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

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Repository Citation
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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.

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