**Pritchard C, Parrish M, Williams R # (2020) Civilian Violent Deaths in the USA**

**International Comparison of USA Civilian Violent Deaths: A Public Health Approach to Reduce Youth (15-24) Gun-Related Deaths.** *Public Health.* 180:109-113

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**Abstract.**

**Objectives:** The controversy about firearm fatalities amongst American Youth (15-24) continues and this study examines whether a public health approach could reduce USA gun-related Youth deaths.

**Study Design:** US and international population-based analysis.

**Methods:** Data from USA National Archives of American Military fatalities from the Vietnam, Afghan and Iraq wars are contrasted against current USA Civilian Violent Deaths (CVD) (suicides, assaults and road deaths), using WHO data, with special focus upon Youth (15-24) CVD. To place USA CVD results in a wider context American CVD rates are compared with the seven Major Western Countries (MWC) based upon latest WHO data on CVD for 2015. Road deaths fatalities, between 1979-2015, are analysed, compared to suicide rates, to demonstrate the effectiveness of a public health policy, when Governments intervened to ensure technical improvements and change public behaviour to improve public safety.

**Results:** American Vietnam, Afghan and Iraq wars fatalities totalled 65,771. Vietnam deaths averaged 5,838p.a. 2015 total USA CVD 101,456 consisted of 39,675 road deaths, 44,193 suicides and 17,588 homicides of which 30,891 probably gun-related. American CVD significantly higher than the other MWC. American Youth (15-24) suicides and homicides totalled 10,223, minimum 5,112 gun-related. Public health approach significantly reduced road deaths, compared to suicides, in every country.
Conclusions: Government intervention reduced transports deaths, so too, with gun-related violence by America appreciating its level of CVD compared to military deaths and other MWC rates. This would show that a Public Health approach is needed to reduce firearms deaths and make America safer.

Key Words. homicide, suicide, guns, public health public good.

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Introduction. [Text 3,000]

The spate of USA school-based shootings shocked America and the world, with tragedies at Stoneham Douglas, February, 2018 and Sante Fe, May 2018, triggering protests of American high-school students cry of “we want change”.

Some have argued that USA gun-related violent deaths should be considered as a public health problem and it has recently been described as a Global public health problem described in the international Global Burden of Disease study series.

This current project provides new and original evidence to support such an approach and starts with what was the greatest civilian death toll of the 1970’s, namely transport deaths. This saw a transformation following a preventative Public Health approach across the Western world to improve road safety and behaviour, a model that could be applied to gun-related violence. Over the past 30 years there had been major Governmental campaigns and legislation to make cars safer in the 1970’s as Western Governments began to appreciate the scale of the problem, which were far, far higher than the powerful media highlighted child-related-abuse-deaths, especially when including health-related knock-on effect of bereaved and orphaned children.

There were major preventative legislation that reduced transport deaths, bringing about changes such as the introduction of seat belts, campaigns against drinking and...
driving as well as technical demands to make cars safer and as will be shown, is perhaps one of the greatest modern Public Health achievements. For example, extrapolating from WHO mortality data in the UK in 1979 there were 7,493 transport deaths, which was four times the 2015 transport toll of 1,853 people killed⁴. Whilst in America, in 1979 there were 57,577 road deaths but by 2015 had fallen to 39,675, despite a quadrupling of cars over the period⁴.

One feature of road deaths is that apart from local media coverage there is relatively little public awareness of the extent of such tragedies at the national level. Conversely, there is a very high public awareness of military fatalities that surrounds current and previous conflicts and of course the tragic school shootings. It is suggested that if the extent of these Civilian Violent Deaths (CVD), that includes firearm fatalities in the USA, compared with to the American military causalities was better recognised, especially when compared with CVD in the seven Major Western Countries (MWC), then the demand for a preventative Public Health approach would be strengthened.

To do this this study examines the extent of current Civilian Violent Deaths (CVD) in the USA compared to the Vietnam, Afghan and Iraqi war fatalities. Then compares current CVD with the other seven MWC. These include suicides and homicides, which in America are predominately related to firearms⁷⁻¹¹. These major Western countries are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the UK.

