The background of the entire image is a close-up, slightly blurred view of the American flag, showing the stars and stripes in detail.

Gun Facts

VERSION 2.0

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"In the name of freedom and truth"

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PURPOSE

Gun Facts is designed to serve those defending the Constitution of the United States of America, and the 2nd Amendment in particular. The goal of Gun Facts is to give you a quick reference guide for composing arguments for debates, letters to editors, email to your representatives, and statements to the media.

Public education is the key to protecting all of the rights that "We The People" reserve for ourselves, and to return to us safe streets and bright futures for our children.

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QUESTIONS, CORRECTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

If you need to communicate with the author, please send e-mail to guys@home.net. Your corrections, comments, additions and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. When providing new information, please site the original reference (this is essential) and provide URL links if available.

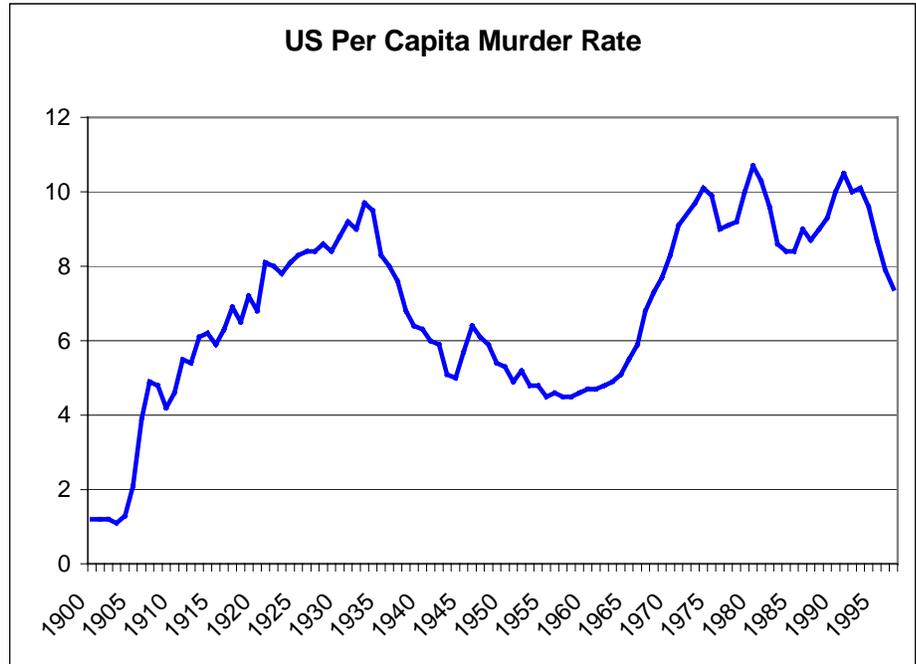
THE AVAILABILITY OF GUNS

Myth: The availability of guns cause crime

Fact: Though the supply of guns has been increasing steadily since 1970, the overall rate of homicides and suicides has not risen.¹

As the chart above shows, there is no correlation between the availability of guns, the homicide rate, or the suicide rate in America.

Fact: Between 1959 and 1999, the number of gun owning households fell from 49% to 40% while violent crime rose and fell. This shows that crime is unaffected by gun availability.



Myth: Handguns are 43 times more likely kill a family member than a criminal

Fact: Of the 43 deaths, 86% (37) were suicides.²

Myth: 58% of murder victims are killed by either relatives or acquaintances

Fact: "Acquaintance" murders are primarily drug buyers killing drug pushers, cabdrivers killed by first-time customers, gang members killing other gang members, prostitutes killed by their Johns, and so on.³

¹ "Targeting Guns: Firearms and their control", Walter de Gruyter w/ supporting data from the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

² Arthur L. Kellerman, Protection or Peril?: An Analysis of Firearm-Related Deaths in the Home, 314 New Eng. J. Med. 1557-60 1986. This number was derived from the infamous Kellerman study. Kellerman admits that his study did "not include cases in which burglars or intruders are wounded or frightened away by the use or display of a firearm." He also admitted his study did not look at situations in which intruders "purposely avoided a home known to be armed." This is a classic case of a "study" conducted to achieve a desired result.

Fact: Only one city, Chicago, reports a precise breakdown on the nature of acquaintance killings: Between 1990 and 1995 only 17% of murder victims were family members, friends, neighbors and/or roommates. The rest were people with criminal records, killed by other criminals.

Fact: Over 66% of murderers have long histories of violence against not only their enemies and other "acquaintances," but also against their relatives.⁴

Fact: In 73% of these gun-defense incidents, the attacker was a stranger to the intended victim. (Defenses against a family member or intimate were rare -- well under 10%.)⁵

Myth: "Assault weapons" are a serious problem in the US

Fact: In 1994, you were eleven (11) times more likely to be beaten to death than to be killed by an "assault weapon".⁶ This was before the Federal assault weapons ban.

Fact: "Assault weapons" are used in only 2-3% of crimes involving firearms.⁷

Fact: Even weapons misclassified as "assault weapons" (common in the Federal and California assault weapons confiscations) are used in less than 1% of all homicides.⁸

Fact: Police reports show that "assault weapons" are a non-problem. For California cities:

For California:

- **Los Angeles:** In 1998, 3% of weapons confiscated by the police were classified as "assault weapons". In 1998, of 538 documented gun incidents, only one (0.2%) involved an "assault weapon".
- **San Francisco:** In 1998 only 2.2% of confiscated weapons were "assault weapons".
- **San Diego:** Between 1988 and 1990, only 0.3% of confiscated weapons were "assault weapons".

For the rest of the nation:

- Between 1980 and 1994, only 2% of confiscated guns were "assault weapons".
- Just over 2% of criminals that used guns used "assault weapons".
- Only 1% of police officers murdered were killed using "assault weapons".

Fact: Most "assault weapons" have no more firepower or killing capacity than the average hunting rifle.¹

³ The broad category of "acquaintance" comes from the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

⁴ US Bureau of Justice Statistics, Murder in families, 1994

⁵ "Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun," by Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz, in The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology, Northwestern University School of Law, Volume 86, Number 1, Fall, 1995

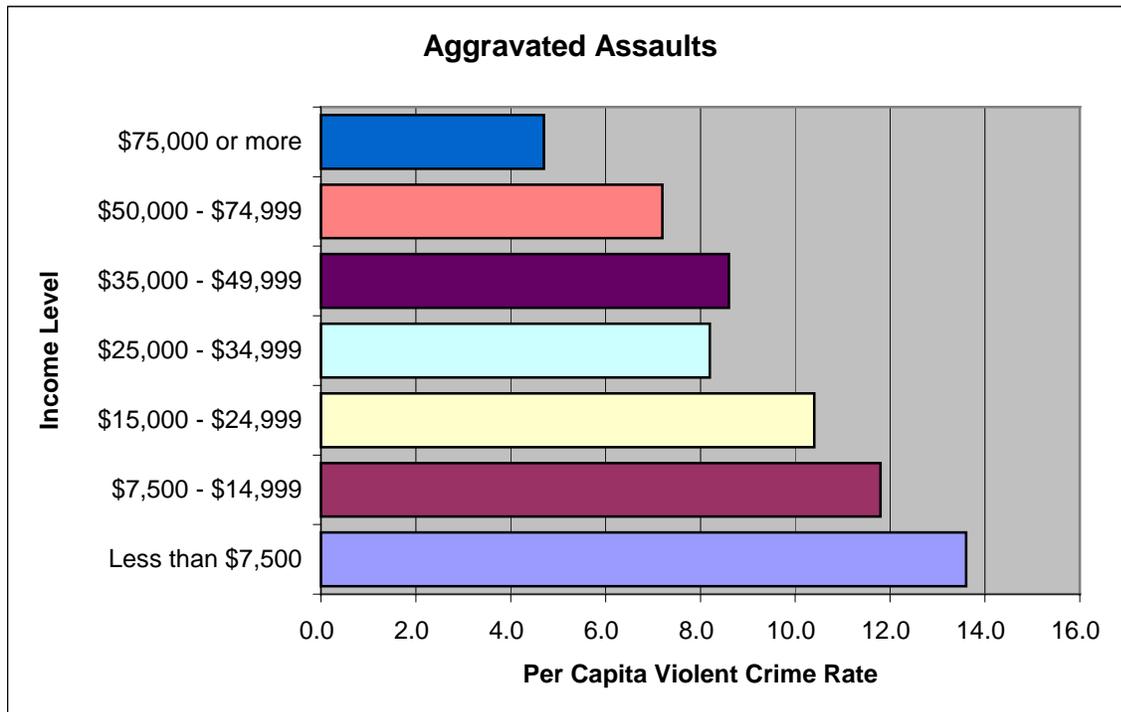
⁶ 1994 FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

⁷ 1990, Justice Department Analysis

⁸ 1993 FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

Myth: Guns in poor communities causes many deaths

Fact: Lower income individuals are exposed to more violent crime than those from higher income households. Persons with household incomes of less than \$35,000 per year live with significantly higher violent crime rates when compared with those who had household incomes of \$35,000 or more per year.⁹ Thus, *the higher incident of gun violence is a reflection of the overall higher violent crime rate in poor communities.*



⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, National Crime Victimization Survey 1998

CHILDREN AND GUNS

Myth: 13 children are killed each day by guns

Fact: The statistics cited here include “children” up to age 19 or 24, depending on the source. Most violent crime is committed by males ages 16-24, so these numbers include adult gang members dying during criminal activity.¹⁰ If you include only ages 0-14, the number drops to 1.7/day.

