



TOGETHER WE CAN  
**CREATE**  
A SAFER DELAWARE

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Delaware Coalition Against Gun Violence is  
dedicated to ending gun violence in  
Delaware and nationwide through  
education and advocacy.

# GUN VIOLENCE IS NOT A LEFT OR RIGHT ISSUE.

## IT IS A LIFE OR DEATH ISSUE.

DECAGV  
supports safe  
& responsible  
gun ownership

DECAGV's leadership  
includes gun owners,  
CCDW permit  
holders, veterans,  
former and current  
office holders from  
both parties, clergy,  
community leaders,  
survivors

The policies we  
advance  
regularly have  
bi-partisan  
support

# Why "GUN" Violence?

Approximately 110 Americans are killed with guns every day.

Guns are the leading cause of death for children and teens.

**60.7 % - SUICIDE**

**35.8% - HOMICIDE**

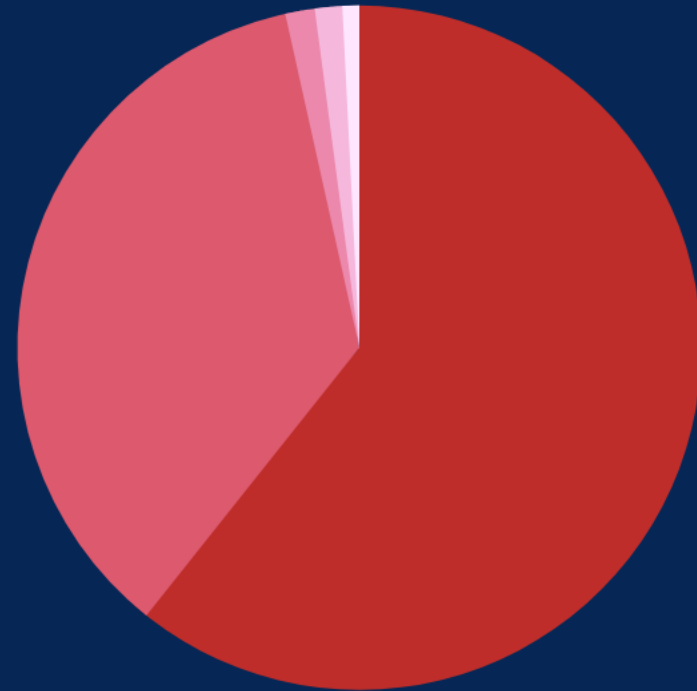
**1.4% - POLICE SHOOTINGS**

**1.3% - UNINTENTIONAL**

**0.8% - UNDETERMINED**

HOMICIDE  
35.8%


LEO  
1.4%



SUICIDE  
60.7%

# DV + FIREARMS

**Nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men** will experience severe physical violence at the hands of their intimate partner in their lifetime



33%

**~ 4.5 million women** in the U.S. have been threatened with a gun; **nearly 1 million** have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner

