

Alaska has one of the least strict gun laws in the US, and has the highest rate of gun homicides. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the Firearm Death Rate was 23.3 in 2016. Many people don't want gun control because they think it doesn't have an effect or that they make the situation worse. Gun control does have significant benefits. It reduces gun accidents, homicides, and suicides.

Gun control does have an effect on the gun mortality rate. Data from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention shows that most states with strict gun laws have the lowest rates of gun homicides. Examples are Rhode Island (3.4), New York (4.4) and Hawaii (4.5). While states with lenient gun laws have the highest rates, including Alaska (23.3), Alabama (21.5), and Louisiana (21.3)-("Firearm Mortality by state"). The statistics prove that states with stricter guns laws seem to result in a significant decrease in gun deaths. Most documented homicides are committed with guns. The FBI report showed that in 2017, 10,982 of the 15,129 homicides were committed with guns.

Limiting gun access could have saved many lives.

Gun control is shown to decrease suicides. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention again shows states that have strict gun laws like New Jersey (7.2), New York (8.1), and Maryland (9.4) have lower suicide rates. Montana (25.9), Alaska (25.8), and Wyoming (25.8) with lenient gun laws have the highest suicide rate. It shows that there's a link between suicide and guns. Giffords Law center discovered that, "States with a law in place that required handguns to be locked at least in certain circumstances have 40% fewer suicides per capita and 68% fewer firearm suicides per capita than states without these laws." The strict gun law, "Safe storage" could help save lives. Another is waiting period. When south Dakota repealed the 48 hour wait, suicide spiked by 7% (Suicide guns: why collect this information?) The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention says that 51.01% of all suicide deaths were done with guns, the rest were suffocation

(25.9%), poisoning (14.9%) and other (8.2%). Most suicides were done by guns and many wouldn't have done it if they couldn't get a gun.

Gun control is shown to decrease the overall firearm death rate. California from 1993 to 2014 had a 58% decrease in firearm deaths. California has the strictest gun laws in the country. The rest of the United states had only a 27% decrease. The gun laws enacted during the early 1990s have had a huge impact in decreasing of firearm deaths (California's Gun Laws are saving Lives).

Having a gun in the home increases mortality. Harvard research found out that, "The mortality rate was 7 times higher in the found states with the most guns compared to the four with the fewest guns." Gun control decreases accidental deaths and suicides. Risk Factors for Femicide in Abusive Relationships: Results From a Multisite Case Control Study Stated discovered that, "women were 16 times more likely to be killed during a domestic abuse." Guns increase the chances of the woman being killed. If the men with restraining order were not allowed to keep their guns, it would have prevented many of those deaths.

Some people are under the impression that armed citizens are able to stop mass shootings. Very few armed citizens have stopped a mass shooting. According to the statistics, There have been 160 incidences of mass shootings. Of those, 90 (50.6%) were stopped by the mass shooter killing themselves, 21 (13.1%) were stopped by unarmed citizens. Only 5 (3.1%) of mass shootings were done by armed citizens and 2 (1.3%) were off duty police officer. Very few mass shootings are stopped by armed citizens and in fact, unarmed citizens often help more (A Study of Active Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013). Both the Columbine and Virginia shooting had armed police present, but it didn't help. The shooter already knew about the police on campus (How do we prevent school shootings | Politifacts).

The main reason people don't want gun control is to protect themselves. A survey done by the Pew Research Center reported that 48% of all gun owners say

they have firearms for themselves. The reality is that more often than not, "Far fewer guns were used for self-defense than for criminal homicide." The negatives far outweigh the positives. The Violence Policy Center's report, "Firearm Justifiable Homicides and Non-Fatal Self-Defense Gun use" found out that, "For every justifiable homicide in the United States involving a gun, guns were used in 34 criminal homicides." More guns are used for criminal homicides than for justifiable ones.

In conclusion, gun control does decrease homicide, suicide, and accidents. Most of these deaths are caused by firearms could have been prevented. Strict gun laws are shown to help California decrease gun deaths than the rest of the United States. Overall, gun control is shown to have a positive effect.