



A CENSUS OF INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDES IN NEVADA

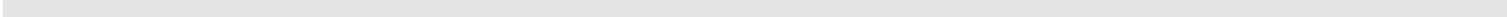
MARCH 2016



A CENSUS OF INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDES IN NEVADA

EVERYTOWN FOR GUN SAFETY SUPPORT FUND
THE NEVADA NETWORK AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the early hours of July 9, 2012, Korinda Rodriguez and her husband, Jeffrey, prepared to leave their home in Reno to go to work at a local newspaper, where they were both employed. As they got ready, the couple began to argue. They had fought in the past but on this particular morning, Korinda threatened to leave Jeffrey. In separate cars, Jeffrey followed Korinda as she drove to work. When she tried to speed away from him, he became enraged and, on the median of U.S. 395, he used his vehicle to run her off the road.

As she stood beside her car, threatening to call the police, Jeffrey drew his gun.

By the time the police arrived at the scene, it was too late. Jeffrey had shot Korinda twice, killing her, before opening fire at passing vehicles. While there was nothing anyone could do to save Korinda's life at that point, her murder was not inevitable and represented, among other things, the failure of state gun laws to protect her.

From the standpoint of the law, Jeffrey should not have been able to purchase the firearm he used to kill Korinda. He had been convicted of numerous felonies including sexually motivated coercion of a minor, burglary, and attempted theft, any of which prohibited him from purchasing and possessing firearms under federal and Nevada law. If Jeffrey had tried to purchase the gun from a licensed firearm dealer, federal law would have required him to pass a background check before he could buy the firearm. Jeffrey would have failed, and the sale would have been stopped.

But Nevada law leaves a gaping loophole for dangerous people like Jeffrey to get armed: unlicensed gun sellers are exempt from the requirement to conduct background checks. As a result, Jeffrey was able to purchase two handguns from his neighbors, who could sell them to him without having to conduct a background check. In fact, Jeffrey later told police he sought out his neighbors deliberately because Jeffrey knew he was not allowed to have guns, and he also knew he could buy guns from them with no questions asked.

Preventing abusers from accessing firearms saves women's lives, and the circumstances of Korinda's death — shot to death by an intimate partner — are not uncommon in Nevada. To better assess how these crimes occur, Everytown partnered with the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence to compile a comprehensive database of intimate gun homicides in the state over a five-year period (2010 through 2014). This research — the most in-depth of its kind for the state — gives policymakers the measure of these recurrent crimes:

- Women in Nevada are **65 percent more likely to be shot to death** by intimate partners than women nationwide, according to an Everytown analysis of FBI data. In fact, Nevada has the fifth highest rate of domestic violence gun murder of any state in the country.¹
- Everytown identified **46 domestic violence gun homicides in Nevada over the five-year period**. During the shootings the perpetrators also shot 10 additional victims—friends, family members, and children—killing six of them, two of whom were children.

- In addition to those who were killed or injured, at least **20 children witnessed or were present for the shootings**. In fact, at least 39 percent of the murders took place **in the presence of other individuals**, demonstrating the devastating impact these homicides had on the children, families, and community members present during the shootings.
- There were ample indications that the perpetrators posed a risk to their partners. More than **one in four shooters had a criminal record that prohibited them from possessing firearms—the majority due to a prior domestic violence crime**.
- Of seven homicides committed by people barred from possessing firearms where the source of the gun could be determined, **two obtained them in an unlicensed transfer**.
- After murdering their intimate partners, **nearly two-thirds of the offenders killed themselves**, all but one with a firearm.

These murders and the data drawn from them shine a light on fatal domestic violence in Nevada—and illuminate solutions that may prevent future abusers from obtaining firearms and causing further deaths. The incidents documented in this report vividly illustrate that Nevada needs an improved approach to addressing the threat gun violence poses for victims of domestic violence.

BACKGROUND: WEAK GUN LAWS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence—a pattern of intimidation and manipulation that manifests in many different forms of abuse, such as physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual²—affects the lives of women across the United States.³ More than a million women in the United States are physically assaulted by an intimate partner every year, and more than one in three women in the United States will experience domestic abuse in her lifetime.⁴

In the United States, domestic violence is deeply intertwined with gun violence. Over the past 25 years in the United States, more intimate partner homicides have been committed with guns than with all other weapons combined.⁵ This is, in part, because the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation increases fivefold the risk of homicide for the victim.⁶ Abusers also often use guns as a means of intimidation and control: two-thirds of women who had been abused and who lived in a household with a firearm reported that their partner had used it against them, most often by threatening to shoot or kill them.⁷

The connection between domestic violence and gun violence is readily apparent in Nevada. An Everytown analysis of FBI data found that 49 percent of women killed by intimate partners in the state were shot to death.⁸ And Nevadan women are 65 percent more likely to be shot to death by their intimate partners than women nationwide: there were 6.6 domestic violence gun homicides per million female Nevadans compared to 4.0 nationwide, the fifth highest rate of any state.⁹

Victims are often asked why they do not leave violent relationships. Separation from an abusive partner may jeopardize their financial stability or custody over their children; furthermore, leaving is the most dangerous time for victims. Of the victims in this study, 31 percent had already left their abusers at the time they were killed.

Due to the elevated risk posed by abusers who obtain firearms, state and federal lawmakers have responded with measures intended to keep guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. States with the strongest laws require criminal background checks for all gun sales, bar domestic abusers and stalkers from purchasing and possessing firearms, and have implemented processes to ensure that abusers turn in the guns already in their possession when they become prohibited.

Properly enforced, these laws make women safer. In states that require background checks for all handgun sales, 46 percent fewer women are shot

to death by intimate partners.¹⁰ And research shows that state laws restricting firearm access to people under domestic violence restraining orders experience 25 percent fewer domestic violence gun murders.¹¹

But in many states, gaps in the law and failures of enforcement give domestic abusers easy access to guns. Nevada's laws contain such loopholes, and they represent a lethal threat to victims of domestic and family violence in the state.

Nevada law does not require background checks for all gun sales. Federal and state law prohibit convicted domestic abusers and people subject to qualifying domestic violence protection orders from buying guns¹² (in Nevada, qualifying protection orders, called “domestic violence extended protection orders,” are those issued after notice and a hearing).¹³ Licensed gun dealers are required to conduct background checks and the public safety benefits of this measure are plain: In just the last three years, background checks conducted by Nevada dealers blocked 5,379 gun sales to prohibited people including 959 to people convicted of domestic violence misdemeanors or subject to domestic violence protection orders.¹⁴ But unlicensed gun sales are exempt from the background check requirement, greatly undermining the effectiveness of these prohibitions. Abusers who are prohibited from possessing firearms are still able to easily obtain them in unlicensed sales — notably at gun shows or online — with no background check required.

Nevada law does not ensure that domestic abusers who become prohibited from having guns turn in any guns they already own. Last year, Nevada enacted laws prohibiting gun possession by convicted abusers¹⁵ and abusers under most extended protection orders.¹⁶ But when abusers become prohibited from possessing guns because they are convicted of domestic violence crimes, there is no law requiring them to turn in the guns they already own. And in the case of abusers who become subject to domestic violence extended protection orders, although the court *may* require them to turn in any guns already in their possession, that important safeguard is not automatic. Even when an abuser under an extended protection order is required to turn in his or her firearms, there is no clear enforcement process to ensure the abuser relinquishes them. These gaps in the law mean that many dangerous offenders keep their guns.

A CENSUS OF INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDES IN NEVADA

METHODOLOGY

To examine the circumstances of domestic violence gun homicides in Nevada — and to identify opportunities for prevention — Everytown attempted to identify every intimate partner gun homicide in the state between 2010 and 2014. Incidents were drawn from a list of shootings provided by the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence, incidents listed in the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports, police and court documents, and media reports. Everytown only included incidents in which an individual killed a current or former intimate partner (spouse or dating partner) and firearm injuries were determined to be the primary cause of death.¹⁷

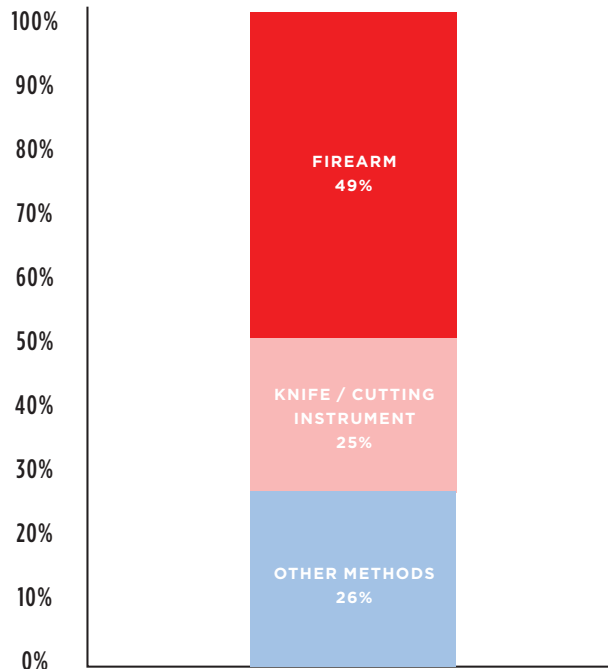
For each included incident, Everytown reviewed publicly available media reports, subscription-based news databases, and police and court records to develop further information on the relationship between the perpetrator and the victim, the prior criminal history of the perpetrator, and the source of the firearm, where known. In several cases, Everytown spoke with family members of the victims to obtain further details.

This census likely undercounts the true number of intimate partner gun homicides in the state.¹⁸ The FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports rely on police departments to voluntarily submit their homicide data on an annual basis and based on a comparison with firearm homicide data from the CDC’s National Vital Statistics System Fatal Injury Reports during the same time period, the total number of homicides is likely underreported.¹⁹ Additionally, the FBI’s Supplementary Homicide Reports do not have a category for identifying homicides between former dating partners, meaning those homicides cannot be included in the total of intimate partner homicides.²⁰

Nevertheless, this census represents the most comprehensive analysis of intimate partner gun homicide data in Nevada to date, and provides policymakers with important information on the frequency, nature, and impact of intimate partner gun violence in their state.

