

Concealed Carry Laws and Fatal Police Encounters

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Abstract

This paper explores the effect of concealed carry laws on violence during police encounters. I study the staggered roll-out of: (1) right-to-carry (RTC) laws allowing qualified citizens to carry concealed weapons, and (2) permitless carry (PC) laws, which requires no permits. Under both RTC and PC, non-fatal assaults of officers increase. Yet, only under PC laws do fatal shootings of suspects rise—disproportionately affecting minorities, and fewer police are killed in action. Gun laws affect the risk that police face and importantly affect the ultimate outcomes of police encounters.

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