

FACT SHEET 2018

By the Numbers

Facts matter. That's why knowing the facts about gun violence is so important as we **educate** ourselves and others about its impact, **advocate** for common sense gun laws and **participate** in programs that make our communities safer for everyone, including our children and grandchildren. Consider:

The impact of guns in the U.S.

- Every year 100,000 people in America are shot; 38,000 of them die, 104 people every day.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Of those 38,000 gun-related deaths, 62% are suicides (about 23,500), 35% are homicides (about 13,300) and 3% to 4% are accidental shootings (about 1,200).
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Americans own 265 million firearms, a number steadily rising the past 20 years.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Guns are the 3rd leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide behind poisoning and motor vehicle accidents.
Source: The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

The impact of guns on children in U.S. homes

- 1.7 million children live in homes with at least one loaded, unlocked gun.
Source: The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- Every day 19 children ages 17 and younger are shot; 7 die from their injuries.
Source: Pediatrics Journal
- At least once a week a toddler shoots a gun, killing or injuring someone.
Source: Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)
- Children are more likely to be killed by a gun in their own home than anywhere else.
Source: The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- Firearms are the second leading cause of injury-related deaths in children 17 and younger. Only motor vehicle accidents kill more children.
Source: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
- A gun in the home is 22 times more likely to kill or injure someone in a domestic dispute, suicide or accidental shooting than it is to be used in self-defense.
Source: The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence

The impact of guns on public health & safety in the U.S.

- Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal 80% of the time.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- From 2013 through 2017, there were 290 shootings in schools or on college campuses involving fatal & non-fatal assaults, suicides and unintentional shootings, about one every week.
Source: Everytown For Gun Safety
- Most school shootings occur with a gun belonging to someone in the family, usually a parent.
Source: Law Center for the Prevention of Gun Violence
- Only about 4% of gun deaths result from mental health issues.
Source: The New York Times
- Of the 50 states, Missouri ranks #15 and Kansas #18 in levels of gun violence.
Source: The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- In 2015, Missouri ranked #2 in the nation for unintentional shootings of and by children.
Source: The Washington Post

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The impact of strong gun laws in the U.S.

- Since 1993, background checks have blocked the sale of 3 million guns to prohibited buyers.
Source: The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- In states with mandatory background checks for all gun purchases, suicides and gun-related deaths declined by 49%.
Source: The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- The current background check system applies only to about 60% of gun sales, leaving 40% of gun sales (online and gun shows) with no background checks.
Source: The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- 90% of Americans and 74% of NRA members support background checks for all gun purchases.
Source: The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- Kansas & Missouri tied for 48th place in ranking the strength of gun laws in the 50 states.
Source: The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

The U.S compared to other countries

- America's gun homicide rate is 25 times the average of other high-income nations.
Source: Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)
- American children are 12 times more likely to be killed by a gun than children in other countries.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- Being killed by a gun in Japan is as likely as being killed by lightning in the U.S., roughly one in a million.
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- In 2008, civilians in the U.S. had 88 firearms per 100 people; Japan had less than 1 gun per 100.
Source: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



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