

Testimony to the Gun Safety Task Force, January 28, 2013.



CT Against Gun Violence  
P.O. Box 523  
Southport, CT 06890  
tel: 203-335-3802  
www.cagv.org

Testimony to the Gun Safety Task Force

Ron Pinciario, Executive Director, CAGV

**CT Against Gun Violence (CAGV) Supports Measures  
That Will Improve the Public Safety**

**1) Strengthen our assault weapons ban. One Military Feature Instead of two. Ban possession and sale and remove existing assault weapons from state (no grandfathering). Ban large capacity ammunition magazines of more than seven rounds (no grandfathering).**

Military style weapons outfitted with large capacity magazines have become a chilling part of the narrative of the increasingly frequent mass shootings we are experiencing in our country. (See attached table from the Violence Policy Center, *Mass shootings in the United States*).

An illustration of some of the military features that add to the lethality of these weapons is attached.

Many experts from the military and law enforcement have spoken out that these weapons are not appropriate for civilian use. In the attached article, *Notes From A Savvy Hunter*, it is stated that

“There is no good argument for the use of assault type weaponry from a sport shooter’s perspective Those who use and enjoy firearms for hunting and target shooting, do not choose assault-style, semi-automatic weapons, due to their inherent inaccuracy.”

Our existing assault weapons statutes are simply not strong enough. The unthinkable Newtown tragedy has brought us to the tipping point. Assault weapons must not only be banned prospectively, but those currently owned and in circulation must be removed from the state.

1. Straw purchase sales (Someone who is not prohibited from buying firearms makes the purchase and transfers the gun to some one who is prohibited).
2. Legally licensed but corrupt at-home and commercial gun dealers (FFLs - Federal Firearms Licensees). It is presumed that this is a huge source of crime guns. Like bank robbers, who are interested in banks because that's where the money is, gun traffickers are interested in FFLs because that's where the guns are.
3. Unlicensed street dealers.
4. Stolen guns.

In our opinion, the best way to begin to understand how this diversion is working is to start keeping better records of the whereabouts of the legally purchased guns. If we require guns to be registered, with annual renewal, we will begin to have a sense of how many guns, legally purchased, are still in the possession of the legal purchasers. Registrants would have to stipulate that all of the guns registered to them are in their possession. If any are not, they would have to explain what happened to the gun. From there we can begin to "connect the dots" as to how many guns are potentially being diverted and why.

The conventional wisdom has been that the guns coming into the possession of prohibited users are coming from "down south." The evidence indicates otherwise. The attached illustration, *Source States for Firearms with a Connecticut Recovery*, showing the source of guns recovered in Connecticut shows that of the 832 guns recovered in Connecticut and traced back to the original purchase by the ATF in 2011, 544 of those, 65.4%, were purchased here in Connecticut. Only 92, 11.1%, came from "down South." So if we can have a better sense of the whereabouts of the guns purchased, and therefore registered, in Connecticut, we can begin to get a better handle on the diversion.

#### **4) Safe Storage.**

Current Connecticut law states that if a minor (defined as a person under sixteen years of age) gains access to a firearm and causes death or injury to himself or others, the owner of the gun has strict liability and is guilty of a Class D Felony unless the firearm was properly stored. The new proposal would expand the liability and penalty if any person who is not the owner gains access to the firearm with the same result.

#### **5) Permit required for all guns and ammunition.**

This proposal is sensible, especially in light of the fact that universal background checks are under strong consideration for all sales and transfers including long guns.



**Violence Policy Center**

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW  
Suite 1014  
Washington, DC 20036

