



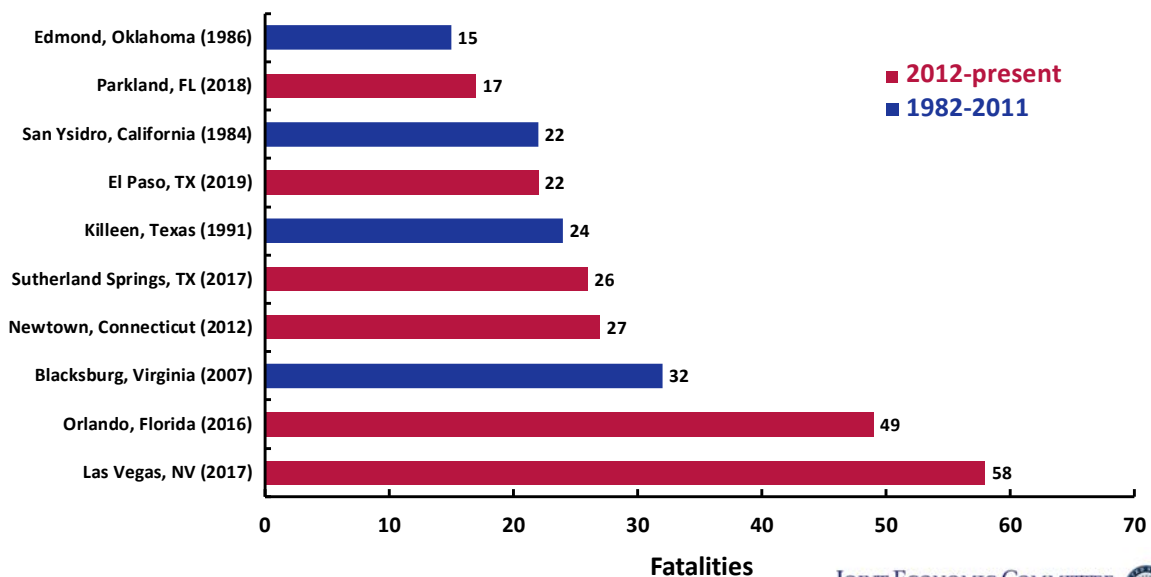
Gun Violence in the United States *A Nation in a League of its Own*

The United States is [one of six countries](#) that account for [half of all gun-related deaths](#) in the world, second to Brazil. [Ninety percent of women](#) killed by firearms in high-income countries are killed in the United States. Children and teens are also at a much [higher risk](#) of death and injury in America than in other advanced countries. Compared to other high-income countries, our nation's firearm-related fatality rate is nearly [50 times higher](#) for teens and young adults (15- to 24-year-olds). Globally, nine-in-ten of the firearm deaths that occur for this age group happen in the United States.

Nearly [half of all the civilian-held guns in the world](#) are in the United States (393 million). The U.S. rate of civilian firearms ownership, which is 120 per 100 residents, is more than twice the next highest rate in the world. American civilians hold [more than 70 times](#) the number of firearms held by our military and police forces combined.

Though past studies show the United States does not have more [nonlethal crime](#) than other countries, it has a substantially [higher rate](#) of lethal violence. Mass shootings in the United States have become [increasingly deadly](#) over the past half century. In a mass shooting at the University of Texas at Austin in 1966, the most lethal in U.S. history at that time, a shooter killed 16 people and wounded 31 more in a shooting spree that lasted an hour-and-a-half – one victim every two minutes. In the current most deadly shooting in American history, which occurred in 2017 at a festival in Las Vegas, a shooter killed 58 people and wounded 546 more in little more than 10 minutes – one victim per second – by using assault rifles converted into automatic weapons.

Top 10 Deadliest Mass Shootings in the U.S. Since 1982

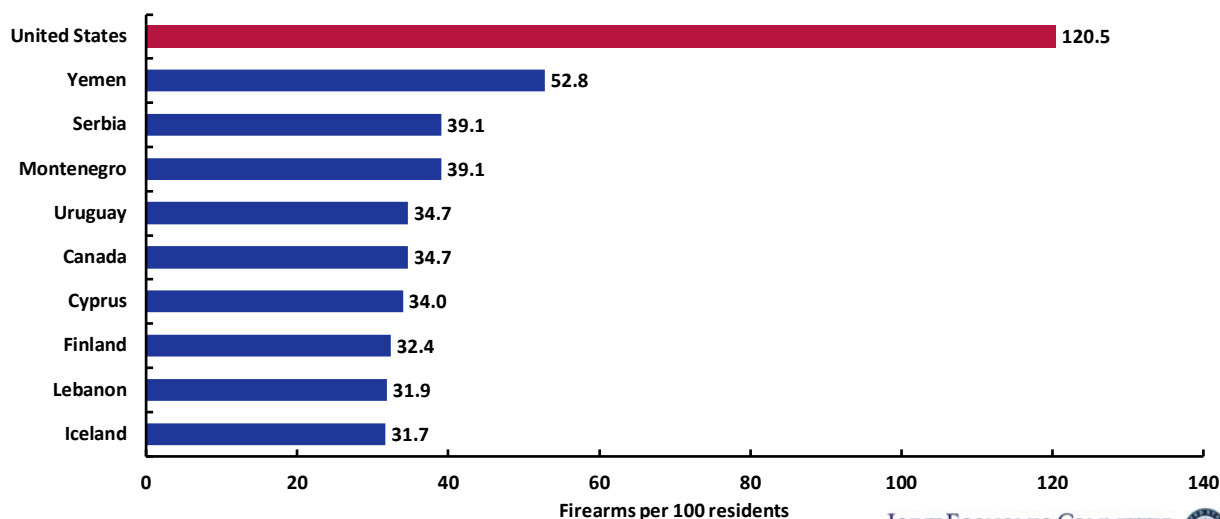


Source: Mother Jones



The United States stands out not only for the frequency and deadliness of mass shootings and firearm use, but also in the lack of modern gun safety policies. The gun regulations in place in other developed nations, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United Kingdom, illustrate the unique context of efforts for gun reform in the United States.

