

Wear Orange 2024 Proclamation
DECLARING WEEK OF JUNE 2, 2024 TO BE
GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, 219 people were killed with firearms in Connecticut during 2023, the third highest number of gun deaths in more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, firearms are the second-leading cause of suicide in Connecticut and account for half of all gun deaths in our state; and

WHEREAS, interpersonal gun violence in urban centers accounts for a majority of gun homicides in Connecticut and disproportionately harms communities of color; and

WHEREAS, firearms are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in the U.S., surpassing motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, health experts including the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared gun violence a public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, exposure to gun violence can change a child's brain development and lead to short and long term consequences, including decreased academic performance, chronic health problems, substance abuse and unstable employment; and

WHEREAS, pervasive crisis response drills needed to prepare students in the case of a school shooting create emotional harm; and

WHEREAS, more than 80 percent of child firearm suicides use a gun belonging to a family member and three-quarters of school shooters obtain the gun they used from their home or the home of a relative; and

WHEREAS, abused women are five times more likely to be killed if the partner owns a firearm and nearly 1 million women have reported being shot at by an abuser; and

WHEREAS, six out of ten firearms recovered at crime scenes in Connecticut in 2022 came from out of state, all from states with weaker gun regulations than ours; and

WHEREAS, nationally in 2021 police recovered more than 19,000 untraceable ghost guns that are preferred by criminals, a tenfold increase from 2016; and

WHEREAS, this June 2 would have been the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton, a teen who was shot and killed as an innocent bystander in a park in Chicago, following which Hadiya's friends chose to **Wear Orange** on her birthday because hunters wear the color orange to protect themselves; and

WHEREAS, by joining together we can call attention to this public health crisis and signal our commitment to reducing gun violence in all its forms.

NOW THEREFORE WE, The Board of Selectmen, do hereby declare the week of June 2, 2024* Gun Violence Awareness Week in the Town of Branford.

* CT Against Gun Violence observes Gun Violence Awareness Day on June 2, Hadiya Pendleton's birthday while Everytown for Gun Safety now recognizes the first Friday in June and following weekend as [Wear Orange](#) (June 7-9 in 2024). Proclamations can recognize either June 2 or 7, 2024.

Citations

- *219 people were killed with firearms in Connecticut during 2023, the third highest number of gun deaths in more than a decade.* Gun death [data](#) from Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Connecticut.
- *Firearms are the second-leading cause of suicide in Connecticut and account for half of all gun deaths in our state.* CT Department of Public Health, [CT Violent Death Reporting System data](#) 2015-2023.
- *Interpersonal gun violence in urban centers accounts for a majority of gun homicides in Connecticut and disproportionately harms communities of color.* Gun death [data](#) from Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, State of Connecticut.
- *Firearms are now the leading cause of death of children and teens in the U.S., surpassing motor vehicle accidents.* [Child and Teen Firearm Mortality in the U.S. and Peer Countries](#), KFF, Jul 18, 2023
- *Health experts including the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics have declared gun violence a public health crisis.*
- *Exposure to gun violence is a form of toxic stress that can change a child's brain development and lead to near-term and lifelong harmful consequences, including poor academic performance, chronic health problems, mental illness, substance abuse and having stable employment.* CT Against Gun Violence [Fact Sheet](#), Impact of Exposure to Gun Violence on Children
- *Pervasive crisis response drills needed to prepare students in the case of a school shooting create emotional harm.* [Best Practice Considerations for Armed Assailant Drills in Schools](#), National Association for School Psychologists, National Association of School Resource Officers, Safe and Sound Schools, Apr 2021
- *More than 80 percent of child firearm suicides use a gun belonging to a family member.* Johnson RM, Barber C, Azrael D, Clark DE, Hemenway D. [Who are the owners of firearms used in adolescent suicides?](#) *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior*. 2010;40(6):609-611. Study defined children as under 18.
- *Three-quarters of school shooters obtain the gun they used from their home or the home of a relative.* [A U.S. Secret Service Analysis Of Targeted School Violence](#), U.S. Department of Homeland Security, 2019
- *Abused women are five times more likely to be killed if the abuser owns a firearm.* J.C. Campbell, et al., [Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results from a Multisite Case Control Study](#), *American Journal of Public Health*, Jul, 2003
- *Nearly 1 million women have reported being shot at by an intimate partner.* Susan B. Sorenson and Rebecca A. Schut, [Nonfatal Gun Use in Intimate Partner Violence: A Systematic Review of the Literature](#), *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, Oct 2018
- *Six out of ten firearms recovered at crime scenes in Connecticut in 2022 came from out of state, all from states with weaker gun regulations than ours.* [Firearms Trace Data: Connecticut - 2022](#), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; [Annual Gun Law Scorecard 2023](#), Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence
- *Nationally in 2021 police recovered more than 19,000 untraceable ghost guns that are preferred by criminals, a tenfold increase from 2016.* [Under Half of Illegal Gun Cases Tracked by A.T.F. Were Involved in Black Market Sales](#), *The New York Times*, Apr 4, 2024
- *June 2, 2024 would have been the 27th birthday of Hadiya Pendleton following which Hadiya's friends chose to Wear Orange on her birthday because hunters wear the color orange to protect themselves.* [Community marks Hadiya Pendleton's birthday with Wear Orange Party for Peace](#), *ABC Eyewitness News*, Jun 2, 2018