

## **23. GUN HOMICIDES IN THE US AND 22 OTHER HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES - by New York Times and others**

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*Homicides are the killing of one human being by another, whether intentionally or accidentally. Suicides are not included in homicides (though gun death figures often include homicides and suicides).*

The United States has higher rates of gun homicide than 22 other high-income countries in Europe and elsewhere (see the table on the next page). In recent years, gun death rates in other countries have decreased, but not in the U.S.

On average, US gun homicides are 25 times higher than in the other high income countries. For 15- to 24-year-olds, the gun homicide rate in the United States is 49 times higher.

In the United States, the death rate from gun homicides is about 35 gun deaths per million people — the equivalent of 30 people shot dead every day of the year. The homicides include losses from mass shootings; they also include the country's vastly more common single-victim killings. Gun homicides now average about 11,000 people a year in the US.

Compared to Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Australia, and Sweden, the gun homicide rate in the U.S. 17 times higher. In those countries, being murdered by a gun is as uncommon as being killed in the U.S. by a falling object, hypothermia or plane crashes.

Compared to Germany, Spain, Japan, Norway, South Korea and England, being murdered by a gun 35 times more common in the U.S. In those countries, the chances of getting killed by a gun is about the same as dying in the US in an agricultural accident or struck by lightning (about one in 10 to 20 million).

The rate of gun violence in the United States is not the highest in the world. In parts of Central America, Africa and the Middle East, the gun death rates are even higher. But all those countries have much lower income, life expectancy and education. Among high-income countries like Germany, England, Australia and Japan, the United States is extreme in its number and rate of gun deaths

The US also has the most guns per capita (per person) of any country in the world – both hand guns and rifles including assault rifles with deadlier ammunition like the AR-15 used in a number of recent mass shootings. The U.S. has looser gun controls than other high-income countries in Europe and elsewhere.

*[Adapted from "Comparing Gun Deaths by Country: The U.S. Is in a Different World By New York Times" June 2016, and "Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income Countries," American Journal of Medicine, 2016 and other sources.]*

## GUN HOMICIDE RATES IN 23 HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES

	Gun homicide rate per million people		Number of Privately owned GUNS per 1,000 People		Total homicide rate (from all causes) per million people
United States	35		1,205		53
Canada	5		347		15
Portugal	5		213		10
Ireland	4		72		8
Belgium	3		127		11
Finland	3		324		19
Italy	3		144		8
Australia	2		145		11
Austria	2		300		5
Denmark	2		99		8
France	2		196		6
Netherlands	2		26		9
New Zealand	2		263		12
Slovakia	2		65		12
Sweden	2		231		9
Czech Republic	1		125		26
Germany	1		196		6
Hungary	1		105		15
Spain	1		75		7
Japan	0		3		3
Norway	Less than .5		2		7
Korea (Republic)	Less than .5		288		13
United Kingdom	Less than .5		38		3

Adapted from: "Violent Death Rates: The US Compared with Other High-income OECD Countries," *The American Journal of Medicine* (2016) 129, 266-273 and other sources.

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