

# **PROTECT CHILDREN** **NOT GUNS 2012**



**THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF TRAYVON MARTIN  
AND THE THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS  
KILLED BY GUNS EACH YEAR IN AMERICA.**

**Children's Defense Fund**

## Mission Statement

The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start, a Head Start, a Fair Start, a Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.

CDF provides a strong, effective and independent voice for *all* the children of America who cannot vote, lobby or speak for themselves. We pay particular attention to the needs of poor and minority children and those with disabilities. CDF educates the nation about the needs of children and encourages preventive investments before they get sick, drop out of school, get into trouble or suffer family breakdown.

CDF began in 1973 and is a private, nonprofit public charity supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations.

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## Overview

### 5,740 Children and Teens were Killed by Guns in 2008 and 2009

*Protect Children, Not Guns 2012* analyzes the latest fatal and nonfatal firearm injury data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for 2008 and 2009 for children and teens ages 0-19.<sup>1</sup>

#### Gun Deaths

In 2008, 2,947 children and teens died from guns in the United States and 2,793 died in 2009 for a total of **5,740**—one child or teen every three hours, eight every day, 55 every week for two years.

- **The 5,740 children and teens killed by guns in 2008 and 2009:**
  - Would fill more than 229 public school classrooms of 25 students each;
  - Was greater than the number of U.S. military personnel killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan (5,013).<sup>2</sup>
- The number of *preschoolers* killed by guns in 2008 (88) and in 2009 (85) was nearly double the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2008 (41) and 2009 (48).
- Black children and teens accounted for 45 percent of all child and teen gun deaths in 2008 and 2009 but were only 15 percent of the total child population.
- Black males 15-19 were eight times as likely as White males of the same age and two-and-a-half times as likely as their Hispanic peers to be killed in a gun homicide in 2009.
- The leading cause of death among Black teens ages 15 to 19 in 2008 and 2009 was gun homicide. For White teens 15 to 19 it was motor vehicle accidents followed by gun homicide in 2008 and gun suicide in 2009.
- The most recent analysis of data from 23 industrialized nations shows that 87 percent of the children under age 15 killed by guns in these nations lived in the United States. The gun homicide rate in the United States for teens and young adults ages 15 to 24 was 42.7 times higher than the combined rate for the other nations.
- Of the 116,385 children and teens killed by a gun since 1979, when gun data by age were first collected, 44,038 were Black—nearly 13 times more than the number of recorded lynchings of Black people of all ages in the 86 years from 1882 to 1968. Even so, more White than Black children and teens have died from gun violence.

2008		2009	
<b>2,947</b>	<b>total firearm fatalities</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>total firearm fatalities</b>
2,037	homicide	1,855	homicide
748	suicide	800	suicide
162	accidental or undetermined	138	accidental or undetermined
2,577	boys	2,434	boys
370	girls	359	girls
2,571	between ages 15-19	2,439	between ages 15-19
408	under age 15	354	under age 15
148	under age 10	151	under age 10
88	under age 5	85	under age 5
1,488	White	1,515	White
1,371	Black	1,211	Black
563	Hispanic*	566	Hispanic*
46	American Indian or Alaska Native	40	American Indian or Alaska Native
42	Asian or Pacific Islander	27	Asian or Pacific Islander

\* Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race; the 563 deaths in 2008 and the 566 deaths in 2009 are included in the four race categories.

## 34,387 Children and Teens were Injured by Guns in 2008 and 2009

### Gun Injuries

Six times as many children and teens—**34,387**—suffered nonfatal gun injuries as gun deaths in 2008 and 2009. This is equal to one child or teen every 31 minutes, 47 every day, and 331 children and teens every week.

- **The 34,387 children and teens injured by guns in 2008 and 2009:**
  - Would fill more than 1,375 public school classrooms of 25 students each;
  - Was more than the number of U.S. military personnel wounded in action in Iraq (32,223) and more than double the number wounded in action in Afghanistan (15,438).<sup>3</sup>
- The rate of gun injuries was 10 times higher among Black children and teens than it was among White children and teens. In 2009, the gun injury rate was 51.1 per 100,000 for Black children and teens; for White children and teens it was 5.0 per 100,000.
- Boys are far more likely to be injured in gun assaults or accidents than girls; girls are far more likely to be injured in gun suicide attempts than boys.

2008		2009	
<b>20,596</b>	<b>total nonfatal firearm injuries</b>	<b>13,791</b>	<b>total nonfatal firearm injuries</b>
16,187	assault	10,038	assault
3,998	accidental	3,588	accidental
411	self-harm	165	self-harm
19,253	boys	11,928	boys
1,343	girls	1,862	girls
18,819	between ages 15-19	12,932	between ages 15-19
1,777	under age 15	858	under age 15
607	under age 10	240	under age 10
238	under age 5	149	under age 5
4,085	White, non-Hispanic	2,369	White, non-Hispanic
8,441	Black, non-Hispanic	7,102	Black, non-Hispanic
5,099	Hispanic**	2,546	Hispanic**
2,391	race not stated	1,587	race not stated
579	Other non-Hispanic	186	Other non-Hispanic

\*\*The firearm injury data separates Hispanic ethnicity from the other race categories so there is no duplication in the overall injury data.

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2008-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury StatisticsQuery and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. military personnel killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan as of March 5, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. military personnel wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan as of March 5, 2012.

## Foreword

We dedicate this 12<sup>th</sup> child gun death report to the memory of Trayvon Martin and the thousands of children and teenagers killed by guns each year in America. As we publish on March 23, 2012, thousands of people across the country have poured into the streets—from New York to Sanford, Florida—to demand justice for Trayvon. Hundreds of thousands more stepped up to protest online. In response to the public outcry, the Sanford Chief of Police has temporarily stepped down and the state prosecutor has stepped aside. But nearly one month after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was stopped, stalked, shot and killed while walking home from a convenience store, armed only with a bag of Skittles and a can of iced tea, his killer, George Zimmerman, has not been arrested.

The public outrage over Trayvon's tragic death is right and just and we hope it will be sustained until justice is done. But where is the outrage over every single one of the thousands of children and teens killed by guns every year in our nation—too many killed by gun-toting Americans unrestrained by common sense gun control laws? Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, also known as the "shoot first, ask questions later" law, is now under national scrutiny. But will it and other laws be changed to protect children rather than gun owners and gun sellers? What is it going to take to get the American public and leaders to stand up to protect the lives and safety of children first?

Next month, April 16<sup>th</sup>, marks the fifth anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre in which 32 students and faculty were killed by a gun, 25 others were injured, and many more were traumatized. Each year since then has seen shootings with multiple victims—young children, teenagers, young adults, a Member of Congress, a federal judge and many more. Days, weeks, months and years go by and little or nothing—except fleeting headlines, tears, trauma and talk—is done to protect children.

- A total of 5,740 children and teens died in 2008 and 2009, the two years after the Virginia Tech shooting, according to the most recent data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This is the equivalent of one child or teen being killed by a gun every three hours, or eight each day over those two years, or 229 public school classrooms with 25 students each.
- Gun homicide continued as the leading cause of death among Black teens 15 to 19. White teens the same age were more likely to die from motor vehicle accidents, followed by gun homicide in 2008 and gun suicide in 2009.
- Black males 15 to 19 were eight times as likely as White males the same age and two-and-a-half-times as likely as their Hispanic peers to be gun homicide victims in 2009.
- Non-fatal gun injuries and the physical and emotional trauma that follows afflicted 34,387 children and teens over two years, 20,596 in 2008 and 13,791 in 2009.
- Taking a 30-year snapshot when child gun death and injury data collection began, 116,385 children and teens were killed by firearms between 1979 and 2009—enough to fill 4,655 public school classrooms of 25 students each. Since 1979, America has lost nearly three times as many children and teens to gunfire as the number of U.S. military personnel killed in action during the Vietnam War, and over 23 times the number of U.S. military personnel killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan (5,013).

Where is our anti-war movement here at home? Why does a nation with the largest military budget in the world refuse to protect its children from relentless gun violence and terrorism at home? No external enemy ever killed thousands of children in their neighborhoods, streets and schools year in and year out.

By any standards of human and moral decency, children in America are under assault, and by international standards, America remains an unparalleled world leader in gun deaths of children and teens—a distinction we shamefully and immorally choose! **The most recent analysis of data from 23 high-income countries reported that 87 percent of children under age 15 killed by guns in these nations lived in the United States. And the U.S. gun homicide rate for teens and young adults 15 to 24 was 42.7 times higher than the combined gun homicide rate for that same age group in the other countries.**

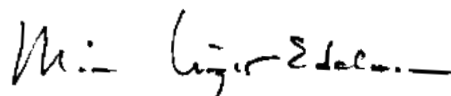
Why are common-sense gun regulations so shockingly absent in our country? Even in the wake of the tragedy in Tucson and the near-fatal shooting of one of their own, Congress failed to take action. Calls for banning high-volume ammunition clips and tightening up the federal background check system were ignored. Instead, our leaders once again answered the call of gun owners and the powerful gun lobby over the rights of children and citizens to life and safety. In November 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the National Right-to-Carry Reciprocity Act. If a similar bill is passed by the Senate and becomes law, a person with a permit to carry a concealed handgun in one state—a person like George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida—could carry that concealed weapon in another state even if it was against that second state's law. Proponents of such ill-conceived gun trafficking laws maintain the fiction that guns promote personal safety. It is long past time to acknowledge gun violence as the hugely serious threat to children, teens, and overall public health and safety.

Our leaders in Washington, D.C. are not alone in refusing to make America safer for children. Forty-two states have adopted preemption laws to ensure that state legislatures have control of gun policy, impeding the ability of cities to develop local solutions to gun violence in their communities suggesting that they know best although states continue to make decisions detrimental to children. In 2011, Kansas, Mississippi and Utah enacted laws allowing concealed weapon permit holders to carry loaded, concealed firearms in or on the grounds of elementary and secondary schools. With all eyes on Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, few noticed a law passed last year that, if upheld, threatens loss of a medical license for doctors who ask patients about whether a gun is in the home although it is not at all unusual and completely sensible for pediatricians particularly to ask patients and parents of patients about possible safety hazards in the home including guns.

We have so much work to do to build safe communities and a safe nation for our children. We need leaders at all levels of government who will protect children rather than guns and we need a relentless, powerful citizens' voice to break the gun lobby's veto on sane gun policy. Our laws must control who can obtain firearms and close the gun show loophole, require consumer safety standards and childproof safety features for all firearms, and strengthen child access prevention laws that ensure guns in the home are stored safely and securely. We *all* must take action. We *all* must ask candidates this fall what steps they will take to protect children from guns.

We must remove guns from our homes where children so often find them and put themselves and others in harm's way. We must teach our children nonviolent ways to resolve conflicts and we must reject pervasive violence in our culture—on TV programs, songs, in movies, and on the internet. And we must engage our young people in purposeful activities that will keep them away from gangs, drugs, violence, and guns.

As a nation, we must step down from our role as world leader in child gun deaths and work together to make America a moral leader in protecting children in the world which must begin with *preventing* and *reducing* gun deaths of children and teens and of all who reside here. Every child's life is sacred and it is long past time that we protect it. The greatest national security threat in America comes from no enemy without but from armed enemies within who lack regard for the sanctity of life for every vulnerable child.



Marian Wright Edelman

# Stand Up and Take Action

## 1. Parents, remove guns from your home.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates nearly two million children live in homes with loaded, unlocked guns.<sup>4</sup> The presence of guns increases the risk of death. Most adolescent suicides involve a gun owned by a parent.<sup>5</sup> Parents may think they have adequately protected their children by safely storing their guns, but this sense of security is often misplaced. A study by the Harvard Injury Control Research Center found that 39 percent of children interviewed knew the location of their parents' guns and 22 percent said they had handled the guns despite their parents' reporting otherwise.<sup>6</sup> Children under 10 were just as likely to have reported knowing where the guns were kept and having handled them as older children. Research shows that it is not enough to talk to children about the dangers of guns. Children exposed to gun safety programs are no less likely to play with guns than those who are not exposed to such classes. Simply removing guns from the home is one of the best ways to protect children and teens from gun deaths.

## 2. Support common-sense gun safety measures for the nation.

Stronger federal laws can help protect more children from gun violence by:

- **Closing the gun show loophole.** The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act requires federally licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on every sale. But a loophole in the law allows private dealers to sell guns without a license and avoid the required background checks. This loophole accounts for a large share of all gun sales, especially at gun shows. It is estimated that over 40 percent of all guns in this country are sold by unlicensed sellers to buyers who did not have to submit to a background check.<sup>7</sup> Eighteen states have attempted to block the loophole by requiring background checks for some categories of gun sales not covered by the Brady Law. *Congress must require criminal background checks on anyone who attempts to purchase a gun.*
- **Reinstating the ban on assault weapons.** The federal Assault Weapons Ban, signed into law in 1994, banned the manufacture and sale of 19 types of semi-automatic military style assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines that contained more than 10 rounds of ammunition, but it expired in 2004. Legislation now pending in Congress, The Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Act, H.R. 308 and S.32, would reinstate the ban on high-capacity ammunition magazines. These high capacity magazines were used in the mass shootings in Tucson, Arizona and at Virginia Tech. *Congress must restore the ban on both high-capacity assault clips and on assault weapons.*
- **Strengthening restrictions on people convicted of a violent misdemeanor or a violent act as a juvenile.** Under current law, a conviction for a violent misdemeanor does not prohibit a person from purchasing or possessing a gun. A related loophole exists for people

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<sup>4</sup> Catherine A. Okoro, et al. 2005. "Prevalence of household firearms and firearm-storage practice in the 50 states and the District of Columbia: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002." *Pediatrics*, 116(3): e370-e376. <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/116/3/e370>.

<sup>5</sup> Renee Johnson, et al. 2010. "Who are the Owners of Firearms used in Adolescent Suicides?" *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*, 40(6): 609-611.

<sup>6</sup> Frances Baxley and Matthew Miller. 2006. "Parental Misconceptions about Children and Firearms." *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, 160(5): 542-547. <http://archpedi.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/160/5/542>.

<sup>7</sup> Phillip J. Cook, PJ and Jens Ludwig. 1996. *Guns in America: Results of a Comprehensive National Survey on Firearms Ownership and Use*. Washington, DC: Police Foundation. See also Katrandjian, Olivia. 2011. *New York Probe Finds 62 Percent of Private Gun Sellers Sell to Prohibited Individuals*. ABC News. December 14. <http://abcnews.go.com/m/story?id=15154436>



adjudicated for violent offenses as juveniles. A study found that a person convicted of a violent misdemeanor was eight times more likely to be charged with a subsequent gun and/or violent crime, and one in three people convicted of a violent misdemeanor who tried to buy a handgun was arrested for a new crime within three years of acquiring the gun.<sup>8</sup> *Congress must close these loopholes and prohibit gun possession by individuals who have been convicted of violent misdemeanors or have been found delinquent for violent acts.*

- **Requiring consumer safety standards and childproof safety features for all guns.** Every gun in this country should be childproof. One-third of all households with children have at least one gun in the home.<sup>9</sup> It is estimated that nearly two million children live in homes with an unlocked and loaded gun.<sup>10</sup> Federal law is silent on gun-related consumer safety standards and child access prevention. In fact, the production and manufacture of guns is exempt from oversight by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. As a result, many handguns do not contain easily-installed life-saving safety features. Only 27 states have even attempted to keep children from accessing guns by passing child access prevention laws.<sup>11</sup> *Congress must subject guns to the same consumer product safety regulations that cover virtually every other consumer product. Congress must also require childproof safety features on all guns.*

### **3. Help state and local governments protect children from guns.**

Urge your state legislators and local officials to support laws to prevent child access to guns, such as requirements for locking devices and imposing criminal liability when guns are left unsecured or stored negligently. Oppose efforts to weaken state and local gun laws or legislation that limits the ability of schools, physicians and others to do their part to keep children safe from guns. Demand the repeal of “Stand your Ground” laws now in effect in 21 states that encourage a “shoot first and ask questions later” approach to confrontations, as well as laws allowing concealed weapons on school grounds, in child care centers, or other public venues where children gather.

