

# Guns, Gun Safety, and Money



**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**

*Second Amendment to the US Constitution*

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The League of Women Voters has positions on gun control that allow us to act as a local League (propose, promote or oppose legislation), but to be a legitimate and respected voice, we also need to educate ourselves on the controversy and the facts. Many of us don't know anything about guns so we will need to learn.

This guide provides resources to answer some questions. Our Marblehead League has been interested in gun control action for at least the last two years. Our study group will begin meeting in January.

-- Kathy Leonardson

## **A. Questions/topics**

- a. How did we get here- what is the history of guns in this country?
- b. Second amendment of the Constitution and recent Supreme Court decisions that affect the interpretation of the law and Constitution.
- c. Valid statistics on gun crimes, gun numbers, gun use, gun ownership, comparing gun crime with prevalence of guns, etc.
- d. Who are the victims of gun violence? Who are the perpetrators?
- e. What are the goals of pro-gun lobby groups and gun control groups?
- f. Is there a gun culture in the US? What have been its origins and development?
- g. How have political donations of gun lobby groups effected legislation?
- h. What can we learn by studying gun-makers? (profit and loss, advertising, revenue projections, revenue sources, etc.)
- i. How are guns marketed at gun shops and gun shows? (we may visit)
- j. Comparison of the US with other countries regarding guns, laws and violence. Are there lessons we could learn?
- k. How are guns currently regulated and by whom? Law, regulation
- l. Current gun law/regulation at the local, state and federal levels; when law has changed, what has been the effect on gun violence?
- m. Proposed gun legislation?
- n. Where is the "disconnect" or disagreement with gun rights groups about facts?

## **B. Gun violence- some secondary questions**

- o. What is the origin of human violence?
- p. What is the relationship between domestic violence and gun violence?
- q. Why are the overwhelming majority of gun violence mass –murder perpetrators male?
- r. What sorts of mental illness can lead to violence?
- s. Can we learn anything from the military, related to military-justified violence against the enemy?
- t. Can we learn something about gun violence from the study of cults, Isis etc.? i.e. how do people convince themselves to commit murder against the innocent?
- u. Is there new information about the physiology of violence?
- v. Does brain science suggest how perpetrators justify actions and how this cycle could be interrupted?
- w. In countries with few guns, does violence emerge in other ways?
- x. How does bullying relate to violence? Hate crimes?
- y. Is there a societal component?
- z. Do violent video games predispose people to commit violence?
- aa. Under the right circumstances, could anyone become a mass murderer?

## Part I. Introduction and Background Articles

### *Introductory article (see link for charts)*

#### **Nov 5, 2017 “America’s unique gun violence problem, explained in 17 maps and charts”**

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/10/2/16399418/us-gun-violence-statistics-maps-charts>

#### *Summary*

- 1) America has six times as many firearm homicides as Canada, and nearly 16 times as many as Germany
- 2) America has 4.4 percent of the world’s population, but almost half of the civilian-owned guns around the world
- 3) There have been more than 1,500 mass shootings since Sandy Hook
- 4) On average, there is more than one mass shooting for each day in America
- 5) States with more guns have more gun deaths
- 6) It’s not just the US: Developed countries with more guns also have more gun deaths
- 7) States with tighter gun control laws have fewer gun-related deaths
- 8) Still, gun homicides (like all homicides) have declined over the past couple decades
- 9) Most gun deaths are suicides
- 10) The states with the most guns report the most suicides
- 11) Guns allow people to kill themselves much more easily
- 12) Programs that limit access to guns have decreased suicides
- 13) Since the shooting of Michael Brown, police have killed at least 2,900 people
- 14) In states with more guns, more police officers are also killed on duty
- 15) Support for gun ownership has sharply increased since the early '90s
- 16) High-profile shootings don’t appear to lead to more support for gun control
- 17) But specific gun control policies are fairly popular

#### **1. Dec 13, 2017 “121 Members Of Congress Call For End Of Restrictions On Gun Violence Research”**

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/section/politics>

#### **2. Oct 17, 2017 “Do tougher gun laws lead to ‘dramatically lower rates of gun violence?’”**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/17/do-tougher-gun-laws-lead-to-dramatically-lower-rates-of-gun-violence/?utm\\_term=.37fbf53186ae](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/17/do-tougher-gun-laws-lead-to-dramatically-lower-rates-of-gun-violence/?utm_term=.37fbf53186ae) violence?’”

