

GUN VIOLENCE in the UNITED STATES

Some Indicative Data:

Gun Ownership

- The US has an estimated 283 million guns in civilian hands
- Each year about 4.5 million firearms, including approximately 2 million handguns, are sold in the United States
- An estimated 2 million second hand firearms are sold each year
- The percentage of American households with a gun has been steadily declining (high of 54% in 1977 to 33% in 2009)
- The average number of guns per owner has increased from 4.1 in 1994 to 6.9 in 2004.

Sources: *Injury Prevention (2007)*; *ATF (2000)*; *National Opinion Research Center (2008)*; *Pew Research Center (2009)*

Gun Deaths:

More than 30,000 people are killed by firearms each year in this country

More than 30 people are shot and murdered each day

1/2 of them are between the ages of 18 and 35

1/3 of them are under the age of 20

Homicide is the second leading cause of death among 15-24 year-olds

And the primary cause of death among African Americans of that age group

Gun Homicides (average annually):

Less than 50: Japan

Less than 150: Germany, Italy, France, etc.

Less than 200: Canada

More than 10,000: USA

Source: *IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms of the United Nations)*

Injuries and Deaths from Guns

Everytime a gun injures or kills in self-defense, one is used:

- 11 times for a completed or attempted suicide
- 7 times in a criminal assault or homicide
- 4 times in an unintentional shooting death or injury

Source: *Journal of Trauma, injury, Infection and Critical Care (1998)*

Per Capita Annual Gun Death Rate (per 100,000 population):

Highest: Louisiana (19.04, 45.6% households contain guns)

#25: Pennsylvania (10.90)

Lowest: CT, NY, New Jersey (4.99), RI, MA, Hawaii (2.20)

National: (10.32)

Source: *Centers for Disease Control*

Costs of Gun Violence

- Gun violence impacts society in many ways: medical costs, costs of the criminal justice system, security precautions such as metal detectors, and reductions in the quality of life because of fear of gun violence.
- U.S. lifetime medical costs for gunshot injuries total an estimated \$2.3 billion
- U.S. taxpayers pay for almost half (\$1.1 billion or 49%) of lifetime medical costs for gunshot injuries

Guns Recovered from Crime

- Only 1% of gun dealer account for almost 60% of crime guns recovered by police and later traced
- In one year, at least 30,000 guns were “lost” out of gun dealers inventories
- Guns with a short “time to crime” are disproportionately represented among crime guns. Guns manufactured and sold 3 years or less, prior to recopvery by police in crime make up 34 % of recovered and traced crime guns, but only 14% of the US gun stock.
- Guns sold as paert of a multiple sale at a gun dealer were up to 64% more likely to be used in a crime than guns not part of such sales.
- “No background check” sales account for an estimated 40% of gun sales in the U.S.

Sources: ATF (2000); Brady Center; National Institute of Justice (1993, 2007); Police Foundation (1997)

Distance From Legal Point of Purchase to Crime Recovery:

	<u>Within 10 miles</u>	<u>More than 100 miles</u>
Philadelphia	61.2%	18.1%
Pittsburgh	62.9%	12.6%
Newark	9.1%	81.5%
New York City	4.4%	83%

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Percent of Recovered Crime Guns First Legally Purchased In-State:

Pennsylvania: 78%

New Jersey: 27% (18% from PA)

New York: 28%

Source: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)

Some Interesting Poll Data

77% of NRA members favor a waiting period for purchase of a handgun

82% of American support limiting the sales of military-style assault weapons

94% of police chiefs favor requiring a background check for all handgun sales.

Support for background checks on private gun sales, including gun shows:

- 87% of American
- 83% of gun owners
- 69% of NRA gun-owners

Support for limiting handgun sales to one per person per month:

- 65% of Americans
- 59% of gun owners

Support for registration of handguns

- 79% of Americans
- 69% of police chiefs
- 61% of gun owners
- 59% of NRA members

Sources: CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll (2008); Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research (2008); Mayors Against Illegal Guns (2009); National Opinion research Center (2003); American Journal of Preventative Medicine (2006); Violence & Victims (1993)

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