

Kansas Domestic Violence and Guns

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Kansas has no laws specifically aimed at restricting access to firearms by domestic abusers. Much can be done to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous persons, including convicted domestic violence misdemeanants, stalkers, and subjects of domestic violence protective orders.

State gun and domestic violence overview

Kansas is home to a significant amount of gun violence.

- From 2002 to 2011, 2,923 people were killed with guns in Kansas. That is more than the number of all U.S. combat deaths in the war in Afghanistan.¹
- Somebody is killed with a gun in Kansas almost every day: In 2011 alone, there were 329 gun deaths in the state.²

Domestic violence fatalities are prevalent in Kansas, and they are frequently a result of gun crime.

- According to the FBI, there were 122 domestic violence homicides in Kansas from 2003 to 2012, which include both male and female victims.
- Of those homicides, more than half of the victims—53.3 percent—were killed with guns.³

Women are far more at risk to be victims of fatal domestic violence, and guns play a significant role in that violence.

- Of the 282 female homicide victims in Kansas from 2003 to 2012, 95 were killed as a result of a domestic violence incident.⁴
- Firearms accounted for the murders of 161 women in Kansas from 2002 to 2011.⁵

Overview of Kansas laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers

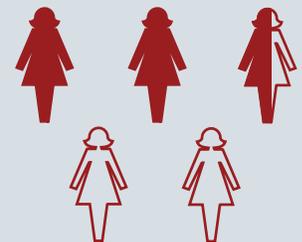
Kansas has no laws to prevent abusers from having easy access to guns.

- Unlike federal law, Kansas law does not prohibit domestic violence misdemeanants or subjects of domestic violence protective orders from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- Kansas does not require the surrender of firearms owned by a person who has become prohibited from possessing firearms under federal law.
- Kansas law does not bar stalking misdemeanants from purchasing or possessing firearms.
- State law does not require a background check for all gun buyers, including those at gun shows or over the Internet.

From 2002 to 2011, 2,923 people were killed with guns in Kansas. That is more than the number of all U.S. combat deaths in the war in Afghanistan.



From 2003 to 2012, 54.7 percent of female domestic violence homicide victims in Kansas were killed with a gun.



Case study

We need universal background checks and other important measures to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous abusers.

- In 2012, Jovan Belcher, a linebacker for the Kansas City Chiefs, murdered his girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, at their home in Kansas City, before driving to the team's stadium where he committed suicide in front of his coaches. Belcher and Perkins had been having problems before the shooting occurred, so Belcher's mother had moved from New York to live with them and their young daughter. Police found several guns at Belcher's residence after the shooting.⁶

Where does Kansas stand on laws to protect women from abusers and stalkers?



Misdemeanant domestic abusers prohibited?



Individuals subject to a domestic violence protective order prohibited?



Stalkers prohibited?



Background checks required on all gun sales?

Endnotes

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "WISQARS™ (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System)," available at <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal.html> (last accessed August 2014); U.S. Department of Defense, U.S. Casualty Status (2014), available at <http://www.defense.gov/NEWS/casualty.pdf>.
2. Ibid.
3. Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplemental Homicide Data (U.S. Department of Justice, 2003–2012).
4. Ibid.
5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "WISQARS™."
6. Christine Vendel, "Exclusive: Police reports detail Belcher, Perkins' last hours," *The Kansas City Star*, May 16, 2014, available at <http://www.kansascity.com/news/local/article311755/Exclusive-Police-reports-detail-Belcher-Perkins-last-hours.html>.