

Gun Violence Needs To Be Controlled

by

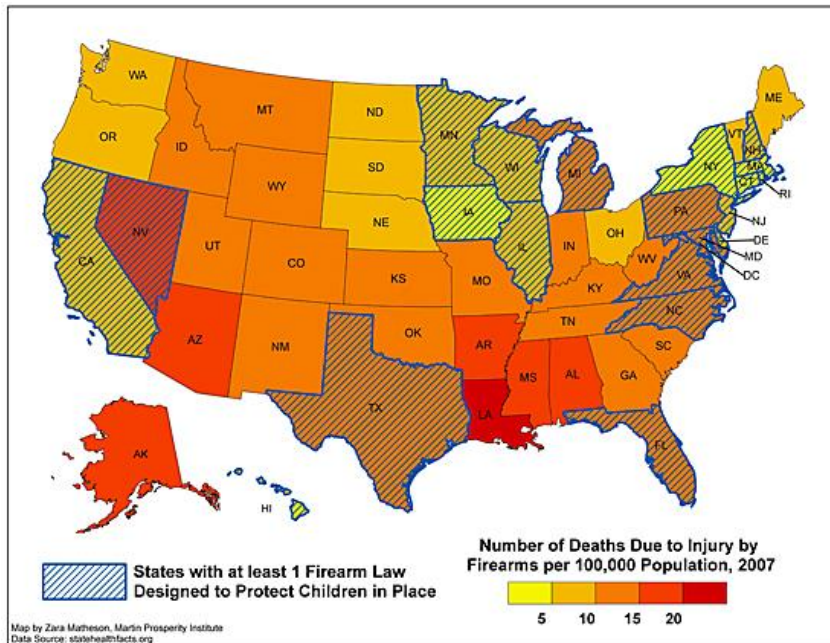
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I remember it like it was yesterday, the day I almost peed my pants. It was me, Rahjanae and KeAndra we were walking up 15th street. Then I saw my brother who had been shot a month before so I stopped we had a lot to talk about. While I sat on the bench and talked to him, Rahjanae and Ke'andra went into Hughes to see an old teacher. My brother and I got into a huge argument about the people calling my phone so he went home but I stayed my ugly self out there. I started calling Kendra's phone so that they could come out. It was taking them a mighty long time to come out. Then I started to call Rahjanae's phone but she didn't answer. My phone rang and it was my older brother calling to tell me to go in the house. But, of course I didn't listen.

I saw an old friend of mine and we began to talk while we walked to the store. As we were walking we heard a couple of boys arguing. One of the boys got in the car and the other one started walking towards my way. Seconds later the car road up and the boy who was walking towards us began to run and the boy in the car began to shoot. I was so scared I didn't know what to do, run, jump, or lay on the floor or what! I was so in shock I couldn't feel anything so I just froze I didn't budge, but my friend on the other hand she ran!

Seconds later KeAndra and Rahjanae came out the school. The three of us walked to my older sister's house. I started telling them what happened. In a blink of an eye I was in tears. I wasn't crying because I was shot of anything, I cried because I was scared. Ever since this day I have had a fear of guns.

Over the years the United States have had a high of deaths related to firearms.



AK and LA have the most

deaths by firearms. IA, NY, RI, OR, MA, and HI have the least amount of deaths by firearms.

There are less than 20 states that have one gun law which protects children. In 2004 the United States had the most deaths by homicides, sixty-seven point five percent of homicides involved a firearm and the U.S.A had more odds than any other place of being killed by firearms or dying period.

In the year 2007 many Americans were killed due to firearms.

Country and year of most recent data	Number of firearm homicides that year	Odds of being murdered with a firearm that year	Odds of being murdered that year	Percent homicides involving a firearm
United States ('10)	9,960	1 in 31,000	1 in 24,000	67.5%

Switzerland ('04)	57	1 in 125,000	1 in 91,000	72.2%
Canada ('09)	173	1 in 200,000	1 in 56,000	32.0%
Finland ('09)	24	1 in 250,000	1 in 43,000	19.8%
Sweden ('04)	37	1 in 250,000	1 in 83,000	33.9%
Spain ('09)	90	1 in 500,000	1 in 111,000	21.8%
Germany ('10)	158	1 in 500,000	1 in 125,000	26.3%
Israel ('07)	6	1 in 1,000,000	1 in 53,000	11.7%
Australia ('09)	30	1 in 1,000,000	1 in 83,000	11.5%
England & Wales ('10)	41	1 in 1,000,000	1 in 83,000	6.6%
Japan ('08)	11	more than 1 in 1,000,000	1 in 200,000	1.8%

In 2007 in the United States because of guns, the lives of 31,224 Americans were taken away. "Among children and teens, firearm deaths are more likely to be homicides. More than 70 percent of the firearm deaths of children and teens in 2007 were homicides; 22 percent were suicides. (Watkins 36.) In 2007 seventy percent of children and teen deaths were homicide and twenty-two were suicide due to gun shots.

