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**Decreasing  
Gun Violence  
in  
Arizona**



**2025 Project Citizen Public Policy Submission**

# Portfolio Section 1

Identifying the Problem

# **The Problem and its Causes** (pg. 1)

The problem in our community is gun violence and the causes are in a average year 1,228 people die and 919 are wounded in Arizona.

Arizona is the 31st highest rate of gun violence in the US.

# **The Problem and its Causes** (pg. 2)

The problem is gun violence and it causes people to commit suicide In an average year 890 people die by guns.

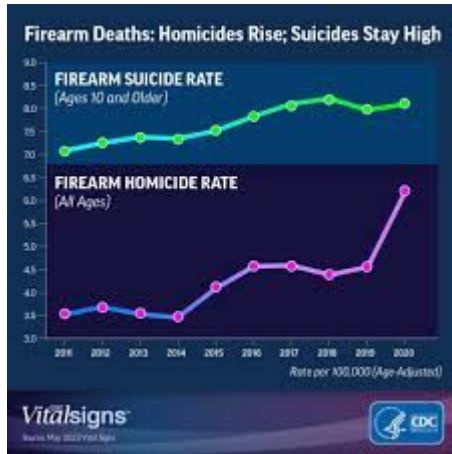
With a rate of 11.2 deaths per 100,000 people Arizona has teh 14th highest rate of gun suicide deaths in the US.

# The Problem and its Causes (pg. 3)

The problem is gun violence and one of the causes is people buying guns and choosing to make bad choices with the guns by school shootings, shootings, suicide ect.

# Evidence of the Problem (pg. 1)

Some evidence of gun violence is that 1,100 people died from gun violence each year in AZ and gun shooting are all over the news and tv. This is showing that a lot of people a choosing to hurt others or themselves.

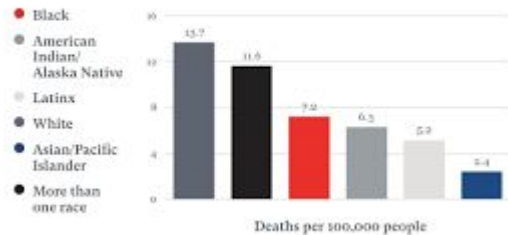


# Evidence of the Problem (pg. 2)

Some evidence of why people are committing suicide is because what is happening in their life one can be exposure to violence at home, Access to firearms and bullying are happening in their life.

There is 890 people who commits suicide every year in AZ

Gun Suicides By Race/Ethnicity in Arizona



More Than Half of Suicide Deaths and Homicide Deaths Involved a Firearm in 2022

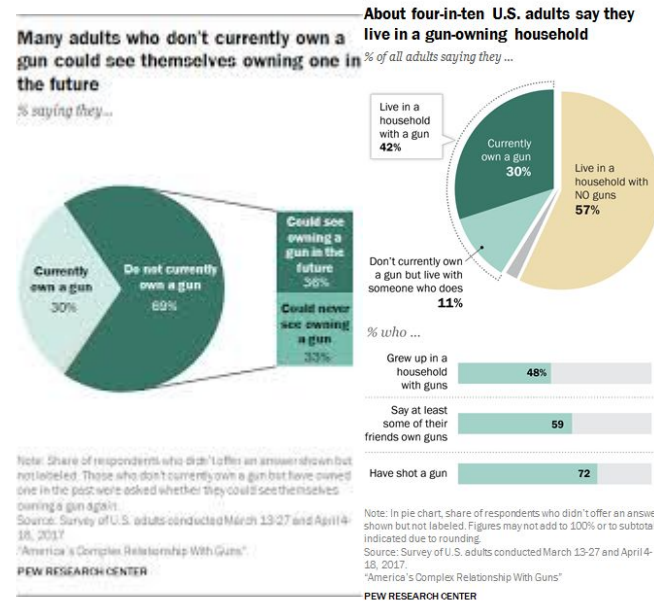
Percent of all suicide and homicide deaths involving a firearm, 2022



Note: The figure shows the share of suicide and homicide deaths that occurred via a firearm as a share of all suicides and homicides by all means in 2022. Firearm death types are identified by the following ICD-10 codes: X85-99 (Shots, falls, and other accidents), X72-X74 (Suicide). Suicides, by all means, were identified using the ICD-10 U13 Cause (U10, intentional self-harm (X85, X86-X88, X87-9), and the homicides, by all means, were identified using the same I13 Cause (I02, assault (Y02-03, X00-09, Y07, 1).

