

Young People Are Fighting For Safer Communities

Talking Points And Messaging

Young people are disproportionately affected by gun violence. The rate of gun deaths for young people during 2015 was 17.61 per every 100,000 people. This rate is 56 percent higher than the overall rate of gun deaths of 11.28 per every 100,000 people.

- Around 12,000 young Americans, ages 18 to 34, are killed and another 48,000 are injured with a gun every year. This means that young person is killed with a gun every 40 minutes and a young person is injured every 11 minutes.
- While homicides represent close to 59 percent of gun deaths of young people, suicides represent 37 percent.
- The states with the highest rates of gun deaths of young people are: Louisiana, Alaska, Alabama, Mississippi, and Maryland.
 - The states with the highest rates of gun homicides of young people are: Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Illinois, and Alabama.
 - The states with the highest rates of gun suicides of young people are: Alaska, Wyoming, Montana, New Mexico, and North Dakota.

There are clear race discrepancies in gun deaths of young Americans.

- 2006-2015 Rate of gun deaths per every 100,000 people:
 - African American - 51.8
 - National rate of young people - 18
 - American Indian/Alaska Native - 15.2
 - White Hispanics – 14.9
 - White Non-Hispanics – 11.9
 - Asian - 5

Close to 1,000 young people (ages 18 to 34) were shot by police officers from 2015 to 2016, according to information from the *Guardian*. This represents close to 49 percent of the total people shot and killed by police officers.

Young people overwhelmingly agree that the gun culture in our society is getting out of hand. It is time for young people to take charge of the future and advocate for common sense policies that work for our communities.

- 62 percent of young people are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports the goals of the Black Lives Matter movement to ensure equal treatment under the law of all Americans.
- 69 percent of young people are more likely to vote for a candidate who supports laws that prohibit gun purchases by perpetrators of hate crimes, individuals with ties to terrorist organizations, or individuals with a history of domestic violence.
- 71 percent of young people are more likely to vote for a candidate who is committed to holding law enforcement officers accountable for their actions, increasing officer and leadership diversity, and eliminating racial profiling.

This is why the voice of our generation is crucial. Our participation in the discussion around gun violence protection is vital to the success of the movement.