#### **3. Oct 17, 2017 “Does a city with the ‘toughest gun laws’ end up with ‘worst gun violence?’”**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/17/does-a-city-with-the-toughest-gun-laws-end-up-with-worst-gun-violence/?utm\\_term=.22467336436c](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/10/17/does-a-city-with-the-toughest-gun-laws-end-up-with-worst-gun-violence/?utm_term=.22467336436c)

#### **4. Nov 6, 2017 “How to reduce Shootings”** [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/11/06/opinion/how-to-reduce-shootings.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/11/06/opinion/how-to-reduce-shootings.html?_r=0)

#### **5. Nov 12, 2017 “Gun Carnage in the Nation, Groundhog Day in the Capitol”**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/12/opinion/guns-congress-shootings.html>

#### **6. Nov 16, 2017 “Deal to Bolster Gun Background Checks Is Reached by Senators”**

[https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/us/politics/gun-background-checks-sutherland-springs.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/16/us/politics/gun-background-checks-sutherland-springs.html?_r=0)

#### **7. June 12, 2016 “Why the Orlando shooting was so deadly”** NYTimes

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/06/12/us/why-the-orlando-shooting-was-so-deadly.html>

#### **8. “How they got their guns”** from NYTimes <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/10/03/us/how-mass-shooters-got-their-guns.html>

#### **9. 2015 “The Myth of defensive gun ownership”**

<https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2015/01/defensive-gun-ownership-myth-114262#.VLhsjS42d6I>

10. Oct 10, 2017 “Disarming the NRA” <http://www.nybooks.com/daily/2017/10/05/disarming-the-nra/?printpage=true> 1/3
11. Oct 2017 “Mass Shootings Are Getting Deadlier, Not More Frequent” <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2017/10/04/mass-shootings-more-deadly-frequent-research-215678>
12. Nov 2017 “Seeking Solutions to All Gun Violence” <https://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2017/11/10/searching-for-solutions-large-and-small/miH1oClZonjvxlXjBYkwN/story.html>
13. May 2014 “The limits of grief...” <https://commonwealthmagazine.org/criminal-justice/691-the-limits-of-grief-on-the-gun-control-debate/>
14. Nov 2 2017 “The ruling class vs. the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment” <https://www.nraila.org/articles/20171102/the-ruling-class-vs-the-second-amendment>
15. Dec 6, 2017 “House Votes to Sharply Expand Concealed-Carry Gun Rights” [https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/06/us/politics/house-concealed-carry-guns-nra-reciprocity.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/06/us/politics/house-concealed-carry-guns-nra-reciprocity.html?_r=0)
16. The Second Amendment <https://constitutioncenter.org/interactive-constitution/amendments/amendment-ii/the-second-amendment-and-the-right-to-arms-nelson-lund-adam-winkler/interp/2>
17. “Gun Ownership and the Supreme Court” <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/second-amendment.php>
18. Nov 2017 “Gun Death Rate Rose Again in 2016, C.D.C. Says” <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/us/gun-death-rates.html>

