Gun Violence in New York: No Room for Complacency

- With the passage of the NY SAFE Act in 2013, New York has some of the strongest gun laws in the nation. But gun violence is still a significant threat to public safety in New York because of easy access to firearms in states with much weaker gun laws.

- **Most Crime Guns Come from Other States:** In 2012, 68% of traced crime guns in New York State originated out of state – mostly from states with much weaker gun laws.¹

- **Number of New Yorkers Killed with Guns:** In 2012, 977 people were killed by firearms in the State of New York.²
  - 455 homicides (46.6% of gun deaths)³
  - 516 suicides (52.8% of gun deaths)
  - 6 unintentional (0.6% of gun deaths)

- **Gun-Related Nonfatal Injuries:** In 2013, 84,258 people suffered from nonfatal firearms-related injuries in the US.⁴
  - In 2013, there were an estimated 332,950 nonfatal violent crimes committed with guns.⁵
  - 73,505 persons treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal gunshot wounds in 2010.⁶

- **Economic Costs of Gun Violence:**
  - **National Costs:**
    - In 2010, gunshot wounds and deaths cost Americans at least $12 billion a year in court proceedings, insurance costs and hospitalizations paid for by government health programs.⁷
    - A recent study of direct and indirect costs of violent crime in 8 geographically diverse U.S. cities estimated the average annual costs of violent crime to be more than $1,300 for every adult and child.⁸
  - **New York:** According to a study published in 1999, the average cost for acute-care treatment in New York for gunshot injuries was $14,497 for victims hospitalized and average lifetime medical costs were $34,420.⁹

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⁴ Centers for Disease Control, WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports: [http://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe](http://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe)
• **New York City:** Hospital visits for gun-related injuries from 2008-2010 cost $118 million and $91 in the rest of the state.

- **The Evidence is Clear: Strong Gun Laws Save Lives**
  - **Higher Gun Ownership and Weak Gun Laws:** States with higher gun ownership and weak gun laws have the highest rates of gun death.\(^9\)
    - 5 states with the highest per capita gun death rates are Louisiana, Mississippi, Alaska, Wyoming, and Montana.
    - In Alaska, 60.6% of households have firearms, yet the state has the third highest rate of gun deaths (17.41 per 100,000 people) in the nation.
  - **Low Gun Ownership and Strong Gun Laws:** States with strong gun laws and low rates of gun ownership have far lower rates of firearm-related death.
    - 5 states with the lowest gun death rates are Rhode Island, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey.
  - **New York:**
    - **Firearms Ownership:** 18.1% of New Yorkers own firearms.
    - **Firearms Death Rate:** 4\(^{th}\) lowest firearms death rate in the country (4.99 per 100,000 people).

- **Gun Deaths are Higher Upstate than Downstate**
  - **Gun Violence is Not Just a Downstate Problem:** A recent analysis of New York gun ownership and fatality data found that:
    - **More Guns = More Gun Deaths:** The presence of more guns is associated with more firearms-related deaths.\(^11\)
    - **More Gun Deaths Upstate:** With the exception of Bronx and Kings Counties, more people die as a percent of population from guns in upstate New York counties where gun ownership is higher than in downstate counties.
    - **Suicide:**
      - **New York City:** Firearm use accounts for 12% of suicides in New York City.\(^12\)
        - This is in sharp contrast to the United States as a whole, in which firearms account for more than half (53%) of all suicides.
      - **National Suicides with Firearms:** On average, states with the highest firearms ownership rates suffer twice as many suicides as states with the lowest gun ownership.\(^13\)

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