



# Gun Control

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# History of the Issue and Legislation



# How anti-gun stances in the debate have changed

- Modern gun control movement began in 1970s with objective of complete ban on handgun ownership
- Proponents said they were disinterested in rifles
- However, the gun control movement transitioned to semi-automatic rifles in the 1990s due to political expediency
- This led to distrust of regulations by gun owners and has inhibited compromise, since gun owners see no end to their opponents' objectives

# How pro-gun stances in the debate have changed

- In the 1920s, the National Revolver Association (branch of NRA) proposed legislation adopted by 9 states:
  - Required permit to carry concealed weapon
  - 5 years additional prison time if a gun was used in a crime
  - Ban on gun sales to non-citizens
  - 1 day waiting period between purchase and receipt of gun
  - Records of gun sales be made available to police
- NRA supported FDR in signing the 1934 National Firearms Act and the 1938 Gun Control Act

# Notable Gun Legislation

1. National Firearms Act (1934)
2. Gun Control Act of 1968
3. Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (1993)
4. (Expired) Assault Weapons Ban (1994)

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# National Firearms Act (1934)

- Severely restricts purchase/ownership of certain firearms:
  - Fully-automatic firearms
  - Short-barrelled rifles
  - Short-barrelled shotguns
  - Suppressors
  - “Destructive Devices” (grenades, bombs, etc, and firearms with a calibre greater than 0.5 in)
- To purchase an NFA weapon, private individuals must:
  - Obtain approval from ATF & pass extensive background check
  - Receive approval before moving the firearm across state lines
  - Pay a tax
- Private ownership of fully-automatic weapons manufactured after 1968 was completely banned by the Firearm Owners Protection Act (1968)

# Gun Control Act of 1968

- Prohibits certain people from buying guns:
  - Those convicted of crime with 1+ year jail sentence
  - Fugitives
  - Substance abusers
  - Those convicted of domestic violence
- Requires dealers be federally licensed

# Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (1993)

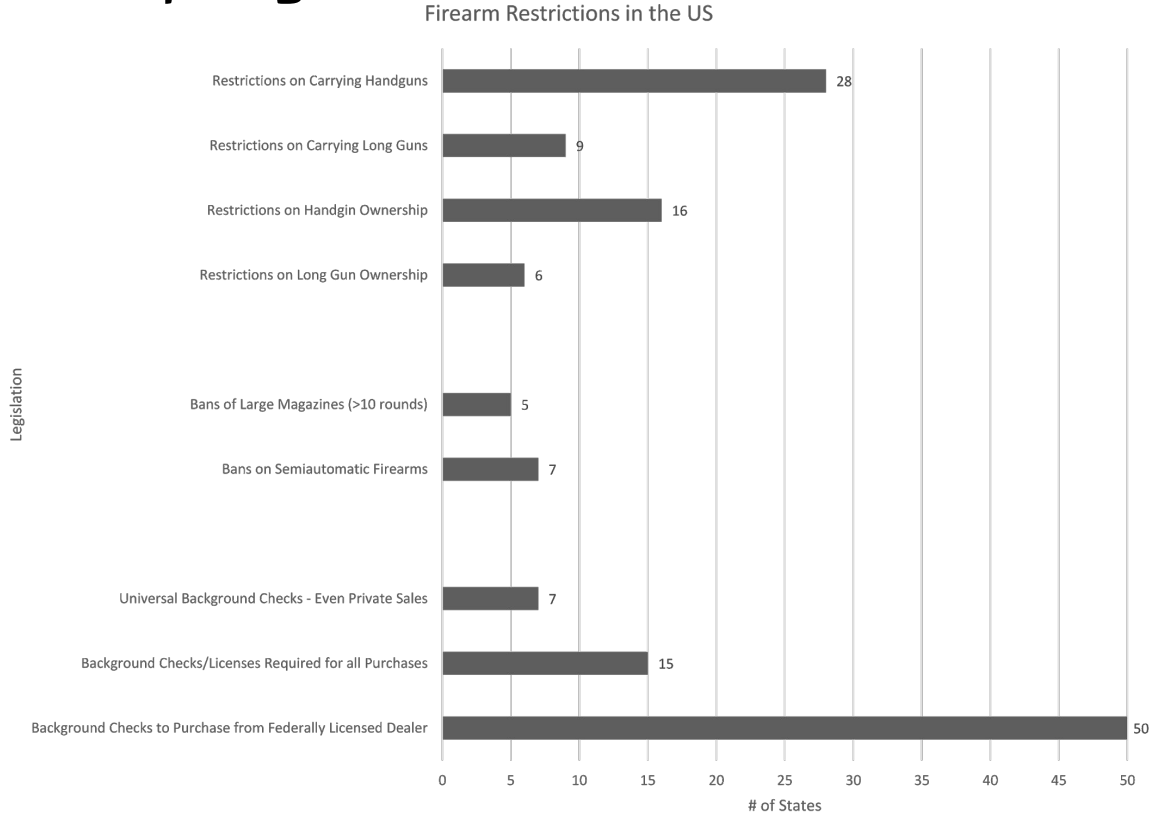
- Requires background checks to purchase from federally licensed dealer
- Background checks are performed by searching your information within a federally-maintained database