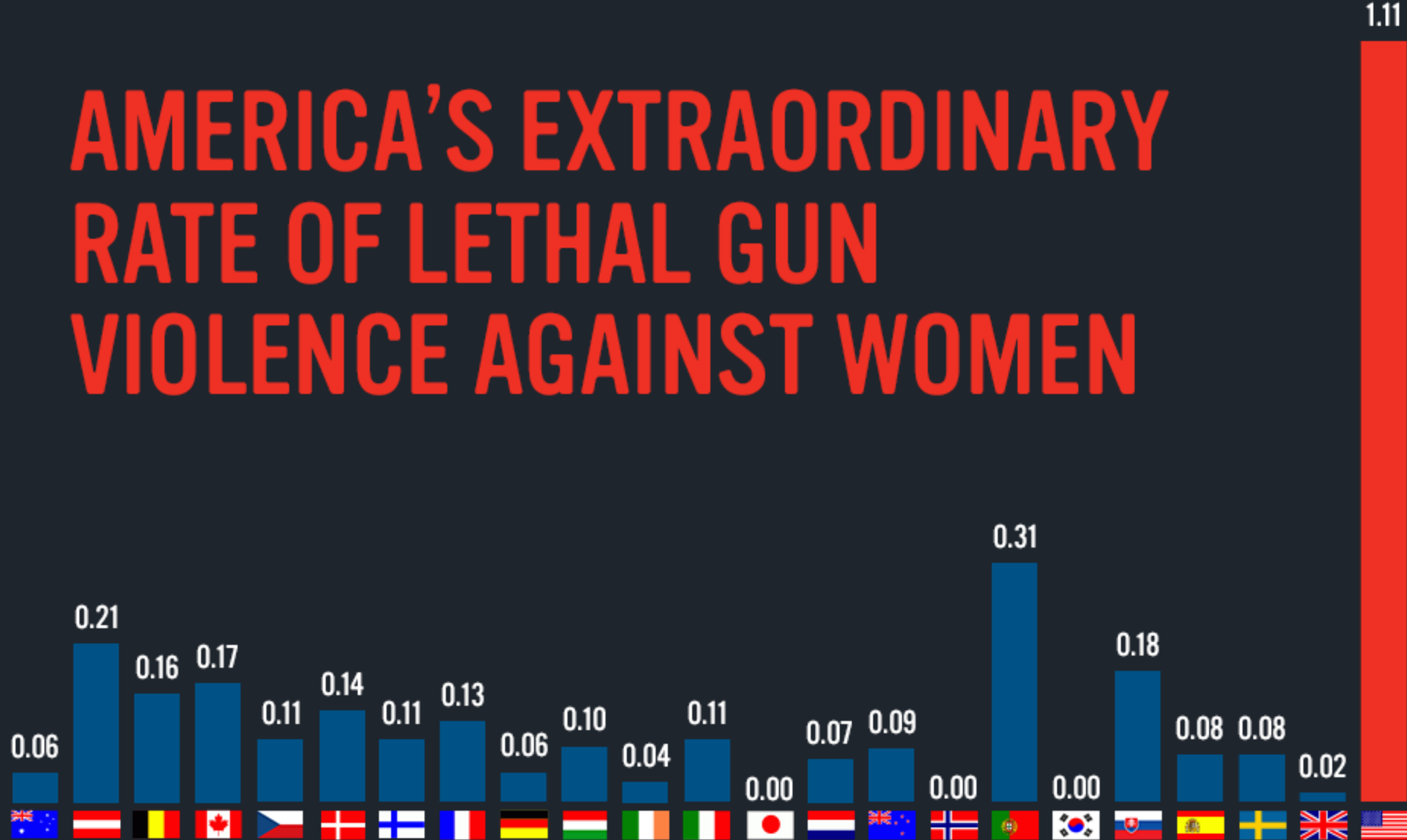


50%

**Over half of all intimate partner homicides are committed with guns**

**A woman is 5x more likely to be murdered when her abuser has access to a gun**

# AMERICA'S EXTRAORDINARY RATE OF LETHAL GUN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



8,187

# GUNS ARE THE PREFERRED MURDER WEAPON OF DOMESTIC ABUSERS

HOMICIDES OF WOMEN BY INTIMATE PARTNERS, 2000-2012

2,786

1,262

708

350

221

109

79

900



FIREARMS



KNIVES



STRANGULATION



BLUNT OBJECTS



POISONING



ASPHYXIATION



FIRE



MOTOR VEHICLES



OTHER

IN 2019, FOR EVERY **JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE**  
IN THE U.S. INVOLVING A GUN, GUNS WERE  
USED IN **30 CRIMINAL HOMICIDES**



# DV + FIREARMS

**Delaware** prohibits the purchase, ownership, possession or control of any firearm or ammunition by any person who has been convicted in any court of any misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, including:

- Any member of the victim's family
- Former spouse of the victim
- Person who co-habited with the victim at the time of the offense or within the past three years
- Person with a child in common with the victim
- Person with whome the victim had a substantive dating relationship

# DV + FIREARMS

Delaware code:

- PFA
- LVPO
- prohibits ownership for 5 years after a misdemeanor offense;  
permanently if felony
- Stalking is a felony
- Judges MAY prohibit respondents from ownership / possession during  
ex parte

# DV + FIREARMS

Delaware,  
2018 - 2020:  
24 domestic  
violence-related  
homicides;  
54% with  
a firearm.