Fact: These numbers include criminal activities and suicides.¹¹ As suicides make up more than ½ of all gun deaths, the number drops even further, to less than one per day.

Fact: Four children die each day in the U.S. from parental neglect and abuse.¹² *Perhaps we should register and license parents.*

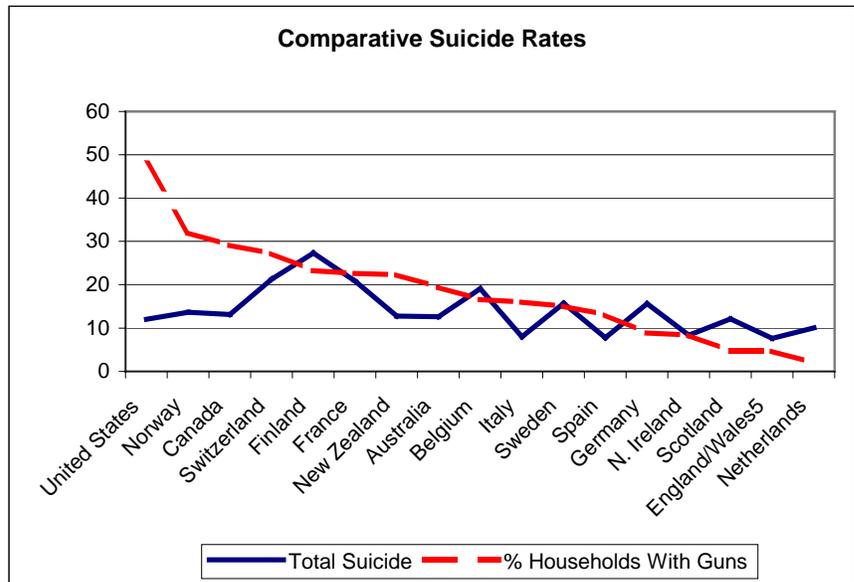
Myth: If it saves the life of one child, it is worth it

Fact: Guns in private hands are used 2.5 million times each year to prevent crime, or 6,849 every day¹³, including rapes, aggravated assaults, and kidnapping. The number of innocent children protected by guns far outweighs the number hurt by guns.

Myth: More than 1,300 children commit suicide with firearms each year

Fact: This statistic includes “children” ages 18-19 (hardly kids).

Fact: Worldwide, the per capita suicide rate is fairly static (in fact, the suicide rate of the U.S. is lower than many industrial countries, including many that have banned private gun ownership). This indicates a certain fraction of the population will commit suicide regardless of the tools available.



¹⁰ FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1997

¹¹ National Center for Health Statistics, 1997

¹² National Center on Child Abuse Prevention, 1998 Annual Survey

¹³ Gary Kleck, Criminologist, Florida State University

Myth: School yard shootings are an epidemic

Fact: In states without “right to carry” laws, there have been 15 school shootings. In states that allow citizens to carry guns, there has been only one.¹⁴

Myth: Trigger locks will keep children from accidentally shooting themselves

Fact: In 1996, even though there were around 80 million people owning guns, there were only 44 accidental gun deaths for children under age 10, or about 0.0001%.¹⁵

Fact: California has a trigger lock law and saw a 12% increase in fatal firearm accidents in 1994. Texas doesn't have one and experienced a 28% decrease.¹⁶ "Trigger-locks" do, however, render guns inaccessible for self-defense.

Fact: Children as young as seven (7) years old have demonstrated that they can pick or break trigger locks, or operate a gun with a trigger lock in place.¹⁷

Myth: More children are hurt with guns than any other method

Fact: 0.1% of all deaths for children between ages 0-14 are from firearms. The rate for “children” 0-24 years old is 0.4%.

	Ages 0-14	Ages 0-24
Suffocations	42.6%	36.9%
Other	35.1%	25.2%
Transportation (not automobiles)	6.0%	6.7%
Poisoning	6.0%	22.5%
Stuck by (beatings, bludgeoning, accidentals)	5.3%	4.7%
Natural/environmental	3.7%	2.6%
Motor Vehicle	0.6%	0.7%
Drowning	0.3%	0.1%
Fire/hot substance	0.2%	0.1%
Firearms	0.1%	0.4%

¹⁴ Lott J, Landes W; "Multiple Victim Public Shootings, Bombings, and Right-to-Carry Concealed Handgun Laws: Contrasting Private and Public Law Enforcement"; University of Chicago – covers years 1977 to 1995

¹⁵ Prof. John Lott, CBS News web site, March 20, 2000

¹⁶ National Center for Health Statistics

¹⁷ General Accounting Office, 1998

Fact: Children are 12 times more likely to die in an automobile accident than from gun related homicides or legal interventions (being shot by a cop for example) if they are age 0-14. For the group 0-24 years old (which bends the definition of 'child' quite a bit), the rate is still 8.6 times high for cars.¹⁸

Fact: In 1996 there were only 21 accidental gun deaths for children under age 15.¹⁹

Fact: Boys who own legal firearms have much lower rates of delinquency and drug use and are even less delinquent than non-owners of guns.²⁰

Fact: The non-gun homicide rate for children in the U.S. is more than twice as high than other western countries. And eight times as many children die from non-gun violent acts than from gun crimes.²¹ This indicates that the problem is violence, not guns.

Fact: Fatal gun accidents for children ages 0-14 declined by almost 46% from 1975 to 1995, and 60% for all ages – all while the number of guns per capita increased by almost 40%.

Fact: 82% of homicides to children age 13 and under were committed without a gun.²²

¹⁸ 1997 National Center for Health Statistics National Vital Statistics Report

¹⁹ Centers for Disease Control

²⁰ U.S. Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, NCJ-143454, "Urban Delinquency and Substance Abuse," August 1995.

²¹ Kids and Guns, 2000, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

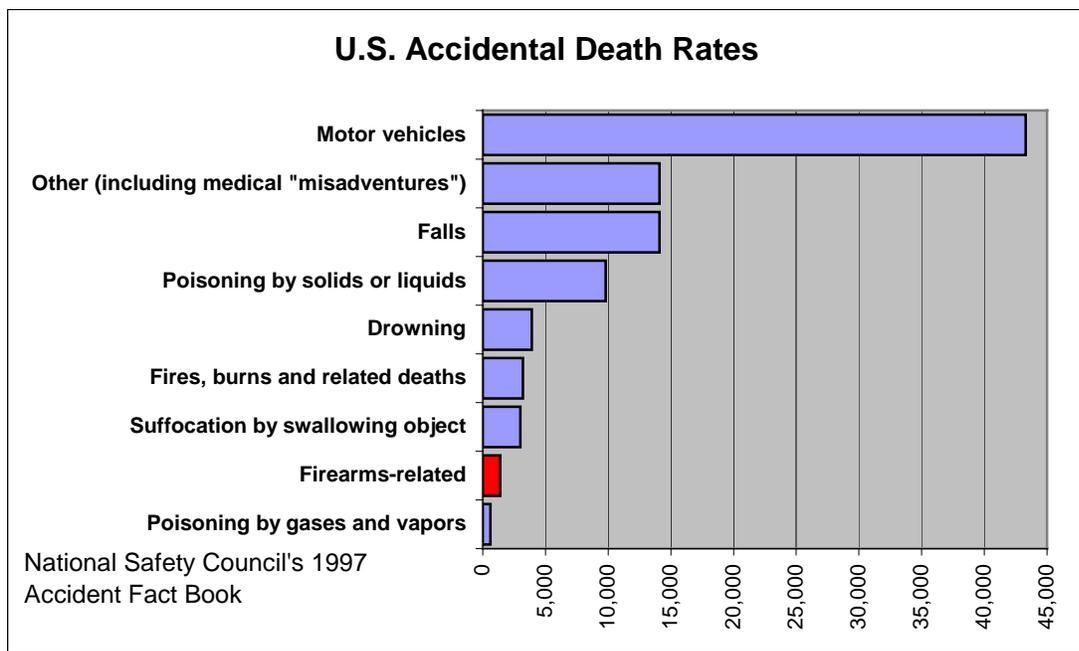
²² 1997, FBI Uniform Crime Statistics.

