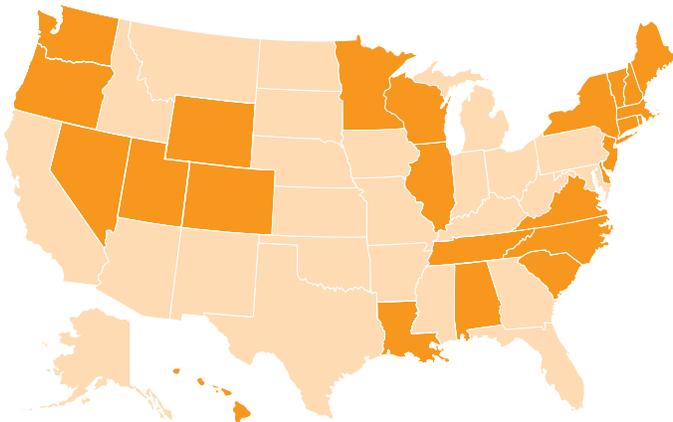


# GUNS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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.

25 States Passed New Domestic Violence Gun Laws since 2013



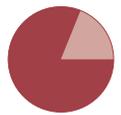
In the face of inaction in Congress, states across the country are enacting laws to close loopholes in federal law and limit access to guns by abusers and stalkers.

## BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

Americans from across the political spectrum agree that limiting domestic abusers' and stalkers' access to guns is essential to saving lives. Polls show that 82% of Americans—including 68% of Republicans—support legislation that helps keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and stalkers.



68% of  
Republicans



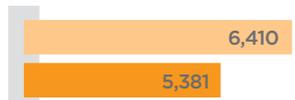
82% of  
Americans

**16x** The firearm homicide rate for women in the US is 16 times higher than that in other high-income countries.

**47%** fewer women are killed with a gun by an intimate partner in states that require background checks for all handgun sales.

From 2001 to 2012, more than **6,410 women were murdered** in the US by an intimate partner using a gun—more than the number of US troops killed in action during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan combined.

-  Women killed with a gun by a domestic partner
-  US Troop casualties



## 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 purchase and possess guns are a key driver of the staggering levels of lethal violence against women in the United States.

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

In 2008, 49% of all intimate partner homicides were committed by a dating partner. 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.

- Twenty states, plus DC, prohibit firearm purchase or possession by persons convicted of **misdemeanor domestic violence offenses**. These states are: AL, CO, DE, DC, IL, IN, IA, LA, MA, ME, MN, NE, NJ, NV, OR, PA, SD, TN, TX, WA, and WV.
- Thirty-seven 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, DC, FL, HI, IL, IN, IA, LA, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MT, NE, NV, NH, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OR, PA, RI, SD, TN, TX, UT, VA, WA, WV, and WI.

For more details and underlying research, visit [smartgunlaws.org/domestic-violence](https://smartgunlaws.org/domestic-violence)

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# 160+

new smart gun laws have been enacted in 43 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

# 114,000

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

### ABOUT US

*Led by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and Navy combat veteran and retired NASA astronaut Captain Mark Kelly, Americans for Responsible Solutions and the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence are committed to advancing commonsense change that makes communities safer from gun violence. Operating out of offices in Washington DC, San Francisco, and New York, our staff partners with lawmakers and advocates to craft and enact the smart gun laws that save lives. We provide expertise in firearms litigation, lead grassroots coalitions, and educate the public on the proven solutions to America’s gun violence epidemic.*

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