

The National Domestic Violence  
**HOTLINE**

1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

“[He] never fired the pistol, but he would sit on my chest and point it at my head. He would put it right next to my temple.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

“This morning he threatened to shoot me and him. I don’t think his mental state is in good condition...I don’t care what anyone says, I think he would hurt my kids just to hurt me.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

## U.S. Firearms Statistics

The intersection between gun violence and sexual and domestic violence cannot be overstated:

Women in the U.S. are **11x more likely** to be murdered with guns than women in other high-income countries.<sup>1</sup>

Female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined.<sup>2</sup>

The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by **500%**.<sup>3</sup>

In states that require a background check for every handgun sale, **38% fewer women** are shot to death by intimate partners.<sup>4</sup>

“[He] has pulled an AK47 and fired it. He used to sleep with two loaded guns under the pillow. Would wake to the sound of him releasing the safety next to my head. His guns are used regularly in the abuse and threats.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

For more information on this issue, please contact Liz Bradford at [lbradford@bradfordpr.com](mailto:lbradford@bradfordpr.com)

1 D. Hemenway and E.G. Richardson, “Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States with Other High-Income Countries, 2003,” 70 Journal of Trauma 238-42 (2011), available at doi: 10.1097/TA.0b013e3181dbaddf.

2 x When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2010 Homicide Data: Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Incidents. 2012. Violence Policy Center. Washington, DC. Retrieved January 17, 2013. <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2012.pdf>.

3 J.C. Campbell, D.W. Webster, J. Koziol-McLain, et al., “Risk factors for femicide within physically abusive intimate relationships: results from a multi-site case control study,” 93 Amer. J. of Public Health 1089-1097 (2003).

4 U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2010, available at <http://bit.ly/V1GvFe> (excludes New York due to incomplete data).

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1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men aged 18 and older in the United States have been the victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

**331,078**

total contacts to the Hotline in 2013.

95% of contacts reported emotional and verbal abuse

70% of contacts reported physical abuse

10% of contacts reported sexual abuse

## Hotline Firearms Focus Survey

First established in 1996 by the Violence Against Women Act, the **National Domestic Violence Hotline is the only national organization that provides direct services to anyone affected by domestic abuse.** Services are available 24/7 and are completely free and confidential. Our highly-trained advocates offer lifesaving tools, immediate support, and hope to empower people to break free of abuse.

For an eight-week period in the spring of 2014, the Hotline conducted its own survey regarding firearms with people who utilized the Hotline's phone or online chat services. Participation was voluntary.

Of the 4,721 chatters who participated, nearly 16% had partners who had access to guns. **Of those, 22% said their partners had threatened to use a firearm to hurt the victim, their children, other family members or friends, household pets, or to commit suicide.** 10% said their partner had fired a gun during an argument.

Only 34% of those surveyed were aware that the court may be able to order their partner to surrender their firearms and ammunition.

Nearly 52% said they would feel safer if law enforcement took their partner's/ex's/spouse's firearms.

67% of those who completed the survey believed their partner was capable of killing them.

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Abuser threatened [our young] child that he would shoot the entire family, and maybe others.

—Anonymous Hotline Caller”

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He has 15 guns...and is a felon. He shouldn't have guns in the first place, but he does. Police take them away, he gets more.

—Anonymous Hotline Caller”

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