ACCIDENTAL DEATHS

Myth: Accidental gun fatalities are a serious problem

Fact: Guns contribute only a small number of accidental deaths in the U.S. For example, compared to accidental death from firearms, you are:

- Twice as likely to suffocate on a swallowed object
- Seven times more likely to be poisoned
- 10 time more likely to die falling
- And 31 times more likely to die in an automobile accident



Fact: In 1996 there were only 21 accidental gun deaths for children under age 15. About twice as many children under 10 die from drowning in bathtubs.²³

Fact: In 1993, there were 1,334 drownings and 528 firearm-related accidental deaths from ages 0-19. Firearms outnumber pools by a factor of over 30:1. Thus, the risk of drowning in a pool is nearly 100 times higher than from a firearm-related accident for everyone, and nearly 500 times for ages 0-5.²⁴

²³ Centers for Disease Control

²⁴ National Center for Health Statistics, and the National Spa and Pool Institute

Fact: Medical mistakes kill 400,000 people per year – about one fully loaded jumbo jet crash per day, and 10 times the rate of all gun related deaths (including those where citizens killed criminals in self defense, suicides, etc.) and 266 times the accidental gun death rate.²⁵

Myth: Gun accidents are flooding emergency rooms

Fact: The rate of gun accidents is so low the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission doesn't even mention them.

Myth: "Junk" guns are dangerous and should be banned

Fact: In the history of the state of California, not one lawsuit against a gun maker has been filed based on a weapon being defective or poorly designed.²⁶

Myth: Guns Should Be Made to Conform to Product Liability Laws

Fact: Guns are already covered under product liability laws. If you have a defective gun that does not operate properly, you can sue the gun maker. But this is not a problem.²⁷

²⁵ Medical death statistics from Dr. David Lawrence, CEO Kaiser Permanente. Gun deaths are for 1993, CDC report.

²⁶ California Trial Lawyers Association, 1998. If anyone would be salivating at the chance to sue gun makers, it would be a pack of trial lawyers.

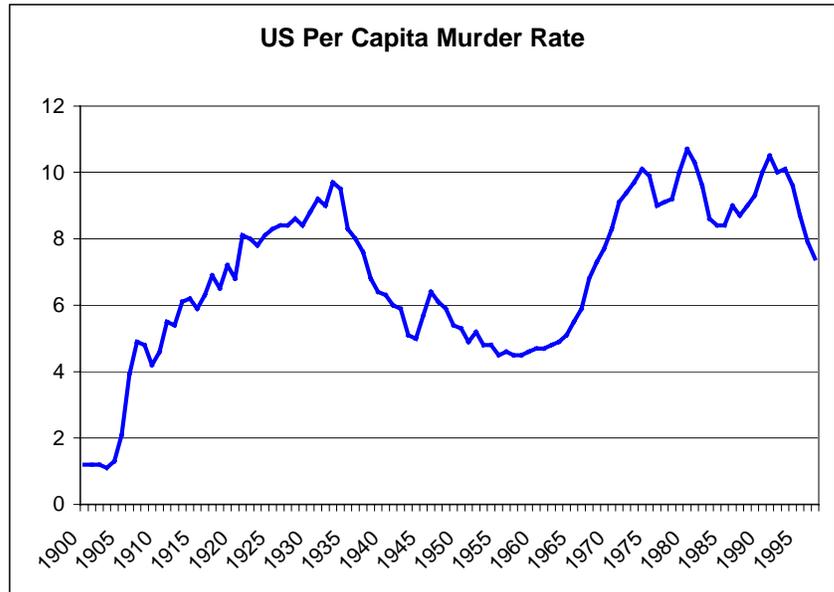
²⁷ Ibid.

GOVERNMENT, GUN LAWS AND SOCIAL COSTS

Myth: Gun control reduces crime

Fact: Violent crime appears to be encouraged by gun control. Most gun control laws in the United States have been written since 1968, yet the murder rate has risen during that time.²⁸

Fact: There are more than 22,000²⁹ gun laws at the city, county, state and federal level. If gun control worked, then we should be free of crime.



Myth: Guns should be registered and licensed like cars

Fact: You do not need a license to buy a car. You can buy as many as you want and drive them all you like on your own property without a license.

Fact: Cars are registered because they are (a) a source of tax revenue, (b) the object of fraud in some transactions, and (b) a high theft object. Thus we ask the government to track these.

Fact: There is no constitutional right to keep and bear automobiles, and thus they are subject to greater regulation than guns.

Fact: There are more guns in the U.S. than cars (228,000,000 guns according to 1998 FBI stats, and 207,754,000 automobiles according to 1998 Federal Highway Administration registrations). Yet you are 31 times more likely to be accidentally killed by a car than a gun according to the National Safety Council³⁰ . . . despite cars having been registered and licensed for almost 100 years.

²⁸ National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics, Revised July, 1999

²⁹ BATF estimate, 1992

³⁰ 207,754,000 automobiles according to Federal Highway Administration, October 1998. 240,000,000 guns according to 1996 FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

Myth: The Brady Bill caused gun homicides to decrease

Fact: Both gun and non-gun murder rates fell during the same period, 1992 to 1997. In 1992, 68% of U.S. murders were committed with guns; in 1997, it was still 68%.³¹ Thus, the decreased gun homicide part of an overall declining crime rate, not an effect of the Brady Bill.

Myth: Guns laws are being enforced

Fact: Since President Clinton took office federal prosecutions of gun-related crimes have dropped more than 44 percent.³²

Fact: 3,353 prohibited individuals had obtained firearms, but only had active criminal investigations on 110 - or 3.3% of these individuals.³³

Fact: The average sentence for a federal firearms violation dropped from 57 months to 46 months from 1996 to 1998.³⁴

Fact: In 1988 the government prosecuted just eight children for gun law violations.³⁵ In that same year there were:

- 8 prosecutions for juvenile handgun possession.
- 6 prosecutions for handgun transfer to juveniles.
- 1 prosecution for Brady Law violations.

Fact: 18-20 year olds commit over 23% of all gun murders.³⁶ None of these criminals are allowed by law to own a handgun.

Fact: Project Exile in Richmond, Virginia prosecutes felons caught with guns using Federal laws that require mandatory imprisonment. The first year result was a 33% drop in homicides for the Richmond Metro area in a year where the national murder rate was climbing.³⁷

Myth: Federal gun crime prosecutions increased 25% under Clinton

Fact: 1992: 9,885 BATF Referrals for federal law violations
1998: 4,391 (44% drop)
1999: 5,489 (fictitious 25% increase)³⁸

³¹ FBI Uniform Crime Reports for 1992 and 1997

³² Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University covering 1992 through 1998

³³ General Accounting Office (GAO) 2000 audit of the National Instant Check System between 11/30/98 and 11/30/99.

³⁴ U.S. Justice Department, 1999

³⁵ Justice Department

³⁶ United States Treasury and Justice Department Report, 1999

³⁷ FBI Uniform Crime Statistics

Fact: 1992: 12,084 Total BATF firearm law violation referrals
1998: 5,620 (a 53% drop)

Myth: The social cost of gun violence is enormous

Fact: Because guns are used an estimated 2.5 million times per year to prevent crimes, the cost savings in personal losses, police work, court and prison expenses vastly outweighs the cost of criminal gun violence and gun accidents. The net saving, under a worst-case scenario, is about \$3.5 billion a year.³⁹

Fact: Guns are used 65 times more often to prevent a crime than to commit one.

Fact: The medical costs of gun violence is only 0.16% of America's annual health care expenditures.⁴⁰

Myth: The social cost of gun violence is \$20 billion

Fact: This "study" included the lifetime earnings of people that die from guns, not just the true social costs. This included lost incomes of criminals killed by law-abiding citizens. If the same methodology were used to calculate the social savings from private gun ownership, we would see a benefit to society of \$1/2 trillion, or 10% of the 1999 US Gross Domestic Product.

Myth: Gun "buy back" programs get guns off the streets

Fact: According to a variety of sources, the actual effect is that gun buy-back programs:

- Disarm future crime victims, creating new social costs
- Gives criminals an easy way to dispose of evidence
- Are turned in by those least likely to commit crimes (the elderly, women, etc.)
- Cheap guns are bought and sold back to the government for a profit
- Causes guns to be stolen and sold back to the government, creating more crime in the process
- The stolen guns are not returned to their rightful owners

³⁸ BATF, 1999

³⁹ Sterling Burnett, National Center for Policy Analysis, "Suing Gun Manufacturers: Hazardous to Our Health", 1999

⁴⁰ Max W and Rice DP. Shooting in the dark: estimating the cost of firearm injuries. Health Affairs. 1993; 12(4): 171-85.

CRIME AND GUNS

Myth: Criminals buy guns in gun stores

Fact: Only about one-sixth of the gun-toting felons obtained their most recent handguns through a customary retail transaction involving a licensed firearms dealer.⁴¹

Myth: Guns are not a good deterrent to crime

Fact: Guns prevent and estimated 2.5 million crimes a year, or 6,849 every day.⁴² Often the gun is never fired and no blood (including the criminal's) is shed.

