
Faith Response to Gun Violence in Michigan

January, 2023

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-End Gun Violence Michigan



TOPICS

- Personal Background
 - Gun Violence Background-National and Michigan
 - UM Firearm Institute
 - Center for American Progress
 - John Hopkins Report
 - Gun Violence Archive
 - Legislative Status-Federal, State, Election
 - Michigan Polling Results on Gun Safety-Oct, 2022
 - Faith Response-The Episcopal Church
 - What can you do?
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**PERSONAL
BACKGROUND**

I am.....

A Previous Healthcare leader

A Parent

An Episcopalian

Ministry leader for End Gun Violence Episcopal Dioceses of Eastern and Western Michigan

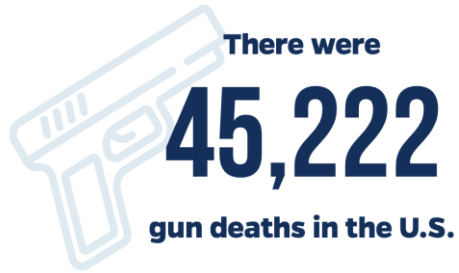
Co-Director Interfaith Action of SW Mi

Steering Team Member for End Gun Violence Michigan

Support/Coordination for Michigan Religious Leaders for Justice Committee (Bishops Singh and Perry co leaders)

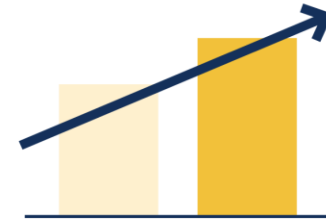
Five Fast Facts for Firearm Fatalities

According to
Gun Violence Archive:
43,722 2020
45,102 2021
44,305 2022



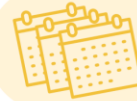
The highest number of gun deaths ever in the U.S.

Gun deaths increased from 2019 to 2020



Firearm homicides

increased by 35%



For the second time in three years, more than 24,000 people died by gun suicide

Gun violence has a disproportionate impact



Black males ages 15–34 were over

20x more likely to be a victim of gun homicide

than their white counterparts

States with stronger gun laws have lower rates of gun violence



Someone living in Mississippi was

8.5x more likely to die by gun violence

than someone living in Hawaii



LAWS



GUN VIOLENCE



LAWS



GUN VIOLENCE

Five Fast Facts for Firearm Fatalities-As of 2022:

