

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, threats, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN TEXAS

- 40.1% of Texas women¹ and 34.9% of Texas men² experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.
- In 2013, there were 76,704 reported victims of abuse by current or former spouses.³ Many others went unreported. This statistic excludes reported abuse between non-married intimate partners.
- In 2014, Texas domestic violence hotlines answered 185,373 calls.⁴
- In 2012, intimate partners killed 114 Texan women⁵, more than 10% of the national total⁶.
- 75% of Texas 16-24-year-olds have either experienced dating violence or know another young person who has.⁷
- In 2013, 31% of victims/survivors of domestic violence requesting shelter were turned away due lack of resources.⁸
- As of December 31, 2015, Texas had submitted six domestic violence misdemeanor and no current domestic violence protective orders to the NICS Index.⁹
- In 2016, there were 146 intimate partner femicides in Texas.¹⁰
- In 2016, 68% (n=99) of intimate partner femicides in Texas were committed with a firearm.¹¹
- In between 2007 and 2016m there were 1,267 intimate partner femicides between 2007 and 2016.¹²
- In between 2006 and 2015, there were 20,738 active protection orders in the National Crime Information Center for Texas, 2,169 of which had a disqualifying Brady Indicator.¹³

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.¹⁴
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, an average of close to 15 calls every minute.¹⁵
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.¹⁶
- Abusers' access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner femicide at least five-fold. When firearms have been used in the most severe abuse incident, the risk increases 41-fold.¹⁷
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.¹⁸

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN TEXAS

- Texas law prohibits domestic violence and dating violence misdemeanants from possessing firearms for five years after release from confinement or community supervision.¹⁹
- Respondents to ex parte and permanent protective orders are prohibited from possessing firearm for the duration of the order.²⁰

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or, online go to TheHotline.org

- Although Texas statute does not require prohibited persons to surrender their firearms, judges issuing protective orders are authorized to order whatever relief they deem necessary to protect victims/survivors.²¹

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN TEXAS (Cont.)

- Texas can strengthen its laws to protect victims and survivors by:
 - Extending the existing domestic and dating violence misdemeanor prohibitor from five years to a lifetime ban;
 - Prohibiting stalking misdemeanants from possessing firearms;
 - Requiring persons prohibited due to domestic violence to surrender their firearms upon prohibition;
 - Requiring law enforcement to confiscate firearms when responding to domestic violence incidents; and
 - Requiring background checks for all firearms and ammunition sales and transfers.

¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2019). *The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 State Report*. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>

² Ibid.

³ Texas Department of Public Safety (2013). *Crime reports, chapter 5: Family violence*. Retrieved from <http://dps.texas.gov/crimereports/13/citCh5.pdf>.

⁴ Texas Council on Family Violence (2015). *Facts and statistics*. Retrieved from <http://www.tcfv.org/resources-home/facts-and-statistics/>.

⁵ Texas Council on Family Violence (2012). *The 2012 honoring Texas victims report: By the numbers summary*. Retrieved from <http://www.tcfv.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/BytheNumbersSummary.pdf>.

⁶ Violence Policy Center (2014). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2012 homicide data*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2014.pdf>.

⁷ Busch-Armendariz, N. B., Kalergis, K., Little, A., Woo, H., Garza, J. & Ross, T. (2008). *An evaluation of the Texas team's teen dating violence awareness and prevention toolkit*. Retrieved from <https://socialwork.utexas.edu/dl/files/cswr/institutes/idvsa/publications/tdv.pdf>.

⁸ Texas Council on Family Violence (2013). *Texas family violence by the numbers*. Retrieved from http://www.tcfv.org/pdf/Texas_Family_Violence_Facts_and_Statistics.pdf.

⁹ FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division: National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Section (2016). *Active records in the NICS Index as of December 31, 2015*. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/nics/reports/active-records-in-the-nics-index-by-state>.

¹⁰ Texas Council on Family Violence (2019). *Honoring Texas Victims Reports, 2007-2016*. Retrieved from <https://tcfv.org/resources/honoring-texas-victims/>

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) (2016). *Gun Control: Analyzing Available Data Could Help Improve Background Checks Involving Domestic Violence Records*. Retrieved from: <https://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678204.pdf>

¹⁴ Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M. (2011). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010 summary report*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

¹⁵ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2015). *2014 domestic violence counts: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services*. Retrieved from http://nnev.org/downloads/Census/DVCounts2014/DVCounts14_NatSummary_Color-2.pdf.

¹⁶ Truman, J. & Morgan, R. (2014). *Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.

¹⁷ Campbell, J.C., Webster, D., Koziol-McLain, J., Block, C., Campbell, D., Curry, M. A., Gary, F., Glass, N., McFarlane, J., Sachs, C., Sharps, P., Ulrich, Y., Wilt, S., Manganello, J., Xu, X., Schollenberger, J., Frye, V., & Lauphon, K. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health, 93*(7), 1089-1097.

¹⁸ Violence Policy Center. (2012). *American roulette: Murder-suicide in the United States*. Retrieved from www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2012.pdf.

¹⁹ Tex. Penal Code § 46.04(b); Tex. Penal Code § 22.01(a); Tex. Family Code § 71.004(3).

²⁰ Tex. Penal Code § 46.04(c); Tex. Penal Code § 25.07(a)(4); Tex. Family Code § 85.026; Tex. Family Code § 71.004(3).

²¹ Tex. Family Code § 83.001(b); Tex. Family Code §§ 85.022.

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