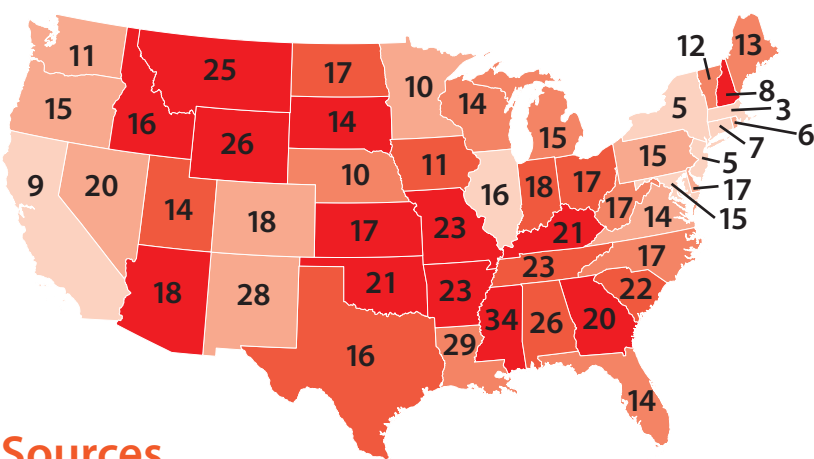


# What Can Be Done?

Given that the United States has the most heavily armed civilian population of any country in the world, we're the only country where guns actually outnumber people, the high toll of gun violence may seem inevitable. Evidence shows that where there are more guns, there are more gun deaths. But there is evidence that laws can make a difference. States with **strong** laws see less gun violence than states with **weak** gun laws. According to the Giffords Law Center, California has the strongest gun laws and a gun violence rate of 9 in 100,000. Arkansas' laws, on the other hand, are among the weakest and residents of that state are dying from guns at a rate of 23 per 100,000.<sup>12</sup>



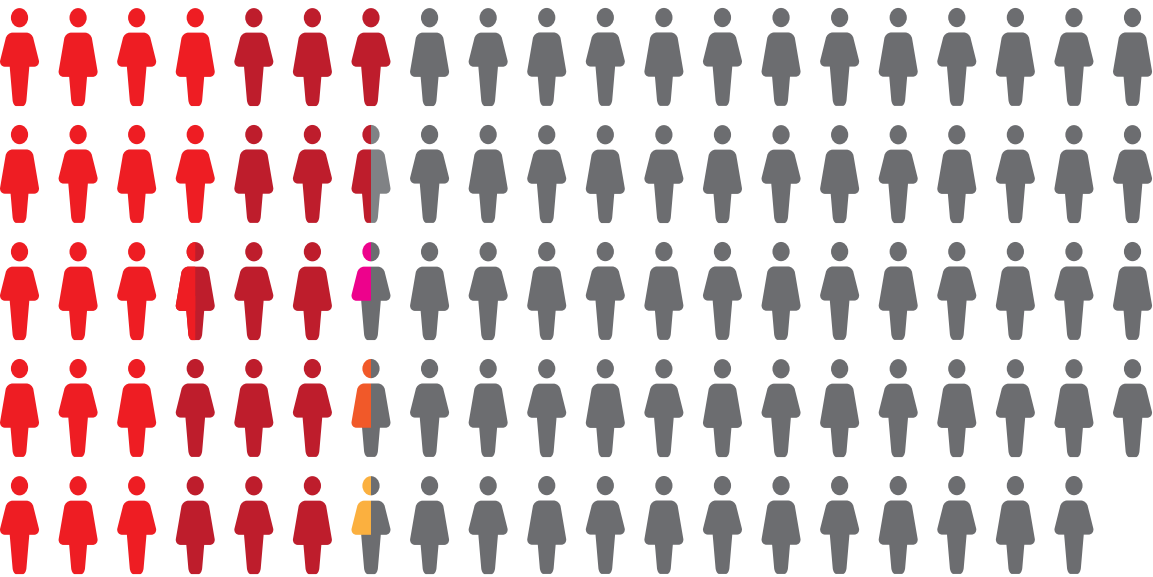
The gun industry could also implement changes that would reduce gun violence. For instance, the same technology that allows you to open your phone with your thumb print could be used to keep guns out of the hands of children and criminals.

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# GUN VIOLENCE

The anecdotes we hear in the news inform how we think about gun violence. Perhaps you remember when a bystander killed a gunman 2 minutes into an Indiana mall shooting, no doubt saving many lives. Generalizing from this and other stories about mass shootings, many Americans believe we would all be safer if more people owned and carried guns. But are these stories really representative?



In 2021 almost 150,000 people were shot in America. Of those, 48,830 people died. 26,328 killed themselves, 20,958 were murdered, 549 died by accident, 537 by legal intervention and 458 died under undetermined circumstances.<sup>1</sup>

Most Americans who own guns say they do so for protection. However, guns are very rarely used in self defense. A 2014 study showed a gun in the home is much more likely to be used to kill or injure a person living with you than to be used in self defense.<sup>2</sup> Even taking into account people who buy a gun in order to kill themselves, a gun in the home increases the risk of death by suicide for everyone living there. A study in California that followed 26.3 million people between 2004 and 2016 found that the risk of suicide peaked immediately after the gun was purchased, but 52% of all suicides by firearm among handgun owners occurred more than 1 year after acquisition. The authors concluded that "handgun ownership is associated with a greatly elevated and enduring risk of suicide by firearm."<sup>3</sup>

3x  
SUICIDE

2x  
HOMICIDE

People who live in homes with guns are over three times as likely to die from suicide and twice as likely to be a victim of homicide as those who don't have access to firearms.