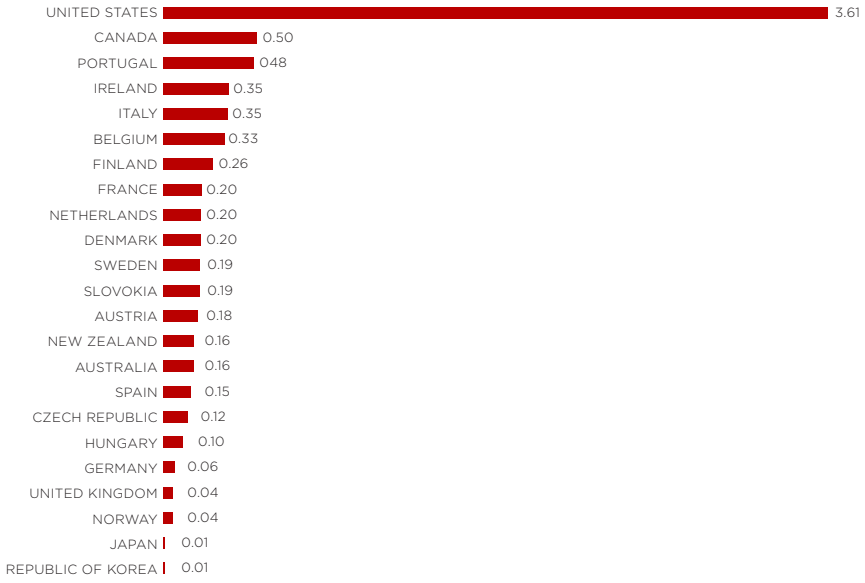
EVERYTOWN
FOR GUN SAFETY

TRENDS IN GUN VIOLENCE IN THE U.S.

Nearly 12,000 Americans are murdered with guns every year — a rate more than 25 times higher than that of other developed countries — and over 20,000 kill themselves with guns. Although the violent crime rate has generally decreased over the past 15 years, the gun murder rate in the U.S. has hardly changed. **Because we haven't enacted common sense gun policies that will save lives, we haven't meaningfully reduced gun violence in America.** It is high time to pass common sense public safety measures like comprehensive and enforceable background checks that will reduce gun crime and save lives.

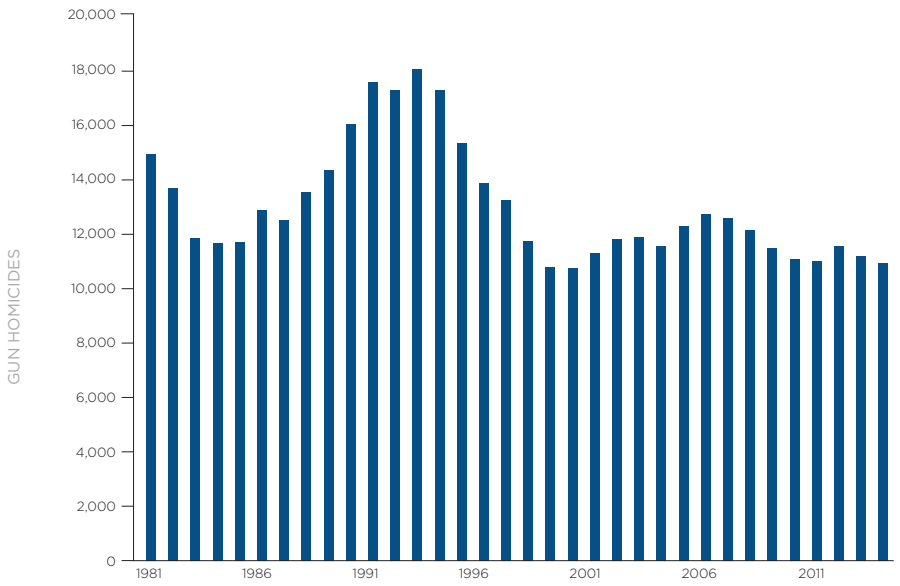
America's gun murder rate is extraordinarily high — more than 25 times the average of other developed countries. An analysis of gun homicide rates in developed countries — those considered "high-income" by the World Bank that are members of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and have populations larger than 1 million — found that the United States accounted for 46 percent of the population but 82 percent of the gun deaths. [1]

