



Stop Handgun Violence

1994 to 2014

20 years of Progress in Gun Violence Prevention

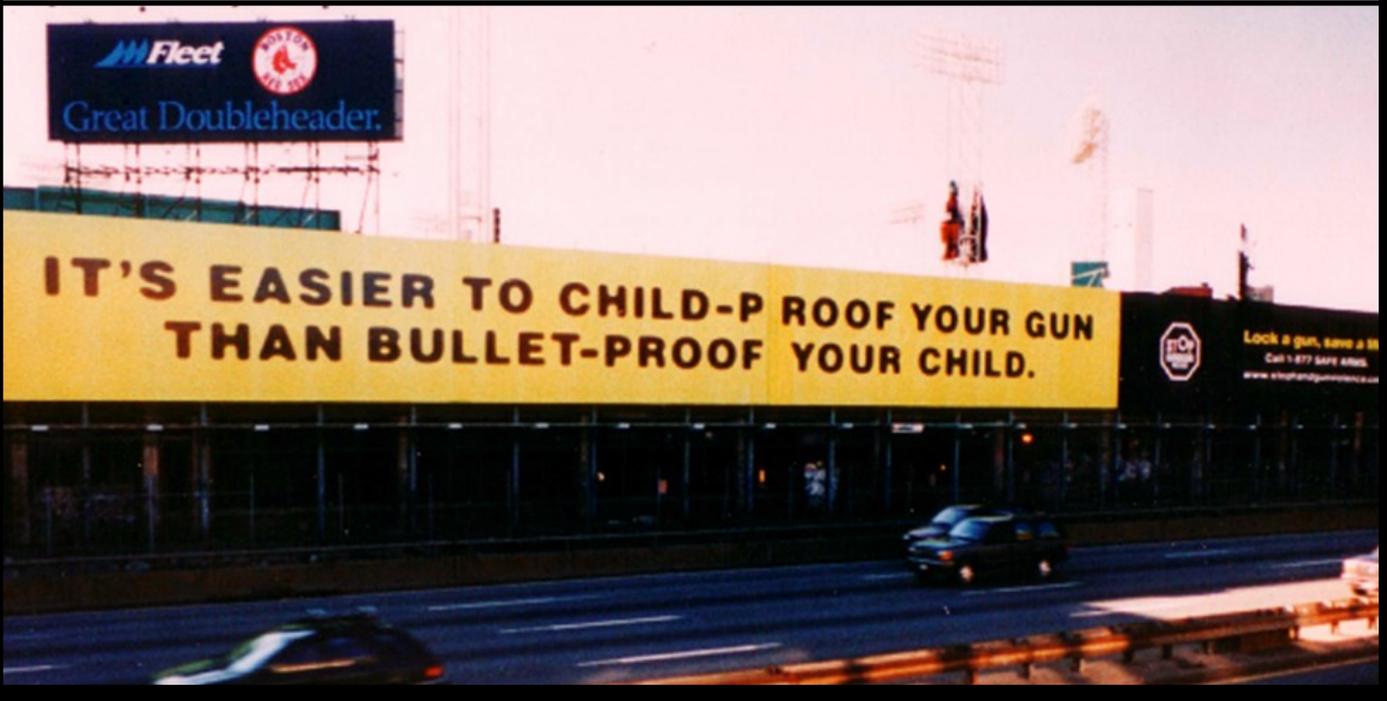
Stop Handgun Violence (SHV) was co-founded in 1994 by gun owner and business person John Rosenthal and the late Michael Kennedy. From the start, the Massachusetts non-profit organization focused on changing the historical polarized debate of unrestricted gun access versus banning all guns. Through education, public awareness, and legislation to we have worked to reduce gun violence without banning guns. SHV helped save lives and make Massachusetts a national model for gun violence prevention. Shortly after its inception, Stop Handgun Violence created and displayed the first of many 252'x20' gun violence prevention billboards along the Mass Pike in Boston.



Over the years, Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Governors, Attorney Generals, Members of Congress, Mayors, Police Chiefs and victims have attended billboard unveilings and recognized our messages.



Shortly after seeing the billboard below, Vice-President Al Gore said during a speech "I saw a billboard in one of your cities the other day that said it's easier to child-proof a gun than to bullet-proof your child, and that's so true."



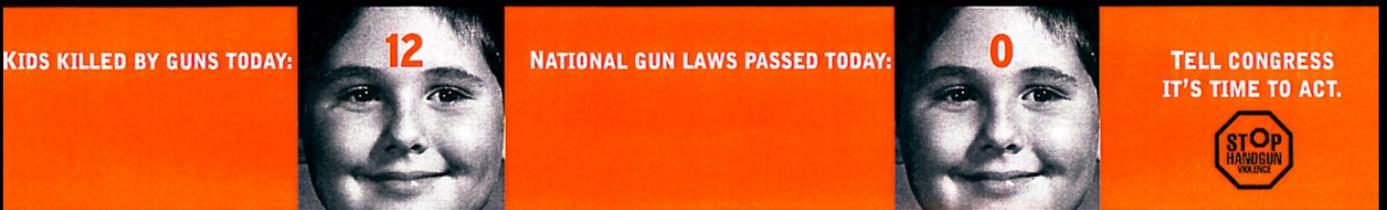


The billboards have always contained gun violence related messages of safety, outrage and remembrance. The only exception was the billboard below displayed after the attacks on September 11, 2001 and honoring victims.



Stop Handgun Violence successes include:

- Successfully advocated for the 1998 Massachusetts sweeping firearm legislation which included first in the nation firearm manufacturing standards and consumer protection laws, safe storage and child safety laws, and mandatory safety training and renewable gun licensing.



Stop Handgun Violence also:

- Successfully advocated for a permanent ban on assault weapons in Massachusetts after Congress failed to extend the weapons ban in 2004.
- Distributed trigger locks to over 1,000 households





In keeping with our mission to raise awareness Stop Handgun Violence has:



- Installed 1,000 billboards in New England and nationwide
- Partnered with the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorneys Office on media projects through Project Safe Neighborhoods





Since the billboard has been in place nearly 600,000 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence (current to 2011). Of those, over 4,000 have been Massachusetts residents.



Since Stop Handgun Violence was founded, Massachusetts has enacted some of the nation's most effective gun laws and has consistently lead the nation in gun violence prevention. Massachusetts now has the second lowest gun death rate in the nation and the third lowest child and teen gun death rates. In addition, Massachusetts gun injuries have decreased by 33% in the last twenty years.

Our current billboard, below, includes 20 little hands honoring the twenty children massacred at Sandy Hook and a counter that displays the number of Americans killed since Sandy Hook, based on a thirty year average.



We are proud of our accomplishments, and we have a lot more to do.