Fact: Every day, 550 rapes, 1,100 murders and 5,200 other violent crimes per day are prevented just by showing a handgun. In less than 0.9% of the time is the gun ever actually fired.⁴³

Fact: 60% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they knew the victim was armed. 40% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they thought the victim might be armed.⁴⁴

Fact: A survey of felons revealed the following:⁴⁵

- 74% of felons agreed that "one reason burglars avoid houses when people are at home is that they fear being shot during the crime."
- 57% of felons polled agreed, "criminals are more worried about meeting an armed victim than they are about running into the police."

Myth: Guns are often used to commit violent crimes

Fact: 90% of all violent crime in the U.S. does not involve any gun of any type.⁴⁶

Fact: Less than 1% of all guns are ever used in the commission of any type crime of crime (much less violent crime).⁴⁷

Fact: Two-thirds of the people who die each year from gunfire are criminals being shot by other criminals.⁴⁸

⁴¹ National Institute of Justice, 1986, survey of 1,800 convicted adult felons

⁴² Gary Kleck, Criminologist, Florida State University

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ James Wright and Peter Rossi, *Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms* (New York: Aldine, 1986).

⁴⁵ Department of Justice, National Institute of Justice, "The Armed Criminal in America: A Survey of Incarcerated Felons," Research Report, (July 1985)

⁴⁶ 1998, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

⁴⁷ FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1994

Myth: Gun shows are supermarkets for criminals

Fact: Only 2% of guns used in criminal offenses were purchased at gun shows.⁴⁹

Fact: Only 5% of metropolitan police departments believe that gun shows are a problem.⁵⁰

Fact: Only 3.5% of youthful offenders reported that they obtained their last handgun at a gun show.⁵¹

Fact: Gun dealers are federally licensed, and must follow the rules for sales regardless of whether they are dealing from a storefront, or a gun show.⁵²

Myth: 25-50% of the vendors at most gun shows are "unlicensed dealers"

Fact: First, there is no such thing as an "unlicensed dealer", except for people that buy and sell antique – known as curio – weapons.

Fact: This figure, touted by HCI, can only be achieved if you include dealers *not selling guns* at these shows. These non-gun dealers include knife makers, ammo dealers, accessories dealers, military artifact traders, clothing vendors, bumper sticker sellers and hobbyists. In short, 50% of the vendors at shows are not selling guns!

Myth: Criminals prefer "Saturday Night Specials"ⁱⁱⁱ

Fact: "Saturday Night Specials" were used in less than 3% of crimes involving guns.⁵³

Fact: Fewer than 2% of all "Saturday Night Specials" made are used in crimes.

Myth: Prison isn't the answer to crime control

Fact: From 1960-1980, per capita imprisonment for violent crimes fell from 738 to 227. In the same period violent crime rates nationwide tripled.

Fact: The average annual social damage prevented by incarcerating a newly admitted New Jersey violent criminal is \$1.6 million and the median damage prevented is \$70,098. This is a far higher cost than the annual \$25,000 expense of imprisoning a violent criminal.

⁴⁸ FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1994

⁴⁹ National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice. According to an NIJ study released in December 1997 "Homicide in Eight U.S. Cities"

⁵⁰ Center to Prevent Handgun Violence survey of 37 police departments in large cities, reported in a CPHV report titled "On the Front Line: Making Gun Interdiction Work"

⁵¹ Timothy S. Bynum, Todd G. Beitzel, Tracy A. O'Connell & Sean P. Varano, Patterns in Gun Acquisition and Use by Youthful Offenders in Michigan

⁵² BATF, 2000

⁵³ FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1994

Myth: Waiting periods prevent rash crimes and lowers violent crime rates

Fact: The national five day waiting period under the Brady Bill had no impact on murder or robbery, but slightly increased rape and aggravated assault rates by a few percent. Thus, for two crime categories, the major effect was to delay law-abiding citizens from getting a gun for protection. The risks were greatest for crimes against women.⁵⁴

⁵⁴ Dr. John Lott Jr., University of Chicago School of Law

GUNS AND CRIME PREVENTION

Myth: Private ownership of guns are not effective for preventing crime

Fact: Every year, people in the United States use a gun to defend themselves against criminals an estimated 2,500,000 times – more than 6,500 people a day, or once every 13 seconds.⁵⁵ Of these instances, 15.6% of the people using a firearm defensively stated that they "almost certainly" saved their lives by doing so.

This means that, each year, firearms are used 60 times more often to protect the lives of honest citizens than to take lives.

Fact: In 83.5% of these successful gun defenses, the attacker either threatened or used force first, proving that guns are very well suited for self-defense.

Fact: Of the 2,500,000 times citizens use their guns to defend themselves every year, 92 percent merely brandish their gun or fire a warning shot to scare off their attackers.

Fact: Less than 8% of the time does a citizen wound his or her attacker.

Fact: For every accidental death, suicide or homicide with a firearm, 10 lives are saved through defensive use.

Fact: When using guns in self-defense⁵⁶:

- 83% of robbery victims were not injured
- 88% of assault victims were not hurt
- 76% of all self defense use of guns never involve firing a single shot

Fact: After the implementation of Canada's 1977 gun controls prohibiting handgun possession for protection, the "breaking and entering" crime rate rose 25%, surpassing the American rate.⁵⁷

Myth: Only police should have guns

Fact: 11% of police shootings kill an innocent person - about 2% of shootings by citizens kill an innocent person.⁵⁸

Fact: Anyone that saw the helplessness of the L.A. Police Department during the 1992 King Riots knows that they need guns to defend themselves.

⁵⁵ Fall 1995, Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology

⁵⁶ NCVS database, 1979-1985

⁵⁷ Pat Mayhew, Residential Burglary: A Comparison of the United States, Canada and England and Wales (Nat'l Inst. of Just., Wash., D.C., 1987)

⁵⁸ Cramer C and Kopel D. Shall issue: the new wave of concealed handgun permit laws. Golden CO: Independence Institute Issue Paper. October 17, 1994.

Myth: Guns are not effective in preventing crime against women

Fact: Of the 2,500,000 annual self-defense cases using guns, more than 7.7% are by women defending themselves against sexual abuse.

Fact: When a woman was armed with a gun or knife, only 3% of the attempted rapes are successful, compared to 32% when unarmed.⁵⁹

Fact: The probability of serious injury from an attack is 2.5 times greater for women offering no resistance than for women resisting with a gun. Men also benefit from using a gun, but the benefits are smaller: offering no resistance is 1.4 times more likely to result in serious injury than resisting with a gun.⁶⁰

Fact: 27% of women keep a gun in the house.⁶¹

Fact: 37.6 million women either own or have rapid access to guns.⁶²

Fact: In 1966 the city of Orlando responded to a wave of sexual assaults by offering firearms training classes to women. The number of rapes dropped by nearly 90%.

Myth: You are more likely to be injured or killed using a gun for self defense

Fact: You are far more likely to survive a violent assault if you defend yourself with a gun. In episodes where there was an injury to a robbery victim, the injury/defense rates were:⁶³

Resisting with a gun	6%
Did nothing at all	25%
Resisted with a knife	40%
Non-violent resistance	45%

⁵⁹ U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Rape Victimization in 26 American Cities, 1979

⁶⁰ Department of Justice's National Crime Victimization Survey

⁶¹ U.S. Department of Justice

⁶² U.S. Department of Justice

⁶³ British Home Office – no a pro-gun organization by any means

CONCEALED CARRY LAWS AND WEAPONS

Myth: Concealed carry laws increase crimes

Fact: Crimes involving a gun owner with a carry permit in Florida have consistently been about 0.02% of such crimes since Florida's right-to-carry law started in 1989.⁶⁴

Fact: After passing their concealed carry law, Florida's homicide rate fell from 36% above the national average to 4% below the national average and remains below the national average to this day.⁶⁵

Fact: When citizens are allowed to carry concealed weapons⁶⁶:

- Murder rates drop 8%
- Rape rates fall 5%
- Aggravated assaults drop 7%

Fact: More to the point, crime is significantly high in states without right-to-carry laws⁶⁷:

Type of Crime	How Much Higher in Restrictive States
Violent Crime	81%
Murder	86%
Rape	25%
Assault	82%
Robbery	105%
Auto theft	60%

Myth: People do not need a concealable weapons

Fact: In 79.7% of gun defenses, the defender used a concealable handgun. A quarter of the gun defenses occurred in places away from the defender's home.⁶⁸

Fact: The average citizen doesn't need a Sports Utility Vehicle, but owning one makes the owner safer. Owning a concealable gun makes the owner safer as well.

⁶⁴ Florida Department of Justice

⁶⁵ Cramer C and Kopel D. Shall issue: the new wave of concealed handgun permit laws. Golden CO: Independence Institute Issue Paper. October 17, 1994.

