



# Latinos and Gun Violence Prevention: Improving Gun Safety in Our Communities

## Introduction

Across the United States, communities are experiencing a significant rise in gun violence. While all communities are affected, Latino\* families and communities are among those who are disproportionately impacted by gun violence.

Some of the deadliest recent mass shootings—defined as incidents where at least four people are shot and killed—have occurred within Latino communities.<sup>1</sup> Although such terrible high-profile shootings rightly draw public concern and attention to help communities support the victims and to heal, the more everyday forms of gun violence and their heartbreaking toll on victims and communities often fail to get national attention.

In June 2022, President Biden signed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA).<sup>2</sup> The most significant gun violence reduction legislation enacted in nearly 30 years, the BSCA aims to improve background checks for firearm sales, address the deadly connection between guns and domestic violence, make gun trafficking a federal crime, and invest in community violence intervention programs and school-based violence prevention programs. In March 2023, President Biden signed an executive order aimed at expanding background checks for gun sales.<sup>3</sup> While the BSCA and the Biden-Harris Administration’s efforts to bypass Congressional actions to improve gun safety

### Content note:

This article contains mentions of gun violence and mass shootings that some may find disturbing or challenging.

## Inside

Introduction .....	1
The Heavy Toll of Gun Violence on Latino Communities.....	2
Latino Communities Demand Stronger Measures to End Gun Violence.....	5
Pillar 1: Restricting Access to Guns by Improving Gun Violence Prevention and Gun Safety Policies .....	6
Pillar 2: Preventing Mass Shootings: School-Based Attacks and Hate Crimes.....	15
Conclusion.....	18

\* The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout our materials to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race. Our materials may also refer to this population as “Latinx” to represent the diversity of gender identities and expressions that are present in the community.

are important steps forward, other evidence-based policies are necessary to end gun violence in the United States, as this report outlines. The administration must take steps to improve the implementation of the BSCA. Congress now has the opportunity to seize on the bipartisan momentum and advance other sensible measures to reduce gun violence and its associated harms, including requiring background checks for all gun sales, banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, and requiring the safe storage of guns.

In addition to recent national advances in gun violence prevention, state legislatures have also been active in both directions, with some states advancing restrictive gun legislation and others moving in the opposite direction.<sup>4</sup> State laws, such as bans on assault weapons, have been met with swiftly filed lawsuits challenging such measures, with arguments saying these policies infringe on people's Second Amendment rights.<sup>5</sup> Other states have introduced and passed legislation to expand people's ability to carry concealed weapons with a permit and eliminate gun-free zones, background checks, and extreme risk laws.<sup>6</sup>

The national debate over gun policies has put the growing Latino community in the crosshairs, and with one out of every four children in U.S. schools now Latino, the stakes are high. Below, we describe the impact of gun violence on and within the Latino community, present data regarding Latino attitudes towards gun violence, and outline evidence-based gun violence prevention and gun safety policies that can address rising gun violence in a meaningful way.



## The Heavy Toll of Gun Violence on Latino Communities

Latinos in the United States are dying from gun violence every day at alarming rates. Each year, more than 4,700 Latinos die from gun violence in the United States—about 13 preventable deaths per day.<sup>7</sup>

Increasingly, Latinos are the target of hate-motivated violence. Latinos, and the Latino community, suffered huge losses in multiple recent mass shootings motivated by racism and homophobia. The May 24, 2022, mass shooting in Uvalde, Texas, which killed 21 children and teachers, has shown the devastating effects of gun violence on Latino communities.<sup>8</sup>

Unfortunately, this was not the first time a mass shooting caused the Latino community to suffer such immeasurable grief. In August 2019, a white supremacist gunman drove to a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, where he targeted Latino shoppers, shooting 46 people, half of whom died.<sup>9</sup> In years prior, in May 2016, a shooter entered Pulse, an LGBTQ+ nightclub in Orlando, Florida, during a Latin night event, and shot 102 people, 49 of whom died.<sup>10</sup>

**At the same time, more day-to-day gun violence is an epidemic in communities around the nation and particularly impacts children.**

As of 2020, gun violence replaced motor vehicle crashes to become the leading cause of death for children, with an estimated 12 children dying from firearms daily.<sup>11</sup> Among peer countries, the United States has by far the highest child and teen firearm mortality rate.<sup>12</sup> In 2021, nearly 50,000 (48,830) people died from gun-related injuries in the United States, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).<sup>13</sup>

## Gun violence also enacts a terrible toll on the Latino community.

Consider:

- Latinos are twice as likely to die by gun homicide and four times as likely to be wounded by a gun than are white people.<sup>14</sup>
- In addition to the more than 4,700 Latinos dying from gun violence in the United States each year, an additional 13,300 Latinos are shot and injured.<sup>15</sup>
- More than one in five Latino adults (22%) have personally witnessed someone being shot.<sup>16</sup>
- Between 2020 and 2021, the number of violent crimes that Latino populations reported to police increased from 34% to 46%.<sup>17</sup>
- One in three Latino adults (33%) report that they worry either “every day” or “almost every day” about themselves or someone they love being a victim of gun violence.<sup>18</sup>
- Latino children and teens are three times more likely to be killed by gun homicide than their white peers.<sup>19</sup>
- Nearly one in five Latino adults (18%)—more than double the rate among white adults (8%)—feel that gun violence is a “constant threat” to their local community.<sup>20</sup>
- The 2020 surge in gun violence disproportionately took place in predominantly Latino and Black communities, accounting for 85% of the increase in gun-involved homicides from 2019 to 2020.<sup>21</sup>
- In an average year, police shoot and kill over 180 Latinos.<sup>22</sup>

**It’s also true that millions of Latinos live in states that have some of the weakest gun violence prevention laws.** About 73% of all Latinos live in just nine states—Arizona, California, Florida, Texas, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Colorado, and New Mexico. Gun deaths and injuries among Latinos are concentrated in a few of these states, especially those with inadequate gun safety and gun violence prevention laws:

- **Arizona:** Out of all states, Arizona has the highest rate of Latino gun homicides, and the rate of gun homicides among Latino youth is more than three times that of non-Hispanic white youth.<sup>23</sup>
- **California:** Despite strong gun laws, Latinos in California are also disproportionately harmed by gun violence. In 2016, for homicides in which the weapon used could be identified, 75% of Latino victims were shot and killed with guns.<sup>24</sup>
- **Florida:** Between 2019 and 2020, gun homicide rates among Latinos under 25 years old in Florida increased by 42.3%, making Florida’s Latino youth twice as likely to die by gun homicide than the state’s white youth.<sup>25</sup>
- **Texas:** In Texas, Latinos are almost twice as likely to die by gun violence than are white people.<sup>26</sup>



The distribution of guns—and gun violence—also closely tracks criminal activity, including homicides. In fact, criminal violence, together with self-inflicted violence from suicides, constitute a large majority of gun-related deaths across all communities.

For example:

- In 2021, the most recent year for which complete data is available, of all gun-related deaths, 54% were suicides and 43% were murders.<sup>27</sup>
- Of all reported murders in 2021, 81% involved a gun, marking the highest percentage since the CDC began collecting data.<sup>28</sup>
- A May 2022 report from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives found that the annual number of firearms manufactured has nearly tripled since 2000 and spiked sharply in the past three years, fueled mainly by increases in semiautomatic handguns.<sup>29</sup>
- Approximately 20 million AR-15-style weapons are in circulation.<sup>30</sup> The El Paso, Buffalo, and Uvalde shooters all used assault weapons. The Uvalde shooter was also carrying a handgun, and the racially motivated shooter in the 2022 shooting in a Black neighborhood in Buffalo, NY, was in possession of a hunting rifle and a shotgun.





