Gun Violence and Public Health Resource Pack
2024

Overview

This resource pack was curated by the Global Health Education and Learning Incubator to examine the gun violence epidemic and its public health implications in the United States. This collection of resources assesses the prevalence of gun violence in the U.S., comparative policy and legislation between the U.S. and other countries, violence in schools, mass shootings, and intentional and unintentional injury including accidental discharge, mental health and suicide, and domestic violence. This collection also addresses police brutality and use of excessive force. Police use excessive force on and kill Black Americans at more than twice the rate as white Americans. The gun violence epidemic and its disproportionate impact on minority populations in the U.S. has direct and widespread effects on health outcomes—both mental and physical—for individuals, communities, and systems in the U.S. Data and comprehensive research on gun violence remain visibly limited in the United States. Continued research, understanding, and analysis of drivers and consequences of the gun violence epidemic is essential for public health experts, policy makers, community organizers, educators, individuals, and the public to acknowledge, repair, and improve the overwhelming violence afflicting the United States.

The resources in this collection were selected for their diversity, quality, and timeliness. We specifically curated publications, data portals, country and state cases, and teaching resources that allow users to explore how policy and legislation and social and institutional frameworks in the U.S. have created a crisis and epidemic of gun violence. The various resource types are suitable for multimodal learning in classroom, including in-person, hybrid, or online learning environments. These resources are free and updated regularly.

These resources may be useful to educators as they develop lesson plans, activities, or assignments focused on gun violence. Learners can apply critical and analytical thinking skills by exploring data portals, use articles and reports to engage in discussions, and examine state or country cases to understand how legislation related to guns affects their own communities.

The Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University supports interdisciplinary education about world health through the production, curation, and dissemination of educational public goods.

This resource pack includes:

- At-a-Glance
- Gun Policy and Prevention
- Mental Health and Suicide
- Mortality and Injury
  - Unintentional Firearm Discharge
  - Domestic Violence

This resource pack was originally developed by the Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University in 2018. It is used and distributed with permission by the Global Health Education and Learning Incubator at Harvard University. The Incubator’s educational materials are not intended to serve as endorsements or sources of primary data, and do not necessarily reflect the views of Harvard University.

[Last updated: January 2024]
Resource Pack: Gun Violence and Public Health

- Mass Shootings
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*indicates resource listed in GHELI's online Repository

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Lopez G. How Gun Control Works in America, Compared with 4 Other Rich Countries. Vox 2018; March 14. 

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* Report. The Rise of Firearm Suicide Among Young Americans
The Rise of Firearm Suicide Among Young Americans. Everytown for Gun Safety 2022. 

* Report. The Truth About Suicide and Guns
The Truth About Suicide and Guns. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence 2021. 

Article. Comparison of Rates of Firearm and Nonfirearm Homicide and Suicide in Black and White Non-Hispanic Men, by U.S. State

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* Data Visualization. Fatal Injury and Violence Data

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Report. The Devastating Toll of Gun Violence on American Women and Girls

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Article. Fatal Police Violence by Race and State in the USA, 1980-2019

* Article. Risk of Being Killed By Police Use of Force in the United States By Age, Race-Ethnicity, and Sex

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* Data Interactive. Mapping Police Violence

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* Data Portal. Gun Violence Archive

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* Teaching Case. Recovery in Aurora: The Public Schools’ Response to the July 2012 Movie Theater Shooting (A)

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**ORGANIZATIONS**

* Organization. Everytown for Gun Safety

* Organization. Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence

Organization. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

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AT-A-GLANCE

Report. Gun Violence in America
This report from Everytown for Gun Safety provides a comprehensive overview of the state of gun violence in the United States. Every day, about 120 people are killed by guns in the U.S., on average, 43,375 gun deaths per year. The report includes data exploring six main areas related to gun violence: gun deaths by intent, suicide, homicide, children and teens, domestic violence, and impact of gun violence on Americans. The report finds that 6 out of 10 gun deaths in the United States are suicides, as the U.S. holds a gun suicide rate nearly 12 times higher than other high-income countries. The report also finds that firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens, and that women in the U.S. are 28 times more likely to be killed with a firearm than women in other high-income countries. The report explores the statistics related to each of these topic areas to illustrate gun violence in the U.S. and the magnitude of its impact on everyday life nationwide.

GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13491
This article published in JAMA examines the global, regional, and national level burden of firearm mortality between 1990 and 2016. Based on data from vital registration, verbal autopsy, census and survey data, and police records in 195 countries and territories, the authors estimated 251,000 people died globally from firearm injuries in 2016 compared with 209,000 deaths in 1990. Firearm injury deaths in 2016 were highest among people aged 20 and 24. In addition, the estimates of the number of firearms by country were associated with higher rates of firearm suicide and homicide.

Fact Sheet. Facts About Gun Violence
This fact sheet from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence provides key statistics about gun violence in the United States. It also offers brief overviews of topics including historical trends, the economic cost of gun violence, suicide and guns, urban gun violence, domestic violence, and kids and guns. Giffords reports that Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun homicide than residents of other high-income countries. The sheet includes a graphic illustrating the number of Americans killed by guns each year due to suicide, homicide, shooting by law enforcement, unintentional shooting, and undetermined cause. Readers can download this fact sheet and explore additional resources on related topics.

