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statistics. Now, with regard to women being murdered, the relationship of victim to offender differs significantly between male and female victims of homicide. Compared to a man, a woman is far more likely to be killed by her spouse, an intimate acquaintance or family member than she is to be murdered by a stranger. More than 12 times as many females were murdered by a male they knew than were killed by male strangers. In single victim/single offender incidents in 1996, of victims who knew their offenders, more than half were wives, common law wives, ex-wives, or girlfriends of the offenders. The homicide rate that we're talking about here is very significant because part of tools that are used by police to prevent domestic violence or to prevent a woman from being attacked by a man oftentimes is being able to arrest the stalker or the perpetrator on a charge of illegally concealed weapon. Now, with regard to female homicide victims and weapons, firearms, especially handguns, were the most common weapons used by males to murder females in 1996. In cases in which the weapon was used in the homicide where it could be identified as the weapon, more than half of all female homicide victims were shot and killed with guns, nearly 60 percent by male intimates. The number of females shot and killed by their husband or intimate acquaintance was more than four times higher than the total number murdered by male strangers using all other weapons combined in single victim/single offender incidents in 1996. In cases where males used firearms to kill females, handguns were clearly the weapon of choice over rifles and shotguns. In 1996, nearly three-quarters of female firearm homicide victims were killed with handguns. Again, one of my objections to this bill is a message that we send and I think the message sent by this bill is that you solve your problems with a gun. Now the overwhelming majority of homicides among females by male offenders in single victim/single offender incidents in '96 were not related to a felony crime, and I want to repeat that. Overwhelming majority of women who were are killed by men had nothing to do with a felony crime. It was not...they were not killed in commission of another crime. Most often, females were killed by males in the course of an argument, usually with a firearm. Nineteen ninety-six, there were 1,780 cases in which the circumstance of the homicide between the female victim and male offender could be identified. Of these,...