**4. Nonviolent conflict resolution should be a part of our homes, schools, congregations and communities.** Family violence in our society is an epidemic, child abuse and neglect are widespread, and children are exposed to television programming that glamorizes guns, violence and brutality. Conflict resolution skills are essential in this environment but not typically taught in school or at home. Concerned parents can partner with schools, community groups and faith congregations to organize nonviolent conflict resolution support groups and push for adoption of a conflict resolution curriculum in your local school. Some excellent resources on conflict resolution include the following:

- **A Program for Teaching Social Literacy** by Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith is a violence prevention curriculum for kindergarten through grade 5.
- **Massachusetts Medical Society’s Recognizing and Preventing Youth Violence** provides guidance for health care professionals on how to intervene to prevent youth violence. (<http://www.massmed.org/violence>)

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<sup>8</sup> Garen J. Wintemute et al. 2001. “Subsequent Criminal Activity Among Violent Misdemeanants Who Seek to Purchase Handguns.” *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 285(8): 1019-1026.

<sup>9</sup> RM Johnson, T. Coyne-Beasley, and CW Runyan. 2004. “Firearm ownership and storage practices, U.S. households, 1992-2002: A systematic review.” *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*, 27(2): 173-182.

<sup>10</sup> Catherine A. Okoro, et al. 2005. “Prevalence of household firearms and firearm-storage practice in the 50 states and the District of Columbia: Findings from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2002.” *Pediatrics*, 116(3): e370-e376. Available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/116/3/e370>.

<sup>11</sup> Legal Community Against Violence. 2008. *Regulating Guns in America: An Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Federal, State and Selected Local Gun Laws*. Available at [https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating\\_guns.asp](https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating_guns.asp). Accessed July 2011.

- **Safe Start Center's *Healing the Invisible Wounds: Children's Exposure to Violence*** provides a guide for families helping a child or teen deal with trauma. Also, see ***Helping Children Cope with Violence: A School-Based Program That Works*** for helping children and teens in a school setting. (<http://www.safestartcenter.org>)
- Other educational resources focused on conflict resolution include **Educators for Social Responsibility** (<http://www.esrnational.org>) and the **Association for Conflict Resolution** (<http://acrnet.org/resources/index.htm>).

## 5. Boycott products that glamorize violence.

Our culture frequently glamorizes guns and violence in movies, television, music and on the internet. Many shows targeted at children have violent themes and language. Refuse to buy or use products that glamorize or make violence socially acceptable. Turn off violent programming and read or play with your children instead. Talk to them about the importance of rejecting violence as a cultural or personal value.

## 6. Focus attention on the number of children killed and injured by gun violence.

Children and teens impacted by gun violence and concerned community members can unite to educate others about our crisis of gun violence. There are moving examples of parents and other family members of a child killed or injured by a gun channeling their grief and anger into broadening public understanding of the devastation of guns and increasing political support for stronger gun laws. Mobilize support to protect children from gun violence:

- **Organize a group of influential community leaders to see and hear first-hand the effects of gun violence.** Let them hear from children and teens who were victims of gun violence. Arrange visits with medical staff from your local hospital who directly serve gun violence victims and their families. Involve police officers who interact with both victims and perpetrators.
- **Urge local newspapers to publish and radio and television stations to broadcast stories and photographs of children and teens killed by guns in your community.** Get them to keep a running tally of young gun victims in 2012.
- **Encourage your place of worship to read the names of children killed by guns in your community and publish their photos in the congregational bulletin.** Begin a visual memorial to the young lives lost to gun violence by placing a stone in a central and meaningful location to mark each child lost to gun violence in your community.
- **Encourage and help children and teens** who have been victims of gun violence to write a letter to the editor or an opinion column about how to stop the violence.
- **Connect with groups working to reduce the epidemic of gun violence in this country.** Go to [www.childrensdefense.org/violenceresources](http://www.childrensdefense.org/violenceresources) to learn more about national, state and local organizations that you can help to make a difference.

## 7. Support innovative efforts to promote positive youth development.

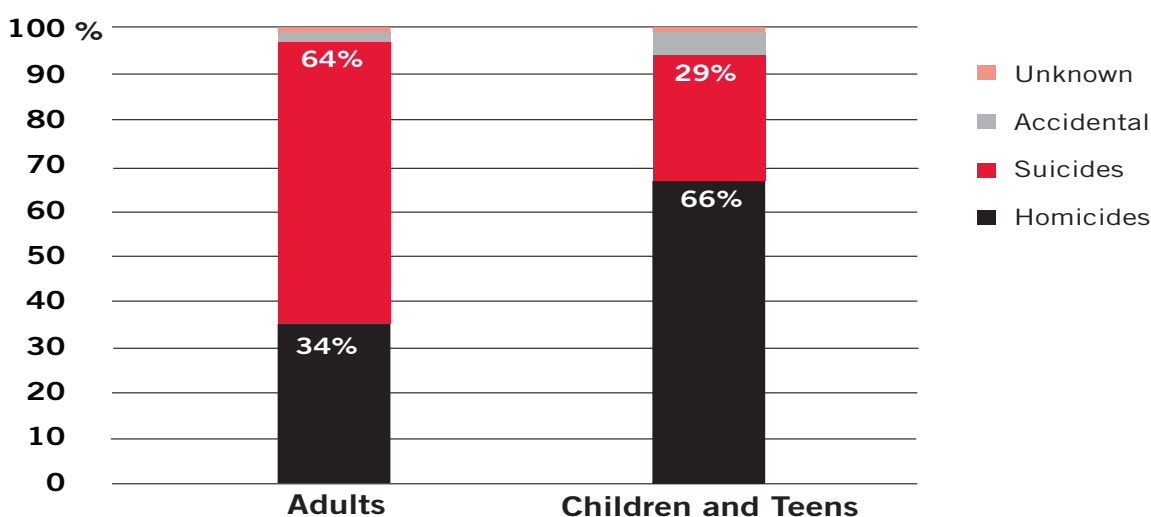
Many children and teens, particularly in urban areas, are exposed to gangs, drugs, violence and guns on a daily basis. We must offer positive alternatives and role models for them, especially during after-school hours, weekends and summers. We must open our congregational, school and community doors and engage young people in purposeful activities. For example, the CDF Freedom Schools® reading and enrichment model program includes nonviolence training and conflict resolution. (<http://www.childrensdefense.org/freedomschools>.)

# Child and Teen Gun Deaths

## 5,740 children and teens died from gunfire in the United States in 2008 and 2009.

- 2,947 children and teens were killed by guns in 2008; another 2,793 were killed in 2009. Two-thirds were victims of homicide (3,892), one-quarter were suicide (1,548), and five percent were accidental or unknown (300) gun deaths. Black children and teens were only 15 percent of the child population but were 45 percent of the total fatal gun deaths in 2008 and 2009.
- Overall, gun deaths among children and teens declined slightly (three percent) between 2007 and 2008, and declined an additional five percent between 2008 and 2009.
  - **Between 2008 and 2009**, 154 fewer children and teens died from guns. There were 182 fewer homicides, nine fewer accidental gun deaths, and 15 fewer gun deaths classified as unknown. Suicides with a gun increased by 52 offsetting the overall decline in gun deaths.
  - **Between 2007 and 2008**, 95 fewer children and teens died from guns. Although 160 fewer children and teens died in homicide, accidental and unknown gun deaths (124, 15 and 21 fewer deaths respectively), the increase of 65 suicide deaths offset the overall decline in gun deaths.
- The number of children and teens killed by guns in 2008 and 2009 would fill more than 229 public school classrooms of 25 students each.
- The number of *preschoolers* killed by guns in 2008 (88) and in 2009 (85) was nearly double the number of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty in 2008 (41) and 2009 (48).<sup>12</sup>
- Sixty-six percent of the gun deaths of children and teens in 2009 were homicides; 29 percent were suicides. Among adults the trend is the opposite: 34 percent of gun deaths in 2009 were homicides while 64 percent were suicides.

**Firearm Deaths of Adults and Children/Teens, by Manner, 2009**



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

<sup>12</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. 2009. "Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted, 2008." U.S. Department of Justice. <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/killed/2008/>(accessed January 2012).

- Eighty-seven percent of children and teens killed by guns in 2009 were boys (2,434). Boys ages 15 to 19 were more than seven times as likely as girls that age to commit suicide with a gun.
- Eighty-seven percent of gun deaths of children and teens in 2009 occurred among teens ages 15 to 19 years old. In fact, more 15 to 19 year olds died from gunshot wounds in 2009 than from any other cause except motor vehicle accidents.
- Between 1979 and 2009 gun deaths among White children and teens have **decreased** by 44 percent, compared to an overall 30 percent **increase** among Black children and teens over the same period. (See Table 1 in Appendix)
- Ninety percent of gun deaths of Black children and teens in 2009 were homicides (1,092); six percent were suicides (72). Among White children and teens, almost half of all gun deaths in 2009 were homicides (730) while 46 percent were suicides (698). White children and teens are twice as likely to commit suicide by gun as Black children and teens.
- In 2009, 43 percent of gun deaths were Black children and teens and 54 percent were White; 59 percent of homicide victims were Black children and teens; 87 percent of suicide victims were White.

## Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Age, Manner, and Race/Hispanic Origin, 2008

	Under 5	Ages 5–9	Ages 10–14	Ages 15–19	Total under age 20
<b>All Races</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>2,571</b>	<b>2,947</b>
Accidental	21	12	29	61	123
Homicide	65	44	143	1,785	2,037
Suicide	0	0	50	698	748
Undetermined	2	4	6	27	39
<b>White</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>1,266</b>	<b>1,488</b>
Accidental	14	5	20	43	82
Homicide	36	28	69	629	762
Suicide	0	0	44	580	624
Undetermined	1	2	3	14	20
<b>Black</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>1,236</b>	<b>1,371</b>
Accidental	6	6	5	14	31
Homicide	25	13	70	1,120	1,228
Suicide	0	0	5	90	95
Undetermined	1	1	3	12	17
<b>AmerInd/Alaskan</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>46</b>
Accidental	1	1	4	4	10
Homicide	0	0	1	13	14
Suicide	0	0	1	19	20
Undetermined	0	1	0	1	2
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>
Accidental	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	4	3	3	23	33
Suicide	0	0	0	9	9
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hispanic*</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>563</b>
Accidental	1	0	1	8	10
Homicide	14	11	30	420	475
Suicide	0	0	3	71	74
Undetermined	0	0	0	4	4

\*Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2008. "Fatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

## Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Age, Manner, and Race/Hispanic Origin, 2009

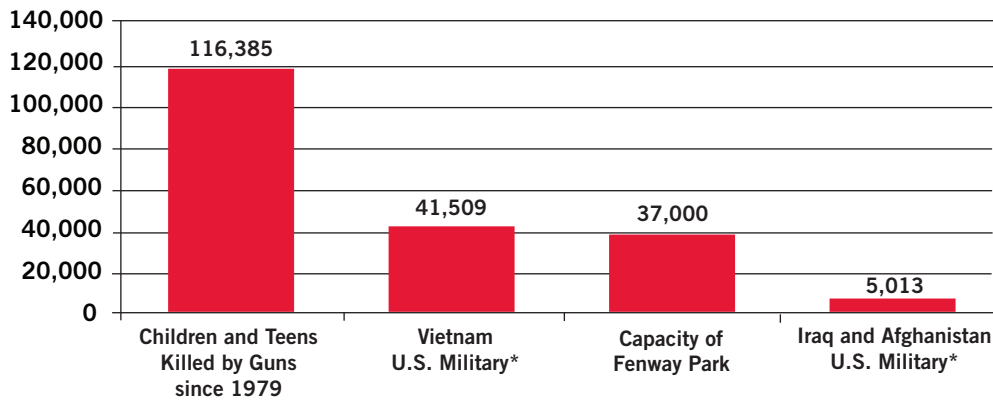
	Under 5	Ages 5–9	Ages 10–14	Ages 15–19	Total under age 20
<b>All Races</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>2,793</b>
Accidental	16	12	20	66	114
Homicide	66	53	115	1,621	1,855
Suicide	0	0	64	736	800
Undetermined	3	1	4	16	24
<b>White</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>1,515</b>
Accidental	11	7	16	39	73
Homicide	34	36	61	599	730
Suicide	0	0	61	637	698
Undetermined	2	0	4	8	14
<b>Black</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,211</b>
Accidental	5	5	3	25	38
Homicide	28	17	52	995	1,092
Suicide	0	0	3	69	72
Undetermined	1	1	0	7	9
<b>AmerInd/Alaskan</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>
Accidental	0	0	0	1	1
Homicide	0	0	0	17	17
Suicide	0	0	0	21	21
Undetermined	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Asian/Pacific Islander</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>
Accidental	0	0	1	1	2
Homicide	4	0	2	10	16
Suicide	0	0	0	9	9
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Hispanic*</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>566</b>
Accidental	2	1	3	6	12
Homicide	9	11	28	414	462
Suicide	0	0	7	82	89
Undetermined	1	0	1	1	3

\*Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.  
[http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

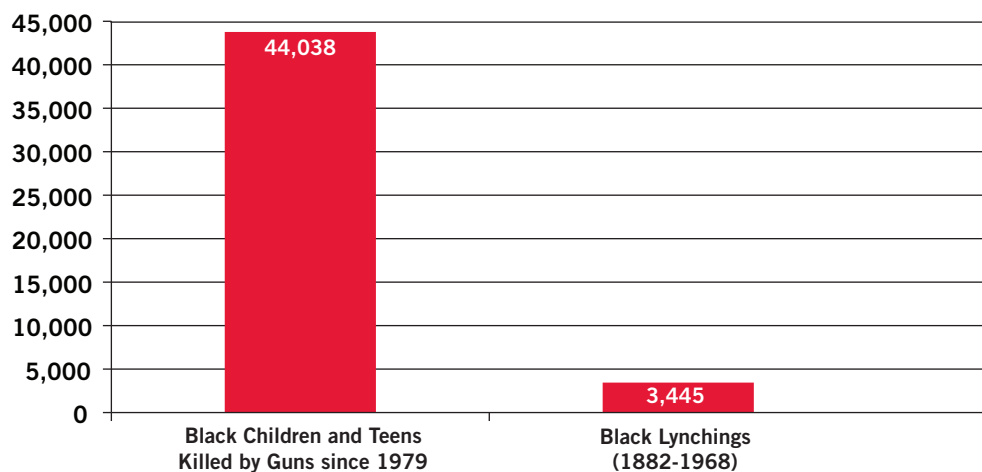
## 116,385 children and teens in America have died from gun violence in the 30 years since 1979.

- The number of children and teens killed by guns since 1979 would fill 4,655 public school classrooms of 25 students each or Boston’s Fenway Park three times over.
- Since 1979, America has lost nearly three times as many children and teens to gunfire as the number of U.S. military deaths during the Vietnam War and over 23 times the number of U.S. military deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.<sup>13</sup>



\*U.S. military killed in action.

