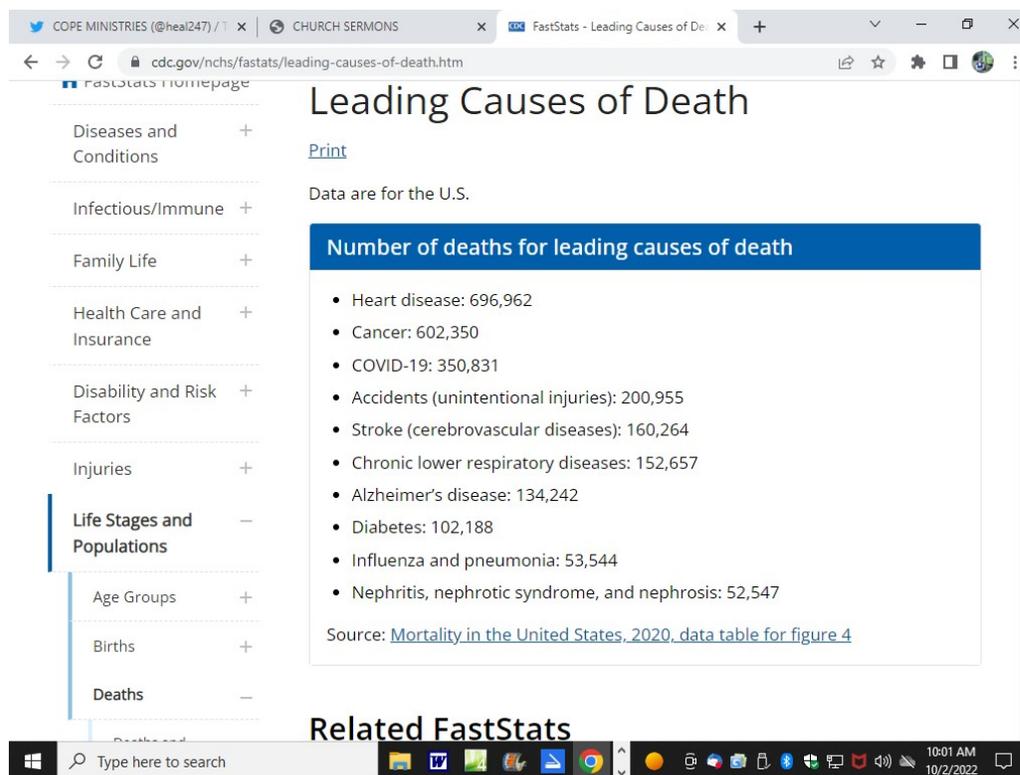


A Sermon on Death

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for October 30th, 2022 (and beyond)

This sermon is more on the causes of death than on death itself. Death itself may be illusory. [See “A Sermon on Eternal Life” at <https://www.cope.church/elsermon.pdf> for more info.] I live in a fairly “high crime” area at this time and hear gunshots on a regular basis. Less than a block from my home a man was shot to death behind Public Storage off Mukilteo Speedway since I’ve lived at my current residence. I appreciate law enforcement and would prefer everyone settle disputes through legal channels. I also recognize that the Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office has 280 staff including officers and leadership. Source: <https://snohomishcountywa.gov/3672/33738/Deputy-Sheriff> Snohomish County has 833,540 residents including myself. Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/snohomishcountywashington> An estimated 5%-15% of the human population has a “criminal mind” or malignant narcissistic personality disorder. Source: <https://www.officer.com/investigations/article/10248968/the-malignant-narcissist> That arguably means at minimum Snohomish County is estimated to have 41,677 residents likely to commit a crime with a potential maximum of 125,031 residents likely to commit a crime. Do you think it would be reasonable to have at least one law enforcement officer for at least every 10 potential suspects given the population data? I support more funding for law enforcement and understand why some feel preparing to defend themselves is necessary under the current circumstances.

That being said, here are the primary causes of all deaths in the US at this time: Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm> (most recent data)



You may have noticed being a victim of violent crime is not one of the leading causes of death in the US whether firearms were involved or not. Check out these statistics from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/injury.htm>

The screenshot shows the CDC FastStats - Injuries page. On the left, there is a 'Get Email Updates' form with a 'Submit' button. The main content area is titled 'Mortality' and lists four categories of deaths with their respective statistics and sources.

Category	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000 population
All injury deaths	278,345	84.5
All poisoning deaths	97,034	29.5
Motor vehicle traffic deaths	40,698	12.4
All firearm deaths	45,222	13.7

Source for all categories: [National Vital Statistics System - Mortality Data \(2020\) via CDC WONDER](#)

The screenshot shows the CDC FastStats - Injuries page, specifically the 'Mortality: Drug overdose/drug poisoning deaths' section. It lists statistics for drug overdose deaths involving any opioid and heroin, along with their respective rates per 100,000 population.