Data Publication. On Gun Violence, The United States is an Outlier
This data publication from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation provides data for the rates of gun violence in the United States. Out of 65 high-income countries and territories, the U.S. ranks seventh for highest rates of firearm homicides and first among countries and territories with 10 million people or more. The publication provides graphs which compare rates of firearm injury and violence in the U.S. to other high-income countries and compares firearm homicide rates in each U.S. state. The publication also explores childhood deaths by gun violence in the U.S. over time and provides a global summary of firearm homicides.
GUN POLICY AND PREVENTION

UNITED STATES

GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12358
This 2023 report by the RAND Corporation provides a comprehensive review of gun policies in the United States and their long-term impacts on various firearm-related outcomes, including deaths, violent crime, and industry practices. Overall, the authors found that relatively few existing policies have been examined in methodologically rigorous scientific studies. Most research that has been conducted has generally examined outcomes that impact gun-owners and industry stakeholders rather than the public safety and population health. Nevertheless, a small body of research has found that child-access prevention laws (safe storage laws) effectively reduce self-inflicted firearm injuries among young people and children as well as firearm homicide among youth. Studies on background checks have also shown, with moderate evidence, to reduce homicides. There is also moderate evidence that imposing a minimum age for gun purchases reduces suicides among young people. Based on these findings, the authors also identify a number of recommendations including the passage of new laws (e.g., adopting child-access prevention laws), changing existing laws (e.g., amending or repealing stand-your-ground laws), and lifting restrictions on gun violence research.

Comment. Making the Case for a World Without Guns
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/S2468-2667(19)30021-0.
This article in The Lancet discusses gun ownership, gun sales, and the various reasons for gun ownership in society. It raises the case for removing civilian owned guns and military weapons from all of society, making a comparison between the regulation of firearms and the regulation and restrictions on cigarettes given the known dangers of each. It notes that the number of people who smoke cigarettes in the United States has reduced by half in recent decades as a result of increased public awareness and stricter regulations. In contrast, the author notes that from 1990 to 2015, nearly 2.5 million firearm deaths occurred in the United States, Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, 70% of which could have been prevented. The author provides additional data on the global mortality and morbidity of gun violence and suggests that a society without firearms and other assault weapons may not be as unimaginable as it appears.

GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13965
This web portal from Everytown for Gun Safety compares gun policies across the U.S., scoring each state on the strength of its gun laws and rates of gun violence in 2024. Users can explore data for each U.S. state and view how they stack up on 50 key policies related to gun safety, spanning foundational laws, gun industry and product safety, guns in public, keeping guns out of the wrong hands, policing and civil rights, and sales. The portal also provides a comprehensive overview of gun policies and allows users to explore each policy and view their adoption across the country.

Web Portal. Gun Policy Expert-Opinion Tool
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13969
This web portal from the RAND Corporation provides a tool informed by gun policy experts which allows users to explore the potential outcomes of gun policies in the U.S. Users can select various gun policies, such as waiting periods, expanding mental health prohibitions, child-access prevention laws, universal background checks, and more—and view how their implementation may impact state and nationwide outcomes annually, according to gun policy researchers.
The tool includes outcomes such as the new firearms sales, hunting participation, firearm suicides and homicides, mass shootings, property crime, defensive gun use, and accidental firearm deaths.

Infographic. America’s Unique Gun Violence Problem, Explained in 16 Maps and Charts
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12257
This article from Vox examines American gun violence through a series of maps and charts, illustrating what gun violence looks like in the U.S. compared with the rest of the world, why it is so prevalent, and why it continues to be such a challenging issue to address. The article also links to key research studies, media coverage, and commentary related to gun violence and gun control efforts.

WORLDWIDE

Article. U.S. Gun Policy: Global Comparisons
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13492
This article from the Council on Foreign Relations compares gun control in the United States to other selected countries: Canada, Australia, Israel, the United Kingdom, Norway, and Japan. The United States makes up less than five percent of the world’s population but has almost half (46 percent) of the world’s civilian-owned guns. In comparison to the other countries in this analysis, the United States has significantly more civilian-owned guns (120 per 100 people) and more gun homicides (4 per 100,000 people). All of the other countries had less than or equal to 1 gun homicide per 100,000 people. The article also describes the federal and state-level laws that provide the basis for firearm ownership and regulation in the United States and provides an overview of differences in laws among other nations.

Editorial. Firearms: The Cost of Inaction
This editorial article from The Lancet Public Health makes a claim for making firearm violence a global public health issue, as it is not one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for health. In 2016, over 250,000 people died from firearm injuries worldwide, and firearms continue to be a major cause of premature mortality in the United States, Mexico, Brazil, and Colombia. The article examines social determinants and geographical factors influencing firearm mortality, including place of residence, race, educational achievement, and other socioeconomic determinants. The authors urge that gun ownership and gun violence are legal, cultural, social, and economic issues. Continued research and interventions are necessary for tackling disparities in gun violence, controlling the use of weapons, and ultimately preventing morbidity and mortality.

News. How Gun Control Works in America, Compared with 4 Other Rich Countries
This article published in Vox compares gun control in the United States with Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and Japan. For each country, the article provides data on the gun ownership rate, the gun homicide rate, and the major regulations in place for buying a gun. The United States leads globally in the number of civilian-owned firearms, followed by Yemen. Gun control measures in the United States are much more relaxed than in its peer nations. Readers can also watch the accompanying Vox video, “America’s Gun Problem, Explained in 18 Charts” and read related articles.
MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE

Report. The Rise of Firearm Suicide Among Young Americans
The Rise of Firearm Suicide Among Young Americans. Everytown for Gun Safety 2022.
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13970
This report from Everytown for Gun Safety evaluates the rise of firearm suicide among young people in the United States. Since 2011, the rate of firearm suicide among youth aged 10 to 24 years has increased by 53 percent in the United States, reaching its highest reported rate in 20 years in 2022. The report provides data on suicide rates, risk factors, and youth firearm suicide demographics by gender, race, and ethnicity. Additionally, the report considers the significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people in the U.S., including increased social isolation and feelings of anxiety and loneliness, which elevate the risk of suicide for people across all ages. The report provides specific recommendations for action, including legislation limiting access to firearms, investing in research and prevention programs, and increasing education and knowledge around suicide risk factors and warning signs.

