



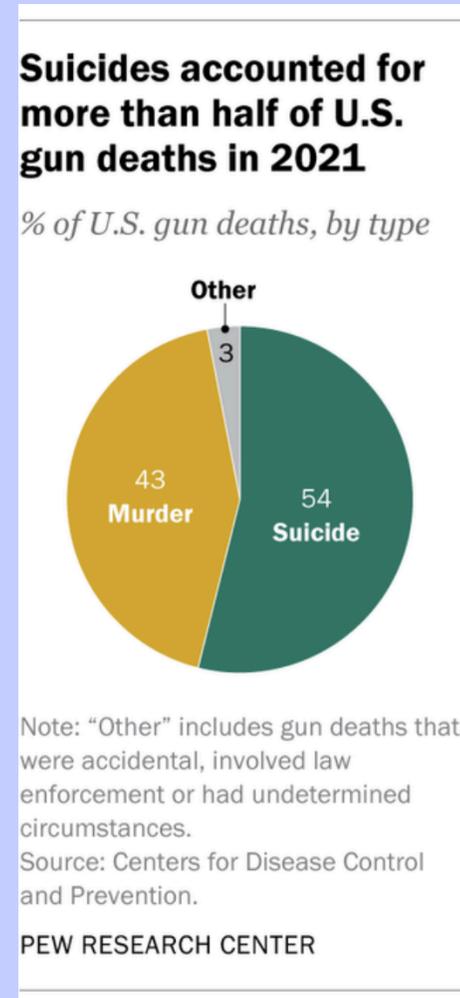
POLICY ANALYSIS:

GUN CONTROL, VIOLENCE, & THE BATTLE FOR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

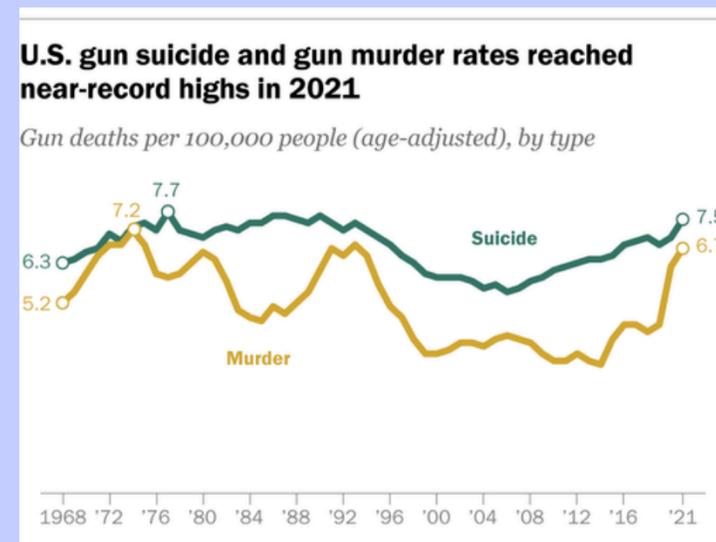
By: Kayla Tull

UNDERSTANDING GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

The United States has seen a recent dramatic increase in mass shootings and gun-related deaths



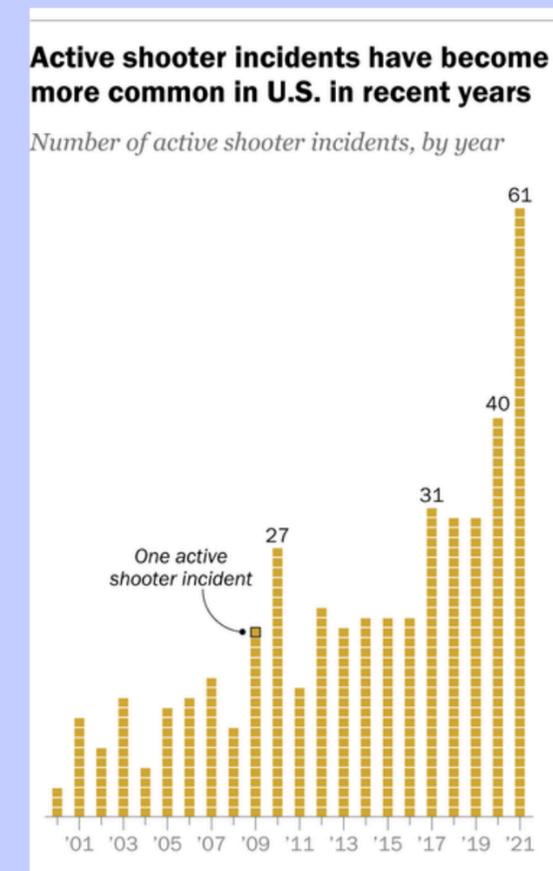
According to the Pew Research Center, suicides have accounted for the majority of gun-related deaths for many years, and have since reached record highs



1

Active shooter events have increased by ~50% from 2020-2021 and by 97% since 2017

2



1



WHAT'S CAUSING THIS?

