

New Mexico Domestic Violence and Guns

October 2014

New Mexico 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, including convicted domestic violence misdemeanants, stalkers, and subjects of domestic violence protective orders.

State gun and domestic violence overview

New Mexico is home to a staggering amount of gun violence.

- From 2002 to 2011, 2,964 people were killed with guns in New Mexico. That is more than the number of all U.S. combat deaths in the war in Afghanistan.¹
- Somebody is killed with a gun in New Mexico every 28 hours: In 2011 alone, there were 306 gun deaths in the state.²

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

- According to the FBI, there were 123 domestic violence homicides in New Mexico from 2003 to 2012, which include both male and female victims.
- Of those homicides, more than one-half of the victims—50.4 percent—were killed with guns.³

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

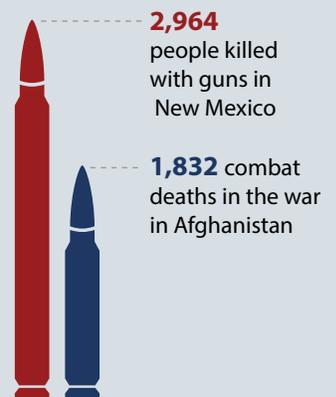
- Of the 311 female homicide victims in New Mexico from 2003 to 2012, 85 were killed as a result of a domestic violence incident.⁴
- Firearms accounted for the murders of 143 women in New Mexico from 2002 to 2011.⁵

Overview of New Mexico laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers

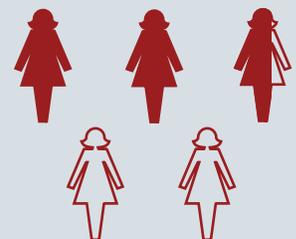
New Mexico has no laws to prevent abusers from having easy access to guns.

- New Mexico does not bar domestic violence misdemeanants from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- New Mexico does not bar persons subject to domestic violence protective orders from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- New Mexico does not bar stalking misdemeanants from purchasing or possessing firearms.

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From 2003 to 2012, 52.9 percent of female domestic violence homicide victims in New Mexico were killed with a gun.



- New Mexico does not require the surrender of firearms or ammunition by domestic abusers who have become prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- New Mexico does not require a background check for all gun buyers, including those at gun shows or over the Internet.

Support for doing more to protect women from abusers and stalkers in New Mexico

Many New Mexicans strongly support expanding background checks to keep guns from criminals, domestic abusers, and other dangerous people.

- In a February 2013 poll conducted by Mayors Against Illegal Guns, 83 percent of those surveyed supported requiring background checks for all gun buyers.⁶

Case study

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

- Robert Reza killed two people and injured four, including his girlfriend, before killing himself in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 12, 2010. Reza had gone to the fiber optics plant where his girlfriend worked to confront her about a child custody dispute. Reza had previously been arrested for drunk driving but was not a convicted felon.⁷

Where does New Mexico stand on laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers?

 Misdemeanant domestic abusers prohibited?

 Individuals subject to a domestic violence protective order prohibited?

 Stalkers prohibited?

 Background checks required on all gun sales?

A majority of New Mexicans support background checks for all gun buyers.



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™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)."
6. Mayors Against Illegal Guns, "New Poll Finds 83 Percent in New Mexico Favor Mandatory Background Checks for All Gun Buyers," Press release, March 5, 2013, available at http://libcloud.s3.amazonaws.com/9/09/5/1404/NM_MAIG_Release_030513.pdf.
7. Associated Press, "3 Dead in Workplace Shooting in New Mexico," Sandusky Register, July 13, 2010, available at <http://www.sanduskyregister.com/article/441056>.