



# Facts to support fair and effective gun policies.

THE STRONGEST EVIDENCE TODAY SHOWS THAT:

**Child-access prevention laws may decrease injuries and deaths among youths**

**Permissive concealed-carry laws may increase homicides and violent crime**

**Stand-your-ground laws may increase homicides**

**SEE MORE FACTS**



## LATEST UPDATE

### The Role and Impact of School Resource Officers

The number of school resource officers (SROs) has increased substantially over the past several decades. A [new essay explores the role and impact of SROs](#) on school safety and discipline. While SRO presence is associated with an increased detection of some disruptive behavior, such as weapons and drug possession, and a decrease in violence, research shows that SROs are also often associated with increased disciplinary action and law enforcement referrals. In addition, research shows that students of color—particularly Black students—can be disproportionately negatively affected.

# Establishing a Shared Set of Facts for America

RAND's Gun Policy in America initiative aims to establish a shared set of facts about the effects of gun laws to improve public discussions and support the development of fair and effective gun policies.

We have created dozens of resources to help build a foundation of shared facts about gun laws in the United States. Get started with a few highlights:

[Explore our review of gun policy research](#)

[View our database of historic state gun laws](#)

[See our database on firearm injury hospitalizations](#)

[Find estimates of how many Americans own guns](#)

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## How Gun Policies Affect Outcomes: What the Evidence Shows

[We reviewed thousands of studies](#) to find all available evidence for how 18 different gun policies affect outcomes such as [violent crime](#) and [mass shootings](#).

Below we show which policies may make a difference, according to methodologically robust research. For example, evidence shows that waiting periods may decrease suicide rates and that concealed-carry laws may increase violent crime.

## **Gun Policies That May Increase Outcomes**

### **Concealed-carry laws:**

#### SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

#### LIMITED EVIDENCE

Police shootings

### **Stand-your-ground-laws:**

#### SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

### **Bans on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines:**

#### LIMITED EVIDENCE

The price of banned firearms

## **Gun Policies That May Decrease Outcomes**

### **Child-access prevention laws:**

#### SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Suicide

#### SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Unintentional injuries and deaths

SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

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## **Waiting periods:**

MODERATE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

MODERATE EVIDENCE

Suicide

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## **Background checks:**

MODERATE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

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## **Minimum age requirements:**

SUPPORTIVE EVIDENCE

Suicide

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## **Prohibitions associated with domestic violence:**

MODERATE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

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## **Surrender of firearms by prohibited possessors:**