# Assault Weapons Ban (1994)

- Federal ban on semi-automatic rifles
- Expired in 2004 and has not been renewed

# Current state of legislation



22% of gun purchases in the last 2 years did not involve a background check

(16% - 27% on a 95% confidence interval)



# Ongoing Debate



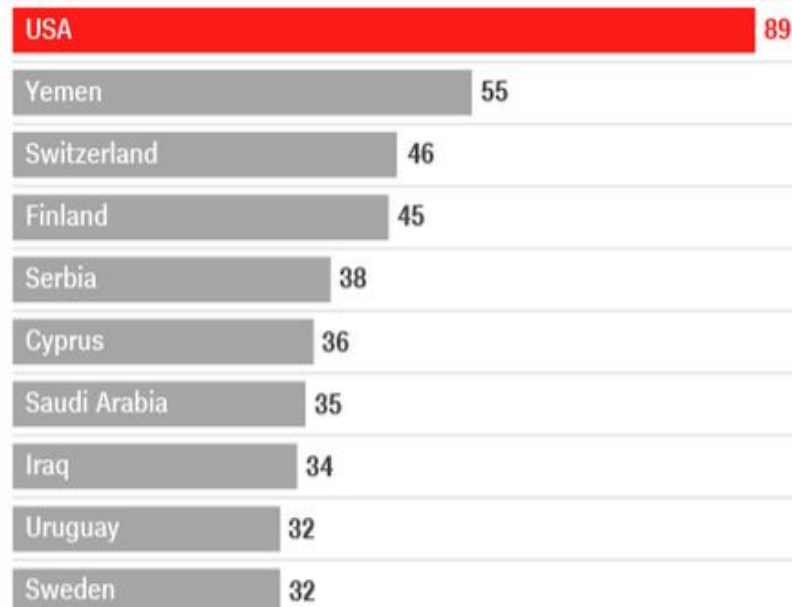
# Violent Deaths

- US has the highest level of gun ownership and the most gun-related deaths
  - There is a negative correlation between homicide rate and gun ownership between countries
  - Guns are the method used in more than half of suicides in the US
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# The United States has the most guns per capita

