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**National Network to
 End Domestic Violence**

Fax

To: Deanne Beans From: Jennifer Hancock
 Fax: 202/456-7028 Pages: (including cover) 34
 Phone: 202/456-5568 Date: 3/13/00
 Re: Request For State Info. CC:
☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

• Comments:

Deanne,

Please find attached:

- (1) NNEDV Fact Sheets
- (2) State Surveys
- (3) VPC State -by -State Analysis (2) State listing
- (4) Congressional Record

Jennifer

The Facts: Justice System's Response To Domestic Violence



Domestic violence, as the name suggests is **NOT** a household, home, or family problem. Domestic violence is a societal problem. Over the past twenty years there has been an increased acknowledgement of violence against women. Accordingly, in 1994 Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) (Pub. L. No. 103-322, 42 U.S.C. § 3796, et seq). The four major components of the act are dedicated to providing personnel, training, technical assistance, and expanded victim services needed for vigorous apprehension and prosecution of persons committing crimes against women. The VAWA of 1994 also calls for federal penalties for interstate violation of protection orders, crossing state lines to commit domestic violence, and for the interstate recognition of protection orders.

Additionally, in September of 1996, President Clinton signed into law a domestic violence gun ban (Lautenberg Amendment) (Pub. L. No. 104-208, 18 U.S.C. § 922) which prevents persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses from purchasing or possessing a firearm. According to a report from Bureau of Justice Statistics Bulletin, Presale Handgun Checks, 1996 (September 1997) it is estimated that well over 2000 lives were saved in one year, based on 500 permit rejections during the last quarter of 1996.

- Nearly 1 in every 3 adult women experience at least one physical assault by a partner during adulthood.
- In 1993, approximately 575,000 men were arrested for committing violence against women.
- Women who experience violence perpetrated by an intimate fail to report the crime to law enforcement 6 times more often than violence committed by a stranger.
- In 1993, approximately 1,300 women in the United States were reportedly killed by abusive partners or former partners, most with hand guns.

American Psychological Association, Violence and the Family Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family (1996).

National Network To End Domestic Violence Fund
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National Network To End Domestic Violence Fund



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THE NATIONAL NETWORK TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

FACT SHEET

Official estimates of domestic violence rely largely on FBI, police and emergency medical room reports, but it is estimated that only 10% of battering incidents are ever reported to the police. Indeed, the most recent reports of national crime statistics suggest that domestic violence is on the decline. But, many women remain silent or only report domestic violence to friends, family, relatives, faith leaders, physicians and nurses, sources of information that are not included in national crime surveys. Therefore the following statistics, though alarming, help to frame the issue of domestic violence, but do not accurately reflect the amount of violence experienced in intimate relationships and in the home.

Statistic alone cannot tell the real story of domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors that include physical, sexual, and psychological attacks and may include economic coercion or other forced actions that allow a perpetrator to control his victim.¹ According to the United States Department of Justice, domestic violence victims are overwhelmingly women. And, while recent reports indicate an increase in the arrests of women, such violence is often defensive in nature and may be the result of inadequate law enforcement response at the scene of a domestic violence incident. Domestic violence affects every community, regardless of race, economic status, culture, sexual orientations or religion. It is a problem faced by older women and young women alike.

- ☐ 25 percent of women, compared with 8 percent of men, said they were raped and/or physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner or date at some time in their life.²
- ☐ Estimates of the number of women severely injured each year by their partners ranges from at least two million to four million and higher.³ and seventy percent of intimate homicide victims are female.⁴
- ☐ From 1992 to 1996, victimization by an intimate accounted for about 21 percent of the violence experienced by females. It accounted for about two percent of the violent crime sustained by males.⁵
- ☐ In 1996, approximately 1,800 murders were attributed to intimates; nearly three out of four of these had a female victim.⁶
- ☐ Over 3 million children annually observe violence within their homes.⁷
- ☐ In a national survey of over 6,000 families, 50 percent of the men who frequently assault their wives also frequently abuse their children;⁸ this makes the presence of spouse abuse the single most identifiable risk factor for predicting child abuse.
- ☐ During the 1996-1997 school year, there were an estimated 4,000 incidents of rape or other types of sexual assault in public schools across the country.⁹
- ☐ Women of all races are equally vulnerable to violence by an intimate.¹⁰
- ☐ In 1994 there were about 241,000 reports of domestic elder abuse.¹¹
- ☐ Battering in gay and lesbian relationships affects as many as 1 in 3 couples, with the same frequency and severity as it does in heterosexual relationships.¹²

- ☐ Battering is cited as the most frequent reason why women are treated in emergency rooms.¹³
- ☐ The total cost of domestic violence to the American economy may be between five and ten billion dollars annually.¹⁴

NOTES:

¹ Ganley, A., Ph.D. and C. Warshaw, M.D., *Improving the Health Care Response to Domestic Violence: A Resource Manual for Health Care Providers*, San Francisco Family Violence Prevention Fund, 1995.

² Tjaden, P. and Nancy Thoennes, *Prevalence, Incidence, and Consequences of violence Against Women: Findings From the National Violence Against Women Survey*, National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1998.

³ Women and Violence: Hearings before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, 101st Congress, 58 (1990) (statement of Helen Neuborne). In 1994, Congress found that four million women are battered by their partners each year. House of Representatives rep. No. 103-711, at 383-384, 1994.

⁴ United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Selected Findings: Violence Between Intimates 2* (1994)

⁵ U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998.

⁶ U.S. Department of Justice, *Violence by Intimates: Analysis of Data on Crimes by Current or Former Spouses, Boyfriends, and Girlfriends*, March 1998.

⁷ Carlson, B.E., *Children's Observations of Interpersonal Violence. Battered Women and Their Families*, New York, NY Springer, 1984, p. 60.

⁸ Murray A. Straus and Richard J. Gelles, *Physical Violence in American Families*, 1990.

⁹ U.S. Department of Education, *Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools*, 1996-1997.

¹⁰ Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey*, August 1995.

¹¹ American Psychological Association, *Violence and the Family: Report of the American Psychological Association Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family*, 1996.

¹² Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, 1999.

¹³ Howard Holtz & Kathleen Furniss, *The Health Care Providers Role in Domestic Violence*, 8 *Trends in Health Care, law & Ethics* 47, Spring 1993.

¹⁴ Harris, Meyer, *The Billion Dollar Epidemic*, Am. Med. News, Jan. 6, 1992, at 7 (including costs attributed to health care, investigative and protective services, the criminal justice system, police forces and lost worker productivity.)



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ATTENTION STATE COALITIONS

URGENT, URGENT, URGENT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION !!!

In response to recent tragedies such as those being publicized in Maryland,

"In January, 34-year-old Janice Lancaster of Charles County was killed by her estranged husband in a murder-suicide even though she had obtained a restraining order against him. Prosecutors issued a warrant for his arrest 13 days before [the fatal incident], but the court allegedly failed to process it quickly enough." Washington Post [March 2, 2000]. The murder occurred just four months after a man was "charged with killing his two young children" after he was "mistakenly allowed to buy a handgun that he allegedly used because a Howard County clerk botched the paperwork on a restraining order that his wife had obtained against him." Washington Post [March 2, 2000].

NNEDV received an urgent request from National public policy makers who want to hear from you regarding --

- (1) What type of database system is being used by your state to house and register protection orders? *Right now, it's on the main frame system, it will shift to Progress Database within the next 3-4 months, once law enforcement is trained.*
- (2) How effective [or ineffective] has this system been in preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing guns in your state? *Current system has not helped; future system will be linked to NRC, & so will then be linked to gun purchases.*
- (3) Are there any compelling stories involving women from your state who were subject to gun violence, at least in part, because a protection order registry/database was inadequately or improperly maintained? *The stories I can think of have to do with service and notification of victims, not the database itself.*

Please Note: WE ARE REQUESTING THAT REPLIES BE FAXED NO LATER THAN (3/9/00) 11:00 AM, FRIDAY MORNING. If you do not have time to research this issue, please just provide us with your impression regarding the magnitude of the problem. We appreciate any insight you can provide us on the scope of this important issue and thank you in advance for your reply !!!

Brenda Palazzo
Director, ND Council
on Abused Women's Service
3/10/00



TEXAS COUNCIL ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

P.O. Box 161810 • Austin, TX 78716 • 512/794-1133 • 512/794-1199 (fax)

The Texas Council on Family Violence is a membership association working to end domestic violence against women.

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To: NNEDV

From: Debbie Carter, Public Policy Coordinator

RE: Texas Protective Order database

1. What type of database system is being used by your state to house and register protection orders?

In Texas we use the Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) Protective Order database. The information is entered electronically and the entering agency keeps a paper copy of the order.

2. How effective (or ineffective) has this system been in preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing guns in your state?

State law prohibits the possession, the sale, lease, transfer, etc. of a handgun to a respondent in a protective order. Gun dealers are supposed to check with the local law enforcement agency and they are supposed to check TCIC.

I don't think that the system is very effective in keeping guns away from dv offenders because it is so easy to get a gun in Texas.

3. Are there any compelling stories involving women from your state who were subject to gun violence, at least in part, because a protection order registry/database was inadequately or improperly maintained?

