

**Testimony in Opposition to HB23-1165, County Commissioners' Authority to Prohibit Firearms Discharge**

**The Firearms Coalition of Colorado**

I am Robert Edmiston with the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, an all- volunteer NRA-affiliate that defends public safety and individual rights. I am a former US Army Officer. I have a Master's Degree in Psychology, Counseling, and Guidance.

I am writing in opposition to HB23-1165, because we believe that the bill interferes with a landowner's ability to use and enjoy his or her real property. HB23-1165 does not specify how the square mile region is to be calculated. Is it from the edge of the landowner's property, the center of the landowner's property, or is some other method of measurement used?

The definition of a dwelling in the bill seems to stipulate that one 30-unit apartment building a mile away from the property of the landowner in question could be enough to trigger the prohibition on the discharge of a firearm. This seems unreasonable.

The current statute, which is restated in HB23-1165, also seems to prohibit an affected landowner from filing a claim if his or her property or crops are damaged by wildlife. We believe this provision is grossly unfair and should be repealed.

Finally, we believe the bill is unnecessary, because the State Legislature has already given County Commissioners the power to pass regulations more restrictive than state laws concerning firearms.

We urge a "No" vote on this measure.

Thank you for your consideration.

# Rational Perspectives on Firearms

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Ten Questions and Answers Based on  
Facts, Data, Evidence, History, Common  
Sense and Logic, not Feelings

By Dr Michael Gaeta  
Boulder, Colorado

v.1 February 8, 2023

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## Question #1:

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Does changing a state to  
Constitutional Carry (no permit  
needed to carry) increase or  
decrease murder rates per capita?

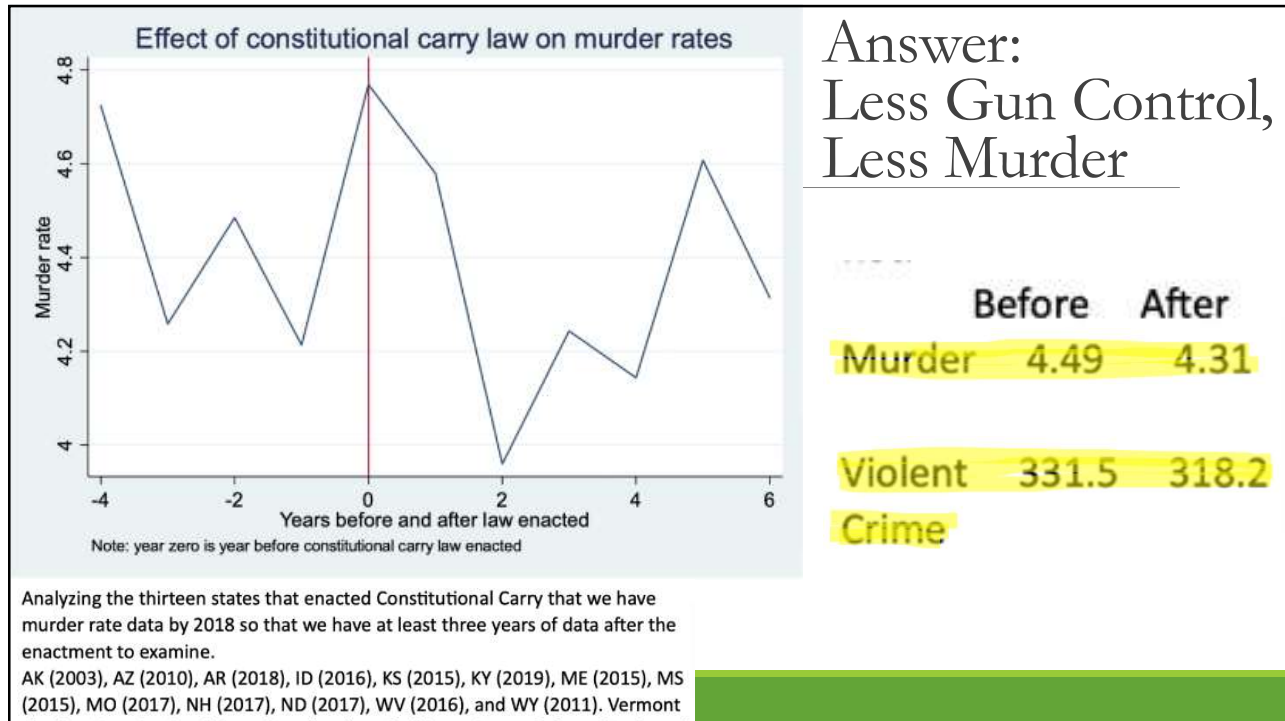
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The screenshot shows the CDC WONDER website. At the top left is the CDC logo and the text 'Centers for Disease Control and Prevention CDC 24/7: Saving Lives. Protecting People™'. A search bar is at the top right. Below the header is a navigation menu with 'CDC WONDER', 'FAQs', 'Help', 'Contact Us', and 'WONDER Search'. Social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Email are on the right. The main content area features a 'WONDER Search' box and a 'Search' button. Below this is the article title: 'CDC Data Shows Constitutional Carry States Have Fewer Total and Gun-Related Homicides'. The author is 'Konstadinos Moros' and the date is 'October 4, 2022'. The article text states: 'The average overall homicide rate among the sixteen constitutional carry states in 2020 was 6.9 per 100,000, beating the national average of 7.5 per 100,000. Perhaps more surprisingly, constitutional carry states also saw a lower gun-related homicide rate: 5.3 per 100,000, compared to the national figure of 5.9 per 100,000.'

