



Firearms and Domestic Violence

Homicide Risk and Domestic Violence: Guns increase the probability of death in incidents of domestic violence.ⁱ

- Firearms were used to kill more than two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims between 1990 and 2005.ⁱⁱ
- An analysis of female domestic homicides (a woman murdered by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative) showed that having one or more guns in the home made a woman 7.2 times more likely to be the victim of such a homicide.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Domestic violence assaults involving a firearm are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.^{iv}
 - Abused women are 5 times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm.^v
- **More Guns = More Risk:** A study of risk factors for violent death of women in the home found that women living in homes with 1 or more guns were more than 3 times more likely to be killed in their homes.^{vi}
 - The same study concluded that women killed by a spouse, intimate acquaintance, or close relative were 7 times more likely to live in homes with 1 or more guns and 14 times more likely to have been victims of prior domestic violence compared to women killed by non-intimate acquaintances.^{vii}
- **Domestic Violence Homicides, Firearms, and State Gun Laws:** Murders associated with domestic violence, suicide, and illegal guns are all less prevalent in the states that already require background checks for all handgun sales.
 - The number of women killed with a firearm by an intimate partner is 38 percent lower in states that require background checks on all handgun sales.^{viii}
- **Preventing Access to Firearms by Domestic Abusers:** Family and intimate assaults with firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than non-firearm assaults. This research suggests that limiting access to guns by domestic abusers will result in less lethal family and intimate assaults.^{ix}

ⁱSusan B. Sorenson, Firearm Use in Intimate Partner Violence: A Brief Overview, in 30 Evaluation Review, A Journal of Applied Social Research, Special Issue: Intimate Partner Violence and Firearms, 229, 232-33 (Susan B. Sorenson ed., 2006)

ⁱⁱBureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Homicide Trends in the U.S.: Intimate Homicide (July 2007), at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/homicide/intimates.cfm>.

ⁱⁱⁱJames E. Bailey, MD, MPH, et al., "Risk Factors for Violence Death of Women in the Home," Archives of Internal Medicine 157, no. 7 (1997): 777-782.

^{iv}Linda E. Saltzman, et al., Weapon Involvement and Injury Outcomes in Family and Intimate Assaults, 267 JAMA, 3043-3047 (1992)

^vJacquelyn C. Campbell et al., Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study, 93 Am. J. Pub. Health 1089, 1092 (July 2003)

^{vi} See footnote 3

^{vii} See footnote 3

^{viii}U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2011, available at <http://bit.ly/V1GvFe> . Excludes New York due to incomplete data; Florida Department of Law Enforcement. Supplementary Homicide Report. 2010.

^{ix} See footnote 4