**Table of Contents**

[Outline 3](#_Toc34926438)

[Executive Summary 4](#_Toc34926439)

[Introduction (Gun Violence in America) 5](#_Toc34926440)

[Problem Statement 5](#_Toc34926441)

[Solutions to Gun Violence in the United States 7](#_Toc34926442)

[Addressing the Fear and Distrust in Community 7](#_Toc34926443)

[Change Partisan-Motivated Reasoning to Gun Laws 8](#_Toc34926444)

[Conclusion 8](#_Toc34926445)

[References 10](#_Toc34926446)

## **Outline**

1. **Introduction**

a.The severity of mass shootings in America

b. President Obama’s perception on seriousness of gun violence

c. Thesis Statement

 **2. Body Paragraph 1**

 a. Guns woven in America way of life and culture.

 b. Establishing the number of deaths, injuries, and cost caused by mass shootings.

 c. Explaining why gun violence is shocking and depressing in the United States.

d. Clarifying the premise to support and reject strict gun laws.

e. A statement justifying why gun violence is an epidemic and solutions needed.

 **3. Body Paragraph 2**

a. A brief opening statement on the progress of gun violence discourse in America.

b. Addressing fear and distrust in community.

 c. Change partisan-motivated reasoning to gun laws.

 **4. Conclusion**

a. Restatement of the thesis statement.

b. Concluding remark on gun violence and future directions.

# **Executive Summary**

The paper explores the prevalence and severity of gun violence or mass shooting in the United States. Essential questions are raised regarding how those tragic events might impact influence public opinion and mass policy. The author examines various articles on the subject to determine the spate and perceived threat of gun violence. Thus, the paper herein stipulates that mass public shootings in America is a national epidemic and requires policymakers to take a non-bipartisan approach to formulate and enforce strict gun laws to reduce mass shootings, casualties, and injuries associated with it.

# **Gun Violence in America**

In 2012, a youngster committed massacre by opening fire at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, Connecticut slaughtering six adult staff members and twenty school children. The worst homicides witnessed in recent American history initiated an intense public discourse concerning firearm violence, which covered various topics such as violent video games, the mental health of the attackers, cultural issues, and primary political issues centered on limiting access to guns. President Obama responded to the tragedy and reminded Americans on the need to stay vigilant because the tragedy at Newtown was not an isolated phenomenon. Instead, Obama asserted that there seemed to be a persistent series of fatal shootings across the nation with victims' remaining primarily children and women in big cities and small towns all across the United States (Newman & Hartman, 2019). The paper herein aims to address an epidemic of firearm aggression because the U.S. witnesses sensational killings with distressing regularity.

#  **Problem Statement**

Firearms are woven into the fabric of U.S. antiquity and tradition. However, mass shootings in America have resulted in the loss of many innocent lives and other nursing serious injuries or left with lifetime wounds. Gun deaths in the country marked 40,000 in 2017 (Kirch, 2019). According to the Gun Violence Archive, that is over thirteen times the figure of reported demises in the extremist attack of 9/11 (The Editors, 2019). In 2018, the United States witnessed almost 15,000 individuals and twice the number of people injured from 57, 472 in instances of rifle attack (Brunson, 2019). On average, gun violence claims the lives of 83 Americans per day, which makes the prevalence of firearm in the country higher compared to other developed countries like Britain and Germany. Gun violence burdens the government because the annual cost associated with firearm injuries, comprising costs of criminal justice, health care, pain, loss of income, and quality of life is estimated to be $229 billion (Wamser-Nanney et al., 2019).

Meanwhile, the El Paso and Dayton mass shootings in 2019 were considered acts of domestic terrorism and angered the public due to the hate crime committed against innocent people. The ongoing firearm violence itself remains shocking and depressing, and these tragedies have initiated a debate on gun policy. The vast majority of deaths caused by handguns, including suicides, continue occurring within families and homes despite public massacres attracting sympathy and overwhelming community attention. So far, America's response to the epidemic of firearm aggression or collective inability to respond to its most disastrous representations in public massacres is a form of divine paralysis. The approach to the problem with the sense of apathy resulting from terrible news reported by various mass media outlets as well as the strategy of seeking to stop incidents of firearm aggression with fire and fury are manifestations of misery and lacking optimism that a nation which puts God first should display in the society (The Editors, 2019). Similarly, many leaders continue to resist even the simple and rational reforms proposed to reduce mass shootings.

