

Fact Sheet: Firearms and Domestic Violence

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NINE AMERICAN WOMEN ARE SHOT AND KILLED BY THEIR HUSBANDS AND INTIMATE PARTNERS EVERY SINGLE WEEK.

Violence Policy Center. 2013. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2011 Homicide Data*. Available online: <http://www.vpc.org/domesticviolence.htm>.

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ACCESS TO FIREARMS INCREASES THE RISK OF INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE FIVE TIMES MORE THAN IN INSTANCES WHERE THERE ARE NO WEAPONS.

J. C. Campbell, D; Webster, J; Koziol-McLain, C. R.; et al. 2003. *Risk Factors For Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study*. *American Journal of Public Health*. 93(7).

Guns kept in homes are more likely to be involved in a fatal or nonfatal accidental shooting, criminal assault, or suicide attempt than to be used to injure or kill in self-defense. For every time a gun in the home was used in a self-defense or legally justifiable shooting, there were **4** unintentional shootings, **7** criminal assaults or homicides, and **11** attempted or completed suicides. Kellermann, Arthur L.MD, MPH, et al. "Injuries and Deaths Due to Firearms in the Home." *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* 45 (1998): 263-67.

Of females killed with a firearm, almost **2/3rds** were killed by their intimate partners. *When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2002 Homicide Data: Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents*. 2004. Violence Policy Center. Washington, DC.

Once all the direct and indirect medical, legal and societal costs are factored together, the annual cost of gun violence in America amounts to **\$100 billion**. Philip J. Cook and Jens Ludwig, *Gun Violence: The Real Costs* 115 (2000).

Over the last decade (2000-2009), a total of **11,212** Los Angeles County residents lost their lives due to firearm-related injuries. In 2010, there were **281** suicides and **504** homicides due to firearms. *Death statistical master file, California Dept of Health, Center for health statistics prepared by LAC-DPH-IVPP, January 2013*.

Domestic violence has been found to be linked to **more than half** of the mass shootings committed in the U.S. between 2009 and 2013. In a case-by-case study of incidents of shootings of four or more people that took place during that time, more than half the time the perpetrator killed their former or current intimate partner, as well as others present, both in homes and in public. *Analysis of Recent Mass Shootings, Sept. 2013: Mayors Against Illegal Guns*

Family and intimate assaults with firearms are **12** times more likely to result in death than nonfirearm assaults. This research suggests that limiting access to guns will result in less lethal family and intimate assaults. Saltzman LE, Mercy JA, O'Carroll PW, Rosenberg ML, Rhodes PH. *Weapon involvement and injury outcomes in family and intimate assaults*. *Journal of the American Medical Association*. 1992;267(22):3043-3047.

Compared to homes without guns, the presence of guns in the home is associated with a **3-fold** increased homicide risk within the home. The risk connected to gun ownership increases to **8-fold** when the offender is an intimate partner or relative of the victim and is **20 times higher** when previous domestic violence exists. Kellermann AL, Rivara FP, Rushforth NB, et al. *Gun ownership as a risk factor for homicide in the home*. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 1993;329(15):1084-1091.



Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

Over the past twenty years, the Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles has been at the forefront of the movement to frame violence as a public health issue, and to highlight the need for responsible gun policies as a critical element of any effective violence reduction strategy. As one of the leading causes of death among our young people nationwide, violence is an epidemic that needs to be recognized, named, and treated with the same investment we give lethal diseases. We believe violence is the most urgent public health issue of our time.

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