



## ICADV MEDIA TOOLKIT

### FACTS AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF FIREARMS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UPDATED: 10 JAN 2012

#### Mission

The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence seeks to engage all people in a movement to change the social and political systems that perpetuate violence against women. We do this through education, advocacy and quality victim services.

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Executive Director

## FACTS AND STATISTICS ABOUT THE IMPACT OF FIREARMS IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence, especially when accompanied with homicide or suicide threats and when firearms are available, are some of the highest risk cases in the criminal justice system.

- More than two-thirds of the deaths (67.3%) were caused by gunshot wound(s). Biennial Death Review Report
- In addition, all of the perpetrator suicides were committed with a firearm. Shotguns were the most common firearm used.

#### Among other things, Iowa:

- Requires an annual permit to acquire a handgun, involving a background check and a three-day waiting period;
- Requires the surrender of firearms by persons convicted of misdemeanor domestic violence offenses, and by persons subject to domestic violence protective orders (pursuant to a law enacted in 2010);
- Requires the reporting of mentally ill individuals who are prohibited from possessing firearms to the database used for background checks (another 2010 law); and
- Imposes child access prevention requirements upon gun owners.

#### Iowa does not, however:

- Require a person who is purchasing a long gun from an unlicensed individual to undergo a background check;
  - Require firearms dealers to obtain a state license;
  - Require the registration of firearms;
  - Limit the number of firearms that may be purchased at one time;
  - Prohibit the possession and transfer of assault weapons, large capacity ammunition magazines or 50 caliber rifles;
  - Require firearm owners to report the loss or theft of a firearm; or
  - Allow local governments in the state to regulate firearms.
- In addition, pursuant to a law enacted in 2010, Iowa no longer affords local law enforcement discretion in issuing concealed carry permits.