## Latino Communities Demand Stronger Measures to End Gun Violence

### Gun Violence Is a Top Priority for Latino Voters

The issue of gun violence has not historically been ranked high on the list of priorities for Latino voters, as indicated by Latino Election Eve Polls and Unidos/SOMOS polling between 2010 and 2020.<sup>31</sup> Yet in the wake of rising violent crimes in communities of color and devastating shootings targeting Latino communities, gun violence has dramatically risen to become a newly prioritized issue for Latino community members, and concern continues to grow.<sup>32</sup> **A recent national poll of Latino voters conducted by UnidosUS and *Mi Familia Vota* in 2022 shows that addressing gun violence is among the top two most important issues for Latinos, and Latinos strongly support policies to address gun violence.**<sup>33</sup>

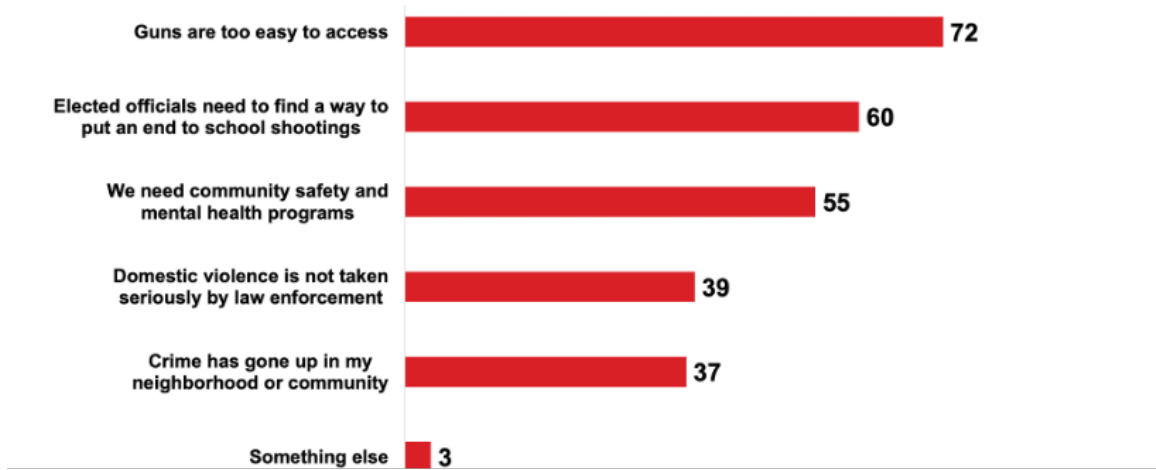
#### What are the most important issues that elected officials should address?



Source: UnidosUS and Mi Familia Vota National Survey of Latino Voters, 2022<sup>34</sup>

When Latino voters were asked about what they meant when they indicated that gun violence was a top priority, a majority of respondents noted that guns are too easy to access; elected officials need to find a way to put an end to school shootings, and there is a need for community safety and mental health programs.<sup>35</sup>

**What did you have in mind when you said crime and gun violence are important issues elected officials should address? (all that apply)**



Source: UnidosUS and Mi Familia Vota National Survey of Latino Voters, 2022<sup>36</sup>

Given the strong showing among Latinos in favor of action to address gun violence, UnidosUS has developed four pillars to improve gun safety in Latino communities, which are:

1. Restricting Access to Guns by Improving Gun Violence Prevention and Gun Safety Policies
2. Preventing Mass Shootings: School-Based Attacks and Hate Crimes
3. Utilizing a Public Health Approach to Prevent Gun Violence
4. Deepening Mental Health Supports to Promote Community, Family, and Individual Healing from Gun Violence

The following sections detail UnidosUS’s policy recommendations regarding the first two pillars. A subsequent report and analysis will cover pillars three and four.

## Pillar 1: Restricting Access to Guns by Improving Gun Violence Prevention and Gun Safety Policies

Data show that both a wide range of policies and enacting multiple policies at once work to reduce gun violence. Studies find that because a comprehensive and multi-pronged approach reduces deaths caused by gun violence, it is therefore important to enact a range of policies that reinforce each other.

**A 2016 review concluded that:**

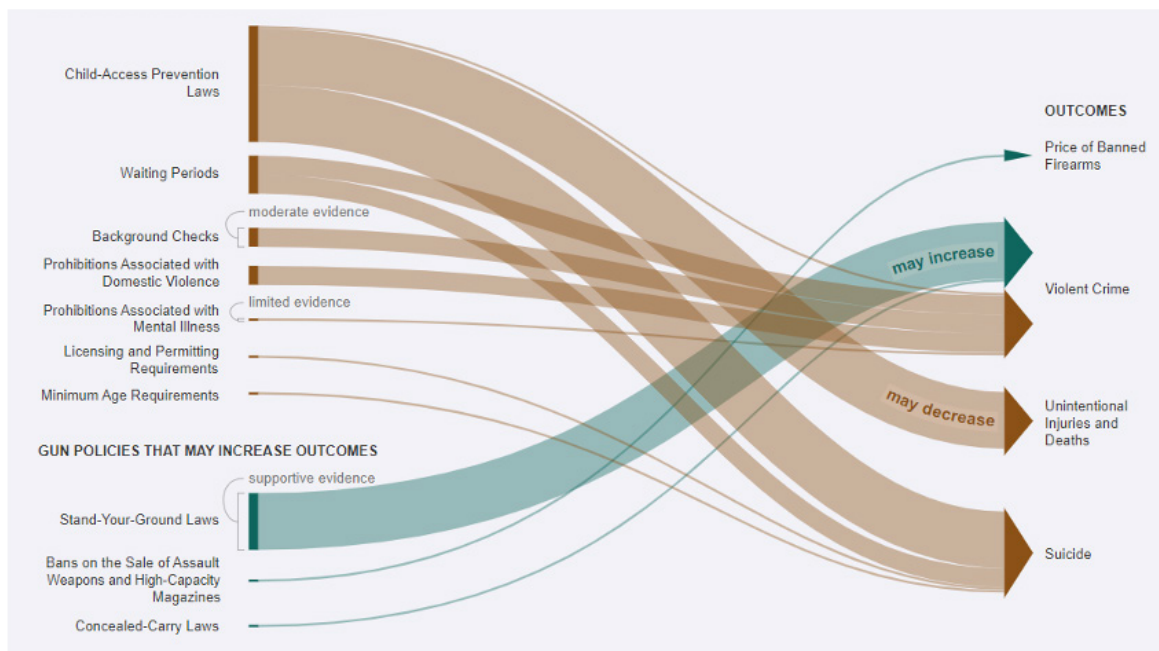
Evidence from 130 studies in 10 countries suggests that in certain nations the simultaneous implementation of laws targeting multiple firearms restrictions is associated with reductions in firearm deaths. Laws restricting the purchase of (e.g., background checks), and access to (e.g., safer storage), firearms are also associated with lower rates of intimate partner homicides and firearm unintentional deaths in children, respectively.<sup>37</sup>

In countries with lower rates of gun violence, such policies generally include:

- Banning the most powerful weapons, like automatic rifles.
- Implementing an effective background check system.
- Requiring people to get permits and licenses before buying a gun.<sup>38</sup>

A 2020 review of existing research by RAND concluded that there was evidence supporting the efficacy of 10 interventions.<sup>39</sup> In the graph below, the thicker lines indicate a stronger base of evidence for a policy and its associated outcomes.

