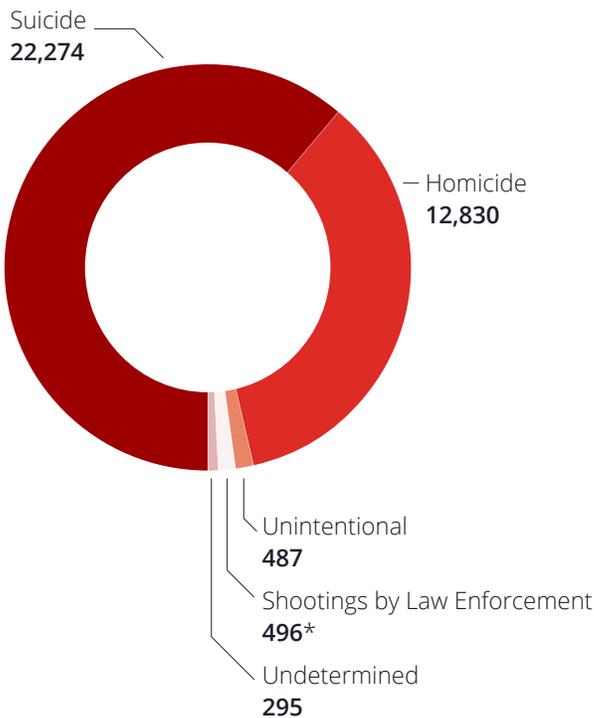# GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Every day, **100 Americans are killed with guns** and hundreds more are shot and injured. 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.
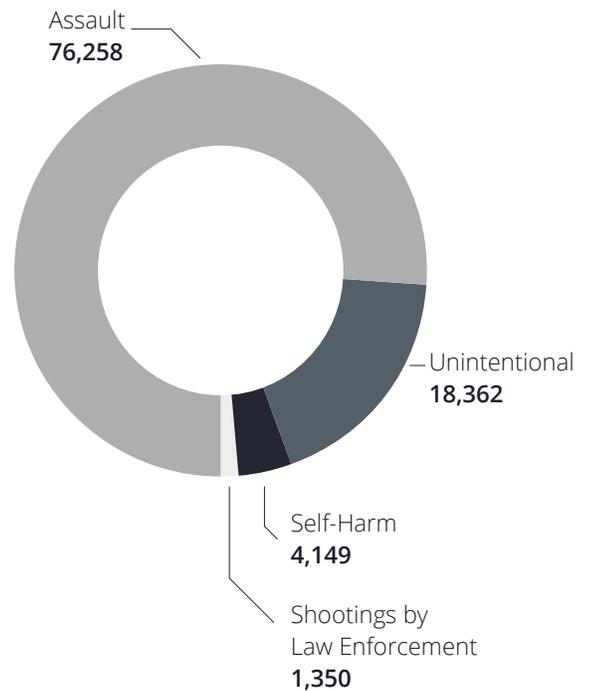
GUN DEATHS BY INTENT[1]

Average Deaths per Year
Total 36,383

Suicide
22,274

Homicide
12,830

Unintentional
487

Shootings by Law Enforcement
496*

Undetermined
295

GUN INJURIES BY INTENT[2]

Average Injuries per Year
Total 100,120

Assault
76,258

Unintentional
18,362

Self-Harm
4,149

Shootings by Law Enforcement
1,350

*Note: This intent category is believed to be underreported and is likely being misclassified as homicide.[3] *The Washington Post's* database is widely cited and estimates that 986 civilians are fatally shot by police in an average year—nearly twice as many as recorded by the CDC.[4]

GUN SUICIDE

Nearly two-thirds of gun deaths are suicides.[5] The U.S. gun suicide rate is 10 times that of other high-income countries.[6]

Access to a gun increases the risk of death by suicide by three times.[7] Gun suicides are concentrated in states with high rates of gun ownership.[8]

Most people who attempt suicide do not die—unless they use a gun. Across all suicide attempts not involving a firearm, less than five percent will result in death.[9] But for gun suicides, those statistics are flipped: approximately 85 percent of gun suicide attempts end in death.[10]

White men represent 74 percent of firearm suicide victims in America.[11]

ACCESS TO A GUN INCREASES THE RISK OF DEATH BY SUICIDE BY THREE TIMES.[7]

3x

GUN HOMICIDE

One-third of gun deaths are homicides.[12] The U.S. gun homicide rate is 25 times that of other high-income countries.[13]

Access to a gun increases the risk of death by homicide by two times.[14]

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.[15] Within these cities, gun homicides are most prevalent in racially segregated neighborhoods with high rates of poverty.[16]

Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims.[17] In fact, Black Americans are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.[18]