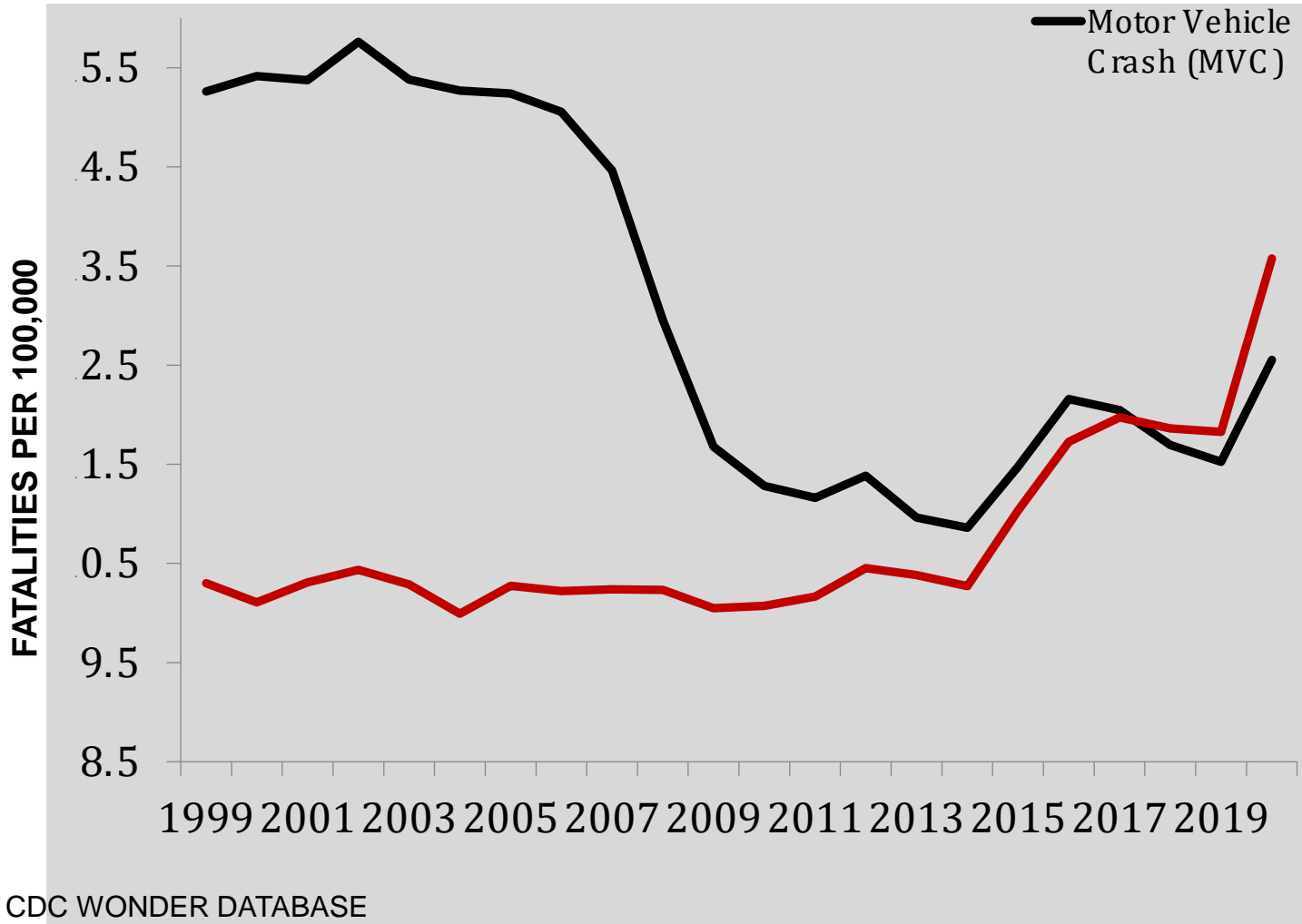


Gun violence was the leading cause of death among children, teens, and young adults under the age of 25



Young people under 30 were nearly 10 times more likely to die by firearm than from COVID-19 in 2020

A NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM



CDC WONDER DATABASE
(1999-2020)

Also in 2020:

79% of all homicides were by firearm

53% of all suicides were by firearm-data suggests if we "interrupt" 90% will not commit suicide

35% youth from firearm incidents show new mental health diagnosis the following year

65-70% of suicides among active-duty military / veterans (50% higher overall suicide rate)

Active Shooter Incidents (e.g., mass shootings)
2000 – 2009: 8.6 incidents/year (mean)
2010 – 2019: 21.9 incidents/year (mean)
Increasing fatalities per incident