*"We fail victims and survivors of domestic violence the moment we choose to protect abusers — and their firearms— over the people being abused. We must do more to protect individuals — the vast majority of whom are women — experiencing domestic violence. We know that **firearms are used in over 50% of intimate partner homicides**. Ensuring that domestic abusers are prohibited from purchasing and possessing firearms and ensuring that firearms are actually removed from abusers is critical to saving lives."*

**- LISA GELLER, POLICY ANALYST**

# PREVENTION POLICIES

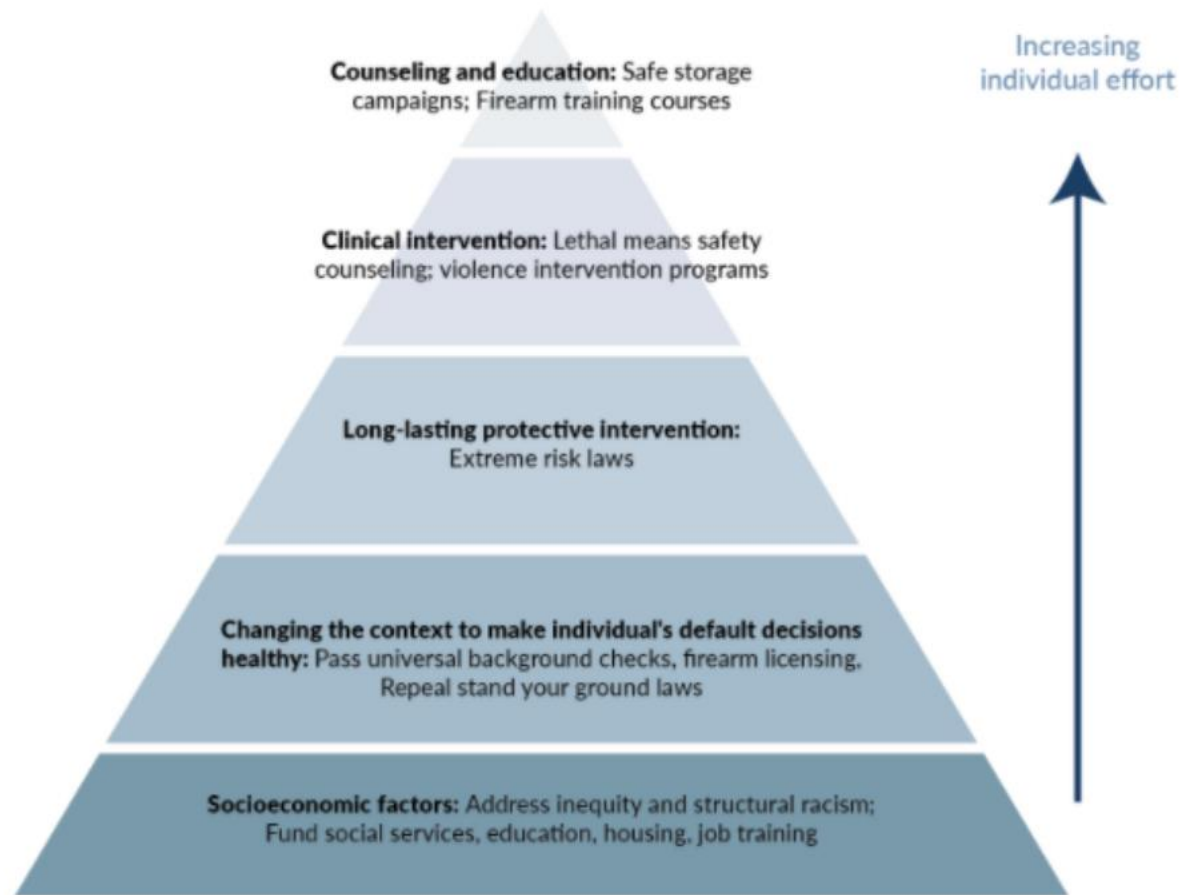
**THE WRONG HANDS:** no purchase under 21; FTAP expanded background check system; those convicted of certain crimes; domestic abusers ...

