

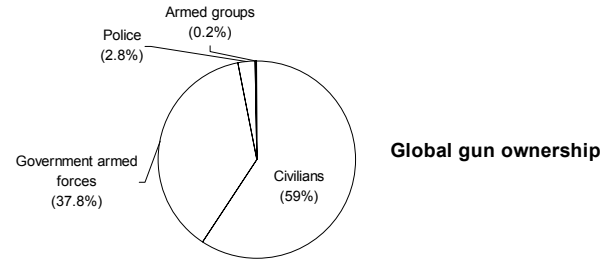
Gun violence: A global epidemic

Over 300,000 people are shot dead every year

- Over 1,000,000 people are injured by guns every year.
- Over 200,000 people are gun homicide victims every year.
- Around 50,000 are gun suicide victims every year.
- In the context of war and armed conflict 60-90,000 people are killed every year.

Region	Gun homicides
Latin America and Caribbean	84,000
Africa	41,000
South East Asia	27,000
Europe and Central Asia	16,000
North America	11,000
East Asia and Pacific	10,000
Middle East	9,000

Source: Small Arms Survey 2004



Guns are used to displace people from their homes

- During 2004, 21.3 million people across the world were internally displaced and 11.5 million were refugees and seeking protection outside their own countries. According to the UNHCR, armed conflict is now the driving force behind most refugee flows.
- In addition to being homeless, many refugees are injured by guns. In a refugee camp in Kenya, 11% of the refugees had suffered gunshot injuries, the most common cause of disability among the refugees.

Guns enable the use of child soldiers

- Tens of thousands of child soldiers were used in the armed forces of over 60 countries between 2001 and 2004. At least 10 of those countries used child soldiers during conflict.
- There are at least 30,000 children fighting in the DRC, 20,000 children fighting in Uganda, and 17,000 children fighting in Colombia. Girls fight as well as boys – in the DRC, there are 12,000 girl soldiers.

Guns hinder peacekeeping

- Ongoing gun violence after conflict can make it impossible for peacekeepers to do their job. In Angola, three UN operations in a row failed largely due to rebels' easy access to weapons. Armed rebels in Sierra Leone took UN peacekeepers hostage using weapons they bought with diamonds from the areas they controlled.

Guns last for many years, and are frequently recycled between conflicts or crimes

- In West Africa, guns have moved from conflict to conflict in the last ten years, fuelling overlapping and uncontained conflicts in Sierra Leone, Liberia and most recently Côte d'Ivoire.
- Another example: the exact same gun used in a murder in Kentucky, USA in 1967 was used in another murder 36 years later, in 2003.

Guns don't respect borders

- According to Mexican authorities, 80% of the guns in Mexico originate in the US. In 2002, the Toronto police's gun taskforce estimated that 50% of handguns recovered in crime were smuggled from the US. 30% of guns recovered in Japan originate from the US, while 21% originate from China.