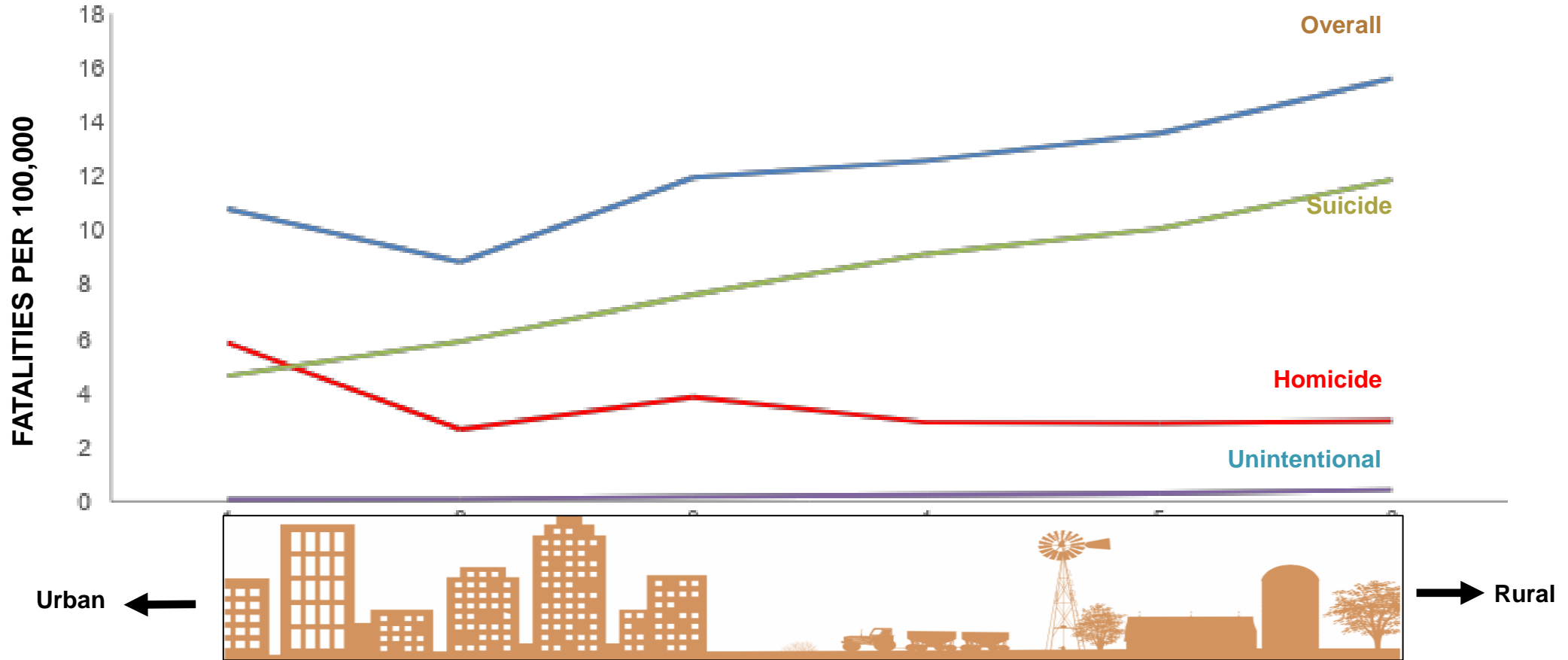
\$229 Billion Societal Cost/Annually
\$8.6 Billion/annually direct medical costs

12th leading cause of death



INSTITUTE FOR FIREARM
INJURY PREVENTION
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

RURAL / URBAN DIFFERENCES



CDC WONDER DATABASE (1999-2019)



