

Maine and nuclear weapons



We can all agree that we need to protect children no matter where they live, learn, or play. With the threat of school shootings so prominent today, a recent analysis reported that over 4 million children have endured lockdowns that result in trauma.

During the cold war millions of children suffered with “duck and cover” drills. Should we choose to jeopardize our children’s mental health with the addition of worries about nuclear bombs dropping on their schools?

There is no cure for a nuclear detonation - only prevention - which is why many of Maine’s health, faith, and other organizations support the *Back from the Brink* statement. Maine should stand with other states to call on the US government to adopt these five policy changes that reduce these threats.

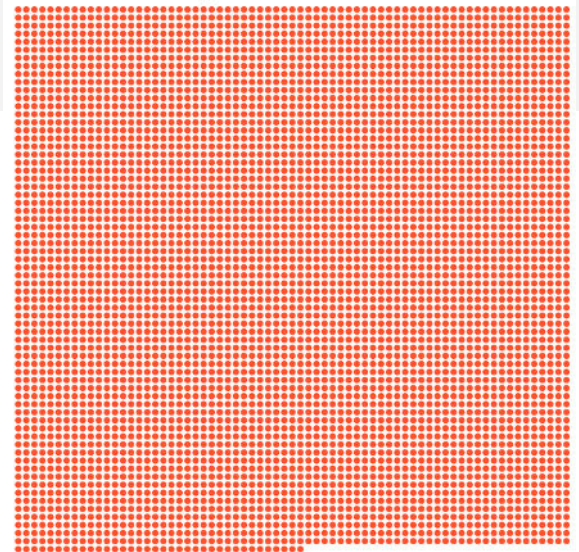
<http://bit.ly/schoollockdowns>

<http://bit.ly/BftBstatement>

Global arsenals have over 14,000 nuclear weapons and the US has roughly 6,450

Detonation of even a small number of these weapons anywhere in the world could have catastrophic human, environmental, and economic consequences that could affect everyone on the planet including Maine from the

- disruption of global transportation
- disruption of global financial markets
- disruption to communications including with governments and their agencies



Each dot represents one deployed US nuclear weapon

A large scale nuclear war would likely kill hundreds of millions of people directly and cause unimaginable environmental damage, producing conditions wherein billions of people would likely die from starvation or disease

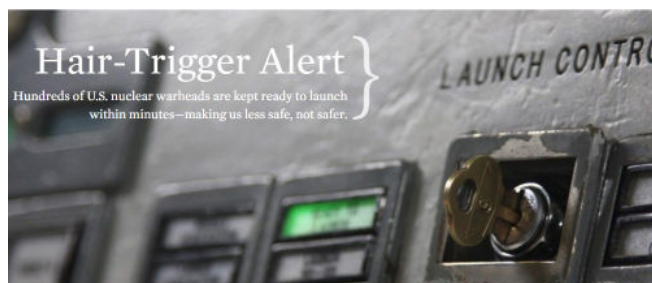
This study looks at a limited nuclear war which could have the potential for impacting billions:

<https://www.psr.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/two-billion-at-risk.pdf>

**NUCLEAR FAMINE:
~~A~~ BILLION PEOPLE
TWO AT RISK?**

The United States maintains nuclear missiles on hair-trigger alert, capable of being launched within minutes after a presidential order, which greatly increases the risk of an accidental, mistaken or unauthorized launch

<https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons/hair-trigger-alert#.XDYGFFxKiUk>



Two important treaties



The United States, as well as Britain, China, France and Russia, are obligated under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) to take concrete steps toward eliminating their nuclear arsenals

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>

In July 2017, 122 nations approved the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which makes it illegal under international law to develop, test, produce, manufacture, or otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>

Financial costs

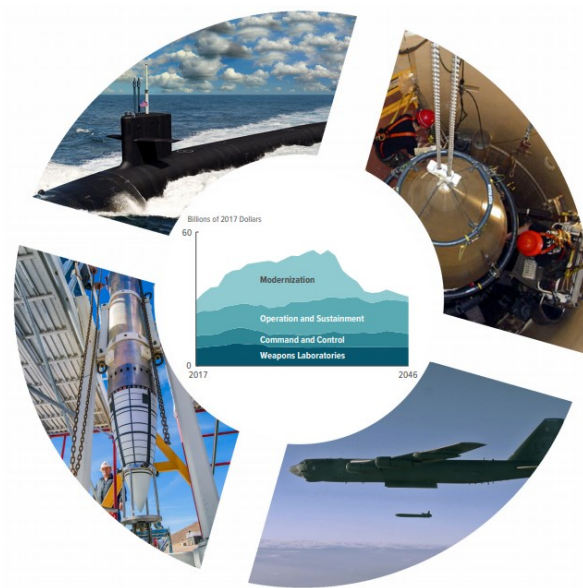
US taxpayers spend over \$4 million every hour of every day on US nuclear weapons, and the planned expenditure of more than \$1.2 trillion over the next 30 years to operate and enhance the US nuclear arsenal will exacerbate nuclear dangers by fueling a global arms race and diverting crucial resources needed to assure the well-being of Maine people

These are particularly complex figures, but the Congressional Budget Office offers the clearest summary - [http://bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/CBOnuclearbudget2017)

[CBOnuclearbudget2017](http://bit.ly/CBOnuclearbudget2017)

In 2017 Maine taxpayers as a whole averaged \$192.33 per capita, with the state collectively paying an estimated \$257 million in 2017 federal taxes toward the cost of producing, deploying and maintaining nuclear weapons

<https://www.psr-la.org/nuclear-costs>



Urge your Maine Legislator to vote to pass LR 887 the nuclear weapons resolution to help protect all children no matter where they live, learn, or play.

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