



May 2023 Gun Violence Prevention



Sedona residents march in solidarity with the newly formed “March for Our Lives” organization—calling for an end to gun violence following the Parkland, Florida school shooting. Hundreds of sister marches were held on 3/24/18.

School shootings and mass shootings have become a routine occurrence:

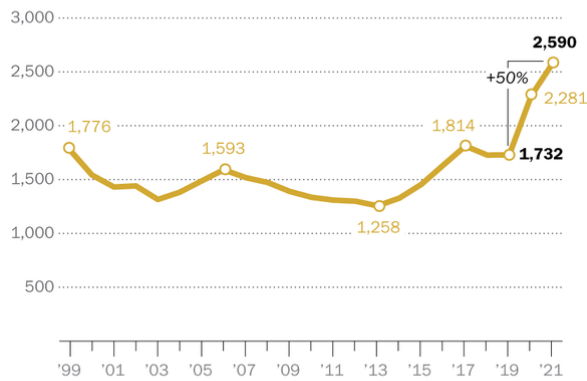
Recently, The Washington Post reported that there have been 377 school shootings in the United States since 1999. Mexico is ranked second for this time period, with 8. It is estimated that at least 199 children, educators, and other people have been

killed, and another 424 have been injured. In mass shootings since 2015, more than 19,000 people have been shot and killed. Overall firearm related deaths in the U.S. were 44,851 in 2021.

The pandemic spurred a 20% increase in gun sales, in conjunction with a 50% [increase](#) in gun deaths between 2019 and 2021. Firearms are now the [leading](#) cause of death in children, surpassing motor vehicle accidents and cancer.

Gun deaths among U.S. kids increased 50% between 2019 and 2021

Gun deaths among U.S. children and teens under 18



Note: Includes homicides, suicides, accidents and all other categories of gun deaths. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Firearms are the leading cause of death for American children.



BE SMART

CDC WONDER, Underlying Cause of Death, 2021, Ages 1-17.

Learn more about secure gun storage
[BeSMARTforKids.org](https://www.BeSMARTforKids.org)

Our LD1 State Representatives believe the answer is putting more guns in schools:

AZ State Representative Selina Bliss (R-LD1, Prescott/Sedona) sponsored bill HB2332– mandating firearms training for grades 6 through 12. The proposed firearms handling training would focus on the safe handling of firearms, identifying danger signs, and storing firearms properly. It is troubling that in-kind donations of materials, equipment, or services to be used in the training can also be accepted from any person or legal entity with no safety provisions. Opponents of this bill point out that the language is identical to the [NRA's "Eddie Eagle" program](#), and would result in normalizing and promoting gun culture while traumatizing our kids. Although children may be opted out by their parents, in other controversial programs such as sexual education, parents have to opt their kids in. All 3 of our representatives voted yes on this bill, which was [vetoed](#) by Gov. Katie Hobbs on 4/17/23.

AZ State Representative Quang Nguyen (R-LD1, Prescott/Sedona) sponsored the same bill above in 2022, which passed in the Arizona House—but failed to reach the floor in the Senate. **AZ Senator Ken Bennett** (R-LD1, Prescott/Sedona) has also voted along party lines to support several bad gun bills this session.

Other bad ideas passed in the Arizona House and/or Senate:

- \$10 million dollar pilot program to qualify teachers and staff to carry concealed weapons on school grounds.
- Exempting firearms or ammo that are “modified” in Arizona from federal regulation.
- Prohibiting Arizona’s universities and community colleges from banning anyone with a concealed weapons permit.
- Legalizing gun silencers. [Vetoed](#)
- Banning state government and banks from contracting with any company that "discriminates" against weapons manufacturers. [Vetoed](#)
- Allowing parents with concealed weapons permits to carry firearms on school grounds. [Vetoed](#)
- Ban cities from prohibiting or regulating gun shows within their boundaries. [Vetoed](#)

Take it outside the classroom:

If we had a Democratic-majority in the legislature, we could be having a different discussion about gun safety for classrooms.

Moms Demand Action, a nonprofit group advocating for stronger gun laws, has their own firearms safety program called [Be SMART](#)—an acronym for Secure, Model, Ask, Recognize and Tell. The program is aimed at **parents** and firearms owners to take responsibility, and not put the onus on children. This educational program goes out into communities instead of school classrooms.

3/4

of school shooters
acquired their firearm
from the home of a
parent or close relative.



