

## Right to Keep and Bear Arms



Anti-2nd Amendment activists constantly claim that the key to reducing the amount of gun crime in the U.S. is reducing the number of firearms in the nation. Despite their claims, the nation's crime rates are falling as the number of U.S. gun owners continues to grow.

The Washington Post published an article in early October that detailed how sometime around 2009 the number of guns in the U.S. began eclipsing the number of people in the nation. Based on firearms statistics from 2013, the latest available, The Post determined that there are currently about 357 million firearms spread among 317 million U.S. residents.

President Barack Obama's seemingly unending talk about tougher firearm laws has actually played a key role in the U.S. firearm explosion, causing wary gun owners to stock up on weapons that could be made scarce by federal bans.

Via the Washington Post:

*A 2012 Congressional Research Service report published exactly one month before the Sandy Hook school shooting put the number of civilian firearms at 242 million in 1996, 259 million in 2000, and 310 million as of 2009.*

*If that 310 million number is correct, it means that the first year of Barack Obama's presidency was an inflection point: It marked the first time that the number of firearms in circulation surpassed the total U.S. population.*

In fact, FBI data for 2014 shows that U.S. violent crime is at a 44-year low and robbery is at a 48-year low. According to the agency's numbers, total violent crime rate decreased 0.9 percent from 2013 to 2014. The decrease in overall crime is comprised of a 1 percent drop in murder and a 6 percent drop in robbery offset by a 1.8 increase in rapes and a 1.3 percent increase in aggravated assaults.

Of course, some areas of the nation have seen an opposite trend in violent crime rates. Most of them are bastions of liberal gun control laws.

As the National Rifle Association recently noted:

*The murder rate in Detroit, which is subject to Michigan's handgun registration law, was nearly 10 times the rate for metropolitan areas generally, at 43.5 per 100,000 residents. The rate in Baltimore, subject to Maryland's handgun registration and waiting period law, and its "assault weapon" and "large" magazine ban, was not far behind, at 33.8 per 100,000. By comparison, the murder rates in Jacksonville and Miami, the largest cities in the state where the Right-to-Carry movement began in 1987, were far behind, at 11.2 and 19.2, respectively. Chicago accounted for the most murders of any city, followed by New York City, Detroit, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.*

The number of firearms in civilian hands in the U.S. has increased. But gun grabbers who tell you those firearms are hitting the streets to the benefit of criminals are simply lying.

### Background checks for ammunition purchases?

Lt Gov. Gavin Newsom, a candidate for California governor in 2018, is throwing himself into one of the thorniest issues facing the state and nation recently by introducing a gun-control ballot measure to require background checks for ammunition purchases and surrender of large-capacity magazines, the Sacramento Bee reports.

*"In the last 72 hours -- 68 people have been killed and 129 people have been injured due to gun violence in America," Newsom wrote Wednesday on his Facebook page, apparently offering a rationale for his new measure.*

California already has some of the nation's toughest gun laws, including a 10-day waiting period for firearm purchases, an assault weapons ban, and a ban on making, selling, giving or lending magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. However, although California enacted its assault weapons ban in 1989 and expanded it in 1999, those who already owned the banned guns and magazines were allowed to register and keep them.

Newsom's measure would require owners of such magazines to turn them in to police for destruction, sell them to a licensed firearms dealer or move them out of the state, according to the Sacramento Bee -- the same requirement adopted by San Francisco supervisors and Sunnyvale voters in 2013.

The measure also would require that ammunition sellers be licensed like firearm dealers while buyers undergo background checks. It would establish a process to recover guns from convicted criminals prohibited from owning them; force people whose guns were lost or stolen to report to law enforcement; and force the state Justice Department to notify the federal government when someone is added to its database of people barred from buying or owning a firearm.

After the 2012 schoolhouse massacre at Newtown, Conn., California like many other states considered a large raft of new gun-control bills. Gov. Jerry Brown in late 2013 signed some into law -- including a ban on conversion kits that let people expand magazines to hold more than 10 rounds, and making it criminal to keep loaded firearms where children or prohibited persons can get them -- but vetoed others, including an effort to outlaw all semi-automatic rifles with detachable magazines. In 2014, after a killing spree near University of California, Santa Barbara, Brown signed a law allowing temporary restraining orders to block gun use. And this month, he signed a law prohibiting concealed carry of handguns on college campuses.

#### “The Top 5 Gun Control Lies the Democrats are Bound to Bring Up in the Debate.”

1. That 40% of all gun sales in the U.S. do not go through background checks. This has been debunked over and over again by multiple media outlets and fact checkers. The figure comes from a decades-old survey that was conducted BEFORE the federal background check system even existed.
2. That it's easier to buy a gun than it is to buy a vegetable...or a book. Despite what President Obama says, it is categorically false to say that it's "easier to buy a gun than buy a book." There are those things called federally-mandated "background checks," and many, many gun laws across the 50 states.
3. That a so-called "assault weapons" ban is just "common sense." The push for an "assault weapons" ban was invented by anti-gunners after they realized their push for a full-on gun ban had failed. Congress banned the firearms in 1994. When it expired in 2004, violent crime continued to decrease in the United States.
4. That if you believe in the Second Amendment or support the NRA, you must be an "extremist!" Poll after poll after poll shows Americans support the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. A recent CNN poll found that 59% of Americans oppose more federal gun restrictions. Another recent Rasmussen poll showed that 68% of respondents said they would feel safer living in a neighborhood with guns. And then there's that time earlier this year that 63% of Americans told the Pew Research Center that the best way to defend against crime is with gun ownership. Most Americans are so extreme!
5. Gun Control works. Again, no matter what President Obama says, this is, again, false. Our nation's violent crime rate is at a 43-year low. Meanwhile, Americans have been purchasing firearms in record numbers.

Authoritarianism or criminal government can never feel secure as long as millions of people own guns. Likewise, when the people have no arms, they have no security and no hope of security.

Disarmament first comes by words and psychological warfare, and we are seeing it these days in spades. Last week, police chiefs from across the country called for universal background checks for firearms purchases, saying opinion polls consistently show that most Americans support such restrictions.

What a clever use of deceptive language and logical fallacy that is. Police chiefs know that there are already "universal background checks" on every gun purchased from a dealer. Reams of paper detailing millions of firearms purchase records sit in thousands of boxes at the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' National Tracing Center awaiting input into a "digital repository." Private sales of weapons by law-abiding citizens make up a small percentage of firearms transactions, and the so-called "gun show loophole" is a straw man.

Police chiefs also know that criminals rarely purchase their guns through legitimate means. No amount of mandated background checks on private purchases is going to stem the illegal transfer of arms among those operating on the black market with criminal intent.

Criminals are criminals because they ignore laws. Law-abiding Americans follow the laws, even if those laws are anti-liberty (as are all gun restrictions). Putting one more law between law-abiding citizens and the gun dealers will not deter a single criminal from obtaining a gun by nefarious or extra-lawful means. This would seem to be common sense, but common sense is in short supply in the District of Criminals and on the animal farm of big government.

*"No. We just can't trust the American people to make those types of choices ... Government has to make those choices for people." – Hillary Clinton*

*"If you have guns in your home, tell your parents to keep them away from you and your friends and your little brothers and sisters." – Hillary Clinton to middle school students*

*"I also believe that every new handgun sale or transfer should be registered in a national registry..." – Hillary Clinton*

*"I think again we're way out of balance. We've got to rein in what has become almost an article of faith that almost anybody can have a gun anywhere at any time. And I don't believe that is in the best interest of the vast majority of people." – Hillary Clinton*

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