

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Collapsing Social Trust is Driving American Gun Violence](#)

Article Link: <https://www.ft.com/content/3d5a52a8-9180-4e56-92f9-16dfe6d1f397>

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Tweet: Gun homicides in the US are being driven not by an increase in gun ownership but a decline in local trust levels. @jburnmurdoch

Summary: Levels of trust in the US have been eroding for decades and the share of Americans who say they do not trust other people in their neighbourhood is now roughly double what you would expect based on US socio-economic development. Few appreciate that at country and state level, the statistical relationship between gun availability and gun deaths is driven almost entirely by suicides. The more people who have access to guns, the more who use them to take their own lives. And since the vast majority of all gun deaths are suicides, this dynamic dominates the overall guns-deaths link. Look only at gun homicides instead, and the link with the number of guns is much weaker, whether the unit of analysis is different countries or US states. But add in interpersonal trust as well as gun ownership, and the relationship returns. In other words, it's the interplay between guns and fear that sends homicide rates climbing.

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Primary Topic: Poverty/Crime

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