

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

POLICY & MESSAGING



BRADY
UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from President Kris Brown	3
Talking to Voters About Guns and Gun Violence Prevention	4
Recently Enacted Gun Violence Prevention Laws	4
Gun Violence Statistics and Talking Points	5
Basics on Gun Violence in America	5
Universal Brady Background Checks	5
Gun Violence and the COVID-19 Pandemic	6
Extreme Risk Laws	7
Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines	7
Domestic Violence and Guns	8
Disproportionate Impact of Gun Violence in Communities of Color.....	9
Stopping the Flow of Crime Guns	9
Police Violence is Gun Violence	10
The Public Health Care Costs of Gun Violence.....	10
Children, Teens, and Guns	11
Safe Storage and Family Fire.....	11
Firearm Suicide	11
Veterans, the Military, and Firearm Suicide	12
Gun Violence Against Law Enforcement.....	12
Ghost Guns and 3D-Printed Guns	13
Gun Industry Accountability.....	13

As we approach the 2022 midterm elections, we want to thank you for your candidacy and your remarkable leadership on the issue of gun violence prevention. As a Brady-endorsed candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives, you are a member of an elite group of resolute individuals committed to ensuring our political discourse is based on facts, logic, and reason. Championing common-sense solutions to protect the American people from gun violence is not simply a moral imperative, it is also a politically salient issue. Americans agree that preventing gun violence is a top three issue, and candidates who effectively communicate their positions on this epidemic of violence will be rewarded by voters.

To assist you, we have prepared a “Brady Book” — a primer on gun violence including relevant policies, statistics, and talking points. We recognize that the voters in each congressional district have different approaches to the problem of gun violence, and this manual is designed to help you better explain and advocate for the lifes-aving policies that will best serve your constituents.

Please visit our website at www.bradyunited.org for further resources on gun violence prevention policy and to learn more about our programs. If you have any questions, please reach out to our Vice President of Policy, Christian Heyne, at cheyne@bradyunited.org.

We hope that you find these resources useful and are grateful for the awareness you will draw to gun violence prevention. We look forward to working with you over the coming months and beyond.

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'Kris Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kris Brown
President
Brady

TALKING TO VOTERS ABOUT GUNS AND GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Policies surrounding firearms and gun violence can feel among the most polarizing in our political discourse today; accordingly, how you present your message on preventing gun violence will be paramount to its effectiveness. Most importantly, discussions on firearm policy should never be framed as anti-gun or anti-gun owner, but instead as pro-safety, pro-responsibility, and pro-public health. Regardless of where they are from, when legislators and candidates are able to effectively communicate policies that prevent gun violence, polls consistently reflect the power of strong messaging to win over constituents because of these positions rather than in spite of them.

Recent polling highlights just how popular common-sense gun reform is and how urgently necessary Americans consider it. An [August 2022](#) poll found that crime/gun violence is the second most important concern facing the country, with a third of voters ranking it as their highest issue. Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe the country should pass stricter gun laws, as opposed to just 9% who believe the laws should be less strict.

Finding common ground with voters is the best way to open any persuasive discussion on gun violence prevention. Identify and focus on ideals that unite, like respecting constitutional rights while also protecting public health and safety. Once such commonality is established, offering facts and statistics in a constructive (“Did you know...?”) manner can invite them to reconsider — or consider for the first time — their positions on gun violence without assaulting

their convictions. This approach also provides an opportunity for individuals to re-engage on the issue with you and feel heard.

Don’t be afraid to disagree with voters, but always make the effort to find common ground with them and remain open to their concerns — and firmly avoid becoming defensive. Any conversation on gun violence prevention that ends with an opportunity for further discussion is a step in the right direction.

Toward that end, we have compiled below an extensive list of important facts and talking points about gun violence in America. Given the breadth of information contained within, we recommend that you learn a few points from each section which are most relevant to your constituents’ lives — and the gun violence conversations you share with them.

RECENTLY ENACTED GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION LAWS

It has been nearly 30 years since the last major piece of gun violence legislation was passed into law, yet lawmakers were finally able to make strides in this area in the 117th Congress.

