

Licensing

Gun owners should be licensed like drivers

Fact: Most highway deaths are caused by licensed drivers, so there is little evidence that licensing gun owners will reduce firearm deaths.

Fact: People are licensed to operate cars in public areas. People do not need to be licensed to keep a firearm in their home.

Fact: There are more firearms in the U.S. than cars, yet the accidental death rate from firearms is 31 times lower than for cars, despite drivers being licensed and cars being registered for 100 years.

Fact: No civil right can be licensed. If it is, it is no longer a right, but a privilege. Licensing firearm owners would be like licensing news reporters, priests or voters.

There's no harm in requiring a license before a person can buy a firearm

Fact: Self-defense is an immediate issue. The waiting period in some states has caused many people that needed protection to fall victim to criminals. Requiring a license first will endanger more citizens.

Fact: Governments change rules. If firearm licensing were enacted, the laws could change every year until obtaining a firearm license was impossible.

Fact: Everyone has an inalienable, constitutional and natural right to defend him or herself, and no one needs a license to exercise this right.

We license cars, marriages, even hairstylists – why not license gun owners?

Fact: In New York and Washington, D.C., such licensing schemes have been used to disarm law-abiding citizens, and in turn they create astronomically high violent crime rates.

Fact: In *Haynes v. U.S.*, the Supreme Court ruled that criminals do not have to register their firearms, nor do they have to apply for licenses.

Children are in danger from guns

Fact: Of accidents killing children, car accidents kill 56%, drowning 22%, pedestrian accidents 15%, firearms 3% (according to The Center for Disease Control).

Fact: 0.1% of all deaths of U.S. children between the ages of zero to 14 are from firearms, according to the National Safety Council.

Fact: In 2000, there were only 86 accidental firearm deaths for children under age 15. Contrast this with 40 children under age five that drowned in buckets and 80 that drowned in tubs.

The gun show loophole must be closed

Fact: There is no “loophole.” Guns sold at gun shows by federally licensed dealers must be sold using the exact same rules as those sold at a gun store.

Criminals prefer Saturday Night Specials and Pocket Rockets, and they should be banned

Fact: “Saturday Night Specials” were used in less than 3% of crimes involving guns, according to FBI Uniform Crime Statistics. In fact, fewer than 2% of all “Saturday Night Specials” made are used in crimes.

Most Americans favor gun control

Fact: Surveys in 1999 and 2000 by CBS, Zogby, Time, the Associated Press, ABC, Washington Post, and CNN all showed the majority of Americans believe enforcing existing laws is the best solution to gun violence. None of these surveys showed a majority favoring new or stricter gun control laws.

Gun Control

Thoughts about proposed legislation



Registration

Other countries register guns to fight crime

Fact: Most of these laws were in fact enacted in the post World War-I period to prevent civil uprisings as had occurred in Russia. A report titled “Committee on the Control of Firearms,” written by the British Home Office officials in 1918 was the basis for registration in the U.K., Australia, Canada, and New Zealand.

Gun registration works

Fact: Not in Canada, Germany or New Zealand. In Canada, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba have dumped both the administration and the enforcement of all federal gun-control laws, throwing the Canadian government into a “paper” civil war. Cost overruns are three times the original projected cost (Dr. Paul Gallant and Dr. Joanne Eisen, “Civil Disobedience In Canada: It Just Happened To Be Guns”). In Germany, between 17,000,000 and 20,000,000 guns were to be registered, and in fact only 3,200,000 surfaced, leaving some 80% unaccounted for. New Zealand repealed their gun registration law in the 1980s because police acknowledged its worthlessness. “It seems just to be an elaborate system of arithmetic with no tangible aim,” according to Chief Inspector Newgreen, Registrar of Firearms.

Gun registration will help police find suspects

Fact: There is registration in Hawaii, Chicago and Washington, D.C. Yet there has not been even a single case where the laws have been instrumental in identifying someone who has committed a crime. Would-be criminals virtually never get licenses or register their weapons (Prof. John Lott, “Gun Licensing Leads to Increased Crime, Lost Lives,” L.A. Times, Aug 23, 2000). Criminals very rarely leave their guns at the scene of the crime. Leaving a registered gun at a crime scene would be unthinkable.

13 children die each day from gun violence

Fact: This “statistic” includes “children” ages 18-24, gang members killed while committing felonies, and kids that commit suicides (FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1997). When all the subtraction is done, this number drops to less than one child per day.

Fact: Four children die each day in the U.S. from parental neglect and abuse. Perhaps we should register and license parents.

The availability of guns is the cause of crime and violence

Fact: Though the number of firearms owned by private citizens has been increasing steadily since 1970, the overall rate of homicides and suicides has not risen, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics.

