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Gun violence history in America

The problem of firearm-related cases of violence contributes to loss and injury of lives every year for most countries, especially in the US. The term gun violence refers to a type of assault carried out using gun weapons such as the firearm or small arms. This form of abuse may or may not be in the category of criminal violence. The instances in which a gun-related attack could be criminal violence include the justifiable homicide or a physical assault using a lethal weapon. Cases in which gun violence falls under a non-criminal type of abuse is when a handler causes harm by accident or death to herself or himself or another individual in situations where the cause is not criminal neglect.

In the year 2013, approximately 73,505 injuries that were not fatal in type, caused by gun violence were recorded, which translates to a ratio of 23.2 injuries for every 100,000 person living in America. In the same year about 33,636 people died because of damages caused by the use of guns which translates to the rate of 10.6 deaths for every 100,000 citizens (Grinshteyn, Erin et al. 268). Approximately 11,208 fatalities recorded in 2013 were homicide-instigated, while nearly 21,175 murders were through suicide. The number of deaths registered because of accidental or careless handling of a firearm stood at 505 deaths. Consequently, the problem surrounding the possession, the licensing and the management of the use of guns have been a significant subject for debate in the US politics in recent years. Statistics show that in the period

between the year 2007 and 2013, the US registered more in the number of gun-related deaths compared to the period between the year 1994 and 2007.

In the year 2012, statistical reports indicated that 8,855 cases of homicide attacks relating to the use of portable guns. From these homicide cases, handguns were the cause of the murderous acts. In the same year, approximately 64% of the deaths related to the use of guns within the American population were accounted for acts of suicide (Grinshteyn, Erin et al. 269). In the year 2010, 19,392 deaths were reported to be acts of suicides related to the use of portable guns in the US. In the same year, around 358 deaths reported were attributed to the use of rifles while about 6,009 deaths were related to the use of a handgun. Unspecified type of firearms triggered over 1,939 killings. Further, in the year 2015, a total number of around 13,286 death cases were reported to be caused by the use of weapons by members of the American Society without including the cases of suicide (Grinshteyn, Erin et al. 271). Statistical reports further indicate that an estimate of around 1.4 million people lost their lives between the year 1968 and 2011 due to the killings made using firearms. The number includes all the death cases caused by acts of suicide, homicide attacks as well as accidental gun-related death cases.

Research findings from the studies conducted by researchers indicate that the rate of murder cases that were related to the use of guns in the US is 25 times higher compared to the death rates registered in 22 developed countries combined (Kleck 42). In the articles, the researchers established that 82% of fatalities were related to the use of guns in the US. About 90% of the total number of women died because of the use of firearms, while 91% of the minors included in the report also died because of firearms attacks. About 92% of the youths aged between 15 years and 24 years who were part of the data in the total number of deaths in the

research study also lost their lives due to gun-related violence. Reports show that \$ 516 million is the total cash spent to cater to hospital bills regarding gun violence causing bodily harm. In 2010

Urban areas in the United States recorded the most cases of gun violence. Gang violence is the leading contributor to attacks involving young people and adult people. The incidences of mass shootings have significantly reduced in recent times and therefore contribute to only a small percentage of death cases due to gun use reported on an annual basis report (Newman and Todd 11).

Various regulations enacted over time at the level of national government and the local levels such as at the counties try to solve the issue of controlling the way gun owners handle their guns (Richardson and Hemenway 239). They have put in some mechanisms with an objective at restricting the sale of firearms to the youths and minors as well as other members of the population who are at higher risk of harming themselves or others in their neighborhoods. Other measures in place include the establishment of waiting periods after individuals buy firearms to make sure they are responsible enough to handle the lethal weapons (Malina, Debra et al. 175). They have also set up programs for the buyback of gun weapons **in case** the owner decides to get rid of the gun. The authorities have also introduced stiff sentences for citizens who violate the law that restrict gun violence cases (Richardson and Hemenway 240). There has also been the establishment of education programs of sensitizing both the parents and the children on the importance of safe handling of all types of firearms. The plan also shows the different ways in which owners can ensure their guns do not cause injury to themselves or another person (Malina, Debra et al. 175). Owners get counsel against handling their firearms when they are facing emotional instability because it may lead to impaired judgment while in possession of a gun, which might cause further regrettable consequences.

Most crucial to understand is despite the numerous mechanism that has been put in place by the authorities to handle the issue of gun violence among the society, the number of these case have recorded to be on the rise eminently for the last ten years. (Aronow 223). Among the main reasons that make it difficult to handle this problem is the fact that both the federal government and the state authorities are reluctant to introduce stricter legislation with the aim of enhancing gun control. The Congress banned the Centre for Disease Control based in the United States from carrying out any research undertaking, which is intended to promote the restriction of guns within the American society (Malina, Debra et al. 176). Many reasons exist concerning the national government in upholding its oath to act in the best interest of its citizens by addressing the country's genuine and increasingly urgent need for stricter gun control legislation.

The first among these reasons is the fact that many lives are lost annually because of gun violence. The problem of gun violence has been attributed to be among the leading cause of premature mortality in the United States. For a developed country which also doubles as the most powerful nation in the world, there is need to apply more restriction to the laws that enforce gun control in the society to reduce these cases (Webster, Daniel et al. 5). The problem of gun violence brings with it substantial economic costs regarding catering for both the medical expenses as well as the expenses afterward because of lost productivity due to the loss of lives. Increase in the cases of gun violence in different economic regions of the country results in the decrease in the value of the property. Recent studies have shown that the direct, as well as indirect costs incurred due to gun-related violence, total to more than 1,300 US dollars for each child and adult. The reduction in the values of the decrease in the value of residential properties lowers the amount revenues collected regarding taxations by the local government resulting in a deficit in their annual budget (Webster, Daniel et al. 9). The research findings estimated that the

average cost of tackling firearm attacks incurred by all levels of governments (the states, local and federal) is around 325 US dollars for every resident. The findings also found out that the government spent close to 32 billion US dollars.

The Brady law has proved to be a necessary measure towards the regulation of the sale of guns in the American society to restrict the acquisition of lethal weapons by criminals and minors, but it is still inefficient because these groups of people can nevertheless acquire the guns. The Brady law regulates the sale of firearms by identifying persons in more danger and also persons banned from possessing weapons by preventing them from buying them (Webster, Daniel et al. 12). Private traders of guns and firearm products prohibit appropriate enactment of the Brady Law. Reports have indicated that the enforcement of the Brady law has done little to reduce the rate of homicide attacks as well as the cases of suicide.

Policies passed by the federal government to oversee the sale of guns are lenient owing to law modifications by Congress. Additionally, *U.S Congress* has broadened the laws that protect the sellers of the firearms making it difficult to prosecute the law offenders adequately. The introduction of more regulations that propose changes to the design of the gun can also help save lives (Webster, Daniel et al. 15). The increase in the restrictions that make sure the groups at risk do not acquire the gun weapons may consequently reduce cases of violence related to firearms within the society. The government should also keep in mind on the change of attitude among the members of the American community, who now fully support the enactment of the numerous reforms that have been proposed by the groups that advocate for more restricted gun control policies.

In conclusion, gun control regulations that are weak amount to an economic burden considering inadequate accountability by citizens handling guns. The federal government must

uphold its oath to enact stricter legislation on gun control to make sure there is a reduction on the number of weapons diverted to criminals, which means there will be fewer cases of violence.

The current weaknesses that exist in the US gun laws can have mitigation while still allowing the gun owners to possess their firearms.



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