The rational for a public health approach is that it is preventative, aimed at the public good and is evidenced-based to enable public and policy makers to take better informed decisions.

The debate within the USA about whether there is a need for stricter gun control arouses passions, nonetheless, there appears to be a growing consensus that something must be done, echoing the cries of American youth “we want change”, reinforced by another tragedy at a Thousand Oaks in November 2018.
It is argued that stricter gun control is feasible if it was appreciated just how extraordinary high is the level of risk of gun violence in America compared to comparable Western countries, especially in relation to Youth deaths, young people aged 15-24.

The key difference between the USA and the other countries under review is that USA homicide and suicide deaths are mainly gun-related, approximately 80% and 66% respectively, whilst the rates of fire-arms related deaths are comparatively rare in the other MWC. For example, in England & Wales in 2017 there were 1,388,000 firearm licences issued but of the 709 homicides only 4.8% (34) were the result of guns or a rate of 0.5 per million of the total UK population.

Perhaps the nightmare of every parent is that their child should pre-decease them. How horrific if they died by murder, or the tragedy of a road accident or even worse, by suicide, which becomes a scar that lives with them forever.

As it was the high-school shootings that aroused such public concern, the study focuses upon Youth (15-24 years) deaths as a major risk factor in Youth suicide is impulsivity, consequently the easy access to a lethal method of self-harm is truly vital. Hence the particular focus upon violent deaths amongst American Youth and the other MWC.

Method. The numbers of USA military losses in the Vietnam (1963-73), Afghan (2001-2013) and Iraq (2003-10) wars are drawn from the USA official National Archives. All fatalities of those killed in action, died of wounds or ‘missing’ but not the 382 self-inflicted deaths reported, which suggest a different dynamic. It should be stressed that in considering US military losses we intend no disrespect. Indeed in remembering their loss, reflects their sacrifice which was to make the USA safer.

The USA Civilian Violent Deaths (CVD) includes suicides and assaults because the majority method involved firearms. Transport deaths are also examined between 1979, the earliest year for which we have WHO data to 2015. To make the public
health case, we compare all eight countries transport and suicide deaths, to
determine whether there were any statistically significant difference between the two
mortalities over the years that might indicate the impact of Governmental efforts to
reduce the transport toll. As many American States are bigger than many European
nations it was decided to compare only what were designated Major Western
Countries by having a general population of at least 35 million people. The seven
MWC are Canada, France, Germany, Italy Japan, Spain and the UK, all mortality
data was taken from the WHO 4. Five MWC data was for 2015 but Canada’s latest
year was for 2013, and France 2014. We report the numbers of deaths for all the
countries reviewed, from which to calculate death rates per million (pm) per
population for all ages and for the Youth age-band 15-24, enabling us to compare the
USA with countries of smaller population size. This approach has been successfully
used across various international comparative studies, ranging from cancer, child
abuse, public health to changes in neurological mortality 21-24.
Reducing Suicide & Transport Deaths 1979-2015: Every nation wants to reduce
civilian deaths as much as possible and to examine the degree of success we
compare each country’s transport and suicide, drawing upon the current WHO data,
based upon the ICD-10 for the recorded year 1979, contrasted with the latest year of
each country under review, mainly 2015 4. To compare relative success in reducing
suicide and transport deaths, chi square tests are used to determine any statistical
significant difference for each of the countries.
It might be said that whilst many Western government’s aspiration to reduce suicides,
we have not had the same Public Health input that has been given to making roads
safer.
To examine any the differences between the USA and the MWC CVD rates per
million for Youth (15-24) and Total population, we calculate a series of MWC to USA
ratio.
Estimating Extent of Gun-Related-Deaths: The percentage of reported gun-related homicide and suicide deaths in America are approximately 80% and 66% respectively \(^7\)\(^{11}\). It was decided to err on the side of caution and avoid any criticism that we might be over-estimating American gun-related fatalities, so we conservatively estimate that only fifty percent of homicides and suicides were gun-related, which means the numbers of such deaths are a likely to be an under-estimate.

Again to avoid over-stating the USA position accidental gun deaths of children and other accidental gun deaths are not included \(^{25}\), as accidents are of a different nature to suicide and homicide in which firearms are the method of lethality.

