



Existing Research Shows Consensus: Keeping a Gun in the Home Presents Significant Risk, Not Benefit

Approximately one-third of Americans report owning a gun.¹ The *Washington Post* found that the average American gun owner owned eight firearms in 2013, double the figure from just two decades earlier.²

The U.S. Department of Justice estimated that Americans owned a total of approximately 310 million guns in 2009.³ An analysis by the *Washington Post* found that Americans owned more than 350 million firearms by 2013.⁴

Each year, over 33,000 Americans die from gun violence,⁵ and there are more than 84,000 nonfatal firearm injuries.⁶ The United States has a significantly higher rate of firearm-related homicides, suicides, and unintentional deaths than other high-income countries.⁷

Research shows the number of guns per capita per country is an independent and significant predictor of firearm-related death.⁸ In the United States, state-level gun ownership is also significantly related to firearm homicides,^{9 10 11} and access to firearms is correlated with the risk for being a victim of homicide.¹²

Additionally, access to firearms is correlated with the risk of completed suicide.¹³ Case-control studies in the U.S. have found that the presence of a firearm is a strong risk factor for suicide.^{14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25}

¹ Kalesan B, Villarreal MD, Keyes KM, and Galea S. (2015). Gun ownership and social gun culture. *Inj Prev*.

² <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/10/21/the-average-gun-owner-now-owns-8-guns-double-what-it-used-to-be/>

³ U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, *Firearms Commerce in the United States 2011*, August 2011, pp 11, 13, 15.

⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2015/10/05/guns-in-the-united-states-one-for-every-man-woman-and-child-and-then-some/>

⁵ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. (2015). 2002 - 2013, United States Firearm Deaths and Rates per 100,000. Fatal Injury Reports 1999-2013, for National, Regional, and States (RESTRICTED). Retrieved December 9, 2015, from http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html

⁶ National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, CDC. (2013). Overall Firearm Gunshot Nonfatal Injuries and Rates per 100,000, United States. Nonfatal Injury Reports, 2001 - 2013. Retrieved December 9, 2015, from <http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>

⁷ Richardson EG and Hemenway D. (2011). Homicide, suicide, and unintentional firearm fatality: comparing the United States with other high-income countries, 2003. *J Trauma*. 70(1):238-43

⁸ Bangalore S and Messerli FH. (2013). Gun ownership and firearm-related deaths. *Am J Med*. 126(10):873-6.

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