



**GOVERNOR
GAVIN NEWSOM**

California's strong gun safety laws continue to save lives

Year after year, California ranked #1 for gun safety

California is ranked as the #1 state in the nation for the strength of its gun safety laws — along with some of the **lowest rates of gun deaths and gun ownership** — by [*Giffords Law Center*](#) and [*Everytown for Gun Safety*](#). In states where elected officials have taken action to pass gun safety laws, [*fewer people die by gun violence*](#). Texas and Florida, who ranked **31st and 24th** respectively in gun law strength, had firearm mortality rates more than **1.5 times** that of California.

California's gun safety laws have saved lives

California has reduced its gun violence rate compared to the rest of the United States. According to the [*California Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention*](#), if California's firearm mortality rate matched that of the rest of the U.S., California would have lost nearly **19,000 more people** to fatal firearm injuries in a single decade. If the firearm mortality rate in the rest of the United States had matched California's between 2013-2022, there would have been **nearly 140,000 fewer firearm-related deaths nationwide** in that decade alone.

California's protection order outreach correlates to reduced gun violence

California currently has **nine separate ways** for people to [*seek protection orders*](#) that include firearms provisions. Those include longer-term orders and gun-violence restraining orders (GVROs). At the same time, [*recent state and local investments*](#)

have focused on training and educating Californians about this process, which has **correlated with substantial reductions in gun violence in California**. There have been especially significant increases in utilization of GVROs – **increasing by 118%** – from 2020 to 2023.

California's youth gun violence rate down, U.S. rate up

Nationwide firearms kill more children and adolescents than any other cause, including motor vehicle crashes. Compared to the rest of the nation, California has made **substantial long-term progress** in reducing per capita rates of youth firearm homicide. Preliminary [*CDC data showed*](#) that in 2022, California's age-adjusted per capita firearm homicide rate for youth under 25 was **45% below the rate recorded for the rest of the U.S.** Nationwide, youth gun homicides increased over 37% since 2006.

Criminals take advantage of softer gun safety laws in neighboring states

California's gun laws stop at our borders, meaning **guns that are illegal in our state can still be used in criminal activity** here if sourced in other states. In 2021, just [*over half \(50.4%\) of the firearms*](#) recovered by law enforcement in California and successfully traced to a final dealer of record were traced to dealers located in other states.

Learn more about California's nation-leading laws and how to keep your family safe at:
[***gunsafety.ca.gov***](https://gunsafety.ca.gov)