

## Gun Violence

1. On Sunday August 31, 2008, In Los Angeles, California, Inglewood Police Shot and killed a homeless man who, police said had a gun in his waistband. The gun turned out to be a silver toy gun!
2. On May 5, 2008, in Southaven, Mississippi, five elementary school students were suspended for bringing two realistic looking toy guns (pellet guns) to school. The toy guns' orange safety tips were painted black.
3. On February 6, 2008, in Okaloosa County, Florida, the Niceville Police Department responded to a drive-by BB gun shooting which caused an eye injury to a young innocent bystander. BB guns are considered toy replica guns.
4. On January 6, 2008 in Belleville Illinois, a 39-year-old man was, shot by police when the man pulled out a realistic looking gray toy pistol from his waistband.
5. On October 26, 2007, in San Diego, California, a gun scare caused a lock down at Juan Diego School. The gun turned out to be a toy gun (Air soft replica of a Berretta 92).
6. On October 5, 2007, in Bakersfield, California, a 49-year-old man, Frank Ramos Sr., was fatally shot and killed by two police officers because he was holding a gun while standing in the street. The gun turned out to be an imitation toy firearm.
7. On June 22, 2007, in West Memphis, Arkansas, a 12-year-old boy, De Aunta Farrow, was shot and killed by a Memphis police officer because he was holding a toy gun in his hand; the police officer said it looked real.
8. On April 8, 2007, in Mount Vernon, New York, a 13-year-old boy was arrested by the police when he tried to rob a Chinese restaurant, with what police said was something that looked like a 38-caliber handgun. The gun turned out to be a plastic Airsoft toy gun. The police officer said he was worried that these kids can get shot for nothing.
9. On March 29, 2007, in Salt Lake City, Utah, four teenagers were arrested by a West Valley Police Officer, for a drive-by shooting, with a toy gun.
10. On March 22, 2007, in Little Rock, Arkansas, a 12-year-old boy was shot and killed by a police officer. The child's silver toy gun was mistaken by the police for a real handgun.
11. On February 24, 2007, in Brooklyn, New York, Sean "Light" Anderson, a 27-year-old, caused a real gunfight. When he got into a car with what appeared to be an AK-47 machine gun, the cops fired several shots; miraculously nobody was struck. It turned out the gun was a fake. A shocked witness said: "[The cops were] running and shooting down the block where there could have been innocent bystanders."
12. In February 2007, in New Jersey, a teenager robbed a man for his Cocker Spaniel with an Airsoft gun, which looked like a .45-caliber handgun. Police are concerned about mistaking the toy gun for the real gun, and these could result in tragedies.
13. On February 12, 2007, in San Diego, California, Noe Rojas, a 17-year-old teenager, was shot and killed during a traffic stop. The 11 year veteran police officer believed Rojas' toy gun was a .38 caliber revolver.

14. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), in 2007 alone, in America, BB or Pellet guns injured 19,645 people including 13,491 children and teens under 19-years old, these guns are considered replica/toy guns. (These replica guns caused 167,417 reported injuries between 2000-2007 in the USA).
15. On November 26, 2006, in St. Louis, Missouri, police shot and wounded a 13-year-old boy in the hip, leg, and arm. Officers said the boy reached into his waistband, and pointed a toy revolver, which looked authentic, at them.
16. On November 24, 2006, in Miami, Florida, Jose Varela, a 50-year-old freelance cartoonist, caused an at least two hour standoff at the Miami Herald Tribune's building. He carried and pointed a realistic looking black plastic toy gun, resembling a semiautomatic weapon, at people. He was later arrested and jailed.
17. On Thanksgiving of 2003, in Miami, Florida, police shot and killed, Danzel Smith-Graham, a 16-year-old teenager for holding a toy BB gun in his hand. After he was killed, the police Department in South Florida tried to ban the realistic looking toy guns. Their effort failed because of opposition from the National Rifle Association (NRA).
18. On July 25, 2006, in Ontario, California, a 15-year-old boy was shot and wounded when he pulled out and pointed, what appeared to be a .44-caliber magnum handgun at some people. The gun turned out to be an Airsoft replica toy gun, which shoots rubber or plastic pellets. The toy gun had the orange tip, but the police said that the orange tip was not visible.
19. On July 7, 2006, in Cleveland, Ohio, a 55-year-old, James Nugent, was shot by a toy BB gun in the lower back by two Ohio State University students who were basketball players.
20. On May 1, 2006, in West Valley City, Utah, a 10-year-old boy, a fourth-grade elementary school student, was suspended and booked into a juvenile detention facility for taking a plastic pellet-firing Airsoft pistol to school and for shooting at least 13 classmates.
21. On March 7, 2006, in Newark, New Jersey, a 32-year-old man was fatally shot by police officers for brandishing a gun that appeared to be a chrome semi-automatic pistol. The man had a history of mental illness, and the gun turned out to be a toy gun purchased from an ice cream man. This was the first police shooting in Newark in 12 years.
22. On February 20, 2006, a Sergeant High School freshman was suspended for bringing a pellet-shooting toy gun into school and shooting a female student in the leg.
23. On February 11, 2006, in Texas, Round Rock Police Officers had to draw weapons on two different teenagers on two different occasions for carrying toy weapons looking like a 45. Sgt. Ben Hall of the Round Rock Police Department said, "Had he pulled out a weapon, there is a good chance he would have been shot!" Round Rock police responded to eight fake gun calls within the past few weeks and there have been several toy guns recently confiscated from students who brought them to school. Round Rock Police are warning central Texans about dangerous trends they are seeing when it comes to toy

guns. “Many times, you can’t tell which gun is real, and which one is a toy. Toy guns can be fatal attractions”, the local news cited. (Feb. 15-2006).

24. On February 4, 2006, in Salinas, California, a freshman at North Salinas High School was arrested and suspended indefinitely for bringing a realistic looking toy gun resembling a 9 mm to school.
25. On January 19, 2006, in Valley Glen, California, a fourth-grader was shot in the chest while at recess at Kittredge Street Elementary School by a plastic pellet fired by an Airsoft pistol. The shot was fired by a 16-year old in an apartment across from school.
26. On January 13, 2006, in Longwood, Florida, a 15-year-old, Christopher Penley, an eighth grader, was shot and killed by police officers for brandishing a pellet gun that closely resembled a 9 mm at Milwee Middle School. The toy pellet gun had been painted to appear to be a real firearm.
27. On December 25, 2005, in Los Angeles, California, a police officer shot a 43-year-old woman, Robin Hutching, and wounded her in the thigh, because she pointed a replica handgun at him.
28. On February 8, 2005, in Olympia, Washington (Thurston County), Daniel Cootsa accidentally shot his 19-year-old friend, David Nelson, in the head, mistaking the firearm for a replica pellet gun. The bullet passed through his skull. Although he survived, he lost sight in one eye and hearing in one ear among other serious injuries. The gun was given to their friend’s sister for protection. Daniel was sentenced and jailed.
29. In February of 2004, a 14-year-old boy in Lakewood, California, was shot and wounded after Sheriff’s Deputies mistakenly thought an Airsoft pellet handgun in the boy’s waistband was real.
30. On January 2, 2003, in Brooklyn, New York, police shot, and killed a 17-year-old, Allen Newsome, after he pulled a pellet gun on a detective dressed as a delivery man.
31. On October 4, 2002, in Carson, California, a sheriff’s deputy shot and wounded a man who had a toy gun that looked real, even though the toy gun had an orange tip, according to a witness.
32. On August 19, 2002, in New Haven, Connecticut, Edgar Ayala, a 9-year-old boy, was shot and killed with a .38-caliber revolver and a .40-caliber Smith and Wesson, belonging to his 26-year-old stepfather. The boy’s friend who shot him said he thought the gun was a fake gun. His mother said that after the shooting, her son burst into the bedroom yelling, “Mommy, I didn’t mean it” and” I thought it was fake, Mommy, I am sorry,” over and over again.
33. In August 2002, in Brooklyn, New York, a man was fatally shot by a police officer, for wielding something that turned out to be a toy handgun.
34. In 2002, in New Jersey, 14-year-old twin girls held up and robbed a bank, with an air pellet toy gun.