BeSMARTforKids.org

**4.6 million children
in the US live in a
household with at
least one loaded,
unlocked gun.**

**Don't let your child
be one of them.**



Learn more about secure gun storage
BeSMARTforKids.org

Our new CD2 Congressman Eli Crane (who defeated Tom O'Halleran) has a gun focused newsletter:



Image above is the letterhead featured in U.S. Rep. Eli Crane's constituent newsletter.

"I know what the Left is trying to do when it comes to the Second Amendment — they're trying to take our firearms away." "When I vote regarding the Second Amendment, I'm going to continue to support the Constitution and what it says: our rights shall not be infringed." "I'm not going to support red flag laws," "I know what's going to happen. Anything and everything that the Left is allowed to get a foothold in will be weaponized to take away rights and freedoms from Americans. I'm never going to be a part of that." —[Rep. Eli Crane](#)

How Democrats in the Arizona Legislature are addressing gun violence:

State Representative **Jennifer Longdon** (D-5 Phoenix), who herself is a gun violence victim, authored 2023's most high-profile gun safety bill called, "[Christian's Law](#)." Named after a 15-year-old from Gilbert, AZ who was shot and killed at a sleepover, Christian's Law is just one of her many attempts to bring gun legislation up for a vote to no avail. This law would have required gun owners to safely lock their firearms when not in use, but failed to attract any Republican support. Longdon sponsored [10 additional gun safety bills](#) ignored by Republican majority leadership.

State Representative **Laura Terech** (D-4 N. Scottsdale/Paradise Valley) sponsored [HB2075](#), which would ban public requests for blueprints of school layouts. It passed unanimously with bipartisan support in committees, until Republican leadership [changed the rules for hearing Democratic-sponsored bills on the floor](#). Democrats must now obtain 16 signatures from Republicans for their bills to receive a floor vote. Rep. Terech had 12 Republicans sign-on before the remainder hesitated, offering their verbal support but reluctant to officially buck their party.

Winning the long game—grassroots groups have a huge impact:

[Moms Demand Action](#) is the nation's largest grassroots gun violence prevention movement—there are chapters in Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. Founder Shannon Watts was a stay-at-home mom whose anger and sadness about the Sandy Hook shooting was transformed into action. Watts began her journey with a Facebook post in 2012 that called for people to mobilize with strength in numbers in Washington DC. What resulted was the "Million Mom March" in 2013. Over the past decade, their group has grown as a potent threat to the National Rifle Association's decades long stranglehold on gun politics. Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action, Mayors Against Illegal Guns, and The Everytown Survivor network are all part of one parent organization: [Everytown For Gun Safety](#).



Mark Follman ✓
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I first spoke with [@shannonrwatts](#) in Indianapolis in April 2014. The NRA was holding its convention there then too, just down the block. Sandy Hook was still raw. The NRA had no idea what was coming for them. [@MomsDemand](#) has been key to their decline since



motherjones.com

These women are the NRA's worst nightmare

Can Moms Demand Action do to gun extremists what MADD did to drunk drivers?

2:11 PM · Apr 13, 2023 · 1,494 Views

Generation Z youth are engaged:

[March for Our Lives](#) is a courageous youth-led movement dedicated to promoting civic engagement, education, and direct action by youth to eliminate gun violence. In response to the Parkland shooting in Florida, a group of surviving students organized a "March for Our Lives" in Washington DC in 2018. In June of 2022, another March for Our Lives was once again held in Washington DC, and 400+ sibling marches were held in other cities across the country. March for our Lives developed an educational framework called the [Five Forces Fueling Gun Violence](#) to address the systemic causes that allow gun violence to persist. Another Gen Z group called [Students Demand Action](#) is a spinoff of Moms Demand Action, with 600 chapters in high schools and college campuses.

