



COURT OF DATA ON GUN CONTROL (FOR)

By: Raashi Maheshwari



Some Statistics

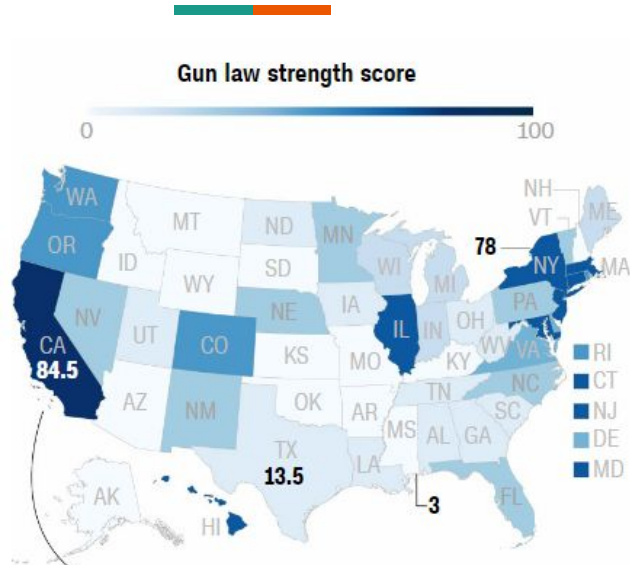
- 100 people are killed by guns in the U.S every day
- 12 children die every single day from gun violence in the U.S
- 950 school shootings and counting have taken place since Sandy Hook (2012)
- 9 in 10 people will die after attempting suicide with a gun
- 54% of gun deaths are suicide, 43% are murders
- 79% of murders involved a firearm



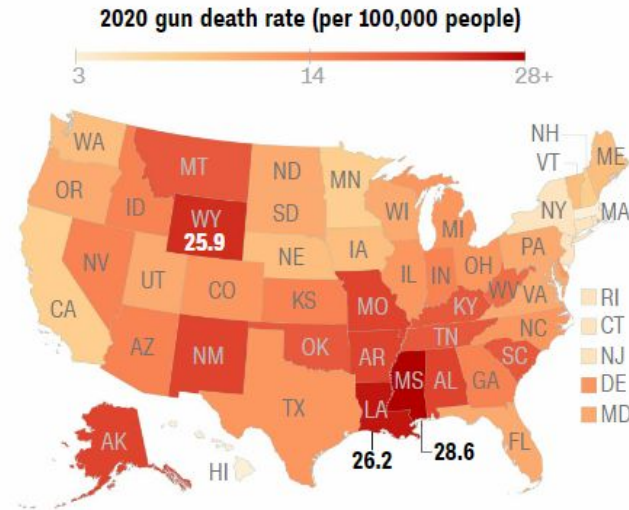
Columbia University - Mailman School of Public Health

- 2019 Study: Paul Reeping and Charles Branas (Columbia) along with colleagues at Boston University and UPenn published results in British Medical Journal
 - Concluded that “U.S. states with more restrictive gun laws experience mass shootings at a significantly lower rate than states with more permissive gun laws.” (Public Health - Columbia)
 - Specifically, “a 10 unit increase in state gun law permissiveness was associated with a significant 11.5 higher rate of mass shootings.” (British Medical Journal)
- Louis Klarevas (Columbia) wrote a book called, “Rampage Nation: Securing America from Mass Shootings”
 - Talked about the Federal Assault Weapons Ban (1994 - 2004)
 - Found that while the ban was in place, United States had a 37% decrease in high-fatality mass shooting incidents and a 43% decrease in high fatality mass shooting deaths compared to the 10 previous years before the ban
 - However, after the ban, the high-fatality mass shooting incident had gone up to 183% and the high-fatality mass shooting deaths had a 239% increase.

Gun Laws in Different States



California, New York and many other coastal states have more restrictions on firearms than states in the South and Midwest

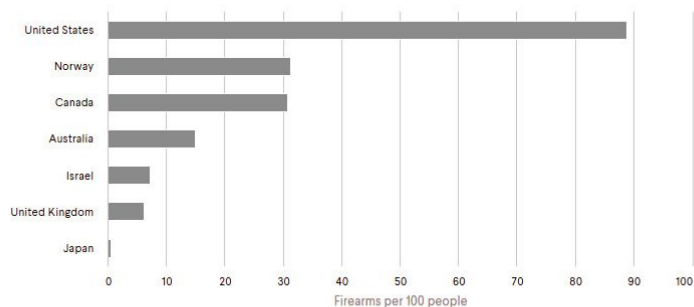


- Left Chart: States with a darker blue shade have stricter gun laws
- Right Chart: States with darker shades of red have a higher gun death rate
- As you can see, the states that have a darker shade of blue correspond to a lighter shade of red, which shows that the stricter the gun laws, the lower the gun death rate, hence proving that having stricter gun laws is better

