

HOW TO FIND STATISTICS

You aren't expected to know every fact and statistic related to gun violence, but it is important to familiarize yourself with some key facts to help you communicate why guns in the home is an important issue for potential partners to address.

Here are a few national statistics that you can use:

- One out of three homes with children has guns, many left unlocked or loaded
- Nine children and teens are shot each day in gun accidents
- 80% of unintentional firearm deaths of children under 15 occur in a home

State Statistics

State-specific information, paired with personal stories, support your argument as you reach out to local and state-level groups.

For example, you can use the data from [this Pediatrics article](#) that has information about the prevalence of household firearms and firearm-storage practices in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Read the article to understand how the data was collected, and the limitations of the information source. It's always important to be knowledgeable about your sources when using statistics.

Framing Your Facts

Frame your facts so that they are as compelling and relevant as possible for your audience.

The *Pediatrics* article provides statistics such as the percentage of homes with children that have a loaded firearm, as well as the estimated number of youth living with loaded firearms.

Examples:

In populous states like Florida, an estimated **248,430 or 6.5 percent**, of youth live in a household with a loaded firearm. Use raw numbers to make a more compelling argument.



In a state such as Alaska, where the population size is fairly small, the percentages may be more compelling. For instance, **10.7 percent** of households in Alaska with youth under 18 have a loaded firearm—that's more than **1 out of 10** children statewide!

Research Tips

If you are looking for something specific and want to do further research, keep the following tips in mind:

- Gun violence prevention research/statistics are often not as up-to-date as we would prefer, so use the most current **reliable** data even if it is several years old.
- The number of unintentional deaths is often under-reported. Using overall gun death statistics is the best way to present the gun violence problem. Read through [this New York Times article](#) for further explanation.
- Consider which statistic is more compelling for the particular topic you are researching: rate vs. count/number vs. percentage.
- Make sure you are aware of the limitations of any information source.
- Don't feel pressured to do your own analysis. Use a trusted and reliable source that has already analyzed the data.

Other Research Resources

[Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System \(WISQARS\)](#)

This CDC resource provides customized reports of injury-related data, as well as a tool that allows users to create national, state, and county maps of firearm deaths. **The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) data will have the most up-to-date number of firearm deaths.**

[Child Death Review](#)

This website provides state level data on deaths of children by means (firearm, poisoning, etc.) and intent (unintentional, homicide, and suicide).

[Children's Defense Fund](#)

The annual report provides child gun death rates by state in map form.

[Harvard School of Public Health, Injury Control Center: Firearms Research](#)

This website provides a compilation of research summaries on firearms.

[Kaiser Family Foundation State: HealthFacts.org](#)

This website provides gun death rates by state in table or map form.

[Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence: SmartGunLaws.org](#)

This website provides information on federal and state firearm laws, searchable by state or policy.