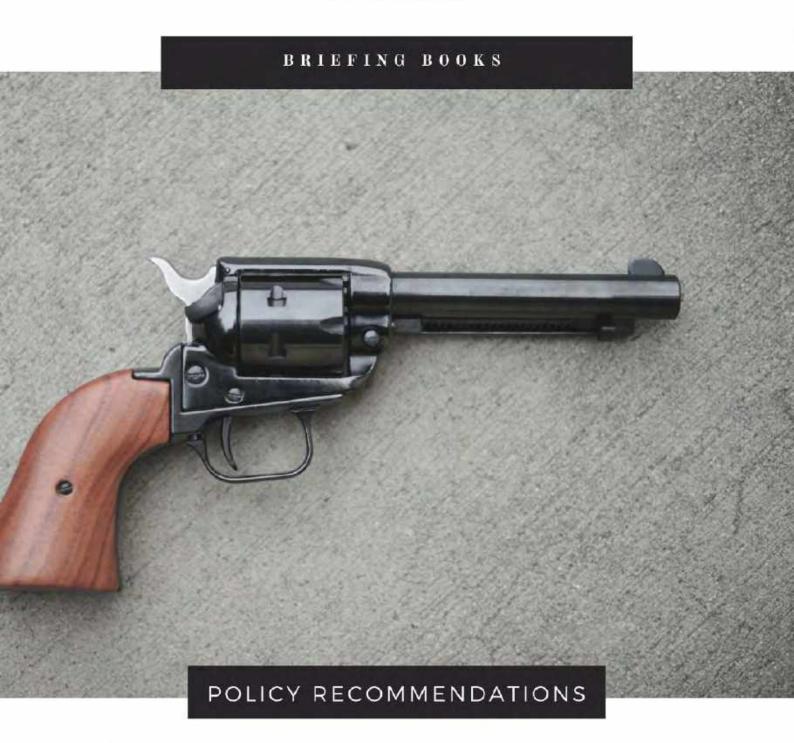
ABCT.ORG · NOVEMBER ·2021

gun violence

IN AMERICA



Unbiased information on the contributing factors to gun violence in America.

ABCT.ORG · NOVEMBER ·2021

Public Education and Media Dissemination

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Briefing

Books

The Briefing Books project provides journalists and members of the public with accessible & evidence-based information. PEMD The committee is responsible for all ABCT outreach to public and journalists. About

ABCT

ABCT is a multidisciplinary organization committed to the enhancement of health and well-being by advancing the scientific understanding, assessment, prevention, and treatment of the human condition.

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Book

Contributors

Range of contributors with expertise in the fields of community violence, police brutality, trauma, and racial inequalities, in addition to research expertise on gun violence, suicide, and mass shootings. Editor's

Welcome

Discussion of the civil unrest and increase in gun violence making headlines in America in the context of political, social, and racial tensions that have recently been amplified, and what experts have to say on the topic.

Briefing Books | Gun Violence in America



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The exposure of children and teens to news headlines of gun and community violence, especially before they are ready to process and understand it, may have negative health consequences.

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Suicide is a leading cause of death across the world and in the US. Firearms are by far the most lethal method for suicide, with almost certain fatality, while all other methods combined are seldom fatal.

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A personal account of the mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh in October 2018. The discovery of hope in the face of tragedy and a community coming together during a difficult time.

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RESEARCH AND DATA DRIVEN APPROACH TO MITIGATE DEATH BY FIREARM

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ABCT

ABCT has a list of speakers and subject matter experts on topics such as PTSD, anxiety, suicide, and more. Details are available on the website or by contacting the ABCT Press Office.

Additional

Resources

Suggested additional resources on gunviolence, independent sources of evidence based information on factors that contribute to gam violence, and organizations that offer support to anyone affected by gun violence.

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Gun Violence Statistics

The CDC's 2021 report and statistics on gun violence in association with the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence (CSGV) and the Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV),

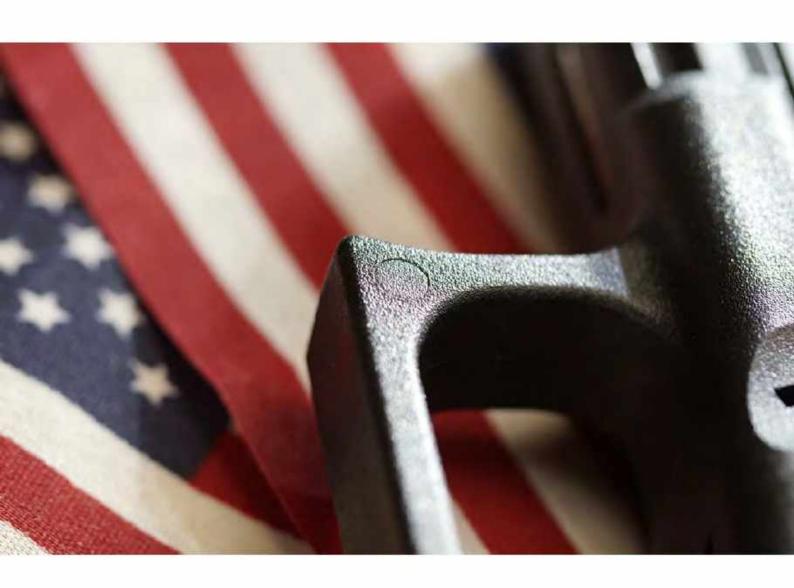
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References used by contributors in each section of the Briefing Book are included. Additional reading or relevant materials are also included for academic and non-academic



GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

BRIEFING BOOKS

ABCT IS DEDICATED TO BRIDGING COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SCIENTIFIC AND CLINICAL MEMBERS AND THE MEDIA AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC.



PEMD

Public Education and Media Dissemination

The Briefing Books initiative is the brainchild of David Teisler, CAE, Director of Communications & Deputy Director at ABCT, and Emily L. Bilek, Ph.D., ABPP, of the Public Education and Media Dissemination (PEMD) committee

The Briefing Books project provides journalists and members of the public with accessible & evidence-based information. PEMD The committee is responsible for all ABCT outreach to public and journalists.

In addition, it coordinates projects with the Publications Committee and handles press relations for ABCT.

The driving force behind Briefing Books was the desire to provide resources for media and the public who want quick access to materials that explain surrounding evidence-based treatments for recommendations relating to major topics of mental health.

SHOULDN'T HURT

BRIEFING BOOKS

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

ABOUT

A premier organization for everything CBT 65 years of evidence-based research and practice. Welcome to the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT). ABCT and its members strived to alleviate human suffering through the application of scientific principles.

The Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) is a multidisciplinary organization committed to the enhancement of health and well-being by advancing the scientific understanding, assessment, prevention,

and treatment of human problems through the global application of behavioral, cognitive, and biological evidence-based principles.

ABCT is committed to a policy of equal opportunity in all its activities, including employment. ABCT does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, religion, national or ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, or veteran status.





- responding to media inquiries about CBT-related topics by connecting interested journalists, writers, and producers with relevant ABCT experts.
- develop initiatives to assist ABCT members in communicating with the public about science and evidence-based practice. Possible video.
- develop resources to help communicate with the media for ABCT members, journalists, and the public at large offer compendiums of relevant resources ('Briefing Books') that provide information about the current science presented in layman's terms.

STOP

RACISM

BRIEFING BOOKS





BRIEFING BOOK CONTRIBUTORS

Gun Violence Contributors

Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) would like to thank our dedicated contributors without whom this project could not have happened. Our organization is strengthened by your contribution and commitment to supporting our mission and vision.

The wider community benefits daily from your efforts to support evidence-based research and your commitment to those in your care.

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Gun Violence in America



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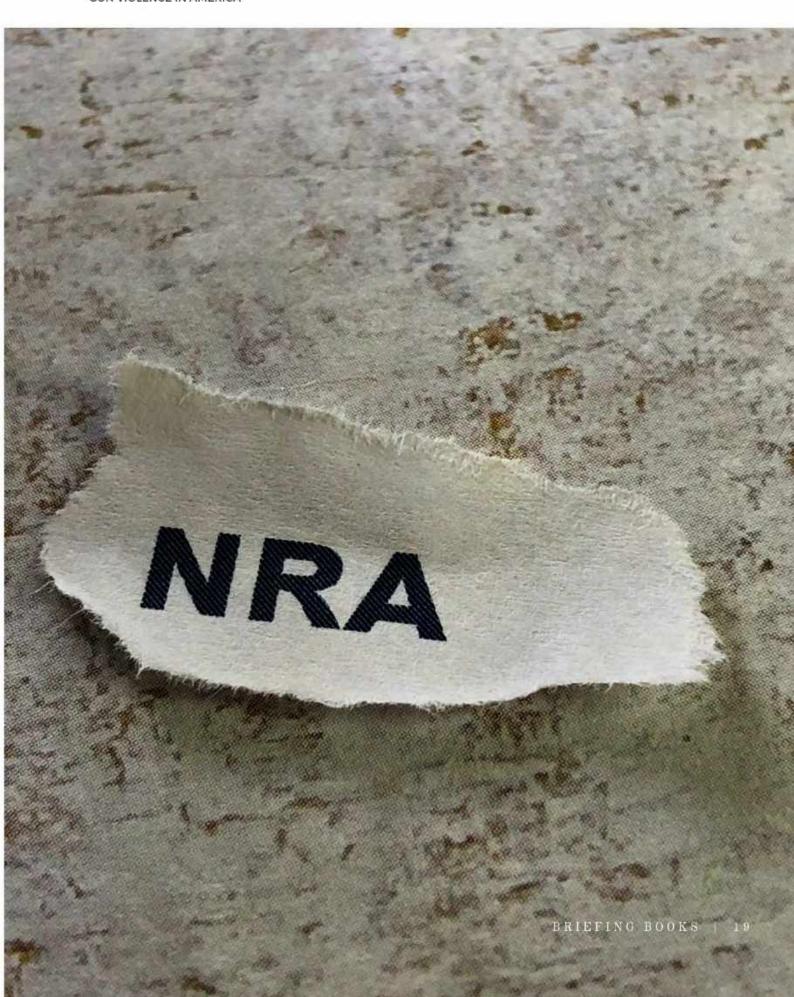
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COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE



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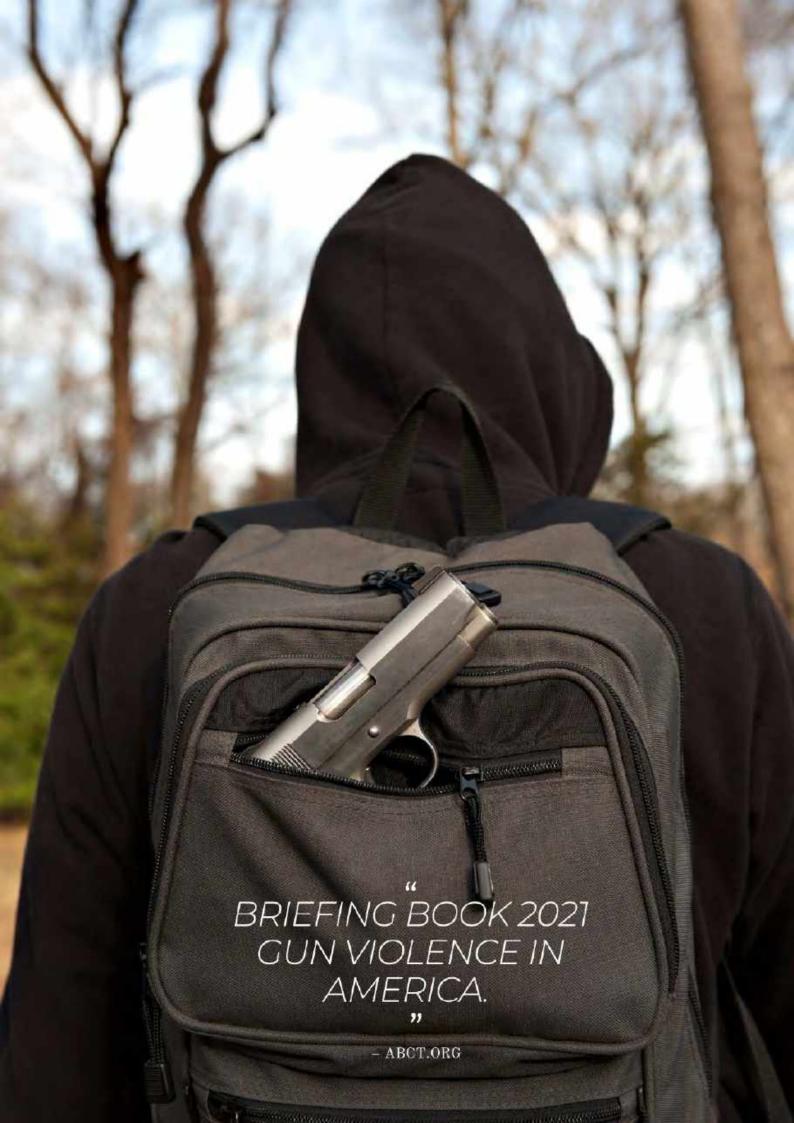
DYING OF WHITENESS



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BRIEFING BOOKS

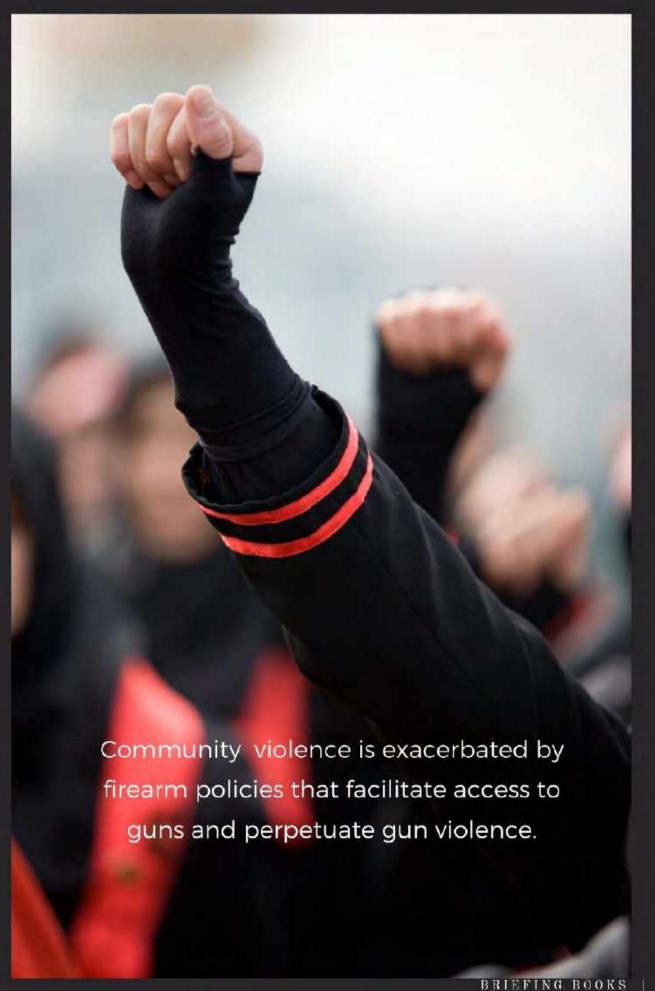
GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2021 edition of the Briefing Books (BB) initiative. The BB initiative is an effort by the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) to provide easily accessible information on a range of temporally sensitive topics that affect everyone.

Following on from our 2020 edition on Suicide Across the Lifespan, this year we are exploring another emotive and sensitive topic - gun violence.

ABCT will look to add additional topics in the coming months and years on topics that are of interest to our community.





$EDITOR'S \ NOTE$

Our second Briefing Book is being released at a time when our communities continue to experience unprecedented turmoil. The global coronavirus persists, and although the availability of vaccination has enabled many restrictions that were in place in 2020 to be lifted, all Americans are trying to make sense of the amplified political, economic, social, and racial tensions of the last few years.

Underfunded schools, cuts in healthcare, social and economic inequalities, paired with discriminatory policies, exclusionary social zoning, and financial redlining, have created a perfect storm for civil unrest and violence.

The violence is exacerbated by firearm policies that facilitate access to guns and perpetuate gun violence.

Regrettably every year thousands of Americans die from firearms, be it through suicide, police brutality, or the headlinegrabbing mass shootings including the Tree of Life synagogue on my birthday in 2018.

As a mother, the statistics that every day 50 American children aged 0 to 17 years are shot with a firearm and that every 2 hours and 36 minutes a child dies, is heartbreaking.

The wide spread nature of gun violence, and the urgent need for unbiased information on the contributing, exacerbating, and perpetuating factors for gun violence, we decided to devote the topic of our 2021 Briefing Books series to gun violence in America.



Editor
Briefing Books





PRO-GUN ATTITUDE AND LACK OF GOVERNMENT MANDATES ON BACKGROUND CHECKS, GUN SAFES, AND TRIGGER LOCKS.

DYING OF WHITENESS

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DYING OF WHITENESS

GUN REGULATION
POLITICALLY SENSITIVE
TOPIC

Gun regulation is such a politically sensitive question in the United States that there has long been a congressional ban on funding for research on the health impact of firearms. Despite these limitations, what seems clear is that a proliferation of guns often impacts minority populations first and most severely. Research has shown that gun and health insurance policies affect health and mortality rates far more directly than taxation or education spending policies do.

Furthermore, researchers are gaining a greater understanding of the relationship between accessibility to guns, death by suicide, and high-profile mass shootings linked to gun policies (or lack thereof) enacted by conservative White politicians.

How people reconcile anti-government or pro-gun attitudes while at the same time dealing with the impact of poor health care, widening gun-related morbidity, and underfunded public infrastructures and institutions is a complex question with a multi-faceted answer. Grieving White mothers of gun suicide victims believe guns represented "our way of life," while at the same time lamenting that local governments did not mandate background checks, gun safes, and trigger locks.

CONGRESSIONAL BAN ON FUNDING FOR RESEARCH ON THE HEALTH IMPACT OF FIREARMS



PRO-GUN ATTITUDES

Fears for personal safety in the context of lowest crime rates in decades

While White gun suicides skyrocketed between the late 1990s and the mid-2010s, this same period saw one of the more dramatic drops in firearm homicide rates in modern memory.

Yet, many US citizens are concerned about safety, protection, intruders, and terrorism, and welcome increased availability of firearms.

Americans report appreciating the ability to always protect themselves against possible threats equating gun ownership with freedom, liberty, and patriotism.

A 2017 national survey by the Pew Research Center reported that 67% of US gun owners cited "protection" as their primary reason for owning a gun, compared to 38% claiming that they used guns for "hunting." These numbers represented inversions of 1999 survey results when 49% of gun owners cited hunting as the reason for owning a gun while just 26% said they owned a gun for protection.

Several explanations can be made for Americans' increase in concerns for their safety, but reductions to police funding and infrastructure are a likely contributor to the perceived sense of needing to self-protect.

Pew's findings indicate that an equal number of Americans are fearful and feel intimidated by 'open carry' legislation, scared to bring kids to shops, concerned about work colleagues bringing guns to work, and the disparities between the acceptance of White and non-White Americans carrying guns, especially White citizens brandishing guns in mixed-race settings and the sense that guns that are oppressing communities of color.









NATIONALISM POLITICS & RACE

LOCAL AND NATIONAL POLITICS THAT CLAIMED TO MAKE AMERICA GREAT (AND WHITE) AGAIN

 Λ host of complex anxieties prompt increasing numbers of White Λ mericans to support rightwing politicians and policies, even when these policies harm White Λ mericans at growing rates.

Local and national politics that claimed to make America great again—and, tacitly, White again.

Research by Pew in 2021, reported that 32% of Americans aged 65 and older reported that the decline in the number of Americans identifying as White is bad for society.

American notions of Whiteness—notions shaped by politics and policies as well as by institutions, history, media, economics, and personal identities—threaten White well-being.

White backlash politics gave certain White populations the sensation of winning, particularly by upending the gains of minorities and liberals.

For nearly two centuries, gun ownership was a privilege afforded mainly to White citizens and guns became particular symbols as a result.

WHITE PRIVILEGE

The premise of White identity, not just from thoughts and actions but also from politics. Intrinsic belief in a racial hierarchy that overtly and implicitly aimed to keep white Americans hovering above Mexicans, welfare queens, and other nonwhites. White benefit not profiled by police nor subject to arrest and incarceration by ICE agents.

WHITE FEARS

Research has shown the emotionally and historically charged notions that White Americans should remain atop other racial or ethnic groups in the US social hierarchy, or that White "status" was at risk. Anxieties about White "victimhood and ways of life" in relation to imagined threats posed by "Mexicans and welfare queens." Concerns about minorities or poor people hoarding resources, and refusing scenarios in which diversity or equity might better the flourishing of everyone.

Surveys of US public opinion suggest that many Americans remain largely unaware of the prevalence of White gun suicide—or the links between gun ownership and gun suicide at all. A 2017 survey found that "fewer than 10% of gun owners with children (or gun owners who had received firearm training) agreed that household firearms increase suicide risk."

Research into attitudes of White Americans towards guns appears to be influenced by illogical racial biases predicated on fear of violence or crime from African Americans.

According to research by Pew, 56% of Americans believe gun crime is higher than 20 years ago and only 12% think it is lower.

WHITE RESENTMENT

Prior research has shown that White racial resentment unspoken or overt claims that particular policies, issues, or decisions served to defend or restore white privilege or quell threats to idealized notions of white authority represented by demographic or cultural shifts.



Media campaigns by organizations like the National Rifle Association (NRA) and politics that emphasize the message that the primary victims of gun mortality were not criminals or inner-city gang members, but that as gun laws were liberalized, gun deaths spiked among White people.

Corporate-gun-lobby-backed politicians, commentators, and advertisements openly touted loosened gun laws as ways for White citizens to protect themselves against dark intruders. The NRA published reports detailing injuries and deaths among White Americans, even when the injured or deceased appeared to have no obvious connection to racism or politics.

Politics White **America**

Pro-gun legislators, the NRA, and gun advertisements tout the abilities of semiautomatic weapons to restore White men's "privilege" and the "balance of power" in an evermore-diverse world, even as firearms emerged as leading causes of White, male suicide. These messages support policies and ideologies that are linked to inherent narratives of imagined victimhood and domination of manhood.



"Beliefs about masculinity, accessibility and mortality"



Bushman's Man Card

The 'Man Card' marketing campaign distributed in 2010 by Bushmaster Firearms to promote the sale of their assault rifle, sent gun owners a card following the purchase of the firearm stating that their 'manhood' had been 'reissued". The very successful Bushman's Man Card stated "Today he is a man. Fully entitled to all of the rights and privileges duly afforded."

A campaign gained awareness when Adam Lanza fatally shot twenty children and six adult staff members at Sandy Hook Elementary School using the very assault riffle from the Bushman's Man Card campaign the .223-caliber Bushmaster XM15-E2S rifle.

Bushman's

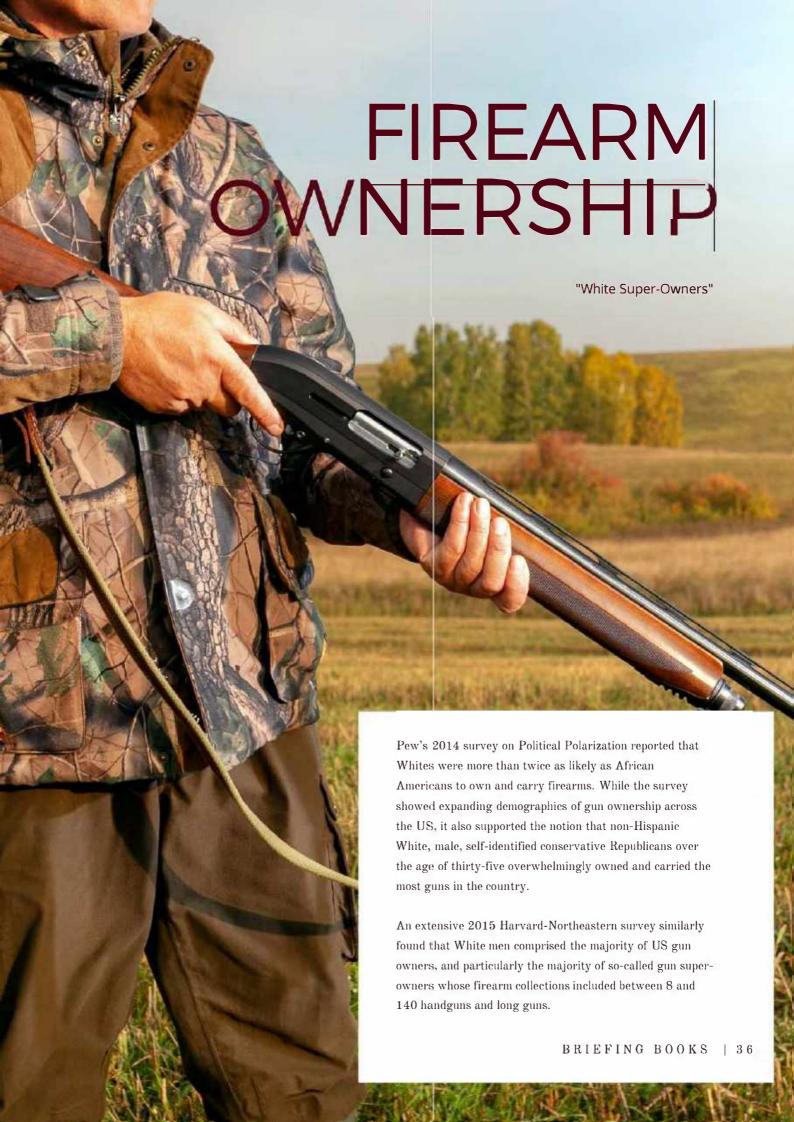
MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Man Caro

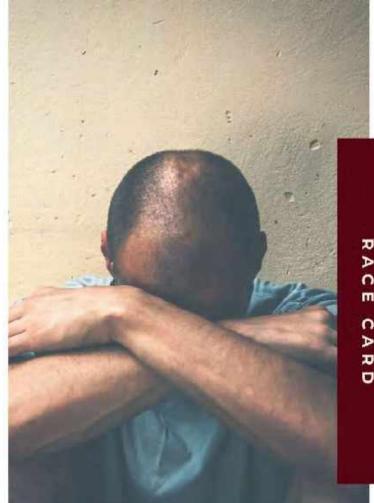
Sandy Hook Elementary School

Same assault riffle used

SEMIAUTOMATIC WEAPONS TO RESTORE WHITE MEN'S "PRIVILEGE" AND "BALANCE OF POWER"







IMPACT OF CHANGES TO GUN LEGISLATION

DO MORE GUNS LEAD TO MORE FATALITIES?

