

GUN VIOLENCE: AMERICA'S DEADLIEST WAR

Gun related deaths in America are of epidemic proportions due to the sheer accessibility that the general population has to guns. Though mass shootings make headlines and stir emotions, the vast majority of gun related deaths are not caused by mass shootings at all, but by suicide and homicide. In the last few years, gun violence in America has decreased. However, suicide rates have climbed proportionally, with suicide by firearm being the most common method. Guns are quick killers and entertain individuals of impulse. Owning a gun is more likely to result in the death of the owner or a loved one that it is to protect them. Despite the unquestionable danger that guns present and despite the multitude of gun deaths in recent times, little legislative action has been taken to institute stronger gun safety measures. Gun violence is as much a public health issue as it is a safety or political one. Americans cannot expect any changes in the staggering gun violence statistics unless changes are made; clinging to the Second Ammendment is not going to save any lives.

America has more guns per capita than any other nation: roughly 300 million.

From 2005 - 2015, 71 Americans were killed in terrorist attacks on US soil while 301,797 were killed by gun violence during the same period.

The gun violence death toll between 1968 and 2011 outnumbered all wars ever fought by the country.

More than two kids under the age of 18 were shot daily in 2015 and someone was accidentally shot by a toddler once per week on average.

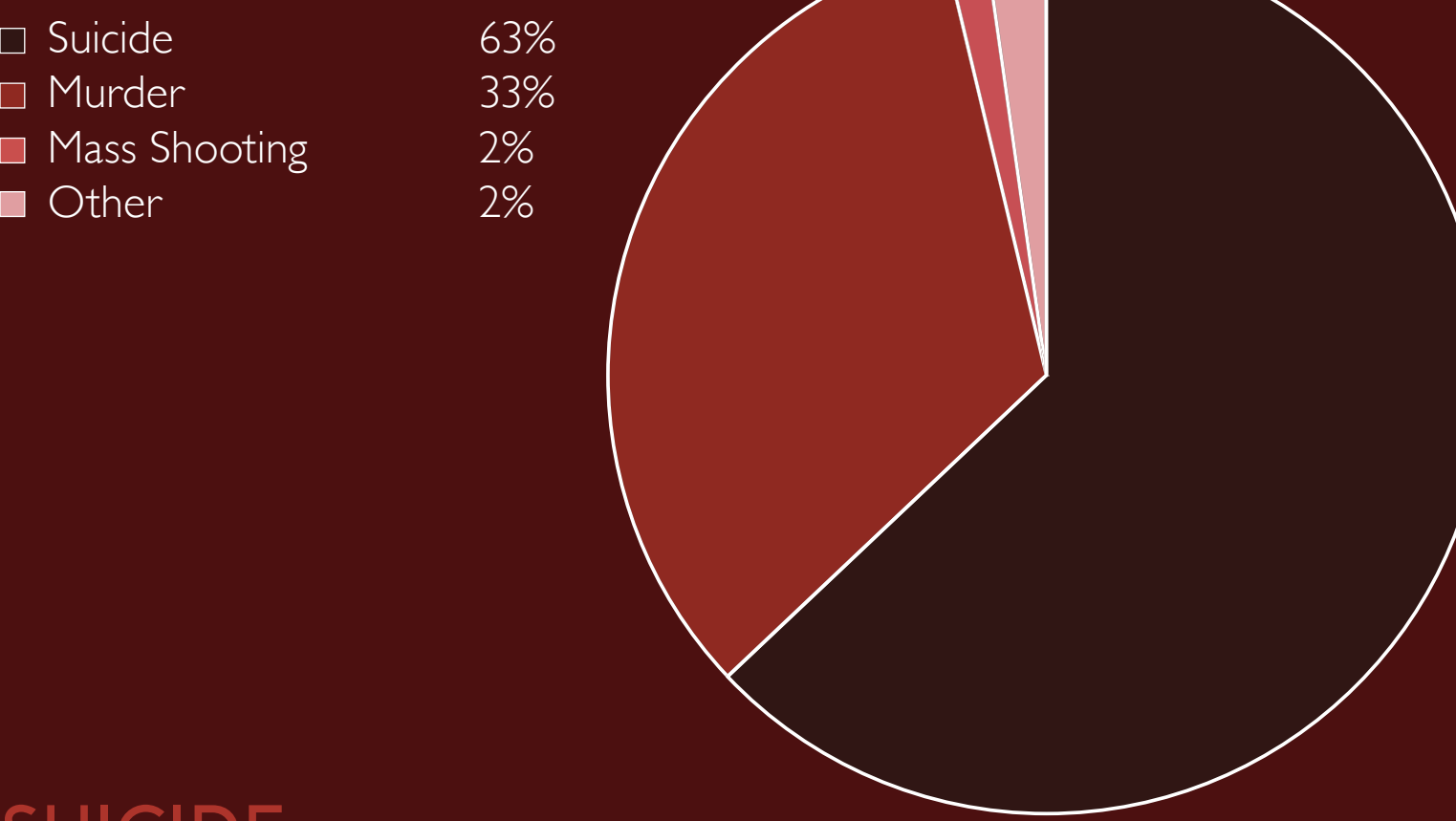
A gun kept in the home is more likely to be involved in an unintentional shooting, criminal assault or suicide attempt than it is to be used to injure or kill in self-defense.