The Undetermined Death (UnD) category is another mortality that typically entails a degree of violence \(^4\). This was also excluded, although sub-categories in UnD include ‘doubtful’ road and gun deaths, which might infer under-reported suicides \(^{25,26}\).

Results- The War Fatalities: In the Vietnam war between 1963 and 1973 it has been estimated that 57,838 American services personnel died during the conflict, averaging 5,838 deaths p.a. During the main Afghan war years (2001-13), there were 3,410 fatalities, averaging 341 p.a. There was a further 131 deaths in the 2014-17 period, which are not included as it would minimise the overall average annual loss during the height of the conflict.

In the Iraq wars between 2003 and 2010 there were 4,523 USA fatalities, averaging 646 p.a. From the three wars there was a total of 65,771 American service personnel lost over 29 years shown in Table [1]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wars</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
<th>Annual Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Iraq Wars 2003-10</td>
<td>4,523</td>
<td>646 p.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Numbers</td>
<td>65,771</td>
<td>2,268 p.a.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Does not include 131 Killed in Afghan War between 2014-17

How do these tragic losses compare with the USA civilian losses in 2015 from homicide, suicide and transport, mainly road deaths?

**USA Civil Violent Deaths (CVD) 2015.**

In 2015 there were a total 17,788 homicides in the USA, which is more than three times the annual average Vietnam toll of 5,838 deaths.

Total suicides were 44,193, which is more than seven times the annual average Vietnam war fatalities.

Of the homicide and suicides it was estimated that only 50% of these fatalities were gun-related, giving an approximate 30,891 people dying from victims of gun-violence in one year.

Transport deaths in 2015 were 39,675 giving a total of 101,456 combined CVD in one year, exceeding the 65,771 losses incurred in three wars over twenty-nine years of war.

In respect to American Youth (15-24) CVD the total deaths for all three categories, was 17,432, at a rate per million population of 394pm.

There were 10,223 homicide and suicide Youth deaths, which if 50% were by guns gives an estimated 5,112 victims of gun-violence which was not far from the 5,838 annual average of the Vietnam losses.

**Table [2] USA Civilian Violent Deaths 2015 Numbers & rates per million [pm]. Ranked by Highest Total Mortality Category.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mortality Category</th>
<th>Youths 15-24</th>
<th>General Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suicide</td>
<td>5,491 - 124pm</td>
<td>44,193 - 138pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>7209 – 163pm</td>
<td>39,675 - 124pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>4,732 – 107pm</td>
<td>17,588 - 56pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Ratio 50% Guns]</td>
<td>[5,112 - 116pm]</td>
<td>[30,891 - 97pm]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17,432 – 394pm</td>
<td>101,456 - 318pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Civilian Violent Deaths in Major Western Countries (MWC): The USA CVD might sound severe but how do they compare with the seven MWC, whose mortality rates per million of population and numbers of deaths are shown in Table [3].

The USA had the highest all-age total CVD at a rate of 318 per million (pm) followed by Japan at 233pm, Canada 196pm, France 190pm, Germany 183pm, Italy 135pm, Spain 129pm and the UK 105pm. This yields an average of 167pm for the seven MWC.

In respect to Total homicides, at 56pm the USA far exceeded every other country, homicides, compared to the MWC average of 6pm and only Canada reached double-figures at 13pm.

Youth (15-24) CVD: The total USA Youth CVD rate was 394pm, followed by Canada 216pm, Japan162pm, France 134pm, Germany 130pm, Italy 120pm, the UK 101pm and Spain 82pm.

USA Youth homicide rates were 107pm, followed by Canada 21pm, Germany 7pm, France and 5pm, Japan and the UK 2pm. The MWC average was 7pm for the year 2015.

American Youth suicides at 124pm, were second to Japan at 126pm, followed by Canada 95pm, UK 59pm, France 50pm, Spain 36pm and Italy 33pm.

In respect to transport deaths the USA was highest at 163pm, the only other country to reach three figures was Canada at 100pm the other MWC averaging 55pm.

In column three in Table [3] are the MWC Youth to USA Youth CVD rate ratios. The final column gives the Total CVD MWC to USA ratios.