Moreover, it has been reported that gun reform in the United States has become a perennial issue in the country's politics. Following mass public shootings, firearm violence debate is often driven in significant measure by public interest heightened by increased media attention regarding gun control regulations. Initial observations suggest that a foreseeable feature of the intense dialogue regarding community massacres in America is a divisive approach on the problem by gun control activists and firearm rights advocates. Conversely, the National Rifle Association (NRA), which is an influential firearm rights supporters (NRA) claims that there is a need to increase the public access to guns, particularly among certified professionals due to the severity of mass shootings to deter potential threats and reduce demises as well as casualties caused by criminals. Following the Sandy Hook mass bombardments, NRA Executive Vice President claimed, "the only thing that stops a bad guy is a good guy with a gun" (Newman & Hartman, 2019, p. 1528). Advocates of the Second Amendment also use the recent increased membership increase in NRA following mass shootings. They claim that such a surge in new membership suggests that Americans overwhelmingly support their stance on gun violence. By contrast, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence call for gun control and they often plead with policymakers to heed private donations amounting to millions of dollars in donations tipped following Sandy Hook and other incidents of gun violence as a representation that Americans support their cause. President of the Brady Campaign, Dan Gross, urged lawmakers to recognize the growing disparity between what the citizens want as far as gun violence is concerned and what Congress is doing about it (Newman & Hartman, 2019). For people concerned about the detrimental consequences of firearm aggression, Congress's inability to directly control guns should prompt them to find a better approach to reduce these costs. Taken together, these responses to mass violence shootings suggest that the problem is epidemic and strategies to prevent such tragedies might involve embracing a new paradigm shift to respond to the outbreak of firearm violence in America.

# **Solutions to Firearm Aggression in America**

Many questions exist regarding what regulations can effectively minimize firearm violence or public massacres overall and precisely what kind of reforms or policies are constitutionally and politically possible. Nevertheless, America has remained trapped for many years in the lie that the administration lacks the power to restrict mass shootings.

## **Addressing the Fear and Distrust in Community**

The majority of Americans favor gun control policies. However, the U.S. government needs to address the anxiety and distrust that permeate society to tackle gun violence. That calls for investing in preventive approaches and striving to enforce policies that further isolate and exclude people from neighborhoods (McLeigh, 2015). Although there is the argument that punitive law regulation may help minimize the number of injuries and deaths caused by firearms, as suggested by DiPoala (2018), policies implemented out of distress make neighborhoods more divided and insecure by creating anxiety and frustrating suspected criminals out of mainstream society without supporting such actions with evidence.

## **Change Partisan-Motivated Reasoning to Gun Laws**

There is evidence to suggest that apparent intimidations influence policy choices devoid of political philosophy, partisanship, or individual characteristics such as dictatorship. However, one option centers on the urge to continue practicing a person's formerly inner convictions regarding firearm strict regulations influences how he or she understands gun violence. It has commonly been assumed that partisanship and prior bias are compelling motivational aspects in citizens' stance on politics, and may cause differences in the insight of accountability of pubic massacres and convictions about the ensuing minimization of danger associated with the same. There are possible explanations for this approach. Newman and Hartman (2019), for instance, point out that reducing partisanship on the issue of gun violence requires both Republicans and Democrats to work harmoniously to formulate bipartisan policies that reduce mass shootings. The authors add that closeness to a public shooting should prompt Americans regardless of their political affiliation to support strict measure on firearm use.

# **Conclusion**

The gun violence epidemic in America warrants a change of strategy and implementing strict laws that prevent and reduce injuries and deaths associated with the mass shooting. Nevertheless, policymakers should not enact laws that further isolate and push people out of communities because it has proved to make communities less safe. There is a need for both Republicans Democrats taking a bipartisan approach when it comes to formulating and approval laws that restrict access to guns as the primary measure to reduce risk and deaths associated with mass shootings. The findings of the paper herein suggest that Americans, Republicans, and Democrats remain responsive to gun violence unless they support bipartisan policies for strict firearm control. One implication of such an approach is that one unfortunate consequence of taking a divisive stance on the issue of mass shootings will result in more gun violence and mass massacres currently witnessed in the United States.

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