



WE CAN DO BETTER.

The number of children and teens killed by guns in one year would fill 134 classrooms of 20 students each.

PROTECT CHILDREN
NOT GUNS 2013

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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Foreword

“Ana’s love for singing was evident before she was even able to talk. In a musical family, her gift for melody, pitch, and rhythm stood out remarkably. And she never walked anywhere—her mode of transportation was dance. She danced from room to room and place to place. She danced to all the music she heard, whether in air or in her head. Ana loved her God, loved to read the Bible, and loved to sing and dance as acts of worship.”

These are the words six-year-old Ana Grace Marquez-Greene’s parents released in a statement after she was killed by gun violence on December 14, 2012 in the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Ana’s father and mother are co-founders of the Sandy Hook Promise and have been standing up and speaking out for common sense gun safety laws ever since. Despite their courage and the courage of countless other families who lost children and loved ones to gun violence, Congress has done nothing to protect children instead of guns. Nothing.

Did you know that every 30 minutes a child or teen dies or is injured from a gun? *Every 30 minutes.* As this report documents with the most recent data available, the toll of this gun violence epidemic is devastating. In 2010, 18,270 children and teens died or were injured from guns, 17 classrooms of 20 children every week. Children and teens in America are 17 times more likely to die from gun violence than their peers in other high-income countries. Is this what we mean by American exceptionalism? We can do better. We must do better.

This report provides a roadmap of where we are today and the actions we must take to protect all children and make America safer. It reports on gun deaths and injuries. All children have a right to live and to dream and to strive for a future that is not destroyed in a second because we cowered before a special interest lobby and refused to protect them. Learn the truth about gun safety and the misinformation the National Rifle Association spreads. Learn about the economic cost of gun violence, a state-by-state breakdown on gun deaths among children and teens, and good and bad state actions on gun violence prevention. Learn what you need to know so all of us can do better.

What can you do? Urge your members of Congress to protect children from gun violence by supporting common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures for the nation including universal background checks, limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, consumer safety standards for all guns, public funding for gun violence prevention research, and resources and authority for law enforcement agencies to properly enforce gun laws. Parents, remove guns from your home and be vigilant about where your children play. Boycott products that glamorize violence.

Foreword

Since 20 first and second graders were mowed down with an AR-15 semi-automatic rifle in December, more than 1,300 children and teens have been killed if 2010 trends continue. It's time for every parent, grandparent, faith and community leader to stand up to Congress and say, "Enough—do something now!"

The overwhelming majority of Americans agree we can and must do better. Polls show the vast majority of Americans, gun owners and non-gun owners, Republicans and Democrats support universal background checks as a first step to making America safer for our children and for all of us. Use this report to find the latest research and actions you can take to protect children, not guns, in your home, in your community, and as a citizen to help create a better, safer America for all children. Together we can—and must—do better right now. So many child lives depend on it.



Marian Wright Edelman

- Guns killed more preschoolers in one year than they did law enforcement officers in the line of duty. Ask yourself if this is really what we as Americans mean by putting our children first?
- American companies manufacture enough bullets each year to fire 31 rounds into every one of our citizens. How many more mass-murders will it take to get Congress to pass sensible gun regulation?
- America's military and law enforcement agencies have four million guns. Our citizens have 310 million. Has this made our children safer?
- The number of children and teens killed by guns in 2010 was nearly five times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action that year in Iraq and Afghanistan. Shouldn't our legislators be as concerned about the wars at home as they are about the wars overseas?
- The number of children and teens killed by guns in one year would fill 134 classrooms of 20 students each. Too many children and teens are still being killed and injured by gun violence. Isn't it time to demand more common sense ways to protect them?

— From the "We Can Do Better" Campaign, created for CDF by Fallon Worldwide



**Guns end the lives
of seven children
and teens every
day in America.**

Seven every day.

As a civilized nation, shouldn't we be protecting our children more than we're protecting our guns?

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ODF calculations based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data.

Overview

2,694 children and teens died from guns in the United States in 2010.

The Children's Defense Fund's publication, *Protect Children, Not Guns 2013*, analyzes the latest fatal and nonfatal gun injury data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for children and teens ages 0-19.

The U.S. has as many guns as people.

- The U.S. accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population, but owns an estimated 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world.
- The most recent estimate of U.S. civilian gun ownership is as high as 310 million, about one gun per person. In contrast, U.S. military and law enforcement agencies possess 4 million guns.
- American companies manufacture enough bullets each year to fire 31 rounds into every one of our citizens.

A gun in the home increases the risk of homicide, suicide and accidental death.

- A gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher, suicide three to five times higher, and accidental death four times higher. For every time a gun in the home injures or kills in self-defense, there are 11 completed and attempted gun suicides, seven criminal assaults and homicides with a gun, and four unintentional shooting deaths or injuries.
- More than half of youth who committed suicide with a gun obtained the gun from their home, usually a parent's gun.

U.S. children and teens are 17 times more likely to die from a gun than their peers in 25 other high-income countries combined.

- U.S. children and teens made up 43 percent of all children and teens in these 26 countries but were 93 percent of all children and teens killed by guns.
- In 2010, children and teen gun death rates in the U.S. were over four times higher than in Canada, the country with the next highest rate, nearly seven times higher than in Israel, and nearly 65 times higher than in the United Kingdom.
- U.S. children and teens were 32 times more likely to die from a gun homicide and 10 times more likely to die from a gun suicide or a gun accident than all their peers in the other high-income countries combined.

A child or teen dies or is injured from guns every 30 minutes.

- **18,270** children and teens died or were injured from guns in 2010.
 - **1** child or teen died or was injured every 30 minutes.
 - **50** children and teens died or were injured every day.
 - **351** children and teens died or were injured every week.

More children and teens die from guns every three days than died in the Newtown massacre.

- **2,694** children and teens died from guns in 2010.
 - **1** child or teen died every 3 hours and 15 minutes.
 - **7** children and teens died every day, more than 20 every three days.
 - **51** children and teens died every week.
- The children and teens who died from guns in 2010 would fill 134 classrooms of 20 children.

Overview

Guns are the second leading cause of death among children and teens ages 1-19 and the number one cause among Black children and teens.

- Only motor vehicle accidents kill more children and teens every year.
- White and Asian/Pacific Islander children and teens were nearly three times more likely, American Indian/Alaska Native children and teens more than two times as likely, and Hispanic children and teens one-and-a-half times more likely to be killed in a car accident than by a gun.
- In contrast, Black children and teens were twice as likely to be killed by a gun than to be killed in a car accident.

Although total gun deaths dropped in 2010 for the fourth consecutive year, gun death rates remained higher than in the early 1960s.

- In 2010, the rate of gun deaths in children and teens was 30 percent higher than in 1963, when data were first collected from all states.
- While Black children and teens have experienced the highest rates of gun deaths, the largest number of deaths has been among White children and teens. Out of the estimated 166,600 children and teens who have died from guns between 1963 and 2010, 53 percent were among White children and teens, and 36 percent were among Black children and teens.
- Between 1963 and 2010, 59,265 Black children and teens were killed by guns—more than 17 times the recorded lynchings of Black people of all ages in the 86 years from 1882 to 1968.

Since 1963, three times more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers killed in action in wars abroad.

- 166,500 children and teens died from guns on American soil between 1963 and 2010, while 52,183 U.S. soldiers were killed in action in the Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars combined during that same period.
- On average 3,470 children and teens were killed by guns every year from 1963 to 2010, or 174 classrooms of 20 children every year.

Nearly three times more children and teens were injured by guns in 2010 than the number of U.S. soldiers wounded in action that year in the war in Afghanistan.

- An estimated 15,576 children and teens were injured by guns in 2010.
 - 1 child or teen was injured every 34 minutes.
 - 43 children and teens were injured every day.
 - 300 children and teens were injured every week.
 - 5,247 U.S. soldiers were injured in the war in Afghanistan in 2010.

Children and teens die from gun violence in all states.

- Every state lost children to gun violence between 2000 and 2010. The number of deaths varied from 15 in Hawaii to 4,668 in California.
- The deadliest state was Alaska with 8.7 gun deaths for every 100,000 children and teens each year, more than twice the nationwide rate of 3.6. Alaska was 21 times more deadly for children and teens than Hawaii, the safest state.

Overview

Guns kill more children under 5 than law enforcement officers in the line of duty.

- 82 children under 5 died from guns in 2010, compared to 55 law enforcement officers killed by guns in the line of duty.

Children are more likely to be exposed to violence than adults.

- The 2008 National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence found that nearly two-thirds of children and youth had been victims or witnesses of violence within the past year.
- Nearly 1 in 10 children and 1 in 5 14-17 year-olds had witnessed a shooting at some point in their lives.

Black, Hispanic, American Indian and Alaska Native children and teens are disproportionately more likely to die or be injured by guns.

- In 2010, 45 percent of gun deaths and 46 percent of gun injuries were among Black children and teens, although they comprised only 15 percent of all children and teens.
- Black children and teens were 4.7 times more likely to die from guns than White children the same age, and 8.5 times more likely to be injured. American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens were 2.4 times more likely to die from guns, and Hispanic children were 3.3 times more likely to be injured from guns than White children and teens.
- Black children and teens were 17 times more likely to die from a gun homicide than White children the same age.
- American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens had the highest rate of gun suicides, nearly twice as high as White children and teens.

Homicide is the leading manner of gun death among children and teens and assault the leading manner of gun injury.


- Children and teen gun deaths were most likely to be homicides; adult gun deaths were most likely to be suicides.
- Two out of three child and teen gun deaths were homicides; a little over one out of four were suicides.
- Among nonfatal gun injuries, a little over three out of four resulted from assaults while nearly one out of five was accidental.

Older teenagers are most at risk from gun violence, Black male teens are most at risk.

- Eighty-six percent of gun deaths and 89 percent of gun injuries in 2010 occurred in 15-19 year-olds.
- Black males ages 15-19 were nearly 30 times more likely to die in a gun homicide than White males and more than three times more likely to die in a gun homicide than Hispanic males of the same age.

Total gun deaths and injuries in 2010 cost the U.S. \$174.1 billion, or 1.15 percent of our gross domestic product.

- The 105,177 gun deaths and injuries to children, teens and adults that occurred in 2010 cost the nation \$8.4 billion in medical and other direct costs, \$52.5 billion in lost productivity and lost wages, and \$113.3 billion in lost enjoyment of life.



The number of children and teens killed by guns in 2010 was nearly five times the number of U.S. soldiers killed in action that year in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Shouldn't our legislators be as concerned about the wars at home as they are about the wars overseas?

Children's Defense Fund

childrensdefense.org/DoBetter

CDF calculations based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, and Defense Casualty Analysis System data.

Stand Up and Take Action

- 1. Urge your members of Congress to protect children from gun violence. Support common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures for the nation including:**
 - Universal background checks;
 - Limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines;
 - Consumer safety standards, childproof safety features, and authorized-user identification technology for all guns;
 - Better preventive and therapeutic services for children and families facing violence in their homes and communities and for children with unmet mental health needs;
 - Adequate funding for gun violence prevention research and programs; and
 - Resources and authority for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and law enforcement agencies to properly enforce gun laws.
- 2. Urge state and local governments to protect children from guns. Urge your state legislators and local officials to:**
 - Support laws to prevent child access to guns including childproofing and keeping all guns secured from unsupervised children;
 - Support universal background checks;
 - Support limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines; and
 - Oppose efforts to limit the ability of schools, physicians and others to warn parents and students about the dangers of guns.
- 3. Parents, remove guns from your home and be vigilant about where your children play.**
- 4. Boycott businesses and products that glamorize and normalize violence.**
- 5. Bring attention to the number of children killed and injured by gun violence and the truth about guns.**
- 6. Offer parents, children and teens the resources, support and tools to survive and combat the culture of violence.**

For details, go to page 36

The Truth About Guns

1. A gun in the home increases the risk of homicide, suicide and accidental death.

Contrary to what many people believe, having a gun in your home doesn't make you safer but instead endangers you and your loved ones. A gun in the home makes the likelihood of homicide three times higher,¹ suicide three to five times higher,^{2,3} and accidental death four times higher.⁴ For every time a gun in the home injures or kills in self-defense, there are 11 completed and attempted gun suicides, seven criminal assaults and homicides with a gun, and four unintentional shooting deaths or injuries.⁵

2. Many children live in homes with loaded and unlocked guns. Every parent and grandparent needs to be careful where their children play and ask if there is a gun in the home.

One-third of all households with children younger than 18 have a gun and more than 40 percent of gun-owning households with children store their guns unlocked.⁶ Twenty-two percent of children with gun-owning parents handled guns in their homes without their parents' knowledge.⁷ More than half of youth who committed suicide with a gun obtained the gun from their home, usually a parent's gun.^{8,9}

Brandon Holt, a 6-year-old from Ocean County, New Jersey was shot in the head and killed by his 4-year-old neighbor during a play date. The 4-year-old had gone into his home and brought back a loaded .22 caliber rifle. He accidentally fired the gun from about 15 feet away from his friend.^{1,2}

Caroline Sparks, 2 years old was shot in the chest and killed accidentally by her 5-year-old brother in Kentucky in May. The little boy had gotten the weapon, a .22 caliber Crickett single-shot rifle marketed to children, for his birthday.^{3,4}

Jodi Sandoval lost her 14-year-old son, Noah, to gun violence in Columbus, Ohio on July 5, 2012. A mindful parent, Jodi says, she kept a gun-free home. Her son was visiting a friend who was fooling around with a gun. Although there was no magazine in the gun, unbeknownst to the friend, there was a bullet in the chamber. Now Jodi is wracked with grief and guilt.^{5,6}

*To hear Jodi tell her story visit CDF's Faces of Courage webpage.

3. Guns make violence more deadly.

Contrary to what the gun industry says, guns do kill people. Guns make killing easy, efficient, and somewhat impersonal, thereby increasing the lethality of anger and violence.¹⁰ *An estimated 41 percent of gun-related homicides and 94 percent of gun-related suicides would not occur if no guns were present.*¹¹ On the same day as the Newtown massacre a man attacked children with a knife at an elementary school in China. Twenty-three children were injured, but none died.¹² In family and intimate assaults, the use of a gun increased the risk of death 12 times.¹³

4. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is forbidden from regulating the sale and manufacture of guns.

A 1976 amendment to the Consumer Product Safety Act specifically states that the Commission shall make no ruling or order that restricts the manufacture or sale of guns, guns ammunition, or components of guns ammunition, including black powder or gun powder for guns.¹⁴ As a result, the CPSC can regulate teddy bears and toy guns¹⁵ but not real guns, despite the fact that they are one of the most lethal consumer products.

The Truth About Guns

- 5. Virtually anyone can buy a gun without a background check.** Federal law requires that anyone purchasing a gun from a federally-licensed dealer submit to a background check. But private sales, like many sales at gun shows and increasingly on the internet, do not require it. This is a loophole used by many people who could not pass a background check. In 2009, undercover stings at gun shows in Nevada, Ohio and Tennessee revealed that 63 percent of private sellers sold guns to purchasers who stated that they would be unable to pass a background check.¹⁶ A 2011 study of internet gun sales found that 62 percent of sellers agreed to sell a gun to a buyer who said he probably couldn't pass a background check.¹⁷
- 6. The majority of Americans, including gun owners and NRA members, support common sense gun safety regulations.** Almost three-quarters of those in NRA households (74 percent)¹⁸ and more than four out of five gun owners (79 percent of Republican gun owners and 90 percent of Democratic gun owners)¹⁹ believe that all potential gun buyers should be subject to a criminal background check. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65 percent) and half of gun owners (50 percent) believe that allowing people to own assault weapons makes the country a more dangerous place.²⁰ A majority of Americans want a ban on assault style weapons and oppose more teachers and school officials having guns in schools.²¹
- 7. Common sense gun safety laws help reduce gun violence while protecting the legal use of guns.** The following gun safety laws have all been found to be effective in reducing gun violence. None of these regulations prevent law-abiding citizens from owning guns.

 - **Requiring background checks for purchases through private sellers as well as licensed dealers.** Since the implementation in 1994 of the Brady Law, which instituted a federal background check requirement for sales through federally-licensed dealers, 2.1 million firearm purchase applications have been denied.²² A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine found that states with background checks on private sales had 16 percent lower gun fatality rates.²³
 - **Firearm prohibitions for high-risk groups.** A study in California found that denial of handgun purchase to people who have committed violent misdemeanors was associated with a decrease in risk of arrest for new gun and/or violent crimes.²⁴
 - **Well-designed assault weapons ban.** An Australian law banning semi-automatic and pump-action rifles and shotguns and buying back banned weapons was associated with decreased suicide and homicide rates and with the absence of any mass shootings in the decade following the law (compared to 11 mass shootings in the prior decade).²⁵
 - **Child access prevention laws.** Studies of child access prevention laws, which require gun owners to store their guns so that children and teens cannot access them unsupervised, have found these laws reduce accidental shootings of children by as much as 23 percent²⁶ and suicides of adolescents by 8 percent.²⁷
 - **Tighter regulation and oversight of gun sellers.** A study using crime gun trace data from 54 U.S. cities found that diversion of guns for use in crimes is much less common in states:
 - that license retail gun sellers;
 - that require careful record keeping that can be reviewed by law enforcement;
 - that require potential gun buyers to apply for a license directly with a law enforcement agency; and
 - where law enforcement agencies conduct regular compliance inspections.²⁸

Nearly 2,000 people attended **Molly Conley's** funeral to mourn the young humanitarian who had become the victim of a random drive-by shooting the day after her 15th birthday. Though no one else was injured, she was shot in the neck while walking with friends to a sleepover in a residential neighborhood. Molly was a 4.0 student and is best known for her kindness, which she used to encourage her parents to care for infants waiting for foster families and to start a group called "Mother's Helper" that raised money to aid victims of domestic abuse.^{7,8,9}



Help spread the word through social media to #ProtectChildrenNotGuns. Visit our website at childrensdefense.org/DoBetter to share the powerful images and statistics in this report. Use the tool on the website to overlay an image of your own child with the 'Protect Children, Not Guns' message and share it with your friends on Facebook. Visit CDF's Facebook page photo albums to update your timeline photo with the shocking statistics from this report.



www.facebook.com/ChildrensDefensedFund



www.twitter.com/ChildDefender

The Truth About Guns

- 8. Common sense gun safety regulations protect lawful ownership and use of guns.** The 1994 Assault Weapons Ban that expired in 2004 protected the rights of gun owners by exempting every shotgun and hunting rifle in use at the time.²⁹ Senator Dianne Feinstein’s proposed 2013 legislation reinstating the ban specifically exempts over 2,000 sporting and hunting weapons.³⁰ Background checks do not prevent legal gun purchases.
- 9. Universal background checks will not lead to a registry of gun owners.** The Brady Law of 1994 explicitly bans the creation of a registry of gun owners.³¹ Under the law, instant criminal background checks have been made on over 100 million gun sales in the last decade, without leading to the formation of a gun registry.³² Likewise, the background check compromise proposed by Senators Manchin and Toomey in early 2013 also explicitly banned the creation of a gun registry and even imposed new serious criminal penalties (a felony with up to 15 years in prison) on any person who misuses or illegally retains firearms records.
- 10. Loopholes in prior gun safety laws prevented them from being as effective as necessary.** The 1993 Brady Law required federal background checks for guns purchased from federally-licensed retailers, but not for private sales.³³ The 1994 assault weapons and high-capacity magazine ban did not apply to weapons and magazines manufactured prior to the ban, allowed importation of rifles that could accept large capacity magazines, and allowed the manufacture and sale of “copy-cat” assault weapons with only small differences from banned models.³⁴
- 11. Armed school guards and teachers will not necessarily make children safer but may jeopardize the futures of some children.** Armed guards or officers are in about one-third of our nation’s public schools.³⁵ Columbine High School had an armed guard,³⁶ and Virginia Tech had a full campus police force. There is no evidence that armed guards or police officers in schools make children safer.³⁷ Educators are strongly opposed to arming teachers. A National Education Association poll of its membership found that 22 percent were in favor of arming teachers, 68 percent were opposed and 61 percent were strongly opposed.³⁸ While there isn’t clear evidence that armed security guards or police officers keep children in schools safer, there is very troubling evidence that their large presence on school grounds leads to the criminalization of some children, especially Black and Latino males, at increasingly younger ages and the feeding of children into the prison pipeline.³⁹ Alternatives to armed guards include threat assessment teams, positive behavioral interventions and supports, and restorative justice practices, which have all shown to be effective in reducing violence, improving school safety, and maintaining a positive school climate that allows teachers to teach and students to learn.^{40,41,42}

On January 11th, 2012 Caldwell County Sheriff’s deputies went to the home of the Curtis family after receiving an emergency call: their 12-year-old son, **Steven Curtis**, had mishandled a gun and accidentally shot himself in the head. Steven loved playing football and being outside. He also spent a great deal of time hunting and as a result grew up learning about gun safety; he even had a hunter’s safety certification from the Conservation Department. In Breckenridge, Missouri—a town of just 450 people—hunting safety is an important part of the middle school’s agricultural curriculum. Steven’s father didn’t know how his son got the gun from a locked cabinet that was in their living room.^{10,11}

What the NRA Doesn't Want You to Know

The National Rifle Association (NRA) has blocked federal funding for gun violence prevention research since 1996, preventing us from knowing what works to prevent gun injuries and fatalities. In 1996, alarmed by the potential impact of recent public health research indicating that guns in the home were associated with higher rates of homicide and suicide, the NRA convinced lawmakers to prohibit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from spending any funds to advocate or promote gun control and to cut the agency's funding by the exact amount that had been provided the previous year to study the prevention of gun injuries and fatalities.¹ Although the CDC had not been advocating or promoting gun control, these changes had the effect of reducing by 95 percent the agency's funding of gun injury prevention research. In 2011, the NRA did the same thing for National Institutes of Health funding. As a result, we now know far less than we need to about what works to prevent the more than 30,000 gun deaths and 70,000 gun injuries that occur every year. In the wake of the Newtown tragedy, President Obama signed an executive order clarifying that the CDC and NIH are not prohibited from studying gun violence and included \$10 million in funding to study the prevention of gun injuries and fatalities in his FY2014 budget request.

