



Standing up for Wisconsin!

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Tony Evers
Governor
State of Wisconsin
115 E. Capitol Dr. #1
Madison, WI 53702

The Honorable Scott Fitzgerald
Majority Leader
Wisconsin State Senate
206 State Street
Madison, WI 53702

The Honorable Robin Vos
Speaker
Wisconsin State Assembly
321 State Street
Madison, WI 53702

Dear Governor Evers, Majority Leader Fitzgerald and Speaker Vos:

On February 14th, 2018, fourteen (14) Parkland High School students had their lives stolen from them as a gunman walked into the school and began to fire. It is a tragedy which has been repeated throughout the United States. Yet two years later, we have seen no action within our own state to make sure a Wisconsin school isn't next. Today, we send this letter as a reminder that 80% of Wisconsinites agree on the need for Universal Background Checks and Extreme Risk Protection Orders.

Over the past two years thousands of students, parents and concerned community members have called, emailed, written letters, marched and visited the Capitol. During this time, students continued to receive active shooter drills which have been proven to cause trauma. And following the events of last year right here in Wisconsin, students from numerous schools walked out of class in a show of unity, in an attempt to let you know the danger and the fear are real, and that you as our elected officials, have a sworn duty to put us before the politics.

ERPO legislation and Universal Background Checks will not just save the lives of students in the classroom, but around our entire state. While we have seen individual acts of crime, we also know that these laws will reduce the number of gun related deaths in Wisconsin, primarily by those taking their own lives in the rural areas of Wisconsin. In a study conducted by Everytown For Gun Safety, they found that on average 592 people die each year from gun violence in Wisconsin (see attached). This means over one thousand Wisconsinites have died since the Parkland shooting.



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Page 2

It is for this reason that today I write this letter with the full support of the 80% Coalition, a coalition of organizations from throughout the entire state and comprised of advocacy, business, faith, medical and mental health professionals and more asking you to take action and to close the background check loopholes and to give law enforcement and family members an ERPO option. Both of these common sense measures have been proven to save lives and have the overwhelming majority of Wisconsinites, gun owners and non-gun owners alike. We ask this of you, on this day, as we remember the lives lost at Parkland High School, and the thousands of lives taken each year, lives that could have been saved by passing responsible, common sense gun safety reform.

Sincerely,

Mr. Tyler Kelly
Director
March For Our Lives-MKE

80% Coalition Members:

Advanced Wireless, Inc., Archdiocese of Milwaukee, Brady: United Against Gun Violence, Community Coalition for Quality Policing, Crusaders of Justicia, Doctors for America, The Rt. Rev. Steven Andrew Miller, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Milwaukee, Felmers Chaney Advocacy Board, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, Forward Latino, Greater Milwaukee Synod-ELCA, Hours Against Hate, Islamic Society of Milwaukee, JCRC - Milwaukee Jewish Federation, League of United Latin American Citizens Wisconsin, March for Our Lives MKE, March For Our Lives Wisconsin, Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), Milwaukee Muslim Women's Coalition, Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America – Wisconsin Chapter, NAACP - Milwaukee Branch, Wisconsin State NAACP Conference of Branches, NAMI Dane County, NAMI Wisconsin, Serve 2 Unite, UMOS & Wisconsin Anti Violence Effort (WAVE).

www.80percent4wi.org

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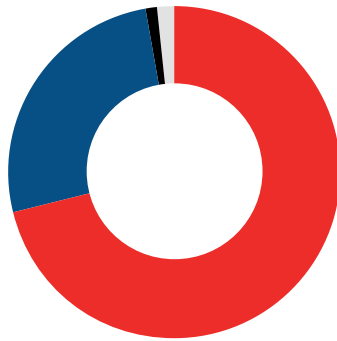
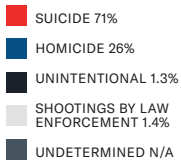
Gun Violence in Wisconsin

INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet is a summary of data contained in EveryStat for Gun Safety, a free, interactive website that contains data about gun violence by state, county, race and ethnicity, gender, and intent. These materials have been designed for users to better understand how gun violence impacts the communities they care about.