In June 2022, President Biden signed into law the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act:

- The Act is a comprehensive, common-sense approach to reducing the threat of gun violence across the country. It does so by: enhancing background checks for firearm purchasers under the age of 21; creating the first federal standards for gun trafficking and straw purchasing; ensuring individuals who deal in firearms are licensed; supporting community violence interruption and

intervention programs; providing funding for state crisis intervention programs, including Extreme Risk laws; and bolstering mental health and suicide prevention programs nationwide.

In March 2022, Congress and President Biden rectified the 2018 expiration of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) by working together to reauthorize the landmark law. In addition to expanding efforts to reduce gender-based violence, the VAWA reauthorization included two crucial gun violence prevention provisions:

- The NICS Denial Notification Act, which requires federal authorities to alert state and local law enforcement when an individual legally prohibited from purchasing firearms attempts to do so (“lie and try”);
- Expanded denials of background checks for firearm purchases based on local and tribal laws.

In 2019, Congress — for the first time in 23 years — appropriated \$25 million to fund Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) research into gun violence and gun violence prevention. As of 2022, all of the annual appropriations bills since have included funds for this initiative.

GUN VIOLENCE STATISTICS AND TALKING POINTS

BASICS ON GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

- Every year, over [40,000 people](#) die from gun violence in America.
 - This number has increased significantly over the last two decades. In 2005, deaths

surpassed 30,000 for the first time; by 2015, deaths had risen to more than 36,000; and in 2020, a record year for firearm purchases, gun violence claimed *more than 45,000 lives nationwide*.

- That’s over [110 people shot and killed](#) in the United States *every day*.
 - That’s one life lost to a gun every 13 minutes.
 - That’s equivalent to a [regional passenger jet](#) falling from the sky on a daily basis.
- Daily, [2 to 3 times as many people will be shot](#) non-fatally, but injuries and trauma still forever alter the lives of such survivors and the lives of their family and friends.
- More people have [died from gun violence in America in the last 12 years](#) (435,516) than were [killed in combat throughout all the major American wars of the 20th century](#) — *combined* (426,280 combat fatalities in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Desert Storm).
- More than [1 in 5 Americans \(21%\)](#) report that they or someone close to them has had a personal experience with gun violence in the past.

UNIVERSAL BRADY BACKGROUND CHECKS

- Background checks are the foundation all other gun laws are built upon.
- Without background checks, it is impossible to keep guns out of the hands of prohibited individuals or hold illegal gun dealers accountable.
- Background checks are incredibly effective: Over [4.4 million unlawful gun transactions](#) have been blocked since the Brady Background Check system was established.
 - However, due to legal loopholes, [1 of every 5 guns sold today goes to a buyer without a](#)

- [background check](#). Most of these unvetted sales occur at gun shows or via the internet.
- Between 2020 and 2021, over [78.5 million Brady Background Checks](#) were processed by the FBI.
- Prior to the surge in violence associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, gun homicide rates in the years following the passage of the Brady Bill had been nearly *cut in half*.
 - [Gun homicide rates fell an astonishing 41% from 1993 to 2018](#).
 - All other gun-related crimes dropped substantially as well; assaults, robberies, and sex crimes [were 75% lower in 2011 than in 1993](#).
- We need to expand background checks to cover all gun transactions so that prohibited purchasers cannot elude the vetting process by turning to private sellers posting on internet forums or running a gun show booth.
- Universal background checks have consistently been one of the highest polling issues in the United States, and more than [92% of Americans have supported this policy](#) over the last several years.
- Among gun owners, [77% support requiring background checks for private sales](#).
- Nearly [1 in 5 American households purchased a gun](#) during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 1 in 20 adults in America (5%) purchased a gun for the first time.
- Preliminary research on gun violence and the COVID-19 pandemic suggests that stay-at-home/social distancing policies, combined with a reduction in economic and social support, exacerbated social inequalities that contribute to community gun violence.
 - In Philadelphia, shooting incidents [increased by 65%](#) while pandemic lockdowns were in effect.
 - In New York City, shootings during the pandemic [increased by 98%](#), and neighborhoods with higher rates of poverty and income inequality saw even greater increases in shooting incidents.
- Public health data for 13 major U.S. cities in 2020 indicates that the [least privileged zip codes saw, on average, 14.1 more incidents of gun violence](#) that year when compared with the most privileged zip codes.
- One of the major consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic was a [spike in firearms deaths among children](#), who — cut off from social networks and schools — spent substantially more time at home.
 - Nearly *8 additional* children died from gunshots each week compared to the pre-pandemic average (733 total between March 2020 and December 2021).
 - Increases in gun-related deaths were concentrated in areas with low median income or a high percentage of Black or Hispanic population.
 - Of the 8,477 children (ages 0-17) killed by gunfire from March 15, 2020 to January 1, 2021:

GUN VIOLENCE AND THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- Gun violence deaths [reached the highest number ever recorded](#) (45,222) during 2020, driven by a 35% increase in gun homicides.
- [2020 and 2021 saw unprecedented numbers of gun purchases](#). Data from NICS indicates at least 22.8 million sales in 2020, a [64% increase over the previous year](#), and 19.9 million sales in 2021.

- 77% were from low-income areas;
- 58% were from areas with large minority populations;
- 78% were between the ages of 12 and 17.

EXTREME RISK LAWS

- Extreme Risk laws (sometimes called “red flag laws” or ERPOs, short for “Extreme Risk Protection Order”) allow a court of law to temporarily — and without criminal charges — separate an individual the court finds to be a danger to themselves or others from firearms.
- [Nineteen states and Washington, D.C.](#) have enacted ERPO-style laws.
 - In the wake of the 2018 Parkland shooting, 12 states and the District of Columbia passed extreme risk laws — and in 5 of those 12 states (Florida, Illinois, Vermont, Maryland, and Massachusetts), the governors who signed the bills were Republicans.
- Extreme risk laws are particularly well-suited for preventing suicide, with one study of Connecticut risk protection orders finding that nearly half of all ERPOs issued there resulted in individuals receiving needed treatment — and that for every 10 to 20 orders, [one suicide was successfully prevented](#).
- Indiana’s ERPO law was associated with a [7.5% reduction](#) in firearm suicides over the 10 years following its enactment in 2005.
- A [June 2022](#) national poll found that 72% of likely voters support ERPO laws, including 76% of independents and 57% of Republicans.

ASSAULT WEAPONS AND HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

- Assault weapons are firearms designed for offensive attack, not self-defense, and which are accordingly intended to injure and kill large numbers of people quickly and efficiently.
- Assault weapons — weapons of war — do not belong in places of peace: our streets, our stores, our restaurants, and movie theaters.
- The only [functional difference between an AR-15 and a military-issue M4 rifle](#) is that the latter can shoot more than one bullet with a pull of the trigger.
- Most assault rifles are a poor choice for home security because they often employ high-powered rounds.
 - Part of the reason the U.S. Army chose the AR-15 platform for its standard issue rifle is because of the weapon’s devastating power, which is more than enough to punch through [both sides of a standard issue Army helmet at 500 yards](#).
 - If used for home defense, a missed shot from such a rifle could easily travel through several walls and over considerable distances, potentially injuring or killing family members or neighbors.
- In 2016 and 2017, [assault weapons were responsible for the deaths of 1 in 5 law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty](#).
- According to a [2010 survey by the Police Executive Research Forum](#), the expiration of the assault weapons ban in 2004 quickly led to 37% of police agencies noting a rise in criminal use of such firearms; 38% also reported a similar jump in criminal use of high-capacity magazines.

