

35th National Black Nurses Day on Capitol Hill Health Equity, Reckoning & Wellness: NBNA's Renewed Call to Action

Gun Violence: America's Continued Crisis

The National Black Nurses Association supports comprehensive efforts to reduce gun violence and its devastating effects on communities of color. 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. Moreover, gun violence disproportionately impacts the physical, mental, and social well-being of Black communities.

Background

Multifaceted and comprehensive measures are sorely needed to reverse the following outcomes of continued gun violence:

- In 2022 there were **705 mass shootings** in the U.S. killing 736 people and injuring another 2,785
 - Recent mass shootings have occurred at schools (Uvalde, TX: 21 Dead; Sandy Hook elementary: 20 Children & 7 Teachers Dead), places of worship (Pittsburgh, PA: 11 Dead), nightclubs (Orlando, FL: 49 Dead), grocery stores (Buffalo, NY: 10 Dead), and at universities (UVA: 3 Dead, 2 injured).
- Gun violence costs the U.S. **\$280 billion annually**.
- As of November 2022 **39,935** people in the U.S. had died from gun related violence
 - 18,221 of these gun deaths were related to murder / homicide
 - 21,714 of these gun deaths were related to suicide
 - 291 of these gun deaths were children
 - 1,225 of these gun deaths were teenagers 12 – 17 years old
 - 50 Women are shot to death each month by intimate partners
 - Over 1,300 Children die each year from gun related injuries
 - Gun-related homicides increased from 2016 to 2020, from a rate of 37.6 per 100,000 people to 45.4 per 100,000 people
- While gun violence affects all communities in the United States, gun violence has a disproportionate impact on young adults, males, and racial ethnic minorities.
 - Among U.S. residents ages 15-24, gun related homicide is the fourth leading cause of death for non-Hispanic whites, the second leading cause of death for Hispanics and the leading cause of death for non-Hispanic blacks

Recommendations to Legislators

NBNA calls upon the 118th Congress to:

- 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.

- Support legislation that limits overall access to semiautomatic assault weapons
 - **H.R.1808 - Assault Weapons Ban of 2022**
- Increase funding in FY 2022 - 2023 to \$50 Million (from \$23.5 million in 2022) for the National Violent Death Reporting System to fund all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia.
 - Increased funding will provide a more complete picture of gun violence in the U.S
- Support current recommendations from the American Public Health Association and other organizations requesting common sense measures to reduce gun violence namely but not limited to:
 - Requiring and strengthening criminal background checks for all firearm purchases, including all firearms sold at gun shows and on the internet.
 - Banning high-capacity magazines, passing safe storage laws, and strengthening background checks
 - **H.R.8 - Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2021:** establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties
- Support legislation to provide funding for gun violence research, and to develop prevention measures.
 - **H.R.1576 - National Gun Violence Research Act:** Would establish the National Gun Violence Research Program to promote gun violence research and grant funding mechanism.

References

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3. Follman M, Lurie J, Lee J, West J. The true cost of gun violence in America. Mother Jones. Available at: <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2015/04/true-cost-of-gun-violence-in-america/>.
4. Gun Violence Archive. (2022). Number of Injuries in 2022. Washington, DC: <https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/reports/number-of-gun-injuries?year=2022>
5. PBS News Hour, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/about-2-in-10-americans-report-experience-or-connection-to-gun-violence-poll>