

REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE

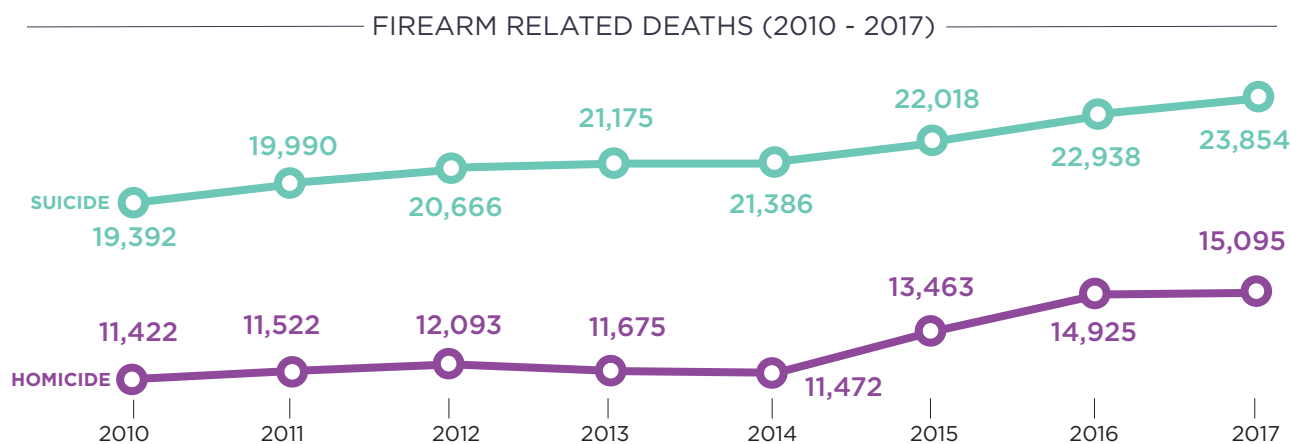
Gun ownership is a fundamental right guaranteed by the United States Constitution's Second Amendment. With this right, however, we all have a great responsibility to keep communities safe from all types of gun violence.

In a survey conducted by the National League of Cities in August 2019, 73% of local government officials said they believe the U.S. is experiencing a gun violence epidemic. The percentage jumps to 89% for local government officials in cities with populations of more than 300,000.

Since 2010, fatalities as a result of gun violence in the U.S. have been steadily on the rise.¹ According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the leading cause of “violence-related” injury deaths in the U.S. from 2010 to 2017 was a firearm.²

These numbers do not include the hundreds of thousands of people who were injured and survived a firearm-related incident, nor do they include the number of victims who lost family members as a result of gun violence.

Beyond the tragic human costs, the epidemic of gun violence in communities across the country is having a devastating impact on local economies. The estimated total lifetime medical and work-loss costs of firearm-related deaths to the American economy easily exceeded \$360 billion between 2010 and 2017. This does not include the billions of dollars incurred by local governments in response to gun violence, such as police and emergency medical response,



¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, WISQARS, *Fatal Injury Data, Fatal Injury Reports, National, Regional and State, 1981-2017*

² National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), National Vital Statistics System

medical transport, hospital expenses, mental health and social services for victims and survivors, criminal investigations, legal and court expenses, and jail and incarceration costs.

Likewise, the rise in mass shootings is severely increasing local government costs associated with preparing for and responding to active-shooter incidents in schools, government buildings, and other locations, such as parks and community centers. Reducing gun violence in cities, towns, and villages requires a complex response that differs for each community. Whereas some cities may focus their efforts on keeping guns out of the hands of criminals, other jurisdictions may set out to provide more services to reduce suicides and domestic violence. Local governments need to have better access to data to identify the causes of gun violence in their communities and to determine what types of policies and services are required to address the problem properly.

It's time for the nation's elected leaders to work together to address this crisis by advancing common-sense solutions to protect our communities and our children, while ensuring that law-abiding residents maintain their Second Amendment rights.

TO REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE AND PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY, WE ASK THE PRESIDENT TO:

- ➔ Convene a national commission on gun violence (including elected officials from all levels of government, victims' family members, survivors, gun advocates, law enforcement, and others) to offer recommendations.
- ➔ Advance legislation requiring fully federally funded and completed background checks for all gun sales and transfers, consistent with state and local laws.
- ➔ Enact federal legislation that would allow judges to issue extreme risk protection orders to reduce firearm-related suicides, murder-suicides, and domestic violence.
- ➔ Provide sufficient funding to the Centers for Disease Control to conduct comprehensive research to identify the underlying causes that lead to gun violence and mass shootings in communities.