- Of the 116,385 children killed by guns since 1979, 59 percent were White and 38 percent were Black.<sup>14</sup>
- The majority of gun deaths among children since 1979 have been homicides (57 percent) while nearly one-third have been suicides (31 percent).
- The number of Black children and teens killed by gunfire in the 30 years since 1979 is nearly 13 times greater than the number of recorded lynchings of Black people of all ages in America in the 86 years between 1882 and 1968.<sup>15</sup>



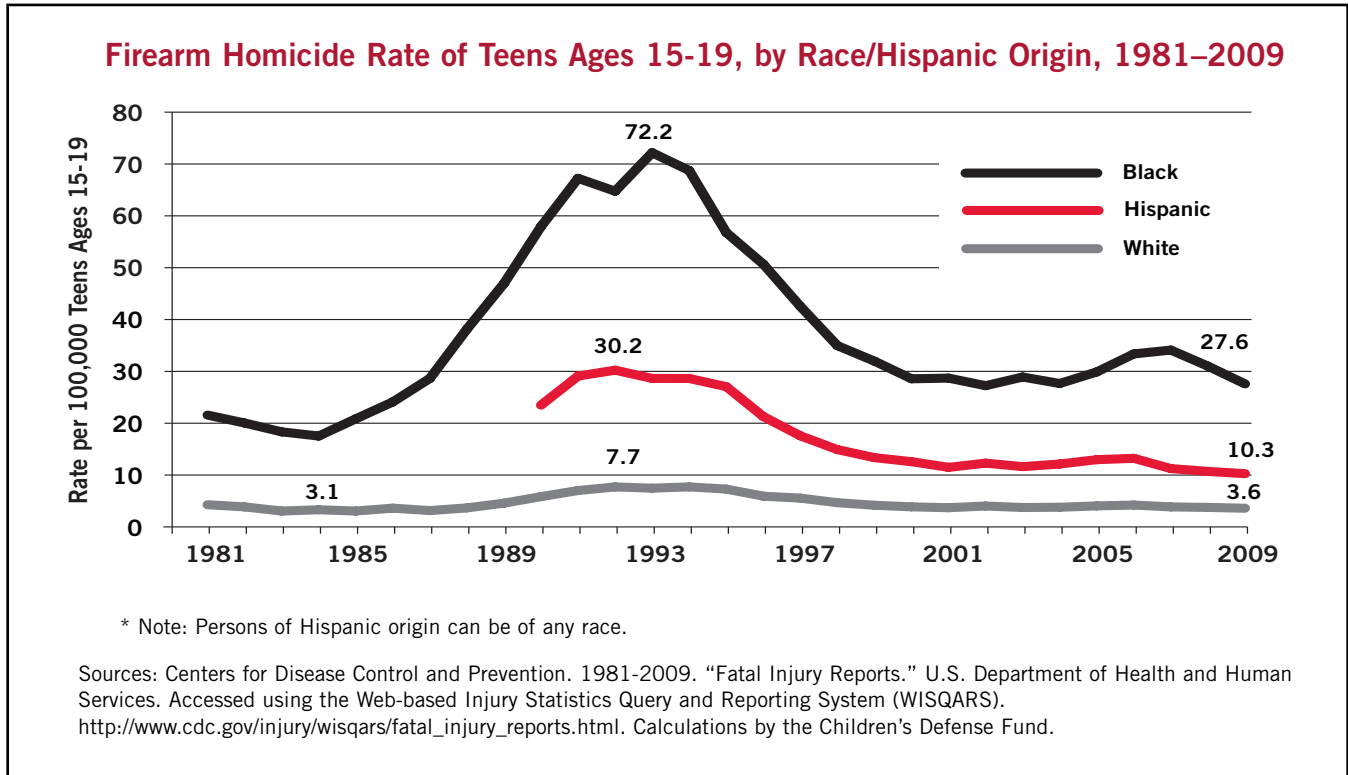
<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of Defense. 2012. "Casualty Status." <http://siadapp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/castop.htm> (accessed March 23, 2012).

<sup>14</sup> Data for American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander children not available for 1979-1980, Hispanic data not available prior to 1990. Data for White and Black children include those who are of Hispanic ethnicity.

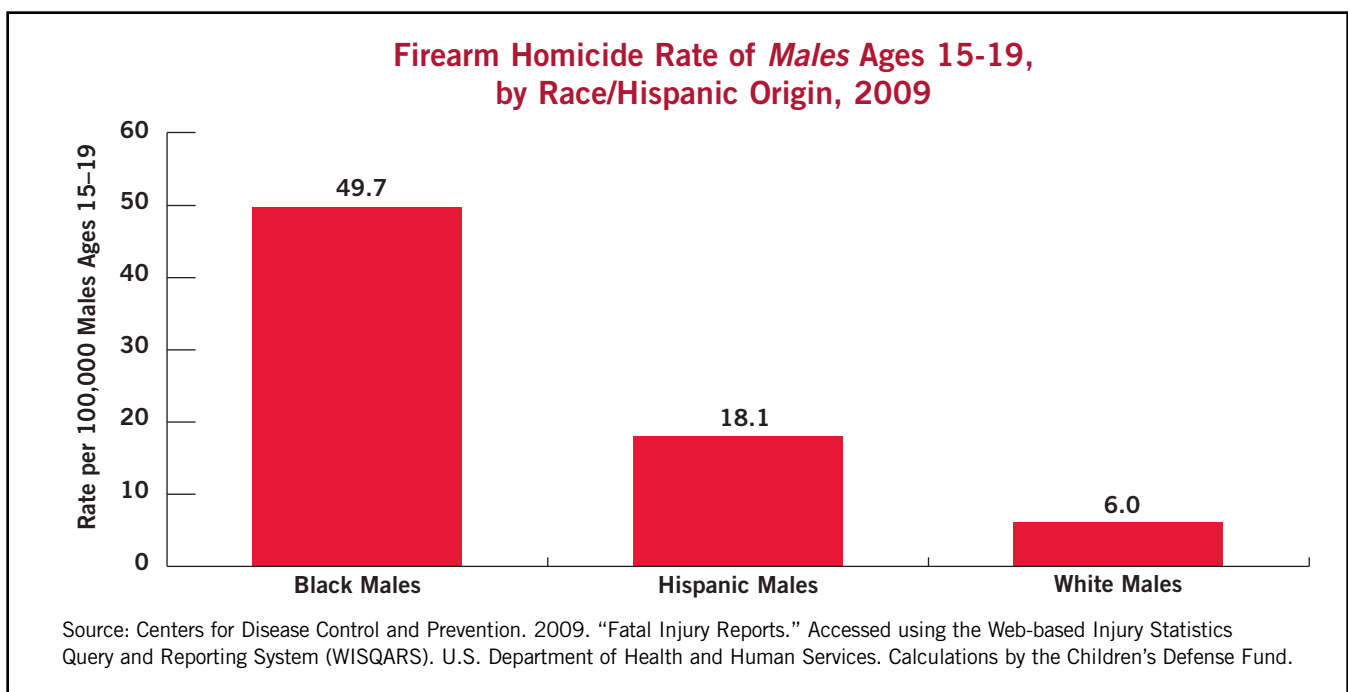
<sup>15</sup> Archives at Tuskegee Institute, "Lynchings: By Year and Race, 1882-1968." [http://faculty.berea.edu/browners/chesnutt/classroom/lynching\\_table\\_year.html](http://faculty.berea.edu/browners/chesnutt/classroom/lynching_table_year.html)

## Black teens are at greater risk of gun-related homicide.

Black youth are at greater risk of gun homicide compared to their White and Hispanic peers. The leading cause of death among Black youth ages 15 to 19 in 2009 was gun homicide. Among White teens this age, the leading cause of death was motor vehicle accidents followed by gun suicide and then gun homicide.



Black males ages 15-19 were eight times as likely as White males of the same age and two-and-a-half times as likely as their Hispanic peers to be killed in a gun homicide in 2009.



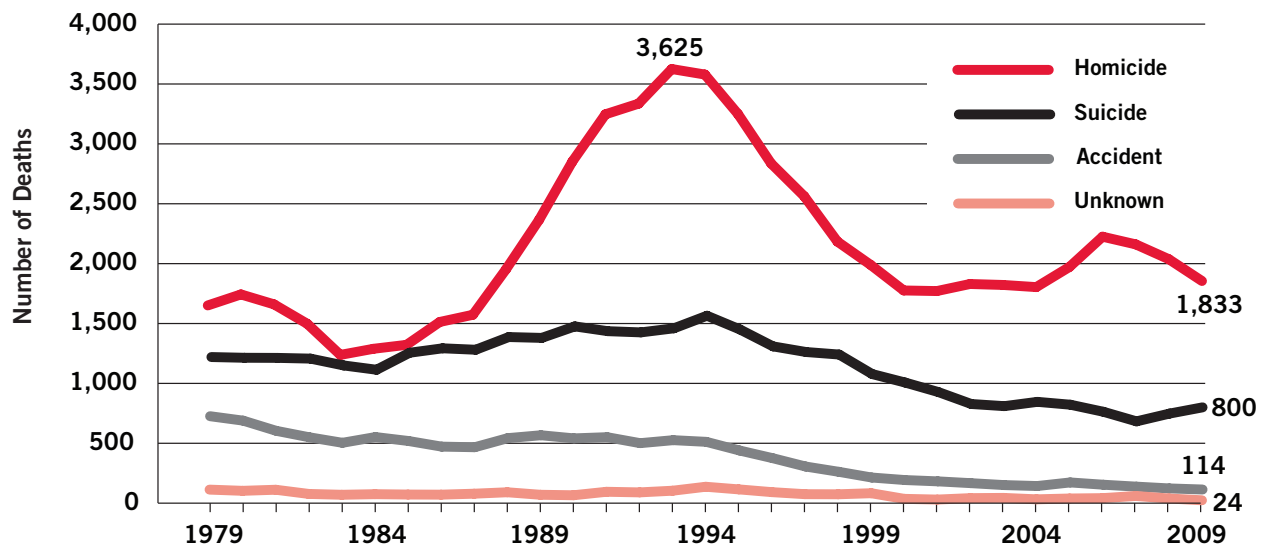


## Homicide: The Leading Cause of Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens.

The dramatic rise and fall of gun deaths among children and teens since 1979 is driven by changes in homicide deaths.

- Between 1983 and 1993 (when homicide deaths peaked), homicide gun deaths of children and teens increased by nearly 200 percent; suicides increased by 27 percent.
- During the next 10 years (1994-2004), both homicide and suicide gun deaths among children and teens declined substantially.
- Both homicide and suicide gun deaths of children and teens fluctuated between 2005 and 2009.

### Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Manner, 1979-2009



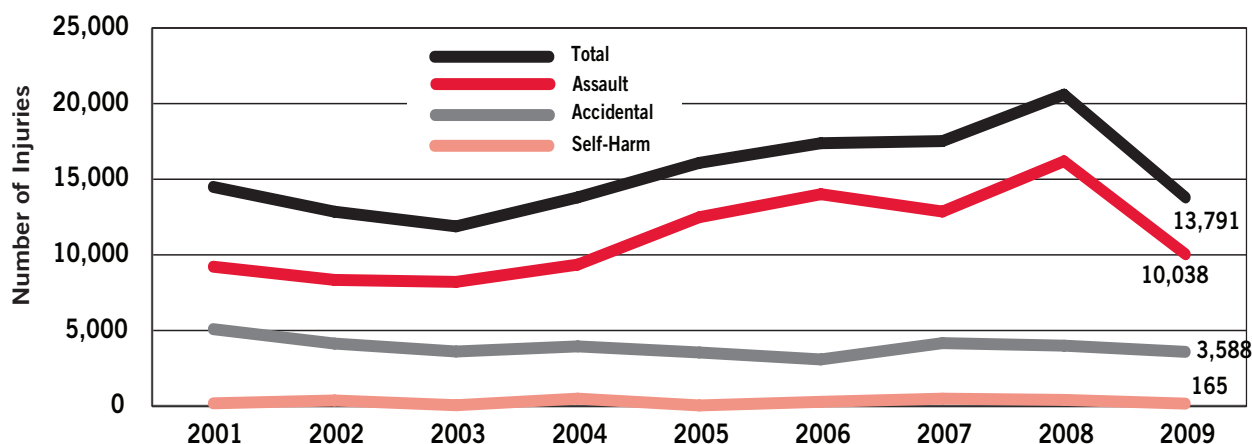
Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1979-1999. "CDC Wonder." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Compressed Mortality database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>. (accessed December 2004). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2000-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

# Child and Teen Gun Injuries

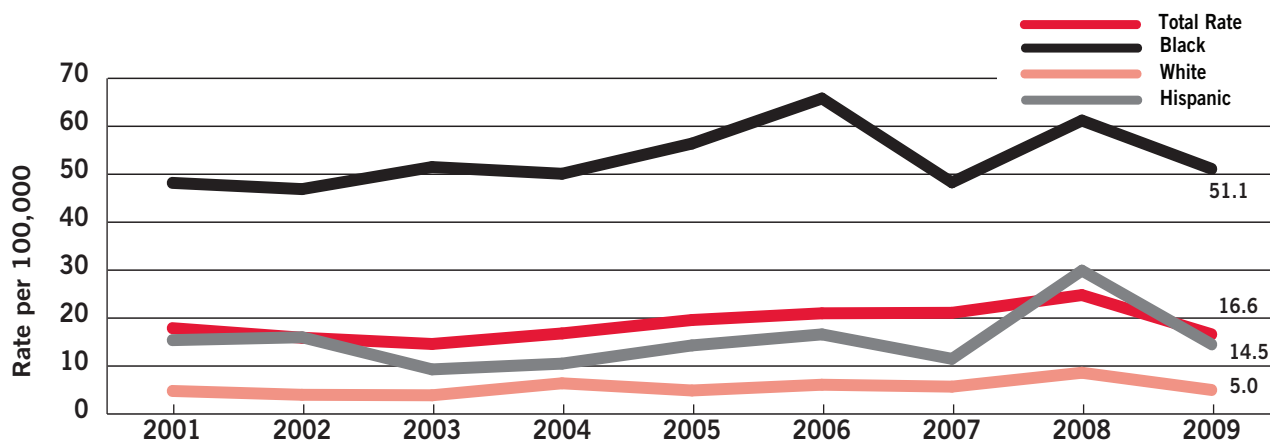
## 34,387 children and teens were injured by guns in 2008 and 2009.

- The number of children and teens injured by a gun increased every year from 2003 to 2008, from 11,884 in 2003 to a high of 20,596 in 2008, but dropped to 13,791 in 2009.
- Youth ages 15-19 have the second highest gun injury rate (58.3 per 100,000) of all age groups after young adults ages 20-24 (79.4 per 100,000). Of all the gun injuries for children and youth, 94 percent were teens ages 15-19.
- Over 70 percent of gun injuries in 2009 were assaults (10,038); 26 percent were accidents (3,588); and one percent were self inflicted (165).

**Firearm Injuries of Children and Teens, by Manner, 2001–2009**



**Firearm Injury Rate of Children and Teens, by Race/Hispanic Origin, 2001–2009**

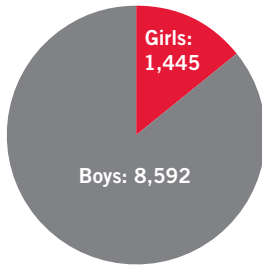


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2009. "Nonfatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

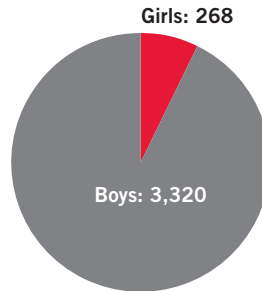
- Boys and girls are affected differently by gun injuries:
  - Boys are nearly 12 times more likely than girls to be injured in gun accidents.
  - Girls are nearly 10 times more likely than boys to have self-inflicted gun injuries.
  - Boys are five-and-a-half times more likely than girls to be injured in gun assaults.