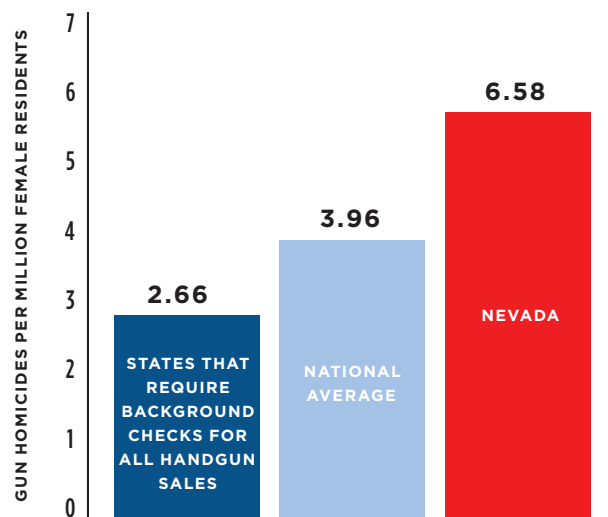
In isolation, these are tragedies, but taken together as a group, patterns emerge — as do opportunities for prevention.

INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDES OF NEVADA WOMEN, BY METHOD



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2008–2012.

RATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDES OF WOMEN



Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2008–2012, and Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

PATTERNS AND TRENDS

WHO WAS KILLED OR INJURED

The vast majority of victims — 83 percent — were women, and their median age was 37 years. Frequently, they did not die alone: nearly 40 percent were shot in front of other people, and in nearly 1 in 5 homicides (17 percent), the perpetrator shot at least one additional victim not including him or herself. This accounted for six additional deaths and four non-fatal injuries.²¹

THE TOLL ON CHILDREN

The shootings had an enormous impact on children, whether or not they were physically injured. Nearly half of the perpetrators killed a partner with whom they had a child (46 percent); in 67 percent of those cases, the shooter subsequently killed him or herself, leaving their children parentless. Three children were shot during these domestic violence gun homicides, of whom two died. Another child was killed when she was stabbed during the incident. At least 20 other children witnessed or were present for the shootings. Some discovered the body of a parent or relative, others witnessed them die, and one attempted CPR on his dying mother.

Childhood exposure to domestic violence has been linked with problems including depression, addiction, and post-traumatic stress disorder²² — and these cases clearly illustrate that connection. In court documents, surviving family members frequently described the lasting psychological impact this had on these children. For example, when 44-year-old Las Vegas resident Troy White shot and killed his estranged wife Echo Lucas, 29, at her residence, five of Echo's children were in the home. Testimony in the subsequent trial traced the psychological impact the loss had on the children: several developed behavioral problems and one child threatened suicide and was diagnosed with depression and PTSD.²³

HOMICIDE VICTIMS

40 ADULT FEMALES



10 ADULT MALES



1 BOY



2 GIRLS



INJURIES

1 ADULT FEMALE



2 ADULT MALES



1 GIRL



SUICIDES

2 ADULT FEMALES



28 ADULT MALES



CHILDREN EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE

20 CHILD WITNESSES



WHO PULLED THE TRIGGER

The majority of the shootings (85 percent) were perpetrated by men. The median age of the perpetrators was 46, twenty years older than the median age of gun homicide perpetrators nationwide.²⁴ After committing homicide, two-thirds of the shooters (65 percent) killed themselves, a more frequent occurrence among male perpetrators (72 percent) than among female perpetrators (29 percent). All but one of these suicides were completed with a firearm.²⁵

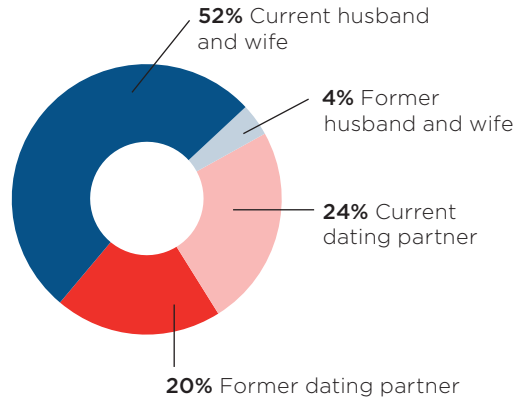
More than half of the couples (56 percent) were currently or formerly married at the time of the homicide. The remainder (44 percent) were current or former dating partners. The vast majority of the couples — at least 93 percent — had lived together prior to or at the time of the incident.

BARRED FROM POSSESSING GUNS

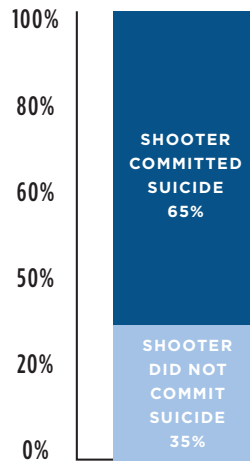
At least twelve shooters (26 percent) had a prior criminal history that prohibited them from possessing firearms. Many of these convictions were for violent crimes, including attempted murder, kidnapping, and child abuse. Two additional shooters had prior arrests or convictions not sufficient to disqualify them from possessing firearms.

Of the shooters prohibited from possessing guns, 75 percent had criminal convictions for acts of domestic violence. According to court documents, they had previously beaten, stabbed, verbally threatened, and even shot their intimate partners.

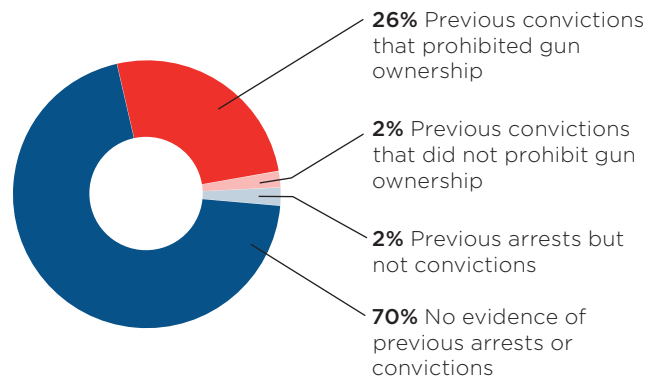
INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDES BY RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PERPETRATOR AND VICTIM



SHOOTER SUICIDE



PERPETRATORS' CRIMINAL HISTORY



PRIOR HISTORY OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

In more than a quarter of the cases (28 percent), the perpetrator had a documented history of violence, either through a prior domestic violence-related conviction, police involvement, or protection order.²⁶

GUN SOURCE

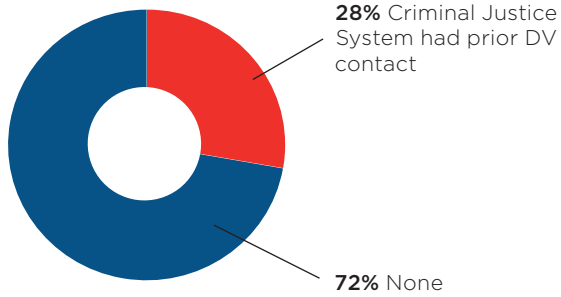
Twelve homicides were committed by shooters prohibited from possessing guns; by obtaining and reviewing police and court records, Everytown was able to glean information about the source of the firearm in six of them. Two of the perpetrators purchased their guns in unlicensed sales, without background checks. Two of the shootings were perpetrated with guns that had been reported stolen prior to the shooting, though it is unclear how the shooters themselves ultimately obtained the firearms. One shooter borrowed a gun from a friend in the days leading up to the homicide. And one perpetrator used a gun that had belonged to a deceased relative.

In at least three cases, the perpetrator used the victim's own gun against him or her.

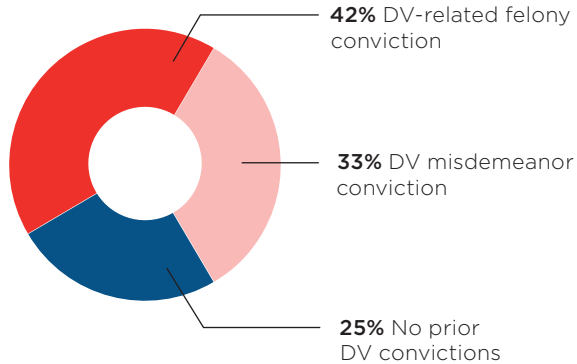
GEOGRAPHICAL TRENDS

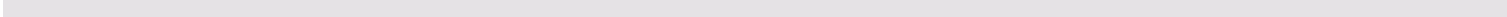
Nearly three-quarters of identified intimate partner gun homicides occurred in Clark County.²⁷ Washoe County has the second-largest number of homicides, accounting for 9 percent of the incidents. The remainder occurred in Carson City, Douglas, Elko, Lyon, and White Pine counties. Of the homicides for which we could determine the location, the majority of the incidents (76 percent) took place at the residence of the victim or the shooter. In four incidents (9 percent), the shooter sought out the victim at his or her place of work, and two incidents took place in a vehicle.