Extensive cross-sectional analysis of death data from 3.108 counties in the 48 contiguous states of the United States and found that states with strong gun laws had lower firearm suicide rates.

Suicide by means other than a firearm is associated with survival of initial attempts. Drug overdose, the most common method in suicide attempts in the United States, is fatal in less than 3% of cases.

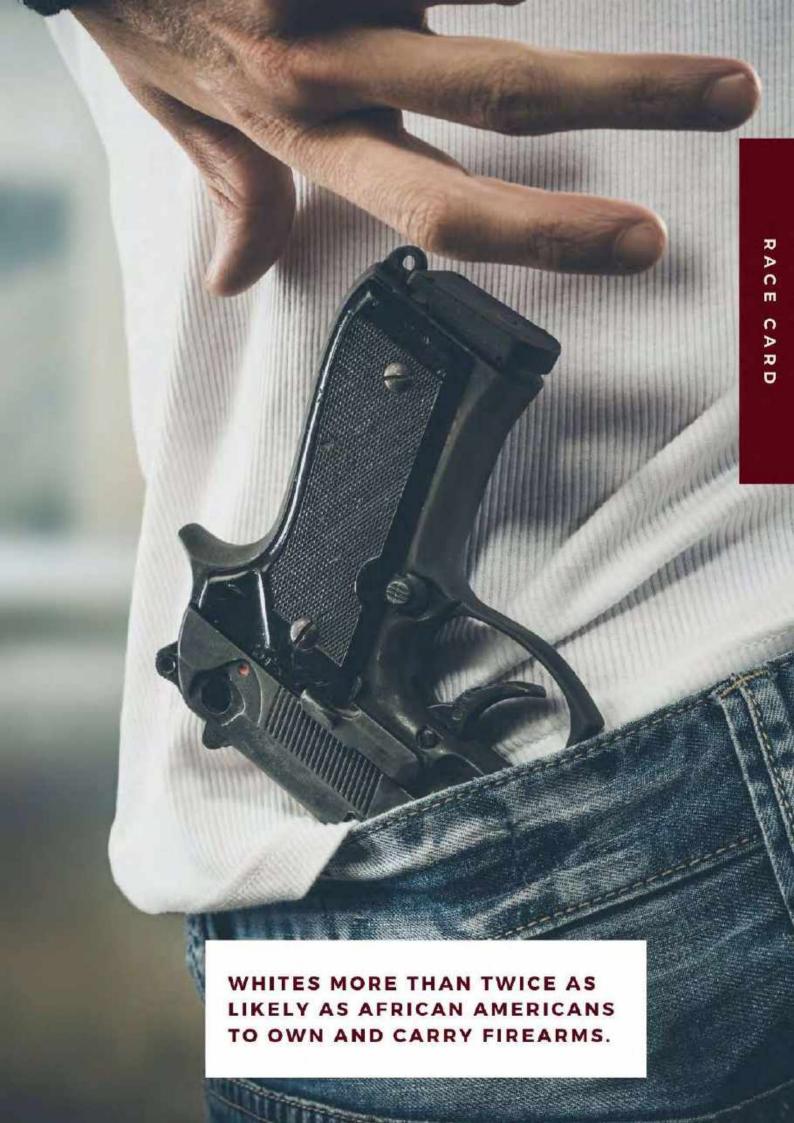
Gun suicide often has its own temperament, its own pace, its own urgent, mercurial linearity.

Turning a firearm on oneself (or a leved one in some cases of armed domestic murder-suicide) can fall into a category that experts call "impulsive" - a spontaneous response to immediate stressors, such as a romantic breakup, job loss, fight, or rejection.

A study on impulsive suicide attempts in Texas found that 24% of young people spent less than five minutes between the decision to commit suicide and the actual attempt, 70% took less than an hour, and that "male sex" and a history of having been in a physical fight-but not depression-were found to be risk factors for these impulsive suicide victims.

Firearms represent especially lethal conduits between suicidal intentions and tragic ends. Roughly 85% of firearm suicide attempts result in death.

Guns rank at the top of what researchers call "casefatality charts" that list the percentages of people who die from the different methods of suicide.



ACCESS EQUAL TO

FROM WHY "...FIREARMS ARE TO HOW

AN IRREVERSIBLE SOLUTION TO WHAT IS OFTEN APASSING CRISIS ... "

As suicidologists describe it, guns top the list because of their "inherent deadliness," "ease of use," and "accessibility"-in other words, because of many of the same qualities that draw people to guns in the first place. Given the quick interval between thought and action and the lethality of firearms, scholars often argue that the use of a gun shifts the discourse on suicide from "why to how".

The Harvard public health research report describes gun suicide as often representing "an irreversible solution to what is often a passing crisis." Perhaps, as a result, non-gun suicide attempts are diversely distributed among races and genders, with particular demographic groups showing particular trends.

White Americans dominate death-per-suicide-attempt categories for one main reason; they remain dramatically overrepresented in civilian death data about firearm suicides.



92% OF GUN SUICIDES IN THE UNITED STATES WERE COMMITTED BY NON-HISPANIC WHITE PERSONS,

The CDC's Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) reports that gun suicides between 2009 and 2019 reflected 20.5% of all causes of injury-related death.

The data shows that 92% of gun suicides in the United States were committed by non-Hispanic White persons, and men die by firearm suicide 86% more often than women.

Non-Hispanic White persons comprised 80% of the US population in 1980 but only 69% of the population in 2000.

According to the US census, the percentage of non-Hispanic White people in the United States hit an all-time low of 62% in 2013 and kept falling every year after that. And yet over this same time period, 2009–2019, White populations consistently committed 92% of all gun suicides.

Women attempted suicide three times more often than men but typically opt for pills or poisons, which are significantly less lethal on average. By contrast, the WISQARS data for completed gun suicide shows White men die by firearm suicide significantly more than everyone else in the United States.

From 2009 to 2019, non-Hispanic White men accounted for nearly 90% of all gun suicides in the United States, despite representing less than 35% of the total population.

Moreover, race factors a great deal in other categories of US gun death—in as much as there are deep racial differences in the means by which Americans die by gunshot. African Americans are far more likely than other Americans to die by gunshot in cases of homicide, assault, and encounters with police.

By compiling data from death certificates, a 2013 Pew report highlighted that "Blacks were 55% of shooting homicide victims in 2010, but 13% of the population", in contrast, Whites were 25% of the victims of gun homicide in 2010, but 65 percent of the population

The differences in gun-related fatalities are further underscored by a 2015 Brookings Institution report using data from the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (N CIPC) database to show remarkable segregation in gun deaths, 77% of White gun deaths were suicides, while 19% were associated with homicide.

For African Americans those figures were reversed, 14% of gun deaths are suicides, but 82% homicides." In terms of risk, a White person in the United States is five times more likely to die by suicide using a gun than to be shot with a gun; for each African American who uses a gun to commit suicide, five are killed by other people with guns.

The Pew Research study showed that compared with 1993, the peak of U.S. gun homicides, the firearm homicide rate was 49% lower in 2010, and there were fewer deaths, even though the nation's population grew. The victimization rate for other violent crimes with a firearm—assaults, robberies, and sex crimes—was 75% lower in 2011 than in 1993. Violent non-fatal crime victimization overall (with or without a firearm) also is down markedly (72%) over two decades.

Gun suicides rose even as rates of gun homicide and other forms of gun crime fell. In 2015 Breitbart News reported that gun suicides accounted for two-thirds of firearm deaths in the country, and White men increasingly drove the overall data on US gun deaths.

STATES WITH DIFFERENT GUN LEGISLATION

PRO-GUN ADVOCATES AND GUN-REFORM CAMPAIGNERS

Gun advocates hail legislative moves as boosting public security, freedom, and constitutional rights. Research suggested that gun injuries and deaths rise when it becomes easier for people to buy and carry firearms.



Changes to gun legislation in Missouri and Connecticut have enabled comparisons on death by firearm across the two states, as a proxy measure of the impact of removing or restricting acress to guns.



PRO-GUN MISSOURI

Missouri claimed a long history of gun rights but also enforced some of the strictest handgun laws in the nation, including a requirement that handgun buyers undergo background checks in person at sheriffs' offices before obtaining permits. However, in 2016 pro-National Rifle Association (NRA) conservative lawmakers passed pro-gun laws that ended prohibitions on the concealed and open carry of firearms in public spaces, lowered the legal age to carry a concealed gun from twenty-one to nineteen, and repealed many of the requirements for comprehensive background checks, training, education, and purchase permits.

Senate Bill 656, the so-called guns everywhere bill allowing citizens to carry concealed handguns at schools, annulled most city and regional gun restrictions and allowed just about anyone over the age of 18 to carry a concealed weapon.

The Bill effectively negated the rights of cities or towns to enact practically any form of gun control and extended Castle Doctrine laws and "stand-your-ground" protections for people who took lethal action against perceived dangers outside the home as well.

Though framed as universal expressions of Second Amendment rights; racial tensions lurked around every corner of these legislative decisions.

For example, Black men who attempted to demonstrate their own open-carry rights were attacked and jailed rather than lauded as freedom-loving patriots.





GUN-REFORM CONNETICUT

In comparison to Missouri, Connecticut had a largely uneven history of gun-control legislation until 1995, when its lawmakers passed PTP legislation mandating that all handgun buyers undergo background checks and complete safety courses.

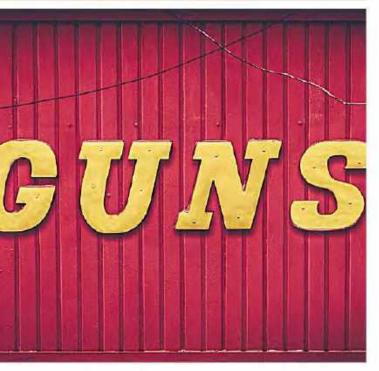
Legislative actions regulating the sale, possession, and use of guns and ammunition then expanded. In 1999, Connecticut pioneered a program called "risk-based, temporary, preemptive gun removal," authorizing police to temporarily remove guns from individuals when there is "probable cause to believe . . . the person poses a risk of imminent personal injury to self or other."

After the Sandy Hook shootings in 2012, Connecticut passed gun laws billed as among the "toughest in the country," including new bans on assault rifles and high-capacity ammunition magazines, and mandatory background checks for all gun sales alongside expanded background checks.

Texas and Florida also promoted open-carry, permitless-carry, stand-your-ground, the Castle Doctrine, and other legislation that loosened gun statutes. New York, a state with consistently tight gun laws, reflected trends in Connecticut.







REPEAL OF PERMIT TO PURCHASE

Beyond the inflammatory headlines about Black Missourians shooting each other in droves, White residents of Missouri increasingly died from gun-related accidents and suicides that took place with nary a person of color in sight,

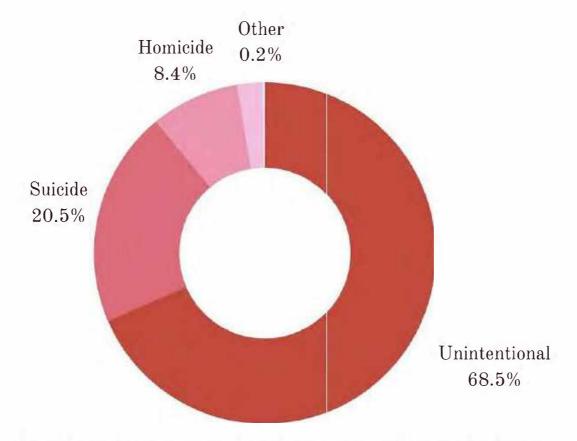
Indeed, between 2008 and 2013, White persons from Missouri unintentionally shot and killed themselves, their friends, and their family members ten times more frequently than did other groups of persons.

Missouri's 2007 repeal of its permit-to-purchase (PTP) handgun law "was associated with a 25% increase in firearm homicides rates." Between 2008 and 2014, the Missouri gun homicide rate rose to 47% higher than the national average. Rates of gun death by suicide, partner violence, and accidental shooting soared as well. In 2014, gun deaths topped deaths by motor vehicle accidents for the first time in the state. News outlets referred to Missouri as the "Shoot Me State."

In Missouri White male firearm suicides remained atop suicides by everyone else, and particularly so starting in the mid-to-late 2000s, around the time that Missouri began relaxing its gun regulations. White male suicides trended downward in the State from the mid-1990s until 2007 and then rose steadily until they hit their highest points on record in 2014 and 2015, at over 20 deaths per 100,000 for White men.

Meanwhile, firearm suicides by persons of every other demographic group showed what is called random variability, spiking occasionally but otherwise demonstrating relatively lower levels and no consistent increases or decreases over time.

Missouri experienced an increase in its firearm suicide rate following the repeal of its PTP handgun law that was larger than all states that retained their PTP laws.

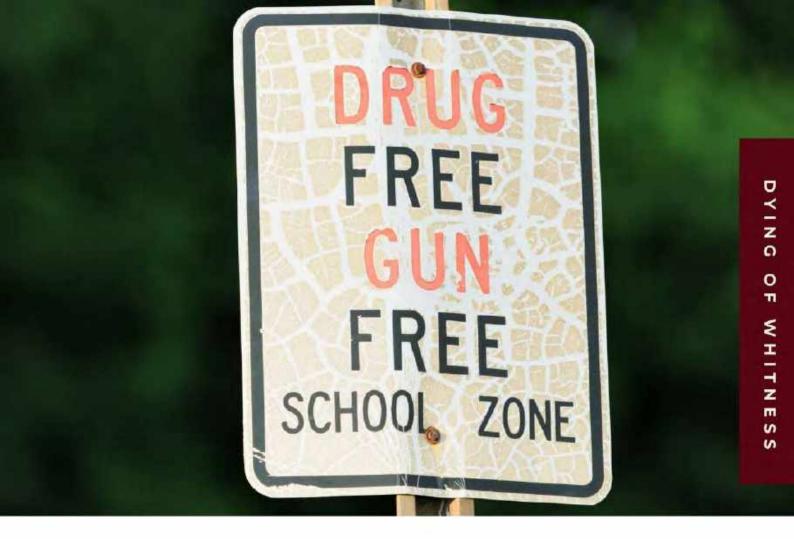


Cause of death from firearm all races, both sexes, all ages between 2009 to 20019 Bureau of Census for Population Estimates.

Lax gun laws ultimately cost the State of Missouri roughly \$273 million in lost work between 2008 and 2015 and ultimately led to the loss of over 10,506 years of productive White male life. Missourian's dominated injuries and deaths via gunrelated suicides, partner violence, and accidental shootings across the US-and in ways that outpaced African American gun deaths from homicides.



Deaths from firearm suicide - all races, both sexes, all ages (n=238,527) by population (n=3,498,701,258) between 2009 to 2019 (rate = 6.82 per 100,000 population) Bureau of Census for Population Estimates.



CONNECTICUT GUN REFORM REDUCED SUICIDE RATE

White male suicides in Connecticut, peaked at 9 deaths per 100,000 people in 1994, shortly before the State enacted tougher gun legislation. Thereafter Connecticut's suicide rate fluctuated over the next twenty years (1995) to 2015), but followed a slow downward trajectory starting in the mid-1990s and generally bovered in crude rates between 2 and 3 per 100,000 people towards the end of 2015.

Connecticut's drop in its firearm suicide rate was greater than nearly all of the 39 other states that did not have such a law at that time, and coincide with the adoption of PTP handgun laws. In comparison, Missouri experienced an increase in its firearm suicide rate following the repeal of its PTP handgun law that was larger than all states that retained their PTP laws.

In Missouri, gun suicides by other groups of men, other than White males fell considerably over the two decades since the repeal of the PTP legislation. Importantly, the data suggest that White male suicide trends served as primary drivers of overall suicide rates in each state.

Missouri, rising rates of White male suicide paced overall steady increases in death by self-inflicted gunshot. Put simply. White men set the aggregate suicide rate for everyone else. In many ways, these trends are unsurprising - firearms are a primary means of suicide for men in general and particularly White men.

ACCESS LEADS TO FATALITY

PERMIT-TO-PURCHASE (PTP)

CHANGE IN FIREARM SUICIDE RATE AFTER PTP LEGISLATION CHANGE

MISSOURI - REPEAL PTP

CONNECTICUT - TIGHTER PTP

16.1% INCREASE

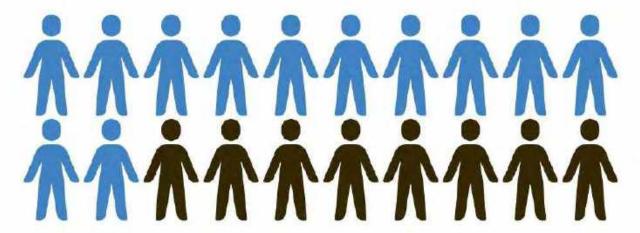
15.4% **DECREASE**

Analysis of firearm deaths in Missouri and Connecticut between 1995 to 2015 ultimately estimated a 15.4% reduction in firearm suicide rates associated with the implementation of Connecticut's PTP law and a 16.1% increase in firearm suicide rates associated with Missouri's PTP repeal.



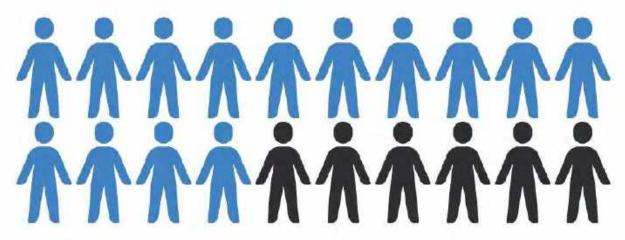
Deaths from firearm suicide - females only, all races, all ages (n=32,106) by population (n=1,776,927,065) between 2009 to 2019 (rate = 1.82 per 100,000 population)

Bureau of Census for Population Estimates.



Deaths from firearm suicide - males only, all races, all ages (n=206,121) by population (n=1,721,774,193) between 2009 to 2019 (rate = 11.97 per 100,000 population)

Bureau of Census for Population Estimates.



Deaths from firearm suicide - White males only, all ages (n=189,149) by population (n=1,362,539,067) between 2009 to 2019 (rate = 13.88 per 100,000 population)

Bureau of Census for Population Estimates.

White non-Hispanic men in Missouri were 2.60 times more likely to die by firearm suicide than White non-Hispanic men in Connecticut, and 2.38 times more likely to die by firearm suicide than non-White men in Missouri.

A White man in Missouri was 11 times more likely to die by gun suicide than in an accidental house fire and 15x times more likely to die by gun suicide than by "natural/environmental" causes, such as from flood, earthquake, tornado, or by falling from a ladder, electrocution, smoke inhalation, or dog bite.

Perhaps most important, the aggregate death rate for White men dying from firearm homicide was 2.56, meaning that White men in Missouri were 7 times more likely to turn guns on themselves than to be fatally shot by intruders in their castles or assailants against whom White men needed to stand their ground.

White men outpaced men of all backgrounds at astounding rates. The aggregate gun suicide rate rose by 15.48% in Missouri but only by 6.56% in Connecticut in the eight years after PTP removal (2008–2015).

If rates of White male suicide in Missouri instead rose by the Connecticut rate of 6.56% per year, then Missouri's aggregate rate between 2008 and 2015 would have increased to 15.62 per 100,000 per year. Instead, that rate was greater at 20.17 per 100,000 by 2015.

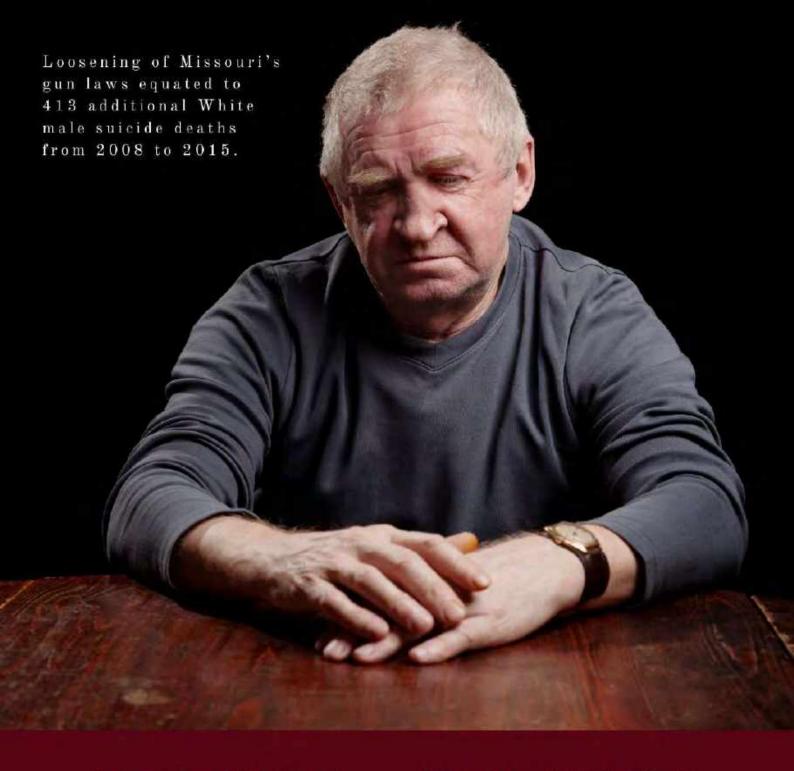
In terms of actual lives, the differences between this hypothetical world and reality appear conservatively suggests that the loosening of Missouri's gun laws equated to 413 additional White male suicide deaths over the years 2008–2015.

Over these 8 years, this averages to an additional 52 White male deaths per year on top of Missouri's already high gun suicide rates.

The eight years after the loosening of PTP and other gun regulations, Missouri suffered 12,557 more lost years of White male productive life than over the prior 8 years.

Representing a 17.39% increase in White male time—time spent working, playing, raising families, living—that was instead lost to gun suicide.





For the most part, gun suicides by women, and particularly women of color, remained so low that they barely impact the statistics on death by firearm suicide.

MISSOURI THE "SHOOT ME STATE."

Risk factors for gun suicide (unlike homicide) rarely ask people to assess risk based on who a person is, what they are, or where they live. Being (White, male) and living (in a place like Missouri) emerged as profound risk factors between 2008 and 2015.

A PTP law that would restrict access to handguns for individuals with a history of severe mental illness, criminal behavior, domestic violence, or substance abuse, or by simply delaying access to a firearm during a time of crisis through an application review period could prevent suicide.

CONCLUSION

DISMANTLING IDEOLOGIES OF RACE IS OF UTMOST URGENCY TO END THE REGRETTABLY ALL-TOO-COMMON ALARMING GUN-RELATED HEADLINES.

The impact of defunding of public education, affordable healthcare, and implementing tax cuts that benefit only the wealthiest at the expense of everyone else, in conjunction with revoking of long-standing gun laws, has resulted in significant increases in civil unrest, greater racial divisions, and a greater number of fatalities from gun-related deaths, in particular suicide.

Elections are not likely to be sufficient in changing America's current societal challenges, addressing needed healthcare reform, and gun legislation. Simply demonstrating the ill effects of certain conservative policies won't be enough on its own to change people's beliefs and attitudes about guns, health care, and education. The current context is reflective of larger, historically charged understandings of racial hierarchy, presented as the needs of the individual over the communal and the unwanted involvement of government in the lives of Americans.

Direct efforts to counter overt and implicit racial resentment are a pivotal primer because political and racial identities are shaped by larger values, biases, and anxieties. Promoting society's moral compass and dismantling ideologies of race is of utmost urgency to end the regrettably all-too-common alarming gunrelated headlines.





CHILDREN EXPOSURE TO MEDIA CHARACTERS WITH GUNS INCREASES INTEREST IN REAL GUNS.

DEADLY CHILD'S PLAY

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TELEVISION MOVIES GAMES

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

Children in the U.S. are at least 10 times more likely to be accidentally killed by firearms than children from other developed countries.

The sobering statistic is that about 50 children are shot. with a firearm each day in the United States (US). The shootings often occur because a child finds a firearm that is loaded and unsecured. Although this statistic may for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines as aged 0 to 17

If children find an unsecured gun in a home, many factors can influence whether they will handle it. One important factor is exposure to gun violence in the mass media (e.g., television, movies, video games). In 2018, 73 children were killed because of a loaded unsecured firearm—that equates to more than one child per week.

Violence is a common theme in movies, even in G-rated movies for general audiences. Violent movie characters often use guns, and they use guns more now than in the 13 films (for ages 13+) has nearly tripled since the PG-13 rating was introduced in 1984. Since 2012, PG-13 movies have actually contained more acts of gun violence than R-rated movies (for ages 17+). Violence is also a

CHILDREN IN AMERICA ARE MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM AN UNSECURED FIREARM THAN IN OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES

SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY

LEARN BY IMMITATION real people or media characters

Children often think media characters are cool, and they want to imitate their behavior.

Previous research has shown that children who see movie characters smoke eigarettes are more likely to smoke themselves. Likewise, children who see movie characters drink alcohol are more likely to drink themselves.

These findings follow directly from social learning theory, which proposes that children learn how to behave by observing and imitating the behavior of models.

The models could be real people, or media characterseven fictitious ones. Children are especially likely to model dangerous behaviors.



US CHILDREN

10x

MORE LIKELY TO DIE FROM UNSECURED GUNS



PRE-TEEN YEARS

CHILDREN WHO SEE MEDIA CHARACTERS USE GUNS MORE LIKELY TO USE GUNS THEMSELVES

SOME CHILDREN ENGAGE IN DANGEROUS BEHAVIOR AFTER PLAYING WITH GUNS

Recent research, derived from social learning theory, found that children who see media characters use guns are more likely to use real guns themselves.

