

Quiz

Gun Violence

1. How many guns are available in the US *per resident*?

- 2
- 4
- 1
- 3

2. Of all gun deaths in the U.S., what percentage are due to homicide (vs. suicide or accident)?

- 20%
- 43%
- 37%
- 54%

3. What country has the highest percentage of homicides caused by gun violence?

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- Canada

4. Of all countries in the world, where does the United States rank in the total number of annual gun-related deaths (including homicides, suicides & accidents)?

- First
- Second
- Fifth
- Eighth

5. How many “active shooter incidents” have occurred in the U.S. since 2000, and how many people were killed due to these incidents?

- 345 active shooter incidents / 1000 deaths
- 200 active shooter incidents / 760 deaths
- 520 active shooter incidents / 2000 deaths
- 75 active shooter incidents / 550 deaths

6. How many U.S. states currently have a ban on assault weapons?

- 14
- 12
- 17
- 8

7. Who spends more money in the political arena?

_____ Gun rights advocates

_____ Gun control advocates

_____ They both get the same amount of money from the government

8. Every day, on average, how many children (age 1-17) are shot in the U.S.?

- 6
- 12
- 22
- 38

9. As of June 2022, how many shooting incidents have there been this year in Portland according to the Portland Police Bureau?

- 220
- 423
- 673
- 1029

In the presence of evil, we fill our hearts even more . . .

. . . with Scripture

Isaiah 2:4 They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; One nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again.

Isaiah 11:6-9 Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them. The cow and the bear shall graze, together their young shall lie down; the lion shall eat hay like the ox. The baby shall play by the viper's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair. They shall not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD,

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

Luke 1:78-79 By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Other . . .

3 WAYS CATHOLICS CAN RESPOND TO GUN VIOLENCE

PRAY

Prayer and good thoughts aren't enough. But prayer does two things. First, it reminds us that our response to violence must always be grounded in the love and mercy of Christ. Second, it keeps us from despair and gives us hope enough to take action because when we pray we entrust our lives to God who accompanies us even in our fear, grief, and anger. God will never abandon us.

- Pray for those who have died
- Pray for those who were wounded and are struggling to survive and for their families and friends
- Pray for the first-responders, caregivers, and good Samaritans
- Pray for those who committed the violence, for mercy for them in both life and death
- Pray for lawmakers and those who have influence to change the structures that promote and enable gun violence
- Remember all these persons in the intercessions at Sunday and daily Mass



[*Click here for a Prayer in Time of Violence](#)

REFLECT



As Christians, we are members of the body of Christ. That means that we never act alone. We have the Scriptures and the tradition of the Church, the communion of saints, and the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us. Discern how you are being called to action by reflecting on Jesus in the Gospels, the teaching of the Church, and the lives of the saints. Be informed.

- Read the Catechism of the Catholic Church:
 - 2234-2243: On the duties of civil authorities and citizens
 - 2258-2301: On respect for human life and the dignity of persons
 - 2302-2317: On safeguarding peace

[*Click here to know what the United States Bishops say about gun violence](#)

[*Click here to read what Pope Francis said about the wide actions of violence](#)

→ ACT ←

At the end of the Mass, we are commissioned to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by [our] life." We cannot remain isolated in the comfort of our churches. We are mandated to put our faith into visible action by the daily works of our lives. Find ways, big and small, to take actions that are doable for you but that also challenge you to grow deeper in faith and show more boldly the credibility of your Christian witness. Make a commitment to do small things with great love.

- Donate blood or give to a charity that assists victims of violence
- Get involved in your parish or diocesan efforts for justice
- Know what Congress is doing to address gun violence and encourage those who represent you to vote for and uphold the common good

[*Click here for the United States Bishops' "Take Action" website to learn about current legislation and how to contact your local officials.](#)

*If the links do not work, go to TeamRCIA.com or Liturgy.life to download the PDF with hyperlinks.
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Oregon's gun laws explained

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As people consider changes to local and national gun laws, here are some frequently asked questions and details about the current landscape of gun rules in Oregon. Mark Graves/StaffLC-

By [Catalina Gaitán | The Oregonian/OregonLive.com](#)

Late on a Friday afternoon in November 1999, the mood on the Oregon Senate floor was tense. After months of negotiation, legislators were almost ready to vote on a bill to require people buying guns at gun shows to undergo criminal background checks. Eighty percent of Oregon voters supported the bill, as the state continued to reel from mass shootings at Thurston High School and Columbine High School.