### Firearm Injury, by Manner and Gender, 2009

Assault Firearm Injury



Accidental Firearm Injury



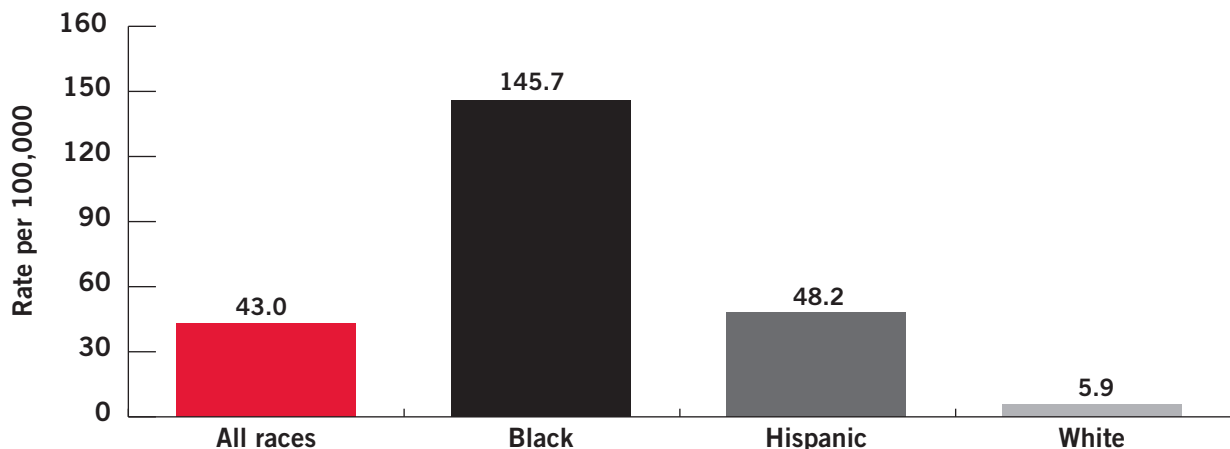
Self-Harm Firearm Injury



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2009. "Nonfatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

- The distribution of gun injuries by manner is different for Black and White children and teens.
  - Black children and teens experienced nearly 60 percent of all gun injuries caused by an assault in 2009 while White children and teens accounted for eight percent.
  - White children and teens experienced 44 percent of all accidental gun injuries in 2009; Black children and teens accounted for 35 percent.
- Black teens ages 15 to 19 were nearly 25 times more likely to be injured by a gun during an assault than their White peers in 2009.

### Assault Firearm Injuries for Teens Ages 15-19, by Race/Hispanic Origin, 2009



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2009. "Nonfatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

# Guns in Cities

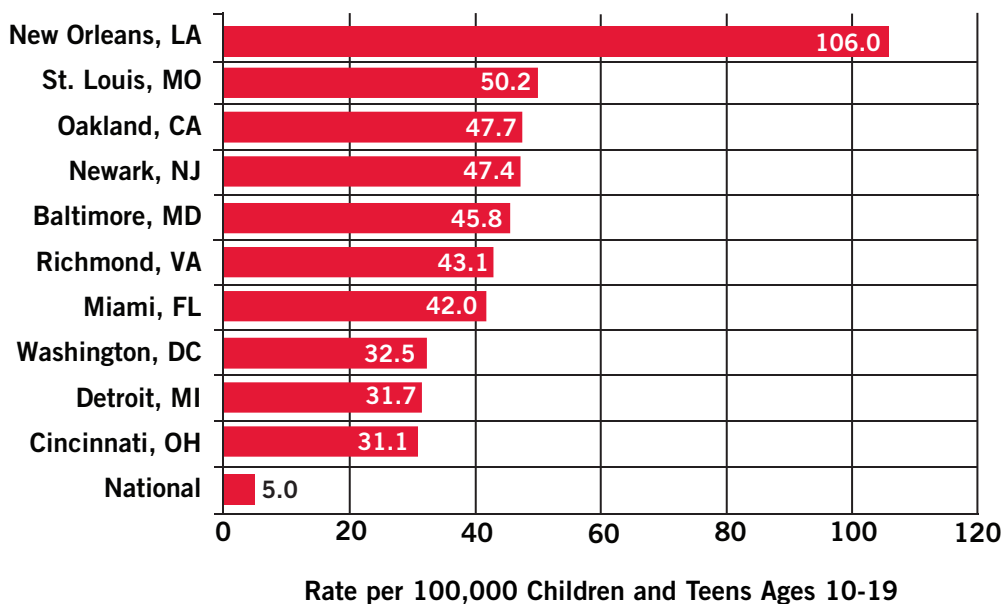
## Children and Teens Victimized by Guns in Cities

Urban residents bear the brunt of gun-related violent crime. In a special report examining violence-related gun deaths in metropolitan areas and cities in 2006 and 2007<sup>16</sup> the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 67 percent of 25,423 gun homicides took place in the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas<sup>17</sup> in America.<sup>18</sup> The problem is even more pronounced in central cities, which experienced 9.7 gun homicides per 100,000 people compared to the national per capita average of 4.2.

### Children and teens are disproportionately affected by urban gun violence

Nearly three-quarters of all gun homicides among youth ages 10 to 19 in 2006 and 2007 occurred in the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas. The plight of youth in cities is even more serious. Cities had a per capita rate of gun homicide among children and teens that was nearly three times as high as that for the country as a whole. The gun homicide rate for the 50 largest central cities was 14.6 deaths per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 19 compared to 5.0 nationally. Several cities had much higher rates:

#### Cities with the Highest Firearm Homicide Rates, Ages 10-19, 2006–2007



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2011. "Violence-Related Firearm Deaths Among Residents of Metropolitan Areas and Cities—United States, 2006-2007." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6018a1.htm>.

<sup>16</sup> Most recent data available for metropolitan areas and cities.

<sup>17</sup> A metropolitan statistical area (MSA) is defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget as "a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities." The central cities ("cities") comprise the core areas of an MSA.

<sup>18</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2011. "Violence-Related Firearm Deaths Among Residents of Metropolitan Areas and Cities—United States, 2006-2007." Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6018a1.htm>.

## Mayors Against Illegal Guns

In order to better protect those living in their cities, more than 600 mayors from large and small cities across the country have joined the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City and Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston. Their major goal is to protect their residents, especially children, from harm by stopping the threat of illegal guns and preventing criminals from getting guns illegally.

These mayors commit to working together to advance the following principles:

- Punish—to the maximum extent of the law—criminals who possess, use, and traffic in illegal guns.
- Target and hold accountable irresponsible gun dealers who break the law by knowingly selling guns to straw purchasers. (*Straw purchasers buy guns for people who are not eligible to buy guns themselves. The ATF has reported that over 30 percent of all the trafficked guns involved in their criminal investigations are diverted to the illegal market by straw purchasers.*)
- Oppose all federal efforts to restrict cities' rights to access, use, and share trace data that is so essential to effective enforcement, or to interfere with the ability of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to combat illegal gun trafficking. (*The ATF produces trace data when they track the history of a firearm from its sale by a manufacturer or importer through its first retail purchaser.*)
- Work to develop and use technologies that aid in the detection and tracing of illegal guns.
- Support all local, state and federal legislation that targets illegal guns; coordinate legislative, enforcement, and litigation strategies; and share information and best practices.
- Invite other cities to join in this new national effort.  
(*Italics added by CDF from the Frequently Asked Questions on the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Website.*)

After the mass shootings in Tucson 2011, Mayors Against Illegal Guns conducted a national survey to discover to what extent data on mental health and drug abuse records were reported by states to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NCIS). Felons, the seriously mentally ill, drug abusers and others are prohibited by federal law from possessing guns, but the survey revealed lax reporting by state agencies to the federal background check database. In *How Missing Records in the Federal Background Check System Put Guns in the Hands of Killers*, they reported that despite improvements in some states, both mental health and substance abuse records were underreported, in large part because of lack of clarity by states as to what mental health and substance abuse records should be reported. Fifty state summaries of reporting to the NCIS are included in their report. They also found that federal agencies that are required to report any record of persons prohibited from purchasing guns to the FBI have shared few relevant records.

Mayors Against Illegal Guns continues to push to close the gun show loophole. Currently federal law only requires background checks to be conducted by federally licensed dealers so even if the NCIS databases were complete, the impact would be limited. Currently no background checks are required by unlicensed private sellers, who conduct an estimated 40 percent of gun sales in the U.S.

For further information about Mayors Against Illegal Guns, see <http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/>.

## Impediments to Local Efforts to Protect Children from Guns

Some cities have worked hard to reduce the gun supply and high rates of gun violence. However, local efforts to control guns and protect children from guns have been limited at least in part by state legislatures. Forty-two states have adopted preemption laws to ensure that the state legislature has control of gun and/or ammunition regulation, making it nearly impossible for cities to develop local solutions to gun violence in their communities. There also have been challenges in the courts. U.S. Supreme Court decisions in *District of Columbia v. Heller*<sup>19</sup> and *McDonald v. City of Chicago*<sup>20</sup> were interpreted together to mean that the Second Amendment protection for a limited right to possess handguns in the home for self defense applied to state and local laws. However, the Court was careful to point out that the rulings did not prohibit all government regulation of guns. The good news is that the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence reports that since the decisions in *Heller* and *McDonald* three years ago, more than 400 challenges to state and local gun laws—an average of more than two a week—have been brought, but the courts have overwhelmingly rejected the cases. The Brady campaign notes that courts have held, for example, that gun owners may be required to safely store guns in homes and there is not a right to carry hidden, loaded guns in public.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> 128 S.Ct, 2783 (U.S. 2008)

<sup>20</sup> 130 S.Ct. 3020 (U.S. 2010)

<sup>21</sup> Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, “Hollow Victory? Gun Laws Survive Three Years After *District of Columbia v. Heller*, Yet Criminals and the Gun Lobby Continue Their Legal Assault.” Washington, D.C., 2011.

## Mass Shootings

### What will it take for Congress, states, cities, and citizens to say enough and pass common sense gun laws to protect our children?

Selected incidents of mass shootings involving children and teens since 2008:

- **Chardon, OH • February 27, 2012** – Three students were killed and two were injured in a high school when a 17-year-old boy fired shots in the cafeteria and again as he proceeded down a hallway. The boy was arrested a distance from the school.
- **Kansas City, MO • August 13, 2011** – At least three teens ages 13, 15 and 16 were injured in shootings when a melee erupted on the city's Country Club Plaza.
- **Copley, OH • August 7, 2011** – Seven people were killed, including two teenagers and an 11-year-old child, when a man went on a neighborhood shooting rampage. The man was later shot and killed in a gunfight with a police officer and former officer.
- **Apopka, FL • July 24, 2011** – A teenager armed with a handgun opened fire after a fight broke out at a birthday party. The teen fired numerous rounds leaving nine other teens ages 15 to 19 wounded.
- **Bechtelsville, PA • July 2, 2011** – Two couples and a 2-year-old boy were all shot in their country vacation home by a lone gunman seeking revenge from an insurance dispute with one of the victims. All five victims were shot in the head. Two were killed, including the toddler. Another would die later in the hospital, while the other victims remained in critical condition. The gunman was tracked down by police and killed in a shootout with several officers.
- **Houston, TX • April 19, 2011** – Three students were injured when a six-year-old student brought a loaded gun to school that accidentally discharged when it fell out of his pocket.
- **Burlington, CO • March 2, 2011** – A 12-year-old boy was arrested after a shooting that killed a husband and wife and their two children—a 5-year-old girl and a 9-year-old boy. The shooter was related to the victims. Burlington is a farming community of about 4,400 residents.
- **Tucson, AZ • January 8, 2011** – Six people were killed including a 9-year-old child and a federal judge, and 13 were injured, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, when a gunman armed with a semiautomatic weapon opened fire at Rep. Giffords' meet-and-greet outside a shopping center. The gunman, a mentally-ill 22-year-old, shot 32 rounds in 16-seconds before being subdued while trying to reload.
- **Seattle, WA • September 23, 2010** – A grandmother with schizophrenia armed with a handgun killed her 14- and 17-year-old granddaughters and her 43-year-old son-in-law, and injured her 42-year-old daughter.
- **Dallas, TX • July 9, 2010** – A man killed his pregnant girlfriend, two of their children and himself. He shot their third child, age 7, in the face but she survived. He had a history of domestic violence and the victim had a restraining order against him.
- **Milwaukee, WI • March 3, 2010** – A man shot four people, including a teen and a pregnant woman, all of whom survived, outside a house early in the morning. The victims and shooter had argued earlier. The pregnant victim delivered her baby at the hospital.
- **Appomattox, VA • January 19, 2010** – A 39-year-old man shot and killed his sister, her husband, their two children and four family friends in and around the family home. The man also shot at police with an assault rifle when they arrived at the scene, and even shot a police helicopter six times, bringing it down. The shooter, who first obtained a concealed carry permit in 1995 and owned dozens of weapons, including “many” AR-15 assault rifles, was badly affected by his mother's death in 2006 and had reportedly become angry about ownership of the family house and land that was left jointly to him and his sister.
- **Madison, WI • November 28, 2009** – A man shot his girlfriend and then their two children in their heads in a domestic violence incident. They all survived.
- **Walterboro, SC • November 9, 2009** – Three people were killed, including a 20-month-old baby girl, and at least five others were injured in a drive-by shooting. The victims were outside their home when the shooting occurred.

- **Long Beach, CA • October 20, 2009** – A 16-year-old was shot and killed and two non-students ages 18 and 20 were injured when someone opened fire as hundreds of people were leaving a Friday night football game.
- **Decatur, GA • September 22, 2009** – A 24-year-old man armed with a .223-caliber assault rifle shot and killed three people, including a 3-year-old boy, and injured one person after an argument. The incident took place at the home of the victims who knew the shooter. The shooter had been in prison previously for shooting someone in 2006 on the same street.
- **Chicago, IL • June 24, 2009** – Three people were injured and a 9-year-old girl died after being shot in a drive-by shooting. The girl had been giving her dog a bath outside her father's house when she was killed.
- **Lenoir, NC • May 27, 2009** – A man shot and seriously wounded an 8-year-old girl, her father, and two sheriff deputies in an incident that began when the shooter killed the girl's dog after it had killed a cat. The shooter was killed in a gun battle with police.
- **Lakeland, FL • May 2, 2009** – A man shot and killed his wife, 4-month-old infant, and 8-year-old son with an assault rifle before fatally shooting himself. He also shot at his 13-year-old son, but the boy managed to run away uninjured.
- **Warren, OH • April 13, 2009** – Someone armed with an assault weapon fired repeatedly into a home during a drive-by shooting, killing a child and an adult, and injuring a second child.
- **Graham, WA • April 4, 2009** – A father shot and killed his five children, aged 7 to 16, shooting each multiple times after his wife left him. He later shot and killed himself several miles away in his car. Child welfare had previously investigated him for assaulting one of his children.
- **Portsmouth, VA • March 7, 2009** – A gunman opened fire on a group of people from his car. Seven were injured, including four teenagers, a 12-year-old and a 5-year-old.
- **Portland, OR • January 24, 2009** – Two girls, age 16 and 17, were killed and seven others, mostly teens from a Rotary International exchange program, were injured outside an underage night club.
- **Detroit, MI • October 16, 2008** – Three teenagers shot four other teenagers near Henry Ford High School over a fight at school. A 16-year-old died from his injuries.
- **Irvington, NJ • September 8, 2008** – A gunman shot a woman, her teenage daughter, her teenage niece and her boyfriend's teenage daughter before setting their house on fire.
- **Niagara, WI • July 31, 2008** – A man with an assault rifle massacred a group of teenagers, killing three and injuring a fourth. The group was gathered along a river to go swimming when the gunman emerged from surrounding woods and began shooting.
- **Anderson, NC • June 22, 2008** – Three men with an AK-47 assault rifle fired on a group of teenagers standing outside an apartment building. Three of the teens were injured and another was killed.
- **Fort Worth, TX • April 6, 2008** – A 5-year-old girl and her grandmother died and three other children and a woman were injured when they were shot while at a child's birthday party. A gunman fired many rounds at the children who were playing outside.
- **Los Angeles, CA • February 28, 2008** – Five children and three adults were injured when a man shot into a crowd of people waiting at a bus stop. A nearby school had just let out for the day.
- **Cockeysville, MD • February 1, 2008** – A 15-year-old boy shot and killed his parents and two younger brothers while they were sleeping.
- **Washington, DC • January 22, 2008** – Four high school students were shot as they were leaving school at the end of the day and were expected to recover.