Report. The Truth About Suicide and Guns
The Truth About Suicide and Guns. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence 2021.
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13493
This report published by the Brady Campaign provides key data and statistics on firearm suicides and gun violence in the United States. In 2019, more than 60% of gun deaths (23,941 deaths) were from suicide. Firearms only account for 5% of suicide attempts, but are responsible for over half of all suicide deaths. An average of 17.2 veterans die by suicide every day, and over the past 15 years, the firearm suicide rate for boys and young men has increased by 60 percent. Background checks on gun sales, which indicate gun purchasing, increased by 145% from June 2019 to June 2020. Given the backdrop of COVID-19, increased access to guns and increased risk factors for suicidal thoughts and behaviors from pandemic-induced stress creates a dangerous combination for potential firearm crises. The report provides an overview of trends in firearm death rates from 1992 to 2019, discusses the link between suicide and guns, and provides more detail on specific communities (LGBTQ+, men, military members, and children and teens) who are uniquely affected by firearm suicide. It also analyzes trends across different racial and geographic communities. The report recommends policies to prevent and improve the gun suicide epidemic such as implementing waiting periods, including mental health records in background check systems, and passing “Extreme Risk” laws.

Article. Comparison of Rates of Firearm and Nonfirearm Homicide and Suicide in Black and White Non-Hispanic Men, by U.S. State
This article examines differences in homicide and suicide rates between black and white non-Hispanic men in the United States and whether these differences are driven by individual state prevalence of gun ownership. The authors conducted a surveillance study in all 50 states and the District of Columbia from 2008 to 2016, drawing data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) WONDER database. The authors found that black and white differences in rates of firearm homicide and suicide varied widely across states – specifically, white men had between two fewer and sixteen more firearm suicides per 100,000 each year compared to their black counterparts. White men were at a higher risk than black men for firearm suicide across the country, but black men experienced higher firearm homicide rates than white men. The authors discuss structural disadvantages, racial residential segregation, drug markets, and other socioeconomic determinants in their relationship to gun violence. They urge additional research and investigation to understand variation between racial groups and geographic regions and to inform policy in the United States.
Article. Prohibition of Persons With Mental Illness From Gun Ownership Under Tyler
This article published in the *Journal of American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law* describes the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Heller* and *McDonald* decisions’ influence on firearm ownership and regulation in the United States. It also discusses the Tyler decisions, which debated limiting persons with mental illness from owning firearms. The article provides a legal history of these cases and how they have shaped gun policy. It offers suggestions for ways to further regulate gun ownership and use among those with mental illnesses both on the civil society and clinical levels.

Fact Sheet. Firearm Suicide in the United States
GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13494].
This fact sheet from Everytown for Gun Safety provides key findings and recommendations about firearm suicide in the United States. Firearm suicide is a public health crisis in the US, as an estimated 25,000 Americans die by firearm suicide annually, including more than 3,100 young people. Nearly six out of ten gun deaths in the US are suicides, an average of 65 deaths per day. The fact sheet covers topics spanning access to guns, demographic patterns in firearm suicides, and trends. It offers recommendations for reducing the crisis through a multi-faceted approach that includes individual, community, and societal-level interventions, including building public awareness, encouraging secure firearm storage, limiting the easy and immediate acquisition of firearms, removing firearms from individuals in times of crisis, and instituting firearm purchase permits. Everytown for Gun Safety also provides additional resources about gun suicide.

Fact Sheet. Those Who Serve: Addressing Firearm Suicide Among Military Veterans
This fact sheet from Everytown for Gun Safety analyzes firearm suicide among military veterans in the United States. The authors find that firearm suicide rates among veterans increased by 31 percent since 2005, with an average of 4,500 veterans dying by firearm suicide every year in the U.S. The fact sheet highlights several risk factors for suicide as they pertain to veteran populations, including easy access to firearms, trauma, life stressors, challenges when returning home from service, and a higher likelihood of gun ownership compared to civilian populations. The fact sheet discusses several findings, including firearm suicide rates for male and female veterans and suicide rates by U.S. region, and provides recommendations related to firearm storage practices, access laws, and comprehensive veteran services in order to combat firearm suicide among veterans.

Data Publication. Suicide Mortality in the United States, 2000-2020
GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13971].
This data publication from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention presents suicide mortality in the United States from 2000 to 2020. In 2020, suicide was the 12th leading cause of death for all ages in the U.S., compared to the 10th leading cause of death in 2019. The brief highlights differences in suicide rates for U.S. males and females over time, including trends by age groups and means of suicide. The brief finds that from 200 to 2020, suicide rates were three times higher for males compared to females, and firearm-related suicides rising for both males and females, rising to the leading means of suicide for females in 2020.
MORTALITY AND INJURY

Article. Trends and Disparities in Firearm Fatalities in the United States, 1990-2021
This article from JAMA Network Open examines firearm mortality rates in the United States from 1990 to 2021. In the U.S. over 1.1 million people died from firearm-related injuries between 1990 to 2021. The article provides data on firearm deaths over time, including homicide and suicide rates, as well as current geographic and demographic trends in firearm mortality. This includes firearm mortality rates in rural compared to urban areas, and mortality rates by age group, sex, and race/ethnicity. The article finds a 45 percent increase in all-intents firearm deaths from 2004 to 2021.

