

FACT SHEET

“Gun Violence Has No Room in the Spirituality of Peacemaking: For Justice Sake, We Must Do Something”

~According to the Children’s Defense Fund 2013 Report: “Protect Children Not Guns,” (p. 5):

- 2,694 children and teens were killed by guns in 2010, comparable to filling 134 classrooms of 20 students each.
- 50 children and teens died or were injured every day.
- Black children and teens were 4.7 times more likely to die from guns than White children the same age, and 8.5 times more likely to be injured. American Indian or Alaska Native children and teens were 2.4 times more likely to die from guns, and Hispanic children were 3.3 times more likely to be injured from guns than White children and teens.
- Older teenagers are most at risk from gun violence and among these teens, Black male teens are most at risk.
- Black males, ages 15 – 19, were nearly 30 times more likely to die in a gun homicide than White males and more than three times more likely to die in a gun homicide than Hispanic males of the same age.

~ According to the Gun Policy website, www.gunpolicy.org, there are an estimated 270 to 310 million private gun owners in the United States – both licit and illicit.

~According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention:

- 50% of all suicides are firearms related
- 69% of all homicides are firearms related
- 703 children under the age of 15 died in accidental firearms deaths between 2001 and 2010 – the latest year for which data is available.

~ According to the Children’s Defense Fund Protect Children Not Guns 2013 Report, “based on surveys showing somewhere between 22 and 29% of American adults owning guns, there are an estimated 52 to 68 million gun owners in the country. **This means that the NRA only represents between 7 – 9 % of U.S. gun owners.** This may explain why the NRA’s positions are often at odds with those of the majority of gun owners” (p. 14)

RESOURCES

~Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

~Gun Policy: www.gunpolicy.org

~Joe Nocera’s Blog: The Day in Gun Violence

<http://nocera.blogs.nytimes.com/category/gun-report/>

~The Gun Violence and Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God’s Call, Presbyterian Church USA, 2010

~2013 Children’s Defense Fund “Protect Children Not Guns Report

ACTION

Pax Christi USA uses the process of pray, study, act. Continue your own education on this issue using such resources as: The Gun Violence and Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God’s Call, Presbyterian Church USA, 2010 and the 2013 Children’s Defense Fund “Protect Children Not Guns Report.”

~Join other coalitions to work for a just response to Gun Violence in the USA.

Get involved locally: Join with other Pax Christi members in your town or city and/or with other faith based or secular local activists

- ~ to challenge gun dealers whose guns are ending up in the hands of criminals
- ~ to work for state and local, as well as national laws for good, common sense gun violence reduction measures
- ~ form vigils to highlight the tragedy of gun violence that we take for granted in this country to remember those who have died by gun violence
- ~ Speak with someone in your worship community to take part in the National Gun Violence Sabbath Sunday on the weekend of March 13-16, 2014. For more information go to <http://faithsagainstgunviolence.org>
- ~ Read and study alone or in a group Rev. James Atwood’s book **American and its Guns – A Theological Expose (2012)** available at Amazon and other places. A 6 session study guide is available from Presbyterian Peace Fellowship
- ~ Watch the movie “Trigger – The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence” (<http://www.presbyteriankission.org/ministries/trigger>) about the effects of gun violence on others and faith based grass roots responses to domestic gun violence