35. In 2002, in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, Tommy Davis, a 7-year-old boy, faced three counts of felony assault charges for pointing a toy gun at three other youngsters and threatening to shoot them.
36. On March 13, 2002, a BB gun shooting at Slidell Junior High School caused five students, ages 13 and 14, to be shot and injured, and two teenage shooters to be booked.
37. On May 31, 2001, in Georgia, a man was almost shot by North Augusta Police Officers for pointing a toy pellet gun at motorists from his car. He was arrested and jailed later.
38. On May 5, 2001, in Huntington Beach, California, an 18-year-old, Antonio Salvidar, was shot and killed by a police officer when the police mistook his toy rifle for a real gun.
39. On November 20, 2000, in Charlotte, North Carolina, the Charlotte- Douglas International Airport had to shut down flight operations for two hours when the scanner spotted a gun; it turned out to be a young boy's metal toy gun. More than 100 flights were delayed and many missed their connections for the Thanksgiving holidays.
40. On November 6, 2000, in Portland, Oregon, a 3-year-old boy shot his 25-year old father, Jonathan Davis Christian, when he mistook his father's loaded .38-caliber revolver for a toy gun. His father left it on the kitchen table just for a few seconds while he went to go get the key to lock the gun's trigger.
41. On October 28, 2000, a Los Angeles Police Officer, responding to a loud Halloween costume party at a mansion in Beverly Hills, California, shot and killed 39-year old Anthony Dwain Lee ("Liar, Liar," "ER," and "NYPD Blue"). Lee was inside enjoying the party when he was killed. The officer that shot him thought he had a .357 magnum semi-automatic, when in fact it was a rubber toy gun.
42. On May 4, 2000, Santa Rosa police shot and killed a 37-year-old, Eugene Dieterle at Santa Rosa Junior College when he wielded a black handgun, which turned out to be a plastic toy gun, painted in black.
43. On April 10, 2000, in Sonoma County, California, Sheriff Deputies fatally shot 31-year-old, Erin MacDonald, at his home. Sheriff Deputies said that he was wielding a gun, which turned out to be a fake toy gun.
44. On March 31, 2000, in Brooklyn New York, two teenagers, 19-year-old Tysheen Bourne, and 17-year-old Andre Fields, were fatally shot by two undercover Narcotics detectives while brandishing toy handguns.
45. On November 10, 1999, in Monterey Park, California, a 13-year-old boy was shot twice on his upper left arm by an undercover cop because the boy had a toy gun resembling a real gun.
46. On July 4, 1999, In Adamsville, Ohio, a 6-year-old boy was shot in the chest and killed while playing with BB guns with an 8-year-old boy when one of the guns went off.
47. On April 13, 1999, in Hartford, Connecticut, Aquan Salmon, a 14-year-old boy was fatally shot to death by a Hartford Police Officer. The police claimed the boy was reaching for a weapon. No gun was found, but the police said they found two gun-shaped cigarette lighters.

