Domestic Violence, Access to Guns, and Homicide in New Mexico

Intimate Partner Homicide in the United States

- In the United States, intimate partner homicide comprises 40-50% of all murders of women.¹
- Every 16 hours, an American woman is shot and killed by their intimate partner.²

Access to Firearms Increases the Risk that an Intimate Partner Will Die

- Research shows when an abusive partner has access to a firearm, the risk the other partner (typically the woman) will die increases more than five-fold.³

Restricting Firearm Access to Domestic Abusers is an Effective Policy

- Studies show that restricting abusers access to firearms is an effective policy, reducing domestic violence homicides by as much as 25%. And even more striking, studies show that “would-be killers do not replace guns with other weapons to effect the same number of killings.”⁴

Why Does This Matter in New Mexico?

- In New Mexico, men murder women at the third highest rate in the country—just below South Carolina and Alaska.⁵
- Unlike most states, New Mexico does not prohibit subjects to domestic violence orders of protection issued after notice and hearing from purchasing or possessing firearms.⁶

---

² https://www.thetrace.org/2016/02/woman-shot-killed-frequency-domestic-violence/
⁶ http://smartgunlaws.org/gun-laws/policy-areas/background-checks/domestic-violence-firearms/