

I have been around firearms for most of my life. My dad started taking me to the range when I was 10 years old (around 1970). We lived in what is now one of the most anti-gun states, California. I remember walking to a gun show at the Santa Clara Fair Grounds carrying a rifle along the street as well as seeing other citizens walking to and from the gun show carrying firearms. There were a large number of local shooting ranges and most of the local population owned and shot guns.

Yet, with the large number of guns around, mass shootings were very rare. But now in the present gun control is so restrictive, yet the number of mass shootings has escalated. Common-sense dictates guns are not the problem and therefore anti-gun laws do NOT work. Liberal social policies and moral decay may be the culprit.

The increase in "gun-free" zones again goes against common-sense. The only people who would be concerned about the law in a "gun-free" zone would be the law-abiding citizens and their families. Any criminal or person with murderous intent would by definition not be worried about that "gun-free" zone law. People who support "gun-free" zones are guilty of murder for anybody who dies unable to defend themselves in said zones. The solution is to completely eliminate "gun-free" zones in the great State of Texas and allow all her citizens the right to self-defense no matter where they are.

A real-world example that gun control does NOT work. In Australia, they passed a law forcing gun owners to surrender 640,000+ firearms to be destroyed by their own government. The first-year results: Australia-wide homicides are up 6.2 percent, assaults up by 9.6 percent, armed robberies up by 44 percent! In the state of Victoria alone, homicides are up 300 percent!

While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically upward in the past 12 months, since the criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed. There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly, while the resident is at home.

This fact alone shows that "gun-free" zones should be eliminated and Constitutional Carry implemented in the great State of Texas for the protection of her law-abiding citizens.

Any anti-gun "statistics" published by anti-gun groups such as Everytown for Gun Safety, Violence Policy Center, The Brady Campaign, are half-truths at best but mostly outright lies. As an example, they state That there are 32,000-gun related deaths per year by firearms, and this number is not disputed. Average U.S. population 324,059,091. Do the math: 0.00987% of the population dies from gun related actions each year. Statistically speaking, this is insignificant!

What is never told, however, is a breakdown of those 32,000 deaths, to put them in perspective as compared to other causes of death:• 65% of those deaths are by suicide which would never be prevented by gun laws• 15% are by law enforcement in the line of duty and justified• 17% are through criminal activity, gang and drug related or mentally ill persons – gun violence• 3% are accidental discharge deaths.

So technically, "gun violence" is not 32,000 annually, but drops to 5,100. Still too many? Well, first, how are those deaths spanned across the nation?• 480 homicides (9.4%) were in Chicago• 344 homicides (6.7%) were in Baltimore• 333 homicides (6.5%) were in Detroit• 119 homicides (2.3%) were in Washington D.C. (a 54% increase over prior years)So basically, 25% of all gun crime happens in just 4 cities. All 4 of those cities have strict gun laws, so it is not the lack of law that is the root cause.

This basically leaves 3,825 for the entire rest of the nation, or about 75 deaths per state. That is an average because some States have much higher rates than others. For example, California had 1,169 and Alabama had 1. Now, who has the strictest gun laws by far? California, of course, but understand, so it is not guns causing this. It is a crime rate spawned by the number of criminal persons residing in those cities and states. So if all cities and states are not created equally, then there must be something other than the tool causing the gun deaths.

Are 5,100 deaths per year horrific? How about in comparison to other deaths? All death is sad and especially so when it is in the commission of a crime but that is the nature of crime. Robbery, death, rape, assault all is done by criminals and thinking that criminals will obey laws is ludicrous. That's why they are criminals.

But what about other deaths each year? • 40,000+ die from a drug overdose—• 36,000 people die per year from the flu, far exceeding the criminal gun deaths • 34,000 people die per year in traffic fatalities(exceeding gun deaths even if you include suicide)Now it gets good: • 200,000+ people die each year (and growing) from preventable medical errors. You are safer in Chicago than when you are in a hospital! • 710,000 people die per year from heart disease. It's time to stop the double cheeseburgers! So what is the point? If the anti-gun movement focused their attention on heart disease, even a 10% decrease in cardiac deaths would save twice the number of lives annually of all gun-related deaths. A 10% reduction in medical errors would be 66% of the total gun deaths or 4 times the number of criminal homicides. Simple, easily preventable 10% reductions!

So you have to ask yourself, in the grand scheme of things, why the focus on guns? It's pretty simple. Taking away guns gives control to governments. The founders of this nation knew that regardless of the form of government, those in power may become corrupt and seek to rule as the British did by trying to disarm the populace of the colonies. It is not difficult to understand that a disarmed populace is a controlled populace. Thus, the second amendment was proudly and boldly included in the U.S. Constitution. It must be preserved

In closing, I would just like to state that I started taking my son and daughter to the shooting range at 6 and 8 years old. I taught them gun safety and respect for guns, yet they had great fun. As they grew older, even with firearms in the house, my family was perfectly safe. They had no curiosity toward guns because they already had experience. Yet, my family was secure and safe since we had the means of self-defense.

Contrast that to the liberal / Leftist path. Never exposing them to firearms, that will naturally build a mystique around guns and encourage sneaking behind parents to access them, without the foundation of safety and respect. Again, if all guns were removed from the house and are so locked up as to be inaccessible, self-defense and protection of the family becomes impossible.

Thank you for your time

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