# Evidence of the Problem (pg. 3)

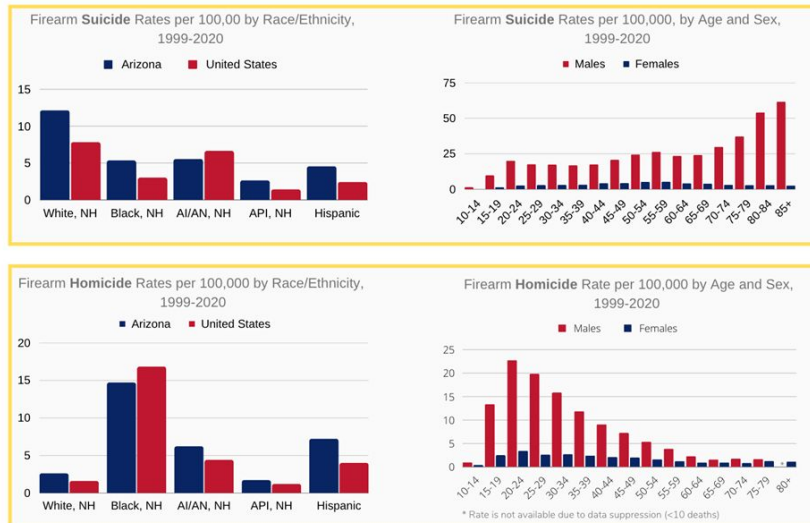
Some evidence of gun violence is when people buy guns there are bad backgrounds checks some people can get there guns off the internet and there are no background checks and because of that there is more gun violence.



# Issues Involved with the Problem (pg. 1)

Issues that involved with the problem with gun violence is there are many cases with suicide and homicide

## HOMICIDE VS. SUICIDE IN ARIZONA



# **Issues Involved with the Problem** (pg. 2)

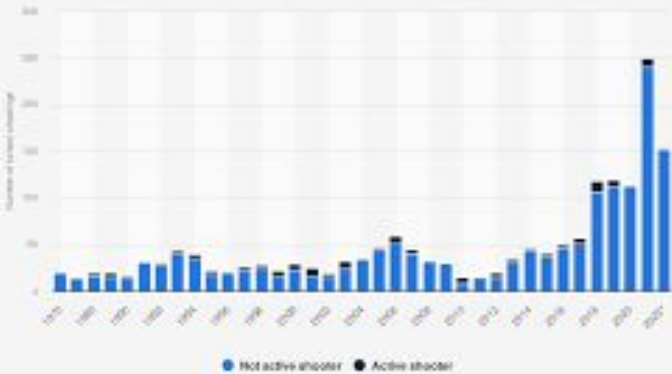
Some issues involved with the problem of gun violence are school shootings.

We think this because school shooting are cause because a person that is not in the right mindset and choose to make a bad choice with a gun.

# Issues Involved with the Problem (pg. 3)

Issues involved with the problem is School shooting for each year and it increase every other year. In Arizona, there has been 50 mass shootings since 2020 and is the second leading cause of children death.