202.822.8200 voice  
202.822.8205 fax  
www.vpc.org web

**Mass Shootings in the United States Involving  
High-Capacity Ammunition Magazines**



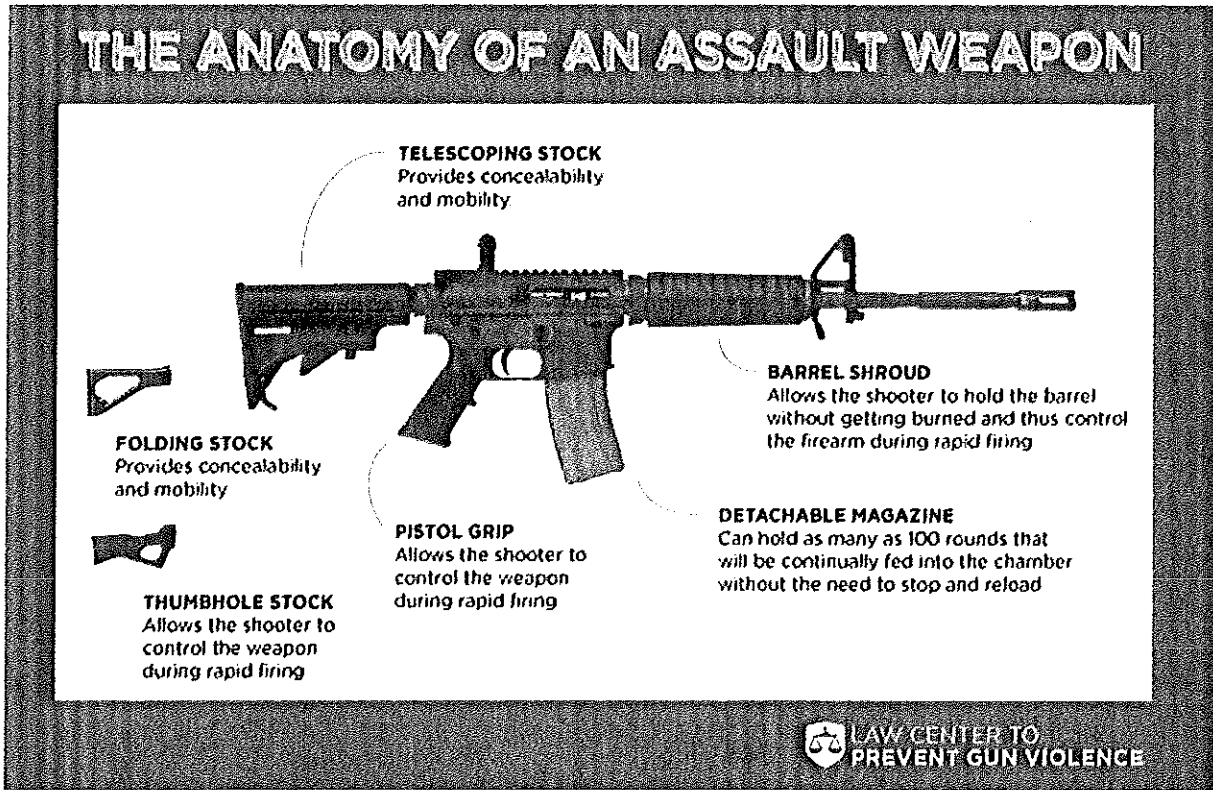
*Columbine shooter armed with Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistol equipped with high-capacity ammunition magazine*

Mass Shooting Incident	Casualties	Firearm(s)	High-Capacity Ammunition Magazine(s)
Sandy Hook Elementary School Newtown, Connecticut December 14, 2012 Shooter: Adam Lanza	28 dead, (including shooter)	Bushmaster assault rifle, 10mm Glock pistol, 9mm Sig Sauer pistol	30-round magazines
Century Aurora 16 movie theater Aurora, Colorado July 20, 2012 Shooter: James Holmes	12 dead, 58 wounded	Smith & Wesson M&P15 assault rifle, .40 Glock pistol, Remington 12 gauge shotgun	100-round magazine
Safeway parking lot Tucson, Arizona January 8, 2011 Shooter: Jared Loughner	6 dead, 13 wounded	Glock 19 pistol	33-round magazine

