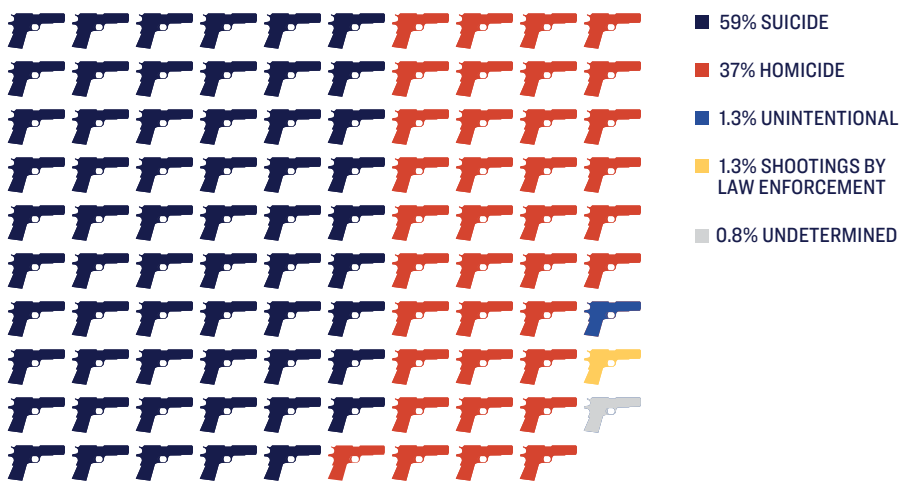


FACTS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

The United States is in the grip of a gun violence crisis that impacts every community across the country. **Our nation's high rate of gun violence can be reduced, but because of weak gun laws riddled with loopholes, dangerous people like convicted felons and domestic abusers still have easy access to deadly weapons.** By enacting strong gun safety laws—policies that enjoy broad support from a majority of Americans—we can fill these dangerous gaps and save lives.

GUN DEATH BREAKDOWN

38,658 Americans died from gun violence in 2016, with many more suffering debilitating injuries. Nearly 60% of all gun deaths are suicides. The majority of homicides can be attributed to urban gun violence and domestic gun violence.¹



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210+

lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.²

115,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.³

95%

of Americans support universal background checks, one of the most effective tools we have to ensure that guns do not fall into dangerous hands, preventing deadly shootings and saving lives.⁴

AMERICA HAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF GUN VIOLENCE

Over 14,000 Americans were murdered with guns in 2016⁵—a rate nearly 25 times higher than in peer countries.⁶

Women in the United States are 16 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in peer countries.⁷

Americans are eight times more likely to die by **suicide** using a gun than in peer countries.⁸

Young Americans ages 15 to 19 are 82 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than in peer countries.⁹

HISTORICAL TRENDS

The overall gun death rate has remained relatively constant for more than a decade, with decreases in gun homicides offset by increases in gun suicides. But that is starting to change.

- In recent years, the gun death rate has begun to rise—gun deaths increased by 7.9% from 2014 to 2015 and 6.6% from 2015 to 2016, making 2016 the deadliest year since 1993.¹⁰
- Nonfatal firearm injuries are also on the rise—in 2010, there were 73,505 nonfatal firearm injuries. That number climbed more than 15% in 2015, to 84,997.¹¹
- National gun violence rates obscure the true levels of violence in certain locations, particularly underserved urban communities.

THE ECONOMIC COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

Gun violence has an outsized economic impact on American taxpayers beyond the devastating human toll it wreaks on society.

- Researchers estimate that gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion every year, including \$8.6 billion in direct expenses.¹²
- Gun violence costs each American taxpayer roughly \$700 every year.¹³

SUICIDE & GUNS

The majority of gun deaths are self-inflicted. The easy availability of firearms to those in distress makes suicide attempts far more likely to result in death.

- Over 50% of all suicides in the United States are carried out with a firearm.¹⁴
- White males, 40% of the population, account for nearly 80% of gun suicides.¹⁵
- A study of California handgun purchasers found that in the first year after buying a gun, suicide was the leading cause of death among the purchasers.¹⁶

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

The gun epidemic has hit underserved communities of color particularly hard—gun homicide rates in these neighborhoods have reached a crisis point.

- The murder rate among young black male Americans is close to 90 homicides per 100,000 people—nearly 20 times the national average.¹⁷
- Black Americans comprise just 13% of the United States population, but constitute more than 50% of all firearm homicides.¹⁸

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The presence of a gun can turn already perilous domestic violence situations fatal. Deaths from domestic violence incidents in the United States have reached warzone proportions.

- Of the 1,352 intimate partner homicides in 2015, 55% were committed with firearms.¹⁹
- Abused women are five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser has access to a gun.²⁰

KIDS & GUNS

Unsecured guns pose a special risk to children—kids as young as three years old are strong enough to pull a trigger.²¹

- A total of 915 children under the age of 18 died from unintentional gunshot wounds between 2007 and 2016.²²
- More than 75% of guns used in suicide attempts of children and teens were stored in the residence of the victim, a relative, or a friend.²³

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For more details and underlying research, visit giffordslawcenter.org/stats

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GUN LAW SCORECARD

Year after year, our data shows the same thing: comprehensive gun safety laws lead to fewer gun deaths and injuries.

SEE HOW YOUR STATE'S GUN LAWS STACK UP:

gunlawscorecard.org

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For nearly 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

CONTACT US

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FACTS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE CITATIONS

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