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Annotated Bibliography

Is gun violence the leading cause of death for Americans?

Gun violence is the leading cause of death among Americans, whether their innocent, criminals or bystanders. On an average basis, people lose their life to gun violence, mass shootings or homicide. These deaths occur primarily based on one deadly weapon known as a gun, pistol or firearm. The use of this weapon allows someone to be killed within seconds to minutes, with just one trigger, the bullet hits an individual which results in loss of life. Most importantly, when a person intentionally or unintentionally harms another person, there are casualties, death and punishment involved. The person who intentionally uses a gun to kill someone is immediately recognized as a criminal and eventually sentenced on homicide charges. However, the person that was killed in a shooting is remembered by loved ones. Gun violence leads to families being broken, it leads to post traumatic stress disorder and much more. Moreover, gun violence leads to the loss of innocent lives for instance, school shootings. Schools are safe for children to attend not to be killed with a brutal weapon. Gun violence has taken the lives of many Americans, broken families apart and tested our freedom of rights. It's very important to control gun violence in America in order to prevent more mass shootings, homicide and killings.

Bauchner, Howard, Rivara Frederick,; et al “Death by Gun Violence—A Public Health Crisis.” *Jama* , 2017; pp 1763-1764 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/fullarticle/2657417>

In this article, the author mentions the importance of firearms and how it has harmed the lives of millions of people all over the United States. On an average at least 100 people get hurt or die from gun violence. This is to take into account that many people who get hurt or die from gun violence are innocent victims. The author mentioned that, “approximately 60.7% of gun violence deaths were suicidal in 2015, if we were to get an estimate of this year we would be beyond 90%”. Moreover, the shooting of Las Vegas which resulted in 59 deaths and more than 100 casualties was the most devastating event. People who were present at the event faced PTSD and depression. Similar to this event, the author makes an interesting point that mass shootings should be prevented simply by creating strong gun laws, or the development of smart guns. Another idea that the author emphasised is the importance of who is allowed to own a gun. There should be certain laws based on who can own a firearm. I agree with the author because firearms have caused mass shootings in the past that have taken the lives of innocent people. Each person has the right to live, no one wants to die by a gun wound or a gunshot. So it's very important for us to put special laws into practice. One question I would like to ask the author is what techniques can we use to prevent criminals from obtaining these smart guns ? Also I would like to find out what are the smart guns the authors mention in the article? Lastly, I would like to tell that author that by writing this article he is doing a fantastic job of alerting the media and standing up for gun violence.

Thebault R., Fox, J., and Tran, A., “2020 was the deadliest gun violence year in decades. So far, 2021 is worse”. The Washington Post, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2021/06/14/2021-gun-violence>

In the newspaper article, the author summarizes the importance of how gun shooting has progressed over the years and how deadly it has become. Mass shootings, school shootings, and homicide have increased in the era of the 20's. The reason why most of these horrific events have increased is due to inequality, gun ownership, racism and police conflicts. The world we live in today we see racism, police conflict and other issues being taken place which enrages certain people to take the initial step of harming others. In the upcoming years of 20's gun violence has progressed from homicide into mass shootings which resulted in many deaths and casualties. However, the most important thing that the author mentions in the article is the difference of shootings that took place back in the days compared to this year. According to the newspaper article “ In July 2020, shooting deaths reached a peak of roughly 58 per day and continued, nearly unabated, around that level until early 2021”. Gun violence is increasing rapidly especially in the 20's due to differences in thinking, living and viewing. Furthermore, gun violence is linked to a rise of death among Americans, because many people are dying from gun violence. In the article, “the number of fatal shootings the Gun Violence Archive classified as some type of accident increased by more than 40 percent from 2019 to 2020”. As you can see gun violence has progressed and has become more deadly which results in the uptick of deaths. I agree with the author because gun violence has progressed overtime resulting in more deadly attacks, more killings and more shootouts. Moreover, we have lost many lives due to gun violence over the years. The newspaper article gives me more information on the research topic because we need to know why gun violence is becoming more common in today's world. We need to find the main root and stop it from progressing because it will harm or even kill more

people in the next couple of years. The authors' writings are very unique because they list statistics, facts and observations from their findings and compare and contrast the difference between the two. The authors do a good job of informing their audience of how and why gun violence is becoming so popular. The genre is very effective because it is listing scientific data as well as statistics to show the amount of deaths that have occurred due to gun violence.

Wintemute, G., The Epidemiology of Firearm Violence in the Twenty-First Century United States. *Annual Review of Public Health*. 2014., Vol. 36:5-19., <https://www.annualreviews.org/doi/10.1146/annurev-publhealth-031914-122535>

In the article, the author summarizes the importance that America has a high mortality rate due to gun violence. In other words, Americans have a high number of casualties and deaths which are a result of firearm usage. With that being said, the author has mentioned that gun violence occurs all over the United states but is mostly common in poor cities and neighborhoods. People that live below the poverty line are more likely to see gun violence on the streets, in their homes and other public areas. In poor areas of the United states a firearm is easily accessible which makes it open to the public. Moreover, under our freedom of rights we have the authority to own a firearm as long as we don't misuse it. Along with that gun violence is most seen in hate crimes, gender differences and ethnicities. All of these possibilities lead to shootings, homicide and suicidal events that lead to death. According to the article "During the ten years from 2003 to 2012, the most recent year for which data are available, 313,045 persons died from firearm-related injuries in the United States. As you can see many people have lost their lives due to gun violence, when it could have been prevented in the first place. Most of the gun violence cases have no outcome besides the criminal being sentenced, and loved ones

remembering their loss. According to the article “Firearms were used in 69.6% of all homicides in 2012 (74.2% among men and 52.4% among women) and 50.9% of all suicides (56.4% among men and 31.2%) among women”. I agree with the author because the author makes a point about gun violence being taking place in specific areas of the United States. Also the differences in gender, ethnicities and status have a big impact on gun control and gun violence. The author's writing style is very informative because the information is based on numbers rather than facts. Most of the gun violence cases occur in poor or underlying cities and neighborhoods. This author is very effective and credible because they do a good job in providing quality knowledge to people like me.

In conclusion, gun violence results in loss of life, injury, mental and physical disorders for anyone who has been affected by gun violence. Gun violence is the leading cause of death for Americans. It is still harmful and is progressing rapidly. In order to prevent gun violence from harming more people in the United States we need to make strict gun laws and take all precautions into consideration. First and foremost, any criminal who kills any individual with a gun should be faced with the worst punishment whether its life sentence or the death penalty. The maximum sentence should be given to the criminal who misuses a gun and harms anyone with the gun. Along with that we need to create strict laws for anyone who needs to obtain a gun, or matter of fact we need to ban the use of guns. The use of a fire weapon should only be allowed to the military, police authorities or anyone who faces any kind of danger. Aside from that people should not be able to easily obtain a weapon, there should be certain rules, regulations, licenses and much more. Moreover, for those that have been harmed with gun violence should be given extra assistance, for instance anyone who has faced any kind

of gun shooting, has witnessed gun shooting or has lost a loved one to gun shooting should be provided with coping methods. Lastly, we need more security and protection in public areas and special neighborhoods and cities that need help.