Category	Number of deaths	Deaths per 100,000 population
Drug overdose/drug poisoning deaths	91,799	27.9
Drug overdose deaths involving any opioid	68,630	20.8
Drug overdose deaths involving heroin	13,165	4.0

Source for all categories: [National Vital Statistics System - Mortality Data \(2020\) via CDC WONDER](#)

Related FastStats

- [Accidents/Unintentional Injuries](#)
- [Assault/Homicide](#)

You'll notice below that more than half of the deaths involving firearms are suicides and far more poisonings appear to be homicide than suicide. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/suicide.htm). The page is titled "Injuries" and has a sidebar menu with options: "Accidents or Unintentional Injuries", "All Injuries", "Assault or Homicide", "Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injury" (which is selected), "Life Stages and Populations", and "Reproductive Health". The main content area displays statistics for 2020, sourced from the National Vital Statistics System - Mortality Data (2020) via CDC WONDER. The statistics are categorized as follows:

- All suicides**
 - Number of deaths: 45,979
 - Deaths per 100,000 population: 14.0
 - Cause of death rank: 12
- Firearm suicides**
 - Number of deaths: 24,292
 - Deaths per 100,000 population: 7.4
- Suffocation suicides**
 - Number of deaths: 12,495
 - Deaths per 100,000 population: 3.8
- Poisoning suicides**
 - Number of deaths: 5,528
 - Deaths per 100,000 population: 1.7

Each category includes a source link: "Source: National Vital Statistics System - Mortality Data (2020) via CDC WONDER". At the bottom of the page, there is a "Get Email Updates" section with a text input field and a "Get Email Updates" button. The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 10:08 AM on 10/2/2022.

2019 data on murder by weapon used (including hands and feet with no other weapon) by state: Source: <https://ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s/2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-20>

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ucr.fbi.gov/crime-in-the-u.s./2019/crime-in-the-u.s.-2019/topic-pages/tables/table-20

Murder by State, Types of Weapons, 2019

Data Declaration Download Excel

State	Total murders ¹	Total firearms	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	Firearms (type unknown)	Knives or cutting instruments	Other weapons	Hands, fists, feet, etc. ²
Alabama ³	4	3	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Alaska	69	44	17	1	6	20	8	5	12
Arizona	337	213	170	6	6	31	47	67	10
Arkansas	231	177	87	10	5	75	21	29	4
California	1,679	1,142	762	34	26	320	252	183	102
Colorado	209	135	83	5	3	44	32	30	12
Connecticut	104	65	11	1	0	53	15	17	7
Delaware	48	40	13	0	0	27	2	3	3
District of Columbia	166	136	52	0	0	84	18	2	10
Florida ⁴	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Georgia	445	367	305	14	3	45	34	35	9
Hawaii	32	9	5	0	0	4	7	11	5
Idaho	35	16	9	0	0	7	3	13	3
Illinois ⁵	771	647	564	7	4	72	70	44	10
Indiana	247	185	118	3	1	63	25	29	8
Iowa	58	36	21	0	0	15	8	8	6
Kansas	93	56	37	1	0	18	12	13	12

10:18 AM 10/2/2022

The other states and their info are provided via screenshots on the next page with same column headers applying respectively. In Alaska, you have a total of 69 murders with 25 of those not involving firearms at all in 2019. Now, if you want to consider the overall murder rates per capita...Alaska has a population of 732,673 in 2021. Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/AK> That means arguably that in 2019 Alaska had a 0.009% overall murder rate per capita. California has a population of 39,237,836 people in 2021. Source: <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/CA> And, that means arguably that in 2019 California had a 0.004% overall murder rate per capita. How do you feel about emotional and hyperbolic delivery of news and information versus the above example? Do you think any hysteria escalates or deescalates tension, fear, and/or direct and indirect harm or potential for it? Did you know humor helps address fear and sometimes the better-informed person can provide comic relief just by telling the whole truth to someone who is ignorant and afraid because they've been unduly influenced by arguable propaganda?

Kentucky	221	174	101	9	5	59	23	20	4
Louisiana	522	433	200	21	3	209	24	54	11
Maine	20	13	6	0	3	4	2	4	1
Maryland	551	460	414	3	4	39	43	34	14
Massachusetts	146	86	33	0	0	53	38	14	8
Michigan	551	379	172	13	5	189	44	104	24
Minnesota	114	79	61	0	0	18	10	15	10
Mississippi	189	153	117	4	3	29	11	23	2
Missouri	566	486	255	26	10	195	31	37	12
Montana	27	16	11	1	1	3	4	4	3
Nebraska	45	35	26	2	2	5	2	4	4
Nevada	147	94	49	5	3	37	20	23	10
New Hampshire	33	16	12	0	0	4	5	7	5
New Jersey	262	176	118	2	1	55	45	25	16
New Mexico	146	96	51	1	3	41	21	24	5
New York	550	298	255	3	5	35	119	89	44
North Carolina	516	383	224	26	8	125	52	68	13
North Dakota	26	13	5	2	1	5	5	4	4
Ohio	521	382	178	13	3	188	26	88	25
Oklahoma	264	189	129	11	12	37	27	37	11
Oregon	98	61	31	1	4	25	19	14	4
Pennsylvania	556	429	350	11	11	57	46	66	15

