



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 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 2011, 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 2010, 1,011 people were killed by firearms in the State of New York.²
 - 527 homicides (52% of gun deaths)³
 - 459 suicides (45% of gun deaths)³
 - 13 unintentional (13% of gun deaths)³
 - **Gun-Related Nonfatal Injuries:** In 2011, 73,833 people suffered from nonfatal firearms-related injuries.⁴
 - In 2010, there were an estimated 337,960 nonfatal violent crimes committed with guns.⁵
 - 73,505 persons were 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 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

¹ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, 2012 Firearms Trace Data, New York:

<https://www.atf.gov/sites/default/files/assets/statistics/tracedata-2012/2012-trace-data-new-york.pdf>.

² 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

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. Criminal Victimization, 2010. National Crime Victimization Survey. NCJ 235508, Washington, DC: United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Sept. 2010.

⁶ Vyrostek SB, Annett JL, Ryan GW. Surveillance for fatal and non-fatal injuries – United States, 2001. MMWR 2004; 53(SS07):1-57

⁷ Gun Violence Annual Cost: \$12 billion. Detroit Free Press. March 5, 2013:

<http://www.freep.com/article/20130305/FEATURES01/130305010/Gun-violence-annual-cost-12-billion?odyssey=nav%7Chead>

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 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 per capita gun death rates are Alaska, Louisiana, Montana, Alabama, 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 (20.28 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, Rhode Island, New Jersey and New York¹⁰ --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:** 5th lowest firearms death rate in the country¹⁰ --5/100,000 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 12% 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

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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, States With Higher Gun Ownership and Weak Gun Laws Lead Nation in Gun Death, February 7, 2013, <http://vpc.org/press/1302gundeath.htm>

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.