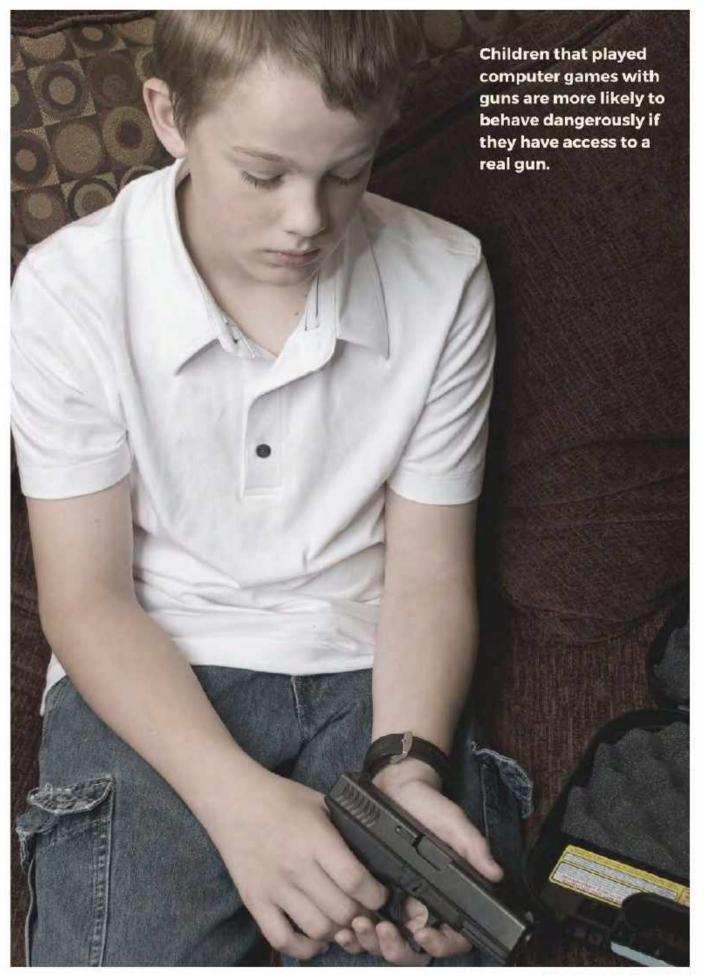
In one experiment, children 8 to 12 years old were tested in pairs. First, they were randomly assigned to watch a 20-minute clip from a PG movie with guns or the same clip with the guns edited out. Next, children were told that they could play for 20 minutes with toys (e.g., Legos, Nerf guns, and bullets) and games (e.g., Jenga, UNO card game, checkers). A cabinet in the room contained a real disabled 9-mm handgun that had been modified with a digital counter to record the number of times children pulled the trigger with enough force to fire the gun.

A hidden camera recorded their behavior. Children who watched the movie clip with guns held the handgun longer (53.1 vs. 11.1 seconds) and pulled the trigger more times (2.8 vs. 0.01 times) than those who saw the same movie clip without guns.

Some of the children engaged in very dangerous behaviors with the real gun, such as pulling the trigger while pointing the gun at themselves or their partner. One boy pointed the real gan out the laboratory window at people in the street.







COMPUTER

GAMES & GUNS

RESEARCH SHOWS BEHAVIORAL CHANGES FROM PLAYING COMPUTER GAMES WITH GUNS.

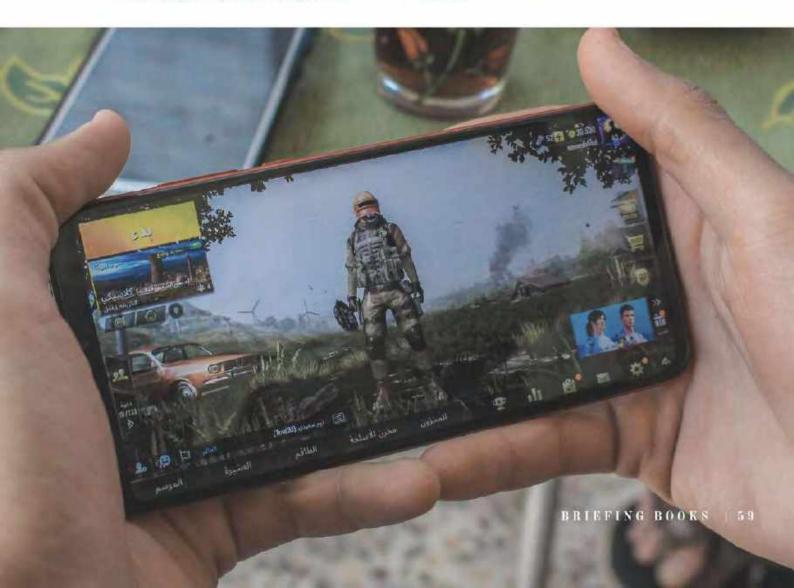
In another experiment, children aged 8 to 12, years were also tested in pairs and randomly assigned to play one of three versions of the game Minecraft (2011) for 20 minutes;

- A version in which the player could kill monsters with gams,
- A version in which the player could kill monsters with swords, or
- A nonviolent version with no weapons or monsters.

In the video game experiment, two gams were

hidden in the cabinet so the children could handle a gun if they chose to do so.

The results showed that children who played the video game with guns handled it longer (91.5 seconds vs. 71.7 seconds in the sword condition and 36.1 seconds in the nonviolent condition), pulled the trigger more times (10.1 times vs. 3.6 times in the sword condition and 3.0 times in the nonviolent condition), including at themselves or their partner (3.4 times vs. 1.5 times in the sword condition and 0.2 times in the nonviolent condition).





GUN VIOLENCE

TAKE HOME MESSAGE

THE RESEARCH HAS TWO TAKE-HOME MESSAGES

- · Guns are not toys for children to play with.
- · Parents should monitor the media their children consume, because children who see media characters use guns may be more likely to use real guns themselves if they have the chance.



WEAPONS ARE AGGRESSIVE CUES THAT AUTOMATICALLY AND UNCONSCIOUSLY ELICIT AGGRESSION.

WEAPONS EFFECT

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BETWEEN 1963 TO 2020

186.239

American children aged 0 to 17 years were killed by a firearm.

REFLECTS MORE THAN

4.X

The number of American soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars combined.

THE SIGHT OF A GUN EVOKES VIOLENCE

"GUNS NOT ONLY PERMIT VIOLENCE, THEY CAN STIMULATE IT AS WELL. THE FINGER PULLS THE TRIGGER, BUT THE TRIGGER MAY ALSO BE PULLING THE FINGER."

DURING 2017 - EVERYDAY

9

Children aged 0 to 17 years were killed by a firearm.

EQUATES TO ONE CHILD EVERY

2 hours 34 minutes

Of course, using a gun can make aggressive acts more lethal. But can simply seeing a gun increase aggression? Research evidence indicates that the answer is "yes." This effect, called the "weapons effect," is rarely if ever considered in discussions of gun violence.

The "weapons effect" was first reported in a 1967 classic experiment conducted by Leonard Berkowitz and Anthony LePage.

Participants were male college students tested in pairs, although one of the students was actually an accomplice pretending to be a participant.

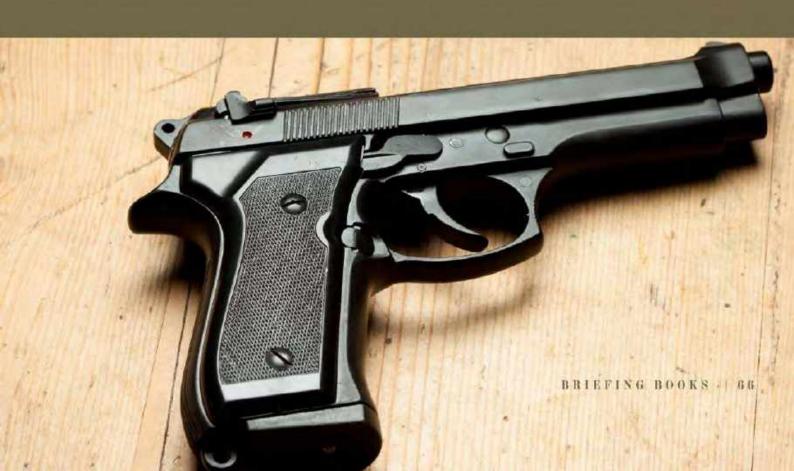
The study was ostensibly about "stress," with electric shocks being the stressor. The two students took turns evaluating each other's performance on a task using between 1 electric shock ("very good evaluation") and 10 electrical shocks ("very bad evaluation").

First, the participant generated ideas a publicity agent might use to promote a popular singer. By the flip of a coin, the accomplice gave the participant either 1 shock (unprovoked) or 7 shocks (provoked). Next, the accomplice generated ideas a used car salesperson might use to sell more cars, and the participant "evaluated" the accomplice's ideas using electrical shocks, which was the aggression measure.

The participant was seated at a table that had a 12-gauge shotgun and a .38-caliber revolver on it, or badminton racquets and shuttlecocks on it. The items on the table were described as part of another study that another experimenter had supposedly forgotten to put away.

There was also a control condition with no items on the table. The experimenter told participants to ignore the items on the table, but they apparently could not. Provoked participants who saw the guns were more aggressive than the other participants (i.e., gave more shocks to the accomplice).

Berkowitz and LePage dubbed this effect the "weapons effect," and proposed that it occurs because weapons are aggressive cues that can automatically and unconsciously elicit aggression.





REGARDLESS OF GENDER OR AGE REAL OR TOYS **GUNS INCREASE** AGGRESSION

THE WEAPONS EFFECT HAS BEEN REPLICATED MANY TIMES, BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE LAB

Since 1967, the weapons effect has been replicated many times, both inside and outside the lab.

In a driving simulation experiment, for example, participants were more aggressive drivers when there was a handgun on the seat than when there was a tennis racket on the seat.

A similar effect was found in a survey of a nationally representative sample of 2,770 American drivers; those with a gun in their vehicle, compared to those with no gun in their vehicle, were significantly more likely in the past year to make obscene gestures at other drivers (23% vs. 16%), tailgate (14% vs. 8%), or both (6.3% vs. 2.8%), even after controlling for several factors related to aggressive driving.

A 2018 comprehensive review integrated the results from all available weapons effect studies, which included 151 effectsize estimates from 78 independent studies involving 7,668 participants.

This review found a significant weapons effect for provoked and unprovoked participants, for males and females, for participants of all ages, for college students and nonstudents, and even for toy weapons.

The weapons effect was also positively correlated with the year the study was conducted, indicating that the weapons effect is getting larger over time. The weapons effect was significant in laboratory studies but was nonsignificant in field studies.

AMERICA CHILDREN AGED 0 TO 17 YEARS

15X

More likely to die from gunfire than children in 31 other high-income countries combined.



WEAPON MPORTANT

THE PRESENCE OF A TASER GUN INCREASED AGGRESSION AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS

POLICE OFFICERS WHO CARRY A WEAPON, INCLUDING A TASER LIKELY TO BE ASSAULTED

Since the 2018 meta-analysis was published, an important large (N=678) field study was published in 2019. In this field study, police officers were randomly assigned to carry TASER guns that were visible (n=339) or to not carry TASER guns (n=339).

A TASER gun fires two small barbed darts with wires into the victim's skin, Electric shock is delivered through the wires, which leaves the victim temporarily incapacitated because they lose control of their muscles.

Results found that the number of physical assaults against police officers was more than twice as high in the TASER group (0.4425 per 1,000 incidents) than in the no-TASER group (0.2094 per 1,000 incidents).

Thus, the mere presence of a TASER gun increased aggression against police officers.





GUN VIOLENCE

2nd

Leading cause of death for children aged 0 to 17 years, and the leading cause for Black children.

GUN VIOLENCE

more deaths

than cancer, pneumonia, influenza, asthma, HIV/AIDS, and opioids combined.



SUMMARY

INCLUSION OF THE WEAPONS EFFECT IN ANY DISCUSSION ON GUN VIOLIENCE

In summary, research shows that simply seeing a gun can make people more aggressive. Results from weapons effect studies suggest that guns and other weapons should be out of sight rather than displayed openly. Open carry laws might especially trigger a weapons effect.

The recommendation that any discussions on gun violence and gun legislation include research into the weapons effect is strongly made.



SIGNS & SYMPTOMS OF TRAUMA IN CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS & FAMILIES

COMMUNITY

VIOLENCE

Billie Katz, PsyD, Assistant Professor, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

CHILDREN NOT ABLE TO PROCESS HEADLINE NEWS ABOUT COMMUNITY VIOLENCE.

With gun and community violence in the news headlines nearly every day, children and teens are exposed to information they may or may not be ready to understand, information that is challenging for even adults to truly make sense of. Several common types of community violence affect youth - bullying, gang violence, shootings in public areas such as schools and neighborhoods, riots, and spontaneous or terrorist attacks. Although we can anticipate some types of traumatic events, community violence often happens suddenly and without warning.





NEGATIVE HEALTH OUTCOMES

Children may be at higher risk for negative health outcomes.

Children exposed to community violence have been found to be more likely to experience negative short- and long-term psychological effects, including anger, social withdrawal, post-traumatic stress, and desensitization to violence.

Current research has also shown that children who are exposed to community violence, be it through witnessing direct acts of violence, exposure to higher levels of violence in communities or schools, or watching violent media, may be at higher risk for negative health outcomes.

Understanding the social and emotional mental health needs of children, adolescents. and families exposed to community violence is a complex process, partly because several mechanisms are implicated.

For example, due to the often sudden and unpredictable nature of community violence, impacted individuals begin to develop

heightened fears that danger can present at any time. This state of hyper-vigilance has been connected to the development of beliefs that the world is unsafe and frightening.

These thoughts, combined with the true threat of violence, create the need for individuals to always be in "survival mode." This serves as a safety behavior, in which a person is always ready and seemingly more able to predict danger.

Unfortunately, this state of being has been shown to lead to increased impulsivity and a heightened "fight or flight" response.

This is partly why individuals who live amongst the threat of community violence often report higher and more acute symptoms of anxiety, depression, social isolation, interpersonal difficulties, and chronic stress.

EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE

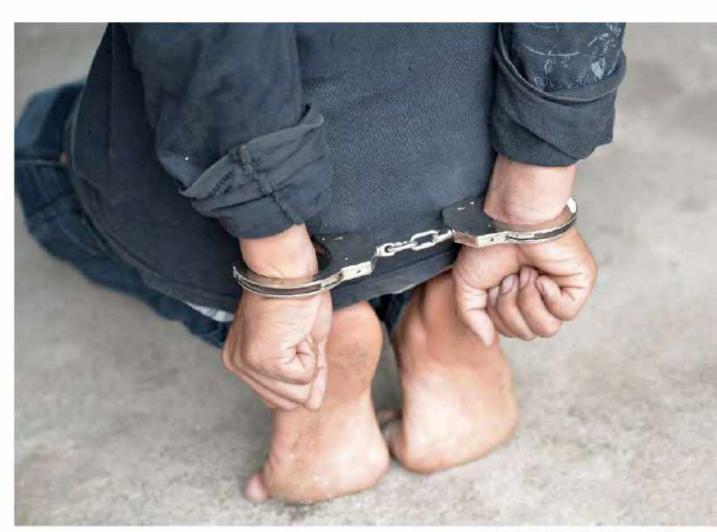
IMPACT OUTLOOK

- significant increase in stress

In addition, exposure to violence, much like any trauma, will begin to affect an individual's outlook on the future, as it impacts their real and perceived sense of control.

Subsequently, there is an observable increase in significant stress responses, early childhood developmental delays, emotion dysregulation, internalization of emotions, and externalizing of behaviors.

Youth report increased feelings of anger, resentment, and fear, which can lead to more acting out behaviors, including arguments with parents, getting into fights with peers, and substance use.



COMMUNITY VIOLENCE OFTEN **HAPPENS** WITHOUT WARNING

Children become desensitized to violence.

The experiences lead to stress responses, early childhood developmental delays, emotion dysregulation, internalization of emotions, and externalizing of behaviors. COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCES

Treatment Options

Trauma-related symptoms, including flashbacks, intrusive memories, and nightmares.

Several therapeutic modalities, tailored to individuals, groups, and families, can be applied to effectively mitigate the effects of community violence and its impact on psychological well-being. For individuals who are experiencing trauma-related symptoms, including flashbacks, intrusive memories, nightmares, and re-experiencing of the event, there is a group of therapeutic treatments that have been shown to decrease symptoms and improve quality of life.

Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) is a child-specific treatment, while Cognitive Processing Therapy (CPT) and Prolonged Exposure (PE) have been adapted for use with adolescents. Other evidence-based treatments, including Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), have been found to be effective.

Many community-based resources also exist to help practitioners, individuals, and families gain more understanding about the effects of community violence. The National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN) has an online resource center geared towards families and provides helpful information about traumainformed care, treatment, and practices.

Furthermore, the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies (ABCT) has many resources, including a Find a Therapist directory that can help connect individuals and providers.





A LEGACY OF SYSTEMIC DISCRIMINATORY POLICIES

RACIAL INEQUITY

Sirry Alang, PhD Assistant Professor, College of Arts and Sciences, Lehigh University

Rita Hitching, MSC Researcher & Editor, VA Palo Alto & Stanford School of Medicine

B L A C K LIVES MATTER

RACIAL INEQUITY

LEGACIES OF A BRUTAL PAST

Any discussion on the consequences of changes to gun legislation is not comprehensive without a discussion on the impact on communities.

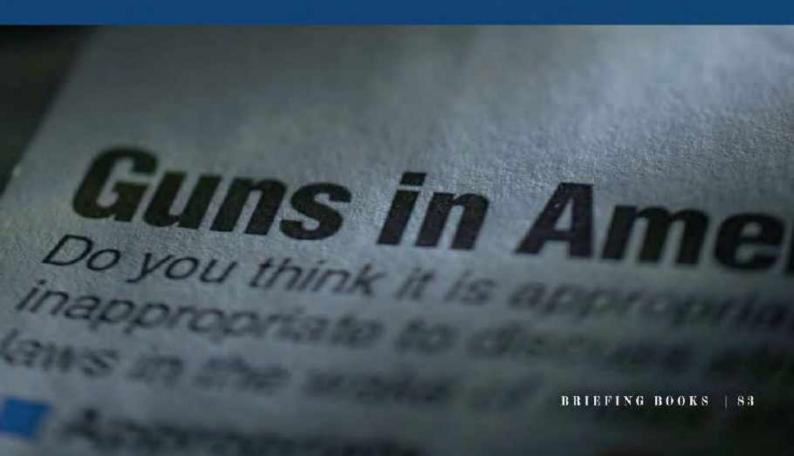
In essence, community gun violence refers to any form of interpersonal gun-related violence that occurs between individuals that are not intimately related.

In the United States community gun violence is regrettably routine in communities already struggling with economic and social inequalities, that result in unsafe housing, impoverished school systems, and a failing economy.

In many instances these inequalities are a result of systemic discriminatory policies, exclusionary social zoning, financial redlining, and racial inequality. Moreover, these under-resourced neighbourhoods predominantly include Hispanic/Latino residents.

In the US community gun violence is regrettably routine in many under-resourced Hispanic/Latino communities. Most community homicides are a result of gun violence, and they occur in parks, street corners, and front porches across the US.

Despite efforts to address firearm homicide rates, they remain at historic highs, 2017; was the deadliest year, followed by 2016, 2019, and 2018.



CDC DATA DEATH INVOLVING FIREARMS 2020

Other (Accidents & War)

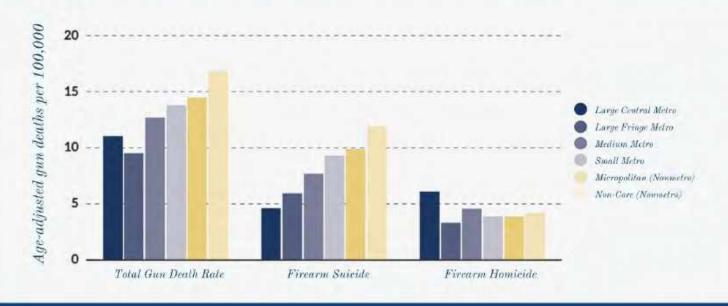
1.7%

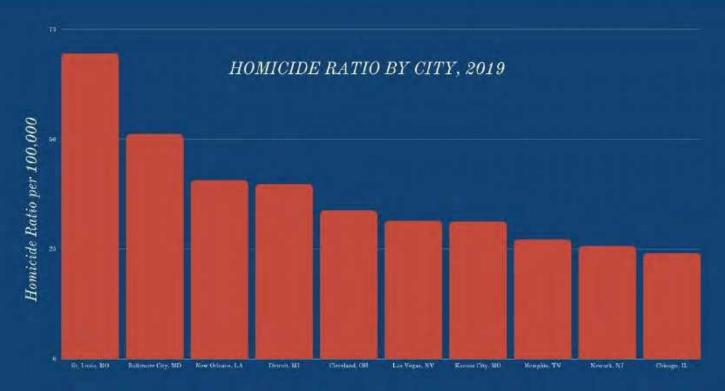
Homicides
18.5%

Total Deaths
49.1%

Suicides
30.7%

LOS ANGELES TIMES, THE HOMICIDE REPORT GUN DEATH RATES BY URBANIZATION, 2019





FIREARMS

DEATHS

ASSOCIATED WITH - close to half of all deaths

Although community gun violence occurs across the US, the prevalence is higher in a small group of 117 cities, which represent 50% of all firearm homicides. The idea that community gun violence only occurs in large cities is inaccurate.

The murder rate in New York City, with a population of 8.39 million is 3.4, per 100,000 people. In comparison, St. Louis, Missouri has a murder rate of 69.4 per 100,000.

Urbanization does not appear to be a contributing factor to the homicide rate, as 70% of counties with the highest homicide rate are classified as rural, and 30% as metropolitan.

When the population size is taken into account, the homicide rate is greatest in sparsely populated rural counties. To underscore the association between race and homicide rates, 95% are in the South, where racial inequities are more prominent.



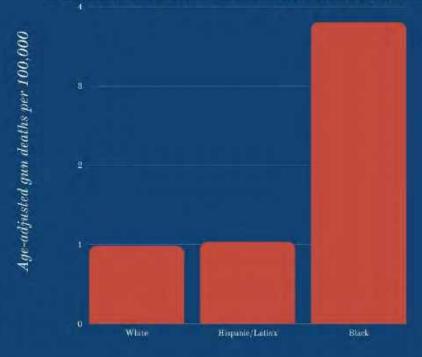
BLACK AMERICANS

RACIAL INEQUITIES IN GUN-RELATED VIOLENCE



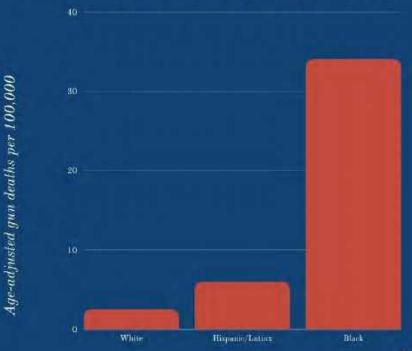
The CDC reports that the likelihood of homicide for a Black American is 10x greater than for a White American. Young Black males aged 15 to 34 years represent 2% of the US population but represent 37% of all firearm homicides. Gun homicide is the leading cause of death for young Black males. Young Hispanic/Latino Americans are 2x more likely to die from gun-related homicide than Whites. Firearm homicide is the second leading cause of mortality for Hispanic/Latino males aged 15 to 34 years.

FEMALE FIREARM HOMICIDE RATE 2015 TO 2019



Communities with high gun violence have a range of systemic adversities, including unemployment rates close to 70%, compared to the national average of 8%. The lack of employment opportunities is exacerbated by the absence of professional or vocational training due to chronic underinvestment. School districts in communities of color receive less local and state government funding than the majority of white districts, estimated at \$23 billion less annually, which serves to perpetuate socioeconomic equality across generations.

MALE FIREARM HOMICIDE RATE 2015 TO 2019





POLICE BRUTALITY

PSYCHOLOGICAL INTIMIDATION. VERBAL ASSAULT, AND PHYSICAL VIOLENCE.

EROSION OF TRUST

BIASED LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADING TO QUESTIONABLE POLICE LEGITIMACY

Police brutality refers to police action that dehumanizes the victim. It includes psychological intimidation, verbal assault, and physical violence.

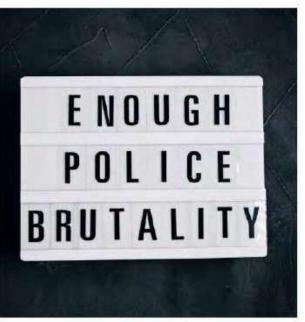
For communities to thrive a trust in community infrastructure critical. That infrastructure includes law enforcement,

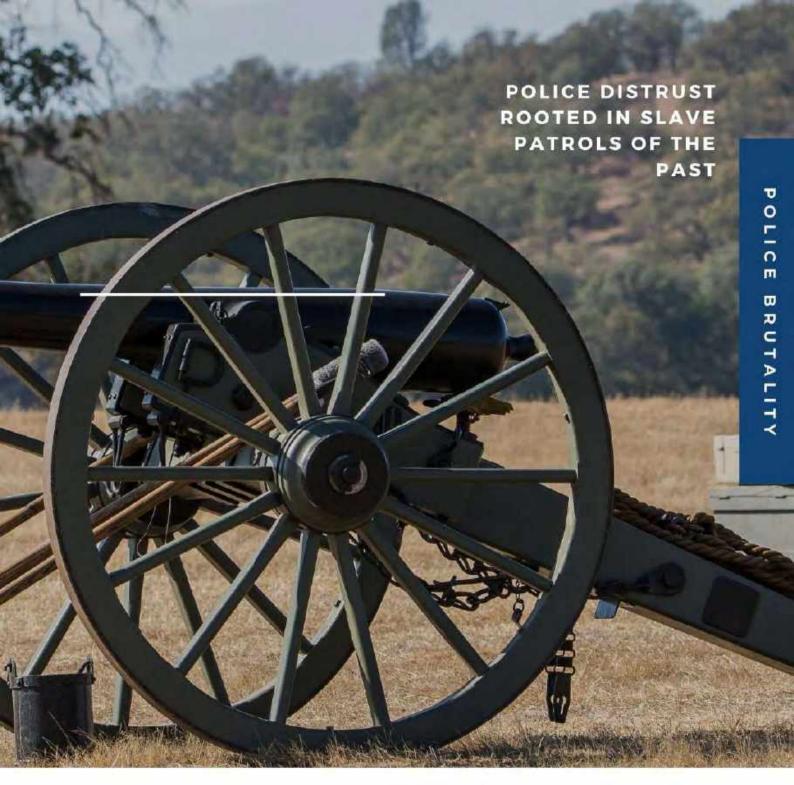
In communities where trust in law enforcement and police legitimacy is part of the fabric of its society, citizens are more willing to involve formal channels to feel protected, support conflict resolution, and ward off potential criminal activity.

In communities that are disproportionately exposed to police incimidation, violence, and brutality, and where law enforcement is associated with discriminatory behaviors, the consequence is hesitation to seek support from the police, increasing odds of community gun violence.

These practices serve to perpetuate a vicious cycle of overly aggressive policing and greater distrust and decreased cooperation with law enforcement.