Source: Excerpted and adapted from Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Mass Shootings in the United States Since 2005, <http://www.bradycampaign.org/xshare/pdf/major-shootings.pdf> (accessed February 2012), and from Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. Major School Shootings in the United States Since 1997, where incidents involving children with three or more victims were excerpted, <http://www.bradycampaign.org/xshare/pdf/school-shootings.pdf> (accessed February 2012).



# State Trends

## Child and Teen Gun Deaths by State

Just over half of the homicide and suicide gun deaths of children and teens in 2009 were in eight states: California (388), Texas (224), Florida (151), Illinois (151), Michigan (133), Missouri (98), New York (97) and Louisiana (95).

- There is overlap between the states with the highest per capita rates of homicide and suicide gun deaths of youth under 20 and states with the highest per capita rates of homicide and suicide gun deaths among adults 20 and over. Four states made both lists: Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Tennessee.

### Top Ten States with the Highest Per Capita Homicide and Suicide Firearm Death Rates for Children, Teens and Adults, 2009

Homicide and Suicide Deaths Per 100,000 Children and Teens		Homicide and Suicide Deaths Per 100,000 Adults	
District of Columbia*	17.6	Alabama	21.9
<b>Louisiana</b>	7.6	<b>Louisiana</b>	21.1
Missouri	6.1	Mississippi	20.6
Michigan	5.0	Montana	20.1
<b>New Mexico</b>	4.4	Arkansas	19.6
Illinois	4.3	Nevada	19.5
South Carolina	4.2	Wyoming*	18.9
<b>Tennessee</b>	4.2	<b>Tennessee</b>	18.4
<b>Oklahoma</b>	4.1	<b>New Mexico</b>	17.9
Maryland	3.9	<b>Oklahoma</b>	17.6

\*Rates for District of Columbia and Wyoming only include homicide deaths.

State trends are more difficult to analyze for 2008 and 2009 due to changes in the WISQARS Fatal Injury Data, which no longer report figures for a particular category of deaths unless there are at least 10 deaths. This is due to new, more restrictive rules for reporting state death data in order to avoid inadvertent disclosure of a decedent's identity. These changes have implications on reporting in states with smaller child populations and also on particular manners of death, such as accident or unknown, which have historically smaller numbers of deaths. Nearly half the states have incomplete data on gun deaths due to these new rules, making it challenging to illustrate by state the exact number of children killed by guns. For 15 states, no gun death data are reported. However, individual deaths that are not included in the state data are included in the overall national figure.

## Homicide and Suicide Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, 2007–2009

	2007		2008		2009	
	Homicide	Suicide	Homicide	Suicide	Homicide	Suicide
Alabama	52	11	48	14	25	17
Alaska	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arizona	53	17	58	27	36	21
Arkansas	23	—	17	16	17	13
California	376	43	351	53	334	54
Colorado	13	16	13	17	13	23
Connecticut	10	—	—	—	—	—
Delaware	—	—	—	—	—	—
District of Columbia	25	—	23	0	24	—
Florida	136	31	140	34	104	47
Georgia	87	16	86	23	57	26
Hawaii	—	—	—	—	—	—
Idaho	—	12	—	15	—	—
Illinois	128	17	143	22	133	18
Indiana	31	16	41	23	25	20
Iowa	—	10	—	16	—	—
Kansas	19	17	13	—	19	—
Kentucky	21	17	16	17	13	17
Louisiana	82	21	64	12	78	17
Maine	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maryland	73	—	68	0	46	13
Massachusetts	26	—	23	0	18	—
Michigan	92	23	83	22	100	33
Minnesota	11	16	17	11	—	19
Mississippi	20	16	29	21	23	10
Missouri	55	20	63	26	78	20
Montana	—	—	0	0	—	—
Nebraska	10	—	—	—	—	—
Nevada	27	—	20	—	16	—
New Hampshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
New Jersey	50	—	45	—	42	—
New Mexico	14	16	13	18	15	10
New York	93	13	75	16	80	17
North Carolina	67	17	53	23	44	41
North Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ohio	65	32	58	36	57	29
Oklahoma	24	16	29	16	25	17
Oregon	—	11	—	11	10	—
Pennsylvania	93	21	87	22	70	25
Rhode Island	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Carolina	46	—	30	16	35	16
South Dakota	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tennessee	40	19	47	17	50	19
Texas	160	73	137	60	143	81
Utah	—	—	—	11	—	11
Vermont	—	—	—	—	—	—
Virginia	57	19	48	27	32	23
Washington	16	15	27	19	18	18
West Virginia	—	—	—	—	—	10
Wisconsin	35	14	10	10	14	17
Wyoming	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Data Total	2,130	585	1,975	671	1,794	702
Actual National Total*	2,161	683	2,037	748	1,855	800
Difference	-31	-98	-62	-77	-61	-98

Note: This table reflects the CDC's new reporting guidelines for state-level data that started with the release of the data for 2008. All state-level data entries less than 10 have been suppressed to protect the anonymity of the victims. This missing data is denoted by —, which means that between 1 and 9 firearm deaths were reported by that state.

\*There is a difference between the numbers shown in the "State Data Total" and the "Actual National Total" columns because the latter includes the missing data not reported in the state column due to the new CDC reporting guidelines to protect the anonymity of victims at the state level.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2007-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Calculations by Children's Defense Fund.

## State Policy Hall of Shame<sup>22</sup>

### **Kansas, Mississippi and Utah Say Guns in Schools are Okay**

In 2011, Kansas, Mississippi and Utah enacted laws allowing concealed weapon permit holders to carry loaded, concealed guns in or on the grounds of elementary and secondary schools.

In Kansas, permit holders can now carry a gun on the grounds of public and private elementary, middle and high schools.<sup>23</sup> Utah permit holders can do the same and now also have the right to carry guns in buildings housing preschools and daycare centers.<sup>24</sup> Mississippi legislation allows permit holders to carry concealed guns in K-12 school buildings; at college, professional and K-12 school athletic events; and in bars, churches, and other areas where guns had previously been prohibited.<sup>25</sup>

### **Florida to Punish Doctors for Asking About Guns in the Home**

A new Florida law, enacted in June of 2011, threatens loss of a medical license for doctors who make routine inquiries about whether patients have a gun in the home.<sup>26</sup> When first proposed, the bill made it a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and fines up to \$5 million for a doctor who asked about or recorded information about gun ownership. The bill passed was a compromise between the National Rifle Association and the Florida chapter of the American Medical Association. As a matter of practice, doctors ask patients and parents of patients about possible safety hazards, including whether a gun is present in the home. A temporary injunction was issued in September 2011 by a U.S. District Judge who said that the law violates a doctor's right to free speech. The case is now on appeal. Three other states (Alabama, Minnesota and North Carolina) introduced similar measures in 2011.

### **Indiana Prohibits Local Governments and Other Entities from Passing Stricter Gun Regulations**

A new Indiana law enacted in June 2011 tells residents and the leadership in cities and towns across the state that the state legislature gets to decide how guns should be regulated in their communities.<sup>27</sup> Indiana, which already strictly limited local authority to regulate guns, has made it even more difficult by prohibiting political subdivisions—defined to include school corporations and public libraries—from restricting gun possession. The law also prohibits local governments from restricting concealed weapon permit holders from carrying guns in most government buildings.

### **Arizona and Utah Name State Guns**

In stunning disregard for the victims of the January 2011 shooting in Tucson, in April 2011 Arizona's governor signed into law a bill adding a state gun—the Colt single action army revolver—as an official state emblem.<sup>28</sup> Arizona is the second state to name an official state gun; Utah was the first state to adopt one—the Browning M1911 automatic pistol—in March 2011.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Legal Community Against Violence. 2009. "Recent Developments in State law – 2011." [http://www.lcav.org/content/recent\\_developments\\_2011.asp](http://www.lcav.org/content/recent_developments_2011.asp) (accessed December 19, 2011).

<sup>23</sup> Kan. Stat. Ann. § 21-6301(a)(11)(West 2011).

<sup>24</sup> Utah Code Ann. § 76-3-203.2 (West 2011).

<sup>25</sup> Miss. Code Ann. § 97-37-7 (West 2011).

<sup>26</sup> Fla. Stat. Ann. §§ 381.026, 456,072, 790.338 (West 2011).

<sup>27</sup> Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-11.1-2 (West 2011).

<sup>28</sup> Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 41-860-02 (West 2011).

<sup>29</sup> Utah Code Ann. § 63G-1-601 (West 2011).

## Steps by States and Localities to Prevent Child Access to Guns

Federal gun policy contains significant gaps and mostly focuses on the sale and transfer of guns. Generally, the hard work of crafting comprehensive gun control legislation has been left to state and local governments. Laws in place that reduce the likelihood of children and teens accessing guns include requiring locking devices, imposing criminal liability on adults for leaving guns accessible to children and teens, and instituting minimum age requirements for purchase and possession of guns. According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, states with higher rates of gun ownership and weak gun control laws have the highest rates of gun deaths.<sup>30</sup> Below is a summary of state laws that exceed minimal federal requirements in order to protect children and teens from intentional and unintentional gun violence.

### ***Requirements for Locking Devices***

Federal law only requires licensed importers, dealers or manufacturers to have a locking device on guns they sell or transfer. These requirements do not apply to transfers by private sellers nor do they require the person who obtains the gun to continue using the locking device.<sup>31</sup> No federal standards exist for locking devices.

- **Eleven states**<sup>32</sup> have stepped up and passed laws requiring gun-locking devices under certain circumstances. The most comprehensive locking device laws are in California, which requires safety locks on all guns manufactured, sold or transferred in the state, and Massachusetts, which requires that all handguns be stored with a lock in place. The fact that only 11 states require gun locking devices to protect children from guns stands in stark contrast to state efforts to protect children from other harms. All 50 states and the District of Columbia have passed child safety seat laws;<sup>33</sup> 49 states and the District of Columbia have passed seat belt violation laws; 48 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws enforcing a requirement for personal flotation devices for both recreational boats and personal watercrafts for children;<sup>34</sup> and 21 states have passed laws requiring children to wear bike helmets.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> "States with Higher Gun Ownership and Weak Gun Laws Lead Nation in Gun Death." 2009. Washington, DC: Violence Policy Center. Available at <http://www.vpc.org/press/0905gundeath.htm>. Accessed July 13, 2010.

<sup>31</sup> 18 U.S.C. § 922(z).

<sup>32</sup> California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island.

<sup>33</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. January 2012. Occupant Protection (Safety Belts and Child Passenger). At <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/transport/occupant-protection-safety-belts-and-child-passen.aspx>.

<sup>34</sup> National Conference of State Legislatures. 2010. "Childhood Injury Prevention." <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/health/childhood-injury-prevention-policy-issues-overview.aspx>.

<sup>35</sup> Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, November 2011. See <http://www.iihs.org/laws/mapbicyclehelmet.aspx>.

## Safety Locks Sold on or with Handguns

The 2011 State Scorecard on gun laws by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence highlights states that require safety locks be installed in or sold with handguns to help prevent suicide by minors and unintentional deaths and injuries, and thwart gun traffickers who steal guns. A handgun with a locking device can only be fired by an authorized user as technology can ‘read’ the unique palm print or fingerprint of its legal owner. Maryland and New Jersey are the only two states that require locking devices be built into handguns during manufacturing and sold on all handguns. Laws in eight states (California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) require locking devices that prevent unauthorized users from firing the weapon be sold with all handguns. Four of these states (California, Maryland, Massachusetts, and New York) require that locking devices on handguns be certified and/or tested by law enforcement or government officials to ensure that the locks will work and cannot be easily removed by unauthorized users.

Source: Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. 2012. “The 2011 Brady Campaign State Scorecard.” <http://www.bradycampaign.org/stategunlaws/scorecard/>.

### Child Access Prevention Laws<sup>36</sup>

Child access prevention laws permit criminal prosecution of adults if their gun is left unsecured and/or a child uses that gun to harm themselves or others. There are no federal child access prevention laws.

- **Twenty-seven states** have laws designed to prevent children from having access to guns although they take effect at different ages<sup>37</sup> and often include a number of exceptions.
  - The strongest laws impose criminal liability when a minor could or does gain access to a negligently stored gun. Generally, these laws apply when a person “knows or reasonably should know” that a minor is likely to gain access to the gun. Such laws are found in **14 of the 27 states** that have child access prevention laws; even those laws vary in strength in their ability to protect children:

Two states can criminally prosecute someone for negligent storage of an <i>unloaded</i> gun	Six states impose criminal liability for allowing a minor to gain access to a gun regardless of whether the minor uses it or causes any injury	Eight states impose criminal liability only if the minor carries and/or uses the gun
Hawaii Massachusetts	Hawaii Maryland Massachusetts Minnesota New Jersey Texas	California Connecticut Florida Illinois Iowa New Hampshire North Carolina Rhode Island

- The **other thirteen states** with child access prevention laws impose a weaker standard for criminal liability. Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin prohibit persons from intentionally, knowingly, and/or recklessly providing a gun to a minor.

<sup>36</sup> Legal Community Against Violence. 2008. Regulating Guns in America: An Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Federal, State and Selected Local Gun Laws. Available at [https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating\\_guns.asp](https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating_guns.asp). Accessed December 2011.

<sup>37</sup> States have different definitions of a minor, ranging from age 14 to under 18.

## ***Minimum Age Requirements to Purchase or Possess Guns***

Federal law includes minimal restrictions on the purchase or possession of guns by children.

- **Handgun Purchases.** Federal law prohibits *licensed* dealers from selling handguns or ammunition to anyone under 21. *Unlicensed* dealers are barred from selling handguns or handgun ammunition to anyone under 18. No states have passed laws imposing stricter minimum age requirements for handgun purchases. Note in the table on the next page that several states even appear to violate federal law with provisions that set minimum age requirements for handgun purchases below 18 from licensed dealers, although federal law should prevail in such cases.
- **Handgun Possession.** Federal law makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a handgun or handgun ammunition.
- **Long Gun Purchases.** Federal law prohibits licensed gun dealers from selling a shotgun or rifle or ammunition to anyone under 18. However, many of these guns change hands at largely unregulated gun shows and other public markets dominated by unlicensed sellers who are not subject to the same restrictions as licensed dealers.
- **Long Gun Possession.** There is no age restriction at the federal level for possession of long guns.

Absent tough federal restrictions, some states acted and passed laws imposing stricter regulations on minimum age requirements for purchase or possession of certain guns.

- Nine states and the District of Columbia make it illegal for anyone under age 21 to *possess* a handgun. In New Mexico, the minimum age to possess a handgun is 19.
- Twenty-eight states and the District of Columbia have laws imposing a minimum age requirement that is stricter than the federal requirement for the *purchase* of all handguns and that applies to both licensed and unlicensed sellers.
- Twenty states and the District of Columbia impose a minimum age requirement for possession of long guns, an area where federal law is completely silent.

## State Laws to Prevent Child Access to Guns\*

	Require Locking Devices	Child Access Prevention (CAP) Laws			State Minimum Age Requirements		
		Criminal Liability for Negligent Storage	Criminal Liability for Providing Gun to Minor	Definition of a Minor for State CAP Laws	Minimum Age for Handgun Purchases <sup>38</sup>	Minimum Age for Handgun Possession <sup>39</sup>	Minimum Age for Long Gun Possession <sup>40</sup>
Alabama							16
Alaska					18		
Arizona					18		
Arkansas					18		
California	X	X		<18	21		
Colorado			X	<18			
Connecticut	X	X		<16		21	
Delaware			X	<18	21		
District of Columbia					21	21	21
Florida		X		<16	18		18
Georgia			X	<18			
Hawaii		X		<16	21	21	18
Idaho					18		18
Illinois	X	X		<14	21	21	21
Indiana			X	<18			18
Iowa		X		<14	21	21	18
Kansas							
Kentucky			X	<18			
Louisiana					18		
Maine					18		
Maryland	X	X		<16	21	21	
Massachusetts	X	X		<18	21	21	
Michigan	X						18
Minnesota		X		<18			16
Mississippi			X	<18	18		
Missouri			X	<18	18		
Montana							14
Nebraska							
Nevada			X	<18	18		18
New Hampshire		X		<16			
New Jersey	X	X		<16	21	21	18
New Mexico						19	
New York	X					21	16
North Carolina		X		<18			
North Dakota					18		
Ohio	X				21		
Oklahoma			X	<18	18		18
Oregon					18		18
Pennsylvania	X				18		18
Rhode Island	X	X		<16	21		18
South Carolina					21	21	
South Dakota							
Tennessee			X	<18			
Texas		X		<17	18		
Utah			X	<18			18
Vermont					16		
Virginia			X	<14			
Washington							18
West Virginia							
Wisconsin			X	<14	18		18
Wyoming							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11 states</b>	<b>14 States</b>	<b>13 States</b>	<b>13 States</b>	<b>28 States and D.C.</b>	<b>10 States and D.C.</b>	<b>20 States and D.C.</b>

\*Blank spaces in the chart indicate absence of any state legislation or regulation for minimum age requirement.

