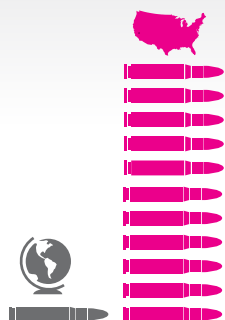


# GUN LAWS and VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Women in the United States are far more likely to be murdered with guns than they are in any other developed nation.

This violence is directly related to our weak gun laws, and requiring a background check for every gun sale will reduce violence against women and save lives.

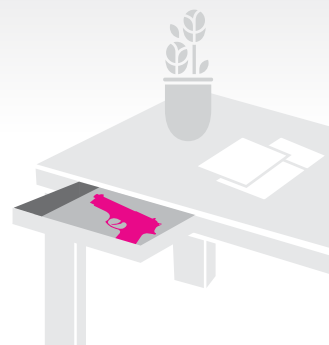


**Women in the U.S. are 11 times more likely to be murdered with guns than women in other high-income countries.**

Women in the U.S. are killed at alarming rates by intimate partners, and firearms play a key role in turning domestic abuse into murder. Over the past 25 years, more intimate partner homicides in the U.S. have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined.

**The presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent.**

People with a history of committing domestic violence are more likely to subsequently murder an intimate partner, and firearms significantly increase the risk of homicide for women.



**A majority of mass shootings involve incidents of domestic violence.**

A Mayors Against Illegal Guns analysis of every identifiable mass shooting between 2009 and 2013 found that in 32 of those 56 incidents (57%), the shooter killed a current or former intimate partner or other family member. In at least 8 of those shootings, the perpetrator had a prior domestic violence charge.

**That's why federal law prohibits certain domestic abusers from buying guns.**



**Background checks have already prevented more than**

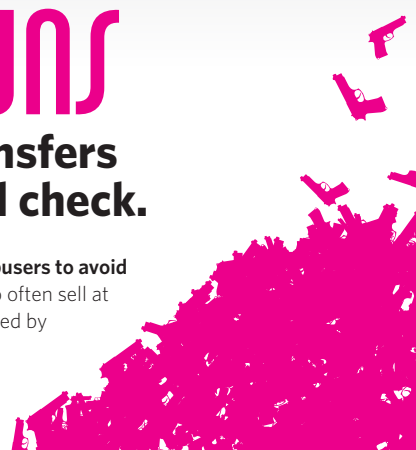
**250,000 GUN SALES TO DOMESTIC ABUSERS...**

**When it works properly, the background check system keeps guns out of abusers' hands.** Since its inception in 1998, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System has blocked more than two million attempted gun sales to prohibited purchasers, including more than 250,000 gun sales to domestic abusers.

**...but in 2012,**

**6.6 MILLION GUNS**  
**were exchanged in private transfers**  
**without a criminal background check.**

The "private sale loophole" makes it easy for dangerous domestic abusers to avoid background checks and buy guns. Unlicensed "private sellers" — who often sell at gun shows or through anonymous online transactions — are not required by federal law to conduct background checks on potential buyers.



In states that require a background check for every handgun sale,  
**38 percent fewer women**  
**are shot to death by intimate partners.**