3

The slide is titled 'Changes in Crime and Killings of Police After Constitutional Carry Adopted'. It is from the 'Crime Prevention Research Center', which is described as 'Dedicated to conducting academic quality research on the relationship between laws regulating the ownership or use of guns, crime, and public safety'. The date is 'Jan 23, 2022 | Constitutional Carry, Original Research'. The information is provided by 'Professor Carl Moody, College of William & Mary and Research Director for the Crime Prevention Research Center, cemood@wm.edu'. A bio for Dr. Carlisle E. Moody (1943-) is provided: 'is an American economist, criminologist, and professor of economics at the College of William & Mary. B.A. Economics, Colby College M.A. (1966) and Ph.D. (1970), Economics, University of Connecticut'. A small portrait photo of Dr. Moody is included. The slide concludes with the text: 'Data from this study are presented on the following slides'.

4

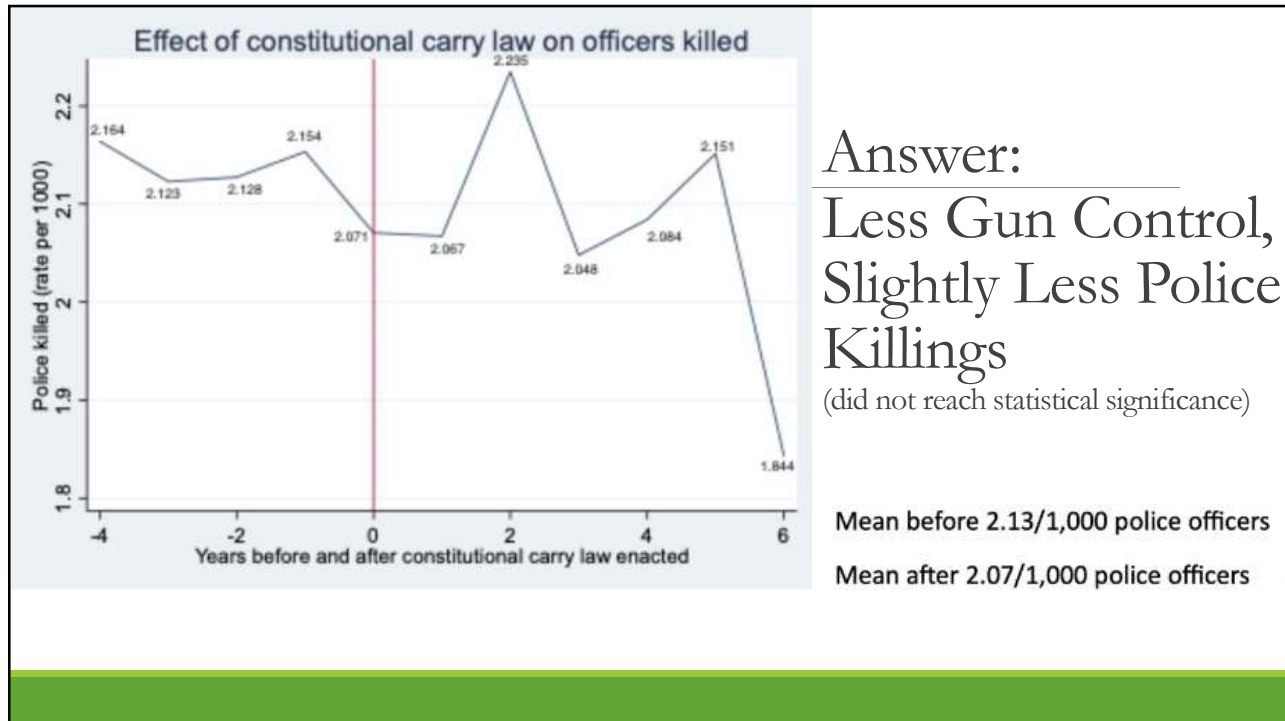


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## Question #2:

Does changing a state to Constitutional Carry increase or decrease the number of police officers killed per capita?

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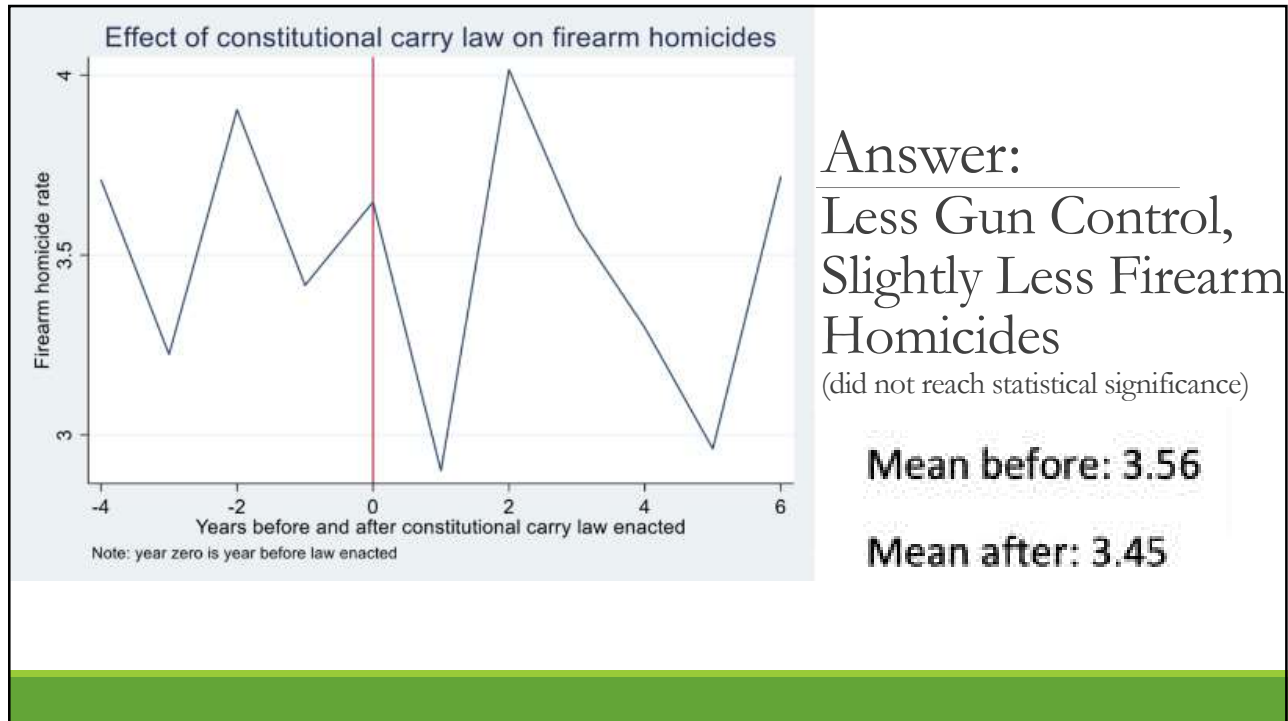


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## Question #3:

Does changing a state to Constitutional Carry increase or decrease the number of firearm homicides per capita?

