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Research Question: What are the primary factors contributing to increased gun violence in the United States?



Introduction:

What are the primary factors contributing to increased gun violence in the United States?

This is my research question, and I would like to know the answer because getting to the source helps reduce gun violence. In America, gun violence steals the lives of 12 children every day while 32 additional people are shot

and wounded. At least one gun is kept loaded and unlocked in each home of an estimated 4.6 million children in America. These mishandled weapons have played a role in suicides, school shootings, and family member fatal accidents, including young children. Many believe everything is covered by the Second Amendment's "Right to Keep and Bear Arms." Many young kids and parents find it okay to be able to carry guns and weapons around with them, without thinking of the damage they're doing, however, it is super dangerous, especially around young/ teenage kids. The last ten

years have seen a sharp rise in gun violence, with house invasions, school shootings, and other everyday incidents in the United States. Between 2012 and 2021, there was a 19% rise in gun suicide rates and a 73% increase in gun homicide rates. No one can ever feel safe leaving their homes without knowing what can happen. However, stricter gun restrictions can make sure that we are safer traveling to school, on trains, and in subways. Adults and children who are disproportionately affected by gun violence are more likely to become victims. Everyone is entitled to safety in their communities and classrooms, regardless of their sexual orientation, gender, race, or financial status. I plan on discovering more about the primary cause of gun violence and strategies for reducing it when I research this subject. I also will look into whether mental health may have an impact on the increases.

Aldemaro, Romero. Gun Violence Requires Better Prevention, 19 Mar. 2018,

[https://academicworks.cuny.edu/context/bb_pubs/article/1247/viewcontent/1043.](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/context/bb_pubs/article/1247/viewcontent/1043)

[Guns.pdf oai:academicworks.cuny.edu:bb_pubs-124.](https://academicworks.cuny.edu/bb_pubs-124)

Despite the influence held by advocates such as the National Rifle Association, this article explains how high school students have started taking action to reduce gun violence. The "Call for Action to Prevent Gun Violence in the United States of America," a study by the Interdisciplinary Group on Preventing School and Community Violence, offers recommendations for policies aimed at decreasing gun violence while upholding constitutional rights. The report suggests establishing a national program to train and maintain risk evaluation teams, eliminating legal barriers to agencies sharing

safety-related information, banning weapons of assault, providing enough workers for mental health services, reforming school discipline, requiring all schools to maintain safe conditions, and passing laws allowing courts to issue temporary restraining orders.

The rise in gun-related occurrences is a result of extreme organizations' misleading media campaigns accusing President Obama of restricting gun ownership.

Nonetheless, the proportion of homes with guns stays constant at almost 50%. This is the result of white males who are less educated, conservative, and anti-government.

They suffer from racial anxieties and worry about their capacity to defend their families.

The political establishment has been moved by the NRA to downplay scientific studies on gun violence, which has resulted in a lack of research on important topics like increasing the legal age of gun ownership, examining the societal factors of gun violence sensitivity, and the benefits of arming teachers.

Key Quotes:

- “A national program to train and maintain school- and community-based threat assessment teams that include mental health and law enforcement partners including practical channels of communication for persons to report potential threats as well as interventions to resolve conflicts and assist troubled individuals.”
- “These are people whose insecurity makes them feel that they need to become heroes of a certain sort. In other words, guns make them feel more empowered.”
- “Certainly, there are many people who fear that the answers to those questions will contradict their talking points, such as “the only thing that can stop a bad guy

with a gun is a good guy with a gun.” We all must sometimes face inconvenient truths.”

I thought this was an instrumental piece. It confirms the reliability of my research question's result. It also adds additional essential data that will benefit me and other individuals who think that gun violence in America has become a major problem. We can see the developments and strategies we've already tried thanks to this paper. It taught me that It's time to end the terrible impact of beliefs on studies about the most important issues facing the United States. To achieve this, we have to choose representatives who are more likely to follow logic and less likely to be influenced by financial backing from special interests and politicians. Since it discusses the political aspect of gun violence while providing numerous explanations for the rise in violence and suggestions for protecting oneself, I think this article will be very beneficial to many individuals researching the subject of gun violence.