The NRA has actively prevented enforcement of current gun safety laws. While the NRA says they support enforcing gun laws, the truth is the organization has done all it can to make it more difficult for federal agencies and local law enforcement to hold criminal gun dealers and traffickers accountable.² Working with its allies in Congress, the NRA has succeeded in:

- preventing law enforcement from using gun trace data—data linking crime guns to the retailers that first sold them—in some legal proceedings;
- prohibiting the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) from requiring dealers to keep inventories of their stock of weapons;
- banning ATF's electronic storage of gun sales records, thereby preventing efficient analysis of data to find suspicious patterns and identify the sources of crime guns;
- limiting the resources and operating flexibility of the ATF; and
- banning the disclosure of gun trace data to the public, including researchers.

As a result the ATF, which is responsible for ensuring guns are not sold to prohibited buyers, is unable to efficiently and properly enforce gun laws, and local law enforcement entities face unnecessary hurdles when trying to limit crime guns in their jurisdictions.

The NRA represents a small minority of gun owners. The NRA claims nearly five million members.³ Based on surveys showing somewhere between 22⁴ and 29⁵ percent of American adults owning guns, there are an estimated 52 to 68 million gun owners in the country.⁶ This means that the NRA only represents between 7 and 9 percent of American gun owners. This may explain why the NRA's positions are often at odds with those of the majority of gun owners.

The NRA's position on universal background checks is out of sync with that of its members. Polling data show that 85 percent of gun owners⁷ and 74 percent of NRA members support universal background checks,⁸ a policy position that the NRA vehemently opposes and worked hard to defeat in the Senate in April 2013. The NRA recently claimed that its members did not support background checks.⁹ However, the evidence the NRA used to support this claim in fact referred to completely different policies: the establishment of a national gun database, federal gun registration, and a ban on the sale of guns between private citizens.¹⁰

What the NRA Doesn't Want You to Know

The NRA flagrantly misrepresented the bipartisan Manchin-Toomey background check amendment that came up for a vote in the Senate in April 2013. In May 1999 in testimony before the House Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on Crime, Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President of the NRA said, “We think it’s reasonable to provide mandatory instant criminal background checks for every sale at every gun show. No loopholes anywhere for anyone.” Fourteen years later, in order to defeat a bipartisan bill that would have instituted instant background checks for all sales at gun shows and on the internet, the NRA resorted to distorting the facts and stoking crude fears by saying:

“This so-called universal background check that you’re hearing about is aimed at one thing: it’s aimed at registering your guns and, when another tragic opportunity presents itself, that registry will be used to confiscate your guns.”

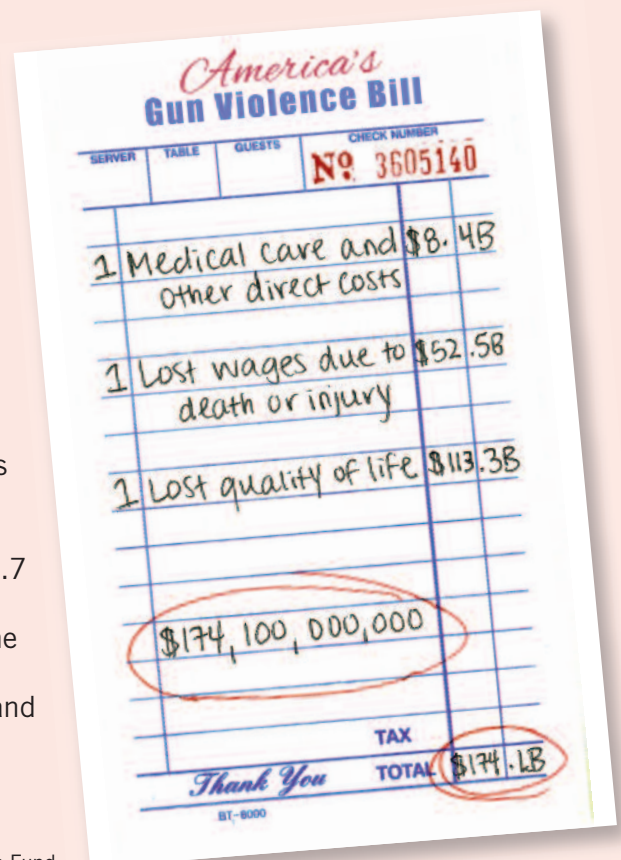
—Wayne LaPierre, February, 2013

LaPierre continued to push this misinformation throughout the Senate debate. The truth is the Manchin-Toomey compromise amendment explicitly banned the creation of a gun registry and created a new penalty for misusing records to create a registry—a felony punishable by 15 years in prison. Sadly these distortions were successful in defeating a bill that had the support of 90 percent of Americans and a majority of the Senators.

The Nation's Gun Violence Bill

A 2012 analysis by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation found that the 31,672 gun deaths and the 73,505 nonfatal gun injuries in 2010 (among people of all ages) cost our country \$8.4 billion in medical and mental health care, emergency services, and administrative and criminal justice costs.¹ In addition, those killed or injured and their families and employers lost an estimated \$52.5 billion in forgone wages and productivity. One-fifth of this combined \$60.8 billion cost was borne by local, state and federal governments. The economic value of the pain, suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life among those shot and their families was valued at an additional \$113.3 billion. The total cost of \$174.1 billion is a little over 1 percent of our nation’s gross domestic product and an average of \$1.7 million in one year for each individual shot. And even this number is an underestimate. It does not count the larger toll and economic impact of gun violence on entire communities, including lower housing values and lost property tax revenue.

¹Miller, T. 2012. “The Cost of Gun Violence.” Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. <http://www.pire.org/more.asp?cms=963> <<http://www.pire.org/more.asp?cms=963>>. Calculations by Children’s Defense Fund.



Progress Since the Newtown Massacre

The tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut on December 14, 2012 horrified the nation and spurred a national debate about ways to protect children and communities from gun violence. New grassroots organizations have sprung up to give voice to the majority of Americans who want stronger protections from gun violence, and existing organizations have redoubled efforts. President Obama has begun implementing a comprehensive national agenda to prevent gun violence, several states have passed landmark new gun laws, and Congress voted on gun legislation for the first time since 2004. It remains to be seen whether Congress will honor the will of the public and pass universal background checks and other gun safety measures.



Our condolences to the families and community of Newtown,
and to the families and communities of the thousands
of children and teens killed by gun violence.

Progress Since the Newtown Massacre

Shift in Public Opinion and Strong Public Support for Improved Gun Violence Prevention Laws

In a January 2013 Washington Post-ABC News poll, over half of respondents (52 percent) said they were more likely to support “some forms of gun control” as a result of the Newtown shootings. Polls tracking public opinion before and after the Newtown tragedy found an increase in support for stricter gun safety laws after December 14, 2012.

At a time when Americans rarely agree on anything, an astounding 8 in 10 Americans support expanding background checks to cover private sales, including on the internet and at gun shows.¹ This includes almost three-quarters of those in National Rifle Association (NRA) member households (74 percent)² and more than four out of five gun owners (79 percent of Republican and 90 percent of Democratic gun owners).³ A majority of Americans (56 percent) also support banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.⁴ The American people want change.

President Obama Launched Plan to Reduce Gun Violence in America

The afternoon of the Newtown shooting, President Obama addressed the nation and promised to take meaningful action to protect children and communities from gun violence. Within a week, Vice President Joe Biden was appointed to lead an inter-agency gun taskforce that worked with outside organizations and experts, victims of gun violence, gun advocates and government officials to develop policy recommendations to reduce gun violence.

On January 16, 2013, President Obama released the Administration’s plan to reduce gun violence through a list of executive orders and a call for legislative action based on the policy recommendations put forth by the Biden taskforce.⁵ A number of the executive initiatives have been implemented. The President’s plan focused on four common sense actions to address gun violence:

■ Closing Background Check Loopholes to Keep Guns Out of Dangerous Hands

In an effort to keep guns from those who would commit acts of violence, the Administration proposed requiring background checks for all gun sales. The plan also strengthened the National Instant Criminal Background Check System by removing barriers to and creating incentives for the sharing of relevant state and federal data.

■ Banning Military-Style Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines, and Taking Other Common Sense Steps to Reduce Gun Violence

The President called for reinstating and strengthening the 1994 federal assault weapons ban banning ammunitions magazines holding more than 10 rounds and armor-piercing bullets. The President also called for increasing punishments for gun trafficking and improving law enforcement’s capacity and authority to enforce gun laws and directed federal agencies to resume gun violence prevention research.

■ Making Schools Safer

The President called for new and expanded resources and incentives for schools to invest in school safety, through personnel including school resource officers, school psychologists, social workers and counselors, and through school safety equipment, updated public safety plans and training “crisis intervention teams” to respond to students in crisis.

Progress Since the Newtown Massacre

■ Improving Mental Health Services

The President's plan takes steps to identify mental health issues early on and help individuals receive treatment. The Administration called on new initiatives to train teachers to detect and respond to mental illness in students and to make sure students are referred to treatment.

On January 29, 2013 **Hadiya Pendleton**, a 15-year-old majorette chosen to march in President Obama's Inauguration parade, was taking shelter from the rain under a canopy in a public park with a group of friends when she was shot and killed by a gun less than a mile from the President's Chicago home. As a sixth grader Hadiya had appeared in an anti-gang video to encourage other young people to avoid gang violence, saying, "It's your job as students to say 'no' to gangs and 'yes' to a great future." She could have meant a future like her own: as a high school sophomore, she was an honors student at a college preparatory school—doing everything right, with the world ahead of her. But all that changed because of a gun. Hadiya was one of three deaths and eight injuries from guns that day in Chicago.^{12,13,14}



Groups to Reduce Gun Violence Formed Since the Newtown Tragedy

In the wake of the December 14, 2012 shooting, several new organizations dedicated to reducing gun violence emerged at both the local and national level. **Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** (also known as Moms Demand Action; formerly One Million Moms for Gun Control) was created by an Indiana mom. It now consists of nearly 100 local chapters and over 100,000 members throughout the United States. In addition to pushing for legislative action regarding common sense gun reforms, Moms Demand Action sponsors a corporate responsibility campaign urging American consumers, particularly mothers, to support companies that have "gun sense" and put pressure on those that do not to change their policies. Founded and sustained by members of the Newtown community, **Sandy Hook Promise** strives to help those affected directly by the Sandy Hook shooting, and also facilitates straightforward dialogue among Newtown community members, state legislators, Congress, and the public about creating meaningful change. **Newtown Action Alliance** was founded by Newtown residents and advocates for both legislative and cultural changes that will reduce gun violence in the community, and has led several media campaigns in support of proposed national gun safety legislation.

Long-standing gun safety and violence prevention groups have renewed their efforts since Newtown. These include **Mayors Against Illegal Guns**, the **Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence**, the **Coalition to Stop Gun Violence**, and the **Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence**, among others. Mayors Against Illegal Guns has emerged as a leading counter-weight to the single-issue advocacy and spending power of the NRA. The Mayors' group advocated tirelessly for expanded background checks, including a \$12 million ad campaign in 13 states to influence moderate Senators. With the failure of the Manchin-Toomey background check proposal, the group has worked to exact political consequences on Senators

Progress Since the Newtown Massacre

who defied their constituents in voting against the bill. The group has announced that it will release a scorecard, assigning members a letter grade based on their gun policy votes.

The mission of the newly formed **Americans for Responsible Solutions (ARS)**, founded by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly on the second anniversary of the Congresswoman's near-fatal shooting, is to encourage elected officials to stand up for solutions to prevent gun violence and protect responsible gun ownership. ARS has over 350,000 members and as of May 2013 had raised \$11 million to fuel its efforts. In response to the Senate's failure to pass background check legislation, ARS sponsored radio ads that highlighted some Senators' votes against this legislation as a way to hold them accountable.

Faith Leaders Mobilized For Gun Safety

Since the Newtown tragedy, faith leaders and groups from across the religious spectrum have raised their voices in support of gun safety reform.⁶ On January 15, 2013, members of **Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence**, 47 national religious leaders, signed a letter urging Congress to support universal background checks, limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines, criminal prosecution for gun trafficking, and improved access to mental health services.⁷ On March 13, 4,000 clergy from around the nation joined Newtown clergy in urging the Senate Judiciary Committee to enact new gun safety measures, including an assault weapons ban.⁸ The National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. was one of many congregations throughout the nation that answered Faith United's call for a gun violence prevention Sabbath on March 16, 2013.⁹ On April 11, leading up to the vote in the Senate, faith-based social justice groups including **PICO National Network** and **Sojourners** hosted an interfaith prayer vigil in Washington, D.C. in front of a makeshift graveyard of crosses, stars of David, and other religious symbols marking the gun deaths that had occurred since December 14, 2012.¹⁰ Black clergy have launched the **African American Church Gun Control Coalition** to continue their fight against gun violence with an action plan of advocacy, education and legislative resources.

Progress at the State Level

A number of states have responded to the Newtown shooting and other mass shootings by taking common sense steps to protect children and adults from gun violence. This list represents some of the best examples of gun violence prevention legislation passed since Newtown.

- **In January, New York became the first state to pass comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation after the Newtown shooting.** The New York SAFE Act strengthened the state's assault weapons and large-capacity magazine restrictions, established universal background checks for gun purchases, required the safe storage of guns, and provided for the removal of guns from mentally ill individuals deemed by a professional to represent a likely threat to themselves or others.¹¹
- **Gun-friendly Colorado succeeded in strengthening its gun laws.** Colorado, which has experienced several gun massacres in the last two decades, took major steps toward preventing future gun violence in March by enacting bans on large-capacity magazines¹² and requiring criminal background checks for all gun sales.¹³

Progress Since the Newtown Massacre

- **Democrats and Republicans came together in Connecticut to enact common sense gun regulations.** Bipartisan legislation passed in Connecticut strengthened the state's assault weapons ban, banned large-capacity magazines, established universal background checks for gun purchases, and expanded safe storage requirements, among other provisions.¹⁴ Bipartisan support resulted in passage in May of legislation calling for a cross-agency plan to create a comprehensive and integrated mental health system that addresses the mental, emotional and behavioral health needs of all Connecticut children and families.
- **Maryland greatly strengthened its existing gun laws.** Maryland already had strong child access prevention requirements and universal background checks for handgun purchases; in May the state legislature took further steps to protect children from guns with a strong gun violence prevention package that included a fingerprinting and target training requirement for handgun buyers, as well as a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.¹⁵

Gun Safety Measures Received a Vote in Congress – the First in Nine Years

The United States Senate responded by developing a comprehensive set of gun violence prevention measures, which were debated and voted on in March and April. The measures included:

- A bipartisan background check compromise provision drafted by Senators Joe Manchin (D-WV) and Pat Toomey (R-PA), which would require background checks on gun sales over the Internet and at gun shows, thereby partially closing the private sales loophole that currently allows anyone to buy a gun without a background check through a private seller.
- A ban on the future production, importation, sale, transfer, or possession of assault weapons, championed by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).
- A ban on the future production, importation, sale, transfer, or possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT). This provision would have authorized funding for the buyback of assault weapons and large-capacity clips.
- Increased funding for mental health programs. This provision was sponsored by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA).
- Increased funding for school safety measures.
- A provision that would make straw purchasing of guns a federal crime, subject to harsher punishments.

Ultimately the heart of the bill, the Manchin-Toomey background check compromise fell five votes short of the 60 votes needed to pass, and the legislative effort was shelved for the time being. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid changed his vote to “no,” so the legislation could be brought up for a vote again in the summer or fall of 2013.

