GUN LAWS AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women in the United States are 16 times more likely to be killed with guns than women in any other developed nation. This violence is directly related to our weak gun laws. Requiring a background check for every gun sale will reduce violence against women and save lives.

Women in the U.S. are 16 times more likely to be killed with guns than women in other high-income countries.²

Women in the US are killed at alarming rates and firearms play a key role in turning domestic abuse into murder. Between 1990 and 2005, more intimate partner homicides in the US were committed with guns than with all other weapons combined.³

When a gun is present in a domestic violence situation, the woman is five times more likely to be killed.⁴

People with a history of committing domestic violence are more likely to subsequently kill an intimate partner, and firearms significantly increase the risk of homicide for women.⁵

Dangerous domestic abusers can easily avoid background checks and buy guns by buying from unlicensed, private sellers—who often sell at gun shows or through anonymous online transactions—and are not required by federal law to conduct background checks on potential buyers.

A majority of mass shootings involve incidents of domestic violence.

An Everytown for Gun Safety analysis of every mass shooting reported in the media between 2009 and 2015 found that in 76 of those 133 incidents (57%), the shooter killed a current or former intimate partner or other family member. In at least 21 of those shootings, the perpetrator had a prior domestic violence charge.⁶

When background checks have already prevented nearly 300,000 gun sales to domestic abusers…

The background check system keeps guns out of abusers’ hands. Since its inception in 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System has blocked 2.5 million attempted gun sales to prohibited purchasers, including more than 300,000 gun sales to domestic abusers.⁸

…But each year millions of guns are exchanged in private transfers without criminal background checks.⁹

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In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, 46 percent fewer women are shot to death by intimate partners.¹⁰

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Requiring a background check for every gun sale will save women’s lives.


7. U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Report, 2010-2014; Florida Department of Law Enforcement 2010-2013.

