

Mendez Medina

David Mendez Medina

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Guns have been a part of American history since the day it was founded. It has been centuries now and with a new age comes solutions to old problems, However this also brings new problems too. With the fact that everyone and anyone can obtain a gun including criminals, kids, and mentally unstable people. With this, why is this the way it is? Many activists and people protest and want to change one thing, that being our gun laws with the main statement being “we want them to change.” Ever since the start of mass shootings this statement has been told throughout decades. Sadly, it took incidents such as columbine, sand hook, and the Aurora Colorado shooting to get people's attention on the matter. Now with millions of Americans knowing and seeing these tragedies many are protesting and trying there hardest to try to change the gun laws so that something like this does not happen again, so why has nothing happened yet? It has been almost 10 years since these tragedies and the farthest we have gotten is needing gun licenses in 3 states in the United States. So with this being the case is there anything we can do to change the gun laws to make it so less people can obtain guns? From the research done I expect did expect to find a direct answer to my question because if the gun laws have barely changed for years there has to be a reason. I expected to see laws specific to guns we can use to change the gun laws. With many activists voicing their opinions there should be multiple ideas to fix and change the gun laws. With this I knew what I had to look for and what I had to know to answer my question.

Yvonne Leow, Allison Rockey, German Lopez, and Joe Posner, “America’s gun problem, explained in 90 seconds”, uploaded by Vox on December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015

### Summary

Ever since the sandy hook massacre in 2015 there have been an estimated amount of 1,042 mass shootings in the US alone. After one of these shootings, it is time to do something about it as we need to do something to prevent these shootings. The United States is the only other developed country in the world that has 4 times more gun violence incidents then other countries. Americans own about 42% of all firearms in the world. Gun deaths are mostly associated with mass shootings, however mass shootings make up a small percentage of all gun deaths. “Suicides make up a majority amount of gun deaths making up about 62% of all gun deaths while homicides make up 31%.” Mass shootings only make up 1.5%. It is also shown how states with more guns have more deaths. About 85% of people are in favor of background checks for gun shows and private sales, 80% are in favor of preventing people with mental illnesses from purchasing guns, and 67% of people are in favor of a federal database to track gun sales. With this it shows most people in favor of gun laws but due to many pro-gun politicians having a large say over gun laws, gun laws remain the same. Some gun laws have been changed such as

establishing a national gun registry and requiring permits for firearm purchases. If we and more changes such as background checks and licensing it can stop dangerous people from getting their hands on dangerous things.

### Reflection

Many people are in favor of adding more gun laws, however gun laws do not change. It has been many years since incidents including sandy hook and we have had a lot of mass shootings and violence/death due to guns. However, people forget that “Suicides make up a majority amount of gun deaths making up about 62% of all gun deaths while homicides make up 31%”. This is a serious occurrence as we see all these tragedies on the news, but we do not mention the biggest tragedies guns because which is suicides. Better background checks and permits stop people with mental health from ending their lives and committing a terrible thing to themselves.

Madeline Marshall,” the gun solution we are not talking about" YouTube, uploaded by Vox, September 19, 2001 <https://youtu.be/ENw2y0ek1Jg>

### Summary

Politicians always say that gun laws need to change many ways by adding background checks. However, there is already a background check in place in gun stores. This database goes through an FBI database however gun shows, and illegal dealers do not use background checks so realistically everyone and anyone can own a firearm. The gun store database is not so great though as the FBI database is not up to date and is missing millions of records and because of this making background checks affect gun shows or even private dealers would not work. The background checks also only check for people with a criminal record not people who might be dangerous however most states need licenses to have gun and makes the system a lot more difficult to own a gun people who might be dangerous or law-abiding citizens. Research and data show that licenses work and are effective more than only background checks

### Reflection

This video by Vox shows how realistically adding one thing to our current laws would be able to change our gun laws and make them a lot safer than ever. The video shows how it is quite easy for a criminal or in this case anyone can obtain a gun at any point in time. This is extremely dangerous as extremely dangerous people can obtain weapons and firearms and use them for terrible things as the video shows how many horrific acts already committed were committed by people who were already criminals yet passed background checks. This shows how ineffective the background checks are and even though this is a system that every state has everyone in politics say how we should add them but by just adding licenses that makes the gun laws safer. This brings up my research question “can we change the gun laws” the answer is we can. The research shown in the video shows how states with gun licenses in place have significantly low suicide and crime rates compared to states with just background checks. From the video it said

only few states had them however if we can get the licenses implemented in every state this might solve gun laws and gun issues many states in the United States all have and it would prevent us from seeing a lot less news about gun violence every day.

Donohue, John J., et al. "Right-to-Carry Laws and Violent Crime: A Comprehensive Assessment Using Panel Data and a State-Level Synthetic Control Analysis." *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, vol. 16, no. 2, 2019, pp. 198–247, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jels.12219>.

### Summary

The article shows more than enough data and evidence throughout 2014 that show statistics that show the impact of violent crimes to the right to conceal and carry laws. This is because the issue does "more guns equal less crime" has been an issue going on for about 2 decades. This is because back in 1997 someone published a paper explaining why guns are good as they reduce crime, however due to a lot of errors and not fixing them led to misconceptions about guns specifically how they affect violent crimes. Statistically speaking a law-abiding citizen with a permit to conceal and carry using a gun to stop a crime is statistically a rare occurrence. With 99.2% of the time failing to scare or threaten the criminal. Even with citizens with permits to conceal and carry it is said by an FBI study that the citizen runs the chance to increase the damage by killing the criminal or shootings a bystander (innocent party). However, this does not mean that no one should do it as there are cases where the citizen conceals and carries safely disarms the criminal as a total of "21 of 160 active shootings cases end with the criminal being detained safely." Both being a good and bad of people owning guns. But the right to conceal and carry laws unknowingly are associated with a "13-15% higher violent crime rate than without them."

### Reflection

The article above shows how there are two points of view to every side. Each side has its points and reasons, in this case the main point is that gun's specificity can lead to good actions or terrible consequences. This article is an unbiased source that can clearly show both sides. However, the data presented shows how guns severely affect the lives of others. "13-15% higher violent crime rate than without them" this is an extremely high crime rate compared to places that do not have conceal and carry laws. This brings up my research question "can we change the gun laws?" This article does not answer how we can change the gun laws but most importantly brings perspective on why we need to change them. In my opinion the most important part of the sources is finding out why people think there needs to be a change. This peer reviewed article sheds more light on the why of the situation rather than what we can do in an effective way.

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