PERPETRATORS' HISTORY OF REPORTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

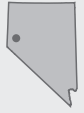


PROHIBITED PERSONS' DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CONVICTIONS





KORINDA RODRIGUEZ, AGE 29, RENO



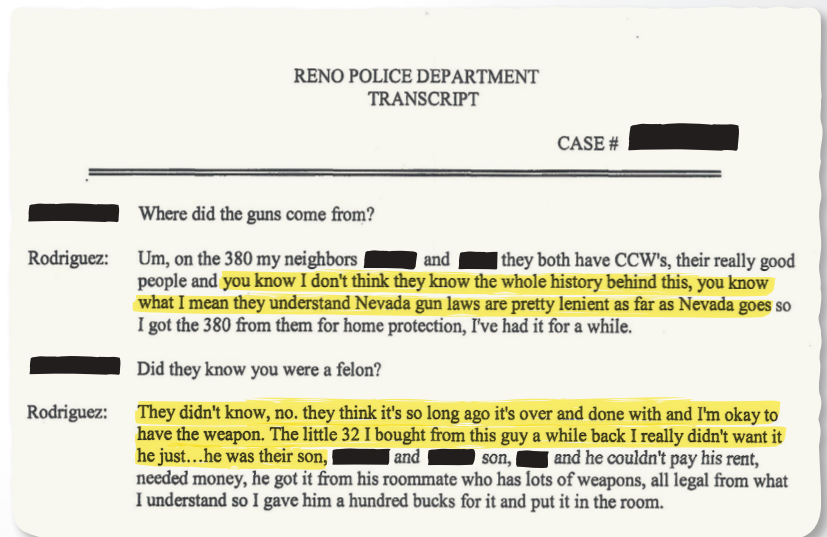
Twenty-nine-year-old Korinda Rodriguez and Jeffrey Rodriguez, 32, woke in the early hours of the morning of July 9, 2012 to get ready for their shifts at a local newspaper, where they were both employed. During the course of an argument, Korinda threatened to leave Jeffrey and to take their three-year-old and four-month-old daughters.

They continued to fight as they left home in separate vehicles, but Jeffrey followed Korinda in his minivan and ran her vehicle into a median along U.S. 395. Then, using one of the two guns he had in the glove compartment of his car, he shot her twice in the chest. Two vehicles of passersby stopped to help, mistakenly thinking the couple had been in an accident. Jeffrey shot at both vehicles. According to court documents, he fled the scene and later returned, where he was arrested.

Jeffrey had previously been convicted of multiple felonies, which prohibited him from possessing firearms under both federal and Nevada law. In 2004 he pleaded guilty to attempted theft; in 2006, to burglary; and in 2008 to sexually motivated coercion of his 11-year-old sister.

Nevada law allowed Jeffrey to evade the background check system by purchasing both guns in unlicensed sales — one from his neighbor and one from his neighbors' son. After the shooting, Jeffrey told police that he "knew [he] wasn't really supposed to have [the gun]", but he also knew that he could purchase a gun from his neighbors without a background check because "Nevada gun laws are pretty lenient."²⁸

For shooting Korinda and at the witnesses, Jeffrey was found guilty of first-degree murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.



BRITTNEY LAVOLL, AGE 22, LAS VEGAS



At approximately 5:45 a.m. on March 25, 2010, 22-year-old Brittney Lavoll arrived for work at the Jack In The Box on Lake Mead Boulevard in Las Vegas. As she got out of her car, she was approached by 26-year-old Kevin Gipson, a man she had previously dated and with whom she had two children. A struggle broke out and Brittney screamed for help before Gipson shot her in the head at close range with a .25-caliber handgun.

Brittney was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Gipson fled the scene on foot, but under questioning by the police the following day, he confessed to the crime.

At the time of the homicide, Gipson had a criminal history that prohibited him from possessing firearms: In 2003 and 2005, he pleaded guilty to domestic violence misdemeanor, and in 2006 he was found guilty of felony robbery. In the course of the police investigation, numerous parties said that Gipson also had a history of violence against Brittney. A babysitter for Brittney's three children attested to a violent relationship between the two. Brittney had ended her relationship with Gipson about two and a half years earlier because she suspected he was using drugs. Brittney's mother Mechele reported that Gipson had threatened to shoot Brittney on previous occasions. And about a month before the homicide, Gipson's mother contacted Brittney and told her that Gipson had a gun and was on his way to kill her, though he did not ultimately do so at that time.

Gipson told police that he bought the handgun the day before the shooting in an unlicensed sale from a friend, with whom he exchanged cash and marijuana. After the murder he returned the gun to his friend without informing him that it had been used in the commission of a crime.

In 2011, Gipson pleaded guilty to murder with the use of a deadly weapon for shooting Brittney.

Brittney's death devastated her parents and her children. Mechele described the pain she still deals with five years after Brittney's death:

"Losing a child is a feeling that can't be explained. I still cry every day for her. I constantly fight back tears when I catch myself staring at [her children] because all three of them have characteristics of Brittney."²⁹

**LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CONCEALED INFORMATION TEST**

EVENT #: [REDACTED]
STATEMENT OF: **KEVIN GIPSON**

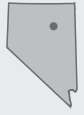
[REDACTED] 3?
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

DL. How long had you been thinking about it?
A. That day.
DL. That, just that one day?
A. Yeah.
DL. It wasn't like something that was eating you alive for a while? No, just one day it just got in your head and?
 [REDACTED]

DL. How much did you pay for it?
 [REDACTED]

DL. Okay. And then you gave it back to him?
A. Yep.
DL. Did you tell him it was dirty?
A. (unintelligible)
DL. You didn't tell him it was dirty?
A. No.

MARY INMAN, AGE 42, ELKO



On April 30, 2011, shortly after 2 p.m., 53-year-old David Heinzig arrived at the Smith Power Products office building in Elko, the workplace of his ex-wife Mary Inman, 42. He broke into Mary's locked office and shot her multiple times at close range with a 12-gauge shotgun. He then fled in his vehicle and a few hours later was found in a motel room in North Las Vegas with a fatal gunshot wound.

Heinzig had a criminal record that prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 1982, he pleaded guilty to felonious grand larceny in Oklahoma. Heinzig's and Mary's relationship, which had ended in divorce in November 2010, had grown increasingly volatile over time. In subsequent interviews with police, family members described Heinzig's violence against Mary, detailing many incidents including one in which Mary locked herself in a car as Heinzig stood outside of it, threatening her with a gun. Mary was sufficiently worried about Heinzig's access to the gun that she often tried to hide it from him.

6	IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA	
7	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ELKO	
8	MARY K. INMAN,	TEMPORARY ORDER FOR PROTECTION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
9	Applicant,	
10	vs.	
11	DAVID M. HEINZIG SR.,	Date Issued: February 7, 2011
12	Adverse Party.	Date Expires: March 9, 2011
13	<p>YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that any VIOLATION OF THIS ORDER IS A CRIMINAL VIOLATION and will result in a misdemeanor offense, unless a more severe penalty is prescribed by law. If the violation is accompanied by a violent physical act, sentence will include incarceration of not less than five days nor more than six months in the county/city jail; \$1,000.00 fine or a minimum of 200 hours community service; reimbursement of all costs, fees and medical expenses incurred; and participation in professional counseling.</p>	
14	<p>YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that you CAN BE ARRESTED even if the person who obtained the order invites or allows you to contact them. You have the sole responsibility to avoid or refrain from violating the terms of this order. Only the court can change the order upon written application.</p>	
15	<p>YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that if you ARE ARRESTED FOR VIOLATING THIS ORDER you will not be admitted to bail sooner than 12 hours after your arrest if the arresting officer determines that the violation is accompanied by a direct or indirect threat of harm.</p>	
16	<p>YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that child stealing is a felony offense, punishable by possible incarceration.</p>	
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		

Beginning in the spring of 2010, Mary took out a series of temporary restraining orders against Heinzig, which he violated on at least one occasion by trying to contact Mary and to gain access to her residence. In February of that year Mary took out the last temporary restraining order against him, which was still in effect at the time of the shooting, having been extended several times due to difficulty in scheduling the hearing necessary to issue an extended protection order. Heinzig was prohibited under state and federal law from buying or possessing firearms due to his previous criminal conviction. None of the temporary orders required Heinzig to turn in his guns. Had an extended protection order been issued, the judge could have required Heinzig to turn in any guns in his possession. However, this temporary order provided no such opportunity.

Weeks before the murder, Mary seemed to become increasingly fearful for her life. She frequently spoke about her fears with her sister, Paula Hartbank. According to Paula, Mary told her "If something happens to me, Dave did it." Two weeks before she was killed, Mary mailed a number of important papers to Paula, including her will, with a note that said "I am sending this to you in case something happens to me."³⁰

On the morning of Mary's murder, Paula called Mary to talk. In that phone call Mary said "You know what? I think [Dave] is finally starting to leave me alone." Forty minutes later, Mary was dead.

Mary comes from a close family, and Paula described the difficulty her mother, siblings, and daughter still face. "It's just been a hard, hard thing. She was a huge part of our lives...You just wish you could rewind that day and change things for her, for all of us...Mary was around for 41 years of my life. I tried to call her the other day and remembered, 'Oh my god, I can't call her.'"³¹

KRYSTAL McADOW, AGE 23, LAS VEGAS



According to court documents filed by prosecutors, on July 17, 2014, 32-year-old Samuel McFarland drove up to the vehicle of his ex-girlfriend, Krystal McAdow, 23, where she was sitting with a friend at a gas pump outside a 7-Eleven on West Sahara Avenue in Las Vegas, and shot her through the windshield, killing her. McFarland then fled the scene. He was arrested two weeks later in California.

McFarland was prohibited from possessing firearms due to a prior criminal history. In 2005, McFarland pleaded no contest and was found guilty of a domestic violence misdemeanor (battery) against his then-girlfriend, with whom he cohabitated at the time of the incident. In 2012, he was charged with the felony crime of battery with substantial bodily harm, and charges were pending at the time of the homicide. Court records show that McFarland had also been violent towards Krystal in the past. Several days before the homicide, McFarland shot at Krystal, but she was not physically injured, in an incident that was not reported to the police until after Krystal's death.

After the shooting, police spoke with a friend of McFarland's who described how McFarland carried guns and bought and sold them through the website Backpage.com, a classified advertising website. Unlicensed sales arranged online — like those at gun shows or in person — are not subject to a background check requirement. The police investigation did not clarify whether McFarland obtained the murder weapon in an unlicensed sale on that website or through other means.

