

## **Factsheet: The Link between Common Sense Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence and Preventing Domestic Violence Homicides**

*“The President and I believe we have an obligation as a country to do more to end this violence. We can’t just stand by while these murders keep happening year after year. ...The issues of domestic violence and efforts to reduce gun violence are connected. And they both require urgent action.”*

Vice President Joseph Biden  
March 13, 2013

- On average, three women a day die as a result of domestic violence and guns are the weapons most often used.
- Research shows that women whose partner threatens them with a gun or other weapon are 20 times more likely to subsequently be murdered than other abused women.
- Mass shooting incidents are often related to domestic violence. One study shows that in 40% of the mass shootings—defined as four or more victims—that occurred between 2009 and 2012, the shooter targeted and killed a current or former spouse or intimate partner. The other victims were children, co-workers, or other innocent bystanders caught in the cross-fire.
- Federal law prohibits many domestic violence offenders from possessing firearms, meaning that these individuals cannot buy a gun when a background check is performed.
- A recent study found that the number of women shot to death by an intimate partner is 38% lower in states that require background checks for all handguns.
- By ensuring that all appropriate information about domestic violence offenders gets into the background check system and that background check loopholes are closed, we can save women’s lives.