There was a horrible case in Atascosa County recently. A batterer arrested for family violence bonded out of jail and the judge issued an emergency protective order. The batterer went immediately to a gun shop where he bought 300 rounds of ammunition. He then set up an ambush and killed 2 Sheriff's deputies and a Texas Department of Public Safety Trooper. He probably would have killed his wife too, but she was staying with friends. It happened so quickly that the protective order would have had to be entered immediately after it was issued to show up in the system. Texas law requires protective orders to be entered into TCIC, but it does not say how soon after issuance this must occur.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is a project of the Texas Council on Family Violence.

1-800-799-SAFE (7233) 1-800-787-3224 (TTY) 512-453-8117 Admin.



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ATTENTION STATE COALITIONS

URGENT, URGENT, URGENT

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION !!!

Sarah

Nebraska

In response to recent tragedies such as those being publicized in Maryland,

"In January, 34-year-old Janice Lancaster of Charles County was killed by her estranged husband in a murder-suicide even though she had obtained a restraining order against him. Prosecutors issued a warrant for his arrest 13 days before [the fatal incident], but the court allegedly failed to process it quickly enough." Washington Post [March 2, 2000]. The murder occurred just four months after a man was "charged with killing his two young children" after he was "mistakenly allowed to buy a handgun that he allegedly used because a Howard County clerk botched the paperwork on a restraining order that his wife had obtained against him." Washington Post [March 2, 2000].

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- (1) What type of database system is being used by your state to house and register protection orders?

*Much to our dismay - it is not functioning
we do not have one*

- (2) How effective [or ineffective] has this system been in preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing guns in your state? Actually - we know of a few cases

where guns have been purchased by abusers w/ po's - one used

- (3) Are there any compelling stories involving women from your state who were subject to gun violence, at least in part, because a protection order registry/database was inadequately or improperly maintained? *it to kill*

Our backlash also includes judges who won't sign his family po's

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because guns

are prohibited -

Sue, Thanks again - Jennifer

IDaho Coalition Against DV



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ATTENTION STATE COALITIONS

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In response to recent tragedies such as those being publicized in Maryland,

"In January, 34-year-old Janice Lancaster of Charles County was killed by her estranged husband in a murder-suicide even though she had obtained a restraining order against him. Prosecutors issued a warrant for his arrest 13 days before [the fatal incident], but the court allegedly failed to process it quickly enough." Washington Post [March 2, 2000]. The murder occurred just four months after a man was "charged with killing his two young children" after he was "mistakenly allowed to buy a handgun that he allegedly used because a Howard County clerk botched the paperwork on a restraining order that his wife had obtained against him." Washington Post [March 2, 2000].

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(1) What type of database system is being used by your state to house and register protection orders?

Data flat ISAK

(2) How effective [or ineffective] has this system been in preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing guns in your state?

HASNT BEEN

(3) Are there any compelling stories involving women from your state who were subject to gun violence, at least in part, because a protection order registry/database was inadequately or improperly maintained?

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Jennifer,

The Court informed me they are in the process of updating their system to Oracle. But as we speak they use Data flat ISAK.

Sue

Missouri Coalition reports:

- MO has an "internal-system" for registering orders, but in MO people have to go to the federal system to check on the gun purchases;
- No reliability or guarantee that orders will be forwarded on to the federal system;
- MO & MS are the only two states that are not part of "uniform crime reporting;"
- Local vendors do not have access to the federal system;
- incomplete state-wide system;
- MO highway patrol is the agency that forwards the information into the National database

Story –

Charlotte Harris, an african american woman from Columbia, MO was shot and killed by her husband of seventeen years, Danny Harris. The victim had a valid order of protection. Mr. Harris also had a criminal conviction for third-degree assault. The fatal incident occurred on 7/30/97. A complete chronology of events is contained below:

6/9/97 - Assault by Danny Harris against Charlotte Harris;

6/13/97 - exparte order obtained by Charlotte Harris against Danny Harris;

6/27/97- Full order obtained by Charlotte Harris against Danny Harris;

7/16/97 - Probation for guilty plea of 3rd degree assault, received suspended execution of sentence;

Charlotte Harris then filed for divorce papers, which were served upon Danny Harris on 7/21/97. Mr. Harris then purchased a shot gun from Walmart which he subsequently used on 7/30/97 to shoot and kill Charlotte. Mr. Harris was convicted of murder.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1974, COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

48 PAGES — PRICE 50¢

Abuse foreshadowed woman's murder

By GEORGE MAZURAK
of the Tribune's Staff

After nearly 17 years of marriage, Charlotte Harris tried to leave what she described as a physically abusive relationship by moving out of the duplex she shared with her husband and two children.

Angered by the breakup, police said, Dannie Harris yesterday drove to the Dannie Harris apartment where his estranged wife had taken refuge and killed her.

One of the couple's two daughters was inside the apartment at the time. Carmelle Harris, 15, closed herself inside a bathroom after her father, carrying a shotgun, forced his way into their second-floor apartment at 251 Apple Tree Court. Capt. Randy Boehm said.

An argument erupted, and two shots were fired. Police found the body of Charlotte Harris, 37, with wounds to the upper chest and right leg, in the bedroom of her home.

Dannie Harris, 47, of 2506 Morning Glory Drive was charged yesterday with first-degree murder, first-degree burglary and armed criminal action.

A judge ordered the self-employed roofer held without bond in Boone County Jail after prosecutor

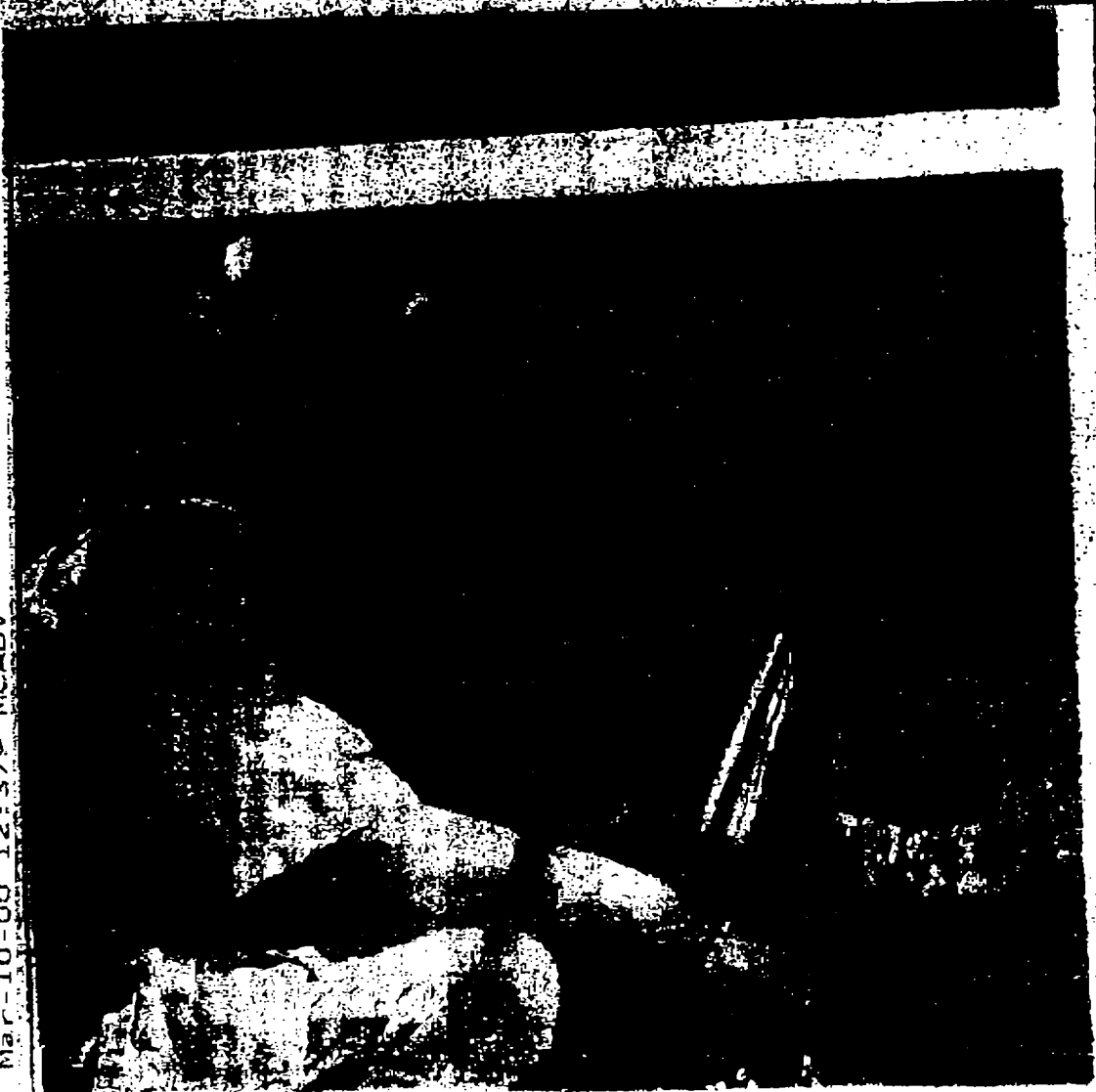
about 11:30 a.m., only minutes after the shooting. Harris had called police from a pay phone outside Casey's General Store, 4008 W. Broadway, and threatened to harm himself. The suspected murder weapon was in the victim's Buick, which Dannie Harris apparently had driven from the apartment building. Police found the suspect's green pickup at the murder scene.