Federal Policy Hall of Shame

On April 17, 2013—barely four months after the Newtown massacre—the United States Senate shamefully put political calculations over the will of the American people. The Senate voted down a package of common sense gun violence prevention measures designed to help prevent future tragedies and the everyday gun violence that saturates the lives of children in America. Despite the support of the majority of Americans and the majority of Senators, the Senate failed to pass a new requirement for background checks. The Senate also defeated a ban of certain kinds of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Public Support and Senate Vote Tallies for Selected Gun Violence Prevention Measures Considered by the U.S. Senate in April 2013

Proposed Measure	Percent of American Public Supporting (April 11-14)	Final Senate Vote (Needed 60 votes to pass*)
Background Checks at Gun Shows and Online	86%	55 Yes – 45 No** Failed
Assault Weapons Ban	56%	40 Yes – 60 No Failed
High-Capacity Magazines Ban	56%	46 Yes – 54 No Failed

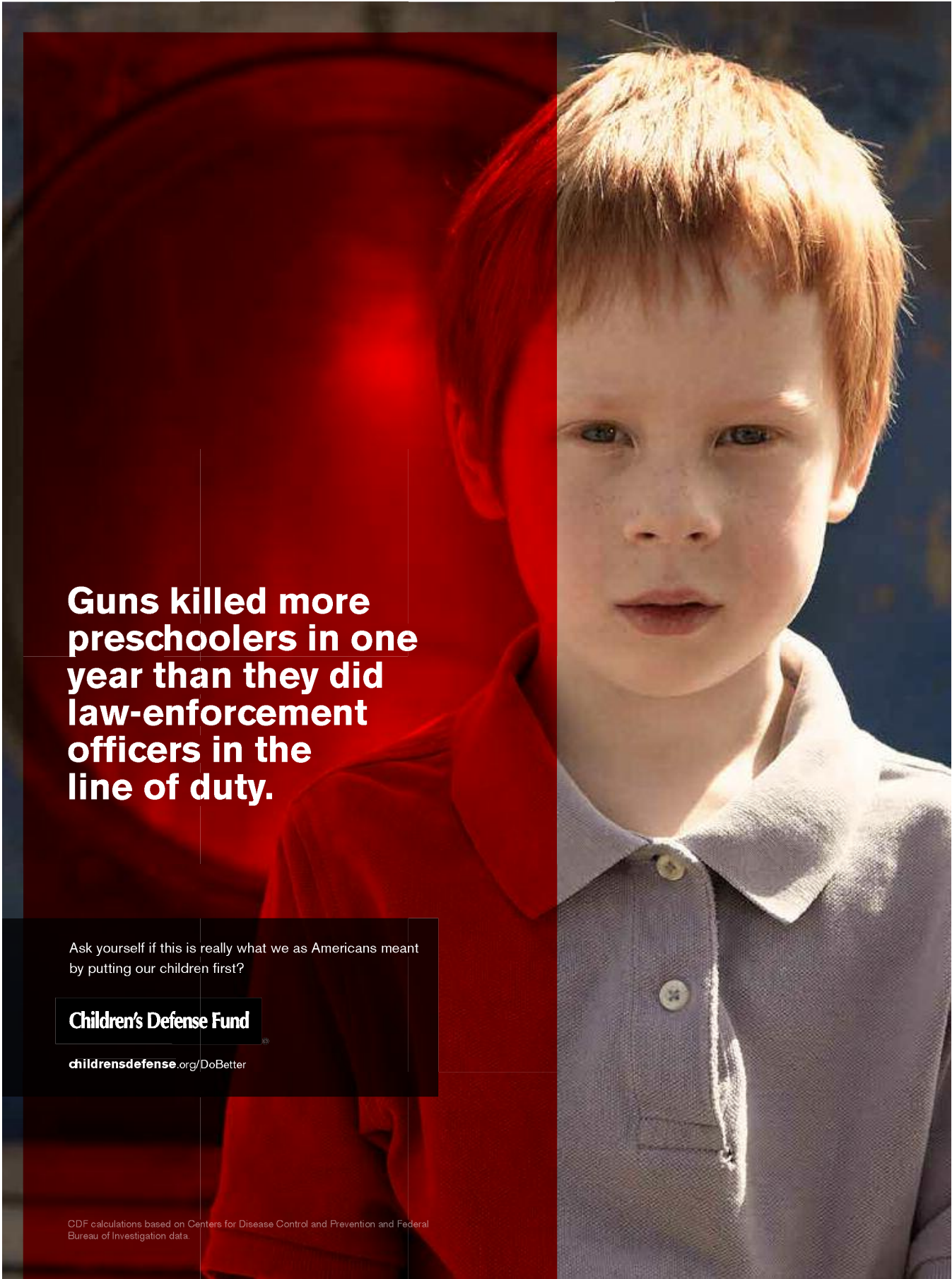
* To avoid the threat of filibusters, the Democrats and Republicans agreed that all amendments to the gun violence prevention package would need 60 votes for passage.

** Senate Majority Leader Reid voted “Yes” and then changed his vote to “No” so he could bring the legislation up again in the summer or fall 2013. The recorded Senate vote for this amendment is 54 Yes – 46 No.

Source: The Washington Post, 2013, “April 2013 Post-ABC Poll – Economy, Gun Control, and Immigration Issues,” Nationwide ban on the sale of assault weapons, nationwide ban on high-capacity ammunition clips, and law requiring background checks on people buying guns at gun shows or online. http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/polling/april-2013-postabc-poll-economy-gun/2013/05/04/e156bdee-a681-11e2-9e1c-bb0fb0c2edd9_page.html

This Senate vote was made even more shameful by the fact that several proposals to *weaken* existing gun violence prevention measures received more ‘Yes’ votes than the background checks provision. They included a concealed carry reciprocity proposal and a provision to prevent veterans who are mentally incapacitated from losing their right to own a gun without a court hearing. However, none of them received the required 60 votes.

In addition to public votes like these, certain members of Congress have worked for years behind the scenes with the NRA and other pro-gun groups to use the appropriations process to weaken enforcement of gun laws and limit research into the prevention of gun deaths and injuries. In March 2013, just three months after the Newtown shooting, Congress continued this shameful process by including provisions in the fiscal year 2013 continuing resolution that limit the use of gun trace data in certain legal proceedings, prohibit the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) from requiring gun dealers to inventory their stocks, limit the operational flexibility and efficiency of the ATF, and limit the ability of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health to research ways to prevent gun injuries and fatalities.¹



Guns killed more preschoolers in one year than they did law-enforcement officers in the line of duty.

Ask yourself if this is really what we as Americans meant by putting our children first?

Children's Defense Fund

childrensdefense.org/DoBetter

CDF calculations based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Federal Bureau of Investigation data.

Child and Teen Gun Deaths

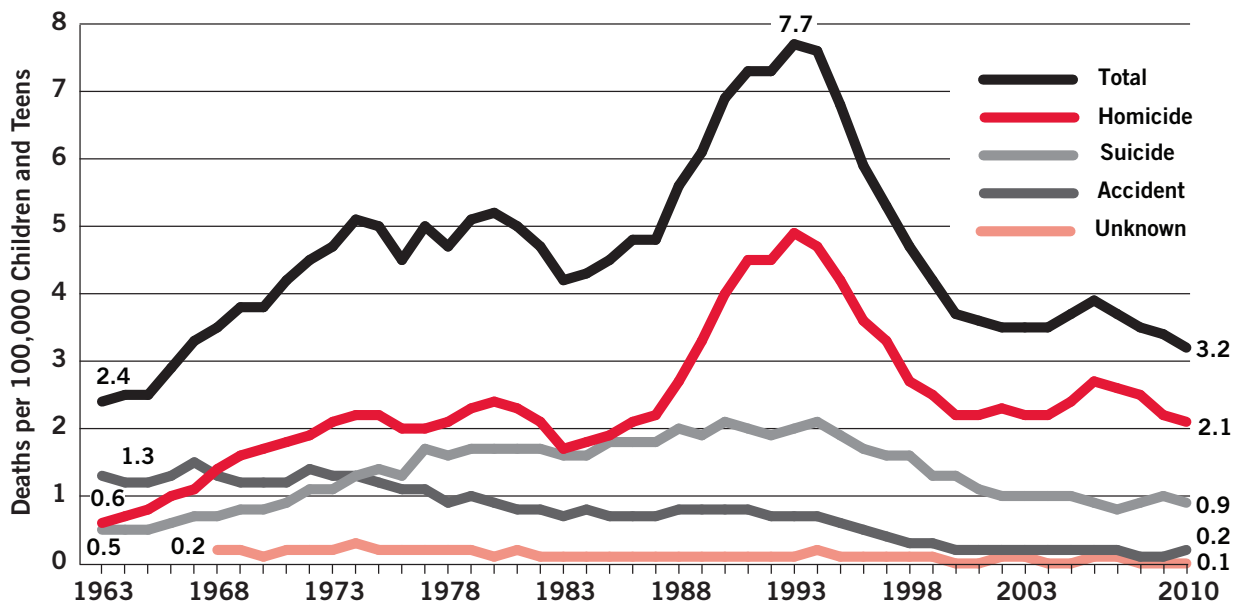
2,694 children and teens died from guns in the United States in 2010.

- This means:
 - 1 child or teen died every 3 hours and 15 minutes.
 - 7 children and teens died every day, more than 20 every three days.
 - 51 children and teens died every week or five classrooms of 20 died every two weeks.

Even though total gun deaths dropped in 2010 for the fourth consecutive year, gun death rates remained higher than in the early 1960s.

- In 2010, the rate of gun deaths in children and teens was 30 percent higher than in 1963, when data were first collected from all states.
- Gun deaths in children and teens dropped 4 percent from 2009 to 2010, which meant 99 fewer children and teens were killed by guns. Both homicide and suicide gun deaths decreased in 2010: homicide deaths dropped 4 percent, from 1,855 to 1,773, and suicide deaths dropped 6 percent, from 800 to 749. In contrast accidental deaths increased 18 percent, from 114 to 134 deaths.
- While gun homicide rates in children and teens have decreased in recent years, rates in 2010 remained more than three times higher than in 1963. Suicide rates in 2010 were nearly double what they had been in 1963.

Rates of Gun Deaths in Children and Teens, by Manner, 1963–2010



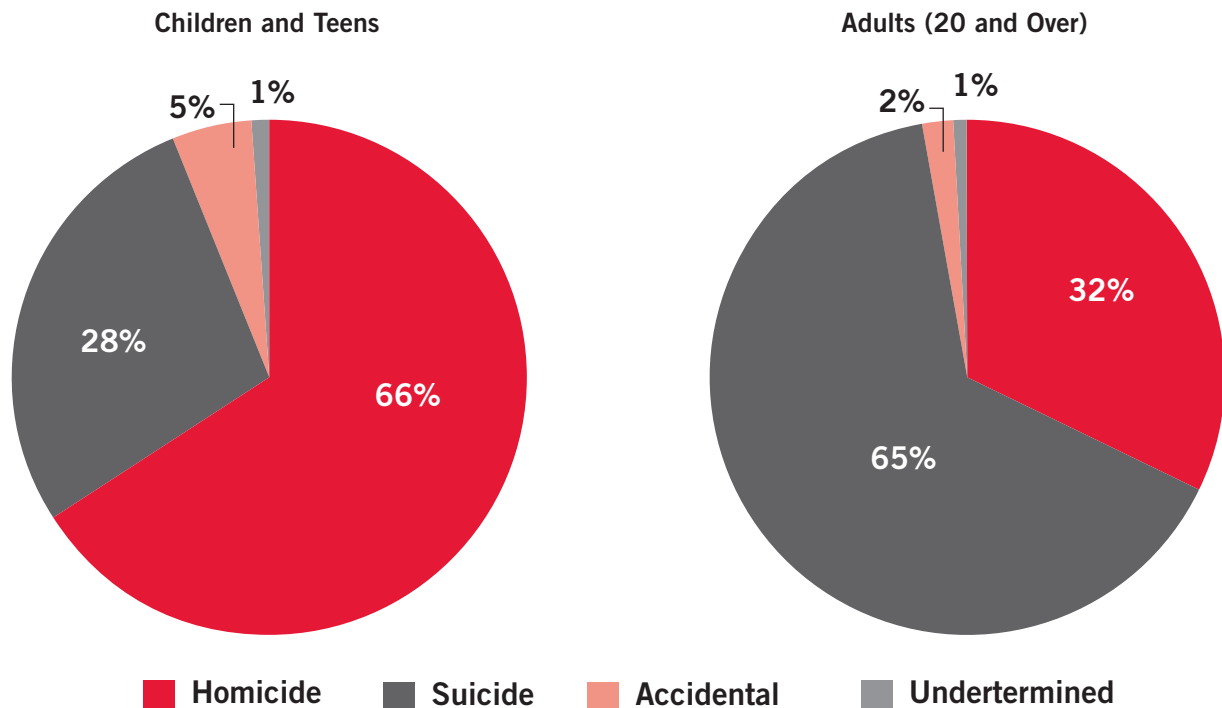
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund. Rates prior to 1979 include a very small number of deaths from explosives (estimated to be less than 0.1 percent of deaths.) Rates of unknown/undetermined intent are not available as a separate category prior to 1968.

Child and Teen Gun Deaths

Children and teen gun deaths are most likely to be homicides, in contrast to adult gun deaths which are most likely to be suicides.

- In 2010, there were 1,773 homicide gun deaths among children and teens, 749 suicide gun deaths, 134 accidental gun deaths, and 38 deaths of undetermined intent.
- Two out of three child and teen gun deaths in 2010 were homicides and a little over one out of four were suicides. In contrast, among adults two out of three deaths were suicides, and one out of three was a homicide.

Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens and Among Adults 20 and Over, by Manner, 2010



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Since 1963, three times more children and teens died from guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers were killed in action in wars abroad. An estimated 166,500 children and teens have died from guns since 1963.

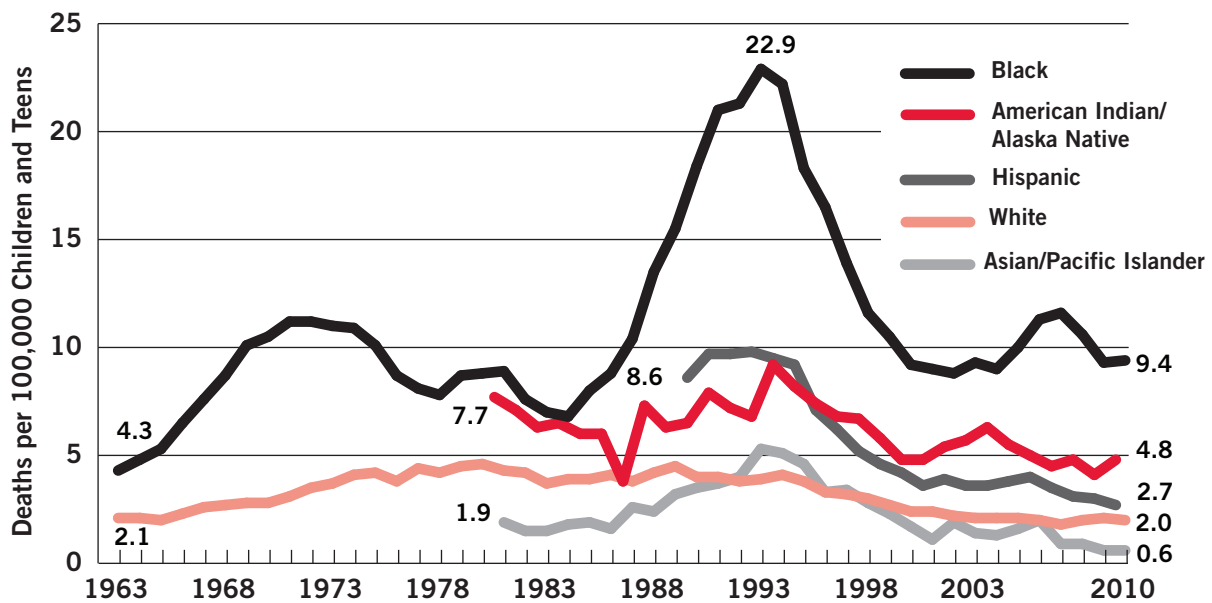
- Between 1963 and 2010, an estimated 166,500 children and teens died from guns on American soil, while 52,183 U.S. soldiers were killed in action in the Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars combined during that same time period.¹
- On average 3,470 children and teens every year were killed by guns during this period—the equivalent of 174 classrooms of 20 children every year.

Child and Teen Gun Deaths

Gun violence affects children of all races although Black children and teens are most at risk.

- Since data collection began in 1963, Black children and teens have consistently suffered from the highest rates of gun deaths.
- While Black children and teens have experienced the highest rates of gun deaths, the largest number of deaths has been among White children and teens. Out of an estimated 166,600 deaths, 53 percent were among White children and teens, and 36 percent were among Blacks the same age.
- Rates of gun deaths soared in the late 1980s and early 1990s among Black children and teens, and to a lesser degree among their Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic counterparts.
- In 2010, gun death rates among Black children and teens remained higher than in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and nearly twice as high as rates in the other race and ethnic groups. Gun death rates in 2010 were at their lowest recorded level for Asian/Pacific Islander and for Hispanic children and teens, and near the lowest recorded level for White and for American Indian/Alaska Native children and teens.

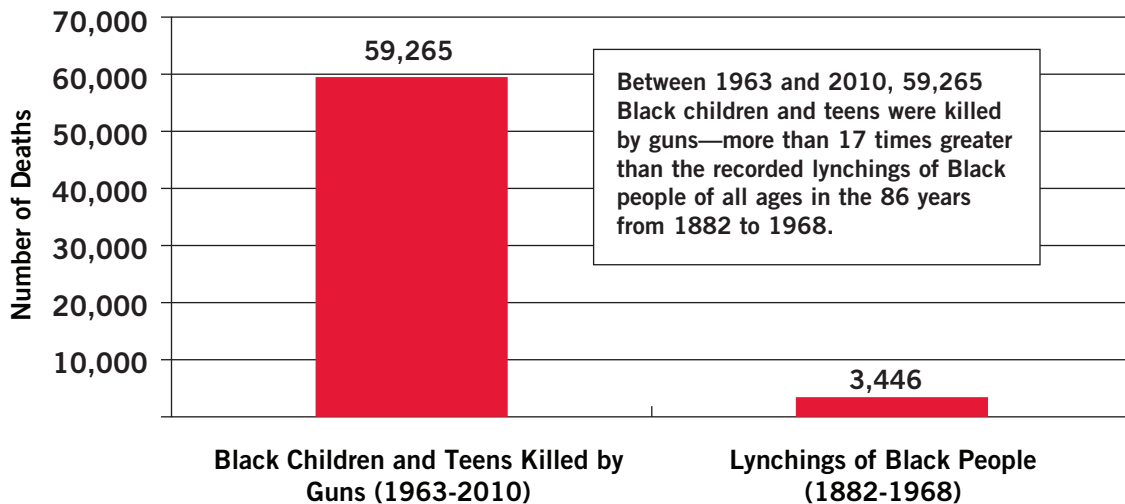
Rates of Gun Deaths Among Children and Teens, by Race/Ethnicity, 1963–2010



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund. Data for American Indians/Alaska Natives and Asians/Pacific Islanders are not available prior to 1981, and for Hispanics prior to 1990. Starting in 1990 the rates for Whites, Blacks, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Asians/Pacific Islanders exclude Hispanics. Rates prior to 1979 include a very small number of deaths from explosives (estimated to be fewer than 50 deaths.)

Child and Teen Gun Deaths

Black Children and Teens Killed by Guns from 1963–2010 and the Recorded Lynchings of Black People of All Ages in America from 1882–1968



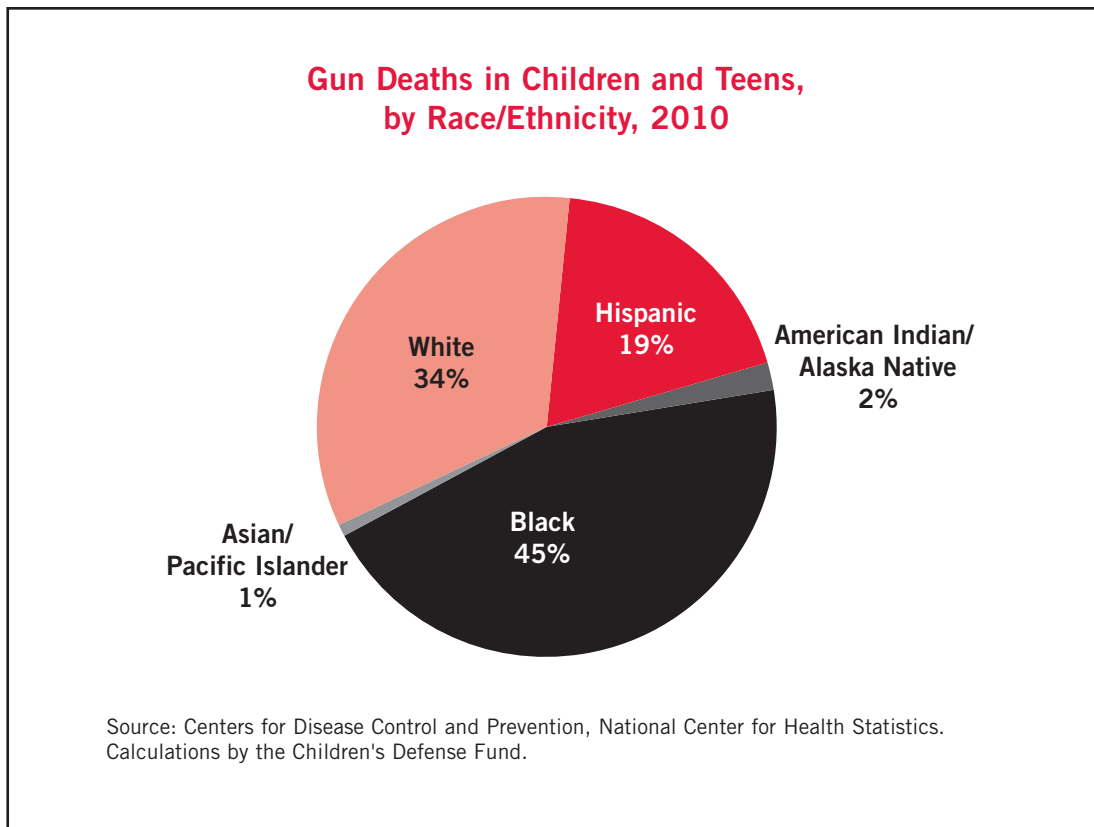
Note: Gun death numbers exclude Hispanics from 1990-2010, and include a very small number of deaths from explosives from 1963-1978 (estimated to be fewer than 20 deaths.)

