

related deaths annually. Wide access to firearms and loose regulations lead to more than 39,000 men, women and children being killed with guns each year in the USA.

When talking about gun violence it is necessary to consider the laws and the process of buying guns. There are several barriers to buying a gun in America, but there are generally so many loopholes in the current laws that most people can buy a gun without too much of a problem. Restrictions on purchasers are typically evaluated through a background check. The most well-known way to bypass background checks is the private sales loophole: if someone purchases a gun from a private seller, such as a friend or family member, no gun background check is required. Taking this information into consideration it is clearly seen why America has tremendous numbers of gun-related deaths compared to other high income countries. Statistics shows that the stricter a state's gun regulation the fewer suicides (using gun) occur. With 107 laws, California had the most restrictions on gun use and the state has the lowest suicide rates in the country. Whereas Montana has the highest suicide rate and only four laws restricting gun use. This example proves connection between country's laws and number of deaths.

The way that the USA resolving the problem has divided into: government and citizens' approach. The high profile citizens' approach was music video "this is America" published by American singer Childish Gambino, which gained over 600 million views. Among the most notable things people took from the video was that guns seem to be treated with more respect than human lives. In one of the brutal shooting scenes, the gun was carried off in a special red-colored cloth by a well-dressed man as the victim was dragged off. The red cloth symbolized how "red" (Republicans) politicians in particular seem to value gun rights more than lives lost. Violence prevention and educational programs have been established in many schools and communities by the US government. These programs aim to change personal behavior of both children and their parents, encouraging children to stay away from guns, ensure parents store guns safely, and encourage children to solve disputes without resorting to violence. Empirical evaluation of gun violence prevention programs has been limited. Of the evaluations that have been done, results indicate such programs have minimal effectiveness.

Taking into account the annual number of gun related deaths in America, loose gun laws and inefficient government measures, it is crucial to start resolving the issue before it ignites.

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## FOOD WASTE IN AMERICA: THREATENING REALITY

In the most recent years, food waste has become a complex phenomenon attracting the attention of scientists, consumers and activists. The United States is the global leader in food waste with the Americans discarding nearly 80 billion pounds of food, what equates to more than \$161 billion, approximately 219 pounds of waste per person and 30–40 % of the US food supply.

There are two main kinds of wasted food: food loss and food waste. Food loss incorporates any edible food that goes uneaten at any stage: in fields (20 billion pounds), factories (2 billion pounds), during transportation. For example, during the COVID-19 pandemic, many meat processing facilities closed as workers fell ill, which forced processing plants to close. This meant that meat of thousands of animals, which could no longer be processed, went bad and was discarded.

Regarding food waste, it is carried out by retailers, restaurants and consumers. Unrealistic ‘cosmetic’ standards, oversized packages, expired “sell by” dates are ones of the reasons to get rid of unsold goods by supermarkets. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, dairy products account for the largest share followed by pastries, meat, seafood and prepared meals. US restaurants generate 22 to 33 billion pounds of food waste each year, what is caused mainly by oversized portions and extensive menu choices. Households are responsible for the largest portion of all food waste – 40 to 50 %. Discarded food leads to the financial loss of \$1,800 in an average family each year. Major contributors to household food waste include food spoilage, over-preparing, date label confusion, overbuying, poor planning.

Within the US, discarded food is the biggest component of landfill and incinerators. Wasting food has irreversible environmental consequences: it wastes fresh water and energy, generates greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, which lead to global warming. Food that sits decaying in landfills also produces nitrogen pollution, which causes dead zones. According to the World Wildlife Federation, the production of wasted food in America is equivalent to the greenhouse emissions of 37 million cars.

Based on the foregoing, to decrease food waste the government could get every point of the supply chain to report on food waste; require all edible food surplus to be offered to hungry people and to animals as feed; require all inedible food waste to be composted or used to generate energy. Businesses could stop demanding perfectly-shaped fruit and vegetables; work with food redistribution charities; create standards that reduce confusion around sell-by/expiration dates. But of all the available solutions, changing people’s eating habits seems to hold the most promise. By simply using shopping lists, learning how to compost food at home, buying imperfect products they can pare down a significant amount of waste. The great example of reducing consumption is *Dumpster diving*, which means the act of entering garbage dumpsters, in order to find food suitable for consumption. Today, there are entire organizations such as Food Not Bombs that openly encourage their members to go dumpster diving.

To recap, attempts to reduce food waste through technology, better food policies, and consumers’ efforts can improve the environment and help to end world hunger. Measures must be taken today, because there is no more time to waste.