#### **New York Times Nine part Series**

19. “There is Common Ground on Guns” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/domestic-violence-guns.html> C:\Users\Kathy Leonardson\Documents\lww17-18\guns\A final guide to gun study\There is Common Ground on Guns” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/domestic-violence-guns.html>
20. “Boyfriends Can Kill, Too” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/boyfriend-loophole-guns.html>
21. “Women’s Lives, Cut Short by the Men They Knew” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/women-guns-domestic-violence.html>
22. “When Abusers are Most Lethal” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/restraining-order-gun-violence.html>
23. “A Good Way to Keep Guns From Predators” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/restraining-order-guns.html>
24. ‘Even as a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, I have a red line.’ <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/domestic-violence-police-fatalities.html>
25. Even the N.R.A. Wants This Gun Law. So Why the Drama? <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/nra-domestic-violence-background-check.html>
26. “The Federal Government’s Strange Silence About Gun Crimes” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/background-checks-national-database.html>
27. “The Terrors of Hearth and Home” <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/opinion/gun-violence-restraining-order.html>

## Part II. Public Health Approach/ data

- a. **Who gets killed in America? Fact sheet** American Public Health Association  
<https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/topics/gun/nvdrs.ashx>
- b. **Preventing Gun Violence fact sheet** American Public Health Association  
[https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/160317\\_gunviolencefs.ashx](https://www.apha.org/~media/files/pdf/factsheets/160317_gunviolencefs.ashx)
- c. **Oct 4, 2017 “ A public health approach to stemming gun violence”**  
[https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/public-health-gun-violence-vegas/?utm\\_source=SilverpopMailing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Update%2010.06.2017%20\(2\)&utm\\_content=](https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/features/public-health-gun-violence-vegas/?utm_source=SilverpopMailing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Update%2010.06.2017%20(2)&utm_content=)
- d. **Gun Violence Data Archive** Gun Violence Archive (GVA) is a not for profit corporation formed in 2013 to provide online public access to accurate information about gun-related violence in the United States. GVA will collect and check for accuracy, comprehensive information about gun-related violence in the U.S. and then post and disseminate it online, primarily if not exclusively on this website and summary ledgers at [www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive](http://www.facebook.com/gunviolencearchive). It is hoped that this information will inform and assist those engaged in discussions and activities concerning gun violence, including analysis of proposed regulations or legislation relating to gun safety usage. All we ask is to please provide proper credit for use of Gun Violence Archive data and advise us of its use. GVA is not, by design an advocacy group. The mission of GVA is to document incidents of gun violence and gun crime nationally to provide independent, verified data to those who need to use it in their research, advocacy or writing.  
<http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/>
  - o **Gun violence in MA 2014-2017** <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org/congress/ma>

### e. From Harvard Injury Control Research Center

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/hicrc/firearms-research/gun-threats-and-self-defense-gun-use-2/> [Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health](#) > [Harvard Injury Control Research Center](#) > [Firearms Research](#) > Gun Threats and Self-Defense Gun Use

**HARVARD INJURY CONTROL RESEARCH CENTER**

#### “Gun Threats and Self-Defense Gun Use”

**1-3. Guns are not used millions of times each year in self-defense** We use epidemiological theory to explain why the “false positive” problem for rare events can lead to large overestimates of the incidence of rare diseases or rare phenomena such as self-defense gun use. We then try to validate the claims of many millions of annual self-defense uses against available evidence. We find that the claim of many millions of annual self-defense gun uses by American citizens is invalid. **Hemenway, David.** *Survey research and self-defense gun use: An explanation of extreme overestimates.* *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology.* 1997; 87:1430-1445. **Hemenway, David.** The myth of millions of annual self-defense gun uses: A case study of survey overestimates of rare events. *Chance (American Statistical Association).* 1997; 10:6-10. **Cook, Philip J; Ludwig, Jens; Hemenway, David.** The gun debate’s new mythical number: How many defensive uses per year? *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management.* 1997; 16:463-469.

**4. Most purported self-defense gun uses are gun uses in escalating arguments, and are both socially undesirable and illegal** We analyzed data from two national random-digit-dial surveys conducted under the auspices of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center. Criminal court judges who read the self-reported accounts of the purported self-defense gun use rated a majority as being illegal, even assuming that the respondent had a permit to own and to carry a gun, and that the respondent had described the event honestly from his own perspective. **Hemenway, David; Miller, Matthew; Azrael, Deborah.** Gun use in the United States: Results from two national surveys. *Injury Prevention.* 2000; 6:263-267.