Article. Current Epidemiological Trends in Firearm Mortality in the United States
This article from JAMA Psychiatry examines the epidemiology trends in firearm mortality in the United States from 1999 to 2018. In the U.S. over 652,000 people died from firearm-related injuries between 1999 and 2018. The article provides data on firearm-related deaths and injuries over time, including homicide and suicide rates, as well as current regional and demographic trends in firearm mortality. This includes firearm mortality rates in rural compared to urban areas, and mortality rates by age group and sex. The article finds that in 2018, 42.1 percent of people who died from firearms were younger than 35 years old, with firearms representing the leading cause of death for youth aged 14 to 18 in the U.S. Additionally, firearm mortality rates among males were more than six times higher than females in 2018 – and age-adjusted firearm mortality rates were highest in rural counties in the U.S.

Article. Changes in Firearm Mortality Following the Implementation of State Laws Regulating Firearm Access and Use
This article from Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States (PNAS) examines the effects of gun laws on total firearm related deaths. The article examines the impacts of three classes of gun laws: child access prevention (CAP), right-to-carry (RTC), and stand your ground (SYG) laws. CAP laws regulate minors’ access to firearms; RTC laws allow citizens to carry concealed weapons outside of the home; and SYG laws limit the legal liability of individuals who use deadly force in self-defense outside of the home. Of the three types of laws, the article finds that CAP laws, or restricting firearm storage and use, are associated with an 11 percent decrease in firearms-related death rates.

Article. Cross-Sectional Study of Loss of Life Expectancy at Different Ages Related to Firearm Deaths Among Black and White Americans
This article from the British Medical Journal explores the burden of firearm deaths in the United States. It specifically examines disparities in mortality from firearms by race and intent. The authors drew data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Wide-Ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER) and obtained death counts in 5-year age groups within each race and intent group. They found that the overall life expectancy loss is twice as high among black Americans than white Americans, and this loss is driven by much higher homicide rates among blacks up to age 20. By contrast, the life expectancy loss due to suicide among white Americans over age 20 is greater than blacks. Life expectancy loss gradually declines with increasing age, but black Americans still experience an overall higher firearm life expectancy loss than whites. The authors hope that additional research and understanding on these disparities can inform firearm legislation, targeted prevention programs, and policies to reduce racial gaps in firearm injury and deaths.
Comment. Insights from Population Health Science to Inform Research on Firearms
This article from The Lancet comments on the ways in which population health science research can be used to address the firearm epidemic in the United States and conduct research on the consequences of gun violence given the previous decades of inaction by the United States government in the field. It specifically highlights three principles of population health science that may be used to inform the public conversation around firearms: health is a continuum made up of complex factors and determinants, and research should be conducted to account for the broad scope of challenges and their social and economic effects; small changes in causes of harm can have very substantial changes in the health of a population; the magnitude of an effect of exposure on human harm largely depends on the prevalence of other factors that cause that exposure, meaning social gun culture, in this case. The author pushes for the population health science approach in addressing the firearm epidemic and expanding public discussion.

Data Publication. Changes in Firearm Homicide and Suicide Rates – United States, 2019-2020
This data publication from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention presents changes in firearm homicide and suicide rates in the United States from 2019 to 2020. From 2019 to 2020, the overall firearm homicide rate in the U.S. increased by 34.6 percent, along with widening disparities by poverty level and race and ethnicity, specifically for Black males aged 10 to 44 years, and American Indian or Alaska Native (AI/AN) males aged 25 to 44 years. The publication examines the rates of firearm homicide and suicide as they coincide with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and calls on addressing the structural, social, and physical determinants which influence greater risks for firearm homicide and suicide the U.S.

Data Visualization. Fatal Injury and Violence Data
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheliharvard.edu/repository/13495
This data visualization from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides key data and statistics on fatal injury and violence. The data visualization explore tool allows users to view mortality data filtered by specific years ranges, demographic, geographic, and cause-of-death indicators. The compare tool allows users to compare different causes of death across different states to understand their prevalence and rates in the US. The portal also includes fatal injury reports from 1981 to 2020, leading cause of death reports from 1981 to 2020, years of potential life lost from 1981 to 2020, and a new Cost of Injuries portal outlining medical costs associated with injuries. The data portal includes additional information on methodology and reporting systems by the CDC.

UNINTENTIONAL FIREARM DISCHARGE

This article from BMC Injury Prevention examines unintentional gun deaths in the U.S., where unintentional firearm deaths are four times more likely to occur compared to other high-income countries. Using data from sixteen states, the article examines unintentional firearm fatalities from 2005 to 2015 and finds the rate of unintentional firearm deaths is highest for ages 10 to 29, with most victims being male. The authors highlight the common circumstances leading to unintentional firearm deaths, including playing with a gun, believing a gun was unloaded, hunting accidents, and alcohol consumption.
Article. Firearms Training and Storage Practices Among US Gun Owners: A Nationally Representative Study
This article from The BMJ Injury Prevention explores firearm storage practices among US adults and it assesses how firearms training affects storage among gun-owners. The authors conducted a survey of over 2,000 gun owners, asking how they stored household firearms, their reasons for owning guns, the number and types they owned, whether they had formal training, and if they had carried a loaded handgun in the prior month. They found that almost 30 percent of survey respondents stored at least one firearm loaded and unlocked. Their analysis did not suggest a correlation between firearm training and safer firearm storage, as the majority of owners still stored loaded firearms unlocked in their homes.

