State, 2008-2012.*]
- In 2012 for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 32 criminal homicides. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, for every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 38 criminal homicides. [For additional information see *Table Two: Circumstances for Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, 35.5 percent (92 of 259) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter,⁶ 51.4 percent (133) were strangers, and in 13.1 percent (34) the relationship was unknown. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 32.9 percent (364 of 1,108) of persons killed in a firearm justifiable homicide were known to the shooter, 56.0 percent (620) were strangers, and in 11.2 percent (124) the relationship was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Three: Relationship of Person Killed to Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, of the 259 firearm justifiable homicides, 91.5 percent (237) were committed by men, 7.7 percent (20) were committed by women, and in two cases the gender of the shooter was unknown. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, of the 1,108 firearm justifiable homicides, 91.5 percent (1,014) were committed by men, 7.7 percent (85) were committed by women, and in nine cases (0.8 percent) the gender of the shooter was unknown. [For additional information see *Table Four: Sex of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, of the 259 firearm justifiable homicides, 98.1 percent (254) of the persons shot and killed were men and 1.9 percent (five) were women. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, of the 1,108 firearm justifiable homicides, 98.4 percent (1,090) of the persons shot and killed were men and 1.6 percent (18) were women. [For additional information see *Table Five: Sex of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

5 The state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) for the years 2008 through 2012. Alabama did not submit data to the SHR for the years 2011 and 2012. In addition, according to the FBI, limited SHR data was received from Illinois for the years 2010 through 2012. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, the District of Columbia submitted SHR data only in 2009, during which there were no justifiable homicides in the District. 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 2012, 97.9 percent (232) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 2.1 percent (five) were female. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 98.4 percent (998) of the persons killed by a male with a gun in a justifiable homicide were male and 1.6 percent (16) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]
- In 2012, 100.0 percent (20) 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 2008 through 2012, 97.6 percent (83) of the persons killed by a female with a gun in a justifiable homicide incident were male and 2.4 percent (two) were female. [For additional information see *Table Six: Sex of Shooter and Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, 50.6 percent (131) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 45.2 percent (117) were black, 2.3 percent (six) were Asian, 0.4 percent (one) were American Indian, and 1.5 percent (four) were of unknown race.⁷ For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 50.9 percent (564) of the shooters who committed justifiable homicides were white, 44.2 percent (490) were black, 2.9 percent (32) were Asian, 0.5 percent (five) were American Indian, and 1.5 percent (17) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Seven: Race of Shooter in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]

RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, 37.8 percent (98) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 58.7 percent (152) were black, 1.5 percent (four) were Asian, 1.2 percent (three) were American Indian, and 0.8 percent (two) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 38.5 percent (427) of persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide were white, 59.1 percent (655) were black, 0.8 percent (nine) were Asian, 0.9 percent (10) were American Indian, and 0.6 percent (seven) were of unknown race. [For additional information see *Table Eight: Race of Person Killed in Justifiable Homicides by Firearm, 2008-2012.*]
- In 2012, 64.9 percent (85) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a white shooter were white, 30.5 percent (40) were black, 0.8 percent (one) were Asian, 2.3 percent (three) were American Indian, and 1.5 percent (two) were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 66.8 percent (377) of the persons killed by white shooters were white, 30.5 percent (172) were black, 0.4 percent (two) were Asian, 1.6 percent (nine) 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, 2008-2012.*]
- In 2012, 8.6 percent (10) of the persons killed with a gun in a justifiable homicide by a black shooter were white, 91.5 percent (107) were black, none were Asian, none were American Indian, and none were of unknown race. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, 6.3 percent (31) of the persons killed by

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.

black shooters were white, 93.5 percent (458) 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, 2008-2012.*]

TYPES OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES

- In 2012, firearms were used in 83.8 percent of justifiable homicides (259 of 309). Of these: 75.3 percent (195) were handguns; 5.8 percent (15) were shotguns; 7.3 percent (19) were rifles; and, 11.6 percent (30) were firearm, type not stated. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, firearms were used in 81.8 percent of justifiable homicide incidents (1,108 of 1,354). Of these: 75.6 percent (838) were handguns; 7.8 percent (86) were shotguns; 5.3 percent (59) were rifles; 11.2 percent (124) were firearm, type not stated; and, 0.1 percent (one) were other gun. [For additional information see *Table Ten: Weapon Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2008-2012* and *Table Eleven: Type of Firearms Used in Justifiable Homicides, 2008-2012.*]