<sup>38</sup> These state laws apply to both licensed and unlicensed dealers. Federal law prohibits licensed dealers from selling handguns or ammunition to anyone under 21. Unlicensed dealers are barred from selling handguns or handgun ammunition to anyone under 18.

<sup>39</sup> Federal law makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a handgun or handgun ammunition.

<sup>40</sup> There is no federal minimum age for possession of long guns.

Source: Legal Community Against Violence. 2008. Regulating Guns in America: An Evaluation and Comparative Analysis of Federal, State and Selected Local Gun Laws. Available at [https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating\\_guns.asp](https://lcav.org/publications-briefs/regulating_guns.asp). Accessed December 2011.

# International Gun Comparison

## America: The World Leader in Gun Violence Among Industrialized Nations

America leads a group of 23 industrialized nations in gun deaths. The United States has more guns per capita, more handguns per capita, and has the weakest gun control laws of these 23 high-income countries.<sup>41</sup> Among this group of nations, 80 percent of all gun deaths occurred in America, and 87 percent of all children under 15 killed by guns were in the United States. The gun homicide rate in the United States for teens and young adults ages 15 to 24 was 42.7 times higher than the rate for the other countries combined.

**Ratio of U.S. Firearm Death Rates to Firearm Death Rates in Other High-Income Countries, by Age and by Gender, 2003**

	Under 5	Age 5-14	Age 15-24	Total (Ages 0 to 65+)
Gun homicide rate	7.8	13.4	42.7	19.5
Gun suicide rate	—	8.0	8.8	5.8
Unintentional gun death	—	10.6	11.6	5.5
Undetermined gun death	0.5	4.5	2.0	0.8
Firearm death rates	6.8	10.6	17.3	7.5
<b>Males</b>				
Gun homicide rate	5.7	20.3	46.7	22.0
Gun suicide rate	—	7.9	8.7	5.3
Unintentional gun death	—	9.9	10.8	5.2
Undetermined gun death	0.7	4.5	2.1	0.7
Firearm death rates	5.7	11.7	17.6	7.2
<b>Females</b>				
Gun homicide rate	15.3	7.3	23.6	11.6
Gun suicide rate	—	8.3	9.5	14.4
Unintentional gun death	—	—	30.4	12.0
Undetermined gun death	—	—	1.4	1.2
Firearm death rates	10.2	7.8	14.2	11.5

Source: Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway. 2010. "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*.

The United States accounts for less than five percent of the global population, yet Americans own an estimated 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world.<sup>42</sup> Of the estimated eight million new guns manufactured annually across the world, about half are purchased by Americans.<sup>43</sup>

<sup>41</sup> Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway. 2010. "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care* (70)1: 238-243. [http://journals.lww.com/jtrauma/Abstract/2011/01000/Homicide,\\_Suicide,\\_and\\_Unintentional\\_Firearm.35.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/jtrauma/Abstract/2011/01000/Homicide,_Suicide,_and_Unintentional_Firearm.35.aspx)

<sup>42</sup> Graduate Institute of International Studies. 2007. "Small Arms Survey 2007: Guns and the City." (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007). <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2007/en/full/Small-Arms-Survey-2007-Chapter-02-EN.pdf> (accessed November 2011).

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.



The U.S. has the highest gun homicide rate of 34 industrialized countries – 30 times higher than Australia, France or the United Kingdom.

## Firearm Homicide Rates in Industrialized Countries\*

	Firearm Homicide Rate per 100,000 Population	U.S. Firearm Homicide Rate was:
<b>United States</b>	<b>3.0</b>	
Switzerland	0.8	3.8 times higher than Switzerland
Turkey	0.8	3.8 times higher than Turkey
Belgium	0.7	4.3 times higher than Belgium
Italy	0.7	4.3 times higher than Italy
Luxembourg	0.6	5 times higher than Luxembourg
Canada	0.5	6 times higher than Canada
Ireland	0.5	6 times higher than Ireland
Finland	0.4	7.5 times higher than Finland
Portugal	0.4	7.5 times higher than Portugal
Sweden	0.4	7.5 times higher than Sweden
Denmark	0.3	10 times higher than Denmark
Greece	0.3	10 times higher than Greece
Netherlands	0.3	10 times higher than the Netherlands
Austria	0.2	15 times higher than Austria
Czech Republic	0.2	15 times higher than Czech Republic
Estonia	0.2	15 times higher than Estonia
Germany	0.2	15 times higher than Germany
Lithuania	0.2	15 times higher than Lithuania
New Zealand	0.2	15 times higher than New Zealand
Slovakia	0.2	15 times higher than Slovakia
Spain	0.2	15 times higher than Spain
Australia	0.1	30 times higher than Australia
France	0.1	30 times higher than France
Hungary	0.1	30 times higher than Hungary
Israel	0.1	30 times higher than Israel
Norway	0.1	30 times higher than Norway
Poland	0.1	30 times higher than Poland
Slovenia	0.1	30 times higher than Slovenia
United Kingdom (England & Wales)	0.1	30 times higher than the U.K.
Iceland	0.0	
Hong Kong, China	0.0	
Japan	0.0	
Republic of Korea	0.0	

\*Chart includes the latest data available for each country.

Source: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. 2011. "Global Study on Homicide." Table "Homicide data series to be used for trends analyses." <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/homicide.html> (accessed January 2012).

## Debunking the Myths About Guns

### Myth 1: Gun deaths and injuries are mostly an urban problem.

**The Truth:** While the majority of teen gun homicides occur in large urban areas, rural and urban children and teens are equally likely to die from gun injuries.<sup>44</sup> Rural children and teens are more likely to be victims of suicide or accidental shootings; urban children and teens are more likely to be homicide victims.

### Myth 2: Gun deaths mostly occur in the course of other criminal activity.

**The Truth:** In 2008, just over one in four gun homicides with known circumstances was the result of a felony where the victim was killed while being raped or robbed or in the course of another serious offense. The vast majority of gun homicides were the result of some other situation that turned deadly, presumably because a gun was present.<sup>45</sup> As the list of selected incidents of gun violence in this report demonstrates, the terrible truth is that there is no place to hide from gun violence in a society that allows easy access to guns.

### Myth 3: Guns don't kill people, people kill people.

**The Truth:** Anti-gun-control advocates wrongly argue that it is the deadly intent of the people wielding the gun, not the weapons, that results in deadly violence. Yet research demonstrates that the presence of a gun intensifies a violent event and increases the likelihood that someone will die. For example, a groundbreaking and often replicated study of criminal attacks in Chicago by University of California at Berkeley law professor Frank Zimring found that the circumstances of gun and knife assaults were very similar: Incidents typically were unplanned and did not involve a clear intention to kill. Having a gun on hand, however, made it more likely that the incident would end with a fatality. No one would dispute that guns are potentially dangerous. The federal government regulates many products deemed to be potentially dangerous, such as cars. Automobiles are subject to a host of federal health and safety standards to protect drivers and the general public, but no federal safety standards are applied to guns. It is reasonable to require that safety measures be imposed on gun owners, such as passing a background check showing fitness to own a gun, obtaining a license, and registering the gun.

### Myth 4: Guns are already sufficiently regulated – we just need to enforce the laws on the books.

**The Truth:** The reality is that there are very few federal gun regulations on the books and Congress has not pursued significant gun control legislation in nearly two decades despite an annual rate of gun violence that surpasses other industrialized nations. During that same time period nearly 500,000 children and adults have been killed by guns. The U.S. has an estimated 283 million guns in civilian hands, the equivalent of nine guns for every 10 people in America<sup>46</sup>—the highest rate of gun ownership in the world.<sup>47</sup> That is more than the 254 million cars, trucks and motorcycles registered in 2009.<sup>48</sup> The result of so many guns and weak federal and state guns regulations is an unacceptably and disproportionately high rate of gun deaths. Gun death rates in America are more than seven times higher than they are in the other high-income countries.<sup>49</sup> Although current gun regulations impose restrictions on purchases by teenagers, convicted felons, and people with a history of severe mental illness, they contain loopholes that limit overall effectiveness. For instance, the Brady Act requires licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on all purchasers but exempts private sellers.

## Myth 5: Gun laws are not effective in reducing gun violence and only punish law-abiding citizens.

**The Truth:** According to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, states with higher rates of gun ownership and weak gun control laws have the highest rates of gun deaths.<sup>50</sup> The opposite was also true: States with strong gun laws and low gun ownership rates had significantly lower rates of gun deaths. While sensible gun laws may impose a small burden on law abiding citizens they also confer a significant benefit in the form of saved lives. Everyone benefits from fewer gun deaths and increased public safety.

## Myth 6: Voting for sensible gun laws creates an impossible dilemma for politicians.

**The Truth:** Most Americans favor sensible gun laws that will help keep them and their children safe. The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence conducted a study after the 2008 elections and concluded that candidates who openly support sensible gun laws can win elections.<sup>51</sup> A comparison of Congressional and state election outcomes backed by the National Rifle Association (NRA) candidates and candidates endorsed by the Brady Campaign found that the Brady-backed candidates won over 90 percent of the time. These election outcomes are consistent with public opinion:

- 87 percent of Americans indicate they support criminal background checks on private sales of guns, including sales at gun shows.<sup>52</sup>
- 83 percent of gun owners<sup>53</sup> and 69 percent of NRA members<sup>54</sup> support criminal background checks on all purchasers at gun shows.
- 79 percent of Americans, including 63 percent of gun owners, support a policy requiring a police permit before the purchase of a gun.<sup>55</sup>
- 79 percent of Americans support requiring gun owners to register their guns with the local government.<sup>56</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Michael Nance, et al. 2010. "Variation in Pediatric and Adolescent Firearm Mortality Rates in Rural and Urban U.S. Counties." *Pediatrics*, 125(6): 1112-17. <http://www.pediatrics.org/cgi/doi/10.1542/peds.2009-3219>.

<sup>45</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation. "2008 Crime in the United States," Expanded Homicide Data, Table 11: Murder Circumstances by Weapon, 2008. U.S. Department of Justice. [http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/offenses/expanded\\_information/data/shrtable\\_11.html](http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_11.html) (accessed July 2011).

<sup>46</sup> L. Hepburn, M. Miller, D. Azrael, and D. Hemenway. 2007. "The U. S. Gun Stock: Results from the 2004 National Firearms Survey." *Injury Prevention* 13: 15-19. <http://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/13/1/15.full> (accessed July 2010).

<sup>47</sup> Graduate Institute of International Studies. 2007. "Small Arms Survey 2007: Guns and the City." <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2007/en/full/Small-Arms-Survey-2007-Chapter-02-EN.pdf> (accessed July 2011).

<sup>48</sup> Bureau of Transportation Statistics. 2012. National Transportation Statistics, Table 1-11. [http://www.bts.gov/publications/national\\_transportation\\_statistics/html/table\\_01\\_11.html](http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportation_statistics/html/table_01_11.html).

<sup>49</sup> Richardson, Erin G., and David Hemenway. 2010. "Homicide, Suicide, and Unintentional Firearm Fatality: Comparing the United States With Other High-Income Countries, 2003," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*.

<sup>50</sup> Violence Policy Center. 2011. "States with Higher Gun Ownership and Weak Gun Laws Lead Nation in Gun Death." <http://vpc.org/press/1110gundeath.htm> (accessed January 16, 2012).

<sup>51</sup> Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. 2008. "Guns and the 2008 Elections: Common Sense Gun Laws Won, the NRA Lost and What it Means." <http://www.bradycenter.org/xshare/pdf/reports/guns-2008election.pdf>.

<sup>52</sup> Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research and The Tarrance Group. 2008. "Americans Support Common Sense Measures to Cut Down on Illegal Guns." [http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/polling\\_memo.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/polling_memo.pdf)

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns. 2009. "Gun Owners: NRA Gun-Owners and Non-NRA Gun-Owners." [http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/luntz\\_poll\\_questionnaire\\_and\\_responses.pdf](http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/downloads/pdf/luntz_poll_questionnaire_and_responses.pdf).

<sup>55</sup> Tom W. Smith. 2007. "Public Attitudes Towards the Regulation of Firearms." Chicago, IL: National Opinion Research Center, University of Chicago.

<sup>56</sup> CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll, "Guns." June 4-5, 2008, available at: <http://www.pollingreport.com/guns.htm>

## Selected Organizations Working to Prevent Gun Violence

**Boston TenPoint Coalition:** An ecumenical group of Christian clergy and lay leaders working to mobilize the Boston community around issues affecting Black and Latino youth to end violence. <http://bostontenpoint.org>, (617) 524-4331

**Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence:** An affiliate of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence that works to create an America free from gun violence, where all Americans are safe at home, at school, at work, and in their communities. It works to pass and enforce sensible federal and state gun laws, regulations and public policies. <http://www.bradycampaign.org>

**Campaign to Close the Gun Show Loophole:** A coalition of individuals who advocate for legislative changes to close gun show loopholes to prevent felons, criminals, terrorists, gang members and other dangerous individuals from purchasing guns without background checks. <http://campaigntoclosethegunshowloophole.org>

**Coalition to Stop Gun Violence:** A coalition, with 48 national organizational members, that seeks to secure freedom from gun violence through research, strategic engagement and effective policy advocacy. <http://www.csgv.org>, (202) 408-0061

**Legal Community Against Violence:** A public interest law center dedicated to providing legal assistance in support of gun violence at the state and local level, and which provides free legal assistance to advocates, other community leaders, government officials and law enforcement seeking legislative and regulatory solutions to gun violence. <http://www.lcav.org>, (415) 433-2062

**Mayors Against Illegal Guns:** A coalition of more than 600 mayors from large and small cities across the country, co-chaired by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg of New York City and Mayor Thomas M. Menino of Boston, with the goal of protecting their residents, especially children, from harm by stopping the threat of illegal guns and preventing criminals from getting guns illegally. <http://www.mayorsagainstillegaguns.org>

**States United to Prevent Gun Violence:** An organization representing gun violence prevention groups in 24 states that is focused on reducing gun violence in states across the country. <http://supgv.org>, (617) 923-6490

**Violence Policy Center:** A national organization working to stop gun deaths and injury through research, advocacy, education, and collaboration, and which maintains a Concealed Carry Killers on-line resource that tracks incidents involving private citizens legally allowed to carry concealed handguns. <http://www.vpc.org>, (202) 822-8200

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**Table 1: Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Race/Hispanic Origin, 1979–2009**

	Total	Black	White	American Indian, Alaska Native*	Asian, Pacific Islander*	Hispanic**
1979	3,710	929	2,700	—	—	—
1980	3,749	944	2,739	—	—	—
1981	3,589	944	2,569	49	27	—
1982	3,332	811	2,450	55	23	—
1983	2,962	739	2,155	42	25	—
1984	3,030	716	2,238	44	32	—
1985	3,169	850	2,241	42	36	—
1986	3,349	938	2,337	43	31	—
1987	3,400	1,117	2,199	28	54	—
1988	3,974	1,458	2,405	76	53	—
1989	4,384	1,694	2,563	50	76	—
1990	4,935	2,047	2,753	47	87	748
1991	5,329	2,297	2,878	60	91	883
1992	5,353	2,359	2,834	55	105	924
1993	5,715	2,600	2,925	51	139	977
1994	5,793	2,559	3,024	75	135	993
1995	5,254	2,153	2,898	73	130	1,005
1996	4,613	1,976	2,475	64	98	817
1997	4,205	1,687	2,357	59	102	748
1998	3,761	1,416	2,197	60	88	661
1999	3,365	1,301	1,934	57	73	605
2000	3,012	1,149	1,762	44	57	568
2001	2,911	1,128	1,695	49	39	518
2002	2,867	1,112	1,639	52	64	581
2003	2,827	1,172	1,554	50	51	553
2004	2,825	1,149	1,568	57	51	574
2005	3,006	1,271	1,624	51	60	614
2006	3,184	1,441	1,618	48	77	678
2007	3,042	1,499	1,460	40	43	611
2008	2,947	1,371	1,488	46	42	563
2009	2,793	1,211	1,515	40	27	566
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,385</b>	<b>44,038</b>	<b>68,794</b>	<b>1,507</b>	<b>1,916</b>	<b>14,187</b>

\* Data for American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian/Pacific Islander not available for 1979-1980.