**5. Firearms are used far more often to intimidate than in self-defense** Using data from a national random-digit-dial telephone survey conducted under the direction of the Harvard Injury Control Center, we examined the extent and nature of offensive gun use. We found that firearms are used far more often to frighten and intimidate than they are used in self-defense. All reported cases of criminal gun use, as well as many of the so-called self-defense gun uses,

appear to be socially undesirable. **Hemenway, David; Azrael, Deborah.** *The relative frequency of offensive and defensive gun use: Results of a national survey.* *Violence and Victims.* 2000; 15:257-272.

**6. Guns in the home are used more often to intimidate intimates than to thwart crime** Using data from a national random-digit-dial telephone survey conducted under the direction of the Harvard Injury Control Research Center, we investigated how and when guns are used in the home. We found that guns in the home are used more often to frighten intimates than to thwart crime; other weapons are far more commonly used against intruders than are guns. **Azrael, Deborah R; Hemenway, David.** *In the safety of your own home: Results from a national survey of gun use at home.* *Social Science and Medicine.* 2000; 50:285-91.

**7. Adolescents are far more likely to be threatened with a gun than to use one in self-defense** We analyzed data from a telephone survey of 5,800 California adolescents aged 12-17 years, which asked questions about gun threats against and self-defense gun use by these young people. We found that these young people were far more likely to be threatened with a gun than to use a gun in self-defense, and most of the reported self-defense gun uses were hostile interactions between armed adolescents. Males, smokers, binge drinkers, those who threatened others and whose parents were less likely to know their whereabouts were more likely both to be threatened with a gun and to use a gun in self-defense. **Hemenway, David; Miller, Matthew.** *Gun threats against and self-defense gun use by California adolescents.* *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine.* 2004; 158:395-400.

**8. Criminals who are shot are typically the victims of crime** Using data from a survey of detainees in a Washington D.C. jail, we worked with a prison physician to investigate the circumstances of gunshot wounds to these criminals.

We found that one in four of these detainees had been wounded, in events that appear unrelated to their incarceration. Most were shot when they were victims of robberies, assaults and crossfires. Virtually none report being wounded by a "law-abiding citizen." **May, John P; Hemenway, David. Oen, Roger; Pitts, Khalid R.** *When criminals are shot: A survey of Washington DC jail detainees.* *Medscape General Medicine.* 2000; June 28. [www.medscape.com](http://www.medscape.com)

**9-10. Few criminals are shot by decent law-abiding citizens** Using data from surveys of detainees in six jails from around the nation, we worked with a prison physician to determine whether criminals seek hospital medical care when they are shot. Criminals almost always go to the hospital when they are shot. To believe fully the claims of millions of self-defense gun uses each year would mean believing that decent law-abiding citizens shot hundreds of thousands of criminals. But the data from emergency departments belie this claim, unless hundreds of thousands of wounded criminals are afraid to seek medical care. But virtually all criminals who have been shot went to the hospital, and can describe in detail what happened there. **May, John P; Hemenway, David. Oen, Roger; Pitts, Khalid R.** *Medical Care Solicitation by Criminals with Gunshot Wound Injuries: A Survey of Washington DC Jail Detainees.* *Journal of Trauma.* 2000; 48:130-132. **May, John P; Hemenway, David.** *Do Criminals Go to the Hospital When They are Shot?* *Injury Prevention.* 2002; 8:236-238.

**11. Self-defense gun use is rare and not more effective at preventing injury than other protective actions** Victims use guns in less than 1% of contact crimes, and women never use guns to protect themselves against sexual assault (in more than 300 cases). Victims using a gun were no less likely to be injured after taking protective action than victims using other forms of protective action. Compared to other protective actions, the National Crime Victimization Surveys provide little evidence that self-defense gun use is uniquely beneficial in reducing the likelihood of injury or property loss.

