



Domestic Violence and Guns: The Facts

The presence of a firearm in a home with domestic violence can transform abuse into homicide in a fraction of a second. Firearms and domestic violence are a lethal combination – injuring and killing women, children, and bystanders every day in the United States.

The U.S. and Guns

- On an average day, 93 Americans are killed with firearms.¹
- There are nearly 12,000 gun homicides every year.²
- A gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher, suicide up to five higher, and accidental death four times higher than in non-gun owning homes.³

Guns and Intimate Partner Violence

- 1,686 women were murdered by men in 2015. That's more than four women every day. Nine out of 10 victims knew their offenders. Of these, 64% were the current partners or ex-wives of their killers.⁴
- Between 2003-2014, over half (55%) of **all** female homicides in the U.S. for which circumstances were known were related to intimate partner violence. 98% of suspects in these cases were men.⁵
- In an average month, 50 women are shot to death by intimate partners in the U.S.⁶
- In more than half (54%) of mass shootings, from 2009-2016, the shooters killed intimate partners or other family members.⁷

¹ Everytown for Gun Safety, analysis of U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data, through 2015
<https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers/#DailyDeaths>

² Ibid.

³ Protect Children, Not Guns: The Truth About Guns (2013) Children's Defense Fund. Washington, DC. p.10. Available here:
<http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/protect-children-not-guns/protect-children-not-guns-2013.pdf>

⁴ *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2015 Homicide Data* (2017) Violence Policy Center. Washington DC. p.3. Available here: <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2017.pdf>

⁵ Petrosky E, Blair JM, Betz CJ, Fowler KA, Jack SP, Lyons BH. 'Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence — United States, 2003–2014', (2017) MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2017; 66:741–746, US for Disease Control and Prevention. Available here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1>

⁶ Everytown for Gun Safety analysis, using data from Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2010-14. Retrieved 14 Nov 2017: https://everytownresearch.org/gun-violence-by-the-numbers/#foot_note_5

⁷ *Mass Shootings in the United States, 2009 – 2016* (2017) Everytown for Gun Safety. Retrieved November 14 2017: https://everytownresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Analysis_of_Mass_Shooting_062117.pdf



- Of females killed by men with a firearm in 2015, 64% were killed by current or former intimate partners.⁸
- For women physically abused by their partners, the risk of homicide increases five-fold when the partner owns a firearm.⁹
- Women who are threatened or assaulted with a gun are 20 times more likely than other women to be murdered.¹⁰
- From 1980 through 2008, two-thirds of victims murdered by a spouse or ex-spouse were killed by guns.¹¹

Guns as a Method of Control

- Nearly 1 million women alive today have been shot, or shot at, by an intimate partner.¹²
- About 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.¹³

Guns and the Law

- Federal law requires licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on every sale, yet as many as 40% of guns purchased each year are purchased with no background checks. A loophole in the law allows private dealers to sell guns without a license and allows buyers to avoid background checks.¹⁴
- In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 47% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.¹⁵

⁸ Violence Policy Center, 2017 (p.5) <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2017.pdf>

⁹ Campbell JC, Webster DW, Koziol-McLain J, et al. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003;93(7):1089-1097. Cited in *Intimate Partner Violence and Firearms* (2003). Johns Hopkins University Center for Gun Policy and Research. p.2. Available here: https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/IPV_Guns.pdf

¹⁰ Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C. R., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., Gary, F., McFarlane, J., Sachs, C., Sharps, P., Ulrich, Y., & Wilt, S. A. (2003, November). *Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide*. Washington, DC: National Institute of Justice (NIJ). p.16. Available here: <https://www.fcadv.org/sites/default/files/Campbell%2020032.pdf>

¹¹ *Homicide Trends in the United States, 1980-2008* (2011) US Department of Justice. p.20. Available here: <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/htus8008.pdf>

¹² Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1524838016668589.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Children's Defense Fund (2013). p.36. Available here: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/protect-children-not-guns/protect-children-not-guns-2013.pdf>

¹⁵ Gun Laws and Violence Against Women, Everytown for Gun Safety analysis. Available here: <https://everytownresearch.org/gun-laws-and-violence-against-women-2/>

