

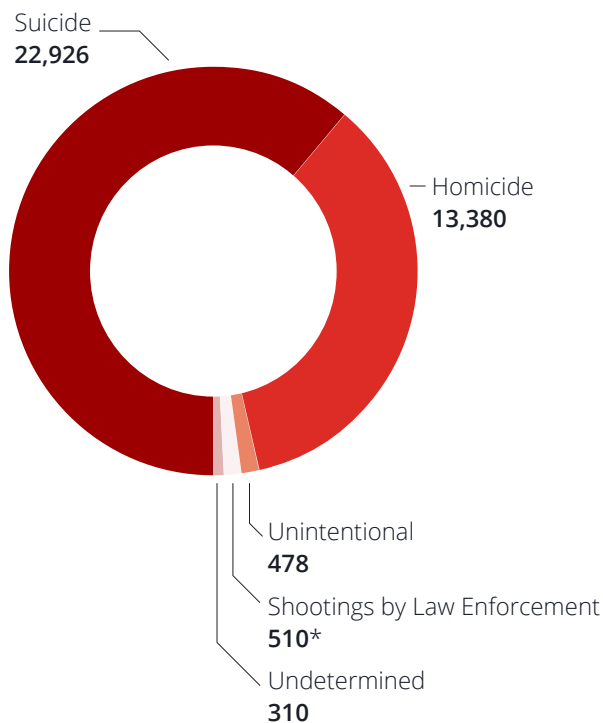
# GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Every day, **more than 100 Americans are killed with guns and 200 more are shot and wounded.** The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties—gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting.

In order to illustrate the magnitude of everyday gun violence, Everytown has gathered the most comprehensive, publicly available data. Still, significant data gaps remain—a result of underfunded, incomplete data collection at the state and federal level. Filling these gaps is necessary to truly understand the full impact of gun violence in the United States.

## GUN DEATHS BY INTENT<sup>1</sup>

Average Deaths per Year  
**Total 37,603**



\*Note: This intent category is believed to be underreported and is likely being misclassified as homicide.<sup>2</sup> *The Washington Post's* database is widely cited and estimates that 988 civilians are fatally shot by police in an average year—nearly twice as many as recorded by the CDC.<sup>3</sup>

## GUN SUICIDE

Nearly two-thirds of gun deaths are suicides.<sup>4</sup> The U.S. gun suicide rate is 10 times that of other high-income countries.<sup>5</sup>

Access to a gun triples the risk of death by suicide.<sup>6</sup> Gun suicides are concentrated in states with high rates of gun ownership.<sup>7</sup>

Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun. Across all suicide attempts not involving a firearm, 4 percent will result in death. But for gun suicides, those statistics are flipped: Approximately 90 percent of gun suicide attempts end in death.<sup>8</sup>

White men represent 74 percent of firearm suicide victims in America.<sup>9</sup>

**ACCESS  
TO A GUN  
TRIPLES  
THE RISK OF  
DEATH BY  
SUICIDE.<sup>6</sup>**

**3x**

## GUN HOMICIDE

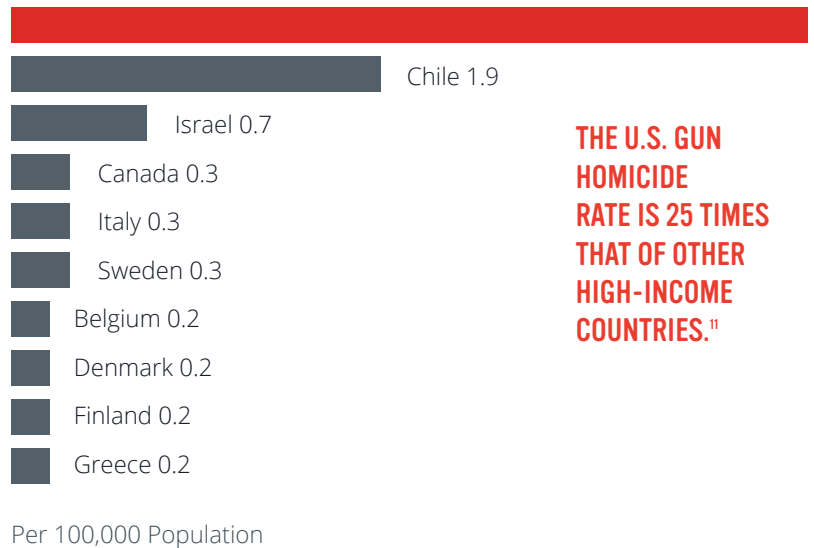
One-third of gun deaths are homicides.<sup>10</sup> The U.S. gun homicide rate is 25 times that of other high-income countries.<sup>11</sup>

Access to a gun doubles the risk of death by homicide.<sup>12</sup>

Gun homicides are concentrated in cities—half of all gun homicides took place in just 127 cities, which represented nearly a quarter of the U.S. population.<sup>13</sup> Within these cities, gun homicides are most prevalent in racially segregated neighborhoods with high rates of poverty.<sup>14</sup>