Top 10 Rates of Civilian Firearm Possession



Source: Small Arms Survey

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AUSTRALIA

In 1996, a man armed with a semiautomatic opened fire in Port Arthur on the Australian island of Tasmania, resulting in [35 deaths](#). Australia’s federal and state governments responded by banning automatic and semiautomatic weapons altogether, as well as establishing a [gun buyback program](#) that resulted in the surrender of approximately 650,000 weapons. Gun suicide rates per 100,000 have since [dropped](#) from 2.2 in 1995 to 0.8 in 2016, while gun homicide rates per 100,000 have dropped from 0.37 in 1995 to 0.18 in 2016.

JAPAN

Japanese gun control laws are highly restrictive, with all firearms aside from shotguns and air rifles [forbidden](#). Furthermore, the process of acquiring one of the few permitted firearms is [onerous](#). One must attend a day-long class, pass a written exam, pass a shooting-range exam with a minimum score of 95%—and repeat this every three years. Mental health and drug tests are administered, and criminal records are scrutinized for histories of violence. Japan has one of the [lowest rates](#) of gun violence in the world, with a mere 0.02 gun deaths per 100,000 people as of 2015.

NEW ZEALAND

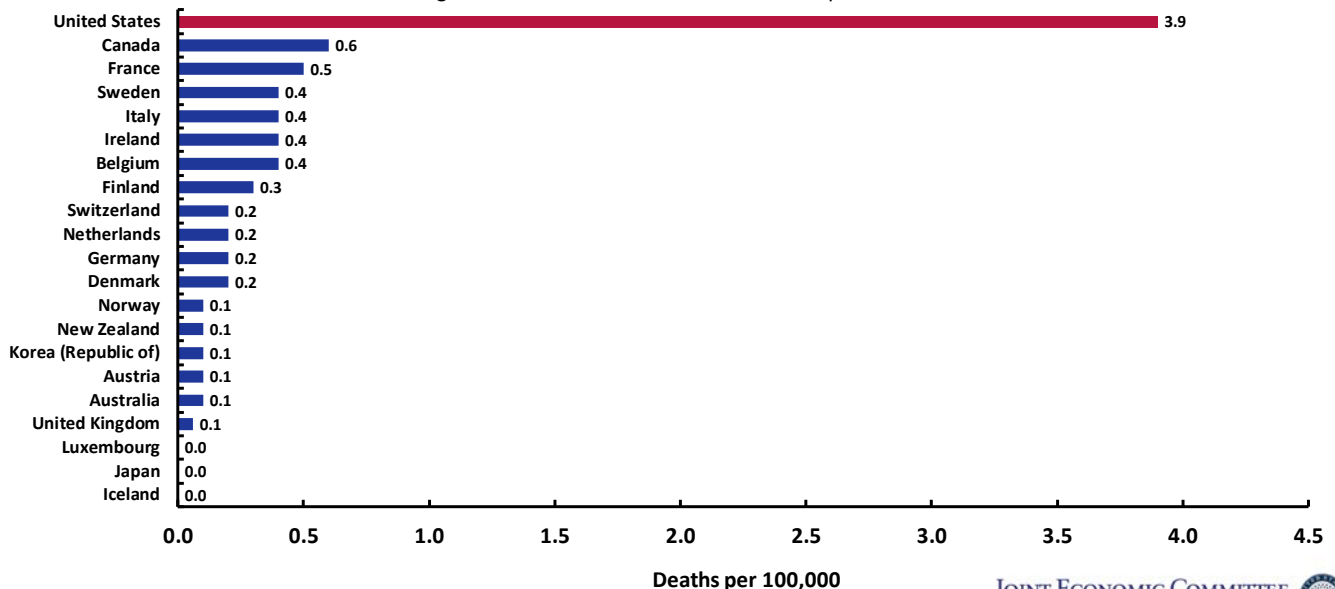
Just weeks after the 2019 Christchurch mosque massacre that led to the deaths of [51 people](#), the New Zealand parliament voted [nearly unanimously](#) to outlaw automatic and semiautomatic weapons, as well as associated parts like ammunition and magazines. The parliament also instituted a buyback program through which gun owners can surrender their banned weaponry.

UNITED KINGDOM

The U.K. has a history of increasing regulation of guns in response to incidents of gun violence. After a 1987 mass shooting in Hungerford, the British parliament [introduced legislation](#) that mandated registration for shotgun ownership as well as banning semiautomatic and pump-action firearms. After a 1996 mass shooting at an elementary school in Dunblane, Scotland, parliament extended the restrictions on firearms by banning the private ownership of handguns in mainland Britain. Since the enactment of the latter piece of legislation, gun death rates have [declined](#) more than 53% from their peak.

Rates of Violent Death by Firearm

Among OECD Countries with Annual GDP Per Capita >\$40K



Source: Small Arms Survey and OECD

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