

FIREARM-RELATED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE

YWCA is committed to ensuring that communities are safe places for women and girls to thrive. As headlines and research make clear, however, gun violence is a major threat to their health and safety.

BACKGROUND

Women's experiences of gun violence are inextricably linked to domestic violence.

- Some 4.5 million women in the U.S. have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner,ⁱ and nearly 1 million women alive today have been shot, or shot at, by an intimate partner.ⁱⁱ
- In an average month, 50 women in the U.S. are shot to death by intimate partners, and many more are injured.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed.^{iv}
- States with laws that prohibit people with domestic violence restraining orders from possessing a gun have a 14% lower rate of intimate partner homicide by firearm.^v

Gun violence is particularly dangerous for women of color.

- Women of color are nearly three times as likely to be murdered with a gun than white women.^{vi}
- Black women are shot and killed by a husband or intimate partner three times more often than by male strangers, and most often during the course of an argument.^{vii}
- Transgender women of color face an even higher increased risk of gun violence: transgender women are four times more likely to experience gun violence than cisgender women, and nearly 85% of transgender victims are women of color.^{viii}

There are significant connections between domestic violence and mass shootings.

- Most mass shootings in the U.S. — those in which four or more individuals are killed — are related to domestic violence: shooters killed intimate partners or other family members in at least 54% of mass shootings.^{ix}
- While women make up only 15% of all gun violence, they make up 50% of victims in mass shootings.^x
- While most mass shootings occur in the home, the shooters in one-third of the 46 mass shootings that took place entirely in public between 2009 and 2016 had a history of violence against women.^{xi}
- In 42% of mass shootings between 2009 and 2016, the shooter exhibited warning signs that they posed a danger to themselves or others, and one-third of mass shooters were prohibited from possessing a firearm.^{xii}

ADVOCACY RESPONSES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

To decrease firearm-related homicides of women and girls, YWCA USA endorses H.R. 1585, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019. H.R. 1585 would:

- Keep guns out of the hands of perpetrators of domestic violence, stalking, and other interpersonal violence;
- Expand existing law that prohibits those who are convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor from obtaining a firearm to include those convicted of dating violence and stalking;
- Ensure all abusers relinquish firearms once prohibited;
- Notify local law enforcement when a prohibited person fails a background check since this could indicate an escalation in violence;
- Clarify that all local/municipal laws that prohibit abusers from possessing firearms are treated like federal, state, and tribal laws; and
- Allow local law enforcement to be cross-deputized with the ATF and use the full weight of the federal government to keep communities safe from domestic violence homicide.

ⁱ Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1524838016668589.

ⁱⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2009-13 and Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1524838016668589.

ⁱⁱⁱ Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2009-13 and Sorenson, S. B., & Schut, R. A. (2016). Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence A Systematic Review of the Literature. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 1524838016668589.

^{iv} Campbell, J. C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J. et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American journal of public health*, 93(7), 1089-1097.

^v Zeoli, April M., McCourt, Alexander, Bugg, Shani, et. All. (July 2018). Analysis of the Strength of the Legal Firearms Restricits for Perpetrators of Domstic Violence and Their Associations with Intimate Partner Homicide. Retrieved from <http://academic.oup.com/aje/article/187/7/1449/4655044>.

^{vi} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Fatal Injury Reports, National, Regional and State, 1981-2016." Retrieved from <https://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate.html>.

^{vii} Violence Policy Center. "When Men Murder Women: An Analysis of 2014 Homicide Data." Retrieved 6 March 2018 from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2016.pdf>.

^{viii} McBath, Lucy. "It's Time to Talk About Gun Violence, Hate and Protecting the Transgender Community." Retrieved from <https://www.essence.com/culture/gun-violence-killing-black-transgender-women>. Human Rights Campaign. "A Time to Act: Fatal Violence Against Transgender People in America 2017." Retrieved 28 February 2018 from http://assets2.hrc.org/files/assets/resources/A_Time_To_Act_2017_REV3.pdf.

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^{ix} Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. "Mass Shootings in the United States: 2009 – 2016." Retrieved from <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/mass-shootings-analysis/>.

^x Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. "The Real Story of Mass Shootings in America." Retrieved from <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shootings/>.

^{xi} Time Magazine. "The Troubling Link Between Domestic Violence and Mass Shooters." Retrieved from <http://time.com/5016731/link-between-domestic-violence-mass-shooters/>.

^{xii} Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund. "Mass Shootings in the United States: 2009 – 2016." Retrieved from <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/mass-shootings-analysis/>.