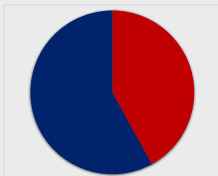


# IT'S TIME TO TALK ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE IN TENNESSEE

## Shifting Opinions on Gun Law Reform in Tennessee

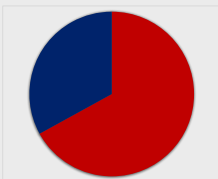
Support for Stronger Gun Laws  
2018

58%  
Support



Support for Stronger Gun Laws  
2016

35%  
Support



## Safe Storage Saves Lives

Tennessee has an ongoing problem with children gaining access to unsecured and loaded firearms. In 2017, 13 children died when they unintentionally shot themselves or were shot by another child.

We fully support firearm safety training for children, but understand that no amount of training is a substitute for safe and responsible storage of firearms.

Academic research and a recent report from the US Government Accountability Office have concluded that children who participate in firearm safety training are just as likely to pick up a negligently stored gun as those who do not participate in the training.

Storing guns responsibly can not only prevent unintentional shootings, it can also prevent teen and tween firearm suicides and guns being taken to school. Most school shooters bring guns from home. It also can prevent theft.

## Want to get involved?

[info@safetennesseeproject.org](mailto:info@safetennesseeproject.org)

**Beth Joslin Roth**

Executive Director

**Jonathan Metzl, MD, PhD**

Research Director

@jonathanmetzl



facebook.com/safetennesseeproject



@safetenn

## TENNESSEE HAS A GUN VIOLENCE PROBLEM

We often hear that more guns more places makes us safer. Tennessee actually has a large percentage of gun owners. Estimates indicate that as many as 43% of Tennesseans are gun owners with as many as 250,000 registered as gun permit holders. If more guns make us safer, we should see less crime and gun violence in our state. In fact, Tennessee should be one of the safest states in the country.

### YET:

Tennessee is the **3rd most dangerous state**, according to most recent violent crime data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Report.

Tennessee is **11th in the nation for death by firearm**, according to 2017 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tennessee is **7th in the nation for death by firearm**, according to 2017 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tennessee is **4th in the nation for death by firearm for ages 0-19**, according to 2017 data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Between 2007 and 2017, **firearm mortality increased 53 percent for ages 0-19**, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Tennessee is **5th in the nation for women murdered by men**, most often with a gun, according to the Violence Policy Center.

Tennessee is **8th in the nation for black homicide victimization**, most often with a gun, according to the Violence Policy Center.

In 2017, **Knoxville broke a 19-year homicide record**. In 2016, **Memphis broke a 20-year homicide record**. In Nashville, **murders have increased nearly 160% over the last four years**.

In 2017, **Memphis had a higher homicide rate (27.7) than Chicago (24.1)**, according to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Report.

Since 2013, **gun thefts from vehicles have increased 256 percent in Memphis**. According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, **gun thefts from vehicles increased 85 percent statewide between 2016 and 2017**.

According to the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, **over 55 Tennesseans per month take their own life with a gun**. Firearm suicides are unique in their impulsivity and lethality. **There were more firearm suicides in 2017 than any previous year on record**.

Between 2007 and 2017, **youth firearm suicides increased 55 percent**, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

According to the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, **in 2018, over 2800 handgun carry permits were suspended or revoked**. Over 2600 were denied. The number of revocations in 2017, 931, was the highest on record and more than double the number of revocation in 2017.

