



IACP

PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS:

Firearms Violence: Scope of the Issue

MISSION:

September 2016

The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Initiative, with support from the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice (BJA), works to improve law enforcement's capacity to interdict firearms trafficking and disrupt gang activity. This is one in a series of Fact Sheets designed to provide law enforcement officers and executives with an overview on topics related to firearms.¹

FAST FACTS: DID YOU KNOW

- An estimated 310 million firearms are in the United States.² This equals approximately one firearm for every American citizen.
- A total of 33,636 firearm deaths occurred in 2013. In comparison, a total of 33,804 motor vehicle traffic deaths occurred that year.³
- On average, 111,779 people are shot each year. Of these, 32,964, or approximately 30%, of the incidents are fatal.⁴
- Suicide is the second most common cause of death for Americans between the ages of 15 and 34.⁵ Of those suicides in 2013, more than half involved firearms.⁶
- Over the last five years, the CDC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System estimates that over 300 non-fatal firearms injuries were reported each day to hospital emergency services divisions.⁷
- According to information collected by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, in 2014, firearms were used in 67.9 percent of the nation's murders, 40.3 percent of robberies, and 22.5 percent of aggravated assaults.⁸
- While tragic, less than one percent of gun murder victims recorded by the FBI in 2012 were killed in mass shootings (defined as incidents with four or more victims).⁹
- The presence of a firearm in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500 percent.¹⁰
- Between 2005 and 2014, the vast majority (92%) of felonious deaths of law enforcement officers were the result of a firearm. The most common type of firearm used in these deaths was a handgun (73%), followed by a rifle (18%) and shotgun (8%).¹¹

Evidence-Based Practice:

The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) aims to reduce homicides and nonfatal shootings through a multidisciplinary approach and receives an "effective" rating on CrimeSolutions.gov.¹² The commission relies on the expertise of a variety of entities, such as law enforcement professionals, criminal justice professionals, and community service providers, who meet regularly to exchange information and identify methods to address the city's persistent lethal violence. Through strategic problem analysis, development of innovative responses, and focused enforcement and intervention activities, according to one study, between January 1999 and December 2006, the MHRC was able to significantly decrease (52 percent decrease) the monthly count of homicides in the districts where interventions were focused.¹³



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



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END NOTES

- ¹ For additional information related to the PSN Initiative, to include additional Fact Sheets, please visit www.theiacp.org/PSNInitiative.
- ² William J. Krouse, *Gun Control Legislation* (Congressional Research Service, 2014), <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL32842.pdf> (accessed June 22, 2016).
- ³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "All Injuries," <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/injury.htm>, citing data from Jiaquan Xu et al., "Deaths: Final Data for 2013," *National Vital Statistics Reports* 64, no. 2 (published February 2016), http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_02.pdf (accessed August 29, 2016).
- ⁴ Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, *Gun Death and Injury 5 Year Average Stat Sheet* (2016), http://www.bradycampaign.org/sites/default/files/Gun%20Deaths%20Fact%20Sheet_v8.pdf (accessed September 29, 2016).
- ⁵ National Vital Statistics Reports, 64, no. 10, Table 1. Deaths, percentage of total deaths, and death rates for the 10 leading causes of death in selected age groups, by race and sex: United States, 2012 (published August 2015), http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_10.pdf#page=17 (accessed June 22, 2016).
- ⁶ CDC, "Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injury," <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm>, citing data from Jiaquan Xu et al., "Deaths: Final Data for 2013," *National Vital Statistics Reports* 64, no. 2 (published February 2016), http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr64/nvsr64_02.pdf (accessed August 29, 2016).
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), *Crime in the U.S. 2014*, Offenses Known to Law Enforcement, Violent Crime, <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s-2014/offenses-known-to-law-enforcement/violent-crime> (accessed June 22, 2016).
- ⁹ Everytown For Gun Safety, *Analysis of Mass Shootings* (August 31, 2016), <https://everytownresearch.org/reports/mass-shootings-analysis> (accessed September 9, 2016).
- ¹⁰ Jacquelyn C. Campbell et al., "Risk Factors for Femicide within Physically Abusive Intimate Relationships: Results from a Multi-site Case Control Study," *Amer. J. of Public Health* 93, no. 7 (2003): 1089-1097. http://www.ncdsv.org/images/AJPH_RiskFactorsForFemicideInAbusiveRelationships_7-2003.pdf (accessed August 24, 2016).
- ¹¹ FBI, *2014 Law Enforcement Officers Killed & Assaulted*, table 29 – Law Enforcement Officers Feloniously Killed, Type of Weapon, 2005-2014, https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/leoka/2014/tables/table_29_leos_fk_type_of_weapon_2005-2014.xls (accessed June 22, 2016).
- ¹² Program Profile: Milwaukee (Wis.) Homicide Review Commission (MHRC), <https://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=354> (accessed September 27, 2016).
- ¹³ National Institute of Justice, "Program Profile: Milwaukee (Wis.) Homicide Review Commission (MHRC)," <http://www.crimesolutions.gov/ProgramDetails.aspx?ID=354> (accessed August 29, 2016).