

36th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill
Black Nurses: A Call for Transformative Health Equity Globally
Gun Violence: America's Epidemic

The National Black Nurses Association (NBNA) serves as a national nursing body to influence legislation and policies that support comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating impact on Black individuals and historically marginalized communities. While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, it has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities. NBNA calls on the 118th Congress to address gun violence as a leading public health issue that negatively impacts the health and well-being of all communities and to recognize that gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental, and social well-being of Black communities regardless of the perpetrator and is sometimes racially motivated by hate.

Background

- In 2023 there were **627** mass shootings in the U.S. ⁴
- As of early December 2023, there had been **33,443 deaths** and **65,224-gun injuries** nationwide.
- Although firearm homicide rates decreased for some groups in 2022, rates remained elevated overall compared with 2019, particularly among Black persons.⁴
- In Jacksonville, FL a gunman motivated by hate, killed **3** Black people.¹
- In Newport News, VA a **6-year-old** student shot his teacher, seriously injuring her using a handgun belonging to his parents.⁵
- In Maine, **18** people were killed and **13** injured in a shooting spree at a bowling alley and bar.²
- Road rage injuries and deaths involving guns have increased every year since 2018 and about **doubled** from 2018 to 2022.³

Recommendations to Legislators

NBNA calls upon the 118th Congress to:

- **Support S.3407** - Gun Violence Prevention and Community Safety Act of 2023
- **Support H.R.4283** — Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act of 2023
- **Support legislation similar to H.R.850** - to direct the Attorney General to conduct a study on the efficacy of extreme risk protection orders on reducing gun violence, and for other purposes.
- **Support** research grants aimed at informing firearm-related violence and injury prevention strategies.
- **Support legislation** that would provide for a 7-day waiting period before a semiautomatic firearm, a silencer, armor piercing ammunition, or a large capacity ammunition magazine may be transferred.

References

1. Binley, A. (2023). Jacksonville shooting: Racist gunman kills three black people in Florida store. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-66630263>
2. CNN. (2023, October 25). Lewiston, Maine mass shootings. <https://edition.cnn.com/us/live-news/lewiston-maine-shootings-active-shooter-10-25-23/index.html>
3. Gun Violence Archive. (2024). Mass shootings in 2024. <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/query/0484b316-f676-44bc-97ed-ecefeabae077/map>
4. Kegler, S. R., Simon, R. R., & Sumner, S. A. (2023). Notes from the field: Firearm homicide rates, by race and ethnicity – United States, 2019-2022. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 72(42), 1149-150. Retrieved from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7242a4.htm>
5. NBC News. (2023). New details emerge on how 6-year-old boy who shot Virginia teacher got mom's gun. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/new-details-emerge-6-year-old-boy-shot-virginia-teacher-got-moms-gun-rcna98995>