

## GUN VIOLENCE

# 8

THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN  
AND TEENS KILLED WITH GUNS  
EACH DAY IN THE U.S.



Every year in the U.S., thousands of children and teens have their lives cut tragically short by a bullet fired from a gun. During 2013-2015, 7,768 children and teens were killed with a gun, enough to fill 388 classrooms of 20 children (see **Table 37**). 2,799 children and teens were killed in 2015 alone, which was the greatest number of child and teen gun deaths since 2008. In 2014 there was a reversal of what had been a seven-year trend of declining child and teen gun deaths. This increasing trend continued in 2015 with 275 more children and teens being killed than in 2014.<sup>1</sup>

- In 2015, one child or teen was killed with a gun every 3 hours and 8 minutes.
- Gun violence remains the leading cause of death for Black children and teens. In 2015, 9.5 out of every 100,000 Black children and teens were killed with a gun—a rate four times higher than the rate for White children and teens (2.5 per 100,000). A Black child or teen was killed with a gun every 7 hours and 25 minutes.

Children are learning there is no safe space in America.

- Children are forced to witness tragic mass shootings that occur with regularity in public spaces including schools, churches, concert venues, community centers, nightclubs and movie theaters.
- Since 1963, the number of children and teens killed with guns on American soil was more than three times higher than the number of U.S. soldiers killed by hostiles in wars abroad. Nearly 180,000 children and teens died from guns in the U.S. between 1963 and 2015.<sup>2</sup>
- A gun in the home increases the risk of death by homicide 200 percent, suicide 200-400 percent and accident 300 percent.<sup>3</sup>

Although the U.S. accounts for less than 5 percent of the global population, our civilians own 35-50 percent of civilian-owned guns in the world, most recently estimated as high as 310 million guns.<sup>4</sup> In contrast, U.S. military and law enforcement combined only own approximately 4 million guns.<sup>5</sup>

The widespread availability of guns has weaponized both innocence and hate in our society, as countless parents who have lost their children in shootings may attest. We will continue to bury too many of our loved ones before their time until we as a nation decide that we value our children's lives more than the profits of gun manufacturers.

## 7,768 children and teens were killed by guns in the U.S. from 2013 through 2015.

**Table 37: Child and Teen Gun Deaths, 2013-2015**

	Number of Deaths			Rate per 100,000 Children and Teens			Ranking by Total Gun Death Rate <sup>a</sup>
	Homicide	Suicide	Total	Homicide	Suicide	Total	
Alabama	94	55	167	2.5	1.5	4.5	35
Alaska	14	37	56	U	6.0	9.1	45
Arizona	75	75	163	1.4	1.4	3.0	17
Arkansas	44	50	109	1.9	2.1	4.6	37
California	569	138	724	1.9	0.5	2.4	6
Colorado	41	91	137	1.0	2.2	3.3	20
Connecticut	28	S	36	1.1	S	1.4	3
Delaware	20	S	23	2.9	S	3.3	20
District of Columbia	26	S	27	6.3	S	6.6	–
Florida	324	131	469	2.4	1.0	3.5	27
Georgia	199	106	320	2.4	1.3	3.8	31
Hawaii	S	S	S	S	S	S	n/a
Idaho	S	37	47	S	2.6	3.3	20
Illinois	384	76	478	3.8	0.8	4.8	39
Indiana	146	72	233	2.8	1.4	4.4	34
Iowa	12	42	58	U	1.7	2.4	6
Kansas	27	33	65	1.1	1.4	2.7	10
Kentucky	40	65	116	1.2	1.9	3.4	24
Louisiana	200	64	283	5.4	1.7	7.7	44
Maine	S	14	20	S	U	2.3	5
Maryland	85	29	115	1.9	0.6	2.5	9
Massachusetts	32	10	42	0.7	U	0.9	1
Michigan	156	109	280	2.1	1.5	3.7	30
Minnesota	34	68	104	0.8	1.6	2.4	6
Mississippi	68	29	117	2.8	1.2	4.8	39
Missouri	133	70	215	2.9	1.5	4.6	37
Montana	S	37	47	S	4.9	6.2	43
Nebraska	18	24	45	U	1.5	2.9	14
Nevada	35	36	76	1.6	1.6	3.5	27
New Hampshire	S	14	17	S	U	U	n/a
New Jersey	101	13	114	1.5	U	1.7	4
New Mexico	33	34	68	2.0	2.0	4.1	32
New York	127	44	174	0.9	0.3	1.2	2
North Carolina	148	93	264	1.9	1.2	3.4	24
North Dakota	S	16	18	S	U	U	n/a
Ohio	192	91	305	2.2	1.0	3.4	24
Oklahoma	60	73	143	1.9	2.3	4.5	35
Oregon	21	62	87	0.7	2.2	3.0	17
Pennsylvania	180	100	290	2.0	1.1	3.2	19
Rhode Island	S	S	S	S	S	S	n/a
South Carolina	82	63	156	2.2	1.7	4.3	33
South Dakota	S	12	23	S	U	3.3	20
Tennessee	147	74	242	3.0	1.5	4.9	41
Texas	352	262	659	1.5	1.1	2.8	11
Utah	20	80	105	0.7	2.7	3.5	27
Vermont	S	S	S	S	S	S	n/a
Virginia	94	77	179	1.5	1.2	2.9	14
Washington	59	85	148	1.1	1.6	2.8	11
West Virginia	10	24	37	U	1.9	2.9	14
Wisconsin	53	65	122	1.2	1.5	2.8	11
Wyoming	S	24	27	S	5.2	5.9	42
<b>United States</b>	<b>4,519</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>7,768</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>3.2</b>	

<sup>a</sup>States are ranked 1-50 from lowest to highest gun death rate.

Notes: Data are a sum of the number of deaths during 2013-2015, and total columns include deaths from homicides, suicides, accidents and undetermined causes but exclude deaths from legal intervention. “S” denotes cases where the number of deaths was below 10 and the exact number was not released to protect the anonymity of the victims. “U” means the rate is unreliable because it is based on fewer than 20 deaths.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. 2017. “Compressed Mortality, 1999-2015,” Ages 0-19, Total Deaths Including Homicides, Suicides, Accidents, and Undetermined Intent but Excluding Deaths from Legal Intervention. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/ucd-icd10.html>.