



Domestic Violence in SOUTH CAROLINA

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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- 41.5% of South Carolinian women¹ and 17.4% of South Carolinian men² experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner sexual violence, and/or intimate partner stalking in their lifetimes.
- In 2011, South Carolina had the highest rate of women murdered by men in the US, more than double the national average.³ In 2012, it had the second highest rate of women murdered by men.⁴
- South Carolina has ranked in the top ten states for the rate of femicide in each of the past 17 years.⁵
- In 2012, 71% of women killed by men in South Carolina were killed with a gun.⁶
- On a single day in 2014, South Carolina domestic violence programs served 390 victims.⁷
- As of December 31, 2015, South Carolina had submitted two misdemeanor domestic violence and two active protective order records to the NICS Index.⁸

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.⁹
- On a typical day, domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 21,000 calls, an average of close to 15 calls every minute.¹⁰
- Intimate partner violence accounts for 15% of all violent crime.¹¹
- 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.¹²
- 72% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 94% of the victims of these crimes are female.¹³

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN SOUTH CAROLINA¹⁴

- South Carolina law prohibits domestic violence misdemeanants from possessing firearms for a minimum of three years after conviction or release from confinement, whichever is later. This prohibition does not apply to dating partners.¹⁵
- Judges in South Carolina are authorized, but not required, to prohibit respondents to permanent protective orders from possessing firearms.¹⁶
- South Carolina can strengthen its laws to protect victims and survivors by
 - Permanently prohibiting domestic violence, dating violence and stalking misdemeanants from possessing firearms, including same-sex couples;
 - Prohibiting respondents to temporary and permanent protective orders, including dating partners, from possessing firearms for the duration of the order;
 - Requiring persons prohibited due to domestic violence, dating violence and/or stalking to surrender all firearms they possess;
 - Requiring law enforcement to confiscate firearms when responding to domestic violence incidents; and
 - Requiring background checks for all firearm sales and transfers.

If you need help:

Call The National Domestic Violence Hotline 1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Or, online go to TheHotline.org

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¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). *Lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner by state of residence—U.S. women, NISVS 2010*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/state_tables_74.html.

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2014). *Lifetime prevalence of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner by state of residence—U.S. men, NISVS 2010*. Retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/state_tables_75.html.

³ Violence Policy Center (2013). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2011 homicide data*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2013.pdf>.

⁴ Violence Policy Center (2014). *When men murder women: An analysis of 2012 homicide data*. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/studies/wmmw2014.pdf>.

⁵ Violence Policy Center (2015). VPC statement on signing of new domestic violence law in South Carolina [Press release]. Retrieved from <http://www.vpc.org/press/1506SC.htm>.

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 National Network to End Domestic Violence (2014). *14 domestic violence counts South Carolina summary*. Retrieved from <http://nnedv.org/downloads/Census/DVCounts2014/SC.pdf>.

⁸ 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>.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ National Network to End Domestic Violence (2015). *2014 domestic violence counts: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services*. Retrieved from http://nnedv.org/downloads/Census/DVCounts2014/DVCounts14_NatlSummary_Color-2.pdf.

¹¹ Truman, J. & Morgan, R. (2014). *Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.

¹² 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.

¹³ Violence Policy Center. (2012). *American roulette: Murder-suicide in the United States*. Retrieved from www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2012.pdf.

¹⁴ The domestic violence prohibitors in statute exclude same-sex cohabitants, but the South Carolina Supreme Court overturned this provision. As of the creation of this fact sheet, the statute has not been updated.

¹⁵ S.C. Code § 16-25-30.

¹⁶ S.C. Code § 16-25-30(A)(4) & (5).

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