Fisher, Max, and Josh Keller.“Why Does the U.S. Have So Many Mass Shootings? Research Is Clear: Guns.” The New York Times, The New York Times, 7 Nov. 2017,
www.nytimes.com/2017/11/07/world/americas/mass-shootings-us-international.html.

This article expresses how the United States is often questioned for its high rate of mass shootings, yet research constantly shows that the country's soaring gun ownership is the only factor that can explain these trends. Despite making up 4.4% of the world's population, 42% of weapons worldwide are owned by Americans. According to a 2015 study by University of Alabama professor Adam Lankford, 31% of the gunmen in mass shootings globally between 1966 and 2012 were Americans. After the US,

Yemen has the second-highest rate of gun ownership worldwide. According to a 2015 study, mental health problems account for only 4% of gun deaths in the United States. Additionally, a 2015 study discovered that the prevalence of mass shootings is unaffected by the amount of video games people play. There is minimal evidence linking gun deaths to racial diversity or other elements of social cohesion. In 2009, the gun-related homicide rate in the United States was 33 per million, far higher than the average for developed nations. It was 5 per million in Canada and 0.7 per million in Britain, respectively, which also relates to variations in gun ownership. Sometimes, Americans interpret this as a manifestation of more serious issues related to crime; this perception was partly shaped by a string of early 1990s films that showed urban gang violence. However, according to a 1999 study by University of California, Berkeley researchers Gordon Hawkins and Franklin E. Zimring, American crime is only more deadly. The United States has a higher rate of mass shooting deaths than other industrialized nations, according to comparisons with other societies. There were 21,175 suicides, 11,208 homicides, and 505 unintentional gunshot deaths in the United States in 2013. In comparison, there were only 13 gun-related deaths in Japan, a nation with a population one-third that of America. Accordingly, the odds of an American gun-related murder or accident are around 300 times higher than those of a Japanese individual. At around half that of the US, Switzerland has the second-highest gun ownership rate of any developed nation. Its exceptionally high gun homicide rate of 7.7 per million people in 2004 was consistent with the link between gun possession and homicides, although it was still far lower than the US average. The stricter gun laws in Switzerland place greater requirements on obtaining and maintaining a license, selling

firearms, and the kinds of weapons that can be owned. Only three nations—the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala—assume that gun ownership is an essential human right. The US may not place the same importance on trade-offs as other countries, which could explain its weak gun laws. The US has repeatedly decided that the costs to society of having unrestricted gun ownership are worth it in the aftermath of horrific murders in Britain and Australia. The US differs from other nations due to this decision rather than facts or laws.

Key Quotes:

- “If mental health made the difference, then data would show that Americans have more mental health problems than do people in other countries with fewer mass shootings.”
- “By contrast, in this same window, the United States experienced five of its deadliest mass shootings, which killed 78 people. Scaled by population, the American attacks were 12 times as deadly.”
- “The United States also has some of the weakest controls over who may buy a gun and what sorts of guns may be owned.”

In my opinion, the article caught my interest because it was unlike many other things I've read. Numerous data were given in this article, including nations with populations of over 10 million and at least one mass shooting in which four or more individuals were killed. It brought up several issues, including racial diversity, video games, and mental health, that show they can be unrelated to the widespread gun violence. Subheadings

on this page include a wide range of topics, from culture to numbers, and they tie everything together cohesively. Anyone reading this page while researching gun violence for a paper will find it very useful, because not only does it talk about other countries but it mainly focuses on the U.S. and compares it to other countries. *

Sharma, Madhur. "Why Is USA so Prone to Gun Violence?"

<https://www.outlookindia.com/>, 17 May 2023,

www.outlookindia.com/international/explained-six-mass-shootings-in-usa-in-new-year-so-far-why-is-us-so-prone-to-gun-violence-news-256627.

