



Gun Violence and New York: No Room for Complacency

➤ The NY SAFE Act and What it Means for Gun Violence Prevention in New York

- **NY SAFE Act:** With the passage of the NY SAFE Act, New York now has some of the most comprehensive gun safety laws in the nation.
- **No Room for Complacency:** Despite passage of the NY SAFE Act, 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 2014, 82% 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 2013, 863 people were killed by firearms in the State of New York.²
 - 380 homicides (44% of gun deaths)³
 - 465 suicides (53.8% of gun deaths)³
 - 5 unintentional (0.5% of gun deaths)³
 - **Gun-Related Nonfatal Injuries:** In 2013, 84,258 people suffered from nonfatal firearms-related injuries.⁴
 - In 2014, there were an estimated 466,110 non-fatal violent crimes committed with guns.⁵
 - 84,258 persons were treated in hospital emergency departments for non-fatal gunshot wounds in 2013.⁶
 - **Economic Costs of Gun Violence:**
 - **National Costs:**
 - Data from 2012 found that the annual cost of gun violence in America exceeds \$229 billion. Direct costs account for \$8.6 billion—including long-term prison costs for people who commit assault and homicide using guns, which at \$5.2 billion a year is the largest direct expense. The average cost to taxpayers for a single gun homicide in America is nearly \$400,000.⁷
 - 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

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 2014 Firearms Trace Data, New York: <https://www.atf.gov/about/firearms-trace-data-2014>.

² Centers for Disease Control, http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html

³ Centers for Disease Control, http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/fatal_injury_reports.html

⁴ Centers for Disease Control, WISQARS Nonfatal Injury Reports: <http://webappa.cdc.gov/cgi-bin/broker.exe>

⁵ Truman JL, Langston L. Criminal Victimization, 2014. National Crime Victimization Survey. <http://www.bjs.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv14.pdf>.

Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, August 2015, NCJ248973

⁶ Centers for Disease Control WISQARS Injury Prevention & Control: Data Statistics

<http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars/nonfatal.html>

⁷ Follan M, Lurie J, Lee J, West J, Miller T, Mother Jones, April 15, 2015, What Does Gun Violence Really Cost?

<http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/true-cost-of-gun-violence-in-america>

⁸ Shapiro RJ, Hassett KA. The Economic Benefits of Reducing Violent Crime: A Case Study of 8 American Cities. Center for American Progress, Washington, DC, June 2012.

- **New York Costs:** 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
 - **New York City Costs:** Hospital visits for gun-related injuries from 2008-2010 cost \$118 million and \$91 million 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.¹⁰
 - The 5 states with the highest gun death rates are Alaska, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Wyoming¹⁰ --states with high gun ownership and weak gun laws.
 - In Alaska, 60.6% of households have firearms, and the state has the highest rate of gun deaths (19.59 per 100,000 people) in the nation.¹⁰
 - **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.¹⁰
 - The 5 states with the lowest gun death rates are Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Rhode Island and Connecticut¹⁰--states with low gun ownership and strong gun laws.
 - **New York:**
 - **Firearms Ownership:** 18.1% of New Yorkers own firearms¹⁰, compared to the national average of approximately 30-35%.
 - **Firearms Death Rate:** 3rd lowest firearms death rate in the country¹⁰--4/100,000 compared to the national average of approximately 10/100,000.
- **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).¹¹
 - **Suicide:**
 - **New York City:** Firearm use accounts for 16% of suicides in New York City¹²-- in sharp contrast to the U.S. as a whole, in which firearms account for more than half (53%) of all suicides.¹²
 - **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

⁹ Cook, P. J., Lawrence, B. A., Ludwig, J., & Miller, T. R. (1999). The Medical Costs of Gunshot Injuries in the United States. JAMA: Journal of the American Medical Association, 282(5), 447.

¹⁰ Violence Policy Center, January 29, 2015, <http://vpc.org/press/states-with-weak-gun-laws-and-higher-gun-ownership-lead-nation-in-gun-deaths-new-data-for-2013-confirms/>

¹¹ Maps of New York State Gun Deaths and Licensed Ownership, March 1, 2013: <http://www.savvygeneralist.com/2013/03/01/maps-of-new-york-state-gun-deaths-and-licensed-ownership/>

¹² New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries in New York City, February 2012: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/downloads/pdf/survey/survey-2012suicides.pdf>

¹³ Household Firearm Ownership and Rates of Suicide Across the 50 United States. Journal of Trauma-Injury Infection & Critical Care: April 2007 - Volume 62 - Issue 4 - pp 1029-1035.