

2,635 people have died as a result of gun violence in America since the Newtown massacre on December 14, 2012.

In one year, more than 31,000 people die from gun violence – and close to 79,000 more are shot but survive gun injuries. That’s more than 100,000 people EACH YEAR who are killed or wounded with a gun in our country

In Connecticut in 2011 there were 128 homicides, 73% involved guns

Quinnipiac Poll: Voters Want Strong Gun Control *On March 6, 2013*

- **68 – 28 percent back an expansion of the statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons. (Gun owners are opposed 49 – 44 percent)**
- **68 – 28 percent back a ban on the sale of ammunition magazines with more than 10 rounds. Gun owners are divided 49 – 48 percent;**
- **72 – 27 percent back registration of all handguns, with annual renewal. Gun owners are divided with 48 percent in favor and 50 percent opposed**
- **63 – 31 percent, including 50 – 46 percent among gun owners, favor limiting handgun purchases to one per month**
- **85 – 14 percent, including 71 – 28 percent among gun owners, back a permit requirement to purchase and carry all guns**
- **86 – 11 percent, including 85 – 12 percent among gun owners, favor a gun offender registry for those convicted of gun crimes**
- **76 – 19 percent, including 65 – 32 percent among gun owners, back stricter gun storage requirements**

No recent data on this – estimated 32-40% households have at least 1 gun or family member with gun

Weapon used in Newtown was legal to own and legally purchased. We need tougher laws that are enforced.

Second Amendment :

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

On June 26, 2008, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 5-4 opinion in *District of Columbia v. Heller*. Justice Scalia, writing for the majority, held that the Second Amendment protects an

individual right to possess handguns for use in self-defense in a person's home. However, he stressed that this right is not unlimited.

The Court listed many types of laws that would not be barred by the Second Amendment - Prohibitions on dangerous and unusual weapons, such as machine guns and military-style semiautomatic assault weapons.

David Hemenway - Professor of Health Policy and Management, Harvard School of Public Health, and Director of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center

“We compared the United States to the other First World countries. We looked at both genders and all ages, but here are the statistics for 5- to 14-year-olds. A child in the United States compared to a child in Finland or France or New Zealand is not 20 percent more likely to be killed in a gun homicide, or 50 percent more likely, or twice as likely, or five times as likely. It’s 13 times higher.”

“I think the most shocking thing is to compare ourselves to the other developed countries. *People think we have a violence problem in the United States, but we really don’t. We’re an average country in terms of all the violence measures you can think of, in terms of crime. But where we’re very different is guns. We have lots more guns than anybody else, particularly handguns. A lot of countries have hunting rifles, but we have these handguns, and then we have these assault weapons. Secondly, we have by far the most permissive gun control laws, the weakest gun policies of any country. It’s not even close. Not surprisingly, we have more gun crime and more gun homicide.*”

ATF – No Director for over 6 years.
Alcohol – regulated and controlled
Tobacco – regulated and controlled
Firearms – minimal regulations no control

“The primary priority should be reducing gun violence. This distinction between ownership and violence is important for the design, focus, and implementation of these strategies. Safety standards for gun ownership still represent one key facet of a comprehensive approach—just as automobiles and medications are widely used but are subject to sensible safety policies. A coordinated, multidimensional public health strategy informed by other public health successes will reduce the risk of future tragedies like the Newtown shooting and the broader scourge of gun violence.” JAMA Feb 13, 2013

On background checks and registrations - records need to be kept for all sales - titles should pass just as with car sales.

Just yesterday the following took place in Oregon:

Michael Boysen, a felon suspected of killing his grandparents Friday night after they threw him a party upon his release from prison, was captured after a standoff with police at an Oregon hotel.

Boysen, 26, was recently released from prison after a burglary conviction. Detectives learned from a search of computer data that Boysen had researched gun shows in Washington and Nevada, where sellers are not required to conduct background checks or maintain sale records. Boysen was apprehended after a standoff at the Westshore Oceanfront Suites in Lincoln City, Ore.

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“A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead