

# FACTS MATTER

## 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.

### The impact of guns in the U.S.

1. In 2018, 158,581 people in America are shot and 39,773 die; 109 every day.
2. Of the 39,773 deaths, one third are murders, two thirds are suicides or accidental shootings.
3. Americans own 265 million firearms.
4. Guns are the 3rd leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide.
5. Only 4% of gun deaths result from mental health issues.
6. 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.
7. Suicide attempts using a gun are fatal 82.5% of the time; more use a firearm (52%) to complete a suicide than every other method combined.
8. From 2013 through 2017, there were 290 shooting incidents in/at schools or colleges.
9. Most school shootings occur with a gun belonging to a parent or family member.
10. 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.

Sources: 1,2,3) Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)  
4) The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence  
5) The New York Times  
6) Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence  
7) Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
8) Everytown for Gun Safety  
9) Law Center for the Prevention of Gun Violence  
10) The True Cost of Gun Violence in America (2015) Mother Jones

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

1. 4.5 million children live in homes with at least one loaded, unlocked gun.
2. At least once a week a toddler shoots a gun, killing or injuring someone.
3. In 2015, Missouri ranked #2 in the nation for unintentional shootings of and by children.
4. For every child that dies of cancer, two die from firearms.
5. Every day 21 children ages 1-17 are shot in the US; 4 die.
6. Firearms are the second leading cause of death for children and teens.
7. Children are more likely to be killed by a gun in their own home than anywhere else.
8. 1,814 children under the age of 17 died from gunshot wounds in 2017; 5 children every day.
9. 7,854 children under the age of 17 were injured by a firearm in 2017; (22 every day.)

Sources: 1) NY School of Medicine  
2) Journal of the American Medical Association  
3) The Washington Post  
4) TheTrace.org (Univ. of Michigan cited)  
5,7) The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence  
6, 8,9) CDC

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

1. Since 1993, background checks have blocked the sale of 3 million guns to prohibited buyers.
2. In states with mandatory background checks for all gun purchases, suicides and gun-related deaths declined by 49%.
3. 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.
4. 90% of Americans and 74% of NRA members support background checks for all gun purchases.

Sources: 1,2,4) *The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence*

3) *The Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence*

### The U.S compared to other countries

1. Americans are 25x more likely to be killed with a gun than people in other developed nations.
2. American children ages 5-21 are 22x more likely to be killed by a gun than in other high-income countries.
3. Being killed by a gun in Japan is as likely as being killed by lightning; roughly one in a million.
4. In 2008, civilians in the U.S. had 88 firearms/100 people; Japan had less than 1 gun per 100.

Sources: 1) *The Guardian, 10/3/17*

2) *Preventive Medicine*

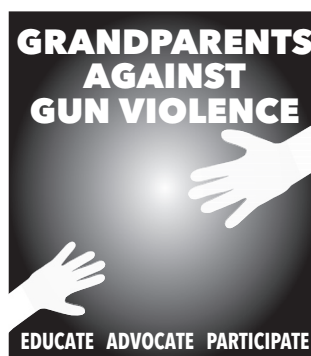
3, 4) *CDC*

### Guns in Kansas and Missouri

1. Kansas & Missouri tied for 48th place in ranking the strength of gun laws in the 50 states.
2. Of the 50 states, Missouri ranks #15 and Kansas #18 in levels of gun violence.
3. *Guns & Ammo Magazine* ranks Kansas as the 4th best state for gun owners in 2018. Missouri ranks 11th.

Sources: 1, 2) *The Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence*

3) *Guns & Ammo online*



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