## COUNTRIES WITH THE MOST GUNS

Average firearms per 100 people



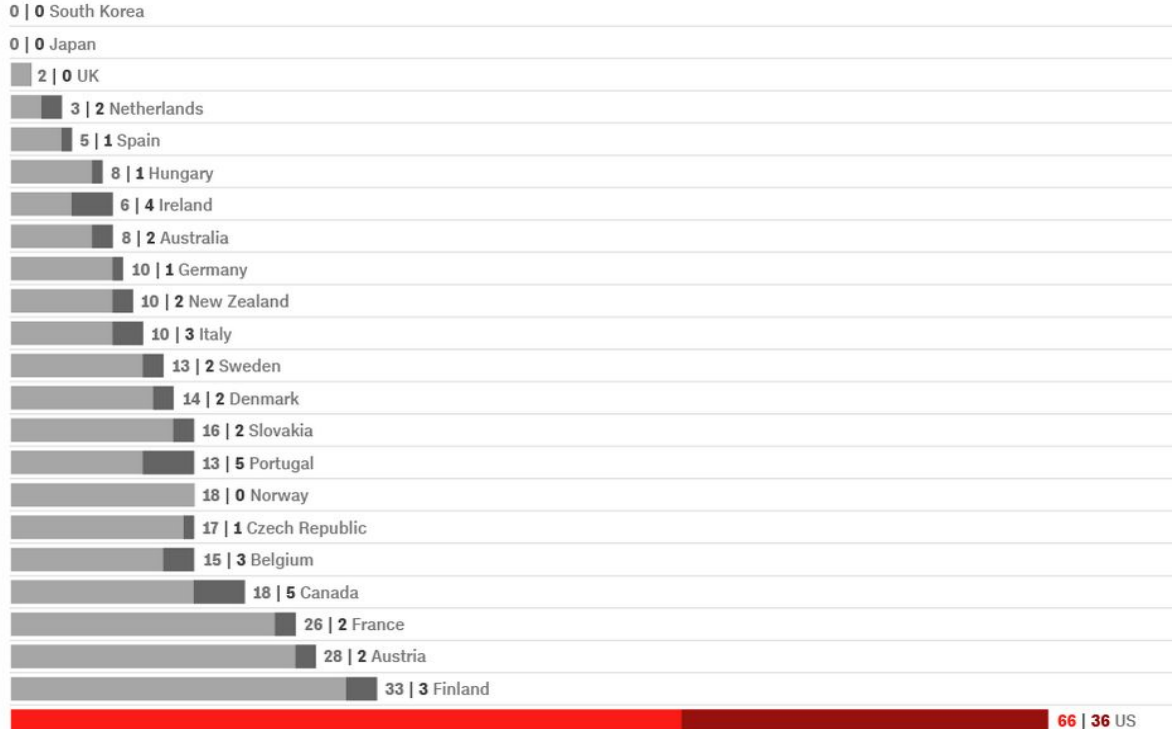
## COUNTRIES WITH THE FEWEST GUNS



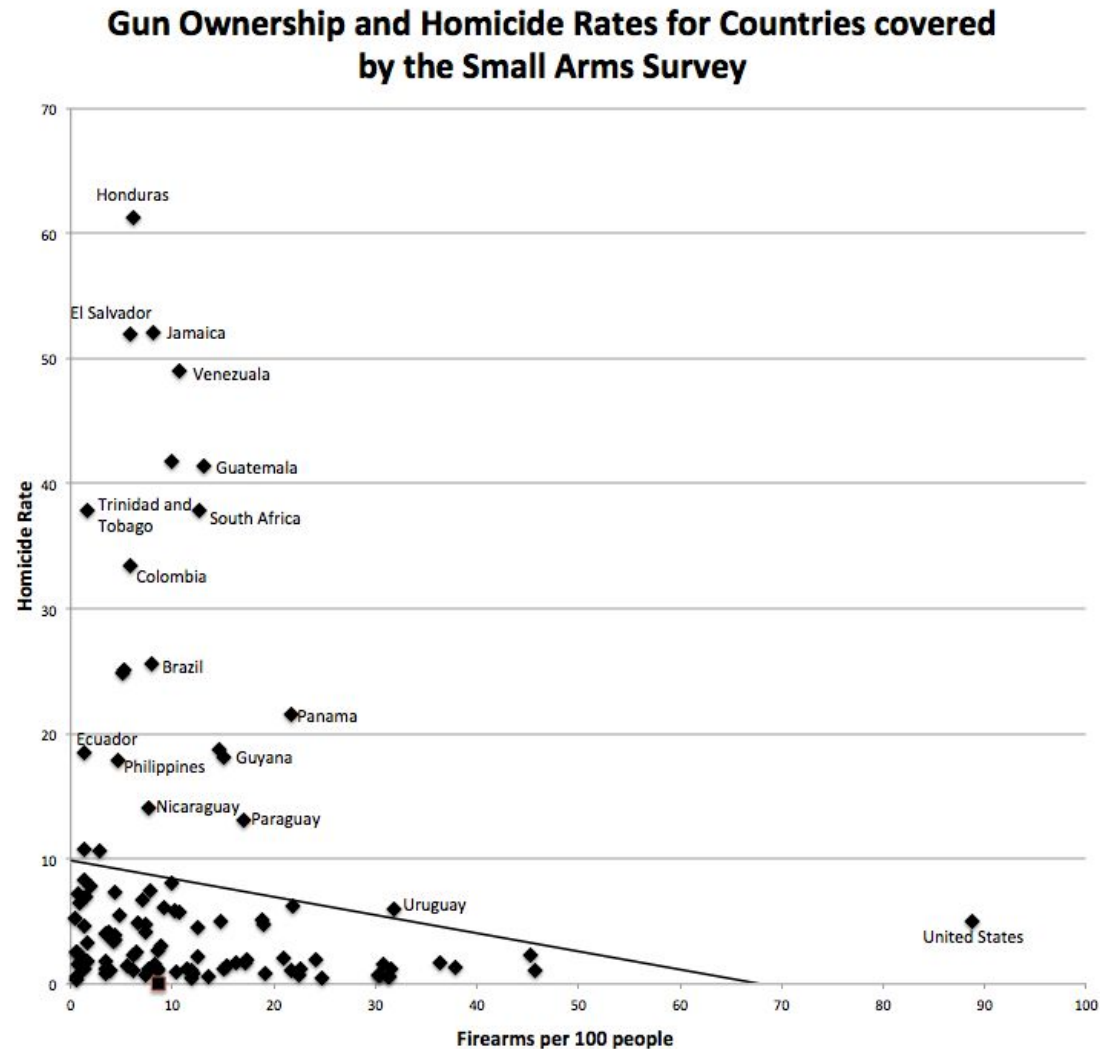
# And the most gun-related deaths per capita

GUN-RELATED DEATHS IN HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES, per 1 million people, 2010