Increased Gun Ownership

Gun Ownership has increased by over 65% since the year 2020

Increased Gun Availability

U.S. gun manufacturing has increased by ~10% each year, with close to 13.4 mil being manufactured in 2022

Weakening Gun Laws

Many states have opted to eliminate carry permits and follow less strict screening processes

Exposure to Violence

In a study done by UC Davis, researchers found that among those exposed to violence, 1 in 3 said they were now considering owning a gun

Socioeconomic Factors

Housing instability, poverty, poor education, unemployment, and lack of health care have all been associated with an increase in gun violence

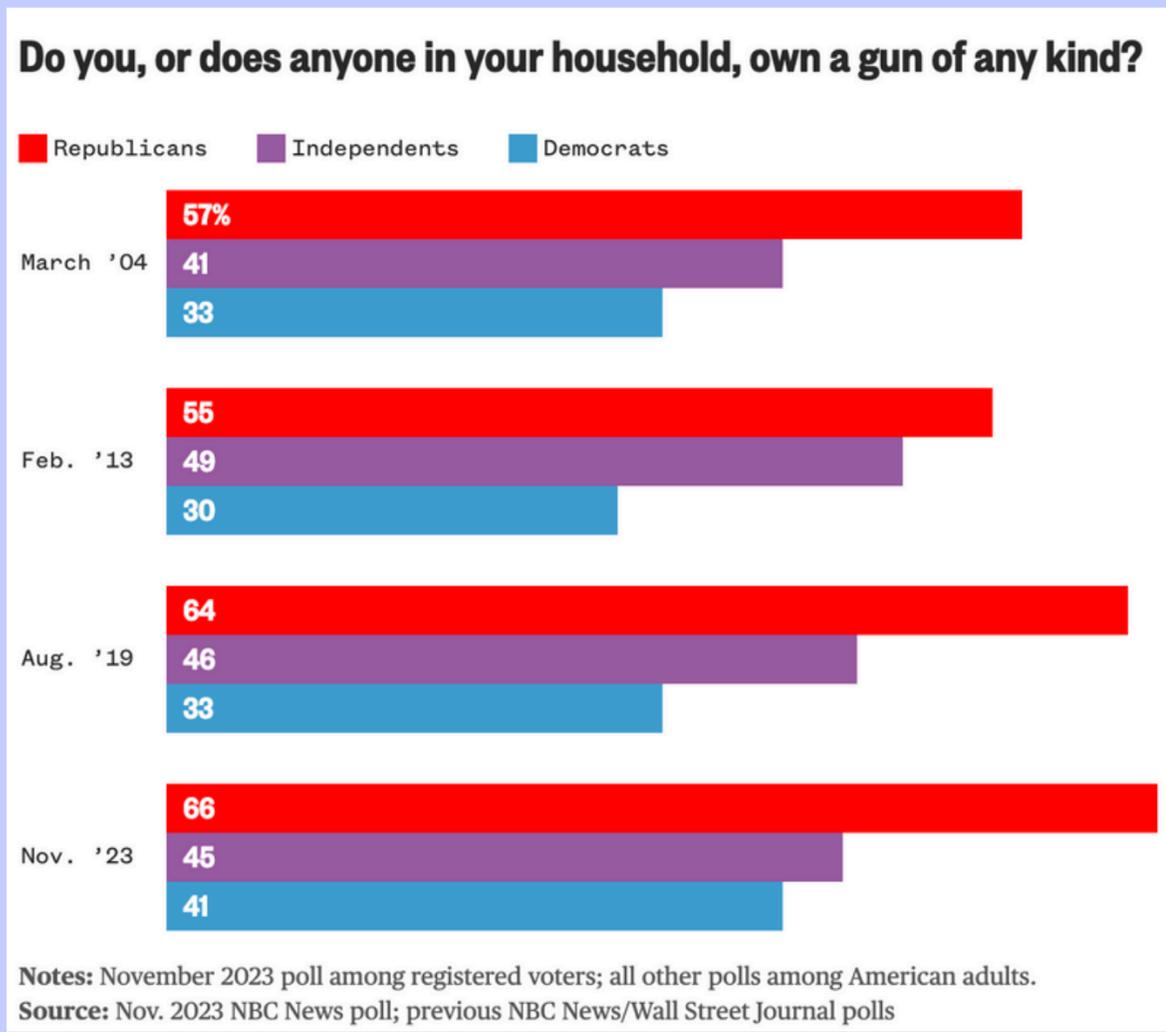
Social + Political Climate