LEGACY OF AMERICAN SLAVERY

PREJUDICE POLICE BEHAVIOR AGAINST BLACKS Research has shown that Black males are more likely to experience prejudiced behavior and attitudes by police compared to Whites, including more frequent stoppage, the likelihood of being shot, accests, and denial of bails. This does not occur in a vacuum. During the period of American slavery, it was crucial for the institution to prevent enslaved Africans from fleeing.

Slave patrols were organized groups of armed men who had the formal responsibility to routinely police enslaved persons using whippings, castrations, and lynchings. Indeed, present-day routine searching, questioning, and arresting of Black and Latinx persons are an extension of our country's history. Distrust in the police is deeply rooted in this history.



JUDICIAL SYSTEM

INHERENT DISTRUST

The inherent distrust in law enforcement extends to the judicial system, and Black males are more likely to be wrongly convicted and receive longer sentences. In communities where policy legitimacy comes into question and homicides occur due to racism an crosion of trust follows and has been shown to lead to a reduction in the number of 911 calls by residents and a 32% increase in homicides. In 45% of Black and Hispanic/Latino neighborhoods, gun violence is a concern, compared to 27% of predominantly White communities. Exposure to violence has been shown to be a strong predictor of subsequent engagement in gun-related criminal activity.



COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE

PERPETUATES AND EXACERBATES PRE EXISTING DISADVANTAGES

NEGATIVE IMPACT

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

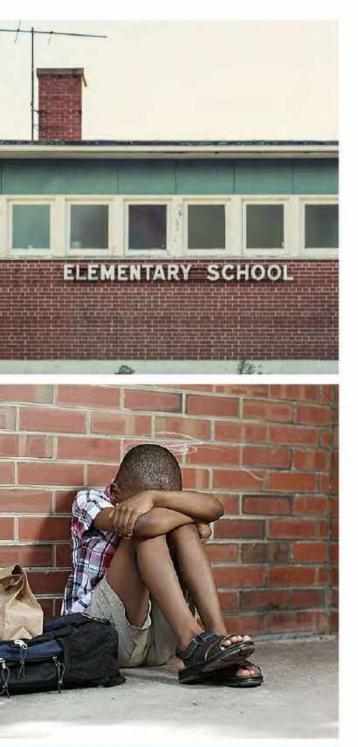
Community gun violence perpetuates and exacerbates pre-existing disadvantages both in terms of community resources and health inequity.

Research shows that gun violence has a significant negative impact on health and wellbeing. The physical injuries associated with bullet wounds are frequently fatal, but the long-term morbidity in many ways is far more insidious as it affects not just the individual, but their families, and all those living in its vicinity.

Experiencing community gun violence directly or indirectly poses substantial psychological strain and is strongly correlated with a range of psychiatric disorders such as anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorders.









COMMUNITY GUN VIOLENCE LEADS TO SIGNIFICANT **PSYCHOLOGICAL** DISTRESS

In 2020, an average of 338 Americans was impacted daily by gun violence - 316 adults and 22 children, with Black and Hispanic/Latino making up the majority. The impact of gun violence includes physical, emotional, sexual violence, verbal, and psychological intimidation. In Black and Hispanic/Latino communities 27% of adults have witnessed a shooting, and 23% lost a loved one to a firearm.

Exposure to gun violence, including witnessing an assault, shooting, hearing gunshots, or losing a loved one to a firearm, is associated with a negative impact on short- and long-term health and wellbeing. Up to 95% of children in under-resourced communities have experienced gun violence, and 65% report significant levels of distress.

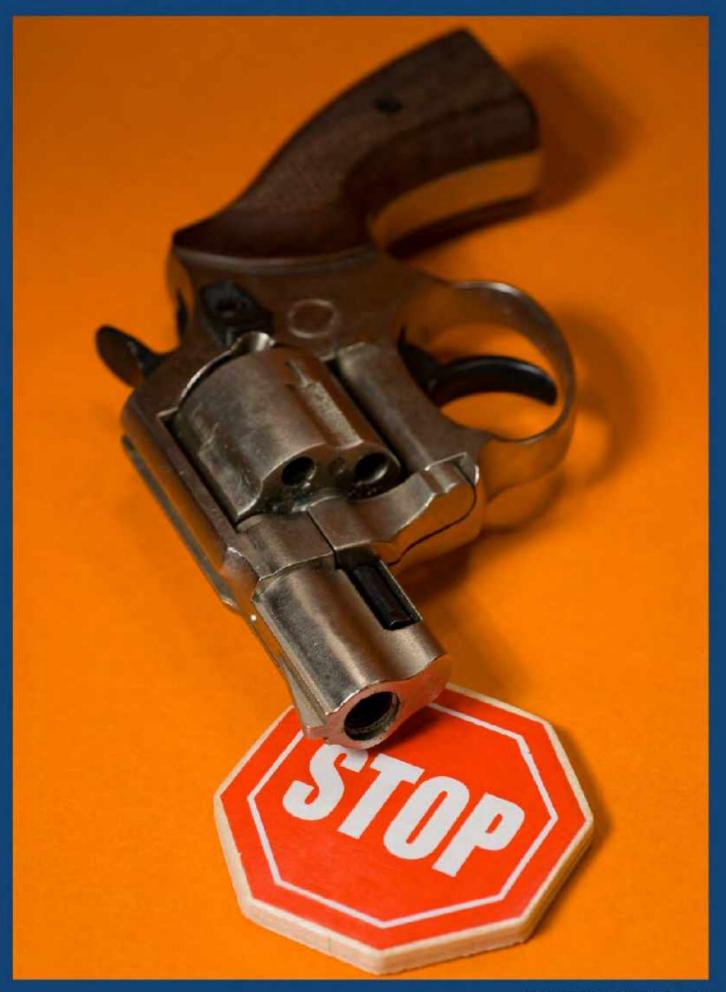
Violence or the fear of violence causes significant levels of stress, and chronic stress is associated with abnormal brain maturation and neuronal pruning that results in impaired cognitive and emotional development.

Untreated chronic stress is a strong risk factor for a range of psychiatric disorders - depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress (PTSD), alcohol, and substance use.

In addition, chronic stress is associated with a higher prevalence of lifestyle disorders such as cardiovascular disease, type II diabetes, stroke, cancer, premature aging, and mortality. Gun violence leads to children being fearful of leaving their homes, avoiding public places like parks, limiting their physical activity, avoiding travel that may lead to low school attendance and performance.

Fear generates aggressive attitudes, antisocial behaviors, and demeanors that lead to poor neighborhood relationships and isolation. An environment that prevents the development of social connection, civic involvement, and community building serves to exacerbate the impact of chronic stress, violence, and poverty.

The lack of trust in institutions leads some residents to out to carry guns to mitigate their level of fear and anxiety, further perpetuating the potential for gun-related violence.



ON AVERAGE DAILY

Americans are impacted by gun violence. Experiencing physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, and psychological intimidation, with the majority being Black and Hispanic/Latino.

PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT

MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

The strong association between police brutality, gun violence, and stress has led some researchers to suggest that police brutality is a social determinant of health.

The anger, grief, and hopelessness that Black and Hispanie/Latino Americans feel further amplify the impact of stress on health and wellbeing.

The lack of social discourse and predominant underreaction to police brutality cause additional burden, even if the experiences are not happening in the community but are being reported in the media.

Furthermore, gun violence and brutality directed primarily at non-White communities serve to perpetuate racism and rekindle the history of racial oppression.

Police encounters have an impact on mental health, and negative encounters with police are associated with a greater prevalence of depression and anxiety.

The impact of negative police exchanges is more pronounced in Blacks and Latinxs than Whites, Some researchers have highlighted the negative impact of the anticipatory stress associated with the potential for police brutality amongst Black and Hispanic/Latino Americans. The fear of becoming a victim of police brutality is powerful enough to be associated with a greater likelihood of depression and anxiety.

An important indicator of mental health status is the perception of how mental health needs were met by mental health services; if the perception is negative and that mental health needs were not met, the experience may become a barrier to accessing care in the future.

The impact of unmet health needs extends to reduced quality of life, greater healthcare utilization, particularly emergency room visits, substance use, and related psychiatric disorders.

In addition, unmet health care needs are correlated with loss in productivity and reduced life expectancy.

Research has shown that necessary policy exchanges that resulted in negative police encounters were associated with increased odds of reported unmet needs compared to Americans with no experiences of negative police encounters.

The odds were even greater in circumstances where negative police encounters were a result of unnecessary police encounters.

In contrast, when police encounters were positive, even if they were unnecessary, the odds of unmet needs being reported were reduced.

Unnecessary police encounters that resulted in negative encounters were associated with medical mistrust, highlighting the impact of police mistrust on the likelihood of seeking and trusting doctors and allied medical professionals. UP TO

95%

of children in under-resourced communities have experienced gun violence

AND

65%

report significant levels of distres

SUMMARY POLICE BRUTALITY BLACK AND LATINX HEALTH

COMMUNITIES WITH FEW RESOURCES AND OPPORTUNITIES ARE PREDOMINANTLY BLACK AND LATINX

The root causes of gun violence are predicated on access to a gun, with factors such as underfunded public housing, underperforming schools, lack of opportunities for employment and training, leading to economic inequality and concentrated poverty further amplifying the problem.

Neighborhoods with a lack of resources and opportunities are disproportionately composed of Black and Latinx residents because of racial residential segregation that has its origins in racialized economic and housing policies.

Movements like Black Lives Matter and Blacktivist have highlighted inherent racial biases by police and racism within the law enforcement and criminal. justice system.

But they have not been able to erase the feelings of powerlessness that affect well-being in Black communities. Organizations like the American Public Health Association have urged federal. state, and local governments to demilitarize and prevent policing that perpetuates racial inequalities such as racialized stop and frisk and decriminalized loitering and minor traffic

Distrust of police is associated with distrust of other government institutions, including health care, and serves to inhibit communities of colorfrom seeking medical care and assistance for fear of the same behavior.

GUN VIOLENCE PREDICATED ON ACCESSIBILITY AND PERPETUATED BY UNDERFUNDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, SCHOOLS, AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

RECOMMENDATIONS

RESEARCH URGENTLY NEEDED AND COLLECTION OF COMMUNITY VIOLENCE STATISTICS ACROSS ALL US STATES

The lack of clear data on the impact of police brutality and gun violence is a factor that is contributing to the lack of effective lobbying and policy change. The National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS) adopted by some states, is making considerable efforts to estimate the mortality, injury, and disability rates associated with the use of excessive force by the police.

The hope is that more states will participate in the NVDRS process and join federal agencies like the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the National Center for Health Statistics are starting to invest in active and passive data collection on police use of force, to promote fair policing, justice, and population health.

In tandem, qualitative and ethnographic research is critical to further elucidate the impact of gun violence and police brutality. Advocacy and policy development that addresses gun violence and should confront oppression in all its forms and its impact on the health and wellbeing of current and future generations is paramount to promote health equity for all Americans.





DIVERSE COMMUNITY AT GREATER RISK OF EXPERIENCING GUN VIOLENCE

LGBTQ+ POPULATION

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DIVERSE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) people, and those who identify with other expansive sexual orientations and gender identities represent approximately 5.6% of the US population.

The proportion of Americans who identify as LGBTQis growing rapidly.

Gallup polling data from 2020 found that more than I in

6 members of Generation Z (those born 1997 to 2002) identify as LGBTQ+ compared to fewer than 1 in 25 members of Generation X (those born 1965-to 1980).

It is important to recognize that there is a vibrant diversity of experiences within the LGBTQ+ population with LGBTQ+ people spanning all genders, ages, races and ethnicities, abilities and disabilities, geographic locales, religions, and nationalities.

APPROXIMATELY

5.696

of Americans identify as LGBTQ+

LGBTQ+ POPULATION AT GREATER RISK OF GUN VIOLENCE

Why is it important to consider the LGBTQ+ population in conversations regarding gun violence?

Although LGBTQ+ people represent a relatively small proportion of the total US population, they are at greater risk of experiencing gun violence.

For example, LGBTQ+ Americans are disproportionately more likely to:

- Be targets of assault, violence, and hate crimes;
- · Report suicide attempts; and
- Experience intimate partner violence than heterosexual and eisgender (non-LGBTQ+)
 Americans.

Additionally, when a gun is involved in an anti-LGBTQ+ violent attack, suicide attempt, or violent incident with an intimate partner, the risk of the encounter becoming deadly is magnified.



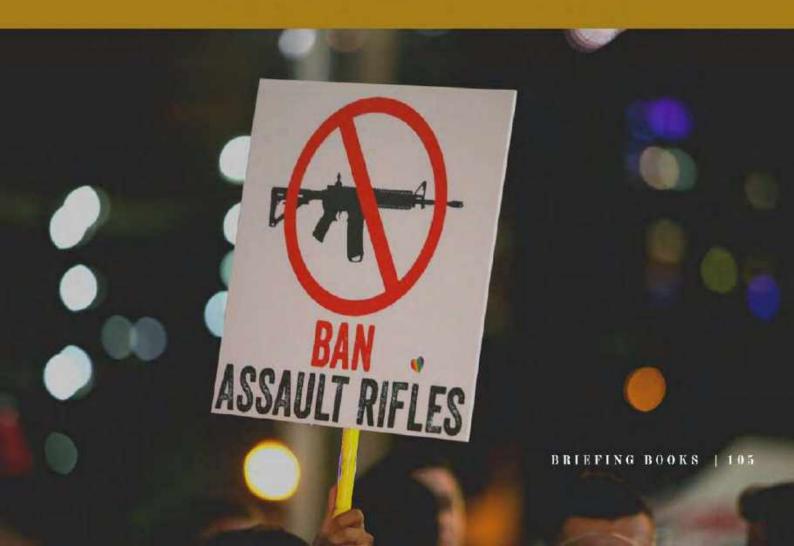
VICTIMIZATION

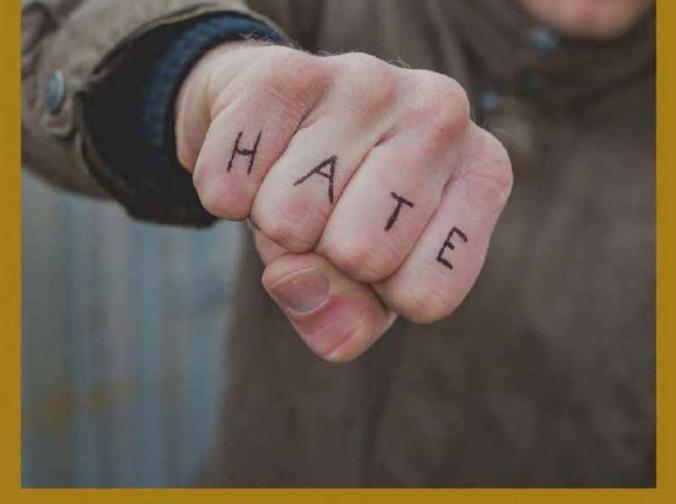
EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE MAGNIFIES THE POTENTIAL FOR FATAL GUN VIOLENCE AMONG LGBTQ+ POPULATIONS

LGBTQ+ Americans are more likely to be targets of assault, violence, and hate crimes than heterosexual and disgender (non-LGBTQ+) Americans.

These risks are especially pronounced for LGBTQ+ people who also identify as racial/ethnic minorities, as transgender or another gender diverse identity, and who are younger. Additionally, LOBTQ+ youth are more likely to experience school-based violence than non-LGBTQ+ youth.

Lastly, although rare, LGBTQ+ people have also been targeted in mass shootings, as in the Pulse Nightclub Shooting in 2016.



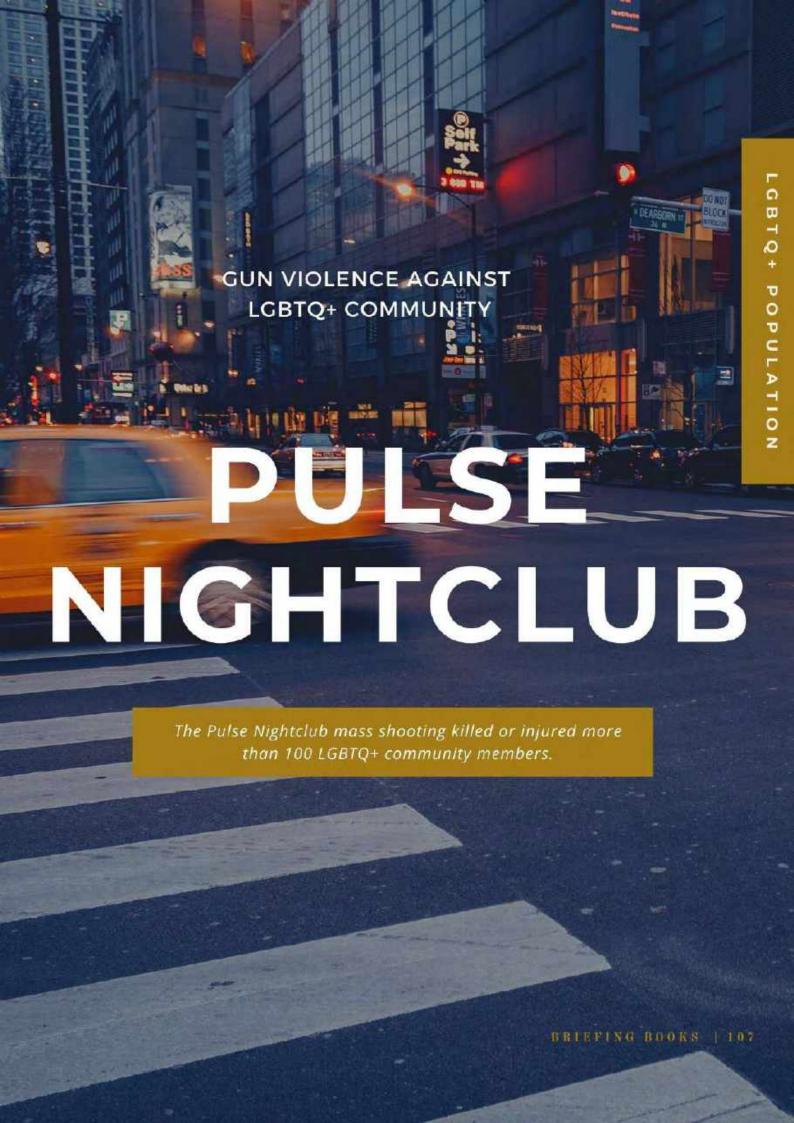


LGBTQ+ HIGH HATE CRIME RISK

LGBTQ+ people more likely to experience hate crimes than any other group in America.

According to the FBI 2019 Hate Crime Statistical report, nearly 1 in 5 hate crimes were motivated by anti-LGBTQ+ bias; 15.7% of hate crime victims were targets of anti-sexual orientation bias, and 2.7% were victims of anti-transgender or anti-gender non-conformity bias.

Hate crime statistics are often underreported and undercounted due to difficulties in proving bias motivation, data collection problems, and law enforcement reluctance; thus, the toll of anti-LGBTQ+ violent attacks reported in FBI data is probably underestimated. However, in recent years there has been an increase in anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes and the proliferation of hate groups. Between 2017 and 2018, the proportion of all bate crimes committed based on anti-LGBTQ+ bias increased from roughly 17% to 19%. Further, the Southern Poverty Law Center documented that the number of anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups increased 43% in 2018 alone.



Pulse Nightclub greatest masscasualty terrorist attack in the US since September 11, 2001.

LGBTQ | people were targets of a mass shooting on June 12, 2016, when an armed gunman killed

PAGE 10

LGETQ+ individuals and allies.

The Pulse Nightclub Massacre represents the deadliest violent attack against LCBTQ+ people

BLACK TRANSGENDER GUN VIOLENCE

Black transgender women are being killed by guns and this epidemic of violence is increasing.

political climate, cultural marginalization, family rejection, and denial of opportunity in violence toward transgender people.

Using news reports, court records, and interviews with police, advocates and presecutors, the Washington Post identified 140 transgender women who were killed nationwide between 2015 and 2020. According to the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the number of transgender people murdered in 2021 has people killed in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2019 combined.

As of September 2021, HRC has recorded 37 murders of transgender people.

Homicide Tracker, nearly 80% of homicides of Black transgender women involved a gun. In total, 75% of confirmed murders of transgender

Black transgender women, who face risk of experiencing deadly violence. Black homicides; most of these murders involve a gun.

media, law enforcement, and coroner reports. demonstrating an injustice toward the victims and hampering efforts to accurately track the burden of violence against this population.

PAGE 10 BRIEFING | BOOKS

Exposure to Violence Fear for Safety



In 2017, YRBS data showed that transgender youth are substantially more likely to be bulled or cyberbullied than their eisgender peers.

Nearly a quarter of transgender students reported being threatened or injured with a weapon at school in the past year compared to 6.4% of cisgender boys and 4.1% of cisgender girls.

Reflecting this difference, transgender youth were more than five times more likely to report feeling unsafe at school than their eisgender peers.

LGBTQ+ youth more likely to face violence at school, be threatened with a weapon

LGBTQ+ youth are frequent targets of bullying and anti-LGBTQ+ motivated bias at school. Nationally representative data from the 2015-2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) demonstrates that LGBTQ+ teens are more likely to report feeling unsafe at school and experience bullying and cyberbullying and their heterosexual peers.

Troublingly, LGBTQ+ teens are also more than twice as likely to have been threatened or injured with a weapon at school compared to their heterosexual classmates.

Perhaps because of this exposure to violence and fear for safety, a higher proportion of LGBTQ+ youth in the YRBS from 2009 to 2015 reported carrying a weapon at school including "a gun, knife, or club" than heterosexual youth. In total, 14.0% of heterosexual, 21.8% of gay/lesbian, and 18.5% of bisexual teens reported carrying a weapon at school in the past month.



HIGHER SUICIDE RATES

LGBTQ+ people report substantially higher rates of suicide attempt than heterosexual, cisgender people.

The US Surgeon General and the National Institutes of Health consider LGBTQ+ people as comprising a high-risk population for suiride. Indeed, population-based studies demonstrate that LGBTQ+ people report substantially higher rates of suicide attempts than their eigender and heterosexual peers, both in adolescence and adulthood.

In 2019, 23.4% of surveyed ILGBTQ+ students in the YRBS had attempted suicide in the past year, compared to 6.4% of heterosexual students. Nearly half of the LGBTQ+ student population scriously considered attempting suicide, compared to 14.5% of heterosexual students.

These trends in suicide risk extend to transgender youth. More than one-third of transgender youth in the 2017 YRBS reported a past-year suicide attempt, and 16.5% experienced a serious suicide attempt that required medical treatment.







SELF-DEFENSE

LGBTQ+ FIREARM ACCES

gus in the home and nearly one quarter of transgender youth in a state-level survey carried

Whether or not any suicide attempt will be lethal

Nearly 90% of gun suicide attempts result in death compared to 13.5% of drug poisoning attempts. Thus, understanding LGBTQ+ understanding the population's risk for suicide

Nationally representative findings from the 2010-2016 General Social Survey showed that

bisexual respondents reported a gun in the home compared to 35.7% of heterosexuals. heterosexuals, a higher proportion of lesbian/bisexual women reported personally

One study using state-level representative data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance transgender respondents were substantially less likely to own a gan than non-transgender

In another study on gun ownership in California. more than 70% of LGBTQ+ handgun owners reported that their primary reason for owning a gan was for protection against other people.

There have been few studies that reported on access to guns among LGBTQ+ youth. However, a special report from the 2019 Nevada YRBS demonstrated strong LGBTQ+ disparities in the proportion of high schoolers who reported carrying a gun in the 12 months prior to the survey (not including carrying a gun for hunting or for sport, such as target shooting).

Overall 9% of LGBTQ+ youth reported carrying a gun compared to 4.3% of heterosexual youth.

Among transgender youth, this disparity was magnified: 21.6% of transgender teens reported earrying a gun in the past 12 months compared to 4.4% of disgender youth.

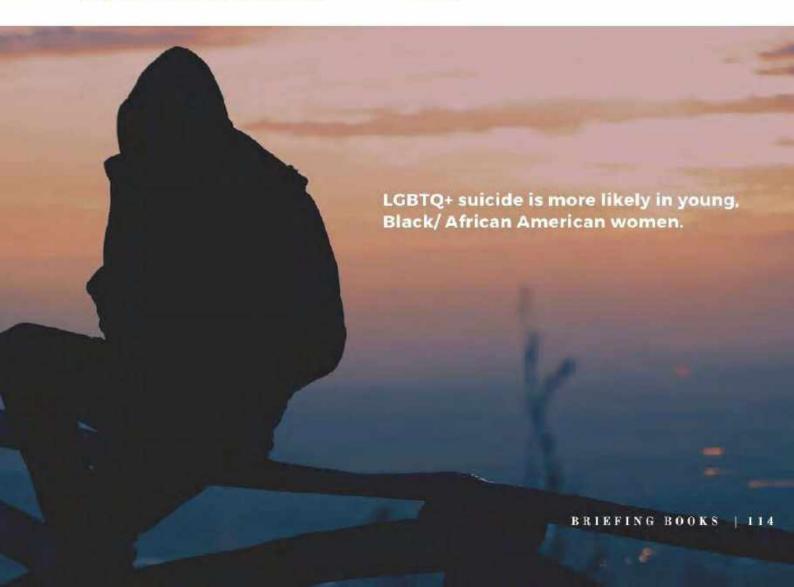
One study has investigated sexual orientation differences in lethal methods used in suicide. From a sample of 59,075 adult suicides recorded in a CDC database - the National Violent Death Reporting System - most sexual minorities used hanging (38%), followed by firearm (30%) and drug or poison ingestion (20%). LGBTQ+ suicide victims were more likely than heterosexuals to be younger, female, and Black/African American.

A recent qualitative study with 22 LUBTQ+ adults who had made a near-fatal suicide attempt in the past 18 months investigated participants' motivations for choosing a particular method of suicide.

Participants' motivations encompassed five key reasons: accessibility, perceived lethality, familiarity, concerns about pain and violence involved with other methods, and not having access to a firearm.

The latter theme highlights that the lower proportion of gun ownership among LGBTQ+ adults compared to their heterosexual, cisgender peers may introduce a benefit of preventing lethal suicide attempts, but this requires more research.

For example, it is unknown whether or to what extent lethal means counseling and restriction efforts – such as encouraging suicidal patients to lock up guns and store guns and ammunition separately – are employed by LGBTQ+-focused medical and mental health providers (e.g., practicing within LGBTQ+ community health centers).





INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

LGBTQ+ people experience intimate partner violence (IFV) at a rate equal to or higher than the average U.S citizen, but it is difficult to quantify the extent of such violence as sexual orientation or gender identity is often not accurately recorded in law enforcement reports.