Sources: Gun deaths: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Lynchings: Archives at Tuskegee Institute, "Lynchings: By Year and Race, 1882-1968."

- In 2010, gun deaths claimed the lives of 2,694 children and teens: 1,205 were Black, 909 White, 512 Hispanic, 41 American Indian or Alaska Native, and 27 Asian or Pacific Islander.
- Although Black children and teens were only 15 percent of American children and teens in 2010, they were 45 percent of child and teen gun deaths.
- Black children and teens had the highest rate of gun deaths per capita, 9.4 deaths per 100,000 Black children and teens. This was 4.7 times higher than the rate for White children and teens, who had the second lowest rate of death after Asians or Pacific Islanders. American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens were also at increased risk of gun violence, with a rate of gun deaths that was 2.4 times higher than among their White peers.
- Black children and teens were at increased risk of dying from a gun due to high gun homicide rates. Black children and teens were 17 times more likely to die from a gun homicide than White children and teens and 24 times more likely than their Asian or Pacific Islander peers.
- American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens had the highest rate of gun suicides, 8.5 times higher than Asian or Pacific Islander children and teens and nearly twice as high as White children and teens.
- Asian or Pacific Islander children and teens had the lowest rates of all types of gun deaths.

For more details about gun deaths by race and ethnicity and manner of death see the Appendix.

Child and Teen Gun Deaths



The majority of gun deaths occur in boys.

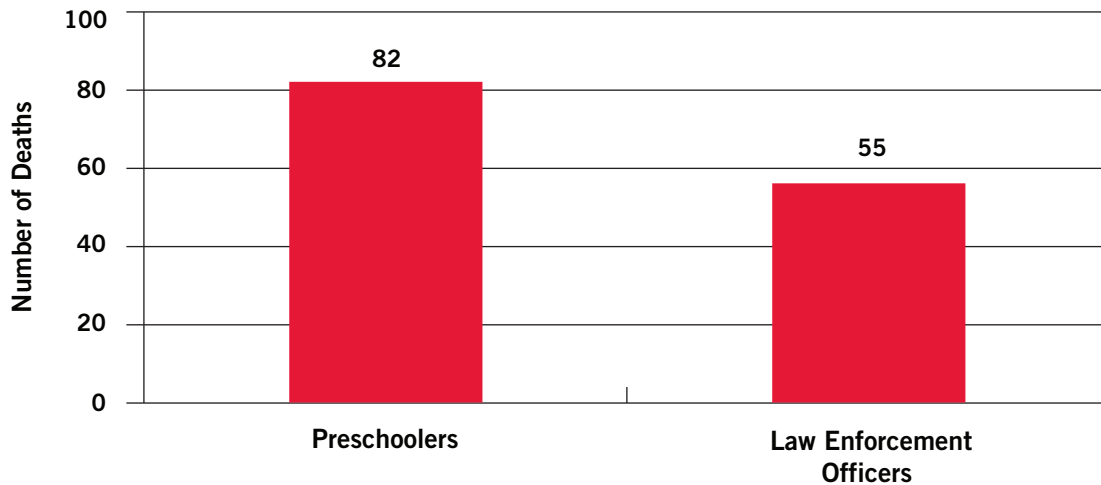
- Eighty-seven percent of gun deaths occurred in boys, and 13 percent in girls in 2010.
- Boys were nearly seven times more likely to be killed by gunfire than girls.
- Boys had higher death rates for all types of gun deaths. They were eight times more likely than girls to die in a gun suicide, six times more likely to die in a gun homicide, and five times more likely to die a gun accident.

Older teenagers are most at risk from gun violence.

- Eighty-six percent of gun deaths in 2010 occurred in 15-19 year-olds, 8 percent among 10-14 year-olds, and 3 percent each in 5-9 year-olds and children under age 5. But more children under 5 were killed by guns than law enforcement officers were killed by guns in the line of duty.
- The manner of gun deaths differs according to the age of the victim. While homicides were the most common manner of gun death for all age groups, gun suicides rarely occurred in children under 10, and gun accidents were most prevalent in younger children.
- Black males ages 15-19 were nearly 30 times more likely to die in a gun homicide than White males and more than three times more likely to die in a gun homicide than Hispanic males of the same age.

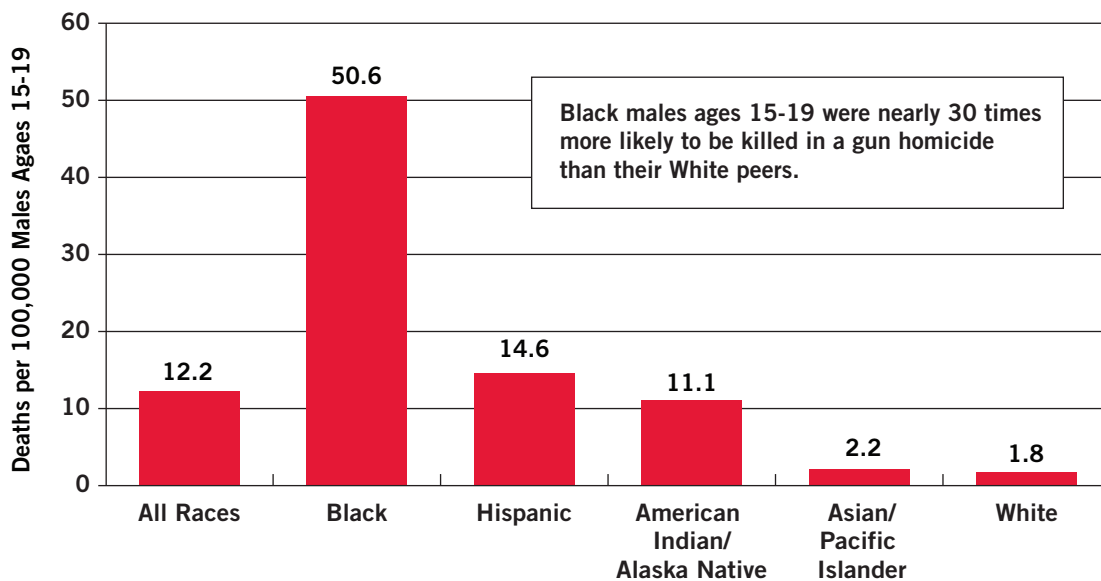
Child and Teen Gun Deaths

Preschoolers and Law Enforcement Officers Killed by Guns, 2010



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund; Law enforcement deaths (includes felonious and accidental deaths by firearms): Federal Bureau of Investigation, Tables 28 and 64. <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/leoka-2010>. Excludes Puerto Rico. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Homicide Gun Death Rates Among Males 15-19, by Race/Ethnicity, 2010

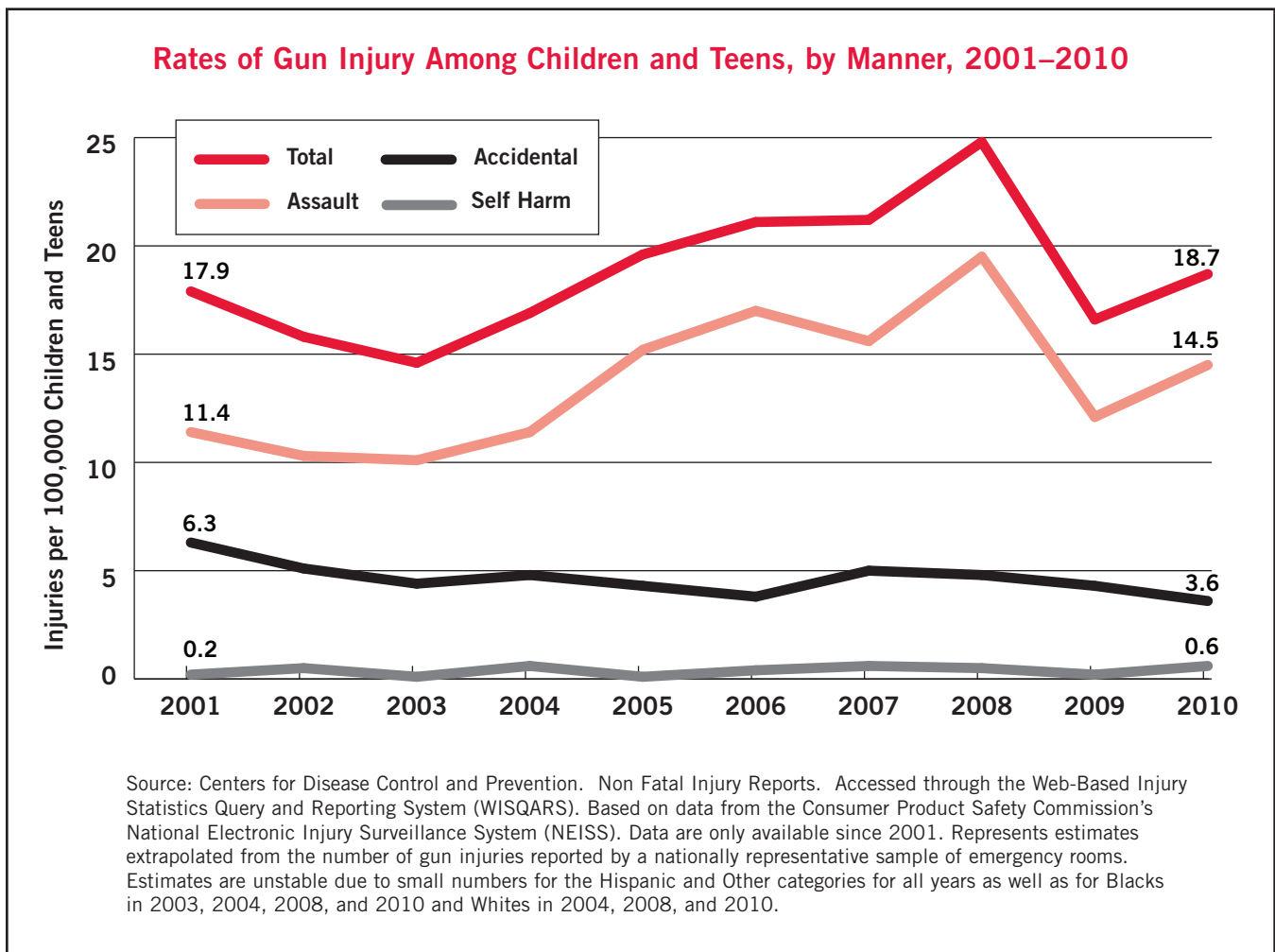


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund. Black, White, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Asian/Pacific Islander categories exclude Hispanics.

Child and Teen Gun Injuries

15,576 children and teens were injured by guns in 2010.*

- This means:
 - **1** child or teen was injured every 34 minutes.
 - **43** children and teens were injured every day.
 - **300** children and teens were injured every week.
- The estimated number of children and teens injured by guns in 2010 increased by 13 percent, with 1,785 more injuries than the year before, bringing the number of injuries up to the level last seen in 2005.
- Assault and self-harm injuries increased in 2010, while accidental injuries decreased.
- Seventy-eight percent of all gun injuries for children and teens in 2010 were the result of assaults (12,077 injuries), 19 percent were accidental (3,019) and three percent were self-inflicted (480).**

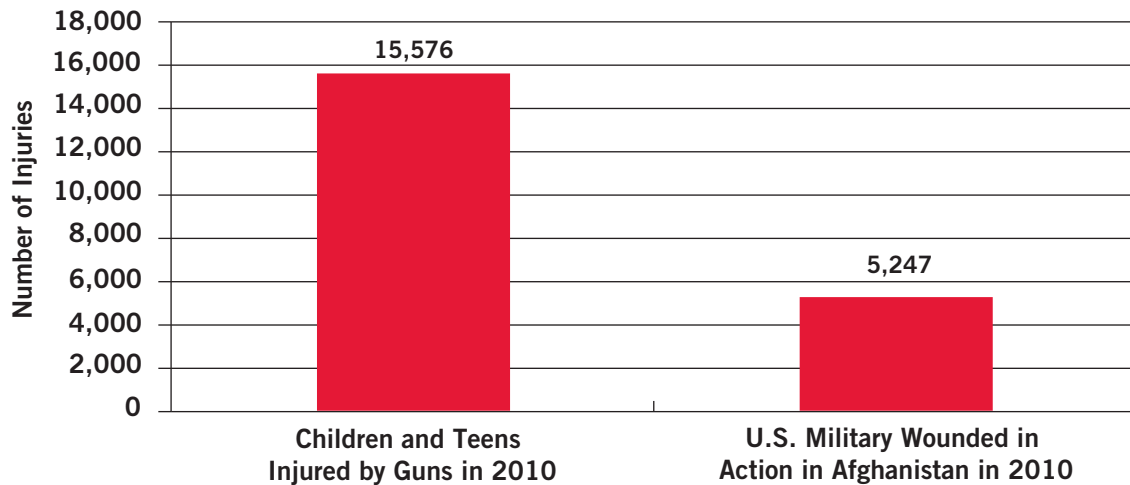


* This number is an estimate extrapolated from the number of gun injuries reported by a nationally representative sample of emergency rooms.

** Estimates of self-harm injuries are unstable due to small numbers.

Child and Teen Gun Injuries

Three Times More Children and Teens Injured by Guns in 2010 than the Number of U.S. Soldiers Wounded in Action that Year in the War in Afghanistan.



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Non Fatal Injury Reports. Accessed through the Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS); U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Casualty Analysis System, accessed at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml>.

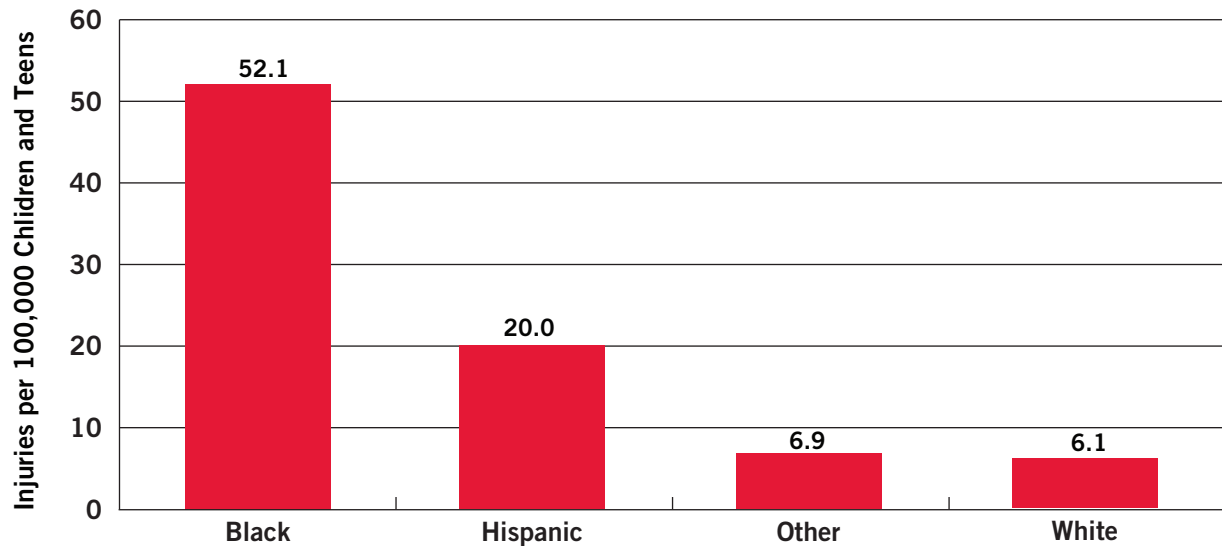
Children of color continue to be disproportionately affected by gun violence, with Black children and teens most at risk for being injured by a gun.

- In 2010, an estimated 7,232 Black, 3,571 Hispanic, and 2,839 White children and teens were injured by guns.***
- The rate of gun injuries increased slightly for children and teens in all race and ethnic groups between 2009 and 2010.
- In 2010, 46 percent of gun injuries were among Black, 23 percent among Hispanic, and 18 percent among White children and teens.
- Slightly more than half of assault gun injuries occurred in Black, and over a quarter were in Hispanic children and teens. Nearly all self-inflicted gun injuries were in White children and teens, as were over half of all accidental injuries.
- Black children and teens were eight-and-a-half times more likely than their White peers and two-and-a-half times more likely than their Hispanic peers to be injured by a gun. Hispanic children and teens were over three times more likely to be injured by a gun than their White peers.
- A Black was nearly 32 times more likely to be injured by a gun during an assault than a White, and two-and-a-half times more likely than a Hispanic child or teen.

*** Another 1,584 children and teens whose race and ethnicity was "not stated" and another 349 whose race and ethnicity was categorized as "other non-Hispanic" were also estimated to be injured by guns.

Child and Teen Gun Injuries

Rates of Gun Injuries Among Children and Teens, by Race/Ethnicity, 2010



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Non Fatal Injury Reports. Accessed through the Web-Based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS). Based on data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Represents estimates extrapolated from the number of gun injuries reported by a nationally representative sample of emergency rooms. Estimates are unstable due to small numbers.

Older teens are most at risk for being injured by a gun.

- In 2010, the overwhelming majority of gun injuries happened to older teens, with 89 percent of gun injuries in teens ages 15-19.
- Seventy percent of gun injuries were assault injuries of teens ages 15-19. Sixteen percent of gun injuries were accidental gun injuries for teens ages 15-19.

Boys are more likely to be injured by a gun.

- Boys made up 88 percent of all gun injuries among ages 0-19 in 2010. They comprised 90 percent of gun assault injuries, 88 percent of accidental gun injuries and 76 percent of all self-inflicted gun injuries.
- Boys were more than seven times more likely to be injured by a gun than girls.

Ka’Nard Allen has been shot on two occasions in his 10-year-old life. The first time two bullets from a gun hit him in the leg and back of the neck at his 10th birthday party—another bullet fatally struck his 5-year-old cousin. The second time, a bullet from a gun grazed his right cheek almost a year later at a Mother’s Day parade, during which 18 other people were shot. Despite these attacks, Ka’Nard is moving forward through counseling, volunteering at his church, and dedication to the drums in hopes of joining a drill team.^{15,16,17}



**America's military
and law-enforcement
agencies have four
million guns.**

**Our citizens have
310 million.**

Every illegal gun on our nation's streets increases the odds that our children could be killed by gun violence.

