

Fatal Intimate Partner Violence in South Carolina

South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System



The South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (SCVDRS) combines data from law enforcement reports, death certificates, and coroner/medical examiner reports (including toxicology) to pool data on violent deaths and their circumstances into one anonymous database. SCVDRS data includes decedents who were fatally injured and died within South Carolina (SC) whether or not they were SC residents. SC residents who were fatally injured or died outside of SC are not included in this report. Therefore, SCVDRS death counts and rates may differ from DPH Vital Statistics and other data sources.

SCVDRS defines intimate partner violence (IPV)-related homicide (including legal intervention) as a death related to immediate or ongoing conflict or violence between current or former intimate partners. This definition also includes decedents who were killed during an IPV-related incident but who were not one of the intimate partners, such as a family member, friend, or bystander who died as a result of an IPV incident. IPV is a circumstance reported as being related to the violent death. The following data is limited to those with at least one known circumstance.

From 2017-2021...

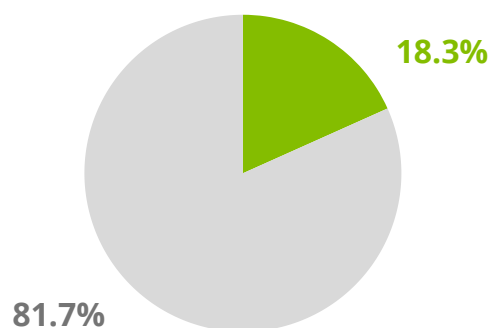
Homicides Associated with IPV

Percent

There were 2,726 homicides in South Carolina. **Circumstances were known for 54.8% (n= 1,494) of homicides.**

Among homicides with known circumstances, **18.3% (n= 273) were IPV-related.**

Not IPV-related
IPV-related

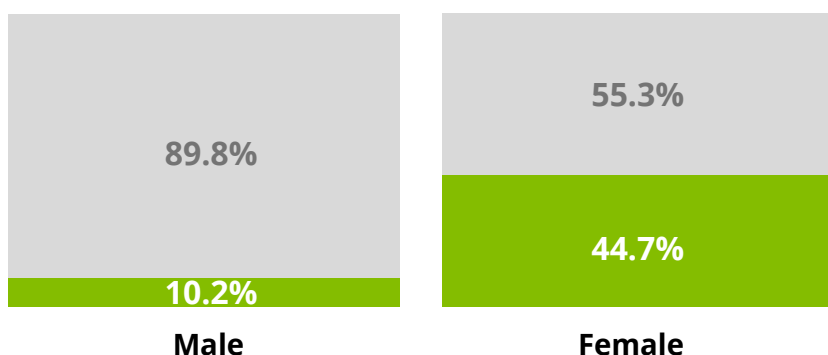


IPV-Related Homicides by Demographics

Homicides Associated with IPV, by Sex

Percent

Not IPV-related
IPV-related



Among homicide decedents with known circumstances, 44.7% of homicides among females were related to IPV, as compared to 10.2% of males.

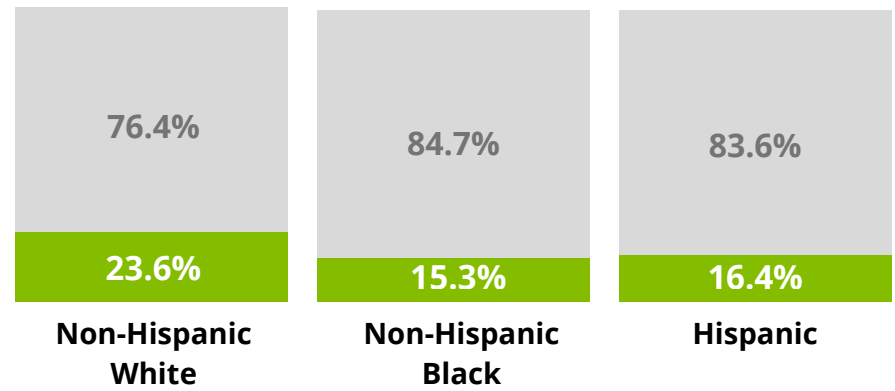
Among the 273 IPV-related homicides, 57.1% were female, and 42.9% were male. Among IPV-related female homicide decedents, 9.0% were pregnant within 1 year prior to or at the time of death.

Homicides Associated with IPV, by Race/Ethnicity

Percent

Not IPV-related IPV-related

Non-Hispanic White homicide decedents had the highest percent of deaths associated with IPV (23.6%), compared to their non-Hispanic Black (15.3%) and Hispanic (16.4%) counterparts.