Sen. John Lim, a Republican from Gresham, rose from his desk. To gasps from the audience, Lim asked for permission to display a gun and quickly pulled a squirt gun from his coat pocket. Lim said he had come to appreciate the right to bear arms, but didn't reveal how he would vote. He later said the squirt gun was his idea of humor.

The roll call finally came. "Nay," Lim said. The bill failed, one vote short of the majority it needed.

More than 20 years later and in the wake of mass shootings in Buffalo, N.Y., Uvalde, Texas, and Highland Park, Ill., state and federal legislators are considering gun laws that advocates say will make gun violence less frequent and less deadly.

Oregon voters also are expected to get their own chance to weigh in on the debate in November. Backers say they have collected enough signatures to get a measure on the ballot calling for permits and background checks before people can buy a gun and a ban on the sale of gun magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

As people consider changes to local and national gun laws, here are some frequently asked questions and details about the current landscape of gun rules in Oregon.

***Editor's note:** The information doesn't represent an exhaustive list or complete description of every firearm-related law and regulation in Oregon. The information was compiled from [Oregon State Police](#), [Oregon statutes](#) and local ordinances.*

Frequently asked questions

What does the Oregon Constitution have to say about gun possession?

It enshrines the right of Oregonians to [bear arms for defense](#) "of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power."

How old do I have to be to buy a gun in Oregon?

You must be at least 18 years old to purchase all guns except handguns in Oregon. You must be 21 to buy a handgun under federal law. [[ORS 166.250](#), [18 U.S.C. 922\(b\)\(1\)](#)]

Do I need a license or a permit to buy or possess a gun in Oregon?

No. Any U.S. citizen in Oregon who is over 18 years old and isn't prohibited from owning a gun is allowed to have one within their place of business or their residence. ([ORS 166.250](#))

Do I have to undergo a criminal background check to buy or possess a gun in Oregon?

In most cases, you must first undergo a criminal background check by Oregon State Police, who review state and federal databases to determine a person's eligibility to buy or possess a gun. A person can get a gun without a completed background check if state police fail to return results within three business days. ([ORS 166.436](#), [Oregon State Police](#))

You are not required to undergo a criminal background check if a person transfers a gun to you and knows, or should reasonably know, that you are not prohibited from having one. This includes getting a gun from your spouse or domestic partner, parent or stepparent, child or stepchild, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, aunt or uncle, first cousin, niece or nephew, or the spouse or domestic partner of any of those previously mentioned. ([ORS 166.435](#))

Are minors allowed to have guns in Oregon?

Sometimes. ([ORS 166.250](#))

Minors aren't allowed to buy guns in Oregon, but they are allowed to be given one – as long as it's not a handgun – by their parent or guardian or with their parent or guardian's consent.

Minors in Oregon are allowed to temporarily possess guns – including handguns – for "lawful purposes," such as hunting or doing target practice at a designated shooting range.

Are there limits on the number of rounds in a magazine a person can buy in Oregon?

No (except regulations for bird- and large game-hunting, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife).

Do I need to receive any safety training before buying or possessing a gun in Oregon?

No (unless you want a concealed handgun license).

Am I allowed to own an semi-automatic rifle (such as an AR-15) in Oregon?

Yes.

What kind of guns aren't allowed in Oregon?

It is a Class B felony in Oregon to possess a machine gun, short-barreled rifle, short-barreled shotgun or firearms silencer if it isn't registered, as required by the 1934 [National Firearms Act](#). ([ORS 166.272](#))

What's the process for buying a gun in Oregon?