Children's Defense Fund

childrensdefense.org/DoBetter

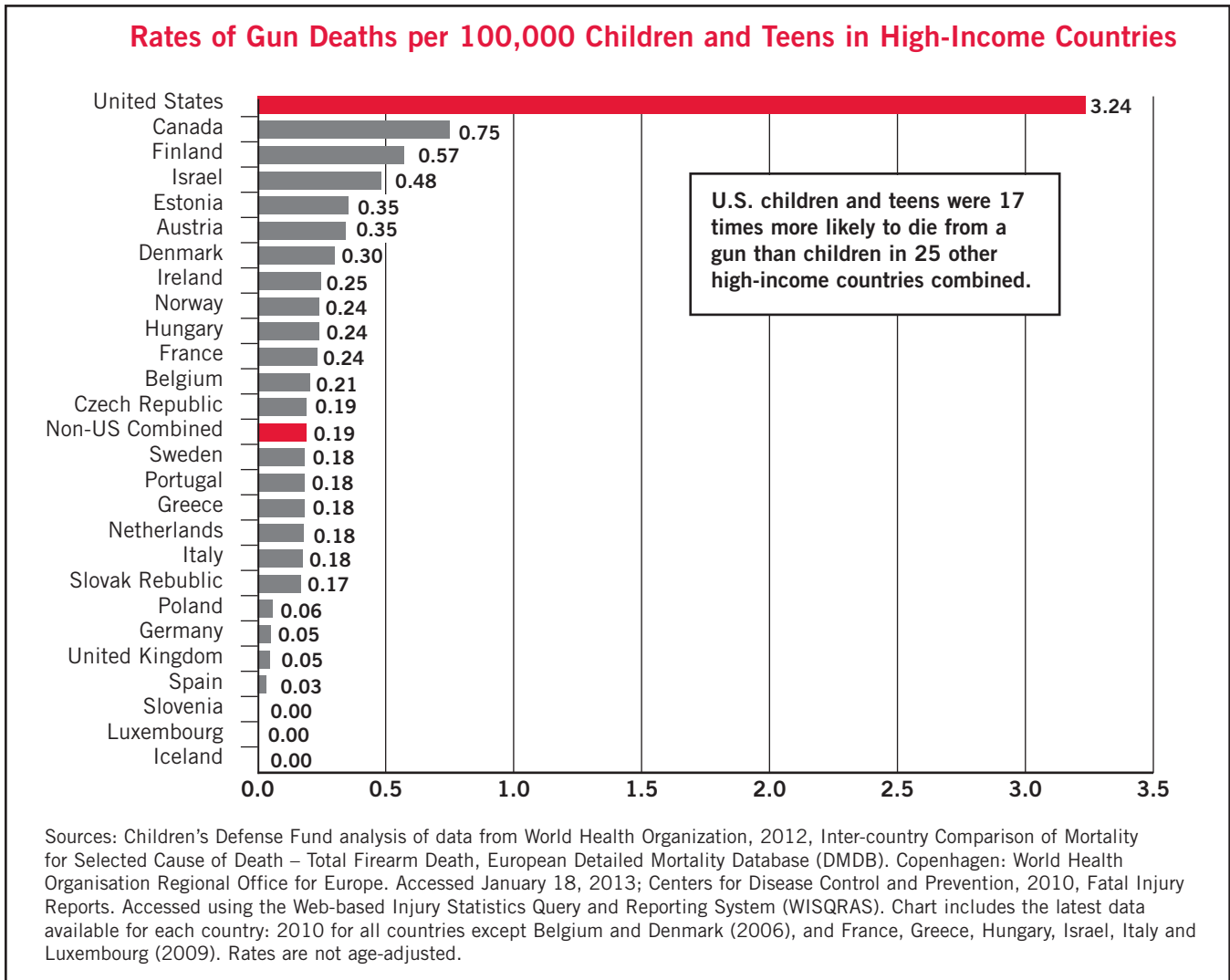
Small Arms Survey and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives data

International Gun Death Comparisons

U.S. children and teens are 17 times more likely to die from guns than their peers in other high-income countries combined. Is this what we mean by U.S. exceptionalism?

To put gun deaths of children and teens in the United States in context, CDF collected the most recent data on gun deaths in other high-income countries. Including the United States, data were available for 26 countries out of the 31 high-income members of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).^{*} These data reveal that U.S. children and teens die from guns at a much higher rate than in all other high-income countries for which recent data are readily available:

- Gun death rates for children and teens in the U.S. were over four times higher than in Canada, the country with the next highest rate, nearly seven times higher than in Israel, and nearly 65 times higher than in the United Kingdom.
- Children and teens in the U.S. were 17 times more likely to die from a gun than children and teens in the 25 other countries combined.

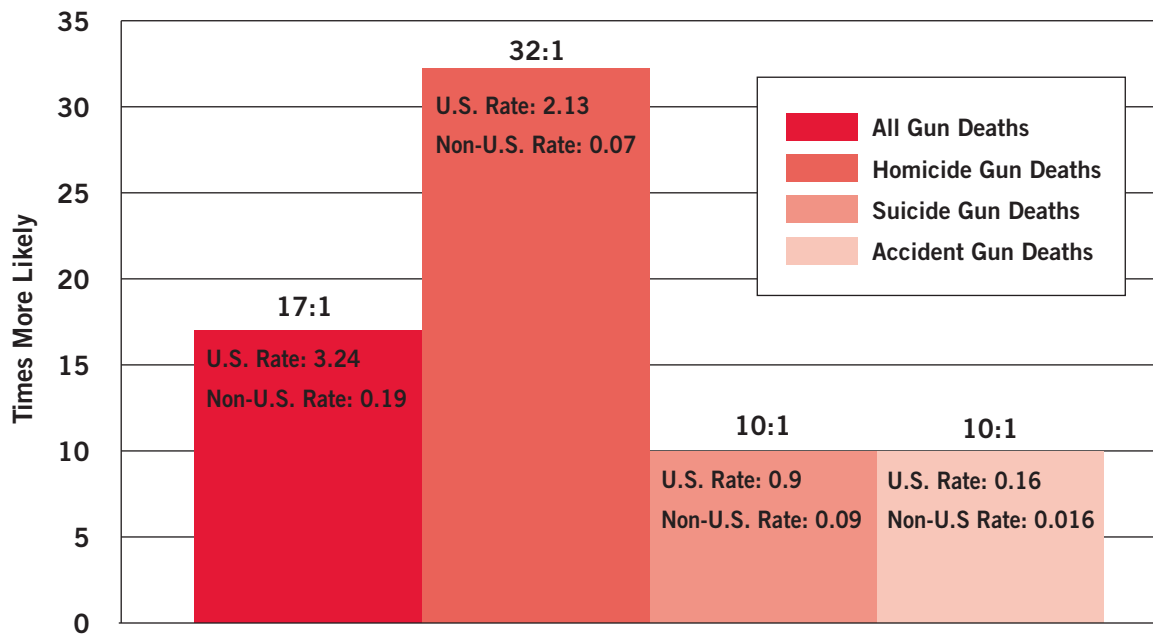


^{*} Data were not available for Australia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Switzerland.

International Gun Death Comparisons

- U.S. children and teens made up 43 percent of all children and teens in these 26 countries but were 93 percent of all children and teens killed by guns.
- Higher gun death rates in the U.S. were observed for all types of gun deaths (homicides, suicides and accidents) but were particularly pronounced for homicide deaths. U.S. children and teens were 32 times more likely than their peers in 24* other high-income countries combined to die from a gun homicide. They were also 10 times more likely to die from a gun suicide or a gun accident.
- Gun death rates among children ages 0-14 were 12 times higher in the U.S. compared to 25 other high-income countries combined: these children were 16 times more likely than their peers in other high-income countries to die from a gun accident, 15 times more likely to die from a gun homicide, and 10 times more likely to die from a gun suicide.**

Ratio of U.S. Child and Teen Gun Death Rates to Child and Teen Gun Death Rates in 25 Other High-Income Countries, by Manner of Death



Sources: Children's Defense Fund analysis of data from World Health Organization, 2012, Inter-country Comparison of Mortality for Selected Cause of Death – Total Firearm Death, European Detailed Mortality Database (DMDB). Copenhagen: World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe. Accessed January 18, 2013; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2010. Fatal Injury Reports. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQRAS). Chart includes the latest data available for each country: 2010 for most countries, except Belgium and Denmark (2006), and France, Hungary, Italy, Israel and Luxembourg (2009). Rates are not age-adjusted.

* Homicide gun data were not available for Iceland.

**Homicide gun data were not available for Iceland, and accident gun data were not available for Austria, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg and Slovenia.

International Gun Death Comparisons

The U.S. leads high-income countries in gun deaths for people of all ages.

- Among people of all ages, the gun death rate was nearly eight times higher in the United States. Nearly 82 percent of all gun deaths seen in the 26 countries were from the U.S., which is home to only 38 percent of the population in these countries.

Guns make the U.S. more violent than other high-income countries.

- Data on non-gun homicides and suicides show that guns play a particularly significant role in increasing U.S. homicide and suicide rates. Americans are 17 times more likely to die from a gun homicide than residents in the 24 other high-income countries combined, but only two-and-a-half-times more likely to die from a non-gun homicide.
- Americans are six times more likely to kill themselves with a gun, but they are 40 percent less likely than residents of other high-income countries to kill themselves by other means.

The U.S. leads industrialized nations in gun ownership and gun imports.

- The United States accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population, yet Americans own an estimated 35 to 50 percent of all civilian-owned guns in the world.¹ Of the estimated 8 million new guns manufactured annually across the world, about half (4.5 million) are purchased by Americans.² In a 2007 survey of 178 countries, the United States had the highest number of civilian guns, with a staggering 270 million guns.³ India had the second highest number—46 million—less than a fifth of the U.S. arsenal.
- Among the 178 countries, the United States was ranked number one in the number of guns per capita, with an average rate of 88.8 per 100 people—or nearly nine guns for every 10 people in America.⁴ Yemen took second place with 54.8 per 100 people. The United States and Yemen were the only two countries with a civilian gun ownership rate greater than 50 per 100 people.⁵

The Top Ten Countries by Civilian Gun Ownership Per 100 People, 2007

	Rank	Average Guns per 100 People
United States	1	88.8
Yemen	2	54.8
Switzerland	3	45.7
Finland	4	45.3
Serbia	5	37.8
Cyprus	6	36.4
Saudi Arabia	7	35.0
Iraq	8	34.2
Uruguay	9	31.8
Sweden	10	31.6

Source: Small Arms Survey 2007, Annexe 4. The largest civilian firearms arsenals for 178 countries. Available at <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/A-Yearbook/2007/en/Small-Arms-Survey-2007-Chapter-02-annexe-4-EN.pdf>

We Can Do Better: Action Steps

1. Urge your members of Congress to protect children from gun violence. Support common sense gun safety and gun violence prevention measures for the nation including:

- **Universal background checks.** The 1993 Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act requires federally-licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on every sale. But as many as 40 percent of guns purchased each year are purchased with no background check from private unlicensed gun sellers who are exempt from the background check requirement. More than 80 percent of Americans support expanding background checks to cover all or most gun sales.¹ Eight states have closed the private sales loophole by requiring universal background checks for all gun sales. The effectiveness of these laws is limited when criminals can easily buy guns in states without a universal background check requirement. A federal amendment adding a requirement for background checks for all sales on the internet and at gun shows failed by five votes in the Senate in April 2013. Two-thirds of Americans believe Congress did the wrong thing.² *Congress must require criminal background checks on anyone who attempts to purchase a gun regardless of where and from whom they buy it.*
- **Limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.** The federal Assault Weapons Ban signed into law in 1994 that banned the manufacture and sale of semi-automatic assault weapons with two or more military features and high-capacity ammunition magazines that contained more than 10 rounds of ammunition expired in 2004. Amendments that would have restored and strengthened both came up for a vote in March 2013, but failed in the Senate despite the support of the majority of Americans. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines were used in the mass shootings at Virginia Tech; Tucson, Arizona; Aurora, Colorado; and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut. *Congress must restore the ban on both high-capacity magazines and on assault weapons.*
- **Consumer safety standards, childproof safety features, and authorized-user identification technology 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.³ It is estimated that nearly 2 million children live in homes with an unlocked and loaded gun.⁴ Federal law is silent on gun-related consumer safety standards and child access prevention. In fact, the production and manufacture of guns is specifically 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.⁵ There is a bill currently introduced in the House of Representatives, H.R. 2005, the Personalized Handgun Safety Act, which would take a major step forward for gun safety by requiring handguns manufactured in the future to be fitted with personalization technology that would limit access only to an authorized user. *Congress must subject guns to the same consumer product safety regulations that cover virtually every other consumer product. Congress must require childproof safety features on all guns.*
- **Better services for children and families facing violence in their homes and communities and for children with unmet mental health needs.** Children exposed to violence in their families or communities suffer lifelong consequences. Better services for these children and their families, as well as for children with unmet mental health needs, are needed to address the

We Can Do Better: Action Steps

impact of violence on children and prevent violence in the future. Families need to have options other than calling the police when a child or adult is in need of mental health treatment. *Congress should restore and increase funds for the prevention and treatment of mental health problems in children and young adults, expand the reach of quality programs to address children's social and emotional needs in communities and schools, strengthen the capacity of publicly supported health programs for children to better address children's mental health needs, and fund initiatives to increase the number of well-trained child psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, school counselors and specialized community advocates.*

- **Public funding for gun violence prevention research and programs.** Since 1996, the NRA and its Congressional allies have succeeded in shutting down federally funded research on the prevention of gun injuries and fatalities. In 1996 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lost all funding for gun violence research.⁶ In 2011 the National Institutes of Health met the same fate. As a result, we know far less than we need to about what works to prevent the more than 100,000 gun fatalities and injuries that occur every year. *Congress must reinstate funding for gun violence prevention by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies.*
- **Resources and authority for the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and law enforcement agencies to properly enforce gun laws.** Since the 1970s, the NRA and its allies in Congress have made it considerably more difficult for federal agencies and local law enforcement to hold criminal gun dealers and traffickers accountable and keep illegal guns off the streets. Furthermore, the ATF has not had a permanent director since 2006. *Congress must stop hampering the ATF's work and give the ATF the resources and regulatory authority it needs to hold criminal gun dealers and traffickers accountable.*

2. Urge state and local governments to protect children from guns.

States have the authority to enact many laws that could protect children from gun violence. Since Newtown, four states have passed common sense gun safety reforms. Urge your state legislators and local officials to:

- **Support laws to prevent child access to guns,** such as requirements for locking devices, personalized gun technology and imposing criminal liability when guns are left unsecured or stored negligently. All guns should be childproof and kept secured from unsupervised children.
- **Support universal background checks.** In the absence of a federal universal background check requirement, eight states have enacted their own. A recent study found that states with background checks on private sales had 16 percent lower firearm fatality rates.⁷
- **Support limits on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition.** Seven states and the District of Columbia have passed laws limiting the sale and/or possession of assault weapons, and eight states and the District of Columbia have state laws limiting the sale and/or possession of large capacity ammunition magazines.
- **Oppose efforts to limit the ability of schools, physicians and others to do their part to keep children safe from guns.** For example, Florida attempted to prevent physicians from asking patients about guns in homes and safe storage practices.

We Can Do Better: Action Steps

- **Oppose laws allowing concealed weapons** on school grounds, in child care centers, in churches or other public venues where children gather.
- **Demand the repeal of “Stand Your Ground” laws** now in effect in 26 states that encourage a shoot first and ask questions later approach to confrontations.

3. Parents, remove guns from your home and be vigilant about where your children play.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates nearly 2 million children live in homes with loaded, unlocked guns.⁸ The presence of guns increases the risk of death. Most adolescent suicides involve a gun owned by a parent.⁹ 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.¹⁰ 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. Removing guns from the home and asking questions about guns in the homes of your children's friends are the best ways to protect your children from gun deaths.

4. Boycott products that glamorize violence.

Our culture frequently glamorizes guns and violence in movies, television, music, video games and on the internet. Many shows targeted at children have violent themes and language. The American Academy of Pediatrics has found that there is consistent scientific evidence that viewing entertainment violence can lead to increases in aggressive attitudes, values and behavior, particularly in children. 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.

5. Bring attention to the number of children killed and injured by gun violence and the truth about guns.

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 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. In the wake of the Newtown shooting, several new grassroots groups have formed to bring attention to this issue. 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, radio and television stations to publish stories and feature photographs of children and teens killed by guns in your community.** Get them to keep a running tally of young gun victims in 2013.

We Can Do Better: Action Steps

- **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.
- **Use our We Can Do Better social media tools** to bring attention to the impact of gun violence in your community: www.childrensdefense.org/DoBetter
- **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.** See page 54 in this report for the names of organizations that you can help to make a difference.

6. Offer parents, children and teens the resources, support, and tools to survive and work against the culture of violence.

- **Offer a safe refuge for children exposed to violence.** Recognize the negative impact violence can have not only on children who are direct victims or who have lost siblings or close friends to violence, but also on those who live in constant fear of gun violence in their communities. Schools, congregations, community mental health centers and other community resources should offer safe places after school and on the weekends for children and teens and also help them and their parents understand, confront and deal with the anger, fear and loss of control they feel.
- **Support non-violent conflict resolution in 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 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.
- **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.





**American companies
manufacture enough
bullets each year
to fire 31 rounds
into every one
of our citizens.**

How many more mass-murders will it take to get
Congress to pass sensible gun regulation?

Children's Defense Fund

childrensdefense.org/DoBetter

CDF calculations based on National Shooting Sports Foundation and U.S. Census data.

Selected Mass Shootings Involving Children in the Past 12 Months*

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

- **Louisville, KY • June 19, 2013** – A man shot and killed his 8-year-old daughter and her mother, while also wounding his mother during a domestic dispute before fatally shooting himself. The girl's mother, had a protective order against the shooter that also barred him from possessing a gun; it expired in February 2013.¹
- **Providence, RI • June 16, 2013** – A 12-year-old girl was shot in the back and killed while attending a graduation party. Three women, ages 23, 33, and 44, were also shot but survived their gunshot wounds. The shooter, wearing camouflage and a black mask, fled the area after opening fire.²
- **Chicago, IL • June 15, 2013** – Two male teens, ages 15 and 19, and a 23-year-old man were shot and injured, and had to be hospitalized in critical condition. During the same weekend (June 14-16) a total of nine people were killed and 47 were shot in a series of unrelated crimes in Chicago.^{3,4,5}
- **Las Vegas, NV • June 1, 2013** – A man is believed to have shot his girlfriend and her two daughters, ages 4 and 17, before turning the gun on himself. Only the man and 4-year-old girl survived.⁶
- **Hampton, VA • May 25, 2013** – A shooting near a spring carnival resulted in the death of a 16-year-old and hospitalization of four other teens who were injured.⁷
- **Saginaw, MI • May 23, 2013** – A 17-year-old girl was fatally shot while attending a pre-prom event after an argument broke out. Three women, ages 18, 19, and 39, were wounded.⁸
- **Pittsburgh, PA • May 21, 2013** – Three unknown gunmen began random shooting from their car during a neighborhood picnic, killing a 1-year-old boy and injuring his two aunts.⁹
- **New Orleans, LA • May 12, 2013** – During a Mother's Day parade, gunmen fired into a crowd, injuring 19 people. Among the hurt were two 10-year-old children, a boy and a girl. This was the second time the boy was shot in one year.¹⁰
- **Manchester, IL • April 24, 2013** – A man shot his way into a house, killing a great-grandmother, a young couple, and two children, ages 1 and 5. A 6-year-old girl survived with injuries to the face. The gunman was killed in a shootout with police several hours later.¹¹
- **Phoenix, AZ • April 14, 2013** – Six people were shot and two teenagers, ages 18 and 16, were killed in a drive-by shooting at a house party.¹²
- **Atwater, CA • March 30, 2013** – A gang-related shooting at an Easter gathering took the lives of three teenagers, ages 19, 18, and 16, and wounded a 21-year-old and a 16-year-old.¹³
- **Jackson, MS • March 26, 2013** – A 13-year-old girl and two adults were found dead in their home, each with a gunshot wound to the head.¹⁴
- **Miami, FL • February 20, 2013** – A man shot his wife and two children, killing his 11-year-old son before taking his own life.^{15,16}

* Mass shootings included here are single shooting events in which three or more individuals were shot, including at least one child.