This article helps provide accurate information concerning self-defense gun use. It shows that many of the claims about the benefits of gun ownership are largely myths. **Hemenway D, Solnick SJ.** *The epidemiology of self-defense gun use: Evidence from the National Crime Victimization Surveys 2007-2011.* *Preventive Medicine.* 2015; 79: 22-27.

## f. Dec 2000 Chapter on Gun Control (pdf)

<https://research.hks.harvard.edu/publications/getFile.aspx?id=20>

g. International Comparisons <http://www.gunpolicy.org/>

## Part III. The Money

Gun Rights Vs. Gun Control from open secrets <https://www.opensecrets.org/news/issues/guns>

## Part IV. Public Opinion about guns

<http://www.people-press.org/2017/06/22/public-views-about-guns/#total>

## Part V. From Wikipedia Gun Laws by State

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun\\_laws\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_by\\_state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gun_laws_in_the_United_States_by_state)

### A. Massachusetts vs. Texas

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#### 1. Gun Laws in Massachusetts

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Subject/Law	Long Guns	Handguns	Relevant Statutes	
Permit to purchase required?	Yes	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 129C	Firearm Identification (FID) or license to carry required.
Firearm registration?	No	No		Although registration is not specifically required by law, transfers of firearm ownership are required to be recorded with the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS): by the seller if in state, or by the buyer if out of state. The Massachusetts EOPSS also provides the option to register a firearm, although, other than obtaining a firearm from out of state (a transfer of ownership), this is not required by law.
Owner license required?	Yes	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 129C	Firearm Identification (FID) or license to carry required.
Carry permits required?	No	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 131	Massachusetts is a "may issue" state for carry; the issuing authority must provide written explanation for the denial of any application, which is subject to appeal. The issuing authority is the local police chief for most jurisdictions, who has discretion in issuing carry licenses based on an applicant's suitability and stated need. In most jurisdictions, applicants who pass a background check and complete required training are issued licenses, but the issuing authority may impose varying degrees of restriction on the license (e.g., hunting, carry to/from a range, firearms dealer, or gunsmith, only while on-duty (for security professionals), etc.). Towns closer to large cities

				(like Boston) are de facto restricted, whereas more rural (and some suburban) towns are more inclined to issue unrestricted licenses. Permits are valid statewide, provided the license-holder complies with restrictions (if any) imposed by the issuing authority.
Open carry permitted?	No	Yes		An individual with a Class A unrestricted license to carry firearms (LTC-A) does not have to conceal a handgun in public. Moreover, in 2013, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that the holder of a LTC-A license is not responsible for alarm caused by licensed carry of a handgun, and that a permit cannot be revoked for suitability purposes under these circumstances. <sup>[38]</sup> If police demand to see the permit, it must be produced, per G.L. c. 140, § 129 (c). Failure to produce a LTC upon demand by law enforcement is probable cause for arrest. Open carry of long guns is prohibited, except while hunting.
State preemption of local restrictions?	No	No		There is limited preemption for some laws.
Assault weapon law?	Yes	Yes		A two point "banned features" system is what defines an assault weapon. These assault weapons are prohibited unless lawfully owned on or prior to September 13, 1994. Firearms that do not have two or more "banned features" are legal to purchase with an LTC or in some cases a standard FID so long as magazine restrictions are followed to what your license allows.
Magazine Capacity Restriction?	Yes	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 121	Illegal to possess magazines of over 10 rounds capacity. Pre-ban magazines manufactured before September 13, 1994 are exempt from this restriction.
NFA weapons restricted?  (see National Firearms Act)	Yes	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 131	Suppressors are restricted only for law enforcement or licensed manufacturers. Some destructive devices are banned at the state level, while others are banned at a local level. DD's can be completely illegal or legal depending on what town you live in. SBR's, SBS's, and AOW's are allowed with proper approval from the ATF. A machine gun license is required to possess a machine gun.
Background checks required for private sales?	Yes	Yes	MA Ch. 140 Sec. 128A	The seller must verify the buyer's Firearm Identification Card with the Department of Criminal Justice Information Services.

