

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and FIREARMS

The following is a summary of an issue covered in depth on <http://lawcenter.giffords.org>.

Every year, millions of Americans report domestic violence. Although it disproportionately affects women, domestic violence touches all groups.

Firearm access helps to fuel domestic violence.

An abuser's access to a firearm makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed.

Domestic violence assaults involving a gun are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force.

- Every year, 600 American women are shot to death by intimate partners.
- In fact, of all women shot to death by others in the U.S., half were shot by their intimate partners.
- The death toll extends to mass shootings. In 54% of mass shootings where four or more people were killed, the shooter killed an intimate partner. Abusers' access to guns has other serious consequences as well, including injuries and threats to victims.
- Nearly 1 million women alive today report being shot or shot at by an intimate partner.
- About 4.5 million women alive today report that an intimate partner threatened them using a gun.
- 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.

With our high rates of domestic violence-related gun violence, the U.S. is the most dangerous country in the developed world when it comes to women and guns. **Women in the U.S. are 21 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries.**

Firearm legislation that has resulted in a statistical decline in death and injury by domestic abusers will be discussed in the next issue of the *Capitol Voter*.