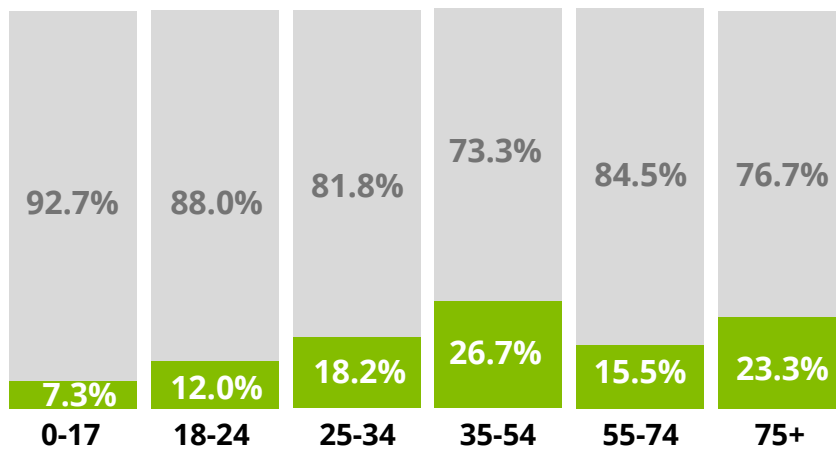


Among the 273 IPV-related homicides, 45.1% were non-Hispanic White, 49.8% were non-Hispanic Black, and 3.7% were Hispanic.

Homicides Associated with IPV, by Age Group

Percent

Not IPV-related IPV-related



Homicide decedents aged 35-54 had the highest percent of deaths associated with IPV (26.7%), followed by those aged 75+ (23.3%).

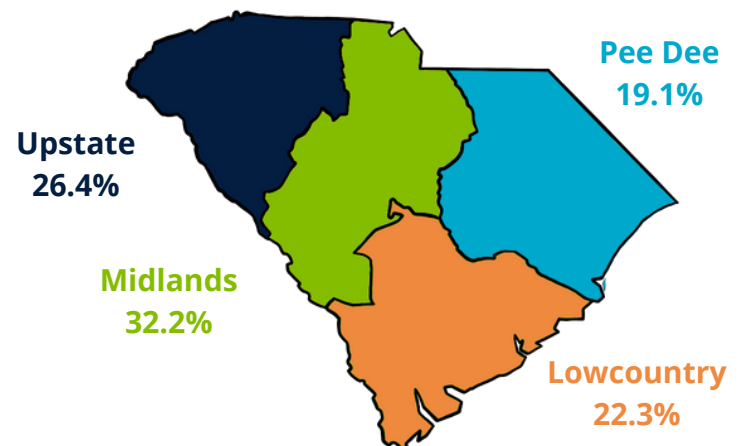
Among the 273 IPV-related homicides, the 35-54 age group made up the largest percentage (44.0%), followed by those aged 25-34 (27.1%).

IPV-Related Homicide, by Region

Percent

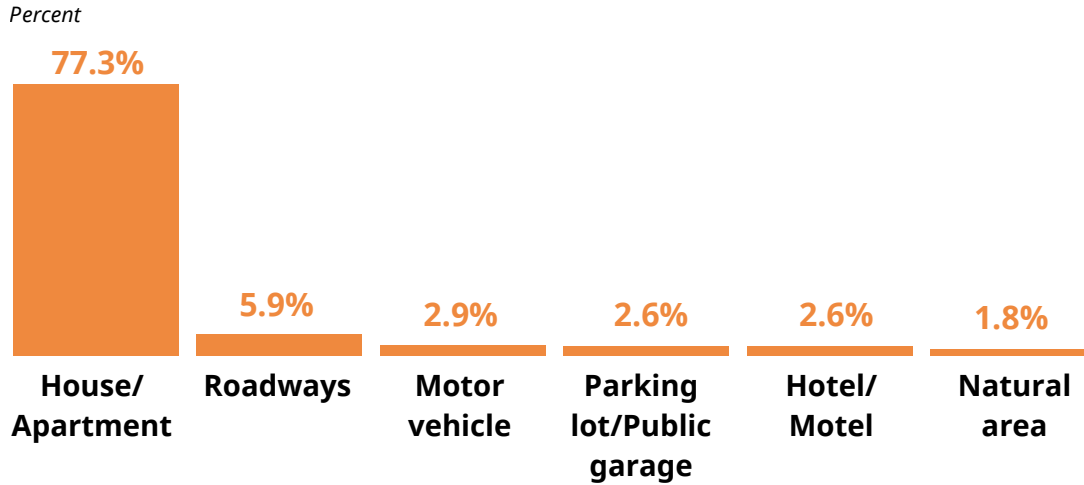
Nearly 1 in 3 IPV-related homicides occurred in the Midlands Region.

Within the Midlands Region, Chester County had the highest rate of IPV-related homicides (4.3 per 100,000 population). This is also the highest rate in SC.