Mass Shooting Incident	Casualties	Firearm(s)	High-Capacity Ammunition Magazine(s)
Westroads Mall Omaha, Nebraska December 5, 2007 Shooter: Robert Hawkins	9 dead (including shooter), 5 wounded	WASR-10 assault rifle	Two 30-round magazines taped together
Virginia Tech Blacksburg, Virginia April 16, 2007 Shooter: Seung-Hui Cho	33 dead (including shooter), 17 wounded	Glock 19 pistol, Walther P22 pistol	15-round magazines
Hunting Camp Birchwood, Wisconsin November 21, 2004 Shooter: Chai Vang	6 dead, 3 wounded	SKS assault rifle	20-round magazine
Edgewater Technology Inc. Wakefield, Massachusetts December 26, 2000 Shooter: Michael McDermott	7 dead	AK-47 assault rifle, 12 gauge pump- action shotgun	60-round, large-capacity feeding device
Xerox Honolulu, Hawaii November 2, 1999 Shooter: Byran Uyesugi	7 dead	Glock 17 9mm pistol	Three 15-round magazines
Wedgewood Baptist Church Fort Worth, Texas September 15, 1999 Shooter: Larry Gene Ashbrook	8 dead (including shooter), 7 wounded	Sturm, Ruger P85 9mm pistol, .380 pistol	Three 15-round magazines
Columbine High School Littleton, Colorado April 20, 1999 Shooters: Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold	15 dead (including shooters), 23 wounded	Intratec TEC-DC9 assault pistol, Hi-Point 9mm Carbine, Savage 67H pump- action shotgun, Savage 311-D 12- gauge shotgun	High-capacity magazines (capacity unstated)
Thurston High School Springfield, Oregon May 21, 1998 Shooter: Kip Kinkel	4 dead, 22 wounded	9mm Glock pistol, .22 Sturm Ruger rifle, .22 Sturm Ruger pistol	50-round magazine

Name Shooting Incident	Casualties	Firearm(s)	High Capacity Ammunition Magazine(s)
Luby's Cafeteria Killeen, Texas October 16, 1991 Shooter: George Hennard	24 dead (including shooter), 20 wounded	Sturm, Ruger P-89 9mm pistol, Glock 9mm pistol	17- and 15-round magazines
General Motors Acceptance Corp. Jacksonville, Florida June 18, 1990 Shooter: James Pough	10 dead (including shooter), 4 wounded	M-1 rifle, .38 revolver	30-round magazines
Standard Gravure Corporation Louisville, Kentucky September 14, 1989 Shooter: Joseph Wesbecker	9 dead (including shooter), 12 wounded	AK-47 assault rifle, 2 MAC-11 assault pistols, .38 revolver, Sig Sauer 9mm pistol	30-round magazines
Cleveland Elementary School Stockton, California January 17, 1989 Shooter: Patrick Purdy	6 dead (including shooter), 30 wounded	AK-47 assault rifle, Taurus 9mm pistol, unidentified pistol	75-round drum magazine
Palm Bay shopping center Palm Bay, Florida April 23, 1987 Shooter: William Cruse	6 dead (including 2 police officers)	Sturm, Ruger Mini- 14 assault rifle	Five 30-round magazines
McDonald's San Ysidro, California July 18, 1984 Shooter: James Huberty	22 dead (including shooter), 19 wounded	Uzi Carbine, Browning 9mm pistol, Winchester 1200 pump-action 12-gauge shotgun	25-round magazine

These are some of the features named in the new proposal. The presence of any one of these military-style features will subject the weapon to the ban.



### Other States

- Seven states (including Connecticut) have enacted laws banning assault weapons. The other six are: California, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. Of the seven, Connecticut is the only state that did not ban large capacity magazines as part of their assault weapons ban.

# Notes From A Savvy Hunter

**It is interesting that shot guns used for shooting ducks and geese are federally mandated to hold no more than 3 shells. There has been no movement to repeal that.**

The Technical Case for the Elimination of Assault Rifles and Their Military Cartridges.

There is no good argument for the use of assault-type weaponry from a sport shooter's perspective. Those who use and enjoy firearms for hunting and target shooting, do not choose assault-style, semi-automatic weapons, due to their inherent inaccuracy.

Assault rifles are designed for shooting a high volume of rounds in a very short amount of time. This is true for both automatic military assault rifles, as well as semi-automatic assault rifles available to the public. High volume rapid shooting is inherently inaccurate based on the mechanics of these types of guns, the design of their cartridges and the physical abilities of shooters. Accuracy levels needed for target shooting and hunting are of no importance in military use. The military requires multiple bullets hitting a target in a short period of time. Where the bullets hit is less important than hitting and incapacitating an adversary. Hunters almost all the time fire only one bullet to down their prey.

In combat stress conditions, achievement of accuracy by the shooter is greatly diminished. Quantity compensates for inaccuracy in stopping and killing the target, a human being. Military M16 rifles have a setting allowing only 3 shots to be shot automatically at a time. This was done by the military with the understanding of human capabilities. Rapid fire of 3 rounds and more, in as many seconds, has no purpose for a hunter or target shooter.

