

KELLY REPORT

GUN VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

In June 2014, Congresswoman Robin L. Kelly issued her [*Kelly Report: Gun Violence in America*](#). This report was the first comprehensive Congressional analysis of America's gun violence epidemic. This document serves as an addendum to the report, with a state-by-state analysis of firearm homicide.

Findings:

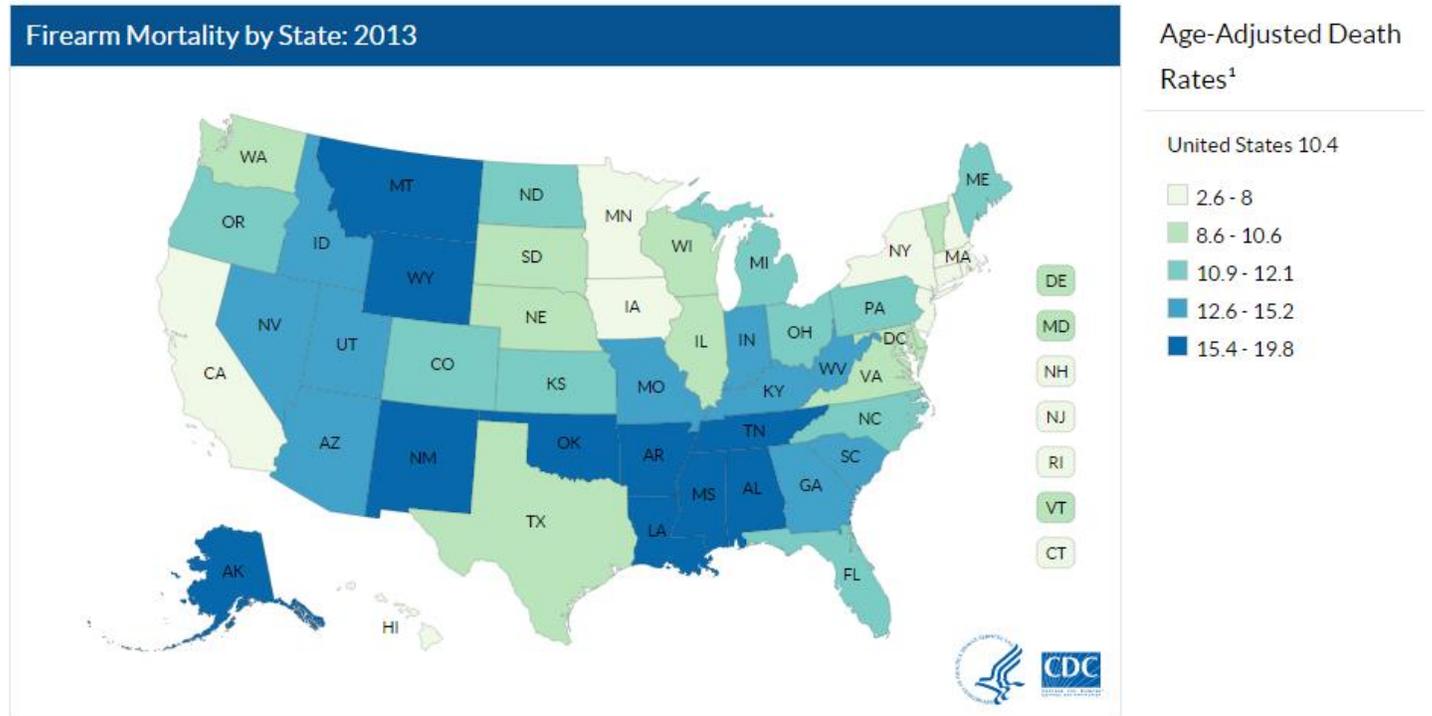
- Firearm mortality – from crime, suicides, and accidents – impacts every single state;
- States traditionally known for prevalent firearm culture tend to have the highest incident of firearm mortality;
- States known for gun violence or crime do not have higher incidents of firearm mortalities per capita;
- Enacting *any* state gun law – universal background checks, requiring handgun permits, requiring a concealed carry permit, or enacting a waiting period (of any duration) – will lead to a reduction in firearm mortalities;
- **Reducing firearm mortalities cannot be solved by a single state, or through addressing mental health or crime prevention alone. Ending America's gun epidemic requires a comprehensive strategy that addresses each unique contributor to firearm mortalities.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) publishes data on firearm mortality by state (**Figure 1**). Per the CDC, America averaged 10.4 firearm mortalities per 100,000 citizens in 2013 (the last year data is available), compared to 10.5 per 100,000 in 2012. Gun deaths nationally remained constant, with half of the states experiencing an *increase* in firearm mortality in recent history. Alaska had the largest total increase of 2.0 additional lives per 100,000 (11% increase), with Rhode Island having the largest relative increase of 29% (1.2 additional lives per 100,000). Wyoming had the largest total decrease of 3.4 less lives per 100,000 (17% decrease); Connecticut had the largest relative decrease of 31% (2.0 less lives per 100,000) (**Figure 2**).

