Domestic Violence in Oregon: Understanding the Risks and Risk Factors

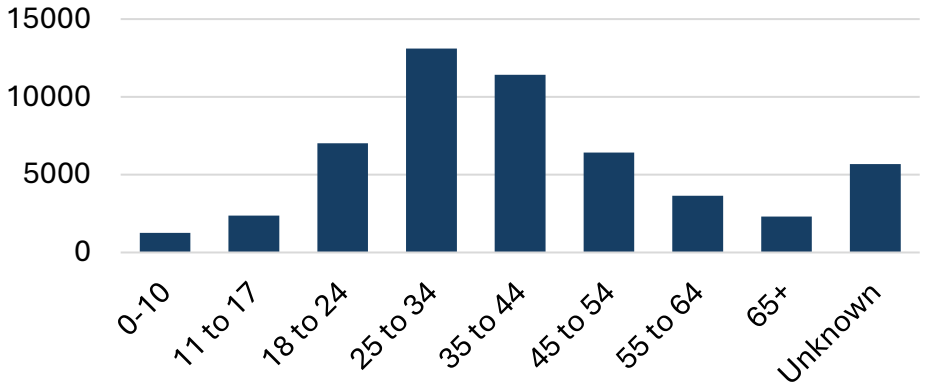
The following report provides key insights from the literature on domestic violence (DV), including the intersections of DV and firearm access, mass violence, and suicide risk. National research is complemented by Oregon-specific data.

Definitions

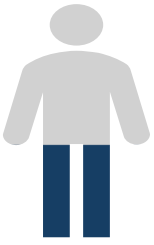
- **Domestic violence (DV)** and **intimate partner violence (IPV)** both involve "a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control," including physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats.[1]
- **Victims of DV** may include family or household members, including children, parents, and current or former intimate partners.
- **Victims of IPV** may include current or former spouses and dating partners, regardless of whether individuals live together.

From 2020-2024, there were over 50,000 DV-related crimes reported in Oregon, primarily impacting 25-to-34-year olds[2]

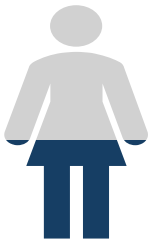
Number of reported victims of DV-related crimes by age in Oregon, 2020-2024



In Oregon, lifetime experiences of IPV were reported by:



39% of men[3]



42% of women[3]

Oregon-Specific Data Sources

- **The Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting (OUCR) System** is a state-wide data system to which all law enforcement agencies in Oregon are required by law to report crime statistics. This fact sheet contains OUCR data on DV-related offenses from 2020-2024.[2]
- **The 2016/2017 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey** is an ongoing national survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. IPV estimates reported here represent the lifetime prevalence of contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking victimization by an intimate partner.[3]

1. United Nations. (n.d.). What is domestic abuse? https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse.
2. Oregon State Police. (n.d.). Oregon Uniform Crime Reporting Data. Accessed June 10, 2025, at https://www.oregon.gov/osp/Pages/Uniform-Crime-Reporting-Data.aspx.
3. Smith et al. (2023). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2016/2017 state report. Atlanta (GA): CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

Between 2013 and 2022, 386 Oregonians died due to DV-related homicide[1]

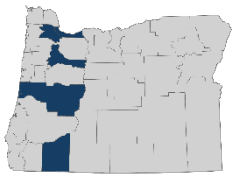
Those who died were primarily **women** (56%), **white** (77%), and **ages 25-64** (64%).

12% of those who died were **under 18;** of these minors, **71% were killed by a parent**