Since June 13, three judges have barred Dannie Harris from having contact with his estranged wife.

The first order was issued by associate circuit judge Larry Bryson in an ex parte ruling after Charlotte Harris reported she was assaulted by her husband. That order was extended to 180 days on June 27 by associate circuit judge Cary Augustine. Court records indicate Dannie Harris consented to the order.

On July 16, associate circuit judge Jodie Asel barred Dannie Harris from having any contact with Charlotte Harris as a condition of probation in a criminal case stemming from a June 9 assault. In an affidavit requesting court-ordered protection, Charlotte Harris described that episode.

Two weeks after the couple had separated, Charlotte Harris wrote, Dannie Harris asked her to come to Morning Glory Drive and discuss some things. "The conversation began to get out of control," she wrote. When she got up to leave, Dannie Harris told her "we weren't through" and started choking her. He also threatened "to put a bullet



Mar 13 '00 14:23 P.10/34

Mar-10-00 12:37 PM CALV



Above, Jenn Brown, left, a psychology student at University Heights, consoles Charlotte Harris, 15, yesterday inside the apartment at Apple Tree Court where her mother, Charlotte Harris, was slain. Dannie Harris, the victim's estranged husband, was charged with first-degree murder. At right, the body of Charlotte Harris is transported by Dennis Nilson, left, of the medical examiner's office, and Columbia police officer Robert Harrell.



Dennis Nilson photo

Charlotte Harris, 15, forced herself inside a bathroom after her father, carrying a shotgun, forced his way into their second-floor apartment at 251 Apple Tree Court, Capt. Randy Boehm said.

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Dannie Harris, 47, of 2506 Morning Glory Drive was charged yesterday with first-degree murder, first-degree burglary and armed criminal action.

A judge ordered the self-employed roofer held without bond in Boone County Jail after prosecutor Kevin Crane said in a memo that the suspect "has stated that he would kill another individual in the event he has the opportunity." Crane and police declined to elaborate.

Carmelle Harris went to stay with a friend until relatives could pick her up today, Boehm said. The couple's 12-year-old daughter, Chanelle, had gone to visit relatives in Marshall before the shooting occurred, he said.

Officers arrested Dannie Harris

On July 16, associate circuit judge Jodie Asel barred Dannie Harris from having any contact with Charlotte Harris as a condition of probation in a criminal case stemming from a June 9 assault. In an affidavit requesting court-ordered protection, Charlotte Harris described that episode.

Two weeks after the couple had separated, Charlotte Harris wrote, Dannie Harris asked her to come to Morning Glory Drive and discuss some things. "The conversation began to get out of control," she wrote. When she got up to leave, Dannie Harris told her "we weren't through" and started choking her. He also threatened "to put a bullet in my head."

Dannie Harris later pleaded guilty to third-degree assault and received a suspended 30-day jail sentence. As a condition of probation, he was ordered not to have contact with Charlotte Harris.

In 1996, the couple moved from Marshall to Columbia to get a new start and save their marriage, said a woman who asked not to be identified. But Dannie Harris "was so abusive to her" that his wife finally decided to leave.

Charlotte Harris shared details about the extent of the abuse after the June 9 incident, said the woman, who lives in the Morning Glory Drive neighborhood.

The abuse had persisted throughout their marriage, the woman said. "Charlotte said he told her many a time" that "if she divorced him, he would make sure no one else would have her."

The woman's husband, who also asked not to be identified, said Dannie Harris "said he was going to kill her several times."

Charlotte Harris filed for divorce on June 10. Court records show that Dannie Harris was served notice of the divorce on July 21.

MARYLAND COALITION

1. Maryland has the "MILES" system, which feeds into the NCIS. Data is entered by the sheriff's department. Problems include a lack of staff, financial resources. The complexity of the system was also noted [non-user friendly & antiquated technology]. In order for information to be transmitted from "MILES" into NCIS, certain information is required. If the state system does not have this information, then the portion^{it} it does have can not be entered.

A lot of exparte orders do not make it into the system, but final orders are getting in on a greater level. Warrants are not getting in the system on a high enough level. Education, training and resources are cited as priority needs to integrate and coordinate information into the National system.



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NNEDV received an urgent request from National public policy makers who want to hear from you regarding --

- (1) What type of database system is being used by your state to house and register protection orders?

NH Dept. of Safety maintains a central registry.

- (2) How effective [or ineffective] has this system been in preventing domestic violence offenders from purchasing guns in your state?

The registry is effective in preventing purchases, but batterers get guns anyway.

- (3) Are there any compelling stories involving women from your state who were subject to gun violence, at least in part, because a protection order registry/database was inadequately or improperly maintained?

Recent murder/suicide - 6 month old baby was killed - with a shotgun. Batterer should not have had a gun due to

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Misdemeanor conviction in domestic violence case - d's not clear where he got the gun. - Grace Mottam
NHCPDSV 603/224-5893

MANDATORY GUN SHOW BACKGROUND CHECK ACT (House of Representatives - June 17, 1999)

[Page: H4573]

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. **LaHood**). Pursuant to House Resolution 209 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2122.

[TIME: 2103]

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2122) to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes, with Mr. **Thornberry** in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. **McCollum**) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. **Conyers**) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. **McCollum**).

[Page: H4574]

Mr. **McCOLLUM**. Mr. Chairman, the legislation we are about to consider before us this evening is here because all of us are concerned with the safety of our children in school, at home, on the playground, and on the street. That is the same reason we were considering the bill we just passed a moment ago.

In America, every child should have an opportunity to get a full education, to excel in the workplace to the best of his or her ability, to raise a family and to enjoy the high standard of living that the genius of the Founding Fathers of this great free Nation allowed us to develop. No child should have his or her life cut short in a suicidal massacre such as happened at Columbine High School or by any other violent criminal act.

We cannot address adequately by legislation all of the causes of violent crime in our society, but over the last 2 days we have crafted legislation in H.R. 1501 which, if enacted, will greatly assist our States and local communities in reducing the torrent of violent youth crime afflicting this Nation. The grant program in this legislation will help repair the broken juvenile justice systems in our 50 States and send a message to teenagers that there are consequences for their criminal misbehavior at every level, and that if they continue to engage in a course of criminal conduct there will be ever more severe punishment. I believe the experts that this legislation will make a difference.

Now we must turn our attention to the loopholes in the gun laws of this Nation that have become very

apparent in the aftermath of the tragedy at Columbine. Over the last several weeks, there has been much debate over the issue of guns; debate in public, debate in the press, debate in this House. And despite all the differing views of those on all sides, there is one thing that I believe everyone agrees upon. We need to keep guns out of the hands of children, convicted felons and those who use them to harm our families.

Existing law prohibits a convicted felon, a fugitive from justice, a drug addict, an illegal alien, a minor, and several other categories of people from buying a gun. Several years ago an instant check background system was phased in specifically for the purpose of screening out convicted felons and other disqualified persons who attempted to buy guns from a gun dealer. This is a name check system.

The name check system has its weaknesses, one of them being that while the names of persons arrested for felony crimes are computerized in a central bank at the FBI, the conviction or acquittal records are not. Some States have computerized the disposition records showing conviction or acquittal but many have not. So when the name of a gun purchaser is entered in the instant check system and a hit is made, it is frequently only known that the person has an arrest record for a felony, not whether there was a conviction.

Once there is a hit of someone's name in the instant check system, there has to be contact made by someone working in that system to the county courthouse in the county and the State where the arrest was made to find out if the person was convicted of a felony crime on the charges that show up on the arrest record in the computer, or whether that person was acquitted, or maybe the charges were pled to a lesser offense, or, who knows.

If the sale is made over the weekend, and I think this is very important to note, if the sale was made over the weekend and the instant check turns up an arrest hit on the purchaser's name, the county courthouse is not open for business and the records cannot be checked to find out if there was a felony conviction that would disqualify the purchaser until Monday, when the courthouse opens.

This is the principal reason why current law provides that if an arrest hit occurs on a name in an instant check, law enforcement has up to 3 business days to determine whether there was a felony conviction before the sale can be completed. If it is determined there is a felony conviction, there can be no sale. If it does not make a determination, the sale may proceed at the end of the 3 days.

Now, when somebody buys a gun at a gun show from a dealer, under current law the instant check system works exactly the same as it does if somebody goes to the gun store and buys the gun from the gun dealer. However, if the purchase is made by an individual nondealer citizen at a gun show, if that is the one who is selling the gun, an individual nondealer citizen, there is no background check to see if the person is a convicted felon who is attempting to make the purchase. This is a big loophole. This is the loophole that the bill before us, H.R. 2122, closes.

Under this bill, an instant background check has to be done on anyone who purchases a gun at a gun show. No matter who the seller is, whether they are a dealer or an unlicensed individual vendor at the gun show, they may not sell any firearm under this bill until the buyer of that firearm has been checked through the instant check system. Under this bill, anyone who knowingly violates the requirement will be subject to criminal prosecution and civil penalties.