⁶⁶ John Lott, David Mustard: This study involved county level crime statistics from *all* 3,054 counties in the U.S., from 1977 through 1992. During this time ten states adopted right-to-carry laws. It is estimated that if all states had adopted right-to-carry laws, in 1992 the US would have avoided 1,400 murders, 4,200 rapes, 12,000 robberies, 60,000 aggravated assaults – and saves over \$5,000,000,000 in victim expenses.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ "Armed Resistance to Crime: The Prevalence and Nature of Self-Defense with a Gun," by Gary Kleck and Marc Gertz, in The Journal of Criminal Law & Criminology, Northwestern University School of Law, Volume 86, Number 1, Fall, 1995

GUNS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

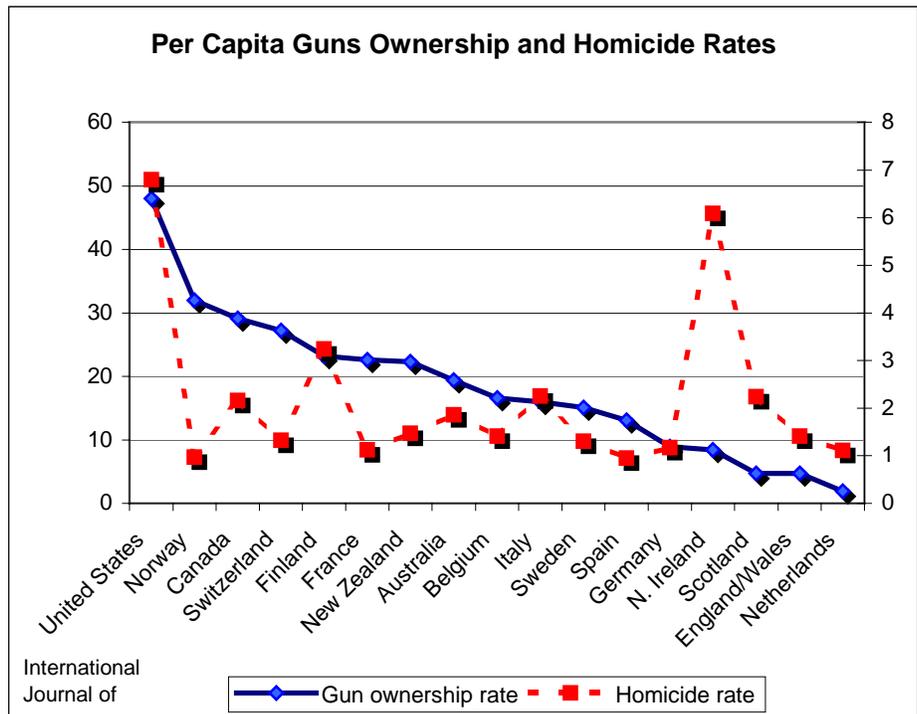
Myth: Countries with strict gun control have lower crime rates

Fact: There is no correlation between restrictive gun laws, availability of guns, and the crime rate. Consider this:

Gun Availability	Crime Rate	
	High	Low
High	United States	Switzerland
Low	Mexico	Japan

Or, to use detailed data, we can contrast the per capita homicide rate with the per capita gun ownership rate between different industrialized countries. Doing so shows zero correlation between the availability of guns and the overall homicide rate.

Fact: Switzerland has extremely lenient gun control (more so than the U.S.)⁶⁹, and has the third-lowest homicide rate of the top nine major European countries, and the same per capita rate as England and Wales.⁷⁰



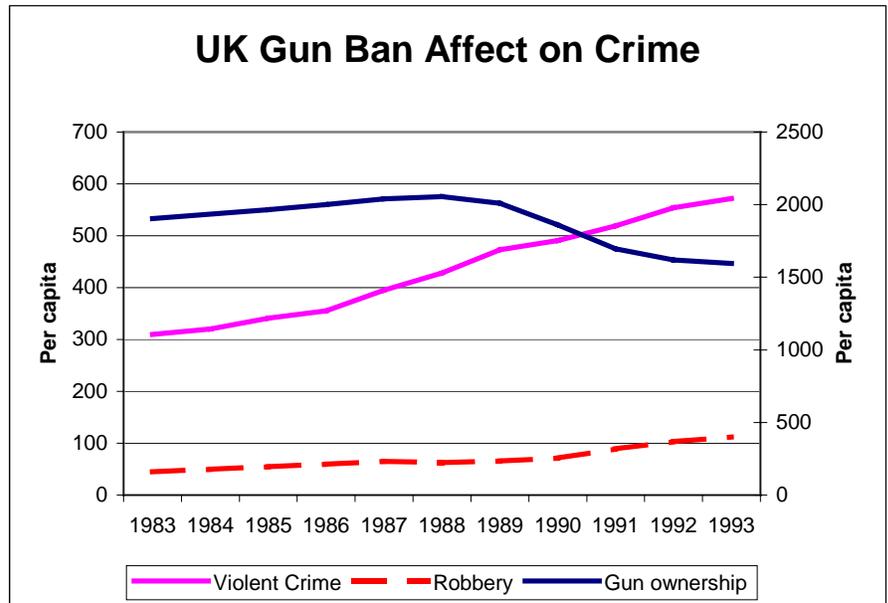
⁶⁹ In Switzerland, handguns are obtainable once a person obtains a simple police permit which is valid for three months. During that time the permit holder may buy as many handguns as he wishes, and purchases are generally not registered. For 43% of the population, there are no rules requiring a person carrying a loaded handgun to obtain any permission at all.

⁷⁰ Carol Kalish, International Crime Rates, Bureau of Justice Statistics Special Report (Washington: Department of Justice, May 1988). 1984 data for Switzerland, and the 1983 data for England and Wales.

Myth: Britain has gun control and a low crime rate

Fact: Since gun banning has escalated in the UK, the rate of crime – especially violent crime – has risen.

Fact: Over the last century, the British crime rate was largely unchanged. In the late nineteenth century the per capita homicide rate in Britain was between 1.0 and 1.5 per 100,000.⁷¹ In the late twentieth century, after a near ban on gun ownership, the homicide rate is around 1.1.⁷² This shows that the homicide rate does not vary with either the level of gun control or gun availability.



Myth: Japan has strict gun control and a less violent society

Fact: Irrelevant. In Japan the murder rate is about 1 per 100,000. In the U.S., there are about 3.2 murders per 100,000 people each year by weapons other than firearms.⁷³ *This means that even if firearms in the U.S. could be magically eliminated, we would still have three times the murder rate of the Japanese.* Japan's murder rate may be low, but its suicide rate is over 20 per 100,000 people. Japanese are being murdered and committing suicide at a rate of about 21 per 100,000. In the U.S., our combined murder and suicide rate is about 21 also.

Myth: Gun control in Australia is curbing crime

Fact: Crime has been rising since a sweeping ban on private gun ownership. One year after gun-owners were forced to surrender 640,381 personal firearms the results are a dramatic increase in criminal activity. After 12 months of data:

- Homicides are up 3.2%
- Assaults are up 8.6%
- Armed-robberies are up 44%
- In the state of Victoria, homicides-with-firearms are up 300%
- There has been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly

⁷¹ Clive Emsley, *Crime and Society in England 1750-1900*, at 36 (1987).

⁷² Interpol statistics

⁷³ United Nations

POLICE AND GUNS

Myth: Police favor gun control

Fact: 92.7% of law enforcement officials believe that citizens should be able to purchase firearms for self-defense and sporting purposes.⁷⁴

Fact: 65.8% believe there should be no gun rationing, such as 'one gun per month' schemes.

Fact: 97.9% of officers believe that through *illegal* means criminals are able to obtain any type of firearm.

Myth: The police are our protection, and people don't need guns

Fact: The courts have consistently ruled that the police do not have an obligation to protect individuals. In *Warren v. District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department*, 444 A.2d 1 (D.C. App. 1981), the court stated: '[C]ourts have without exception concluded that when a municipality or other governmental entity undertakes to furnish police services, it assumes a duty only to the public at large and not to individual members of the community.'

Fact: There are not enough police to protect everyone. Currently, there are about 150,000 police officers on duty at any one time.⁷⁵

- This is *on-duty* police. This includes desk clerks, command sergeants, etc. – far fewer than 150,000 cops are cruising your neighborhood.
- There are approximately 271,933,702 people living in the United States.⁷⁶
- Thus *there is only one on-duty cop for every 1,813 citizens!*

Myth: The supply of guns is a danger to law enforcement

Fact: The courts kill cops by letting felons out of prison early. Of police killed in the line of duty:

- 70% are killed by criminals with prior arrest records
- 53% of these criminals have prior convictions
- 22% are on probation when the officer is killed

⁷⁴ 1999 Police Survey, National Association of Chiefs of Police

⁷⁵ US Justice Department, 1998

⁷⁶ US Census Bureau, 1999 estimate

THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Justifications clause: "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, "

Rights clause: "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed."

