

## **Firearm Facts & Figures**

### **National Background Check System and Private Sale Loopholes:**

- **Millions of records** of mentally ill and violent offenders are missing from the national gun background check database.
- The background check system has kept over **2 million** criminals and other dangerous people from buying guns at licensed dealers.<sup>1</sup>
- **40% of private firearm transfers** take place between private individuals<sup>2</sup>, without a background check, representing more than **6.6 million** gun transfers a year.
- A national survey of inmates found that nearly **80 percent of those who used a handgun in a crime acquired it in a private transfer.**<sup>3</sup>
- Intrastate gun trafficking is **48 percent lower** in states that require background checks for handgun sales.<sup>4</sup>

### **Assault Weapons and High Capacity Magazines:**

- High capacity magazines are used in 14 to 26 percent of gun crimes and in 31 to 41 percent of fatal police shootings.<sup>5</sup>
- Recent mass shootings involving assault weapons and/or high-capacity magazines resulted in 54% more people killed and 123% injured and killed than in other mass shootings.<sup>6</sup>

### **Gun Deaths in the U.S. and in New York:**

- In 2010, 31,672 people were killed by firearms in the United States.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2010, 1,011 people killed by firearms in the State of New York.<sup>8</sup>

### **Gun Deaths and Law Enforcement:**

- **3 times** as many law enforcement officers die in states with weak gun laws. These same states frequently also export crime guns at high rates to other states with stronger laws like New York.<sup>9</sup>

### **Guns and Kids:**

- **3,459** kids under 21 years old killed by guns in 2010, including 139 in New York.<sup>10</sup>

### **Guns in the Home:**

- Guns in the home are **22 times** more likely to be involved in accidental shootings, assaults/homicides or suicide attempts, than to be used to injure or kill in self-defense.<sup>11</sup>
- The risk of homicide is **3 times** higher in homes with firearms.<sup>12</sup>
- Keeping a gun in the home increases the risk of suicide by **17 times.**<sup>13</sup>

### **Domestic Violence:**

- Guns are the most common weapon used in domestic violence against women and access to firearms increases the risk of homicide by more than **5 times.**<sup>14</sup>
- Firearms were used to kill **more than two-thirds** of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims between 1990 and 2005.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/index.cfm?ty=pbdetail&iid=4596>

<sup>2</sup> Philip J. Cook & Jens Ludwig, Guns in America: National Survey on Private Ownership and Use of Firearms, U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice Research in Brief 6-7 (May 1997)

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, *Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 2004*, Feb 28, 2007.

<sup>4</sup> Daniel Webster, Jon Vernick, & Maria Bulzacchelli, "Effects of State-Level Firearm Seller Accountability Policies on Firearm Trafficking," *Journal of Urban Health*, July 2009. To gauge gun trafficking, the authors measured the ratio of likely trafficked guns recovered from crime scenes to the total of guns recovered. A "likely trafficked gun" was defined as having been recovered at a crime scene and not in the possession of its original purchaser within one year of its last legal sale.

<sup>5</sup> Christopher S. Koper, "An updated assessment of the federal assault weapons ban," National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, June 2004, available at <https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/204431.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, January 2013 Analysis of Mass Shootings Since January 20, 2009.

<sup>7</sup> Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report (NVSr) "Deaths: Final Data for 2010." [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/deaths\\_2010\\_release.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/deaths_2010_release.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics Report (NVSr) "Deaths: Final Data for 2010." [http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/deaths\\_2010\\_release.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/deaths_2010_release.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns, December 2008, The Movement of Illegal Guns In America: The Link Between Gun Laws and Interstate Gun Trafficking.

<sup>10</sup> Centers for Disease Control, WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports, 1999-2010, for National, Regional, and States

<sup>11</sup> Kellermann, Arthur L. et al., "Injuries and Deaths Due to Firearms in the Home," *Journal of Trauma, Injury, Infection, and Critical Care*, 45(2) (1998): 263-267

<sup>12</sup> Kellermann, Arthur L. MD, MPH, et al., "Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 329(15) (1993): 1084-1091

<sup>13</sup> Wiebe, Douglas J. PhD., "Homicide and Suicide Risks Associated With Firearms in the Home: A National Case-Control Study," *Annals of Emergency Medicine* 41(6) (2003): 771-782

<sup>14</sup> Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., Risk Factors For Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From A Multi-Site Case Control Study, 93 *Am. J. of Public Health* 1089, 1092 (2003), abstract available at <http://www.ajph.org/cgi/content/abstract/93/7/1089>

<sup>15</sup> Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, Homicide Trends in the U.S.: Intimate Homicide (July 2007), at <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/homicide/intimates.cfm>

## **OTHER RESOURCES**

Reducing Gun Violence in America: Informing Policy with Evidence and Analysis by Jon Vernick and Daniel Webster – just published.

**New Yorkers Against Gun Violence**

[www.nyagv.org](http://www.nyagv.org)

**States United to Prevent Gun Violence**

[www.supgv.org](http://www.supgv.org)

**MAIG**

[www.demandaplan.org](http://www.demandaplan.org)

**Legal Center to Prevent Gun Violence**

[www.smartgunlaws.org](http://www.smartgunlaws.org)

**Brady Campaign**

[www.wearebetterthanthis.org](http://www.wearebetterthanthis.org)

**Coalition to Stop Gun Violence**

[www.csgv.org](http://www.csgv.org)

**Violence Policy Center**

[www.vpc.org](http://www.vpc.org)

**Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus**

<http://www.keepgunsoffcampus.org/>