

# **Guns and Kids:**

## **How to Manage Emotional Triggers without Pulling the Trigger**

**By: Youthful Savings**



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**Objective:** The purpose of this exercise is to inform youth about the dangers of gun violence and how best to manage emotional triggers without actually pulling the trigger. This learning exercise will examine the gun industry, statistics about youth violence and how to utilize youth energy to become more intentional decision makers.

## The Gun Industry

Guns were first created in 10th century China during the Jin-Song wars.<sup>1</sup> Since then, guns have been used as a weapon of domination for centuries. Whether it's on a county/government-level or a neighborhood level, there is no question that guns create chaos and violence. It has also transformed into a billion dollar industry. That means people are profiting off of this violence.

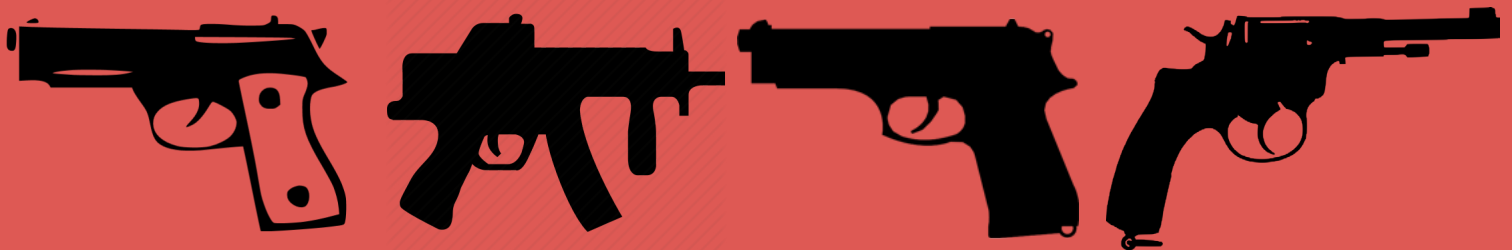
According to the Pew Research Center, there are an estimated 270 to 310 million guns in the United States - nearly one for every single person in the country. Given that massive number, it comes as little surprise that the civilian gun market is worth about \$15 billion, a number that is steadily growing.<sup>2</sup>

## Guns, Violence and Youth

The youth are being affected by this billion dollar industry. Guns bring violence and emotional insecurity into a community. There are people that are profiting off of this insecurity and violence. Is it worth pulling the trigger when emotional triggers can be handled in another way?

Here are some key facts about violence and the youth (i.e. you):<sup>3</sup>

- Approximately 430 young people aged 10 to 24 die every day through interpersonal violence. For each death, an estimated 20 to 40 youths require hospital treatment for a violence-related injury.
- 8 out of 10 adolescent girls who die as a result of violence are aged 15-19.
- Violence and insecurity perpetrated by and against children and young people are caused by various factors, including weak educational and policing systems, unemployment and socio-political exclusion
- Worldwide, some 200,000 homicides occur among youth 10 to 29 years of age each year, which is 43% of the total number of homicides globally each year.



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1. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_firearm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_firearm)

2. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/niallmccarthy/2016/09/14/the-dominant-forces-in-the-u-s-gun-market-infographic/#7e70e-37a4a8c>

3. <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/juvenile-justice/>