United States 4.1	
Chile 1.9	
Israel 0.7	
Canada 0.3	
Italy 0.3	
Sweden 0.3	
Belgium 0.2	
Denmark 0.2	
Finland 0.2	
Greece 0.2	

Per 100,000 Population

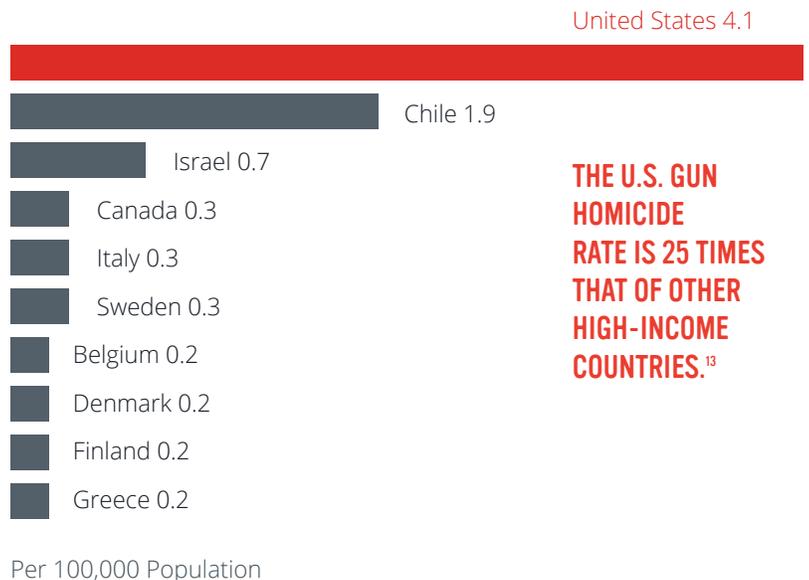**THE U.S. GUN HOMICIDE RATE IS 25 TIMES THAT OF OTHER HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES.[13]**

GUN ASSAULTS

Three-quarters of nonfatal gun injuries are caused by assaults.[19]

Black males are 15 times more likely than white males to be shot and injured in assaults involving guns.[20]

BLACK MALES ARE 15 TIMES MORE LIKELY THAN WHITE MALES TO BE SHOT AND INJURED IN ASSAULTS INVOLVING GUNS.[20]

FIREARMS ARE THE SECOND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH FOR AMERICAN CHILDREN AND TEENS.[21]
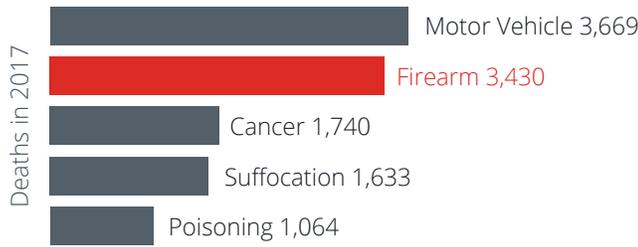
Deaths in 2017

Motor Vehicle 3,669
Firearm 3,430
Cancer 1,740
Suffocation 1,633
Poisoning 1,064

1 MiLLION

NEARLY ONE MILLION WOMEN ALIVE TODAY HAVE BEEN SHOT OR SHOT AT BY AN INTIMATE PARTNER.[27]

58 PERCENT OF AMERICAN ADULTS OR SOMEONE THEY CARE FOR HAVE EXPERIENCED GUN VIOLENCE IN THEIR LIFETIME.[31]
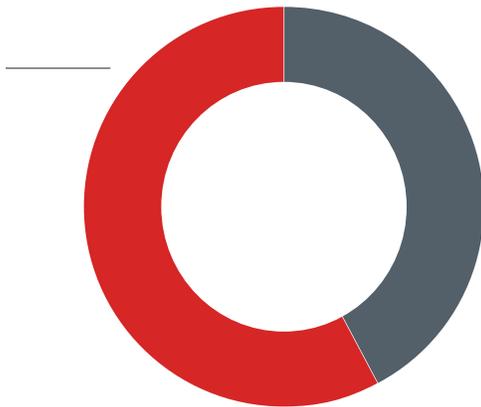
CHILDREN AND TEENS

Firearms are the second leading cause of death for American children and teens and the first leading cause of death for Black children and teens.[21]

Nearly 1,700 children and teens die by gun homicide every year.[22] 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.[23]

Black children and teens are 14 times more likely than white children and teens of the same age to die by gun homicide.[24]

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.[25]

In an average month, 52 American women are shot to death by an intimate partner,[26] and many more are injured.

