



## God Bless America

### Background

Every few years, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence updates its God Bless America poster to show the alarming difference between the number of gun murders in other developed countries vs. the number in the United States.

### Gun Murders by Country

In one year, guns murdered 17 people in Finland, 35 in Australia, 39 in England and Wales, 60 in Spain, 194 in Germany, 200 in Canada, and 9,484 in the United States. The United States is an outlier, in part because our gun laws are woefully inadequate.

### Gun Murders by Country and Population Size

When the countries are compared on the basis of firearm homicides per 100,000 population, the United States remains an outlier. In one year, the U.S. firearm homicide rate was: 19 times that of Australia, 5 times that of Canada, 44 times that of England and Wales, 10 times that of Finland, 13 times that of Germany, and 24 times that of Spain.

### Guns Used in Crime = More Deaths

Research indicates that the overall rate of crime in the United States is comparable to the rates in other developed countries (see [Crime Is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America](#)). However, in part because of our weak gun laws, guns are used more often in crimes in the United States than in other countries, which means that more people die. This partly explains why, even when our homicide rates are low by historical U.S. standards, they still are far higher than comparable countries.

### We Can Do Better

The U.S. needs to do a better job of protecting its citizens from the dangers of guns by making it harder for dangerous people to get guns. We can start by requiring Brady criminal background checks for gun sales, including those at gun shows. Join us in this fight. Lives are at stake. Go to [www.bradycampaign.org](http://www.bradycampaign.org) and sign up today!

## Sources

The Brady Center identified, based on published research, 26 high-income countries with populations of greater than or equal to one million. Of the 26 countries, annual firearm homicide counts for 2008 were available online for four countries: Australia, Canada, England and Wales, and the United States. 2006 data was available for Finland, Germany, and Spain.

**Country list:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Firearm-Related Death in 26 Industrialized Countries," *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 1997, 46(5): 101-105.

### Counts of firearm homicides:

1. Australia – Australian Institute of Criminology. "Australia Crime: Facts and Figures," accessed at: [http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/6/8/E/%7B68ED8713-19FB-42A7-92C0-02767AB5B497%7Dfacts09\\_001.pdf](http://www.aic.gov.au/documents/6/8/E/%7B68ED8713-19FB-42A7-92C0-02767AB5B497%7Dfacts09_001.pdf)
2. Canada – Statistics Canada. "Homicides by Method," accessed at: <http://www40.statcan.gc.ca/l01/cst01/legal01-eng.htm>
3. England and Wales – Home Office Statistical Bulletin. "Homicides, Firearm Offences and Intimate Violence 2008/09," accessed at: <http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs10/hosb0110.pdf>
4. Finland – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "Tenth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 2005-2006," accessed at: <http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/CTS10%20homicide.pdf>
5. Germany – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "Tenth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 2005-2006"
6. Spain – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "Tenth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, covering the period 2005-2006"
7. United States – U.S. Department of Justice. "Expanded Homicide Data Table 8," accessed at: [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/offenses/expanded\\_information/data/shrtable\\_08.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/cius2008/offenses/expanded_information/data/shrtable_08.html)

### Populations:

- Population References for 2008 (except England and Wales) – U.S. Population Reference Bureau: "2008 World Population Data Sheet," accessed at: [http://www.prb.org/pdf08/08WPDS\\_Eng.pdf](http://www.prb.org/pdf08/08WPDS_Eng.pdf)
- Population References for 2006 – U.S. Population Reference Bureau: "2006 World Population Data Sheet," accessed at: <http://www.prb.org/pdf06/06WorldDataSheet.pdf>
- Population estimates for England and Wales – UK Office for National Statistics: "Mid Year Population Estimates 2008," accessed at: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15106>

For information on gun laws for the U.S., go to [www.bradycampaign.org](http://www.bradycampaign.org). For information on gun laws in other countries, go to [www.gunpolicy.org](http://www.gunpolicy.org).