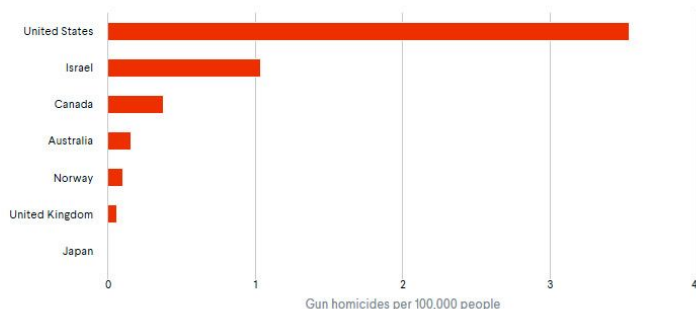
Gun Ownership vs. Gun Homicide

Source: PBS News

Gun Ownership Rates



Gun Homicide Rates

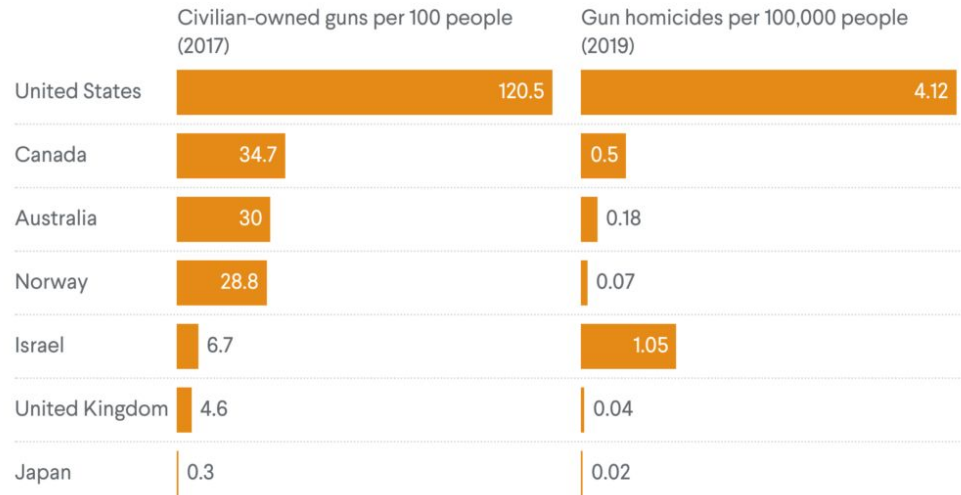


- As shown on the graph on top, United States has a high percentage of gun ownership rates; almost 90 out of 100 people own firearms
- Other countries are ranked accordingly, with Norway (~30/100 people), Canada (~30/100 people), Australia (~15/100 people), Israel (~8/100 people), United Kingdom (~8/100 people), and Japan (~1/100 people)
- Correspondingly, on the chart on the bottom, you can see that gun homicides per 100,000 people is the highest for the United States. This corresponds to the graph above, showing that the higher the gun ownership rates, the higher the gun homicide rates
- Stricter gun laws would ultimately help reduce the rate of gun homicides, which would ultimately help save lives

Gun Ownership and Homicides, Part 2

- As you can see on the graph of the right, the US has one of the highest gun ownership rates
- Similar to the previous slide, this also corresponds to one of the highest rates of gun homicides
- Other countries have almost the same trend, where the higher the gun ownership rate, the higher the homicide rate
- However, with stricter gun laws, the rate for gun homicides will potentially decrease

Gun Ownership and Homicides, Selected Countries



Sources: Small Arms Survey; Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.



Trustworthy Sources?

- National Public Radio (NPR):
 - American non-profit media organization
 - NPR is a media organization, and regardless of whether they are non-profit, they might have bias
 - Media organizations tend to exaggerate their stories
- Columbia University (Mailman School of Public Health)
 - Researches from Columbia University, as well as other reputed universities, including Boston University and University of Pennsylvania created studies to analyze gun violence
 - Reputed university studies from reputed researches from the universities are a good source for reliable information
- CNN
 - Multinational News Channel
 - News channels can be biased, hence even though CNN is reliable, it may be biased towards one side of the story
- Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)
 - Television network
 - Although there is a probability that the news is not fake, there is still a chance that the news is biased or that PBS only shows one side of the story



Cherry Picking

- Cherry picking is the act of looking at data in a way that helps support your position while ignoring the data that is against your position
- This may be done either consciously or subconsciously where you only “cherry pick” the parts of the data and analysis that help support your position
- In this case, there is a chance that cherry picking has occurred
- This may be possible because I focused only on the graphs that show how stricter gun laws help reduce the number of gun deaths
- There is also a chance that I only looked at and picked the statistics that help support pro-gun laws and make the case that stricter gun laws are needed



Statistically Significant / Hidden Variables

- A lot of the research that I found online didn't contain the sample size but rather just the graphs and conclusions from the study
- Hence, we cannot say that the data is completely reliable because we do not know the sample size and a small sample size may skew the results
- We also don't know other factors about the sample size, such as their age, their location, and when they were interviewed, etc.
- These may be potential hidden variables because they may have an impact (positive or negative) on the response of the people

Sources



Cheng, Britt. “12 Stats to Help Inform the Gun Control Debate.” *NPR*, NPR, 27 May 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/05/27/1101774780/gun-control-debate-statistics>

Masters, Jonathan. “How Do U.S. Gun Laws Compare to Other Countries?” *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, 13 June 2016, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-do-u-s-gun-laws-compare-to-other-countries>

Masters, Jonathan. “How Does U.S. Gun Policy Compare with the Rest of the World?” *PBS*, Public Broadcasting Service, 27 May 2022, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-does-u-s-gun-policy-compare-with-the-rest-of-the-world>

“Research Supports Tighter Gun Laws to Reduce Mass Shooting Violence.” *Search the Website*, 24 Mar. 2021, <https://www.publichealth.columbia.edu/public-health-now/news/research-supports-tighter-gun-laws-reduce-mass-shooting-violence>

Tucker, Emma, and Priya Krishnakumar. “States with Weaker Gun Laws Have Higher Rates of Firearm Related Homicides and Suicides, Study Finds.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 27 May 2022, <https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/20/us/everytown-weak-gun-laws-high-gun-deaths-study/index.html>