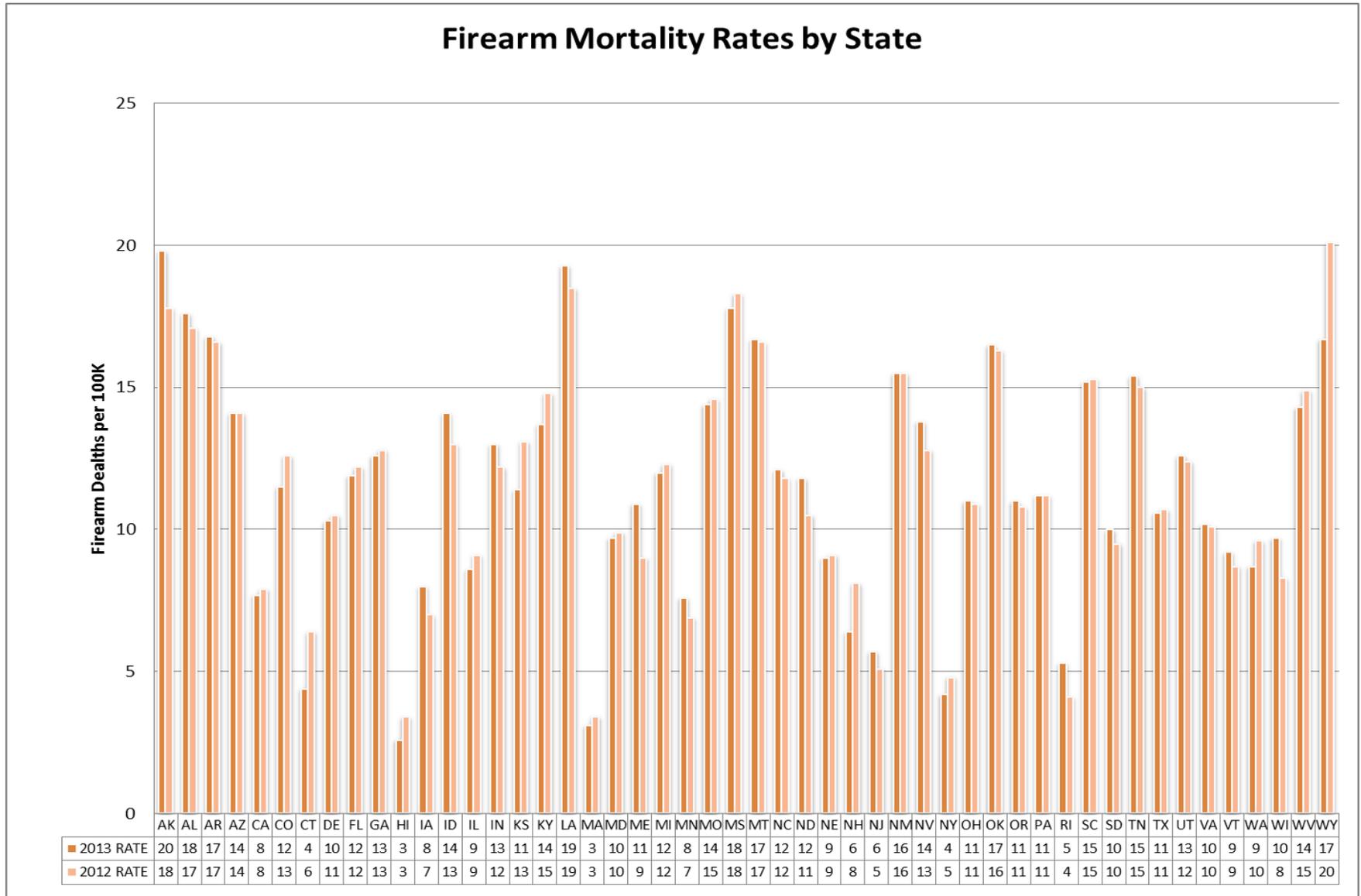
Correlating firearm mortalities by state to the strength of a state's gun laws returns a negative correlation – suggesting that enacting strong gun laws does lead to a reduction in firearm mortality. On a 0-4 point scale analyzing states' laws on background checks, handgun permits, concealed carry permits, and waiting periods, 30 states scored 0, and three states (Maryland, Hawaii, and California) scored 4. **Figure 3** shows the correlation of each state's firearm mortalities to the strength of their gun laws. **Figure 4** averages the firearm mortalities for each state with the same gun law strength score.

