Abuse Us and Lose Us: Regional Effects of Disarming Domestic Violence Offenders

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Abuse Us and Lose Us: Regional Effects of Disarming Domestic Violence Offenders

Dory. A Mizrachi

**Domestic Violence**
- Domestic violence (DV) is pervasive and impacts millions of individuals regardless of age, economic and educational status, race, religion, and nationality.
- Globally, one in every three women will experience some form of domestic violence (physical/sexual) in their lifetime.
- Within the United States, approximately 1.5 million women are victims of domestic violence each year.
- The vast majority of domestic violence victims are women.
- Historically, women are most often victimized by someone they know—usually an intimate partner or spouse.

**Domestic Violence Homicide**
- Domestic violence homicide is, undeniably, the most severe form of domestic violence.
- In the United States, approximately 3.5 victims are murdered by their partner every day.
- Current or former spouses or boyfriends/girlfriends are the perpetrators for every one in three female homicides and every one in twenty male homicides.
- Firearms are used in one-third of all female homicides.
- When a domestic violence attack involves a firearm, the result is 12 times more likely to end in homicide compared to those involving other weapons or bodily force.

**History of U.S. Gun Laws**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1791</td>
<td>The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified</td>
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<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>The National Rifle Association was formed</td>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>The National Firearms Act passes Congress</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Congress passes the Gun Control Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Congress passes the Brady Handgun Violence Act is Passed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>The Firearm Owners’ Protection Act is approved by Congress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 is passed</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>Congress passes the Lautenberg Amendment</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**State Gun Laws Prohibiting DV Misdemeanants from Firearm Possession (2015)**

- Explicitly prohibits
- Prohibits only under certain circumstances

**State Gun Laws Prohibiting Subjects of DV Restraining Orders From Firearm Possession (2015)**

Note: In 2013, as in the years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report.

**Homicides, by Intimate and Weapon Use (1980-2008)**

Note: Percentages are based on the 63.1% of homicides from 1980 through 2008 from which the victim/offender relationships were known.

**The Lautenberg Amendment**
- This federal law strengthened the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 by adding a new category of offenders who are prohibited from shipping, transporting, owning, or possessing a firearm. In addition, the Act makes it unlawful for anyone convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence and also prohibits firearm ownership for those who are under a court order for stalking, harassment, and/or threatening an intimate partner.