Requiring purchasers at a gun show to wait 3 working days might mean that the sale is not completed until well after the gun show is over, and so H.R. 2122 allows the sale to proceed after 72 hours, or 3

calendar days, as opposed to business days. This will be long enough to delay the sale if it is made over a weekend, until the county courthouses are open on Monday, and the arrest name hit can be resolved, but it also allows gun show purchasers to complete their transactions promptly. There is no need to have a 3-business or -working day wait.

Mr. Chairman, some Members want this period shortened to 24 hours, but the instant check statistics show that only about half the hits are ever cleared up in 24 hours, and on Saturdays this clear rate is even lower. Whenever the check system tells a dealer to delay, it is always because a hit has occurred in the name of the person seeking to buy a firearm. We have to make sure that we delay these sales until we can determine if the person trying to buy the firearm is a felon or a fugitive, and this often cannot happen until the

following Monday morning.

The bill also requires persons who organize or conduct shows to register with the Secretary of the Treasury, in accordance with the Department's regulations. It also requires gun show organizers to check the identification of those who desire to be vendors at the gun show and record their names in records the gun show organizer must maintain.

Under present law, only licensed dealers are authorized to conduct background checks on potential firearm purchasers. In order to make sure there will be sufficient number of persons at gun shows who can conduct these checks, the bill allows other citizens to apply to the Secretary of the Treasury to become instant check registrants. These instant check registrants will not be licensed to sell firearms, but they will be licensed to conduct a background check, and they will be subject to the regulations promulgated by the Treasury Department. I am sure a number of persons who are not dealers, but enjoy exhibiting, buying, and selling firearms at gun shows will go through the process to obtain a permit to conduct these background checks.

H.R. 2122 also defines a gun show. For the purposes of the bill, a gun show is an event which is sponsored to foster the collecting or legal use of firearms at which 50 or more firearms are exhibited for sale or exchange, and at which 10 or more vendors are present.

Now, I must say, Mr. Chairman, I was disappointed to read in today's paper, in The Washington Post, a piece by Attorney General Janet Reno, which I must sadly say it makes it appear that she is playing more politics than substance, and I am used to hearing from the Attorney General on a lot more substance. She complains about the provisions in this bill in ways that just do not make sense.

Now, I would like to say one thing about this. I believe that the Attorney General's office should be spending more time working to improve the existing instant check system to get more of the records on file in a way that will have the felony convictions there, than trying to fiddle with the details of a piece of legislation where she is totally incorrect about what she is saying in that article.

Miss Reno says in her column something that appears to show concern that my system in this bill will allow what she calls amateurs to access the instant check system. That is not the case. All instant check registrants that are created under this bill, H.R. 2122, will be licensed by the Secretary of the Treasury. They will follow all regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury. And, besides, it does not take a rocket scientist to operate the system. It only takes the ability to call in a name and the date of birth to the check system. The new instant check registrants will not undermine the system in any way.



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New Report Shows Murders of Women Typically Involve Domestic Violence And Guns

Most Women Are Killed by Someone They Know— Debunks "Dangerous Stranger" Myth Promoted by Gun Lobby

Includes State-by-State Ranking of Female Homicide Rates

Women are far more likely to be murdered by someone they know, most commonly with a handgun, according to the new Violence Policy Center report *When Men Murder Women*. The annual report analyzes 1997 FBI Supplementary Homicide Report data, the most recent available, and debunks many of the myths surrounding fatal violence against women—especially that the greatest danger comes from attacks by predatory strangers. The study is being released to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The 29-page report also contains a state-by-state ranking of 1997 female homicide rates. The state with the highest 1997 rate of females murdered by males in single victim/single offender cases was **Louisiana**, followed by **Nevada, Arkansas, South Carolina**, and **Oklahoma** (see table below for top 15 states).

"Our goal is to counter fear with facts. The gun lobby fosters fear as a marketing ploy to sell handguns to women," said VPC Health Policy Analyst Karen Brock, the report's author. "The most common threat a woman faces is not a knife-wielding stranger, but someone she knows, most frequently her husband or boyfriend, armed with a gun."

The study, and the state rankings, consider only data on homicides reported by state and local law enforcement officials to the FBI for 1997 in which one male attacker killed one female victim.

Other key findings of the report include:

- More than 12 times as many females were murdered by a male they knew (1,689 victims) than were killed by male strangers (137 victims).

For Release:

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Contact:

Paul Lavrakas

Violence Policy Center

- There were 393 women killed with a gun by their husband or intimate acquaintance during the course of an argument—more than one woman murdered every day of the year.
- More homicides against females were committed with firearms (52 percent) than with all other weapons combined. Of the homicides committed with firearms, 3 out of 4 (75 percent) were committed with handguns.

Number of Females Murdered by Males in Single Victim/Single Offender Homicides Ranked by Top 15 States in the United States

Ranking	State	Number of Homicides	Homicide Rate per 100,000
1	Louisiana	89	3.94
2	Nevada	25	3.03
3	Arkansas	37	2.84
4	South Carolina	50	2.55
5	Oklahoma	41	2.41
6	North Carolina	89	2.33
7	Alabama	51	2.27
8	Virginia	76	2.21
9	Wyoming	5	2.09
10	Alaska	6	2.07
11	Maryland	53	2.02
12	Georgia	74	1.92
13	Texas	182	1.85
14	Colorado	36	1.83
15	New Mexico	16	1.83
	Rates have been rounded to two decimal places. In the case of a tie, the rate has been carried out to another decimal place. Thus, Colorado is ranked 14 th with a rate of 1.833 and New Mexico is ranked 15 th with a rate of 1.827		

The Violence Policy Center is a national non-profit educational foundation that conducts research on violence in America and works to develop violence-reduction policies and proposals. The Center examines the role of firearms in America, conducts research on firearms violence, and explores new ways to decrease firearm-related death and injury.

Louisiana State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Louisiana is a "shall issue" state. Virtually anyone who is not a convicted felon can receive a license to carry a hidden handgun.
Brady Law	Louisiana uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Louisiana has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	There is no state regulation for the minimum age to possess either handguns or long guns.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Nevada State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Nevada is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Nevada has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	For both handguns and long guns, 14 is the minimum age to possess. However, if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or an adult with the express consent of a parent or guardian, then there is no minimum age.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	(Enacted 1991) It is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor, defined as persons under the age of 14. The law applies only if the minor gains access to the gun. The statute also specifically states that the law does not apply if the firearm is stored in a locked box, secured with a trigger lock, or obtained by a minor through unlawful entry. The penalty is a misdemeanor.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Arkansas State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Arkansas is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. Applicant must satisfactorily complete a training course.
Brady Law	Arkansas uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Arkansas has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age to possess a handgun. There is no state regulation for the minimum age to possess a long gun.
Preemption	The state prevents localities from passing most gun violence prevention ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

South Carolina State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	South Carolina is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	South Carolina has a one handgun per month purchase limitation.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	A person must be 21 to possess a handgun, unless hunting or sport shooting and supervised by an adult. There is no minimum age of possession for a long gun.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Sellers must complete and have notarized a bill of sale on all private firearm transactions.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	No licensed retail dealer may hold, store, handle, sell, offer for sale, or otherwise possess in his place of business a pistol or other handgun which has a die-cast, metal alloy frame or receiver which melts at a temperature of less than eight hundred degrees Fahrenheit.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Oklahoma State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Oklahoma is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. Applicant must complete a firearms safety training course.
Brady Law	Oklahoma uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Oklahoma has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age to possess a handgun. 18 is also the minimum age to possess a long gun. However, a person of any age may possess a long gun if accompanied by an adult and engaged in hunting or target shooting.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