48. On September 6, 1998, in Fort Myers, Florida, a 12-year-old boy, Ronald L. Harris, was arrested for pointing a toy gun at a man while demanding money.
49. On August 23, 1998, Michael Jones, a 16-year old boy, was shot 17 times and critically wounded by two police officers in Brooklyn, New York while riding a bicycle. He had a water gun that looked like a 9mm MP5 submachine gun.
50. In August of 1998, an entire terminal of the Los Angeles International Airport was evacuated when a toy gun was mistaken for a real gun. Many flights were affected, and many passengers were delayed.
51. On August 6, 1998, in Pacoima California, 23-year- old Isaac Alvarez was killed by his own gun when a 4-year old neighbor picked up the loaded rifle hidden under a bed and shot him in the back of his head. Police said the boy had stated that he thought it was a toy gun. Police said, "Toy rifles are out there. They play with toy rifles all the time. They are just like real guns."
52. On June 1, 1998, in Gardena, California, a 9-year old girl found a loaded handgun mounted underneath a desk in a woman's office. While playing with it, she shot and killed her 6-year old sister when she aimed it at her chest. She said she believed "it was a toy." The two sisters were brought to the business by their mother's boyfriend, who works there.
53. On April 3, 1998, a third grade boy took and displayed a small loaded antique 70-year-old real gun at Queen's Elementary School. The Principal delayed notifying the police because he thought it was a toy gun and did not think it could have created a real disaster.
54. On January 9, 1998, in Troy, Michigan (a suburb of Detroit), police arrested a cross-dressing bank robber who pointed, what looked like a handgun at the bank teller. It turned out that the gun was a toy. He is the probable suspect linked to at least a dozen bank heists in the area.
55. On January 8, 1998 in Spokane, Washington, Lisa D., a 23-year-old woman, was arrested for robbing five banks for \$5,500, with a toy gun.
56. On December 26, 1997, a father and his two sons, ages twelve and fourteen, were shot several times and injured by their neighbor while the two brothers were playing in their backyard with the paint ball gun that the younger brother had received as a Christmas present the day before.
57. Another tragedy involving toy guns occurred on November 5, 1997, when an explosion of a machine wrapping popping caps for toy guns and play hand grenades claimed the life of four innocent female workers (Juana Martinez Gonzalez, 33, Maria Valenzuela, 39, Gloria Jaramilo, 26) at the Imperial Toy Factory in Downtown Los Angeles. The explosion also injured about two dozen others. Several were hospitalized.
58. Air guns are considered toys, but they have caused injuries and deaths, especially in boys 10 to 14 years old. A study conducted by researchers at the University of Washington School of Medicine, Seattle, University of Cincinnati School of Medicine, Cincinnati, and Children's Mercy Hospital, Kansas City, Missouri (published in "Pediatrics," the

Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Oct. 1997) reported that of 101 children hospitalized for air gun injuries, three died, fifteen were blinded permanently, twenty five suffered permanent visual loss, and half of those 101 needed surgery.

59. On June 21, 1997, an entire terminal at Los Angeles International Airport was evacuated, grounding at least 15 flights, when a cigarette lighter shaped like a pistol was mistaken for a real gun.
60. On March 1, 1997, a 6-year-old boy's toy gun caused the evacuation of the San Jose International Airport, in California. More than 20 flights were affected.
61. On January 31, 1997, in Long Island, New York, Laurie Leitner, a 26-year-old woman, was shot in the chest and killed by a West Islip Police Officer because the police officer thought the gun Laurie carried was real; it turned out to be a toy.
62. On October 23, 1996, in North Hills, California, a 10-year-old boy was shot and wounded in the chest by a nail gun, while trick-or-treating. Nail guns are considered toys.
63. In December 1995, police almost shot a 10-year-old boy hiding in the bushes pointing a gun at them. The gun turned out to be a toy.
64. On November 4, 1995, in National City (South of San Diego), California, Johnny Angel Navarrete, an 18-year-old boy, was shot in front of his house after an argument with several youths. When he pulled a replica gun (a cigarette lighter) from his waistband that looked like a real gun, another youth pulled out his real gun, and shot him thinking the lighter was genuine. Johnny died two days later.
65. On Memorial Day, May 29, 1995, in Carson Park, California, Freddy Palacio, a 12-year-old was shot twice by a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy who mistook the \$2 toy gun for a .22 caliber pistol.
66. On Sunday, April 2, 1995, in the City of Torrance, California, 18-year-old Santiago Lopez Garcia was shot to death by the police because he had a cigarette lighter that resembled a gun in his hand. Ironically, this was the same day that we were collecting the toy guns, and educating the children about the danger of toy guns and real guns in a park only a few miles away.
67. On April 3, 1995, police almost shot Robert Alvarez, a 28-year-old man, in East L.A., California, because he had a lighter in the shape of a semiautomatic pistol. He was arrested and charged with suspected brandishing a firearm "on a public thoroughfare."
68. In October of 1994, Nicholas Heyward Jr., a 13-year-old boy and straight-A student of Brooklyn, NY, was shot in the chest and killed by a police officer when he was playing with his toy gun.
69. Jamiel Johnson, a 16-year-old boy, was shot and wounded on the same day, and in the same city as above, for the same reason.
70. In Montgomery, Alabama, a 7-year-old boy was shot by his own 9-year-old brother while playing with the gun they found in the glove compartment of their dad's car. They thought it was a toy gun. The boy died, even though this happened in a hospital parking lot.