Congress has held 25 moments of silence honoring gun violence victims since the Newtown school shooting but has not approved any gun safety bills.

Centers for Disease Control data indicates that child deaths in preventable gun accidents are on the increase, and that gun-related deaths are now the second most common cause of child and teen deaths, with only cars killing more kids than guns in 2013.

There is a correlation between higher gun deaths in states with higher gun ownership rates, which include Alaska, Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Wyoming. States with lower gun ownership rates, such as Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, have the lowest gun deaths.

GUN DEATHS 2013

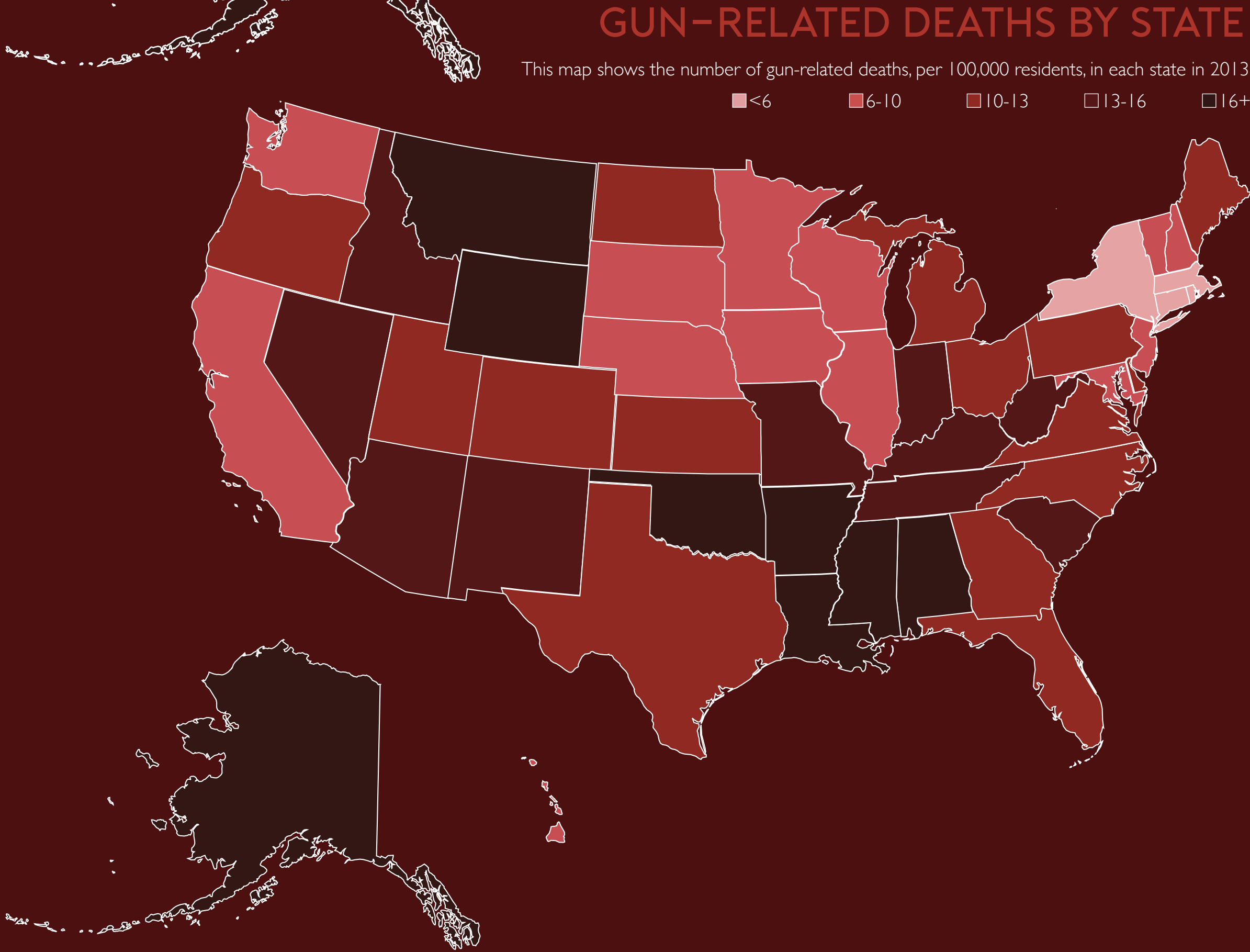
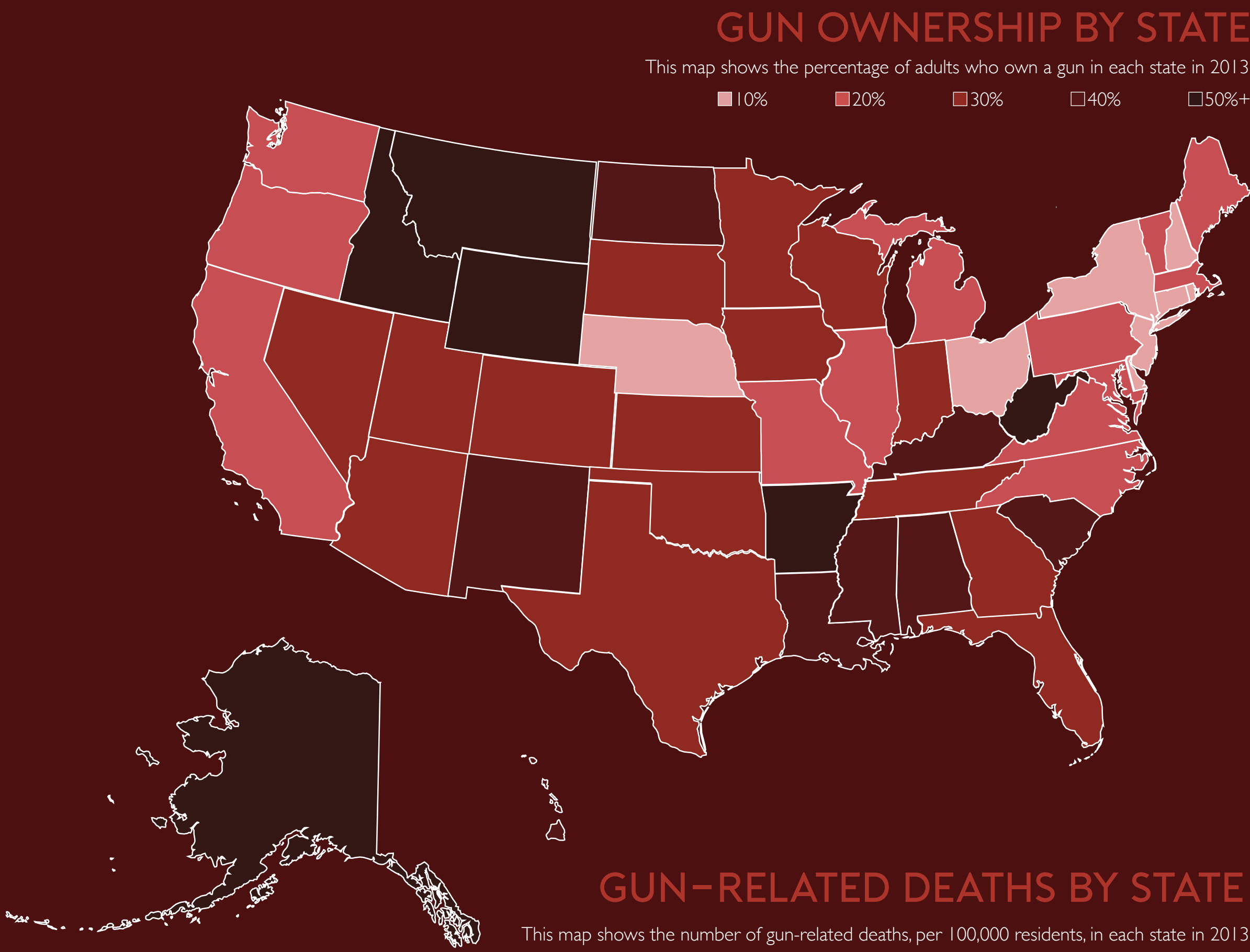


