

# Idaho Domestic Violence and Guns

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Idaho has no laws specifically aimed at restricting access to firearms by domestic abusers. Much can be done to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous persons in Idaho.

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## State gun and domestic violence overview

*Idaho is home to a significant amount of gun violence.*

- From 2002 to 2011, 1,827 people were killed with guns in Idaho. That is almost the same as the number of all U.S. combat deaths in the war in Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup>
- Somebody is killed with a gun in Idaho every two days: In 2011 alone, there were 192 gun deaths in the state.<sup>2</sup>

*Domestic violence fatalities are prevalent in Idaho, and they are frequently a result of gun crime.*

- According to the FBI, there were 58 domestic violence homicides in Idaho from 2003 to 2012, which include both male and female victims.
- Of those homicides, almost three-quarters of the victims—69 percent—were killed with guns.<sup>3</sup>

*Women are far more at risk to be victims of fatal domestic violence, and guns play a significant role in that violence.*

- Of the 102 female homicide victims in Idaho from 2003 to 2012, 49 were killed as a result of a domestic violence incident.<sup>4</sup>
- Firearms accounted for the murders of 55 women in Idaho from 2002 to 2011.<sup>5</sup>

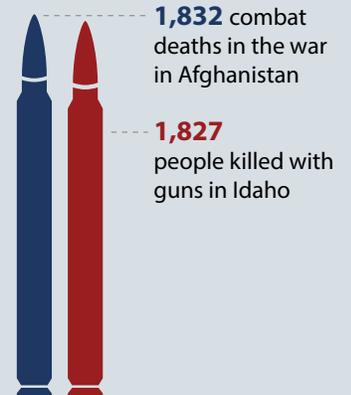
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## Overview of Idaho laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers

*Idaho has no laws to prevent domestic abusers from having easy access to guns.*

- Idaho does not prohibit individuals convicted of domestic violence or stalking misdemeanors from possessing firearms or ammunition.
- Idaho does not prohibit individuals subject to domestic violence protective orders from possessing firearms or ammunition.
- Idaho does not require the surrender of firearms or ammunition by domestic abusers who have become prohibited from possessing firearms or ammunition under federal law.
- Idaho does not explicitly authorize or require the removal of firearms or ammunition at the scene of a domestic violence incident.

From 2002 to 2011, 1,827 people were killed with guns in Idaho. That is almost the same as the number of all U.S. combat deaths in the war in Afghanistan.



From 2003 to 2012, 69.4 percent of female domestic violence homicide victims in Idaho were killed with a gun.



- Idaho does not require background checks prior to firearms sales by private sellers, including Internet sales and sales at gun shows.

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## Case study

*We need universal background checks and other important measures to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers.*

- Kathleen Seely and Kenneth Sheldon met in 1997 when they worked together at a retirement home in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Sheldon became obsessed with Seely, who was married, and he began stalking her, sending her love notes and even buying personalized license plates with her name on them. Seely filed a complaint against Sheldon, but he was acquitted of a stalking charge in 1999. The harassment continued, and Seely filed a second complaint in 2000, which was ultimately dismissed when Sheldon agreed to seek counseling and to a longer term of probation for an unrelated battery conviction against a different victim. On September 9, 2001, Sheldon fatally shot Seely at her workplace and then killed himself.<sup>6</sup>

## Where does Idaho stand on laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers?



Stalkers prohibited?



Misdemeanant domestic abusers prohibited?



Individuals subject to a domestic violence protective order prohibited?



Background checks required on all gun sales?

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## Endnotes

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed August 2014); U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Casualty Status (2014), available at <http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf>.
2. Ibid.
3. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplemental Homicide Data (U.S. Department of Justice, 2003–2012).
4. Ibid.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "WISQARS™."
6. Nicholas K. Geranios, "Papers paint fatal obsession," *Fredericksburg.com*, September 11, 2001, available at <http://fredericksburg.com/News/FLS/2001/092001/09112001/papers/#>.