However, existing surveys and other data collection methods provide information on the burden of IPV on LGBTQ+ people.

An in-depth literature review of 54 studies on the prevalence and correlates of IPV across gender and sexual orientation found that the lifetime prevalence

of 1PV against heterosexual male victims ranges from 7.3% to 32% compared with 20.3% to 35.2% against heterosexual female victims, depending on the type of violence specified by research measures.

The same study found the lifetime prevalence of IPV against gay men to range from 15.4% to 51%. In studies of IPV among young gay and bisexual men. IPV is bidirectional (i.e., both partners are abusers and bused) and physical injury is common.



E X C E S S I V E R I S K

OVER HALF OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE EXPERIENCE IPV IN THEIR LIFETIMES

BISEXUAL WOMEN EXPERIENCE HIGH RATES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Bisexual women also experience higher rates of IPV than lesbian and heterosexual women.

A report by the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NIPSVS) found that 61% of bisexual women reported being raped, assaulted, or stalked by an intimate partner over their lifetime, compared to 44% of lesbian women and 35% of heterosexual women.

Another study reports that bisexual women are highly exposed to IPV perpetrated by male partners. Furthermore, the risk of intimate partner homicide increases in the presence of a gun. The NIPSVS found that 15% of bisexual women, compared to 4.4% of beterosexual women, reported that their partner used a knife or a gun during an IPV encounter.





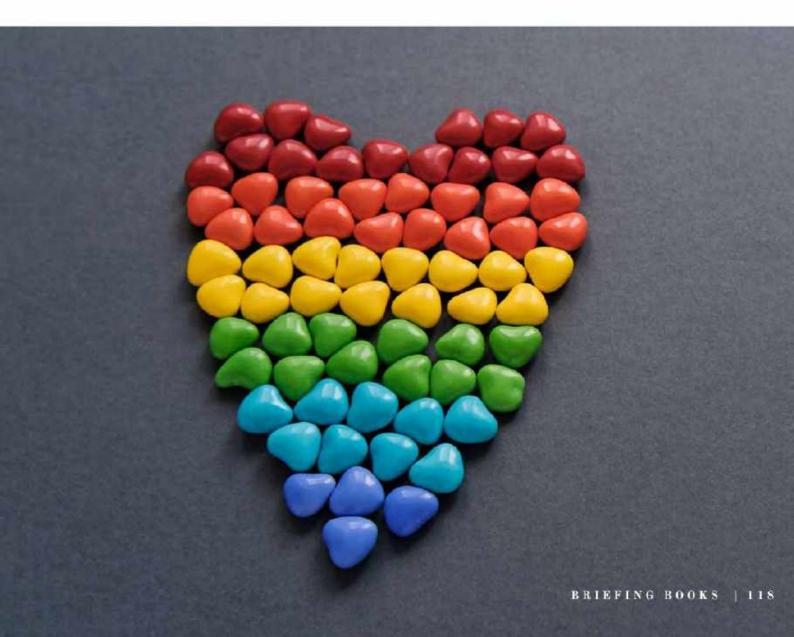


TRANSGENDER YOUTH MORE
LIKELY TO EXPERIENCE
PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL ABUSE
COMPARED TO CISGENDER YOUTH

VULNERABLE POPULATION

Research consistently finds that transgender people in the US experience IPV at significantly elevated rates relative to the general population. Estimates from the US Transgender Survey, the largest national sample of transgender people in the US, suggest that over half (54%) of transgender people experience IPV in their lifetimes. IPV victims who are transgender are two times more likely to experience violence by a former partner than survivors who are eigender.

An understudied issue within IPV research is the links between experiences of teen dating violence, gun violence, and IPV as an adult. Among adolescents, the odds of physical abuse victimization are 2.5 times higher and sexual abuse 3.4 times higher among transgender versus eigender youth. These risks increased further for racial-ethnic minority youth.



CONCLUSION **FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

LGBTQ+ people face significant violence-related concerns in key domains of life, including community victimization, suicide, and intimate partner violence. In each of these domains, LGBTQ+ people have unique risk factors for exposure to gain violence related to their sexual and gender minority status.

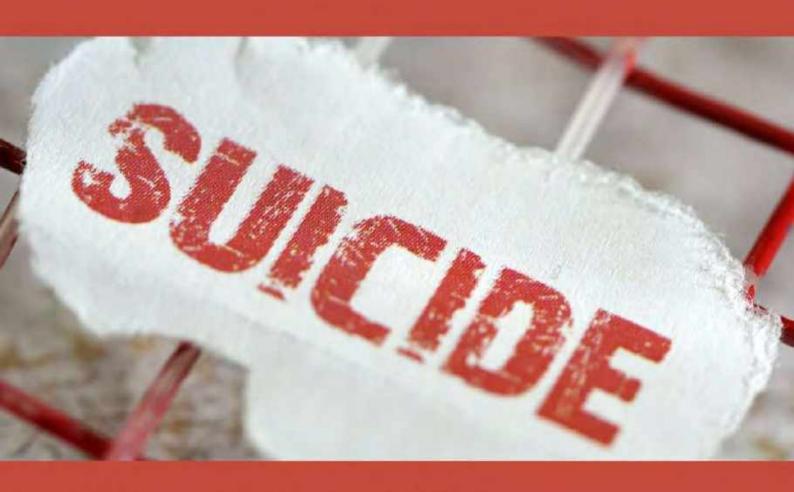
In several contexts, transgender and other gender minerity individuals experience extreme forms of victimization that may involve a firearm, making this a priority population for gun violence research, prevention, and intervention. Importantly, there are significant gaps in research and data availability for assessing exposure to gun violence among LGBTQ+ communities and the effectiveness of prevention and intervention strategies.

Too often, data on gan violence do not collect sexual orientation or gender identity or do not disaggregate exposure to violence by type of weapon used (if any). Additionally, despite being at significantly elevated risk of victimization, LGBTQ+ communities and individuals are frequently left out of studies on gun violence.

Prevention of and interventions in gun violence among LGBTQ+ communities also require a tailored approach due to concerns about bias in reporting and response from law enforcement, avoidance of services delivered on the basis of binary gender categories, and other barriers experienced by community members when accessing mental health, medical, and legal services.

LGBTQ UNIQUE RISKS

victimization and gun violence



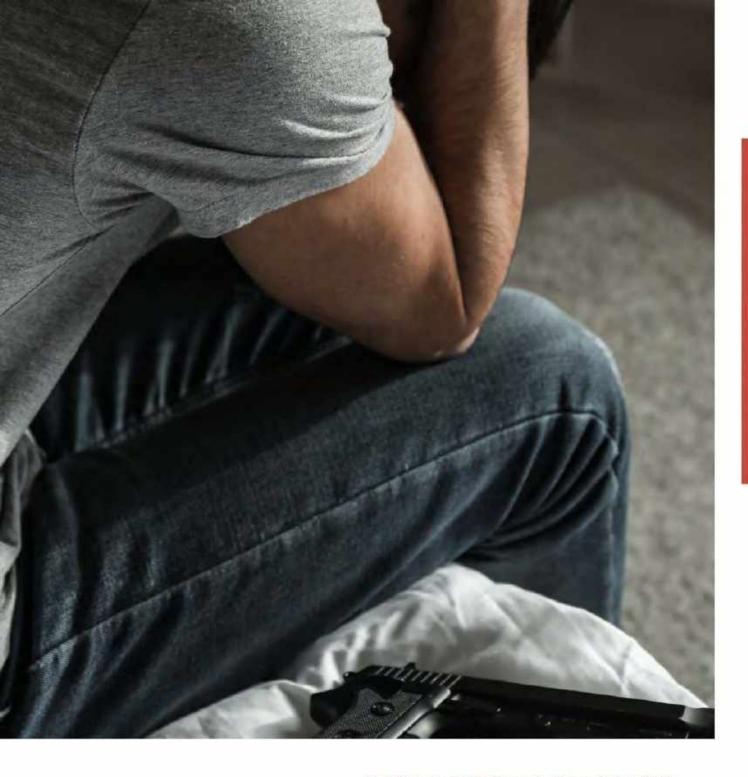
SUICIDE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH WORLDWIDE AND IN THE US

FIREARM SUICIDE

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Allison Bond MA, GVRC Doctoral Candidate, Urban-Global Public Health, Rutgers School of Public Health



DEATH BY SUICIDE

DISPROPORTIONATE ROLE OF **FIREARMS**

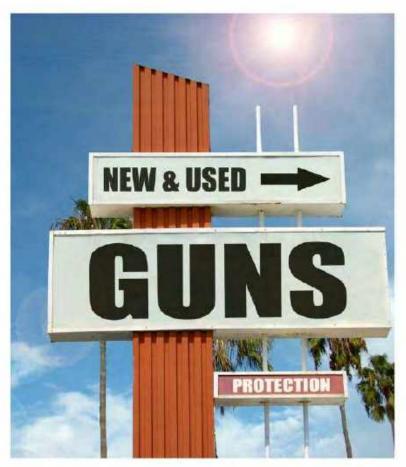
In a 2021 report by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suicide is a leading cause of death throughout the world and the US. Although firearms are used in less than 5% of suicide attempts, they account for over 50% of suicide deaths. In 2019, suicide was responsible for the loss of 47,500 lives, reflecting a death every 11 minutes.

The disproportionate role of firearms in American suicide deaths is partly explained by the fact that firearms are by far the most lethal method for suicide, with an 85 to 95%case fatality rate Indeed, attempts by all other methods combined result in death less than 5% of the time.

IN 2019

47,500

American lives were lost to suicide



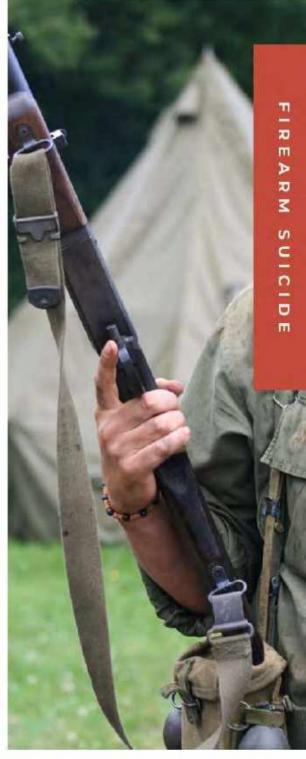
RECENT TRENDS

FIREARMS SALES

Recent trends in firearm sales have demonstrated a concerning trend, as those who purchased a firearm during the purchasing surge of 2020 and 2021 were significantly more likely to report lifetime, past year, and past month suicidal ideation than other firearm owners and non-lirearm owners.

The risk was particularly high for individuals who became firearm owners for the first time during this time period. This means that, as firearms have entered American homes at an unprecedented rate, the homes they have entered have been mercasingly likely to include individuals with recent thoughts of snieide.

Although firearms do not cause individuals to become suicidal, having a firearm in the home increases risk for suicide by 3-5 times for everyone in the home, and the risk may be even higher when that firearm is stored musafely.



SUICIDE RISK GREATER FOR FIRST TIME GUN OWNERS.

SUICIDE RISK INCREASES BY UP TO

5X

if there's a firearm in the house



FIREARM ACCESS

The risk of death by suicide increases for everyone when a firearm is present, there are certain individuals and situations that increase risk for utilizing a firearm in a suicide attempt. For instance, those who use a firearm are more likely to be male and younger and to store the firearm unsafely.

Overall, the firearm suicide rate in the United States has increased by 22.5% since 1999. Firearm ownership and firearm suicide deaths are disproportionately centered among White Americans, with this group accounting for 90.6% of all firearm suicides in the US in 2019; however, firearm suicide rates among those who identify as Black have risen substantially and the rate among Black males in particular has increased by 27.9% since 2013.

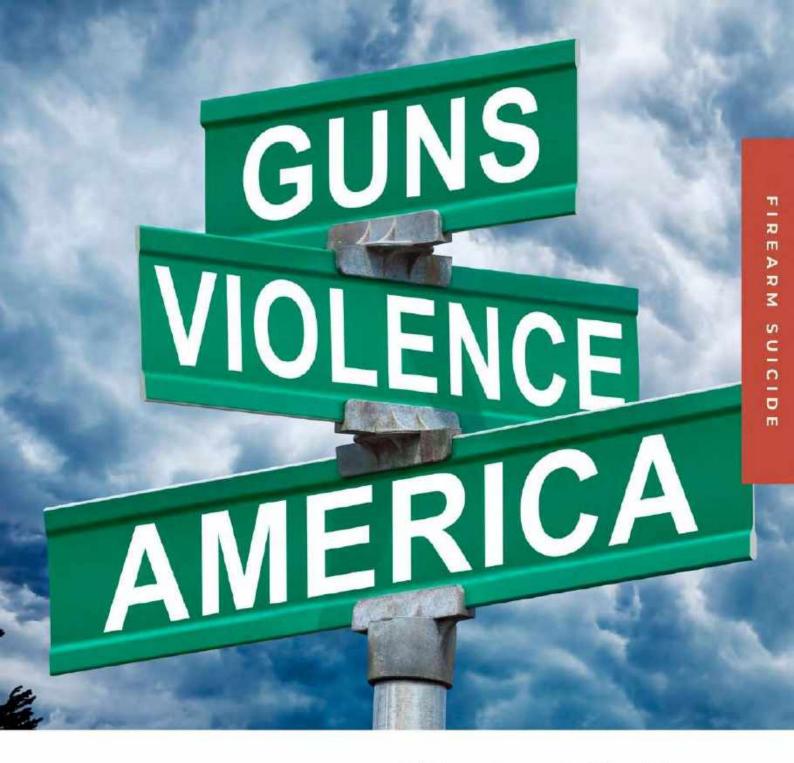
Importantly, the individuals most likely to die by firearm suicide often belong to demographic groups prone to underutilizing mental health services and underreporting thoughts of suicide. Because of this, tools designed to prevent firearm suicide must extend beyond the healthcare system and function upstream, providing prevention potential within contexts where levels of suicide risk are unknown.

INCREASED SUICIDE RISK FOR ALL, BUT MORE SO FOR MALES

IN 2019 WHITE MALES REPRESENTED

90.6%

of all firearm suicides in the US.

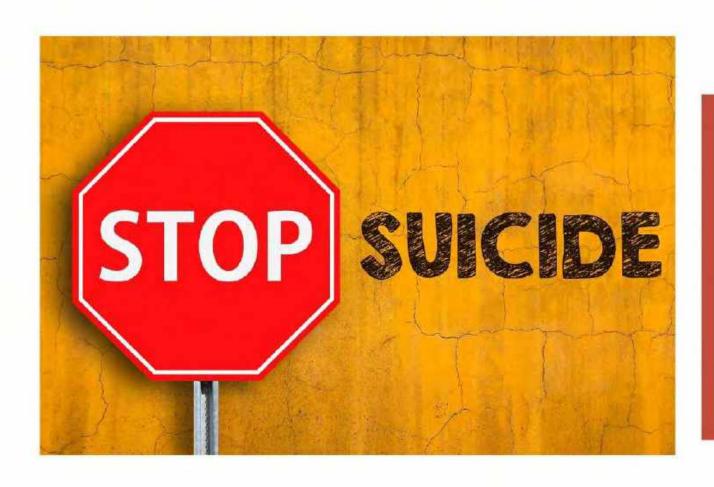


DICKEY AMENDMENT

BLOCKED FEDERAL FUNDING ON RESEARCH INTO GUN VIOLENCE

The Dickey Amendment passed in 1996 blocked federal funding of gun violence research for over 20 years, beginning in the mid-1990s. As a result, research on firearm suicide prevention has lagged relative to other public health crises and our basic understanding of the problem and its potential solutions is therefore not where it otherwise might be.

Only recently has funding become available and, as a result, the amount of research being conducted in this area has increased dramatically. Despite this positive shift, much work remains to be done in order to truly leverage the lifesaving potential of suicide interventions focused specifically on firearms.



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

One avenue to reduce the risk of firearm suicide is means safety. Means safety is defined as rendering methods for suicide less lethal or readily available.

Means safety includes preventing high-risk individuals from obtaining firearms, routinely storing firearms safely (e.g., unloaded, in a gun safe) in the home, voluntarily storing firearms outside of the home in times of suicidal crisis, and removal of access to firearms by external figures (e.g. family members, law enforcement) during times of acute risk.

MEANS SAFETY BY LIMITING ACCESS TO FIREARMS

Each of these means safety techniques puts time and distance between someone with thoughts of suicide and the most lethal method for suicide.

Means safety includes preventing high-risk individuals from obtaining firearms, routinely storing firearms safely (e.g., unloaded, in a gun safe) in the home, voluntarily storing firearms outside of the home in times of suicidal crisis, and removal of access to firearms by external figures (e.g. family members, law enforcement) during times of acute risk.

OUT-OF-HOME

FIREARM STORAGE MAPS

- SUCCESSFULLY USED IN SEVERAL US STATES

Colorado, Maryland, Washington, Mississippi, and New Jersey have created safe storage maps, which include gan shops, law enforcement agencies, and other legal options where firearm owners can temporarily store their firearms in a time of crisis.

The maps are designed to provide firearm owners with a free tool that details local options for the legal temporary transfer of firearms, Although designed primarily as a suicide prevention tool, this storage option also provides a path for safe cut-of-home storage in the case that children are visiting a home, a firearm owner is going on vacation, or numerous other possibilities.

The efficacy of these maps with respect to suicide prevention is thus far unknown; however, such efforts represent a movement towards collaboration between researchers and local firearm-owning communities, which could increase buy-in within communities of firearm owners skeptical about the agenda of gun violence prevention scholars.





LETHAL MEANS COUNSELING

DISCUSSIONS WITH FIREARM OWNERS TO REDUCE RISK OF FIREARM SUICIDE

Another important tool in preventing firearm suicide is lethal means counseling, an intervention that involves discussions with firearm owners regarding developing plans for reducing the risk of firearm suicide (e.g. safe storage).

In a recent randomized controlled trial among firearm-owning members of the Mississippi National Guard, service-members who received lethal means counseling were significantly more likely to store their firearms using cable locks and gun safes than were individuals in the control condition during the 6-month follow-up period. In this trial, the clinicians utilized a protocol based upon motivational interviewing, thereby precluding confrontational approaches or the prescription of specific safety procedures that participants were instructed to follow.

Perhaps most importantly, and potentially because of the nature of the interactions, 100% of the individuals who received lethal means counseling indicated they would recommend the intervention to a peer, thereby contradicting concerns that conversations on such a politicized and sensitive issue would frequently result in conflicts.

CONVERSATIONS ABOUT SAFE GUN STORAGE ARE NOT PERCEIVED AS CONFRONTATIONAL

FIREARM PURCHASING SURGE

21 Millon

guns were sold in the U.S. in 2020



FIREARM POLICIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERMIT-TO-PURCHASE LAW LEADS TO A REDUCTION SUICIDE

In addition to health care providers and community members, policy makers can play a role in promoting means safety and preventing firearm suicide. For instance, data indicate that the implementation of a permit-to-purchase law in Connecticut resulted in a meaningful and sustained reduction in firearm suicides whereas the repeal of a similar law in Missouri was associated with a subsequent increase in firearm suicides.

Similarly, there is evidence suggesting that mandatory waiting periods and policies that regulate firearm storage practices (e.g. child access laws) are associated with decreased suicide rates. Most recently, emerging evidence has suggested that extreme risk protection orders (ERPOs), which allow specific individuals (e.g. family members, law enforcement) to petition a court to remove an individual's access to firearms if there is evidence of imminent risk to self or others, can prevent suicide.

Indeed, it is estimated that, for every 10 to 20 ERPOs issued in Connecticut and for every 10 issued in Indiana, one suicide has been prevented.

Research has found that the words that are used in safe storage messages matter. Specifically, firearm owners prefer the term "firearm" opposed to "gun".

Additionally, firearm owners deem law enforcement officers, military members, and family as credible to discuss firearm safety for suicide prevention, while celebrities are seen as less credible.

Public Health Messaging

Having sources that firearm owners deem credible deliver messages that resonate with firearm owners may increase compliance with safe storage suggestions and decrease suicide

Additional research is needed to further understand the optimal message content, messenger, and message delivery approach as well as variability in the answers to questions that arise across different communities of Brearm owners.

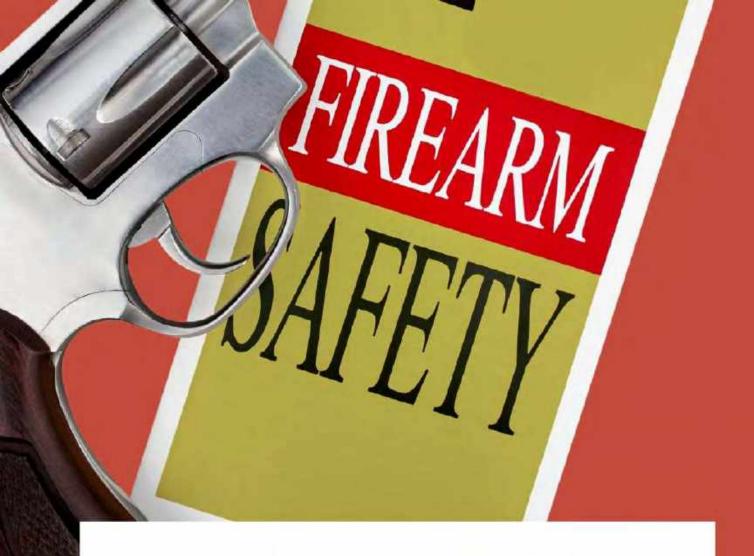


The words used in safe firearm storage messages matter



research is critical to understanding and preventing firearm suicide

A more thorough understanding of these matters combined with a well-funded and data-driven effort to broadly promote safe firearm storage could have the potential to shift social norms of firearm storage behaviors, thereby offering an upstream tool for preventing firearm suicide,

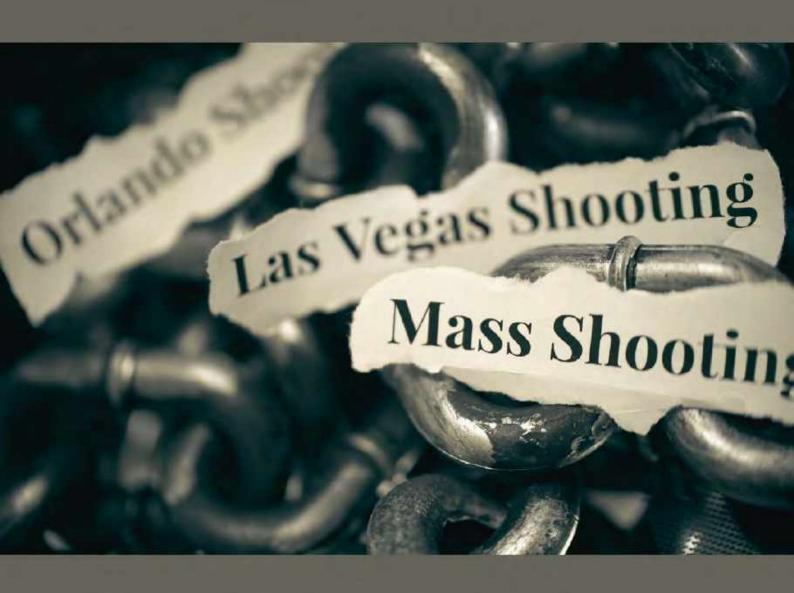


FIREARM

RESEARCH TO GUIDE POLICY

IN THE US OVER HALF OF FATAL SUICIDES ARE FIREARM RELATED

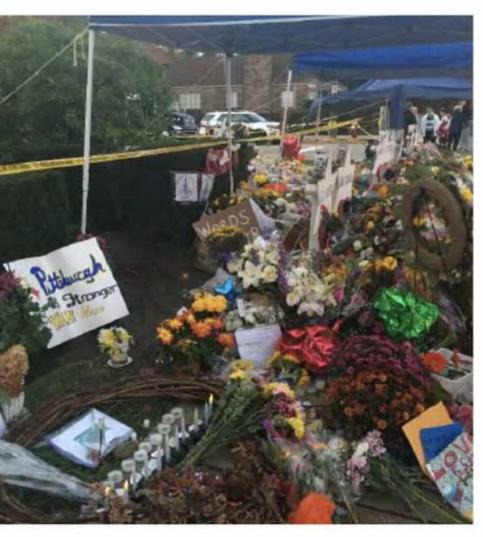
Firearms play an outsized role in American suicide, accounting for more than half of all national suicide deaths. The scope of the problem is clear; however, decades devoid of research funding have stunted efforts to understand and implement solutions. A recent surge in research in this area has provided a variety of promising options. Each of these options involves efforts to decrease the odds that an individual at particularly elevated risk for suicide hass ready access to a firearm.



A PERSONAL ACCOUNT ON PROCESSING A MASS SHOOTING

MASS SHOOTINGS

Mark Greenhalgh, PhD, MPH
Postdoctoral Fellow
VA Palo Alto & Stanford School of Medicine





Much like most people in the Pittsburgh eommunity, the tragedy that occurred at the Tree of Life still hangs over me like a dreary cloud on this currently rainy day.

The days after the shooting, I was late to class because of a delayed bus schedule along the Centre Avenue routes.

The funeral home next to my house was bustling with news crews, police officers, and several close friends and family members of a victim of the shooting being memorialized. I cannot tell you that I knew them, nor knew their name. But it still hit me as though I had,

When I got to class, which was Socratic seminar themed around tragedy in a community, many classmates from all walks of life, expressed their grief, frustration, anger, empathy, and anxieties about what the hell just happened to our Steel City.

To me, the memorial service on Centre and the ensuing discussion in class represented the value of community coming together, comforting one another, in times like this.

They are not meant to take away from the loss 11 families are feeling right now nor the fear and pain an entire religion is experiencing.

What it does is give optimism, that communities like Pittsburgh, much like the Sandy Hooks and the Las Vegases that came before it, will rise again stronger than ever.

I openly admit, I never thought much about Pittsburgh, nor thought about what's going on here. I saw it as a small town forgotten from an industrial era with a football team, I was bread to despise (Sorry, Eagles fan). "...optimism, that communities like Pittsburgh... the Sandy Hooks and Las Vegases that came before it, will rise again stronger than ever..."

MARK GREENHALGH PHD MPH

Tree of Life | Pittsburgh



contd.

... When the acceptance letter came from the University of Pittsburgh, there was very little question that is where I would end up. It was one of the best decisions I made.