Table [3] Numbers & Rates Civilian Violent Deaths 2015 in USA & MWC Youth & General Population rates per million [pm]. MWC to USA ratios.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country &amp; Total Rank</th>
<th>Youth 15-24 Numbers- Rates</th>
<th>MWC:USA Ratio</th>
<th>General Population Numbers- Rates</th>
<th>MWC:USA Gen Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. USA. 2015. Suicide Transport Homicide</td>
<td>5,491 - 124pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
<td>44,193 - 138pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7209 – 163pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
<td>39,675 - 124pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4,732 – 107pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
<td>17,588 - 56pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1:100</td>
<td>1:100</td>
<td>1:100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Japan 2015. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>1,499 - 126pm</td>
<td>1:0.98</td>
<td>23,160 - 185pm</td>
<td>1:0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>404 - 34pm</td>
<td>1:4.79</td>
<td>5,646 - 45pm</td>
<td>1:2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>15 - 2pm</td>
<td>1:53.5</td>
<td>316 - 3pm</td>
<td>1:18.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,918 - 162pm</td>
<td>1:243</td>
<td>29,122 - 233pm</td>
<td>1:1.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Canada 2013. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>438 - 95pm</td>
<td>1:1.31</td>
<td>4,054 - 115pm</td>
<td>1:1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>463 - 100pm</td>
<td>1:1.63</td>
<td>2,380 - 68pm</td>
<td>1:1.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>95 - 21pm</td>
<td>1:5.10</td>
<td>446 - 13pm</td>
<td>1:4.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>996 - 216pm</td>
<td>1:1.82</td>
<td>6,880 - 196pm</td>
<td>1:1.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. France 2014. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>374 - 50pm</td>
<td>1:2.48</td>
<td>8,881 - 138pm</td>
<td>1:1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>596 - 79pm</td>
<td>1:2.06</td>
<td>3,056 - 48pm</td>
<td>1:2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>33 - 5pm</td>
<td>1:21.4</td>
<td>285 - 4pm</td>
<td>1:14.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,003 - 134pm</td>
<td>1:2.94</td>
<td>12,222 - 190pm</td>
<td>1:1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. Germany 2015. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>512 - 59pm</td>
<td>1:2.10</td>
<td>10,088 - 133pm</td>
<td>1:1.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>558 - 64pm</td>
<td>1:2.55</td>
<td>3,368 - 45pm</td>
<td>1:2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>57 - 7pm</td>
<td>1:15.3</td>
<td>434 - 5pm</td>
<td>1:11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>1,127 - 130pm</td>
<td>1:3.03</td>
<td>14,886 - 183pm</td>
<td>1:1.73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6. Italy 2015. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>195 - 33pm</td>
<td>1:3.76</td>
<td>3,989 - 66pm</td>
<td>1:2.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>478 - 81pm</td>
<td>1:2.01</td>
<td>3,783 - 62pm</td>
<td>1:2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>38 - 6pm</td>
<td>1:17.8</td>
<td>395 - 7pm</td>
<td>1:8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>711 - 120pm</td>
<td>1:3.28</td>
<td>9,294 - 135pm</td>
<td>1:2.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7. Spain 2015. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>162 - 36pm</td>
<td>1:3.44</td>
<td>3,604 - 78pm</td>
<td>1:1.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>186 - 41pm</td>
<td>1:3.97</td>
<td>2,097 - 45pm</td>
<td>1:2.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>24 - 5pm</td>
<td>1:21.4</td>
<td>288 - 6pm</td>
<td>1:9.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>372 - 82pm</td>
<td>1:4.80</td>
<td>5,989 - 129pm</td>
<td>1:2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8. UK 2015. Suicide</strong></td>
<td>478 - 59pm</td>
<td>1:2.10</td>
<td>4,910 - 75pm</td>
<td>1:1.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>321 - 40pm</td>
<td>1:4.08</td>
<td>1,853 - 28pm</td>
<td>1:4.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homicide</td>
<td>17 - 2pm</td>
<td>53.50</td>
<td>124 - 2pm</td>
<td>1:28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>816 - 101pm</td>
<td>1:3.90</td>
<td>6,763 - 105pm</td>
<td>1:3.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average MWC Suicide</strong></td>
<td>65pm</td>
<td>1:1.91</td>
<td>56pm</td>
<td>1:2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average Transport</strong></td>
<td>55pm</td>
<td>1:2.98</td>
<td>40pm</td>
<td>1:3.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average MWC Homicide</strong></td>
<td>7pm</td>
<td>1:15.3</td>
<td>6pm</td>
<td>1:9.33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The total MWC Youth to USA Youth CVD ratios were Canada 1:1.82, Japan 1:2.43, France 2.94, Germany 1:3.03, Italy 1:3.28, the UK 1:3.90 and Spain 1:4.80. Apart from Canada, American Youth (15-24) had more than double the MWC rate of civilian violent deaths.

