



# 2016 LEGISLATIVE GUIDE

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN LOUISIANA

### BATTERED WOMEN AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

#### WHAT DO THEY HAVE IN COMMON?

- ◆ Louisiana ranks **4th in the nation** for the rate of women murdered by men. <sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Louisiana women are killed at a rate **3x higher** than the national average. <sup>1</sup>
- ◆ Louisiana ranks **3rd in the nation** for the rate of officers killed with handguns. <sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Louisiana officers are killed with handguns at a rate **3x higher** than officers in states with comprehensive background checks.

#### In the 18 states that require comprehensive background checks:

**46% fewer women**  
are shot to death  
by intimate partners

**48% fewer officers**  
are killed with handguns <sup>2</sup>

- ◆ **85%** of Louisiana voters support background checks for all gun sales. <sup>3</sup>
- ◆ Over **91%** of NICS background checks are performed in 90 seconds or less. <sup>2</sup>
- ◆ Over **98%** of Americans live within 10 miles of a licensed gun dealer who can perform a background check. <sup>2</sup>
- ◆ It is estimated that that **40%** of firearms acquired in the U.S. are sold or given to people in private transactions by unlicensed dealers. <sup>4</sup>
- ◆ About **99%** of people who apply to buy a firearm are quickly cleared. In 2013, fewer than 1% of applications to NICS were denied. <sup>5</sup>

## CLOSE DANGEROUS LOOPHOLES

**56%** of Louisiana's domestic homicides in 2015 were committed with firearms.

**79%** of abused women who were murdered reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.

- ◆ Louisiana law does not provide firearm restrictions for convicted stalkers or abusive dating partners.
- ◆ Stalking convictions don't come easily. According to Louisiana law, stalking must be intentional, repeated, and serious enough to cause a reasonable person to be alarmed.
- ◆ Weapons are used to threaten or harm victims in 1 out of 5 stalking cases.<sup>6</sup>
- ◆ Convicted stalkers are among the most dangerous abusers. Keeping guns out of the hands of these criminals will save lives.

### ***Labels don't matter. Behavior does.***

Dangerous abusers should not have access to firearms, whether they are married to their victim or not.

- ◆ Domestic violence offenders have unprecedented access to their victims' whereabouts, habits, finances, and information about their family and friends.
- ◆ This places the victim in extreme risk, whether the couple is married, share children, live together or are simply dating.
- ◆ Dating partners who want to leave a violent relationship should not be denied protection. Access to protection should be based on the offender's behavior, not the status of the relationship.
- ◆ Access to firearms increases the risk of intimate partner homicide more than five times, compared to instances where there are no weapons. In addition, abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners.<sup>7</sup>

In 2015, **67%** of Louisiana's intimate partner homicide victims were not married to their abuser.

**38%** of offenders had prior domestic violence charges or other violent history.

## RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

**45%** of Louisiana parishes have very limited access to services for victims.

**A 43% increase** in the number of beds would be required to meet the current demand for shelter.

- ◆ Louisiana needs at least 700 shelter beds to house the number of women and children seeking shelter. We currently have 400.
- ◆ In 2014, LCADV member programs reported that they were unable to meet **2,671** service requests from victims due to lack of resources. The turn away rate has increased 67% in the last 2 years.
- ◆ Most of the resources supporting these services are federal and local. Less than **3%** are state dollars.
- ◆ To even begin to meet the current need for shelter, the state line item for domestic violence services should be increased by a minimum of \$10 million.
- ◆ Louisiana domestic violence programs serve approximately 20,000 people per year. By comparison, The Early Steps program serves approximately 9,000 people each year, yet state dollars account for over 57% of its \$15.2 million in funding.<sup>8</sup>

### Louisiana Domestic Homicides 2015

In 2015, there were 63 incidents resulting in **72 domestic homicides** in Louisiana.

## ABOUT LCADV

### Our Mission

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV empowers its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance.

### Our Work

The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence is the federally designated statewide coalition of programs and individuals working to end domestic violence in Louisiana. Our programs serve people from everywhere in Louisiana and who come from all backgrounds. We oppose violence as a means of control over others and support equality in relationships.

### References

<sup>1</sup>Violence Policy Center, *When Men Kill Women*, 2015.

<sup>2</sup>Everytown for Gun Safety, *State Background Check Requirements and Rates of Domestic Violence Homicide*, 2015.

<sup>3</sup>Everytown for Gun Safety, *State by State Support for Background Checks*, 2013.

<sup>4</sup>US Department of Justice, 1997.

<sup>5</sup>Federal Bureau of Investigation, NICS Operation Report, 2013.

<sup>6</sup>Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, Stalking Fact Sheet, 2012.

<sup>7</sup>J. C. Campbell, D; Webster, J; Koziol-McLain, C. R; et al. Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study. *American Journal of Public Health*. 93(7). 2003.

<sup>8</sup>Louisiana Developmental Disabilities Council, <http://www.laddc.org/userfiles/files/FAQSheet02032015.pdf>, 2015.

## Louisiana Domestic Violence Programs

Program Name	Parishes Served	Office Number
Chez Hope	Assumption, St. Mary	337.828.4200
Jeff Davis CADA (Communities Against Domestic Abuse)	Jefferson Davis	337.616.8418
DART (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team)	Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn, Grant	318.513.9373
Faith House	Acadia, Evangeline, Lafayette, St. Landry, Vermilion, Avoyelles, Rapides	337.267.9422
The Haven	Lafourche, Terrebonne	985.872.0757
Iris Domestic Violence Center	Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana, West Feliciana	225.389.3002
June N. Jenkins Women's Shelter	Beauregard, Vernon	337.462.1452
Metropolitan Center for Women and Children	Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, St. John	504.837.5455
New Orleans Family Justice Center	Orleans	504.866.9554

Program Name	Parishes Served	Office Number
Oasis, A Safe Haven	Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron	337.436.4552
Safe Harbor	St. Tammany, Washington	985.626.5740
SNAP (Safety Net for Abused Persons)	Iberia, St. Martin	337.367.7627
St. Bernard Battered Women's Program	Plaquemines, St. Bernard	504.277.3177
SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment)	Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington	985.542.8384
Taylor House, Project Celebration	DeSoto, Sabine, Natchitoches, Bossier, Caddo, Red River, Webster	318.256.3408
The Wellspring Alliance for Families	Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Madison, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, LaSalle, Concordia, Catahoula	318.651.9314



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