

## **Ujima Fact Sheet on Gun Violence** **SRC/AZ 9/9/22**

Black women comprise 13% of the U.S. population and 31% of domestic violence fatalities and are statistically three times more likely than White women to be killed by an intimate partner (Violence Policy Center, 2021).

Black women are twice as likely to be shot and killed by an intimate partner in comparison to White women (Petrosky et al., 2017).

According to the FBI, Black women between the ages of 18 and 34 are at the greatest risk and are three times more likely to be shot and killed by an intimate partner than White women in the same age group (Everytown for Gun Safety, 2019).

Gun violence has then been deemed as a social determinant of mental health that additionally warrants increased consideration and attention (Smith et al., 2020). These issues are true for and further exacerbated in domestic violence homicide.

Gun violence occurs in 56% of domestic violence homicides and has been found to occur more frequently in domestic violence homicides in the Black community with 64% (Violence Policy Center, 2021).

The impact of intimate partner gun violence is especially damaging to children, causing severe PTSD, behavioral problems, suicidal thoughts, and poor school performance (Everytown for Gun Safety, 2019).

Black and Latinx communities are 24% more likely to be exposed to gun violence, subsequently suffering from higher rates of psychological distress, depression, suicidal ideation, and psychosis due to homicide in the community (Smith et al, 2020).

Firearm ownership and access is inextricably linked to increased rates of intimate partner homicide and is considered to be the greatest risk factor of this type of violence (Stansfield & Semenza, 2019; Spencer & Stith, 2018).

The development of culturally-informed strategies aimed specifically at diverse communities of color is required to effectively address interpersonal violence and homicide (Bent-Goodley, 2021; Waller & Bent-Goodley, 2022).

## **References**

- Bent-Goodley, T. B. (2021). Diversity in interpersonal violence research. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 36*(11–12), 4937–4952.
- Everytown for Gun Safety. (2019, October). *Guns and violence against women: America's uniquely lethal intimate partner violence*. New York: Author.
- Smith, M.E., Sharpe, T.L., Richardson, J., Pahwa, R., Smith, D. & Devylder, J. (2020). The impact of exposure to gun violence fatality on mental health outcomes in four urban U.S. settings. *Social Science Medicine, 246*, 112587.
- Spencer, C. M., & Stith, S. M. (2018). Risk Factors for Male Perpetration and Female Victimization of Intimate Partner Homicide: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, and Abuse, 21*(3), 527–540.
- Stansfield, R., & Semenza, D. (2019). Licensed firearm dealer availability and intimate partner homicide: A multilevel analysis in sixteen states. *Preventive Medicine, 126*, 105739.
- Petrosky, E., Blair, J. M., Betz, C. J., Fowler, K. A., Jack, S. P., & Lyons, B. H. (2017). Racial and ethnic differences in homicides of adult women and the role of intimate partner violence—United States, 2003–2014. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 66*(28), 741.
- Violence Policy Center. (2021). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2019 homicide data*. Violence Policy Center.
- Waller, B. Y., & Bent-Goodley, T. B. (2022). “I Have to Fight to Get Out”: African American Women Intimate Partner Violence Survivors’ Construction of Agency. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 08862605221113008*.