**Gun Policies That May Decrease Outcomes**



Source: RAND<sup>40</sup>

While access to automatic weapons or assault weapons is rightly the focus of efforts to improve gun safety, it is important to understand that rifles (a category that includes guns referred to as “assault weapons” (semi-automatic rifles)—were involved in only 3% of firearm murders in 2020, while handguns were involved in as many as 59% of gun murders and non-negligent manslaughters in the United States, according to the FBI.<sup>41</sup> Thus, an overall approach that would improve gun safety oversight—in addition to a ban on assault weapons—is needed to address the greatest sources of gun safety risk.

\* Policies not included in this chart may also be effective. Due to historical restrictions and lack of funding for gun violence research, many interventions are not well studied.

Below, we outline several common-sense and reasonable policies that are well-grounded in evidence and that would help to reduce gun violence in Latino and other communities.

Specifically, we discuss the following:

- Universal background checks
- Extreme risk laws
- A ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
- Concealed carry laws
- Minimum age requirements
- Safe storage laws
- A ban on “ghost guns”

### Key Policies to Reduce Gun Violence

**To protect the Latino and other communities, federal and state policymakers must take meaningful action and pass common-sense gun safety and gun violence prevention policies, including the following:**



#### **Universal Background Checks**

Background checks are essential to reduce gun violence and prevent weapons from falling into the wrong hands. According to Everytown for Gun Safety, since 1994, federal law requires the following to purchase a gun at a federally licensed dealer:

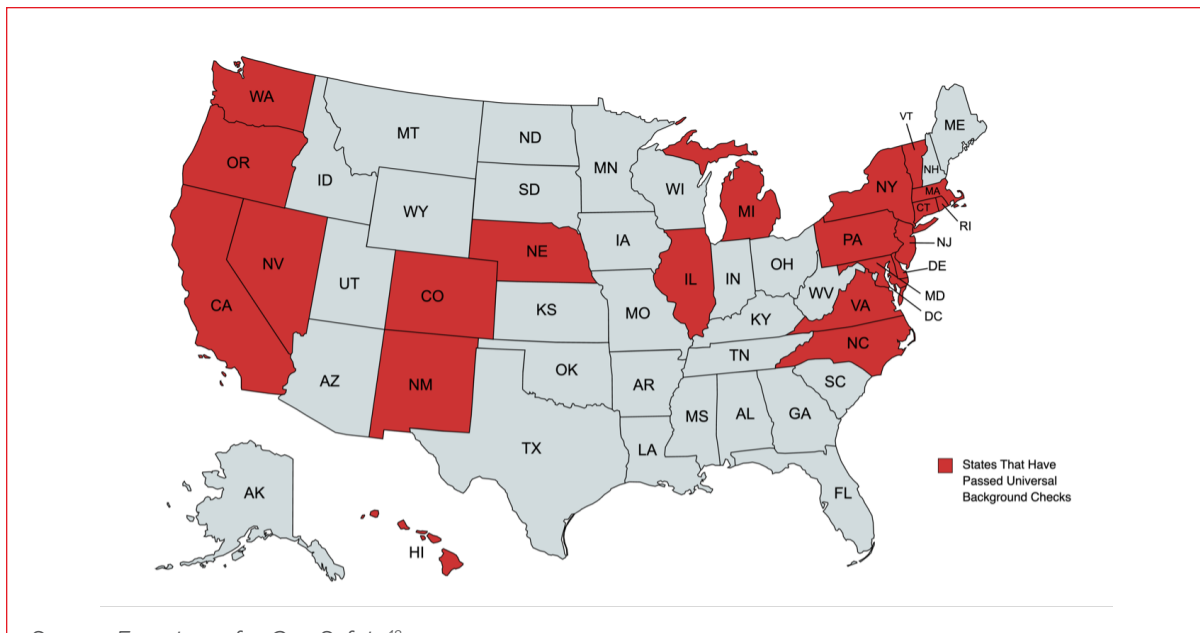
1. An individual must present their ID and fill out ATF form 4473.
2. The licensed dealer must submit that information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) or state agency.
3. The FBI checks the submitted information to determine if the individual can legally purchase a firearm.
4. The FBI or state agency contacts the dealer with a decision to either proceed, deny, or delay the purchase.<sup>42</sup>

Since the enactment of this law, over 4 million sales of guns to prohibited buyers have been prevented.<sup>43</sup>

However, a dangerous loophole in federal law exempts unlicensed sellers, such as those who sell guns online or at gun shows, from being required to perform any background check before selling a firearm. This is known as the “background check loophole.” Because of this loophole, guns are accessible to people with felony convictions, domestic abuse restraining orders, and/or prohibiting histories of mental illness to purchase guns.<sup>44</sup> A 2017 study found that **22% of gun owners who obtained a gun within the previous two years had purchased their gun without a background check.**<sup>45</sup> This deadly loophole increases the likelihood of gun homicides and suicides.<sup>46</sup>



At least 20 states and Washington, DC, have enacted laws to close this loophole, going beyond the federal requirements and expanding background checks to cover all or most private sales of firearms.<sup>47</sup> However, a majority of states have not closed this loophole, including Arizona, Florida, and Texas.



Source: Everytown for Gun Safety<sup>48</sup>

Universal background checks are an evidence-based measure that works to reduce gun violence and gun trafficking. States that go beyond federal laws and have implemented universal background checks:

- Have a 10% lower homicide rate than states without comprehensive background checks.<sup>49</sup>
- Experience lower rates of firearm suicide.<sup>50</sup>
- Have lower rates of gun trafficking.<sup>51</sup>

### **Extreme Risk Laws**

Extreme risk laws, otherwise known as “red flag” laws, permit temporarily removing guns from those who pose an immediate danger to themselves or others. **An analysis of mass shootings between 2015 and 2022 shows that “in nearly a third of incidents, the shooter exhibited warning signs that they posed a risk to themselves or others before the shooting.”**<sup>52</sup>

These warning signs are even more alarming among perpetrators of school violence. The most recent study on school violence, covering incidents from 2008 through 2017, written by the United States Secret Service and the United States Department of Education, found that “100% of perpetrators showed concerning behaviors, and in 77% of shootings, at least one person—most often a peer—knew about their plan.”<sup>53</sup>

Extreme risk laws allow immediate family members and law enforcement to petition a civil court for an order—often called an extreme risk protection order (ERPO)—to temporarily remove guns from dangerous situations if loved ones or law enforcement think a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others. Since the Parkland School shooting in 2018, states with extreme risk laws have jumped from 5 to 21.<sup>54</sup> Data also show that extreme risk laws reduce the risk of firearm suicide. In Connecticut, extreme risk laws have been linked to a 14% decrease in the state’s firearm suicide rate.<sup>55</sup> Since Indiana implemented its extreme risk law, the rate of firearm suicide decreased by 7.5%.<sup>56</sup>

Other evidence from states that implemented extreme risk laws shows these policies have prevented catastrophic shootings. A study in California highlights 21 incidents in which the state’s extreme risk law was used to prevent situations that may have resulted in mass shootings.<sup>57</sup> Similarly, Florida’s extreme risk law, passed in 2018, has been used multiple times to prevent potential school violence cases.<sup>58</sup>

### ***A Ban on Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines***

Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines have been used in many of the deadliest mass shootings in American history. The most common type of assault weapon is the semiautomatic rifle, which, when combined with high-capacity magazines, can dramatically increase the lethality of shootings.