Fact: Over 95% of gun-related crime is caused by gang activity (FBI Uniform Crime Statistics, 1976-98). These organized bands of criminals commit many crimes, and guns are tools they use. Control gangs and you will control gun violence.

Fact: Most guns used in crimes are stolen, according to James Johnson, Treasury Undersecretary for Enforcement. In fact, more than 27,000 lost or stolen firearms were reported by federal firearm licensees between 1998 and 1999.

Gun control reduces crime

Fact: Violent crime appears to be encouraged by gun control. Most gun control laws in the United States have been written since 1968, yet the murder rate has risen during that time, according to National Center for Health Statistics (Vital Statistics, Revised July, 1999).

Fact: In 1976, Washington, D.C., enacted one of the most restrictive gun control laws in the nation. Since then, the city's murder rate has risen 134 percent while the national murder rate has dropped 2 percent, according to the FBI Uniform Crime Statistics.

Fact: 20% of U.S. homicides occur in four cities with just six percent of the population -- New York, Chicago, Detroit and Washington, D.C. -- and each has a virtual prohibition on private handguns.

Fact: Among the 15 states with the highest homicide rates, 10 have restrictive or very restrictive gun laws.

Handguns are 43 times more likely to kill a family member than a criminal

Fact: Of the 43 deaths reported in this flawed “study” 86% were suicides. Other deaths involved criminal activity between the family members (drug deals gone bad).

Fact: Only 0.1% (1 in a thousand) of the defensive uses of guns result in the death of the predator, according to criminologist Dr. Gary Kleck. This means you are infinitely more likely to prevent a crime without bloodshed than hurt a family member.

The Brady bill has reduced gun crime significantly

Fact: Both gun and non-gun murder rates fell during the same period, 1992 to 1997, and the Brady bill was not passed until 1994. In 1992, 68% of U.S. murders were committed with guns; in 1997, it was still 68%. Thus, the decreased gun homicide rate was part of an overall declining crime rate, not an effect of the Brady Bill.

Guns should be regulated like other products for safety

Fact: Firearms are one of the most heavily regulated industries in the U.S. You cannot build or sell firearms without complying with Federal regulations.

Fact: Guns are well built and do not need “consumer safety” regulations. In the entire history of California, not one lawsuit has been filed against a gun maker due to a defective product, according to the California Trial Lawyers Association.

Fact: Product safety laws are designed to protect the user of a product. Few owners/users of firearms are hurt by the firearms they own.

Trigger locks and smart-gun technology should be required by law

Fact: California has a trigger lock law and saw a 12% increase in fatal firearm accidents in 1994. Texas doesn't have such a law and experienced a 28% decrease, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Trigger locks do, however, render guns inaccessible for self-defense.

Fact: In 1996, even though there were around 80 million people owning guns, there were only 44 accidental gun deaths for children under age 10, or about 0.0001%.

Fact: Children as young as seven (7) years old have demonstrated that they can pick or break trigger locks, or operate a gun with a trigger lock in place (General Accounting Office).

Fact: No “smart-gun” technology currently exists. You cannot mandate the use of something that does not exist.

Fact: Most proposed “smart-gun” technologies would make a firearm for a husband unusable by a wife, leaving households more vulnerable to criminal assault.

Fact: It would be better to teach gun safety in the schools than to require trigger locks.

Guns are not a good deterrent to crime

Fact: Guns prevent an estimated 2.5 million crimes a year, or 6,849 every day, according to Dr. Gary Kleck, Criminologist, Florida State University. Often the gun is never fired and no blood (including the criminal's) is shed. Every day 550 rapes, 1,100 murders and 5,200 other violent crimes are prevented just by showing a gun. In less than 0.9% of the time is the gun ever actually fired.

Fact: 60% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they knew the victim was armed. 40% of convicted felons admitted that they avoided committing crimes when they thought the victim might be armed. (“Armed and Considered Dangerous: A Survey of Felons and Their Firearms”)

Fact: Washington, D.C., has banned gun ownership and has a per capita murder rate of 56.9, according to the FBI report “Crime in the United States.” Across the river in Arlington, Virginia, gun ownership is not regulated, and the murder rate is a mere 1.6 per capita.

Guns are not effective in preventing crime against women

Fact: When women are armed with a gun or knife, only 3% of attempted rapes are successful, compared to 32% when unarmed (U.S. Department of Justice, Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Rape Victimization in 26 American Cities).

Fact: Of the 2,500,000 annual self-defense cases using guns, more than 7.7% are by women defending themselves against sexual abuse.

Fact: In 1966 the city of Orlando responded to a wave of sexual assaults by offering firearms training classes to women. The number of rapes dropped by nearly 90%.