MODERATE EVIDENCE

Violent crime

## Extreme-risk protection orders:

LIMITED EVIDENCE

Suicide

## Bans on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines:

LIMITED EVIDENCE

Mass shootings

## Licensing and permitting requirements:

LIMITED EVIDENCE

Mass shootings

## Prohibitions associated with mental illness:

LIMITED EVIDENCE

Violent crime

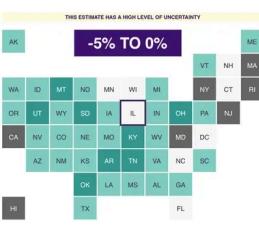
## FEATURED



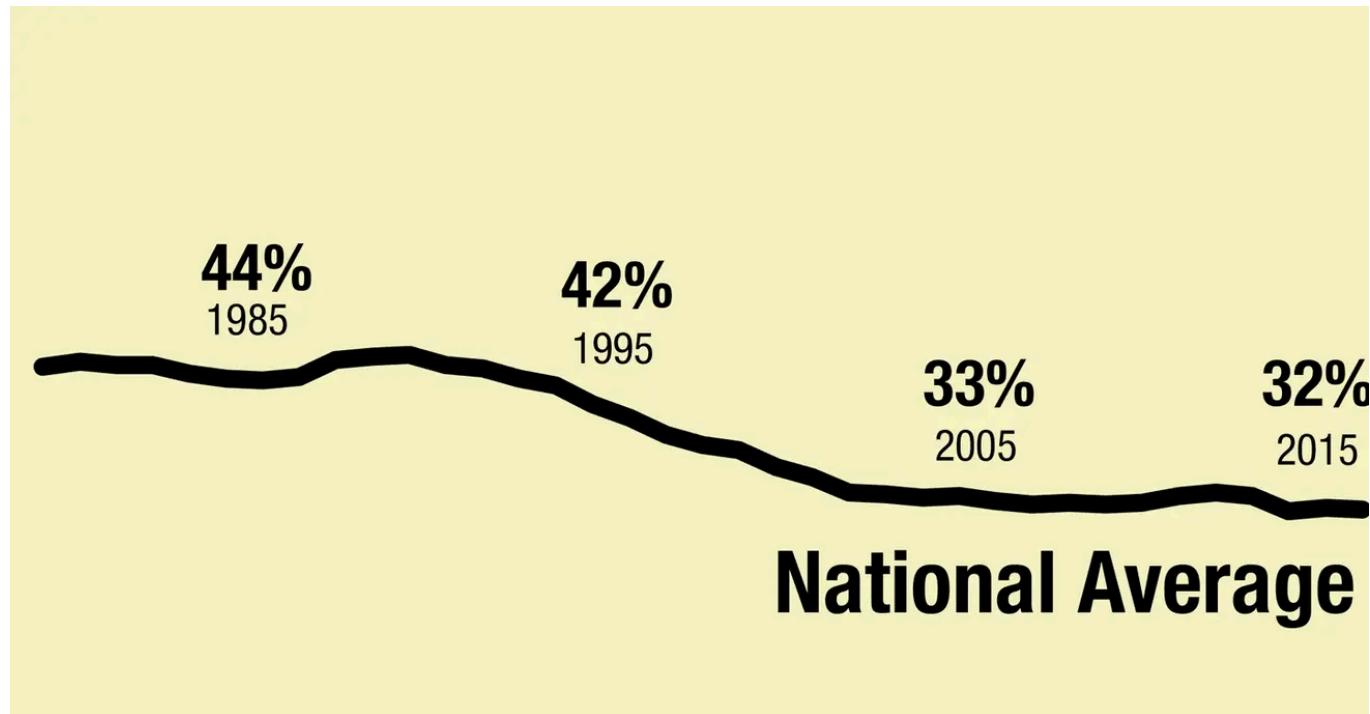
## The Role and Impact of School Resource Officers



## Do State Firearm Laws Affect Racial and Ethnic Groups Differently?



## How Do State Laws Affect Firearm Deaths?



# Gun Ownership in America

Information about how many Americans own guns, and how this varies over time and across the United States, is important for understanding the effects of gun laws on firearm ownership and other outcomes. Use this tool to explore the estimated household gun ownership rate by state from 1980 to 2016.



## Gun Policy in America: An Overview

Americans are often divided on how to improve gun policies. Our research suggests that, among gun policy experts, these divisions are not primarily due to disagreements about what policies should achieve. Instead, the experts disagree on what the real effects of gun policies will be. This essay summarizes what is known and where new information could help build consensus about how to improve U.S. gun policies.



## U.S. Gun Policy in a Global Context

Some of the most compelling evidence for a causal connection between gun prevalence and suicide or homicide rates comes from the experiences of three countries—Australia, Switzerland, and Israel—where changes in law or policy may have led to marked shifts in gun ownership rates. This essay summarizes the evidence from these countries.

## What Science Tells Us About the Effects of Gun Policies

There are significant gaps in the available research on the effects of gun policies. However, the strongest evidence suggests laws aimed at preventing children from accessing guns would reduce firearm self-harm, and unintentional injuries and deaths among children.

## **Geographic Disparities in Rising Rates of Firearm-Related Homicide**

The rate of homicides in the United States began increasing in 2014, driven largely by a rise in firearm-related homicides. This study evaluated the extent to which this increase is concentrated among geographic areas or demographic groups.

## **Methodological Challenges for Research on Racial Bias in Police Shootings**

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### **Ambiguities of Bruen Decision Will Affect State Gun Regulation**

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### **Contemporary Issues in Gun Policy**

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### **Personal Firearm Storage in the United States**

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### **Gun Buyback Programs in the United States**

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