- **Oakdale, MN • February 11, 2013** – A 34-year-old man shot randomly at passers-by in their cars killing a 9-year-old boy who had just been picked up from child care and injuring his mother and another woman. A judge ordered the arrested shooter to undergo a mental health evaluation after his arrest.¹⁷
- **Denver, CO • February 6, 2013** – A woman used a handgun and a shotgun to shoot her three children, ages 1, 2, and 4, before taking her own life. Only her 2-year-old daughter survived a gunshot wound to the head.^{18,19}
- **Erwin, TN • February 2, 2013** – A man shot and killed his wife and two children, 11 and 12 years old, before killing himself. The couple had a history of domestic problems.²⁰
- **Little Rock, AR • January 30, 2013** – A 17-year-old girl was killed and two other teens, ages 17 and 19, were injured when they were shot while sitting inside their car. The motive for the shooting was unknown.²¹
- **South Valley, NM • January 19, 2013** – A 15-year-old boy killed three of his siblings, ages 2, 5, and 9, and his parents using several weapons, including a military style assault rifle. The shooter's father was an ex-gang member who operated a prison ministry and served as a volunteer chaplain for the fire department.²²
- **Hazard City, KY • January 16, 2013** – A 21-year-old man killed a 20-year-old student, her uncle, and a 12-year-old girl in the parking lot of Hazard Community Technical College. The school's president credited the school's emergency lockdown plan with minimizing casualties.²³
- **Tuscaloosa, AL • January 12, 2013** – An 18-year-old shot four people in an apartment. The group was playing dominoes when the gunman stood up and opened fire, injuring three people, ages 18, 22, and 30, and killing a 17-year-old girl.²⁴
- **Greensboro, NC • January 7, 2013** – A domestic dispute led to a mother shooting her two children, ages 14 and 18, and their father before fatally shooting herself. Her 14-year-old son did not survive.²⁵
- **Newtown, CT • December 14, 2012** – A 24-year-old gunman killed 20 first graders and six school staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School before killing himself when police arrived. Earlier, the gunman had also killed his mother.^{26,27}
- **Portland, OR • December 11, 2012** – A 22-year-old shooter killed two and injured a 15-year old girl before killing himself at a shopping mall crowded with thousands of holiday shoppers. The injured victim had no relation to the shooter.²⁸
- **Madera, CA • November 28, 2012** – An 8-year-old girl was shot when she was caught in the cross fire of a gang related argument. Two men were also shot, the 18-year-old did not survive his injuries.²⁹
- **New Town, ND • November 18, 2012** – A grandmother and three of the grandchildren she helped care for, ages 6, 10, and 13, were fatally shot by a man who police believe killed himself with a knife later that day. One of the grandchildren, a boy age 12, escaped being shot by pretending to be dead.³⁰
- **Detroit, MI • October 24, 2012** – A 4-year-old boy, his mother, and her boyfriend were injured by bullets that were intended for their neighbor. The neighbor, a male, died from his gunshot wounds.^{31,32}

- **Inglewood, CA • October 20, 2012** – A family of six was attacked by a neighbor who blamed them for his eviction notice. Both parents and three of the four children, ages 4, 6, and 7, were shot. The father and 4-year-old son were killed.³³
- **Toledo, OH • October 16, 2012** – A 3-year-old and his mother were killed by the boy's father, who then shot and injured three adults in a neighboring apartment. The gunman was killed by police officers after opening fire on them.³⁴
- **Herndon, VA • September 23, 2012** – A man shot and killed his wife and two sons, ages 13 and 16, before fatally turning the gun on himself.³⁵
- **Detroit, MI • September 22, 2012** – A parked car was riddled with bullets by an unknown shooter, killing a 15-year-old girl. Her 23-year-old-sister and a 25-year-old man survived their gunshot wounds.³⁶
- **Albemarle, VA • August 28, 2012** – A 19-year-old man shot and killed his mother, 14-year-old brother, and 16-year-old sister before fatally shooting himself. They are survived by the children's father, who was out of town for work during the shooting.³⁷
- **Chicago, IL • August 24, 2012** – Eight people were wounded on a single street on the South Side of Chicago in a drive-by shooting. The victims ranged in age from 14 to 20 years. This incident was among several unrelated shootings the weekend of August 24 that wounded a total of 19 people.³⁸
- **Aurora, CO • July 20, 2012** – Twelve people were killed and 58 were injured during a midnight movie premiere when a 24-year-old shooter unloaded four weapons, including a semi-automatic assault rifle with a 100-round magazine into the crowd. Ten members of the audience were killed in the theater, while two others died later at area hospitals. A 6-year-old girl was among those killed.^{39,40}
- **Bridgeport, CT • July 20, 2012** – A 15-year-old girl was shot and killed at a home following a 'sweet sixteen' party. Two other teens, ages 15 and 17, were also shot by the two unknown gunmen.⁴¹
- **Seattle, WA • July 2, 2012** – Gunfire struck six people at a party at a South Seattle home, killing a 21-year old and injuring five others, ages 17, 18, 20, 20, and 21. Police say it was unclear how many people fired their guns at the party.⁴²

Eleven-year-old **Tayloni Mazyck** was walking near her apartment building in Brooklyn with her mother and her niece on May 31, 2013 when she was caught in gang-related cross fire that changed her life forever. A bullet crashed into innocent Tayloni's chin and lodged in her spine. According to Brooklyn prosecutor Jordan Rossman, her spine is severed and she will be paralyzed for life.¹⁸

Instead of walking in her fifth-grade graduation ceremony, Tayloni was transferred to Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine for the summer. According to Tayloni's mother, Tayloni has ups and downs. Some days she is in intense pain and easily frustrated because she cannot do simple things such as scratch her nose, other days she is convinced she will walk some day in the future. The young girl suffers from post traumatic stress, says she is too scared to go home, and wakes up crying from flashbacks of that terrible night.¹⁹

The Invisible Wounds of Gun Violence: The Psychological and Emotional Trauma of Gun Violence on Children

“My friends are dead. I saw the bad man. He was next to me when we ran out.”

“Do you think it is my fault?”

“There is nothing you can do or say that will convince me that this will not happen again.”

These are some of the devastating voices of children who witnessed the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School. They, along with every other child in America who has seen gun violence in their home, on their street, or in their neighborhood have lost their sense of security. Exposure to gun violence takes an enormous emotional toll on children whether they are victims or witnesses. Exposure to chronic violence can lead to long-lasting, severe psychological problems and lifelong limitations on health, well-being, relationships and personal success.

The Prevalence of Children Exposed to Violence

Children are more likely to be exposed to violence than adults.¹ The 2008 National Survey of Children’s Exposure to Violence found that nearly two-thirds (60.6 percent) of children and youth had been victims or witnesses of violence within the past year.² Nearly 1 in 10 children (9.6 percent) and 1 in 5 14-17 year-olds (22.2 percent) had witnessed a shooting at some point in their lives.³ This number is thought to be higher among low-income children.

The Psychological and Emotional Impact of Violence on Children

Children exposed to violence are at risk for major disruptions in their basic cognitive, emotional and brain development that can interfere with their health and well-being. These disruptions can include difficulty sleeping and eating, irritability, attention and concentration problems, aggression, depressed mood and withdrawal, anxiety and intrusive thoughts, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), failure in school, impulsivity (i.e. substance abuse, delinquency and promiscuous sexual behavior) and repeated victimization. When the trauma is untreated, symptoms can persist into adulthood bringing lifelong limitations on health and well-being, and increasing their risk of perpetuating the cycle of violence.

Protecting Children from the Negative Effects of Violence

Research has found that early identification, effective intervention, and continuous follow-up are important strategies to prevent or lessen the impact of exposure to violence. Parents, mental health professionals, and school administrators can help protect children from the harmful effects of gun-related trauma.⁴

Parents

- Closely monitor children’s behavior, environment and exposure to violent media.
- Be mindful of your own reactions to traumatic events since they are often a predictor of children’s reactions.
- If your child has been traumatized by violence, seek professional help immediately.

Professionals

- Address the challenges of identifying children and teens exposed to violence. Create uniform identification and referral processes.
- Develop and implement intervention services that are age-appropriate, systematic and sustained (as symptoms of trauma oscillate over time).

Schools

- Identify and refer children exposed to violence to mental health services, including group interventions.
- Create safer school environments. Help students feel connected and supported by the school staff and their peers. Be careful not to create a climate of fear instead of a sense of security.

Gun Deaths in the States

In 2010, children and teens died from guns all over the country. As would be expected, the largest states had the highest share of gun deaths. Just over half of the 2,694 deaths of children and teens from guns in 2010 were in nine states: California (361), Texas (202), Florida (147), Illinois (140), Pennsylvania (132), New York (116), Georgia (112), Michigan (103), and Louisiana (87).

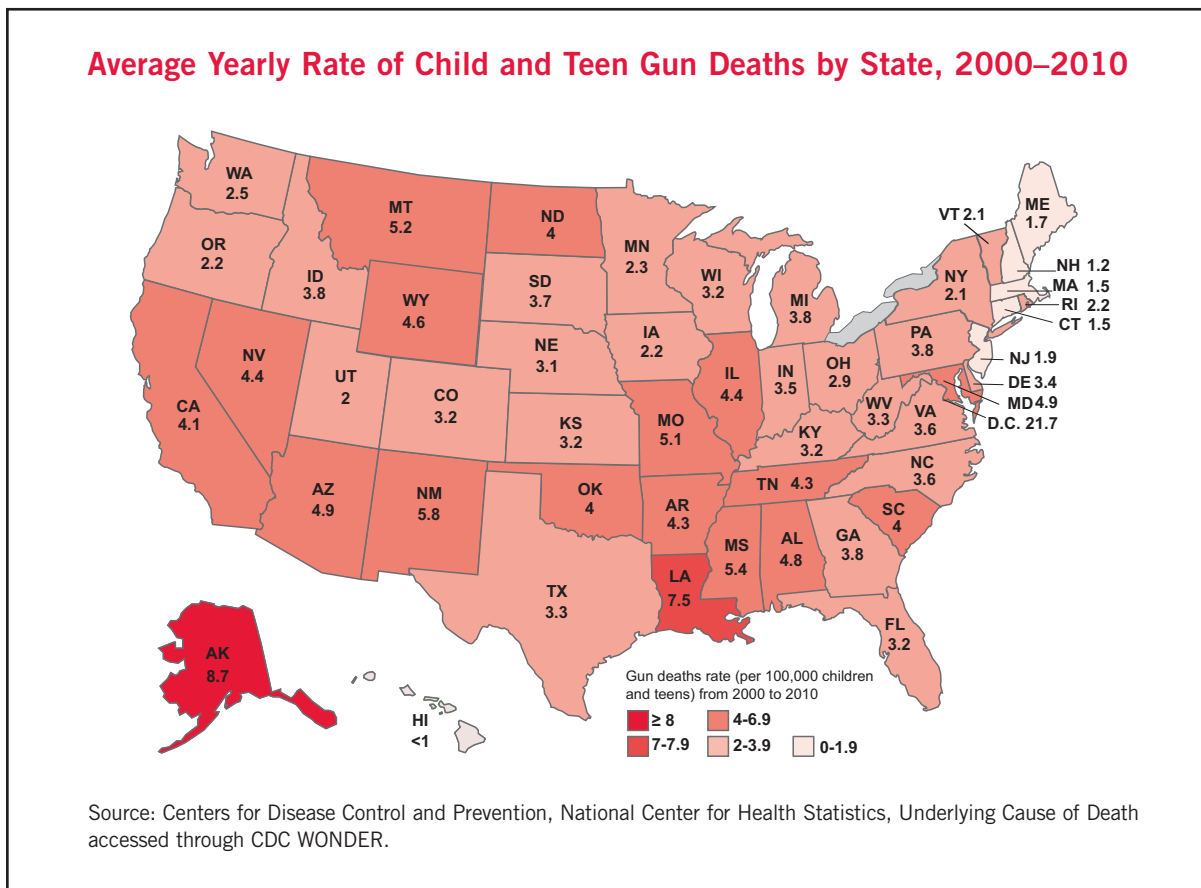
Due to small numbers of deaths in some states, CDF presents an analysis of state trends for the period 2000 to 2010. State-specific numbers of gun deaths for 2000-2010 are provided in the Appendix.

Children and teens die from gun violence in all states.

- In the 11 years following the Columbine High School shooting, a total of 32,108 children and teens were killed by guns across the United States. This is an average of 2,919 children and teens, or 146 classrooms of 20 children each, dying every year for 11 years.
- Every state lost children to gun violence between 2000 and 2010. The number of deaths varied from 15 in Hawaii to 4,668 in California.

The risk of children and teens dying from guns varies widely from state to state.

- The deadliest state was Alaska with 8.7 gun deaths for every 100,000 children and teens each year, more than twice the nationwide rate of 3.6. Alaska was 21 times more deadly for children and teens than the safest state, Hawaii.



Gun Deaths in the States

Top 10 States with the Highest and Lowest Child and Teen Gun Death Rates					
Average Yearly Gun Deaths per 100,000 Children and Teens (Number of Deaths) 2000–2010					
Highest 10 States			Lowest 10 States		
Alaska	8.7	(197)	Hawaii	0.4*	(15)
Louisiana	7.5	(1,063)	New Hampshire	1.2	(44)
New Mexico	5.8	(360)	Massachusetts	1.5	(273)
Mississippi	5.4	(508)	Connecticut	1.5	(156)
Montana	5.2	(145)	Maine	1.7	(60)
Missouri	5.1	(888)	New Jersey	1.9	(484)
Maryland	4.9	(819)	Utah	2.0	(195)
Arizona	4.9	(903)	Vermont	2.1	(36)
Alabama	4.8	(671)	New York	2.1	(1,192)
Wyoming	4.6	(73)	Oregon	2.2	(228)

*Based on a small number of deaths so the rate is unreliable.

Highest 10 States for Homicides			Highest 10 States for Suicides		
Average Yearly Gun Homicides per 100,000 Children and Teens (Number of Deaths) 2000–2010			Average Yearly Gun Suicides per 100,000 Children and Teens (Number of Deaths) 2000–2010		
Louisiana	5.2	(739)	Alaska	5.3	(120)
Maryland	4.1	(685)	Montana	3.6	(99)
Illinois	3.7	(1,442)	Wyoming	3.3	(53)
California	3.4	(3,920)	South Dakota	2.8	(68)
Missouri	3.3	(577)	Idaho	2.7	(131)
Arizona	2.9	(542)	North Dakota	2.6	(50)
Alabama	2.9	(404)	New Mexico	2.6	(161)
Nevada	2.9	(212)	West Virginia	1.7	(84)
New Mexico	2.8	(174)	Nebraska	1.7	(92)
Mississippi	2.7	(256)	Mississippi	1.6	(153)

(**Bolded states** are also among top ten for highest overall gun deaths for children and teens; **bolded and italicized states** are among top ten highest overall and for homicides and suicides.)

Saving Lives with Smarter Technology: Personalized Guns

Many gun tragedies could have been prevented by simple technologies that exist today. Personalized gun technology encompasses a broad range of manufacturing designs that allow guns to recognize an authorized user, and become inoperable when handled by anyone else. A current version can be seen in the Armatix GmbH iP1 Pistol, which communicates with a connected wristwatch via microchips. The watch's owner enters a personal identification number to unlock the gun's firing pin lock, and the gun can only be operated when it is located within a certain distance of the watch. The New Jersey Institute of Technology has been working on developing another form of personalized gun technology, "grip recognition," which would recognize the palm configuration of authorized users and only operate for them.¹

Research suggests that this technology would be extremely effective in preventing deaths of children and teens. A study of unintentional gun deaths in Maryland and Milwaukee County, Wisconsin found that 37 percent of the deaths would have been prevented with gun personalization technology.² This technology would make it harder for children to commit suicide with their parents' guns, and would render stolen guns inoperable.

New Jersey passed a model law in 2002 requiring that all new handguns sold in the state include authorized user identification technology within three years of becoming available in the state and being recognized by the attorney general as complying with the definition of a personalized or childproof gun.³

At the national level, Representative John Tierney (D-MA) has taken steps to embrace the use of technology in preventing gun violence by introducing the Personalized Handgun Safety Act of 2013, which would:

- Authorize National Institute of Justice grants for further development and improvement of personalized handgun technology.
- Direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to create a safety standard for personalized handguns that all newly manufactured handguns would be required to meet.*
- Require that all U.S. manufactured handguns be personalized and comply with the CPSC standard two years after the date of enactment.
- Require that any entity selling a handgun retrofit the gun with personalization technology three years after the bill is enacted. The retrofitting process would be paid for by the Department of Justice.
- Hold gun manufacturers liable if their weapons do not meet CPSC standards within two years of the bill's passage.

*If this bill were enacted this would be the first time that the CPSC would have the authority to develop safety standards related to guns as the CPSC is currently prohibited from regulating guns.

Steps by States to Protect Children Not Guns

Federal policies play a crucial role in protecting children from guns; however, state and local governments can also take many actions to promote gun safety and reduce gun violence. Laws in place that reduce child and teen gun injuries and fatalities include requiring locking devices, imposing criminal liability on adults for leaving guns accessible to children and teens, instituting minimum age requirements, requiring universal background checks for purchase and possession of guns, and limiting access to assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. According to a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine*, states with higher rates of gun ownership and weak gun control laws have the highest rates of gun deaths.¹ Below is a summary of state laws that exceed minimal federal requirements to protect children and teens from gun violence.

Requirements for Locking Devices²

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.³

- **Eleven states and the District of Columbia** have stepped up and passed laws requiring gun-locking devices under certain circumstances. California, Massachusetts, and D.C. have the most comprehensive requirements around locking devices. California requires locking devices on all guns manufactured, sold, or transferred, while Massachusetts has the same requirement for all handguns and assault weapons. Massachusetts and D.C. require that all handguns be stored with a lock in place. The fact that only 11 states and D.C. 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 D.C. have passed child safety seat laws;⁴ 49 states and D.C. have passed seat belt violation laws; 48 states and D.C. have passed laws enforcing a requirement for personal flotation devices for both recreational boats and personal watercrafts for children;⁵ and 21 states and D.C. have passed laws requiring children to wear bike helmets.⁶

Child Access Prevention Laws⁷

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* 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 and vary in strength in their ability to protect children.
 - The other 13 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.

*States have different definitions of a minor, ranging from age 14 to under 18.

Steps by States to Protect Children Not Guns

Criminal Liability for Gun Access by Minors			
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 Maryland Massachusetts	Minnesota New Jersey Texas	California Connecticut Florida Illinois	Iowa New Hampshire North Carolina Rhode Island
<p>Among these 14 states, three (California*, Hawaii, Massachusetts) can criminally prosecute someone for negligent storage of an <i>unloaded</i> gun. All other states require a gun to be <i>loaded</i> for liability to attach.</p> <hr/> <p>*Only in the case of handguns when a child carries a loaded or unloaded handgun off premises.</p>			

Minimum Age Requirements to Purchase or Possess Guns⁸

Federal law includes some restrictions on the purchase or possession of guns by children. Restrictions vary by type of gun and whether or not the seller is a licensed dealer.