Distrust of law enforcement, growing political party separation, and social media have also found to be associated with gun violence

THE SECOND AMENDMENT

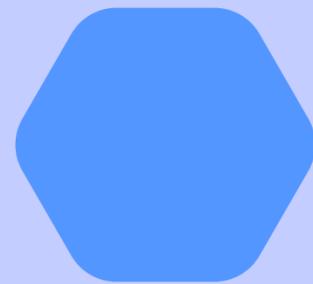
One main source of controversy relates to the second amendment:
“The right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed”

Some argue that gun control is constitutional, while others see it as a threat to their freedom



WHAT'S THE SOLUTION?

Questions To Ask:



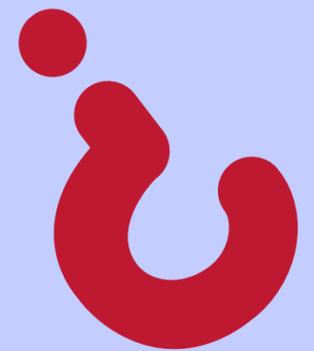
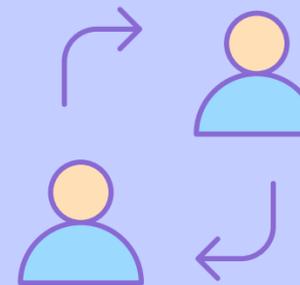
How do we make both sides happy?



What would need to happen legislatively?



What social changes could lead to a solution?



LEGISLATIVE SOLUTIONS

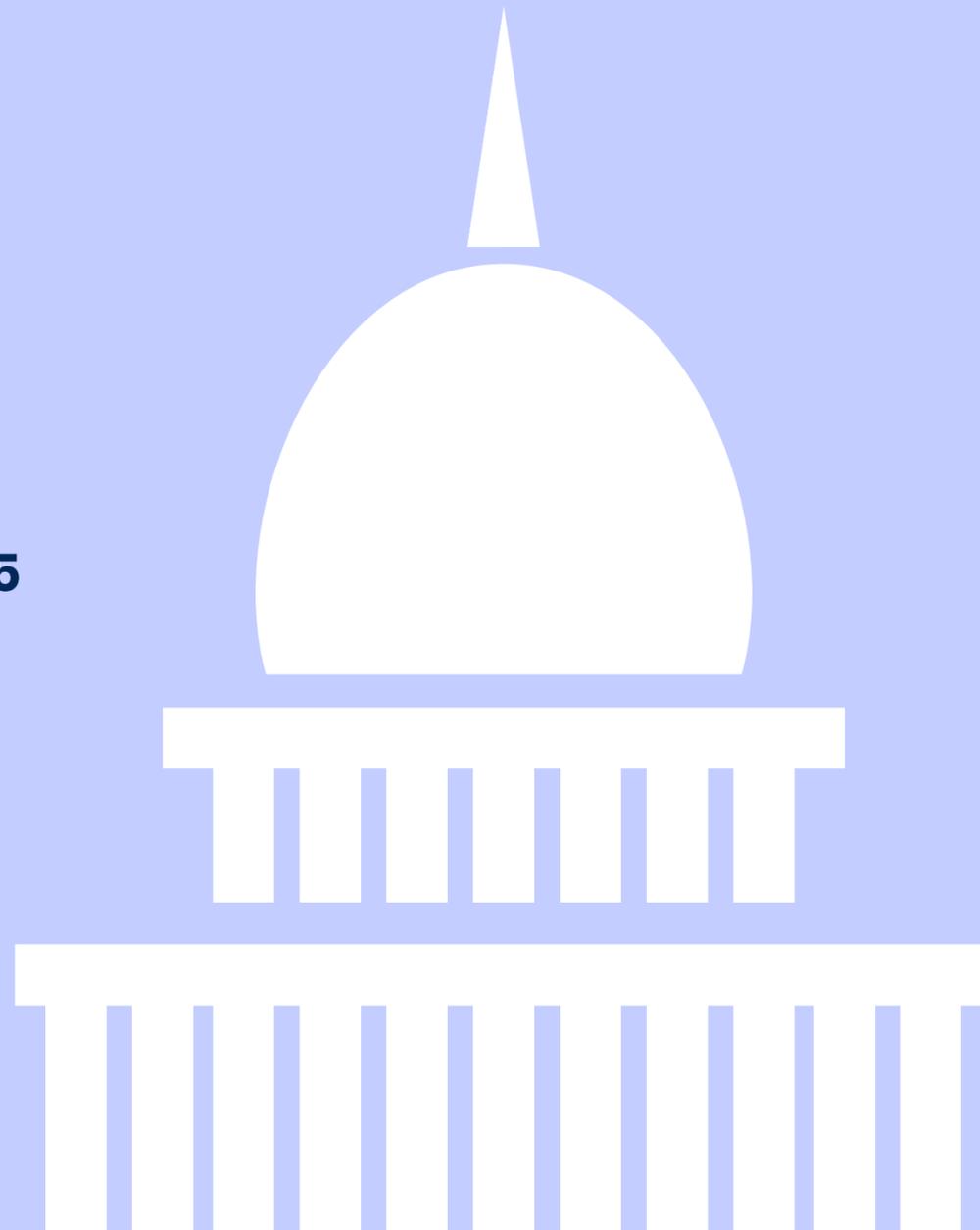
What has been done:

U.S. v. Rahimi | 06-21-24 | 8

- United States upholds the prohibition on possession of a firearm for domestic abusers

Bipartisan Safer Communities Act | 06-25-22 | 5

- extended and enhanced background checks
- established federal offenses for trafficking
- increased gun safety education and intervention
- expanded mental health care access



What can improve:

Policy #1 6

- Implement sensible or common sense gun laws: banning assault weapons

Policy #1 7

- Implement Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPOs): allow family members and law enforcement to petition a court for the temporary removal of guns from people who are at a high risk of committing violence

POLICY 1 + 2 ANALYSIS

Policy #1 : Common sense Gun Laws ⁵

Effectiveness

- more than 60% of voters are pro common sense gun laws
- 59% of shootings in the last 4 years have been with assault weapons

Costs

- costs associated with enacting and enforcing new gun laws
- can be offset by the economic benefits of reduced gun violence

Timelines

- can range from few months to decades
- current progress: passed the house

Policy #2 : Extreme Risk Protection Orders ERPOs ⁷

Effectiveness

- studies have shown ERPOs would decrease suicide deaths, mass shootings, and general crime

Costs

- costs associated with enacting and enforcing new gun laws
- costs associated with training law enforcement, judges, and clerks

Timelines

- can range from few months to decades

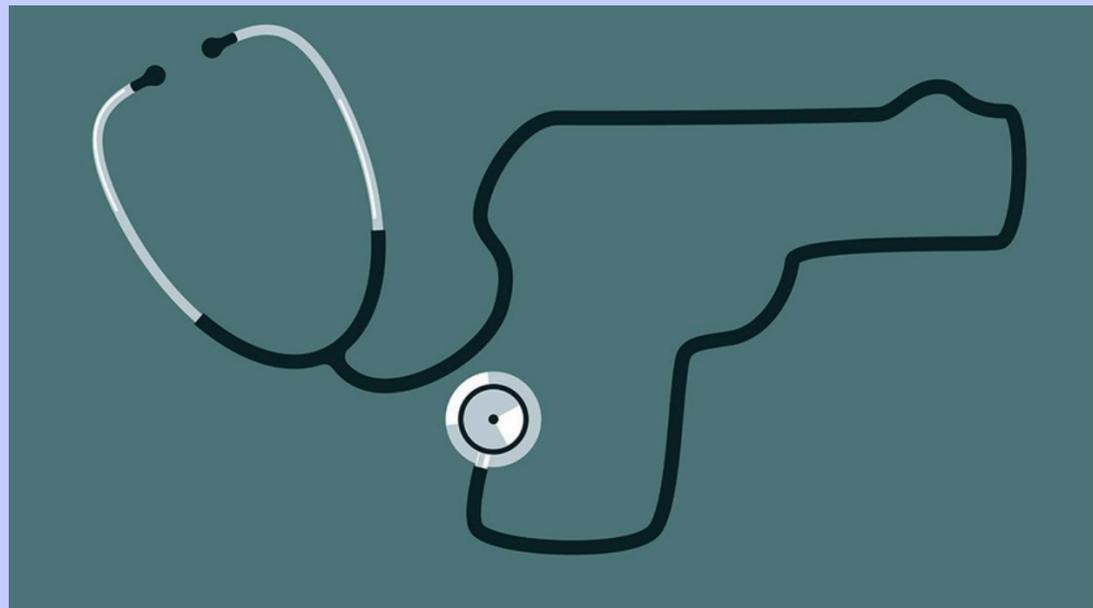
Setbacks

- 2nd amendment controversy



PUBLIC HEALTH CHANGES

Addressing gun control as a public health crisis

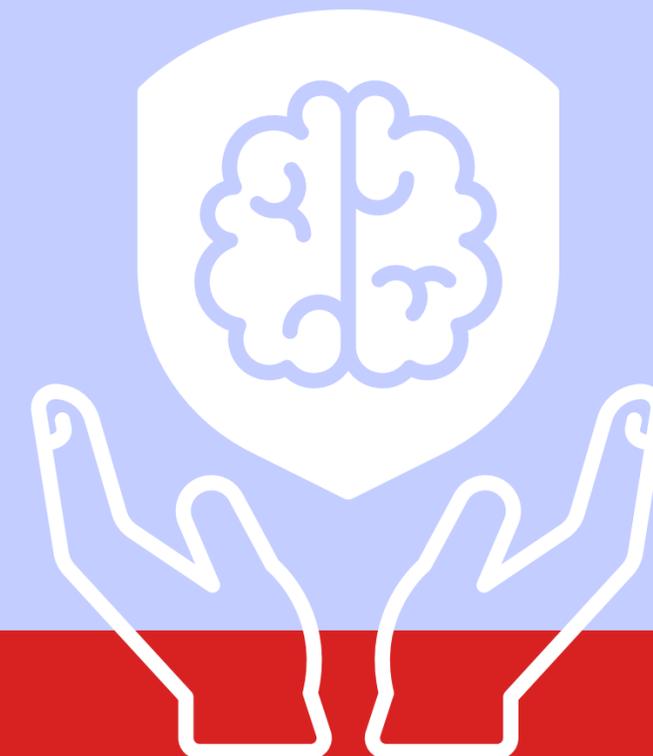


Policy #3

- State governments allocate more money towards expanding community gun safety education, intervention programs, and research

Policy #4

- Expand funding for mental health care
- Integrate mental health services into primary care
- Improve insurance mental health coverage