Data Publication. Unintentional Firearm Injury Deaths Among Children and Adolescents Aged 0-17 Years, United States, 2003-2021
This data publication from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention presents unintentional firearm injury deaths for children and adolescents in the United States, from 2003 to 2021. In the U.S., unintentional injuries are the top cause of death for children and adolescents aged 1 to 17 years old– with firearms being a leading method. The publication presents statistics on number of unintentional firearm injury deaths, analyzing data by sex, race/ethnicity, and age group, along with incident characteristics and circumstances, including data on firearm storage.

Data Interactive. #NotAnAccident Index
#NotAnAccident Index. Everytown for Gun Safety 2024. https://maps.everytownresearch.org/notanaccident/#16748. GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheldi.harvard.edu/repository/13496
This data interactive produced by Everytown for Gun Safety illustrates unintentional shootings among children in the United States. It includes a map of the US which details death and injury outcomes of unintentional shooting incidents in every state. The map includes detailed information about the date the incident took place, the victim involved, the place of the incident, and the outcome of the incident for every unintentional shooting this year. Everytown draws from media reports to collect information about other details such as type of firearm used and method of storage to better inform prevention policies. Users can also view data for unintentional shootings beginning in 2015.

Web Portal. The Effects of Child-Access Prevention Laws
This web portal from the RAND Corporation includes a variety of resources on the effects of child-access prevention (CAP) laws and their effects on gun use outcomes. The portal includes background information, previously collected evidence, maps detailing state by state implementation of CAP laws, and a breakdown of the eight outcomes they explored. RAND offers additional information on their research criteria and methodology for reviewing policies.

Web Portal. Child Access Prevention
This web portal from the Giffords Law Center provides key information on child access prevention (CAP) laws at the federal and state level in the United States. The portal summarizes the safety risks of access to firearms in homes, including high rates of unintentional gun deaths for children, youth suicides, and school shootings. In the U.S., 4.6 million minors live in homes with at least one loaded, accessible firearm. The portal provides key background data on CAP laws, information on federal laws related to gun storage, and includes a comprehensive summary of state CAP legislation, defining various types of CAP laws, policies, and legislative elements and a list of corresponding U.S. states.
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

**Report. Guns and Violence Against Women: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence Problem**

GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13972](https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13972)
This report from Everytown for Gun Safety describes intimate partner violence and violence against women in the United States. In the US, an average of 70 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner every month, which has several lasting effects not only on the relationship, but on children and family members, coworkers, and law enforcement officers. The report provides an overview of intimate partner violence and its relationship with firearms, presents personal stories of survivors, and the unequal burden of firearm related violence on communities at highest risk (Black, American Indian, and Hispanic women). It also offers policy recommendations to reduce gun violence in intimate relationships: strengthen laws prohibiting domestic abusers from owning guns; implement state firearm relinquishment laws; strengthen the federal background check system to close deadly loopholes; require dealers to notify state or local law enforcement when a domestic abuser attempts to buy a gun; fund more comprehensive research on guns and intimate partner violence.

**Report. The Devastating Toll of Gun Violence on American Women and Girls**

This report from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence illustrates the toll of gun violence on women and girls in the United States. The report specifically discusses how intimate partner violence and the use of guns impact women and girls disproportionately—citing that more than two-thirds of intimate partner homicides of women are committed with the use of firearms in the U.S. The report also finds that Black women are killed in intimate partner homicides with guns at three times the rate of white women; American Indian/Alaska Native women are killed at two times the rate of white women in intimate partner homicides. The authors also detail the disproportionate level of nonfatal firearm abuse that women experience.

**Data Interactive. Protective Orders and Firearm Prohibitions**
GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13809](https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13809)
This data interactive from Disarm Domestic Violence explores and compares state policies concerning domestic violence protective orders and firearm prohibitions in the United States. Nearly half of the women killed in the United States are killed due to intimate partner violence, and half of these deaths are committed with firearms. These harrowing statistics underscore the importance of examining domestic violence restraining orders and firearm possession policies to address this critical public health issue. The data interactive allows users to explore the variance in each state’s firearm policies, including whether those subject to protective orders can purchase or possess firearms, the state’s judicial authority to remove firearms, and the type of firearm removal laws in place for those under domestic violence protective orders. Along with the map, Disarm Domestic Violence provides information on [domestic violence and firearms at the federal level](https://www.disarmdv.org); state profiles examining specific state laws, ways to get protection, and statistics on domestic violence; and research on protection orders and firearm removal policies.

**Web Portal. Domestic Violence**
This web portal from Everytown for Gun Safety provides general information on the state of domestic violence in the United States and its connection to gun violence. Nearly two-thirds of women killed by intimate partner violence are killed with a gun, with an average of 70 women shot and killed by an intimate partner per month in the U.S. The portal includes [statistics on domestic violence](https://www.everytown.org/issues/domestic-violence), relevant [news](https://www.everytown.org/news), key [solutions](https://www.everytown.org/issues/domestic-violence/solutions), such as background checks for all gun sales and legislation that keeps guns from domestic abusers, and community [stories](https://www.everytown.org/issues/domestic-violence/stories).
MASS SHOOTINGS

Report. Mass Shootings in the United States
GHELI repository link: https://repository.ghei.harvard.edu/repository/12880
This report from Everytown for Gun Safety provides a comprehensive review of mass shooting incidents in the United States from 2009 to the present. The report includes a map illustrating incidents and the number of people injured or killed by these incidents and additional data tables, figures, and statistics. Users can view data for type of incident for the entire country or by individual state. The report presents key findings: most mass shootings occur in private homes; many perpetrators were prohibited from possessing firearms; most perpetrators of mass shootings often display warning signs that present opportunities for life-saving interventions; domestic violence is very prevalent among gun violence incidents. The authors discuss the severe consequences of these incidents on survivors, communities, and societal systems such as health care systems or local economies. They also provide suggestions for evidence-based solutions and legislative action. Readers can interact with the report online and download the data.

