

## Gun Violence and the LGBTQ+ Community

- In an average year, more than 10,000 hate crimes in the U.S. involve a firearm—more than 28 each day.<sup>1</sup> Nearly one-fifth of hate crimes are based on sexual orientation or gender identity bias<sup>2</sup>, and on a per capita basis, LGBTQ+ people are more likely to be targets of hate crimes than any other group<sup>3</sup>.
- LGBTQ+ people are more than twice as likely to be a victim of gun violence than their cisgender and straight peers<sup>4</sup>, a function of both hate-driven and intimate partner violence.
- More than twice as many gay and lesbian youth (16%) have been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property as straight youth (7%).<sup>5</sup>
- LGBTQ+ youth are more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers.<sup>6</sup> Over their lifetime, as many as one in five LGBTQ+ adults have attempted suicide.<sup>7</sup> Gun violence has an outsize impact on the LGBTQ+ community because of its heightened risk of suicide and because suicide by firearm is nearly always fatal, resulting in death in 90% of attempts (more than 10 times the overall suicide attempt fatality rate).<sup>8</sup>
- LGBTQ+ people experience intimate partner violence (IPV) as high or higher than the general population.<sup>9</sup> As with suicide, firearms figure prominently in IPV: more than half of intimate partner homicides are committed with guns.<sup>10</sup>

### Protecting the LGBTQ+ community from gun violence

- Under federal law, a hate crime misdemeanor conviction does not prohibit someone from buying a gun. The Disarm Hate Act (H.R.2708/S.1462) would change this, but has not passed either chamber.
- Connecticut is one of 22 states that prohibits gun possession by people convicted of hate crime assaults.
- Connecticut's Extreme Risk Protection Order statute offers a means of removing guns from an individual threatening hate-motivated violence, acts that are often preceded by warning signs.
- Connecticut prohibits gun possession by subjects of temporary restraining orders, when victims of domestic abuse are at a heightened risk of violence.

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<sup>1</sup> Everytown for Gun Safety analysis of US Bureau of Justice Statistics, "Hate Crime Victimization, 2004-2015," (2017), <https://bit.ly/2KrFyoe>.

<sup>2</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, [2018 Hate Crime Statistics](#)

<sup>3</sup> The New York Times, L.G.B.T. People Are More Likely to Be Targets of Hate Crimes Than Any Other Minority Group, Jan 16, 2016.

<sup>4</sup> Sandy Hook Promise analysis of Science Advances, [Victimization rates and traits of sexual and gender minorities in the United States: Results from the National Crime Victimization Survey](#), 2017, Oct 2, 2020

<sup>5</sup> Sandy Hook Promise, [Facts and Statistics about the Impact of Gun Violence on LGBTQ+ People](#)

<sup>6</sup> The Trevor Project, [Facts about LGBTQ Youth Suicide](#), Dec 15, 2021

<sup>7</sup> American Journal of Public Health, [Lifetime Prevalence of Suicide Attempts Among Sexual Minority Adults](#), May 2016

<sup>8</sup> Annals of Internal Medicine, [Suicide Case-Fatality Rates in the United States](#), 2007 to 2014, Dec 17, 2019

<sup>9</sup> UCLA School of Law Williams Institute, [Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Abuse among LGBT People](#), Nov 2015

<sup>10</sup> The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence, [Domestic Violence and Firearms](#)