

Guns and Domestic Violence

To protect women, we must address access to guns by domestic abusers.

- The U.S. is the most dangerous country in the developed world when it comes to women and guns. Women here are 21x more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries.ⁱ
- Half of all women murdered with a gun are killed by their intimate partners, accounting for 600 gun deaths each year.ⁱⁱ
- A domestic abuser with access to a firearm makes it 5x more likely the woman will be killed.ⁱⁱⁱ
- Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are 12x more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.^{iv}
- More than half (54%) of mass shootings (four or more people killed) involve domestic violence, with an intimate partner one of the victims.^v
- In nearly two-thirds of cases in which a gun was present in the home in which the abuser and victim cohabitated, the abuser used the firearm against the victim, usually threatening to injure or kill her.^{vi}
- Guns are routinely used to threaten intimate partners; about 4.5 million women alive today report threats involving firearms. Nearly 1 million women report being shot, or shot at, by an intimate partner.^{vii}

CT's strong gun laws help protect women from armed domestic abusers^{viii}

- Requires a background check and permit to purchase a firearm, including from private sellers. Nationally, one in nine background check denials are connected to domestic abuse.^{ix} In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 38% fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.^x
- Expands the prohibition on gun possession to individuals convicted of violent misdemeanors generally, not just in cases of domestic violence, and covers abusive dating partners. When states broaden firearm prohibition laws beyond federal law to cover abusive dating partners, on average they experience a 16% reduction in intimate partner gun homicides.^{xi}
- Generally requires any person who becomes prohibited from possessing firearms to relinquish them, and provide proof of compliance (one of only 3 states that require proof of compliance).
- Requires all subjects of domestic violence restraining orders to relinquish their firearms, even in cases where the restraining order is temporary.

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- ⁱ Erin Grinshteyn and David Hemenway, “Violent Death Rates in the US Compared to Those of the Other High-income Countries, 2015,” *Preventive Medicine* 123, (2019): 20-26.
 - ⁱⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 2012-2016.
 - ⁱⁱⁱ J.C. Campbell, et al., “Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study,” *American Journal of Public Health* 93, no.7 (2003): 1089-1097.
 - ^{iv} Linda E. Saltzman, et al., “Weapon Involvement and Injury Outcomes in Family and Intimate Assaults,” *JAMA* 267, no. 22 (1992): 3043-3047.
 - ^v “Mass Shootings in the United States: 2009-2017,” Everytown for Gun Safety, December 6, 2018.
 - ^{vi} Susan B. Sorenson and Douglas J. Wiebe, “Weapons in the Lives of Battered Women,” *American Journal of Public Health* 94, no. 8 (2004): 1412-1417.
 - ^{vii} Susan B. Sorenson and Rebecca A. Schut, “Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review of the Literature,” *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 19, no. 4 (2018): 431-442.
 - ^{viii} Information on firearm regulations from Giffords Law Center.
 - ^{ix} “Background Checks for Firearm Transfers,” United States Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics.
 - ^x Gun Laws and Violence Against Women, Mayors Against Illegal Guns using data from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2010.
 - ^{xi} April M. Zeoli, et al., “Analysis of the Strength of Legal Firearms Restrictions for Perpetrators of Domestic Violence and Their Association with Intimate Partner Homicide,” *American Journal of Epidemiology* 187, no. 11 (2018).