



Explaining Key States Gun Violence Prevention Policy Issues

Criminal Background Checks on All Gun Sales

What You Need to Know: Loopholes in federal law make it easy for criminals and other people who are prohibited from owning guns to buy them from unlicensed sellers (such as those they meet online or at a gun show). These sellers are not legally required to run criminal background checks on the strangers they sell guns to. Twenty-one states and the District of Columbia have enacted laws to close this loophole, but until we make criminal background checks on all gun sales the law in every state, it will continue to be too easy for criminals to purchase guns.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Keeping Guns Out of the Hands of Domestic Abusers

What You Need To Know: The vast majority of women killed with guns in the United States are killed by intimate partners or family members and the presence of a gun in a domestic violence situation makes it five times more likely that a woman will be killed. Enacting laws to prohibit gun possession by convicted domestic abusers and abusers under active restraining orders, and ensuring that there is a clear process in place for newly-convicted abusers to turn in the guns they already possess is proven to help protect women and children. In addition, we must close the “boyfriend loophole” to ensure that all domestic abusers are prohibited from having guns, whether or not they have been married to their victims, and ensure that convicted stalkers are prohibited from having guns.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Extreme Risk Laws

What You Need to Know: When a person is in crisis and at risk of harming themselves or others, family members or law enforcement often become aware of the warning signs. Extreme risk laws (often called “red flag laws”) allow a family member or law enforcement official to ask a court for an extreme risk protection order to, while ensuring due process, temporarily suspend access to guns by a person who poses a serious threat to him or herself or others. Seventeen states and Washington, D.C. have passed Extreme Risk laws.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Violence Intervention Programs

What You Need to Know: Violence intervention programs apply a localized approach to address gun violence and are effective models for preventing the next shooting and stopping the cycle of violence. Despite a large body of evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of these programs, many programs lack the resources necessary to maintain and expand effective practices. Active support for robust public funding for violence intervention programs is necessary but currently lacking.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Promoting Secure Gun Storage

What You Need to Know: Responsible gun storage is a public safety issue. An estimated 4.6 million children live in homes with firearms that are both unlocked and loaded. Emphasizing common-sense gun ownership, by passing secure gun storage laws, and building public awareness about secure gun storage, can help prevent tragedies like unintentional shootings and suicide.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Preventing Access to Untraceable “Ghost Guns”

What You Need to Know: Do-it-yourself kits that are widely available on the internet allow people to build guns at home with ease. These kits are currently unregulated by federal law and thus can be purchased without a background check. Coupled with the rapid growth of at-home 3D printing, it is easier than ever to build or print a gun without a serial number at home. These guns are increasingly being found at crime scenes and are frustrating law enforcement who have few ways to trace guns without serial numbers. States need to step in to regulate these “Ghost Guns.”

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Stopping Permitless Carry

What You Need to Know: The gun lobby's top state legislative priority, "Permitless Carry" bills seek to dismantle a state's concealed carry permit requirement and let people carry concealed handguns in public with no permit, no criminal record check, and no safety training. These bills enable criminals and other people with dangerous histories to carry hidden, loaded guns in public.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Opposing Stand Your Ground Laws

What You Need to Know: Stand Your Ground laws upend traditional self-defense laws, allowing a person to use deadly force even when there is a clear and safe alternative for defusing a confrontation. These laws encourage people to shoot first and ask questions later, and they are strongly associated with increases in homicides and injuries, disproportionately affecting communities of color.

- For more, see this factsheet: [Here](#)

Keeping Our Schools Safe

What You Need to Know: Forcing colleges, universities and schools to allow people to walk around their campuses armed or allowing teachers or other private citizens to carry guns in K-12 schools rather than focusing on evidence-based solutions to keep students safe.

- For more, see these factsheets: [Here](#), [Here](#) & [Here](#)

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](#)