McFarland was charged with murder and, as of March 2016, the case is still pending.

In the days after her daughter's murder, Krystal's mother said, "I can't imagine my life without her, and that's the hardest thing. Everyone that knew her, every life that she's touched, you'll never forget her. She's unforgettable."³²

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
FILED **DECLARATION OF WARRANT/SUMMONS**
(N.R.S. 171.106)
(N.R.S. 53 amended 7/13/1993)
"PRINT"

Jul 21 12 30 PM '14
"Click to Add/Edit Event # on All Pages"

JUSTICE COURT
LAS VEGAS NEVADA
STATE OF NEVADA)
DEPUTY) ss: ID#: _____
COUNTY OF CLARK) DOB: _____

Event Number: _____

14F11666X
DWS
Declaration of Warrant Summons (Affidavit)
4048101


_____ states McFarland is a heavy drug user and is known to carry guns. _____ says McFarland buys and sells firearms through backpage.com and has seen him with firearms in the past. _____ said McFarland did not have a gun on the night of the 17th, stated McFarland called him early in the week and asked _____ for 9mm ammo. _____ stated he didn't have any didn't think anything of it because McFarland always has guns. _____ knows McFarland to drive a black Nissan vehicle with personalized Nevada license plate "Mamma Mac".

Wherefore, Declarant prays that a Warrant of Arrest be issued for suspect Sam McFarland on the charge of Murder with Deadly Weapon

CONCLUSION

The connection between domestic violence and gun homicides in Nevada is stark, and the incidents detailed in this report display the scale, scope, and dynamics of the problem. Together, they illustrate the devastating impact of intimate partner gun homicides—for those killed, for those injured, for those who witnessed the violence, and for all those left behind.

Because of the risk that firearms pose when they intersect with domestic violence, the best way to prevent intimate partner gun homicides is to enact and implement state laws aimed at keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers. These measures include prohibiting all domestic abusers and stalkers from buying or possessing firearms, requiring background checks for all gun sales, and creating processes to ensure that abusers and stalkers who become prohibited from having guns surrender the firearms already in their possession. In 2015, Nevada took the first step by enacting laws to prohibit gun possession by convicted domestic abusers and, in most circumstances, those under domestic violence extended protection orders. Closing the remaining gaps in Nevada's laws will save lives.

The fatalities documented in this report were not unavoidable. Among other things, stronger gun laws could have prevented many abusers from obtaining firearms. If Nevada policymakers take action to close the loopholes that allow dangerous individuals unrestricted access to firearms, they will make the state a safer place for its residents.

NOTES

- 1 Everytown for Gun Safety, "State background check requirements and rates of domestic violence homicide," available at <http://every.tw/1fmRnLI>.
- 2 National Network to End Domestic Violence, "Frequently Asked Questions About Domestic Violence," available at <http://bit.ly/1mdcSBI>.
- 3 While domestic violence does not discriminate based on gender, American women are at a statistically higher risk of experiencing severe physical domestic violence than American men; approximately one in four women (22.3 percent) have been a victim of severe physical violence by an intimate partner as compared to one in seven men (14.0 percent); see Breiding MJ, Smith SG, Basile KC, Walters ML, Chen J, Merrick MT. Prevalence and Characteristics of Sexual Violence, Stalking, and Intimate Partner Violence Victimization—National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, United States, 2011. *MMWR* 2014; 63(SS-8): 1-18.
- 4 "Costs of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control (March 2003), available at: <http://1.usa.gov/1zgqF0I>.
- 5 Professor April M. Zeoli, Letter to the Hon. Patrick J. Leahy and Charles Grassley, Jan. 28, 2013.
- 6 J.C. Campbell, S.W. Webster, J.Koziol-McLain, et al., "Risk factors for femicide within physically abuse intimate relationships: results from a multi-state case control study," 93 *Amer. J. of Public Health* 1089-97 (2003).
- 7 Susan B. Sorenson and Douglas J. Wiebe, "Weapons in the Lives of Battered Women," 94 *Am. J. Pub. Health* 1412-1413 (2004).
- 8 Everytown analysis of FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2008-2012, available at: <http://bit.ly/1yVxm4K>.
- 9 Everytown for Gun Safety, "State background check requirements and rates of domestic violence homicide," available at <http://every.tw/1fmRnLI>.
- 10 *Id.*
- 11 April Zeoli and Daniel Webster, "Effects of domestic violence policies, alcohol taxes and police staffing levels on intimate partner homicide in large US cities," *Journal of Injury Prevention*, 2010, available at <http://1.usa.gov/1lqT58h>.
- 12 18 U.S.C. § 922(g)(8),(9); NRS § 202.360(1)(d).
- 13 Nevada courts issue two types of protection orders: temporary orders, which last for up to 30 days and can be granted without notice to the adverse party, and extended orders, which must be preceded by a hearing at which both parties can participate and, once issued, can last for up to one year.
- 14 Everytown for Gun Safety, "State background check requirements and rates of domestic violence homicide," available at <http://every.tw/1fmRnLI>.
- 15 2015 NV SB 175.
- 16 Two pieces of legislation were enacted in 2015 concerning firearm possession by abusers under extended protection orders. SB 175 added a prohibition against possession of guns by convicted abusers, and barring subsequent purchase or acquisition of guns by anyone under an extended protection order. SB 240 added a prohibition against possession of guns by anyone prohibited under federal law. This includes abusers under extended protection orders in Nevada, if the victim was a current or former spouse, co-parent, or cohabitant, but not if the victim was a dating partner.
- 17 Among the cases excluded were those in which the perpetrator shot but did not kill their intimate partner (although others may have been killed in the incident); the identity of the shooter could not be determined based on a search of all available information; the victim was shot but the gunshot wound was not the cause of death; the perpetrator shot the victim with a black powder rifle, which is not subject to the same background check requirements ; the perpetrator hired a third-party to kill the intimate partner; and there was not definitive evidence that the perpetrator and the victim were current or former intimate partners.
- 18 "In a comparison of the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Report (SHR) with the study database, the SHR identified only 71.1 percent of the partner victims and could at best identify only 26.7 percent of the victims other than partners. Intimate homicides involving multiple victims were underreported in the SHR. Cases involving ex-boyfriend perpetrators were reported as partner homicides less often in the SHR than other intimate relationships"; see L. Langford, N. Isaac, and S. Kabat, "Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence In Massachusetts: Examining Case Ascertainment and Validity of the SHR", 2 *Homicide Studies*, 353-377 (1998).
- 19 A comparison of the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR) and the CDC National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) in 2008-2012 shows that the SHR reported 98% of female firearm homicides included in the NVSS.

- 20 Janice Roehl, Ph.D., Chris O'Sullivan, Ph.D., Daniel Webster, ScD, and Jacquelyn Campbell, Ph. D, "Intimate Partner Violence Risk Assessment Validation Study," Doc. No. 209731 (2005).
- 21 In one additional incident, the perpetrator fatally stabbed his 3-year-old daughter.
- 22 Dube, Shanta R., Robert F. Anda, Vincent J. Felitti, Valerie J. Edwards, and David F. Williamson. 2002. "Exposure to Abuse, Neglect, and Household Dysfunction among Adults Who Witnessed Intimate Partner Violence as Children: Implications for Health and Social Services." *Violence and Victims* 17 (1): 3-17. Edleson, Jeffrey L. 1999. "Children's Witnessing of Adult Domestic Violence." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 14 (8). jiv.sagepub.com: 839-70.
- 23 State of Nevada v. White, No. C-12-286357-1 (EDCR 2015).
- 24 Everytown analysis of FBI Supplementary Homicide Reports, 2008-2012, available at: <http://bit.ly/1yVxm4K>. Median age of gun homicide perpetrators in the United States during this period was 26 years of age.
- 25 One suicide was attributed to a fatal drug overdose.
- 26 Here we assume domestic violence to be in accord with Nevada's definition.
- 27 Clark County has the largest population of all counties in Nevada, with nearly 2 million residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau (2010).
- 28 Transcript of police interview.
- 29 Written interview with Everytown, January 9, 2016.
- 30 Phone interview with Everytown, January 5, 2016.
- 31 Id.
- 32 Castelan, A., "Victim's mother said daughter dated murder suspect," KSNV News, Jul. 25, 2014, available at: <http://bit.ly/1KbXMSZ>.

APPENDIX: FIVE YEARS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE GUN HOMICIDES IN NEVADA

January 2010—December 2014

LAS VEGAS - JANUARY 11, 2010

Twenty-three-year-old Gregg Thomas fatally shot his ex-girlfriend, Mariam Sarkisian 22, and Mariam's mother, Anoush Sarkisian, 50, before fatally shooting himself. At the time of the incident, Thomas and Mariam were involved in a custody dispute over their one-year-old daughter. Thomas had gone to the Sarkisians' home and demanded to see their daughter; when Mariam refused to let him in and threatened to call the police, he kicked open the door and shot her. Thomas then went into the living room and shot Anoush before going outside and fatally shooting himself in the front yard. The couple's child was in the home at the time of the shooting but was not physically harmed. Mariam's sister contacted police after hearing gunshots and seeing her sister on the floor inside the residence. There is no evidence that Thomas was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - JANUARY 11, 2010

Twenty-eight-year-old Keith Toten shot and killed his 20-year-old fiancée, Anjelica Fernandez. Several weeks later, during a standoff with police at his apartment complex, Toten fatally shot himself. Three days later, police received an anonymous tip about the whereabouts of Anjelica's body and implicating Toten in her death; police discovered her body in a stolen car. Toten was prohibited from possessing firearms: in 2002, he was convicted of possession of a stolen vehicle, a felony. In 2004, he was convicted of felony burglary, felony possession of stole property, and two counts of felony possession of a stolen vehicle. And in 2009, he was convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor (battery).