39% of those who died were killed by their **spouse or intimate partner**

52% of these DV-related homicides involved a **firearm**, primarily **handguns**

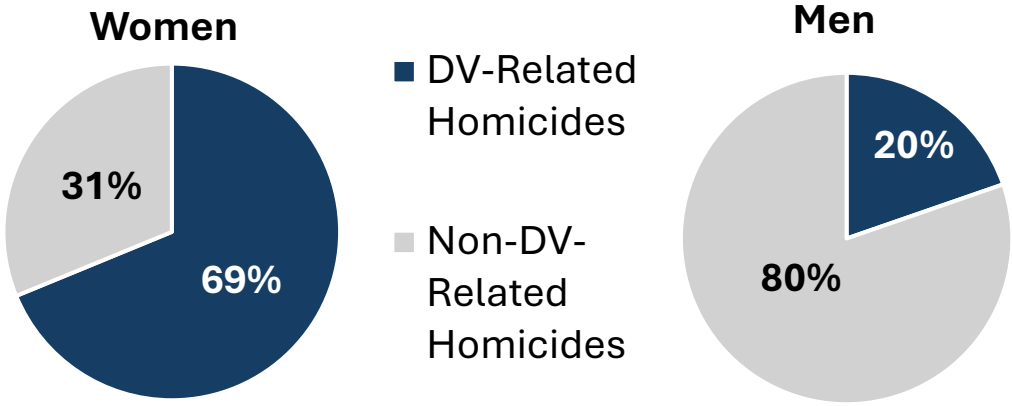
83% of these DV-related homicides occurred in a **house or apartment**



54% of these DV-related homicides occurred in **5 of Oregon's 36 counties***

* Multnomah, Lane, Washington, Jackson, and Marion

69% of all homicides among women were DV-related, compared to only 20% of homicides among men[1]



Oregon-Specific Data Sources (Continued)

- **The Oregon Violent Death Reporting System (ORVDRS)** captures details on all violent deaths in Oregon and is the source of information for DV-related deaths between 2013-2022 in this report.[1]
- **Oregon's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) law,** which took effect on January 1, 2018, allows family/household members and law enforcement officers to petition a civil court for an order to temporarily restrict one's access to firearms or other deadly weapons if the court determines that individual is at imminent risk of harming themselves or others.[2] This report includes data and narrative examples from the 401 ERPO petitions filed from January 2018 to December 2024 that mentioned DV risk.[3]

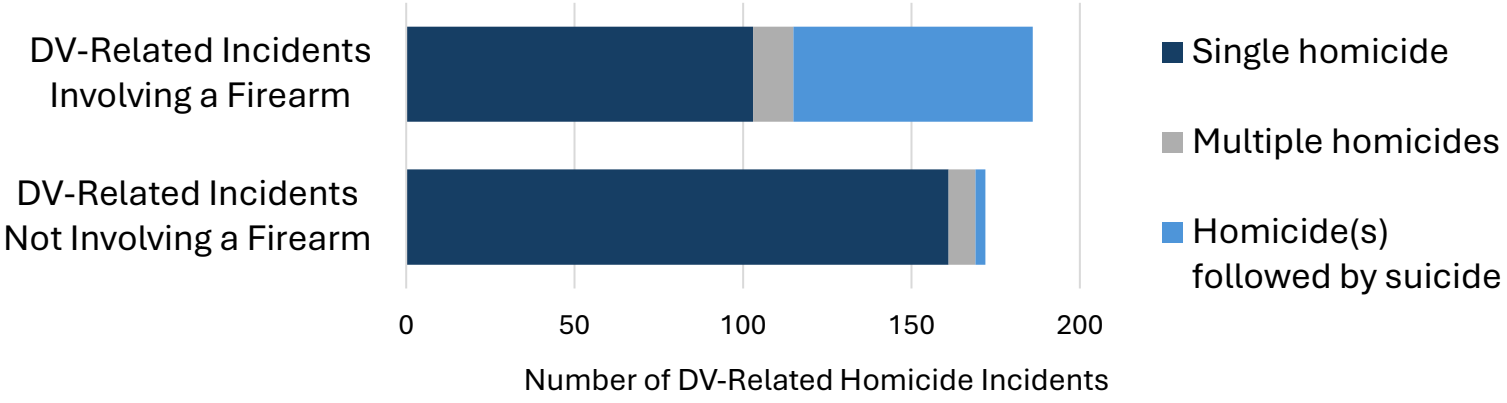
1. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.
2. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Available at: https://oregon.public.law/statutes/ors_166.525.
3. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.

