Risks of and policy interventions for firearm use in intimate partner violence

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Guns are the weapon of choice in intimate partner homicide

There is a five-fold increase in risk of homicide when a violent intimate has access to a gun.

Source: Campbell et al. 2003; FBI SHR 2014
Intimate homicide perpetrators are known to the criminal justice system

- Roughly half of women killed by their intimate partners had contact with the criminal justice system in the year preceding their murders
  - Domestic violence/stalking complaints
  - Petitions for criminal charges against their batterers
  - Petitions for domestic violence restraining orders (DVROs)

Source: McFarlane et al. 2001; Moracco et al. 1998
Evidence – domestic violence restraining order gun restrictions

• Three longitudinal studies of state-level DVRO gun prohibitions are consistent in finding that these laws are associated with reductions in intimate partner homicide committed with guns, and total intimate partner homicide.

No discernable substitution effect

Source: Vigdor and Mercy 2003; 2006; Zeoli and Webster 2010
State legislation on the disarming of those prohibited from gun possession by domestic violence restraining orders

AK: DVRO law only
HI: Law + disarm provision

No DVRO law
DVRO law only
Law + disarm provision
Disarm provision only
State legislation on violent misdemeanor firearm prohibitions

AK: No misdemeanor prohibition
HI: All violent misdemeanors
Thank you!

Questions?

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