LAS VEGAS - MARCH 25, 2010

At approximately 5:45 a.m., 22-year-old Brittney Lavoll arrived for work at a Jack in the Box restaurant. As she got out of her car, she was approached by 26-year-old

Kevin Gipson, a man she had previously dated and with whom she had two children. Gipson approached Lavoll from behind and the two struggled. Brittney screamed for help before Gipson shot her in the head at close range with a .25-caliber handgun. Brittney was pronounced dead at a local hospital. In the course of the police investigation, numerous parties said that Gipson also had a history of violence against Brittney. A babysitter for Brittney's three children attested to a violent relationship between the two. Gipson fled the scene on foot, but under questioning by the police the following day, he confessed to the crime. At the time of the homicide, Gipson had a criminal history that prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 2003 and 2005, he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor domestic violence, and in 2006 he was found guilty of felony robbery. Brittney's mother Mechele reported that Gipson had threatened to shoot Brittney on previous occasions. Gipson told police that he traded cash and marijuana for the handgun the day before the shooting in an unlicensed sale from a friend. In 2011, Gipson pleaded guilty to murder with the use of a deadly weapon for shooting Brittney.

NORTH LAS VEGAS - APRIL 26, 2010

Thirty-five-year-old Nashun Lomax shot and killed his 31-year-old girlfriend Tamequa Williams in their residence before shooting and killing himself. Shortly before the incident, the couple was fighting in their bedroom; Tamequa's 15-year-old daughter and 2-week-old daughter, and Lomax's 12-year-old son were also home at the time. Alarmed by the argument, Tamequa's 15-year-old daughter called the police, but when they arrived Tamequa told her daughter not to answer the door. The police tried unsuccessfully to make contact by phone with anyone inside the house before departing from the residence. Shortly after, the 15-year-old daughter returned to her room and, according to a statement to police, heard a "pow" and

smelled smoke. Lomax's 12-year-old son kicked open the locked door to the master bedroom and discovered Lomax and Tamequa, both deceased. When police arrived, the children were outside of the home and visibly distraught. The police found Tamequa on the bed with gunshot injuries to the head, neck, and hand, and Lomax on the floor next to the bed with a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Lomax had an extensive criminal history that prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 1999, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2006, he was found guilty of a domestic violence misdemeanor (battery), and Tamequa was the victim in at least three of these charges. In the 2002 incident, Lomax strangled, hit, and threatened to "have something done" to Tamequa. In 2008, Lomax pleaded guilty to battery constituting domestic violence, and possession of a controlled substance, both felonies. He was arrested at least two other times for felony domestic battery. In 1991, Lomax was charged with attempted murder in juvenile court for shooting an individual in the back of the head, though the disposition of the case is unclear. The police had also been called to the residence several times in the past for reports of a domestic dispute. According to media reports, Lomax had recently been arrested for assaulting Tamequa and was released from jail just three days prior to the incident. He used a Colt .38-caliber Special revolver to commit the crime, but it is unclear how he obtained it.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 9, 2010

Seventy-four-year-old Phil Testa fatally shot his wife, Angelina Testa, 79, at their home. He then called police to report that he had killed Angelina and that he intended to kill himself. When the police arrived at the Testas' home, officers called Phil and tried negotiating with him to surrender. Phil hung up and shot himself shortly thereafter. There is no evidence that Phil was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 16, 2010

Fifty-year-old Susan Kapfer fatally shot her husband, Michael Kapfer, 55, in his room at Valley Hospital, and then fatally shot herself. A nurse outside of Michael's room heard the gunshots and discovered the couple. Michael had been in the hospital for several weeks for an unspecified illness. The couple had been married for 32 years. After the shooting, the Kapfers' 27-year-old son Kit found a suicide note in Susan's car, detailing her grief over Michael's illness and her frustration with the lack of support from the hospital staff. There is no evidence that Susan was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 19, 2010

Twenty-year-old Jose Vergara-Rodriguez fatally shot his 19-year-old girlfriend Edith Corona at her residence before fatally shooting himself. A boy and girl, both under the age of five, were at home at the time of the shooting but not physically harmed; their relationship to Edith and Vergara-Rodriguez was not made public. Vergara-Rodriguez's father discovered the deceased couple at the home and called police. There is no evidence that Vergara-Rodriguez was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 20, 2010

Seventy-four-year-old Donald Romano fatally shot his wife, Barbara Romano, 74, before fatally shooting himself in their home with a .38-caliber revolver. A housekeeper found the couple in their bedroom. The media reported that the couple were involved in the real estate business and had been financially crippled by the recession. The couple's daughter Maria Romano told the media that their financial issues had caused them stress. There is no evidence that Donald had a criminal record that would prohibit him from possessing firearms.

MESQUITE - JANUARY 26, 2011

Fifty-two-year-old Donna Fairchild, a Mesquite Councilwoman, used a Glock 9mm handgun to fatally shoot her husband, Bill Fairchild, 62. According to media reports, she then wrote a suicide note and a letter to her mother, dropped off a box of items for her mother at a friend's house, and returned home,

where she called law enforcement and told them that she was sorry and that she was going to kill herself. When officers arrived at the house minutes later, they found the Donna and Bill in the back bedroom of their home, both dead from gunshot wounds. Donna and Bill had been married for 21 years. They moved to Nevada in 1999 after retiring from the Denver Police Department. At the time of the shooting, Donna was running for mayor, but was facing disciplinary action from the City Council due to accusations of violating the city's Code of Conduct by allegedly submitting false expenses for reimbursement. Donna had decided to resign from the City Council and had let her colleagues know the night before the incident. There is no evidence that Donna was prohibited from possessing firearms.

ELKO - APRIL 30, 2011

On April 30, 2011, shortly after 2 p.m., 53-year-old David Heinzig arrived at the Smith Power Products office building, the workplace of his ex-wife Mary Inman, 42. He broke into Mary's locked office and shot her multiple times at close range with a 12-gauge shotgun. He then fled in his vehicle and was found a few hours later in a motel room in North Las Vegas with a fatal gunshot wound. Heinzig had a criminal record that prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 1982, he pleaded guilty to felonious grand larceny in Oklahoma. Heinzig's and Mary's relationship, which had ended in divorce in November 2010, had grown increasingly volatile over time. In subsequent interviews with police, family members described Heinzig's violence against Mary, detailing many incidents including one in which Mary locked herself in a car as Heinzig stood outside of it, threatening her with a gun. Mary was sufficiently worried about Heinzig's access to his gun that she often tried to hide it from him. Beginning in the spring of 2010, Mary took out a series of temporary restraining orders against Heinzig, which he violated on at least one occasion by trying to contact Mary and to gain access to her residence. In February of that year, Mary took out the last temporary restraining order against him, which was still in effect at the time of the shooting, having been extended several times due to difficulty in scheduling the hearing necessary to issue an extended protection order. Heinzig was prohibited

under state and federal law from buying or possessing firearms due to his previous criminal convictions. None of the temporary orders required Heinzig to turn in his guns. Had an extended order been issued, the judge could have required Heinzig to turn in any guns in his possession. However, the temporary order provided no such opportunity.

SILVER SPRINGS - JUNE 6, 2011

Thirty-three-year-old Leland Scott Lawson fatally shot his girlfriend, 31-year-old Tia Lee Shine, before he called the sheriff's department, confessed to the crime, and indicated that he was going to shoot himself. Lawson also reported that their infant son was in the home but physically unharmed, and that an officer should come to the home to retrieve the baby. When police arrived, they found Tia's body on the living room floor next to Lawson, who had a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head but was still alive. Their son was found sleeping in his crib. The couple's other child, a five-year-old daughter, was at school at the time of the incident. Lawson died from his injuries several days later at a Reno hospital. At the time of the shooting, Lawson had a criminal record that prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 1998, he pleaded guilty to use of a controlled substance, a felony. According to the police report, the handgun used in shooting belonged to Tia.

LAS VEGAS - OCTOBER 24, 2011

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, forty-seven-year-old Elisa Martinez fatally shot her boyfriend, Gustavo Guzman, 35, during an argument in her home. Martinez's daughter, her daughter's boyfriend, and two of her daughter's three children were present at the time of the shooting, but were not physically harmed. When law enforcement arrived at the scene, they found Gustavo dead at the front step of the apartment. Martinez and Gustavo had been involved in a relationship for two years, which was often tumultuous, and Martinez claimed that she was afraid of Gustavo and upset about his substance abuse. Police arrested Martinez and charged her with murder, and in 2012 she was convicted of voluntary manslaughter with a deadly weapon. A search of criminal records yielded no evidence that Martinez was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - OCTOBER 24, 2011

Thirty-five-year-old Ilian Mizodearmas shot his 23-year-old girlfriend, Yaniri Rosales-Gamboa, several times in the head, killing her. After shooting her, he cut her throat before fatally shooting himself. After a neighbor reported that she had heard gunshots, law enforcement arrived and found Yaniri lying in the front yard of the couple's home, dead, and Mizodearmas alive nearby, with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head. He was transported to a local hospital where he later died from his injuries. Although Mizodearmas had a criminal record, he was not prohibited from possessing firearms: in 2007, he pleaded guilty to resisting a public officer, a misdemeanor. He was also charged with battery on an officer, a gross misdemeanor, but the charge was dismissed.

TOPAZ RANCH ESTATES - NOVEMBER 1, 2011

Thirty-eight-year-old Jeanine Mona Escandon fatally shot her boyfriend, 59-year-old Norman Welch, and then fled to California, where she was apprehended two weeks after the shooting. Norman's ex-wife, with whom he was still friendly, became worried when she did not hear from him. She went to Norman's residence and found him dead. Escandon originally claimed that she and Norman had argued, and that she travelled to Los Angeles to get away from him and that he was alive when she left. But upon further questioning she confessed to shooting him, claiming it had been an accident. Escandon told authorities that she panicked, grabbed Norman's car keys and drove to Los Angeles, tossing the gun out the window at some point along the way. Escandon later recanted her statement that the shooting was accidental, and pled guilty to first-degree murder. Court documents indicate that Escandon used Norman's own 9mm handgun to kill him. There is no evidence that Escandon was prohibited from possessing firearms at the time of the homicide.