The salient ratios are in regard to suicides as the USA had more than double the rate of MWC. Youth MWC to USA homicides ratios were substantial, ranging from just 1:5.10 in Canada, to six countries having more than 1: 15.3. There were notable highs of 1:21.4 in France and Spain and Japan and the UK 1:53.5. Bearing in mind that suicides in America are strongly linked to firearms, the high USA Youth rate may be because of the relatively easy access to guns, by distressed impulsive Youth,
using the most lethal effective easily available method – firearms, which yields an estimated 2,746 possibly gun-related suicides a rate of 62pm.

In regard to Total CVD, the disproportionate MSW to USA ratios was repeated for both suicide and homicides, an average ratio of 1:2.46 and 1:9.3 respectively, another strong indication of the effect of easy access to firearms.

**Public Health Success Reducing Suicide & Transport Deaths:** This can be clearly demonstrated when examine changing patterns of transports and suicide fatalities between 1979 and 2015 shown in table [4].

In the USA suicides were 27,206 a rate of 121pm, now are 42,772, a rate of 134pm. Conversely, USA transport deaths fell from 57,577, a rate of 256pm, down to today’s 39,675 deaths, a rate of 118pm, more than halving the earlier toll, a statistically significant change (p<0.0001).

The success of a Public Health approach to transport deaths is exemplified in Table [4] showing that every MWC reduced its transport deaths significantly more than their suicides over the period, this was especially strong for Youth transport and suicide deaths (p<0.001). It should be noted, that except in Germany, in 1979 every MWC total transport rates were higher than their suicides but are now fare lower in every MWC. Whilst in respect to Youth fatalities the 1979 transport deaths were higher than suicides in all eight countries but today there has been a complete and significant reversal as via Government’s Public Health preventative legislation lives have been saved.

**Table [4] Comparing Suicide & Transport Death Numbers & Rates per million 1979-2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>Total Population Suicide-Transport</th>
<th>X2 P value</th>
<th>Youth 15-24 Suicide-Transport</th>
<th>X2 P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. USA</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>121pm – 256pm. 138pm - 124pm +14% - -52%</td>
<td>27.2 ***&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>124 pm – 476pm 124 pm - 163pm + 0% - -66%</td>
<td>50.9 ***&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Canada 1979</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>142pm - 275pm 115pm - 68pm -19% - -75%</td>
<td>43.0 ***&lt;0.0001</td>
<td>172 pm - 523pm 95pm - 100pm -45% - -81%</td>
<td>41.7 ***&lt;0.0001</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Japan</td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>197pm - 213pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>148pm - 158pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
254 | Unified Germany's base line was 1990
255 # Gen pop 26.044 million –Baseline Years Denmark 1994, Finland 1987, Norway 1986 and
256 Sweden 1987