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Gun Death Rates by State

FIGURE 14: Gun Death Rates by State, Ranked Highest to Lowest, 2020

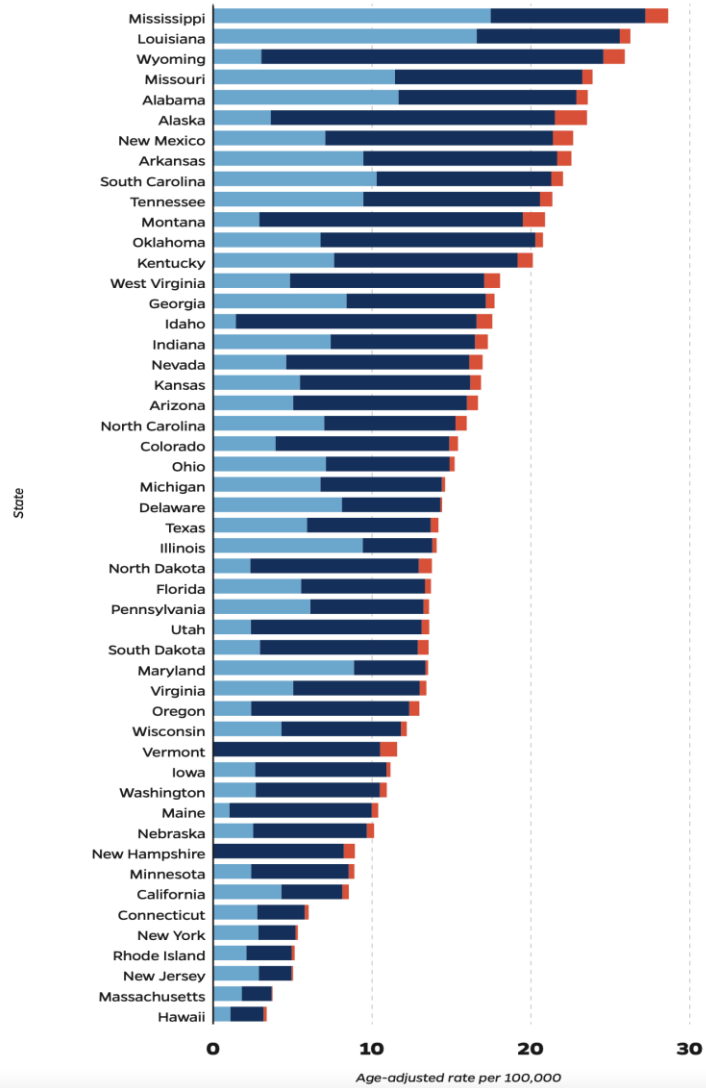
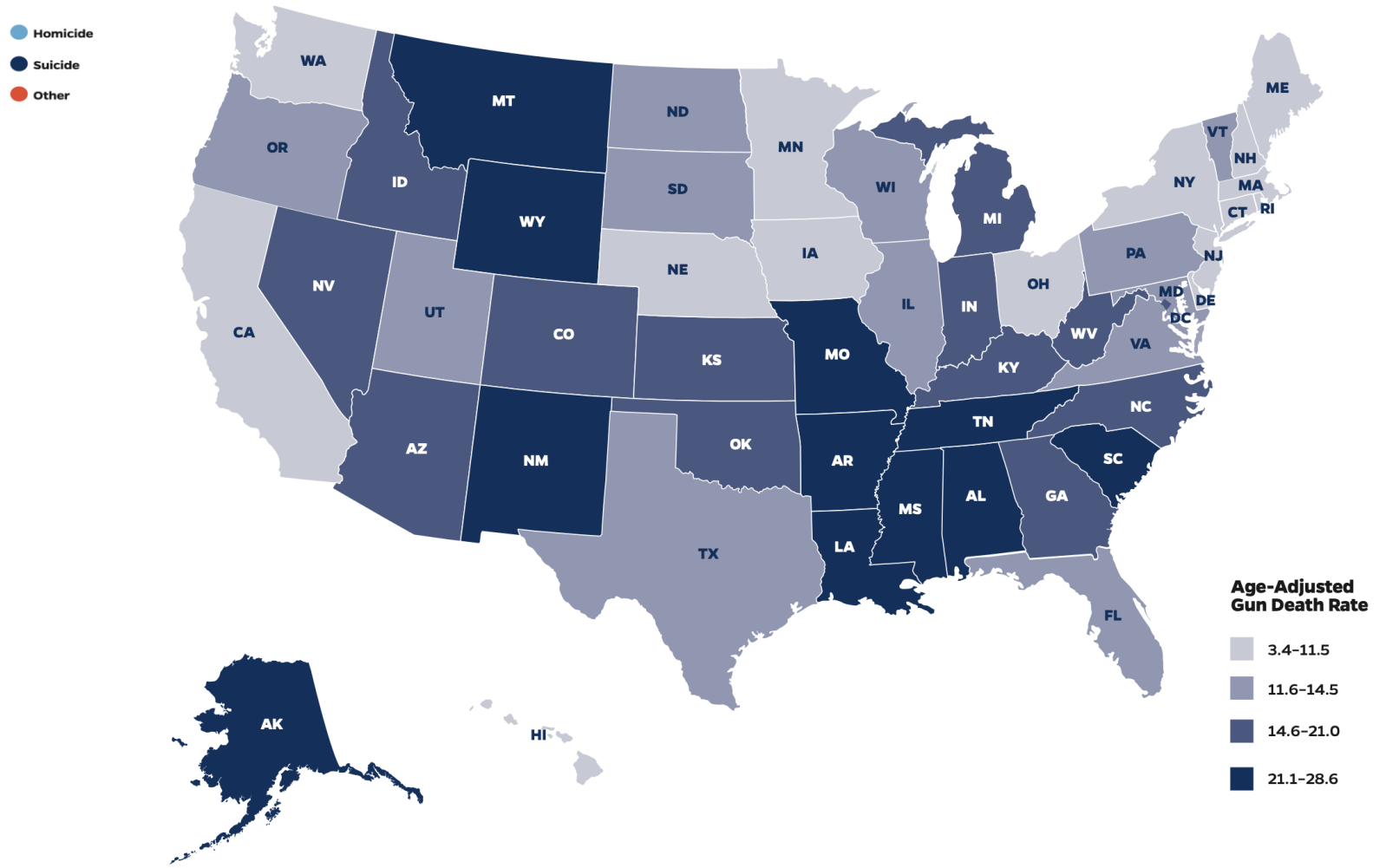


