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

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

The U.S. Department of Justice estimated that Americans owned a total of approximately 310 million guns in 2009. An analysis by the Washington Post found that Americans owned more than 350 million firearms by 2013.

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

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

Additionally, access to firearms is correlated with the risk of completed suicide. Case-control studies in the U.S. have found that the presence of a firearm is a strong risk factor for suicide.

References:

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The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence is a 501(c)(3) organization.