

# GUNS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Guns pose a unique and deadly threat to those experiencing domestic violence. A woman is five times more likely to be killed if her abusive partner owns a gun.<sup>1</sup> Children and youth are also at unique risk for experiencing gun violence, with guns being the leading cause of death for youth in the U.S. ages 0-19.<sup>2</sup> Gun violence can be prevented through programming, public policy and culture change.

## GUNS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- Every year, more than 600 American women are shot to death by intimate partners. <sup>3</sup>
- Guns are the most commonly used weapons in domestic violence homicides; women are more likely to be murdered with a gun than by all other means combined. <sup>4</sup>
- Half of all women who were murdered in the U.S. were killed by a current or former partner or family member. <sup>5</sup>
- Children are often injured and/or murdered as a result of an IPV relationship. A five year study ending in 2022, found that at least 866 kids ages 17 and younger were shot in domestic violence incidents at home; 621 of them died. <sup>6</sup>
- Underserved populations including Black and Indigenous women, women younger than 20, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ community face

**The presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it**

**5 times**

more likely that a woman will be killed.

disproportionately higher rates of domestic violence involving guns. <sup>7</sup>

- Most mass shootings defined as an event where four or more people are killed, are related to domestic violence.
- A majority of Americans — including 64% of women — believe gun laws should be “stricter.” <sup>8</sup>

# Homicide is a leading cause of death for pregnant women in the United States, above every other medically caused complication.



## GUNS AND MATERNAL HEALTH

The Harvard T.H. School of Public health says, *"Women in the U.S. who are pregnant or who have recently given birth are more likely to be murdered than to die from obstetric causes—and these homicides are linked to a deadly mix of intimate partner violence and firearms."*

- Homicide is the leading cause of death for pregnant women in the United States, above every other medically caused complication. [9](#)
- Because of the increased risk of murder by an intimate partner for pregnant people, lack of access to reproductive services and forced pregnancy can put pregnant women and pregnant people at higher risk for homicide.

## GUN VIOLENCE AND KIDS

Guns are the leading cause of death for children in America- higher than cancer and other diseases, car accidents, and choking. Gun deaths per million people ages 1-19 are 56.2 in America. The next closest country is Canada at 6.2 per million people.

- For children under age 13 who are victims of gun homicides, 85% of those deaths occur in the home, and nearly one-third of those deaths are connected to intimate partner or family violence. [10](#)
- Between 2015 and 2022, nearly two in three child and teen victims of mass shootings died in incidents connected to domestic violence. [11](#)
- Data drawn from 16 states indicate that nearly two-thirds of child fatalities involving domestic violence were caused by guns. [12](#)

## WHAT WORKS?

- States with stricter guns laws see less mass gun violence than those who have repealed gun laws. [13](#)
- A Justice Department study of the assault weapons ban found that it was responsible for a 6.7% decrease in total gun murders, holding all other factors equal.

**For more information please contact Kiersten Stewart at [KStewart@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:KStewart@futureswithoutviolence.org) or Tiffany Garner at [TGarner@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:TGarner@futureswithoutviolence.org).**

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