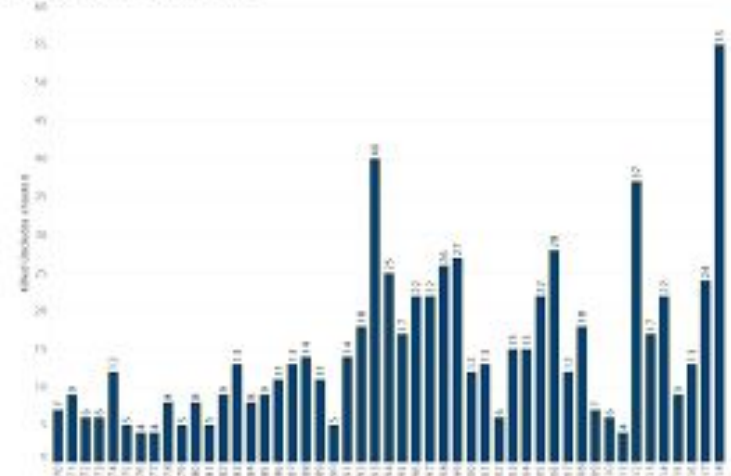
Number of K-12 school shootings in the United States from 1970 to June 2022, by active shooter status



Source: FBI, 2022; W. Swanson, 2022

Additional information: United States

Number of killed mass shooters by Year



# Existing / Current Policy (pg. 1)

How is Arizona currently trying to stop (or decrease) gun violence?

The Arizona State Crisis Intervention Program focuses on these 3 goals:

Goal 1: Mitigate Gun Violence in Arizona

This means: they are going to try and decrease the numbers of people instigating gun violence, become gun violence victim, and decrease the numbers unlawful firearms possessors.

Goal 2: Preserve Lives by Diminishing the Prevalence of Gun-related Fatales

This means: they are going to be decreases the occurrences of the gun related and decreases the

Goal 3: Decrease the frequency of gun-related injuries

This means: that means they are trying to lower the amount of gun related injuries from deliberate shootings and lower the amount of

# **Existing / Current Policy** (pg. 2)

One thing they are trying to do is firearm removal laws. They are trying to remove firearms from people at suicide or or violence against other.

# **Existing / Current Policy** (pg. 3)

Their trying to put more cops and security cameras in stores and schools and searching kids backpacks or put detectors for any guns or weapons

# **Disagreements about the Problem** (pg. 1)

One disagreement in the community about the problem is that they can just stop selling guns

This cannot happen because the second amendment says that you have the right to bear arms which means that everyone has the right to have a gun.

# **Disagreements about the Problem** (pg. 2)

According to Ms. Hively and Mr. Partida, teachers at Raul H. Castro Middle School, gun violence is serious in our community because many school shootings can be caused by mental health issues.

Ms. Hively says “ it's not guns that kill, it's the ammunition. I think we should raise the price of ammunition.

# Disagreements about the Problem (pg. 3)

According to Ms. Hart she wants it to be more difficult to access guns for kids and maybe some adults. She says this is a problem because of irresponsible parents and kids hanging out with the wrong crowd. She also adds that people need to educate their children on the safety of guns and make them less accessible to kids.

# Why Government Should be Involved (pg. 1)

The government should be involved because if gun violence can be solved many more communities will suffer less and be more happy.

In [USAFacts](#) it states that 1.4 thousand people have died in 2023 because of gun violence.

# **Why Government Should be Involved** (pg. 2)

Why the government should help us because as of 2019 we are the 17th state with the highest gun deaths in the country 25% has been homicides and 71% has been suicide. I think if they help us this will lower our number and the number of deaths by guns.

# Why Government Should be Involved (pg. 3)

The government should be involved with our problem of gun violence because with the government help we can decrease injuries and deaths by guns.

## Quick Facts About the Public Health Approach to Prevent Gun Violence



Gun violence is a public health epidemic, resulting in nearly 40,000 deaths annually in recent years and over 71,000 nonfatal injuries.

The public health approach addresses the many forms of gun violence by focusing both on firearm access and underlying risk factors that contribute to gun violence.

The public health approach is divided into four steps:

- (1) define and monitor the problem,
- (2) identify risk and protective factors,
- (3) develop prevention strategies, and
- (4) ensure widespread adoption of effective strategies.

# Sources (pg. 1)

[EveryStat](#)

[USA Facts](#)

<https://esfgv.org>

[AACAP](#)

[Arizona Criminal Justice Commission](#)

<https://www.pewresearch.org/>

# Portfolio Section 2

Alternative Policies

# **Alternative Policy #1** (pg. 1)

Having less gun shops / gun purchasing available.