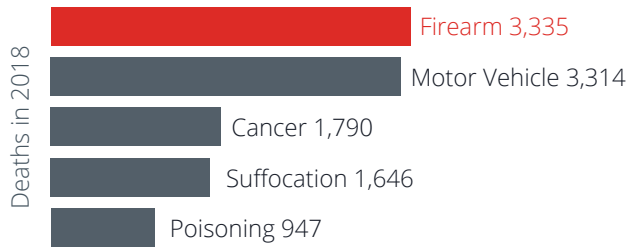
Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims.<sup>15</sup> In fact, Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.<sup>16</sup>

United States 4.1



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**FIREARMS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN AND TEENS.<sup>17</sup>**



**CHILDREN AND TEENS**

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children and teens.<sup>17</sup>

More than 1,700 children and teens die by gun homicide every year.<sup>18</sup> For children under the age of 13, these gun homicides most frequently occur in the home and are often connected to domestic or family violence.<sup>19</sup>

Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than white children and teens of the same age to die by gun homicide.<sup>20</sup>

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Women in the U.S. are 21 times more likely to be killed with a gun than women in other high-income countries.<sup>21</sup>

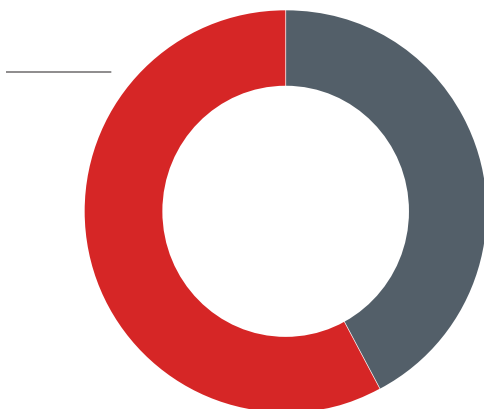
In an average month, 53 American women are shot to death by an intimate partner,<sup>22</sup> and many more are shot and wounded.

Nearly one million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner.<sup>23</sup> Approximately 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.<sup>24</sup>

Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed.<sup>25</sup>



**58 PERCENT OF AMERICAN ADULTS OR SOMEONE THEY CARE FOR HAVE EXPERIENCED GUN VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME.<sup>26</sup>**



**IMPACT ON AMERICANS**

58 percent of American adults or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetime.<sup>26</sup>

Approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year.<sup>27</sup>

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2014 to 2018. While it is broadly considered to be the most comprehensive firearm fatal injury source, two of the intent categories—Shootings by Law Enforcement and Unintentional Deaths—are estimated to be greatly underreported. This underreporting is largely due to missing information on death certificates, which may result in misclassification of intent. Multiple media sources and nonprofit groups have tracked shootings by law enforcement, but no reliable public database captures unintentional shootings. Intent category averages may not total to yearly averages due to rounding.
2. Loftin C, Wiersema B, McDowall D, Dobrin A. Underreporting of justifiable homicides committed by police officers in the United States, 1976-1998. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2003; 93(7): 1117-1121. See also: Barber C, Azrael D, Cohen A, Miller M, et al. Homicides by police: Comparing counts from the National Violent Death Reporting System, Vital Statistics, and Supplementary Homicide Reports. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2016; 106(5): 922-927.
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5. Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. Violent death rates in the US compared to those of the other high-income countries, 2015. *Preventive Medicine*. 2019; 123: 20-26.
6. Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2014; 160(2): 101-110.
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10. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2014 to 2018. Homicide includes legal intervention.
11. Grinshteyn E, Hemenway D. Violent death rates in the US compared to those of the other high-income countries, 2015. *Preventive Medicine*. 2019; 123: 20-26.
12. Anglemeyer A, Horvath T, Rutherford G. The accessibility of firearms and risk for suicide and homicide victimization among household members: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2014; 160(2): 101-110.
13. Aufrichtig A, Beckett L, Diehm J, Lartey J. Want to fix gun violence in America? Go local. *The Guardian*. January 9, 2017. <https://bit.ly/2i6kaKw>.
14. Ibid.
15. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2014 to 2018. Analysis includes: all ages, non-Hispanic only, and homicide including legal intervention.
16. Ibid.
17. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. Data from 2018. Children and teenagers aged 1 to 19, Black defined as non-Hispanic, number of deaths by known intent (homicide, suicide, unintentional deaths). Age 0 to 1 calculated separately by the CDC because leading causes of death for newborns and infants are specific to the age group.
18. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Fatal Injury Reports. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2014 to 2018. Analysis includes: ages 0 to 19, and homicide including legal intervention.
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22. Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program Data: Supplementary Homicide Reports, 1976-2018. Kaplan, Jacob concatenated files as posted on: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 2019-10-27. <https://doi.org/10.3886/E100699V8>. Everytown includes data from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) in national IPV statistics; however Florida's state-specific IPV statistics are suppressed, as FDLE only captures incidents of spousal IPV, which results in undercounting.
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