

Facts About Gun Violence in the United States

U.S. Statistics on Gun Deaths & Injuries

- Guns took the lives of 31,076 Americans in homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings, in 2010. This is the equivalent of more than **85 deaths each day** and more than **3 deaths each hour**.¹
- Americans were treated in hospital emergency departments for 73,505 non-fatal gunshot wounds in 2010.²
- Firearms were the **3rd leading cause of injury-related deaths** nationwide in 2010, following poisoning and motor vehicle accidents.³
- Between 1955 and 1975, the Vietnam War killed over 58,000 American soldiers – less than the number of civilians killed with guns in the U.S. in an average 2-year period.⁴
- In the first seven years of the U.S.-Iraq War, over 4,400 American soldiers were killed; *every seven weeks* almost as many civilians are killed with guns in the U.S.⁵
- Research published in the New England Journal of Medicine found that living in a home where guns are kept increased an individual's risk of death by homicide by between 40 and 170%.⁶
- Researchers conservatively estimate that gun violence costs the American economy at least \$229 billion every year, including \$8.6 billion in direct expenses such as for emergency and medical care.⁷
- Gun violence costs more than \$700 per American every year, more than the total economic cost of obesity and almost as much as the annual price tag for the entire Medicaid program.⁸

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
<http://lawcenter.giffords.org/facts/statistics/>

Gun Violence Takes a Massive Toll on American Children

- Every day an average of 7 children and teens under the age of 20 are killed by guns.⁹
- American children die by guns 11 times as often as children in other high-income countries.¹⁰
- Youth (ages 0 to 19) in the most rural U.S. counties are as likely to die from a gunshot as those living in the most urban counties. Rural children die of more gun suicides and unintentional shooting deaths. Urban children die more often of gun homicides.¹¹
- Firearm homicide is the 2nd leading cause of death (after motor vehicle crashes) for young people ages 1-19 in the U.S.¹²

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence
<http://www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics>

66% of American voters Support Stricter Gun Laws, Highest Levels Measured¹³

- American voters support stricter gun laws 66 percent, the highest level of support ever measured by the independent Quinnipiac University National Poll, with 50% support among gun owners and 62% support from white voters with no college degree and 58% support among white men.
- Support for universal background checks is itself almost universal, 97%, including 97% among gun owners.
- 67% support for a nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons.
- 83% support mandatory waiting period for all gun purchases.
- 75% of voters say Congress needs to do more to reduce gun violence.

U.S. Support For Gun Control Tops 2-1
Quinnipiac University Poll, 2/20/2018
<https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2521>

Endnotes:

1. Nat'l Ctr. for Injury Prevention & Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-Based Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System (WISQARS) Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2010, for National, Regional, and States* (Dec. 2012), http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/dataRestriction_inj.html (hereinafter *WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2010*. Note: Users must agree to data use restrictions on the CDC site prior to accessing data).
2. Nat'l Ctr. for Injury Prevention & Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-Based Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports*, at <http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html> (last visited Nov. 20, 2012) (hereinafter *WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports*).
3. Nat'l Ctr. for Injury Prevention and Control, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Web-Based Injury Statistics Query & Reporting System (WISQARS) Leading Causes of Death Reports, 1999-2010, for National, Regional, and States (RESTRICTED)*, at http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/leading_causes_death.html (last visited Nov. 30, 2012).
4. U.S. Department of Defense, Statistical Information Analysis Division, Personnel & Military Casualty Statistics, *U.S. Military Casualties in Southeast Asia: Vietnam Conflict – Casualty Summary As of May 16, 2008*, at <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/vietnam.pdf> (last visited Feb. 10, 2012); *WISQARS Injury Mortality Reports, 1999-2010*, *supra* note 1.
5. U.S. Department of Defense, *Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) U.S. Casualty Status, Fatalities as of: March 12, 2012, 10 a.m. EST*, at <http://www.defense.gov/news/casualty.pdf> (last visited Feb. 10, 2012); *WISQARS Injury Mortality Rept, 1999-2010*, *supra* note 1.
6. Garen J. Wintemute, *Guns, Fear, the Constitution, and the Public's Health*, 358 *New England J. Med.* 1421-1424 (Apr. 2008)
7. Matthew Miller, Deborah Azrael & David Hemenway, *Rates of Household Firearm Ownership and Homicide Across US Regions and States, 1988-1997*, 92 *Am. J. Pub. Health* 1988 (2002).
8. *The Brady Center averaged the most recent five years of complete data from death certificates (2011-2015) and estimates of emergency room admissions (2010-2014) available via CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System, www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/. Data retrieved 1.3.17 and 4.29.16 respectively. Numbers may not sum to 100% because of rounding of CDC averages. www.bradycampaign.org/key-gun-violence-statistics*
9. Matthew Miller, Deborah Azrael & David Hemenway, *Rates of Household Firearm Ownership and Homicide Across US Regions and States, 1988-1997*, 92 *Am. J. Pub. Health* 1988 (2002).
10. Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway, "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, published online ahead of print, June 2010, p. 1
11. Nance, Michael L., et al, "Variation in Pediatric and Adolescent Firearm Mortality Rates in Rural and Urban U.S. Counties," *Pediatrics* 125(6) June 2010: 1112-1118
12. Children's Defense Fund, *Protect Children Not Guns 2010*, September 2010
13. U.S. Support For Gun Control Tops 2-1, Quinnipiac University Poll, 2/20/2018 <https://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2521>