

The National Domestic Violence  
**HOTLINE**

1.800.799.SAFE (7233) • 1.800.787.3224 (TTY)

Established in 1996 by the Violence Against Women Act, the **National Domestic Violence Hotline is the only national organization that provides direct services to anyone affected by domestic abuse.** Services are available 24/7 and are completely free and confidential. Our highly-trained advocates offer lifesaving tools, immediate support, and hope to empower people to break free of abuse.

For an eight-week period in the spring of 2014, The Hotline conducted its own survey regarding firearms with people who utilized the Hotline's phone or online chat services. 4,721 chatters voluntarily participated.

## Hotline Firearms Focus Survey

**Nearly 16%** of Hotline chatters surveyed had partners who had access to guns.

Of those, **22%** said their partners had threatened to use a firearm to hurt the victim, their children, other family members or friends, household pets, or to commit suicide.

**10%** said their partner had fired a gun during an argument.

**Only 34%** of those surveyed were aware that the court may be able to order their partner to surrender their firearms and ammunition.

**Nearly 52%** said they would feel safer if law enforcement took their partner's/ex's/spouse's firearms.

**67% of those who completed the survey believed their partner was capable of killing them.**

“ [He] has pulled an AK47 and fired it. He used to sleep with two loaded guns under the pillow. Would wake to the sound of him releasing the safety next to my head. His guns are used regularly in the abuse and threats.

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

“Abuser threatened [our young] child that he would shoot the entire family, and maybe others.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

“[He] never fired the pistol, but he would sit on my chest and point it at my head. He would put it right next to my temple.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

“He has 15 guns...and is a felon. He shouldn't have guns in the first place, but he does. Police take them away, he gets more.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller

“This morning he threatened to shoot me and him. I don't think his mental state is in good condition...I don't care what anyone says, I think he would hurt my kids just to hurt me.”

—Anonymous Hotline Caller



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