

# Gun Control – What we know. What’s being done. What can be done.

(An overview, not meant to be an exhaustive list)

## The facts we know about gun control

- **Gun violence is a Public Health Crisis!**
- According to the [Congressional Research Service](#), as of 2009 there were roughly twice as many guns per capita in the United States as there were in 1968: more than 300 million guns in all.
- Survey in 2017 showed U.S. having highest number of firearms of any nation in the world. An estimate of firearms in civilian possession 393,347,000 [1,073,743 registered; 392,273,257 unregistered firearms]
- There have been 350 school shootings across the U.S. since the incident at Sandy Hook in 2012 (which took the lives of 20 young children & 6 adults)
- In a single year (2021) there have been 40,000 recorded deaths in U.S. due to gun violence— an epic proportion (2021)
- Every day in America, 32 children and teens are injured and seven are killed by gunfire, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- The types of guns used can vary-- handguns predominate in larger cities, while long guns and rifles are seen with increased frequency in rural areas.
- Children and teens in the USA are 15 times more likely to die from gunfire than their peers in 31 other high-income countries combined.
- Black Americans represent the majority of gun homicide victims and are 10 times more likely than white Americans to die by gun homicide.
- At the Fed level, it continues to be the most difficult to get legislators to take action.

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has acknowledged that gun violence is a crisis in the U.S.:

- 58% of our U.S. population is affected.
- 110 American people a day are dying from gun violence.
- As a nation we have more unintentional incidents and firearm accidents than any other nation.
- Ghost guns (homemade guns) are adding to the problem.

## Actions taken by state & local officials

- California has \$9 million in on-going programs focused on preventing gun violence, with \$200,000 million in the works.
- Feb 2022 – there was successful lawsuit settlement for \$73 million brought against Remington Gun Manufacturer - a civil case involving 5 children & 4 adults killed at Sandy Hook. [Remington was found guilty of deceptive marketing practices; which is against Connecticut law]
- Calif Passed AB8311 preventing gun sales at fairs.
- Calif Passed SB538 increasing the electronic restraining orders where guns are involved.
- \$5 million in legislation is slated for law enforcement to increase its ability to seize guns.

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- Calif AB1223 – in the works ... is related to increasing taxes on gun sales.
- Calif is trying to pass legislation tracing gun ownership, that also included stronger measures for background checks.
- Calif AB1292 – in the works ... which would identify guns in estate sales.
- Calif AB988 – is focused on addressing the mental health crisis.
- Most importantly Calif legislators are working on legislation at all levels (state-county - city) to pass ordinances requiring the safe storage of firearms in the hands of citizens.
- Latest bill would allow private citizens to sue anyone who manufactures, distributes, transports, imports into the state or sells assault weapons, .50 caliber BMG sniper rifles, ghost guns, or ghost gun kits.

### **Ideas to explore related to possible solutions**

- We need to change the narrative and root cause for the gun violence.
- Calif Assemblywoman Bauer-Kahan emphasized that local city & county councils and school district boards might do more to get citizens to pass ordinances/policies that require safe storage of firearms.
- Our message should be: “Stop the easy access to guns! We want there to be responsible gun owners.”
- With the continuing threat of gun violence and incidents of death, as Shannon Watts, Moms Demand Action, states, it’s “easy to become numb”.
- Insurance and banking industries should raise their rates on gun deals and/or those insured who own firearms.
- As Congressman Swalwell stated, “We should emphasize no one is trying to take away anyone’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights”.
- We need to continue to seek Presidential executive orders that require the safe storage of firearms; to pursue issues related to domestic violence and to identify who’s in possession of assault firearms.
- As Congressman Swalwell stated, “Right now we have an honor system for owning guns that is not working.”
- Swalwell further stated, “We need to be getting the dangerous guns out of the hands of the dangerous people.”
- As Devone Boggan, Advanced Peace Program, stated, “We need to restore hope -- getting the criminals to see a different way to act ... to be ‘transformative’ in the actions taken.”
- We need law enforcement to have more ways to address the gun violence problems – criminals are not serving time – most gun violence incidents have offenders who have never been penalized (no criminal punishment).
- Organizations must be willing to take on the NRA and other gun lobbies.
- California can provide a blueprint for other states, since it is number one in passing legislation related to gun control.
- We need other states across the U.S. to mobilize and pass legislation at the state level which means paying close attention to Texas, Arizona and Nevada.