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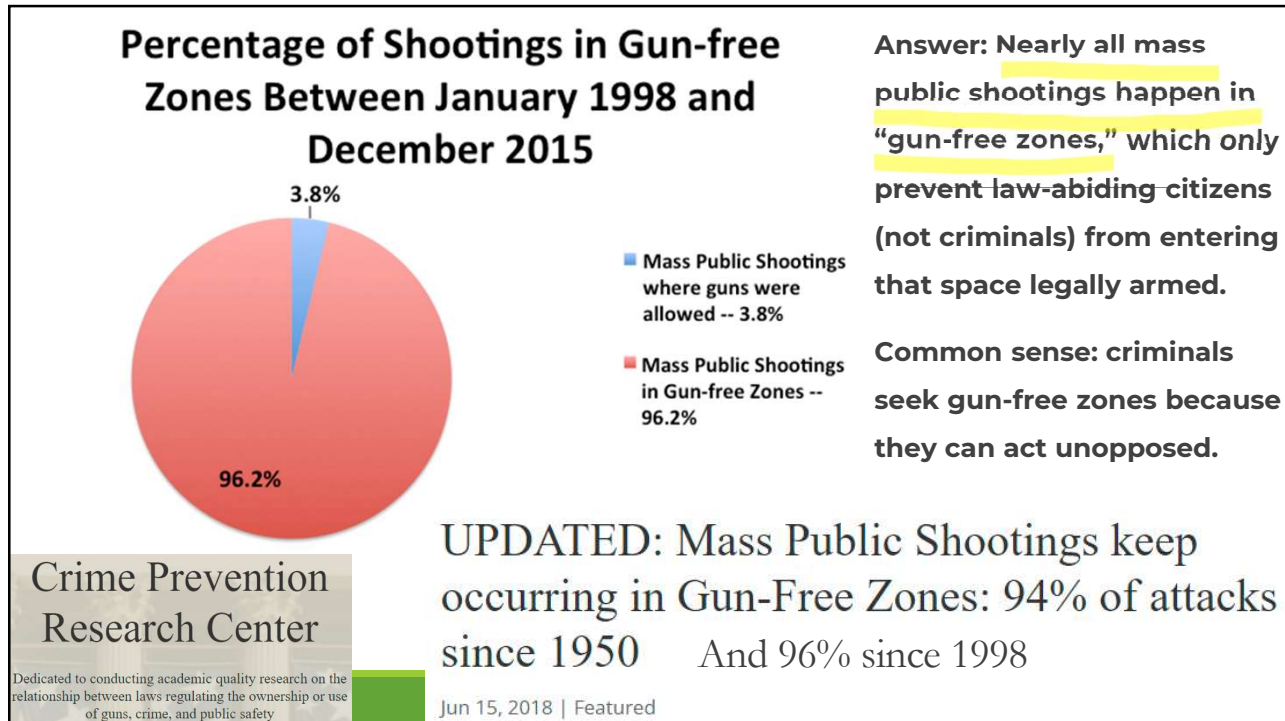
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# Question #4:

Do gun-free zones prevent mass shootings?

Fact: twice as many deaths per year per capita from lightning strikes than mass shootings

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11

# Relevant Statistics:

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- # of US school (gun-free zones) shootings since 1970: 2,032, half (948) since 2013
- # of mass shootings at police stations: 0
- # of mass shootings at gun shows: 0
- # of mass shootings at shooting ranges: 0
- # of shootings at gun stores: 1 (not a mass shooting: only 1 employee killed)

Theme: Good guys with guns deter or prevent gun violence

12

Why are school shootings a relatively recent thing?

Why were there no school shootings in the 1950s?

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That's an interesting thing, since where guns in the 1950s were much more readily available, even in the schools. There were school rifle clubs. People brought guns to school. - Larry Correia, CPA, Author

So the issue, as always, has nothing to do with access to guns of any type. The issue is more difficult and complex, which has to do with a decline in moral character, especially in younger people, and mental illness, including a massive increase in psychotropic prescription drugs.