Pennsylvania	556	429	350	11	11	57	46	66	15
Rhode Island	25	10	1	0	0	9	7	6	2
South Carolina	445	381	224	9	8	140	22	27	15
South Dakota	19	7	4	1	0	2	3	6	3
Tennessee	498	391	173	13	7	198	41	46	20
Texas	1,379	1,064	568	72	21	403	127	130	58
Utah	66	41	18	1	6	16	8	13	4
Vermont	11	8	3	2	0	3	0	1	2
Virginia	427	323	150	15	9	149	40	49	15
Washington	194	135	89	5	3	38	23	24	12
West Virginia	72	48	23	7	2	16	6	15	3
Wisconsin	178	119	53	3	3	60	25	27	7
Wyoming	13	9	7	0	0	2	3	0	1

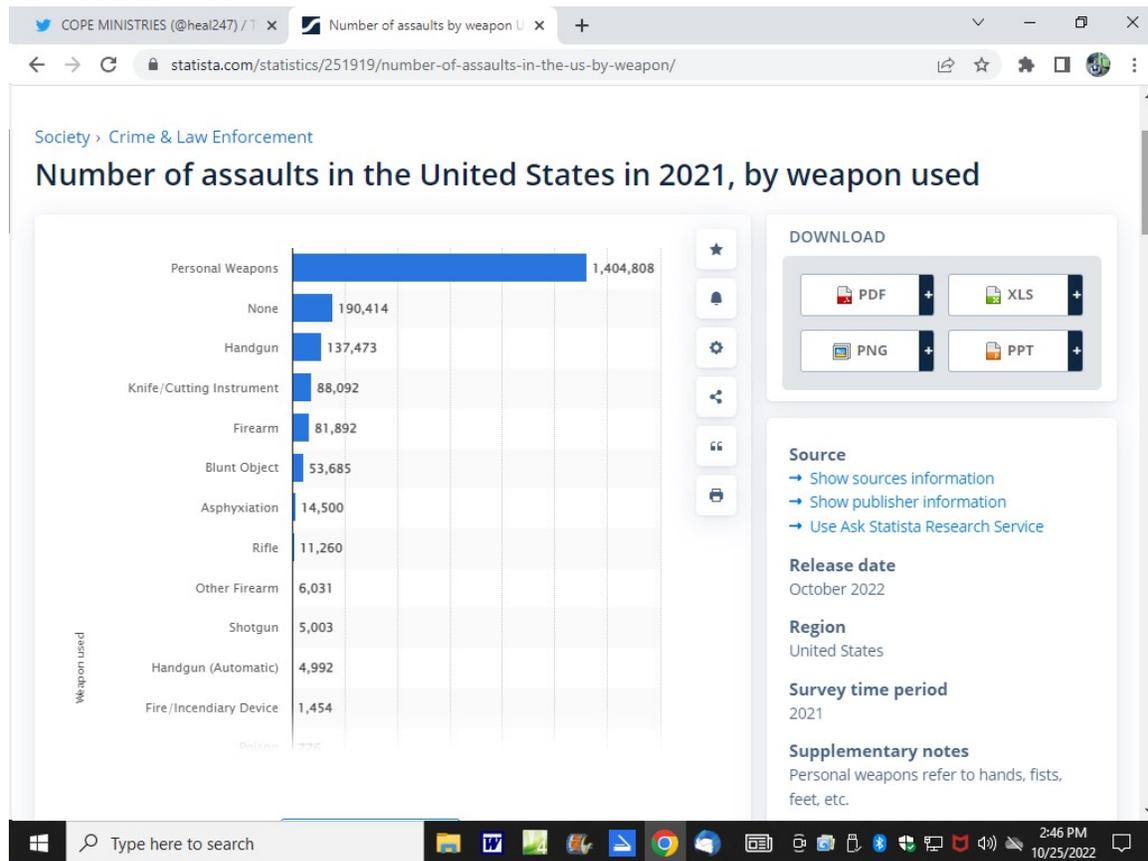
- ¹ Total number of murders for which supplemental homicide data were received.
- ² Pushed is included in hands, fists, feet, etc.
- ³ Limited data for 2019 were available for Alabama.
- ⁴ Data submitted through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- ⁵ Limited supplemental homicide data were received.