71. In 1994, toy guns were reportedly used in 329 felonies in New York alone.
72. In 1993, in Las Vegas, Nevada, a 3-year-old girl found her father's loaded revolver. Thinking it was a toy she aimed, shot, and killed her pregnant mother who was asleep on the sofa. The mother died on the way to the hospital.
73. In 1991, a 3-year-old boy, in Northern California, was shot and killed by his grandfather while playing mistakenly using his real gun, instead of his grandson's toy gun.
74. In 1990, according to statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Justice, between January 1985 and September 1989, police departments nationwide reported confiscating 31,650 imitation guns during crime-related incidences.
75. Statistics from U.S. Bureau of Justice also show that in 1987, over 1400 toy guns were used in crimes in New York City alone. This is a sharp increase (80%) from four years earlier.
76. In 1987, Leonard Falcon, a 19-year-old boy from Rancho Cucamonga, California, was shot and killed by a San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy while playing with a laser tag gun, which resembled a real gun.
77. In 1987, a 12-year-old boy was shot and killed by a police officer in San Francisco, California. His toy gun was mistaken for real gun.
78. In 1983, a 5-year-old boy was shot and killed at his home, by an Orange County Police Officer because he was holding a toy gun.
79. Studies show that most children younger than eight can't reliably distinguish a toy gun from a real gun.

#### Gun Violence Statistics

1. Every year in America more than 100,000 People are shot with a gun; these are homicides, suicides, assaults, or accidents.
2. In 2005, in America 30,694 people died from gun violence. Of these:
  - 17,002 people committed suicide with a gun
  - 12,682 people were murdered with a gun (including 330 by police intervention)
  - 789 people were killed unintentionally with a gun
  - 221 people died by a gun, intention unknown
3. On average; Every Day, 84 people died from gun violence.
4. In 2005 of the 30,694 people who died because of guns, more than 80% were males (26,657 male, vs. 4037 females).
5. In 2007 in America 69, 863 people were injured but survived; many have long term or permanent disabilities.

#### Gun Violence in Comparison with other Countries (1)

1. In 2004 the number of people murdered by gun was:
  - a. 5 in New Zealand
  - a. 37 in Sweden

- b. 56 in Australia
- c. 73 in England, and Wales

(Children & teens 19 and under)

1. Every day eight children and teens under the age of 19 die from gun violence. This is the equivalent to one child dying every three hours.
2. In 2005, 3,027 children & youth under 19 died from gun violence in which:
  - 1,993 were murdered by gun (including 21 by police)
  - 822 committed suicide by gun
  - 173 killed accidentally by gun
  - 39 died by gun, intention unknown
3. In 2005, in the US, among the 13-19 age group, the African American teens; accounted for about half of the deaths caused by gun. (1)
4. In the US, firearms are the second-leading cause of death (after motor vehicle accidents), for the 1-19 age group. (1)
5. For every child and teenager killed by a gun, it is estimated that about six more are not fatally shot, but injured. (2)
6. In 2005, 81% of 12-24 year-old murder victims, were killed with a gun. (3)
7. In comparison with 25 other industrialized countries, the U.S. has 12 times more firearm related deaths of children under 14 years old than the other 25 countries combined!! (4)
8. In a study conducted of inner-city 7-year-olds, regarding exposure to violence, 75% of them reported hearing gunshots. (5)

References:

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(2) WISQARS, Injury Mortality Reports

(3) Snyder, H., Finnegan, Finnegan, T, and Kang, W. (2007). Easy Access to the FBI's Supplementary homicide reports: 1980-2005. Online. Available: <http://ncjrs.gov/ojstatbb/ezashr/>

(4) Center for Disease Control and Prevention" Firearm Related Deaths in 26 Industrialized Countries"

(4) CDC National Center for Injury prevention and Control, Web-based Injury statistics Query and reporting system 2007. [www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/](http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/).