## 2. Gun laws in Texas

Subject/Law	Long guns	Hand-guns	Relevant Statutes	
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State permit to purchase?	No	No		
Firearm registration?	No	No		
Owner license required?	No	No		
Assault weapon law?	No	No		
Magazine capacity restriction?	No	No		
Carry license required?	No	Yes	GC Ch. 411.172 <sup>[93]</sup>	Licensed carry of a handgun requires a "shall-issue" license, and is subject to specific laws governing trespass while armed. People who are barred from licensing include those under age 21, felons, fugitives, people who are "chemically dependent" or "incapable of exercising sound judgment", and those in arrears for taxes or child support.
Open carry?	Yes	Yes	PC 46.02	Long gun and black powder weapon (including handgun) open carry is not forbidden by law, unless in a manner "calculated to cause alarm." Effective January 1, 2016, individuals with a handgun carry license will be permitted to carry openly, per House Bill 910 of the 2015 legislative session. Non-residents from states whose permits are recognized by Texas will also be allowed to open carry under the new law.
Concealed carry on college campus?	No	Yes		May carry in parking lots, parking garages, outdoor walkways on campus. Public four-year universities (as of August 1, 2016) and public two-year colleges (as of August 1, 2017) must allow <a href="#">concealed carry in campus buildings</a> as well. Universities will be allowed to designate certain sensitive areas as "gun free zones"; these will be subject to legislative analysis.
State preemption of local restrictions?	Yes	Yes	LGC §229.001.	State law prohibits municipal governments from regulating the ownership, transfer, storage, or licensing of firearms, ammunition, or accessories. Local ordinances can regulate the discharge of firearms (such as for noise, nuisance or public safety), but not in contradiction of state law concerning justified use of a firearm.
NFA weapons restricted?	No	No	PC 46.01, PC 46.05	Texas Penal Code Section 46.05 requires that "explosive weapons", "machine guns", "short-barrel firearms", and "firearm silencers", as defined in Section 46.01, be "registered in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record maintained by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives or classified as a curio or relic by the United States Department of Justice". Prior to May 22nd 2015, Section 46.05 called "registration pursuant to the National Firearms Act" a "defense to prosecution". <sup>[94]</sup>

Peaceable journey laws?	Yes	Yes	PC 46.02, PC 46.15	A person may carry a loaded handgun without a permit while in or heading directly to a motor vehicle or watercraft they own or control. The statute does not specifically state the handgun must be concealed while heading to the vehicle or watercraft, and 46.02, which requires concealment of a handgun while in a motor vehicle or watercraft, is not applicable to a person while the person is traveling, pursuant to said activities. 46.15(b)(2).
Castle doctrine/ stand your ground law?	Yes	Yes	PC 9.32	A person is presumed justified in using deadly force to protect themselves against an unlawful, forceful intrusion into their dwelling, or to prevent an unlawful, forceful attempt to remove a lawful occupant from the dwelling, or to prevent certain serious felonies such as burglary or arson. There is no duty to retreat from any place where the shooter has a legal right to be.
Background checks required for private sales?	No	No		

## Part VI. Massachusetts

- a. **Mass gun ownership** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/gun-ownership-in-massachusetts>
- b. **Mass firearms laws** <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/massachusetts-firearms-laws>
- c. **Concealed Weapons permitting in MA** <http://lawcenter.giffords.org/concealed-weapons-permitting-in-massachusetts/>
- d. **Mass Firearm Services** <https://www.mass.gov/firearms-services>
- e. **Mass ATF** <https://www.atf.gov/boston-field-division/massachusetts-field-offices>
- f. **Assault Weapons Ban Enforcement** <http://www.mass.gov/ago/public-safety/awbe.html>

*Massachusetts July 16, 2017 Assault Weapon Ban notice:*

Attorney General Maura Healey has issued a notice to all gun sellers and manufacturers in Massachusetts, warning that her office is stepping up enforcement of the state's assault weapons ban, including a crackdown on the sale of copycat weapons.