North Carolina State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	North Carolina is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. Applicant must successfully complete an approved safety training course.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks on all handgun purchasers. The National Instant Check System (NICS) is used to perform background checks on long gun purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	North Carolina has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers need a permit to acquire a handgun.
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age for possession of a handgun. 12 is the minimum age for possession of a long gun unless accompanied by a parent, guardian, or adult with the consent of a parent or guardian, in which case there is no minimum age.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	(Enacted 1993) It is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of a minor, defined as persons under the age of 18. The law applies only if the minor gains access to the gun. The statute also specifically states that the law does not apply if the firearm is obtained by a minor through unlawful entry. The law was amended in 1994 to change the penalty for any person to transfer a handgun to a minor from a misdemeanor to a felony.
Waiting Period	There is a waiting period of up to 30 days to acquire a permit to purchase a handgun.
Secondary Sales	It is illegal for anyone to transfer or receive a handgun, unless the purchaser acquires a permit issued by the State to acquire handguns.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Virginia State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Virginia is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Virginia has a one handgun per month purchase limitation.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age for possession of a handgun. However, any person directly supervised by an adult can possess a handgun for target shooting, hunting, or safety training. There is no minimum age to possess a rifle or shotgun.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting most gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	(Enacted 1991) The law states that it is "unlawful to recklessly leave a loaded firearm so as to endanger the life or limb of any child under the age of fifteen". The "reckless" standard makes prosecution very difficult and the law has no requirement that dealers post warnings. The penalty is a misdemeanor. Child is defined as anyone under the age of 14.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Wyoming State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Wyoming is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. Applicant must demonstrate familiarity with a firearm.
Brady Law	Wyoming uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Wyoming has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	There is no minimum age to possess either handguns or long guns.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Alaska State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Alaska is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. The applicant must submit evidence of competence with handguns.
Brady Law	Alaska uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Alaska has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	16 is the minimum age to possess either a handgun or a long gun, however there is no minimum age if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other person with the express consent of parent or guardian.
Preemption	A municipality may not, except by ordinance ratified by the voters, restrict the right to own or possess firearms within a residence or transport unloaded firearms.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period in Alaska.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Maryland State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Maryland is a "May issue" state. Carrying a concealed weapon is permitted but only with a permit issued by police. The applicant must show need and permits may be restricted to certain times and places.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks for handgun purchasers. The National Instant Check System (NICS) is used for all long gun purchases.
Purchase Limitations	Maryland has a one handgun per month purchase limitation.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	For both handguns and long guns, 21 is the minimum age to possess. However, if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other person with the express consent of a parent or guardian, there is no age limit.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting most gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	(Enacted 1992) It is a crime to store or leave a loaded firearm within the reach or easy access of an unsupervised minor, defined as persons under the age of 16. The penalty for unlawful access is a misdemeanor. No incident must occur in order to incur criminal penalties.
Waiting Period	There is a mandatory 7 day waiting period for handguns.
Secondary Sales	Transactions are subject to approval from the State Police and require a seven day waiting period. The buyer must complete an application form which is sent by the dealer to the State Police for investigation. The applicant is required to provide information regarding eligibility to purchase or possess a handgun, and information on the handgun being purchased.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	The Handgun Roster Board shall consider the following characteristics of a handgun in determining whether any handgun should be placed on the handgun roster, allowing it to be sold: (i) concealability; (ii) ballistic accuracy; (iii) weight; (iv) quality of materials; (v) quality of manufacture; (vi) reliability as to safety; (vii) caliber; (viii) detectability by the standard security equipment commonly used at airports or courthouses and approved by the FAA for use at US airports; and (ix) utility for legitimate sporting activities, self-protection, or law enforcement.
Ban on Assault Weapons	Led by Marylanders Against Handgun Abuse, the Legislature passed an law banning 16 types of assault pistols, their copies and ammunition magazines with over 20 rounds. The bill prohibits possession, sale, transfer purchase or receipt of assault pistols within the state.
State Action Alert	

Georgia State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Georgia is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry hidden handguns with a license without showing need.
Brady Law	The state performs background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Georgia has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age for possession of a handgun. There is no minimum age to possess a rifle or shotgun.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting any gun violence prevention measures.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no mandatory waiting period.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Texas State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Texas is a "shall issue" state. Practically all non-felons have a right to carry concealed weapons with a license without showing need. Applicant must complete 10 hours of safety training.
Brady Law	Texas uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Texas has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	There is no state regulation for the minimum age to possess either handguns or long guns.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from passing most gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	(Enacted 1995) The Texas law creates a misdemeanor offense when a child gains access to a firearm because an adult fails to secure a readily dischargeable firearm or left the firearm in a place to which the person knew or should have known that a child would gain access. It also requires firearms dealers to post a sign with this warning: IT IS UNLAWFUL TO STORE, TRANSPORT, OR ABANDON AN UNSECURED FIREARM IN A PLACE WHERE CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO BE AND CAN OBTAIN ACCESS TO THE FIREARM. The penalty is a misdemeanor. Child is defined as anyone under the age of 18.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

Colorado State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Colorado is a "may issue" state. Local law enforcement has discretion in issuing permits to carry concealed handguns.
Brady Law	Colorado uses a state-based system to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	Colorado has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	Unless engaged in legitimate hunting or sporting activities, one must be over 18 to possess a handgun. There is no state regulation for the minimum age to possess a rifle or shotgun.
Preemption	Cities and counties can enact gun violence prevention ordinances. In April 1999, a bill failed which would have preempted cities from enacting such legislation.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no mandatory waiting period.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

New Mexico State Firearms Laws

Concealed Carry	Carrying a concealed weapon is prohibited in this state.
Brady Law	New Mexico uses the National Instant Check System (NICS) to perform background checks on all firearm purchasers.
Purchase Limitations	New Mexico has no purchase limitations.
Licensing	Purchasers do not need a permit to acquire a firearm.
Possession by Minors	18 is the minimum age for possession of a handgun or a long gun. However there is no minimum age if accompanied by a parent, guardian, or other person with the express consent of parent or guardian.
Preemption	The state prohibits localities from enacting gun related ordinances.
Gun Storage	There is no Child Access Prevention (CAP) or safe storage laws in the state.
Waiting Period	There is no waiting period to acquire a firearm.
Secondary Sales	Private sales do not require a background check and are not regulated in any manner.
Ban on Saturday Night Specials	Handguns are not required to meet any safety or performance standards in order to be sold.
Ban on Assault Weapons	None
State Action Alert	

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- In 29% of all violence against women by a lone offender, the perpetrator was an intimate—husband, ex-husband, boyfriend, or ex-boyfriend.
- Women were six times more likely than men to experience violence committed by an intimate.
- Women age 19 to 29 and women in families with incomes below \$10,000 were more likely than other women to be victims of violence by an intimate.
- Among victims of violence committed by an intimate, the victimization rate of women separated from their husbands was about 3 times higher than that of divorced women and about 25 times higher than that of married women.
- In 1992-93 females experienced 7 times as many incidents of non-fatal violence by an intimate as did males.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Violence Against Women: Estimates from the Redesigned Survey 1995* (Aug. 1995).

- In 1994, 1.4 million or 243,000 people treated in hospital emergency departments (in 31 sample hospitals having emergency departments) were injured by an intimate—current or former spouse, current or former boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Of the 1.4 million people treated in emergency departments, 94% of those persons were treated for intentional or possibly intentional injuries. Intentional injuries were those deemed to have been caused deliberately by another person. These injuries for example, resulted from assaults, fights, family violence or abuse, and sexual assault or rape.
- Of the 1.4 million people treated in emergency departments 5 out of every 6 patients reported that a male had injured them. (One-third did not respond to the question).

Michael R. Rand, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Dep't of Justice, *Violence-Related Injuries Treated in Hospital Emergency Departments* (Aug. 1997).

- In 1994 for every 5 violent victimizations of a female by an intimate, there was 1 of a male.
- In 1994 females were more likely to be victimized by persons whom they knew (62% or 2,981,479 victimizations).
- Females were likely to be victimized at a private home (their own: or that of a neighbor, friend, or relative) than any other place.
- Intimates committed almost 16% of the victimizations of women involving a weapon.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Sex Differences in Violent Victimization* (1994).

- Between 1992 and 1994, the number of violent crimes committed against women reached almost 14 million.
- Female homicide victims are more than twice as likely to have been killed by husbands or boyfriends than male victims are to have been killed by wives or girlfriends.
- For those cases in which the victim-offender relationship is known, husbands or boyfriends killed 26% of female murder victims.

FBI, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Uniform Crime Reports of the U.S. 1995* (1995).

- In 1991, among all female murder victims in the U.S., 28% were slain by their husbands or boyfriends.

FBI, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Uniform Crime Reports of the U.S. 1991* (1991).

- Divorced and separated women compose 7% of the population in the U.S., they account for 75% of all battered women and report being battered 14 times as often as women still living with their abusers.

Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Dep't of Justice, *Special Report: Family Violence* (1992).



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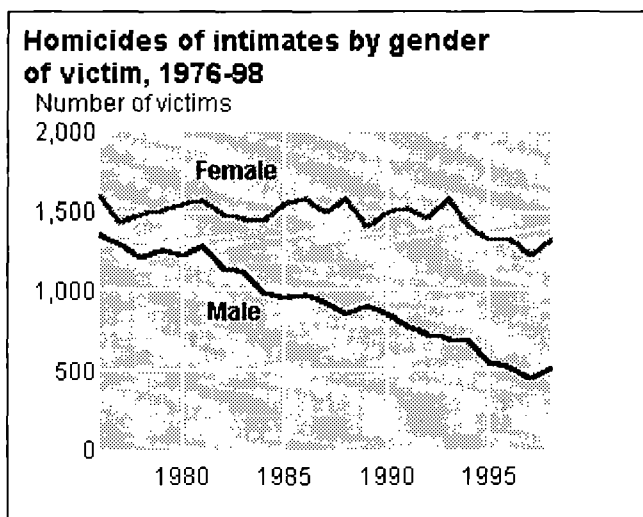
Homicide trends in the U.S. **Intimate homicide**

There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims

Intimates are defined to include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

- The number of men murdered by intimates has dropped by 60% since 1976.
- The number of women killed by intimates was stable for two decades and declined somewhat after 1993

To view data, click on the chart.