SUICIDE

- All 24 case-control studies done in the United States have found the presence of a firearm in the home to be a strong risk factor for suicide.
- Since 2006, the decrease in gun-related homicides have almost been matched by the increase of gun suicides.
- Suicides by gun account for about 6 of every 10 firearm deaths and just over half of all suicides.
- Teen suicides have risen to become the second leading cause of death among adolescents and unsafe access to guns allowed 41% of these youths to shoot themselves.
- An average of 22 American veterans kill themselves daily.
- When Israeli soldiers were required to leave their weapons on the base when on weekend leave suicide rates (90% of which were by firearm) dropped by 40%.
- While gun owners in the U.S. are not more likely to be suicidal or have a mental health problems they are far more likely to die from a suicide attempt because they have access to a far more lethal means in the brief time that elapses between idea, decision, and action.
- In 50% of suicide attempts, the time between thought and first action is only 10 minutes. In 90% of cases, the time between thought and action is less than an hour.

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HOMICIDE

- Firearm-related homicides declined 39%, from 18,253 in 1993 to 11,101 in 2011.
- Nonfatal firearm crimes declined 69%, from 1.5 million victimizations in 1993 to 467,300 victimizations in 2011.
- Firearm violence accounted for about 70% of all homicides and less than 10% of all nonfatal violent crime from 1993 to 2011.
- From 1993 to 2011, about 70% to 80% of firearm homicides and 90% of nonfatal firearm victimizations were committed with a handgun.
- Males, blacks, and persons ages 18 to 24 had the highest rates of firearm homicide from 1993 to 2010.
- Most firearm homicides are gang-related.

FEDERAL REGULATION

- In 2008, the Supreme Court in the District of Columbia v. Heller ruled that Americans have an individual right under the Second Amendment to possess firearms, prohibiting a local ban on handguns.
- Federal law prohibits federally licensed firearms dealers from transferring handguns to persons under 21 and long guns to persons under 18. Unlicensed sellers may not transfer handguns to persons under age 18.
- 91% of respondents to a poll conducted in April 2012 supported background checks for gun purchasers.
- Federal law requires only licenced gun dealers to carry out background checks despite the fact that about 40% of all firearms transferred in the US. are transferred by unlicensed individuals.
- Private sellers are not required to keep a record of sales.
- Federal law prohibits the creation of a national registry of gun ownership.
- The Tiahrt Amendment to a federal spending bill prohibits law enforcement from publicly releasing data showing where criminals bought their firearms.
- The Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act grants gun manufacturers immunity from civil lawsuits filed over crimes committed with firearms but does require that licenced sellers must provide purchasers with a secure gun storage or safety device. However, there are no federal standards for locking devices.
- Federal law does not require individual gun owners or other lawful possessors of firearms to report the loss or theft of a firearm to law enforcement.

Gun Control. Now.

To be delivered to The United States House of Representatives, The United States Senate, and President Barack Obama:
How many more senseless and entirely preventable shootings have to occur before we do something about gun control?
As a citizen and constituent of this great country, I am asking that you take a firm stand and make a positive change by restricting access to guns and saving lives.

<http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/gun-control-now-1>



**SIGN THE
PETITON.**

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