Over six years, four in undergrad and four in grad school, the Pittsburgh accepted this Navy brat who never had a stable place to call home and welcomed him with open arms:

That's why the most shocking part about Saturday's shooting was the Tree of Life, a massive synagogue standing tall in the heart of Pittsburgh's Jewish district, plastered all over BBC, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, and other news organizations around the world that report atroctics in places where they're "suppose" to happen, not Pittsburgh.

It was hard to witness politicians and prominent figureheads politicizing a tragedy that occurred just a few hours before in a place of worship situated five minutes from my house. Most of all, it was difficult seeing this community grieve.

This was Pittsburgh! Steel City! Tough as nails, in a state of overwhelming despair at the hands of an incredibly sick, anti-Semitic individual who just murdered people celebrating not only their faith but their First Amendment right as American citizens to practice religion freely and without persecution. Needless to say, it has been hard to grasp, understand, and swallow.

...Since I was a little kid, my mother referred to me as someone who, to quote Monty Python, "always looked on the bright side of life." This reigns true even in times like these.

"...this was Pittsburgh!
Steel City! Tough as
nails, in a state of
overwhelming
despair..."



A MASS SHOOTING ALMOST

every

between 1992 to 2020



contd.

... I know this is cliché for someone in Pittsburgh to say, but "always look for the helpers. You will always find people helping." While the synagogue and the bastard who gunned those people down were plastered all over the news, so were stories about the people who saved, and continue to save, the day.

I saw stories like the cleric, who as luck would have it, kept his cell phone on despite Sabbath practices and stayed on the line with dispatchers for 20 minutes as the atrocity was unfolding.

I saw stories about Jewish doctors continuing to treat this madman's gunshot wounds while he screamed racist profanities at them.

I saw stories featuring first responders, who risked their lives and walked into a wall of bullets and I saw stories featuring cop cars with "Pittsburgh Police" painted proudly on their sides. I saw stories about SquirrelHill neighbors, who never spoke to one another, comforting each other at the site of their lost sense of security, I saw stories about people of the Muslim faith, historically at odds with the Jewish people, donating over \$100,000 within days, to support the victims and their families.

It gave me hope that this atrocity, like most tragedies before it, will bring a community closer together to assist their own in making it through a difficult time. What happened on Saturday, October 27, 2018, struck me hard and deep. A community that took in this out-of-towner and made him feel welcomed was attacked and the entire world was now looking at it.

I know the world was not disappointed when what they saw were Yinzers stepping up one after another to take care of their people that were hurting. It brought hope and a sense that this did not break the city because lets be honest, it's not even worth trying to break Steel!

CALIFORNIA HIGH RATE OF

school shotings

since 1972



"...there are always helpers..."



BRIEFING BOOKS

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA



David Teisler, CAE
Director of Communications & Deputy Director

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MEDIA FINDING

EXPERTS

Freely Available

ABCT has a list of speakers and subject matter experts on topics such as PTSD, anxiety, suicide, and more. Further details are available on the website or by contacting the ABC Press Office.

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Phone: (212) 647 - 1890 FAX: (212) 647-1865 BRIEFING BOOKS

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA















COMMUNITY

About: Brady Organization research and statistics on gun violence in America and conducts research, community, and community organizing on issues around gun control.

Learn more: www.bradyunited.org

About: Wear Orange, raises awareness of the impact of gun violence on communities by calling attention to the impact of guns.

Learn more: www.wearorange.org

About: Everytown for Gun Safety is an American nonprofit organization that advocates for gun control and against gun violence.

Learn more: www.everytown.org

About: Amnesty International is a global organization that campaigns for global human rights, by investigating and exposing the facts of abuse whenever and wherever abuses happen.

Learn more: www.amnesty.org

About: The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence is an affiliate charitable organization of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. EFSGV identifies and implements evidence-based policy solutions and programs to reduce gun violence in all its forms.

Learn more: www.efsgv.org

About: The Child Welfare League of America is a coalition of private and public agencies that serve children and families across America who are vulnerable, CWLA provides expertise, leadership, and innovation on policies, programs, and practices.

Learn more: www.cwla.org

BRIEFING BOOKS

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA







COMMUNITY RESOURCES

About: Children's Defense Fund support policies and programs that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation.

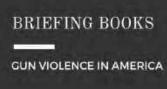
Learn more: www.childrensdefense.org

About: Healthy Children provides the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) approved information on issues relevant to children's development and physical and psychological wellbeing.

Learn more: www.healthychildren.org

About: Firearm Safety Among Children and Teens (FACTS) at the University of Michigan supports research focused on the prevention of firearm injury in children and teens.

Learn more: www.icpsr.umich.edu/web/pages/facts/index.html









AMERICAN ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRY





JOURNALISTS RESOURCES

About: New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center, Rutgers School of Public Health, provides high-quality, multi-disciplinary research on gun violence causality and prevention and translates this research into clear and actionable policies and programs.

Learn more: gunviolenceresearchcenter.rutgers.edu

About: Centers for Disease Control, conducts research and disseminates information on firearm violence and prevention.

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/

About: Prevention Institute is a national nonprofit whose mission is to build prevention and health equity to ensure the places where all people live, work, play and learn foster health, safety, and wellbeing

Learn more: www.preventioninstitute.org

About: The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry provides a range of resources on the psychiatric impact of stressful circumstances for children, including an extensive library on guns and violence.

Learn more: www.aacap.org

About: The RAND Corporation provides research data and an extensive library on guns and violence. RAND's reports are free to download and from anywhere in the world.

Learn more: www.aacap.org

About: The Gun Violence Archive (GVA) provides freely accessible research data and reports on gun violence, including mass shootings and Police related fatalities.

Learn more: www.gunviolencearchive.org

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

GUN VIOLENCE STATISTICS

Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence and Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. (2021). A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making: A Review of 2019 CDC Gun Mortality Data. Available: http://efsgv.org/2019CDCdata

The association of suicidal ideation with firearm purchasing during a firearm purchasing surge Michael D. Arestis, PhD. Shelby L. Bandel, MS. Allison E. Bons, MA. The association of suicidal bloadion with fitnerin praviousing during a financing region. JAMA Netw Open. 2021, https://doi.io.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.32111 Are individuals who purchased finearms during the 2020-2021 purchasing surge more likely than firearm owners who did not purchase during the surge and non-firearm owners to have experienced thoughts of suicide? **Participants in = 6.40 E, were matched to Census demographics drawn from NJ, MS, and MN. data were collected January-June 2021 LIFETIME SUICIDAL of non-firearm IDEATION owners reported iffetime ideation of non-surge 56.1% purchasing 28.9% of surge firearm owners punchasers reported lifetime reported l'etime Idention amortion. PAST YEAR SUICIDALIDEATION of surge purchasers of non-firearm owners reported post year reported past year idention of non-surge purchasing ideation firearm owners reported past year ideatio **PAST MONTH** Month SUICIDAL IDEATION Month Month 20.5% of surge purchasers reported post 11.5% 6.9% month ideation of non-finearm owners reported past month of non-surge purchasing ideation firearm owners reported past month ideation COMPARING SURGE PURCHASERS WHO PURCHASED THEIR FIRST FIREARM TO THOSE WHO PURCHASED AN ADDITIONAL FIREARM LIFETIME PAST YEAR PASTMONTH 66.6% 27% 24.3% 41.6% of those who purchased 1st time purchas an additional firearm reported past month reported lifetime ideation admation of Lat time of those who purchase reported lifetime purchased a 53.1% 15.6% of those who purchased of 1st time pest year ideation reported lifetime ideation

RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

Anestis, M. D., Bandel, S. L., & Bond, A. E. (2021). The association of suicidal ideation with firearm purchasing during a firearm purchasing surge. JAMA network open, 4(10), e2132111-e2132111.



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

Anestis, M. D., Bond, A. E., Bryan, A. O., & Bryan, C. J. (2021). An examination of preferred messengers on firearm safety for suicide prevention. Preventive medicine, 145, 106452.



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

New Jersey Gun Violence Research Center

Bond, A. E., & Anestis, M. D. (2021). Firearm type and number: examining differences among firearm owning suicide decedents. Archives of suicide research, 1-8.

Firearm type and number: Examining differences among firearm owning suicide decedents

Among firearm owners, are the type of firearms owned and the number of firearms owned associated with dying by suicide using a firearm rather than by another method?





Conclusions

The stat majority of theirm overing excite decedence in our bample died by theirm statistic rather (her by another monthod. Every put not all freein dywness who died by statistic did no using a freein. It appears that handgar powerable is particularly relevant to the choice to use a freein perhaps because they are logothably exister to use in a suscent attempt and perhaps because they are more fively often sharppurs to be stored in a majority first leves their ready available during a national of order. Better understanding what prompts the decision to use specific methods for suitable can free but so before positioned to exercise and present individuals at the greatest risk of using a method with a high likelihood of coating their death.

Please cite this article as: Bond, A.E. & Anestis, M.D. (2021).
Firearm type and number: examining differences among firearm owning suicide decedents. Archives of Suicide Research.

Firearm Safety for Families



Studies show children are naturally curious, even about a firearm they've been warned not to touch.



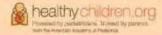
Kids are safer when:

Firearms are in a lockbox or safe, unloaded. Ammunition is locked away separately.



Kids are safest when:

firearms are stored outside the home.





Keep the "safe" in fiream safety

Hiding a gun is not enough! Kids are curious, and studies show they usually know where a family keeps a gun.

Gun safes can lower the risk a curious child will be hurt:



Safe or lockbox for handguns



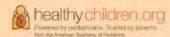
Locked gun safe for rifles

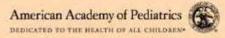


Gun trigger locks – inexpensive and effective



Lock box for ammo





Fast Facts: 2019 and 5-Year Averages

Gun Deaths, 2019

In 2019, nearly 40,000 Americans were killed by gun violence, including over 14,400 by homicide and nearly 24,000 by suicide. Gun violence killed nearly 109 Americans daily, including 39 by homicide and 66 by suicide. This is a horrifying reality for our country — one we must change.

), ———	Gun deaths total, 2019	Average daily gun deaths, 2019	Gun death rate, 2019
Homicide	14,414	39	4.59
Suicide	23,941	66	6.84
Unintentional	486	1	0.16
**Legal Intervention	520	1	0.17
Undetermined Intent	346	1	0.09
Total	39,707	109	11.86

Note: Kates listed are age-adjusted to allow for accurate comparisons between populations with different age distributions.

Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens, 2019

Tragically, more than 3,300 children and teens (ages 0-19) were killed by gun violence in 2019, including over 2,000 by homicide and 1,100 by suicide. An average of nine children and teens were killed by gun violence daily in 2019, including six by homicide and three by suicide.

	Child and teen gun deaths total, 2019	Average daily child and teen gun deaths, 2019	Child and teen gur death rate, 2019
Homicide	2,023	6	2.48
Suicide	1,167	3	1.43
Unintentional	117	<1	0.14
Legal Intervention	19	<1	Unreliable
Undetermined Intent	64	<1	0.08
Total	3,390	9	4.15

Barber, C., Azrael, D., Cohen, A., Miller, M., Thymea, D., Wang, D. E., & Henenway, D. (2016). Homicides by police: comparing counts from the national violent death reporting eystem, vital statistics, and supplementary homicide reports. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(5), 922-927.

^{**}A cautionary note about "legal intervention" data; Strong evidence shows that the government's data (including the CDC data presented here) provide a substantial under-count of police-involved injuries and deaths, 1 To address this gap, several media sources have tracked police-involved shootings in recent years, most notably the Washington Post's Fatal Force database, finding more than double the number of police-involved fatal shootings than are reported in FBI and CDC databases. The Fatal Force database reported that 999 and 1,000 Americans were shot and killed by police in 2019 and 2020 respectively, nearly double the number that the CDC reported. Ultimately, better data on police-involved injuries and deaths are sorely needed. Compulsory and comprehensive data collection at the local level, reporting to the federal government, and transparency in the public dissemination of data will be critical for understanding this unique kind of gun violence and developing evidence-based solutions to minimize police-involved shootings.

The following averages are based on the most recent five years of CDC data, 2015-2019.

Average Number of Gun Deaths, 2015-2019

Every year from 2015 through 2019, an average of nearly 40,000 Americans were killed by guns. including over 14,000 by homicide and 23,000 by suicide. This totals more than 100 gun deaths every single day.

	Average annual gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average daily gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average gun death rate, 2015-2019
Homicide	14,062	39	4.51
Suicide	23,437	64	6.80
Unintentional	483	1	0.15
Legal Intervention	521	1	0.17
Undetermined Intent	324	<1	0.09
Total	38,826	106	11.73

Note: Rates listed are age-adjusted to allow for accurate comparisons between populations with different age distributions.

Average Number of Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens, 2015-2019

On average, over 3,200 children and teens (ages 0-19) were killed by guns annually from 2015-2019, including over 1,800 by homicide, 1,100 by suicide, and 115 unintentionally. Nine children and teens died from gun violence every day.

	Average annual child and teen gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average daily child and teen gun deaths, 2015-2019	Average child and teen gun death rate, 2015-2019	
Homicide	1,855	5	2.26	
Suicide	1,176	3	1.43	
Unintentional	115	<1	0.14	
Legal Intervention	26	<1	0.03	
Undetermined Intent	59	<1	0.07	
Total	3,231	9	3.94	



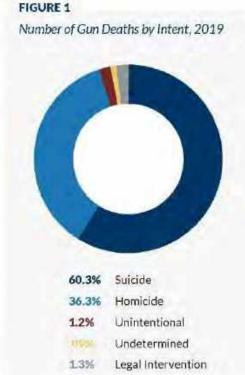
Gun Deaths in the United States: 2019 and Trends Over Time

Gun violence was a leading cause of death in 2019. On average, 109 individuals died from gun violence every day in 2019. For the year in total:

- 39,707 people died from gun violence in the U.S., a small decrease of 33 gun deaths from 2018. 2,112 more Americans died by gun violence (39,707) than by car crashes (37,595).
- It was the third consecutive year of nearly 40,000 gun deaths, capping a decade during which the overall gun death rate increased 17% (10.1 to 11.86 deaths per 100.000, age-adjusted, 2010-2019).
- Males were disproportionately impacted across all forms of gun violence and accounted for 86% of gun death victims. Black males were at especially high risk, with the highest rate of gun death among demographic groups (43.09 deaths per 100,000).

Gun violence comes in many forms and that was true in 2019:

- The proportion of homicides upticked slightly as compared to the previous year, representing 36% of all gun deaths. More than 14,400 individuals were firearm homicide victims in 2019, including 2,023 children and teens (ages 0-19). This equated to an average of 39 firearm homicides every day.
- Suicides continued to make up 60% of all gun deaths. Nearly 24,000 individuals died by firearm suicide, including 1,167 children and teens (ages 0-19). This equated to an average of 66 lives lost every day.
- While the majority of gun deaths are homicides and suicides (combined 96%), people died by other forms of gun violence too, including unintentional,² legal intervention,³ and undetermined intent.⁴



^{2 &}quot;Unintentional" is the description used for a death that was not caused purposely. In gur violence, examples include fatal injuries that occur when a weapon misfires or is michanicide by a child and results in the vicam being shot for contract with homicide and succise, both of which motive an intent to pull the trigger addicuse harm). Unintentional injuries and deaths are often called "accidents," which can imply that nothing could be done to stop them from happening, we do not use "accident," terminology because gur violence is preventable. Easy access to firearms, perticularly unsecured firearms and the presence of firearms in risky situations, increases risk of unintentional injury and death by firearm. Mitigating access with safer storage practices and through evidence based policy prevents unintentional guo violence.

minology because gun violence or preventable. Easy access to finantiar, perfocule by unsecured finantial entering and the presence of finantial in tiday situations, hareaseer involved intentional injury and death by finantial entering access with safer shorage practices and through evidence based policy prevents unintentional gun violence.

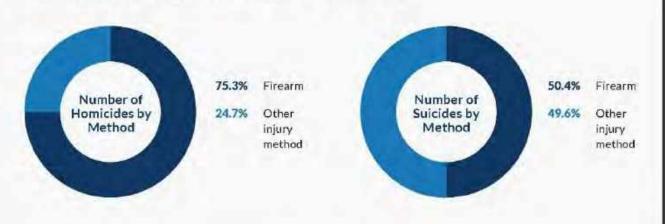
2. "Legal intervention" is the description used by the CDC for injuries inflicted by the policy or other law enforcement agents, including military on duty, in the course of arresting or attempting to arrest law/orsakers, suppressing disturb ances, maintaining order, and other legal actions. Cases in which a police or other law enforcement officer discharges a finantial action are also known as police involved or officer involved shootings.

⁴ While the intentionality of the injury that caused a person's death is reset often known or determined in the course of death investigations, there are some cases wherein the available information is insufficient to enable the medical or legal authority to make a distinction between an unintentional injury, salf-harm (suicide), or assault (homicide). These cases are described as having an "undetermined" intent.

The Lethality and Accessibility of Firearms Drives Up Homicides and Suicides

Due to their high lethality and ease of accessibility, firearms are often the method of choice for both homicides and suicides.

FIGURE 2
Homicide and Suicide by Injury Method (Firearm v. Non-Firearm), 2019



In 2019, 75% of all homicides were committed by firearm:

- While only 22% of attempted homicides with a gun are lethal, guns are still an incredibly lethal means that may also result in nonfatal but very serious injuries.⁵
- Guns are used in homicides nearly nine times more than the second most common method of homicide (cutting/piercing) and more than 30 times more than suffocation.

In 2019, 50% of all suicides involved firearms:

- While poisoning is the most commonly used suicide attempt method (used in approximately 60% of all suicidal acts), firearms, which account for less than 10% of all suicidal acts, account for half of all suicide deaths.
- While poisoning is lethal less than 3% of the time, 90% of suicide attempts involving firearms are lethal.⁷
- The second most lethal suicide attempt method is drowning (56% of suicidal acts by drowning result in death), yet it is far less likely to happen.⁵ There were nearly 46 times more firearm suicide deaths than deaths by drowning in 2019.

⁵ Cook PJ, Rivera-Aguirre AE, Cerdá M, & Wintemute G. (2017). Constant lethality of gunshot injuries from firearm assault: United States, 2003;2012. American Journal of Bushilis Haulth.

⁶ Comer A, Azrael D, & Miller M. (2019). Suicide case-fatality rates in the United States, 2007 to 2014. A nationwide population-based study. Anna's all Internal Medicine.

⁷ bid

FIGURE 3 Homicide Rates, by Method, 2019

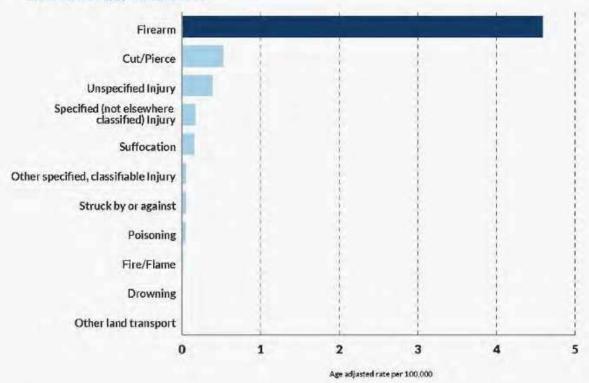
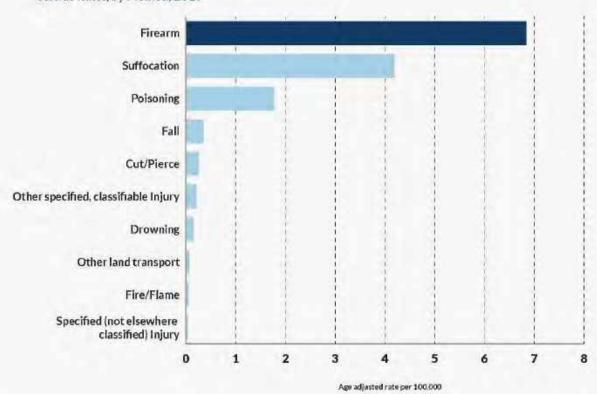


FIGURE 4 Suicide Rates, by Method, 2019



Source: A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making, Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV), 2021

Two Decades of Gun Violence

One way to better understand gun violence is to explore its changes and impacts on communities over time. By examining the last two decades of gun death data, we see that gun violence deaths have escalated in recent years, driven by a significant spike in firearm homicides and steady growth in firearm suicides.

Gun Violence Trends, 2000-2019

Nearly 40,000 people died by gun violence in 2019, part of a three-year-cluster in which there were nearly 40,000 annual gun deaths. This capped a two-decade period during which nearly 570,000 lives were lost to gun violence -- similar to the entire population of Wyoming.

- · Over the last 20 years, the most recent five years have been the deadliest. The highest gun death rate occurred in 2017, followed by 2018, 2019, 2016, and 2015.
- The largest single-year increase in the overall gun death rate was from 2014 to 2015; this substantial 7.3% jump can be directly attributed to the astronomical increase in the firearm homicide rate that year.
- The lowest gun death rate over the last 20 years occurred in 2004, 13 years prior to the peak. The next lowest gun death rates occurred in 2009, 2010, 2000, and 2011.
- The increase from the lowest to highest gun death rate (occurring in 2004 and 2017, respectively) was 20%.

Firearm Homicide Trends, 2000-2019

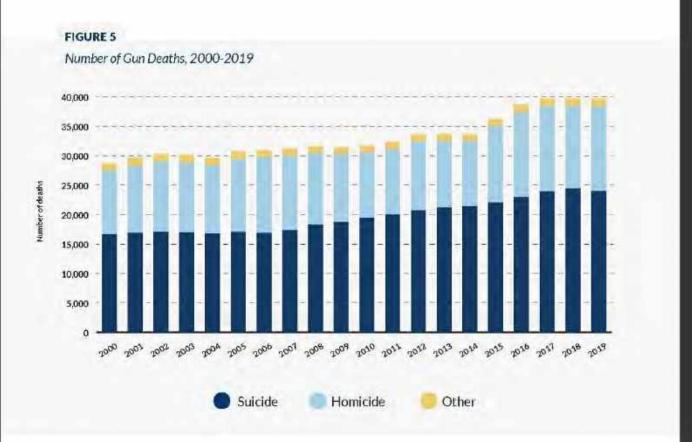
More than 14,000 people were killed by firearm homicide in 2019, capping two decades during which more than 200,000 lives were lost to firearm homicide, more Americans than were lost in World War I and Vietnam combined.

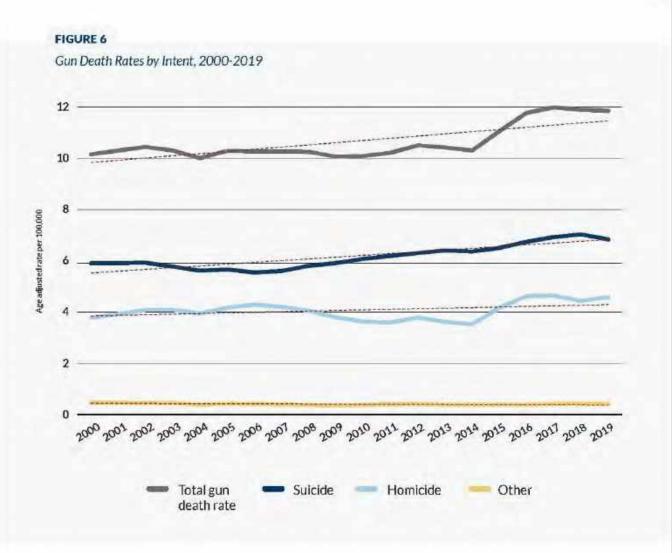
- After years of decline (from 2006-2011), the firearm homicide rate fluctuated before an astronomical rise from 2014 to 2015.
- Over the last 20 years, the most recent four years have been the deadliest. The highest firearm homicide rate occurred in 2017, followed by 2016, 2019, 2018, and 2006.
- The largest single-year increase in the firearm homicide rate was from 2014 to 2015, when the rate increased 18%. Another substantial jump in the firearm homicide rate occurred the following year, from 2015 to 2016, when the rate increased 11%.
- The lowest firearm homicide rate over the last 20 years was in 2014, three years prior to the peak. The next lowest firearm homicide rates occurred in 2011, 2013, 2010, and 2000.
- The increase from the lowest to highest firearm homicide rate (occurring in 2014 and 2017, respectively) was 31%.

Firearm Suicide Trends, 2000-2019

Nearly 24,000 Americans died by firearm suicide in 2019, capping two decades during which more than 340,000 people were lost to firearm suicide, 50,000 more than the number of U.S. troops killed in World War II.

- Overall, the firearm suicide epidemic has been growing, despite the year 2019 showing a slight reprieve, with the rate dropping by nearly 3% from 2018.
- Over the last 20 years, the most recent five years have been the deadliest. The highest firearm suicide rate occurred in 2018, followed by 2017, 2019, 2016, and 2015.
- The largest single-year increase in the firearm suicide rate was from 2015 to 2016, when the rate
 increased 3.7%. The single-year increase was similar (3.6%) from 2007 to 2008. The change in the
 firearm suicide rate from year to year has been consistently and steadily increasing, with only a
 few exceptions.
- The lowest firearm suicide rate over the last 20 years occurred in 2006, 12 years prior to the peak.
 The next lowest gun death rates occurred at the start of the new millenium, in 2007, 2004, 2005, and 2003.
- The increase from the lowest to highest firearm suicide rate (occurring in 2006 and 2018, respectively) was 27%.







Disproportionate Impacts

Gun Violence Overall by Demographics

While nobody is immune from gun violence, some demographic groups are at much higher risk than others:



By sex:

 Males are six times more likely to die by gun violence (any intent) than females, making up 86% of U.S. firearm deaths in 2019 (84% of homicides and 87% of suicides).



By age:

 Gun deaths impact both younger and older generations. In fact, the age groups most impacted by gun deaths are young adults (ages 15-34) followed by older adults (ages 75 and older). This is primarily due to homicide victims being disproportionately young and suicide decedents skewing more elderly.



By race/ethnicity among males:

Black males are disproportionately impacted and have by far the highest rate of gun
death, nearly twice as high (1.8x) as the second-highest (and also disproportional)
rate of gun death among American Indian/Alaska Native males. Continuing in order
descending by rate are White, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. Black
males were more than twice as likely to die by firearms than White males in 2019.



By race/ethnicity among females:

 The highest firearm death rate is among American Indian/Alaska Natives, followed closely by Black females. Continuing in order descending by rate: are White, Latino/ Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islanders. American Indian/Alaska Native females were 1.4 times more likely to die by firearms than the White females in 2019.