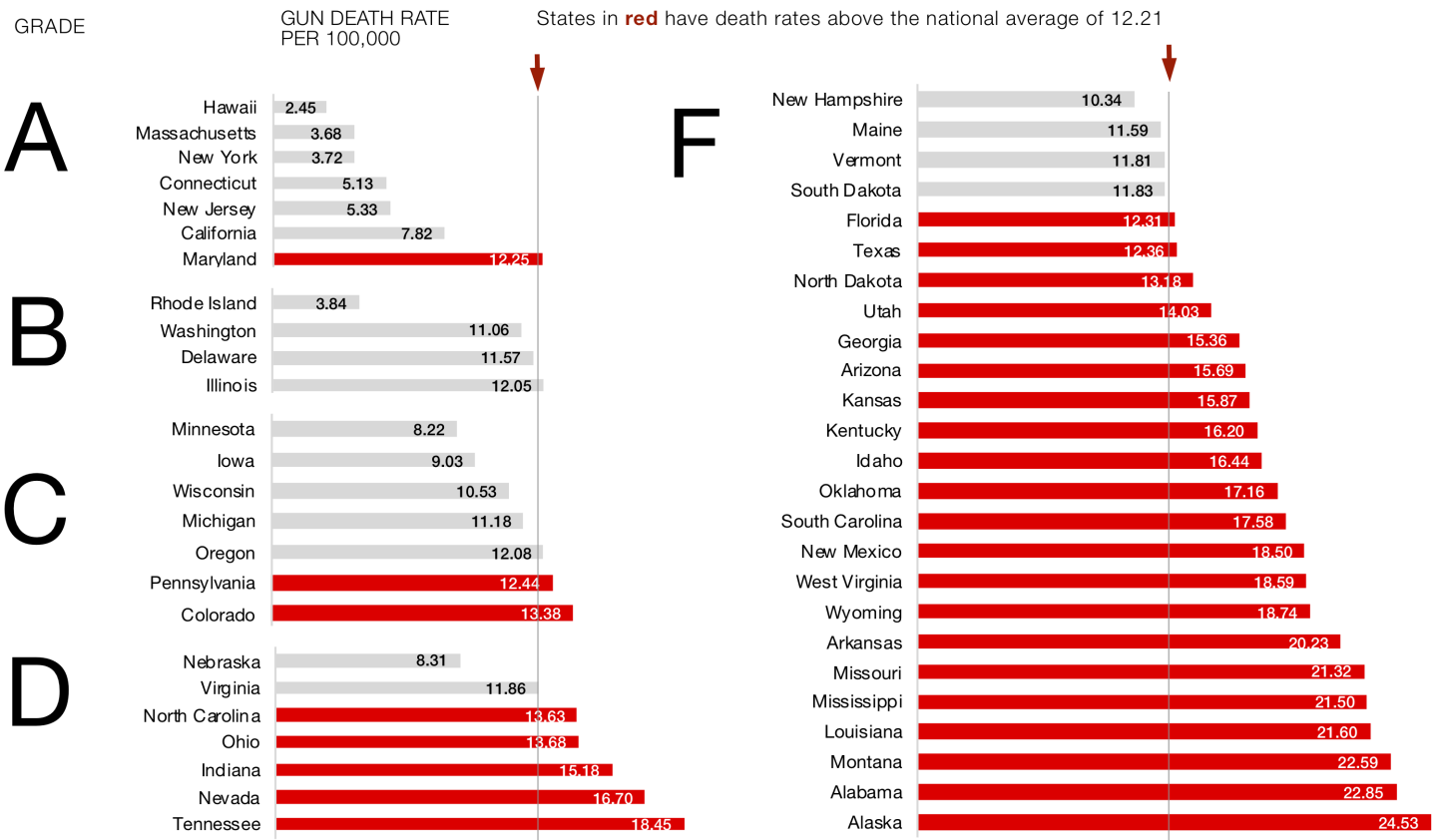
In 2018, According to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, over **20,000 firearm transactions were denied**. In 2018, **436 wanted persons were identified by the background check system** when they attempted to purchase a firearm.

The Safe Tennessee Project is a nonpartisan organization made up of physicians, academics, and concerned citizens dedicated to addressing the epidemic of gun violence in Tennessee through education, community outreach, and policy advocacy.



# STRONGER GUN LAWS = LESS GUN DEATH

States with stronger gun laws tend to have lower gun death rates. In its grading system, The Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence gives states with strong gun laws an 'A' while the weakest are given an 'F.' States with 'A' grades have implemented laws such as expanded background checks, extreme risk protection orders, no third party firearm dispossession, and stringent requirements to obtain a gun permit. Firearm mortality includes all forms of fatal gun violence: homicides, suicides, and unintentional shooting deaths. Both the gun death rates and gun grades are for 2017, the most recent year gun death data is available.



## POLICIES WE SUPPORT

**Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs):** Also known as “red flag laws”, ERPO legislation would allow immediate family members or members of law enforcement to petition a judge to temporarily remove firearms from a person deemed to be an immediate risk to themselves or others while ensuring critical legal protections for respondents.

**Strengthening Firearm Dispossession:** Legislation that would require any third party taking possession of firearms belonging to a convicted domestic accuser to submit an affidavit acknowledging receipt of the offenders guns and affirming that third party is legally allowed to possess firearms.

**MaKayla’s Law:** Legislation that would charge adults whose choice to leave a loaded firearm accessible to a child under 13 results in injury or death with reckless engagement.

**Expanded Background Checks:** Legislation that would expand background checks to all gun sales, not only those from a licensed dealer. Around 80% of Tennesseans support expanding background checks.

**Funding for community groups and violence interrupters:** Evidence-based violence intervention and prevention programs designed to interrupt cycles of violence save lives and taxpayer dollars. Evaluations have found that these programs are associated with significant reductions in gun homicides, with some cities reporting up to 70 percent reductions in homicides and assaults. We support any legislative efforts to prioritize support and funding for nonprofits working in communities disproportionately impacted by gun violence.