The United States have made laws and bills to try to regulate gun control. In 1993 the Brady Bill act required gun sellers to perform a criminal background check and a mental back

ground check on all gun buyers. Thirty-five states have “Shall-Issue Laws” where the police can’t issue gun permits, only if the person meets the requirements. The only way you can receive a permit in these 35 states is to be between two certain ages, have no prior arrest and you have to be sane.

To regulate gun violence in the United State, the Government should close all private gun sales, should ball all guns, and they should improve the back ground check system for all gun purchases.

To reduce gun violence the United States government should close all private gun sales. The first reason why private gun sales should be closed is because private gun sales make it easy for other countries to access illegal weapons from the United States. According to Christine Watkins in the book *Guns and Crime*, "A report issued by the U.S. State Department on Feb. 27 [2009], more than 5,000 people were killed in the Mexican drug wars in 2008. The report states that Mexican authorities seized nearly 40,000 illegal firearms in 2008 and that 95 percent of the guns traced were purchased in the United States" (Watkins 38).The guns sold at private gun sales are illegal because they aren’t sold buy an licensed person nor are the guns registered, which will start gun trafficking and will soon lead to violence in other countries war that has been started because of the United States, so the government should close all private gun sales.

Not only do private gun sales make it easy for other countries to access illegal weapons from the United States but private gun sales make it easy for citizens to own a gun without going through all steps that are required. In the book *Guns and Crimes* by Christine Watkins states , "The first would be to close the "private sale loophole," which allows unlicensed persons to sell guns without conducting a background check on the purchaser” (Watkins 39).When purchasing a gun a licensed dealer must perform a background check on the buyer, private gun sellers do not

perform background checks. This makes it easy for prohibited persons to access weapons. So the United States government should close ALL private gun sales.

Finally private gun sales should be close because they make it easy for criminals and mental illness to access weapons. In the book *Guns and Crime* the author Christine Watkins states, "However, undocumented sales by unlicensed persons—which can legally occur at gun shows or any other location—account for an estimated 40 percent of all gun sales. Because of this massive loophole (shortage in the law or a set of rules.), criminals and other prohibited persons can easily buy guns throughout most of the United States (only California and Rhode Island require background checks on all gun purchasers." (Watkins 38). Undocumented sales by unlicensed people occur at many locations throughout the United States. Because over fourth percent of all gun sales are private and make it easy for prohibited people to get weapons, the United States Government should make a law that bans ALL private gun sellers.

To decrease violence in the United States, the U.S Government should ball all guns. First the Government should ban all guns because each year guns takes the lives and injures thousands of people. According to the book *Guns and Crime* by Christine Watkins, "Experts estimate that gun crime kills or injures 100,000 Americans every year. Put another way, approximately 264 people are killed or injured by guns every single day in the United States. "(Watkins 1). Every year guns have a negative effect on 100,000 U.S citizens, which is death or injures. Because guns harm thousands of Americans per year, the United States Government should consider banning all guns.

The United States should ban all guns because in 2007 guns were the third leading cause of deaths and injured many Americans. In the book *Guns and Crime* Christine Watkins states, "Furthermore, about 70,000 Americans were treated in hospital emergency rooms for non-fatal

gunshot wounds in 2007. Guns were the third leading cause of injury related deaths nationwide in 2007 following motor vehicle accidents and poisoning." (Watkins 3). Since guns injured about 70,000 citizens in a single year and was one of the top three leading causes of deaths, the United States Government should permanent remove all guns, by banning them.

Lastly guns should be banned because in 2007 the number of teens and children killed by guns was almost equal to those killed in war. According to Christine Watkins in the book *Guns and Crime*, "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that a total of 3,042 children and teens died by gunfire in 2007—a number nearly equal to the total number of U.S. combat deaths in Iraq and four times the number of American combat fatalities in Afghanistan to date [2010]. (Watkins 35) Since there were 3,042 minors killed by gun fire in 2007, which is close to the number troops killed in Iraq and four times the number killed in Afghanistan, the United States government should boycott guns.

