



Explaining Key Federal Gun Violence Prevention Policy Issues

Keeping guns out of the wrong hands by requiring background checks on all gun sales

Current federal law only requires licensed gun dealers to conduct background checks on gun sales. That means criminals, domestic abusers, and people involuntarily committed due to mental health can avoid the very background checks designed to block them from getting guns by simply buying them from strangers they meet on the internet or at gun shows. Background checks should be required on all gun sales—not just those sold by licensed dealers in brick and mortar stores, but in all the ways unlicensed sellers are selling guns today.

- For more, see these factsheets: [Background Checks Save Lives and Protect Our Communities](#) and [Myths and Facts about Background Checks](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Unchecked: Over 1 Million Online Firearm Ads, No Background Checks Required](#)

Intervening before tragedy by enacting extreme risk (or “red flag”) laws

After too many tragedies we hear people say they saw the signs. Extreme risk laws are a critical tool that allow law enforcement and family members to intervene before a tragedy when someone is clearly in crisis. Where there is evidence that someone poses a serious risk of injuring themselves or others with a gun, law enforcement or family members can ask a judge to temporarily restrict that person’s access to firearms. These laws are a proven way to reduce firearm suicide, combat mass shootings, and prevent tragedies while protecting the rights of everyone involved.

- For more, see these factsheets: [A Comprehensive Approach to Extreme Risk Laws](#) and [Myths and Facts about Extreme Risk Laws](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Extreme Risk Laws Save Lives](#)

Disarming domestic abusers by closing the boyfriend loophole

Federal law currently prohibits some intimate partners, like spouses, from possessing or purchasing a gun if they were convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence or are subject to a final protection order. But a loophole enables other abusive intimate partners, like dating partners, to continue to have access to guns even though women in America are as likely to be killed by a dating partner as a spouse.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Guns and Violence Against Women: America’s Uniquely Lethal Intimate Partner Violence Problem](#)

Appropriating much-needed federal funding for gun violence research

More than 20 years ago the NRA fought aggressively to persuade Congress to freeze funding for gun violence research, and, as a result, funding for gun injury prevention fell by over 90 percent. The 116th Congress—for the first time in two decades—appropriated \$25 million in federal funding specifically for gun violence research at the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health, but more is still needed.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Why Funding Gun Violence Research Matters](#)

Holding the gun industry accountable by repealing the gun industry immunity law

Since October 2005, an extraordinary law has provided gun manufacturers and sellers with a unique, broad immunity from legal accountability. Thanks to the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA), the gun industry is shielded from the lawsuits that are most often used in the United States to hold businesses accountable for products or practices that harm people. PLCAA blocks legal responsibility for gun manufacturers that have failed to innovate and make guns safer, and for irresponsible, reckless and negligent sales practices that contribute to the flood of illegal firearms in our communities.

- For more, see this factsheet: [H.R. 3214 / S. 1779: Repeal the Gun Industry Immunity Law](#)

Reducing injuries and fatalities by restricting access to assault weapons and high-capacity magazines

Assault weapons and high-capacity magazines increase the number of people killed and injured in mass shootings and daily gun violence since they enable shooters to fire more quickly and with more destructive force. Research has shown a majority of mass shooting deaths could have been avoided if assault weapon and high-capacity magazine restrictions had been in place.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Prohibiting High-Capacity Magazines Would Reduce the Devastation of Gun Violence](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Assault Weapons and High-Capacity Magazines](#)

Addressing school safety effectively to prevent mass shootings and end gun violence in school

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- For more, see these factsheets: [A Federal School Safety Agenda](#) and [The Impact of School Safety Drills for Active Shootings](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Keeping our Schools Safe](#)

Prioritizing solutions to the city gun violence devastating communities every day

Gun homicides and assaults are concentrated in cities—in fact, in 2015, half of all gun homicides in the U.S. took place in just 127 cities, which together contain less than a quarter of the country's population. Federal elected officials should fund proven solutions to reducing this violence and increasing safety (including community-based violence intervention programs), as well as shut down the ways in which guns are trafficked into our cities.

- For more, see these factsheets: [Gun Violence in Cities](#) and [The Impact of Violence Intervention Programs](#)
- For a deeper dive, see: [Strategies for Reducing Gun Violence in American Cities](#)

For more information about gun laws and how gun violence impacts your state and community please visit Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund's [Gun Law Navigator](#) and [EveryStat](#)