

GUN VIOLENCE

7

**THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN AND TEENS
KILLED BY GUNS EVERY DAY IN AMERICA.
SEVEN EVERY DAY.**

Thousands of children and teens see their lives cut tragically short by gun violence every year, enough to fill 134 classrooms of 20 children each in 2010. In high-poverty communities children constantly fear losing their lives to a bullet fired in an act of random violence. But the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School showed Americans there is no safe place in the country. Guns regularly kill more infants, toddlers and preschoolers than they do law enforcement officers in the line of duty. The widespread availability of guns leads to countless accidental gun deaths and suicides of children.

Key facts about gun violence:

- 2,694 children and teens were killed by guns in the United States in 2010 and 15,576 children and teens were injured by guns.¹ That means one child or teen was killed or injured every 30 minutes, 50 every day, and 351 every week.
- Gun violence is the leading cause of death among Black children and teens ages 1-19 and the second leading cause of death (behind car accidents) for all children and teens ages 1-19.¹
- Gun violence disproportionately affects children of color. In 2010, Black children and teens were nearly five times and Hispanic children and teens more than three times more likely to be killed by guns than White children and teens.¹
- The United States military and law enforcement agencies possess 4 million guns, U.S. civilians have 310 million.² Every year, American companies manufacture enough bullets to fire 31 rounds into every one of our citizens.³
- U.S. children and teens are 17 times more likely to be killed by a gun than their peers in 25 other high-income countries (see Figure). U.S. children and teens are 10 times more likely to die from a gun suicide or a gun accident and 32 times more likely to die from a gun homicide.⁴
- Since 1963, three times as many children and teens have been killed by guns on American soil than U.S. soldiers have been killed in action in wars abroad. From 1963-2010, 166,500 children and teens were killed by guns in the United States, while a combined total of 52,183 U.S. soldiers were killed in the Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq wars.⁵
- A gun in the home does not make a family safer. It increases the risk of homicide by 200 percent, suicide 200 to 400 percent, and accidental death 300 percent.⁶ Congress cut federal funding for gun violence research soon after the release of these findings.
- Gun violence takes a societal toll beyond those immediately impacted by it. In 2010, gun deaths and injuries were estimated to cost the U.S. \$174.1 billion, or 1.15 percent of our total gross domestic product.⁷

Find state data in Gun Violence tables in Appendix.

Stricter Gun Policies Now

I have lost 20 or more people to gun violence . . . I have seen one of my best friends get shot and killed in my face. What really hurt was I had to tell his mother he was dead. To this day his murder is unsolved and I honestly feel it will never be solved. But something needs to give; either stricter gun policy or more mothers will have to go through what my friend's mother went through.

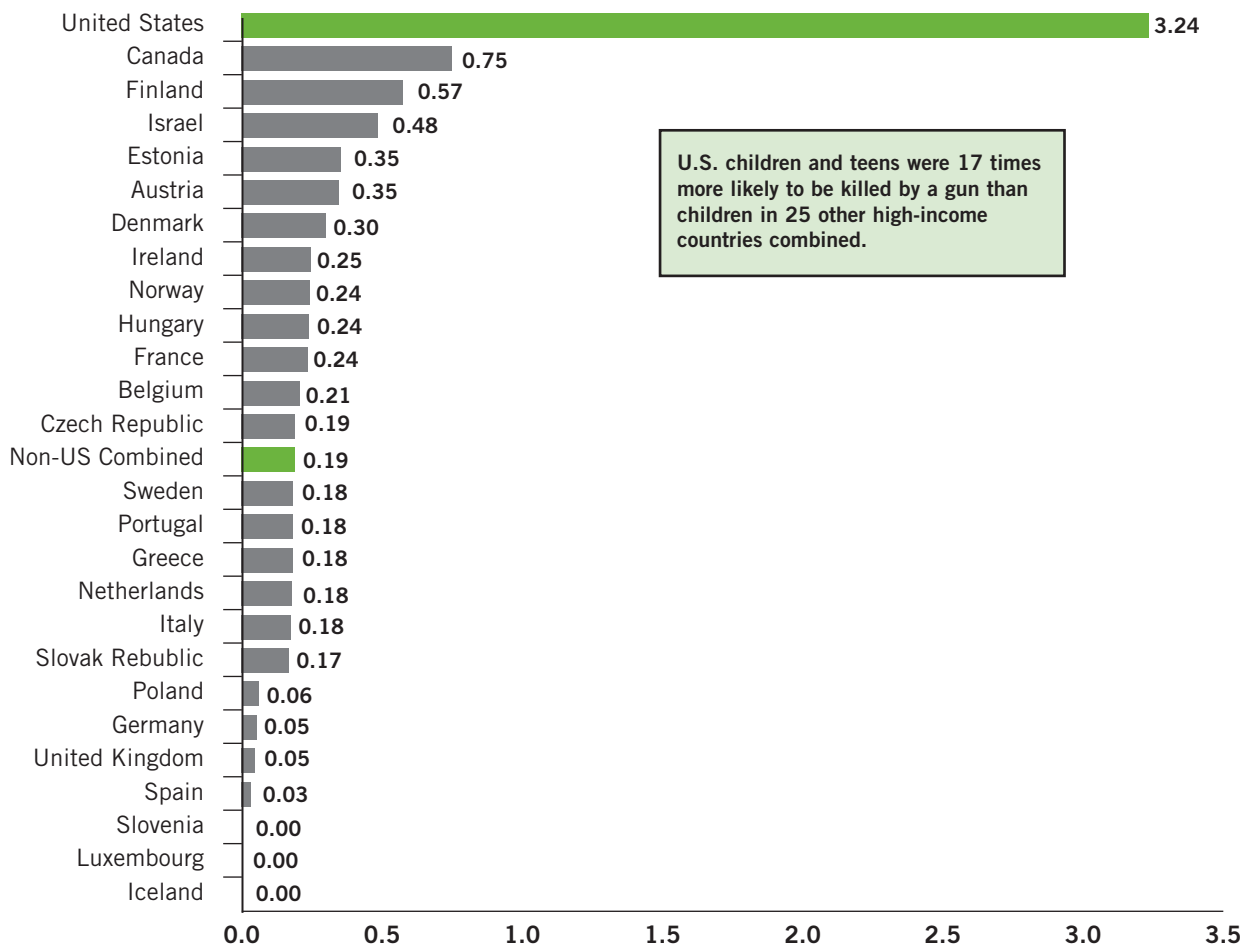
— Teenager at Maya Angelou Academy at the New Beginnings Youth Development Center

After the Massacre

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

— Child from Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT.

Rates of Gun Deaths per 100,000 Children and Teens in High-Income Countries



Sources: Children's Defense Fund analysis of data from World Health Organization, 2012, Inter-country Comparison of Mortality for Selected Cause of Death – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2010, Fatal Injury Reports. Chart includes the latest data available for each country: 2010 for all countries except Belgium and Denmark (2006), and France, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy and Luxembourg (2009). Rates are not age-adjusted. Data were not available for Australia, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand and Switzerland.