



SCCADVASA Statement on South Carolina's Ranking 23rd in the Violence Policy Center's 2022 "When Men Murder Women" Annual Study

September 20, 2021 – According to the Violence Policy Center's 2022 [When Men Murder Women annual study](#), South Carolina has [moved from 6th to 23rd in the nation](#) for the rate of women murdered by men according to 2020 data. This is only the second time since VPC began releasing this report in 1998 that South Carolina has not ranked in the top ten.

Seeing South Carolina's ranking drop so significantly for the first time in 25 years makes us hopeful that this is a trend in the right direction. Still, we cannot lose sight of South Carolina's real and terrible history when it comes to intimate partner violence.

Despite this most recent ranking, what remains constant is that in 2021, 71 people were killed in South Carolina as a result of domestic homicide, law enforcement responded to over 25,000 incidents of simple/aggravated assault, and **firearms remain by far the weapon most frequently used to facilitate IPV homicide.**

Access to a gun makes it five times more likely that the abusive partner will kill his female victim and significant gaps remain that allow abusers to continue to have access to guns. Additionally, according to VPC, [Black women remain at much higher risk](#)—a rate nearly 3x higher than white women, and **over 90% of the women murdered by men know the person who kills them.**

It must be noted that this report covers the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic and the data it reports varies significantly from state to state — showing large increases or decreases in the number of women killed by men during this period. There is no geographical pattern to this variance, and we will need to look at the 2021 data and beyond to understand whether or not these were temporary changes driven by the extraordinary circumstances of this time.

Above all, there remains an incredible amount of work to be done to end violence in South Carolina and we are committed to seeing this come to fruition.

As we prepare for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we reiterate that in order for our state to move towards a brighter and safer future, we cannot do it alone. Domestic violence impacts all of us each and every day — our families, our businesses, our communities, and the economy.

This year's DVAM campaign theme, [#Every1KnowsSome1](#), strives to highlight how common domestic violence is and that it is more than physical violence. Each of us has a role in changing the narrative about what domestic violence is, to whom it happens, and how we can support those who are experiencing it. *What's yours?*

To learn more about SCCADVASA and ways to support survivors visit www.sccadvasa.org.