NUMBER OF PERSONS SHOT AND KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM

- In 2012, of the 259 justifiable homicides involving a firearm: 98.5 percent (255) involved a single person killed in the justifiable homicide; 1.5 percent (four) involved two persons killed in the justifiable homicide. For the five-year period 2008 through 2012, of the 1,108 justifiable homicides involving a firearm: 97.9 percent (1,085) involved a single person killed in the justifiable homicide; 1.9 percent (21) involved two persons killed in the justifiable homicide; and, 0.2 percent (two) involved three persons killed in the justifiable homicide.

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 School of Public Health and director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center:

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 2015; 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* (<https://www.nra.org/armedcitizen/>, downloaded 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.

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

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 *five-year period 2007 through 2011*, in only 0.8 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 five-year period 2007 through 2011, the NCVS estimates that there were 29,618,300 victims of attempted or completed violent crime. During this same *five-year period*, only 235,700 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.

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.

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," (see <http://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=931>).

SELF-PROTECTIVE BEHAVIORS, BY TYPE OF CRIME, 2007-2011

	Violent Crime 2007-2011		Property Crime 2007-2011	
	Total	Percent	Total	Percent
Total Number of Crimes	29,618,300	100	84,495,500	100
Self-Protective Behavior				
Offered no resistance	12,987,300	43.8	10,162,000	12.0
Threatened or attacked with a firearm	235,700	0.8	103,000	0.1
Threatened or attacked with other weapon	391,100	1.3	38,200	-
Threatened or attacked without a weapon	6,552,900	22.1	421,300	0.5
Nonconfrontational tactics include yelling, running, or arguing	7,768,700	26.2	1,187,100	1.4
Other reaction	1,641,300	5.5	223,400	0.3
Unknown reaction	41,300	0.1	12,200*	-
Property crime, victim not present.	≠	≠	72,348,200	85.6
- 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: Michael Planty, Ph.D., and Jennifer L. Truman, Ph.D, <i>Firearm Violence, 1993-2011</i> , Bureau Of Justice Statistics, May 2013, Table 11, page 12.				

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 *five-year period 2007 through 2011*, in only 0.1 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. (See Bureau of Justice Statistics, “Property Crime,” <http://bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=tp&tid=32>.)

in the prior table, for the *five-year period 2007 through 2011*, the NCVS estimates that there were 84,495,500 victims of attempted or completed property crime. During this same *five-year period*, only 103,000 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 *five-year period 2007 through 2011*, the total number of self protective behaviors involving a firearm by victims of attempted or completed violent crimes or property crimes totaled only 338,700. In comparison, the gun lobby claims that during the same *five-year period* guns were used 12.5 million times in self defense (applying to the five-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 35.5 percent of the justifiable homicides that occurred in 2012 the persons shot were known to the shooter.

The devastation guns inflict on our nation each and every year is clear: more than 33,000 dead, more than 81,000 wounded, and an untold number of lives traumatized and communities shattered. 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.¹⁴

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 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, 2008-2012

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Alabama	3	0	0	N/A	N/A	3
Alaska	0	4	2	3	6	15
Arizona	17	13	16	6	7	59
Arkansas	2	0	3	0	3	8
California	17	20	23	23	27	110
Colorado	4	4	5	3	2	18
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delaware	0	1	1	0	0	2
Florida	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Georgia	18	11	19	5	8	61
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	0	0
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois	0	2	0	4	1	7
Indiana	3	2	12	6	12	35
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	1	1	3	1	3	9
Kentucky	5	9	4	3	7	28
Louisiana	7	9	10	9	10	45
Maine	0	0	1	1	2	4
Maryland	2	1	6	2	6	17
Massachusetts	0	0	2	0	1	3
Michigan	4	16	13	31	20	84
Minnesota	3	1	2	0	1	7
Mississippi	1	2	1	0	1	5
Missouri	12	3	5	8	8	36
Montana	0	0	0	0	0	0