*The justification clause does not modify, restrict or deny the rights clause.*⁷⁷

Myth: The Second Amendment is a collective right, not an individual right

Fact: The second amendment was listed in a Supreme Court ruling as an individual right.⁷⁸

Fact: The Supreme Court specifically reaffirmed that the right to keep and bear arms did not belong to the government.⁷⁹

Fact: In 22 of the 27 instances where the Supreme Court mentions the Second Amendment, they quote the rights clause and not the justification clause.

Fact: James Madison, considered to be the author of the Bill of Rights, wrote that the Bill of Rights was "calculated to secure the personal rights of the people". He never excluded the 2nd Amendment from this statement.

Myth: The "militia" clause is to arm the National Guard

Fact: The first half of the Second Amendment is called the "justification clause". Justification clauses appear in many state constitutions, and cover liberties including right to trial, freedom of the press, free speech, and more. *Denying gun rights based on the justification clause means we would have to deny free speech rights on the same basis.*⁸⁰ See <http://www.law.ucla.edu/faculty/volokh/beararms/testimon.htm> .

Fact: The origin of the phrase "a well regulated militia" comes from a 1698 treatise "A Discourse of Government with Relation to Militias" by Andrew Fletcher, in which the term "well regulated" was equated with "well-behaved" or "disciplined".⁸¹

Myth: The Supreme Court has ruled that the 2nd Amendment is not an individual right

Fact: The Supreme Court has never been asked to decide this issue. All court rulings to date either mention the 2nd amendment in passing, or as a reference to other rights.

⁷⁷ Eugene Volokh, Prof. Law, UCLA

⁷⁸ Dred Scott, Casey v. Planned Parenthood, U.S. v. Cruikshank and others

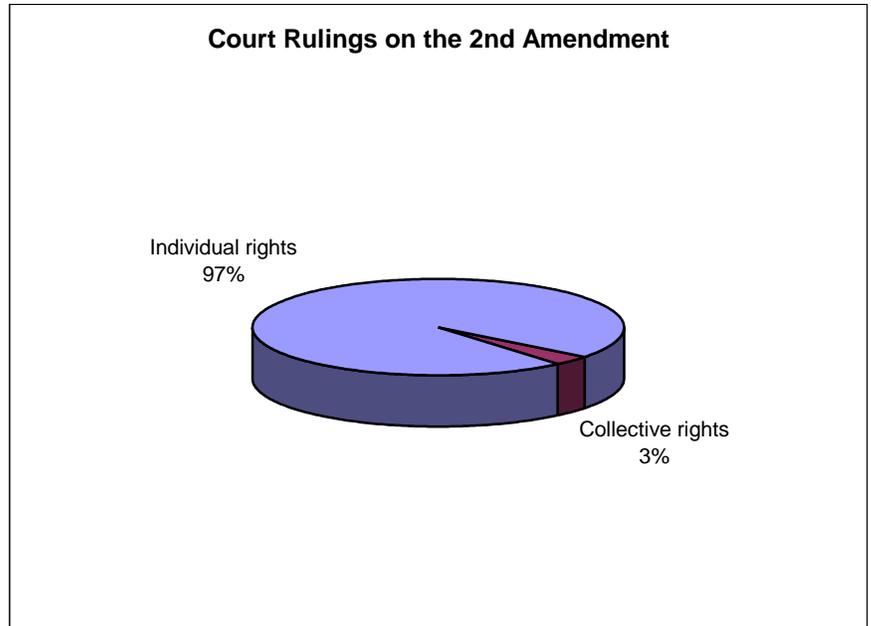
⁷⁹ United States v. Miller

⁸⁰ Eugene Volokf, Prof. Law, UCLA

⁸¹ This document was widely published during the colonial and revolutionary periods, and was the basis for state and federal 'bills of rights'.

Fact: Of 300 decisions of the federal and state courts that have taken a position on the meaning of the Second Amendment or the state analogs to it, only 10 have claimed that the right to keep and bear arms is not an individual right. Many of the other decisions struck down gun control laws because that conflicted with the Second Amendment, such as *State v. Nunn* (Ga. 1846).⁸²

Myth: US .v Miller said that the 2nd Amendment is not an individual right



The *Miller* case specifically held that specific types of guns might be protected by the 2nd Amendment. It depended on whether a gun had military (militia) use, and they wanted some evidence presented, confirming that citizens have a right to military style weapons. Since no evidence was taken at the trial level in lower courts, they remanded the case for a new trial. Specifically the court said:

"The signification attributed to the term Militia appears from the debates in the Convention, the history and legislation of Colonies and States, and the writings of approved commentators. *These show plainly enough that the Militia comprised all males physically capable of acting in concert for the common defense.* "A body of citizens enrolled for military discipline." And further, that ordinarily when called for service *these men were expected to appear bearing arms supplied by themselves and of the kind in common use at the time.*"

⁸² "In Defense of Themselves and the States", Clayton Cramer, Praeger Press, 1994

Summary of various court decisions concerning gun rights

DECISIONS THAT EXPLICITLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT GUARANTEES AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO PURCHASE, POSSESS OR CARRY FIREARMS, AND IT LIMITS THE AUTHORITY OF BOTH FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS:

- U.S. vs. Emerson, 1899, Nunn v. State, 1 Ga. 243, 250, 251 (1846) (struck down a ban on sale of small, easily concealed handguns as violating Second Amendment);
- State v. Chandler, 5 La.An. 489, 490, 491 (1850) (upheld a ban on concealed carry, but acknowledged that open carry was protected by Second Amendment);
- Smith v. State, 11 La.An. 633, 634 (1856) (upheld a ban on concealed carry, but recognized as protected by Second Amendment "arms there spoken of are such as are borne by a people in war, or at least carried openly");
- State v. Jumel, 13 La.An. 399, 400 (1858) (upheld a ban on concealed carry, but acknowledged a Second Amendment right to carry openly);
- Cockrum v. State, 24 Tex. 394, 401, 402 (1859) (upheld an enhanced penalty for manslaughter with a Bowie knife, but acknowledged that the Second Amendment guaranteed an individual right to possess arms for collective overthrow of the government);
- In Re Brickey, 8 Ida. 597, 70 Pac. 609, 101 Am.St.Rep. 215, 216 (1902) (struck down a ban on open carry of a revolver in Lewiston, Idaho as violating both Second Amendment and Idaho Const. guarantee);
- State v. Hart, 66 Ida. 217, 157 P.2d 72 (1945) (upheld a ban on concealed carry as long as open carry was allowed based on both Second Amendment and Idaho Const. guarantee);
- State v. Nickerson, 126 Mont. 157, 166 (1952) (striking down a conviction for assault with a deadly weapon, acknowledging a right to carry based on Second Amendment and Montana Const. guarantee).

DECISIONS THAT RECOGNIZED THE SECOND AMENDMENT GUARANTEES AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT TO POSSESS OR CARRY FIREARMS, BUT ONLY LIMITING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY:

- U.S. v. Cruikshank, 92 U.S. 542, 552 (1876) (limiting use of the Enforcement Act of 1870 so that Klansmen could not be punished for mass murder and disarming of freedmen);
- State v. Workman, 35 W.Va. 367, 373 (1891) (upholding a ban on carry of various concealable arms);
- State v. Kerner, 181 N.C. 574, 107 S.E. 222 (1921) (overturning a ban on open carry of pistols based on North Carolina Const., but acknowledging Second Amendment protected individual right from federal laws).

DECISIONS IN WHICH THE SECOND AMENDMENT WAS ARGUED OR RAISED AS A LIMITATION ON STATE LAWS, AND IN WHICH THE COURT RULED THAT IT ONLY LIMITED THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TACITLY ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE RIGHT WAS INDIVIDUAL IN NATURE:

- Andrews v. State, 3 Heisk. (50 Tenn.) 165, 172, 173 (1871);
- Fife v. State, 31 Ark. 455, 25 Am.Rep. 556, 557, 558 (1876); State v. Hill, 53 Ga. 472, 473, 474 (1874);
- Dunne v. People, 94 Ill. 120, 140, 141 (1879); Presser v. Illinois, 116 U.S. 252, 265, 266 (1886) (upholding a ban on armed bodies marching through the streets);
- People v. Persece, 204 N.Y. 397, 403 (1912); In re Rameriz, 193 Cal. 633, 636, 226 P. 914 (1924) (upholding a ban on resident aliens possessing handguns).

DECISIONS IN WHICH THE SECOND AMENDMENT WAS IMPLIED TO GUARANTEE AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT, THOUGH UNCLEAR AS TO WHETHER IT LIMITED ONLY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OR STATES AS WELL, BECAUSE THE TYPE OF ARM IN QUESTION WASN'T PROTECTED:

- English v. State, 35 Tex. 473, 476, 477 (1872) and
- State v. Duke, 42 Tex. 455, 458, 459 (1875) (upholding a ban on carrying of handguns, Bowie knives, sword-canes, spears, and brass knuckles);
- People v. Liss, 406 Ill. 419, 94 N.E.2d 320, 322, 323 (1950) (overturning a conviction for carrying a concealed handgun and acknowledging that the right in the Second Amendment was individual);
- Guida v. Dier, 84 Misc.2d 110, 375 N.Y.S.2d 827, 828 (1975) (denying that "concealable hand weapons" were protected by the Second Amendment, but acknowledging that an individual right protects other firearms).

