

## The Intersection of Domestic Violence and Firearms in Virginia

### Intimate Partner Homicide and Nonfatal Gun Use in the United States

Women are 11 times more likely to be killed with a gun in the US than in other high-income countries,<sup>1</sup> and more than half are killed by an intimate partner or family member.<sup>2</sup>

Nearly 1 million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner,<sup>3</sup> and about 4.5 million -1 in 27<sup>4</sup>- have had an intimate partner threaten them with a gun.<sup>5</sup> Abusers' previous threats with a weapon and threats to kill are both predictors of intimate partner homicide.<sup>6</sup>

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

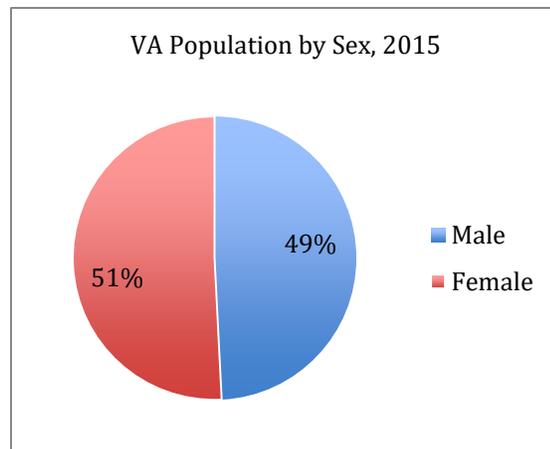
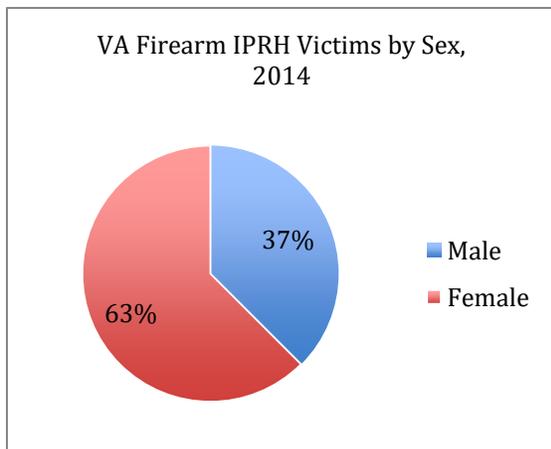
When an abusive partner has access to a firearm, the risk the other partner will die, usually a woman, increases more than five-fold.<sup>7</sup>

### Intimate Partner Related Homicide (IPRH) in Virginia

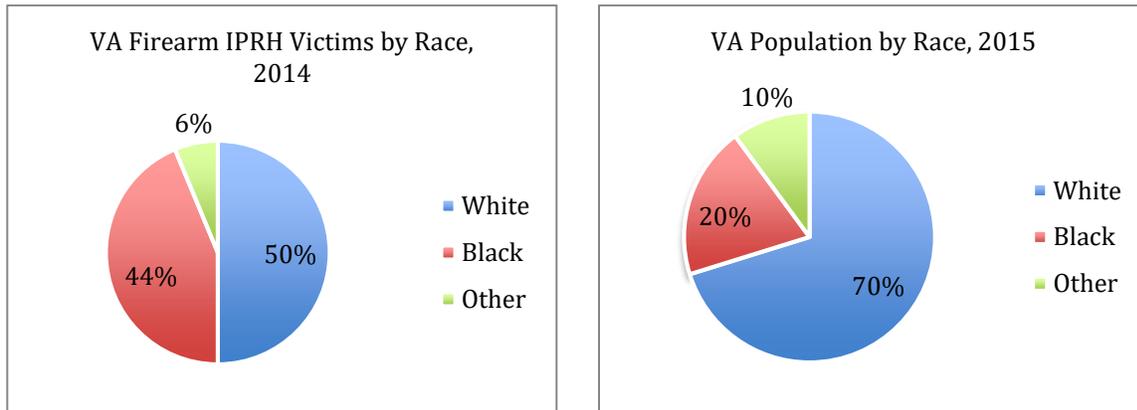
IPRH encompasses intimate partner homicide and intimate partner associated homicide. Intimate partner associated homicide includes persons caught in the crossfire of an intimate partner violence incident or who were killed in an incident directly related to an intimate partner conflict, such as children or law-enforcement officers.

In 2014, 72 people were killed in IPRH in Virginia, two-thirds of which with firearms (n=48). This means there was nearly 1 IPRH committed with a gun every week.

*IPRH disproportionately impacts women:* Women make up nearly two-thirds of the commonwealth's victims of IPRH but only half of Virginia's population.<sup>8,9</sup>



*IPRH disproportionately impacts communities of color:* Individuals within these communities make up half of the commonwealth’s IPRH victims, but less than one-third of Virginia’s population.



### Additional Resources

To learn more about Virginia law and policy recommendations to reduce domestic homicide perpetrated with firearms, see “Virginia’s Lethal Loopholes: Policy Solutions to Domestic Homicides Committed with Firearms,” available at: <http://efsgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/VA-DV-Report.pdf>

For an in-depth report on risk-based firearm policies and practices to reduce gun violence perpetrated by domestic abusers, see “Firearm Removal/Retrieval in Cases of Domestic Violence,” available at: <http://efsgv.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Removal-Report-Updated-2-11-16.pdf>

### About the Ed Fund

The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (Ed Fund) was founded in 1978 as a 501(c)(3) organization that makes communities safer by working to reduce gun violence. The Ed Fund achieves this by engaging in policy development, advocacy, community and stakeholder engagement, and technical assistance.

<sup>1</sup> Richardson, E. G., & Hemenway, D. (2011). Homicide, suicide, and unintentional firearm fatality: comparing the United States with other high-income countries, 2003. *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, 70(1), 238-243.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Supplementary Homicide Report, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Sorenson SB and RA Schut. (2016). *Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review of the Literature*. Trauma, Violence, Abuse. Available: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27630138>

<sup>4</sup> [http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_14\\_5YR\\_DP05&src=pt](http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_14_5YR_DP05&src=pt)

<sup>5</sup> *ibid.*, 3

<sup>6</sup> Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, et al. (2003). Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health*, 93(7), 1089-1097.

<sup>7</sup> *ibid.*, 6

<sup>8</sup> Virginia Family and Intimate Partner Homicide Surveillance Project, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Virginia Department of Health. <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/medExam/familyintimatepartnerviolencehomicidesurveillance.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.census.gov/quickfacts/table/PST045215/51>