

GUN VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

1. Approximately 30,000 Americans, including about 190 Iowans, die each year from gun violence. In addition there are about 80,000 nonfatal gun injuries, of which about one-fourth result in paralysis of the victim.¹

Type of Death	U.S. ²	Iowa ³	
Gun Homicides	11,348	26	In 1998, guns murdered 4 people in New Zealand 19 in Japan 54 in England and Wales 57 in Australia 66 in Switzerland 151 in Canada 373 in Germany and 11,798 in the United States
Gun Suicides	16,869	156	
Unintentional Shootings	802	6	
Unknown	231	-	
Legal Intervention	323	-	
Total	29,573	188	

2. Approximately 75 percent of all gun homicides are the result of arguments or disputes between family members, friends, or acquaintances.⁴ Only about 10 percent of all gun homicides are crime-related, i.e., a stranger shooting or a homicide during the commission of another felony, e.g., robbery.
3. Guns and domestic violence are a deadly combination. Thirty-three percent of women who are murdered with guns are killed by an intimate partner.⁵ Households with guns are eight times more likely to have a gun homicide at the hands of a family member than homes without guns.⁶
4. Suicide is the ninth leading cause of death for all Americans, but for teenagers and young adults age 15-24, suicide is the third leading cause of death.⁷ A gun is used in about 60 percent of all suicides, more than all other means combined.
5. About one-third of adult Iowans personally own a gun – 59 percent of men and 12 percent of women. Fifty-one percent of Iowa homes contain one or more guns.⁸
6. IPGV supports:
 - Renewal of the federal assault weapons ban, which will expire on Sept. 13, 2004 unless renewed by Congress and signed by President Bush. Congress should pass the Lautenberg bill in the Senate (S.1431) and the McCarthy bill in the House of Representatives (H.R.2038).
 - Regulating secondary gun markets by extending Brady background checks to all firearm sales, including gun shows, flea markets, estate sales, Internet sales, newspaper sales, etc., in addition to gun store sales.
 - Regulating guns as consumer products. Congress should pass the Firearms Safety and Consumer Protection Act that would subject the gun industry to the same safety standards as virtually all other products – from toys to jumbo jets – sold in America.
7. IPGV opposes:
 - Legislation pending in Congress (S.659) that would grant the gun industry broad immunity from civil lawsuits brought not only by cities, municipalities, and states; but even individuals.
 - Iowa Right to Carry law that would give individuals the right to carry concealed weapons in public places (shopping malls, parks, restaurants, sporting events, hospitals, etc.) without a justifiable need to go armed.

¹ Nonfatal and Fatal Firearm-Related Injuries U.S. 1993-97, *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, Nov. 19, 1999

² CDC: National Vital Statistics Report 2001

³ Iowa Dept. of Public Safety (3-year average 2000-2002)

⁴ FBI: Supplemental Homicide Report 1998

⁵ FBI: Supplemental Homicide Report 2000

⁶ Homicides Related to Intimate Partner Violence in Massachusetts, *Homicide Studies*, 1998;2:353-377

⁷ CDC: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Fact Book 2000

⁸ Frank N. Magid & Associates Iowa survey 2001