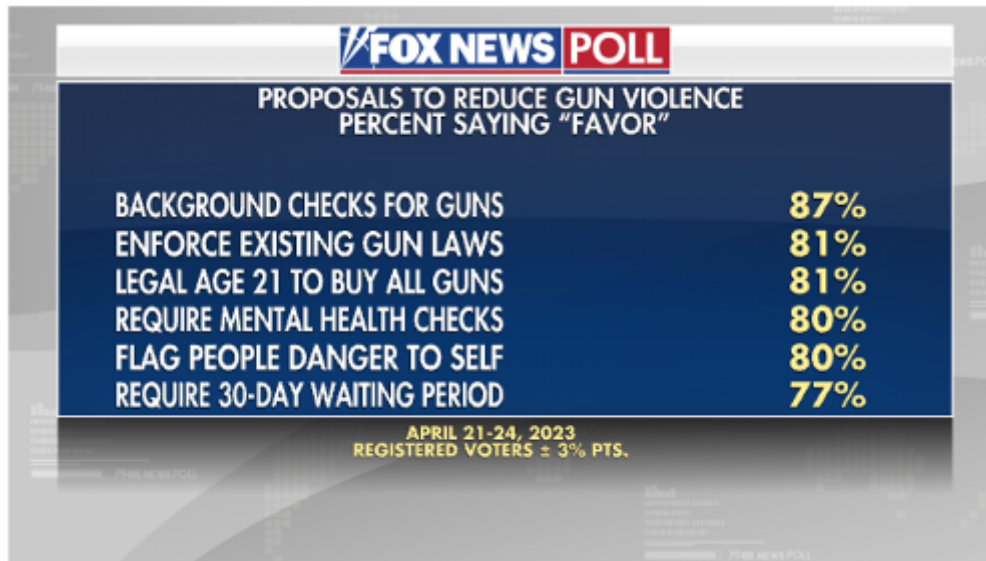
March for Our Lives'
Five Forces Fueling Gun Violence:

1. *Gun Glorification*
2. *Armed Supremacy*
3. *Political Action and Corruption*
4. *Poverty*
5. *A National Mental Health Crisis*

The vast majority of gun owners support specific gun safety policies:

A recent study was covered in Politico about [Republican gun owner support](#) of specific gun safety measures. In the study, nearly three-quarters of gun owners expressed concern about school shootings, while 71% percent expressed concern about mass shootings. 66% of respondents are concerned about the rise in homicides and gun crimes in cities related to guns. More than 80% of respondents believe that someone convicted of a violent crime shouldn't be able to purchase or possess a gun. Disturbingly, only a third of gun owners in this study support bans on automatic weapons and magazines, which are now a quarter of all gun sales.

NEW: April 2023 Fox News Poll— Voters favor gun limits over arming citizens to reduce gun violence:



Fox News poll on gun violence and the Second Amendment. (Fox News)

Biden signs bipartisan gun safety bill into law:

After nearly three decades, Congress finally responded to mass shootings with a bipartisan gun safety bill [signed by President Biden in June](#). Among its [provisions](#) are enhanced background checks for individuals under 21 years of age, funding for mental health services and community violence prevention, increased protections for victims of domestic violence, and crackdowns on gun dealers evading federal licensing requirements. The bill was opposed by a majority of House Republicans, but passed in the House by a vote of 234–193, with 14 Republicans voting in favor alongside all 220 Democrats. Remarkably, Senator Mitch McConnell convinced 15 Republican senators to join 50 democrats voting for the bill. Critics say this bill doesn't go far enough, and is just the first concession of many that may come as public pressure continues to grow.

Action Items:

- **Call:** Keep the fire on elected officials. Continue hounding them on the fact that you are their voter, this is your priority, and this is your demand.
- **Educate:** Convince your friends and family that the gun safety movement has gained enormous momentum and headway. (Everytown now counts over 10 million supporters. (up from 2 million pre-Parkland, so it quintupled in five years.)
- **Vote:** Concerned citizens can take a play from the NRA playbook. Become single-issue voters for tougher gun laws until our country sees sustained and meaningful changes.

- **Participate:** Get involved with a gun violence prevention group! Donate or attend a meeting. There are already grassroots groups virtually everywhere. See resources below for suggestions.
- **Messaging Matters:** Language experts advise replacing the term “gun safety” (which some interpret as gun control) with “gun violence.” This addresses the violence-free world we want to see.

May DORR Breakfast

The May 2023 DORR hybrid breakfast will address gun violence. The meeting will be held from 9:30 am until 11 am on Friday, May 19 at the Sedona Community Center, 2615 Melody Lane. (\$10.00) Speakers to be announced shortly.

May Breakfast Zoom Link

Resources:

[Moms Demand Action](#) grassroots movement of Americans fighting for public safety measures that can protect people from gun violence, with 6 local chapters in Arizona.

[Students Demand Action](#) High school and college students organizing to end gun violence with over 600 local groups.

[March for Our Lives](#) a national student-led movement to end gun violence in America which has held over 450 marches worldwide.

[Change The Ref](#) an organization that aims to amplify and support youth efforts to expose the disastrous effects of the mass shooting pandemic.

[Giffords](#) gun violence research organization led by former US Congresswoman Gabby Giffords.

[Sandy Hook Promise](#) advocacy organization for gun safety reforms that has developed a “Know the Signs” program for schools and communities.

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