From 1994 until 2004, these weapons were prohibited by federal legislation.<sup>59</sup> Despite data showing that the previous federal law prohibiting semiautomatic assault weapons and high-capacity magazines lowered the chance of fatal mass shootings by 70%, the federal statute has not been updated since 2004.<sup>60</sup> Data have shown an association between a rise in mass shootings and crimes facilitated by these weapons.<sup>61</sup>

As evidenced by previous shootings at an elementary school in Uvalde, a dance studio in Monterey Park, a parade in Highland Park, and a supermarket in Buffalo, these dangerous weapons are designed to assist mass casualties. According to the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, **“In shootings where assault weapons or large-capacity magazines are used, 155% more people are shot, and 47% more people are killed.”**<sup>62</sup>

An analysis of mass shootings between 2015 and 2022 by Everytown for Gun Safety showed that “mass shootings with four or more people killed where assault weapons were used resulted in nearly **six times as many people shot, more than twice as many people killed, and 23 times as many people wounded per incident** on average.”<sup>63</sup>

A growing body of evidence demonstrates that the 1994-2004 federal prohibition on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines was effective at preventing mass shootings and reducing the number of deaths and injuries associated with mass shootings.<sup>64</sup> A study by researchers at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine concluded that this ban “resulted in a significant decrease in public mass shootings, number of gun deaths, and number of gun injuries.”<sup>65</sup>

### ***Concealed Carry Laws***

In all 50 states, it is legal to carry a concealed handgun in public. The carrying of concealed, loaded guns in public spaces can lead to the escalation of everyday conflicts into violent, and sometimes even deadly, altercations.

The majority of states require a permit before people are allowed to carry a loaded, concealed handgun in public. Standards and processes for these permits vary, but many

of these states require that applicants pass a criminal background check, complete safety training, complete live-fire shooting exercises, and be a resident of the state. These laws are intended to promote gun safety and responsible gun ownership.

Laws that do not require a permit to carry a concealed weapon in public allow people who may pose a safety risk, including violent offenders, teenagers, individuals in crisis, and others, to do so. Over the last decade, there have been efforts to promote harmful legislation that would allow people to carry concealed weapons in public places without a permit, background check, or safety training. In fact, 20 states have eliminated their concealed carry permit requirement since 2015. Arizona and Texas are among those states that do not require permits to carry concealed guns.<sup>66</sup>

In general, wherever there are more guns, there are more gun deaths.<sup>67</sup> Studies have found this maxim holds true at the state and national levels and that it is also the case when measuring rates of homicides, suicides, mass shootings, and even police shootings.<sup>68</sup> For this reason, the logic that drives states to adopt laws that allow permitless concealed carrying of guns—namely, that having more guns results in less crime—has generally been disproven.

Consider that:

- “States that have weakened their firearm permitting system have experienced a 13-15% increase in violent crime rates.”<sup>69</sup>
- “States where permit issuers had limited or no discretion in issuing concealed carry permits had handgun homicide rates that were 11% higher compared with states where law enforcement and permit issuers could exercise broad discretion in permitting.”<sup>70</sup>
- “When Arizona repealed its concealed carry permit requirement in 2010, the result was an 11% increase in the rate of gun injuries and deaths and a 24% increase in the likelihood that a person involved in a violent crime would be shot and killed.”<sup>71</sup>

Laws that require permits to carry a concealed gun are a central feature of any effective, comprehensive gun violence prevention strategy, complementing requirements for stringent background checks and for gun owners to undergo safety training.<sup>72</sup> About 25 states currently have concealed carry laws requiring permits, while others have repealed requirements in recent years.<sup>73</sup> A 2023 study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* analyzed the effects of 34 states relaxing restrictions on carrying concealed firearms in public.<sup>74</sup> The researchers found that moving to less restrictive laws was associated with a 24% increase in the rate of assault with firearms.<sup>75</sup>

### **Minimum Age Requirements**

Purchasing and possessing deadly weapons is a serious responsibility and should be taken as such. Two kinds of laws limit gun purchases by age. First, laws that require a minimum age for gun *purchases* aim to make it more difficult for underage individuals to acquire a handgun through formal channels. Second, laws that require a minimum age for *possession* are intended to make it more difficult for an underage individual to carry firearms. Importantly, both types of laws help to curb youth access to guns and limit the availability of firearms to young people, and therefore can reduce the gun violence and unintentional shootings they commit.

Policies that create age limitations include raising the minimum age for purchasing and/or possessing firearms to 21 and older. Creating an age minimum can be an effective way to reduce gun violence. **Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens,**

and the firearm suicide rate among young people has spiked 41% in the last decade.<sup>76</sup> In addition, people ages 18 to 20 “commit gun homicides at triple the rate of adults 21 years and older.”<sup>77</sup>

Federal law requires a person to be 21 to purchase a handgun from a licensed firearm dealer. However, federal law only requires a person to be 18 to purchase “long guns,” which include assault weapons, from a licensed firearm dealer.<sup>78</sup>

Importantly, minimum age requirements have been found to be very effective in reducing youth suicide. **Research indicates that 50 to 60% of all firearm suicides by youth under age 21 involve a handgun.**<sup>79</sup>

Minimum age requirement laws for the purchase and possession of firearms are intended to reduce access to firearms by young people and, as a result, reduce the risk of suicides, homicides, and unintentional shootings among this population. These laws have the ability to protect a particularly vulnerable demographic, as young people are at an elevated risk of engaging in violent behaviors against themselves or others.<sup>80</sup>

### **Safe Storage Laws**

A third of children in the United States live in a home with a firearm, and 4.6 million children live in homes with at least one unlocked and loaded firearm.<sup>81</sup> A 2015 survey of gun owners in the United States reported that 65.3% of gun owners stored at least one firearm unlocked.<sup>82</sup>

Unlocked firearms in homes raise the risk of accidental shootings as well as intentional shootings. **In incidents of school shootings, up to 80% of shooters under the age of 18 got the gun from their homes or the homes of friends or relatives.**<sup>83</sup>

Safe storage, or secure storage laws, prevent unauthorized access to guns by children or other people prohibited from possessing a gun. They require that firearm owners store their guns locked, unloaded, and separate from ammunition. Another form of storage laws include Child Access Prevention (CAP) laws, which hold that if a child accesses a gun, the adult who failed to safely store the gun is liable.

A robust body of evidence shows that safe storage laws substantially protect both children and adults by preventing accidental gun deaths, injuries, and suicides. **A study found that families who locked both their firearms and ammunition had a 78% lower chance of self-inflicted gun injuries, and an 85% lower risk of unintentional gun injuries among children than did those without locks on firearms or ammunition.**<sup>84</sup>

### **A Ban on “Ghost Guns”**

Ghost guns are homemade guns produced with easily accessible materials and instructions available online. Ghost guns are made by individuals who are not federally licensed manufacturers or importers. Ghost guns are unserialized and untraceable, and the material to build them can be acquired without a background check. As a result, the proliferation of these weapons ranks among the most pressing gun safety issues we now face.