**REDUCED CAPACITY:** Delaware no longer sells assault-style weapons; limits magazine capacity; bans auto-sear converters

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** repeal of liability shield (PLCAA), harsher penalties

# PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

## Health Impact Pyramid



# PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

CIT, CORE,  
GVI, HBVI

STRUCTURAL  
EQUITY

## Health Impact Pyramid

**Counseling and education:** Safe storage campaigns; Firearm training courses

**Clinical intervention:** Lethal means safety counseling; violence intervention programs

**Long-lasting protective intervention:**  
Extreme risk laws

**Changing the context to make individual's default decisions healthy:** Pass universal background checks, firearm licensing. Repeal stand your ground laws

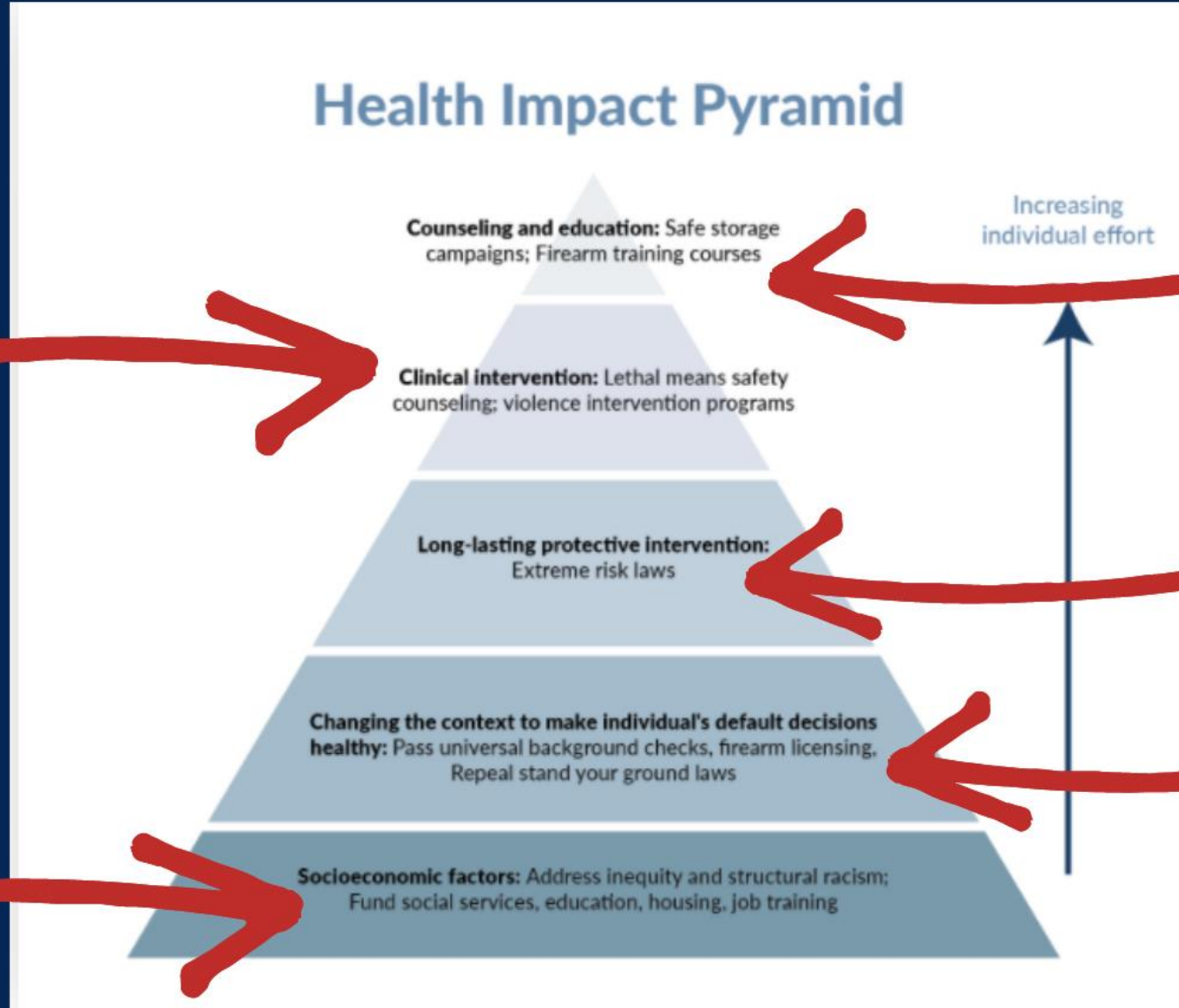
**Socioeconomic factors:** Address inequity and structural racism; Fund social services, education, housing, job training

