



Firearm-Related Homicides in the United States: The Facts

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What Are Firearm-Related Homicides?

Between 2001 and 2013, guns took the lives of more Americans than killed by war, AIDS, drug overdoses, and terrorism combined.[1] Gun homicides rose consecutively in 2015, 2016, and 2017, and remain a leading cause of injury death among youths and young adults.[1] During the COVID-19 pandemic, the firearm homicide rate in the U.S. reached its highest level since 1994.[2] In 2023, the most recent year for which complete data is available, 46,728 people died from gun-related injuries, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC).[3] That figure includes gun murders and suicides, along with three less common types of gun-related deaths the CDC tracks: accidental deaths, those that involved law enforcement, and those whose circumstances could not be determined.[3] Though they tend to get less public attention than gun-related homicides, suicides have long accounted for the majority of U.S. gun deaths.[3] Overall, gun violence, in all its forms, is an ongoing epidemic that has consistently shortened the average life expectancy of Americans and has significant far-reaching consequences, affecting individuals, families, communities, and society as a whole.[1]

Have You Heard?

- In 2023:
 - 58% of all gun-related deaths in the U.S. were suicides, while 38% were murders.[3]
 - Someone was killed by a gun every 11 minutes.[4]
 - Texas had a gun homicide rate of 5.59.[4]
- Gun death rates vary across states due to socioeconomic factors, demographics, and gun policies.[4]
- The firearm homicide rate in the U.S. is nearly 25 times higher than other high-income countries, and the firearm suicide rate is nearly 10 times that of other high-income countries.[4]

What Are the Consequences of Firearm-Related Homicides?

In addition to the loss of life, firearm-related homicides also incur psychological, social, and economic costs. Additionally, gun violence disproportionately impacts the lives of certain populations, including the elderly, military veterans, indigenous Americans, men, and individuals living in rural regions.[1,2,3,4] Although gun violence manifests itself differently across states, the end result—a preventable death—is the same.[4]

How to Spread Awareness

Gun violence is a preventable public health tragedy.[1,2,3,4] Therefore, increased education and awareness of its contributing factors and consequences are essential. For example, it is important for individuals to know the risks of firearm ownership, including decades of public health research demonstrating that firearm ownership puts individuals and their families at higher risk of injury and death.[4] Also, given that more than half of U.S. gun owners do not practice safe gun storage, implementation and enforcement of safe storage laws is crucial in ensuring owners know how to make their homes safer and ultimately reducing gun violence throughout the U.S.[4]

Resources

Texas

- **Texas Gun Sense** – <https://txgunsense.org/>
- **Violence Policy Center Gun Death in Texas** – <https://www.vpc.org/studies/TX2025.pdf>
- **Johns Hopkins Firearm Violence State Data** – <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/gun-violence-data/state-gun-violence-data/texas>

National

- **Centers for Disease Control Firearm Mortality** – <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/state-stats/deaths/firearms.html>
- **Johns Hopkins Firearm Violence in the United States** – <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/research-reports/gun-violence-in-the-united-states>
- **Everytown Research & Policy** – <https://everytownresearch.org/report-type/fact-sheet/>
- **Violence Policy Center** – <https://vpc.org/5-things-you-can-do-now-to-help-stop-gun-violence/>

References

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- [2] Kegler, S. R. (2022). Vital signs: changes in firearm homicide and suicide rates—United States, 2019–2020. *MMWR. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 71.
- [3] Gramlich, J. (2025). What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/03/05/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-us/>
- [4] Kim, R., Wagner, E. D., Nestadt, P. S., Somayaji, N., Horwitz, J., & Crifasi, C. K. (2025). Gun violence in the United States 2023: Examining the gun suicide epidemic. Center for Gun Violence Solutions and Center for Suicide Prevention, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/center-for-gun-violence-solutions/research-reports/gun-violence-in-the-united-states>

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Resources

- Aging and Disability Resource Center 855-937-2372
- Cyber Civil Rights Initiative 844-878-2274
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving 877-623-3435
- National Child Abuse Hotline 800-422-4453
- National Domestic Violence Hotline 800-799-7233
- National Human Trafficking Hotline 888-373-7888
- National Sexual Assault Hotline 800-656-4673
- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 988
- Texas Abuse Hotline 800-252-5400
- Texas Council on Family Violence <https://tcfv.org/survivor-resources/>
- Texas Association Against Sexual Assault <https://taasa.org/get-help/>
- Victim Connect Resource Center 855-484-2846