Domestic Violence and Firearm Access

Firearms increase the risk of fatal DV outcomes and can be used by perpetrators of DV to threaten and exert control over their victims

- **10% of U.S. adults** have experienced **nonfatal IPV involving a firearm** (e.g., intimate partner displaying a firearm or threatening to shoot them) in their lifetime.[1]
- **49% of U.S. adults** who reported past experiences with nonfatal firearm IPV reported **having a child at home at the time of the abuse**.[1]
- The presence of a firearm in intimate partner violence situations is associated with **5 times greater risk of intimate partner homicide**.[2]
- **52%** of all DV-related homicides in Oregon from 2013-2022 **involved a firearm**, primarily handguns.[3]

DV-related homicide incidents involved multiple deaths (often including the death of the DV perpetrator) more frequently when firearms were involved[3]



Restricting a DV perpetrator's access to firearms may reduce rates of intimate partner homicide

- Prohibiting individuals subject to **DV restraining orders** from possessing firearms is associated with **significant reductions in intimate partner homicide rates**.[4]
- **ERPO laws,** which prohibit firearm possession and purchasing if a court determines an individual is at-risk of harming themselves or others, may also be used to address firearm access in DV situations.
- Where such laws exist, gaps remain in the **implementation and enforcement** of these firearm prohibitions.[4]
- Between 2018 and 2024, **401 ERPO petitions citing risks or histories of DV** were filed in Oregon, **67% of which were granted.**[5]

1. Adhia et al. (2021). Nonfatal use of firearms in intimate partner violence: Results of a national survey. *Prev Med, 147.*
2. Campbell et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *Am J Pub H, 93*(7): 1089-97.
3. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.
4. Zeoli et al. (2016). Risks and targeted interventions: Firearms in intimate partner violence. *Epidemiologic Reviews, 38*(1): 125-39.
5. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.

Domestic Violence and Mass Violence

Many mass violence incidents are either directly related to DV or perpetrated by individuals with histories of DV

- **59% of mass shootings** that occurred in the U.S. between 2014-2019 involved the **death of the perpetrator's intimate partner or family member**.[1]
- **35% of perpetrators of public mass shootings** (i.e., those that occurred in public locations) in the U.S. from 1996-2024 **had a history of DV**.[2]

Of the 124 ERPOs filed in Oregon from January 2018 to December 2024 that cited risks of mass violence, 31% also cited histories or risk of DV[3]

In one example scenario: The respondent was under investigation for **allegations of DV**. They had **supervised visits with their children** at the Department of Human Services (DHS) and **expressed grievances with DHS staff.** The respondent **threatened to place explosive devices at or bring a firearm to the DHS facility** and **was observed conducting surveillance** outside of the facility. The petitioner was a law enforcement officer. The ERPO was granted.

Domestic Violence and Suicide Risk

Both victims and perpetrators of DV face increased risk of suicide[4]

- **23% of women** who sought help or services for IPV **reported previous suicidal ideation or acts**.[5]
- **20% of DV-related homicide incidents** in Oregon from 2013-2022 ended with the **DV perpetrator dying by suicide**.[6]

Of the 401 DV-related ERPOs filed in Oregon from January 2018 to December 2024, 67% also cited histories or risk of suicide or self-harm[3]

In one example scenario: The respondent **threatened to kill their spouse, their children, and themselves, all while holding a handgun**. Police responded to the domestic dispute and the respondent confirmed that they had **multiple firearms in their possession** and **expressed not having much to live for since they were getting a divorce.** When told that they were being arrested, the respondent repeatedly tried to go back into their house, which law enforcement officers worried was an attempt to get guns from inside. Officers later learned that **the respondent had placed a firearm just next to the front door when the police arrived.** The respondent was arrested. The petitioner was a law enforcement officer. The ERPO was granted.

1. Geller et al. (2021). The role of domestic violence in fatal mass shootings in the United States, 2014–2019. *Inj Epidemiol, 8*(1):38.
2. The Violence Project. (2024). U.S. Mass Shootings and Shooters. https://www.theviolenceproject.org/mass-shooter-database/.
3. ORS §§166.525 to 166.543. Extreme Risk Protection Orders. Our team has analyzed Oregon's ERPO court records obtained from the Oregon Judicial Department.
4. Kafka et al. (2022). Intimate partner violence victimization and perpetration as precursors to suicide. *SSM Popuk Health, 18*.
5. Cavanaugh et al. (2011). Prevalence and correlates of suicidal behavior among adult female victims of IPV. *Suicide Life Threat Behav, 41*(4): 372-83.
6. Oregon Health Authority. (n.d.). Oregon Violent Death Reporting System. Data for years 2013-2022.

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