



Domestic Violence in CALIFORNIA

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.

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- 34.9 % of California women and 31.1% of California men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.¹
- In 2018, there were 166,890 domestic violence-related calls to law enforcement; many other incidents went unreported. 46% of reported incidents involved weapons.²
- In a single day in 2019, 81% of California domestic violence shelters served 5,644 adults and children. 1,236 requests for services went unmet due to lack of resources.³
- In 2018, domestic violence homicides comprised 10.7% of all California homicides. Domestic violence homicides in California increased by 22.2% over 2017.⁴
- A study of women in 67 California domestic violence shelters found that abusive intimate partners used handguns to harm, threaten, or scare 32.1% of study participants; long guns were used to harm, threaten, or scare 15.9% of participants. 39.1% reported that the abusive intimate partner owned a firearm during the relationship, almost twice the rate of gun ownership in California. Of participants in gun-owning households, 64.5% said a gun had been used against them.⁵
- As of December 31, 2019, California had submitted 12,484 domestic violence misdemeanor convictions and ten active domestic violence protective orders to the NICS Index.⁶

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men 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, 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 CALIFORNIA

- Domestic violence, dating violence and stalking misdemeanants are prohibited from possessing firearms in California.¹²
- Respondents to ex parte and final protective orders, including dating partners, are prohibited from possessing firearms.¹³
- Prohibited persons must relinquish their firearms upon prohibition.¹⁴
- Law enforcement officers must confiscate firearms when responding to domestic violence incidents.¹⁵
- Background checks are required for all firearms sales and transfers¹⁶, and California has a 10-day waiting

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.



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period for all gun sales.¹⁷

For more information about domestic violence and firearms in California, go to <https://disarmdv.org/state/california/>.

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 Criminal Justice Statistics Center, California Department of Justice (2019). *Crime in California 2018*. Sacramento. Retrieved from [https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/Crime In CA 2018 20190701.pdf](https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/Crime%20In%20CA%2020190701.pdf).

³ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). *14th annual domestic violence counts report*. Washington, DC. Retrieved from https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Library_Census-2019_Report_web.pdf.

⁴ Criminal Justice Statistics Center, California Department of Justice (2019). *Homicide in California 2018*. Sacramento. Retrieved from [https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/Homicide In CA 20190701.pdf](https://data-openjustice.doj.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2019-07/Homicide%20In%20CA%2020190701.pdf)

⁵ Sorenson, S. B., & Wiebe, D. J. (2004). Weapons in the lives of battered women. *American Journal of Public Health*, 94(8), 1412-1417. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.94.8.1412>

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 https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/nisvs_report2010-a.pdf.

⁸ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2020). *14th annual domestic violence counts report*. Retrieved from https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Library_Census-2019_Report_web.pdf.

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*. Retrieved from: www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2018.pdf.

¹² Cal. Penal Code § 29805.

¹³ Cal. Fam. Code §§ 6218 & 6389.

¹⁴ Cal. Penal Code §§ 29810; Cal. Fam. Code §§ 6389.

¹⁵ Cal. Penal Code § 18250.

¹⁶ Cal. Penal Code § 27545.

¹⁷ Cal. Penal Code §§ 26815(a).

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