

12/31/24 California supposedly has the toughest gun laws in the U.S. Don't tell that to the parents of the teen girl who was shot dead, or of her six teen companions who were wounded, when a group of five to seven male teens, "at least three of whom were armed with handguns" opened fire at a party in a Signal Hill, Calif. warehouse on Saturday night, December 28. All the victims were reportedly between 17-19 years of age. No information about the shooters' motives or identities has yet been released.

12/18/24 A new report by the *Council on Criminal Justice* reveals that juvenile offending generally decreased during 2016-2022. Crime incidents dropped about 14%, and the number of offenders declined about 18%. Burglaries, larcenies and robberies also fell substantially. But the news isn't all positive. Assaults, and particularly aggravated assaults, are somewhat up. Worse still, homicides increased a steep 65%, and the criminal misuse of firearms went up 21%. And when guns *are* used, the injuries they inflict have become worse.

12/17/24 A 15-year old female student opened fire with a 9mm. pistol at a K-12 Christian school in Madison, Wisconsin yesterday. A teacher and a student were killed and six other students were wounded, two critically. The shooter then committed suicide. Authorities indicate that the shooting at "Abundant Life" was pre-planned, but no information about a motive has yet been released. Her parents have not yet claimed ownership of the gun and Federal agents are tracing it to determine its origin. (See 5/9/25 update)

12/16/24 During the early morning hours of Saturday, December 14 an "extremely intoxicated" New Mexico youth called 9-1-1 to report that he had just massacred his family. When deputies arrived they discovered the bodies of his mother, father and two teen-age brothers. Each had been shot dead. Diego Leyva, 16 surrendered. Officers found a handgun on the kitchen table.

11/25/24 On November 21 a 16-year old Darien, IL boy brought a loaded Taurus 9mm pistol to his high school. A tip to school officials led to the gun's seizure and the youth's arrest by local police. He was charged with two felonies – carrying a gun in school, and being an underage gun possessor – and was ordered detained until at least his next court appearance, on Dec. 2.

11/4/24 On October 14, 2022 Orlando Harris, 19, opened fire with an AR-15 style rifle inside a St. Louis high school, killing two and wounding seven. Officers ultimately shot him dead. According to a new report the youth, who had once attempted suicide, bought the gun from a private party. His parents took the gun, an armored vest and other items to police. But Missouri didn't have a "Red Flag" law that facilitates seizing guns in advance. So police told the parents to secure the items. They tried, but Harris nonetheless got them. Missouri still lacks a Red Flag law.

10/23/24 A 15-year old Washington State teen was charged with five counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted murder after the bodies of two adults and three youths were discovered in a home they apparently shared. An 11-year old girl was also hurt but survived. It happened in the

prosperous lakeside community of Fall City, 25 miles E. of Seattle. Authorities confirmed that “firearms were involved” and that “it appears” all were family. [Census](#)

10/21/24 According to NYPD, the number of persons under 18 committing major crimes has risen a steep 37 percent since 2017. Some blame it on a 2017 New York State law that diverted 16 and 17-year olds from adult to juvenile courts. As for country-wide numbers, the [Council on Criminal Justice](#) reports that overall crime by juveniles fell during 2016-2022. Murders committed by youths, though, increased a stunning 65%, while their use of guns to commit crimes went up by a lesser (but still substantial) 21%.

10/16/24 According to Hamline University’s [Violence Prevention Project](#), about 27 percent of American adults report owning a gun. Of these, about 67 percent have more than one. Sixty-four percent of guns are intended for protection; about eleven percent are for hunting. And about half of gun owners store their guns unloaded and under lock and key.

10/4/24 In Chicago’s beset Englewood area, officers conducted an “investigate stop” of a 16-year old boy. During the pat-down, a loaded handgun was found in the youth’s waistband, and a round discharged as an officer sought to remove it. The officer and the teen were both wounded and taken to the hospital. They are reportedly in “good condition.”

10/2/24 On July 19 Chicago mail carrier Octavia Redmond, 48, was shot dead while making her rounds. And a 15-year old boy was just arrested in Iowa for the killing. Police claim that the youth exited a stolen car, walked up to the carrier and shot her “multiple times at close range.” He’s been charged as a juvenile with first-degree murder. Chicago mail carriers have been beset by armed robbers who steal packages and “arrow keys” to collection boxes.

9/18/24 [Threats on social media](#) are besetting schools across the U.S. In Riverside, Calif. police arrested a 13-year old girl for posting threats against a middle school. Since August, nine students in Broward County, Florida, the home of [Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School](#), have been arrested [for threatening to launch attacks](#). To combat these hoaxes, Volusia County, Fla. Sheriff Mike Chitwood is releasing photos and videos of arrested teens, which Florida law allows for those charged with felonies. “I’m going to perp walk your kid so that everybody can see what your kid’s up to.”

9/9/24 Killings by gun-toting kids remain in the headlines. On Sept. 1, [an 11-year old shot and killed](#) Keisha Miles, 31, and her father, Joe Cornelius, Sr., 81, at the latter’s residence in Minden, Louisiana. The child used two handguns from the home. He is related to Mr. Cornelius, who once served as Minden’s Mayor. Five days later, a dispute between students [led a 16-year old to open fire](#) in a Maryland high school restroom, killing a 15-year old. It was the shooter’s first day at school. He was “known” to police.