Of secondary importance to states enacting strong gun laws, is if bordering states also enact strong gun laws. As seen in **Figure 3**, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Nebraska all have a score of 2. However, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts have significantly lower rates of firearm homicides than Nebraska and North Carolina. Similarly, Michigan, Illinois, Iowa, New York and New Jersey all have a score of 3, but Michigan, Illinois, and Iowa have significantly higher rates of firearm homicide than New York and New Jersey. The states with higher incidents of firearm homicide in each group border states with scores of 0 (e.g.: North Carolina borders Virginia and South Carolina; Illinois and Michigan border Indiana). **A patchwork system of state gun laws will prohibit the maximum reduction in firearm mortalities; a comprehensive, national, approach is needed.**

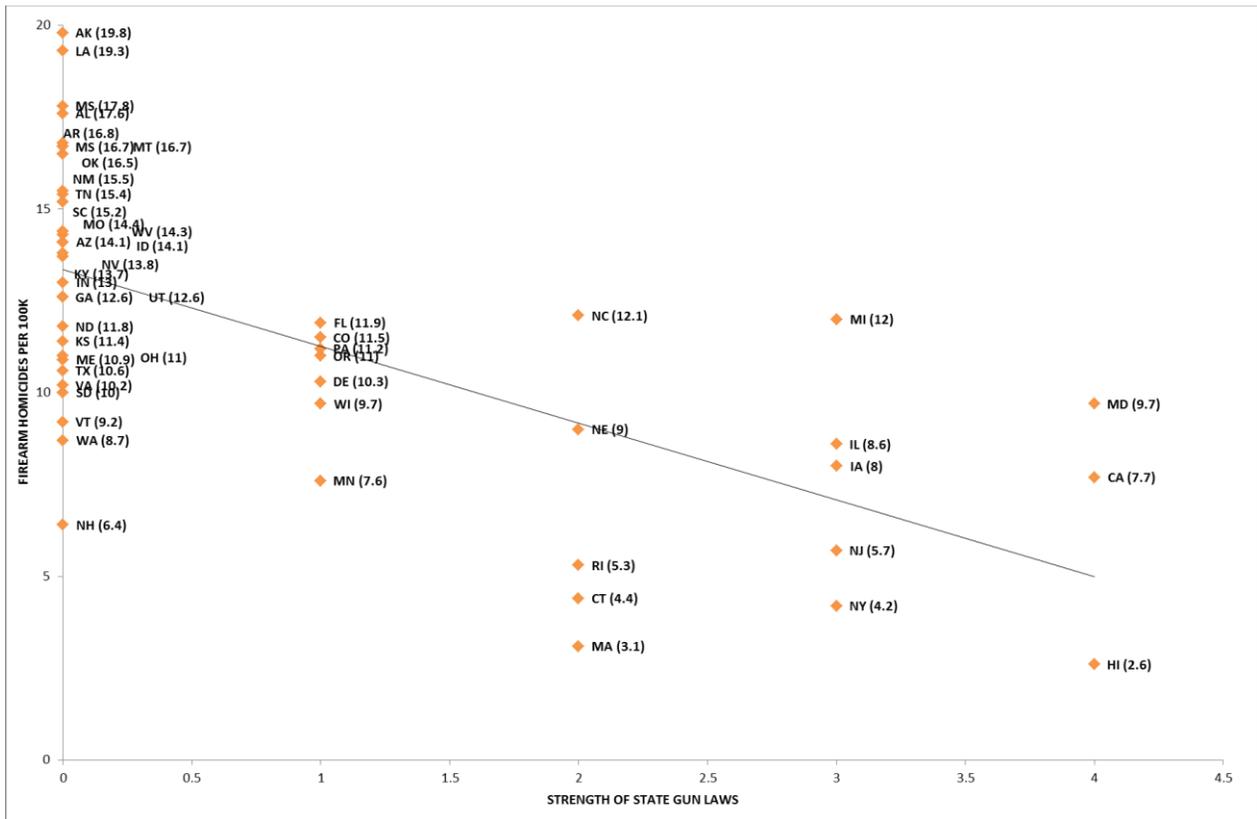
[FIGURE 1]



