

FAQs related to gun violence worldwide and between US states



How do US gun deaths compare to gun deaths in similar nations with similar population?

Using the conservative statistics of the World Health Organization, the most recent gun homicide statistics available for comparison with other nations are 2011-2012. Suicide statistics are not available from other nations. The gun homicide comparison is striking:

USA population **317,505,266**--total annual gun homicides: 11,056... **30.3 per day**

11 similar countries population **319,384,912**—combined total annual gun homicides: 684.... **1.8 per day**

WHO statistics used were for all other English-speaking countries, plus enough European nations to come to a population slightly higher than in the US. Total annual homicides with guns: Australia -- 42, Canada --166, UK -- 52, New Zealand -- 7, Germany-- 86, Sweden--22, Norway-- 3, Italy--238, Belgium-- 7, The Netherlands-- 49, Switzerland --12 Total, 684. Total annual US gun homicides, 11,056

How do gun deaths compare among US states with differing background checks requirements?



When *Missouri* repealed its background check and licensing requirement in 2007, there was a **25% increase in firearm homicide** and a 14% increase in murders over the next five years. In the same period there was no increase in firearm homicides in neighboring states or nationally.

When *Connecticut* began requiring anyone purchasing a gun to be licensed as part of their background check in 1994, there was a **40% reduction in firearm homicides** in the state over the next ten years. Non-firearm homicides were unchanged for the period, and there was no reduction in comparable states or nationally. More info at www.taleoftwostates.com (project of Faiths United and Marylanders to Prevent Gun Violence)

There were 45% fewer school shootings in states requiring background checks to buy a firearm, researchers from Boston University, Columbia University and the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine found, in a recent study in the journal *Injury Prevention*.

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FAQs related to gun violence and mass shootings.

“Living for 32,” Colin Goddard’s story following Va. Tech massacre.



What changed following Va. Tech and other recent gun massacres?

- In Virginia--Less than one year after the Virginia Tech shootings, the Virginia legislature passed laws with several mental health measures: they improved the emergency evaluation process, modified the criteria for involuntary commitment, tightened procedures for mandatory outpatient treatment, and increased state funding for community mental health. Unfortunately, **since the time of the mass killings, few if any sensible laws directly related to gun regulations were passed in Virginia.** Fortunately, a bill failed that would have allowed students 21 or older with a permit to bring a concealed handgun to University classes. But several bills were passed that dropped the state’s one- gun- a month limit on purchasing handguns and allowed concealed firearms in bars and restaurants and guns in automotive glove boxes. Note Colin Goddard’s father, Andrew, who monitors the legislative situation, was present at most or all of these legislative gun hearings.
- In national legislation--"Over the past five years, lawmakers have introduced more than 100 gun sense proposals in congress, since Gabrielle Giffords and 18 other people were shot in Tucson, Arizona in January 2011. **Not one of them has been passed into law,** and very few of the proposals even made it to the House or Senate floor." Rebecca Shabad, CBS news, 6/20/2016

What groups are most victimized by gun violence?

- Males 15 to 34 are the victims of half of all murders (84% of which are with guns). Homicide victimization rates in 2010 (consistent with earlier years) were 16 times as high for African Americans as for non-Hispanic whites. About one in five homicides involves women as victims. One in five suicide victims is female. Suicide is concentrated among whites, and half are committed with a firearm. Two-thirds of gun violence deaths are suicides, so although African Americans and Hispanics are disproportionately murder victims, in absolute numbers, probably two-thirds of those who die in gun violence are white. Everyone suffers. Other victim statistics in the U.S.:
- One child per day is murdered with a gun in the US.
- Suicide is more of a rural problem, while homicide is more of an urban problem. Black Americans have only ½ the risk of suicide of white Americans, but 5 times the risk of homicide.
- Women are more likely to be killed by a gun in domestic violence than by a stranger.