258 **Discussion**
259
260 This studies results provides evidence for the high-school student’s call “we want
261 change”, showing that America had substantially higher rates of gun-related civilian
262 deaths than the other major Western countries. Whilst homicides often attract high
263 media attention there does not appear to be the same appreciation that suicides
264 often involve firearms. Moreover these gun-related deaths might be thought of an
265 under-reporting as the USA results did not include children’s deaths and serious
266 injuries related to guns, 1,300 and 5,790 respectively 25. Furthermore, there is
267 indicative evidence that the official suicide figures for Youths are under-reported in
268 many countries, including the USA, often being designated as Undetermined 26,27.
269 Moreover, there is considerable evidence that the impact of a homicide upon family
270 members often has long-lasting negative consequences upon surviving family and
271 friends 6, 28-31. As an American study of 3,614 adolescent’s response to homicide,
272 the results were projected the results onto the national population, which estimated
273 that in their life-times, one in five young people might be affected by a homicide of
274 someone they knew or a family member 28.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Change</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>1979</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>185pm - 45pm</td>
<td>64.2 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td>126pm - 34pm</td>
<td>40.0 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-6%</td>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-79%</td>
<td>-78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. France</td>
<td>138pm - 48pm</td>
<td>99pm - 391pm</td>
<td>28.1 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-26%</td>
<td>-49%</td>
<td>-77%</td>
<td>-84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Italy</td>
<td>140pm - 172pm</td>
<td>68pm - 281pm</td>
<td>4.51 <strong>&lt;0.04</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-53%</td>
<td>-51%</td>
<td>-64%</td>
<td>-71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Germany</td>
<td>175pm - 145pm</td>
<td>95pm - 285pm</td>
<td>23.1 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-24%</td>
<td>-38%</td>
<td>-69%</td>
<td>-78%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. UK</td>
<td>88pm - 134pm</td>
<td>49pm - 253pm</td>
<td>26.7 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-15%</td>
<td>-40%</td>
<td>-79%</td>
<td>-84%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Spain</td>
<td>88pm - 172pm</td>
<td>54pm - 223pm</td>
<td>23.6 <strong>&lt;0.0001</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-11%</td>
<td>-33%</td>
<td>-74%</td>
<td>-82%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discussion
This studies results provides evidence for the high-school student’s call “we want change”, showing that America had substantially higher rates of gun-related civilian deaths than the other major Western countries. Whilst homicides often attract high media attention there does not appear to be the same appreciation that suicides often involve firearms. Moreover these gun-related deaths might be thought of an under-reporting as the USA results did not include children’s deaths and serious injuries related to guns, 1,300 and 5,790 respectively 25. Furthermore, there is indicative evidence that the official suicide figures for Youths are under-reported in many countries, including the USA, often being designated as Undetermined 26,27. Moreover, there is considerable evidence that the impact of a homicide upon family members often has long-lasting negative consequences upon surviving family and friends 6, 28-31. As an American study of 3,614 adolescent’s response to homicide, the results were projected the results onto the national population, which estimated that in their life-times, one in five young people might be affected by a homicide of someone they knew or a family member 28.
The multi-national study looking of firearm deaths across in the world, estimated the
250,000 people die annually and that the USA, along with Colombia, Mexico
Guatemala and Venezuela, accounted for more than 50% of these deaths world-wide
3.
Is there a possible solution to reduce USA gun deaths, especially its Youth? Yes, as
lessons can be drawn from the massive improvement in transport deaths brought
about Governments preventive Public Health approaches. It was essentially Western
Government action that brought about a range of changes - seat belts, restrictions on
alcohol, changing attitudes that improved safety, saving thousands of lives.
If we are to reduce the tragic loss of young lives from suicide and homicides, where
the easy access to firearms have such fatal consequences then Government at
Federal and State level must take a preventative approach and act. It should be
remembered that guns are not banned in Britain but whilst 1.338 million British
people own a gun, there were less than forty gun-deaths in 2017 14, which included
accidental military casualties. This is because of UK safety controls, not bans, are so
effective, which is the core of a preventive Public Health approach, the common good
of all.
The core message of these results is the need for the American public and policy
makers to look outside the USA in order for a change of mind set needed to bring
about change. The American general public need to be aware of the toll of gun-
related victims of violence compared to the rest of the Western world, especially
amongst young people. Seen in the simple fact that US Youth (15-24) firearm deaths
are close to the tragic annual average of the Vietnam war.
This evidenced-based Public Health study to reduce gun-relates deaths indicates
that this is achievable and feasible in the USA. So that that families might feel more
relaxed when their children leave for school or when young people, who experiencing
psychosocial turbulence, do not have easy access to fatal weapons, which with
youthful impulsivity ends so tragically.
References


