

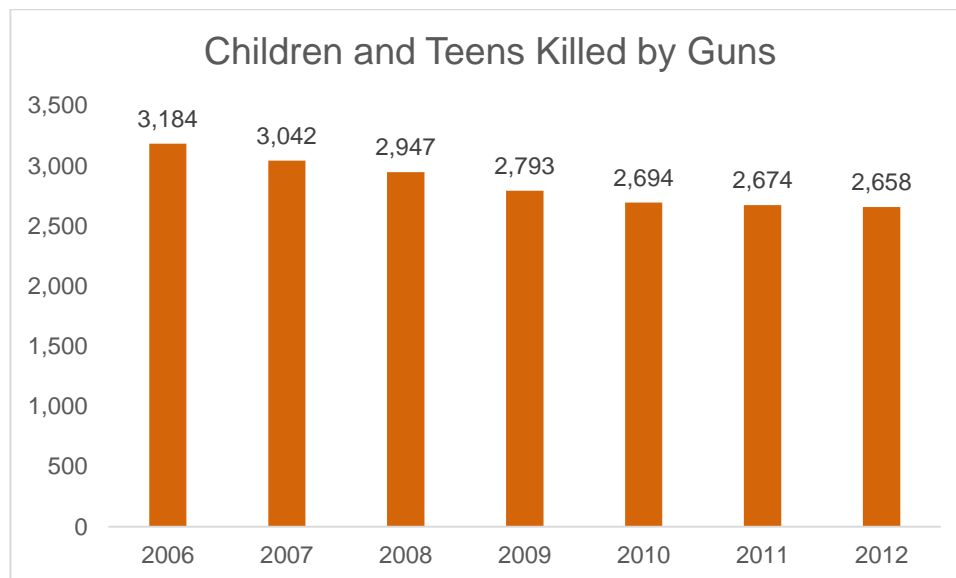
Children's Defense Fund Protect Children Not Guns Factsheet



Progress on child and teen gun deaths has stalled

December 12, 2014

According to the most recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, progress made in reducing child and teen gun deaths in the second half of the 2000s ground to a near halt in 2011 and 2012. Between 2006 and 2010, gun deaths of children and teens ages 0-19 decreased an average of 123 deaths every year, for a total reduction of 490 fewer deaths in 2010, a 15 percent reduction. Since 2010, gun deaths in children and teens have decreased only by 18 deaths a year, an 85 percent reduction in the previous rate of decrease.



Guns remain 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. *More than twice as many children and teens die from guns than by drowning.*
- Overall, children and teens ages 1-19 are 40 percent more likely to die in a car accident than from a gun injury. Black children and teens are *more than twice as likely* to die from a gun as in a car accident.

U.S. children and teens are 18 times more likely to die from a gun than their peers in 25 other high-income countries.

- 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.

- Gun death rates for children and teens in the U.S. were nearly four times higher than in Finland, the country with the next highest rate, more than 14 times higher than in France, and over 67 times higher than in the United Kingdom.

A child or teen dies from a gun every 3 hours and 18 minutes.

- 2,658 children and teens died from guns in the United States in 2012, or one every 3 hours and 18 minutes.
- The children and teens who died from guns in 2012 would fill nearly 133 classrooms of 20 children.
- More children and teens died from guns every three days in 2012 than died in the Newtown massacre.

Child and teen gun death rates remain higher than in the early 1960s.

- The risk of a child or teen dying from a gun now is 34 percent higher than in 1963, the earliest year of data available.
- While Black children and teens have been disproportionately likely to die from guns since the early 1960s, over half the deaths since 1963 were among White children and teens.
- Between 1963 and 2012, 61,433 Black children and teens were killed by guns — nearly 18 times the recorded lynchings of Black people of all ages in the 86 years from 1882 to 1968.

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

- 171,933 children and teens died from guns on American soil between 1963 and 2012, while 52,816 U.S. soldiers were killed in action in the Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars during that same period.
- On average 3,439 children and teens — 172 classrooms of 20 children — were killed by guns *every year* from 1963 to 2012.

A child or teen is injured with a gun every 35 minutes.

- 15,045 children and teens were injured by guns in 2013, or one every 35 minutes.

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.

Black and American Indian and Alaska Native children and teens are disproportionately more likely to die from a gun.

- In 2012, 43 percent of gun deaths were among Black children and teens, although they were only 14 percent of all children and teens.
- Black children and teens were 4 times as likely to die from a gun as White children and teens and 14 times as likely to die from a gun as Asian and Pacific Islander children and teens.
- American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens were nearly twice as likely to die from a gun as White children and teens, and 6 times as likely to die from a gun as Asian and Pacific Islander children.
- American Indian and Alaska Native children and teens were the most likely to die from a gun suicide, followed by White children and teens.

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.

Sources: Gun deaths: CDC WONDER Online Database, <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>. Gun injuries: CDC Nonfatal Injury Reports, <http://webappa.cdc.gov/sasweb/ncipc/nfirates2001.html>, based on the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System All Injury Program. All child and teen data are for ages 0 -19 and exclude deaths for interactions with law enforcement. Law enforcement deaths (includes felonious and accidental deaths by firearms): Federal Bureau of Investigation <http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/leoka-2010>. War casualties (as of Dec 11, 2014): Defense Casualty Analysis System, <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/dcas/pages/casualties.xhtml> . International comparisons: World Health Organization, Inter-country comparison of mortality for selected cause of death, <http://data.euro.who.int/dmdb/>. For other sources see the Children's Defense Fund's Protect Children, Not Guns 2013 report, <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-2013.html>.