

What is gun violence prevention?

Gun violence prevention is a bipartisan effort – including gun owners, former gun owners, and non-gun owners – to reduce and prevent gun violence. Firearms are now the leading cause of death for children and young people in our country. We can all agree that we want the violence to stop.



How can I learn more about gun violence?

1. What is the state of gun violence in the US today:
<https://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>
2. What is the state of gun violence in my state today:
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/firearm_mortality/firearm.htm and
<https://www.theguardian.com/news/datablog/2011/jan/10/gun-crime-us-state>
3. How is my state doing with regard to gun violence prevention law:
<https://everytownresearch.org/rankings/compare/> and <https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/browse-gun-laws-by-state/>
4. What is happening around gun violence prevention in my state? Follow your local Moms Demand Action
<https://momsdemandaction.org/about/chapters/>
5. What does National PTA have to say about gun violence: <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/Position-Statement-Gun-Safety-and-Violence-Prevention#:~:text=National%20PTA%20believes%20we%20must,for%20sport%20and%20personal%20protection> and <https://www.pta.org/home/advocacy/ptas-positions/Individual-Position-Statements/Position-Statement-Firearms>
6. What is Washington State PTA policy on gun violence: <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/WSPTA-Resolution-2.23-Gun-Violence-Prev-and-Safety-May-2020.pdf> And <https://www.wastatepta.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/2023-2024-WSPTA-Legislative-Priorities-Oct-2023.pdf>
7. How many students have been impacted by gun violence at their schools:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/education/interactive/school-shootings-database/>
8. Learn about an effective nonprofit working to prevent gun violence in Washington state (sign up here for updates, browse the site for lots of great information): <https://gunresponsibility.org/gun-violence-washington/>
9. Is Washington a state with few firearms, making it “easy” to work on gun violence prevention? According to this CBS report from 2021, 42% of households in Washington own guns, compared to 46% in Texas and 35% in Florida. Gun violence prevention is a bipartisan effort. <https://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/gun-ownership-rates-by-state/51/>

What can I do to educate PTA members in my state:

1. Share information about the National PTA positions (see above) in your blogs or newsletters.
2. Get the conversation going about advocacy, gun violence prevention, and National PTA efforts: print out, laminate, and bring the National PTA positions to your PTA meetings and share them with the board / other attendees.
3. Learn how your PTA can adopt a resolution or position on gun violence prevention.
4. Invite your board to “affirm” the National PTA policies.

5. Invite members to sign up for your newsletters and action alerts! Washington state example here: <https://wastatepta.org/focus-areas/advocacy/>
6. Host an event to teach your members about safe storage. Some great programs include BeSmart <https://besmartforkids.org/> and the Brady Campaign <https://www.bradyunited.org/program/end-family-fire#:~:text=Safe%20storage%20is%20keeping%20your,safe%20by%20ending%20family%20fire>
7. Share out information about safe storage in multiple languages: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/violence-injury-prevention/violence-prevention/gun-violence/LOCK-IT-UP.aspx>
8. Advocate for your school district to disseminate information about safe storage to families. This is now the law in Washington state. The law is here: <https://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/House/1230.SL.pdf?q=20240205085358> and an example of how to share it is here: <https://www.mercerislandschools.org/programs-and-services/student-health-and-wellnes/safety>
9. Get gun locks from your local police and share them out at farmers markets, etc.
10. Find out whether the police will accept a surrendered weapon temporarily or permanently and publicize this to your members.
11. Encourage your members to ask questions about school safety https://www.pta.org/docs/default-source/files/programs/health/safe-schools_questions.pdf
12. Collaborate with your local mental health providers to train caregivers regarding suicide prevention with presentations such as: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/say-something/prevent-suicide-educational-training-for-awareness-and-prevention/>
13. Advocate for a tip line for your school such as <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/say-something-anonymous-reporting-system/>
14. Start a committee for gun violence prevention using the ideas above and your own ideas.
15. Reach me for questions at gloosmore@wastatepta.org

What other organizations are calling for gun violence prevention*?

1. American Academy of Pediatrics <https://www.aap.org/en/advocacy/gun-violence-prevention/>
2. International Association of Chiefs of Police https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2018-08/IACP%20Firearms%20Position%20Paper_2018.pdf
3. National Education Association <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/action-center/our-issues/gun-violence-prevention>
4. American Nurses Association <https://www.nursingworld.org/news/news-releases/2023/ana-2023-ma-gun-violence-recommendations/>
5. American Psychological Association <https://www.apa.org/topics/gun-violence-crime/prevention>
6. American School Counselor Association <https://www.schoolcounselor.org/Standards-Positions/Position-Statements/ASCA-Position-Statements/The-School-Counselor-and-Prevention-of-School-Rela>
7. American Hospital Association <https://www.aha.org/public-health-approach-addressing-gun-violence>
8. American Public Health Association <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/gun-violence>
9. United States Conference of Mayors <https://www.usmayors.org/issues/gun-violence/>
10. School superintendents, principals, and more: https://www.aasa.org/docs/default-source/advocacy/statement-from-national-education-organizations-on-gun-violence-prevention-package-in-senate.pdf?sfvrsn=9a9e6cb7_3

* Not a comprehensive list