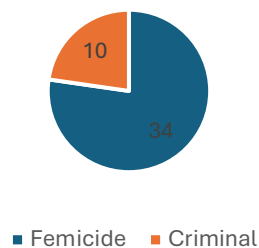


Does the Distribution of Firearms lead to Femicide?

Femicide Frequency in Israel: In 2025, 44 women above the age of 18 were murdered in Israel, which is similar to last year (despite other reports in the media). Of these, 34 can be defined as femicide, namely the intentional killing of women because they are female. This definition includes several different patterns: "honor killings", matricide and murder committed by a partner or family member, and excludes the murder of women as a result of terrorism, accident, or negligence. The remaining 10 murders were all Arab women, killed in criminal acts.

Although there is NO significant increase in the murder of women this year, there is a sharp rise (48%) in 2025 in the number of femicides compared to last year (in 2024 there were only 23 femicides), 14 of which were perpetrated in the Arab sector and 20 among Jewish women. This represents a rise of 40% of femicides of Arab women and 82% among Jewish women compared to last year.

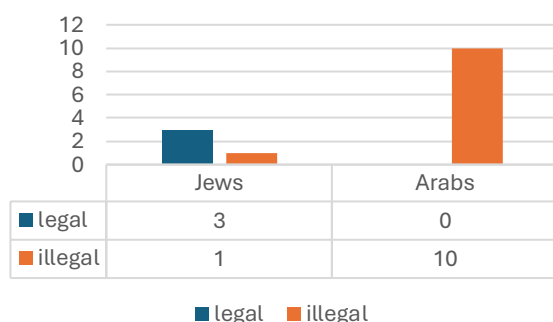
BREAKDOWN BY TYPE
OF MURDER (N=44)



Legal vs. Illegal Weapons:

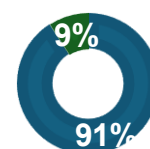
In 2025, there is a significant rise in the use of firearms to perpetrate femicide, and, for the first time, a gun was the most common weapon used to murder a women (in 14 cases), followed by a knife (13) and other means, such as strangulation, beating to death, and burning the victim (7). In 2024, there were only 3 cases of murder by gunshot.

USE OF FIREARMS IN
FEMICIDES (N=14)



USE OF ILLEGAL
WEAPONS IN
FEMICIDES (N=11)

■ Arabs ■ Jews



In 10 of the 11 cases in which a woman was murdered by illegal firearms, the victim was an Israeli Arab. Of the 4 cases in which a Jewish woman was shot, 3 of the murderers had a firearms licence (as a policeman, guard, etc.). From the data provided, there is NO correlation between the possession of *legal* firearms and femicide. Most of the femicides were perpetrated with *illegal* firearms, almost exclusively in the Arab sector. It should be pointed out that the use of illegal firearms is also the most common weapon in criminal murders of women in Arab society, and accounts for all the cases of criminal murders of women this year. Serious policy changes are needed with respect to the widespread use of illegal weapons.

Matricide (murder of a mother):

Of the 34 femicide cases, 7 were matricides, 6 of which took place among Jews and 1 among Arabs. This statistic is 21% higher than last year, and also represents a 30% rise among Jewish women, all of whom were above the age of 60.

Suicide: Some of the sons who murdered their mothers were psychiatric cases, but the relevant authorities did not always keep track of them. Two sons committed suicide after murdering their mothers. Altogether, 7 murderers committed suicide, all of them Jewish, this year, resulting in a 30% rise in suicides compared to last year.

==

For further details, pls email Prof. Shalva Weil, Seymour Fox School of Education, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, at iof@mail.huji.ac.il or WhatsApp +972-52-2523553

* The Israel Observatory on Femicide (IOF) (<https://www.israelfemicide.org>) established in November 2020 at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, documents and updates the murder of women above the age of 18 in Israel annually. It publishes a report at the end of every calendar year in English, Hebrew, and Arabic. The IOF aims to be Israel's most reliable source of data, providing quantitative and qualitative findings on femicide, and analysing data objectively, devoid of political or other interests. The data is gathered from daily local and national reports, using Google alerts, and cross-checked with other sources, including police reports, and interviews with lawyers and victims' families.