State	Number of Justifiable Homicides					
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	TOTAL
Nebraska	0	2	1	0	1	4
Nevada	4	5	3	2	1	15
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
New Jersey	2	0	2	2	0	6
New Mexico	1	3	2	1	1	8
New York	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Carolina	2	6	0	3	5	16
North Dakota	0	0	0	1	0	1
Ohio	1	2	2	1	2	8
Oklahoma	6	4	5	5	11	31
Oregon	0	3	4	3	6	16
Pennsylvania	11	11	8	11	9	50
Rhode Island	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Carolina	9	6	7	6	11	39
South Dakota	0	0	1	0	1	2
Tennessee	19	10	14	21	20	84
Texas	41	44	44	29	47	205
Utah	0	0	1	0	2	3
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	6	9	5	6	7	33
Washington	0	3	2	5	4	14
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	1	1
Wisconsin	4	6	0	0	5	15
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	205	213	230	201	259	1,108

TABLE TWO: CIRCUMSTANCES FOR HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Circumstance	Number of Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Criminal Homicide	9,039	97.8%	8,697	97.6%	8,275	97.3%	8,066	97.6%	8,342	97.0%	42,419	97.5%
Justifiable Homicide	205	2.2%	213	2.4%	230	2.7%	201	2.4%	259	3.0%	1,108	2.5%
Ratio of Criminal Homicide to Justifiable Homicide	44-1		41-1		36-1		40-1		32-1		38-1	
Total	9,244		8,910		8,505		8,267		8,601		43,527	

TABLE THREE: RELATIONSHIP OF PERSON KILLED TO SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Relationship	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Acquaintance	32	15.6%	36	16.9%	51	22.2%	36	17.9%	52	20.1%	207	18.7%
Boyfriend	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	2	0.9%	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	8	0.7%
Brother	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	1.5%	6	0.5%
Common-Law Husband	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Employee	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Ex-Husband	1	0.5%	3	1.4%	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	8	0.7%
Ex-Wife	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Father	2	1.0%	2	0.9%	2	0.9%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	7	0.6%
Friend	4	2.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	5	1.9%	13	1.2%
Girlfriend	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.2%
Husband	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	1	0.4%	6	0.5%
In-Law	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	2	0.8%	4	0.4%
Neighbor	3	1.5%	4	1.9%	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	5	1.9%	16	1.4%
Other Family	1	0.5%	4	1.9%	0	0.0%	5	2.5%	3	1.2%	13	1.2%
Other Known	9	4.4%	9	4.2%	7	3.0%	8	4.0%	13	5.0%	46	4.2%
Son	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	4	1.7%	3	1.5%	4	1.5%	13	1.2%
Stepfather	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	0.9%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	4	0.4%
Stepson	2	1.0%	0	0.0%	3	1.3%	1	0.5%	1	0.4%	7	0.6%
Stranger	124	60.5%	123	57.7%	130	56.5%	110	54.7%	133	51.4%	620	56.0%
Wife	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	3	0.3%
Unknown Relationship	19	9.3%	28	13.1%	18	7.8%	25	12.4%	34	13.1%	124	11.2%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	

TABLE FOUR: SEX OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Sex of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Male	192	93.7%	199	93.4%	205	89.1%	181	90.1%	237	91.5%	1,014	91.5%
Female	11	5.4%	13	6.1%	24	10.4%	17	8.5%	20	7.7%	85	7.7%
Unknown	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	1	0.4%	3	1.5%	2	0.8%	9	0.8%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	

TABLE FIVE: SEX OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Male	202	98.5%	212	99.5%	226	98.3%	196	97.5%	254	98.1%	1,090	98.4%
Female	3	1.5%	1	0.5%	4	1.7	5	2.5%	5	1.9%	18	1.6%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	

TABLE SIX: SEX OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Sex of Shooter	Sex of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Male	Male	190	99.0%	198	99.5%	202	98.5%	176	97.2%	232	97.9%	998	98.4%
	Female	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	3	1.5%	5	2.8%	5	2.1%	16	1.6%
Female	Male	10	90.9%	13	100.0%	23	95.8%	17	100.0%	20	100.0%	83	97.6%
	Female	1	9.1%	0	0.0%	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%
Total		203		212		229		198		257		1,099	