The enforcement notice clarifies what constitutes a "copy" or "duplicate" weapon under the assault weapons ban. Copies or duplicates of banned assault rifles, including copies of the Colt AR-15 and the Kalishnikov AK-47, are prohibited by the Massachusetts assault weapons ban. Despite the law, an estimated 10,000 copycat assault weapons were sold in Massachusetts in 2015 alone.

[The loophole in the Mass assault weapons ban - Op-Ed by Attorney General Healey as it appeared in the July 20, 2016 Boston Globe](#) 

[AG Healey Announces Enforcement of Ban on Copycat Assault Weapons](#)

[Remarks of Attorney General Healey](#) 

[Attorney General's Assault Weapons Enforcement Notice](#) 

[Guns That Are Not Assault Weapons-](#)

- g. **MASSACHUSETTS RESIDENT LTC/FID/MACHINE GUN APPLICATION FOR NEW/RENEWAL OF A FIREARMS IDENTIFICATION CARD OR LICENSE TO CARRY FIREARMS OR LICENSE TO POSSESS A MACHINE GUN (M.G.L. c. 140, §§ 129B, 131)** [https://www.mass.gov/files/2017-06/Updated%20LTC\\_FID%20card%20app%20-%20REVISED%2005.19.15.pdf](https://www.mass.gov/files/2017-06/Updated%20LTC_FID%20card%20app%20-%20REVISED%2005.19.15.pdf)
- h. **"Health coalition targets gun safety"** **Boston globe; Author:** Rattigan, David, Boston Globe ; Boston, Mass. [Boston, Mass]10 Dec 2017: Z.2.

Eight municipal health directors have banded together to propose that a public health framework be applied to the issue of gun violence.

A statement approved by health officials in Essex, Gloucester, Hamilton, Manchester-by-the-Sea, Peabody, Salem, Saugus, and Swampscott was sent to the news media, elected officials, and professional associations. The statement asks that local health practitioners, elected officials, and the public speak out in support of its approach to solving the problem of gun violence, citing statistics compiled by the National Association of County and City Health Officials, which reported approximately 33,000 Americans are killed by gun violence annually.

"We believe that a public health approach is needed to address and dramatically reduce the number of incidents, injuries, and deaths involving guns that occur in the US each year," the statement from the local health officials says. "Public health approaches have proven successful in reducing motor vehicle deaths and deaths due to smoking, by defining and monitoring the problem, identifying the risk factors, developing protective strategies and measures, and ensuring widespread adoption of those measures."

In an e-mail, Sharon Cameron, health and human services director in Peabody, said that "We have actually been working on issuing a collective statement for over a year — there's a lot of editing to be able to reach consensus on a statement with so many different communities involved. "The group based its document on statements issued by NACCHO and the American Public Health Association.

The local officials' statement lists seven areas in which they seek support, including federal funding for research; expanded surveillance of gun violence; expansion of access to mental health programs; a requirement that manufacturers update and expand gun safety measures, such as child-lock technology; policies to restrict and prohibit sales to high-risk persons; universal background checks; and reinstatement of the ban on assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

"It is important to recognize that gun violence is not inevitable," the statement says. "Just as aviation safety regulations make air travel safer for everyone, common-sense measures to prevent gun violence make communities safer for everyone." In an e-mail, Gloucester's public health director, Karin Carroll, said that "Officials and public health advocates in Gloucester continue to be extremely concerned about this significant public health issue, both nationally and locally, and want to do our part to help raise awareness and urge policymakers to take action." Carroll cited measures Gloucester has taken, such as issuing a proclamation about domestic violence in conjunction with the city's Coalition for the Prevention of Domestic Abuse.

