



# Need to Ban Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines

**October 20, 2022**

WHEREAS, Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago has adopted an institutional position statement on violence prevention to engage in policy, program, and research initiatives to prevent violent injury to children and adolescents and reduce their exposure to violence; and

WHEREAS, Lurie Children's has a longstanding history of advocacy efforts to protect youth from violence; and

WHEREAS, large capacity magazines (LCM) - often referred to as high-capacity magazines - are commonly defined as ammunition magazines for firearms with a capacity to hold more than roughly 10 rounds of ammunition<sup>1</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigations defines 'mass shootings' as incidents where four or more people are murdered with a firearm<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, in Illinois and nationally, guns are the leading cause of death of children ages 1-17;<sup>3</sup>

WHEREAS, a majority of teens now say they worry about a shooting happening at their school.<sup>4</sup> Such concerns are linked to elevated levels of anxiety and fear among students;<sup>5</sup>

WHEREAS, there is significant evidence demonstrating that outlawing assault rifles and LCMs are associated with reductions in gun violence and fewer mass shootings and related fatalities<sup>6</sup>. For instance, research indicates that only one of the 20 deadliest mass shootings in American history took place during the decade when federal assault weapons ban was in effect, from 1994 until 2004. Furthermore, the number of fatalities from mass shootings decreased and the annual number of occurrences increased at a slower rate

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<sup>1</sup> Giffords. 2022. Large Capacity Magazines | Giffords. [online] Available at: <<https://giffords.org/lawcenter/gun-laws/policy-areas/hardware-ammunition/large-capacity-magazines/>> [Accessed 29 September 2022].

<sup>2</sup> Mayors Against Illegal Guns Address United States, 2013. Analysis of Recent Mass Shootings. [online] National Criminal Justice Reference Service. Available at: <<https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/analysis-recent-mass-shootings?>> [Accessed 29 September 2022].

<sup>3</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. WONDER.

<sup>4</sup> Pew Research Center, 2018, [Majority of teens worry about school shootings, and so do most parents | Pew Research Center](#) [Accessed 30 September 2022].

<sup>5</sup> O'Brien, C., & Taku, K., Personality and Individual Differences, Vol. 186, 2022.

<sup>6</sup> Koper CS. (2020). Assessing the potential to reduce deaths and injuries from mass shootings through restrictions on assault weapons and other high-capacity semiautomatic firearms. *Criminology & Public Policy*.



while the ban was in place. During this same decade, mass shooting deaths were 70% less likely to occur compared to the periods of time before and after the ban was in effect<sup>7</sup>; and

WHEREAS, 16 of the 20 deadliest mass shootings have taken place in the 15 years since the assault weapons prohibition was lifted (October 2004-October 2019)<sup>8</sup>. An assailant who employed an assault weapon and/or large-capacity magazine (LCM) was responsible for 12 of these mass shootings, which resulted in 314 fatalities<sup>9</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the occurrence of mass shootings using assault style weapons in the United States continues to increase, leaving children and communities less safe<sup>2</sup>. Mass shootings with assault rifles or LCMs have been shown to result in significantly more deaths. Roughly half to two-thirds of public mass shootings and firearm mass murders involving six or more fatalities utilize LCMs<sup>10</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the daily impact these weapons have on communities is underscored by the fact that assault rifles and semiautomatics with LCMs made up, on average, between 22 and 36 percent of the guns that police seized from crimes in 10 different cities<sup>11</sup>; and

WHEREAS, state-level assault weapon prohibitions can reduce the number of fatalities in mass shootings, according to studies. A 2019 study analyzing mass shootings that were committed between 1990 and 2017 (outside of the 10-year federal ban on assault weapons and LCMs) found that 81 percent of mass shooting perpetrators in states without a ban on LCMs utilized LCMs; compared to 55 percent of perpetrators in states with LCM bans<sup>12</sup>.

#### **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago engage in policy, program and research initiatives that restrict access to assault weapons and limit the use of large capacity magazines to reduce violent injury to children and adolescents and decrease their exposure to violence.

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<sup>7</sup> Charles DiMaggio et al., "Changes in US Mass Shooting Deaths Associated with the 1994–2004 Federal Assault Weapons Ban: Analysis of Open-source Data," *Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery* 86, no. 1 (2019): 11–19. *Journal of trauma and acute care surgery*.

<sup>8</sup> The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. 2022. Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines - The Educational Fund to Stop Gun Violence. [online] Available at: <<https://efsgv.org/learn/policies/assault-weapons-and-large-capacity-magazines/>> [Accessed 29 September 2022].

<sup>9</sup> Analysis based on data compiled from Follman M, Gavin A, & Pan D. (2020). "U.S. Mass Shootings, 1982–2019: Data from Mother Jones' Investigation. Mother Jones.

<sup>10</sup> Koper, C., 2020. Assessing the potential to reduce deaths and injuries from mass shootings through restrictions on assault weapons and other high-capacity semiautomatic firearms. *Criminology & Public Policy*, 19(1), pp.147-170.

<sup>11</sup> Koper CS, Johnson WD, Nichols JL, Ayers A, & Mullins N. (2018). Criminal use of assault weapons and high-capacity semiautomatic firearms: An updated examination of local and national sources. *Urban Health*.

<sup>12</sup> Louis Klarevas, Andrew Conner, and David Hemenway, "The Effect of Large-Capacity Magazine Bans on High-Fatality Mass Shootings, 1990–2017," *American Journal of Public Health* (2019): e1–e8