To stop gun violence in all its forms, broad prevention efforts to reduce risk to the population as a whole must be implemented together with tailored solutions for high-risk populations. Understanding how risk differs across the population by sex, race/ethnicity, and age, and broken down by gun death intent (homicide and suicide), is critical for designing these interventions.

Demographic categories:

The CDC WONDER database allows mortality data to be broken down into the following demographic categories: age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin. The four race categories are American Indian or Alaskan Native, Asian or Pacific Islander, Black or African American, and White. Hispanic origin is considered an ethnicity, which is why it is not considered a race category. For example, a person may be classified as American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic, Asian and Hispanic, Black and Hispanic, or White and Hispanic, Hispanic origin is classified as "Hispanic or Latino" or "Not Hispanic or Latino."

For our analysis, we chose to use "Hispanic or Latino" as a distinct category regardless of race, and selected "Not Hispanic or Latino" for each of the race categories. This ensured that individuals were not counted twice in different demographic groups and follows common practice used by the CDC for data analyses.

Source: A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making, Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV), 2021

Homicide by Demographics

There was a 66x difference in risk of firearm homicide between Black males and Asian females (the highest and lowest risk demographics, respectively). A closer look at demographic data reveals:



By sex:

 More than eight in ten U.S. firearm homicide victims were male (84%) in 2019. Males were five times more likely to be victims than females.



By age:

Firearm homicide victims are disproportionately young. Across the population -- all
races combined, all sexes -- the highest risk age for dying by firearm homicide was 1524 years old. Separated by race/ethnicity, this young age (15-24) is the highest risk age
for Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian/Pacific Islanders, but the risk is highest at slightly
older ages for American Indian/Alaska Native (25-34) and White (35-44) populations.



By race/ethnicity among males:

- Fifty-three % of all firearm homicide victims (63% of male victims) in 2019 were Black males. Across all ages, Black men were nearly 8 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than the general population (all sexes) and 14 times more likely to die by firearm homicide than White men. Black males were followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/Hispanic, White, and Asian/ Pacific Islander males.
- Young Black males (15-34) are especially disproportionately impacted, making up 2% of the population but accounting for 37% of all gun homicide fatalities in 2019. Their rate of firearm homicide was more than 20 times higher than White males of the same age group.



By race/ethnicity among females:

 Black females had the highest risk of firearm homicide among females of all other races and ethnicities, followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Latino/Hispanic, White, and Asian/Pacific Islander females. Black females and American Indian/Alaska Native females also were both at greater risk of firearm homicide than both White and Asian/Pacific Islander males. Black females were more than four times more likely to be firearm homicide victims than White females.

Suicide by Demographics

There was a 38.5x difference in firearm suicide risk between White men and Asian women (the highest and lowest risk demographics, respectively). A closer look at demographic data reveals:



By sex:

Nearly nine in ten U.S. firearm suicide decedents are male (87% in 2019), reflecting
the increased risk of firearm suicide for males as compared to females across all races/
ethnicities and age groups. Males were nearly seven times more likely to die by firearm
suicide than females.



By age:

While the overall data shows that firearm suicide victims were disproportionately elderly (75+ is the highest risk age group for the population as a whole), this was skewed by White men, the highest risk demographic.

- The risk for White males increased across the lifespan and peaked at ages 75+.
- Among males of each racial and ethnic identity other than White, the risk of suicide by firearm peaked much younger, among men ages 15-34.
- The risk of firearm suicide for White females peaked at ages 45-54 in 2019.
- Among females of each racial and ethnic identity other than White, the risk of suicide by firearm peaked younger, among women ages 25-34.



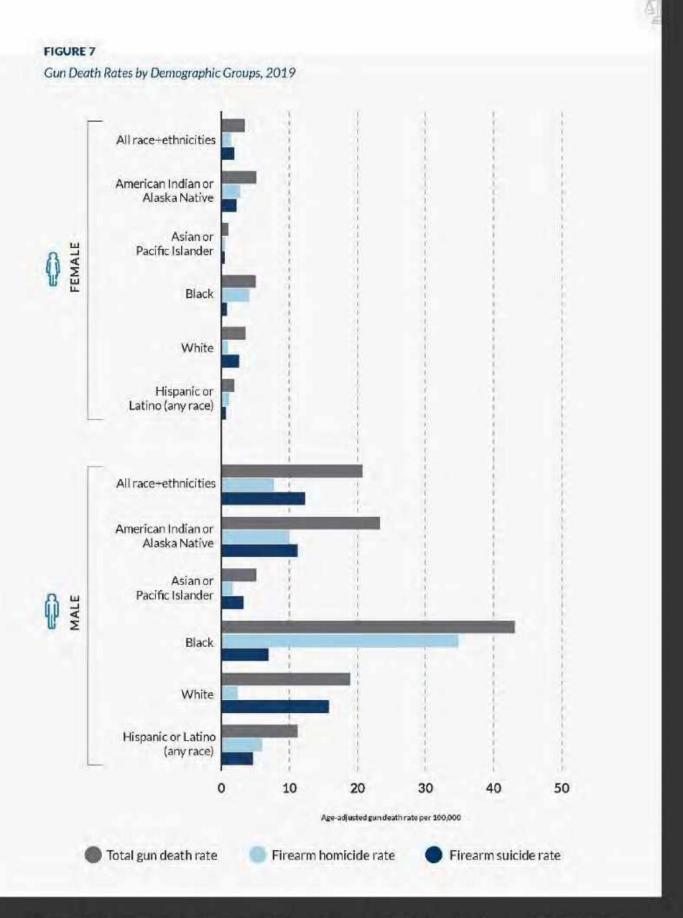
By race/ethnicity among males:

- The majority of all firearm suicide decedents are White males (73%). White males had the
 highest firearm suicide rate overall, followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American
 Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Latino/Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander males.
- Across all ages, White men were more than twice as likely to die by firearm suicide
 than the general population (all sexes). American Indian/Alaska Native males also have
 a disproportionately high rate of firearm suicide (11.16 deaths per 100,000), although
 there are far fewer suicide deaths among this demographic due to the smaller size of the
 population as a whole. In 2019, 17,427 White males and 152 American Indian/Alaska
 males died by firearm suicide.
- White males were at the highest risk for firearm suicide at all ages except 15-34, during which the risk was highest for American Indian/Alaska Native males.



By race/ethnicity among females:

The majority of all female firearm suicide decedents are White females (86%). White
females had the highest firearm suicide rate both overall and within each age group,
followed by (in order of decreasing risk): American Indian/Alaska Native, Black, Latino/
Hispanic, and Asian/Pacific Islander females.



Geographic Variations

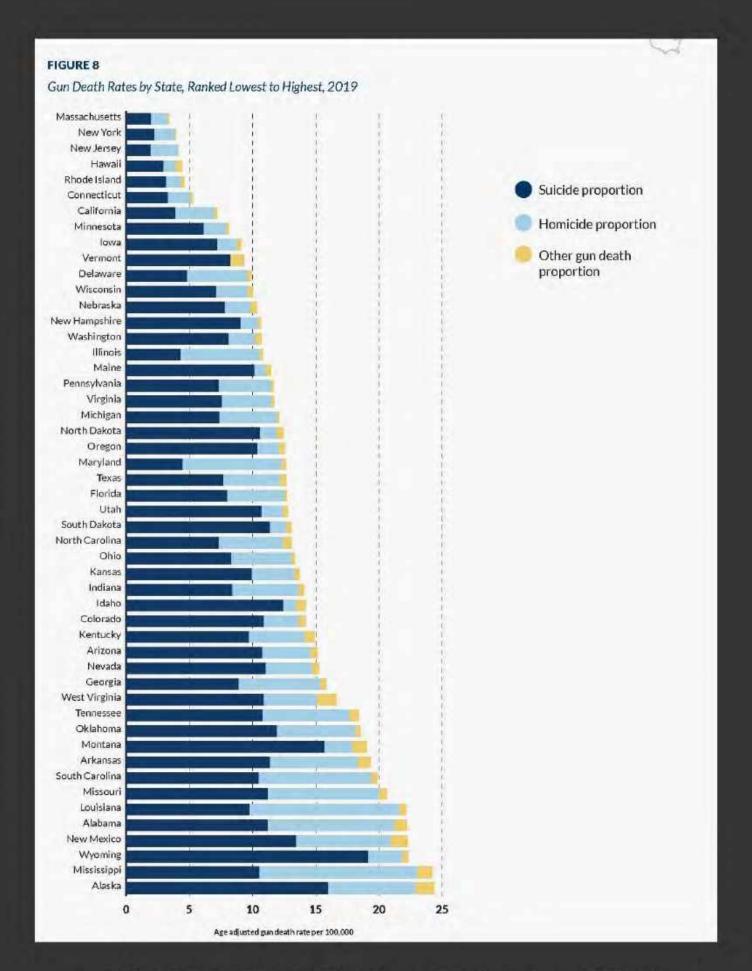
Overall gun death rates at the state level show substantial variation, such as the seven-fold difference in risk between the states with the lowest and highest overall gun death rates (Massachusetts and Alaska in 2019, respectively). In 2019, by urbanization level:

- The total gun death rate was highest in the most rural counties, driven largely by having the highest rate of firearm suicide as compared to other urbanization levels.
- Homicide rates, on the other hand, were highest in urban counties (large central metro and medium metro counties), but much more evenly distributed across urbanization levels, with a smaller spread between the lowest and highest rates.
- The total gun death rate was lowest in the suburbs (large fringe metro counties), a combination of having the lowest homicide rate and second-lowest suicide rate.

A person's geographic location is directly connected to the risk of gun violence. For example, in Maryland in 2019, someone living in Baltimore City was 13 times more likely to die by firearm than someone living 40 miles down the road in Montgomery County. Understanding these differences adds critical context to gun violence prevention efforts.

Why use rates of deaths?

While numbers of gun deaths can help illustrate the burden of gun violence in a particular community, because the total population varies significantly by geographic area, firearm death rates (the number of gun deaths per 100,000 total population) provide an important measure for comparison. For example, Cook County (Chicago), Illinois has by far the highest number of firearm homicides out of any county in the country, averaging over 600 each year. However, because Cook County has a population of 5.2 million residents, the firearm homicide rate is lower than many other large metro counties with smaller populations. In fact, Cook County's firearm homicide rate is, on average, 12.12 deaths per 100,000 people, ranking it 72nd in the country and a fraction of the homicide rate in the highest rate counties, such as Macon County, Alabama, which had the highest firearm homicide rate from 2015-2019 -- 44.44 deaths per 100,000 people -- an average of eight gun homicides per year in a population less than 20,000 people. Clearly, the sheer number of firearm homicides illustrates that Cook County is in the midst of a gun violence crisis, but this crisis is not unique to Chicago; it is equally devastating in cities across the United States and among more rural counties, as well.



Source: A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making, Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV), 2021

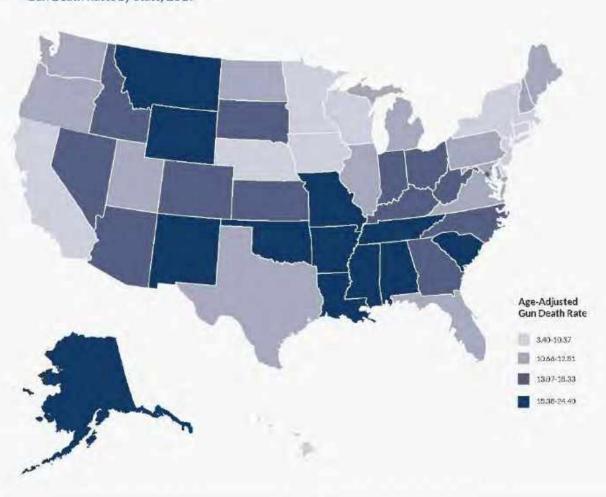
Overall Gun Violence Rates Across the States

The five states with the highest overall gun death rates in 2019 were Alaska, Mississippi, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Alabama. Alaska had the highest gun death rate for 7 of the last 10 years, which in 2019 was seven times higher than Massachusetts, which had the lowest rate. Mississippi ranked in the five highest overall gun death rates in the country every year in the last decade, while Alabama and Louisiana did so for all but one year.

On the other end of the spectrum, the five states with the lowest overall gun death rates in 2019 were Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Hawaii, and Rhode Island. Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, and Rhode Island each ranked in the five lowest overall gun death rates for all of the last 10 years.

Figure 8 displays how the 50 states and District of Columbia fared with gun deaths in 2019. ranking them from lowest to highest gun death rate. It additionally shows the proportion of deaths attributed to homicide, suicide, and other intents (law enforcement intervention, unintentional, and unclassified).

FIGURE 9 Gun Death Rates by State, 2019



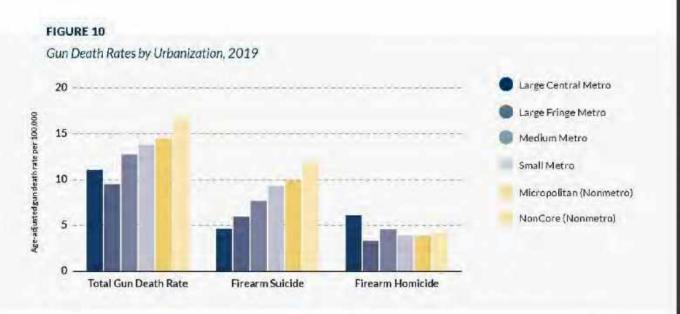
A Closer Look: Gun Violence by Intent Across Counties and Urbanization Levels

Looking more closely at gun violence at the county level, separated by intent (homicide and suicide), helps to better understand the burden of gun violence in a specific community. We looked at 2019 data by county urbanization level and individual county data using five-year averages from 2015-2019 (just one year of data would not produce a reliable rate of gun homicide or suicide for comparison).

While county-level data layers valuable context on top of state data, data at an even more local level -- census tracts -- is much needed to truly understand concentrations of gun violence. Because county size varies significantly within and between states, data at this level does not consistently portray the most accurate representation of the local areas most impacted by gun violence. Taking a closer look at Los Angeles (LA) County, CA, which has a population of 10 million, we find that it had 670 firearm homicides in 2019, a rate of 6.47 deaths per 100,000 people, which is above the national average but below the state average. Stopping here, however, would be insufficient, as LA County county comprises neighborhoods and cities with populations larger than many U.S. counties and extremely disparate firearm homicide rates. For example, Burbank and Compton, cities in LA County with populations of approximately 100,000 each, had one and sixteen firearm homicides in 2019,° respectively. They shoulder very different burdens of gun violence and require different approaches to prevention.

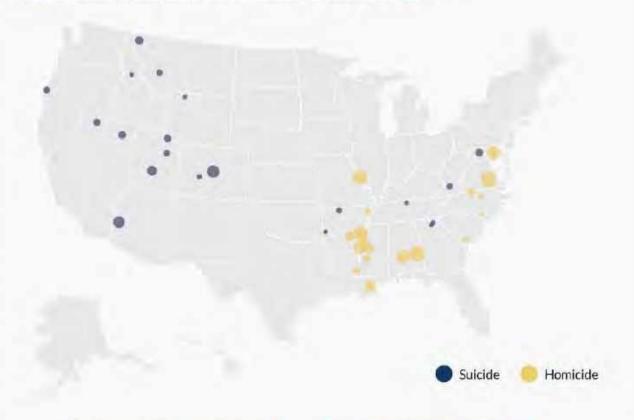
About urbanization levels:

The CDC classifies counties by level of urbanization using a six-level urban-to-rural classification scheme. The most urban category consists of "central" counties of large metropolitan areas and the most rural category consists of nonmetropolitan "noncore" counties. The six classification levels for counties from most urban to most rural are large central metro (≥ 1 million population and covers a principal city), large fringe metro (≥ 1 million population but does not cover a principal city, akin to suburbs), medium metro ($\ge 250,000$ but < 1 million population), small metro (< 250,000 population), micropolitan (nonmetro; has an urban cluster of $\ge 10,000$ but < 50,000 population), and noncore (nonmetro; most rural). See the Glossary for formal definitions of each.



⁹ Los Angeler Times, The Homiode Report. Accessed Jeruary 25, 2021 for Burbenk: https://homicide.lstmes.com/neighborbood/compton/year/2019 and for Compton https://homicide.lstmes.com/neighborbood/compton/year/2019.

FIGURE 11
Counties with the Highest Rates of Firearm Homicide and Suicide, 2015-2019



Counties with the Highest Firearm Suicide Rates, 2015-2019

Park County, CO La Paz County, AZ Sevier County, UT Morgan County, WV Lincoln County, MT Elko County, NV Duchesne County, UT Humboldt County, NV Silver Bow County, MT McDowell County, WV Uinta County, WY Curry County, OR Marion County, AR Gunnison County, CO Lumpkin County, GA Park County, WY Macon County, TN Dawson County, GA Idaho County, ID Polk County, AR

Counties with the Highest Firearm Homicide Rates, 2015-2019

Petersburg City, VA St. Louis City, MO Phillips County, AR Baltimore City, MD Dallas County, AL Washington County, M5 Orleans Parish, LA Holmes County, MS Coahoma County, MS Jefferson County, AR Leflore County, M5 Adams County, M5 Hinds County, MS Danville City, VA Mississippi County, AR Vance County, NC Colleton County, SC Robeson County, NC Hampton County, 5C

Macon County, AL

See appendix 6 for the list of counties with the highest firearm hamlaide rates and suicides with accompanying data,

Geography of Homicide



By urbanization level:

When clustered by urbanization level, the highest rate of firearm homicide in 2019 was in large central metro counties (most urban), 1.3 times higher than the national average and 1.8 times higher than large fringe metro counties (suburbs), where the homicide rate is lowest. The next highest rates were in medium metro and then noncore metro (most rural) counties. As compared to firearm suicide rates, the firearm homicide rate was more evenly distributed across all types of counties, the difference between the most urban and most rural counties was much smaller, and there was no clear trend to track rates as counties became more rural or urban. Because of their higher rates and large populations, the vast majority -- 89% -- of firearm homicides occur in metropolitan areas (large, medium, and small metro and large fringe metro).

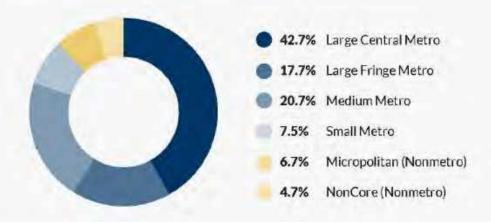


Looking at specific counties:

When looking at individual counties rather than consolidated by urbanization, a different pattern emerges. Of the 20 counties with the highest rates of firearm homicide, the majority are rural (14/20 were noncore or micropolitan non-metro) and only the remaining 6 are metropolitan (large, medium, and small metro, and large fringe metro). While high rates in sparsely-populated counties represent small total numbers of deaths, these rates are alarmingly high and indicate a significant burden on communities. Notably, 19 of the top 20 are in the South.

See appendix 6 for the list of counties with the highest firearm homicide rates.

FIGURE 12
Proportion of Firearm Homicides by Urbanization Level, 2019



Geography of Suicide



By urbanization level:

The firearm suicide rate increases as counties become more rural. When clustered by urbanization level, in 2019, noncore (non-metro, most rural) counties had the highest rate of firearm suicide. 1.7 times higher than the national average and 2.6 times higher than large central metro (urban, big city) counties, where the firearm suicide rate was lowest. Because the total population is concentrated in cities and large suburbs as compared to more rural areas, the majority of firearm suicides — 78% — still occur in metropolitan areas (large, medium, and small metro, and large fringe metro), despite the lower rates.



Looking at specific counties:

The 20 counties with the highest rates of firearm suicide from 2015-2019 were mostly rural (17/20 were noncore or micropolitan nonmetro) and nearly all clustered in the Mountain West (12/20) and South (7/20).

See appendix 7 for the list of counties with the highest firearm suicide rates.

FIGURE 13
Proportion of Firearm Suicides by Urbanization Level, 2019





Gun Violence as a Leading Cause of Death

A Leading Cause of Death Among Young People

Unlike other leading causes of death, such as cancer or heart disease, gun violence disproportionately impacts children and young adults.

Children and teens 1-19 years:

Firearms were the leading cause of death in 2019 for American children and teens ages 1-19, prematurely taking the lives of nearly 3,400 Americans -- the second-highest total in twenty years -- and accounting for nearly one in ten deaths in this age group. Of these youngest victims, 44% were Black. More than half of all Black teens (15-19) who died in 2019 -- a staggering 57% -- were killed by gun violence. While suicides are 60% of all gun deaths across the whole U.S. population, homicides are the most common type of gun death among children and teens -- 60% of child and teen gun deaths were homicides and 34% were suicides.

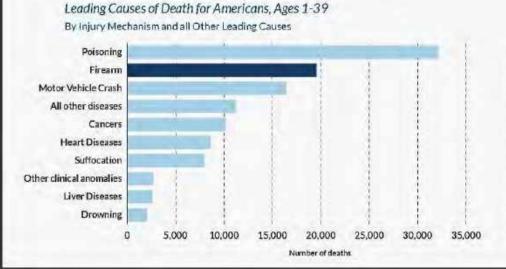
Young adults 20-39 years:

Firearms are the leading cause of death for young adults ages 20-24 as well, accounting for almost one in four deaths in this age group and over half of the deaths among young Black men, specifically. While firearms drop to be the second leading cause of death for the general population for ages 25-34, they hold their position as the leading cause of death among Black men through age 39.

Total population under 40 years:

In total, 19,524 Americans under the age of 40 died by gun violence in 2019 -- 49% of all gun deaths. But while we know the numbers, the loss is immeasurable. When a young person is shot and killed, they lose decades of potential: the potential to grow up, have a family, contribute to society, and pursue their passions in life. Families lose a child, parent, or other loved one; the loss is felt across neighborhoods and communities. Despite the enormous toll gun violence inflicts on Americans, scant attention and only minimal funding is allocated to study and prevent this leading cause of death among young people.





Note: We chose not to include infant deaths in our analyses, as infants (under age 1) and a unique risk for age specific couses of death, including perinatal period deaths (stillbirths and deaths in the first 7 days of Pis) and congenital anomalies (commonly referred to as birth defects). If including infant deaths, the ten leading cause of death in 2019 for Americans ages 0-39 are as follows, starting with the leading cause of death poisoning, frouth, motor vehicle crash, all other diseases, perinatal deaths, concers, sufficiently, theat diseases, congenital diseases, and other clinical aromalies in 2019, 12 infants were killed by firsame.

Source: A Public Health Crisis Decades in the Making, Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence (EFSGV), 2021

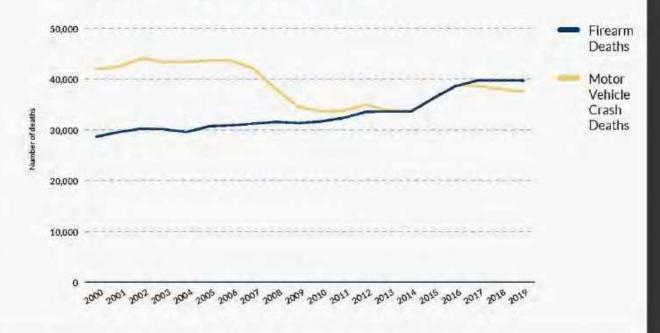
Firearm Fatalities Compared to Other Forms of Fatal Injuries

Injuries make up a substantial burden of premature death in the United States, and among injury mechanisms, firearms are one of the deadliest. In 2019, poisonings, falls, firearms, motor vehicle crashes, and suffocation were the five leading causes of injury-related death. Gun deaths outnumbered all the remaining causes of injury-related death combined.

Compared to car crashes:

The burden of firearm injury is often compared to car crashes, and their numbers are similar. In the last three years, however, for the first time more Americans died by guns than by car crashes (in 2019, 39,707 and 37,595 deaths, respectively). Reducing motor vehicle injuries and their severity has long been a focus of injury prevention policy; while there is clearly more work to do, substantial reductions have been made. A similarly comprehensive approach to gun violence prevention also holds promise. ^{30,13}

FIGURE 15
Firearm Deaths and Motor Vehicle Traffic Deaths, 2000-2019

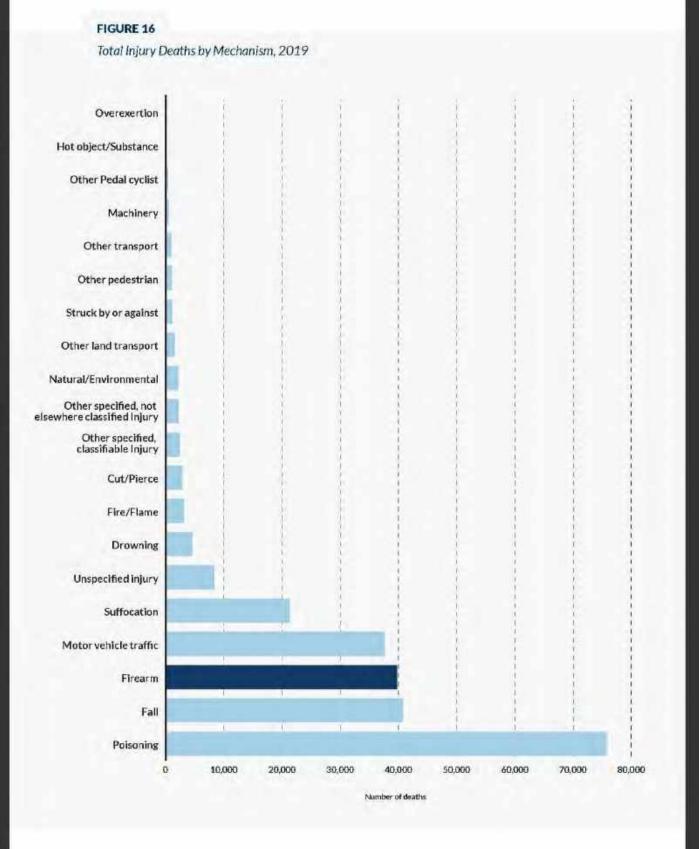


Other notable injury death comparisons:

- 14 times as many Americans died by a gunshot than by cutting/piercing (knife, etc.)
- Nearly 9 times more Americans died by a gunshot than by drowning
- · Nearly 13 times more Americans died by a gunshot than in a fire

¹⁰ Mozaffar en D, Hernenwey D, Ludwig DS. Curbing Gun Violence: Lessons From Public Health Successes. JAMA, 2019;309(4):551-552.dbi.10.1001/jama.2013;38

¹¹ Educational Fund to Stop Gurt Violence (2020). The Public Health Approach to Gun Violence Prevention, efsgworg/PublicHealth Approach To GVP





Policy Recommendations to Stop Gun Violence

Gun violence is an ongoing yet preventable public health tragedy affecting communities all over the United States. It is also a complex issue that requires many approaches to its prevention, starting with the collection and timely dissemination of data. The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence and Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence are committed to advancing evidence-based policies, programs, and practices and ensuring that these preventative measures are designed and implemented equitably. Fortunately, there are a myriad of effective options at the federal, state, and local levels.