In "Why Is USA So Prone To Gun Violence?" Madhur Sharma this article starts by explaining the rising number of mass shootings in the United States is a troubling trend, with federal and state governments struggling with gun violence. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) defines a mass shooting as one where there are at least four deaths. Gun violence can begin from hatred towards other communities, grievances within a group, secrets within families, and bitterness among colleagues. However, it often ends when a man with a grudge grabs a gun. The US Constitution provides the right to bear arms to US citizens, and owning guns is protected by the 2nd Amendment. In 2008, the US Supreme Court held that "prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for immediate self-defense" is unconstitutional. The 2nd amendment was intended to prevent the state from becoming a tyrant, but it now means the general right to bear arms and often serves as an opposition tool against the regulation of guns. The gun debates in the USA often involve the availability of guns, but it's humans rather than

guns that kill people. One side believes that access to certain classes of people, such as mentally unstable and racist persons, leads to shootings, while the second side says that if these people simply don't have access to guns, they cannot simply shoot people dead. This argument is countered by saying that a person who wants to kill will find a way to kill anyway, such as stabbing or running people over by cars. The prevalent gun culture in the United States has polarized the United States, with Republicans being pro-guns and Democrats being for regulation or outright ban. Democrats are also criticized for a poor record of controlling crime in cities, with Democrat-run cities having higher crime rates. Republicans portray private gun ownership as a means to fight crime. The American Psychological Association (APA) has stressed the need for better background checks to prevent gun violence. The APA suggests that violent history is a key predictor of future violence, as many kids are disproportionately at risk for gun violence. Mental health issues, such as suicidal thoughts or desperation, can also prevent gun violence. The APA also suggests that "high-risk" groups should not own guns, as they have more chances of causing violence. Firearm prohibitions for high-risk groups, such as domestic violence offenders, violent misdemeanors, and individuals with mental illness, have been shown to reduce violence. The licensing of handgun purchasers, background check requirements for all gun sales, and close oversight of retail gun sellers can also reduce the diversion of guns to criminals. Overall, addressing mental health issues, poverty, inequality, racial tensions, and better education and parenting can help reduce gun violence.

Key Quotes:

- “Americans in recent years have learned to endure mass shootings in churches, grocery stores, concerts, and office parks, and even inside the homes of friends and neighbors.”
- “In a landmark 2008 ruling, the US Supreme Court held that "prohibition against rendering any lawful firearm in the home operable for the purpose of immediate self-defense" is unconstitutional.”
- “Better background checks are suggested to see that only decent people can buy guns, not those with criminal accusations or with mental health issues or racist tendencies. The American Psychological Association (APA) in a study noted that violent history is key to such checks.”

In my perspective, this article is really helpful. The author not only discussed the various gun-related tragedies that have occurred in America, but he also made the argument that stronger background checks should be in place before a gun is sold to reduce gun violence. People having a history of violence, mental health issues, criminal allegations, etc., shouldn't be allowed to own weapons. This piece taught me how gun violence can arise from any place and how mass shootings have become the norm. Almost 2,793 US citizens have perished as a result of the conduct of others since 2006. I found it fascinating and I think other readers such as governmental sources should know one of the reasons for the Second Amendment was so the USA didn't become a ruled country, however now it is taken in a bigger context where everyone is allowed to carry guns and we are supposed to feel comfortable and secure with them.

Conclusion:

During the process of this annotated bibliography, I became knowledgeable about the extent to which gun violence has increased in recent years. I learned a lot of information about the number of young children who have been in sight of a gun, as well as the number of adults



who have been injured or killed by one. Compared to other developed nations, the US has a greater rate of mass shooting deaths. I now know that there are numerous reasons why gun violence has increased in the US. A lack of responsibility is the root cause of many of these issues. This relates to the idea that it's critical to do a more thorough background check on individuals to determine whether they provide a "high risk" to society, such as those with mental health conditions that show suicidal thoughts or desperation. Doing so can also significantly reduce gun violence and the so-called "trend." The fact that many parents keep weapons in their homes when their young children and mentally ill teenagers live there is another factor contributing to the rise in gun violence. Young kids can't wrap their heads around the dangers of guns while comparing them to video games, where they could accidentally do more harm than they understand. Adults and parents need to be aware of this to make improvements and protect the safety of their families. This bibliography is intended for readers who are interested in learning more about the reasons behind the dramatic increase in gun violence as well as ways of preventing it from happening in the future because it has already had a major effect on the US.