This can look like closing down existing gun shops and gun selling sites, increasing the price of guns requiring all gun purchases to be made in person

# Alternative Policy #1 - Advantages (pg. 1)

An advantage of less gun shops are less irresponsible people killing civilians because they will have less access to firearms.

An advantage of increasing the price of firearms is “Pro 2: More gun control laws would reduce gun deaths.”

[Gun Control | Pros, Cons, Debate, Arguments, Firearms, Laws ...](#)

[Britannica](#)

<https://www.britannica.com › procon › gun-control-debate>

An advantage of requiring all guns to be purchased in person is

# Alternative Policy #1 - Disadvantages (pg. 1)

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

A disadvantage of increasing the price of guns is people are not going to be able to afford a gun

A disadvantage of requiring guns to be purchased in person is it makes it more dangerous for the person working in the gun shop

# Alternative Policy #1 - Disadvantages (pg. 2)

Gun shops will close and people will not make any money until they find a new job.

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

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# Alternative Policy #1 - Disadvantages (pg. 3)

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

People who hunt for food might not be able to shoot an animal because of gun shops closing.

# **Controversies and Conflicts** (pg. 1)

Some citizens of arizona will be mad because they won't have any protection to defend themselves in serious situations.

# **Controversies and Conflicts** (pg. 2)

Less availability to fire arm's might get people mad and go protest or even create a riot if they are really mad

# **Alternative Policy #2** (pg. 1)

Adding more preventative strategies to public spaces. This can look like hiring more security guards, adding additional court trial steps for people offending, gun safety protocols, etc.

# Alternative Policy #2 - Advantages (pg. 1)

“Security guards can screen strangers and maintenance personnel, along with anyone else coming through the building, they can also offer security checks on bags and any suspicious items brought into the campus by students, or others These checks have been found to prevent guns and knives” (<https://mprotective.com/blog/top-5-benefits-of-having-armed-security-guards-at-your-school/>).

# Alternative Policy #2 - Advantages (pg. 2)

“If a threat strikes to a student or an active shooter, armed security guards can potentially disarm or disable the shooter and help prevent further escalation or potential loss of life.”(<https://mprotective.com/blog/top-5-benefits-of-having-armed-security-guards-at-your-school/>).

# Alternative Policy #2 - Advantages (pg. 3)

“If a possible person of threat is considering targeting a school and sees armed guards or security cameras, they can be deterred from entering the campus, and may think twice before entering the building.”

<https://mprotective.com/blog/top-5-benefits-of-having-armed-security-guards-at-your-school/>

# Alternative Policy #2 - Disadvantages (pg. 1)

People might have a problem thinking they cannot defend themselves without a gun.

\*Job: prove why people feel more protected with a gun?

They can protect their love one and family and kids and themselves they can defend their home from robbery or getting killed to protect them



[Gun Ownership Provides Effective Self-Defense ...](#)

[Office of Justice Programs \(.gov\)](#)  
[https://www.ojp.gov > ncjrs > virtual-library > abstracts](https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts)

# Alternative Policy #2 - Disadvantages (pg. 2)

People are going to be mad they can't easily access guns.

They are working on stopping the flow gun from legal to illegal markets.

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

# Alternative Policy #2 - Disadvantages (pg. 3)

People may not be able to get a hold of a gun due to a background check

People might they can't get gun from the gunshop without a gun license before they get there gun or not at all.

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

# Controversies and Conflicts (pg. 1)

Mothers and students of arizona think we should take action on gun violence and that it should be dealt with in our state.

<https://www.everytown.org/press/victory-for-gun-safety-following-advocacy-from-arizona-moms-demand-action-and-students-demand-action-volunteers-governor-katie-hobbs-vetoes-legislation-to-extend-arizonas-preemption-law/>

# Controversies and Conflicts (pg. 2)

Citizens of arizona think gun sellers that don't check federal background check information, and let unlicensed customers by guns should be dealt with.