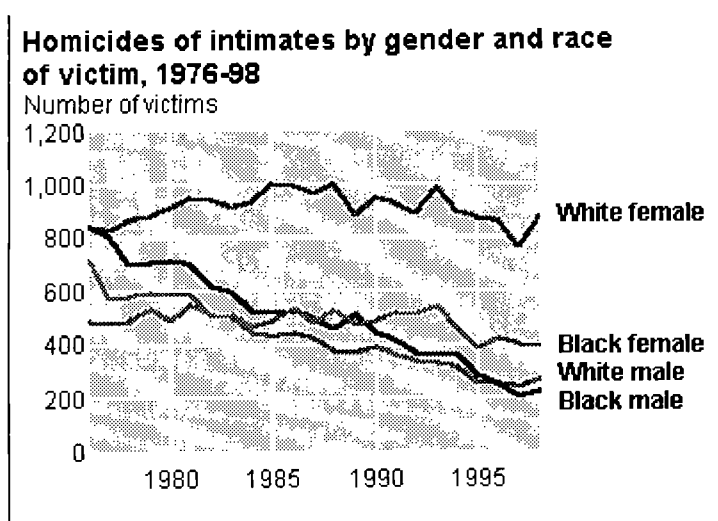


The number of intimate victims in each race and gender group has fallen

Between 1976 and 1998 --

- the number of white females killed by intimates rose in the mid-1980's, declined after 1993, and in 1997 reached the lowest level recorded over the past two decades
- the number of intimate homicides for all other race and gender groups declined over the period; black females killed by intimates dropped 45%, black males by 74%, and white males by 44%

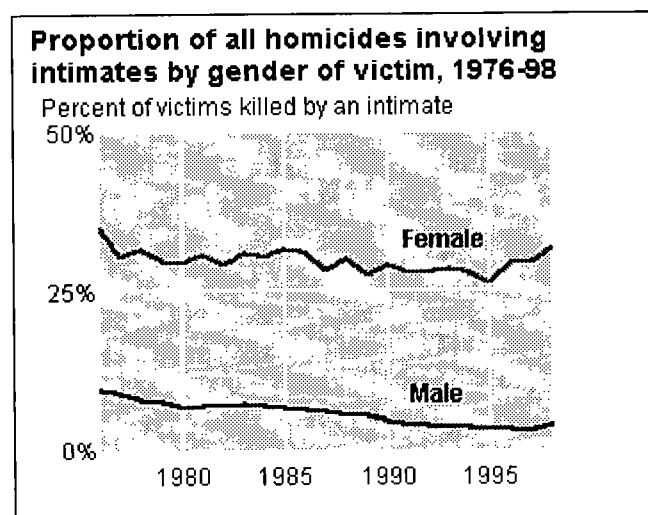
To view data, click on the chart.



Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate

- About one third of female murder victims are killed by an intimate
- About 4% of male murder victims are killed by an intimate
- Of all female murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has been relatively stable while, of male murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has dropped.

To view data, click on the chart.

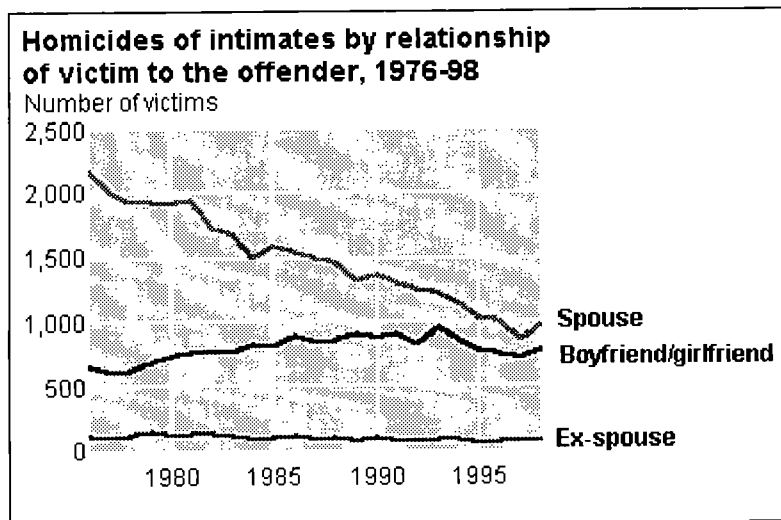


For every age group female murder victims are more likely than male victims to have been killed by an intimate

	Percent of all murders by intimates	
	Male victims	Female victims
Under 18	1%	6%
18-24	2	29
25-29	5	36
30-34	7	41
35-39	9	43
40-44	10	41
45-49	11	40
50-59	10	32
60+	7	20

Most victims of intimate homicide are killed by their spouses, although much less so in recent years

To view data, click on the chart.



The intimate homicide rate has fallen for blacks in every gender and relationship category while the rate for whites has not declined for all categories

The intimate homicide rate --

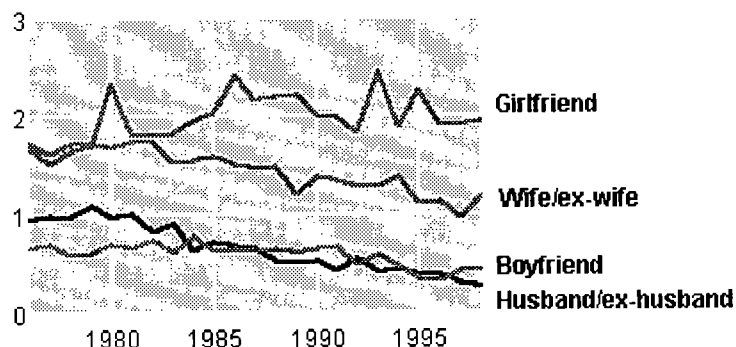
- for white girlfriends is slightly higher in 1998 than it was in 1976
- for white wives and ex-wives has declined but not as much as that for white husbands and ex-husbands
- for black husbands and ex-husbands was ten times greater in 1976 than it is in 1998

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide rate by race, gender, and relationship, 1976-98

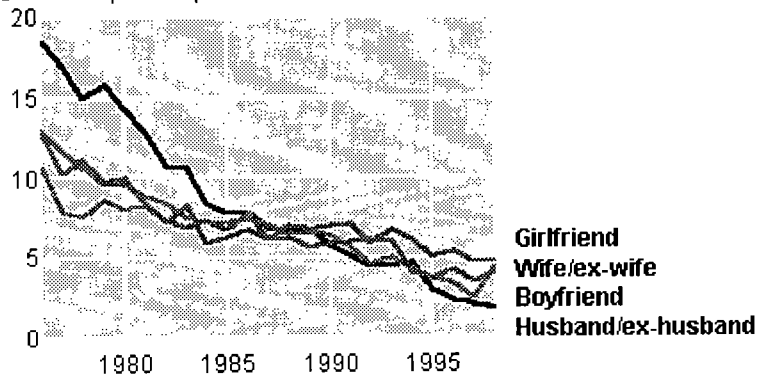
White victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Black victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Note: This chart refers to persons ages 20-44. The number of married or divorced persons is the population base used to calculate spouse and ex-spouse rates and the number of never married or widowed persons is the population base used to calculate boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

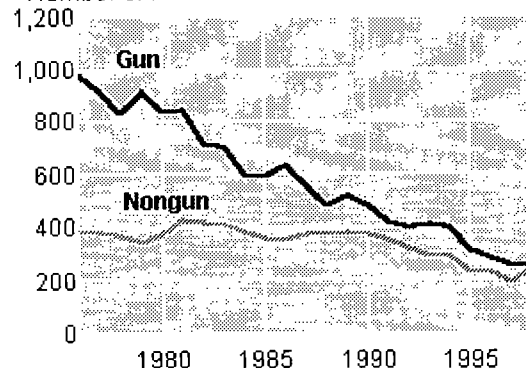
The number of intimate victims killed has fallen regardless of weapon type, but the decline in the number killed with guns has been more pronounced than the decline in the number killed by other methods

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide victims by type of weapon, 1976-98

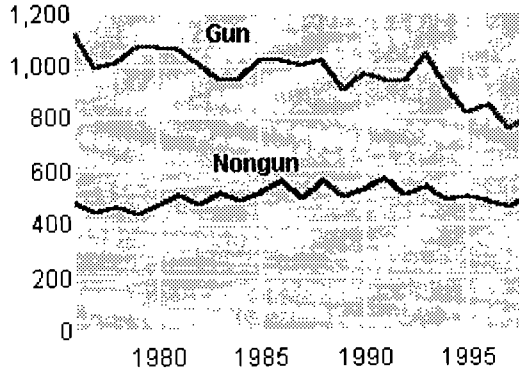
Male victims

Number of victims



Female victims

Number of victims



In general, guns are most often used in intimate homicide but weapon type varies by relationship.
From 1990 to 1998 --

- Two-thirds of the spouse and ex-spouse victims were killed by guns
- Almost half of the boyfriend victims were killed by knives
- Intimate homicides were more likely to involve knives than nonintimate homicides

Homicides by relationship and weapon type, 1990-98

Relationship of victim to offender	Total		Blunt object		Other Force weapon	
	Gun	Knife	Gun	Knife	Gun	Knife
Intimate						
Husband/Ex-husband	100 %	66 %	27 %	2 %	1 %	4 %
Boyfriend	100	44	49	2	1	4
Wife/Ex-wife	100	67	14	5	7	7
Girlfriend	100	58	19	5	9	9
Nonintimate						
	100	68	13	5	6	8

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

Additional information about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

For additional statistical information on this topic, see the BJS publication [Violence by Intimates](#).

Related charts on this site

- [Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-98](#)

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Intimate homicide victims by gender of victim and weapon used
Intimates are defined to include spouses,
ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

Year	Male Gun	Male Nongun	Female Gun	Female Nongun
1976	973	385	1120	481
1977	911	383	990	446
1978	832	370	1013	469
1979	913	349	1071	435
1980	841	379	1074	475
1981	845	433	1064	509
1982	716	425	1006	474
1983	702	411	941	521
1984	607	381	954	488
1985	598	359	1023	523
1986	630	354	1019	567
1987	561	373	995	499
1988	479	375	1017	565
1989	517	386	908	507
1990	483	376	968	533
1991	424	356	944	574
1992	402	320	939	516
1993	414	294	1042	539
1994	397	295	916	489
1995	315	233	817	504
1996	284	232	843	481
1997	259	192	757	460
1998	261	251	806	511

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.