- **Handgun Sales.** Federal law prohibits *licensed* dealers from selling handguns or ammunition to anyone under 21. Private sellers 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 pages 52-53 that several states even appear to violate federal law with provisions that set minimum age requirements for handgun sales from licensed dealers to ages below 18, although federal law prevails in such cases.
- **Handgun Possession.** Federal law makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a handgun or handgun ammunition.
- **Long Gun Sales.** Federal law prohibits licensed gun dealers from selling a long gun or long gun ammunition to anyone under 18. However, many of these guns change hands at largely unregulated gun shows and other public markets dominated by private (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.

Steps by States to Protect Children Not Guns

- **Eleven states and the District of Columbia** have laws imposing a minimum age requirement higher 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.

Background Check Laws

The Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, passed in 1993, requires federally-licensed firearms dealers to perform background checks on individuals attempting to purchase a firearm to ensure that the person is legally allowed to own such a weapon. However, the law does not require unlicensed, private sellers to conduct such a check, allowing any individual to obtain weapons through private sellers, including online and at gun shows, without completing a check. In April, a federal effort to expand background checks to private sales online and at gun shows failed—however several states have stricter background checks than federal law.

- **Eight states and the District of Columbia** have passed universal background check laws for some or all gun sales, closing the private sale loophole and ensuring that criminals and other dangerous individuals are not easily able to access firearms.⁹ A recent study in the Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine found that states with background checks on private sales had 16 percent lower firearm fatality rates.¹⁰

Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazine Limits

While definitions vary slightly, an assault weapon is typically considered a semi-automatic weapon that can accept a detachable high-capacity magazine and has one or more features designed to be useful in military combat. A high-capacity magazine is typically defined as one that can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, allowing shooters to fire multiple rounds without reloading. There was a federal ban on the sale and manufacture of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines from 1994 to 2004; however, Congress failed to renew the ban in 2004 and no new federal law regulating these weapons has been passed. Since the law expired in 2004, assault weapons and high-capacity magazines have been used in some of our nation's worst mass shootings, including the Virginia Tech massacre in 2007, the Tucson shooting in 2011, the Aurora theater shooting in 2012, and most recently, the massacre of 20 children and six adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December 2012.

- **Seven states and the District of Columbia** have passed state-level laws limiting the transfer and/or possession of assault weapons. The strongest of these laws require that grandfathered assault weapons, those possessed before the passage of a ban, be registered with the state and prohibit future transfers.¹¹
- **Eight states and the District of Columbia** have state laws limiting the transfer and/or possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines. The majority of these states define high-capacity magazines as those containing more than 10 rounds of ammunition. New Jersey and Colorado set the limit higher, at 15 rounds, and New York set its lower, at seven rounds.¹²

State Policy Hall of Shame

Louisiana passed an amendment to its constitution establishing the right to keep and bear arms as a fundamental right and subjecting any gun regulation to the strictest possible scrutiny. The Louisiana Constitution previously was explicit in stating that the right to keep and bear arms was not unlimited, and that it could not prevent the passage of laws prohibiting concealed carry.¹ This new language, passed by the legislature and then as a ballot initiative in November 2012, places a great barrier before any attempt to pass common sense gun regulation in the state. That same year New Orleans had the shame of having the second highest homicide rate in the nation.²

Indiana allowed people to use deadly force to meet a perceived threat, with no duty to retreat. In March 2012, Indiana passed a “Stand Your Ground” law that states that people are justified in using force, including deadly force, if they believe that they are protecting themselves from the imminent use of unlawful force.³ It joined 25 other states that have already passed “Stand Your Ground” laws.⁴

Utah, Virginia, Kentucky, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Mississippi loosened restrictions on the concealed carry of firearms. In February 2012, Utah allowed even persons charged with violent crimes to carry concealed weapons by eliminating a requirement that the State Bureau of Criminal Identification suspend a concealed carry permit if the holder is charged with a crime of violence.⁶ Virginia prevented local governments from making it more difficult to obtain concealed carry permits. It passed two laws in March 2012 preventing them from requiring fingerprinting or requesting any information not requested in state law as part of the concealed carry permit application process.⁷ In April 2012, Kentucky’s governor signed legislation allowing individuals to carry a concealed weapon without a permit on their own property or the property of named relatives, and allowing a business owner and employees to carry concealed weapons without a permit on property leased or owned by the business.⁸ In March 2012, West Virginia exempted concealed carry permit holders from having to undergo a background check to purchase a firearm.⁹ In the spring of 2012, Oklahoma and Mississippi passed new laws allowing for concealed carry reciprocity, that is enabling residents of other states who have concealed carry permits to carry their concealed weapons in Oklahoma and Mississippi even if the requirement to obtain a permit in these states are less strict.¹⁰

Arkansas, South Dakota, and Kansas allowed guns in schools in 2013. Arkansas passed legislation in February 2013 allowing guns in places of worship,¹¹ and in March allowing campus staff and faculty to carry concealed weapons on university, college, and community college campuses.¹² South Dakota passed legislation in March establishing school sentinel programs to promote school safety. These programs authorize school boards to create, establish, and supervise the arming of school employees, security personnel, or volunteers to secure and defend the school.¹³ The Kansas legislature passed a law in March authorizing employees to carry concealed weapons in schools with the permission of the school.¹⁴

A town in Georgia mandated gun ownership for residents. In April 2013, the city council of Nelson, Georgia voted unanimously to require that all heads of households own a gun and ammunition to provide for and protect the safety, security and general welfare of the city and its inhabitants. The measure does exempt those who object to firearms.¹⁵

State Laws to Protect Children Not Guns as of May 2013

	Child Access Prevention (CAP) Laws			State Minimum Age Requirements		
	Require Locking Devices	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*	Minimum Age for Handgun Possession**
Alabama						
Alaska					18	
Arizona					18	
Arkansas					18	
California	✓	✓		<18	21	
Colorado			✓	<18		
Connecticut	✓	✓		<16		21
Delaware			✓	<18	21	
District of Columbia	✓				21	21
Florida		✓		<16	18	
Georgia			✓	<18		
Hawaii		✓		<16	21	21
Idaho					18	
Illinois	✓	✓		<14	21	21
Indiana			✓	<18		
Iowa		✓		<14	21	21
Kansas						
Kentucky			✓	<18		
Louisiana					18	
Maine					18	
Maryland	✓	✓		<16	21	21
Massachusetts	✓	✓		<18	21	21
Michigan	✓					
Minnesota		✓		<18		
Mississippi			✓	<18	18	
Missouri			✓	<18	18	
Montana						
Nebraska						
Nevada			✓	<18	18	
New Hampshire		✓		<16		
New Jersey	✓	✓		<16	21	21
New Mexico						19
New York	✓					21
North Carolina		✓		<18		
North Dakota					18	
Ohio	✓				21	
Oklahoma			✓	<18	18	
Oregon					18	
Pennsylvania	✓				18	
Rhode Island	✓	✓		<16	21	
South Carolina					21	21
South Dakota						
Tennessee			✓	<18		
Texas		✓		<17	18	
Utah			✓	<18		
Vermont					16	
Virginia			✓	<14		
Washington						
West Virginia						
Wisconsin			✓	<14	18	
Wyoming						
TOTAL	11 States and D.C.	14 States	13 States			

Note: Blank spaces in chart indicate absence of any state legislation or regulation.

*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.

**Federal law makes it illegal for anyone under 18 to possess a handgun or handgun ammunition.

***There is no federal minimum age for the possession or purchase of long guns.

(H) Only applies to handguns.

State Laws (Continued)

State Minimum Age Requirements		Assault Weapons, Magazines and Background Checks			
Minimum Age for Long Gun Purchases***	Minimum Age for Long Gun Possession	Ban on Assault Weapons	Ban on Large Capacity Magazines (LCM)	Definition of a LCM (Number of Rounds)	Universal Background Checks for Gun Purchases
18	16				
18					
18					
18		✓	✓	>10	✓
			✓	>15	✓
		✓	✓	>10	✓
18					✓
21	21	✓	✓	>10	✓
18	18				
21	18	✓	✓ (H)	>10	
18	18				
21	21				
	18				
18	18				
18					
16					
18		✓	✓ (H)	>10	✓ (H)
18		✓	✓	>10	
	18				
	16				
18					
18					
	14				
	18				
18	18	✓	✓	>15	
	16	✓	✓	>7	✓
18					
18	18				
18	18				✓ (H)
18	18				✓
18					
	18				
16					
	18				
18	18				

20 States and D.C.

7 States and D.C.

8 States and D.C.

8 States and D.C.

8 States and D.C.

Source: Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence. 2012. Gun Laws By Policy. Accessed at <http://smartgunlaws.org/search-gun-law-by-gun-policy/>. Accessed May 2013

Organizations Working to Prevent Gun Violence

Americans for Responsible Solutions: Founded by former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband Mark Kelly, ARS is now a national organization of over 350,000 members advocating for commonsense legislative solutions to prevent gun violence and protect responsible gun ownership. <http://americansforresponsiblesolutions.org>

Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence: A national organization that seeks 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>

Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: A public interest law center dedicated to providing legal expertise in support of gun violence prevention and the promotion of smart gun laws. They track gun laws at the state and local levels and provide free legal assistance to advocates, community leaders, government officials and law enforcement seeking legislative and regulatory solutions to gun violence. <http://smartgunlaws.org/>

Mayors Against Illegal Guns: A coalition of more than 950 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.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/>

Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America: An organization of nearly 100 local chapters and over 100,000 members throughout the U.S. In addition to pushing for legislative action regarding common-sense gun reforms Moms Demand Action sponsors a corporate responsibility campaign urging American consumers to support companies that have “gun sense” and put pressure on those that do not change their policies. <http://momsdemandaction.org/>

National Law Enforcement Partnership to Prevent Gun Violence: A partnership of nearly 10 different law enforcement agencies that work to prevent dangerous people from acquiring firearms, prevent weapons of war from inflicting harm against citizens, and to allow states to decide who can lawfully carry concealed firearms in their own states. <http://lepartnership.org/>

Newtown Action Alliance: An alliance that was founded by Newtown residents, and advocates for both legislative and cultural changes that will reduce gun violence in the community, and has led several media campaigns in support of proposed national gun safety legislation. <http://www.newtownaction.org>

Sandy Hook Promise: An initiative that strives to help those affected directly by the Sandy Hook shooting and also facilitate straightforward dialogue among Newtown community members, state legislators, Congress, and the public about creating meaningful change. <http://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>

States United to Prevent Gun Violence: An organization representing gun violence prevention groups in 26 states that is focused on reducing gun violence in states across the country. <http://supgv.org>

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>

A Note About Data Sources

The data used in this report to describe gun deaths in U.S. children and teens are from death certificate data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics. Every death is included in the vital statistics system. Another source of data for some gun deaths is law enforcement reports of murders. There is a national system that collects these data—the FBI's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) system, but this system is not complete. Not all law enforcement agencies participate in this system, and coverage varies from year to year. Further, the UCR system covers only homicide deaths. A comparison of this system with the vital statistics system shows that UCR includes between 75 and 80 percent of the firearm homicides of children and teens. For this reason we do not use FBI UCR data to describe child gun deaths.

Nonfatal injury data are from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). These data are collected by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and processed by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The data are collected from a sample of emergency rooms representative of the nation as a whole. National estimates are extrapolated from the data collected from this sample. No state-level data are available through this system.

Data for other high-income nations were collected through the World Health Organization (WHO) European Mortality Database, which aggregates vital statistics data from countries around the world. Data for Canada was collected separately through Canada's vital statistics system.

All gun death and injury data in this report exclude gun deaths resulting from legal (police and corrections) intervention. When possible, data by race/ethnicity separate out children and teens of Hispanic origin regardless of race from children and teens of other races.

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Table 1: Gun Death Rates in the U.S. and 25 Other High-Income Countries

Ages		Total Gun Death Rate	Gun Homicide Death Rate*	Gun Suicide Death Rate	Gun Accident Death Rate**	Non-Gun Homicide Death Rate	Non-Gun Suicide Death Rate
0-14	U.S.	0.62	0.36	0.13	0.1	1.18	0.32
	Non-U.S.***	0.053	0.025	0.014	0.006	0.272	0.195
	U.S./Non-U.S. Ratio	11.75	14.5	9.7	15.75	4.35	1.6
0-19	U.S.	3.24	2.13	0.9	0.16	1.2	1.41
	Non-U.S.***	0.19	0.07	0.09	0.016	0.35	1.35
	U.S./Non-U.S. Ratio	17.0	32.2	9.95	10.05	3.5	1.0
All Ages	U.S.	10.15	3.59	6.28	0.2	1.6	5.91
	Non-U.S.***	1.36	0.21	1.01	0.04	0.65	10.36
	U.S./Non-U.S. Ratio	7.5	17.3	6.2	4.8	2.5	0.6

All rates are unadjusted and per 100,000.

* Data not available for Iceland.

** Data not available for Austria, Hungary, Iceland, Luxembourg and Slovenia.

*** The non-U.S. rate was calculated by dividing all the deaths observed in the non-U.S. countries by the total population in the non-U.S. countries.

Source: World Health Organization. 2012. Inter-country Comparison of Mortality for Selected Cause of Death – Total Gun Death, European Detailed Mortality Database (DMDB). Copenhagen: World Health Organisation Regional Office for Europe. Accessed January 18, 2013; data for Canada were collected separately through their individual country's statistical databases; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2010. Fatal Injury Reports. Accessed using the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQRAS). Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Table 2: Gun Deaths of Children and Teens, by Age, Sex, Manner, and Race/Ethnicity, 2010

	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19	Boys	Girls	Total 0-19 both sexes
All Race/Ethnicities*	82	73	224	2,315	2,353	341	2,694
Homicide	54	58	107	1,554	1,538	235	1,773
Suicide	0	1	80	668	670	79	749
Accidental	25	11	26	72	114	20	134
Undetermined	3	3	11	21	31	7	38
Black, non-Hispanic	29	30	64	1,082	1,077	128	1,205
Homicide	24	25	48	997	974	120	1,094
Suicide	0	0	7	59	64	2	66
Accidental	5	3	7	19	32	2	34
Undetermined	0	2	2	7	7	4	11
White, non-Hispanic	43	34	115	717	756	153	909
Homicide	23	27	28	158	164	72	236
Suicide	0	1	63	507	508	63	571
Accidental	17	5	16	41	63	16	79
Undetermined	3	1	8	11	21	2	23
Hispanic	7	8	38	459	459	53	512
Homicide	5	6	29	373	374	39	413
Suicide	0	0	7	75	71	11	82
Accidental	2	2	1	8	11	2	13
Undetermined	0	0	1	3	3	1	4
American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	3	1	3	34	37	4	41
Homicide	2	0	0	13	13	2	15
Suicide	0	0	1	18	17	2	19
Accidental	1	1	2	3	7	0	7
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	0	0	4	23	24	3	27
Homicide	0	0	2	13	13	2	15
Suicide	0	0	2	9	10	1	11
Accidental	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* All race/ethnic groups are mutually exclusive. Those with nothing stated for Hispanic ethnicity were included in non-Hispanics.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Table 3: Gun Deaths per 100,000 Children and Teens, by Age, Sex, Manner, and Race/Ethnicity, 2010

	Ages 0-4	Ages 5-9	Ages 10-14	Ages 15-19	Boys	Girls	Total 0-19 both sexes
All Race/Ethnicities*	0.41	0.36	1.08	10.50	5.52	0.84	3.24
Homicide	0.27	0.29	0.52	7.05	3.61	0.58	2.13
Suicide	0	0.005	0.39	3.03	1.57	0.19	0.90
Accidental	0.12	0.05	0.13	0.33	0.27	0.05	0.16
Undetermined	0.01	0.01	0.05	0.10	0.07	0.02	0.05
Black, non-Hispanic	0.94	0.99	2.03	30.76	16.61	2.04	9.44
Homicide	0.78	0.83	1.52	28.34	15.02	1.91	8.57
Suicide	0	0	0.22	1.68	0.99	0.03	0.52
Accidental	0.16	0.10	0.22	0.54	0.49	0.03	0.27
Undetermined	0	0.07	0.06	0.20	0.11	0.06	0.09
White, non-Hispanic	0.40	0.30	0.98	5.66	3.17	0.68	1.96
Homicide	0.21	0.24	0.24	1.25	0.69	0.32	0.51
Suicide	0	0.01	0.53	4.00	2.13	0.28	1.23
Accidental	0.16	0.04	0.14	0.32	0.26	0.07	0.17
Undetermined	0.03	0.01	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.01	0.05
Hispanic	0.14	0.17	0.84	10.13	4.73	0.57	2.70
Homicide	0.10	0.13	0.64	8.23	3.85	0.42	2.18
Suicide	0	0	0.15	1.65	0.73	0.12	0.43
Accidental	0.04	0.04	0.02	0.18	0.11	0.02	0.07
Undetermined	0	0	0.02	0.07	0.03	0.01	0.02
American Indian/Alaska Native, non-Hispanic	1.43	0.48	1.41	14.75	8.48	0.94	4.77
Homicide	0.96	0	0	5.64	2.98	0.47	1.74
Suicide	0	0	0.47	7.81	3.90	0.47	2.21
Accidental	0.48	0.48	0.94	1.30	1.60	0	0.81
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian/Pacific Islander, non-Hispanic	0	0	0.39	2.11	1.12	0.14	0.64
Homicide	0	0	0.20	1.19	0.61	0.10	0.35
Suicide	0	0	0.20	0.83	0.47	0.05	0.26
Accidental	0	0	0	0.09	0.05	0	0.02
Undetermined	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

* All race/ethnic groups are mutually exclusive. Those with nothing stated for Hispanic ethnicity were included in non-Hispanics.