Article. The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990-2017
This article published in the American Journal of Public Health evaluates the effect of large-capacity magazine (LCM) bans on the frequency and lethality of mass shootings in the United States. The authors examined trends in shooting incidents from 1990 to 2017, analyzing the relationship between overall LCM bans, federal bans, and state bans on the frequency of high-fatality incidents and the resulting deaths. They found that from 1990 to 2017, the incidence of high-fatality shootings in non-LCM ban states was more than double the incidence rate in LCM ban states, suggesting that LCM bans tend to reduce the incidence and number of people killed in these incidents.

Article. Traders, Guns, and Money: The Effects of Mass Shootings on Stock Prices of Firearm Manufacturers in the U.S.
This article examines the effect of mass shootings on the stock prices of firearms manufacturers. Between 2009 and 2013, the stock prices of firearms manufacturers declined between 22.4 and 49.5 basis points per day following mass shootings, with the effects most prevalent in 2009-2010. However, these effects diminish in the time since then, leading the authors to suggest that markets may now have calibrated to the regularity of mass shootings as a "new normal."

Brief. The Mental Health Impact of Mass Shootings
This brief published by The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence describes the mental and physical consequences faced by survivors of mass shootings. The authors found that up to 95% of people exposed to mass shootings experience symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder in the days and months following the incident. The brief provides a background on gun violence in the United States and discusses the need for further research on mass shootings and gun violence, the psychological impact of gun violence incidents on survivors, and the effects of mass shootings on children. The authors also address psychological effects and implications of gun violence on communities and the entire United States.

Web Portal. Mass Shootings
This web portal from Everytown for Gun Safety provides general information on mass shootings in the U.S. From 2015 to 2022, more than 19,000 people were shot and killed in a mass shooting in the United States. The portal includes statistics on mass shootings, relevant news, and offers key solutions that users can explore, such as prohibiting assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, extreme risk laws, and expanding background checks.
Data Interactive. There Have been Three Mass Killings with Guns in 2024
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/14190
This data interactive from The Washington Post tracks mass shootings in the United States since 2006. Details about shootings can be viewed, including visual representations of the number of victims, locations of shootings, types of weapons used, as well as shooter demographics. Users can explore a graphic that visualizes the death toll of mass shootings since 2006 and can view the frequency of U.S. mass shootings over time. The tracker also includes data on mass shootings in school settings.

GUN VIOLENCE AND SCHOOLS

Report. How To Stop Shootings and Gun Violence in Schools: A Plan To Keep Students Safe
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13497
This report published by Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund (Everytown) presents a comprehensive plan combining gun safety policies with school-based intervention strategies. The largest education unions in the United States partnered with Everytown to assess the status of gun violence in schools and draw from data, research, and recommendations to create an intervention plan to prevent mass shooting incidents and end gun violence. The report includes four main sections: an overview of gun violence in America’s schools, four key facts about school gun violence, an outlined plan to prevent gun violence, and a summary of commonly suggested interventions that actually harm students. The proposed plan includes several key components: enact and enforce secure firearm storage laws, pass extreme risk laws, raise the age to purchase firearms, require background checks on all sales, build a culture of secure gun storage, implement school security upgrades, initiate trauma-informed emergency planning, and create safe and equitable environments in schools.

Report. A Familiar Face: Violence in the Lives of Children and Adolescents
https://data.unicef.org/resources/a-familiar-face.
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12039
This report from the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) offers the most up-to-date global data on four types of violence against children and adolescents: violent discipline and exposure to domestic violence, school violence, violent deaths, and sexual violence. The report notes that children experience violence most often by people whom they know and trust, usually in the home or in social environments, and explores the impact of childhood violence on well-being later in life. It asserts that all children have the right to protection against violence, and argues that documenting data on violence is a vital step towards combatting abusive actions toward children and adolescents.

Brief. The Truth About School Shootings
This brief from the Giffords Law Center focuses solely on disproving myths surrounding school shootings. Five myths are addressed in this report: school shootings are a fact of life, nothing can be done to prevent school shootings, schools need armed teachers to respond to school shootings, school shootings are largely caused by mental health issues, and children are most likely to experience gun violence in schools. The report addresses each myth with statistics and visual aids.
**Data Interactive. Gunfire on School Grounds in the United States**


This data interactive published by Everytown for Gun Safety includes an analysis and interactive map illustrating gunfire on school grounds in the United States per year and over time since 2013. The map provides detail on where and when each incident took place, the outcome of each incident (death, injury, no one shot), and a brief description on the events of the incident. Users can view the map for each individual year from 2013-2022 or view all incidents since 2013 and can also read about the background and trends of gun violence against children and teens at their schools and colleges in the United States.

**News. Children Deserve the Honest Truth About Mass Shootings**


This article from *The Atlantic* offers potential ways for parents to discuss the subject of mass shootings with children and teens. In the wake of the second-deadliest school shooting in U.S. history in May 2022 in Uvalde, Texas, the article aims to present information on how to discuss topics surrounding mass shootings with young people. The article highlights a conversation with Michelle Palmer, a social worker specializing in grief and trauma. It includes topics and questions that parents may consider when having conversations with their children or teens about mass shootings, grief, trauma, and safety.