DECISIONS IN WHICH THE SECOND AMENDMENT HAS BEEN CLASSED WITH OTHER INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS, WITH NO INDICATION THAT IT WAS NOT AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT:

- Robertson v. Baldwin, 165 U.S. 275, 281, 282, 17 S.Ct. 826, 829 (1897); U.S. v. Verdugo-Urquidez, 110 S.Ct. 1056, 1060, 1061 (1990).

DECISIONS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN VERY MUCH SHORTER IF THE COURT HAD SIMPLY DENIED THAT THE SECOND AMENDMENT PROTECTED AN INDIVIDUAL RIGHT:

- U.S. v. Miller, 307 U.S. 174 (1939) (upholding the National Firearms Act of 1934, after district judge released defendants on the grounds that it violated Second Amendment).

GUN OWNERS AND PUBLIC OPIONION

Myth: Gun owners are a tiny minority

Fact: In 1997, the federal government estimated that there were over 65 million gun owners in the U.S., and more than 50% were handgun owners.⁸³ This number is generally considered low due to the reluctance of many to admit to a government agency that they own a gun. Other estimates indicate that 41% of US households are gun-owning households.

Myth: Most Americans favor gun control

Fact: Few "surveys" conducted in this country on the subject of gun control are unbiased. Professional survey designers have criticized both Harris and Gallup gun surveys for their construction – that the surveys have been designed to reach a desired conclusion.⁸⁴

Fact: A recent and well-constructed survey by Time Magazine (hardly a conservative publication) showed some interesting results. From 33,202 adult Americans surveyed in 1998:

	Yes	No
Should the U.S. have stricter gun control laws?	6.73%	92.25%
Do you believe that allowing people to carry concealed weapons reduce crime?	92.22%	7.76%
Do you believe that U.S. cities should sue gun manufactures to recoup money spent dealing with gun-related crime?	1.96%	98.01%
How would you rate the effectiveness of the Brady Bill and the "assault weapons" ban in preventing the illegal use and distribution of guns?	0.52%	Very effective
	3.79%	Somewhat effective
	6.19%	Somewhat effective
	87.27%	Not at all effective
	2.23%	Don't know

Fact: Associated Press poll in April, 2000 showed 42% thought stricter enforcement was more likely to cut gun violence, while only 33% said enacting tougher gun laws was a better approach.

Fact: A survey in April by ABC News/Washington Post asked whether "passing stricter gun control laws" or "stricter enforcement of existing laws" is the best way to curb gun violence. Enforcement was preferred by 53 percent to 33 percent.

⁸³ Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms

⁸⁴ Often these surveys use questions like "If it reduced crime, would you favor stronger gun control laws". These questions are rephrased in headline to read "Americans demand gun control" while ignoring the leading goal of reducing crime. These surveys also fail to ask counter balancing questions to prove/disprove any bias in questions. For example, a counter-balancing question might be "If it were shown that gun control laws were ineffective in preventing crime, would you favor enacting more gun control laws?"

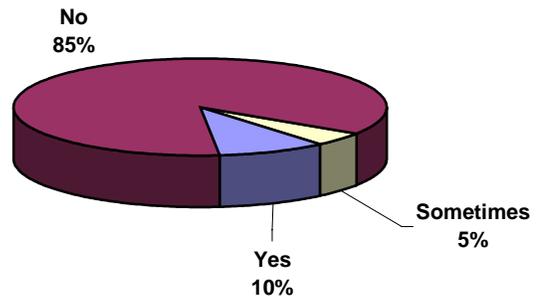
Fact: A 1999 survey by CBS (hardly a pro gun organization) found these responses:

- Only 14% of Americans believe that gun control can prevent violence with guns.
- 56% of people said enforcement of existing laws is the better way to reduce violent crime than new gun control laws.
- Only 4% said gun control should be a top issue for the government.

Fact: A 1999 survey by the Associated Press showed:

- Most Americans (49%) felt enforcing existing laws was the key to reducing violent crime.
- 52% felt that background checks did not help reduce the number of crimes committed with guns.

Should gun manufacturers be held liable for gun violence?

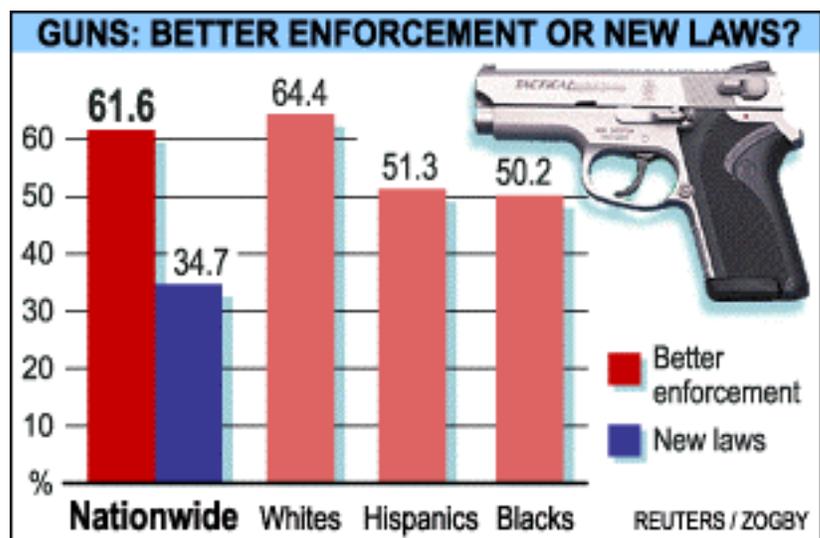


Fact: CNN survey of 100,528 respondents in the summer of 1999 asked if gun makers should be held liable for gun violence. Obviously not:

Fact: According to an AOL.COM poll in March 2000:

How can gun violence be most effectively prevented?	People	Percent
Stricter gun control laws	10841	17.8%
Proper enforcement of current gun control laws	13587	22.4%
Ban on handguns	8008	13.2%
Stricter punishment for crimes involving guns	21596	35.6%
Other	5094	8.4%
Not sure	1613	2.7%

Fact: A 2000 Zogby telephone survey of 1,201 adults concluded that by almost a two to one margin Americans prefer enforcement of existing laws instead of new and tougher gun legislation to fight crime.



FAMOUS GUN GRABBERS

Politicians

BILL CLINTON

"Only the police should have handguns."

"When we got organized as a country, we wrote a fairly radical Constitution with a radical Bill of Rights, giving a radical amount of individual freedom to Americans. There's too much personal freedom. When personal freedom's being abused, you have to move to limit it."⁸⁵

Fact: Wang Jun (son of the late Chinese President Wang Zhen) who is chairman of the China International Trade and Investment Company and president of Polytechnologies Corp., attended a White House coffee with Clinton in February 1996 and was granted a meeting with Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown the next day.

He also was connected to more than \$600,000 in illegal campaign contributions to the Democrats, the report said. Polytechnologies is an arms-trading company indicted for trying to smuggle 2,000 Chinese AK-47 assault rifles into the United States and it is the largest of the corporate structures owned by the People's Liberation Army.⁸⁶

DIANNE FEINSTEIN, U.S. SENATOR FROM CALIFORNIA

"Banning guns addresses a fundamental right of all Americans to feel safe."⁸⁷

"If I could have gotten 51 votes in the Senate of the United States for an outright ban, picking up every one of them: "Mr. and Mrs. America, turn 'em all in," I would have done it."⁸⁸

"The national guard fulfills the militia mentioned in the 2nd amendment. Citizens no longer need to protect the states or themselves."

FRANK LAUTENBERG, U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY

"We have other legislation that all of you are aware that I have been so active on, with my colleagues here, and that is to shut down the gun shows."⁸⁹

⁸⁵ MTV's "Enough is Enough", March 22, 1994

⁸⁶ CNN 5/25/99

⁸⁷ Associated Press, Nov. 18, 1993

⁸⁸ CBS-TV's "60 Minutes," 2/5/95

⁸⁹ Press conference on March 1, 2000

HOWARD METZENBAUM, FORMER U.S. SENATOR

"No, we're not looking at how to control criminals ... we're talking about banning the AK-47 and semi-automatic guns."

PETE STARK, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM CALIFORNIA

"If a bill to ban handguns came to the house floor, I would vote for it."⁹⁰

WILLIAM CLAY, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FROM MISSOURI

"...we need much stricter gun control, and eventually should bar the ownership of handguns"

JOSEPH BIDEN, U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE

"Banning guns is an idea whose time has come."