TABLE SEVEN: RACE OF SHOOTER IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Race of Shooter	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
White	114	55.6%	112	52.6%	121	52.6%	86	42.8%	131	50.6%	564	50.9%
Black	74	36.1%	91	42.7%	102	44.3%	106	52.7%	117	45.2%	490	44.2%
Asian	11	5.4%	6	2.8%	5	2.2%	4	2.0%	6	2.3%	32	2.9%
American Indian	1	0.5%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	1	0.4%	5	0.5%
Unknown	5	2.4%	3	1.4%	2	0.9%	3	1.5%	4	1.5%	17	1.5%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	

TABLE EIGHT: RACE OF PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
White	82	40.0%	87	40.8%	90	39.1%	70	34.8%	98	37.8%	427	38.5%
Black	115	56.1%	122	57.3%	138	60.0%	128	63.7%	152	58.7%	655	59.1%
Asian	2	1.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	2	1.0%	4	1.5%	9	0.8%
American Indian	3	1.5%	2	0.9%	1	0.4%	1	0.5%	3	1.2%	10	0.9%
Unknown	3	1.5%	1	0.5%	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	7	0.6%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	

TABLE NINE: RACE OF SHOOTER AND PERSON KILLED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES BY FIREARM, 2008-2012

Race of Shooter	Race of Person Killed	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
		2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
White	White	71	62.3%	77	68.8%	82	67.8%	62	72.1%	85	64.9%	377	66.8%
	Black	38	33.3%	34	30.4%	37	30.6%	23	26.7%	40	30.5%	172	30.5%
	Asian	1	0.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	2	0.4%
	American Indian	3	2.6%	1	0.9%	1	0.8%	1	1.2%	3	2.3%	9	1.6%
	Unknown	1	0.9%	0	0.0%	1	0.8%	0	0.0%	2	1.5%	4	0.7%
Black	White	5	6.8%	8	8.8%	5	4.9%	3	2.8%	10	8.6%	31	6.3%
	Black	69	93.2%	83	91.2%	97	95.1%	102	96.2%	107	91.5%	458	93.5%
	Asian	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.9%	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	5	45.5%	0	0.0%	1	20.0%	2	50.0%	1	16.7%	9	28.1%
	Black	5	45.5%	4	66.7%	4	80.0%	1	25.0%	2	33.3%	16	50.0%
	Asian	1	9.1%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%	3	50.0%	6	18.8%
	American Indian	0	0.0%	1	16.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	3.1%
	Unknown	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
American Indian	White	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	0	0.0%	2	100.0%	1	100.0%	5	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		200		210		228		198		255		1,091	

TABLE TEN: WEAPON USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2008-2012

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Firearm	205	83.0%	213	81.9%	230	83.0%	201	77.0%	259	83.8%	1,108	81.8%
Knife or cutting instrument	30	12.1%	29	11.2%	32	11.6%	49	18.8%	35	11.3%	175	12.9%
Blunt object	0	0.0%	3	1.2%	4	1.4%	4	1.5%	4	1.3%	15	1.1%
Bodily force	3	1.2%	8	3.1%	4	1.4%	3	1.2%	9	2.9%	27	2.0%
Strangulation	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.00%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Asphyxiation	1	0.4%	1	0.4%	0	0.00%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Unknown	8	3.2%	6	2.3%	7	2.5%	4	1.5%	2	0.7%	27	2.0%
Total	247		260		277		261		309		1,354	

TABLE ELEVEN: TYPE OF FIREARMS USED IN JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDES, 2008-2012

Weapon	Number of Justifiable Homicides											
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012		TOTAL	
Firearm, type not stated	19	9.3%	21	9.9%	28	12.2%	26	12.9%	30	11.6%	124	11.2%
Handgun	162	79.0%	163	76.5%	166	72.2%	152	75.6%	195	75.3%	838	75.6%
Rifle	11	5.4%	9	4.2%	8	3.5%	12	6.0%	19	7.3%	59	5.3%
Shotgun	13	6.3%	19	8.9%	28	12.2%	11	5.5%	15	5.8%	86	7.8%
Other Gun	0	0.0%	1	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Total	205		213		230		201		259		1,108	



Violence Policy Center

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW Suite 1014

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 822-8200

WWW.VPC.ORG