\*\* Persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race. Hispanic data not available prior to 1990. For 1990 to 1996, a small number of states with small Hispanic populations did not include Hispanic identifiers in their reporting to the federal government.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1979-1999. "CDC Wonder." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Compressed Mortality database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>. (accessed December 2004). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2000-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

**Table 2: Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Age, 1979–2009**

	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5–9</b>	<b>Ages 10–14</b>	<b>Ages 15–19</b>	<b>Under 20</b>
1979	109	157	447	2,997	3,710
1980	106	131	435	3,077	3,749
1981	115	123	438	2,913	3,589
1982	114	142	402	2,674	3,332
1983	83	108	379	2,392	2,962
1984	103	124	469	2,334	3,030
1985	104	120	470	2,475	3,169
1986	93	110	453	2,693	3,349
1987	85	126	484	2,705	3,400
1988	101	124	523	3,226	3,974
1989	121	138	555	3,570	4,384
1990	103	121	560	4,151	4,935
1991	105	94	613	4,517	5,329
1992	117	111	665	4,460	5,353
1993	116	141	700	4,758	5,715
1994	107	105	657	4,924	5,793
1995	105	107	640	4,402	5,254
1996	88	95	509	3,921	4,613
1997	84	107	438	3,576	4,205
1998	83	96	430	3,152	3,761
1999	73	80	335	2,877	3,365
2000	59	70	304	2,579	3,012
2001	81	79	254	2,497	2,911
2002	71	71	274	2,451	2,867
2003	56	63	259	2,449	2,827
2004	58	61	239	2,467	2,825
2005	69	62	273	2,602	3,006
2006	63	80	265	2,776	3,184
2007	85	69	243	2,645	3,042
2008	88	60	228	2,571	2,947
2009	85	66	203	2,439	2,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>3,141</b>	<b>13,144</b>	<b>97,270</b>	<b>116,385</b>

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1979-1999. "CDC Wonder." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Compressed Mortality database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>. (accessed December 2004). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2000-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

**Table 3: Firearm Deaths of Children and Teens, by Manner, 1979–2009**

	<b>Total*</b>	<b>Homicide*</b>	<b>Suicide</b>	<b>Accident</b>	<b>Unknown</b>
1979	3,710	1,651	1,220	726	113
1980	3,749	1,743	1,214	689	103
1981	3,589	1,660	1,213	604	112
1982	3,332	1,498	1,207	550	77
1983	2,962	1,238	1,150	504	70
1984	3,030	1,289	1,114	552	75
1985	3,169	1,322	1,256	519	72
1986	3,349	1,513	1,293	472	71
1987	3,400	1,573	1,281	467	79
1988	3,974	1,953	1,387	543	91
1989	4,384	2,367	1,380	567	70
1990	4,935	2,852	1,476	541	66
1991	5,329	3,247	1,436	551	95
1992	5,353	3,336	1,426	501	90
1993	5,715	3,625	1,460	526	104
1994	5,793	3,579	1,565	512	137
1995	5,254	3,249	1,450	440	115
1996	4,613	2,836	1,309	376	92
1997	4,205	2,562	1,262	306	75
1998	3,761	2,184	1,241	262	74
1999	3,365	1,990	1,078	214	83
2000	3,012	1,776	1,007	193	36
2001	2,911	1,771	928	182	30
2002	2,867	1,830	828	167	42
2003	2,827	1,822	810	151	44
2004	2,825	1,804	846	143	32
2005	3,006	1,972	822	173	39
2006	3,184	2,225	763	154	42
2007	3,042	2,161	683	138	60
2008	2,947	2,037	748	123	39
2009	2,793	1,855	800	114	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>116,385</b>	<b>66,520</b>	<b>35,653</b>	<b>11,960</b>	<b>2,252</b>

\* Total firearm deaths and homicide firearm deaths exclude firearm deaths by legal (police or corrections) intervention. There were 18 legal intervention firearm deaths.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 1979-1999. "CDC Wonder." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Compressed Mortality database. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>. (accessed December 2004). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2000-2009. "Fatal Injury Reports." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). [http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal\\_injury\\_reports.html](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.



**Table 4: Homicide Firearm Death Rates for Males per 100,000 by Race/Hispanic Origin and Age, 1999–2009**

<b>White Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.23	0.24	0.81	6.94
2000	0.14	0.27	0.72	6.46
2001	0.28	0.35	0.60	6.13
2002	0.27	0.23	0.55	6.69
2003	0.11	0.13	0.57	6.34
2004	0.07	0.14	0.63	6.24
2005	0.21	0.20	0.54	6.95
2006	0.17	0.23	0.82	7.15
2007	0.27	0.19	0.63	6.24
2008	0.23	0.20	0.56	6.28
2009	0.20	0.27	0.57	6.02

<b>Black Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.51	0.85	2.79	56.35
2000	0.76	0.34	2.78	51.66
2001	0.63	0.41	2.11	52.69
2002	0.69	0.36	2.69	48.36
2003	1.06	0.91	2.87	53.10
2004	0.74	0.62	2.88	49.65
2005	0.67	0.62	3.10	54.67
2006	0.79	0.68	3.69	60.51
2007	0.65	0.62	3.47	62.41
2008	0.92	0.49	3.13	55.39
2009	0.96	0.43	2.63	49.74

<b>Hispanic Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.27	0.34	2.14	22.86
2000	0.16	0.32	1.73	21.91
2001	0.40	0.21	1.11	19.83
2002	0.38	0.57	1.00	21.57
2003	0.27	0.10	1.07	20.44
2004	0.21	0.20	1.14	21.35
2005	0.20	0.20	1.33	23.48
2006	0.28	0.23	2.11	23.59
2007	0.30	0.13	1.58	19.82
2008	0.18	0.26	0.98	18.42
2009	0.25	0.20	1.15	18.11

**Table 5: Homicide Firearm Death Rates for Females per 100,000 by Race/Hispanic Origin and Age, 1999–2009**

<b>White Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.16	0.15	0.38	1.24
2000	0.15	0.22	0.20	1.11
2001	0.26	0.25	0.28	1.10
2002	0.20	0.23	0.31	1.20
2003	0.17	0.16	0.14	0.97
2004	0.10	0.20	0.16	1.18
2005	0.13	0.11	0.23	0.98
2006	0.13	0.28	0.30	1.12
2007	0.18	0.21	0.27	1.33
2008	0.21	0.16	0.32	1.08
2009	0.21	0.18	0.21	1.04

<b>Black Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.79	0.47	0.81	7.05
2000	0.20	0.29	0.67	4.95
2001	0.65	0.30	0.47	3.88
2002	0.58	0.43	1.15	5.38
2003	0.52	0.50	1.14	3.97
2004	0.83	0.38	0.74	5.04
2005	0.25	0.39	1.05	4.40
2006	0.69	0.51	1.01	5.45
2007	0.86	0.38	1.03	5.00
2008	0.54	0.32	1.12	5.90
2009	0.64	0.63	0.57	4.78

<b>Hispanic Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.11	0.29	0.54	2.57
2000	0.17	0.11	0.32	1.96
2001	0.41	0.06	0.37	2.11
2002	0.30	0.16	0.47	2.00
2003	0.19	0.21	0.28	1.96
2004	0.22	0.37	0.27	2.09
2005	0.09	0.15	0.27	1.60
2006	0.16	0.29	0.42	2.05
2007	0.24	0.14	0.36	2.02
2008	0.34	0.22	0.51	2.43
2009	0.07	0.26	0.20	1.85

**Table 6: Suicide Firearm Death Rates for Males per 100,000 by Race/Hispanic Origin and Age, 1999–2009**

<b>White Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.88	8.86
2000	0.00	0.00	1.04	7.95
2001	0.00	0.00	0.69	7.57
2002	0.00	0.00	0.69	6.85
2003	0.00	0.01	0.65	6.83
2004	0.00	0.00	0.49	7.05
2005	0.00	0.00	0.79	6.56
2006	0.00	0.00	0.59	6.24
2007	0.00	0.00	0.45	5.43
2008	0.00	0.00	0.44	6.16
2009	0.00	0.00	0.63	6.62

<b>Black Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.24	6.96
2000	0.00	0.00	0.24	6.93
2001	0.00	0.00	0.57	5.01
2002	0.00	0.00	0.45	4.27
2003	0.00	0.00	0.28	3.91
2004	0.00	0.00	0.39	3.70
2005	0.00	0.00	0.28	4.28
2006	0.00	0.00	0.12	4.17
2007	0.00	0.00	0.47	4.20
2008	0.00	0.00	0.30	4.64
2009	0.00	0.00	0.18	3.39

<b>Hispanic Males</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.45	4.96
2000	0.00	0.00	0.43	4.62
2001	0.00	0.00	0.23	3.39
2002	0.00	0.00	0.28	4.71
2003	0.00	0.00	0.38	4.20
2004	0.00	0.00	0.10	4.97
2005	0.00	0.00	0.25	3.82
2006	0.00	0.00	0.25	4.06
2007	0.00	0.00	0.05	4.17
2008	0.00	0.00	0.10	3.30
2009	0.00	0.00	0.34	3.40

**Table 7: Suicide Firearm Death Rates for Females per 100,000 by Race/Hispanic Origin and Age, 1999–2009**

<b>White Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.29	1.21
2000	0.00	0.00	0.22	1.14
2001	0.00	0.00	0.19	1.11
2002	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.80
2003	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.88
2004	0.00	0.00	0.10	1.06
2005	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.89
2006	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.61
2007	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.63
2008	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.62
2009	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.87

<b>Black Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.72
2000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.52
2001	0.00	0.00	0.18	0.52
2002	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.58
2003	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.19
2004	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.74
2005	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.36
2006	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46
2007	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.23
2008	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.28
2009	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.39

<b>Hispanic Females</b>				
	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
1999	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.90
2000	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.67
2001	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.59
2002	0.00	0.00	0.29	0.45
2003	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.63
2004	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.55
2005	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.47
2006	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.23
2007	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.44
2008	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.21
2009	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57

**Table 8: Firearm Injuries, by Manner and Age Group, 2001–2009****Accidental Firearm Injuries**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
2001	5,091	112	241	1,041	3,697
2002	4,136	55	34	735	3,312
2003	3,611	35	73	123	3,380
2004	3,950	43	124	968	2,815
2005	3,547	32	28	753	2,734
2006	3,087	41	146	682	2,219
2007	4,165	10	112	680	3,363
2008	3,998	124	127	482	3,265
2009	3,587*	111	30	228	3,218

**Assault Firearm Injuries**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
2001	9,219	0	140	738	8,341
2002	8,344	44	93	373	7,834
2003	8,213	60	29	671	7,453
2004	9,356	10	165	1,033	8,148
2005	12,489	168	40	642	11,639
2006	14,010	41	142	1,325	12,501
2007	12,864	61	153	836	11,814
2008	16,187	114	242	688	15,143
2009	10,038	38	61	390	9,549

**Self-Harm Firearm Injuries**

	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Under 5</b>	<b>Ages 5-9</b>	<b>Ages 10-14</b>	<b>Ages 15-19</b>
2001	185	0	0	110	75
2002	374	0	0	9	365
2003	60	0	0	0	60
2004	495	0	0	0	495
2005	46	0	0	0	46
2006	285	0	0	93	192
2007	494	0	0	0	494
2008	411	0	0	0	411
2009	165	0	0	0	165

\*Total number of accidental firearm injuries is different than previously stated due to rounding.

Note: Self-harm is defined as confirmed or suspected injury resulting from a deliberate violent act inflicted on oneself with the intent to take one's own life or with the intent to harm oneself. This category includes suicide attempts and other intentional self-harm.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2009. "Nonfatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

**Table 9: Firearm Injury Numbers and Rates per 100,000, by Manner and Race/Hispanic Origin, 2001–2009**

**Accidental Firearm Injuries**

	TOTAL		Black		White		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	5,091	6.3	1,279	9.7	1,956	3.9	413	3.0
2002	4,136	5.1	1,116	8.4	1,330	2.7	789	5.6
2003	3,611	4.4	1,610	12.1	1,199	2.4	488	3.4
2004	3,950	4.8	1,180	8.8	1,772	3.6	388	2.6
2005	3,547	4.3	972	7.2	1,182	2.4	356	2.3
2006	3,087	3.7	1,032	7.6	1,210	2.5	455	2.8
2007	4,165	5.0	1,217	8.9	1,061	2.2	434	2.6
2008	3,998	4.8	796	5.8	1,698	3.6	1,058	6.2
2009	3,588	4.3	1,255	9.0	1,597	3.4	351	2.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31,585</b>		<b>10,457</b>		<b>13,005</b>		<b>4,732</b>	