**POLICE VIOLENCE**

**Report. In Pursuit of Peace: Building Police-Community Trust to Break the Cycle of Violence**


This report published by the Giffords Law Center examines the relationships between community trust, policing, and gun violence in the 21st century United States. The authors found that over-enforcement of minor infractions and ongoing police brutality in fact decrease public trust in law enforcement, leading to failure of law enforcement to protect residents and citizens and subsequent increases in violence. They describe progress towards trust-building in cities around the United States to combat this cycle of violence and highlight the importance and lifesaving potential of reforms to policing practices. The report contains five major chapters, including *The Jude Effect: How Ruptures in Community Trust Lead to Cycles of Violence and Debunking the Ferguson Effect: A Misdiagnosis of America’s Recent Spike in Gun Violence*. They finally offer alternatives to policing such as community-oriented, relational policing and discuss the effects of the national initiative to build public trust around America’s cities.

**Article. Fatal Police Violence by Race and State in the USA, 1980-2019**


This article from *The Lancet* explores fatal police violence by race and state in the United States from 1980 to 2019. The article aims to examine the presence and extent of under-reporting of police violence and present revised estimates of police killings in the U.S., which disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and Hispanic people. The article estimates that about 30,800 deaths caused by police violence occurred from 1980 to 2018 across all U.S. states, representing a gap of 17,100 deaths unreported by the National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) during that time period. The article provides methods for addressing underreporting and precise data regarding police violence and working to eliminate the public health crisis it poses to communities in the U.S. specifically.
**Article. Risk of Being Killed By Police Use of Force in the United States By Age, Race-Ethnicity, and Sex**
GHELI repository link: https://repository.g heli.harvard.edu/repository/13464
This article from the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America estimates the variation in the risk of being killed by police use of force in the U.S. across racial groups. The authors found that risk of being killed by police peaks between the ages of 20 and 35 for men and women of all racial groups. Black men and women, as well as American Indian/Alaska Native men and women, and Latino men have a much higher lifetime risk of being killed by police than their white counterparts. The highest risk, however, was among Black men who face a one in 1000 chance of being killed by police over their lifetime. Presently, police violence is the leading cause of death for young Black men in the United States.

**Article. Police Killings and Their Spillover Effects on the Mental Health of Black Americans: A Population-Based, Quasi-Experimental Study**
This article in The Lancet discusses the effects of police killings on the mental health of black Americans. It draws from the 2013-14 nationally representative US Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) to assess self-reported mental health among black Americans in the general population. The authors found that police kill more than 300 black Americans each year in the United States — these killings have adverse, ongoing effects on the mental health of black American adults. The authors urge the need for programs to decrease the frequency of police killings as well as programs to mitigate the mental health consequences on individuals and communities.

**Data Interactive. Mapping Police Violence**
GHELI repository link: https://repository.g heli.harvard.edu/repository/13377
This data interactive, Mapping Police Violence, features a collection of interactive tools, maps, and figures that illustrate police violence in the United States. Users can view an interactive map of the United States showing all of the people killed by police for each day in a specific year. The current data shows the number of days in 2023 where police did not kill someone and that Black people are three times more likely to be killed by police than their white counterparts. The portal includes a calendar view of police killings and figures and graphs showing how race and ethnicity, location, and crime are connected to police violence. Users can also learn about police killings per state through several indicators: race, sex, armed status, cause of death, and year. The portal includes additional information, including a police scorecard and a detailed methodology. Users can also view the data and access a resource to contact their representatives directly.

**FACT SHEETS**

**Fact Sheets. Gun Violence Factsheets**
These fact sheets from The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence provide data and graphics on several key issues related to gun violence. Available fact sheets cover topics of gun ownership, types of gun violence, effects of gun violence, and emerging dangers including unregulated firearms, veterans and suicide, “Stand-Your-Ground” laws, gun suicide, firearm microstamping, and hate crimes.

**Fact Sheets. Violence Prevention**
These fact sheets from the American Public Health Association cover a multitude of topics related to violence prevention and policy:
Resource Pack: Gun Violence and Public Health

- Gun Violence Prevention
- Suicide Prevention
- Who Gets Killed in America? The National Violent Death Reporting System is Keeping Track
- Personal Safety in Safe Routes to School: Addressing Violence and Crime in Your Community

STATE PROFILES

State Profiles. State Gun Laws
These profiles from the National Rifle Association Institute for Legislative Action provide an overview of gun laws in each state. Each profile contains information about the requirements to buy, own, and carry guns in that state. Users can also see relevant state legislation that restricts or protects gun owners.

State Profiles. States At a Glance
These profiles from Everytown for Gun Safety provide a current view of gun violence news, legislation, and statistics in the 50 states and District of Columbia. Each profile includes an at-a-glance overview, the latest gun law victories and news, and a gun law report card.

DATA

Data Portal. Gun Violence Archive
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12364
This data portal tracks shootings in the United States. The Gun Violence Archive—an independent non-profit organization—provides charts and maps of gun violence to visualize the impact of gun use across the country. Incident data are categorized by number of deaths, number of injuries, number of children, number of teens, mass shootings, officers shot, suspect shot by officer, home invasion, defensive use, and unintentional shooting.

Data Interactive. Annual Gun Law Scorecard
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12362
This data interactive from the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence evaluates the gun laws of all states in the United States. Users can explore a map of the U.S. and view data for each state’s gun laws and the overall “letter grade” assigned to each state based on an analysis of their gun legislation in 2023. Each state’s scorecard includes a ranking based on its gun safety laws and gun death rates and compares the state’s gun deaths to the national average. Individual scorecards also include gun laws introduced or changed in the state in 2023 and outline specific action items to improve gun safety.

The interactive offers a tool to compare gun death rates and rankings between two states, data on innovative gun legislation introduced in 2023, and details on legal challenges.

GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/12884
This data interactive from The Trace uses data from the Gun Violence Archive to depict fatal and nonfatal shootings in the United States. Users can explore the map by city or area code, filtering the data by fatal or nonfatal shooting; mass shooting; accidental shooting; an officer involved shooting; or a shooting involving a child. Data is provided from 2014.
to present. Each shooting event links to further details about incident characteristics and provides original documentation.