Increasing  
individual effort

**COMMUNITY  
EDUCATION**

**STRONGER POLICIES  
THAT ADDRESS  
INDIVIDUAL RISKS**

**STRONGER POLICIES  
THAT ADDRESS  
COMMUNITY RISKS**



# PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH

## Health Impact Pyramid

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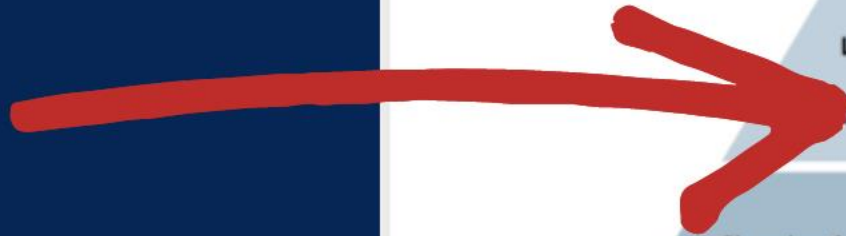
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Increasing individual effort



# EXTREME RISK LAWS

**LVPO:** Delaware's extreme risk law - called our **Lethal Violence Protection Order** - enables individuals most likely to notice warning signs of violence (family, household members, law enforcement, mental health care providers) to petition the court to remove guns from a person in crisis.

LEO may also petition for an emergency order.

# EXTREME RISK LAWS

**Most states do not provide a clear, legal authority to restrict access to guns BEFORE a tragedy occurs.**

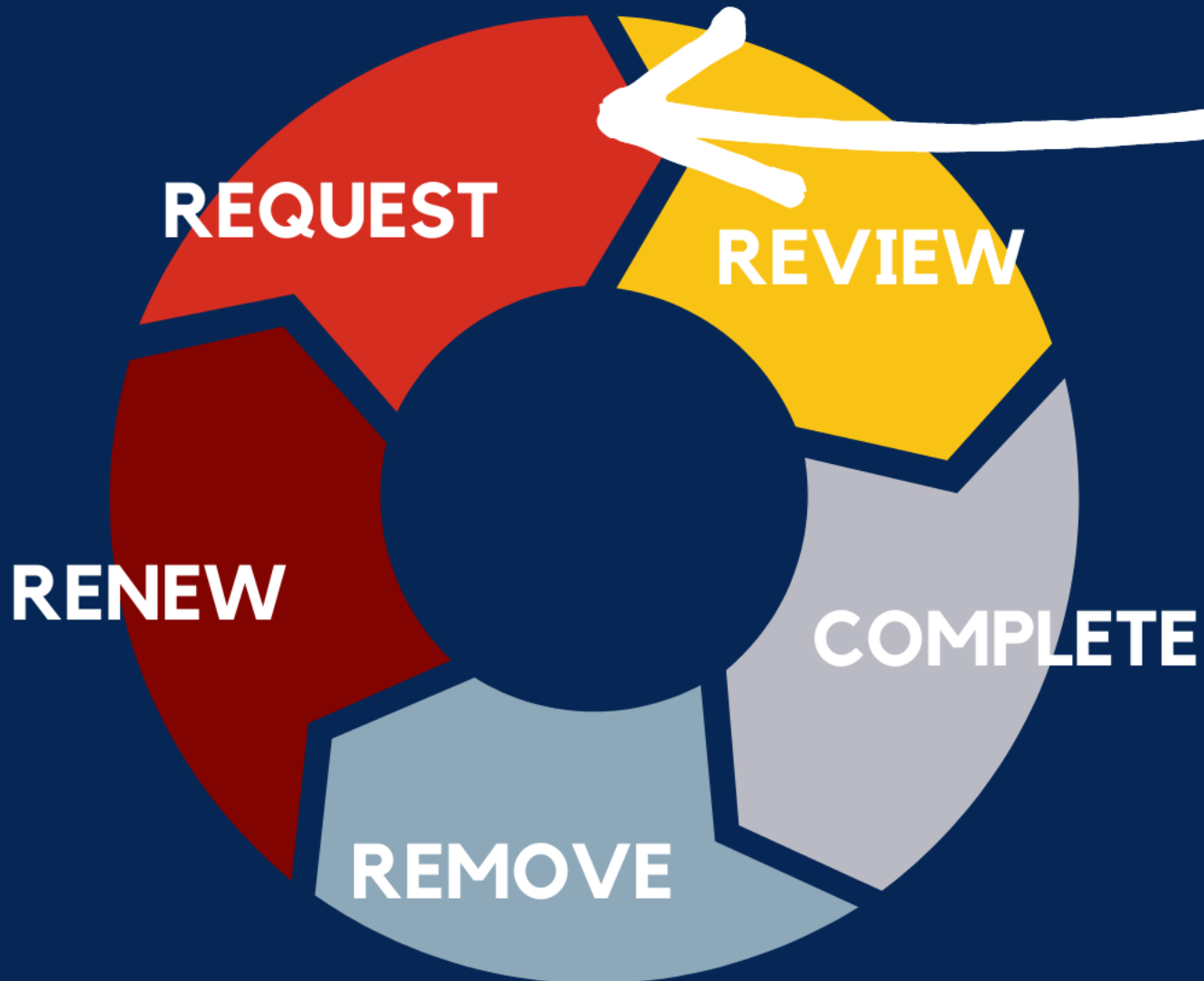
**Only 19 states and D.C. have extreme risk laws, which are civil orders designed to prevent tragedies.**