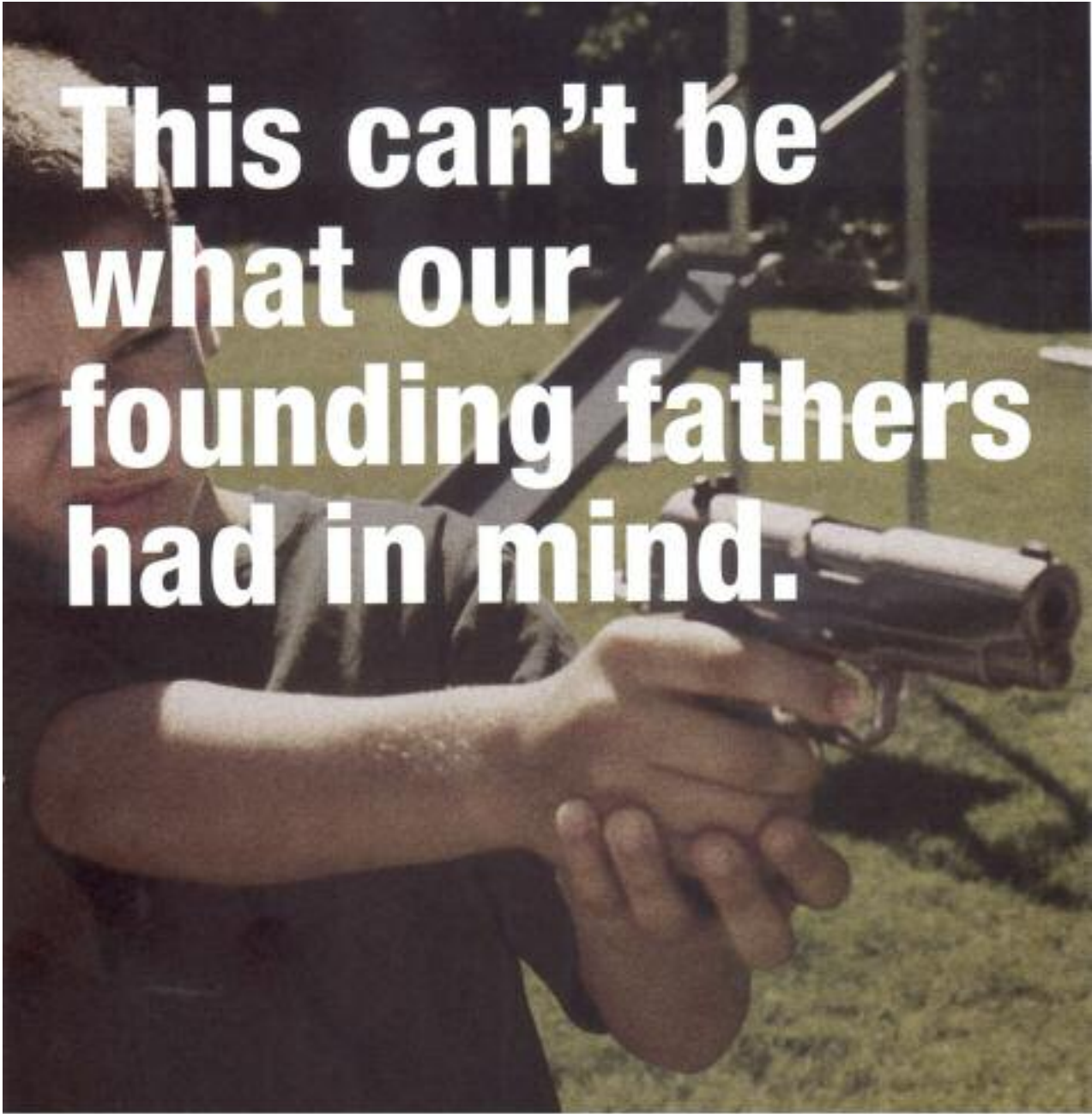
**Assault Firearm Injuries**

	TOTAL		Black		White		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	9,219	11.4	4,934	37.5	412	0.8	1,662	12.2
2002	8,344	10.3	5,066	38.3	486	1.0	1,350	9.6
2003	8,213	10.1	5,224	39.3	699	1.4	854	5.9
2004	9,356	11.4	5,490	41.1	941	1.9	1,165	7.8
2005	12,489	15.2	6,596	49.0	1,207	2.5	1,862	12.0
2006	14,010	17.0	7,890	58.2	1,539	3.2	2,186	13.7
2007	12,864	15.5	5,374	39.3	1,509	3.2	1,472	8.9
2008	16,187	19.5	7,624	55.2	2,103	4.4	3,935	23.1
2009	10,038	12.1	5,847	42.1	764	1.6	2,068	11.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90,682</b>		<b>54,045</b>		<b>9,660</b>		<b>16,554</b>	

**Self-Harm Firearm Injuries**

	TOTAL		Black		White		Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	185	0.2	135	1.0	25	0.1	25	0.2
2002	374	0.5	23	0.2	207	0.4	113	0.8
2003	60	0.1	10	0.1	50	0.1	0	0.0
2004	495	0.6	23	0.2	418	0.9	22	0.1
2005	46	0.1	23	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0
2006	285	0.3	0	0.0	177	0.4	23	0.1
2007	494	0.6	10	0.1	166	0.3	0	0.0
2008	411	0.5	21	0.2	284	0.6	106	0.6
2009	165	0.2	0	0.0	8	0.0	127	0.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,350</b>		<b>245</b>		<b>1,335</b>		<b>416</b>	

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2009. "Nonfatal Injury Reports." Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

A photograph of a young child, possibly a boy, holding a handgun. The child is wearing a dark shirt and is looking down at the gun. The background is a grassy area with a fence. The text is overlaid on the image in large, white, bold letters.

**This can't be  
what our  
founding fathers  
had in mind.**

**Children's Defense Fund**

[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

**WHAT DOES  
IT TAKE FOR A  
KID TO BUY A  
\$50 HANDGUN?**

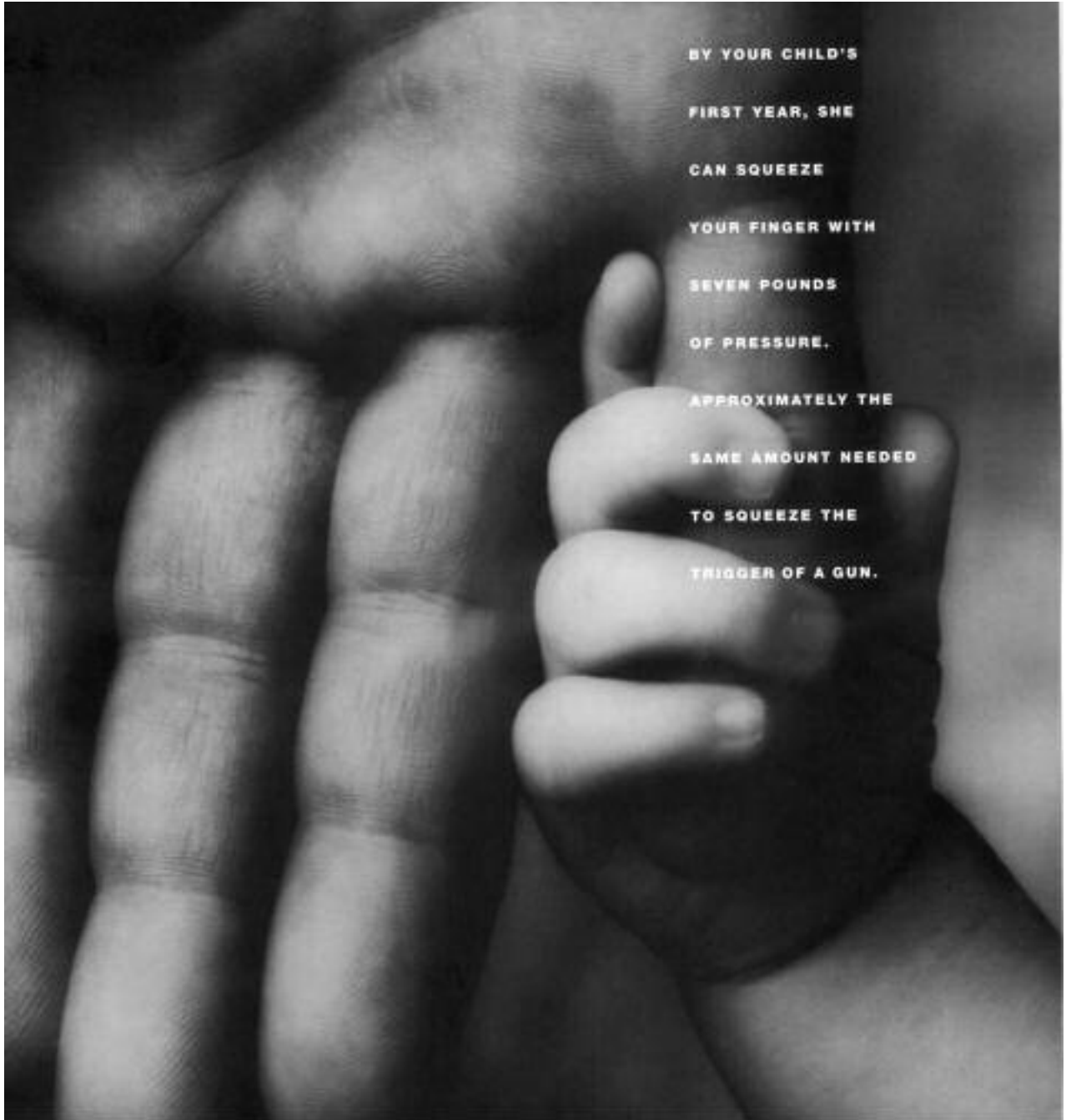


**ABOUT \$50.**

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BY YOUR CHILD'S  
FIRST YEAR, SHE  
CAN SQUEEZE  
YOUR FINGER WITH  
SEVEN POUNDS  
OF PRESSURE.  
APPROXIMATELY THE  
SAME AMOUNT NEEDED  
TO SQUEEZE THE  
TRIGGER OF A GUN.

## Children's Defense Fund

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**WANTED: 74 MILLION BULLET-PROOF VESTS, EXTRA SMALL.**

*Eight children will die from gunfire in America today.*

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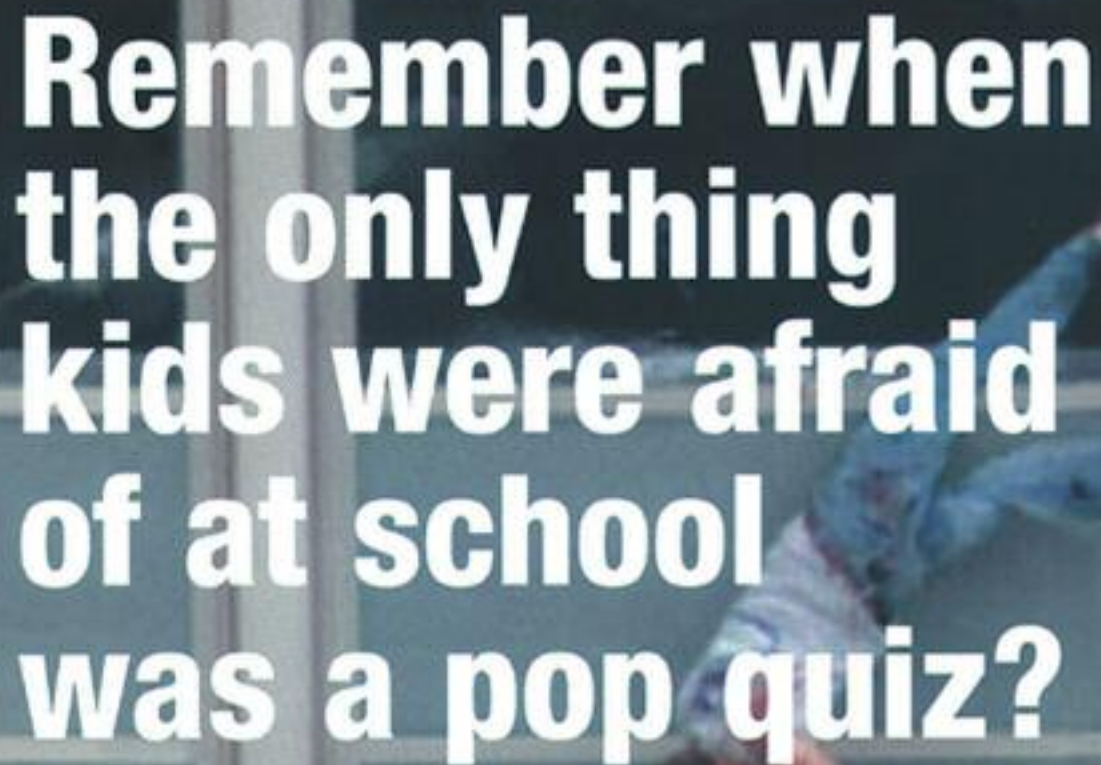


**A GUN IN THE HOME CAN  
MEAN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
AN ARGUMENT AND A FUNERAL.**



**Children's Defense Fund**

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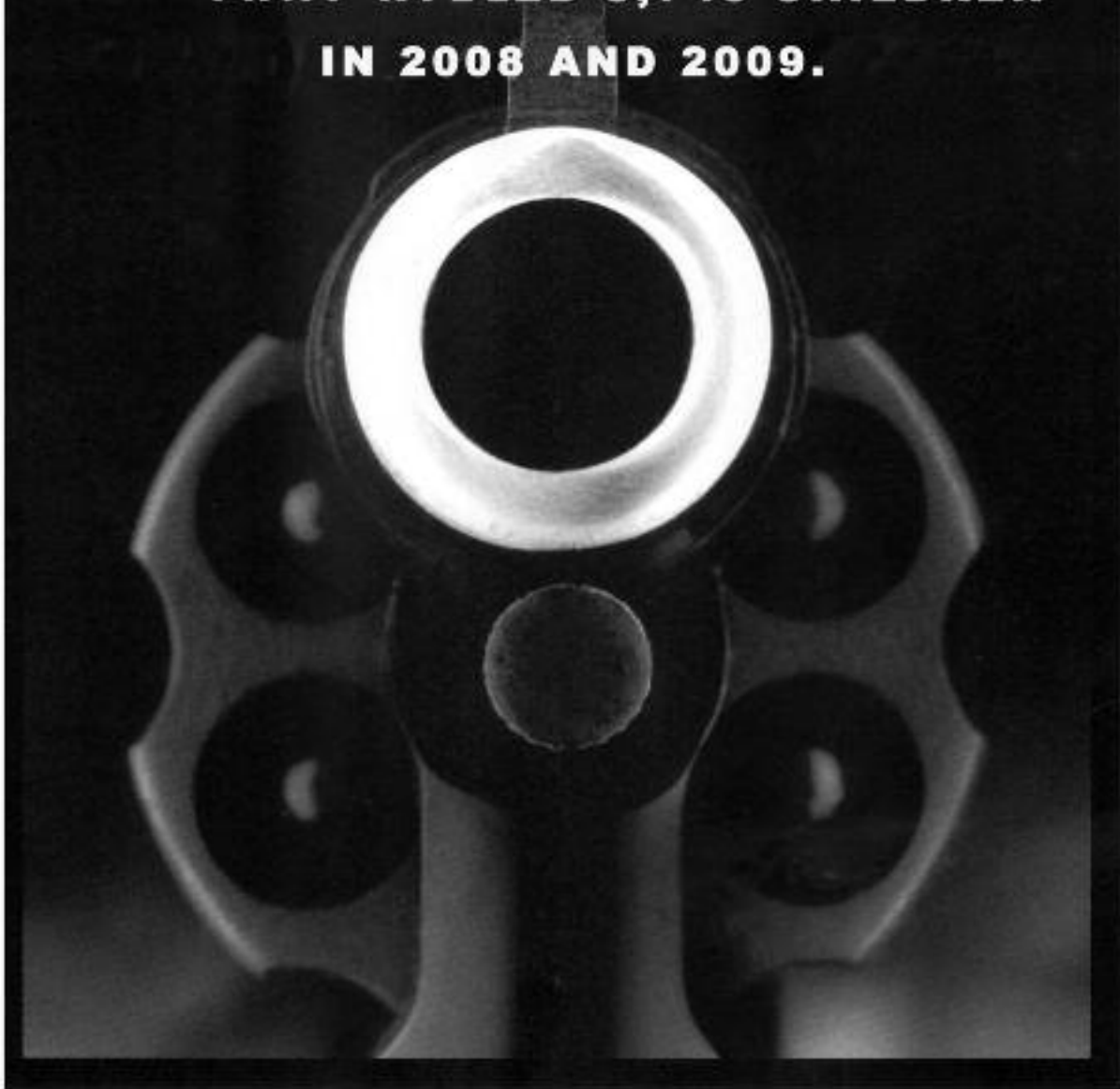


**Remember when  
the only thing  
kids were afraid  
of at school  
was a pop quiz?**

**Children's Defense Fund**

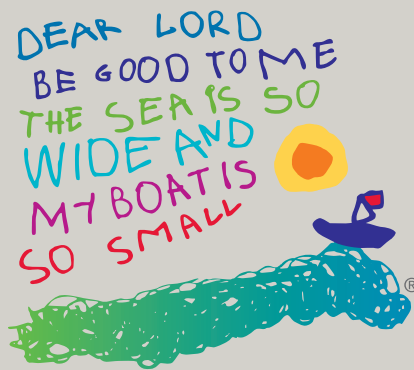
[www.childrensdefense.org](http://www.childrensdefense.org)

**THIS IS HOW MANY SAFETY  
REGULATIONS OUR GOVERNMENT  
IMPOSES ON THE PRODUCT  
THAT KILLED 5,740 CHILDREN  
IN 2008 AND 2009.**



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