13

## Question #5:

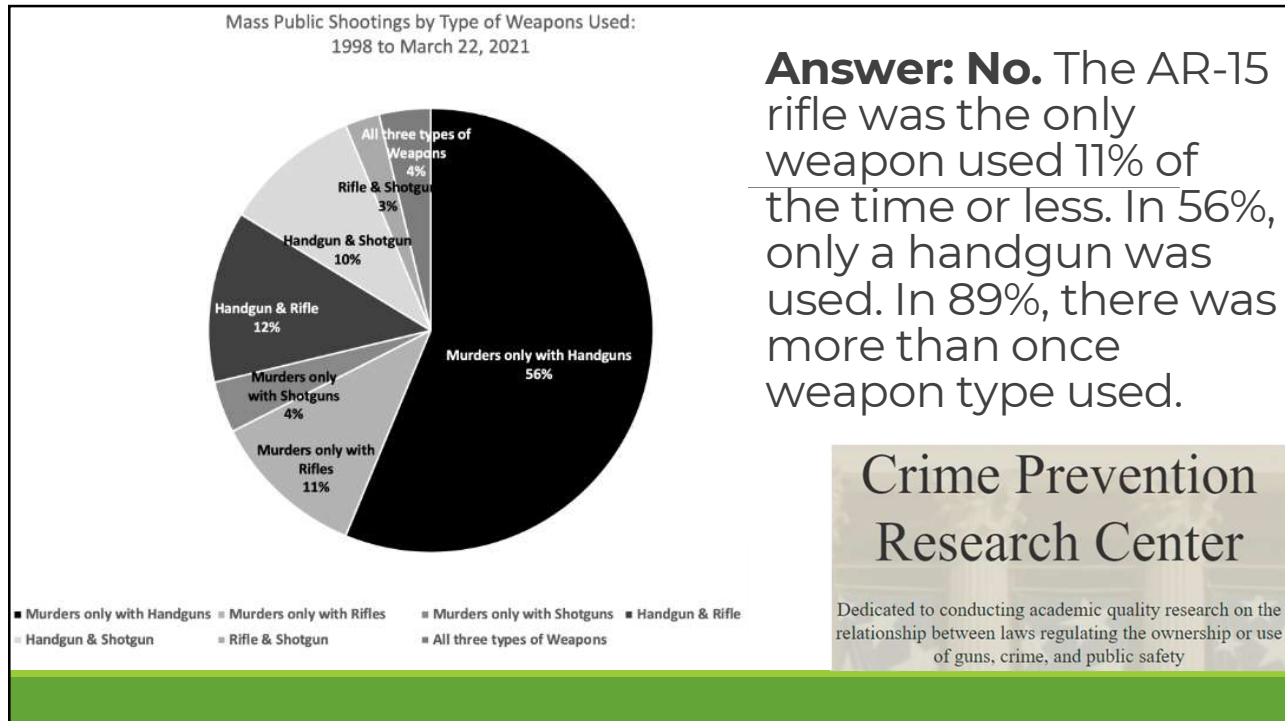
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Is the AR-15 the weapon of choice for mass public shooters?

As of 2020, there were about 20 million AR-15-style weapons in the country, according to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, a trade association.

14





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## Question #6:

Was President Biden lying again when he stated, on May 24, 2022, “When we passed the assault weapons ban, mass shootings went down. When the law expired, mass shootings tripled.”

16

# Answer:

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Yes, another complete fabrication / disinformation.

Fact: There was no drop in the number of attacks with assault weapons during the 1994 to 2004 ban, perhaps because criminals are not affected by gun control measures.

Fact: If Biden's claim is correct, we should see a drop in the percent of attacks with assault weapons during the federal ban period and then an increase in the post-ban period, but the exact opposite is true.

Fact: eliminating the assault weapon ban had no effect on the number of attacks with assault weapons, but increased attacks that used other types of weapons.

Details at [crimeresearch.org/2022/05/biden-on-assault-weapons](https://crimeresearch.org/2022/05/biden-on-assault-weapons)

17

# Question #7:

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Would an “assault weapons” ban reduce gun homicide?

18

# Answer: No.



RESEARCH REPORT

## Impact Evaluation of the Public Safety and Recreational Firearms Use Protection Act of 1994

Jeffrey A. Roth, Christopher S. Koper, William Adams, John E. Marcotte, Doug Wissoker

March 13, 1997

1997 study commissioned  
and funded by the US  
Department of Justice

“At best, the assault weapons ban can have only a limited effect on total gun murders, because the banned weapons and magazines were never involved in more than a modest fraction of all gun murders.”

19

## Q. What About the Follow-Up 2004 DOJ Study?

A. Same conclusion: “AWs [assault weapons] and LCMs [large capacity magazines] were used in only a minority of gun crimes prior to the 1994 federal ban,” “relatively few attacks involve more than 10 shots fired,” and “the ban’s effects on gun violence are likely to be small at best and perhaps too small for reliable measurement.”

