

# Coalition for Peace Action

# Gun Violence Fact Sheet

---

**DID YOU KNOW?** *In one year on average, almost 100,000 people in America are shot or killed with a gun.*

- In one year, **31,224 people died from gun violence** and 66,769 people survived gun injuries (National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC)). That includes:
  - **12,632 people murdered** and 44,466 people shot in an attack.
  - **17,352 people who killed themselves** and 3,031 people who survived a suicide attempt with a gun.
  - **613 people who were killed unintentionally** and 18,610 who were shot unintentionally but survived.
- **Over a million people** have been killed with guns in the United States since 1968, when Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated (Childrens' Defense Fund, p. 20).
- U.S. homicide rates are **6.9 times higher than rates in 22 other populous high-income countries combined**, despite similar non-lethal crime and violence rates. The firearm homicide rate in the U.S. is 19.5 times higher (Richardson, p.1).
- Among 23 populous, high-income countries, **80% of all firearm deaths occurred in the United States** (Richardson, p. 1).
- Gun violence impacts society in countless ways: medical costs, costs of the criminal justice system, security precautions such as metal detectors, and reductions in quality of life because of fear of gun violence. **These impacts are estimated to cost U.S. citizens \$100 billion annually** (Cook, 2000).

**DID YOU KNOW?** *Where there are more guns, there are more gun deaths.*

- An estimated **41% of gun-related homicides and 94% of gun-related suicides would not occur under the same circumstances had no guns been present** (Wiebe, p. 780).
- Higher household gun ownership correlates with higher rates of homicides, suicides, and unintentional shootings (Harvard Injury Control Center).
- Keeping a firearm in the home **increases the risk of suicide by a factor of 3 to 5** and increases the risk of suicide with a firearm by a factor of 17 (Kellermann, 1992, p. 467; Wiebe, p. 771).
- Keeping a firearm in the home **increases the risk of homicide by a factor of 3** (Kellermann, 1993, p. 1084)



**DID YOU KNOW? *On the whole, guns are more likely to raise the risk of injury than to confer protection.***

- A gun is **22 times more likely** to be used in a completed or attempted suicide, criminal assault or homicide, or unintentional shooting death or injury than to be used in a self-defense shooting. (Kellermann, 1998, p. 263).
- Guns are used to intimidate and threaten **4 to 6 times more often than they are used to thwart crime** (Hemenway, p. 269).
- Every year there are only about 200 legally justified self-defense homicides by private citizens (FBI, Expanded Homicide Data, Table 15) **compared with over 30,000 gun deaths** (NCIPC).
- A 2009 study found that people in possession of a gun are **4.5 times more likely to be shot in an assault** (Branas).

**DID YOU KNOW? *Assaults and suicide attempts with firearms are much more likely to be fatal than those perpetrated with less lethal weapons or means. Removing guns saves lives.***


- **There are five times as many deaths from gun assaults as from knife assaults**, where the rates of assault with knives and with guns are similar (Zimring, p. 199).
- **More than 90 percent of suicide attempts with a gun are fatal** (Miller, 2004, p. 626). In comparison, only 3 percent of attempts with drugs or cutting are fatal (Miller, 2004, p. 626).

**DID YOU KNOW? *Guns can be sold in the United States without a background check to screen out criminals or the mentally ill.***

- It is estimated that **over forty percent of gun acquisitions occur in the secondary market**. That means that they happen without a Brady background check at a federally licensed dealer (Cook, p. 26).
- Sales from federal firearm licensees (FFLs) require a background check. **Sales between individuals, under federal law, do not require a background check**. This means that felons can “lie and buy” at gun shows and other places where guns are readily available.

---

*A special thanks to the Brady Campaign for providing these important facts.*

<b>For More Information</b>	
<b>Visit the Ceasefire New Jersey link on our Website</b>	
<b>Coalition for Peace Action</b>	
609-924-5022	
<a href="http://www.peacecoalition.org">www.peacecoalition.org</a>	