- During the decade that the [1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban was in effect](#), gun massacres (defined as six or more people shot and killed) fell by 37%, and the number of people dying from gun massacres declined 43%.
 - In the decade after the ban expired, the U.S. experienced a [183% increase in such massacres and a 239% increase in fatalities](#).
- A study analyzing mass shootings between 2009 and 2020 found that those involving assault weapons and/or high-capacity magazines resulted in higher numbers of people shot than attacks conducted with other firearms.
 - Shootings involving assault weapons resulted in an average of 11.6 people killed and 24 people wounded per shooting, compared to 4.8 people killed and 1.1 people wounded when attackers utilized other types of guns — a stark difference that reflects how access to weapons built for battlefields can lead to mass shootings with [six times as many people getting shot](#).
 - Shootings involving high-capacity magazines resulted in five times as many people getting shot.
 - Between 2009 and 2020, the five deadliest mass shootings all involved assault weapons and/or high-capacity magazines.
- After the federal assault weapons ban was adopted, the share of assault weapons recovered as crime guns [decreased between 32% and 40%](#) in several major cities.
- According to a [June 2022 poll](#), 66% of registered voters support banning assault-style weapons, and 69% support banning high-capacity ammunition magazines.

- The same poll showed that 80% of registered voters — including 72% of Republicans — support raising the minimum age to purchase an assault-style weapon to 21.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND GUNS

- Between 2015 and 2019, an average of [556 women were killed by a husband or male dating partner with a gun each year](#).
 - This means a woman was killed by an intimate partner with a gun *every 16 hours*.
- Black women are disproportionately the victims of fatal domestic violence with firearms:
 - In [2019](#), Black women accounted for 58% of women shot and killed by a husband or intimate acquaintance.
- A male abuser's direct access to a gun dramatically increases — [by more than 1,100%](#) — the likelihood that intimate partner violence he commits will become fatal.
- Women living in the United States are [28 times more likely to be killed with a gun](#) than women living in other high-income countries.
- An analysis of domestic violence reports in 2016 showed that about [4.5 million American women](#) reported that an intimate partner had threatened them with a gun.
- The majority of female homicides (64%) are perpetrated by current or former male intimate partners, and about [50 to 60% of these homicides are carried out with a gun](#).
- Between 2014 and 2019, [60% of targeted mass shooting events](#) were either domestic violence attacks/violence against women or perpetrated by someone with a history of such behavior.

- Convictions for domestic violence misdemeanors represented the [fourth most frequent reason for a NICS background check to end in denial](#), with only felony convictions, outstanding arrest warrants, and unlawful controlled substance use responsible for more such denials.
- Prior to enactment of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022 (BSCA), individuals had to be married to, live with, or have a child in common with a domestic violence victim in order to be prohibited from possessing firearms because of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence conviction (commonly known as the “Boyfriend Loophole”). The BSCA updated this language to include abusive dating partners, who will now be prohibited from possessing guns for five years — provided they are not convicted of a violent crime during that period.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACT OF GUN VIOLENCE IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

- Nationally, suicides represent the majority — approximately 60% — of gun deaths, but gun violence victims from communities of color deviate from this statistic: [Homicides account for 57.8% of Hispanic gun deaths and 82.9% of non-Hispanic Black gun deaths](#).
- Black Americans [represent nearly 60% of all gun homicide victims](#) despite comprising less than 14% of the U.S. population.
- The gun homicide rate for Hispanic victims is [more than double](#) that of their white peers.
- Black Americans are [over 11 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide](#).
- In 2017, [57% of Black adults said they knew someone who had been shot](#).
- Homicide is the [third leading cause of death](#) for Hispanics aged 15 to 24.
- Black children and teens (0 to 19 years old) are [14 times](#) more likely than white children and teens to die by gun homicide.
- Nearly [7 in 10 Hispanic murder victims](#) are killed with guns.
- [Firearm suicide among youth of color](#) has sharply increased in recent years, more than doubling among Black, Latino, and Asian teenagers — and increasing by a staggering 88% for young Native Americans.

STOPPING THE FLOW OF CRIME GUNS

- According to the latest data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), roughly [5% of gun dealers are responsible for about 90% of recovered crime guns](#).
- Most gun dealers act responsibly; [86% do not have even a single crime gun traced to their business](#) in a given year.
- Lost and stolen guns are a large source of crime guns in America:
 - Between [2004](#) and [2021](#), over 337,000 firearms were reported lost or stolen just from licensed gun dealers.
 - According to the National Crime Information Center, [2 million firearms were reported stolen](#) between 2008 and 2017.
 - Gun sales surged in 2020, and gun thefts have followed suit: Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of stolen firearms reported to the police departments of 10 major U.S. cities has [jumped 29%](#).
 - Lost and stolen guns don’t simply disappear into thin air; many are redirected into the illegal market and end up on America’s streets.