Visit the tool at everytownresearch.org/EveryStat

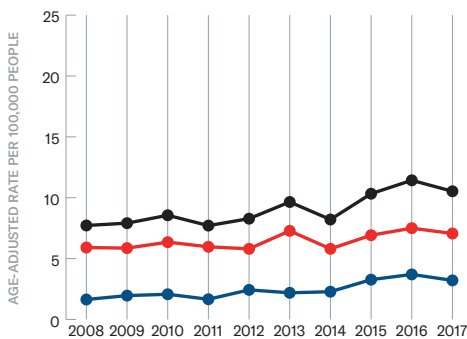
GUN DEATHS BY INTENT IN WISCONSIN



IN AN AVERAGE YEAR, 592 PEOPLE DIE BY GUNS IN WISCONSIN. WITH A RATE OF 10 DEATHS PER 100,000 PEOPLE, WISCONSIN HAS THE 38TH-HIGHEST RATE OF GUN DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES.

In Wisconsin, 71% of gun deaths are suicides and 26% are homicides. This is compared to 61% and 35% respectively, nationwide.

GUN DEATHS OVER TIME IN WISCONSIN



The rate of gun deaths in Wisconsin increased 36%↑ from 2008 to 2017, compared to a 17%↑ increase over this same time period nationwide.

Among the 72 counties in Wisconsin, Milwaukee and Dane counties contain the state's largest cities, Milwaukee and Madison. These counties have rates of 16.5 gun deaths and 6.6 gun deaths per 100,000 people, respectively.

For data on all counties, visit the EveryStat for Gun Safety tool online.

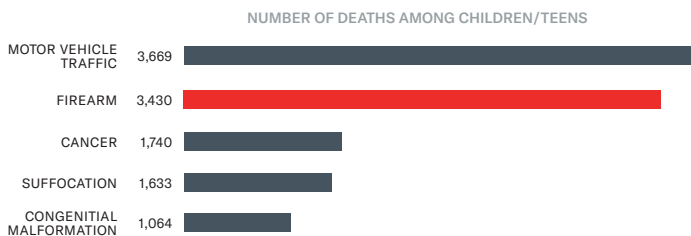
Sources: CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2013-2017. Percents may not equal 100% due to missing data.
Trends: CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, 2008-2017. County data: CDC, Underlying Cause of Death, five-year average: 2013-2017.

71% OF ALL GUN DEATHS IN WISCONSIN ARE SUICIDES.

GUN HOMICIDE BY RACE/ETHNICITY IN WISCONSIN



FIREARMS ARE THE 2ND LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG CHILDREN AND TEENS IN THE UNITED STATES



IN WISCONSIN, 81% OF INTIMATE PARTNER GUN HOMICIDE VICTIMS WERE WOMEN.

WHAT FOLLOWS IS THE LATEST DATA ON GUN DEATHS IN FOUR CATEGORIES:

I. GUN SUICIDE

An average of 421 people in Wisconsin die by gun suicide every year—a rate of 6.9 suicides per 100,000 people. In Wisconsin, there is an average of 21 hours between gun suicide deaths.

Across all states, Wisconsin has the 35th-highest rate of gun suicides in the country.

White people in Wisconsin are 3 times as likely to die by gun suicide as Black people.

Source: CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2013-2017.

II. GUN HOMICIDE

An average of 160 people in Wisconsin die by gun homicide every year—a rate of 2.9 homicides per 100,000 people.

Across all states, Wisconsin has the 31st-highest rate of gun homicides in the country. Of all homicides in Wisconsin, 74% involve a gun, compared to 73% nationally.

In Wisconsin, Black people are 27 times as likely to die by gun homicide as white people, compared to 10 times nationwide.

Source: CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2013-2017. Homicide includes shootings by law enforcement.

III. CHILDREN AND TEENS GUN DEATHS

Firearms are the 2nd-leading cause of death among children and teens in Wisconsin.

In Wisconsin, an average of 46 children and teens die by guns every year, and 53% of these deaths are suicide. In the US, 58% of all gun deaths among children and teens are homicides.

Black children and teens in Wisconsin are 4 times as likely as their white peers to die by guns.

Source: CDC, Fatal Injury Reports, five-year average: 2013-2017. Leading cause of death: CDC, Fatal Injury Report, 2017.

IV. INTIMATE PARTNER HOMICIDE

From 2013 to 2017, 46 women were fatally shot by an intimate partner in Wisconsin. This represents 81% of all intimate partner gun homicides in the state, compared to 81% nationwide.

Black women in Wisconsin are 5 times as likely as white women to be fatally shot by a partner.

Source: FBI, Supplementary Homicide Reports and Florida Department of Law Enforcement, 2013-2017.