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

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**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**

**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.

**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.

**State Gun Laws Prohibiting Subjects of DV Restraining Orders From Firearm Possession (2015)**
Note: In 2013, as is the years past, the state of Florida did not submit any data to the FBI Supplementary Homicide Report.

Source: Violence Policy Center (2015)