- Gun dealers are not required by law to follow such common-sense business practices as locking up inventory or performing background checks on employees; ATF [issues safety and security guidance to dealers](#), but compliance is entirely voluntary.
- ATF has an internal goal of inspecting each federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) at least once every [three to five years](#), which means the Bureau should inspect at least 20% of gun dealers annually — an undertaking which, unfortunately, it has long failed to accomplish:
 - A [2004 report](#) from the Justice Department’s Office of the Inspector General (OIG) found that ATF inspected only 4.5% of dealers each year, well below the internal goal of 20%, and the years since have seen only marginal improvement: [Between 2010 and 2019](#), ATF agents inspected an average of only 7% of FFLs annually.
 - Faced with the pandemic in 2020, the already-poor inspection rate dropped precipitously back down to [4.5%](#).
- ATF has also failed to hold rogue gun dealers responsible, [regularly downgrading penalties for dealers that break the law](#).
- For the first time in U.S. history, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act established firearms trafficking and straw purchasing as enforceable federal crimes with clear penalties for convicted offenders.

POLICE VIOLENCE IS GUN VIOLENCE

- Police violence is the unlawful, unnecessary, or disproportionate use of force by police. Because police violence, in all of its forms, is facilitated by the direct use, threat, or perceived threat of firearms, not only to the victims but also bystanders with intent to intervene, *police violence is gun violence*.

- The rate of police violence in America far exceeds that in similar industrialized countries — interactions with American police officers are [10 times more likely to end in death than police encounters in the U.K.](#)
- Black Americans are [3.23 times more likely](#) to be killed by police than white Americans.
- Similarly, Latino men face a higher [lifetime risk](#) of being killed by police than their white peers.
- A [2022 study](#) found that states which relaxed restrictions on civilians carrying concealed firearms in public subsequently experienced a 12.9% increase in the number of officer-involved shootings, plus an increase in additional civilian victims.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH CARE COSTS OF GUN VIOLENCE

- The total charges associated with emergency department visits and inpatient management of firearm-related injuries for individuals [younger than 18 years old](#) amounts to \$270 million per year in direct costs.
- The cost of *initial* hospitalizations alone for gunshot victims is more than [\\$700 million annually](#) in the United States. The average *initial* hospitalization cost per patient is approximately \$24,000-32,000.
- Firearm injuries cost patients [more than twice as much in hospital care](#) as other types of injuries.
- Between 2006 and 2014, Medicaid covered [\\$2.3 billion](#) in costs related to initial hospital stays for gunshot victims.
- American trauma centers treat [1,565 gunshot victims](#) each week.
- Medical [costs increase fourfold for survivors](#) of gun violence after a nonfatal firearm injury. Survivors are more likely to develop pain diagnoses,

psychiatric disorders, and substance use disorders.

- Family members of survivors also experienced a 12% increase in psychiatric disorders after an incident.
- Gun violence generates [\\$1 billion in direct health care costs](#) each year for victims and their families.

CHILDREN, TEENS, AND GUNS

- Every year, [3,539 children and teens \(ages 0 to 19\) are killed with guns](#).
 - Nearly 10 children and teens are killed every day with guns.
 - A child or teen will die by gunshot every 2.5 hours in the United States.
- In [2020](#), firearm-related deaths became the [leading cause of death for children and teens](#) (1 to 19), surpassing auto accidents, cancer, heart disease, the flu, pneumonia, and a variety of other chronic diseases.
- Over [76% of school shootings](#) are facilitated by kids having access to unsecured and/or unsupervised guns at home.
- While more than [70% of gun-owning parents](#) reported that their children could not access firearms stored in their homes, a third of the children reported that they could.

SAFE STORAGE AND FAMILY FIRE

- [“Family fire”](#) is a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun in the home that results in death or injury. Unintentional shootings, suicide, and intentional shootings are all forms of family fire.
- Each day, [8 children and teens](#) (aged 0 to 17) are unintentionally injured or killed by family fire.

