



Motor Vehicles vs. Guns: A Public Health Comparisonⁱ

Motor Vehicles		Guns		
Public Health Success: ⁱ Motor Vehicles	Impact on Auto-Related Death Rate	A Failure to Act: Guns ⁱ <small>(Guns are completely unregulated.)</small>	Gun Violence Death Rates	A Proposed Public Health Approach to Guns ⁱ
Crash Safety Standards	Combination of all of these approaches reduced death rates per mile of driving by more than 90% ⁱⁱ since 1966.		National firearm mortality rates have remained unchanged since 1999. ⁱⁱⁱ Guns consistently kill more than 30,000 people each year. ^{iv} In 2013, 33,636 Americans died from gun violence in homicides, suicides and unintentional shootings. Gun related deaths exceed motor vehicle deaths in 14 states and the District of Columbia. ⁱⁱⁱ	National health and safety standards for firearms
Automobile Safety Inspections				Periodic safety inspections of firearms, including documentation of home storage and safety measures
Passive protection (padded interiors, collapsible steering columns, air bags)				Smart guns with automatic security or locking devices
Active protection (seat belts child seats, motorcycle helmets)				Regulations for safe storage of guns and ammunition
Driver education				Mandatory gun safety classes
Licensing				Licensing with periodic renewal, including safety test and background check
Speed limits				Reduced magazine capacity on semi-automatic firearms; restrictions on rapid-fire assault rifles
Drunk-driving legislation				Stricter legislation and penalties for violators of gun safety and gun violence laws
Age requirements				Minimum age requirements for use of certain guns and ammunition.
Government and private advocacy (e.g. Mothers Against Drunk Driving)				Strong, active nonprofit advocacy focused on reducing gun violence

ⁱ Most of this Table is adapted from Curbing Gun Violence.: Lessons from Public Health Successes. Dariush Mozzaffarian, MD, DrPh, David Hemenway, PhD, David S. Ludwig, MD, PhD. JAMA, February 13, 2013—Vol 309, No. 6; <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/> on 5/22/14

ⁱⁱ Hemenway D. The public health approach to motor vehicles, tobacco, and alcohol, with applications to firearms policy. Journal of Public Health Policy. 2001; 22(4): 381-402.

ⁱⁱⁱ Violence Policy Center, Gun Deaths Outpace Motor Vehicle Deaths in 14 States and DC in 2011, July 2014, <http://www.vpc.org/studies/gunsvs cars14.pdf>

^{iv} Hoyert DL, Xu J. Deaths. National Vital Statistics Report. 2012; 61(6):1-65.