**2018 RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ESTABLISH A PROCESS FOR ENFORCING FIREARM PROHIBITIONS**

A woman is **nine times** more likely to be killed by her abuser if there is a firearm in the home.¹

- State and federal law prohibit abusers from possessing ammunition and firearms, but Louisiana lacks any consistent process for enforcing these prohibitions.
- Abusers who possess guns tend to inflict the most severe abuse on their partners.¹

**Louisiana ranks 3rd in the nation** for the rate of police officers killed with handguns. Officer safety is directly tied to victim safety and the importance of early intervention and accountability for domestic violence offenders is key.²,³

- According to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, domestic violence-related calls represent the highest number of fatal calls for police officers.⁴
- Domestic violence is often an unrecognized red flag of many who murder police officers and other first responders.⁵
- In Louisiana in 2017, 1 law enforcement officer and a K-9 officer were murdered due to domestic violence and 1 law enforcement officer was injured.

**States with firearm relinquishment procedures see a 14% decrease in domestic violence homicides.⁶**
Every year in Louisiana, approximately **100 children** lose a parent to domestic homicide.

Louisiana needs at least 700 shelter beds to house the number of women and children seeking shelter. We currently have **365**.

Louisiana’s domestic violence programs are funded in part through the Department of Children and Family Services. All of the resources supporting these services are federal. **None** are state general fund dollars.

Over half of Louisiana parishes already have very limited access to domestic violence services.

A **92%** increase in the number of shelter beds would be required to meet the current demand for shelter.

From 2017-2018 Louisiana has lost **22** domestic violence shelter beds.

In 2017 **one** domestic violence shelter closed.

In 2017, LCADV member programs were unable to meet **2,057** service requests from victims due to lack of resources.

**Louisiana’s Domestic Violence Services**

- **17,000** victims served
- **69,000** shelter nights provided
- **37,000** crisis calls answered

**Louisiana Domestic Violence Fatalities**

**January-December 2017**

- **29** victims were killed by a current spouse or intimate partner
- **8** victims were either a family/friend, bystander, or a law enforcement officer
- **62** fatalities in 56 cases
- **73%** of victims were killed by firearms
- **21%** of cases involved suicides
- **3** victims were pregnant at the time of death
- **16** victims were killed by a former spouse or intimate partner
- **7** cases involved children at the scene
- **1** five year old child killed by a stray bullet

Louisiana ranks **3rd in the nation** for the rate of women murdered by men.⁷
RECOGNIZE THE DANGERS OF STRANGULATION

- Strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of violence in domestic abuse cases. Unconsciousness occurs within seconds.
- The long-term effects of strangulation are staggering: it can cause permanent brain damage, upper respiratory illness, miscarriage, heart attacks, and death, days or even weeks after the assault.
- **Almost half** of all domestic homicide victims had experienced at least one episode of attempted strangulation prior to their death. 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strangulation is one of the best predictors of domestic violence homicide.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victims of prior attempted strangulation are <strong>7 times</strong> more likely to become a homicide victim.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Studies show that **47%** of female domestic violence victims reported having been strangled. 9
- Louisiana law recognizes strangulation as a felony offense when perpetrated against a family or household member, or dating partner. However, most felony-level domestic violence offenses, including strangulation **are not** classified as crimes of violence in Louisiana law.

ABOUT LCADV

Our Mission
The Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) is a statewide network of programs, organizations, and individuals who share the goal of ending domestic violence in Louisiana. LCADV empowers its members and communities through advocacy, education, resource development, and technical assistance.

References
## Louisiana Domestic Violence Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Parishes Served</th>
<th>Office Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chez Hope</td>
<td>Assumption, St. Mary, Iberia, St. Martin</td>
<td>337.828.4200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Davis CADA</td>
<td>Jefferson Davis</td>
<td>337.616.8418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Communities Against Domestic Abuse)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DART (Domestic Abuse Resistance Team)</td>
<td>Bienville, Claiborne, Jackson, Lincoln, Union, Winn, Grant</td>
<td>318.513.9373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith House</td>
<td>Acadia, Evangeline, Lafayette, St. Landry, Vermilion, Avoyelles, Rapides</td>
<td>337.267.9422</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Haven</td>
<td>Lafourche, Terrebonne</td>
<td>985.872.0757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iris Domestic Violence Center</td>
<td>Ascension, Iberville, East Baton Rouge, West Baton Rouge, Pointe Coupee, East Feliciana, West Feliciana</td>
<td>225.389.3002</td>
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<tr>
<td>June N. Jenkins Women’s Shelter</td>
<td>Beauregard, Vernon</td>
<td>337.462.1452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro Centers for Community Advocacy</td>
<td>Jefferson, St. Charles, St. James, St. John</td>
<td>504.837.5455</td>
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<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Parishes Served</th>
<th>Office Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>New Orleans Family Justice Center</td>
<td>Orleans</td>
<td>504.866.9554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oasis, A Safe Haven</td>
<td>Allen, Calcasieu, Cameron</td>
<td>337.436.4552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safe Harbor</td>
<td>St. Tammany, Washington</td>
<td>985.626.5740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Bernard Battered Women’s Program</td>
<td>Plaquemines, St. Bernard</td>
<td>504.277.3177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAFE (Southeast Advocates for Family Empowerment)</td>
<td>Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, Washington</td>
<td>985.542.8384</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor House, Project Celebration</td>
<td>DeSoto, Sabine, Natchitoches, Bossier, Caddo, Red River, Webster</td>
<td>318.256.3408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Wellspring Alliance for Families</td>
<td>Caldwell, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Madison, Richland, Tensas, West Carroll, LaSalle, Concordia, Catahoula</td>
<td>318.651.9314</td>
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</tbody>
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