- [4.6 million children](#) live in a home with an unlocked, loaded firearm.
- [70% of unintentional shootings](#) by children occur in homes, whether in the child’s home or someone else’s home.
- State child access prevention (CAP) laws, which require firearms to be securely stored such that children cannot easily access them, are associated with a [17% reduction in firearm-related homicides committed by juveniles](#).
- Keeping guns locked and unloaded was [found to have a protective effect against unintentional shootings and suicide among youth](#), reducing the risk of death by 73%.
- Storing ammunition separately from a firearm [reduces the risk of an unintentional shooting among youth by 61%](#).
- More than [70% of guns](#) used in pediatric suicide attempts were stored in the child’s own residence, or the residence of a relative or friend.
- Firearm owners who keep their firearms locked or unloaded were at least [60% less likely to die](#) from firearm related suicide than those who store their firearms unlocked and/or loaded.

FIREARM SUICIDE

- Nearly [60% of gun deaths are suicides](#), an average of 23,891 annually.
- In 2020, over [24,290 individuals in America died by firearm suicide](#).
 - That means someone died by gun suicide every *21 and a half minutes*.
- Firearms are extremely lethal compared to other common methods of attempting suicide; [less than 10% of all suicidal acts are fatal](#), but about [90% of suicidal acts with a firearm result in death](#).

- Drug overdose, the most common method of attempting suicide, is [fatal in fewer than 3% of cases](#).
- Access to a gun in the home [increases the risk of suicide death by more than 300%](#).
- Women living with handgun owners are nearly [50% percent more likely to die by suicide](#) compared to women living in gun-free homes.
- Firearm suicide is preventable. Most decisions about suicide [are made within an hour of thinking about them](#). If lethal means such as firearms are inaccessible to individuals contemplating suicide during this critical period, the risk of them ending their lives drops substantially.
- A second chance is critical: [9 in 10 survivors of suicide attempts will not go on to die by suicide](#).
- Firearm suicide rates rose steadily among [young people in their teens and twenties](#) over the last decade, with people of color experiencing the sharpest increases.
 - The firearm suicide rate more than doubled among Black, Latino, and Asian teenagers, while increasing by 88% for Native Americans and 35% for white teens.
 - From 2019 through 2020, an average of one American teenager died by gun suicide [every seven hours](#).
- Between 2013 and 2017, firearms were the [second most common means of suicide](#) among children 5 to 11 years old — and in every documented case, the child obtained a firearm stored unsafely in the home.

VETERANS, THE MILITARY, AND FIREARM SUICIDE

- In 2019, more than [17 veterans died by suicide](#) every day, with 69% using a firearm.

- The suicide rate for active duty service members increased 27% between [2016](#) and [2020](#), and over 60% died by gunshot.
- In 2019, veterans made up less than [7% of the adult population](#), but [accounted for 13.7% of suicide deaths](#) among U.S. adults — and 18% of firearm suicide deaths.
- In [2019](#), 45% of Americans who died by suicide used a firearm, compared to 64% of service members who died by suicide.
- In 2017, Veterans had a [suicide rate](#) 1.5 times that of civilian adults, and the rate for women veterans was more than twice that of their civilian counterparts.
- Nearly half of all women veterans who die by suicide [use a firearm](#), compared to just over 30% of non-veteran women.
- Veterans have a much higher rate of gun ownership. While only one-third of Americans own firearms, [nearly half of veterans do](#).

GUN VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Guns in the hands of prohibited individuals pose an imminent risk to law enforcement, especially with firearms being the [leading cause of death](#) among officers killed in the line of duty.
- Between 2010 and 2019, of the 511 police officers murdered in the line of duty, [more than 92% were killed with firearms](#), compared to just 6% killed by vehicles and 0.5% with knives.
- Between 2009 and 2018, [1,062 police officers survived assaults in the line of duty; 74% were assaulted with firearms](#).
- A [2004 Department of Justice report](#) stated that high-capacity magazines are used in between 31% and 41% of fatal shootings of police officers.