Rapid fire physically disallows accurate shooting from both the perspective of the shooter and the gun. Only highly trained sharpshooters can shoot accurately one round every 2 seconds, and with no more than 10 rounds. This is done with non-assault style guns, which are designed for accuracy, shooting in a controlled environment. NRA sanctioned, high power rifle competition matches, using long barrels 22 to 24 inches in length, do not require more than 10 rounds be shot in 60 seconds, and only highly practiced shooters attain scores exceeding 90% in doing this on a repeated basis. Average human reflexes and body dynamics cannot exceed this skill level.

These semi-automatic weapons fire the .223 commercial cartridge, the same as the 5.56x45mm military cartridge. 5.56mm and .223 inch, refer to the bullet diameter. The actual design of the 5.56x45mm brass cartridge case also does not lend itself to decent accuracy. The cartridge was designed for/by the military for fast, automatic loading and ejection, in poor conditions.

There are many commercially available cartridges that are of similar caliber (bullet size) that are more accurate and better lend themselves to precision shooting and hunting.

It should also be noted that the 5.56x45mm cartridge cannot be effectively used for deer hunting, especially in a short-barreled, less-than-accurate weapon. The bullet is not as affective (ability to kill the animal humanely) as larger and heavier bullets and cartridges. The 5.56x45mm is much too powerful when used on small animals, as there is too much destruction. After all, the 5.56x45mm was designed to kill humans. Here's why.

It was designed for the bullet to impact a person at high velocity and on contact yaw (wobble) and fragment simultaneously. That is, do as much tissue destruction as possible combined with hydrostatic incapacitation to the nervous system.

The 5.56x45mm cartridge and the corresponding semi-automatic guns used to shoot it, are designed specifically for killing humans, and are inappropriate and ineffective for precision target shooting and humane hunting purposes.

There is therefore no need for high volume weapons in sport shooting. Anything more than 10 rounds shot from a semi-automatic gun is not needed. If a hunter cannot down his prey in 3 shots, it's too late and the animal has gotten away. Hunters also never shoot multiple animals in very short periods of time. For personal protection purposes, if more than 10 rounds are needed to stop one or more assailants, it's too late for the weapon to be any further affective.

As a further aside, it is interesting that shot guns used for shooting ducks and geese are federally mandated to *hold* no more than 3 shells. There has been no movement to repeal that.

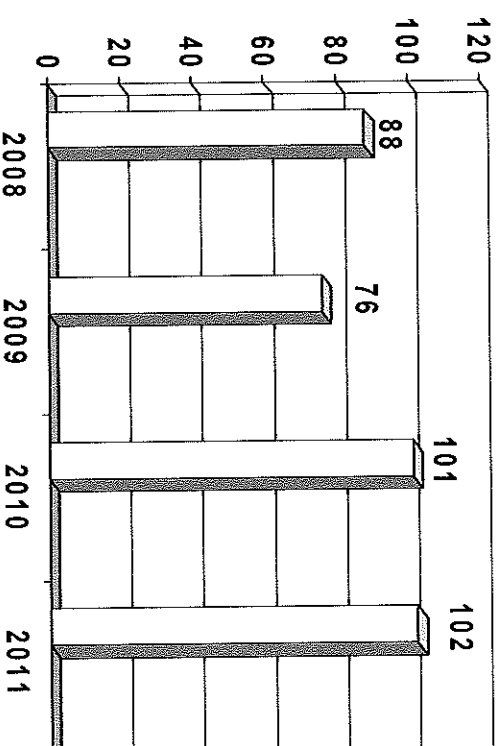
Assault weapons are not used to assault targets or hunting prey. They are used to assault people.



# CT Firearm Homicides

CT Firearm homicides have been on the increase recently.

1. Of the 367 gun homicides in CT during the last four years, 269 (73.3%) occurred in our three largest cities: Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport.
2. 84.3% of the victims were Black or Hispanic.
3. Most of these crimes are committed by people who are prohibited from owning guns.