<https://www.everytown.org/press/victory-for-gun-safety-following-advocacy-from-arizona-moms-demand-action-and-students-demand-action-volunteers-governor-katie-hobbs-vetoes-legislation-to-extend-arizonas-preemption-law/>

# Sources (pg. 1)

<https://everytownresearch.org/report/firearms-dealers-and-their-impact/>

## Gun Ownership Provides Effective Self-Defense ...

[Office of Justice Programs \(.gov\)](#)

<https://www.ojp.gov › ncjrs › virtual-library › abstracts>

# **Sources** (pg. 2)

<https://www.everytown.org/press/victory-for-gun-safety-following-advocacy-from-arizona-moms-demand-action-and-students-demand-action-volunteers-governor-katie-hobbs-vetoes-legislation-to-extend-arizonas-preemption-law/>

# **Sources** (pg. 3)

<https://mprotective.com/blog/top-5-benefits-of-having-armed-security-guards-at-your-school/>

# Portfolio Section 3

Our Proposed Policy Solution

# Our Proposed Policy (pg. 1)

Our proposed policy is to do a deeper background check, and gun licensing protocols for gun purchases. Our policy would have the licence gun dealers go further into someone's record, we would go into the criminal record that a person has committed or been a victim of one. Those crimes could be, assault, domestic violence, and theft to name the least.



# Our Proposed Policy (pg. 2)

The people that pay for the background checks are the licenced gun dealers.

Current standard background checks cost \$10



# Level of Government Responsible to Help (pg. 1)

Level of government is the state government, because we as a class feel like at the state level would be the most appropriate level of government for this project. At the state level we would have enough manpower, supplies and the backing that we would need. This is why we chose the state level for this project.



# Advantages of our Policy (pg. 1)

Giving deeper background checks can help us determine the people that show qualities of potentially violating AZ gun laws of this year. An example of these qualities: crime, specifically assault according to the website “Aggravated Assault with deadly weapon” people with a deadly weapon like a gun are more likely to assault someone including (sexual assault) with the knowleg that the gun sellers will have after this, they would be able to know of people like this that put their community and the people around them in

**DANGER!**





# Advantages of our Policy (pg. 3)

Theft could be a major reason why someone might want to buy a firearm, if they stole multiple times, like 4-5 times, we are scared that the 5-6 time they might want to buy a gun to make it easier to steal. It's good to check their background for this specific reason, if they have stolen an item and they have been charged, it's nice to know so I would say if they have a lot/ more than 3 charge of theft, they wouldn't sell them a gun/weapon.



# **Disadvantages of our Policy** (pg. 1)

Dependency on government funding which can be influenced by political factors and budgeting constraints. We wouldn't really be in control of the funding that we need.



**DISADVANTAGE**

# **Disadvantages** of our Policy (pg. 2)

Bureaucratic processes and people not thinking that this extra level of searching is necessary, some might think that it's violating the constitution.



# Disadvantages of our Policy (pg. 3)

Provide a structured framework offering clarity on acceptable behaviors and guiding day to day operations. Needing more money and manpower along with tech aide.

# Why Our Policy is Constitutional (pg. 1)

The reason why our policy is constitutional is because, we don't overstep your boundaries like knowing personal info. (ecst..). We aren't stopping the second amendment, and the fourth, (for unreasonable searches, and the right to bear arms) because we would only be looking into the criminal records and anything that can lead up to the misuse of a gun and anything violent in your past that may have made you want to get a gun.



# Why Our Policy is Constitutional (pg. 2)

Our policy, constitutional because it doesn't violate the second amendment or any AZ gun laws that are currently in effect of this year, we aren't doing anything that the licensed gun dealers aren't already doing but we want to go further then what gun dealers are doing, but not that deep we only want to go into the criminal records that people have This is also going into the fourth amendment for reasonable/ unreasonable searches.