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Homicide trends in the U.S.

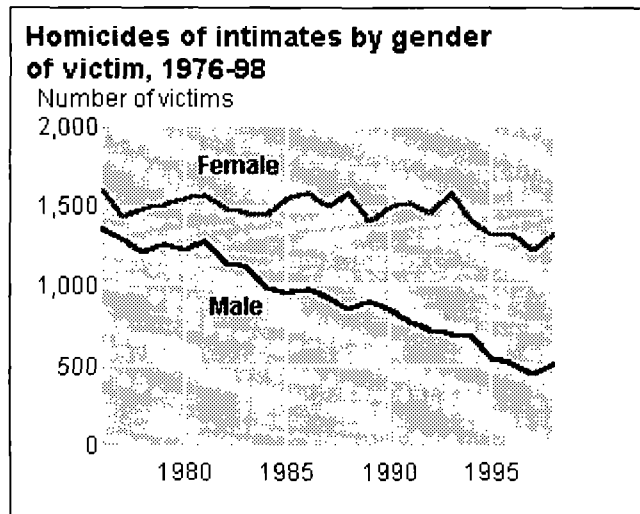
Intimate homicide

There has been a decline in homicide of intimates, especially male victims

Intimates are defined to include spouses, ex-spouses, boyfriends, and girlfriends

- The number of men murdered by intimates has dropped by 60% since 1976.
- The number of women killed by intimates was stable for two decades and declined somewhat after 1993

To view data, click on the chart.

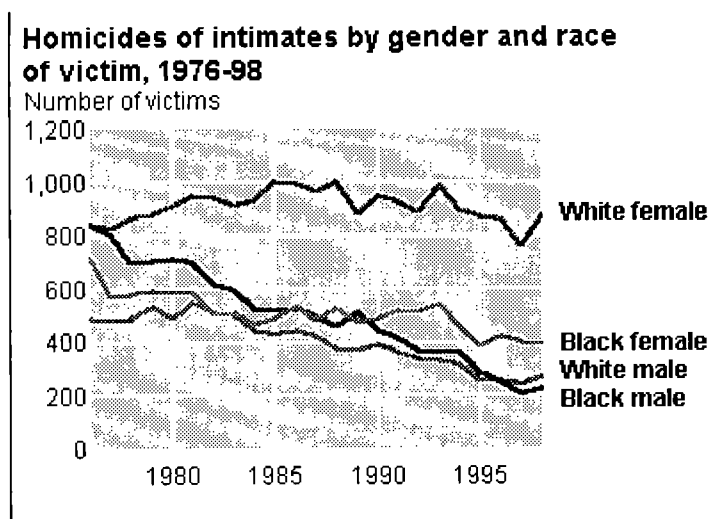


The number of intimate victims in each race and gender group has fallen

Between 1976 and 1998 --

- the number of white females killed by intimates rose in the mid-1980's, declined after 1993, and in 1997 reached the lowest level recorded over the past two decades
- the number of intimate homicides for all other race and gender groups declined over the period; black females killed by intimates dropped 45%, black males by 74%, and white males by 44%

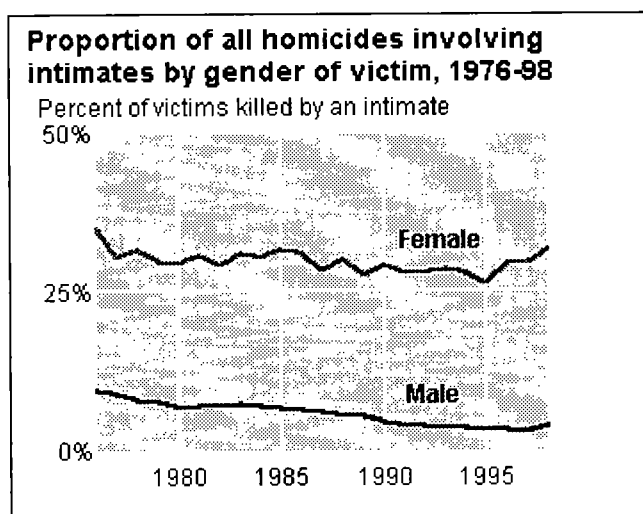
To view data, click on the chart.



Female murder victims are substantially more likely than male murder victims to have been killed by an intimate

- About one third of female murder victims are killed by an intimate
- About 4% of male murder victims are killed by an intimate
- Of all female murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has been relatively stable while, of male murder victims, the proportion killed by an intimate has dropped.

To view data, click on the chart.

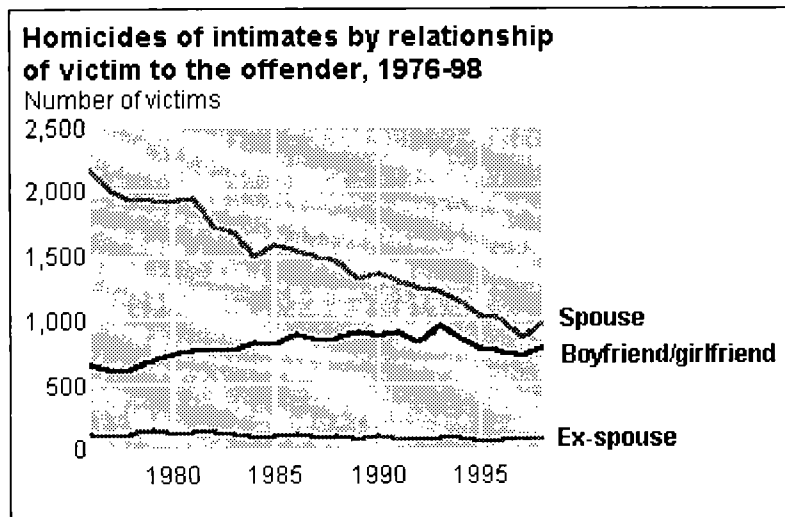


For every age group female murder victims are more likely than male victims to have been killed by an intimate

	Percent of all murders by intimates	
	Male victims	Female victims
Under 18	1%	6%
18-24	2	29
25-29	5	36
30-34	7	41
35-39	9	43
40-44	10	41
45-49	11	40
50-59	10	32
60+	7	20

Most victims of intimate homicide are killed by their spouses, although much less so in recent years

To view data, click on the chart.



The intimate homicide rate has fallen for blacks in every gender and relationship category while the rate for whites has not declined for all categories

The intimate homicide rate --

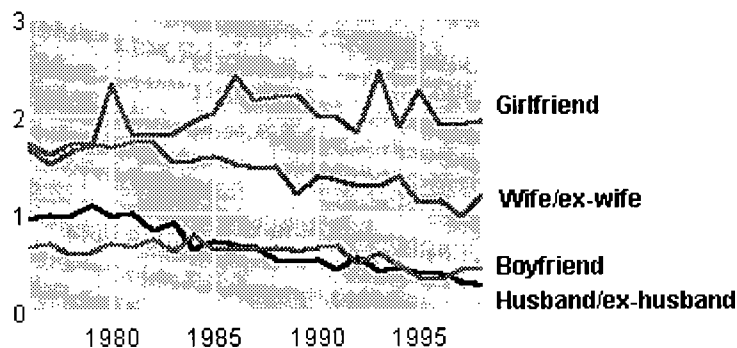
- for white girlfriends is slightly higher in 1998 than it was in 1976
- for white wives and ex-wives has declined but not as much as that for white husbands and ex-husbands
- for black husbands and ex-husbands was ten times greater in 1976 than it is in 1998

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide rate by race, gender, and relationship, 1976-98

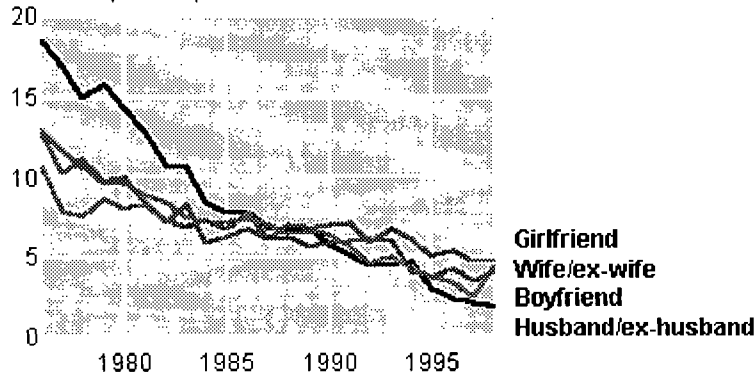
White victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Black victims

Murder rate per 100,000



Note: This chart refers to persons ages 20-44. The number of married or divorced persons is the population base used to calculate spouse and ex-spouse rates and the number of never married or widowed persons is the population base used to calculate boyfriend/girlfriend rates.