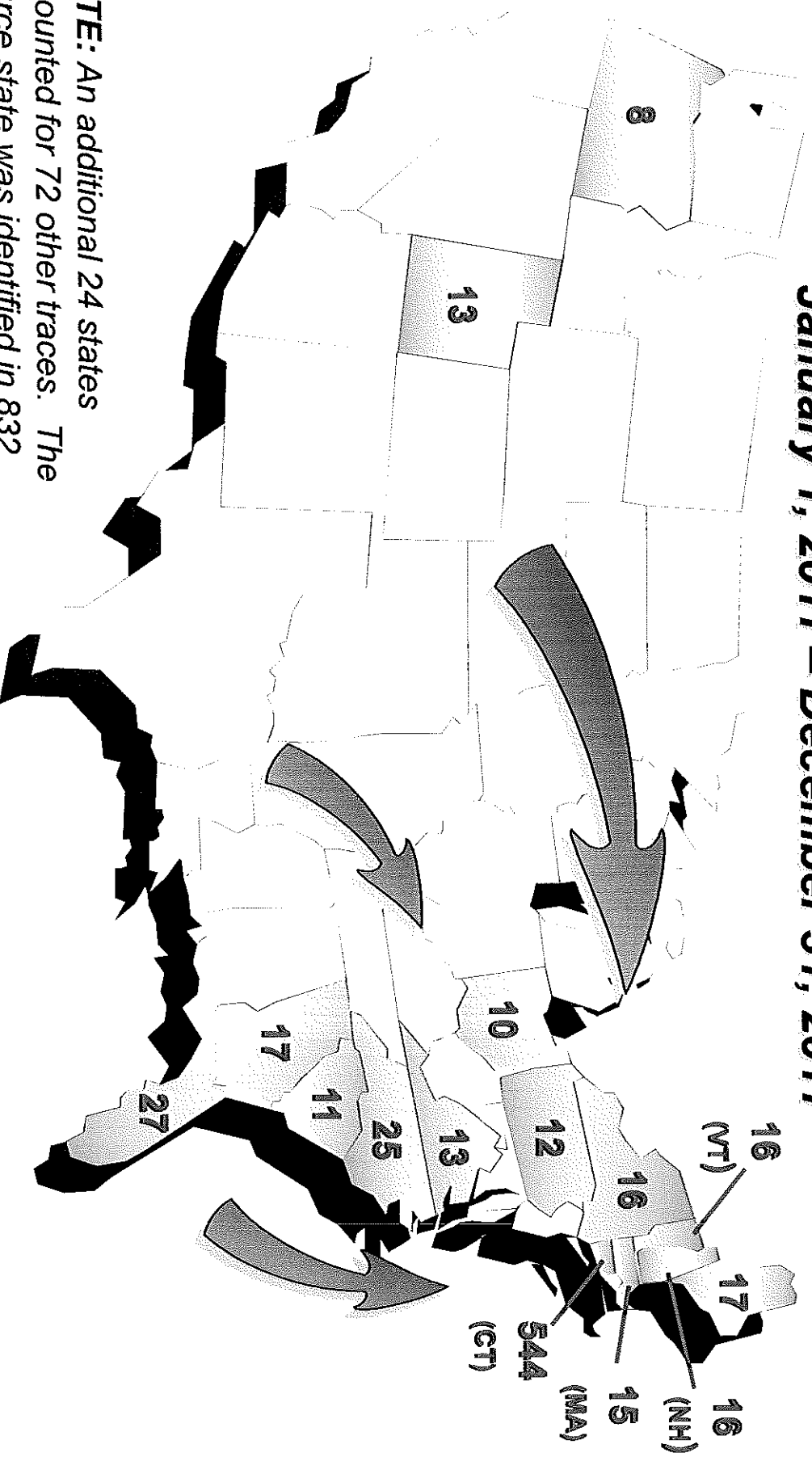
## 2011 Summary of CT Medical Examiners Firearm Death Data By Race

Homicide

City	Black	Hispanic	White	Asian	Other	Total
Bridgeport	12	4			1	17
Hartford	21	4	3	1		29
New Haven	25	1	3			29
New Britain	1	2				3
Norwalk	2				1	3
Waterbury	1	2				3
Other	8	3	7			18
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>102</b>
	68.6%	15.7%	12.7%	1.0%	2.0%	

# Top 15 Source States for Firearms with a Connecticut Recovery

January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011



**NOTE:** An additional 24 states accounted for 72 other traces. The source state was identified in 832 total traces.