GUN MURDERS PER 100,000 RESIDENTS



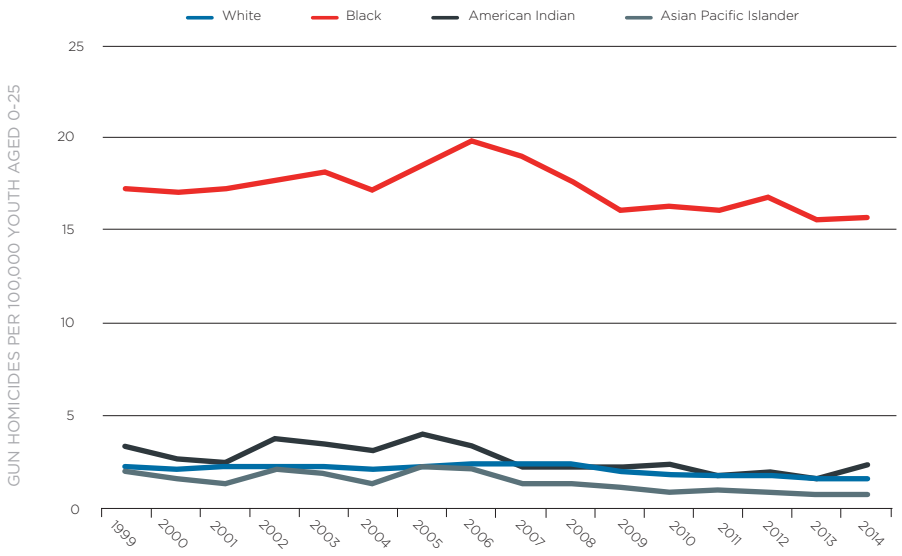
There are nearly 12,000 gun murders a year in the U.S. – and that number has barely changed since the late 1990s. Between 1998 and 2014, gun homicides have not varied more than 11 percent in either direction from an annual average of 11,619. [2]

ANNUAL GUN MURDERS IN THE UNITED STATES



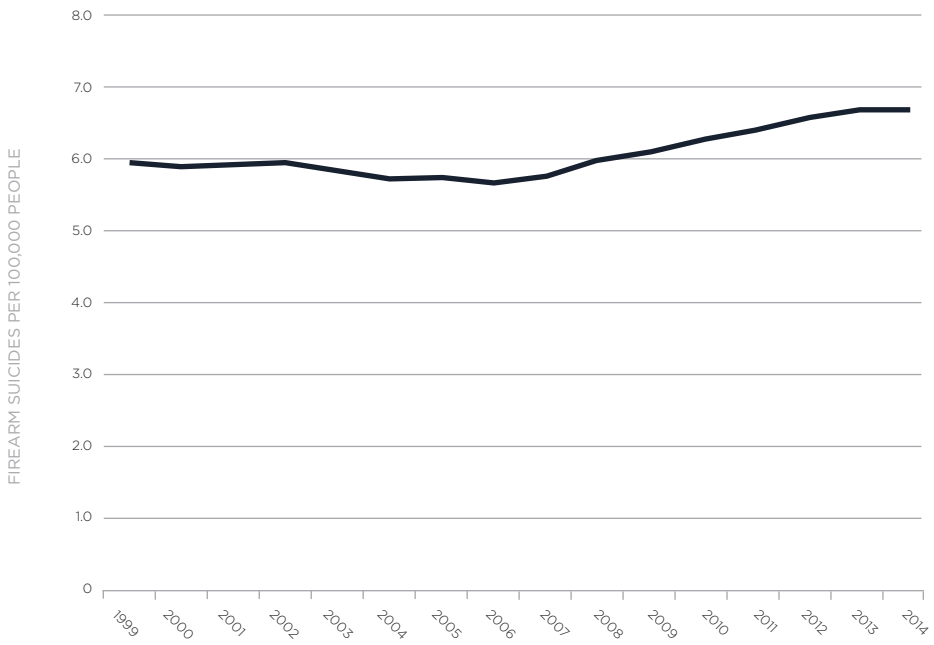
Gun violence disproportionately affects young people, especially young African Americans. Nationwide, a black youth under 25 years old has ten times the risk of being murdered with a gun as does a white youth of the same age. [3]

GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMIZATION RATES AMONG YOUTH AGED 0-25



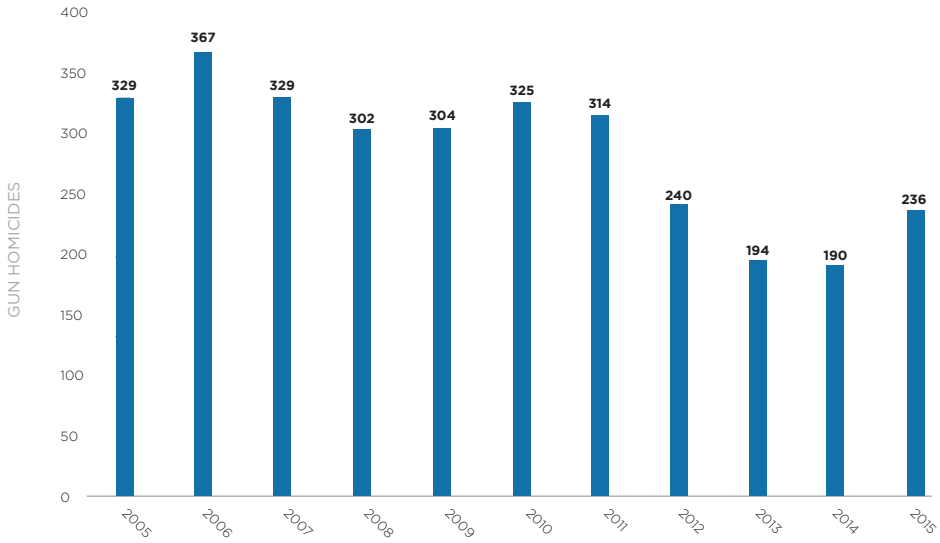
The gun suicide rate in the United States is rising. In 2014, more than 21,000 Americans killed themselves with guns. The share of gun deaths recorded by the CDC and classified as suicide has increased since 2006, from 57 percent to 63 percent. [4]

FIREARM SUICIDE RATE IN THE UNITED STATES



But we can prevent gun violence before it happens with strong laws and effective enforcement. In New York City, where background checks are required for all unlicensed gun sales and police are tough on people who commit gun crimes, the gun homicide rate has fallen 39 percent over the last decade. [5]

GUN HOMICIDES IN NEW YORK CITY



1. Erin Grinshteyn and David Hemenway, "Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income OECD Countries, 2010," American Journal of Medicine, 2015. The World Bank defines a high-income country as one with a gross national income per capita greater than $12,736. Additionally, the study excluded Iceland and Luxembourg from the broader OECD for having very small populations, and also excluded Greece and Switzerland for not using detailed ICD-10 codes.
2. Fatal Injury Reports," Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS), accessed December 21, 2015, http://1.usa.gov/1plXBux
3. Fatal Injury Reports," Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS), accessed December 21, 2015, http://1.usa.gov/1plXBux
4. Fatal Injury Reports," Injury Prevention & Control: Data & Statistics (WISQARS), accessed December 21, 2015, http://1.usa.gov/1plXBux
5. "Seven Major Felony Offenses - 2000-2014," New York City Police Department, accessed March 30, 2016, http://on.nyc.gov/1RIUTPi. Drop is assessed with a three-year rolling average by comparing 2005-8 to 2013-15.