Incident Characteristics of IPV Homicides

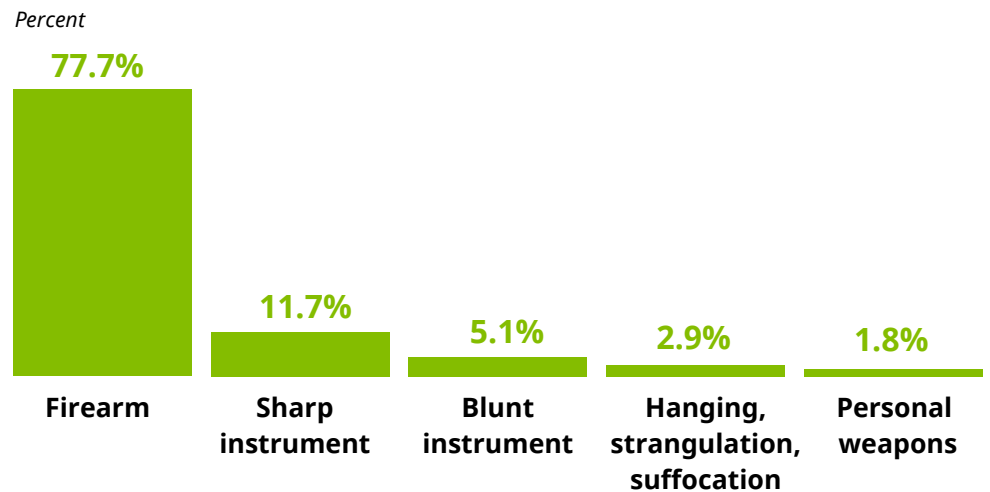
Top Injury Locations of IPV-Related Homicides



Over 3/4ths of IPV-related homicide decedents were injured in a house or apartment.

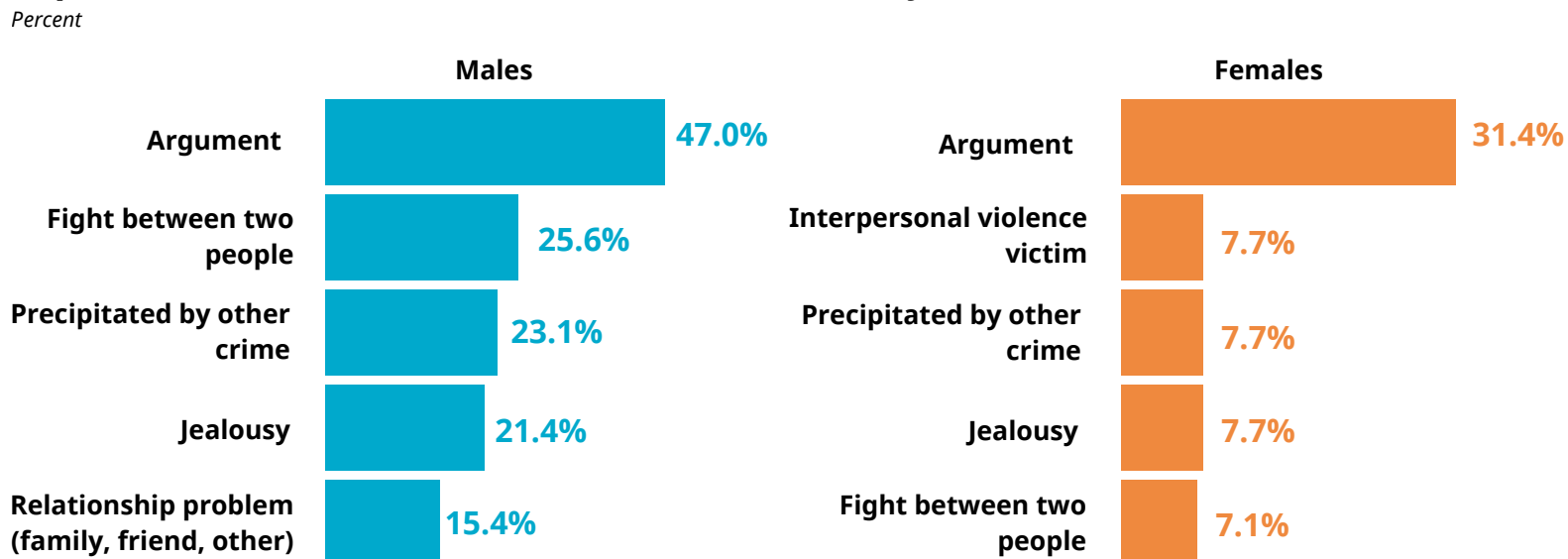
Note: 3.7% of IPV-related homicides had an unknown location of injury

Top 5 Mechanisms of Injury of IPV-Related Homicides



Firearms were the most common weapon used in IPV-related homicides, accounting for over 3/4ths of deaths.