ELKO - NOVEMBER 11, 2011

Forty-eight-year-old Kurt Stefka fatally shot his 42-year-old wife Stacie Stefka before shooting and killing himself. Kurt called law enforcement and told them that his wife Stacie had been shot. When

law enforcement arrived, they found Stacie with a gunshot wound to the left temple and Kurt lying over Stacie's chest, holding a Silver Colt Delta Elite .45-caliber handgun in his right hand, and badly injured from a self-inflicted gunshot wound to his right temple. Police transported him to a local hospital, where he died hours later. Law enforcement found a note from Kurt at the scene in which he said he was tired of arguing with Stacie. The couple were co-founders of the Ruby Mountain Film Festival. There is no evidence that Kurt was prohibited from possessing firearms. In 2000, Stacie took out a temporary restraining order against Kurt, citing both physical abuse and death threats, but it was dissolved two weeks later.

LAS VEGAS - NOVEMBER 14, 2011

Fifty-year-old Tracy Kauffman fatally shot his 36-year-old ex-boyfriend Phillip Wells at a bar in Las Vegas where Wells was working the night shift. Kauffman and Phillip had met in Knoxville and had dated for several years, before Phillip ended the relationship and moved to Nevada. Kauffman, who continued to live in Tennessee, flew to Nevada the week before the shooting. He told detectives he had brought a .40-caliber Glock handgun on the airplane in his checked luggage to "scare" Phillip. On the night of the shooting, he entered the bar carrying the handgun, chased Phillip through the bar and into a storage room, and shot him multiple times in his head and chest. Kauffman then fled the bar, disposed of his gun and clothes in a hotel room, and went to the airport in an attempt to flee the state. Before he could board his plane, police arrested him. There is no evidence that Kauffman was prohibited from possessing firearms. He pleaded guilty to Phillip's murder and was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole after 20 years.

LAS VEGAS - NOVEMBER 18, 2011

Forty-eight-year-old Jesus "Jesse" Saldivar stabbed and fatally shot his ex-girlfriend Veronica Erazo-Alderado, 30, and fatally stabbed their three-year-old daughter. He then drove their bodies in his car to a remote area, where he shot and killed himself. Veronica's 13-year-old son became concerned when his mother did not return home. The son called Veronica's current boyfriend, who

subsequently alerted the police. Police discovered the bodies in Veronica's car several hours later. Veronica and Saldivar had dated for six years and had separated a few months prior to the shooting. Although Saldivar had a criminal history at the time of the shooting, there is no evidence he was prohibited from possessing firearms. In July 2011, Saldivar was named as a suspect in a domestic violence incident report filed by Veronica. In the report, she said that Saldivar beat her and repeatedly slammed her head against the ground outside of their home while Sabrina watched from the car. During the beating, Veronica begged Saldivar not to kill her. It is not clear whether an arrest was subsequently made. Police reports show that the gun used in the shooting was first purchased in California in 1971, and had not been reported stolen. It is unclear how Saldivar came to obtain the weapon.

LAS VEGAS - NOVEMBER 25, 2011

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, twenty-nine-year-old Jose Antonio Rodriguez shot his 22-year-old girlfriend Christina Griffis in the face during an altercation inside the couple's apartment, killing her. A neighbor told law enforcement she had heard Rodriguez screaming while he was attempting to move Christina's body. Rodriguez and a companion dragged Christina's body to the parking lot of the apartment complex and attempted to hide it behind some shrubbery. According to police reports, Rodriguez called his cousin and told him that he had been threatening Christina with a gun when he accidentally shot her. The cousin reported the incident to police, who responded to the scene and found a bloody trail from the apartment leading to Christina's body. They also located a suitcase near the crime scene containing a .357-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver, blood, and a utility bill bearing Rodriguez's name and address. Police located Rodriguez several hours after the incident hiding in a vehicle nearby and arrested him. At the time of the shooting, he had a criminal history which prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 2001 he pleaded guilty to felony possession of a controlled substance and in 2002, he pleaded guilty to aggravated robbery, a felony. According to court documents, the weapon used in the homicides had been reported stolen from a motorhome. On October 17, 2013,

Rodriguez pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter with use of a deadly weapon and was sentenced to up to 26 years' imprisonment with eligibility for parole.

HENDERSON - APRIL 11, 2012

Fifty-one-year-old Curt Jillson fatally shot his wife, Kai Jillson, 61. He then called the police to report the crime, and told them he was going to kill himself before hanging up the phone. When law enforcement arrived at the residence they found the couple's bodies inside, and their two dogs dead in the backyard swimming pool. According to the incident report, Curt was found with a 9mm Glock in his hand, while several other firearms and a large amount of ammunition were also recovered from the house. Neighbors told police they knew Curt to have a bad temper. One neighbor told police that Curt was a "doomsday prepper" and had stockpiled large quantities of weapons, food, water, and other supplies. The neighbor also reported that Curt had told him that "anything ever happened he would kill his wife, his dogs, and then himself." There is no evidence that Curt was prohibited from possessing firearms.

RENO - MAY 19, 2012

Sixty-one-year-old Harry Grund shot and killed his estranged wife Pamela Grund, 57, at their residence before non-fatally shooting himself. Harry then set fire to the residence and died from a combination of smoke inhalation and the self-inflicted gunshot wound. Pamela had recently moved out of the home they shared, but had come to check-in after Harry told her that some pipes needed repair. One of the Grund's daughters, Janine, reported to police that in recent years her father had become increasingly abusive towards her mother and that Pamela had recently moved to Janine's house to get away from Harry. There is no evidence that Harry had a criminal record that would prohibit him from possessing firearms.

RENO - JULY 9, 2012

Thirty-two-year-old Jeffrey Rodriguez fatally shot his wife, Korinda, 29, at the side of a road. Earlier that morning, the couple had gotten into an argument, and Korinda threatened to leave Jeffrey and to take away their two daughters, a

three-year-old and a four-month-old. They continued to fight as they left home in separate vehicles, but Jeffrey followed Korinda in his minivan and ran her off the road. Then, using one of the two guns he had in the glove compartment of his car, he shot her twice in the chest. Two vehicles stopped to help, mistakenly thinking the couple had been in an accident. Jeffrey shot at both vehicles. According to court documents, he fled the scene and later returned, where he was arrested. Jeffrey had previously been convicted of multiple felonies, which prohibited him from possessing firearms under both federal and Nevada law. In 2004 he pleaded guilty to attempted theft; in 2006, to burglary; and in 2008 to sexually motivated coercion of his 11-year-old sister. Jeffrey purchased both guns in unlicensed sales — one from his neighbor and one from his neighbors' son. For shooting Korinda and at the witnesses, Jeffrey was found guilty of first-degree murder, three counts of assault with a deadly weapon, and being a felon in possession of a firearm. He was sentenced to life in prison with the possibility of parole.

LAS VEGAS - JULY 27, 2012

Forty-four-year-old Troy White shot and killed his estranged wife Echo Lucas, 29, and shot and injured Lucas's boyfriend, Joseph Averman, 44. White then fled to Arizona, where police apprehended him several days later. White and Echo had three children together, and Echo had four other children from previous relationships. Echo had asked White for a divorce, but he would not agree to it and became enraged when Echo started dating Joseph. He sent Echo and Joseph harassing text messages and phone calls, threatening Joseph that, "If you don't stay away, I'm going to...kill you." According to court records, shortly before the shooting, White posted on Facebook, "If you love someone, set them free. If they don't come back, hunt them down and kill them." On the day of the shooting, White came to Echo's house, asked to speak with Echo, and then shot and injured Joseph in the abdomen and arm and fatally shot Echo in the torso. Five of Echo's children were present at the time of the shooting, but were not physically harmed. White was trying to confine the children to one room and prevent Joseph from calling for help when one of the children escaped from the house and ran

to a neighbor's residence and reported what had happened. White fled the scene, but later turned himself in to law enforcement in Arizona. There is no evidence that White was prohibited from possessing firearms. In 2015, White was convicted of first-degree murder and attempted murder, among other charges.

SILVER SPRINGS - JULY 30, 2012

Thirty-four-year-old Timothy Ray Pennington fatally shot his girlfriend, 20-year-old Amber Shay Jenkins. Three days after she was last seen, Amber's body was found in a remote area at the end of a street. That evening, law enforcement made contact with Pennington, but the next morning his father reported him missing. Approximately six days later, police found Pennington in an abandoned business in a neighboring town, dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The couple had lived together in Silver Springs with their one-year-old daughter. Pennington was prohibited from possessing firearms: in 2000, he pleaded guilty to second-degree kidnapping with use of deadly weapon, a felony, for kidnapping and attempting to shoot and kill his then-wife.

