

# Domestic Violence & Firearms: A Lethal Combination

## The Facts

The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%

Female intimate partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than all other means combined

## Domestic Violence and Mass Shootings

In 57% of mass shootings, the shooter killed a current or former spouse or intimate partner or other family member

In 18% of mass shootings, the perpetrator had been previously charged with domestic violence

## In Colorado

In 2014, 68% of domestic violence homicides involved firearms

In the almost 2,000 DV aggravated assault cases, more than 15% involved firearms

## Resources for Statistics

Everytown for Gun Safety, Analysis of Recent Mass Shootings ([http://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-and-violence-against-women/#foot\\_note\\_18](http://everytownresearch.org/reports/guns-and-violence-against-women/#foot_note_18))

Colorado Domestic Violence and Guns Fact Sheet <https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CAP-DV-CO.pdf>

Saving Women's Lives Ending Firearms Violence Against Intimate Partners: [http://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ARS\\_Toolkit.pdf](http://www.thehotline.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ARS_Toolkit.pdf)

[http://crimeinco.cbi.state.co.us/cic2k14/supplemental\\_reports/dvhomicide.html](http://crimeinco.cbi.state.co.us/cic2k14/supplemental_reports/dvhomicide.html)

## Taking Action

Despite the harrowing statistics about domestic violence homicides by firearms, we can improve the safety of victims of domestic violence by narrowing the odds that their abusers can obtain guns.

### Current Colorado Law

Prohibits persons subject to domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms

Requires courts to order the surrender of firearms by persons subject to DV protection orders and those convicted of a qualifying DV misdemeanor

### Thanks to the CBI Instacheck Unit

In 2015, 388 people applied for and were prohibited from purchasing a firearm because they were subject to a qualifying restraining order

In the same year, 1,393 people who had been arrested and/or previously convicted of assault were lawfully prohibited from purchasing a gun

### There is Still Work to Be Done

Colorado state law has loopholes that let some abusers still have easy access to guns

85% of Colorado voters (including 80% of gun-owning households) support requiring background checks for *all* gun buyers

### Get Connected

CCADV proactively advocates at the state to address the intersection of gun violence and domestic violence

Contact Lydia ([lwaligorski@ccadv.org](mailto:lwaligorski@ccadv.org)) to sign up for our Public Policy Action Alerts, and connect with CCADV on

**Facebook: ColoradoCoalitionAgainstDomesticViolence**

**Twitter: @CCADV1**