"We urge our fellow local health practitioners, our elected officials at all levels of government, and the public at large to speak up and demand reasonable action to protect our communities from this preventable health crisis," Carroll said.

**See American Public Health Association and gun violence** <https://www.apha.org/topics-and-issues/gun-violence>

## VII. League Positions (LWVUS)

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*Statement of Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:*

**The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semiautomatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens.**

- **The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.**
  - **The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.**
  - **The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.**
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## VIII. Organizations

- **Massachusetts coalition to prevent gun violence** <https://www.mapreventgunviolence.org/>  
Massachusetts League of Women Voters is a member of this coalition.

The Coalition Supports:

- H.3081 – An Act Establishing Extreme Risk Protective Orders (Rep. Linsky) establishes a civil procedure for removing guns from people who pose a significant danger of causing physical harm to themselves or others
- S.1292 – An Act Relative to Data Collection on Multiple Gun Purchases (Sen. Creem) aims to track illegal trafficking of firearms used in crime by gathering information and statistics relating to the number of multiple-gun purchases by one person and whether any were used in a crime, and analyzing data on whether licensees who purchased guns used in a crime purchased other guns that year

The Coalition Opposes:

- H.763 - An Act Relative to Firearm Suppressor Safety (Rep. Cutler)
- H.789 – An Act Relative to Noise Reduction Devices (Rep. Frost)
- S.1317 – An Act Relative to Suppressors (Sen. Humason)
- S.1340 – An Act Relative to Suppressors (Sen. Moore) Lifts the Massachusetts ban on silencers
- S.1326 – An Act Clarifying Firearms Oversight (Sen. Humason) Removes Ch. 93A authority of the Attorney General relating to firearms
- S.1365 – An Act to Protect Law Abiding Citizens and Strengthen Public Safety (Sen. Tarr) Prohibits the Attorney General from prosecuting assault weapon copycat purchases and sales that took place prior to July 2016
- Don't Lie for the other guy <http://www.dontlie.org/>
- Sandy Hook Promise <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/>
- NRA <https://home.nra.org/>
- NRA TV <https://www.nratv.com/home>
  - Disagreement with non- NRA [https://www.facebook.com/NRA/videos/1605896562755373/?comment\\_id=1761091970847949&comment\\_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22R9%22%7](https://www.facebook.com/NRA/videos/1605896562755373/?comment_id=1761091970847949&comment_tracking=%7B%22tn%22%3A%22R9%22%7)
  - Gun rights NRA <https://www.nratv.com/series/the-dl/episode/the-dl-season-1-episode-9-gun-rights-on-trial>
  - <https://www.nratv.com/series/freedoms-safest-place/episode/freedoms-safest-place-season-2-episode-5-the-ultimate-insult>
  - <https://www.nratv.com/series/the-dl/episode/the-dl-season-1-episode-1-the-truth-about-the-second-amendment>
  - <https://www.nratv.com/series/commentators/episode/commentators-season-7-episode-1-taking-on-the-times>

## IX. Books

- **“Gunfight: The Battle Over the Right to Bear Arms in America”** Adam Winkler
- **“Stand Your Ground: A History of America's Love Affair with Lethal Self-Defense”** by Caroline Light
- **“Gabby, a story of courage and hope”** story of Gabrielle Giffords
- **“A Mother's Reckoning: Living in the Aftermath of Tragedy”** Sue Klebold tells story of her son and Columbine shooting

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### ***Final Questions you might consider after looking over this information***

- What are the crucial facts about gun violence?*
- What are reasonable ways to curb gun violence?*
- Can we understand the concerns of opponents to gun safety proposals?*
- Who has a financial interest in gun safety? Are they influencing the discourse?*
- What stands in the way of change?*