RENO - NOVEMBER 7, 2012

Forty-eight-year-old Richard Kelsay fatally shot his estranged wife, 37-year-old Anna Kelsay, before fatally shooting himself in their home. Anna's boyfriend, Isaac Shin, discovered the bodies when he came to check on Anna after she missed work. According to Shin, the couple had separated months before the incident and Anna was in the process of getting a divorce. Police reports show that Richard left a suicide note in which he apologized for his actions and noted that his "depression is too much." Law enforcement determined that Richard used his own 9mm handgun to kill Anna, and then used a .40-caliber handgun, which he had given to Anna as a gift, to kill himself. There is no evidence that Richard was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - NOVEMBER 25, 2012

Eighty-six-year-old Clifford Huss fatally shot his wife Dorothy Huss, 87, before fatally shooting himself in their home. Their son-in-law discovered the couple when he came to their home to help care for them, as he did several times a week:

Dorothy was dead but Clifford was still breathing and clutching a rifle to his chest. He died at a local hospital a short time later. There is no evidence that Clifford had a criminal record that would prohibit him from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - DECEMBER 7, 2012

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, forty-two-year-old Robert Brown, Jr. fatally shot his 29-year-old ex-girlfriend Nichole Nick, and shot and injured Nichole's mother, Esther Maestas, in Nichole's apartment. Nichole's three-year-old niece was also in the home at the time of the shooting, but the child was not physically harmed. Nichole and Brown had been dating for approximately six months, but the night before the shooting Nichole had ended the relationship. Neighbors later told police that they heard arguing in the hours before the shooting. The night of the shooting, Brown broke through a window of the apartment, shot Esther once, and chased Nichole into a bedroom, where he shot and stabbed her multiple times. When Esther entered the bedroom to help Nichole, Brown was pointing the gun at Nichole's niece. Esther and Nichole begged him not to shoot the child. Brown then shot both Esther and Nichole again. A bullet was found lodged in the niece's bed, but the girl was not physically injured. When law enforcement arrived at the scene, Esther was lying on the living room floor and told the officer, "Robert did it, Robert did it." Brown fled to California, where he was apprehended in 2014 before being extradited to Nevada.

Brown had a criminal history which prohibited him from possessing firearms: in 1998, he was convicted of carjacking, a felony, and that that same year, he was convicted of felony domestic violence after he beat his former wife with a broomstick, abducted her, and stabbed her in the neck. A neighbor found a 9mm Smith and Wesson handgun in a gutter approximately one half-mile from Nichole's apartment. Forensic investigators were able to connect cartridge casings found in Nichole's apartment to the handgun. According to police, the gun was first purchased in California in 1988 by an individual who died in 2010; it is unclear how Brown obtained the firearm. Brown was charged with murder and two counts of attempted murder, among other charges. Brown pleaded not guilty to all

charges; as of March 2016, the case is still pending.

LAS VEGAS - DECEMBER 14, 2012

In front of hundreds of witnesses, 31-year-old Edward C. Brandt used a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson revolver to shoot and kill his ex-girlfriend Jessica Kenny, 30, at her workplace in the Excalibur Hotel and Casino, before fatally shooting himself. Jessica and Brandt had previously dated and lived together in Las Vegas. After the relationship ended, Brandt moved back to Illinois. Family and friends reported to the police that the relationship had been violent, and that Brandt was "obsessed" with Jessica. Two days prior to the shooting, Brandt had checked into the Luxor Hotel and Casino, which is connected to the Excalibur by walkways. Jessica was working at the concierge desk of the Excalibur at the time of the incident. Surveillance video shows that Brandt walked past the desk several times before approaching the desk and firing one round at Jessica, which knocked her onto the floor. He then stood over her and fired several more rounds before fatally shooting himself. According to law enforcement, Brandt had a history of mental illness and had received medical treatment for them, but there is no evidence that Brandt was prohibited from possessing firearms. According to law enforcement, he lawfully owned the gun, which was registered in his name.

WASHOE VALLEY - DECEMBER 29, 2012

Thirty-one-year-old Shaunna Dodd fatally shot her husband and father of her two children, Brad Dodd, 37, while he slept in their home. According to police reports, Shaunna had been having an affair with her 18-year-old cousin by marriage, as well as with another man. She had previously attempted to kill Brad several times by poisoning him and by offering to pay others to commit the crime. On the night of the shooting she took their two children to Brad's parents' house. Her niece was still present in the home at the time of the shooting but physically unharmed. Washoe County Sheriff's deputies were dispatched to a report of "trouble unknown" at a residence and found Brad dead inside the home. Shaunna initially claimed that two unknown males shot Brad in a home invasion, but law enforcement later

determined that Shaunna had shot Brad and asked a friend to hide a bag containing the gun and other evidence of the murder. There is no evidence that Shaunna was prohibited from possessing firearms. In 2013, Shaunna was convicted of first-degree murder.

BOULDER CITY - JANUARY 21, 2013

Fifty-two-year-old Lt. Hans Walters of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department fatally shot his wife, Kathryn Walters, 46, a former police officer, before fatally shooting their five-year-old son. He then called 911, told the dispatcher that he had shot his wife in the head and killed his son because the boy was a witness to the crime. After alerting law enforcement, Hans set his house on fire; arriving police encountered Hans outside his home with a firearm. When police ordered him to drop the gun, he fatally shot himself. Law enforcement indicated that there were no known prior reports of domestic violence between Hans and Kathryn. There is no evidence that Hans was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - JANUARY 29, 2013

Fifty-four-year-old Jim McCarty fatally shot his wife, Linda McCarty, 62, her two adult children Robert Scherrer, 41, and Bonnie Scherrer, 38, and their dog at the home they all shared, before shooting himself. Neighbors alerted the police after hearing gunshots and seeing a pool of blood seeping from the backyard patio. When police arrived, they found Jim still alive and transported him to a hospital, where he died. Press reports indicated that Jim had recently been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, and that Linda had a stroke several years prior to the shooting, which had confined her to a wheelchair. A neighbor noted that Jim and Robert argued sometimes and that on one occasion, the police were called to the house due to a fight between them on the front lawn. There is no evidence that Jim was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - FEBRUARY 3, 2013

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, 57-year-old Keith Barlow shot and killed his ex-girlfriend Danielle Woods, 38, and her boyfriend Donnie Cobb, 40, in Donnie's apartment. Barlow and Danielle had been in an on-and-off

relationship since 1997, and Barlow was angry that Danielle had recently started dating someone else. The morning of the shooting, Barlow confronted Danielle, who was in her car in an alleyway outside of her apartment. Barlow tried to force her into his car by holding a stun gun to her neck. When Danielle screamed, Donnie came outside. Barlow then brandished a handgun at Danielle and Donnie, and they ran back to their apartment and locked the door. Barlow shouted to them through the door that he would be back. The couple called the police, who responded and took a report. The police tried to locate Barlow, but were unsuccessful. Two hours later, Barlow returned to the apartment, kicked open the door, and fatally shot Danielle and Donnie. At the time of the homicides, Barlow had a criminal history that prohibited him from possessing firearms: In 1987, Barlow pleaded guilty to battery with the use of a deadly weapon after he attacked a different ex-girlfriend, her boyfriend, and a three-year-old, a crime for which he was sentenced to six years in prison. And in 1997, Barlow tried to shoot Danielle, for which he was found guilty of attempted murder. According to law enforcement, the firearm used in the shooting belonged to Barlow's friend. Barlow has been charged with murder and possession of a firearm by an ex-felon, among other charges; he pleaded not guilty to all charges. As of March 2016, the case is still pending.

HENDERSON - MARCH 5, 2013

Fifty-four-year-old Jeffrey Johnson fatally shot his ex-wife Renee Bassett, 47, in her home, before fatally shooting himself in his car. Their 13-year-old son was at home at the time of the incident, but was not physically harmed. The boy told police that his dad came over to talk to Renee but shot her soon afterward; Renee yelled for her son to call 911 before she collapsed. He administered CPR on Renee before the ambulance arrived, but she was pronounced dead at the scene. In a suicide note, Johnson wrote that he was angry about the couple's recent divorce. Henderson Police stated that there was no history of domestic violence calls involving Johnson and Renee. Renee's mother reported that prior to the divorce the couple had one violent altercation in which Renee barricaded herself and at least one of her sons in a bathroom for protection against Johnson. There is no evidence that

Johnson has a criminal record that would prohibit him from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - MARCH 29, 2013

Thirty-two-year-old Slavisa Gogic fatally shot his wife Danijela Gogic, 32, and shot and injured Dario Dimac, 30, before fatally shooting himself in the apartment he shared with Danijela. The relationship between Dario and Danijela was not made public. Police report that Slavisa came home and found Danijela and Dario inside. When Slavisa started shooting, Dario escaped from the apartment by jumping from a second-floor balcony into bushes, where he was later discovered, injured, by police. There is no evidence that Slavisa had a criminal history that would have prohibited him from possessing firearms.

NORTH LAS VEGAS - APRIL, 6, 2013

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, Air Force Sergeant Jarom Boyes, 41, fatally shot his wife of four years, Air Force Staff Sergeant Melissa Boyes, 24, in their apartment. The couple had returned home after a night out together and were arguing when Jarom slammed Melissa's head through a wall. Melissa ran to the bedroom, locked the door, and called a friend to ask for help. Armed with her own handgun, Melissa unlocked the bedroom door. Prosecutors allege that Jarom grabbed the gun from Melissa and fatally shot her in the chest. When officers arrived at the scene, they found Jarom administering CPR to his wife, who was lying on the bedroom floor and not breathing. Jarom initially told the officers that Melissa had killed herself. Law enforcement administered a polygraph test, and when Jarom failed, he confessed to shooting Melissa. There is no evidence that Jarom is prohibited from possessing firearms. Jarom was charged with first-degree murder; he pleaded not guilty and, as of March 2016, the case is still pending.

LAS VEGAS - JUNE 1, 2013

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, 38-year-old Manuel Mata III reportedly shot and killed his 43-year-old girlfriend Maria Flores, with whom he resided, and her 17-year-old daughter, and shot and injured her four-year-old daughter in the neck in their residence.