Fact: Presented with overwhelming evidence of the 1994 ban’s inefficacy, Congress chose not to renew the gun-control measure.

20

## Question #8:

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Do gun control measures keep guns out of the hands of criminals who use guns to commit crime and murder?

21

## Answer: No.

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Gun control measures only disarm law-abiding citizens that use guns not to shoot people, but to defend themselves, their families, homes and businesses from violent attack where someone's life is in danger.

Criminals, by definition, do not care if they obtain firearms legally, and are unaffected by gun control measures.

22

## Hard Truths About Human Nature

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Throwing millions of people in jail for illegal drugs did nothing to decrease these drugs – they just went underground. If people want drugs, they will find a way to get them, regardless of anti-drug laws.

If people want to commit violence on others, they will find a way to do it, with a gun, bomb or knife, regardless of anti-weapon laws. We have seen this all over the world, at all times and in all nations.

23

Another measure as nonsensical as banning the AR-15, the most popular firearm in the USA

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**Fact:** 43,000 people were killed in traffic fatalities in 2021, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a 10% increase from 2020.

**Most common type of car:** Toyota

**Solution:** ban all Toyota vehicles

24

# Question #9:

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Do gun control measures reduce crime?

25

**Answer: No, they increase crime, a lot.**


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Legally-armed, law-abiding citizens **prevent** thousands of crimes per day, usually without a shot being fired.

The right to obtain a firearm legally is more important than the firearm itself, because guns effectively act as a **deterrent**.

**Worst-case scenario:** more gun control, so that only the bad guys have guns, and citizens can't defend themselves.

26

	Original language	English (US)
	Pages (from-to)	1-8
	Number of pages	8
	Journal	Journal of the American College of Surgeons
	Volume	228
	Issue number	1
State	Published - Jan 2019	

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[Research output](#)
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## State Level Firearm Concealed-Carry Legislation and Rates of Homicide and Other Violent Crime

Mark E. Hamill, Matthew C. Hernandez, Kent R. Bailey, Martin D. Zielinski, Miguel A. Matos, Henry J. Schiller  
 Quantitative Health Sciences, Trauma, Critical Care and General Surgery

*Research output: Contribution to journal > Article > peer-review*

27

### Abstract

Background: Over the last 30 years, public opinion and state level legislation regarding the concealed-carry of firearms have shifted dramatically. Previous studies of potential effects have yielded mixed results, making policy recommendations difficult. **We investigated whether liberalization of state level concealed-carry legislation was associated with a change in the rates of homicide or other violent crime.** Study Design: Data on violent crime and homicide rates were collected from the US Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over 30 years, from 1986 to 2015. State level concealed-carry legislation was evaluated each study year on a scale including “no carry,” “may issue,” “shall issue,” and “unrestricted carry.” Data were analyzed using general multiple linear regression models with the log event rate as the dependent variable, and an autoregressive correlation structure was assumed with generalized estimating equation (GEE) estimates for standard errors. Results: **During the study period, all states moved to adopt some form of concealed-carry legislation, with a trend toward less restrictive legislation. After adjusting for state and year, there was no significant association between shifts from restrictive to nonrestrictive carry legislation on violent crime and public health indicators. Adjusting further for poverty and unemployment did not significantly influence the results. Conclusions: This study demonstrated no statistically significant association between the liberalization of state level firearm carry legislation over the last 30 years and the rates of homicides or other violent crime.** Policy efforts aimed at injury prevention and the reduction of firearm-related violence should likely investigate other targets for potential intervention.

