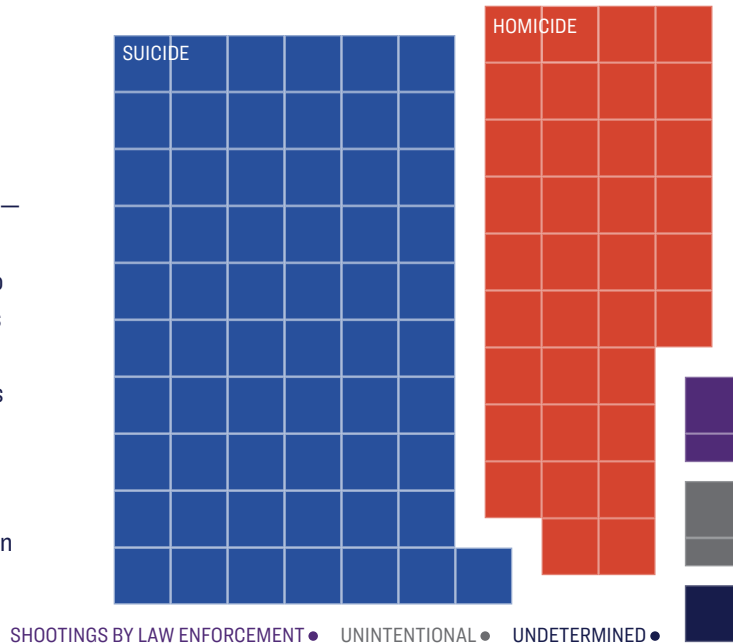


FACTS ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE

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 shootings can be reduced, but because of weak gun laws riddled with loopholes, too many dangerous people 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.

ON AVERAGE, 100 AMERICANS ARE KILLED BY GUNS EVERY DAY

Gun violence takes an enormous toll on our country. 36,000 Americans are killed by guns each year—an average of 100 per day—and 100,000 are shot and injured. Nearly two thirds of all gun deaths are gun suicides, and one third of gun deaths are gun homicides. Other types of fatal shootings comprise a small percentage of gun deaths.¹



280+

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

136,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.²

97%

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.³

AMERICA HAS EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH RATES OF GUN VIOLENCE

Americans are **25 times more likely** to be killed in a gun homicide than residents of other high-income countries.⁴

Women in the United States are **21 times more likely** to be murdered with a gun than women in peer countries.⁵

Americans are **ten times more likely** to die by gun suicide than people in peer countries.⁶

Across 29 high-income countries, **93% of children** ages 0 to 14 years killed with guns are from the United States.⁷

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HISTORICAL TRENDS

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

- In 2017, gun deaths reached their highest level in at least 40 years, with 39,773 deaths that year alone.⁸ Gun deaths increased by 16% from 2014 to 2017. Nonfatal firearm injuries are also on the rise.⁹
- National gun violence rates obscure the true levels of violence in certain places, particularly in underserved communities of color.

THE ECONOMIC COST OF GUN VIOLENCE

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

- Economists estimate that gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion every year, including \$8.6 billion in direct expenses.¹⁰
- Gun violence costs each American roughly \$700 every year.¹¹

SUICIDE AND 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.

- More than half of all suicides in the United States are carried out with a firearm.¹²
- White men comprise 74% of gun suicide victims.¹³ Gun suicides also have a disproportionate impact on young adults, older Americans, and veterans.¹⁴
- Access to a gun triples the risk of suicide death.¹⁵ As such, gun suicides tend to concentrate in states with higher rates of firearm ownership and broad firearm access.¹⁶

URBAN GUN VIOLENCE

The gun violence epidemic hits underserved communities of color particularly hard. Gun homicide rates in these neighborhoods have reached a crisis point.

- Gun homicides are concentrated in cities, and within cities, gun violence is further clustered among racially segregated, economically disenfranchised neighborhoods.¹⁷
- Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.¹⁸

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

For the millions of American women and their children affected by domestic violence every year, guns in the hands of domestic abusers pose a serious and lethal threat.

- Each year, 600 women in America are shot and killed by an intimate partner,¹⁹ and millions of women have been nonfatally shot or threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.²⁰
- When an abuser has access to a gun, a domestic violence victim is five times more likely to be killed.²¹

KIDS AND GUNS

Beyond the young lives cut short and debilitating injuries, exposure to gun violence can cause lasting trauma, psychological distress, and decreased potential among children.

- Each year, nearly 1,500 minors are killed by guns,²² and three million children are directly exposed to gun violence.²³
- Young children are most affected by gun homicides in the home—often related to domestic or family violence.²⁴ Older children are at increased risk of gun suicide and gun homicides in their neighborhoods and communities.²⁵

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

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GUN LAW SCORECARD

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

SEE HOW YOUR STATE'S GUN LAWS STACK UP:

gunlawscorecard.org

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For 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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