



Domestic Violence and Firearms

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 five 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 one or more guns were more than three 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 seven times more likely to live in homes with one 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}

Domestic Violence and Firearms in New York State

- From 2003 to 2012, more than 34% of female domestic violence homicide victims in New York were killed with a gun.^x
- In 2014, firearms were used in 29% of intimate partner homicides statewide: 18% in New York City and 38% upstate.
- 46% of all female homicide victims in 2014 were killed by an intimate partner: 43% in New York City and 48% upstate.
- The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%.^{xi}

Loopholes in Current New York Law

- Although New York law mandates the surrender of existing firearms upon the issuance of a protective order, it does not require surrender upon *conviction* for domestic violence.
- Although the federal Brady Act prohibits the transfer of firearms to individuals convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, it does not require them to surrender—or authorize law enforcement to seize—firearms already in their possession.
- Cities in states that require firearm surrender have 25 percent fewer domestic gun homicides than in states without them.^{xii}

NYAGV supports the passage of the:

- **Domestic Violence Firearms Surrender Bill (A.5257)**, which would require New York law enforcement to remove guns from the possession of individuals convicted of a misdemeanor crimes of domestic violence.^{xiii}
- **Lethal Violence Protection Order Bill (A.7038/S.6065)**, which would establish procedures for family members and law enforcement to petition a court to determine whether someone poses a significant risk of personal injury to himself or others and, as such, should be prohibited from possessing a firearm.^{xiv}

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- ⁱ Susan 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)
- ⁱⁱ Bureau 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>.
- ⁱⁱⁱ James 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)
- ^v Jacquelyn 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
- ^x Center for American Progress and Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, *New York Domestic Violence and Guns* (October 2014) at <file://localhost/<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CAP-DV-NY.pdf>>
- ^{xi} See footnote 5
- ^{xii} April Zeoli et al., "Effects of domestic violence policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on intimate partner homicide in large US cities," Injury Prevention 16, no. 2 (2010): 90-95.
- ^{xiii} See http://www.gunviolenceawarenessmonth.org/s/NYS_Paulin_AB5257.pdf
- ^{xiv} See <http://assembly.state.ny.us/leg/?bn=A07038>.