According to a report from Everytown for Gun Safety, ghost guns are increasingly being recovered by law enforcement across the country.<sup>85</sup> As noted by the White House, in 2021 alone, **“there were approximately 20,000 suspected ghost guns reported to The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) as having been recovered by law enforcement in criminal investigations – a ten-fold increase from 2016.”**<sup>86</sup>



In 2019, data from California showed that nearly one-third of guns recovered by ATF were ghost guns.<sup>87</sup> At the local level, these rates may be higher. In Los Angeles in 2020, 41% of firearms recovered were ghost guns.<sup>88</sup>

The Biden Administration issued a final rule in 2022 that requires relevant firearm frames or ghost gun kits to have serial numbers and to be sold by licensed dealers who run background checks.<sup>89</sup> However, unfavorable outcomes in the courts may force federal officials to reassess policies to ban ghost guns.<sup>90</sup>

**As a 2022 analysis from *The New York Times* describes, when we are able to combine several measures of gun safety policies in layers, we can see a more substantial impact:**

If the key gun control proposals now being considered in Congress had been law since 1999, four gunmen younger than 21 would have been blocked from legally buying the rifles they used in mass shootings.

At least four other assailants would have been subject to a required background check...Ten might have been unable to steal their weapons because of efforts to require or encourage safer gun storage. And 20 might not have been allowed to legally purchase the large-capacity magazines that they used to upgrade their guns, helping them kill, on average, 16 people each.

Taken together, those four measures might have changed the course of at least 35 mass shootings—a third of such episodes in the United States since the massacre at Columbine High School in Colorado, a *New York Times* analysis has found. Those 35 shootings killed a combined 446 people.<sup>91</sup>

### **Additional Policies to Reduce Gun Violence in Public Settings and Schools**

Additional proposals (some of which are used internationally) to improve gun safety include:

- Improving laws on how gun sellers and stores conduct their business. These policies should include requiring evidence-based best practices for store security, training, and record-keeping. In addition, stores and dealers who violate the law must be held accountable.
- Voluntary gun buyback programs to reduce the overall number of guns in the country, which now total some 400 million guns, as was done successfully by New Zealand in the wake of the Christchurch Shooting in 2019 and Australia in 1996.<sup>92</sup>
- A tax on gun purchases to help localities and community-based organizations fund some of the costs associated with their misuse and the trauma it can cause to individuals and communities. Funds could be used to support families and communities devastated by gun violence as well as investment in proven prevention and intervention programs that address gun violence.
- Implementing waiting periods or limits on the number of guns that may be purchased by a single buyer in a month's time.
- Removing liability protections for gun manufacturers. The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) blocks legal responsibility for gun manufacturers who have failed to innovate and make firearms safer, as well as for manufacturers, distributors, and dealers who engage in irresponsible, reckless, and negligent sales practices that fuel the proliferation of illegal firearms in our communities.<sup>93</sup>



### Latino Voters Support Stronger Gun Safety and Gun Violence Prevention Measures

Latino voters overwhelmingly support common-sense gun safety measures, such as background checks, requiring gun safety training courses before purchasing a handgun, and banning the sale of assault weapons. **A 2019 Pew Research poll found that 68% of all Latino voters say that existing gun laws should be stricter, compared with 59% of U.S. voters overall.**<sup>94</sup>

More recently, a June 2022 poll led by *Voto Latino* found increasing Latino support for gun safety laws, including the following measures:

- Requiring background checks on all gun purchases (91% support).
- Requiring gun safety training courses before the purchase of a handgun (87% support).
- Increasing the minimum age of purchasing a firearm to 21 years old (79% support).
- Prohibiting the open and concealed carry of firearms without prior safety training or a permit (78% support).
- Requiring firearms to be safely stored in homes with children (86% support).
- Creating an extreme risk (also known as “red flag”) law that would allow family members or law enforcement to remove guns from someone who is acting violent or unstable (78% support).
- Required licensing for all gun owners (76% support).
- A mandatory waiting period when purchasing a gun (79% strongly support).<sup>95</sup>

## Pillar 2: Preventing Mass Shootings: School-Based Attacks and Hate Crimes

The proportion of Latino K-12 students in U.S. schools has increased three-fold, from 9% in 1984 to 28% today, and Latino students are projected to represent nearly one-third of K-12 public education students by 2030.<sup>96</sup> In the wake of increasingly frequent, tragic school shootings, school and community safety is at the forefront of conversations around education.

While violent crime has declined in the United States over the past 20 years, rates of crime continue to be higher in low-income communities of color.<sup>97</sup> As a result, students of color who live and attend school in low-income neighborhoods are exposed to more crime and violence.<sup>98</sup>

The effects of school violence—defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as “youth violence that occurs on school property, on the way to or from school and school-sponsored events, or during a school-sponsored event”—have long harmed many Latino students and their families; 46% of Latino adults think that schools are not very safe or not safe at all.<sup>99</sup> Young Latinos are much more likely to experience violence, both homicide and nonfatal intentional incidents.<sup>100</sup> Nearly 80% of Latino adults say that they have taken at least one precaution to protect themselves or their families from potential incidents of gun violence.<sup>101</sup>

As of May 31, 2023, the United States has seen more than 260 mass shootings this year alone.<sup>102</sup> Last year’s massacre at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, was the deadliest school shooting since the 2017 attack at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida.

Uvalde is 72% Latino, and nearly 90% of the students at Robb Elementary School are Hispanic. During last year’s mass shooting in Uvalde, 19 children and two teachers died and another 17 people were wounded.<sup>103</sup> The community in Uvalde is forever changed.

The attack in Uvalde came merely ten days after the racially motivated act of domestic terror at a supermarket in a predominantly Black neighborhood in Buffalo, New York. Ten people died during that attack, and three others were wounded.<sup>104</sup>







### Preventing Mass Shootings: Hate Crimes

According to the FBI, a hate crime is a “criminal offense against a person or property motivated in whole or in part by an offender’s bias against a race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, or gender identity.”<sup>105</sup> The majority of reported hate crimes in recent years have been motivated by race and ethnicity.<sup>106</sup>

Latinos are among those groups disproportionately harmed by hate crimes. Hate crimes against Latinos increased by almost 4% between 2018 and 2019.<sup>107</sup>

Hate crimes become increasingly deadly when guns are involved. Each year, more than 10,300 people are victims of hate crimes involving a gun—more than 28 each day.<sup>108</sup>

The Uvalde and Buffalo shootings are part of a gruesome line of hate or bias-motivated attacks, including:

- the 2021 spa shooting in Atlanta targeting Asian American and Pacific Islander women.
- the 2019 shooting at a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, targeting Latinos.
- the 2018 shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- the 2016 shooting at Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, targeting the LGBTQIA+ community and disproportionately impacting the Latino community.
- the 2015 shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina, targeting the Black community with the goal of inciting a “race war.”

