



Domestic Violence in COLORADO

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 COLORADO

- 36.8% of Colorado women and 30.5% of Colorado men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lives.¹
- 32 Coloradans were killed by former or current intimate partners in 2018; almost 2/3 of those were killed using firearms.²
- 15% of homicides in Colorado were committed by intimate partners.³
- A 2019 survey of 88% of Colorado domestic violence programs found that on the day of the survey, participating programs reported serving 1,221 adults and children; on that same day, 269 needs were unmet due to lack of resources.⁴
- Approximately 233,000 Colorado women are stalked during their lifetimes.⁵
- As of December 31, 2019, Colorado had submitted 419 domestic violence misdemeanor and 330 active protective order records to the NICS Index.⁶

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.⁷
- On a typical day, local domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 19,159 calls, an average of approximately 13 calls every minute.⁸
- In 2018, domestic violence accounted for 20% of all violent crime.⁹
- 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.¹⁰
- 65% of all murder-suicides involve an intimate partner; 96% of the victims of these crimes are female.¹¹

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN COLORADO

- Domestic violence misdemeanants are prohibited by Colorado law from possessing firearms. However, this prohibition does not apply to dating abusers.¹²
- Respondents to final and ex parte protective orders are prohibited from possessing firearms for the duration of the order. The ex parte protective order prohibitor applies to dating partners; the final protective order prohibitor does not.¹³
- Upon prohibition resulting from a domestic violence conviction or final protective order, prohibited persons must surrender their firearms.¹⁴
- Background checks are required for all gun sales in Colorado.¹⁵

If you are in crisis, contact The National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)** or www.TheHotline.org.

Please visit the **National Coalition Against Domestic Violence's** website at www.ncadv.org for more fact sheets, membership information and valuable resources.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN COLORADO (continued)

- When releasing a domestic violence misdemeanor from state custody, the Department of Corrections must notify them that they are prohibited from possessing firearms.¹⁶
- Colorado could strengthen its laws to further protect victims and survivors from gun violence by:
 - Prohibiting dating violence and stalking misdemeanants from possessing firearms and/or ammunition; and
 - If requested by the survivor, requiring law enforcement to recover all firearms when responding to domestic violence incidents.

For more information on domestic violence and firearms in Colorado, go to <https://www.disarmdv.org/state/colorado/>.

¹ Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

² Colorado Office of the Attorney General (2019). *Colorado domestic violence fatality review board 2nd annual report*. Denver. Retrieved from https://coag.gov/app/uploads/2020/01/CDVFRB-2019-Annual-Report_202001.pdf.

³ Colorado State Government (2020). *Violent crime, 2019*. Retrieved from <https://coloradocrimestats.state.co.us/tops/report/violent-crimes/colorado/2019>.

⁴ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). *14th annual domestic violence counts report*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://www.nnedv.org/DVCounts).

⁵ Smith, S.G., Chen, J., Basile, K.C., Gilbert, L.K., Merrick, M.T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010-2012 state report*. Atlanta: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.

⁶ FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division: National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Section (2020). *Active records in the NICS index as of December 31, 2019*. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-records-in-the-nics-indices-by-state.pdf/view>.

⁷ 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.

⁸ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). *14th annual domestic violence counts report*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from [NNEDV.org/DVCounts](https://www.nnedv.org/DVCounts).

⁹ Morgan, R.E., & Oudekerk, B.A. (2019). *Criminal victimization, 2018*. Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv18.pdf>.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Violence Policy Center (2018). *American roulette: murder-suicide in the United States*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/amroul2018.pdf>.

¹² Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-6-801(8).

¹³ Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-14-104.5; Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-14-105.5.

¹⁴ Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-6-801(8); Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-14-105.5.

¹⁵ Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-12-112(1)(a) & (b).

¹⁶ Colo. Rev. Stat. § 18-6-801(8).

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