Nearly one million women alive today have been shot or shot at by an intimate partner.[27] Approximately 4.5 million American women alive today have been threatened with a gun by an intimate partner.[28]

Access to a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed.[29]

Black women are twice as likely to be fatally shot by an intimate partner compared to white women.[30]

IMPACT ON AMERICANS

58 percent of American adults or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetime.[31]

Approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year.[32]

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: 2013 to 2017. 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 average due to rounding.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports. The CDC derives national estimates of nonfatal firearm injuries treated in hospitals from a survey of hospitals known as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). According to the CDC, some of these estimates may be unstable. The CDC's nonfatal injury data has come under scrutiny largely because of increasing error margins in recent years. Nonetheless, data provided by the CDC on nonfatal injuries are the most common data currently used in gun violence prevention research. To account for fluctuations between years, a yearly average was developed using five years of the most recent available data: 2013 to 2017. Intent category averages may not total to the yearly average due to rounding.

3. 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.

4. Fatal Force. *The Washington Post.* Fatal Force. Data reflects a 4 year average (2015 to 2018) of deaths attributed to police shootings. https://wapo.st/2QlEZOo.

5. 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: 2013 to 2017.

6. 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.

7. Anglemyer 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.

8. Opoliner A, Azrael D, Barber C, Fitzmaurice G, Miller M. Explaining geographic patterns of suicide in the U.S.: The role of firearms and antidepressants. *Injury Epidemiology.* 2014; 1(1): 6.

9. Miller M, Azrael D, Barber C. Suicide mortality in the United States: The importance of attending to method in understanding population-level disparities in the burden of suicide. *Annual Review of Public Health.* 2012; 33: 393-408.

10. Ibid.

11. 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: 2013 to 2017. White men defined as non-Hispanic white.

12. 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: 2013 to 2017. Homicide includes legal intervention.

13. 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.

14. Anglemyer 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.

15. 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.

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. A yearly average was developed using five years of most recent available data: 2013 to 2017. Analysis includes: all ages, non-Hispanic only, and homicide including legal intervention.

18. Ibid.

19. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System (WISQARS) Nonfatal Injury Reports. The CDC derives national estimates of nonfatal firearm injuries treated in hospitals from a survey of hospitals known as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). According to the CDC, some of these estimates may be unstable. The CDC's nonfatal injury data has come under scrutiny largely because of increasing error margins in recent years. Nonetheless, data provided by the CDC on nonfatal injuries is the most common data currently used in gun violence prevention research. To account for fluctuations between years, a yearly average was developed using five years of the most recent available data: 2013 to 2017.

20. Ibid. Analysis includes: males of all ages, white defined as non-Hispanic only, and assault including legal intervention.

21. 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 2017. 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.

22. 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: 2013 to 2017. Analysis includes: ages 0 to 19, and homicide including legal intervention.

23. Fowler KA, Dahlberg LL, Haileyesus T, Gutierrez C, Bacon S. Childhood firearm injuries in the United States. *American Academy of Pediatrics.* 2017; 140(1): e20163486.

24. 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: 2013 to 2017. Analysis includes: ages 0 to 19, and homicide including legal intervention.

25. 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.

26. Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 2013 to 2017. Washington, DC: Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. While the FBI SHR does not include data from the state of Florida for the years 2013 to 2017, Everytown obtained data directly from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) and included the reported homicides in the analysis. Whereas SHR includes both current and former partners in its relationship designations, FDLE does not include former partners. As a result, Florida's intimate partner violence data only includes current partners.

27. Sorenson SB, Schut RA. Nonfatal gun use in intimate partner violence: A systematic review of the literature. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse.* 2016; 1524838016668589.

28. Ibid. See also: Tjaden P, Thoennes T. *Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women: Findings from the National Violence Against Women Survey.* National Institute of Justice, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2000.

29. Campbell JC, Webster D, Koziol-McLain J, et al. Risk factors for femicide in abusive relationships: Results from a multisite case control study. *American Journal of Public Health.* 2003; 93(7): 1089-1097.

30. Uniform Crime Reporting Program: Supplementary Homicide Reports (SHR), 2013 to 2017. See endnote 26. Analysis includes homicides involving an intimate partner and a firearm, and compares the crude death rates for Black women (0.65 per 100,000) versus white women (0.35 per 100,000). All ages included, Hispanic and non-Hispanic women included.

31. SurveyUSA Market Research Study. Data collected from December 7, 2018 to December 11, 2018. https://bit.ly/2ExxpyZ. See question 39.

32. Finkelhor D, Turner HA, Shattuck A, Hamby SL. Prevalence of childhood exposure to violence, crime, and abuse: Results from the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence. *The Journal of the American Medical Association Pediatrics.* 2015; 169(8): 746-754. Everytown analysis derives the 3 million number by multiplying the share of children (ages 0 to 17) who reported exposure to gun violence within the past year in a 2014 survey (4 percent) by the total child population of the U.S. in 2014 (~73.6M).

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