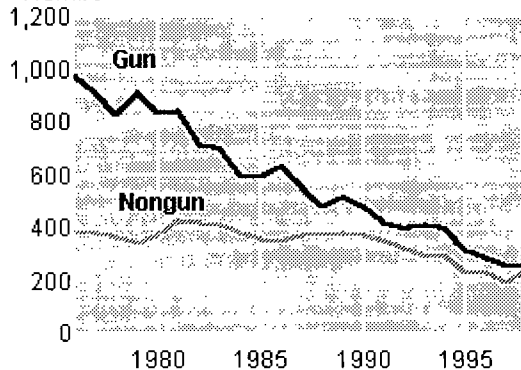
The number of intimate victims killed has fallen regardless of weapon type, but the decline in the number killed with guns has been more pronounced than the decline in the number killed by other methods

To view data, click on the chart.

Intimate homicide victims by type of weapon, 1976-98

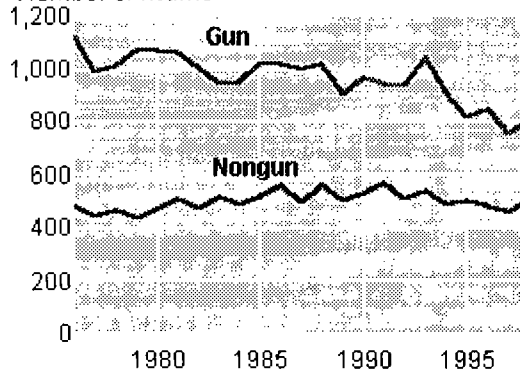
Male victims

Number of victims



Female victims

Number of victims



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Homicides by relationship and weapon type, 1990-98

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Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98

Additional information about the data used in *Homicide trends in the U.S.*

For additional statistical information on this topic, see the BJS publication **Violence by Intimates**.

Related charts on this site

- Percent of all homicides involving intimates by urban, suburban, and rural area, 1976-98

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Intimate Homicide Victims by Relationship

	Spouse	Ex-Spouse	Boyfriend/Girlfriend
1976	2174	123	662
1977	2017	110	603
1978	1940	116	629
1979	1940	146	683
1980	1911	115	744
1981	1946	136	768
1982	1722	136	763
1983	1676	128	770
1984	1501	97	833
1985	1581	111	811
1986	1542	127	901
1987	1489	96	841
1988	1467	100	869
1989	1326	78	913
1990	1371	110	879
1991	1297	82	918
1992	1262	81	834
1993	1232	94	964
1994	1145	91	861
1995	1031	60	777
1996	1008	73	759
1997	867	72	728
1998	970	76	782

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Bureau of Justice Statistics
Homicide trends in the United States
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Percent Intimate Homicide Victims by Gender

	Male			Female		
	Intimate	Nonintimate or Unknown	Total	Intimate	Nonintimate or Unknown	Total
1976	9.6%	90.4%	100.0%	34.9%	65.1%	100.0%
1977	9.0%	91.0%	100.0%	30.5%	69.5%	100.0%
1978	8.1%	91.9%	100.0%	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%
1979	7.7%	92.3%	100.0%	30.0%	70.0%	100.0%
1980	6.9%	93.1%	100.0%	29.6%	70.4%	100.0%
1981	7.3%	92.7%	100.0%	30.9%	69.1%	100.0%
1982	7.2%	92.8%	100.0%	29.1%	70.9%	100.0%
1983	7.6%	92.4%	100.0%	31.1%	68.9%	100.0%
1984	7.1%	92.9%	100.0%	30.4%	69.6%	100.0%
1985	6.8%	93.2%	100.0%	31.7%	68.3%	100.0%
1986	6.4%	93.6%	100.0%	31.0%	69.0%	100.0%
1987	6.3%	93.7%	100.0%	28.4%	71.6%	100.0%
1988	5.5%	94.5%	100.0%	30.2%	69.8%	100.0%
1989	5.5%	94.5%	100.0%	27.8%	72.2%	100.0%
1990	4.7%	95.3%	100.0%	29.3%	70.7%	100.0%
1991	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%	28.1%	71.9%	100.0%
1992	3.9%	96.1%	100.0%	27.9%	72.1%	100.0%
1993	3.7%	96.3%	100.0%	28.5%	71.5%	100.0%
1994	3.8%	96.2%	100.0%	28.1%	71.9%	100.0%
1995	3.3%	96.7%	100.0%	26.3%	73.7%	100.0%
1996	3.4%	96.6%	100.0%	29.6%	70.4%	100.0%
1997	3.2%	96.8%	100.0%	29.5%	70.5%	100.0%
1998	4.0%	96.0%	100.0%	31.9%	68.1%	100.0%

Number of homicide victims

	Male			Female		
	Intimate	Non-intimate or Unknown	Total	Intimate	Non-intimate or Unknown	Total
1976	1357	9417	3397	1600	1915	1074
1977	1294	9211	3892	1437	2026	1247
1978	1202	9042	4651	1482	1929	1230
1979	1262	9152	6015	1506	1958	1553
1980	1221	9989	6579	1549	2033	1649
1981	1278	10862	5265	1572	2146	1378
1982	1141	10250	4511	1481	2237	1376
1983	1113	9241	4234	1462	2045	1197
1984	989	9187	3735	1442	2223	1075
1985	957	9222	3899	1546	2149	1186
1986	985	9709	4777	1586	2176	1347
1987	933	9395	4483	1494	2336	1438
1988	854	9270	5290	1582	2249	1407
1989	903	9855	5650	1415	2213	1457
1990	859	10670	6775	1501	2205	1409
1991	779	10715	7776	1518	2257	1619
1992	722	10149	7643	1455	2136	1626
1993	708	10273	7956	1581	2361	1609
1994	692	9853	7749	1405	2117	1485
1995	547	9118	6886	1321	2111	1591
1996	515	8600	6036	1324	1893	1253
1997	451	7627	5979	1217	1724	1184
1998	512	6970	5228	1317	1655	1153

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-98.
See the methodology section in Additional Information About
the Data for weighting and imputation procedures used.

Source: *BJS, Violence by Intimates, March 1998, NCJ-167237*

- The number of intimate murders with guns has declined. However, in 1996, 65% of all intimate murders were committed with a firearm.
- Among the nearly 52,000 men and women murdered by an intimate between 1976 and 1996, 65% were killed with a firearm. However, firearms accounted for a smaller share of intimate murders in 1996, about 61%, than they did in 1976 (71%).
- Decreases in intimate murders have occurred among men, blacks (both male and female), and for murders involving firearms.
- Over the two decades more than 33,500 persons were murdered by a current or former spouse or by a current boyfriend, girlfriend, or other intimate using a firearm. In 1996 just over 1,100 people were murdered by intimates wielding a firearm, a thousand fewer than in 1976.
- The decrease in the number of intimate murders between 1976 and 1996 is primarily attributable to the substantial drop in the number of such murders committed with a firearm – an average decline of 3% annually. The number of intimate murders committed by means other than a firearm, by contrast, has remained nearly constant over the period.
- About half of the female victims of violence by an intimate were injured. (51% injured – 0.5% injured by gun, knife or stab wound).
- Of all victims treated in hospital emergency rooms, 1.1% of victims of intimate violence had been injured with a firearm, compared to 3.5% of victims of nonintimate violence. Of the victims of intimate violence, 1.0% were diagnosed as injured with a gunshot wound, compared to 3.4% of victims of nonintimate violence.
- An estimated 29% of State prisoners who committed a violent crime against an intimate -- a current or former spouse, boyfriend, or girlfriend -- were armed at the time with a gun.
- Whether against an intimate, an acquaintance, or a stranger – about the same percentage of State prison inmates convicted of a violent crime used a firearm in their crime.
- Among victims of intimate violence, 17% of the female victims and 29% of the males reported that the offender had used a weapon. For those men who had faced an intimate wielding a weapon, the weapon was more likely to have been a sharp or blunt object rather than a knife or firearm. Among the women reporting violence by an armed intimate, firearms, knives, and objects used as weapons were mentioned with about the same frequency.
- Among State prisoners in prison for committing a violent crime against an intimate, 29% reported carrying a firearm at the time.

- Among all victims of violent crime committed by State prisoners, those injured by a gunshot includes the following relationships:
 - 2.2% intimates
 - 2.4% other relatives
 - 6.9% acquaintance
 - 3.7% stranger
- Nearly 30% of State prisoners with intimate victims were armed with a firearm at the time of the incident.
- Page 42 of report: In 1976 guns were used in about 71% of intimate murders; in 1996, in about 61% (chart details statistics)
- 4 in 10 jail inmates convicted of a violent crime against an intimate had a criminal justice status at the time: about 20% were on probation, 9% were under a restraining order, and just under 10% were on parole, pretrial release or other status.
- Among those who were in jail for violence against an intimate and who had been on probation or parole when they committed their crime, about 1 in 4 also had a restraining order against them.
- About half (50.9%) of all convicted inmates in local jails serving time for violence against an intimate had a history of having been placed under a restraining or protection order.

*Source: NIJ Prevalence, Incidence and Consequences of Violence . . .
November 1998*

- 6.2% of women and 13.1% of men who were raped or physically assaulted in their lifetime were threatened with a gun. 2.6% of women and 5.1% of men had a gun used against them.
- Of persons physically assaulted by an intimate partner in their lifetime, 3.5% of women and 0.4% of men were threatened with a gun; 0.7% of women and 1.6% of men had a gun used against them.