There are five main steps:

- Buyers present a gun dealer with a valid piece of identification that includes their date of birth and a recent photograph
- Gun dealers complete a gun transaction record that includes the buyer's signature and thumbprints
- Gun dealers submit a criminal background check request via an online portal or telephone number operated by the Oregon State Police [Firearms Instant Check System](#) unit. This request will include the:
 - gun dealer's name, federal gun license number and business name
 - location of the transfer

- make, model, caliber and manufacturer's number of the gun
- name and date of birth of the person buying the gun
- Social Security number of the gun buyer (if they voluntarily provide it)
- type, issuer and number of the identification presented by the buyer
- Oregon State Police determine whether the buyer is prohibited from possessing a gun. (If they can't provide the gun dealer an answer within 30 minutes, Oregon State Police must give a time estimate of when they expect to know. If the gun dealer does not receive an answer from Oregon State Police within three business days after submitting the request, the gun dealer may deliver the gun to the buyer.)
- If the buyer passes the criminal background check, the seller can deliver the gun (which must be unloaded).

([ORS 166.412](#), [Oregon State Police](#))

What happens when someone fails a criminal background check?

Oregon State Police must report the attempted illegal purchase to all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and to district attorneys who have jurisdiction over where the attempted purchase occurred and where the buyer lives. ([ORS 166.412](#))

Can I buy a gun from someone who isn't a licensed gun dealer?

Yes, but you must complete the transfer via a licensed gun dealer. ([ORS 166.435](#))

The seller and buyer must both appear with the gun before a licensed gun dealer and request that a criminal background check be done on the buyer. (If the buyer and seller live over 40 miles apart, the seller can ship or deliver the gun to a gun dealer located near the buyer and does not have to appear before the gun dealer in person.)

Is it legal to open-carry a gun in Oregon?

Yes, unless you are in a city or county with ordinances regulating, restricting or prohibiting possession of loaded guns in public places or if you are in a public space where guns are prohibited by state law. ([ORS 166.173](#), [SB 554](#))

Both [Portland](#) and [Multnomah County](#) passed ordinances making it illegal for most people to carry a loaded gun in public places. Authorized people including law enforcement officers, concealed handgun licensees and members of the military performing official duties are exempt from those ordinances.

Is it legal to carry a concealed handgun in Oregon?

Yes, with a concealed handgun license issued by an Oregon county sheriff. ([ORS 166.291](#))

To be issued a concealed handgun license, a person must:

- Be at least 21 years old
- Be a resident of the county where they are applying
- Have proof of completing a gun safety or training course
- Be either a U.S. citizen or a legal resident who has lived in the country continuously for at least six months and has declared an intent to become a U.S. citizen, and can present proof of that declaration to a sheriff at the time of the application

A county sheriff will deny a concealed handgun license application if applicants:

- Have an outstanding warrant for their arrest

- Are on any form of pre-trial release
- Have a felony conviction or have been found guilty, except for insanity, of a felony
- Are subject to a court order prohibiting them from buying or possessing a firearm
- Are a registered sex offender in any state
- Have been convicted of stalking
- Were dishonorably discharged from the U.S. Armed Forces (check ap style)

It is illegal in Oregon to carry a gun – loaded or unloaded – into state Capitol buildings, court facilities and passenger terminals of major airports. Public school districts, community colleges and universities in Oregon also can set their own gun ban policies. ([SB 554](#))

Who isn't allowed to possess a gun in Oregon?

Those who:

- Are under 18 (except under the conditions outlined above)
- Have been convicted of a felony
- Are subject to a court order prohibiting them from buying or possessing a gun
- Have been found guilty except for insanity of a felony
- Have been convicted of stalking or domestic violence
- Were determined by a court to have a mental illness and were committed to the Oregon Health Authority
- Are subject to a restraining order
- Were determined by a court to represent a credible threat to the physical safety of their child, a family or household member or a child of a family or household member
- Were convicted of a violent misdemeanor within the previous four years

([ORS 166.250](#), [ORS 166.470](#), [ORS 166.255](#))

Does Oregon have a “Red Flag Law?”