Top 5 Circumstances of IPV-Related Homicides, by Sex

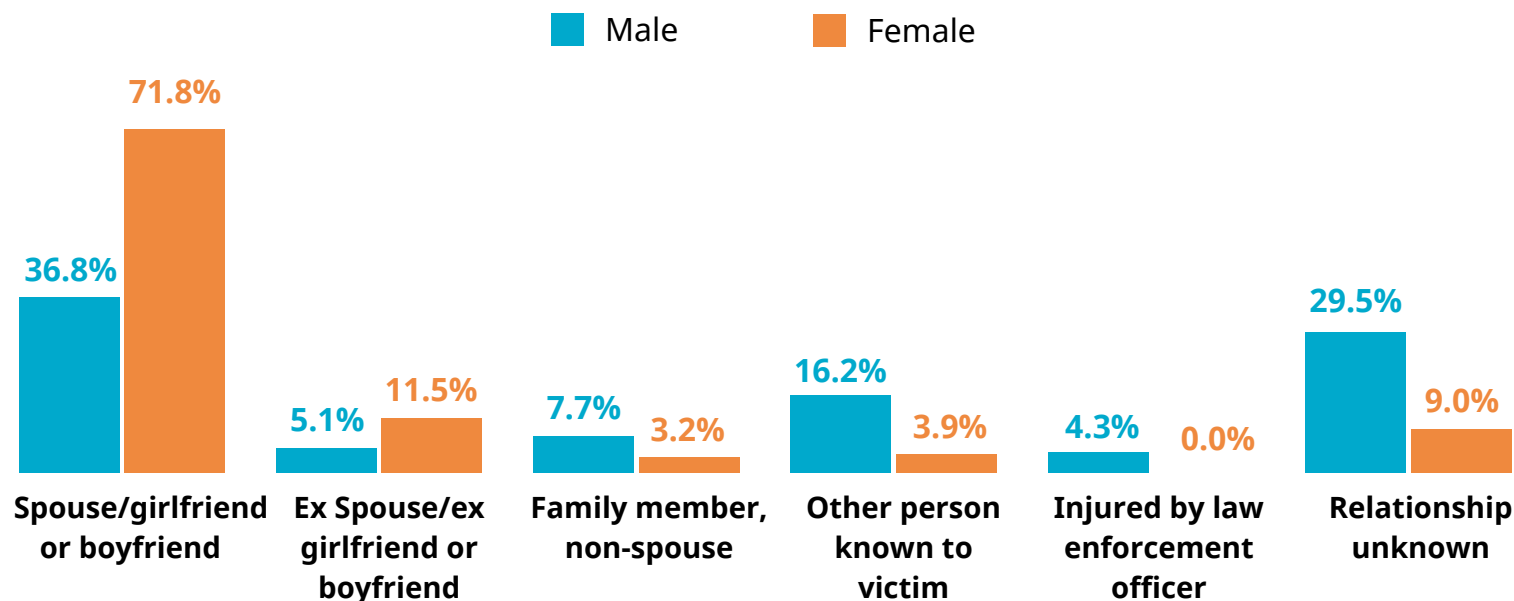


Note: Decedents may have more than one known circumstance.

An argument was the most common known circumstance associated with IPV-related homicides among males and females. However, a higher percentage of male IPV-related homicide decedents were known to involve an argument compared to their female counterparts.

IPV-Related Homicide Decedent's Relationship to the Suspect, by Sex

Percent



Note: Sex of the decedent.

Among IPV-related homicide decedents, the most common relationship of the decedent to the suspect was current spouse or partner. Among female IPV-related homicide decedents, over 70% were killed by their current spouse or partner, which was nearly 2 times more than males. Male IPV-related homicide decedents were more likely to be killed by a family member, another person known to the decedent, such as an acquaintance, or a law enforcement officer, compared to females.



SCVDRS Data Limitations

- Known circumstances leading to the violent death are subject to the knowledge of family members, friends, and others who report to coroners and law enforcement during investigations.
- Availability of law enforcement and coroner reports for 2020 and 2021 were impacted by the pandemic, therefore, known circumstances may be underreported.

Support:

SCVDRS is supported by funds from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) under Cooperative Agreement 5 NU17CE010146-03-00. This information or content and conclusions are those of the author and should not be construed as the official position or policy of, nor should any endorsements be inferred by the NCIPC, CDC, DHHS or the U.S. Government.

Definitions:

Legal intervention death is defined as a death in which the decedent was killed by or died as a result of a law enforcement officer or other peace officer (persons with specified legal authority to use deadly force), including military law enforcement, acting in the line of duty. The term legal intervention is a classification from ICD-10 codes and does not denote the lawfulness or legality of the circumstances surrounding the death.

Sources:

South Carolina Violent Death Reporting System (SCVDRS), 2017-2021