TEACHING MATERIALS

Teaching Case. ¡Alto a la Violencia! Reducing Gun Violence in Honduras
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/10674
This fictional case begins with an open letter from the Honduran President mourning the rampant gun violence in Honduras. In a call to action he announces a public competition open to anyone in the world to develop a solution to end gun violence in Honduras. Given the complexity of the situation, the president seeks a multidisciplinary solution that considers all the social, structural and transnational factors connected to gun violence. The case presents readers with background sections on Honduras in the areas of: basic facts, social and political history, a description of the societal impact of gun violence, overview of causes, gangs and crime, law and gun laws as well as past initiatives to address gun violence. Based on this information readers are expected to develop a feasible recommendation for the president. This case was used for the 2015 International Global Health Case Competition at Emory University. Cases from past competitions are available through the Emory Global Health Institute.

Teaching Case. Recovery in Aurora: The Public Schools’ Response to the July 2012 Movie Theater Shooting (A)
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/10783
This case study considers community mental health and resiliency through the example of a movie theater mass murder in Aurora, Colorado, in 2012. It is the first in a 2-part case that follows the Aurora Public Schools (APS) Superintendent’s emergency management process for addressing community trauma, and details the range of reactions to and stakeholders’ perspectives on recovery. The case prompts students to consider what it means for a community to recover mental health and resiliency, and explores coordination challenges within and across public and private sectors. The case is part of a series produced by the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Case Program, hosted by the HKS Strengthening Learning and Teaching Excellence (SLATE) initiative, the world’s largest producer and repository of case studies designed for teaching about how government works and how public policy is made. This case may be purchased for a nominal fee; registered educators may obtain a free review copy. Online supplemental resources include short free documents and videos on how to teach with the case method, as well as downloadable related tip sheets and questions for class discussion.

Teaching Case. Recovery in Aurora: The Public Schools’ Response to the July 2012 Movie Theater Shooting (B)
GHELI repository link: https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/10784
This case considers community mental health and resiliency through the example of a movie theater mass murder in Aurora, Colorado, in 2012. It is the second in a 2-part case that follows the Aurora Public Schools (APS) Superintendent’s emergency management process for addressing community trauma, and details the range of reactions to and stakeholders’ perspectives on recovery. The case prompts students to consider what it means for a community to recover mental health and resiliency, and coordination challenges within and across public and private sectors. The case is part of a series produced by the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Case Program, hosted by the HKS Strengthening Learning and Teaching Excellence (SLATE) initiative, the world’s largest producer and repository of case studies designed for teaching about how government works and how public policy is made. This case may be purchased for a nominal fee; registered educators may obtain a free review copy. Online supplemental resources include short free
Teaching Case. *In the Crossfire: Guns, Legislative Leadership and Recall Politics in Colorado*


GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/10781](https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/10781)

This case study illustrates how grassroots efforts affect the politics of gun control legislation in Colorado. It describes what happened when Democratic senators in Colorado who supported gun control legislation were “recalled” out of office, and explores the implications for those who remained. Using the backdrop of Colorado’s 2013 gun control laws, the case allows students to explore the efficacy of grassroots campaigns and the power of a vocal minority to affect the political landscape. The case asks students to consider how elected officials can govern effectively if their legislative voting record is unpopular with their constituents. The case is part of a series produced by the Harvard Kennedy School (HKS) Case Program, hosted by the HKS Strengthening Learning and Teaching Excellence (SLATE) initiative, the world’s largest producer and repository of case studies designed for teaching about how government works and how public policy is made. This case may be purchased for a nominal fee; registered educators may obtain a free review copy.

Online supplemental resources include short free documents and videos on how to teach with the case method, as well as downloadable related tip sheets and questions for class discussion.

### ORGANIZATIONS

**Organization. Everytown for Gun Safety**


GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13498](https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13498)

Everytown for Gun Safety represents a coalition of mothers, mayors, and survivors of gun violence who advocate for gun safety legislation. The organization amplifies opportunities for individuals to advocate against and prevent gun violence, including grassroots campaigns to replace lawmakers with gun lobby connections, and writing and calling legislators in support of gun safety policies. Everytown also shares reports and fact sheets on topics from guns in public places to online gun sales.

**Organization. Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence**


GHELI repository link: [https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13499](https://repository.gheli.harvard.edu/repository/13499)

Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence provides support to people working towards preventing gun violence by providing technical assistance. This includes making information around regulations accessible and accurate, providing reports and analyses around legal issues, sharing media coverage, presenting workshops and trainings, providing legal research and analysis, creating model laws, providing pro bono representation of local governments, and much more. This organization shares facts and figures around gun violence in order to spread awareness and create changes in gun policy. These numbers are shared through factsheets, scorecards, trend-watches, and other publications.

**Organization. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America**


Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, started in response to the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in 2012, advocates for “common-sense” gun reforms. Highlighting that that 7 American children and adolescents are shot on a daily basis, Moms Demand Action calls for a national effort towards stronger gun safety laws and policies. The website shares pathways to join the effort, take action, explore campaigns, view news stories, and hear personal narratives.
Organization. Stop Handgun Violence
Stop Handgun Violence is a Massachusetts-based organization aimed at preventing gun violence in America through spreading education, awareness, and influencing law enforcement. The organization shares an advocacy toolkit focused around ending handgun violence without banning guns entirely. This organization has multiple pathways to getting involved, such as receiving a newsletter, volunteering time, taking responsible measures at home, contacting congress, and donating funds.