

Why the term "High Capacity" is poorly-defined and thus meaningless:

There is no magic number (for magazine capacity) that will prevent criminals from hurting innocent people. And magazines that hold a large amount of bullets are neither a new phenomenon, nor are they rare:

- Browning Hi-Power pistol (available in 1935) has a standard-capacity magazine that holds 13 shots
- AR-15 rifles (available in 1960) had a standard capacity of 20 shots, but now use 30-shot magazines
- Smith & Wesson Model 59 pistol (available in 1970) has a standard-capacity magazine that holds 14 shots
- Ruger Mini-14 rifle (available in 1973) has factory standard magazines holding 20 shots
- Steyr GB pistol (available in 1981) has a standard-capacity magazine that holds 18 shots

Why restricting the magazine capacity of firearms has no effect on crime:

A magazine can be changed in less than 2 seconds. Criminals will not obey such a law. A restriction on magazine size has only negative effects, such as:

- To inconvenience law-abiding gun owners by making them buy more magazines & change them more frequently
- To prevent law-abiding gun owners from defending themselves against multiple attackers

What has been the real-world effect of existing gun bans?

The USA had an "assault weapons" ban in effect from 1994 through 2004. Its effectiveness was assessed by the CDC, the National Resource Council, the Dept. of Justice, the National Institute of Justice, and researchers from Yale and the Univ. of Pennsylvania and the conclusion was unanimous: **the ban did not reduce crime.**

Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Assault_Weapons_Ban

When Britain banned gun ownership in 1999, the next decade saw crimes with guns increase 89% in Britain.

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1223193/Culture-violence-Gun-crime-goes-89-decade.html>

Today, "gun-free" Britain is the most violent country in Europe; *4 times more violent* than the United States (where we are at a 48-year low in homicide rates while simultaneously having a historically high level of gun ownership):

- Britain: **2034** violent crimes per 100,000 residents
- USA: **466** violent crimes per 100,000 residents

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1196941/The-violent-country-Europe-Britain-worse-South-Africa-U-S.html>

If you set aside Britain's other violent crimes (like 3x the rate of rape compared to U.S.) and look just at homicide rates (published by the FBI and the British Crime Survey), Britain is still a far more dangerous place despite having a gun ban:

- Britain: **6** homicides per 100,000 residents
- USA: **4.2** homicides per 100,000 residents

Source: <http://extranosalley.com/?p=36844>

As someone who personally knew one of the young victims in Sandy Hook (Jesse Lewis), I implore you to resist the urge to expend your political capital on more gun laws that will not make anyone safer. Instead, let us all focus on making meaningful progress on the only issues that would have actually stopped Adam Lanza, James Holmes and Jared Loughner from committing their crimes: mechanisms to identify mentally-unstable people, and providing institutions where they can be safely housed & monitored.

Just tell me how I can help you. James C. Smith, Seymour CT. jsmith6620@aol.com