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Domestic Homicide Down, Social Interventions Highlighted

Australia's ongoing downward trend in homicide continued in 2004-05, according to National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) figures. The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) welcome the finding that domestically-related murders have decreased slightly.

"In 2004-05, there were 66 intimate partner homicides, down from 71 the year before. The latest NHMP report specifically highlights the potential contribution made by improved community awareness and better support for victims of violence," said WiSH Chairwoman Samara McPhedran.

However, Ms McPhedran cautioned against complacency, saying that "Australia still has a long way to go in terms of tackling domestic violence, a troublingly under-reported crime. Crucial social services remain in need of a huge resource boost."

In 2004-05, 87 homicide victims were women. 57% were killed by a current or former partner. Overall, women were most likely to be killed with a knife or sharp instrument (37%), followed by being beaten to death with hands and/or feet (27%), then the use of some 'other' weapon (15%), a blunt instrument (12%), or a firearm (9%).

Consistent with previous years, the overwhelming majority of firearms used to commit homicide were not legally held.

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Chair, International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH)

Reference

Homicide in Australia: 2004-05 National Homicide Monitoring Program (NHMP) Annual Report.

<http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/72/>

WOMEN ON TARGET FOR POSITIVE CHANGE