[FIGURE 2]

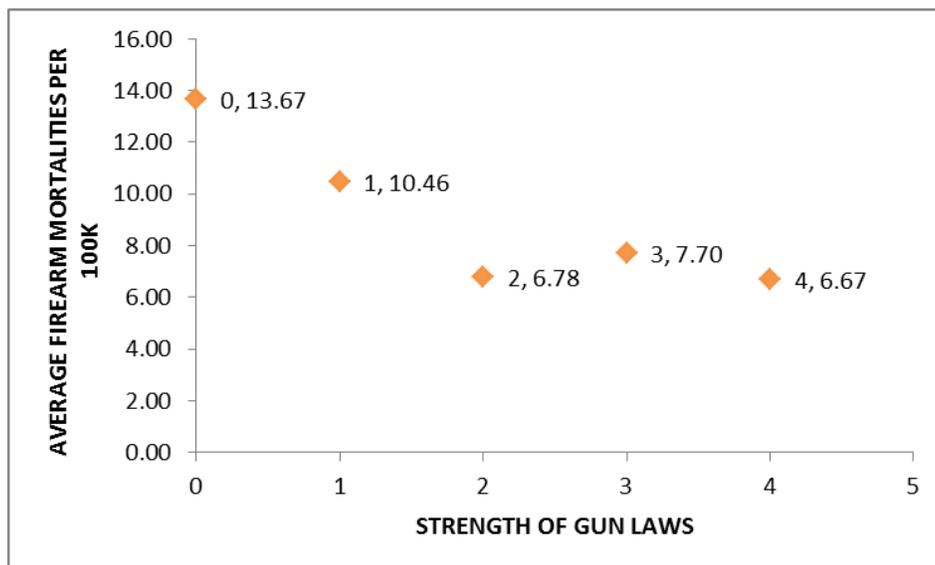


[FIGURE 3]



Strength of State Gun Laws is calculated on a 0-4 scale by analyzing if a State: i) requires handgun permits; ii) conducts universal background checks; iii) handguns must be registered or reported; and/or iv) a waiting period prior to handgun purchase is required. For each element, if a state has the requirement, it received a 1, if it does not, it received a 0. The state score is the sum total of the four elements.

[FIGURE 4]



Sources:

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/sosmap/Firearm.htm>;

<https://img.njdc.com/media/media/2015/09/01/wholechart.png>;

http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/FIREARMS_STATE_2012.pdf