Despite guns making hate more deadly, under current federal law, a hate crime misdemeanor conviction does not prohibit someone from buying or having a gun.<sup>109</sup> Yet, understanding and recognizing the role that firearms play in hate crimes can help prevent future incidents of gun violence. Solutions to address hate crimes fueled by guns include:

- Passing laws that keep guns out of the hands of those who have been convicted of hate crimes.
- Enacting extreme risk laws that allow loved ones or law enforcement to intervene by petitioning for a court order to prevent someone in crisis from being able to access guns.
- Prohibiting the carrying of guns visibly in public, known as open carry.<sup>110</sup>



For the past few decades, we've been living with the reality of increasingly frequent and lethal school shootings with extremely harmful effects. In addition to irrecoverable deaths and injuries, research shows that school-based shootings lead to a decline in both student enrollment and average test scores; increases in student absenteeism and the likelihood of needing to repeat a grade; and the unfortunate reality that students exposed to shootings at their schools are less likely to go to college and graduate from it.<sup>111</sup>

At the same time, measures to “harden” schools, including by increasing school discipline and by arming teachers, are not the solution, as we explain below.

### **Steps to Prevent School-Based Attacks That Are Consistent with Safety and Equity**

To reduce mass shootings, including in schools, places of worship, and other public places, experts point to several policies that could make a difference, including:

- More thorough background checks might have helped to stop some shooters, like those in the church shootings in Charleston, SC, in 2015 and in Sutherland Springs, TX, in 2017.
- Extreme risk laws allow law enforcement officials to confiscate guns from people displaying warning signs, like threatening family members. For example, such a law might have been used to reduce the risk from the gunman in the 2018 Parkland, FL, school shooting.<sup>112</sup>
- In addition, an assault weapons ban could reduce lethality in mass shootings, some experts note.<sup>113</sup> When the ban, which also applied to high-capacity magazines, was in effect, mass shootings decreased, but they tripled after it expired in 2004.<sup>114</sup>

President Biden's national address in June 2022 pointed to the evidence for many of these important policies. As the President noted, shootings in 2009 in Fort Hood, TX, that killed 13 and injured 30, and the 2018 shooting in Parkland, FL, may have been averted with extreme risk laws. Moreover, age restrictions could have reduced the ability of the Uvalde shooter to access an assault weapon.<sup>115</sup>

### **“School Hardening” Policies Can Increase Risk and Harms for Students of Color**

In the wake of a surge in school gun violence, some policymakers have moved to “harden” schools and implement harsh disciplinary practices to prevent school violence. Such harsh policies are ineffective. They also disproportionately harm students of color and students with disabilities, to the detriment of their social, emotional, and academic development.<sup>116</sup>

Another dangerous policy proposal is to arm school teachers with guns. This proposal is not evidence-based. In the 10 states with laws that allow for armed school personnel, those armed personnel receive inadequate training.<sup>117</sup> Although these laws vary, none of them require that teachers or other school staff undergo firearm training that is comparable to the training required for law enforcement officers. Arming teachers is not a sound idea: strong evidence across every indicator shows that more access to firearms is strongly correlated with an additional risk of gun violence.<sup>118</sup> In addition, armed adults introduce the risk of mishandling firearms in schools. A 2023 report by the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence reported nearly 100 reported incidents of mishandling guns at schools in the past five years.<sup>119</sup>

In addition, school hardening measures—including arming teachers and increasing the presence of law enforcement in schools—can negatively impact students of color, who are already subject to harsher discipline than their white peers and who disproportionately suffer from over-policing and criminalization. **A 2020 report from the American Civil Liberties Union found that Latino students were arrested at 1.3 times the rate of white students, and Black students were arrested at 3 times the rate of white students when looking at rates of school arrests.**<sup>120</sup>



## Conclusion

The epidemic of gun violence against Latinos has devastated families and communities across the country. As gun violence and mass shootings become increasingly frequent and lethal, Latinos have overwhelmingly demonstrated support for policies that increase gun safety and work to prevent gun violence, including universal background checks and bans on assault weapons. Other policies, including extreme risk laws, safe storage laws, and a ban on ghost guns are backed by evidence and should be enacted by policymakers.

Despite strong evidence and a shared sentiment among Latino community members, some policymakers continue to push for dangerous gun laws and fail to enact comprehensive gun safety and gun violence prevention legislation. It is past time that policymakers act and support solutions that holistically address the full scope of gun violence prevention and gun safety.



UnidosUS is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that serves as the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Since 1968, we have challenged the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos through our unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an [Affiliate Network](#) of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico. We believe in an America where economic, political, and social progress is a reality for all Latinos, and we collaborate across communities to achieve it.

The UnidosUS Policy and Advocacy component is a leading think tank focusing on issues relevant to the Latino community. Through research, policy analysis, advocacy efforts, civic engagement, and campaigns, it defines a rigorous policy agenda that includes stances on immigration, education, health, employment and the economy, and housing. The component aligns federal work with state-level advocacy and provides support and expertise to state and local leaders in implementing Latino-focused policy.

For more information on UnidosUS, visit [unidosus.org](https://www.unidosus.org) or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

UnidosUS  
Raul Yzaguirre Building  
1126 16th Street NW, Suite 600  
Washington, DC 20036-4845  
(202) 785-1670  
[unidosus.org](https://www.unidosus.org)

© 2023 by the UnidosUS.  
All rights reserved.

**For additional information on UnidosUS's work to reduce gun violence in Latino communities,** please contact Umailla Fatima, Health Policy Analyst, at [ufatima@unidosus.org](mailto:ufatima@unidosus.org) or Laura MacCleery, Senior Director, Policy, at [lmaccleery@unidosus.org](mailto:lmaccleery@unidosus.org).



