



FIREARMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

People who cause harm may use guns to threaten and/or control victims.

Domestic violence and gun violence are deeply interconnected, impacting millions of women, families, and communities across the U.S.

68%

Of domestic violence fatalities in Arizona in 2020 were caused by the use of a firearm

53

In the United States 53 women are shot and killed a every month on average by an intimate partner

5x

Access to a gun makes it 5x more likely a woman will die at the hands of an abuser

4.5million

In the United States 4.5 million women have reported being threatened with a gun by an intimate partner

Respect Their Decisions

Inform a survivor of their increased risk of harm when a firearm is mixed with domestic violence. Importantly, do not shame or judge a survivor for owning a gun instead offer information on how to own and use one as safely as possible.



DISCUSSING GUN SAFETY WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

Safety planning should be personalized and developed with a survivor's specific needs in mind. Sharing information on how to own and use a firearm can help keep the survivor and members of their household safe. Below is general guidance for those who own or operate firearms.

Respect their decision

Do not shame or judge a survivor for gun ownership

More Gun Safety Tips
<https://projectchildsafe.org/parents-and-gun-owners/>



Tips When Storing a Gun

- Keep firearms unloaded when not in use.
- Guns and ammunition should be secured in a locked safe that is hard to reach with ammo and firearms separate from each other.
- Make sure keys or combinations are kept in a place where children can't access them.
- Use a gun-locking device (like a cable lock) as an extra safety precaution when firearms are stored.

Tips When Handling a Gun

- Treat all guns as if they are loaded. Never assume a gun is unloaded. Never touch the trigger on a firearm until you actually intend to shoot. Only point a firearm at something you intend to shoot.
- Be sure of your target and what's beyond it, you should keep in mind how far a bullet will travel if it misses your intended target or ricochets in another direction.
- Do not rely solely on gun safety mechanisms, they can fail.
- Do not run, climb or jump with a loaded gun. When in doubt, unload your gun.
- Only use correct ammunition, using improper or incorrect ammunition can destroy a gun and cause serious personal injury.
- Always wear eye and ear protection when shooting.
- Never rest a loaded gun against any object because there is always the possibility that it will be pushed or slide from its position and discharge.