9/6/24 Colin Gray, the father of Georgia school shooter Colt Gray, has been arrested on multiple charges of involuntary manslaughter, murder, and child cruelty for supplying the weapon used in the massacre. It turns out that he purchased the AR-15 style rifle that Colt Gray used as a Christmas present for his son. This happened “months after” both denied that they had any connection to online threats to commit a school shooting that were posted on an online account the FBI linked to Colt Gray. A bodycam video of their conversation with a deputy about these threats was just released. Click [here](#).

9/6/24 On Sept. 4th., the day of the Georgia high school massacre, staff members at a high school in In Elgin, Illinois, a city of 115,000 35 miles NW of Chicago, learned that a 15-year old student “might be armed.” They alerted the school resource officer, who arrested the youth for bringing an unloaded handgun and ten rounds of ammo. to campus. The teen has been charged with “three counts of aggravated unlawful use of a weapon” and one count of “unlawful use of a weapon” and is being detained.

9/5/24 On Sept. 4 a phone call warned a school that it was targeted. And later that morning, a student armed with an “AR-style” rifle opened fire at Apalachee High School, in Barrow County, 40 miles from Atlanta. Two students and two teachers were killed; nine others were hospitalized. Colt Gray, the 14-year old shooter, surrendered. He will be tried as an adult. A classmate said that Gray left at the start of algebra class and returned with a gun. But the door had locked and he wasn’t let in. So he went into another room and began shooting. Deputies investigated Gray last year over online threats to commit a school shooting. He denied them. His father said they had “hunting guns” but Gray “did not have unsupervised access to them.” It’s 2024’s 45th. school shooting. [Barrow County census data](#)

9/3/24 Police in Euclid, a Cleveland suburb, arrested a 15-year old boy whom they say shot and killed a 17-year old boy and wounded four other juveniles, ages 16 and 17, near a local high school. It happened on Saturday evening, August 30, about an hour after a football game. Where the 15-year old’s gun came from hasn’t been revealed. Just released, the IACP’s [gun security “fact sheet”](#) implores that “if you lawfully own and carry a firearm you have a duty to secure it.” It recommends storage in a locked safe.

8/20/24 Finding that the parents took reasonable steps to secure their guns, and that their son had successfully hidden his mental “delusions”, a civil jury absolved the mother and father of Santa Fe High School mass shooter Dimitrios Pagourtzis of responsibility for the 2018 massacre, which took ten lives. Luckygunner, the online source for the son’s ammunition, [has settled a lawsuit](#) that alleged it failed to confirm that Pagourtzis, who was 17, had been of age to buy handgun ammunition.

8/19/24 Twenty-five years in an *adult* prison. That’s the sentence just imposed on Kaeden Holland, a 17-year old Maryland teen. Two years earlier, when he was fifteen, Holland pointed a gun at another youth and squeezed the trigger three times as they rode on a school bus. Fortunately the pistol jammed. Holland had a long juvenile record, most recently a “deadly weapons” misdemeanor.

Although his probation was deemed “unsuccessful”, supervision ended after six months. Two months later came the bus thingy. Meanwhile, in Los Angeles, where school police are barred from campuses, [a gun fell to the ground](#) as students duked it out at Sylmar High.

7/29/24 According to the National Center for Education Statistics, 41 school-associated violent deaths took place at U.S. primary and secondary schools during 2020-21, the most recent year for which data is available. Eleven students ages 5-18 were the victims of a school homicide. In the long view, these numbers are relatively benign. For example, there were 57 school-associated violent deaths at primary and secondary schools in 1992-93, when recordkeeping began. The peak number of deaths, 63, occurred during 2006-07. More recently, there were 56 violent deaths, including 35 homicides, during 2017-18.

6/26/24 A 16-year old Chicago youth has been charged as an adult with murder for gunning down a beloved 73-year old pastor and retired police bomb technician. Only days earlier, another 16-year old Chicago boy was charged, alsos an adult, with murdering a seven-year old boy. Chicago Police Supt. Larry Snelling beseeches parents to act promptly should their children turn to crime. “Today’s armed robber who’s 13, 14 years old is tomorrow’s murderer at the age of 15 or 16,” he warned.

6/6/24 [In Chicago](#) an argument led “a known male” to pull a gun and shoot a 14-year old girl in the hand. [And in Los Angeles](#) a 10-year old fourth grader brought a loaded, reportedly stolen Glock pistol to school. Another student turned him in. L.A. schools endured a record 1,197 “weapon incidents” last year, and there have been 903 this year. Two L.A. middle-school students were arrested with loaded pistols on May 3, and one L.A. prep schooler shot and killed another on April 15. Parents have asked that campus police be brought back into schools. They’ve been banned from interior patrols since 2020.

6/5/24 Against D.C. prosecutor’s wishes, a 20-year old Maryland man was released to home confinement pending trial for murder. Jayvon Thomas’ record prohibited him from having guns, but it turns out that he kept a “ghost” gun hidden under his bed. That’s how a girl “younger than 5” playing hide-and-seek came to accidentally shoot herself. Fortunately her injuries weren’t fatal. Neither were the wounds suffered by a three-year old who accidentally shot herself with a handgun in a nearby county. Both happened within a two-day span.