28

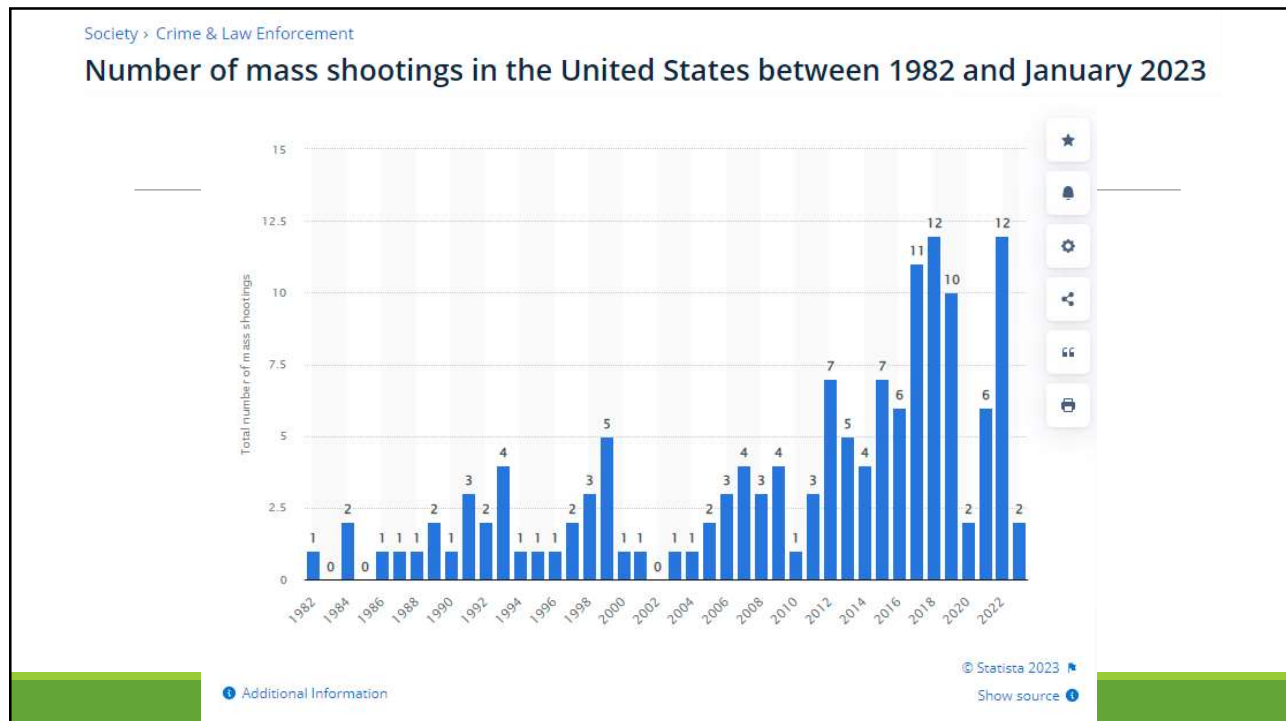
## Guns are not perfect, but they help a lot, in the hands of law-abiding, responsible citizens.

Guns are not perfect. They aren't going to stop these events from happening. A fire extinguisher doesn't stop fires from happening, either; it just helps you deal with the damage faster than waiting for the fire department.

It's the same thing with applying CPR or doing first aid. It's not as good as a trauma surgeon. It's not going to cure the problem, but it can save lives.

Concealed carry is no different. It's all about how long it takes for us to get a response there. And if that response comes from us, we're better off. If that response comes from outside (law enforcement), we have to wait for it. It's really simple. It's just simple math. - Larry Correia, CPA, Author

29



30



# Question #10:

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Since gun control measures have never actually helped, why are they so popular with a loud minority of Americans?

31

# Answers:

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**1. Gun control is a simplistic solution to a complex problem.** Gun violence has increased over recent decades, while legal access to firearms has decreased in high-crime areas. So the problem is not and never was guns. It's people, and people are complex. Banning guns is simple, though ineffective.

**2. It feels good,** even though it doesn't actually DO any good. We see tragic mass shootings, and want to "do something." And rather than do the hard work of addressing root causes - mental illness, moral education, making sure children have fathers in their lives, etc., - it's much easier to blame an implement, an inanimate object, and reduce access to it, so you can feel good.

32

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# Practical Solutions

33

## Solutions That Would Actually Help (unlike more gun control or bans)

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1. Actually prosecute criminals – tough on crime policies
2. Education about safe gun handling, carrying, storage
3. Expand mental health and suicide (61% of all gun deaths) prevention programs
4. Help fathers be part of their son's lives in inner cities
5. Constitutional carry in all 50 states (currently 25); end gun-free zones
6. Arm school staff (or pretend that you did with a sign)
7. Publicly funded firearms training for citizens

34

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“An armed society is a polite society. Manners are good  
when one may have to back up his acts with his life.”

— Robert A. Heinlein, *Beyond This Horizon*