To improve how firearms data are collected and disseminated, we recommend all levels of government:

- Collect more comprehensive gun violence data for fatal and non-fatal firearm injuries, shootings that may not involve physical injuries, police-involved shootings, and firearm-involved crimes where no shots were fired, including domestic violence-related threats.
- Make data publicly available where possible, particularly to researchers studying gun violence and its prevention.
- . Invest in resources to support the timely release of firearms injury and fatality data.

To stop gun violence in all its forms, we recommend:

- Apply the public health approach, with an equity lens, for effective gun violence prevention.¹²
- Fund and conduct gun violence research, and improve data infrastructure, which is fundamental
 for effective gun violence prevention.
- Enact and implement a true universal background check law that requires background checks on all gun sales and transfers, including private and online sales, and eliminate "default proceed" sales.
- Enact and implement state firearm licensing laws and support equitable implementation through local, state, and federal funding.
- Enact and implement state extreme risk laws to prevent tragedy before it occurs and support robust implementation through federal funding.
- Invest in community violence intervention and prevention programs and address the underlying social and economic inequalities that drive firearm violence.
- Support implementation of healthcare professional training on lethal means safety counseling so they are prepared to ask patients about firearm access and provide effective and respectful counseling when appropriate.
- Expand both federal and state domestic violence firearm prohibitions to reduce abusers' access to firearms and improve collection and reporting of domestic violence-related data.

- · Reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines.
- · Prohibit the manufacture, purchase, and possession of "ghost guns."
- · Repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA).
- Require that new semi-automatic pistols manufactured, sold, or imported into the U.S. are equipped with microstamping technology.
- Enact and implement state prohibitions on the open carry of firearms in public and strongly
 regulate concealed carry of firearms to help protect public safety.
- Repeal state-level stand your ground laws, which run counter to centuries of self-defense doctrine and make it legal for individuals to kill another even when they can easily and safely retreat.
- Improve police accountability and strengthen police legitimacy through procedurally just policing practices.

APPENDIX 1: United States Gun Deaths by Intent, 2000-2019

	Total Gun Deaths	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Unintentional Gun Deaths	Legal Intervention Deaths	Gun Deaths by Undetermined Intent
2000	28,663	16,586	10,801	776	270	230
2001	29,573	16,869	11,348	802	323	231
2002	30,242	17,108	11,829	762	300	243
2003	30,136	16,907	11,920	730	347	232
2004	29,569	16,750	11,624	649	311	235
2005	30,694	17,002	12,352	789	330	221
2006	30,896	16,883	12,791	642	360	220
2007	31,224	17,352	12,632	613	351	276
2008	3 1 ,593	18,223	12,179	592	326	273
2009	31,347	18,735	11,493	554	333	232
2010	31,672	19,392	11,078	606	344	252
2011	32,351	19,990	11,068	591	454	248
2012	33,563	20,666	11,622	548	471	256
2013	33,636	21,175	11,208	505	467	281
2014	33,594	21,386	11,008	461	464	275
2015	36,252	22,018	12,979	489	484	282
2016	38,658	22,938	14,415	495	510	300
2017	39,773	23,854	14,542	486	553	338
2018	39,740	24,432	13,958	458	539	353
2019	39,707	23,941	14,414	486	520	346

[&]quot;A cautionary note about "legal intervention" data: Strong evidence shows that the government's data (including the CDC data presented here) provide a substantial under-count of police-involved injuries and deaths. 13 To address this gap, several media sources have tracked police-involved shootings in recent years, most notably the Washington Post's Fatai Force database, finding more than double the number of police-involved fatal shootings than are reported in FBI and CDC databases. The Fatai Force database reported that 999 and 1,000 Americans were shot and killed by police in 2019 and 2020 respectively, nearly double the number that the CDC reported. Ultimately, better data on police-involved injuries and deaths are sorely needed. Compulsory and comprehensive data collection at the local level, reporting to the federal government, and transparency in the public dissemination of data will be critical for understanding this unique kind of gun violence and developing evidence-based solutions to minimize police-involved shootings.

¹³ Parter, C., Atrael, D., Cohen, A., Miller, M., Trymes, D., Wang, D. E., & Hemerway, D. (2016). Hemicides by police: comparing counts from the national violent death reporting system, vital statistics, and supplementary homicide reports. *American Journal of Public Health*, 106(5), 922-927.

APPENDIX 2: United States Gun Death Rates, by Intent, 2000-2019

	Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Unintentional Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000
2000	10.16	5.91	3.79	0.26
2001	10.31	5.91	3,93	0.28
2002	10.45	5.93	4.09	0.27
2003	10.31	5.78	4.1	0.25
2004	10.01	5.62	3.95	0.22
2005	10.3	5.67	4.18	0.27
2006	10.27	5.55	4.3	0.24
2007	10.28	5.61	4.21	0.2
2008	10.26	5.81	4.06	0.19
2009	10.07	5.92	3.8	0.18
2010	10.1	6.08	3.64	0.2
2011	10.22	6.2	3.6	0.2
2012	10.51	6.31	3.79	0.19
2013	10.43	6.41	3.63	0.16
2014	10.31	6.37	3.53	0.14
2015	11.06	6.51	4.17	0.15
2016	11.78	6.75	4.63	0.17
2017	11.99	6.93	4.65	0.16
2018	11.9	7.04	4.44	0.14
2019	11.86	6.84	4.59	0.16

APPENDIX 3:

United States Gun Death Numbers by Demographic Groups, 2019	Total Gun Deaths	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Deaths
Female (all races/ethnicities)	5,666	2,287	3,216
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	70	37	31
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	108	61	47
Black (non-Hispanic)	1,118	909	177
White (non-Hispanic)	3,811	932	2,775
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	555	346	184
Male (all races/ethnicities)	34,041	12,127	20,725
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	315	135	152
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	532	167	334
Black (non-Hispanic)	9,277	7,590	1,411
White (non-Hispanic)	20,340	2,261	17,427
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	3,503	1,955	1,350

APPENDIX 4:	Total Gun	Firearm	Firearm	
United States Gun Death Rates by Demographic Groups, 2019	Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	
Female (all races/ethnicities)	3.39	1.42	1.85	
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	5.09	2.75	2.19	
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	0.95	0.53	0.41	
Black (non-Hispanic)	5.03	4.11	0.76	
White (non-Hispanic)	3.57	0.93	2.57	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	1.87	1.15	0.61	
Male (all races/ethnicities)	20.7	7.69	12.27	
American Indian or Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)	23.30	9.98	11.16	
Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)	5.09	1.58	3.19	
Black (non-Hispanic)	43.09	34.88	6.90	
White (non-Hispanic)	18.89	2.42	15.8	
Hispanic or Latino (any race)	11.20	5.97	4.61	

APPENDIX 5: State Variations, 2019

	TOTAL GUN DEATHS					FIRE	FIREARM HOMICIDES			FIREARM SUICIDES		
State	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Total Gun Death Rate	Total Gun Deaths	Total Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Total Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens (Ages 0-19)	Child and Teen Gun Death Rate per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate	
Alabama	5	1,076	22.18	98	8.06	486	10.57	4	543	10.59	13	
Alaska	1	179	24.4	24	12.19	51	7.2	11	117	15.68	2	
Arizona	17	1,136	15.12	79	4.3	285	411	26	809	10.4	14	
Arkansas	9	580	19.32	51	6.55	208	7.38	9	341	10,83	8	
California	45	2,945	7.22	235	2.37	1,246	3.18	29	1,586	3.74	-44	
Colorado	19	846	14.21	74	5.26	164	2.89	30	547	10.71	10	
Connecticut	46	190	5.27	10	Unreliable	65	197	36	118	308	45	
Delaware	41	93	9.93	10	Unreliable	45	5.21	18	45	4.35	41	
District of Columbia	13	141	18.33	20	13.39	128	16.52	1	12	Unreliable		
Florida	27	2,872	12.7	187	3.97	1,013	5.2	19	1,808	7.27	33	
Georgia	15	1,695	15.8	163	5.82	691	6.67	12	955	8.65	26	
Hawaii	48	62	4.42	Suppressed	Suppressed	14	Unreliable	*	41	281	47	
Idaho	20	255	14.2	16	Unreliable	18	Unreliable	*	223	12.25	5	
Illinois	36	1,367	1084	179	5.69	791	6.58	13	540	3.96	43	
Indiana	21	958	14.09	100	5.7	355	5.53	15	570	808	27	
lowa	43	294	9.1	26	318	49	1.72	40	233	696	37	
Kansas	22	403	13.74	43	55	99	351	28	291	9.83	22	
Kentucky	18	682	14.88	58	5.18	201	482	22	445	9.28	23	
Louisiana	5	1,013	22.15	107	8.89	542	12.35	3	446	9.23	24	
Maine	35	163	1146	10	Unreliable	13	Unreliable	*	144	9.85	20	
Maryland	29	757	12.61	59	3.96	468	8.19	7	268	4.07	42	
Massachusetts	51	247	3.4	18	Unreliable	95	1.39	43	142	187	49	
Michigan	32	1,220	12.12	83	3.45	458	4.95	20	742	6.98	36	
Minnesota	44	465	812	37	2.56	102	1.9	37	350	5.96	40	
Mississippi	2	710	24.23	64	8.2	356	13.08	2	308	9.92	19	
Missouri	7	1,252	20,6	122	7.99	537	9.33	6	681	10.7	11	
Montana	10	209	19.03	17	Unreliable	24	2.29	33	172	15.31	3	
Nebraska	39	205	10.37	13	Unreliable	40	209	35	154	7.7	31	
Nevada	16	490	15.27	33	4,34	118	3.99	27	354	10.67	12	

		TOT	AL GUN DE	ATHS		FIRE	ARM HOME	CIDES	FIR	EARM SUIC	IDES
State	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Total Gun Death Rate	Total Gun Deaths	Total Gun Death Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Total Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens (Ages 0-19)	Child and Teen Gun Death Rate per 100,000	Firearm Homicide Deaths	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking. Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	Firearm Suicide Deaths	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted) per 100,000	Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate
New Hampshire	38	156	10.66	Suppressed	Suppressed	20	148	42	132	886	25
New Jersey	49	368	4.13	38	1.77	193	2.39	32	173	1.71	50
New Mexico	4	471	22.27	40	7.52	158	816	8	284	12.68	4
New York	50	804	3.94	50	111	326	1.74	39	455	209	48
North Carolina	24	1,397	13.11	116	447	541	5.41	16	781	699	35
North Dakota	31	93	12,44	10	Unreliable	10	Unreliable		79	10.29	15
Chio	23	1,578	13.35	142	4.92	565	5.21	17	980	7.85	30
Oklahoma	11	737	18.56	70	661	246	6.56	14	473	11.52	6
Oregon	30	566	12.56	25	2.59	78	1.88	38	466	10.16	18
Pennsylvania	34	1,541	11.67	100	3.36	548	4.65	23	964	6.77	39
Rhode Island	47	48	4.58	Suppressed	Suppressed	12	Unreliable		33	2.9	46
South Carolina	8	1,032	19.88	95	7.61	453	95	5	532	984	21.
South Dakota	25	113	13.07	10	Unreliable	11	Unreliable	*	98	11.25	7
Tennessee	12	1,270	18,38	103	6.14	474	7.37	10	746	10.22	15
Texas	28	3,683	12.66	388	4.73	1,299	4.5	24	2,237	7.65	32
Utah	26	394	12.81	32	311	51	1.6	41	329	10.78	9
Vermont	42	67	9.34	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed	Suppressed		59	8.03	28
Virginia	.33	1,025	11.71	87	4.17	342	4.18	25	661	7,25	34
Washington	37	842	10.71	56	3.04	165	2.22	34	637	7.96	29
West Virginia	14	300	16.64	20	4.97	76	4.86	21	196	10.16	17
Wisconsin	40	604	10.03	49	3.45	153	2.82	31	427	678	38
Wyoming	-3	133	22.33	13	Unreliable	16	Unreliable	*	114	19.08	1

 $[\]hbox{*Denotes where the state frearm homicide or suicide rate is unreliable and cannot be compared.}$

APPENDIX 6: Counties with the Highest Firearm Homicide Rates, 2015-2019

Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Homicide Rate	County	Urbanization	Firearm Homicide Deaths (2015-2019)	Population (per year)	Firearm Homicide Rate (age adjusted, five-year average) per 100,000
1	Macon County, AL	NonCare (Nonmetro)	41	18,666	44.44
2	Petersburg City, VA	Large Fringe Metro	64	31,804	43.76
3	St. Louis City, MO	Large Central Metro	647	307,826	41.86
4	Phillips County, AR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	32	18,574	40.83
5	Baltimore City, MD	Large Central Metro	1207	608,829	38.36
6	Dallas County, AL	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	60	39,172	36.22
7	Washington County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	73	46,111	35.08
8	Orleans Parish, LA	Large Central Metro	607	391,111	31.2
9	Halmes County, MS	NonCore (Nonmetro)	26	17,742	30.07
10	Coahoma County, MS	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	33	23,267	28.77
11	Jefferson County, AR	Small Metro	92	69,127	28.58
12	Leflore County, M5	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	38	29,436	27.33
13	Adams County, M5	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	34	31,078	25.21
14	Hinds County, M5	Medium Metro	297	238,508	25.07
15	Danville City, VA	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	47	41,169	24.72
16	Mississippi County, AR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	50	42,124	24.21
17	Vance County, NC	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	46	44,428	23.18
18	Colleton County, SC	NonCare (Nonmetro)	35	37,720	22.26
19	Robeson County, NC	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	137	132,499	22.06
20	Hampton County, SC	NonCore (Nonmetro)	20	19,629	22.03

APPENDIX 7: Counties with the Highest Firearm Suicide Rates, 2015-2019

Ranking, Highest to Lowest Firearm Suicide Rate	County	Urbanization	Firearm Suicide Deaths (2015- 2019)	Population (per year)	Firearm Suicide Rate (age adjusted, five-year average) per 100,000
1	Park County, CO	Large Fringe Metro	29	17,796	34.39
2	La Paz County, AZ	NonCore (Nonmetro)	33	20,655	30.17
3	Sevier County, UT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	27	21,345	28.05
4	Morgan County, WV	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	17,703	26.66
5	Lincoln County, MT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	22	19,505	26.35
6	Elko County, NV	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	65	52,398	25.35
7	Duchesne County, UT	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	20,225	25.01
8	Humboldt County, NV	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	21	16,861	24.53
9	Silver Bow County, MT	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	41	34,737	24.48
10	McDowell County, WV	NonCore (Nonmetro)	23	18,656	24.33
11	Uinta County, WY	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	22	20,523	23.83
12	Curry County, OR	Micropolitan (Nonmetro)	37	22,721	23.77
13	Marion County, AR	NonCore (Nonmetro)	21	16,471	22.79
14	Gunnison County, CO	NonCore (Nonmetro)	21	16,824	22.77
15	Lumpkin County, GA	NonCore (Nonmetro)	36	32,458	22.39
16	Park County, WY	NonCore (Nonmetro)	34	29,333	22.19
17	Macon County, TN	Large Fringe Metro	27	23,915	21.93
18	Dawson County, GA	Large Fringe Metro	27	24,497	21.87
19	Idaho County, ID	NonCore (Nonmetro)	20	16,395	21.86
20	Polk County, AR	NonCore (Nonmetro)	24	20,104	21.76

OVERVIEW

 Black youth represented less than 15 percent of the total youth population but 52 percent of youth prosecuted in adult criminal court in 2018. Black youth are nine times more likely than white youth to receive an adult prison sentence, American Indian/Alaska Native youth are almost two times more likely, and Hispanic youth are 40 percent more likely.

GUN VIOLENCE: Child and teen gun deaths hit a 19-year high in 2017 and have remained elevated since.

- Gun violence was the leading cause of death for children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time.
- In 2019, 3,371 children and teens were killed with guns—one every 2 hours and 36 minutes.
- Black children and teens had the highest gun death rate, followed by American Indian/Alaska Native children and teens. Black children and teens were 4 times more likely to die from gun violence than their white peers.
- The United States has more guns than people—and nearly 1 in 5 are sold without background checks.

IMMIGRANT CHILDREN: Family separation and anti-immigrant policies are dangerous to children's health, development, and well-being.

- Nearly 1 in 4, approximately 18 million, U.S. children lived with at least one immigrant parent in 2018.
- More than 1 in 4 immigrant children did not have health coverage in 2019, 25.5 percent compared to 5.1 percent of native-born citizen children.
- An estimated 6.9 million children lived with undocumented parents. Chronic uncertainty and distress about the threat of enforcement activity destroy children's sense of safety and their mental health.

Each Day in America

- 2 mothers die from complications of childbirth.
- 5 children are killed by abuse or neglect.
- 8 children or teens die by suicide.
- 9 children or teens are killed with a gun.
- 20 children or teens die from accidents.
- 46 children or teens are injured with a gun.
- 59 babies die before their first birthday.
- 121 children are arrested for violent crimes.
- 223 children are arrested for drug crimes.
- 514 public school students are corporally punished.*
- 678 babies are born without health insurance.
- 827 babies are born into extreme poverty.
- 860 babies are born with low birthweight.
- 1,541 babies are born into poverty.
- children are confirmed as abused or neglected. 1,785
- 1,909 children are arrested.
- 2,906 high school students drop out.*
- 14,206 public school students are suspended.*

^{*}Based on 180 school days a year

GUN VIOLENCE

IN 2019, A CHILD OR TEEN WAS KILLED WITH A GUN EVERY

2 HOURS AND 36 MINUTES



ven before COVID-19, another epidemic was killing our children at higher rates: gun violence. Gun violence was the leading cause of death for all children and teens ages 1-19 in 2018, surpassing motor vehicle accidents for the first time in history. Children and teens are far more likely to die from gunfire than COVID-19,2 yet our leaders continue to allow gun violence to go uncurbed and gun laws to go unchanged.

After years of congressional inaction, a growing number of children are paying with their lives. In 2019, 3,371 American children and teens were killed with guns-enough to fill more than 168 classrooms of 20 (see Table 35).

- Child and teen gun deaths hit a 19-year high in 2017 and have remained elevated since.³
- In 2019, nine children and teens were killed with guns each day in America—one every 2 hours and 36 minutes.4
- Guns killed more children and teens than cancer, pneumonia, influenza, asthma, HIV/AIDs, and opioids combined.5
- · While mass shootings grabbed fleeting public and policymaker attention, routine gunfire took the lives of more children and teens every week than the Parkland, Sandy Hook, and Columbine
- Since 1963, nearly 193,000 children and teens have been killed with guns on American soil more than four times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action in the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars combined.6

Shamefully, gun deaths reflect only part of the devastating toll of America's growing gun violence epidemic. Many more children and teens are injured than killed with guns each day in our nation.

- For every child or teen fatally shot, another 5 suffered non-fatal gunshot wounds.⁷
- An estimated 16,644 children and teens were injured with guns in 2018—one every 32 minutes.⁸

Gun violence affects all children, but children of color, boys, and older youth are at greatest risk.

- Black children and teens had the highest gun death rate in 2019 (11.9 per 100,000) followed by American Indian/Alaska Native children and teens (6.4 per 100,000).9
- · Although Black children and teens made up only 14 percent of all children and teens in 2019, they accounted for 43 percent of child and teen gun deaths.10
- Black children and teens were four times more likely to be killed with guns than their white peers.
- Eighty-six percent of children and teens who died from gunfire in 2019 were boys. Boys were six times more likely than girls to die in gun homicides. Black boys were 18 times more likely to be killed in gun homicides than white boys.12
- · Eighty-five percent of child and teen gun deaths occurred among 15- to 19-year-olds, but infants and toddlers were far from immune. Guns killed more preschoolers than law enforcement officers in the line of duty. In 2019, 86 children under 5 were killed with guns compared with 51 law enforcement officers in the line of duty.13

No child is safe in a nation with easy access to deadly weapons. Even before the pandemic drove up fear and gun sales, there were too many firearms in our homes and streets—and a shocking number were sold without background checks.

 As of 2017, American civilians owned 393 million firearms—more than one gun per person. In contrast, U.S. military and law enforcement agencies possessed 5.5 million.14

GUN VIOLENCE

- Americans accounted for less than five percent of the global population, but owned nearly half (46 percent) of all civilian guns in the world.15
- Nearly 1 in 5 guns are sold without a background check due to a loophole in federal law exempting sales at gun shows, online, or between private individuals.16

Children are learning there are no safe spaces in our gun-saturated nation. Many children even live in homes with loaded, unlocked guns and know where they are kept. Too often, this leads to tragic accidents and preventable deaths. With a growing number of children learning and playing at home during COVID-related closures, the risk of gun accidents and suicides has only increased.

- A third of households with children have a gun and nearly half of gun-owning households with children do not store all of their firearms safely.77
- An estimated 4.6 million children live in homes with at least one unlocked and loaded gun—and most children know where these guns are kept. 8 About 3 in 4 children ages 5-14 with gun-owning parents know where firearms are stored and more than 1 in 5 have handled a gun in the home without their parents' knowledge.19
- Guns in the home are more likely to endanger than protect loved ones. The presence of a gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher, suicide three to five times higher, and accidental death four times higher.20
- Eight children and teens are killed or injured in accidental shootings involving an improperly stored gun each day in America.21

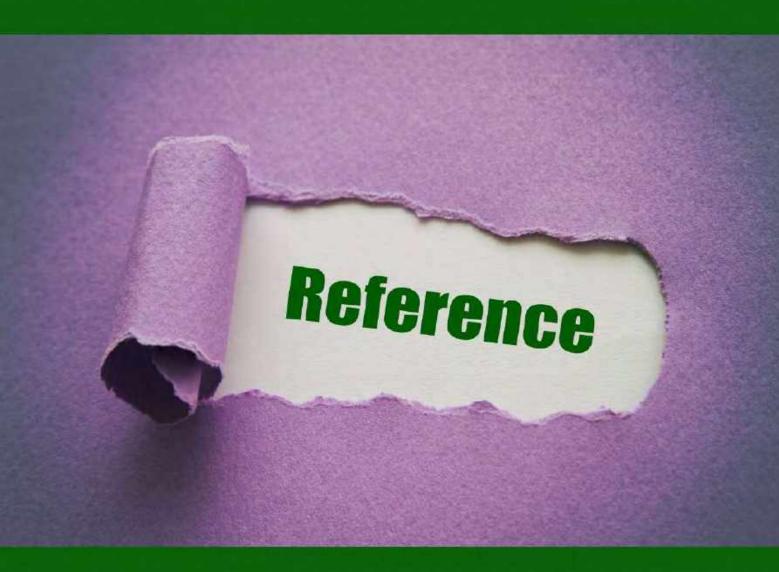
It is long past time for leaders to end America's gun violence epidemic. Congress must urgently pass common-sense gun safety measures like universal background checks and child access prevention laws to protect children from firearms in their homes, schools, and communities. All children deserve the chance to live, learn, and play safely-free from violence and fear.

COVID-19 is Magnifying Our Gun Violence Epidemic and Highlighting the Need for Immediate Reform

The pandemic has created and exacerbated so many crises for children and families and gun violence is no exception. Unprecedented increases in gun sales—coupled with financial insecurity, social isolation, and other stressors—are magnifying America's gun violence crisis.

- Nearly two million guns were sold in March 2020 alone—the second highest number of guns ever sold in a single month—and this disturbing trend continued in the months that followed.22
- Even with much of the country on lockdown, mass shootings hit a record high in 2020. Children witnessed, suffered, or died in 611 mass shootings in 2020—up from 417 in 2019.23
- Gun accidents in the home have also surged during the pandemic. School and child care closures have exacerbated children's risk of dying in gun accidents at home. Between March and May 2020, accidental gun deaths by children increased by 30 percent relative to rates over the past three years.24
- The pandemic has also intensified factors that contribute to gun-related domestic violence and community violence: job losses and financial insecurities have left victims of domestic violence more vulnerable to harm as well as fueling community gun violence.25

The COVID-19 crisis has exposed the consequences of our nation's longstanding failure to pass policies to keep children safe where they live and learn. Our leaders must not only advance meaningful solutions to address the COVID-19 crisis but also the ongoing gun violence crisis in America. We cannot allow children to die at the hands of these crises.



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RACIAL INEQUITY

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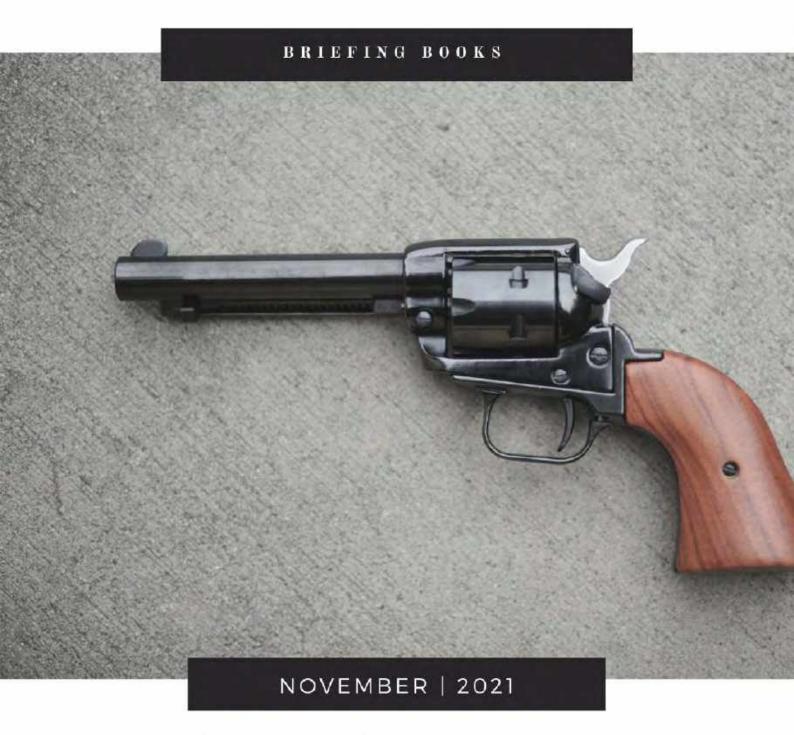
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Unbiased information on the contributing factors to gun violence in America.