In Oregon, a law enforcement officer, intimate partner or family or household member can file a petition requesting that a circuit court issue an “[extreme risk protection order](#),” which prohibits a person from possessing, or attempting to possess, a deadly weapon, including guns. The court will issue the order if it finds that the person presents an immediate or imminent risk of suicide or of causing physical injury to another person. The person then has 24 hours to surrender all deadly weapons in their custody and concealed handgun licenses they have to a local law enforcement agency, gun dealer or person who can lawfully possess them.

The order lasts for one year, beginning on the date it was issued, unless it is terminated or dismissed by a court. Courts can renew the order if a judge believes the person is still a risk. ([ORS 166.527](#))

Do I have to store my gun when I'm not using it in Oregon?

Yes.

Gun owners in Oregon must store guns in a gun room or safe or use a trigger lock when they are not being carried or under their control. A gun is not considered secured if a key or combination to the trigger, cable lock or container is readily available to a person who is not authorized to possess the gun, or if the gun is left unattended in a vehicle and is visible from outside of the vehicle. ([SB 554](#))

-- Catalina Gaitán

CORRECTION: It is legal for concealed handgun licensees to carry a gun in city halls and hospitals.

GUN VIOLENCE IN THE UNITED STATES

How many people are shot in the U.S.? How many Americans are injured by guns? These are important questions to answer. We need reliable gun violence data in order to accurately understand America's gun violence epidemic.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) provides [annual gun fatality data](#). Using data from the most recent years available (2015-2019), Brady established five-year averages of firearm fatalities.

EVERY YEAR ON AVERAGE

115,551

People are shot

FATALITIES

38,826

People die from gun violence

14,062
murdered

23,437
die from suicide

483
killed unintentionally

521
killed by legal intervention

324
died but intent was unknown

547*
women killed by husband or male dating partner*

GUN INJURIES

76,725

People survive gun injuries

34,566
intentionally shot by someone else

3,554
survive an attempted gun suicide

32,759
shot unintentionally

1,376
shot by legal intervention

4,471
shot but intent was unknown

7,957

Children and teens (age 1-17) are shot

FATALITIES

1,663

Kids & teens die from gun violence

864
murdered

662
die from gun suicide

89
killed unintentionally

10
killed by legal intervention

38
die but intent was unknown

GUN INJURIES

6,294

Children & teens survive gunshot injuries

2,788
intentionally shot by someone else

166
survive an attempted gun suicide

2,893
shot unintentionally

101
shot by legal intervention

380
shot but intent was unknown

*This number is a five-year average derived from Violence Policy Center's "When Men Murder Women" analysis of FBI homicide data, 2014-18 (the five most recent years available for this).



BRADY
UNITED AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE

EVERY DAY ON AVERAGE

316

People are shot

FATALITIES

106

People die from gun violence

39

murdered

64

die from suicide

1

killed unintentionally

1

killed by legal intervention

1

died but intent was unknown

GUN INJURIES

210

People survive gun injuries

95

intentionally shot by someone else

10

survive an attempted gun suicide

90

shot unintentionally

4

shot by legal intervention

12

shot but intent was unknown

22

Children and teens (age 1-17) are shot

FATALITIES

5

Kids & teens die from gun violence

2

murdered

2

children and teens either die from suicide or survive a suicide attempt.

8

children and teens are unintentionally shot in instances of family fire – a shooting involving an improperly stored or misused gun found in the home, resulting in injury or death.

GUN INJURIES

17

Children & teens survive gunshot injuries

8

intentionally shot by someone else

While Brady historically used CDC data to establish averages for gun injuries as well, [recent findings show there are more accurate sources](#). Due to funding restrictions and other constraints, the sample size utilized by the CDC is so small that its estimate of firearm injuries [ranges significantly](#). Data provided by Healthcare Cost and Utilization Project's [HCUPnet](#), and collected from emergency departments and databases, gives a more comprehensive picture of gun injuries in the U.S. The numbers below represent a three-year average of the **most recent** HCUPnet data available (2013, '14, and '16). It is important to note that data reported for children and teens contains data only for 1-17 year-olds.