

# FIREARMS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: LESSONS FROM RESEARCH AND THE RAHIMI DECISION

Addressing High-Lethality Risks and  
Legal Implications

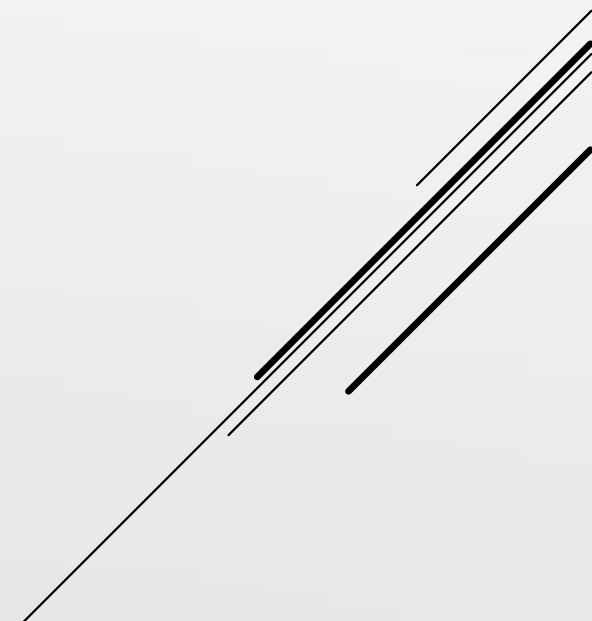
Presented by Tabetha Harrison



INDIVIDUALLY WE POWER CHANGE.  
TOGETHER WE POWER A MOVEMENT.

- ▶ Domestic violence (DV) and firearms: a lethal combination.
- ▶ Supreme Court decisions shape enforcement and policy.
- ▶ Goal: Align research insights with legal frameworks to enhance public safety.

WHY THIS MATTERS



# WHAT WE'LL COVER

- ▶ 1. Overview of Reports
- ▶ 2. Role of Firearms in DV Cases
- ▶ 3. The Rahimi Decision and Its Implications
- ▶ 4. Policy and Enforcement Recommendations

# THE FOUNDATION OF OUR ANALYSIS

## Honoring Texas Victims (HTV) Report:

- Annual review of intimate partner homicides in Texas.
- Focus: Trends, demographics, and methods of homicide.

## Domestic Violence High-Risk Teams (DVHRT) Statewide Report:

- Examines community-based high-risk intervention.
- Highlights patterns in high-lethality risk and prevention strategies.


## HTV Report:

- 72% of female DV homicide victims killed with firearms.
- Homicide-suicide cases underscore the lethality of firearms.


## DVHRT Report:

- Firearms as tools of intimidation and escalation in high-lethality cases.
- Post-separation risk significantly higher with firearm access.

# THE ROLE OF FIREARMS IN DV CASES



# INSIGHTS FROM RISK ASSESSMENTS

- ▶ High-lethality risks often precede homicides.
  - ▶ Intimidation through firearms a strong predictor of future violence.
  - ▶ Common barriers: inconsistent enforcement of firearm surrender laws.
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# LEGAL CONTEXT AND IMPLICATIONS

- ▶ Section 922(g)(8): Prohibits firearm possession for individuals under DV restraining orders.
- ▶ Supreme Court upheld the provision as consistent with historical firearm regulation.
- ▶ Aligns with findings in DVHRT and HTV reports: court-ordered disarmament saves lives.


"Our tradition of firearm regulation allows the Government to disarm individuals who present a credible threat to the physical safety of others."

# CONNECTING RESEARCH AND LAW

- ▶ Rahimi validates findings in DVHRT and HTV reports about firearm threats.
  - ▶ Emphasizes the importance of judicial determinations for public safety.
  - ▶ Highlights the need for robust enforcement mechanisms.
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# CLOSING THE GAPS

- ▶ Strengthen firearm surrender protocols.
  - ▶ Expand lethality assessments nationwide.
  - ▶ Enhance survivor support and law enforcement training.
  - ▶ Improve data collection for informed policymaking.
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# PROTECTING SURVIVORS, PREVENTING VIOLENCE

- ▶ Firearms significantly escalate DV lethality.
  - ▶ The Rahimi decision reinforces targeted disarmament efforts.
  - ▶ Collaboration and evidence-based policy are essential.
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