JOHN CHAFEE, U.S. SENATOR FROM RHODE ISLAND

"I will introduce legislation banning the sale, manufacture or possession of hand-guns except in a few cases."⁹¹

Anti-freedom political activists

THE COALITION TO STOP GUN VIOLENCE

"It is our aim to ban the manufacture and sale of handguns to private individuals."⁹²

PETE SHIELDS, CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, HANDGUN CONTROL, INC.

"...the final problem is to make the possession of all handguns and all handgun ammunition except for the military, policemen, licensed security guards, licensed sporting clubs, and licensed gun collectors -- totally illegal."⁹³

"Yes, I'm for an outright ban (on handguns)."⁹⁴

⁹⁰ Town Hall Meeting, June 1999, Fremont California

⁹¹ Minneapolis Star Tribune, June 15, 1992, pg. A13

⁹² Recruiting flyer

⁹³ "The New Yorker", July 26, 1976

⁹⁴ 60 Minutes interview

"We'll take one step at a time, and the first is necessarily - given the political realities - very modest. We'll have to start working again to strengthen the law, and then again to strengthen the next law and again and again. Our ultimate goal, total control of handguns, is going to take time. The first problem is to slow down production and sales. Next is to get registration. The final problem is to make possession of all handguns and ammunition (with a few exceptions) totally illegal."⁹⁵

SARAH BRADY

"...I don't believe gun owners have rights."⁹⁶

"To me, the only reason for guns in civilian hands is for sporting purposes."⁹⁷

ELLIOT CORBETT, SECRETARY, NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR A RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS POLICY

"Handguns should be outlawed."

PATRICK V. MURPHY, FORMER NEW YORK CITY POLICE COMMISSIONER

"Let us take the guns away from the people."

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION (ACLU)

"We urge passage of federal legislation . . . to prohibit . . . the private ownership and possession of handguns."⁹⁸

The media

MICHAEL GARDNER, PRESIDENT OF NBC NEWS

"There is no reason for anyone in this country . . . to buy, to own, to have, to use a handgun ...The only way to control handgun use in this country is to prohibit the guns."⁹⁹

CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER, SYNDICATED COLUMNIST

"The Brady Bill's only effect will be to desensitize the public to regulation of weapons in preparation for their ultimate confiscation."¹⁰⁰

⁹⁵ New Yorker Magazine, June 26, 1976, pg. 53

⁹⁶ Hearst Newspapers Special Report, "Handguns in America" October 1997

⁹⁷ Tampa Tribune, Oct 21, 1993

⁹⁸ Board of Directors in September 1976

⁹⁹ USA Today, January 16, 1992

¹⁰⁰ The Washington Post, April 5, 1996

THE MEDIA IN GENERAL

A two-year study by the Media Research Center concluded that television reporters are overwhelmingly opposed to Second Amendment rights. For broadcasts from major networks from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 1997, covering 244 gun policy stories:

- The ratio of anti-gun to pro-gun bias was 16:1 (31% incidents were considered neutral).
- Anti-gun spokespeople (Sarah Brady, etc) were given three times the number of sound bites than pro-gun spokespeople (NRA, etc).

For more quotes from public officials wanting to violate your constitutional rights, see <http://members.xoom.com/rebuttal/banners.html>

PRO-FREEDOM/GUN QUOTES

HUBERT HUMPHREY

"Certainly one of the chief guarantees of freedom under any government, no matter how popular and respected, is the right of citizens to keep and bear arms.... The right of citizens to bear arms is just one guarantee against arbitrary government, one more safeguard against tyranny... "

THOMAS JEFFERSON

"No freeman shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

JAMES MADISON

"[The Constitution preserves] the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation...(where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms."

OLIVER STONE

"I like automatic weapons. I fought for my right to use them in Vietnam."

TENCHE COXE

"The unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or state governments, but, where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the people."

MALCOLM X

"It is criminal to teach a man not to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks. It is legal and lawful to own a shotgun or a rifle. We believe in obeying the law."

THOMAS PAINE

"Arms, like laws, discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe and preserve order..."

MAFIA INFORMANT SAMMY "THE BULL" GRAVANO

"Gun control? It's the best thing you can do for crooks and gangsters. I want you to have nothing. If I'm a bad guy, I'm always gonna have a gun. Safety locks? You will pull the trigger with a lock on, and I'll pull the trigger. We'll see who wins."

RICHARD HENRY LEE

“[W]hereas, to preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms, and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them;”

THOUGHTS ON GUN CONFISCATION

In 1911, Turkey established gun control. Subsequently, from 1915 to 1917, 1.5-million Armenians, deprived of the means to defend themselves, were rounded up and killed.

The Soviet Union established gun control in 1929. Then from 1929 to 1953, approximately 20-million dissidents were rounded up and killed.

In 1938 Germany did establish gun control. From 1939 to 1945 over 13-million Jews, gypsies, homosexuals, mentally ill, union leaders, Catholics and others, unable to fire a shot in protest, were rounded up and killed.

In 1935, China established gun control. Subsequently, between 1948 and 1952, over 20-million dissidents were rounded up and killed.

Cambodia enshrined gun control in 1956. In just two years (1975-1977) over one million "educated" people were rounded up and killed.

Guatemala locked in gun control in 1964. From 1964 to 1981, over 100,000 Mayan Indians were rounded up and killed as a result of their inability to defend themselves.

Uganda got gun control in 1970. Over the next nine years over 300,000 Christians were rounded up and killed.

Over 56-million people have died because of gun control in the last century . . .

Senator Diane Feinstein, speaking on "60-Minutes" said, "if I thought I could get the votes, I'd have taken them all."

SERIOUS QUESTION TO ASK YOURSELF

- If guns are effective enough to be a criminal's preferred tool, why are they not good enough to use for protection?
- Why do lawmakers insist their bodyguards be armed, but not you and I?
- If you and your children were face to face with a male attacker twice your size, what *would* you do – If you weren't armed? If you were armed?
- If guns are "too dangerous" to be in our society, how come our leaders want to be the only ones who have them? Do you trust our leaders implicitly to protect you *at all times*?
- Which is better – more gun control and the eventual banning of all guns in our society, or sitting by helplessly watching as an intruder repeatedly rapes your 13-year-old daughter?
- If we ever completely ban guns, do you think there will be no more armed criminals in America?
- With so many gun laws already on the books, how come "gun crimes" still exist?

POLITICAL POSITIONING STATEMENTS

The following table lists the “positioning phrase” used by anti-self defense lobbying groups. To the right are alternatives you should use in all your communications:

Their Term	Our Term
The gun lobby	Civil rights organizations
Common sense legislation	Non-sense legislation Dangerous utopian ideas
Reasonable gun controls	Victim disarmament
Gun control laws	Civil rights violations Infringement laws
Gun control	Power grab Citizen abuse

MISCELLANEOUS STATISTICS

Number of guns in America: 228,000,000¹⁰¹

Number of guns used in crimes: 450,000¹⁰²

Percentage of guns used in crimes: 0.09%

Gun owning households in America: 60-85 million

Violent crimes committed daily by paroled prisoners:

Murders: 14

Rapes: 48

Robberies: 578

PLACES TO FIND THE CURRENT VERSION OF GUN FACTS

<http://www.keepandbeararms.com/images/gunfacts.pdf>

<http://members.home.net/guys/GunFacts.pdf>

<http://ww.concealcarry.org>

ⁱ “Assault weapons” are an invented term. In the gun lexicon, there is no such thing as an “assault weapon”. The closest relative is the “assault rifle”, which is basically a machine gun that fires rifle cartridges. The authoritative source is the Department of Defense Small Arms Identification and Operations Guide: Assault weapon defined as “short, compact, *select-fire* weapons that fire a cartridge intermediate in power between submachine gun and rifle cartridges”. The weapons often referred to as “assault weapons” have no greater firepower than a hunting rifle. They are styled to look like military weapons, but have no greater killing capacity than other civilian rifles.

For a well-documented overview of how “assault weapons” are protected by the 2nd Amendment, as well as a discourse on why gun registration is barred by the constitution, see Brian Puckett’s article “Why I WILL NOT Obey California’s Gun Registration Edict” at http://www.guntruths.com/Puckett/why_i_will_not_obey_california.htm

ⁱⁱ “Saturday Night Special” is a racist term used to denigrate black. The term is a combination of the phrases “Niggertown Saturday Night”, and “Suicide Special”, the later of which was used as early as the mid 19th century to describe inexpensive handguns. The first racist origin “Saturday Night Special” appeared in Tennessee (home of Al Gore) in 1870 when white supremacists passed “An Act to Preserve the Peace and Prevent Homicide,” which banned the sale of all handguns except the expensive “Army and Navy model handgun” which whites already owned or could afford to buy, and blacks could not. It is an amazing that many people within the NAACP, who back gun control actions, use this term of self degradation.

¹⁰¹ 1999 BATF estimate

¹⁰² Ibid.