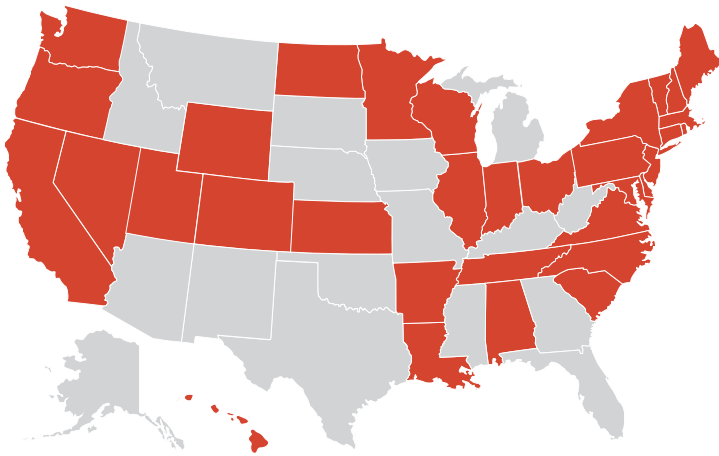


GUNS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The United States is in the grips of a gun violence crisis that leaves women and their families especially vulnerable. **The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely the woman will die.** Protecting the lives of American women and their families requires lawmakers to take steps to ensure that dangerous domestic abusers and convicted stalkers don't have easy access to guns.

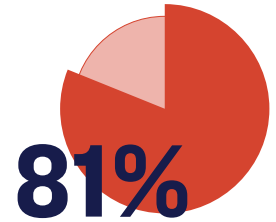
33 STATES PASSED NEW DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUNS LAWS SINCE 2013



In the face of inaction in Congress, states across the country are enacting laws to close loopholes in federal law and limit access to guns by abusers and stalkers.

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81% of Americans support legislation that helps keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers.

600 Each year, at least 600 women in America are shot and killed by an intimate partner—that's one woman every 16 hours.

55% Guns turn already violent situations deadly—55% of intimate partner homicides in America are committed with firearms.

4.5 million women in the US have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner, and nearly 1 million women alive today have survived being shot by an intimate partner.

The gun homicide rate for women in the US is 16 times higher than in other high-income countries. This disparity is fueled in large part by elevated rates of intimate partner gun homicides in America.



■ Gun homicide rate for women in the United States
■ Gun homicide rate for women in peer nations

Federal Law: The Lethal Nexus of Firearms and Intimate Partner Violence

Data demonstrates that intimate partner violence combined with access to firearms is a deadly mix. Gaps in federal law that allow abusers and stalkers to obtain guns are a key driver of the staggering levels of lethal violence against women in the US.

CLOSE THE “BOYFRIEND GAP” AND HELP ENSURE ABUSIVE DATING PARTNERS DON’T HAVE ACCESS TO GUNS

Nearly half of all intimate partner homicides are committed by dating partners. Current federal law prohibits individuals convicted of domestic violence offenses from accessing firearms, including individuals who are a current or former spouse, parent, parent of a child in common, current or former cohabitant, or a person similarly situated to a spouse, parent, or guardian of the victim. **But federal law does not prohibit perpetrators who abused current or former dating partners from accessing guns.** This deadly gap leaves a significant number of abusers free to own firearms and makes it all too easy for those guns to be used against their partners.

CLOSE THE “STALKING GAP”

Stalking is a strong predictor of future violence. One study of female murder victims in 10 cities found that **76% of women murdered and 85% who survived a murder attempt by a current or former intimate partner experienced stalking** in the year preceding the murder. Under current federal law, individuals convicted of felony stalking offenses are prohibited from accessing guns. But individuals convicted of misdemeanor stalking offenses are not prohibited from accessing guns. Closing the “stalker gap” in federal law would help ensure that *all* individuals convicted of stalking offenses are prohibited from accessing firearms.

State Law

Many states also have laws that require domestic abusers to surrender firearms and provide proof of surrender. Others authorize law enforcement to seize firearms at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

- 29 states, plus DC, prohibit firearm purchase or possession by persons convicted of **misdemeanor domestic violence offenses**. These states are: AL, CA, CO, CT, DE, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MN, NE, NV, NJ, NY, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, WA, and WV.
- 41 states, plus DC, prohibit firearm possession by abusers who are **subject to domestic violence protective orders**. These are: AK, AL, AZ, CA, CO, CT, DE, FL, HI, IA, IL, IN, KS, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MT, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, VT, WA, WV, and WI.

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For more details and underlying research, visit lawcenter.giffords.org/domestic-violence

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280+

lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

125,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

25x

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed by a gun than people in other developed nations.

WE’RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

CONTACT US

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