# Sources (pg. 1)

[Arizona Gun Laws: A Complete Guide](#)

- 2.) [Firearm Violence in Arizona: An Avoidable Public Health](#)
- 3.) [Alarming and Dangerous: Arizona Moms Demand Action](#)
- 4.) [Firearm Gun Violence in Arizona](#)
- 5.) [State Data: Arizona | Center for Gun Violence Solutions](#)
- 6.) [Gun violence rate U.S. 2024, by state](#)
- 7.) [Arizona Gun Laws 2024: Essential Updates And What You ...](#)  
[Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon](#)



# Portfolio Section 4

The Action Plan

# Supporters of our Policy (pg. 1)d

The McCourtney family build a organization to support non gun violence. On May 12 to 18 2023 they have gathered information that 86 percent of american adults are supportive of having deeper checks for when buying any firearms.

Americans support universal background checks and gun licensing. Almost about half of americans support to getting rid of current gun laws and protecting the second amendment.

# SUPPORTERS OF OUR POLICY (PG. 2)

MAJORITY OF AMERICANS HAVE MADE DECISIONS THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO CONTROL GUN VIOLENCE THEN TO PROTECT GUN RIGHTS DUE TO THE MANY MASS SHOOTINGS IN THE U.S.

MANY MASS SHOOTINGS HAVE LED TO THESE IDEAS. THE POLICE HAVE GIVEN A HUGE SUPPORT TO NON GUN VIOLENCE BY INCLUDING MORE FUNDING FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH, TREATMENT, AND MANDATORY BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR GUN PURCHASING. FROM THE FUNDING IT HAS PASSED A NATIONAL "RED FLAG" LAW. DUE TO THIS IT GIVES A JUDGE AUTHORITY TO GIVE THE ORDER TO REMOVE ALL OLL GUN FROM PEOPLE POSSESSIONS.

# Opponents of our Policy (pg. 2)

Some opponents that would be against our proposed policy would be people who like gun violence and threaten people all the time. Another reason might be because they have been through abuse and want to take that anger out on other people. It could also be the same for someone that is going through a tough time and if forced or blackmail into doing this damage on many people.

# Opponents of our Policy (pg. 3)

*There once was a case in which a older woman that lived in public housing in Wilmington. The older woman wanted to buy a firearm hoping to protect herself from neighbors who have been continually harassing her. The wilmington Housing Authority did not allow the possession of owning guns in one of their units. The Delaware state sportsmen's Association (DSSA) sued the wilmington Housing Authority. with this being said it an example that whatever companies that you are familiar with aren't always going to be on your side or even match policy's with what you believe is right or wrong.*

*Government Supporters of our Policy ~ Page 1.*

*It is confirmed that Ms. Harris Walz does support gun violence, she has said it herself that she has shot her glock 40 during a interview of October 2024. It is said that gun violenve is overseen in America and Biden wants to reduce that.*

*Merry Christmas!!*



*~ Government Supporters of our Policy ~* (pg. 2)

*The government supporters of our policy are actually the Founding Fathers, since they are the ones who signed the second amendment in the Bill of Rights. They, as in the Founding Fathers of course, they have granted the right of people to bear arms. In the 112th Congress, it is said that one of the Founding Fathers cosponsored H.R. 822, which was "the National Right-To-Carry a Reciprocity Act". Although, this amendment will soon be taken away if people don't use this right properly. It is said on the internet that civilians have been reckless by of the firearms they hold.*

MERRY XMAS!



# Government Supporters of our Policy (pg. 3)

*Government supporters of our policy is the Republican and Democratic Party. Who apparently genuinely support gun violence. They have outspokenly talked about gun violence with everyone else in their party. Though it is a partisan issue, there are more support on gun control legislation in those parties.*



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# Government Opponents of our

Policy (pg. 7)

Trump has shown interest on expanding background checks but then changed planes saying that it was “very strong”. He changed his mind because he thought it was too much to change for gun laws.