To regulate gun control in the United States, the Government should improve the background check system for all gun purchases. The first reason why the Government should improve the background check system because when Americans purchase guns without a background check it leads to people being killed and injured. In the book *Guns and Crime* Christine Watkins states, "Just about any adult can go to a gun show in the United States and buy a gun, whether it is a small pistol or an AK-47, without showing identification or passing a background check. As a result, Seung-Hui Cho, with a record of mental health problems, was able to open fire on classrooms at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in April 2007, killing and wounding many students and teachers." (Watkins17). Since a background check wasn't giving to Seung-Hui, he was able to open fire at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in April 2007, which leads to the injuries and deaths of many Americans. So the

United States government should find a better way to enforce the back ground check on all gun purchases which make sure no mental ill have access to firearms.

Also the background check system should be improved because the FBI reported that there have been 71,000 cases where people gave false information for their back ground checks. According to the article *“Gun Control Facts: Existing Gun Laws Would Reduce Crime, But These Are Not Enforced”* Matt MacBradaigh stated, “The Obama Administration Justice Department is also not strongly enforcing prosecution of people who falsify information on their gun background checks. The FBI reported 71,000 instances of people lying on their background checks to buy guns in 2009. (MacBradaigh). People in the United States can easily lie on the information needed for background checks, 71,000 of these cases have been found by the FBI. So the United States Government should improve the back ground check system by stretching the information system so that false information can’t be giving.

Lastly there should be an improvement on the back ground check system because there have been reports from last year that show 17 states didn’t turn in more than 10 mental health records to database and mental ill people can still access weapons. In the article *“Obama taking action on gun background check system”* Nedra Pickler “Federal law bans certain mentally ill people from purchasing firearms, but not all states are providing data to stop the prohibited sales to the FBI's background check system. A federal review last year found 17 states contributed fewer than 10 mental health records to the database, meaning many deemed by a judge to be a danger still could have access to guns (PICKLER)”. Since records are not contributed to the database, mental health records are not giving to the FBI. If these records are not giving than mental ill can easily access weapons. So the United States government should



find ways to improve the background check systems by making sure each state report mental health records to the database.

Others may argue the United States Government should not enforce more gun laws. The 20,000 gun laws we already have aren't being enforced. In the "*NRA interview*" Wayne LA Pierre stated, "You want one more law on top of 20,000 laws, when most of the federal gun laws we don't even enforce." (LA Pierre 7). People like Wayne La Pierre say it does not make sense for the government to make a new gun law knowing that the others aren't being followed. Adding extra laws is a waste of time. This is true but the government should make laws that are easy to enforce. In the book *Guns and Crime* Christine Watkins states "Clearly, stronger and more effective gun control laws are needed to keep guns out of the wrong hands and to better protect the public (Watkins 9). Obviously the only way to protect Americans is to create and enforce more gun control laws.

I hear what you're saying but guns are needed to keep people safe. According the NRA Interview Wayne La Pierre states, "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun"(La Pierre). A person like Wayne L. thinks that guns are needed for protection. I understand where you're coming from but I disagree. According to Wayne La Pierre in the article "*Guns don't offer protection – whatever the National Rifle Association says*", "It is worth remembering that just as America leads the world in gun ownership, so too does it lead the world in gun homicide, with 11,000 to 12,000 murders committed by firearms each year." Even though guns aren't sometimes needed for protection, using guns will only increase the homicide rate due to guns.

True enough but since armed guards can't keep Americans safe, guns should be allow so they can protect themselves. According to the "*NRA Interview*", David Gregory stated " Because

there have been cases where armed guards have not prevented this kind of massacre, this kind of carnage. I want you would concede that point, wouldn't you?" Armed guards have not prevented shootings so Americans have to keep themselves safe. I completely understand what you're saying but theirs been cases where officer have died or almost died because of saving lives. According to the news article "*Transit officer wounded in Boston shootout: MIT cop saved my life*", "Donohue, 33, arrived at the scene soon after MIT campus police officer Sean Collier was shot in Cambridge, Mass. Collier was shot multiple times in his squad car, police say. Donahue credited Collier, who later died in the hospital, for saving his life." Two officers were shot in duty, one died and one was nearly close to it because they were protecting Americans.

I think everyone should have a role in controlling gun violence in the United States. The President, schools, community members, thugs, criminals, and mental ill and even teens should do something to control violence and to keep their love ones safe. People should form groups and write letters. Americans should state marches and make their signs and walk through the worse part of the cities. They should be heard. I don't think there's much that high seniors soon to be college freshman's can do to create laws but I do think there are two things they can do to reduce gun violence. They can be the one who make good decisions. They should be the one who don't shoot. High school students can also walk away from violence and not affiliate themselves with people who are connected the gun violence. By doing this they can make a difference. Teens should write letters to Mayors, Governors, Senates and activist. Once so many letters have been received and so many marches have been walked, a movement will start. This movement will lead to a change. The gun laws we already have will start being reinforced. There will be less murders and suicides. There will be more Americans being sent off to college than Americans being buried.

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