

National Gun Violence Survivors Week

Wednesday, Feb. 1 — Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023

About National Gun Violence Survivors Week

This February 1–7, we will honor the fifth annual National Gun Violence Survivors Week. During National Gun Violence Survivors Week, we take stock of the terrible human toll of America’s gun violence crisis—and recommit ourselves to supporting survivors with action. The date marks the approximate time that gun deaths in the United States surpass the number of gun deaths experienced by peer countries in an entire calendar year. Tragically and unacceptably, America’s gun death rate is 11 times greater than that of our peer countries and approximately 200 people survive gunshot wounds every day in the U.S. The focus of the week is on sharing gun violence survivors’ stories in their own words and encouraging allies to amplify their voices, especially those who are under-represented in our national dialogue.

Gun violence in any form leaves an indelible mark on the lives of those who are personally impacted. We are in fact a nation of survivors: **58 percent of American adults** or someone they care for have personally experienced gun violence in their lifetimes and gun violence is the second leading cause of death for children and teens in America. Among Black and Latinx Americans, **68 percent of American adults** or someone they care for have personally experienced gun violence in their lifetimes. Gun violence changes lives every single day—whether someone has witnessed an act of gun violence, been threatened or wounded with a gun, or had a loved one wounded or killed with a gun. That’s why we use the term ‘survivor’ as inclusive of anyone who has personally experienced gun violence. This can include but is not limited to gun suicides, gun homicides, domestic violence involving a gun, unintentional shootings, and more. Each of these lived experiences and every type of gun violence must be seen and represented to create change.

Why it Matters

- **To put a human face to America’s gun violence crisis:** Gun violence changes lives forever. By sharing stories during this week and throughout the year, we highlight the human consequences of gun violence in America and honor those who have been affected.
- **Raise awareness and provide education on all forms of gun violence:** Through sharing stories of gun violence in all its forms, we can raise awareness of the full scope of gun violence, including the reality that two thirds of gun deaths are suicides, that gun homicide

disproportionately impacts communities of color, women and children, and in the United States, many gun homicides, especially those committed against Black and Latinx people, go unsolved.

- **Enable individuals to recognize their direct, personal connection to gun violence:** We are a nation of gun violence survivors: 58 percent of American adults or someone they care for have personally experienced gun violence in their lifetimes. Through hearing stories, we can help more people who have experienced gun violence know that they are not alone, and recognize the power of their voice.

Here's What You Can Do

Partners can join the campaign in the following ways:

1. Share facts and information about National Gun Violence Survivors Week on social media using the hashtag #GVSurvivorsWeek. Help to spread awareness about this important week and the impacts of gun violence on Americans.
2. Honor and amplify stories of Americans who have directly experienced gun violence using the hashtag #GVSurvivorsWeek. Stories will be elevated on social media as well as through the **Moments That Survive** Story Wall site.
3. Share stories of those who have directly experienced gun violence from your organization's network.
4. Attend or host an event in your community. We will have an event lookup tool. Please let us know if you plan to host an event so we can include it on our events page

Everytown will be creating resources, including a digital toolkit, to make it easier for partners to engage online and will lift up work and stories from partners on the front lines of this work throughout the week. If you have other ideas for how your organization can partner, please email partnerships@everytown.org