

Domestic Violence in KENTUCKY

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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN KENTUCKY

- 45.3% of Kentucky women and 35.5% of Kentucky men experience intimate partner physical violence, intimate partner rape and/or rape in their lifetimes.¹
- Kentucky has the 11th highest femicide rate in the United States.²
- In one day in 2019, Kentucky domestic violence programs served 1,420 adult and child survivors; another 128 requests for services went unmet due to lack of resources.³
- As of December 31, 2019, Kentucky had submitted 743 domestic violence misdemeanor and no protective order records to the NICS Index.⁴
- There were 7,171 active protective orders in the National Crime Information Center for Kentucky in 2015. 5,382 had a disqualifying Brady Indicator. The number of active protective orders in the National Crime Information Center for Kentucky dropped significantly between 2006 and 2015.⁵

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced some form of physical violence by an intimate partner.⁶
- On a typical day, local domestic violence hotlines receive approximately 19,159 calls, approximately 13 calls every minute.⁷
- In 2018, domestic violence accounted for 20% of all violent crime.⁸
- 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.⁹
- 65% of all murder-suicides involved an intimate partner; 96% of the victims of these crimes are female.¹⁰

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN KENTUCKY

- Although Kentucky statute does not prohibit respondents to protective orders from possessing firearms, judges issuing ex parte and final protective orders in Kentucky may order whatever relief they deem necessary to protect the plaintiffs.¹¹ This may include prohibiting firearm ownership and requiring respondents to surrender firearms and ammunition in their possession. A separate statute provides the same relief to dating partners.¹²
- Respondents to ex parte or final protective orders are prohibited from carrying concealed weapons and must surrender their concealed carry permits to the court or the officer serving the order.¹³ This does not include dating partners.
- Kentucky can strengthen its laws to protect victims and survivors from firearm-enabled violence by:
 - Prohibiting domestic violence, dating violence and stalking misdemeanants from possessing firearms;
 - Prohibiting abusers subject to ex parte and final protective orders from possessing firearms;
 - Requiring abusers to surrender any firearms they possess upon becoming prohibited;

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.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE-RELATED FIREARMS LAWS IN KENTUCKY (continued)

- Kentucky can strengthen its laws to protect victims and survivors from firearm-enabled violence by
 - Requiring background checks for all gun sales and transfers; and
 - If requested by the survivor, requiring law enforcement to recover all firearms and ammunition when responding to domestic violence calls.

For more information about domestic violence-related firearms laws in Kentucky, go to <https://www.disarmdv.org/state/kentucky/>.

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- ¹ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (2019). *The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2010-2012 State Report*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/NISVS-StateReportBook.pdf>.
- ² Violence Policy Center (2019). *When men murder women: Analysis of 2017 homicide data*. Retrieved from <https://vpc.org/studies/wmmw2019.pdf>.
- ³ Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence (2014). *KCADV's FY14 statistics*. Retrieved from <http://kcadv.org/resources/statistics/>
- ⁴ Instant Criminal Background Check System Section (2020). *Active records in the NICS Index as of December 31, 2019*. FBI Criminal Justice Information Services. Retrieved from <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/active-records-in-the-nics-indices-by-state.pdf/view>.
- ⁵ United States Government Accountability Office (2016). *Gun control: Analyzing available data could help improve background checks involving domestic violence records*. Retrieved from <https://www.gao.gov/assets/680/678204.pdf>.
- ⁶ 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.
- ⁷ 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.
- ⁸ Truman, J. & Morgan, R. (2014). *Nonfatal domestic violence, 2003-2012*. Retrieved from <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/ndv0312.pdf>.
- ⁹ 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.
- ¹⁰ Violence Policy Center. (2018). *American roulette: murder-suicide in the United States*. Retrieved from: www.vpc.org/studies/amroul2018.pdf
- ¹¹ Ky. Rev. Stat. § 403.730(2)(a)(1); Ky. Rev. Stat. § 403.740(1)(h).
- ¹² Ky. Rev. Stat. § 456.060(1)(b); Ky. Rev. Stat. § 456.040(2)(a)(1); Ky. Rev. Stat. § 456.060(1)(b).
- ¹³ Ky. Rev. Stat. § 237.110(13)(k).

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