■ Unintentional, suicides and undetermined ■ Homicides



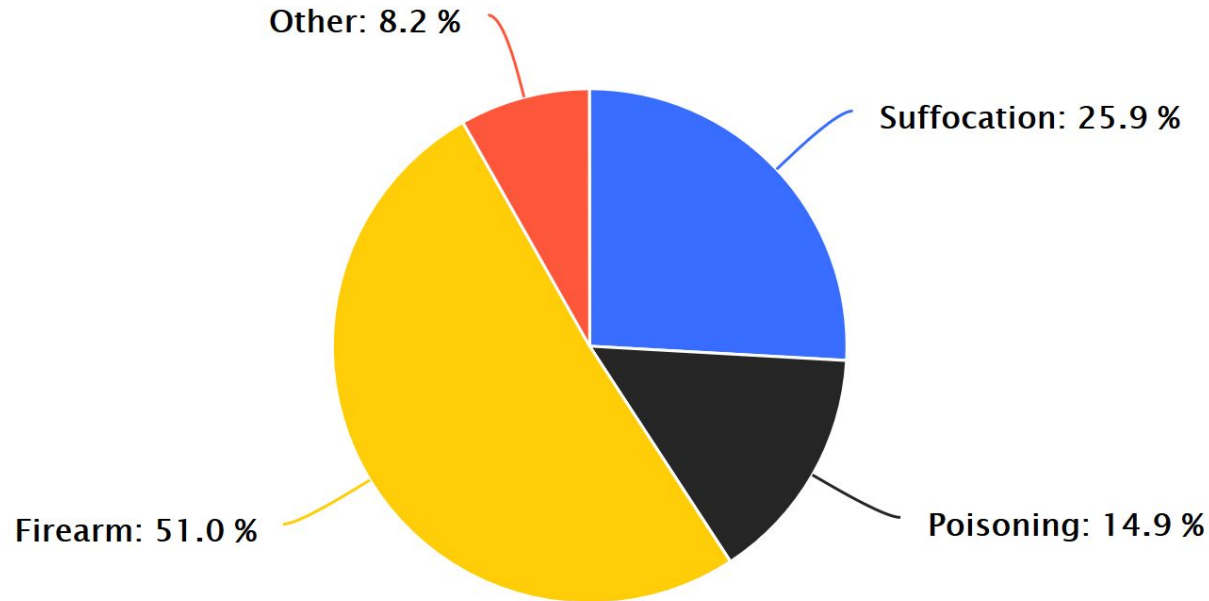
But there is a  
*negative* correlation  
when comparing  
homicide rates