Rates are unadjusted. Rates in italics are unreliable because based on fewer than 20 deaths.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Table 4: Numbers and Rates per 100,000 Gun Deaths of Children and Teens, by Manner, 1963–2010

	Total		Homicide		Suicide		Accident		Unknown	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
1963	1,781	2.41	476	0.64	365	0.49	940	1.27	–	–
1964	1,857	2.47	557	0.74	390	0.52	910	1.21	–	–
1965	1,870	2.45	589	0.77	402	0.53	879	1.15	–	–
1966	2,208	2.86	734	0.95	450	0.58	1,024	1.33	–	–
1967	2,536	3.30	883	1.15	507	0.66	1,146	1.49	–	–
1968	2,733	3.55	1,047	1.36	551	0.72	995	1.29	140	0.18
1969	2,893	3.75	1,215	1.58	607	0.79	938	1.22	133	0.17
1970	2,966	3.84	1,343	1.74	592	0.77	916	1.19	115	0.15
1971	3,251	4.20	1,404	1.81	721	0.93	964	1.25	162	0.21
1972	3,496	4.53	1,466	1.90	820	1.06	1,056	1.37	154	0.20
1973	3,646	4.75	1,575	2.05	863	1.12	1,036	1.35	172	0.22
1974	3,880	5.09	1,689	2.21	986	1.29	1,008	1.32	197	0.26
1975	3,811	5.04	1,658	2.19	1,044	1.38	923	1.22	186	0.25
1976	3,407	4.55	1,492	1.99	977	1.30	790	1.05	148	0.20
1977	3,701	4.99	1,494	2.02	1,264	1.71	782	1.06	161	0.22
1978	3,486	4.75	1,517	2.07	1,149	1.57	669	0.91	151	0.21
1979	3,710	5.09	1,651	2.27	1,220	1.67	726	1.00	113	0.16
1980	3,749	5.17	1,743	2.40	1,214	1.67	689	0.95	103	0.14
1981	3,589	5.00	1,660	2.31	1,213	1.69	604	0.84	112	0.16
1982	3,332	4.67	1,498	2.10	1,207	1.69	550	0.77	77	0.11
1983	2,962	4.18	1,238	1.75	1,150	1.62	504	0.71	70	0.10
1984	3,030	4.30	1,289	1.83	1,114	1.58	552	0.78	75	0.11
1985	3,169	4.51	1,322	1.88	1,256	1.79	519	0.74	72	0.10
1986	3,349	4.76	1,513	2.15	1,293	1.84	472	0.67	71	0.10
1987	3,400	4.81	1,573	2.23	1,281	1.81	467	0.66	79	0.11
1988	3,974	5.59	1,953	2.75	1,387	1.95	543	0.76	91	0.13
1989	4,384	6.13	2,367	3.31	1,380	1.93	567	0.79	70	0.10
1990	4,935	6.86	2,852	3.96	1,476	2.05	541	0.75	66	0.09
1991	5,329	7.34	3,247	4.47	1,436	1.98	551	0.76	95	0.13
1992	5,353	7.28	3,336	4.54	1,426	1.94	501	0.68	90	0.12
1993	5,715	7.65	3,625	4.85	1,460	1.96	526	0.70	104	0.14
1994	5,793	7.64	3,579	4.72	1,565	2.06	512	0.68	137	0.18
1995	5,254	6.85	3,249	4.23	1,450	1.89	440	0.57	115	0.15
1996	4,613	5.93	2,836	3.65	1,309	1.68	376	0.48	92	0.12
1997	4,205	5.35	2,562	3.26	1,262	1.61	306	0.39	75	0.10
1998	3,761	4.73	2,184	2.75	1,241	1.56	262	0.33	74	0.09
1999	3,365	4.20	1,990	2.49	1,078	1.35	214	0.27	83	0.10
2000	3,012	3.74	1,776	2.21	1,007	1.25	193	0.24	36	0.04
2001	2,911	3.60	1,771	2.19	928	1.15	182	0.22	30	0.04
2002	2,867	3.53	1,830	2.25	828	1.02	167	0.21	42	0.05
2003	2,827	3.47	1,822	2.24	810	0.99	151	0.19	44	0.05
2004	2,825	3.46	1,804	2.21	846	1.03	143	0.17	32	0.04
2005	3,006	3.67	1,972	2.40	822	1.00	173	0.21	39	0.05
2006	3,184	3.87	2,225	2.70	763	0.93	154	0.19	42	0.05
2007	3,042	3.68	2,161	2.61	683	0.83	138	0.17	60	0.07
2008	2,947	3.55	2,037	2.45	748	0.90	123	0.15	39	0.05
2009	2,793	3.35	1,855	2.23	800	0.96	114	0.14	24	0.03
2010	2,694	3.24	1,773	2.13	749	0.90	134	0.16	38	0.05
Total	166,601		87,432		48,090		27,070		4,009	

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Data for 1963-1967 are from annual Vital Statistics of the United States reports, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsus.htm>. Data for 1968-2010 are from Compressed Mortality Files 1968-1978, 1979-1998, and 1999-2010, accessed through CDC WONDER Online Database at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html> on Feb 13, 2013. Deaths for children and teens include deaths in those aged 0 to 19, inclusive. Deaths include homicides, suicides, accidents and deaths of undetermined intent, but exclude deaths from legal intervention. Deaths of unknown or undetermined intent not available as a separate category prior to 1968. Gun deaths from 1963-1978 include a very small number of deaths from explosives (estimated to be fewer than 50 deaths.) Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Table 5: Numbers and Rates per 100,000 Gun Deaths of Children and Teens, by Race/Ethnicity, 1963–2010

	Black*		White*		Hispanic*		American Indian or Alaska Native*		Asian or Pacific Islander*	
	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate	Count	Rate
1963	406	4.3	1,316	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1964	460	4.8	1,367	2.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1965	523	5.3	1,321	2.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
1966	658	6.5	1,523	2.3	—	—	—	—	—	—
1967	776	7.6	1,726	2.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1968	899	8.7	1,806	2.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
1969	1,051	10.1	1,812	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1970	1,103	10.5	1,809	2.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1971	1,191	11.2	2,007	3.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1972	1,194	11.2	2,258	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1973	1,185	11.0	2,412	3.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
1974	1,169	10.9	2,643	4.1	—	—	—	—	—	—
1975	1,083	10.1	2,662	4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1976	936	8.7	2,404	3.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
1977	868	8.1	2,756	4.4	—	—	—	—	—	—
1978	832	7.8	2,580	4.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
1979	929	8.7	2,700	4.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
1980	944	8.8	2,739	4.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
1981	944	8.9	2,569	4.3	—	—	49	7.7	27	1.9
1982	811	7.6	2,450	4.2	—	—	55	7.1	23	1.5
1983	739	7.0	2,155	3.7	—	—	42	6.3	25	1.5
1984	716	6.8	2,238	3.9	—	—	44	6.5	32	1.8
1985	850	8.0	2,241	3.9	—	—	42	6.0	36	1.9
1986	938	8.8	2,337	4.1	—	—	43	6.0	31	1.6
1987	1,117	10.4	2,199	3.8	—	—	28	3.8	54	2.6
1988	1,458	13.5	2,405	4.2	—	—	76	7.3	53	2.4
1989	1,694	15.5	2,563	4.5	—	—	50	6.3	76	3.2
1990	2,010	18.4	1,996	4.0	748	8.6	46	6.5	81	3.5
1991	2,264	21.0	2,003	4.0	883	9.7	57	7.9	88	3.7
1992	2,341	21.3	1,913	3.8	924	9.7	53	7.2	98	4.0
1993	2,577	22.9	1,964	3.9	977	9.8	51	6.8	135	5.3
1994	2,547	22.2	2,047	4.1	993	9.5	71	9.2	134	5.1
1995	2,139	18.3	1,914	3.8	1,005	9.2	65	8.2	127	4.6
1996	1,960	16.5	1,672	3.3	817	7.1	60	7.4	94	3.3
1997	1,667	13.9	1,619	3.2	748	6.2	56	6.8	101	3.4
1998	1,411	11.6	1,543	3.0	661	5.2	56	6.7	87	2.8
1999	1,289	10.5	1,349	2.7	605	4.6	49	5.8	73	2.3
2000	1,140	9.2	1,207	2.4	568	4.2	42	4.8	55	1.7
2001	1,119	9.0	1,194	2.4	518	3.6	42	4.8	38	1.1
2002	1,105	8.8	1,070	2.2	581	3.9	47	5.4	64	1.9
2003	1,166	9.3	1,011	2.1	553	3.6	49	5.7	48	1.4
2004	1,137	9.0	1,014	2.1	574	3.6	54	6.3	46	1.3
2005	1,258	10.0	1,028	2.1	614	3.8	47	5.5	59	1.6
2006	1,426	11.3	960	2.0	678	4.0	43	5.0	77	2.0
2007	1,475	11.6	880	1.8	611	3.5	39	4.5	37	0.9
2008	1,360	10.6	945	2.0	563	3.1	41	4.8	38	0.9
2009	1,195	9.3	970	2.1	566	3.0	35	4.1	27	0.6
2010	1,205	9.4	909	2.0	512	2.7	41	4.8	27	0.6
Total	59,265		88,206		14,699		1,473		1,891	

* Data for American Indians/Alaska Natives and Asians/Pacific Islanders are not available prior to 1981, and for Hispanics prior to 1990. Starting in 1990 the numbers for Whites, Blacks, American Indians/Alaska Natives, and Asians/Pacific Islanders exclude Hispanics.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Data for 1963-1967 are from annual Vital Statistics of the United States reports, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/vsus.htm>. Data for 1968-1980 and for 1999-2010 are from Compressed Mortality Files 1968-1978, 1979-1998, and 1999-2010, accessed through CDC WONDER Online Database at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mortSQL.html>. Data for 1981-1998 are from Multiple Cause of Death files accessed through the Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) at <http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/mortrate9.html>. Deaths for children and teens include deaths in those aged 0 to 19, inclusive. Deaths include homicides, suicides, accidents and deaths of undetermined intent, but exclude deaths from legal intervention. Gun deaths from 1963-1978 include a very small number of deaths from explosives (estimated to be fewer than 50 deaths.) Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund.

Table 6: Children and Teen Gun Deaths, by State, 2000–2010

	Overall Gun Deaths	Overall Gun Death Rate	State Rank	Homicide Gun Deaths	Homicide Gun Death Rate	Suicide Gun Deaths	Suicide Gun Death Rate	Gun Accident Deaths	Gun Accident Deaths Rate
Alabama	671	4.8	42	404	2.9	191	1.4	63	0.5
Alaska	197	8.7	50	57	2.5	120	5.3	15	0.7**
Arizona	903	4.9	43	542	2.9	283	1.5	39	0.2
Arkansas	366	4.3	37	178	2.1	133	1.6	44	0.5
California	4,668	4.1	36	3,920	3.4	580	0.5	146	0.1
Colorado	451	3.2	17	199	1.4	221	1.5	18	0.1**
Connecticut	156	1.5	4	115	1.1	35	0.3	*	*
Delaware	84	3.4	24	59	2.4	20	0.8	*	*
District of Columbia	309	21.7	—	301	21.1	*	*	*	*
Florida	1,527	3.2	19	1072	2.2	384	0.8	54	0.1
Georgia	1,088	3.8	30	729	2.5	275	1.0	64	0.2
Hawaii	15	0.4**	1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Idaho	183	3.8	29	27	0.6	131	2.7	25	0.5
Illinois	1,705	4.4	39	1,442	3.7	207	0.5	47	0.1
Indiana	682	3.5	25	389	2.0	234	1.2	45	0.2
Iowa	197	2.2	12	41	0.5	143	1.6	13	0.1**
Kansas	283	3.2	21	140	1.6	121	1.4	22	0.3
Kentucky	391	3.2	18	152	1.2	178	1.4	53	0.4
Louisiana	1,063	7.5	49	739	5.2	224	1.6	89	0.6
Maine	60	1.7	5	10	0.3**	49	1.4	*	*
Maryland	819	4.9	44	685	4.1	123	0.7	*	*
Massachusetts	273	1.5	3	231	1.3	37	0.2	*	*
Michigan	1,175	3.8	31	795	2.6	323	1.0	41	0.1
Minnesota	361	2.3	13	145	0.9	202	1.3	*	*
Mississippi	508	5.4	47	256	2.7	153	1.6	82	0.9
Missouri	888	5.1	45	577	3.3	244	1.4	49	0.3
Montana	145	5.2	46	27	1.0	99	3.6	16	0.6**
Nebraska	175	3.1	16	73	1.3	92	1.7	*	*
Nevada	325	4.4	40	212	2.9	97	1.3	13	0.2**
New Hampshire	44	1.2	2	*	*	35	0.9	*	*
New Jersey	484	1.9	6	419	1.6	52	0.2	12	0.05**
New Mexico	360	5.8	48	174	2.8	161	2.6	20	0.3
New York	1,192	2.1	9	940	1.7	214	0.4	33	0.1
North Carolina	948	3.6	27	582	2.2	294	1.1	56	0.2
North Dakota	76	4.0	33	12	0.6**	50	2.6	*	*
Ohio	991	2.9	15	617	1.8	306	0.9	54	0.2
Oklahoma	443	4.0	34	222	2.0	178	1.6	36	0.3
Oregon	228	2.2	10	83	0.8	123	1.2	16	0.2**
Pennsylvania	1,356	3.8	32	938	2.6	344	1.0	58	0.2
Rhode Island	66	2.2	11	51	1.7	13	0.4**	*	*
South Carolina	521	4.0	35	320	2.5	139	1.1	55	0.4
South Dakota	91	3.7	28	*	*	68	2.8	17	0.7**
Tennessee	773	4.3	38	454	2.6	245	1.4	59	0.3
Texas	2,596	3.3	23	1,573	2.0	854	1.1	143	0.2
Utah	195	2.0	7	41	0.4	140	1.5	11	0.1**
Vermont	36	2.1	8	*	*	23	1.3	*	*
Virginia	796	3.6	26	513	2.3	237	1.1	32	0.1
Washington	470	2.5	14	208	1.1	227	1.2	20	0.1
West Virginia	162	3.3	22	61	1.3	84	1.7	15	0.3**
Wisconsin	539	3.2	20	261	1.6	238	1.4	32	0.2
Wyoming	73	4.6	41	11	0.7**	53	3.3	*	*
U.S. Total	32,108	3.6		21,026	2.3	8,984	1.0	1,672	0.2

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Underlying Cause of Death 1999-2010 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 2012. Accessed at <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html> on Jan 7, 2013. Calculations by the Children's Defense Fund. Gun deaths include deaths from homicide, suicide, accident and deaths where the type could not be determined, and exclude gun deaths due to legal intervention or war. Rates are per 100,000 children and teens per year. Higher rank means a higher overall gun death rate. The District of Columbia is not included in the ranking.

* Denotes cases where the number of deaths was below 10 and the exact number was not released by the CDC to protect the anonymity of victims.

** Means that the rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.

Table 7: Gun Injury Numbers and Rates per 100,000, by Age and Race/Ethnicity, 2001–2010

Gun Injury Numbers and Rates by Age, 2001–2010

	TOTAL		Under 5		Ages 5-9		Ages 10-14		Ages 15-19	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	14,496	17.9	112	0.6	381	1.9	1,889	9.0	12,113	59.2
2002	12,854	15.8	99	0.5	127	0.6	1,117	5.3	11,511	55.9
2003	11,883	14.6	95	0.5	102	0.5	794	3.7	10,893	52.4
2004	13,801	16.9	53	0.3	289	1.5	2,001	9.3	11,458	54.3
2005	16,082	19.6	200	1.0	68	0.4	1,395	6.6	14,419	67.1
2006	17,381	21.1	82	0.4	288	1.5	2,100	10.0	14,912	68.4
2007	17,523	21.2	71	0.4	265	1.3	1,516	7.3	15,671	71.0
2008	20,596	24.8	238	1.2	369	1.9	1,170	5.7	18,819	84.7
2009	13,790	16.6	149	0.7	91	0.5	618	3.0	12,932	58.3
2010	15,576	18.7	201	1.0	240	1.2	1,265	6.1	13,871	62.9

Gun Injury Numbers and Rates by Race/Ethnicity*, 2001–2010

	TOTAL		Black		White		Hispanic		Other non-Hispanic	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	14,496	17.9	6,349	48.3	2,393	4.8	2,101	15.4	1,095	26.0
2002	12,854	15.8	6,205	47.0	2,023	4.1	2,252	16.0	194	4.5
2003	11,883	14.6	6,844	51.5	1,948	4.0	1,343	9.3	60	1.4
2004	13,801	16.9	6,693	50.1	3,130	6.4	1,576	10.5	634	14.1
2005	16,082	19.6	7,591	56.4	2,389	4.9	2,218	14.3	386	8.4
2006	17,381	21.1	8,922	65.8	2,926	6.1	2,664	16.7	775	16.5
2007	17,523	21.2	6,601	48.2	2,737	5.7	1,906	11.5	601	12.5
2008	20,596	24.8	8,441	61.2	4,086	8.6	5,099	29.9	579	11.8
2009	13,790	16.6	7,102	51.2	2,368	5.1	2,546	14.5	185	3.7
2010	15,576	18.7	7,232	52.1	2,839	6.1	3,571	20.0	349	6.9

* Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive: White, non-Hispanic; Black (including Hispanic and non-Hispanic); Hispanic (for all races other than Black); Other non-Hispanic, and Not Stated. The number of injuries among those who did not state a race/ethnicity were: 2,588 in 2001, 2,180 in 2002, 1,688 in 2003, 1,768 in 2004, 3,497 in 2005, 2,093 in 2006, 2,391 in 2007, 5,679 in 2008, 1,588 in 2009, and 1,584 in 2010.

Note: Numbers may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2011. 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. Injuries from legal (police or corrections) intervention are excluded.

Table 8: Gun Injury Numbers and Rates per 100,000, by Manner and Race/Ethnicity*, 2001–2010

	Assault Gun 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
2010	12,077	14.5	6,602	47.6	681	1.5	3,246	18.2
TOTAL	112,797		60,647		10,341		19,800	

	Accidental Gun 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
2010	3,019	3.6	630	4.5	1,702	3.7	302	1.7
TOTAL	38,192		11,087		14,707		5,034	

	Self-Harm Gun 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
2010	480	0.6	0	0.0	456	0.98	23	0.1
TOTAL	2,995		245		1,791		439	

*Race/ethnicity categories are mutually exclusive: White, non-Hispanic; Black (including Hispanic and non-Hispanic); Hispanic (for all races other than Black); Other non-Hispanic, and Not Stated.

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. Assault injuries exclude injuries from legal (police or corrections) intervention.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2011. 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. Assault injuries exclude injuries from legal (police or corrections) intervention.

Table 9: Gun Injury Numbers and Rates per 100,000, by Age, 2001–2010

	Assault Gun Injuries									
	TOTAL		Under 5		Ages 5-9		Ages 10-14		Ages 15-19	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	9,219	11.4	0	0.0	140	0.7	738	3.5	8,341	40.8
2002	8,344	10.3	44	0.2	93	0.5	373	1.8	7,834	38.0
2003	8,213	10.1	60	0.3	29	0.1	671	3.1	7,453	35.8
2004	9,356	11.4	10	0.1	165	0.8	1,033	4.8	8,148	38.6
2005	12,489	15.2	168	0.8	40	0.2	642	3.0	11,639	54.2
2006	14,010	17.0	41	0.2	142	0.7	1,325	6.3	12,501	57.3
2007	12,864	15.5	61	0.3	153	0.8	836	4.0	11,814	53.5
2008	16,187	19.5	114	0.6	242	1.2	688	3.3	15,143	68.2
2009	10,038	12.1	38	0.2	61	0.3	390	1.9	9,549	43.0
2010	12,077	14.5	185	0.9	184	0.9	742	3.6	10,967	49.8

	Accidental Gun Injuries									
	TOTAL		Under 5		Ages 5-9		Ages 10-14		Ages 15-19	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	5,091	6.3	112	0.6	241	1.2	1,041	5.0	3,697	18.1
2002	4,136	5.1	55	0.3	34	0.2	735	3.5	3,312	16.1
2003	3,611	4.4	35	0.2	73	0.4	123	0.6	3,380	16.3
2004	3,950	4.8	43	0.2	124	0.6	968	4.5	2,815	13.3
2005	3,547	4.3	32	0.2	28	0.1	753	3.5	2,734	12.7
2006	3,087	3.7	41	0.2	146	0.7	682	3.2	2,219	10.2
2007	4,165	5.0	10	0.0	112	0.6	680	3.3	3,363	15.2
2008	3,998	4.8	124	0.6	127	0.6	482	2.3	3,265	14.7
2009	3,588	4.3	111	0.5	30	0.1	228	1.1	3,218	14.5
2010	3,019	3.6	16	0.1	56	0.3	523	2.5	2,424	11.0

	Self-Harm Gun Injuries									
	TOTAL		Under 5		Ages 5-9		Ages 10-14		Ages 15-19	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
2001	185	0.23	0	0.0	0	0.0	110	0.5	75	0.4
2002	374	0.46	0	0.0	0	0.0	9	0.0	365	1.8
2003	60	0.07	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	60	0.3
2004	495	0.61	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	495	2.3
2005	46	0.06	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	46	0.2
2006	285	0.35	0	0.0	0	0.0	93	0.4	192	0.9
2007	494	0.60	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	494	2.2
2008	411	0.49	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	411	1.9
2009	165	0.20	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	165	0.7
2010	480	0.58	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	480	2.2

Note: Numbers may not add up to the totals due to rounding.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2001-2011. 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.

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