FIGURE 15: Gun Death Rates by State, 2020



RATE OF FIREARM MORTALITY IN MI, 2011-2020

GUN VIOLENCE ARCHIVE		
2014-2023		
MI STATS		
Evidence Based Research - since 2013		
PUBLISHED DATE: February 09, 2023		
Homicide/Murder/Unintentional/DGU ¹		4,282
Total Number of Injuries ¹		9,131
Mass Shootings ²		130
Mass Murders ²		7
Number of Children (age 0-11) ¹	Killed	85
	Injured	216
Number of Teens (age 12-17) ¹	Killed	207
	Injured	629
Officer Involved Incident ¹	Killed	10
Officer Killed or Injured	Injured	61
Officer Involved Incident ¹	Killed	225
Subject-Suspect Killed or Injured	Injured	170
Defensive Use ²		450
Unintentional Shooting ²		647
Murder/Suicides Incidents ²		142

Gun violence and crime incidents are collected/validated from 7,500 sources daily - Incident Reports and their source data are found at the gunviolencearchive.org website.

- In 2020, firearms were responsible for 1,454 deaths in Michigan (14.6 fatalities per 100,000).
- Over half (53%) of these were due to suicides, 46% due to homicides, and 1.5% due to unintentional or undetermined causes.
- 2020 rates for firearm fatalities in Michigan increased 20.7% from those in 2019, driven by a 46% increase in firearm homicides that occurred during the past year.



CENTER FOR
AMERICAN
PROGRESS
REPORT ON
MICHIGAN, 2021

- Michigan has one of the highest rates of gun homicides of Black People (15%/79%)
 - Gun Suicides on rise, particularly youth and veterans
 - Michigan in top 3rd nationally for non-fatal gun injuries (loss in community and healthcare costs-\$5,000 per mo for life)
 - 1 in 5 homicides of women are from intimate partner w gun
 - Stolen guns used to commit violence
 - Armed extremists pose threat in Michigan
-

Federal level:

MICHIGAN 2022

The **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act** passed congress and signed into law:

- Expanded background checks for individuals under the age of 21 purchasing firearms.
- Providing \$11 billion for mental health services, including increased funding for the Medicaid Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic program, increased funding for school-based mental health programs, and investments in pediatric mental healthcare services.
- Preventing individuals who have been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor or felony in dating relationships from purchasing firearms for five years.
- Providing \$750 million for state grants to implement crisis intervention order programs, also referred to as *red-flag laws*, that would allow authorities to confiscate firearms from individuals who have been determined by a court to be a significant danger to themselves or others. The grants could also be used to support mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection orders.

Michigan does not currently have this law in place.