# Firearms are the Leading Method of Suicide

Suicide Deaths by Method, 2016



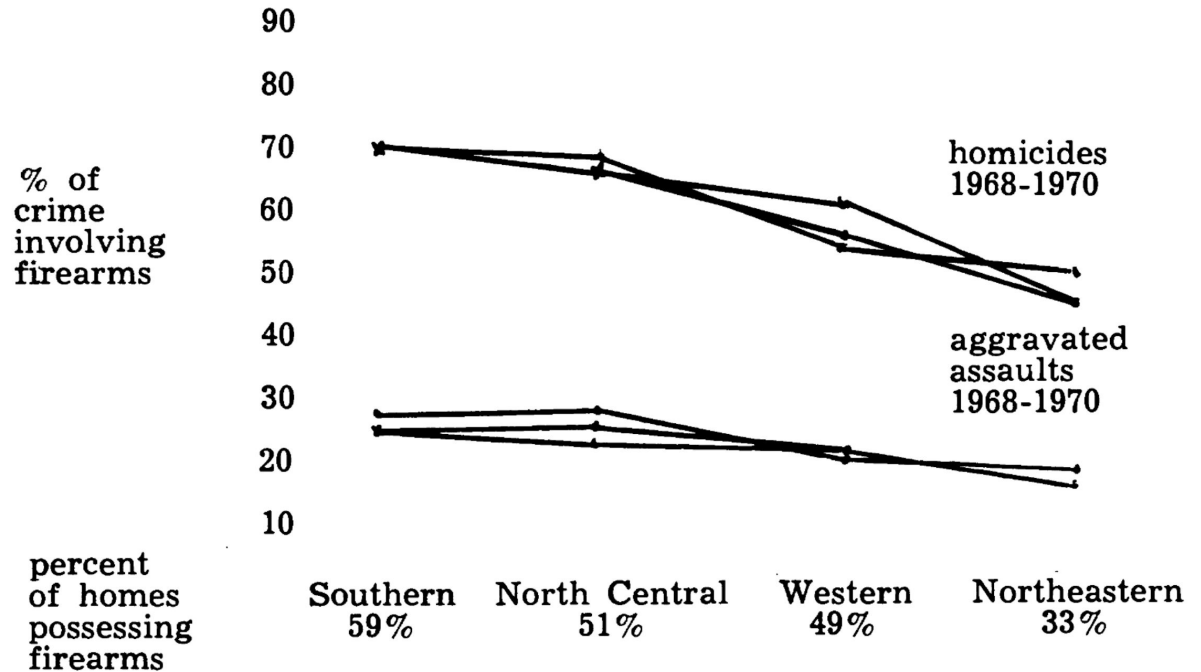
# Proposed / Attempted Solutions

All come back to making it less  
convenient to own/use a firearm

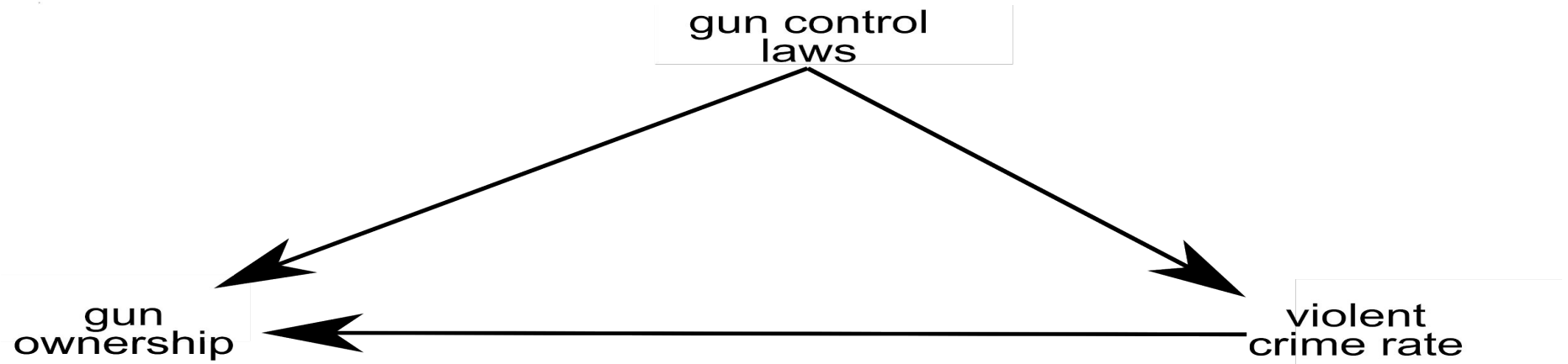
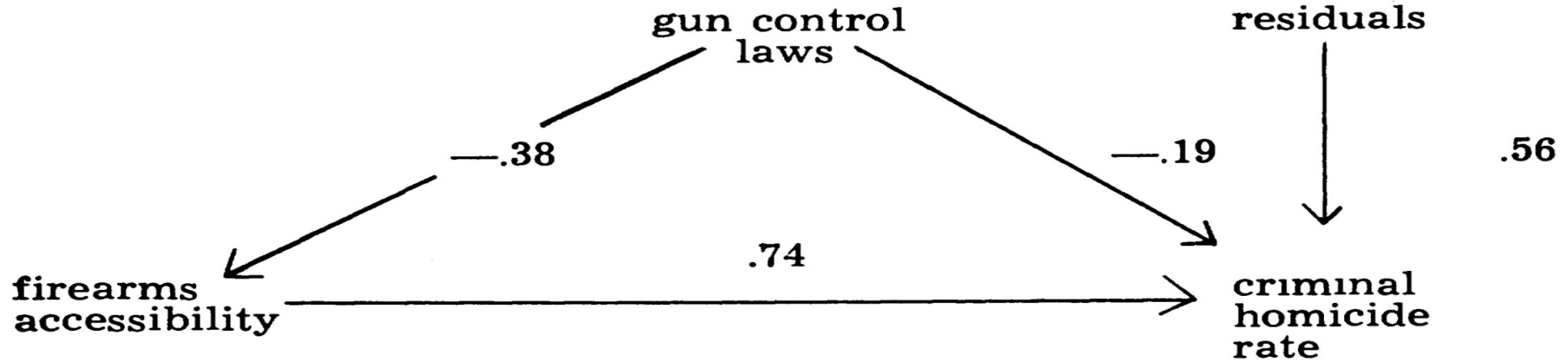
- Reduce number of guns
  - Limit availability of certain guns
  - Restrict how guns are carried, stored, & used
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# Availability of guns correlates with violent crime