Mata then shot himself, though he survived. According to police records, Mata shot Maria first, and then went into the bedroom where her children were sleeping and shot them, before shooting himself. Mata's 18-year-old daughter was also home at the time of the incident but was not physically injured; awoken by the sound of gunshots, she hid in a bedroom closet and called her paternal grandfather for help, who in turn called the police. When law enforcement arrived at the scene, Mata pointed a shotgun at officers, but the police were able to wrest the gun from him. Members of the Flores family told detectives that Maria and Mata had been in a dating relationship for three years, and that it was often violent. They stated that Mata would become jealous and accuse Maria of cheating. He also had recent financial troubles and had started to drink heavily. Several weeks prior to the incident, Maria threatened to move out of the residence, but Mata convinced her to stay; law enforcement found several packed suitcases in the home at the time of the incident. Mata had a criminal history but it did not prohibit him from possessing firearms: in 2009, he was charged with domestic battery but the case was dismissed. Mata used two guns in the shooting: a Smith & Wesson .40-caliber semi-automatic handgun a Hawk Industries .12-gauge pump action shotgun. According to court document, both firearms had been first purchased by an individual other than Mata, who left them at Mata's home so that he could "watch" them for the owners. Police also found a significant amount of cocaine in the home, and 12 additional firearms — none of which were registered in Mata's name — three of which police determined had been reported stolen. Mata was arrested and charged with two counts of murder with a deadly weapon, with one count of attempted murder with a deadly weapon, and with possession of a stolen gun. As of March 2016, the case is still pending.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 16, 2013

Twenty-five-year-old Angel Omar Cruz kidnapped his 22-year-old ex-girlfriend Sinthia Stephanie Cruz from her home, drove to the desert, and fatally shot her before shooting and killing himself. Sinthia had recently left Angel. The two had been together for nine years and had three children together. According to the police report, in the hours prior to the

shooting, Sinthia had called her mother to let her know she was with Angel, who was going to give her some money for an upcoming trip to California with their kids. Sometime after that call, Sinthia's roommate looked out her window and saw Angel force Sinthia into his car and drive away. After she was kidnapped, Sinthia began calling her mother repeatedly. Sinthia told her mom she wanted to speak to her children and "be sure they were ok" and asked her mom to "please take care of [her] children." When her mother asked her why she needed to take care of the children, Sinthia said, "Angel has a pistol and is threatening me with it." Sinthia's mother called the police and an officer was able to speak with Sinthia on the phone. Sinthia stated that she was going to heaven and that Angel was upset that her mother had called the police, before the phone line went dead. Police began a search for Sinthia, and a few hours later, found Angel's car, which had been set on fire, with Sinthia and Angel dead inside. There is no evidence that Angel was prohibited from possessing firearms.

LAS VEGAS - SEPTEMBER 5, 2013

Fifty-one-year-old Nicholas Lanza fatally shot his estranged wife, Megan Lanza, 38, in her home before shooting and killing himself. Law enforcement discovered the couple after receiving a call from Nicholas' ex-wife, who was concerned about his welfare. Nicholas and Megan had been married since 2008 and had no children. Witnesses and court records indicate that Nicholas had become increasingly violent over the course of the marriage. A neighbor reported that a year prior to the shooting, someone driving a car similar to the model Nicholas owned rammed a pickup truck into Megan's garage door and shot into the side of her house. Six months prior to the shooting, Megan had filed for divorce. Another individual reported that Nicholas showed up to Megan's place of work a few days prior to the shooting with a bouquet of flowers, but became angry when she refused to come out to see him.

Nicholas was prohibited from possessing firearms: in 1981 he pleaded guilty to second-degree attempted robbery, a felony, in New York, and in 2008, he was convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor. According to police reports, the firearm Nicholas used to kill Megan

was reported stolen in 2008. It is unclear how he obtained it.

LAS VEGAS - NOVEMBER 27, 2013

Thirty-two-year-old Jacob P. Burkett used a shotgun to kill his 31-year-old girlfriend Daniela Gastelum-Gutierrez in their home before shooting and killing himself. Police received a phone call from a girl saying that her mother needed help. When they arrived at the residence, they found the home barricaded. Once inside, they found Burkett and Daniela dead, and their daughter, who was not physically harmed. There is no evidence that Burkett had a criminal record that prohibited him from possessing firearms.

CARSON CITY - JANUARY 19, 2014

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, eighty-eight-year-old William Dresser entered a hospital and shot his wife of 63 years, Frances Dresser, 86, once in the chest. William then attempted to shoot himself, but the gun jammed. Frances died three days later from her injuries. Two weeks prior to the shooting, Frances had suffered a fall at home and hit her chin, causing her to become permanently paralyzed. William said that after she had received the prognosis, his wife told him that she no longer wanted to live and had begged to die. The night before the shooting, William purchased .22-caliber handgun at a pawnshop and four bullets, but his gun jammed when he tried to kill himself. When law enforcement and medical staff came into the hospital room after he shot his wife, he did not threaten them and instead begged them that they let her die because that is what she wanted. In January 2014, the District Attorney charged William with open murder with use of a deadly weapon; but in June 2015, the District Attorney dismissed charges against William, citing lack of malice. There is no evidence that William had a criminal history that would have prohibited possession of a firearm.

HENDERSON - JANUARY 25, 2014

Forty-five-year-old Wade Adams fatally shot his wife, Wendy Whitmore, 39, in their home, before taking a fatal overdose of drugs. Adams's teenage daughter became concerned about her father's well-being after she woke up in the

morning to find that he had left \$1,000 in cash and his car keys at her home. When she drove to his residence she found the deceased couple. Wendy's body had been manipulated to make it appear as if she had killed herself. In subsequent interviews by law enforcement, family members noted that the couple fought frequently, though there is no evidence of any formal reports of domestic violence made by the couple. Adams's ex-wife stated that he was violent during their marriage and would hit her. During one incident, he stabbed her in the ear, causing her to lose hearing in that ear, and was charged with domestic violence assault, but law enforcement decided not to pursue the charges. Family members also claimed that Adams struggled with mental health issues and was addicted to prescription drugs and alcohol. About six months prior to the incident Adams attempted to kill himself by Xanax overdose. There is no evidence that Adams was prohibited from possessing firearms, and both Adams and Wendy owned firearms. Adams also had a concealed carry permit at the time of the homicide, but his possession of guns concerned his family. His daughter described observing bullet holes in Wendy and Adams's bedroom a few months before the shooting. When she asked Wendy about it, Wendy said that Adams had discharged the gun accidentally.

MINDEN - FEBRUARY 23, 2014

Fifty-year-old Tatiana Leibel fatally shot her husband Harry Leibel, 64, at their home. Tatiana told investigators that she and her husband had been arguing in the days before the shooting, and that her husband shot himself two times with a rifle. But law enforcement later determined that his injuries were not consistent with suicide. There is no evidence that Tatiana was prohibited from possessing firearms. In February 2015, Tatiana was convicted of second-degree murder with a firearm.

LAS VEGAS - JULY 17, 2014

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, 32-year-old Samuel McFarland drove up to the vehicle of his ex-girlfriend, Krystal McAdow, 23, where she was sitting with a friend outside of a gas station, and shot her through the windshield, killing her. McFarland then

fled the scene. He was arrested two weeks later in California. McFarland was prohibited from possessing firearms due to a prior criminal history. In 2005, McFarland pleaded no contest and was found guilty of a domestic violence misdemeanor (battery) against his then-girlfriend, with whom he cohabitated at the time of the incident. In 2012, he was charged with the felony crime of battery with substantial bodily harm, and charges were pending at the time of the homicide. Court records show that McFarland had also been violent towards Krystal in the past. Several days before the homicide, McFarland shot at Krystal, but she was not physically injured, in an incident that was not reported to the police until after Krystal's death. After the shooting, police spoke with a friend of McFarland who described how McFarland carried guns and bought and sold them through the website Backpage.com, a classified advertising website. The police investigation did not clarify whether McFarland obtained the murder weapon in an unlicensed sale on that website. McFarland was charged with murder and pleaded not guilty; as of March 2016 the case was pending.

LAS VEGAS - AUGUST 19, 2014

Sixty-nine-year-old Robert Alfred Hender fatally shot his wife, Monica Horan, 59, in their home before fatally shooting himself. A co-worker grew concerned when Monica did not show up for work and called law enforcement, who discovered their bodies. According to law enforcement, Hender was suffering from several medical problems at the time of the incident. There is no evidence that Hender was prohibited from possessing firearms.

DAYTON - NOVEMBER 30, 2014

According to court documents filed by prosecutors, thirty-one-year-old Kristyn Verdun used her own 9mm handgun to shoot and kill her husband Robert Verdun, 35, in the bathroom of their residence. Two children were in the residence at the time of the incident. Kristyn and Robert had known each other for ten years and had been married for four years.

According to police reports, Robert had been drinking heavily that evening and was acting belligerently towards Kristyn and the children. The Lyon County District Attorney's Office declined to prosecute Kristyn, determining that the shooting was justifiable and in the defense of others. There is no evidence that Kristyn was prohibited from possessing firearms. According to the police report, Kristyn had a current concealed weapons permit at the time of homicide.

LAS VEGAS - DECEMBER 3, 2014

Eighty-four year-old Clyde Ray used a handgun to shoot and kill his wife Mary Ray, 81, in their home before fatally shooting himself. Two friends, unable to contact the couple, used a key the Rays had given them to enter the residence and discovered the bodies. There is no evidence that Clyde was prohibited from possessing firearms.

ELY - DECEMBER 8, 2014

Sixty-three-year-old Bruce Hendrix fatally shot his wife, Julia Hendrix, 57, in their residence and set the building on fire. He then drove to his accounting firm, where he also set a fire. He fled to a remote area, and several days later was found in his car, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Days before the incident, Julia told Bruce she was seeking a divorce. Bruce had five children and Julia had four children from prior relationships. Law enforcement indicated that there were no known prior reports of domestic violence between Bruce and Julia. There is no evidence that Bruce was prohibited from possessing firearms.



Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund is an independent, non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to understanding and reducing gun violence in America. We conduct groundbreaking original research, developing evidence-based policies, and communicate this knowledge to the American public. Learn more online at www.EverytownResearch.org.



Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence (NNADV) provides statewide advocacy, education and support of the front-line organizations that help those impacted by domestic violence. NNADV's purpose is to help Nevada's communities respond effectively to the needs of victims of domestic violence. For more information about NNADV and to find domestic and sexual violence services in your area, visit www.nnadv.org.