## Endnotes

- 1 <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/uvalde-massacre-yet-another-shooting-affecting-latinos-spotlighting-gu-rcna31722>; and <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/texas-man-pleads-guilty-90-federal-hate-crimes-and-firearms-violations-august-2019-mass>
- 2 <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/14/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-13-new-actions-to-reduce-gun-violence-by-maximizing-the-benefits-of-the-bipartisan-safer-communities-act/>
- 3 <https://www.politico.com/news/2023/03/14/biden-executive-order-guns-background-checks-00086895>
- 4 <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/as-congress-stalls-on-federal-gun-safety-laws-some-states-push-their-own-rules>; <https://www.illinois.gov/news/press-release.25890.html>; <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/illinois-playbook/2023/01/11/pritzker-slays-the-gun-lobby-00077403>; and <https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2023/04/23/surprising-geography-of-gun-violence-00092413>
- 5 <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/04/25/us/washington-gun-control-bill.html>
- 6 <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/29/us/nashville-gun-laws.html>; and <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/>
- 7 <https://everytownsupportfund.org/latinx/>
- 8 <https://www.npr.org/2022/09/08/1121343954/uvalde-school-shooting-texas-homeschool-education>; <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/analysis-recent-mass-shootings>
- 9 <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-texas-shooting/death-toll-reaches-23-from-last-years-mass-shooting-in-el-paso-texas-idUSKCN22901V>
- 10 <https://www.npr.org/2016/06/16/482322488/orlando-shooting-what-happened-update>
- 11 <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/22/1094364930/firearms-leading-cause-of-death-in-children>; and <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/25/1101283771/sen-murphy-tries-to-get-talks-going-on-limited-gun-measures-after-texas-shooting>
- 12 <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/child-and-teen-firearm-mortality-in-the-u-s-and-peer-countries/>
- 13 <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/>
- 14 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-impact-of-gun-violence-on-latinx-communities/>
- 15 Ibid.
- 16 <https://www.kff.org/other/poll-finding/americans-experiences-with-gun-related-violence-injuries-and-deaths/>
- 17 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/cv21.pdf>
- 18 Ibid.
- 19 <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-violence-has-a-devastating-impact-on-hispanic-communities/#:~:text=Hispanic%20youth%20are%20particularly%20harmed,compared%20with%201.5%20white%20deaths.>
- 20 <https://www.kff.org/other/poll-finding/americans-experiences-with-gun-related-violence-injuries-and-deaths/>
- 21 <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2021/04/08/murders-rose-last-year-black-and-hispanic-neighborhoods-were-hit-hardest>
- 22 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-impact-of-gun-violence-on-latinx-communities/>
- 23 <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-violence-has-a-devastating-impact-on-hispanic-communities/#:~:text=Hispanic%20youth%20are%20particularly%20harmed,compared%20with%201.5%20white%20deaths.>
- 24 <https://vpc.org/calatino/>
- 25 <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-violence-has-a-devastating-impact-on-hispanic-communities/#:~:text=Hispanic%20youth%20are%20particularly%20harmed,compared%20with%201.5%20white%20deaths.>
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Ibid.
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/docs/report/2021-firearms-commerce-report/download>
- 30 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/interactive/2023/american-ar-15-gun-owners/>
- 31 [https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/unidosus\\_latinovoters2020election.pdf](https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/unidosus_latinovoters2020election.pdf)
- 32 <https://unidosus.org/publications/unidosus-and-mi-familia-vota-national-survey-of-latinos-voters/>; and <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/gun-violence-has-a-devastating-impact-on-hispanic-communities/>
- 33 Ibid.
- 34 Ibid.
- 35 Ibid.
- 36 Ibid.
- 37 <https://academic.oup.com/epirev/article/38/1/140/2754868?login=false>



- 38 <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2015/12/4/9850572/gun-control-us-japan-switzerland-uk-canada>
- 39 [https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20220526&instance\\_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=30201386&segment\\_id=93383&te=1&user\\_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615](https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20220526&instance_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi_id=30201386&segment_id=93383&te=1&user_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615)
- 40 <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy.html>
- 41 <https://www.businessinsider.com/terms-to-know-about-guns-when-discussing-mass-shootings-2019-8#assault-weapons-3>; and <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/>
- 42 [https://everytownresearch.org/report/update-background-check-laws/?\\_gl=1\\*nsabie\\*\\_ga\\*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz\\*\\_ga\\_LTOFWV3EK3\\*MTY4NzM3NDA2Mi4yLjE1MTY4NzM3NDQxMy4wLjAuMA.](https://everytownresearch.org/report/update-background-check-laws/?_gl=1*nsabie*_ga*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz*_ga_LTOFWV3EK3*MTY4NzM3NDA2Mi4yLjE1MTY4NzM3NDQxMy4wLjAuMA.)
- 43 Ibid.
- 44 Ibid.
- 45 <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M16-1590>
- 46 <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/background-checks/universal-background-checks/>
- 47 Ibid.
- 48 <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/background-checks/>
- 49 <https://rockinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/3-28-19-Firearm-Laws-Homicide-Deaths-Brief.pdf>
- 50 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1661390>
- 51 <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11524-009-9351-x>
- 52 <https://everytownresearch.org/mass-shooting-report>
- 53 [https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting\\_Americas\\_Schools.pdf](https://www.secretservice.gov/sites/default/files/2020-04/Protecting_Americas_Schools.pdf); and <https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-save-lives/>
- 54 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/extreme-risk-laws-save-lives/>
- 55 <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/appi.ps.201700250>
- 56 Ibid.
- 57 <https://www.acpjournals.org/doi/10.7326/M19-2162>
- 58 <https://www.pnj.com/story/news/crime/2018/07/09/red-flag-law-ecso-has-filed-2-petitions-remove-guns-since-parkland/762699002/>; and <https://www.miaminewtimes.com/news/florida-red-flag-law-has-taken-guns-from-dangerous-people-10602359>
- 59 [https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?\\_gl=1\\*12vgycb\\*\\_ga\\*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz\\*\\_ga\\_LTOFWV3EK3\\*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.;](https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?_gl=1*12vgycb*_ga*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz*_ga_LTOFWV3EK3*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.;) and <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/13/750656174/the-u-s-once-had-a-ban-on-assault-weapons-why-did-it-expire>
- 60 <https://www.npr.org/2019/08/13/750656174/the-u-s-once-had-a-ban-on-assault-weapons-why-did-it-expire>; and [https://journals.lww.com/jtrauma/Abstract/2019/01000/Changes\\_in\\_US\\_mass\\_shooting\\_deaths\\_associated\\_with.2.aspx](https://journals.lww.com/jtrauma/Abstract/2019/01000/Changes_in_US_mass_shooting_deaths_associated_with.2.aspx)
- 61 [https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?\\_gl=1\\*12vgycb\\*\\_ga\\*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz\\*\\_ga\\_LTOFWV3EK3\\*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.](https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?_gl=1*12vgycb*_ga*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz*_ga_LTOFWV3EK3*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.)
- 62 <https://www.bradyunited.org/fact-sheets/what-are-assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines>
- 63 [https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?\\_gl=1\\*12vgycb\\*\\_ga\\*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz\\*\\_ga\\_LTOFWV3EK3\\*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.](https://everytownresearch.org/report/assault-weapons-and-high-capacity-magazines/?_gl=1*12vgycb*_ga*MTYwODU5NzIxMjY3MzY4NjYz*_ga_LTOFWV3EK3*MTY4NzM4MDIxNi4zLjAuMTY4NzM4MDIxNi4wLjAuMA.)
- 64 Ibid.
- 65 <https://publichealth.jmir.org/2021/4/e26042/>
- 66 [https://everytownresearch.org/report/permitless-carry-carrying-a-concealed-gun-in-public-with-no-permit-and-no-training/?\\_gl=1\\*9ub2q4\\*\\_ga\\*ntg5otmxnze5lje2nzK0mdu1ndg.\\*\\_ga\\_lTOfwv3ek3\\*mtY4nzu1mtywoc4yms4xlje2odc1nte2njgumc4wlja.](https://everytownresearch.org/report/permitless-carry-carrying-a-concealed-gun-in-public-with-no-permit-and-no-training/?_gl=1*9ub2q4*_ga*ntg5otmxnze5lje2nzK0mdu1ndg.*_ga_lTOfwv3ek3*mtY4nzu1mtywoc4yms4xlje2odc1nte2njgumc4wlja.)
- 67 <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/guns-and-death/>
- 68 [https://www.vox.com/2018/4/9/17205256/gun-violence-us-police-shootings?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20220526&instance\\_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=30201386&segment\\_id=93383&te=1&user\\_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615](https://www.vox.com/2018/4/9/17205256/gun-violence-us-police-shootings?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20220526&instance_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi_id=30201386&segment_id=93383&te=1&user_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615)
- 69 <https://www.everytown.org/press/permitless-carry-causes-more-shootings-by-police-homicides-research-says/>
- 70 Ibid.
- 71 <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/strong-standards-for-carrying-concealed-guns-in-public/>
- 72 <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/strong-standards-for-carrying-concealed-guns-in-public/>; <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/background-checks/>; and <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/safety-training/>