COMPARISON OF % OF HOMICIDES AND AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS INVOLVING FIREARMS, BY CENSUS REGIONS, 1968-1970



# Correlation vs. Causation



# Effectiveness of Legislation

- Gun control has no net effect on gun prevalence
- Mandatory penalties reduce robberies
- Ban on gun possession by mentally ill and on handgun possession for all reduce suicide
- Laws providing easier access to concealed carry permits correlate with higher homicide rates

# Comparison Over Time

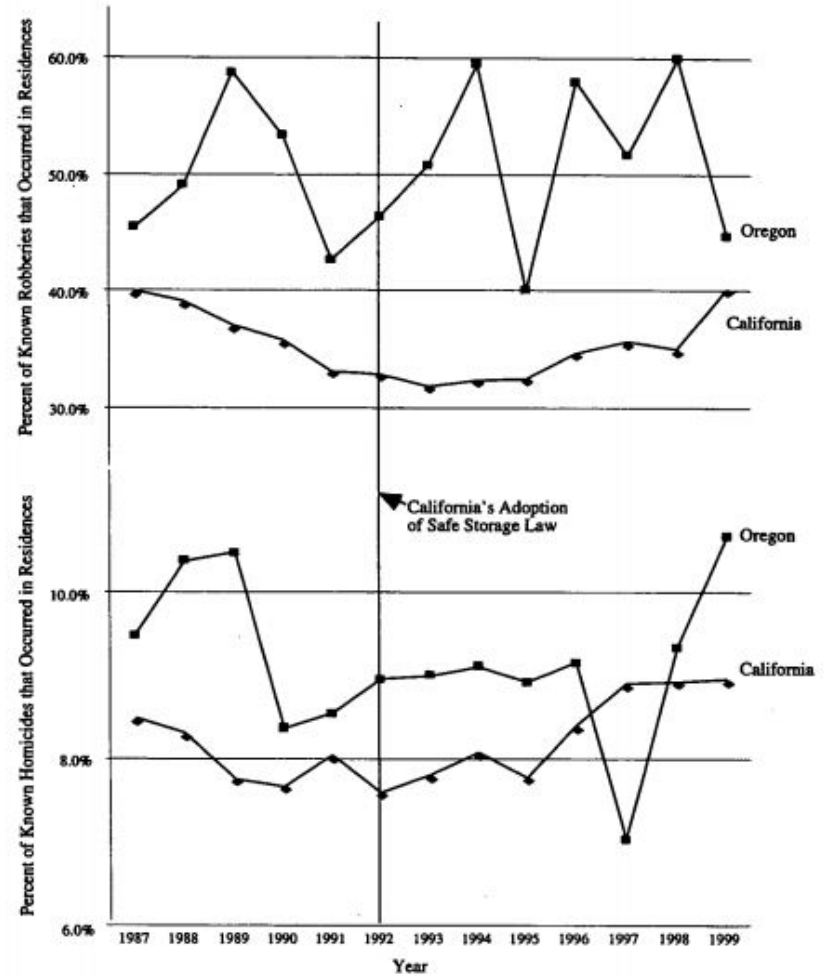


FIGURE 5.—Percentage of homicides and robberies in residences in California and Oregon



# Assessment and Recommendations



# Conclusions

- Both sides of the debate have polarized
- In spite of background check laws, many guns are purchased without them and recent events show them to often be ineffectual at identifying potential criminals
- The United States has an extremely high rate of firearm ownership and firearm deaths
- However, drawing causation between these is difficult



# Global Example

## Japanese Gun Control

- Almost complete ban on firearm ownership, resulting in very few firearms in the country
- Extremely low homicide rate

# Recommendations

- Japanese solution is not reasonable due to the extremely high number of guns already in the US and due to US cultural objections