- Providing \$2 billion for community-based violence prevention initiatives
 - The Supreme Court overturned NYC gun laws that restricted concealed carry in the city. Since this was overturned, NYC has since revised their approach and restrictions in specific areas. This is in process of appeal to the new approach/restrictions.
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MICHIGAN VOTERS/POLLING OCT 2022

Overall:

- 91% Reducing Gun Violence is an important election issue
- 98% Support keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers
- 73% Support strengthening gun laws
- 91% Support closing background check loopholes-a one word change in Mi law
- 95% Support prevention of mass shootings and school shootings

Policy:

- 97% Approve requiring gun owners to secure firearms
 - 93% Approve for criminal background checks on all gun sales
 - 90% Approve passing Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
 - 86% Approve prohibiting domestic abusers from buying or owning a gun
 - 82% Approve banning ghost guns
 - 81% approve extreme risk protection orders (red flag laws)
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MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE

PREVIOUS LEGISLATURE:

- After Oxford High School shooting, a bipartisan school safety task force convened. Faith leaders met with Vice Chair Rep Van Singel. Discussion was encouraging as group was meeting with Parkland parent and reviewing Fla law that was passed post Parkland shooting. The results were reducing gun firearm deaths in youth and teens by 50%.
- We held a lobby day as part of End Gun Violence Michigan in April, 2022. This included: Michigan Episcopal Bishops, ELCA Bishops, Methodists, Interfaith leaders, Advocates, Victims and Survivors. 200 people met with 50 lawmakers and the Michigan Attorney General advocating for gun safety bills to hold a hearing and vote. We also shared the Center for American Progress Report “Guns in Michigan” with all lawmakers.
- Over 50 bills were introduced in the State Legislature including universal background checks, safe storage, extreme risk protection orders and others to protect schools and public areas.
- Senate Mjr. Leader Shirkey agreed to hold one hearing on extreme risk protection orders bill later that spring. He expanded this to include safe storage and hold the hearing later summer/fall. We meet regularly with Senate and House members in addition to the Governor’s office. Despite repeated requests and negotiations from gun safety advocates within the legislature and outside, there is no schedule for a hearing or vote on gun safety. The legislative schedule appears at this point to be meeting once a week in September and not at all in October prior to the election so very unlikely that there will be a hearing or vote held.
- The Governor passed a bipartisan budget that included funding for UM Institute for Firearm Prevention. The Institute has several projects underway in high-risk communities such as Marquette, Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Muskegon to impact gun violence. The budget also includes funding for a director for community gun violence prevention reporting to MSP. This may position Michigan well to obtain federal grant funding for community gun violence prevention.

CURRENT LEGISLATURE:

- Governor pre-election and post-election has identified Gun Safety as a top priority.
- Incoming State Senate and House leadership has prioritized Gun Safety as a priority.
- There were several bills introduced last session that did not get a hearing or a vote and will be re-introduced. These included:
 - Universal Background Checks
 - Safe Storage
 - Extreme Risk Protection Orders
 - Domestic Violence
- EGVM is a coalition of faith leaders (Episcopal Bishops/Clergy, ELCA Bishops, UMC Bishop/Clergy, Rabbis’, Interfaith Leaders), Advocates (Giffords for safe gun owners, Everytown, Moms, MEA, Physicians for the Prevention of Gun Violence, and more), Victims and Survivors
- Partnership Meetings with new State House and Senate Leaders:
 - Caucus Chairs
 - Representatives and Senators in tight districts-develop community action events to support a yes
 - R’s that may sign on
- Press events in 7 cities across the state-gained Michigan and National attention
- Preparing and partnering with various groups to support Lobby Days
- Preparing for Bills to be introduced:
 - Phone banking
 - In person for any hearings and votes

The Episcopal Church: Preventing Gun Violence

FAITH RESPONSE

The Episcopal Church is a proponent of gun safety and gun reform. We advocate for a wide variety of reasonable measures the U.S. can take to reduce gun violence such as gun registration and permit requirements, background check improvements, and funding for research to prevent gun violence.

-Bishops **United** Against Gun Violence

-The Episcopal Policy Network actively advocates for national reform

**BISHOPS
UNITED
AGAINST GUN
VIOLENCE**

Bishops **United** Against Gun Violence:

We have a moral obligation to address gun violence

Bishops United Against Gun Violence, a network of nearly 100 Episcopal Church bishops, urges our cities, states and nation to adapt policies and pass legislation that will reduce the number of people in the United States killed and wounded by gunfire.

