About Gun Violence*

America has a problem with gun violence

- One in three people in the U.S. know someone who has been shot.¹
- On average, 32 Americans are murdered with guns every day and 140 are treated for a gun assault in an emergency room.²
- Every day on average, 51 people kill themselves with a firearm, and 45 people are shot or killed in an accident with a gun.³
- The U.S. firearm homicide rate is 20 times higher than the combined rates of 22 countries that are our peers in wealth and population.⁴
- Although guns can and have been used successfully in self-defense in the home, a gun in the home is 22 times more likely to be used to kill or injure in a domestic homicide, suicide, or unintentional shooting than to be used in self-defense.⁵

Gun Violence Takes a Massive Toll on American Children

- Nearly one in four American teens have witnessed a shooting.
- An average of eight children and teens under the age of 20 are killed by guns every day.⁶
- American children die by guns 11 times as often as children in other high-income countries.⁷
- Youth (ages 0 to 19) in the most rural U.S. counties are as likely to die from a gunshot as those living in the most urban counties. Rural children die of more gun suicides and unintentional shooting deaths. Urban children die more often of gun homicides.⁸
- Firearm homicide is the second-leading cause of death (after motor vehicle crashes) for young people ages 1-19 in the U.S.⁹
- In 2007, more pre-school-aged children (85) were killed by guns than police officers were killed in the line of duty.¹⁰

Gun Violence is a Drain on U.S. Taxpayers

- Medical treatment, criminal justice proceedings, new security precautions, and reductions in quality of life are estimated to cost U.S. citizens $100 billion annually.¹¹
- The lifetime medical cost for all gun violence victims in the United States is estimated at $2.3 billion, with almost half the costs borne by taxpayers.¹²

Americans Support Universal Background Checks

- Nine out of 10 Americans agree that we should have universal background checks, including three out of four NRA members.
- Since the Brady Law was initially passed, about 2 million attempts to purchase firearms have been blocked due to a background check. About half of those were felons.¹³
- Unfortunately, our current background check system only applies to about 60% of gun sales, leaving 40% (online sales, purchases at gun shows, etc) without a background check.

*Brady Campaign bradycampaign.org

Sources:
¹⁰Children's Defense Fund, Protect Children Not Guns 2010, September 2010
From the inception of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993 on March 1, 1994, through December 31, 2010, approximately 2.1 million attempts to purchase a gun were blocked under the Brady law. Department of Justice. Bureau of Justice Statistics, \textit{Background Checks for Firearm Transfers, 2010: Statistical Tables} (February 2013), See Table 1

In our publication \textit{Gun Laws Matter 2012: Understanding the Link Between Weak Laws and Gun Violence}, the Law Center ranked each state based on a review of state laws in 29 different firearms-related policy areas. Florida ranked 25th out of 50 – having enacted a limited number of gun violence prevention laws. Among other things, Florida:

- Requires a three-day waiting period prior to purchase of a handgun;
- Imposes liability upon persons who fail to secure their firearms to make them inaccessible to children; and
- Prohibits the transfer or possession of certain types of ammunition.

Florida does not, however:

- Require a background check prior to the transfer of a firearm between private parties (although counties may impose such a requirement);
- Require firearms dealers to obtain a state license;
- License firearm owners;
- Require the registration of firearms;
- Regulate assault weapons, 50 caliber rifles, or large capacity ammunition magazines;
- Limit the number of firearms that may be purchased at one time; or
- Regulate unsafe handguns (“junk guns” or “Saturday night specials”).

Local governments in Florida generally lack authority to regulate firearms or ammunition, and the state requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to issue a license to carry a concealed weapon to any applicant who meets certain basic qualifications.

In 2009, 2,324 people died from firearm-related injuries in Florida. That year, Florida was a net importer of crime guns — guns originally purchased in another state that were recovered after being used in a crime in Florida.
Gun Safety - Take Action

Goals (Federal) – Taken from Moms Demand Action website
1. Require background checks for all gun and ammunition purchases;
2. Ban assault weapons and ammunition magazines that hold more than 10 rounds;
3. Track the sale of large quantities of ammunition, and ban online sales;
4. Establish product safety oversight of guns and ammunition, and require child-safe gun technology;
5. Support policies at companies and public institutions that promote gun safety;
6. Counter the gun industry’s efforts to weaken gun laws at the state level.

Goals (State)
Defeat HB 89 - Provides that defensive display of weapon or firearm, including discharge of firearm for purpose of warning shot, does not constitute use of deadly force
Pass Trayvon’s Law (3 Pillars) - a package of bills from the Dream Defenders that seeks to reverse state laws that allow people to shoot-and-kill first, then claim self-defense with impunity; that encourage racial-profiling; and that excessively punish black and brown school students for trivial offenses.
1. Repeal Stand Your Ground (Sen. Chris Smith is the lead on these efforts. See task force report at FloridaStandYourGround.org)
2. End Racial Profiling
3. Dismantle the Schools-to-Prison Pipeline (ending zero-tolerance policies; reducing police presence in schools)

Actions Needed:
• Call your legislators regularly to discuss gun safety (the pro-gun advocates call five times more than gun safety advocates)
• Track legislation introduced in U.S. Congress and the Florida Legislature
• Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper on gun safety issues, especially when legislation is introduced and following gun tragedies
• Use social media: follow gun safety-related people, organizations and hashtags on Twitter and Facebook; tweet and send Facebook messages to your legislators about gun safety
• Share information you have learned with others

Twitter: @DreamDefenders, @SmPenisGunClub, @MomsDemand, #racialprofiling, #TrayvonsLaw, #takeoverfl, #SYG

Resources:
Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
smartgunlaws.org

Mayors Against Illegal Guns
mayorsagainstillegalguns.org

Moms Demand Action
momsdemandaction.org

Americans for Responsible Solutions (Gabby Giffords)
americansforresponsibleolutions.org

Dream Defenders
dreamdefenders.org

Brady Campaign
bradycampaign.org

Florida Legislature
myfloridahouse.gov; flsenate.gov
Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida (Susan Smith, stsmith222@aol.com, @stsmith222)
progressivedemcaususfl.org