POLICY 3 + 4 ANALYSIS

Policy #3 : Educational Programs

Effectiveness

- reduction in accidental shootings
- behavioral changes
- community changes

Costs

- costs associated with training public health workers to teach programs
- operational costs

Timelines

- short term: pilot programs
- medium term: enhancing pilot programs
- long term: long term community engagement

Policy #2 : Mental Health

Effectiveness

- can help identify and manage conditions before they lead to crises
- Early and effective mental health care can potentially reduce incidents of violence

Costs

- Infrastructure: Building and maintaining mental health facilities
- Costs associated with therapy, medication, crisis intervention services, and care

Timelines

- can range from months to decades



SOURCES

1. <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/04/26/what-the-data-says-about-gun-deaths-in-the-u-s/>
2. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/active-shooter-incidents-increased-50-percent-2021-new-fbi-data-shows-rcna30148>
3. <https://www.humanrightscareers.com/issues/root-causes-of-gun-violence/>
4. <https://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/meetthepressblog/poll-gun-ownership-reaches-record-high-american-electorate-rcna126037>
5. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2024/04/11/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-announces-new-action-to-implement-bipartisan-safer-communities-act-expanding-firearm-background-checks-to-fight-gun-crime/#:~:text=In%202022%2C%20President%20Biden%20accomplished,dealers%20and%20run%20background%20checks.>
6. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-bipartisan-safer-communities-act-1-year-later/>
7. <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/sites/default/files/2023-12/dec-2023-cgvs-defending-democracy.pdf>
8. <https://www.scotusblog.com/case-files/cases/united-states-v-rahimi/>