Doing Our Part: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqAwMFw0Gbk>

US Supreme Court Decision Reaction: <https://bishopsagainstgunviolence.org/a-death-dealing-decision-new-york-state-rifle-pistol-association-v-bruen/>

FAITH RESPONSE

Interfaith Action of SW Mi:

Advocating for:

- Universal Background Checks
- Safe Storage
- Extreme Risk Protection Orders
- Ghost guns/Assault weapon bans
- Ban Guns in public buildings, places of worship, schools

United Methodist Bishops: September, 2022

“As people of prayer, we followers of Jesus are called to be ‘counter-cultural change makers,’” [the letter says](#). “To that end, we must reject the idolatry of guns and the distorted attachments to our right to own guns without safeguards for the communities of the world.”

What can you do?

FAITH RESPONSE

Join EGVM and other advocacy efforts on gun safety: <https://www.migunsafety.org>

- Meet with your representatives
 - Meet and talk within your own circle of influence
 - Upcoming Events
 - EGVM General Meeting February 21 8pm (Virtual)
 - March 6 Faith Forum on Gun Violence 10-11:30 AM Jordan Missionary Baptist Church
 - Episcopalians joining UMC for Lobby Day March 22 Lansing
 - Get involved in community efforts-
 - June 17: Support/organize Silence the Violence March: Taking this Statewide!
 - -Oxford
 - -Detroit
 - -Kalamazoo
 - -Grand Rapids
 - -Marquette
 - -Saginaw
 - -Muskegon
 - Interfaith Action is looking for End Gun Violence Lead Advisor volunteer to support EGVM
-

FAITH RESPONSE

Thank you and Questions / Discussion

REFERENCES

- Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions. (2022). A Year in Review: 2020 Gun Deaths in the U.S. Available: <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/gun-violence-solutions>.
- UM Institute Firearm Injury Prevention, 2022
- Center for American Progress. (2021). Guns in Michigan

[The Episcopal Church](#)

- [Implement Laws to Decrease Gun Violence](#), including:
 - Permits to carry concealed weapons and criminal background checks for every gun purchase, including those made at gun shows
 - Except for the use of military and law enforcement agencies, ban the sale, transfer, importation and manufacture of military-style assault weapons and high-capacity magazines
 - Tighten laws against gun trafficking, and increase penalties for those who engage in “straw purchases” of firearms for ineligible persons
 - Ban the importation and manufacture of Full-Auto Conversion kits that convert guns into automatic weapons
 - Prohibit persons from purchasing guns without evidence of gun safety training
 - Promote funding for research into the prevention and causes of gun violence
 - [Urge the appropriate departments and agencies of the U.S. government to prohibit the export of handguns](#)
 - [Remove handguns and assault weapons from our homes, other residential communities, and vehicles](#)
 - [Express Concern About Availability of Handguns and Assault Weapons](#)
 - [Urge Restrictions on Sale, Ownership and Use of Firearms](#), including:
 - Increase restrictions on the sale, ownership and use of firearms, particularly “Saturday night specials”
 - That legislation to ban carrying concealed firearms be encouraged
 - Develop regulations to delineate appropriate safety standards for use of firearms
 - [Apply the same quality and safety standards to domestically manufactured hand guns that are currently applied to imported hand guns](#)
 - [Urge all citizens to support federal, state, and local legislation aimed at controlling the sale and use of hand guns](#)
 - [Pass comprehensive gun control and safety legislation, restricting children’s access to guns and requiring thorough background checks for new gun purchases](#)
 - [Allow community-based mental healthcare providers the same opportunities to access federal funding as are currently allowed to providers of physical healthcare](#)
 - [Urge Episcopalians to examine our own cultural attitudes toward violence through efforts in our own congregations and communities, to repent of our own roles in the glorification and trivialization of violence, and to commit ourselves to another way](#)
 - [Encourage the study of gun violence as a public health crisis](#)
 - [Develop a shareholder engagement plan to effect change in gun manufacturing and retail companies](#)
 - [Declaring Church sites as gun-free zones](#)
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- [The Sandy Hook Principles](#)