GHOST GUNS AND 3D-PRINTED GUNS

- [Ghost guns](#) are untraceable firearms built from unregulated parts and kits designed to undermine existing gun laws.
 - Most commonly, ghost guns are firearms constructed from “unfinished” frames or receivers by individuals without a manufacturing license.
 - Frames and receivers are the only parts of a firearm that ATF regulates as firearms themselves. If you are able to make one at home, all other parts needed to complete the firearm can be purchased without any regulation.
 - Being able to construct these untraceable weapons is easier than ever with YouTube tutorials available that explain exactly how to put together an untraceable firearm. The top five YouTube instructional videos on ghost guns have been viewed more than [3 million times](#).
 - Ghost guns, which are designed and marketed toward individuals looking to circumvent federal regulations, are often sold as [kits that include all the pieces and tools necessary to complete them](#).
 - These untraceable weapons have been linked nationwide to [homicides](#), [suicides](#), [school shootings](#), [mass shootings](#), [robberies](#), [the shooting deaths of law enforcement officers](#), and [acts of domestic violence](#).
 - In 2021, law enforcement investigations— 692 of them homicide or attempted homicide cases — led to the recovery of nearly [20,000](#) ghost guns.
 - In [Los Angeles](#), ghost guns have exploded in popularity. The Los Angeles Police Department recovered 813 such firearms in 2020 and 1,921 in 2021 — an increase of 133%. The LAPD has thus far confiscated 1,058 in 2022, and ghost guns have been used across the city in nine
- murders, 31 attempted murders, and hundreds of other serious crimes.
- In Washington, D.C., the number of ghost guns recovered by police has [risen steadily](#) over the last few years. In 2017, law enforcement recovered a grand total of three; by 2021, however, that number skyrocketed to 439.
 - A new [ATF rule](#), effective August 24, 2022, clarifies that ghost gun precursor parts and kits qualify as “firearms,” and accordingly must be treated by commercial manufacturers the same as other commercially-made firearms: They must be serialized, licensed, and sold with a background check at the initial commercial sale.
 - However, the rule does not apply to ghost guns or ghost gun kits already in civilian possession.
 - Recent technology has opened the door to “3D-printed guns,” [a type of ghost gun](#) made with three-dimensional printers.
 - These guns can be made almost [entirely of plastic](#), rendering most modern security devices like metal detectors ineffective in detecting their presence.
 - More commonly, [3D printers are used to build frames or receivers](#), the only regulated piece of a firearm, which allows prohibited individuals to evade background checks.
 - The release of the digital files that make this technology feasible [allows any person to make untraceable guns](#).
 - All 3D-printed guns are ghost guns, but most ghost guns are not 3D-printed.

GUN INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABILITY

- In 2005, at the behest of the gun lobby, Congress passed the [Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act](#) (PLCAA), which President George W. Bush then signed into law.

- PLCAA has been interpreted by courts to effectively bar gun violence victims from holding the gun industry liable for injuries caused by negligence, defective products, or dangerous conduct that would otherwise be actionable under civil justice principles. *No other industry enjoys this special treatment.*
- No industry should be above the law, especially not one that makes and sells lethal weapons.
- PLCAA contributes to the nation's gun violence epidemic in several ways:
 - It disincentivizes responsible business practices.
 - Car manufacturers have made numerous improvements in the last several decades to reduce automobile deaths, primarily because of advancements spurred by fear of liability.
 - PLCAA effectively removes this motivation, disincentivizing the gun industry from adopting safe sales practices, incorporating affordable life-saving safety devices into their products, or monitoring their distribution practices.
 - It denies justice to victims and survivors.
 - PLCAA denies citizens the right to civil justice guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment. When a gun manufacturer or dealer operates negligently and irresponsibly, and their actions lead to injury or death, victims have no avenue for recourse to seek civil justice.
 - It perpetuates the flow of crime guns into communities of color.
- PLCAA protects dealers and manufacturers from being held accountable for the role they play in trafficked firearms — disproportionately impacting communities of color, burdening them with the effects of daily interpersonal gun violence, and negatively impacting communities' economic prosperity — while facing no consequences.