

Gun Violence Awareness and Prevention Toolkit

The Issue

Gun violence continues to be a major issue in the U.S. With over 124 mass shootings occurring in 2024 thus far. One of the main contributors to the epidemic of violence is the distribution of guns and the lack of oversight within gun laws. For example unlicensed gun sellers who sell guns from a private collection, or state laws that make acquiring a gun without red tape easier. Furthermore, gun violence on part of police violence is still a prevalent issue. With more than 600 people being killed a year by the police this violence has further contributed to the death toll.

Types of Gun Violence

- Firearm Suicide
- Firearm Homicide
- Exposure to Gun Violence
- Mass Shootings
- Domestic Violence
- Nonfatal Firearm Injuries
- Police-Involved Shootings
- Unintentional Shootings

National Total Gun Violence in 2024: 42,654

- Suicide Shootings: 24,569 (58% of suicide shootings counted toward the National Total of Gun Violence in 2024)
- Homicide Shootings: 16,651 (39% of homicide shootings counted toward the National Total of Gun Violence in 2024)
- Police Shootings: 552 (1.3% of police shootings counted toward the National Total of Gun Violence in 2024)
- Unintentional Shootings: 502 (1.2% of unintentional shootings counted toward the National Total of Gun Violence)

Suicide Prevention

Suicide from self inflicted gun shots make up 54% of gun deaths in the country. It is important to address the existing mental health crisis that has contributed to this gun violence issue. For people who need resources please share the Suicide Prevention hotline number which can be reached by dialing 988. For more resources people can go to 988helpline.org.

Gun Violence and Its Impact on Black Families

Cities that experience disproportionate gun homicide – Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Orleans, Newark, St. Louis, Chicago – all have large, segregated Black communities with a history of disinvestment. This segregation and disinvestment didn't happen by accident.

“Deindustrialization, discriminatory housing practices, and white flight from neighborhoods as Black families moved in pushed large numbers of Black people into poverty, perpetuating economic inequalities between white and Black people.”



45% of Black and Hispanic Latino Americans believe gun violence is an important issue impacting their neighborhood, compared to only 27% of white Americans.

Black men make up 52% of all gun homicide victims in the US, despite comprising less than 6% of the population, but the U.S. pays little attention to the structural causes of inequality and violence in these areas.

Black Americans are 2.5 times more likely to be killed by police than white Americans. Despite making up only 12% of the U.S. population, Black Americans constitute 31% of all deaths in which police officers killed a civilian.



Gun Violence and Its Impact on Black Women and Girls

- Young Black females (aged 15-34) specifically are over 6 times more likely to be killed by a firearm compared to their white counterparts
- Femicide – the homicide of women – is the leading cause of death among Black women in the U.S. (aged 14-45)

Black women experience domestic violence at rates far higher than their white counterparts. Black women are two times more likely to be killed by a spouse and four times more likely to be killed by a dating partner than white women. (The majority of intimate partner homicides are with guns)

In order to address the racial disparities in gun violence and prevent the spread of destructive stereotypes and victim-blaming, we need to take a close look at how public policy has contributed to the likelihood that people of color, especially Black and Brown people, may encounter circumstances that encourage gun violence.

Brittany Clardy Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act

H.R.6828 Brittany Clardy Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls Act is a bill that seeks to address the violence against Black women and girls. This act seeks to have the Department of Justice establish an office to focus specifically on this issue. With Black women facing domestic violence and higher rates and higher probability of being killed by a partner via firearm. NCNW is advocating for the passage of this bill.

The Ask



Contact your Representative and Senator and voice for action on gun control. As well as voice your support for proactive measures to address gun violence. Tell them you support the passage of common sense legislation and for more actions to be taken by Congress to address gun violence.

How to Support

Either send a letter (see the template below) or call your Congressional Members' office (see the phone script below) to elevate the importance of addressing gun violence.





Letter Template for Contacting Congressional Members

Subject: Gun Violence

Dear [Senator or Representatives name]

As your constituent, I am writing to urge your support for Congressional action on gun violence. While there have been actions like the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which addresses gun violence, there is more to be done. Guns and gun violence are still prevalent in our communities and it's time to act.

[Personalize with a brief story about your experience with gun violence and how Congressional action will help your community. For example - share that “Gun violence has impacted my community [insert your experience]” or “A lack of action on this puts my community at risk of being negatively impacted by gun violence.”]

These actions are not just about reform; it's about ensuring that communities are protected. And that we can exist in a safe environment without worrying about the next gun violence incident.

Please consider the positive impact of these actions and support its passage.

Sincerely

[Your Name]

[Your address]

[Your Contact Information]



Phone Script for Contacting Congressional Members:

(Call the U.S Capitol Switchboard: (202)224-3121 and ask the operator to connect you to your Congressional Member - House and Senate)

Purpose of the call

Hello! My name is (First Name, Last Name) and I am a constituent of Representative _____ (or Senator _____). I'm calling today to urge (Members of Congress) to take action to address gun violence.

Expression of Concern

“With gun violence continuing to be prevalent, it's urgent that Congress acts swiftly. There needs to be proactive gun laws that provide protections to communities ensuring citizens are not at risk of being killed.”

What Else Can You Do?

Share on social media platforms and share with your community members the need to elevate the urgency for Congress to act on this important piece of legislation.

Questions?

Please email NCNW Advocacy & Policy Team members at pwhite@ncnw.org, twilliams@ncnw.org, and tturner@ncnw.org. We will assist you.