- 73 <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/strong-standards-for-carrying-concealed-guns-in-public/>
- 74 <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36104849/>
- 75 Ibid.
- 76 <https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/law/minimum-age-to-purchase/>
- 77 Ibid.
- 78 Ibid.
- 79 <https://www.rand.org/research/gun-policy/analysis/minimum-age.html>
- 80 <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/who-can-have-a-gun/minimum-age/>
- 81 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2789269>; and [https://everytownresearch.org/stat/4-6-million-children-live-in-a-home-with-at-least-one-unlocked-and-loaded-firearm/?\\_gl=1\\*1lsg8dc\\*\\_ga\\*NTg5OTMxNzE5LjE2Nzk0MDU1NDg.\\*\\_ga\\_LT0FWV3EK3\\*MTY4NTcxNzg5My4xNi4xLjE2ODU3MjEzNzAuMC4wLjA](https://everytownresearch.org/stat/4-6-million-children-live-in-a-home-with-at-least-one-unlocked-and-loaded-firearm/?_gl=1*1lsg8dc*_ga*NTg5OTMxNzE5LjE2Nzk0MDU1NDg.*_ga_LT0FWV3EK3*MTY4NTcxNzg5My4xNi4xLjE2ODU3MjEzNzAuMC4wLjA).
- 82 [https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/25/Suppl\\_1/i31](https://injuryprevention.bmj.com/content/25/Suppl_1/i31)
- 83 [https://everytownresearch.org/stat/incidents-of-gunfire-on-school-grounds-78-percent-of-shooters-under-the-age-of-18-got-the-gun-from-their-home-or-the-homes-of-friends-or-relatives/?\\_gl=1\\*1ijtbtj\\*\\_ga\\*NTg5OTMxNzE5LjE2Nzk0MDU1NDg.\\*\\_ga\\_LT0FWV3EK3\\*MTY4NTcxNzg5My4xNi4xLjE2ODU3MjEzNzAuMC4wLjA](https://everytownresearch.org/stat/incidents-of-gunfire-on-school-grounds-78-percent-of-shooters-under-the-age-of-18-got-the-gun-from-their-home-or-the-homes-of-friends-or-relatives/?_gl=1*1ijtbtj*_ga*NTg5OTMxNzE5LjE2Nzk0MDU1NDg.*_ga_LT0FWV3EK3*MTY4NTcxNzg5My4xNi4xLjE2ODU3MjEzNzAuMC4wLjA).
- 84 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/200330>
- 85 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/the-rising-specter-of-ghost-guns/#a-public-safety-threat>
- 86 [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/11/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-cracks-down-on-ghost-guns-ensures-that-atf-has-the-leadership-it-needs-to-enforce-our-gun-laws/#\\_ftn1](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/11/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-cracks-down-on-ghost-guns-ensures-that-atf-has-the-leadership-it-needs-to-enforce-our-gun-laws/#_ftn1)
- 87 <https://www.thetrace.org/2019/05/ghost-gun-california-crime/>
- 88 <https://abc7.com/ghost-guns-california-gun-laws-kits/5893043/>
- 89 <https://www.npr.org/2022/04/18/1093351548/the-biden-administration-just-regulated-ghost-guns-what-does-that-mean>; and [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/11/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-cracks-down-on-ghost-guns-ensures-that-atf-has-the-leadership-it-needs-to-enforce-our-gun-laws/#\\_ftn1](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/04/11/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-cracks-down-on-ghost-guns-ensures-that-atf-has-the-leadership-it-needs-to-enforce-our-gun-laws/#_ftn1)
- 90 <https://www.vice.com/en/article/ak3wk5/bidens-ghost-gun-crackdown-is-starting-to-fall-apart>
- 91 <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2022/06/04/upshot/mass-shooting-gun-laws.html?referringSource=articleShare>
- 92 <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/21/790466492/new-zealanders-hand-in-more-than-50-000-weapons-as-the-countrys-buyback-program-#:~:text=New%20Zealand's%20months%2Dlong%20gun,style%20firearms%2-Oearlier%20this%20year.;> and <https://www.vox.com/2015/8/27/9212725/australia-buyback>
- 93 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/25/opinion/texas-shooting-gun-control.html?referringSource=articleShare>; and <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/industry-reform/>
- 94 <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/02/20/latino-voters-favor-raising-minimum-wage-government-involvement-in-health-care-stricter-gun-laws/>
- 95 <https://votolatino.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Change-Research-Memo.pdf>
- 96 [https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/unidosus\\_thepowerofuspolicyresource\\_lr-1.pdf](https://unidosus.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/unidosus_thepowerofuspolicyresource_lr-1.pdf)
- 97 <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/5-ways-neighborhoods-of-concentrated-disadvantage-harm-children>
- 98 <https://www.epi.org/publication/the-racial-achievement-gap-segregated-schools-and-segregated-neighborhoods-a-constitutional-insult/>
- 99 <https://unidosus.org/blog/2018/04/20/school-safety-columbine-anniversary/>
- 100 Ibid.
- 101 <https://www.kff.org/other/poll-finding/americans-experiences-with-gun-related-violence-injuries-and-deaths/>
- 102 <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/mass-shooting>
- 103 <https://www.texastribune.org/2023/05/24/uvalde-robb-elementary-shooting-anniversary/>
- 104 <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/15/1099031765/buffalo-shooting-victims>
- 105 <https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/civil-rights/hate-crimes>
- 106 <https://eji.org/news/fbi-reports-hate-crimes-at-highest-level-in-12-years/>
- 107 <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2018/topic-pages/victims>; and <https://ucr.fbi.gov/hate-crime/2019/topic-pages/victims>
- 108 <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/hcv0415.pdf>
- 109 <https://www.everytown.org/issues/hate-crimes/>
- 110 <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/prohibit-open-carry/>; and <https://www.everytown.org/issues/hate-crimes/>

- 111 <https://siepr.stanford.edu/publications/health/surviving-school-shooting-impacts-mental-health-education-and-earnings-American>
- 112 [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/18/us/nikolas-cruz-baker-act.html?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20220526&instance\\_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=30201386&segment\\_id=93383&te=1&user\\_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/18/us/nikolas-cruz-baker-act.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20220526&instance_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi_id=30201386&segment_id=93383&te=1&user_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615)
- 113 [https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/4/3/17174160/assault-weapons-ar-15-ban?campaign\\_id=9&emc=edit\\_nn\\_20220526&instance\\_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi\\_id=30201386&segment\\_id=93383&te=1&user\\_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615](https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/4/3/17174160/assault-weapons-ar-15-ban?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20220526&instance_id=62410&nl=the-morning&regi_id=30201386&segment_id=93383&te=1&user_id=91aad43524cca31ce2d8880e3b78615)
- 114 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/06/02/us/politics/biden-speech-transcript-gun-control.html>
- 115 Ibid.
- 116 [https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Impact\\_SEAD\\_Brief\\_V13.pdf](https://edtrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Impact_SEAD_Brief_V13.pdf)
- 117 <https://everytownresearch.org/report/how-to-stop-shootings-and-gun-violence-in-schools/#practices-that-can-harm-and-traumatize-students>
- 118 Ibid.
- 119 <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/report/every-incident-of-mishandled-guns-in-schools/>
- 120 <https://www.aclu.org/report/cops-and-no-counselors>

