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11/30/2015

ENG 1101-D376

Research Paper

Gun Violence

        Michael Moore once stated, “Guns don’t kill people, Americans kill people”. This quote and many alike are very famous as they have been used in many arguments and debates. Guns have been around more than we can even think. No one would believe that an inanimate object would be one of the biggest problems in the world today. Guns are very unsafe, thus making them an extremely dangerous factor in our lives. The availability of guns has risen which has led to an increase of deaths. The purpose is to protect one from any harm, however, people are misusing them for gang-related activities as well as taking advantage of the innocent.  This paper will explore guns and how they cause harm in terms of people dying every day, massive school shootings, and taking away our safety.

        There are many reasons why people are dying every day with one of them being video games. Children are left unsupervised where, “both parents work, [and] there is no family time to teach, to learn, to love”, and do not even know what their child is watching (PoliceOne 1). The media has glorified violence where it can be seen in movies, the news, TV shows and games.  Together with the violence they see in video games and absence of parental supervision, a person grows tired and is not able to think which makes it, “pretty easy to pull a trigger”(PoliceOne 2). With the, “decline in parenting and family values,” people tend to go towards the pop culture or video games to solve tough problems (PoliceOne 2). With no knowledge and looking at video games for solutions, individuals tend to solve, “problems with a gun just like they have for years in the games” (PoliceOne 2). Also, there is no decrease of video games or the violence that are in them. Therefore, we need support from families, which will make sure people stop using video games as a solution and actually think before they do something that will cause harm.

        There is a big controversy around mental illness and how it relates to guns. In most cases, “shooters have severe mental illness that could have been treated prior to anyone being shot” (PoliceOne 2). There can be many things going on in one's life that can lead to someone just losing it. They can have a mental breakdown or just have a medical issue where they need to be monitored at all times. This is a great solution, however, no one is able to do it as, “Access to mental health treatment is only available to people with money” (PoliceOne 2). Everything goes back to money which is believed to be a main factor in gun violence. Depression is also a leading cause in gun violence where people have no choice left and use guns to kill themselves and sometimes people around them.

The last possibility of why deaths have risen is due to drugs. The availability of both drugs and guns have skyrocketed as individuals are able to obtain both easier and cheaper. With more guns and drugs, there is also an increase of crimes which most of the times leads to someone dying in the process. Drugs such as, “Xanax, and other antipsychotic, or mood-altering prescription drugs”, are easy to obtain (PoliceOne 3). Many gangs today are using drugs every day making them go crazy and not realize what they’re doing. Murders from the use of guns, “became so popular in the mid-80's, which was when, “we started to see these horrific shootings” (PoliceOne 3). Drugs and guns are in one's lot as they cause the deaths of many lives in the U.S.

Furthermore, school shootings is a very sad and important topic. It has happened many times and is due to many reasons such as bullying. Bullying has caused many things and leads to either the one being bullied dying or the one who bullies. In an interview, one individual stated that, “school shooters often feel as if they have nothing to live for or they were isolated or bullied and the built up anger and lack of empathy drives some to go on rampages” (Mahmud 1). This is true as the only thing that comes to mind when something is bothering you is to take it away from your life. This can be done in many ways, however, killing them is the easiest way for people.

        Abuse is also a cause of school shootings and is separated into two parts. There is verbal abuse and physical abuse which have some differences, however, they will still make someone into a murderer. Abuse can drive an individual crazy leading him to do something that can change his life. This happens, “at a young age [and] can lead to people taking out their anger and frustration on other people and one of those being mass shootings” (Mahmud 1). Verbal abuse does do damage, however, it does not always make the person want to shoot a whole school down. It is mostly physical abuse where the individual gets mistreated which causes them to kill.

The last reason why school shootings are at an all-time high is because of how easy it is to obtain a gun. People ranging from any age are able to obtain a gun easily from either their parents or buying it from a dealer. Also, school shootings can occur due to, “various unclear reasons some including mental health issues and lack of gun control or precaution” (Mahmud 1). People rarely talk about how these individuals get the guns and focus on the person. Some shooters take their parents guns and use them without them even realizing it. Dealers will not even look at the person that they are selling the gun to as they care more about money. This impacts everyone as school shootings can happen at any time and the shooter can be anyone from you best friend or a family member.

Moreover, this world is not a safe place as many things such as guns take away our safety. One way we can retain that safety is to put some regulations on guns. The purpose of a gun is to make sure a person is safe, however, “If more guns made people safer, then America would be one of the safest countries in the world. It isn't. It's the opposite” (Moore 1). It is nearly impossible to remove guns entirely from the world but we can still control them. In the movie, Bowling for Columbine, a scene where comedian Chris Rock brings up the idea of, “Bullet control”, where, “all bullets should cost $5000” (Moore 1). This way, “people would think before they killed somebody if a bullet cost $5,000” (Moore 1). This is a good idea but companies will lose business if they raised the prices for bullets.

        Another way we can control guns is by developing smart gun technology. Smart guns will assure that the owner of the gun can only use it, therefore, increasing one's safety. This can be done easily as we have the equipment to do it. It increases our safety because a smart gun, “would require the owner to enter a PIN number or do a fingerprint scan in order to use the gun” (Maney 1). The only reason why this is not in effect is because it would be too expensive for every gun to be a smart gun. People would rather want normal guns as they would be cheaper and easier to use.

        Most of the guns used today come from unlicensed gun dealers. Reducing the number of dealers will be hard but it will ensure our safety. It is said that, “5% of all gun dealers provide 90% of the guns used in crimes” (Maney 1). It is a simple idea, however, it can save lives every day. Gun dealers will be hard to track down and not all of them will be erased. If we can just revoke, “these retailers' license to sell firearms, a great deal of gun violence might be prevented” (Maney 1). Our safety is vital and it is crucial that we control guns.

        Guns are very dangerous and cause harm in terms of people dying every day, massive school shootings, and taking away our safety. Guns have killed countless people and need to be stopped. School shootings and the amount of deaths prove that guns need to be controlled for our safety. Guns can be easily controlled, however, people are responsible for all of this.

**Sources**

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