# EXTREME RISK LAWS

So, how does it work?



# EXTREME RISK LAWS



Law enforcement can request a temporary LVPO that restricts access to firearms immediately.

# COURT PROCESS

LVPO PETITION COMPLETED + FILED WITH COURT

EMERGENCY / TEMPORARY  
HEARING HELD

TEMPORARY  
LVPO ISSUED

TEMPORARY  
LVPO DECLINED

LEO SERVES THE LVPO and adds to background check data system to prevent legal purchases



FINAL  
HEARING HELD



**FINAL LVPO  
ISSUED**



**FINAL LVPO  
DECLINED**

ONE YEAR LATER: ERPO ends; if determined to be qualified, firearms are returned and NICS system updated

# **EXTREME RISK LAWS**

**FAQ:**

**Who stores the firearms?**

**How do the firearms get reissued to the owner?**

**How long does the order last? Can it be renewed?**

**Are there criminal implications?**

# **EXTREME RISK LAWS**

**But the most important  
question of all is this:**

**DO THESE LAWS WORK?**

## The red flags that preceded the murder-suicide in Bowers Beach



**Xerxes Wilson**

Delaware News Journal

Published 5:00 a.m. ET June 9, 2020 | Updated 10:21 a.m. ET July 13, 2020

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Police and doctors knew Kenneth Bowers was dangerous in the months before he shot and killed his wife, Lysandra, and himself in Bowers Beach earlier this year. The gun he used that day had been confiscated by police five months before.

<https://www.delawareonline.com/story/news/2020/06/09/red-flags-preceded-murder-suicide-bowers-beach/5011158002/>

# KNOW THE RISKS

**22% of parents who believed that their children had never handled the guns in the home were contradicted by the children themselves. Kids are curious, teens are impulsive, and it is the adults' job to protect them.**

**Even when properly stored, having a gun in the home  
DOUBLES your risk of becoming a victim of homicide and  
TRIPLES the risk of suicide.**

**WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911**

# GUN VIOLENCE IS NOT A LEFT OR RIGHT ISSUE.

## IT IS A LIFE OR DEATH ISSUE.

Store all guns  
unloaded,  
locked, and  
separate from  
ammunition.  
It's the law in  
Delaware!

Always ask about  
the presence of  
guns when your  
children are  
visiting other  
homes / vehicles.  
Asking Saves  
Lives!

If someone you love is  
showing warning signs that  
they might try to harm  
themselves, you can call  
law enforcement and  
request a lethal violence  
protection order to  
temporarily remove guns  
from the situation.

# PATHWAY TO SUCCESS

States that have the lowest rates of both suicide by gun and homicide by gun have employed the following approach:

**STRONG  
LAWS**



**WELL-FUNDED  
WELL-RUN  
INTERVENTION  
PROGRAMS**



**WELL-INFORMED  
COMMUNITY**



TOGETHER WE CAN BUILD  
A SAFER DELAWARE