## Government Opponents of our Policy (pg. 3)

*The federal government, state and local governments are in charge of gun violence/firearm and explosives. their trying to reduce the overuse of people buying so much firearms. so that means that the governments are also on our side.*

# *Introduction to our action plan* (pg. 1)

- As i introduce the outline of our action plan i will identify our main goal. Our main goals is to promote non gun violence, to do so we believe that there should be deeper backgrounds checks for people buying guns.
- Our intention is to make a strong connection with people, to make them understand the danger that is really held in this topic. We believe that if we introduce our new policy with reliable facts and strong connections we will gain more supporters.
- We also plane to create a solid funding

# Outline of our Action Plan (pg. 2)

- We will Gather information about gun violence and deeper background checks in phoenix Arizona.
- With the information that we contain we will build a fund.
- To build our fun we will a santa photo shoot, were kids and families will be able to take pictures with santa.
- With this, we will announce why there is a santa and what it is helping with.(in our case it would be helping support non gun violence and having deeper background checks.)
- We will have three types of pictures to take with santa the larger the more it will cost.
- After the families get the photos we will gift them a little goodie bag that will contain 1 stretchy bracelet, two candy canes, and a business card that will be cantaing why people should support non gun violence and why having deeper background checks will help with that too.
- Two be able to afford everything before we sell them we will all contribute as a group.
- *When we build a trustful fund with our photoshoot we plan to join/ support giffords organizations, for support.*

## *How we will get Opponents to Support our Policy* (pg. 1)

*We believe that we will be able to get opponents to support our policy by reaching out with them with truth stories of people who were affected by gun violence.*

*We believe that by being able to connect with people with emotions and sympathy we will be able to convince them. We can reach out through social media. Also we can make a insta and or facebook page concerning gun violence and the need to have deeper backgrounds. We can make it more popular by advertising our page.*

## *How we will get Opponents to Support our Policy* (pg.

*We can support a known organization and work with them and decrease gun violence. We can create posters to advertise going against gun violence we can share the stories of those whose lives have been taken by gun violence. We can try to email big companies or news reporters to highlight more non gun violence. We can also supports other organizations with the same goal as us.*

## How we will Fund our Policy (pg. 7)

*Deeper background check costs about \$66 per person it shows that city that required deeper background Checks has shown to have way less murders robbery breakin and lots of other crimes has went down by 20 percent just by required deeper background checks*

- *Schools/ organizations should sell*
- *Get a lot of people signchar to get Arizona governor atechen to show them it a big deal*
- *We could send out messages to the Arizona Governor by using letters.*

*Giffords Organizations*

**The Effects of Background Checks**

# How we will Fund our Policy (pg. 2)

*We plane to have a photoshoot with santas at malls, elementary schools, and/or even parks. With that we sell the pictures and give little goodie bags containing stretchy bracelets, candy canes, and pamphlets explaining the issue with gun violence and our proposed policy of having deeper background checks when buying guns and why people should support us. We will be selling the photos for large -15\$, medium-10, and small-5\$. We will designed our pamphlets and print many of them out to give to the people. As for the stretchy bracelets and candy canes we as a group will all evenly contribute for the purchase.*

# How we will Fund our Policy (pg. 3)

240 candy spangler mini  
candy canes cost 17.99 cents

For a small picture with santa  
will cost you 5.00 dollars. For a  
medium picture it will cost  
10.00 dollars. For a large  
picture with santa will cost u  
15.00 dollars

We will design pamphlets and they  
will be printed at at raul h castro  
middle school there will be 150 copies

1/2 width silicone  
wristband= 0.47\$  
For 250 wristbands with  
would be 57\$. If we  
divide that by the four  
people in our group it  
everyone would have to  
contribute 14.25\$

# Sources (pg. 1)

*NEW ADS, ENDORSEMENTS AND  
POLLING*

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ogv>

Poll: A majority of Americans  
support universal background ...

# *Sources*

Most Americans support  
these 4 types of gun  
legislation ...

Brilliant Promos:  
Product Search

*Sources (pg.3)*

<https://housegop.delaware.gov/2023/02/08/ineffective-laws-wont-reduce-gun-violence/>