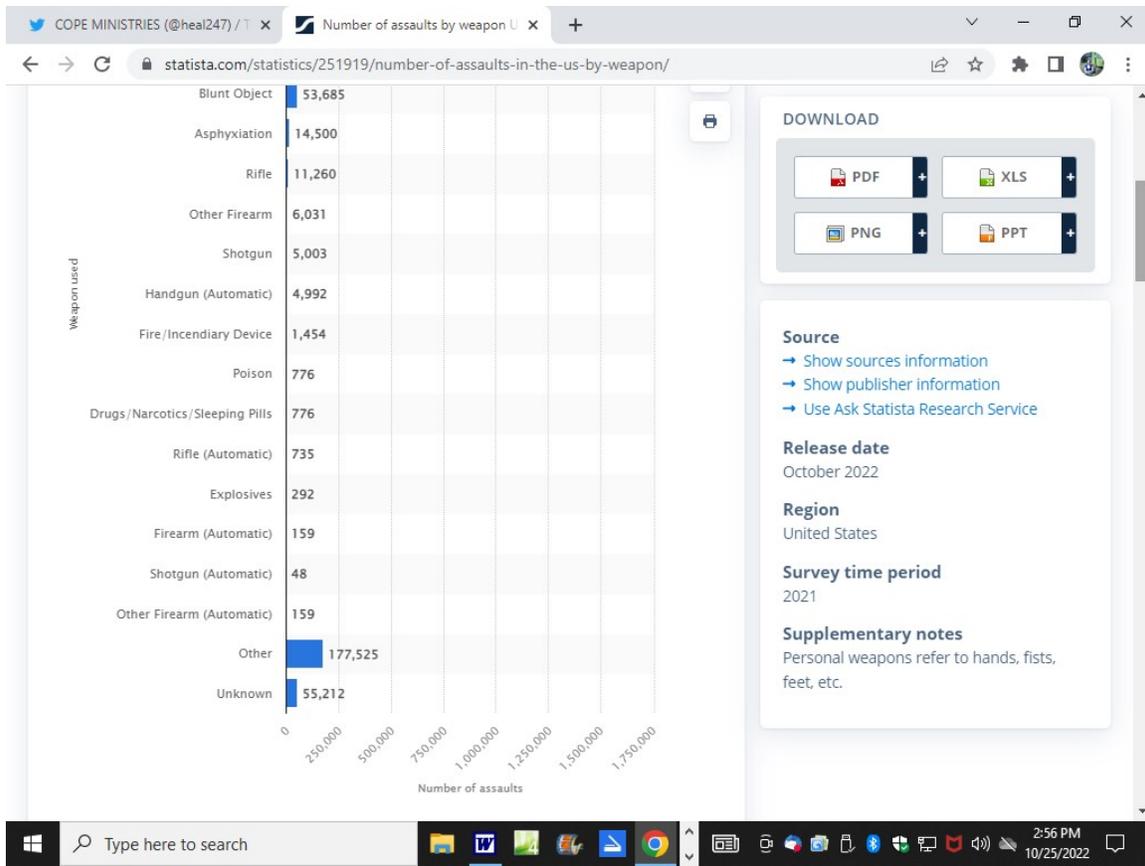
Data Declaration

Provides the methodology used in constructing this table and other pertinent information about this table.

Do you feel more at risk of being stabbed, shot, or poisoned to death? Are you more likely to die of disease or overdose? Are you likely to die at all given the sermon on eternal life cited at the beginning of this sermon?

Personally, I don't believe eliminating guns will reduce violent crime nor homicides. But, I do believe that people proven to have abused their 2nd Amendment Right to own firearms should lose it and face penalty for violating any such court orders. You can't abuse something and expect to keep it, including your rights. Rights are precious and when abused will turn on you because the rights are universal and everyone has them until they forfeit said rights by abusing them. The following provides additional or alternative statistics on assaults by weapon used in the US:





Source: <https://www.statista.com/statistics/251919/number-of-assaults-in-the-us-by-weapon/>

You can protect your rights in part by asking yourself the following question in the affirmative before doing anything questionable: "If I get in any legal trouble for this, do I have any defenses recognizable at law under the circumstances?" If the answer is "no", don't do it. If you do it anyway, you've assumed the risk of penalty.

Are you more or less afraid in general than before you read this sermon? Boo!

Halloween is an official COPE Holiday. See <https://www.cope.church/holidays.pdf> for more info. Happy Halloween!

For those interested in starting #TaoFu Self-Defense Exercises, please see <https://www.cope.church/taofu.htm> and begin at any time.

There are opportunities to send messages, receive mystery bonus blessings, and more with or without donating available now on our "Pass the Basket" page at <https://www.cope.church/basket.htm> . Thank You.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <https://www.cope.church/feedback.htm> . For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<https://www.cope.church> and <https://www.heal-online.org>